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1 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 24 July 1986 HPSCI Briefing

CIA Briefers:

ADDI Helgerson

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Congressmen Present:

Hamilton, Brown, Daniel, Dwyer,
Kastenmeier, McHugh, Stump, Ireland,
Hyde

Subjects Briefed:

USSR/Afghanistan: Gorbachev Statement
on Troop Withdrawal

Afghanistan: Update on the War

Mexico: Implications of the
IMF Accord

Bolivia: Update on Operation
Blast Furnace

Nicaragua; Update on the War

Israel/Morocco: The Peres/Hassan Talks

Sudan: Update on the
Insurgency

Lebanon: The Release of Father
Jenco [Redacted]

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Questions/Answers

Hamilton

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QUESTION: Why hasn't our intelligence on Bolivia been better? Why can't we tell the difference between a ranch and a cocaine processing lab?

ANSWER: DEA is operating mostly on information they obtain themselves. We have not had that much of a role. We have identified possible lab sites, but there is no specific signature for them.

QUESTION: Whose intelligence was used for the strike force?

ANSWER: Almost entirely DEA's. We have played a very limited role and only in the latter stages.

QUESTION: A DEA official claims the strike force is not hitting the targets he told them to hit. Do the Bolivians make these choices?

ANSWER: They probably play a role.

QUESTION: Is the Gorbachev speech a signal the USSR wants a settlement?

ANSWER: They undoubtedly would like a settlement on their terms.

QUESTION: Is it a significant overture?

ANSWER: It definitely puts the US and Pakistan in a difficult position, but you have to be somewhat cynical about Soviet motivations.

Stump

No questions.

Kastenmeier

QUESTION: Why did Hassan go along with this initiative? Did we prod him into it?

ANSWER: No, he is in a difficult economic position and probably calculated that the possible payoff for his relations with the US would offset any problems with the Arab countries.

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QUESTION: No US promises of aid?

ANSWER: Not to my knowledge?

QUESTION: What money are the Contras operating on now?

ANSWER: We know they have enough arms and materiel to last through July. Presumably they are conserving their funds and materiel somewhat. We haven't been able to document all their resources.

QUESTION: We should know the specifics.

ANSWER: I agree, but we've never been in the business of determining what US persons are doing regarding funding of Contras.

QUESTION: If the Soviets do withdraw troops, why would that put us in an awkward position?

ANSWER: Perhaps I misspoke. The US would have something to worry about because the offer might cause Pakistan to agree to something that doesn't go far enough. The Pakistanis may be put on the defensive.

Ireland

QUESTION: Could you give me an update on Angola?

ANSWER: No significant changes from past week. There is a continuing buildup of Angolan forces, and an offensive is likely in August. UNITA claims another two MIGs shutdown. We have no evidence to confirm press reports of atrocities, but it would be naive of me to say it didn't happen.

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Daniel



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QUESTION: I'm sorry I was delayed in arriving. Can you repeat your statement on

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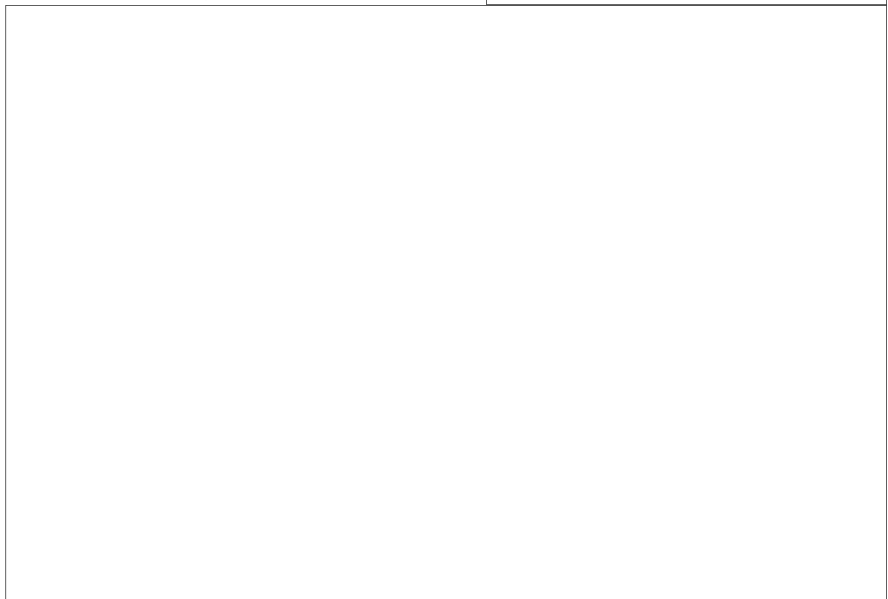
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the Afghanistan situation and the Soviet statement?

ANSWER: The Soviets will remove six regiments: three air, one tank, and two motorized rifle regiments. A total of about 8000 troops. This is the season for increased military activity. The offer to withdraw shows that Gorbachev is smoother than his predecessors.

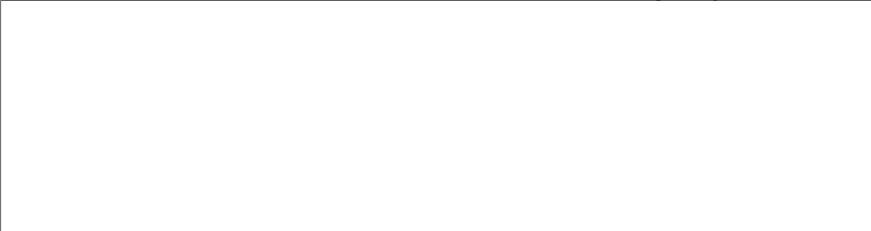
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Hyde



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QUESTION: The Soviets argue that Afghanistan is an East/West conflict and that the United States is using the insurgents to exploit the Afghan people.



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Brown

QUESTION: What is the solution to the Afghan problem?

ANSWER: The only solution is for the Soviets to get out of Afghanistan. My concern is that the Pakistanis may agree to only a symbolic reduction of Soviet troops. I believe that only a realistic timetable for withdrawal can solve the problem.

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Hyde

QUESTION: Present government in Afghanistan isn't strong enough to remain in power without Soviet help. Isn't that correct?
ANSWER: Yes. The Soviets want a government that can stand over time, but the present one can't stay without Soviet help.

QUESTION: The Soviets want a four-year withdrawal plan. That doesn't seem like a viable plan.
ANSWER: The Pakistanis have rejected it.

Brown

QUESTION: Seems to me that these conflicts around the world can go on forever unless the US and the Soviet Union can come to some sort of agreement.
ANSWER: There is an important difference between Nicaragua and Afghanistan. The Soviets may be more likely to agree to reduce support in Nicaragua, but not in Afghanistan.

McHugh

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QUESTION: Do the Syrians know more than they have said about the hostages?

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ADDI. The growing pressure from recent Syrian activity in Beirut may have pushed the Shias to release Jenco.

QUESTION: What is Qadhafi up to lately with respect to terrorist activity?
ANSWER: Not much to pass along. Surprisingly, Qadhafi reaffirmed his support for the Moroccan/Libyan accord. He has been relatively quiet and appears intimidated by the US airstrike.

Dwyer

No questions

Hamilton

QUESTION: You seem to believe that \$12 billion will help de la Madrid politically, but it won't lead to fundamental changes in the economy.

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ANSWER: You put it very well. It will help in the short run and the economic targets have been eased. The package, however, will not help correct the fundamental economic problems.

QUESTION: This agreement probably indicates that other Latin American countries will push for less stringent IMF conditions.

ANSWER: Absolutely.

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