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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Cyrus Vance CW

1. Meeting with Evron - I had a one-hour meeting with Eppie this morning. We covered four subjects: 1) the postponement of the meeting on UNTSO until September; 2) Lebanon, and the fact that we would be sending a letter to the Congress next week on the question of Israeli raids into Lebanon; 3) the status of the West Bank/Gaza talks, and particularly Burg's attack on the US; and 4) the UN resolution on the Palestinians. It was a useful conversation. We cleared the air on some issues and both outlined our differing views on the others. Eppie is a reasonable man, listens carefully, and is an accurate reporter to his government. He also genuinely wants to have a good, friendly, and strong relationship with the United States. He is looking forward to his lunch with you next week.

I also discussed with him the economic situation in Israel. He will provide me with an off-the-record analysis of the seriousness of the situation and the time factors that affect it.

I have just finished studying all of the materials on the Lebanon raids, including additional information on casualties, analysis of Israeli photographs of the attacks done by our photo interpreters, etc. I have come to the conclusion that our letter to the Congress must state that we believe there may have been a violation of the statute. I will be sending the letter up either Monday or Tuesday to Clem Zablocki with a copy to Frank

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Church. I do not plan to release the letter. If queried by the press, I will reply that I have written to Chairman Zablocki about the matter, and that the release of the letter is up to him.

2. Rhodesia - There is some movement toward common ground on a settlement for Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. Speaking August 3 at the Commonwealth Conference in Lusaka, Nyerere recognized that the April elections had created a "political change in Rhodesia." He outlined three basic points for a solution: 1) a constitutional reform allowing for real majority rule while not eliminating "reserved seats for minorities"; 2) free and fair elections conducted under international supervision; and 3) a Commonwealth resettlement program and fund for whites who choose to depart Rhodesia. He said that the lifting of sanctions before a democratically elected government was installed would prolong the war. Prime Minister Thatcher reviewed the UK's recent consultations with the interested parties. She reiterated that the UK was responsible for granting legal independence to Rhodesia on the basis of black majority rule. She said that the white blocking mechanism under the present constitution must be altered, as must the constitutional provisions which restrict the government's control over senior personnel appointments. The key difference between Nyerere's and Thatcher's positions was Nyerere's clear call for new elections, while Thatcher referred only in more general terms to the search for a solution involving the present internal parties. Mrs. Thatcher promised to have concrete proposals ready "as soon as possible" after the Lusaka conference. We will be consulting with the British on these proposals.

The speeches show a degree of movement on both sides and reflect a notable change in the mood of the conference from confrontation to more accommodation between the Africans and the British. There are exceptions. The Nigerians still appear sharply critical of the British and the internal and external Rhodesian parties have yet to be heard. However, Mrs. Thatcher's remarks on constitutional reform meet some Africans' demands--and for his part, Nyerere demonstrated that the Front Line has some flexibility in its position on provisions for white security.

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3. Namibia: Discussions of a Settlement - Zambia has informed us of its willingness to allow the creation of a demilitarized zone along its border with Namibia if such an arrangement is implemented on the Angola-Namibia border as proposed by Angolan President Neto. This development will further strengthen the brief of Contact Group Envoy Sir James Murray in his discussions with South African officials. Murray is to begin discussions in Lisbon with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Brand Fourie on August 5, and then will proceed to Pretoria for talks with Prime Minister P. W. Botha and others on a date to be set.
4. Report of a Coup in Equatorial Guinea - Spanish Foreign Minister Oreja informed us that President Masie Nguema has been overthrown. This coincides with an AFP report stating that Masie was arrested by the Equatorial Guinean Minister of Defense. The Masie regime has had one of the worst human rights records in Africa; if not the world, since the former Spanish colony was granted independence in 1968.
5. Pacific Leaders Balk at Nuclear Storage Proposal - Pacific Island leaders reacted swiftly and negatively to our public announcement that we are studying the use of a US island in the Pacific to store spent nuclear fuel. Australia, New Zealand, and Micronesian and Oceanian states have all strongly condemned the proposal. Governor Ariyoshi of Hawaii has written us strongly opposing the idea. We are considering sending an expert team to the region to answer questions and clear up misconceptions about the plan.
6. Beef Imports - The letter you received yesterday from Acting Australian Prime Minister Anthony seems intended to provide a way to avoid confrontation over our acceptance of the 1.25 billion pound beef import floor. The domestic politics of the issue in Australia are not dissimilar to ours. A confrontation could become sufficiently heated and jeopardize important mutual interests. In

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effect, Anthony is saying that the Australians are willing to accept our political facts of life, if we can accept theirs. The solution, as he apparently sees it, lies in a largely symbolic adjustment of our bilateral MTN agreement which stipulates that if a 1.3 billion pound level is not maintained, corresponding adjustments will be made to preserve a mutually satisfactory balance of concessions. We will be working closely with the STR and the NSC to see if an equitable solution can be reached.

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