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BOOO
FOR SECRETARY WEINBERGER FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PAUL THAYER AND UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FRED C. IKLE.
SUBJECT: NSC MEETING (U) A-1
1. [redacted] THE AGENDA OF TODAY'S NSC MEETING WAS BROADENED TO INCLUDE LEBANON.
2. [redacted] THE DISCUSSION ON MBFR WAS CUT TO ABOUT 20 MINUTES. MORT ABRAMOWITZ MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR HIS PREFERRED OPTION III.
3. [redacted] GEORGE SHULTZ SUPPORTED IT BUT SAID THAT NOW WAS NOT THE TIME TO MAKE A NEW MOVE. SHULTZ ARGUED THAT BY NAILING DOWN GOOD VERIFICATION MEASURES, WE WOULD STAND TO GAIN. AND THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD AGREE TO ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS WOULD IMPLY SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE REALITY OF UNEQUAL STARTING LEVELS.
4. [redacted] CJCS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR OPTION I, BUT SAID OPTION III WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE LATER. ADELMAN ARGUED FOR OPTION III. OSD'S POSITION, OF COURSE, WAS OPTION I--I.E. NO CHANGE.
5. [redacted] IT WOULD BE MY GUESS THAT WITHIN A FEW WEEKS IT WILL BE ARGUED THAT THE KOREAN AIRLINER INCIDENT IS SUFFICIENTLY FAR BEHIND US AND THAT THEREFORE, WE SHOULD IMPLEMENT OPTION III. SO IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR US IN OSD TO BATTLE THIS ISSUE AGAIN WHEN IT COMES TO THE DETAILED POSITIONS ON VERIFICATION.
6. [redacted] LEBANON: GEORGE SHULTZ STARTED BY STATING THAT THERE WERE THREE CONNECTED ISSUES: (1) THE AUGMENTATION OF

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SEC DEF CONTR No. X27014

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD: WHS
Date: 05 SEP 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552
Declassify: X Deny in Full: ____
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Reason: ____
MDR: 18-M-1335

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OUR FORCES BY SEA--EITHER WITH A SECOND CARRIER OR THE NEW JERSEY; (2) WHAT WE WOULD DO WITH THESE ADDED FORCES IN DEFENSE OF THE MARINES; (3) HOW TO HANDLE THE CONGRESSIONAL SIDE. BILL CLARK INDICATED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE FOR MOVING THE NEW JERSEY BUT AN ORDER TO EXECUTE WAS HELD PENDING FURTHER EVALUATION. SHULTZ ARGUED FOR A SECOND CARRIER, RATHER THAN THE NEW JERSEY, AND THIS POSITION WAS SUPPORTED BY PAUL THAYER AND JACK VESSEY. THE CARRIER DOES NOT INVOLVE DEPLETING OUR PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA AND CAN PROVIDE MORE PRECISE ATTACK OPTIONS WITH LESS RISK OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES THAN NEW JERSEY ARTILLERY. THE PRESIDENT SEEMED TO GO ALONG WITH THESE ARGUMENTS.

7. [redacted] SHULTZ TOOK THE POSITION THAT IF THE SYRIANS MOVE AGAINST OUR INTERESTS WE SHOULD "ROUGH THEM UP." DISCUSSION ENSUED ON (1) WHETHER WE COULD RETALIATE AGAINST DRUZE ARTILLERY IN A LESS POPULATED AREA THAN THE ONES FROM WHICH MARINES ARE ATTACKED; (2) WHETHER WE COULD PICK A SYRIAN TARGET AND ARGUE THAT THE SYRIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE; (3) WHETER BUD MCFARLAND, WHO IS NOW IN DAMASCUS, SHOULD TELL THE SYRIANS THAT WE WOULD HIT SOME OF THEIR MILITARY ASSETS IF THEY LET THE DRUZE ATTACK THE MARINES. JIM BAKER ASKED WHETHER WE HAD THOUGHT WHAT THIS MIGHT LEAD TO IF WE GOT INVOLVED MORE DEEPLY IN FIGHTING AND WHAT OUR END OBJECTIVES WOULD BE.

8. [redacted] THE VICE PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT WE NEEDED TO WORK WITH CONGRESS, THAT WE HAD TO MAKE CLEARER THE MISSION OF THE MARINES, AND SHOULD TRY TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF CASUALTIES. GENERAL VESSEY INDICATED THAT WE HAD TAKEN STEPS FOR PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE MARINES. ALL AGREED THAT LIAISON WITH THE FRENCH, BRITISH AND ITALIANS WAS IMPORTANT, AND SHULTZ PLANS TO MEET ON THIS WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN MADRID.

9. [redacted] THERE WAS SOME LIMITED DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT GEMAYAL SHOULD FALL.

10. [redacted] AT THE END, BILL CLARK ASKED FOR AN IMMEDIATE IG TO WORK OUT MORE PRECISE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE POLICY QUESTIONS. FRED FIELDING HAS HELD A MEETING ON THE WAR POWER ISSUE WHERE WILL TAFT REPRESENTED YOU. WILL SAYS THE MEETING CONCLUDED THAT NO, REPEAT NO, REPORT UNDER %(A)1 WAS NEEDED. A SUPPORTIVE RESOLUTION MIGHT BE DESIRABLE; BUT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THAT. IN ANY EVENT, FURTHER EXPLANATION TO CONGRESS SEEMS NEEDED ON THE ROLE OF THE MARINES IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

SSD PANAMA NOTES PLEASE PASS TO MGEN COLIN POWELL FOR SECDEF. PLEASE DELIVER TO MGEN POWELL NLT 0500(L) AS SECDEF WILL BE DEPARTING YOUR LOCATION.

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