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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK015

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L EYES ONLY

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TO RALPH SIGLER FOR PETER RODMAN

NOVEMBER 5, 1973

TO SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM GENERAL SCOWCROFT

1. SONNENFELDT WANTS YOU TO BE AWARE OF FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS ON THE TRADE BILL:

A. A MEETING BETWEEN EBERLE/PEARCE AND ULLMAN WENT REASONABLY WELL, THOUGH ULLMAN THOUGHT YOUR PROPOSED LETTER WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH. HOWEVER, ULLMAN'S KEY POINT WAS THAT ACTIVE JEWISH LEADERSHIP SUPPORT FOR DROPPING TITLE IV WAS REQUIRED.

B. SUBSEQUENTLY, JEWISH LEADERS STEIN, MAAS AND JACOBSON CAME TO SEE FLANIGAN IN SHELLSHOCKED CONDITION. THEY HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO MASSIVE, JACKSON-INSPIRED PRESSURES FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS. THEY HAD ALSO BEEN TO SEE JACKSON WHERE THEY FOUND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED BY RIBICOFF AND, UNEXPECTEDLY, SEVERAL OTHER JEWISH LEADERS AND WERE SUBJECTED ADDITIONAL PRESSURE. STEIN ET AL REPEATEDLY TOLD FLANIGAN THAT CHANCES WERE THEY WOULD BE REPLACED IN THEIR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IF THEY SUPPORTED ADMINISTRATION.

C. AS OF THIS EVENING, FLANIGAN AND STR THINK EFFORT TO DROP TITLE IS DEAD, ESPECIALLY WITH YOU OUT OF TOWN. THERE IS TO BE MEETING WITH SHULTZ TUESDAY MORNING TO CONSIDER OPTIONS. BUT, AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, THE ECONOMIC PEOPLE ARE UTTERLY CONVINCED THAT POSTPONEMENT MEANS ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH OF THE TRADE BILL, ASSUMING YOU CAN EVEN GET POSTPONEMENT. THEY ALSO ARGUE THAT TO POSTPONE AND POSSIBLY BURY TRADE BILL QUOTE FOR THE SAKE DETENTE

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

HOWE, MCFARLANE, SEC

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WITH THE SOVIETS UNQUOTE WILL HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES IN EUROPE.

D. WHAT PROBABLY WILL EMERGE FROM TUESDAY'S STOCKTAKING SESSION WILL BE SCENARIO WHEREBY ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES FIGHT FOR DROPPING TITLE IV BUT THEN LETSMATTERS TAKE THEIR COURSE ON HOUSE FLOOR WITH RESULT THAT TITLE IV PLUS VANIK AMENDMENT WILL BE ADOPTED. ONCE THIS HAS HAPPENED, SOME PEOPLE THINK PRESIDENT SHOULD THEN PUBLICLY ISSUE VETO THREAT SO AS TO MAKE FURTHER GESTURE TO SOVIETS. EXPECTATION, HOWEVER, WOULD BE THAT BEFORE THAT POINT IS REACHED YOU WOULD SOMEHOW MAKE A DEAL WITH JACKSON FOR ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE IN SENATE BILL. ECONOMIC PEOPLE ARGUE THAT EVEN IF BILL IS POSTPONED, JACKSON PEOPLE WILL TACK ON MFN AND CREDIT PROHIBITION TO ONE BILL AFTER ANOTHER UNTIL THEY GET ONE WHICH PRESIDENT CANNOT VETO. SO, IF THIS EVENING'S SENTIMENT PREVAILS, THERE WILL BE STRONG TIDE RUNNING TOMORROW FOR GOING DOWN WITH TITLE IV AND VANIK CREDIT BAN IN THE BILL BUT SURROUNDING IT WITH ADMINISTRATION NOISES TO PLACATE SOVIETS.

2. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE CASE FOR POSTPONEMENT PREPARATORY FOR THE ISSUE GOING TO THE PRESIDENT. BUT ON THE STRENGTH OF JEWISH LEADERSHIP'S POSITION THIS EVENING WE CAN NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECT THEIR SUPPORT FOR POSTPONEMENT LET ALONE FOR DROPPING TITLE IV. I CANNOT AT PRESENT JUDGE WHETHER SPEAKER ALBERT COULD OR WOULD MOVE TO POSTPONE EVEN IF PRESIDENT, YOU AND SHULTZ WERE TO MAKE PLEA FOR IT.

3. DO YOU WISH US TO HANG TOUGH TO THE END FOR POSTPONEMENT, OR ARE YOU WILLING TO SEE AN OUTCOME IN THE HOUSE AS OUTLINED IN SUB-PARAGRAPH D ABOVE?

WARM REGARDS.

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