

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

VERY URGENT ACTION

July 29, 1971

*0/2 per  
HAC office 30892*

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

SUBJECT: Mintoff Pleads for US Support

[Redacted]

25X1

Mintoff made an impassioned plead for the US to put pressure on the British through NATO; or to consider what the US could give NATO if the British withdraw; or to send a high-level representative to discuss the situation with him. He repeatedly stressed the seriousness of Malta's financial situation and the need for a solution prior to the reconvening of the Maltese Parliament in August.

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[Redacted]

would appear to present us with a very important opportunity to work out a successful solution to our Maltese problems. In my memorandum proposing a game plan for Malta (Tab B, Log # 30925X), I suggested that we will have to move quickly and decisively if we are to realize our objectives of retaining a US and NATO presence in Malta. Mintoff appears to have given us our opening.

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Two immediate steps would appear to be in order:

-- Feldman should be immediately contacted (before he unknowingly pays an unofficial visit on Mintoff) and told that you will want to touch base with him before he visits Mintoff.

-- Mintoff should be informed [Redacted] that he can expect to hear from Feldman in the very near future, and that Feldman will be carrying high-level credentials.

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Once these steps have been taken, it would be possible to begin working out the details of coordinated UK and US negotiations with Mintoff along the lines suggested in the memorandum at Tab B. (The fact that Ambassador Pritzlaff is aware [Redacted] would appear to ease if not

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DOS, NSS  
Reviews  
Completed.

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eliminate the difficulties we earlier had with him about having an emissary visit Mintoff.)

RECOMMENDATION

1.  inform Mintoff that he will be hearing from a high-level US representative in the very near future.

2E25X6

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

2. That you have Ambassador Feldman contacted and told to stand by for instructions prior to visiting Mintoff.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

3. That you approve the supporting actions recommended in the memorandum at Tab B.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

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