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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD

February 20, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM:

(C)

The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Evening Notes

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Meanwhile, our consul in Peshawar reports have provided additional information on the build-up of Soviet troops in eastern Afghanistan. The reported buildup in Kunar, Paktia, and Nangarhar, if true, would seem to auger an increased Soviet role in counter-insurgency operations.

Zambian Views on Rhodesia: Kaunda went public to the press today in Lusaka charging that there exists "a big conspiracy" between Britain and South Africa to prepare for a coup in Rhodesia if the Patriotic Front is victorious. Kaunda claimed that victory for Mrs. Thatcher seems to be "slipping through her fingers." He went on to enumerate Lancaster House violations -- the use of Rhodesian security forces, deployment of the auxiliaries, the arrest of Garfield Todd, the arrival of South African armored cars, and British-South Africa police depredations.

A Belgian election observer who listened to Kaunda's remarks reports receiving a different story from Central Committee member Kamanga who never mentioned the British but predicted Zambia's interests would be harmed if Mugabe won. Embassy Lusaka suspects that Kaunda is only hearing half the story. Zambia's leadership worries about a Mugabe victory, can do noting about it, and will be forced to accept the election results as long as Mugabe or Nkomo form the first government.

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Knesset Tilts Against Jewish Settlement in Hebron: Although there is still no government consensus on the issue, a clear majority of the influential Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee would prefer to see the idea of initiating a Jewish settlement in Hebron postponed for the indefinite future. (U)

Arguments for postponement include the feeling that if the President is re-elected, Israel's position will be weaker and support from U.S. Jews less assured and concern that Israel is neglecting major settlement projects while wasting efforts over Hebron.

(U)

Ambassador Lewis comments that while Begin may be able to proclaim the right of Jews to live inside Hebron without stirring significant political opposition, a decision to implement a specific settlement scheme would provoke a far less benign reaction. (U)

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