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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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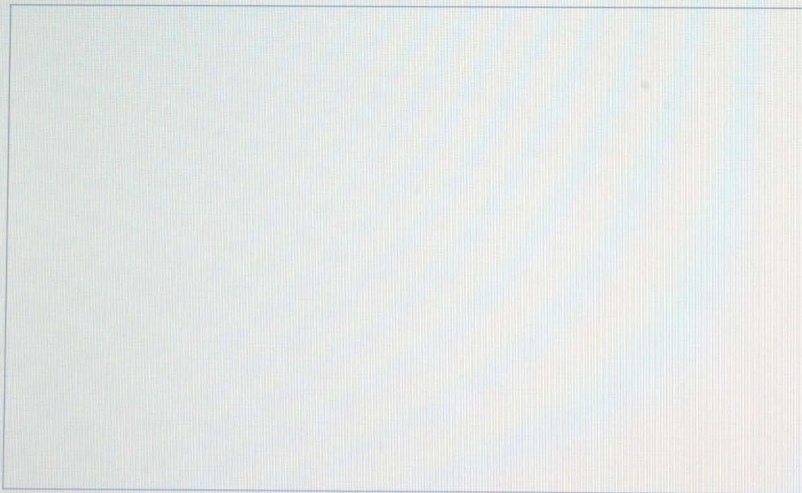
May 3, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Additional Information Items

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Transition to a Tory Government: Ambassador Brewster predicts that the Conservatives probably will win the election despite their narrowing lead in the polls. The more assertive approach to foreign affairs to which the Tories aspire could lead to differences between us over such issues as southern

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REVIEW ON MAY 2, 1999

CLASSIFIED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES

State Dept. review
completed

NLC Review
Completed.

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Africa or arms control, but Brewster believes these differences are not inevitable. The Conservatives' preference for a more positive British role in Europe, a more vigorous posture in the third world and an expanded defense effort can all be channeled in directions supportive of U.S. interests. Brewster suggests that on all but the most urgent and important issues, we give the new ministers a chance to get their "feet on the ground" and give the embassy time to "follow up on the easy, personal relationships" already established with most of the likely party leaders. He recommends Secretary Vance consider visiting London on his way to the NATO ministerial to provide Thatcher with her first contact as prime minister with the U.S. administration. (C)

On the other hand, a Labor victory will mean that U.S./UK relations will continue very much on track, Owen eventually will be moved to another ministry and Dennis Healey is expected to take over the foreign office. In the event neither party takes a majority of seats, Brewster expects the party with the largest number of seats will be able to form a government fairly quickly. (S)

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