

DOS REVIEWED 12-Mar-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Cy #8

November 12, 1979

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*I want an analysis
of breaking diplomatic
relations with Iran.
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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Cyrus Vance *CRV*

1. Termination of the Taiwan Civil Aviation Agreement - Despite substantial progress in negotiations over the recent weeks, we have still not yet reached agreement with Taiwan on a new civil aviation agreement to replace the 1946 Nanking agreement. You will recall that we promised the PRC that we would change our aviation agreement with Taiwan into the non-governmental AIT/CCNAA mold. We had also told both the PRC and the Taiwan authorities that, absent a new agreement by November 13, we would serve on that date the necessary one-year notice of termination. If you approve, I therefore intend to have AIT give this notice tomorrow. There will be some adverse reaction in Congress. I believe that a new non-governmental agreement can be worked out within the one-year notice period.
2. Namibia: Geneva Consultations - The UN-sponsored talks on a DMZ began in Geneva November 12 with separate meetings between UN officials and representatives of SWAPO and of the Front Line states. However, South African attendance has been delayed for at least a day because of the dispute over permitting internal Namibian political parties a role. Waldheim sent Pik Botha a further message today stating that his representatives would be happy to meet with the internal parties' representatives in Geneva and that he was asking the Western Five Embassies in Pretoria to inform the parties of this. Ambassador Edmondson in Pretoria has told us by phone that representatives of at least some of the Namibian parties are apparently leaving for Geneva, but that Waldheim's message, though presumably satisfactory to the South African Government, may have arrived too late to permit the SAG officials to leave for Geneva today.

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3. Cuba and the Security Council - Further balloting for the remaining Security Council seat has been deferred until the end of November. After 28 ballots, Cuba's strength ranges between 78 - 80; Colombia's 62 - 65.

Both Cuba and Colombia are using the time available to draw votes. Cuba is concentrating on the Latin American group, hoping that inroads there would start a slide in their direction. Cuba also has been conducting a press campaign in Colombia designed to embarrass the government by labeling it a US stalking horse.

Colombia is also concentrating on the Latin group to assure continuing majority support there. Colombia tells us that they are in the race to stay and will hold firm. We are working closely with Colombia.

Thus far, no serious move has developed at compromise, although there has been some corridor talk on what could be involved. The two most frequently mentioned possibilities are agreement on a third country (such as Peru or Brazil), or splitting a term between Colombia and Cuba, with each taking one year.

4. Coalition Crisis in Israel - The ultra-religious Agudath Party has threatened to leave Begin's coalition since the government did not amend the law that allows abortions for "social" (as opposed to medical) reasons. If the threat is carried out, the defection by the four Agudath members would leave the government with only a paper-thin majority and further dim prospects for remaining in office.

As usual in religious crises, the abortion vote had no substantive link to the peace and economic issues that have wracked the Begin government in recent weeks. But Israeli governments have historically been vulnerable to the singlemindedness of religious blocs, especially when already weakened by divisions on secular issues.

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5. Bolivia - La Paz remains calm, but there is still no political solution in sight. Over the weekend the Congress reached no conclusion on participation in a co-government with coup leader Natusch. The labor confederation rejected participation. Separate meetings of the labor confederation and Congress continued today, however, in an effort to develop positions for a scheduled evening meeting with the military. Ambassador Boeker has been instructed to update contingency plans to reduce the number of official Americans in Bolivia.

6. Hostages in Iran - I believe it would be an excellent idea and well received if you sent a brief message to the most immediate family members of the hostages. Attached is a suggested draft; I have sent Zbig a complete list of the names and addresses of the families.

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