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NLF-NSC_ILCC-5-2-4-3

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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November 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

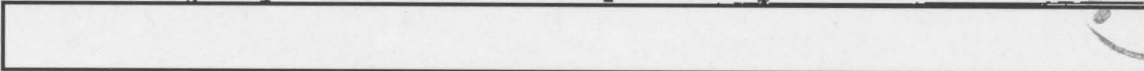
BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT:

Information Items

China's Growing Trade Deficit with Japan: According to CIA, China's trade with Japan, its largest trading partner, will show a record deficit of over \$1 billion this year, despite Peking's efforts to reduce its trade deficits with non-communist countries. For the first nine months of 1975 China registered an \$880 million deficit in trade with Japan compared with \$845 million for all of 1974. Increased purchases of Japanese steel, machinery and equipment, and fertilizer pushed imports up 40 percent over the same period in 1974. Chinese exports rose only 18 percent for the first three quarters to \$1.02 billion. Crude oil deliveries accounted for all of the increase. The Chinese, trying to boost other exports to Japan, have sent seven Chinese trade missions to Japan so far this year seeking increased sales. Japanese trade makes up about one fourth of China's total trade -- in addition to being the major supplier of industrial goods, Japan last year supplanted Hong Kong as China's largest export market. Oil has become the dominant item, accounting for almost one half the total this year. Negotiations on a long term agreement for oil are currently bogged down, and one probably will not be signed until next year because of Japanese reluctance to accept the large increases the Chinese are trying to sell. CIA believes that the trade deficit with Japan will not improve much next year. Peking has been able to obtain lower prices for Japanese steel and fertilizer for delivery into 1976 which will hold down import costs, but major improvement in exports to Japan will depend on Peking's ability to boost oil sales and some recovery of the Japanese economy, which would increase the demand for Chinese goods.

Asad Allegedly Asks Soviet Troops for Syrian-Israeli Border:



Presidential Library Review of NS

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NSC/State Guidelines
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AUTHORITY RAC NLF-WH-PDB-6-3-1-4 9/8/2004
BY WLD NARA, DATE 12/7/2010

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[redacted] Syrian President Asad asked CPSU General Secretary Brezhnev to station Soviet troops on the Syrian-Israeli border to serve as a guarantee against an Israeli attack. Brezhnev replied that the USSR supports Syria wholeheartedly but cannot accept Asad's request since this could lead to a direct confrontation with the U.S.

Possible Philippine Request for Economic Concessions During Your Forthcoming Trip: Our embassy in Manila reports that acute domestic Philippine pressures may compel President Marcos to ask you to grant economic concessions on Philippine mahogany, coconut oil, and dissected coconut during your forthcoming trip. The Philippine government now realizes that our Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) excludes these three items to the detriment of their trade position. Philippine officials told us that they believe the conclusion of a most favored nation treaty, or a simple agreement to waive certain provisions of our trade act, would result in a privileged position for these three commodities. Therefore, President Marcos may ask you to sign such an agreement. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Philippine government is considering such an approach.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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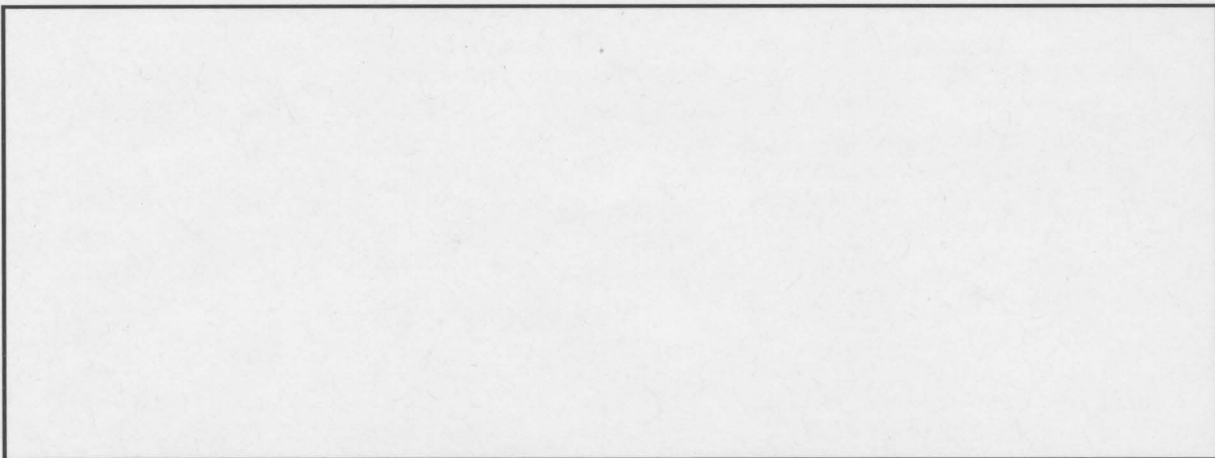
November 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Additional Information Items

Initial Latin American Comments Critical of U.S. Rejection, OAS Charter Reform: Ambassador Mailliard delivered a speech to the OAS Permanent Council on Wednesday evening rejecting the charter reform effort of the last two years and calling for a new approach. He announced that the U.S. would be entering into consultations with the other members in terms of new proposals for strengthening the effectiveness of the OAS. (He made no reference to reducing the U.S. contribution to the OAS or moving the headquarters.) Not surprisingly the initial Latin reaction was critical. The Guatemalans, Mexicans, and Peruvians have all indicated surprise and unhappiness. The Guatemalans interpreted a statement in the speech that all western hemispheric states should become members of the OAS upon independence as support for Belize. This comes at a time when an (accurate) rumor is circulating in the OAS that the U.S. is reducing its 1977 budget submission request for voluntary contributions to the OAS by \$5 million (20 percent). Mailliard and his deputy Bob White are leaving immediately for consultations with foreign offices around the hemisphere. (Low)



Presidential Library Review of NSC and DOS Equities is Required

NSA review completed

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RAC NLF-WH-PDB-6-3-2-3 9/21/2005

BY MPO NARA, DATE 12/7/2010

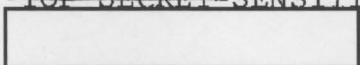
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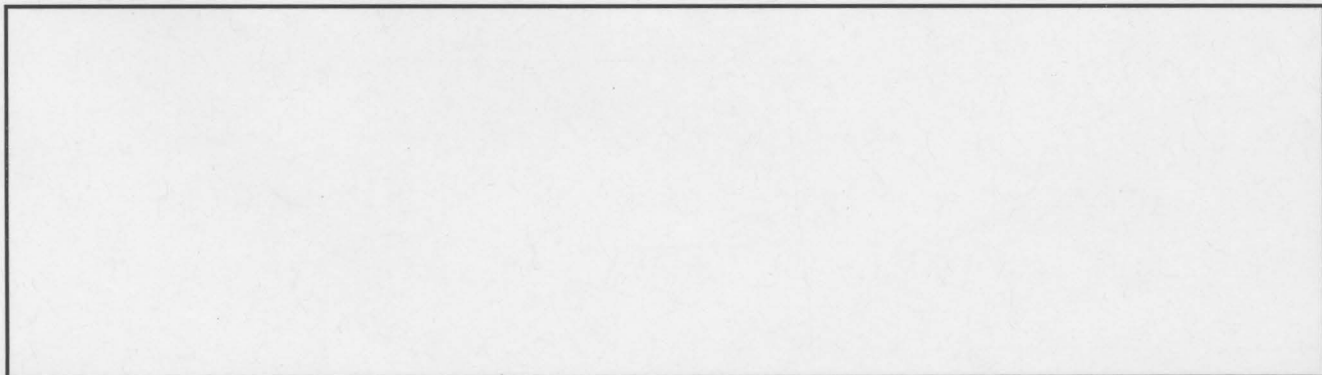
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Soviet Military Personnel in Libya: The Egyptian ambassador in Libya has informed our charge there that there are now about 475 Soviet military personnel in Libya. Four hundred are assigned to duties with the air defense command, a separate service in the Libyan system; fifty are stationed at Benina airfield outside Benghazi for training in connection with the MIG-23 program; and twenty-five are at ex-Wheelus airbase outside Tripoli, also attached to the air force. No Soviet advisors are assigned to the Libyan army, the Egyptian ambassador said. Our embassy comments that it is significant that Qadhafi has apparently kept Soviet military advisors away from the army units on which his regime rests.

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