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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

JAN 19 1970

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

(Signed)

SUBJECT: Study of Trends in North Africa

As you know, there has been a series of disturbing developments in North Africa over the past year. Most conspicuous has been the coup in Libya. But we also have President Bourguiba's declining health in Tunisia. Morocco seems calm on the surface, but there has long been dissatisfaction with the government of young King Hassan. Algeria seems to be steering a course of its own with a combination of private American and official French and Soviet aid and it seems to have improved its relations with Morocco and Tunisia recently. But it is the potential power in North Africa, and we have as a government not paid as much attention to it perhaps as we could have.

I propose a modest review of our programs in North Africa as they stack up against the trend of events there. This would involve a CIA estimate of the prospects and a paper in the NSC process reviewing our options in relation to the trends. I would bring this paper at least as far as the NSC Review Group and leave open the judgment on whether it would need to come to the NSC. You have expressed a desire to discuss Libya there at some point, but it may be that the purpose of focussing bureaucratic attention on the problem more actively could be accomplished by this exercise, leaving the results for your study outside of the NSC along with any action decisions that might need to be made.

Recommendation: That you approve the attached National Security Study Memorandum.

Approve

Handwritten signature and date: BSA 1-21-70

Disapprove

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HHSaunders:rn:l/13/70

NSS review completed.

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January 28, 1970

National Security Study Memorandum

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Administrator of Agency for International Development
The Director, U. S. Information Agency

SUBJECT: Trends and U. S. Options in North Africa

The President has directed a review of the trend of events in North Africa and of U. S. programs, policies and options there.

This review should give attention to, though not be limited by, the following:

- the prospect for the further spread of radical government;
- the prospect and likely character of political and economic cooperation among the North African countries;
- the likely Soviet and radical Arab role in those countries;
- the role of European countries;
- the relationship of the Arab-Israeli impasse to trends in North Africa;
- present U. S. programs and policies and resources available for furtherance of U. S. interests;
- U. S. options in response to trends.

The President has directed that a National Intelligence Estimate be prepared by the intelligence community and that an options paper be prepared by the Interdepartmental Group for Africa. This paper should be submitted to the NSC Review Group by March 18.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director, Bureau of the Budget

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HAS: / 1/28/70

January 16, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger
(Signed) HK

SUBJECT: Comments on the Draft State of the Union Message

I have put a ✓ next to the paragraphs I particularly like, and an X next to those which I do not like. I am neutral about those that I did not mark -- they are all right but need a framework.

Basically, I stand by the comments I made on the telephone today. The speech needs a theme, and more striking passages. The first three pages seem the best.