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ISA/NESA ITEMS FOR CABLE TO DEPSECDEF CARLUCCI

(U) Issue: Multinational Force (MFO)

(U) Discussion: Negotiations with Columbia on their contribution of a 500 man Infantry Battalion were successfully completed 17 September. Efforts are now focused on European participation (France, Italy, UK) for remaining support elements -- signal; patrol boat, and aviation.

(U) Action: While ISA remains DOD focal point for MFO, we are drafting guidance letter to designate the Army as Executive Agent with OSD retaining policy control.

~~(S)~~ Issue: Israel-Strategic Cooperation

~~(S)~~ Discussion: ASD/ISA West had meetings with MOD Sharon and MGen Tamir in Israel September 21 to address concepts/areas for joint efforts. Israeli side reiterated areas for cooperation that MOD Sharon provided SecDef, and are still pressing for a signed MOU. For our part, we remained in listening mode and stayed non-committal.

~~(S)~~ Action: MOD - SecDef follow-on meetings are still scheduled for late November. (Technical talks to set agenda are on hold). We are providing JCS the Sharon cooperation list to get their formal position on the areas of cooperation they believe to be to our advantage militarily.

~~(S)~~ Issue: Omani Request to Hold Tripartite Talks

~~(S)~~ Discussion: At Omani Foreign Minister Zawawi's request, we have agreed to hold tripartite talks with UK and Omani officials in Muscat later this year. Discussions will focus on regional security as a result of the Aden summit. Bud McFarlane will lead the US delegation, accompanied by ASD/ISA West, State PM Director Burt, and a State NEA representative.

~~(S)~~ Action: Currently we are trying to find a mutually agreeable date for convening the talks. Mr. West will discuss the date of the talks plus proposed agenda items with the Omani Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs with whom he will meet on September 29.

~~(S)~~ Issue: Military Construction Funding For Ras Banas, Diego Garcia, and Lajes.

~~(S)~~ Discussion: Calls on the Hill during the past few weeks indicate that face to face exchanges with key staffers have enhanced understanding of the linkage of SWA strategy to MJC. The one area of unyielding resistance is the Majority staff of the HAC. Therefore, calls are being made on the staffers of the MJC sub-comm. Calls on the Congressmen will be made where ever possible. The SAC remains firmly committed to the full program.

The HASC and the SASC seem ready to support Ras Banas. Lajes remains a problem due to the question of progress on an agreement before funding

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the POL tanks. Brig Gen Erickson has reported some progress from Portugal in re negotiations. The senior staff on both said that such information will help support a positive recommendation for Lajes.

A cautionary note should be added due to the very fluid budgetary attitude on the Hill. As the screws tighten there could always be surprise cuts.

~~(S)~~ Action: Continuing calls on the Hill until the decision is final.

~~(S)~~ Issue: Saudi MODA request for Ammo for Yemen

~~(S)~~ Discussion: The Saudi Ministry of Defense and Aviation has requested the USG fund and expedite Tank, Artillery, Air Defense Artillery, and TOW ammo to the YAR.

~~(S)~~ Action: On September 25, 1981 a meeting was held in State, including DASD/ISA participants to discuss current Yemen situation. Instructions will be given to Ambassador Murphy to continue close discussions with senior Saudi personalities on this subject; DOD is exploring the manner in which the tank ammo, (which is already paid for) can be expeditiously shipped to the YAR, and should have a solution to the problem by mid-week 27 September 1981.

~~(S)~~ Issue: NPW Transits of the Suez Canal

~~(S)~~ Discussion: Our team led by Bob Murray held talks in Cairo from 5 September to 16 September on NPW transits. We did not get Egyptian agreement for NPW transits, but did eliminate many of their previous technical grounds for objection. They insisted that the report include a statement of Egyptian opposition to transits. They are genuinely concerned about the canal and are not looking for some quid.

~~(S)~~ Action: We will maintain technical contacts, but should not push now for the political decision. Under present circumstances Sadat would have to say no again. We are watching Sadat's domestic situation for an opportune time to approach him for the political decision.

~~(S)~~ Issue: West-McFarland Talks With Sadat

~~(S)~~ Discussion: On 18 September, State Department Counselor McFarlane and Assistant Secretary of Defense West met with President Sadat, Vice-President Mubarak and Defense Minister Abou Ghazala. Sadat expressed serious concern over situation facing U.S. and Egypt with Sudan in trouble, Qadhafi on the move, and the chaotic situation in Iran. We told him that we shared his concerns and presented our coordinated policy concepts and specific proposals for cooperations.

Sadat responded by saying that he would convey his profound gratitude to President Reagan. He said that he came to us with no plans and within a week the U.S. proposed a plan.

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~~SECRET~~ Action: We are examining the following:

- Exercise on an Infantry Company scale, our ability to airlift Egyptian troops into the Sudan.
- Rotating AWACS through Cairo every six weeks as we fly to and from Saudi Arabia.
- A U.S. Marine exercise in Egypt in the Spring.
- A short-term deployment next summer of some F-16s.
- Shifting a carrier battle group to a position near Somalia for a short time.
- We responded positively to Sadat's request for refueling training for his F-4 pilots.

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