

~~SECRET~~



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

September 15, 1981

In reply refer to:
1-24644/81

POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

SUBJECT: Draft Letter To Brezhnev

(S) You requested our comments on the attached State Department draft of a letter from President Reagan to Brezhnev. State proposes that such a letter be sent in advance of the UN General Assembly as part of a strategy to take the political initiative away from the Soviets.

(S) While action is needed to counter the Soviet effort to capture the "peace" initiative, we are not convinced that a letter of this sort, which essentially repeats known Administration positions, is the appropriate medium. It would initiate a Brezhnev reply which would serve Soviet propaganda ends.

(S) If, nonetheless, it is determined that a Presidential letter is needed, the letter should be drafted to reflect accurately the President's style. The rather apologetic tone of this draft should be eliminated and examples drawn more sharply. It should be drafted so as to prevent easy Soviet denial.

Fred C. Ikle
Fred C. Ikle

Prepared by: Byron Morton/es
OASD/ISP/EUR, X59892

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: APR 02 2018

~~Classified by: DRS, ERS/SPC Policy~~
~~Declassify by: 16 Sept 1987~~

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 12 APR 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + SUCSSS2
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 18 -M- 0662

~~SECRET~~

Sec Def Cont Nr. X- 16221

18-M-0662

330-83-0104, bx 28 ↑ (Sep-Dec, 1981)

USSR OYR

15 Apr 81