

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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February 14, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

SUBJECT:

Information Items

Pravda Scores West on Human Rights Controversy: A February 10 Pravda editorial attacked the West's "campaign of slander about alleged violations of human rights." According to the editorial, the campaign:

--is a "carefully planned and coordinated subversive action";

--is led by those in the West who want to thwart the efforts of Western leaders working for detente;

--will worsen the atmosphere of the upcoming Belgrade meeting of the CSCE.

Another toughly worded article on the same subject and published on Saturday in Pravda is assessed by Embassy Moscow as a warning to the West and particularly to the U.S. that internal dissent is equivalent to subversion and none of the West's business. The embassy believes that the article was triggered by recent administration statements on human rights in the USSR and that the issue can become a major stumbling block in improved U.S.-Soviet relations.

Qadhafi Still Buying Non-Communist Arms: Although the Soviet Union in recent years has become Libya's major arms supplier, Qadhafi continues to rely on Western sources for much of his military equipment. Western arms have already contributed appreciably to Qadhafi's efforts to modernize and expand his armed forces, and this contribution could become even greater as deliveries still outstanding are completed. The net result of Libya's arms purchases from both communist and non-communist sources, however, has been little more than the massive accumulation of weapons. The Libyan armed forces remain

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undermanned and clearly lack the technical capability to absorb these arms. State believes the situation is not likely to change substantially in the near future, even with expanded foreign technical assistance.

Kuwait Seen Ready for OPEC Compromise: Kuwaiti Oil Minister Kazemi has reportedly told a French delegation that an OPEC compromise could be reached this spring, but the Saudis would reject it because they and the U.S. are trying to corner the world energy market. Ambassador Maestroni comments that Kuwait may now be willing to agree to a price increase of between five and ten percent.

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