

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

April 18, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI *ZB*
SUBJECT: NSC Weekly Report #137

1. OpinionConsulting with "Europe"

Leaving aside our immediate and specific problem, increasingly we find ourselves "behind the curve" in trying to develop common perceptions, let alone policies, with the Europeans. Too often, we find they have already developed a solid position in the EC "Nine." The reason is straightforward:

-- The Europeans meet regularly and frequently on a multilateral basis -- every two or three weeks at the Political Directors level (Under Secretaries); once a month at the Secretary of State level; and four times a year at the Summit level. This is separate from the many bilateral meetings at various levels.

-- We try to compete with this with only two NATO Ministerials a year and one Summit of the Seven.

According to a formula developed in 1973, we are supposed to consult with "Europe" through the country which holds the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. This is impractical. The only alternative is to intensify our quadripartite consultations, our bilateral consultations, and upgrade our participation in NATO meetings -- possibly by institutionalizing the joint Defense/Foreign Ministers meetings. Specifically, we need to issue more invitations for Europeans to visit here and undertake more visits to Europe by senior U.S. people, particularly from State -- despite the cutback in travel funds -- if we are to increase our influence with the Europeans on policy matters. The NSC also needs to develop and sustain a better dialogue with our counterparts. Otherwise, we will drift apart. I suggest you mention this to Cy.

2. FactCongressional Briefing

Yesterday afternoon at Senator Byrd's request, I met with him and Senators Stennis, Church, Muskie, Nunn, Bayh, Bentsen and Hart.

~~SECRET~~

Review April 18, 1986

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
PER 3/25/88 NSC W/RE NLC-96-139
BY 9 NARS DATE 12/1/98