

\*\*\*\*\* S E C R E T \*\*\*\*\* COPY

FLASH

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Z 150338Z DEC 73 ZYH ZFF1/4  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 85

TO USDEL RIYADH

S E C R E T [ ] WH37599 TOHAK 85 DELIVER IMMEDIATELY.

25X1

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

ALL ACTION REQUESTED BY HAKTO 33 HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

I MET WITH SHALEV AND PASSED HIM THE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER (HAKTO 39). HE REACTED VERY POSITIVELY TO THE LETTER, CLAIMING THAT THE EXTENSION OF TIME WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT PSYCHOLOGICALLY. IT WOULD REMOVE, HE FELT, THE ISRAELI DISPOSITION THAT THEY WERE ONCE AGAIN BEING FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

I SPOKE WITH DOBRYNIN ABOUT AN HOUR AGO. HE HAD NOT HEARD FROM MOSCOW ABOUT THE CHANGE IN THE CONFERENCE DATE OR ON THE TWO CONTINGENCY LETTERS. HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO HEAR WHAT OUR POLICY WOULD BE TOWARD THE SECURITY COUNCIL DRAFT RESOLUTION AND HOPED WE WOULD JOIN THEM IN ABSTAINING.

I SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH LES GELB THIS MORNING. HE HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION, HE SAID, AFTER VERY EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE HILL AND IN THE BUREAUCRACY THAT THE PRESIDENT NO LONGER PARTICIPATED IN THE MAKING OF NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY, THAT YOU WERE ITS SOLE ARCHITECT AND THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SYSTEM WAS MORIBUND. I DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WHAT I FELT TO BE THE ERROR OF HIS CONCLUSIONS. I POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH ON THE HILL COULD LEAD TO SUCH A FEELING WAS THE FACT THAT AS SECRETARY OF STATE YOU HAD BEEN TESTIFYING ALMOST CONSTANTLY BEFORE A LARGE NUMBER OF COMMITTEES, WHERE AS BEFORE YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE HILL HAD BEEN INFREQUENT, SELECTIVE AND INFORMAL. THIS VERY MAJOR CHANGE IN VISIBILITY AND EXPOSURE COULD EASILY HAVE LED TO ERRONIOUS EVALUATIONS BY THOSE WHO HAD NOT BEEN SO EXPOSED EARLIER. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING IN GENERAL THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SYSTEM, I POINTED OUT THAT THE AVERAGE OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS PER MONTH SINCE YOU

MORI/CDF  
C03342322

State Dept. review  
completed

\*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* WHSR COMMENT \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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HAD BECOME SECRETARY WAS 50 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE MONTHLY AVERAGE FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE AND THAT THE TOTAL FOR OCTOBER WAS ALMOST DOUBLE THAT OF ANY OTHER MONTH. THIS WAS OF COURSE DUE TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, BUT THAT ALSO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE CRISIS WAS HANDLED THROUGH THE SYSTEM, NOT OUTSIDE IT. I TOLD HIM THAT THE LOGS SHOWED THAT YOU HAD SEEN THE PRESIDENT ON AN AVERAGE OF TWICE A DAY SINCE THE FIRST OF SEPTEMBER WHEN YOU WERE BOTH IN TOWN. I THINK I WAS ABLE EFFECTIVELY TO DEAL WITH EACH OF HIS DOUBTING QUESTIONS, BUT TO WHAT EXTENT I WAS ABLE TO TURN HIS THESIS AROUND, ONLY TIME WILL TELL.

WARM REGARDS.

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RECALLED  
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