

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

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July 22, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Cyrus Vance[✓]

1. Helicopter Show in USSR: David Owen informed me in London that the UK has cancelled participation of British military helicopters in an international helicopter demonstration scheduled for July 28 - August 6 in Vitebsk, USSR. We are cancelling participation of two US Army pilots, who were to have accompanied a Bell Helicopter team to the USSR. The British are also asking the Germans to cancel official participation, but have not yet received a response.

2. More Trouble Between Ethiopia and Somalia: We are receiving reports that the Ethiopian military are preparing plans for retaliatory strikes against Somalia, possibly before August 1. They are studying the possibility of land incursions into northern Somalia and air strikes against Mogadiscio. Siad's Khartoum speech July 20, in which he pledged continued Somali "moral and material support" for the insurgents in the Ogaden has angered the Ethiopians.

It is not certain that Ethiopian military plans will be implemented. The Ethiopians have moved most of their Ogaden forces to the Eritrea and cannot launch a major ground offensive against Somalia. While they might count on the logistic support of the 8,000 Cuban troops still in the Ogaden, they would probably have to cross the border alone. The distances involved and the limited range of Ethiopian Migs would complicate an air attack on Mogadiscio. Nonetheless, Ethiopian patience is clearly wearing thin.

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We have instructed our Ambassador, who presented his credentials to Mengistu yesterday, to urge restraint, and to point out that retaliatory attacks against Somalia would jeopardize Ethiopia's international standing. He will also tell the Ethiopians that we are pressing the Somalis to respect Ethiopia's borders. Under present circumstances we cannot let our military supply team go to Mogadiscio. I am also taking another look at the timing of the ship visit to Somalia which Warren Christopher reported to you on July 20.

*Carry out
the breakfast
directive*

3. Bonn Anti-Hijacking Declaration: We have told the Germans that we will be represented at the August 1 Bonn follow-on meeting by a broad-gauged delegation and that we want it to go beyond legal and technical issues. In order to expedite the follow-on effort and to supplement Bonn's diplomatic initiatives we will make supplementary coordinated demarches of our own in all capitals where we are represented.

*Be as firm
as possible*

4. Pereda Assumes Power in Bolivia: The military-civilian group favoring Pereda and opposing the annulment of the fraud-ridden Bolivian elections forced Banzer's resignation on July 21. Banzer handed over power to a military junta which immediately installed Pereda in the presidency. Pereda, who has claimed his assumption of power fulfills the will of the people, may seek to install himself for a lengthy period. We are concerned by the interruption of the process of democratic political development and the example this may set for other Latin countries. We want to persuade Pereda to hold elections. We are expressing our concern about the breakdown of the democratic process and are stating our hope that the government will hold elections. This approach should send the signal we want Pereda to receive without putting him on the defensive.

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5. Germans Request Extradition of Suspected Terrorist:
We have just received from the West German Government a formal request for the provisional arrest for extradition of Kristina Berster, the suspected German terrorist arrested in Vermont on July 16 (for illegal entry into the US), and currently held in Federal custody on \$500,000 bail. There is some question, however, whether the criminal offenses cited in the German warrant of arrest are covered by our 1930 extradition treaty with Germany. Our Legal Adviser and Justice officials will meet on the request on Monday morning. Justice has assured us that Berster will be retained in custody at least until Tuesday.

*Comply
if possible.
If doubtful,
retain &
permit
extradition*

6. Arthur Goldberg: The problem of getting Arthur Goldberg a seat on the International Court of Justice is escalating. Although Herb Brownell has agreed to resign, the other two holdovers are determined to stay on and press their choice, Professor Baxter of Harvard. They are also prepared to make their position public, and they have the high ground in the sense that the Court's statute calls for an independent nominating Committee. It has become increasingly likely that we may have a donnybrook in the press if we push Arthur's nomination, and it is not clear that we would prevail although there is still a chance that we could get a joint nomination (Goldberg and Baxter).

Arthur has now written us suggesting that we give serious consideration to withdrawing his name in view of the present posture. In view of the potential for unattractive publicity, I want to ask your judgment on how we should proceed. The choices are essentially (a) abandon our efforts to get Arthur nominated and (b) fill the vacancy created by Brownell's resignation as a member of the nominating Committee and work for a joint nomination of Goldberg and Baxter (It is not clear that Arthur would accept this alternative).

*I gave my
opinion last
week. If
Baxter is a
good man,
& Goldberg
objects to (b),
then (a) is
ok.*

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