

~~TOP SECRET~~

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FM SECRETARY WEINBERGER ABOARD SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT
TO PRESIDENT REAGAN
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T O P S E C R E T / N O D I S

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NO DISTRIBUTION

I AM ENROUTE BACK TO WASHINGTON AFTER TWO DAYS IN LONDON AND THE VISIT TO OUR FORCES IN LEBANON THAT I MENTIONED TO YOU LAST WEEK.

WHILE IN LONDON I MET WITH MRS. THATCHER WHO BEGAN OUR MEETING BY OBSERVING THAT US-UK RELATIONS WERE SOUND AND THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY IN OUR CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. SHE SPOKE BRIEFLY OF HER TRIP TO HUNGARY AND TO THE ANDROPOV FUNERAL. SHE SAID THAT BOTH THE HUNGARIANS AND SOVIETS WERE PREDICTABLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. THE SOVIETS ARGUED TO HER THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE ARMS CONTROL PROGRESS SINCE WE HAD NOT RATIFIED SALT II. WE COVERED A NUMBER OF MID-EAST ISSUES. SHE AGREED THAT THE POSITION OF THE MNF HAD INDEED BECOME UNTENABLE. SHE NOTED THAT THE SHAMIR GOVERNMENT WAS SHAKEY AND WONDERED IF CURRENT ISRAELI POLICIES WERE ACCEPTABLE TO AMERICAN JEWISH OPINION. SHE WAS QUITE FRANK AND CRITICAL OF ISRAELI POLICIES. SHE ALSO ENCOURAGED OUR STRONG SUPPORT OF KING HUSSEIN. I REVIEWED OUR LEBANON POLICY AND OUTLINED THE SUPPORT WE ARE PROVIDING TO PRESIDENT GEMAYEL. I ALSO OUTLINED OUR SUPPORT FOR KING HUSSEIN TO INCLUDE THE JLP.

MRS. THATCHER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. SHE NOTED THAT THE WEST DID NOT NEED ANOTHER SUCCESS BY MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS. IF THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ WERE CLOSED AND IT BECAME NECESSARY TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION TO REOPEN THEM, SHE SAID WE MIGHT DISCUSS THIS BEFOREHAND WITH THE SOVIETS TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM WE WERE SOLELY INTERESTED IN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND NOT A WIDER CONFLICT. I REVIEWED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER OUR POLICIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THE PRC, AND THE GENERAL ISSUE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

I ALSO MET SEPARATELY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HOWE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE HESELTINE, AND LORD CARRINGTON, THE NEW NATO SECRETARY GENERAL, WITH WHOM I TALKED AT OUR EMBASSY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE CHARLEY PRICE'S VERY NICE LUNCH FOR US.

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HOWE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION WITH YOUR JANUARY SPEECH ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. IN REFLECTING ON THE UPCOMING ECONOMIC SUMMIT, HOWE ANTICIPATES THAT INTEREST RATES AND OUR DEFICIT WILL BE SUBJECTS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. HOWE SECONDED MRS. THATCHER'S CONCERNS OVER THE SITUATION IN THE GULF, AND THE NEED FOR US TO CONTINUE CLOSE CONSULTATIONS. MICHAEL HESELTINE AND I COVERED A NUMBER OF DEFENSE ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE WILL CONDUCT THE FIRST OFF-POST TRAINING EXERCISE FOR THE GLCM UNIT AT GREENHAM COMMON. DEMONSTRATORS WILL BE WAITING SO THE FIRST EXERCISE WILL BE DONE WITH LIMITED ADVANCE NOTICE AND THE UNIT CAN FLY BACK TO GREENHAM COMMON BY C-5, IF NECESSARY TO AVOID THE TRAFFIC JAMS THAT DEMONSTRATORS WILL PUT IN PLACE. HOPEFULLY THIS IS A TEMPORARY SITUATION UNTIL WE GET OVER THE PERIOD OF LINGERING OPPOSITION TO THE DEPLOYMENT. ON ANOTHER MATTER, I ASSURED HESELTINE OF OUR CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE D-5 SUBMARINE MISSILE PROGRAM AND OF OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE MISSILE COMPONENTS THE UK HAS ASKED FOR IN THE CONFIGURATION THAT THEY DESIRE.

LORD CARRINGTON WILL BECOME SECRETARY GENERAL ON JUNE 25. HE IS SPENDING TIME BEFOREHAND VISITING EACH OF THE NATO CAPITOLS-AND WILL BE IN WASHINGTON SOON.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE LONDON VISIT WAS THE DEBATE AT THE OXFORD UNION WHERE I OPPOSED THE PROPOSITION THAT "THERE IS NO MORAL DIFFERENCE IN THE FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE U.S. AND THE USSR," SUCH A PROPOSITION SHOULD FALL OF ITS OWN IDIOCY. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE BODY OF INFORMED OPINION THAT IT WOULD PASS HANDILY.

THERE WAS A SUPERB GROUP OF STUDENT DEBATERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE. MY OPPONENT WAS E.P. THOMPSON, WELL KNOWN IN THE ANTI-NUCLEAR COMMUNITY, AND A SKILLED AND FREQUENT OXFORD UNION DEBATER. I RESTED MY CASE PRINCIPALLY ON THE ARGUMENT THAT AS A FREE PEOPLE WHO COULD EXERCISE INDIVIDUAL AND IN TURN COLLECTIVE CHOICE, WE BROUGHT A MORAL BASIS TO OUR POLICIES THAT COULD NEVER BE MATCHED BY 5-10 UNELECTED LEADERS IN THE KREMLIN. THE DEBATE WAS FREE AND SPIRITED AND I WAS PLEASED THAT WE DEFEATED THE PROPOSITION BY A VOTE OF 270 TO 241.

I ALSO SPOKE TO THE UNITED OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CLUB AND HAD A MEETING WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, AND SEVERAL OTHER ANGLICAN CLERICS, AT THEIR REQUEST TO DISCUSS THE MORAL BASIS OF DETERRENCE. THEY SEEMED GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO OUR VIEWS.

FINALLY, MY VISIT TO OUR TROOPS WAS, AS ALWAYS, A GREAT EXPERIENCE. I VISITED THE USS GUAM, THE USS TRENTON AND ELEMENTS OF THE 22D MAU ASHORE GUARDING THE BEIRUT EMBASSY. AT EVERY STOP YOU COULD FEEL THE PRIDE THE MEN HAVE IN THE JOB THEY ARE DOING. THEY UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR THEIR REDEPLOYMENT AND THEIR MORALE REMAINS HIGH. I CONVEYED TO THEM YOUR BEST WISHES AND YOUR APPRECIATION, AND THAT OF THE NATION, FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK IN GRENADA AND LEBANON.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

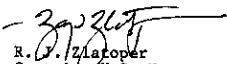
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

February 29, 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

Secretary Weinberger asked that the attached NODIS cable, which was transmitted from his air plane enroute to Washington, D.C., today be provided to the President.


R. V. Zlatoper
Captain, U.S. Navy
Military Assistant to the
Secretary of Defense

Attachment
a/s

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MILI, US, UK
SUBJECT: SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S MEETING WITH PRIME
-- MINISTER THATCHER FEBRUARY 27

1. (~~SECRET~~ ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. DURING SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S FEBRUARY 27 CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, SHE DISCUSSED WITH HIM AND THE AMBASSADOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE GULF, AND TOUCHED AS WELL ON CENTRAL AMERICA, EAST/WEST RELATIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.
3. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT THE OUTSET THAT BILATERAL US-UK RELATIONS WERE SOUND, THAT CONSULTATIONS HAD IMPROVED AND WERE WORKING WELL, AND THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY

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IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.

4. CENTRAL AMERICA:

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SECRETARY WEINBERGER REVIEWED THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WE FACE IN EL SALVADOR, CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON OUR FUNDING, THE SUPPORT NICARAGUA WAS RECEIVING FROM THE SOVIETS AND LIBYANS AND OUR PROBLEMS IN WORKING WITH THE GUATEMALANS IN VIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THERE.

5. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER:

SECRETARY WEINBERGER REVIEWED THE OBJECTIVES OF US POLICY, ASSURING THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE WERE SEEKING ONLY TO BLOCK THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD BE USED AGAINST US. HE SAID OUR CONCERNS WERE OFTEN MISREPRESENTED AS BEING AN EFFORT ON OUR PART TO FAVOR US FIRMS, AND HE WANTED TO REASSURE THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THIS ABSOLUTELY WAS NOT THE CASE. IT WAS ONLY USED TO BLOCK THE SOVIETS.

6. EAST/WEST RELATIONS:

THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT HER TRIP TO HUNGARY AND TO THE USSR FOR ANDROPOV'S FUNERAL. SHE SAID THE HUNGARIANS AND THE SOVIETS HAD BOTH BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF THE US IN COMMENTS TO HER, WITH THE SOVIETS ARGUING THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE ARMS CONTROL PROGRESS WITH THE US, SINCE THE US HAD NOT CARRIED THROUGH ON ITS COMMITMENT TO RATIFY SALT II. HOWEVER, SHE HAD WANTED THE SOVIETS AND HUNGARIANS TO UNDERSTAND THE GENUINE US DESIRE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS.

7. CHINA:

RESPONDING TO THATCHER'S QUERY ON CHINA, SECRETARY

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WEINBERGER SAID THE CHINESE HAD BEEN VERY CORDIAL DURING HIS VISIT. THEY HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN OUR TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE, AND IT WAS IN OUR INTEREST TO PROVIDE SOME FOR MODERNIZATION OF THEIR MILITARY OF A DEFENSIVE CHARACTER. THE CHINESE CONTINUED TO LECTURE US ON TAIWAN BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THE REAL THREAT TO THEM COMES FROM THE NORTH. THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE CHINESE WERE TYING DOWN 80-PLUS SOVIET DIVISIONS, AND THAT IN ANY EVENT IT WAS VITAL TO KEEP CHINA MORE OR LESS ON OUR SIDE.

8. AFGHANISTAN:

THE AFGHANS WERE DOING WELL AGAINST THE SOVIETS, SECRETARY WEINBERGER SAID, AND, IN FACT, AT THIS STAGE THE SOVIETS CONTROL LESS OF THE LAND AREA OF AFGHANISTAN THAN THEY DID WHEN THEY FIRST INVADED. NEVERTHELESS, THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE USING THEIR OWN TROOPS TO SUBDUCE THIS VITAL AREA INDICATED THAT THEY SAW IT AS A ROUTE THROUGH WHICH THEY COULD MOVE TOWARD THE OIL FIELDS OF THE GULF, SHOULD THEY CHOOSE TO DO SO.

9. LEBANON:

THATCHER SAID THE POSITION OF THE MNF HAD BECOME UNTENABLE. SECRETARY WEINBERGER AGREED AND
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THATCHER ASKED ABOUT ISRAELI VIEWS AND POLICIES, NOTING THAT THE SHAMIR GOVERNMENT APPEARED SHAKY. SHE WONDERED WHETHER ISRAELI POLICIES WERE ACCEPTABLE TO AMERICAN JEWISH OPINION. SHE RECALLED THAT THE SABRA/SHATILA MASSACRES HAD CAUSED BEGIN TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. SHE REMARKED THAT, WHENEVER THERE WAS A PROBLEM, IT SEEMED THAT ISRAEL ANNEXED WHAT IT WANTED. SHE URGED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REAPPRAISAL OF ISRAELI POLICY. SHE DREW THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION TO ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

11. THATCHER SAID WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO SUPPORT KING HUSSEIN. MOREOVER, SHE FELT THAT THE WEST BANK MUST BE FOR THE PALESTINIANS, NOT THE PLO. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT THE WEST MUST SUPPORT HUSSEIN, AND OUTLINED US EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HUSSEIN THE SUPPORT HE REQUIRES, INCLUDING THE JLP. THATCHER AND WEINBERGER AGREED THAT JORDAN MUST BE CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THE THREAT FROM THE SYRIANS. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE SAUDI ELEMENT OF THIS EQUATION.

12. IRAN-IRAQ WAR:
THATCHER SAID THE WAR WAS VERY WORRISOME. SHE NOTED THAT THE WEST DID NOT NEED MORE SUCCESSES BY MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS. SHE STRESSED THAT THE UK WAS NOT SUPPLYING ARMS TO IRAN EXCEPT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS CONTRACTS. SHE SAID BRITAIN ABSOLUTELY WAS NOT SUPPLYING ENGINES FOR CHIEFTAIN TANKS. SHE POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL, SYRIA AND NORTH KOREA WERE SUPPLYING ARMS TO IRAN.

13. SHE OBSERVED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT LIKELY, THAT IRAN WOULD CLOSE THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ. RETURNING TO HER EARLIER THEME, SHE REITERATED THE DANGER TO SOME OF THE SMALLER GCC

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STATES IF KHOMEINI SUCCEEDED IN THE GULF. HOWEVER,
SHE POINTED OUT THAT FANATICAL MUSLIMS SUCH AS
KHOMEINI ALSO REPRESENT A THREAT TO COMMUNISTS.
SHE SUGGESTED THAT, IF IT BECAME NECESSARY TO
TAKE ACTION TO REOPEN THE STRAIT BY MILITARY
MEANS, MAYBE THE WEST SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THE
SOVIETS IN ADVANCE, MAKING IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT
MILITARY ACTION WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SECURING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE GULF, NOT TO
WIDEN THE CONFLICT OR CAUSE A SUPERPOWER CONFRONTA-
TION. PRICE
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