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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

To General Haig

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INFORMATION
August 28, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM:

DICK KENNEDY *Dick*

SUBJECT:

CIA Analysis of Soviet Covert
Activity in Mideast

HK

Two weeks ago Al Haig sent CIA some questions (Tab A) about possible Soviet covert involvement in recent events in various parts of the Middle East -- such as the upheavals in Morocco and the Sudan, Libya's efforts to buy off Malta, Soviet pressure on Ethiopia via threats of increased aid to Somalia and the Sudan, and the Cyprus situation. Our staff seemed skeptical about the degree of Soviet involvement, and Al wanted an independent judgment. He also wanted to know if the Russians have stepped up their covert action program lately.

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August 12, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:**MR. CORD MEYER****FROM:****TOM LATIMER****SUBJECT:****Request for Memorandum**

General Haig asked me to convey to you the following request from him for a memorandum on Soviet covert activities in the Middle East.

In particular, he has noted the following incidents:

- The Moroccan coup attempt with immediate support by Libya.
- The Sudan coup with possible Soviet support and the counter-coup supported by Libya. (Was Libya at cross purposes with Moscow?)
- Libya's efforts to buy off Mintoff.
- Soviet threats to Ethiopia that its continued close relations with the U.S. would result in greater Soviet aid to Ethiopia's antagonistic neighbors.

In addition, he is concerned that the Soviets may be trying to exploit the Cyprus situation as a part of their goal of removing the U.S. presence from the Mediterranean.

What is needed, is a general assessment of whether or not Moscow has embarked upon an increased pace of covert actions throughout the Middle East in recent months, some comments on the particular issues mentioned above and finally, some suggested actions on our part to counter such Soviet moves, if you find that they have, in fact, stepped up their covert actions.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

19 August 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Tom Latimer
The White House

SUBJECT: General Haig's Request for Information on
Soviet activity in the Middle East

Attached is our response to the questions General Haig raised with you. Please convey it to the General with our offer to discuss the matter at greater length with him if he feels the need.

Cord Meyer, Jr.

Cord Meyer, Jr.
Acting Deputy Director for Plans

Enclosure: As stated

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification