

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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December 27, 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Cyrus Vance

1. Latin American Security Council Seat: After six rounds of balloting this morning and 5 more this afternoon, the contest between Cuba and Colombia for the Security Council remains deadlocked. Cuban vote totals have ranged 81-85; Colombia 59-65. The voting is continuing today, and we believe Salim will further press the pace of balloting. We have no indication that Cuba is willing to compromise which increases the likelihood that the seat will go vacant on January 1 after Bolivia leaves the Council. The Soviets, incidentally, have acknowledged to us that they consider that the Council can legally continue to act even if it is missing a member.

2. Australian Support for the Security Council Initiative: Prime Minister Fraser has responded to your December 22 message conveying the decision to seek sanctions against Iran in the Security Council. He pledged his Government's full support and stated that Australia will seek to participate in the debate and endorse fully our proposed course of action. His letter undoubtedly crossed with mine to Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock of December 24 conveying our concern over any increase in Australian food shipments or the extension of measures underwriting food shipments to Iran, to which there has not yet been a reply.

3. Rhodesia: Josiah Tongogara, the top military commander of ZANU's (Mugabe) military forces, was killed

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in a car accident Christmas evening on a road north of Maputo, Mozambique. Although Mugabe says no foul play was involved, there will undoubtedly be recurring suspicions that his death was not accidental. Tongogara's death is an important loss for ZANU and will not enhance the prospects for a successful settlement in Rhodesia. He played a decisive role in ZANU's acceptance of the ceasefire proposals and was regarded by the British as the most positive element in ZANU. The British believe his death will hinder their attempts to institute an effective ceasefire. Within Rhodesia, the British lost one of their helicopters, apparently because of mechanical failure. The British report that guerrilla units have already fired on two monitoring force aircraft and have said that we should not be surprised if Lord Soames were compelled to take some very tough steps over the next few weeks if this type of activity continues.

4. Health of the Shah: Ambler Moss has reported from Panama the results of the visit yesterday by Drs. Keane and Williams to the Shah. The Shah's condition was considerably better than Dr. Keane had expected and the doctors now believe it will be at least a month before the Shah may require further hospitalization. Drs. Keane and Williams were satisfied with the management of the Shah's case by Dr. Adan Rios, Panamanian doctor attached to Gorgas, and the two Americans will now serve only as consultants.

5. Iran Sanctions: As we discussed, I passed the suggestion through Peter Hermes that Schmidt talk to Manley and Kaunda on the upcoming UN vote (He has a friendly relationship with both) and through Nicko Henderson that Margaret Thatcher approach Nigeria. Both ambassadors understood the urgency and agreed to pass the word today.

6. Cooperation with ICA/VOA on Iran: David Newsom met this morning with Charles Bray of ICA and Tom Tuch of VOA to coordinate our public treatment of the Iranian situation. We have agreed that our public commentary, including VOA coverage, will stress the major themes of US unity, the primacy of release of the hostages, our willingness to listen

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to Iran's grievances once the hostages are released, and the negative effects of the crisis on Iran and its revolution. The meeting also produced agreement on a number of steps to improve our projection of these themes, including enhanced backgrounding for ICA and VOA's correspondents, coordinated use of the themes in appearances by State Department officials, and approaches to other influential individuals and governments (including some of Iran's neighbors) who might be helpful.