

SECRET #8THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 15, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Edmund S. Muskie *ESM*

1. Afghanistan Resolution at UNGA: Debate on Afghanistan will begin Monday and the Islamic draft resolution will be voted on Wednesday. The resolution, which now has 29 sponsors, calls for immediate withdrawal of foreign troops and self-determination. It expresses hope that the Secretary General will appoint a special representative to pursue a political settlement in accordance with the terms of the resolution.

USUN has been working closely with Pakistan, the main sponsor, to mobilize a large vote. The Pakistanis are confident they have 110 votes in hand, and we are working together on possible additional votes. The 110 estimate may be a bit high, but we believe the yes votes will at least equal, and perhaps exceed, the 104-18-18 vote for the January 14 resolution at the UNGA Emergency Special Session on Afghanistan. Afghan resistance leaders are actively lobbying in the corridors of the UN. (C)

2. Caterpillar Pipelayers to the USSR: Commerce informed Caterpillar yesterday that it is issuing an export license for 200 pipelayers for the Soviet Union. Caterpillar believes this decision enhances substantially its prospects for fruitful negotiations with the Soviet Delegation which arrives this weekend.

We are working with Commerce on agreed press guidance saying 1) the pipelayers do not involve high technology and are not COCOM-controlled; 2) the decision reflects no change of policy; and 3) we are not backing away from the sanctions which we have imposed — that we have urged others to impose. (U)

3. ACMI System: In your private meeting with Begin, he apparently raised the ACMI system (air combat maneuvering instrumentation). This is a General Dynamics electronic simulator that permits effective air force training without

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use of live ammunition. We have no problem with transfer of the system to Israel. The difficult issue is the location of the substations, which must be spaced over a wide geographic area. The Israelis' preferred location is on the West Bank. We fear that installation of such a system there, with our approval, would complicate the autonomy talks by implying that intensive military training would take place on and over the West Bank under a self-government regime. On the other hand, the Israelis note that these substations are small and mobile, and that Israeli air space is too crowded to easily accommodate training programs that are now conducted in Sinai.

Our proposal to the Israelis, which Matt Nimetz passed on to them last week, was that we were disposed to approve the ACMI system, and want Israel to accept a US team to help locate the system within the Green Line. The Israelis object to the implied conditionality of our approach. They would probably accept the US team, on an advisory basis, but only after we approve the export license. Do you have any guidance for us, based on your discussion with Begin? (S)

4. UK Demarche to Soviets on Sverdlovsk: After consulting with us, the British Ambassador approached the Soviets in Moscow to underscore the seriousness with which the UK viewed this issue, and to stress their concern that lack of a satisfactory resolution could affect the credibility of the arms control process. While not accusing the Soviets of a violation of the BW convention, the British Ambassador cited disturbing evidence of deaths caused by inhalation anthrax and the existence of a possible CW warfare facility near the ~~area~~ where these deaths occurred.

The Soviet response was to repeat the points made in response to our earlier demarches: That the Sverdlovsk incident has nothing to do with the BW convention, and that the UK approach raised serious doubts about UK intentions towards arms control matters. We are assessing possibilities for a bilateral approach to this problem, and will work closely with the UK on any future steps. Since the Soviets received the British Ambassador at only the Assistant Secretary level, the British are considering a follow-up in London or Moscow at a senior level to stress their seriousness. (S)

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