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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

20 JAN 1984

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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JCSM-23-84
19 January 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Proposals for Joint Political Military Group (JPMG)
Discussions with Israel (U)

1. ~~(S)~~ The Joint Chiefs of Staff have reviewed the preparations for the upcoming US-Israeli Joint Political Military Group (JPMG) and are concerned that, in its present form, the proposed guidance for the JPMG may not lead to the type of cooperation needed to further the common goals of the two nations.
2. ~~(S)~~ The principal concerns of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are the lack of mutually agreed Terms of Reference for the JPMG and over emphasis on scenarios. The original Terms of Reference developed in the interagency group for the JPMG were consistent with NSDDs 99, 111, and 115. The US objective in the joint political military consultations with Israel is to deter Soviet aggression and counter Soviet efforts to expand their influence in the Near East and South Asia. It now appears from agenda proposals that the discussions will go much deeper into military-to-military cooperation than is appropriate for initial political-military discussions. Therefore, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that the JPMG discussions scheduled for 23-24 January focus less on scenarios and concentrate more on defining those areas in which the United States and Israel have common interests and shared objectives. As the group develops areas of common interest, it should be possible, in the context of the Soviet threat, to consider circumstances in which combined planning, joint exercises and pre-positioning of US equipment could be appropriate to discuss in the military-to-military talks. It should also be possible to agree in general terms upon the type of scenarios involved. The details of the scenarios, the threat assessment, and the courses of action which may result in requirements for planning and associated exercises should be deferred to the military-to-military discussions.
3. ~~(S)~~ In our pursuit of US interests in the Near East and South Asia, we have been embarked on a dual track: enhanced security relations with Arab states and political-military cooperation with Israel. Recognizing the long-standing sensitivities on the part of both the moderate Arabs and the Israelis, we have been consistent in

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our role as a reliable partner capable of a balanced approach to the complex military and political problems of the region. To this end, we have developed a network of allies and friendly countries from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf as an essential part of our strategy to contain Soviet incursions into the area. The upcoming JFNG must likewise be balanced and consistent with US interests for the region. The discussions must be structured to insure that the US position will be consistent with that which has been discussed with our other regional friends and allies.

FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF:


JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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