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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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Date: AUG 2 1 2013

April 11, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Significant Actions, Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense (April 5-11, 1980)

West Coast Trip: I returned to Washington late Tuesday night following a trip to the West Coast, which included an overnight stop in Chicago on the way back. In San Diego I spoke to the officers and enlisted personnel of the KITTY HAWK, expressing our nation's appreciation for their personal contribution to our posture in the Indian Ocean. Later I spoke to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, and had a press conference.

I was addressing the World Affairs Council when you made your announcement Monday on Iran. By prearrangement, the moderator asked me to comment at the end of my speech. When I reported that you had broken diplomatic relations with Iran, there was loud applause and cheering from the 1200 guests. There was cheering again when I said all Iranian diplomats would have to be out of the country by midnight of the following day. But when I noted that food and drugs had been excluded from the embargo, there was a broad murmur of disapproval. In the Q&A session there was a comparable undercurrent of complaint that we had not been strong enough, soon enough and that we should be tough and uncompromising now. Of course that's easy for people to say in general terms; it's harder for them to be specific as to what they'd do.

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In Chicago, I held a press conference, met with the editorial board of the Chicago Tribune, and spoke to the Mid-America Committee. The same get-tough-with-Iran message came through in these sessions. It is evident that many persons, even in sophisticated groups, underestimate the complications and risks in military action.

Meeting With President Sadat: Wednesday I met with President Sadat at Blair House. He did not press me for more money or on the F-15s, though Ambassador Ghorbal did raise "equality with Israel" and forgiveness. Sadat did press us to help Siad Barré in Somalia. I raised the question of USAF F-4s temporarily deploying to Cairo West for joint exercises. Sadat was amenable, and said "any number" of U.S. personnel could accompany the F-4s. I mentioned our need for rear area staging facilities, and he again expressed his interest in our improving the facilities at Ras Banas and Berenice. I will pursue these matters with Defense Minister Ali next week, and Assistant Secretary McGiffert will follow up during a stop in Egypt at the end of this month.

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Overseas Homeporting of an Aircraft Carrier: As part of our initiatives in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, we are exploring ways to support a significant full-time naval presence in the Indian Ocean. Overseas homeporting of a second aircraft carrier (USS MIDWAY, as you know, is already homeported in Japan) is under consideration. I have approved the Navy's recommendation to proceed with evaluation of Pacific and European homeporting sites. Some candidate sites (Australia, Italy, England, Portugal and Guam) will require site surveys, and--in cooperation with State--we have commenced these; we already have ample data on other sites (Spain and the Philippines). Despite the very clear operational advantages, the drawbacks (e.g., stationing thousands of additional personnel and their dependents abroad, significant costs) mean that considerable study will be needed before any final decision.

PRC Vice Premier Geng Biao Visit: While we had expected that Geng Biao's advance team would arrive this Tuesday for a three-week visit, the Chinese asked on Wednesday for a delay until early May, to permit some members of the advance team to remain behind to join with the Geng delegation. (The Chinese accepted our proposed visit dates for the Vice Premier to be here: May 27th through June 4th.)

On the key issue of military equipment sales, we have divided the list the Chinese gave us into three categories: those items we will consider for export license, those items about which we need more information, and those items we will not now consider for export to the PRC. We have told them that we want the advance team to focus on the first two categories, and visit only commercial firms and installations associated with them.

We foresee a number of problems:

- The gap between Chinese expectations and U.S. inclinations on technology and hardware transfers is still wide.
- The Chinese are much more interested in acquiring technology; we are emphasizing sale of end-items.

Nevertheless, there is no reason that the visit cannot be mutually satisfactory, assuming that the Chinese lower their sights somewhat and we approach decisions on license applications from an appropriately forthcoming perspective.

Japanese Parliamentary Committee on Defense: I view the establishment last week by the Japanese of a committee to debate defense issues--which, until now, had been addressed before the Diet's Budget Committee--as further evidence of a more realistic approach to national security issues by the Japanese government and its citizens. Slowly, sometimes painfully slowly, we are succeeding in our efforts to get Japan to accept fuller partnership in defense matters. Your conversations with Prime Minister Ohira in early May could usefully include a favorable comment on the role the new committee can, and should, play in focusing the domestic defense debate. By a not-very-good analogy with our

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Armed Services Committees, their new one may make life harder for Ohira--but it should help the defense programs we have been urging on the Japanese.

Minority and Disadvantaged Business Support: Graham met Wednesday with the Service Secretaries and other senior officials of the Department to assign FY 80 goals for our minority and disadvantaged small business program. The Department's goal set by OFPP--\$2,175 million (of a \$3,800 million total for all government agencies)-- is an extremely ambitious one, both for us and for the private sector, and will be very difficult to attain. We will do everything possible to achieve the objective, however, because we recognize the high importance of this program.

Congressional Matters: This coming Thursday I will meet with members of the HASC over breakfast to discuss our candidate programs for deferral to offset increased fuel and inflation costs in the revised FY 80 and 81 budgets. The meeting's purpose is to preempt at least some of the challenges we expect during committee reviews.

*Harold Brown*

Office of the Secretary of Defense, *545052-2nd*  
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