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DOS REVIEWED 08-Mar-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: Warren Christopher, Acting

1. South Korean Consultations. I met with PRC Ambassador Chai and Japanese Ambassador Togo tonight to brief them on the South Korea developments. With Chai I urged that his Government use its influence to counsel restraint on Pyongyang. With Togo I said that we wanted to consult closely with the Japanese on this important development and told him that Mike Mansfield would be contacting his officials tomorrow morning. We are also contacting the Soviets here in Washington and are instructing our Ambassadors in ASEAN nations to brief their host governments.

2. Lebanon. Phil Habib has completed his talks in Beirut and Jordan and is now in Damascus. Phil reports that the Lebanese and other Arabs feel strongly that the US should not be out in front on the Lebanon issue, and we, of course, agree. The Arabs seem to be working hard to devise an Arab solution, which could then be blessed at the upcoming summit. Assad declined to receive Phil, assertedly because of illness. It is possible, however, that he wanted to avoid the US label, in order to increase his own maneuvering room at the summit. There are also signs that the Israelis may have reigned in Haddad and told him to be more cooperative with the UN. Jerusalem radio reports that Haddad has agreed to the stationing of a Lebanese Army battalion in his enclave.

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3. El Salvador. When exiled Christian Democratic Party leader Napoleon Duarte returned to El Salvador yesterday, his return was violently disrupted by leftist organizations. A general melee ensued and some stores were sacked and gutted. Members of leftist organizations also continue to occupy the Ministries of Labor and Economy and to hold the respective ministers. The government is reportedly negotiating with the occupiers.

We are reassessing the security situation of Americans in El Salvador. Although the Ambassador and other Mission personnel have been the subject of recent threats of violence, the new Salvadoran government, unlike its predecessor, has responded to Embassy calls for police protection during nearby demonstrations.

4. Chancellor Kreisky. Following the meeting with you this morning, Cy and Chancellor Kreisky continued their discussion, focusing on the Middle East and Central America. Kreisky described his understanding of the state of play between Egypt and the PLO, and said he expected an Egyptian emissary to visit Beirut shortly for talks with Arafat. Such talks would focus in part on the text of a UN Security Council resolution recognizing Israel and calling for Palestinian self-determination. Kreisky was very supportive of our objectives in Central America and said he would make a major effort to rally European support for democratic development in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

5. Spain. Spanish democracy was given an important boost yesterday, when the Basques and Catalans voted overwhelmingly in support of regional autonomy statutes. In the violence-torn Basque country, over 60% of the registered voters defied terrorist intimidation and went to the polls; and 90% of the voters supported the statute. The vote should weaken local support for the terrorists and decrease the likelihood of unconstitutional action by the Spanish military.

6. The Shah's Health. Rockefeller's staff has told us that the Shah's lymphoma is a Class III malignancy which may be too advanced to irradiate and that chemotherapy treatment will require a minimum of eight

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months. His doctor tells us this condition gives him a 50/50 chance to survive the next 18 months; if he does so, he could then live for several more years. Meanwhile, the Shah's recuperation from his operation will require another two to three weeks' hospitalization.

7. Security Council Election. Voting for the Latin American seat on the Security Council ended inconclusively after 13 ballots. The final vote of the day was 79 for Cuba and 65 for Colombia. The balloting will resume on Tuesday. In the interim we expect intense caucusing to find a compromise candidate. The assumption among UN delegations is that Cuba's unexpectedly good showing reflected African support. This probably derived in part from the assumption by many Africans that South Africa has in fact set off a nuclear device and that the US was in some fashion implicated because it had withheld information on the event since September 22.

Tunisia, Niger, the GDR and the Philippines were elected to the Council on the first ballot.

8. Lancaster House. Although the British transitional proposals sparked a confrontation between Lord Carrington and Ian Smith, there are indications that a majority of Muzorewa's delegation is leaning towards acceptance. The Patriotic Front delegation, however, today reacted negatively to the proposals, charging that they were a distortion of the Lusaka Commonwealth communique and a recipe for disaster. They alleged that the proposal to leave the Zimbabwe/Rhodesia security forces and police intact under British authority was biased against them, and could not lead to free and fair elections. They tabled alternative proposals calling for UN supervised elections, a UN peacekeeping force, and a major role for both sides in the transitional government.

The British have rejected the Patriotic Front position, stating that their own proposals are both fair and similar to those used to bring other former colonies to independence. They have indicated to us that they are not prepared to make any major changes in the proposals. The British are determined to accelerate the pace of the conference and have scheduled an unprecedented plenary session tomorrow to discuss the parties' reactions.

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