

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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July 15, 1978

Presidential Directive/NSC-40

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense

ALSO: The Director, Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: US-USSR Talks on Conventional Arms Restraint (U)

The US delegation to the US-USSR talks on conventional arms transfers in Helsinki, July 18-28, should seek to resolve the regional working group issue before opening this round. If the Soviet delegation proves reluctant to establish a regional working group or places unacceptable preconditions on its agenda, the US delegation should provide Washington its recommended course of action for consideration. The US delegation should take no actions which would lend status to the Soviet "Neighbors" proposal, including agreeing to discuss that proposal as a condition for establishing a regional working group.

If the regional working group issue is resolved satisfactorily, the delegation should move the discussion of political/legal criteria in parallel with the discussion of military/technical guidelines. In discussing the implementation of restraint, the delegation should indicate that the US would seek recipient acceptance of specific restraint guidelines; however, in certain circumstances (including in Africa), the US would be prepared to implement multilateral supplier restraint without recipient agreement.

In the discussion of regional restraint, the delegation is authorized to present its proposal concerning sub-Saharan Africa and as necessary indicate that we would also be willing to discuss North West Africa. Under no circumstances is Egypt to be included in the scope of the discussions.

At the outset of the discussion of restraint in Latin America, the delegation should note that the US considers the region to include all of the states of Latin America and the Caribbean. Cuban participation will not, however, be a necessary condition for eventual US agreement to a Latin American restraint initiative such as that proposed by the Ayacucho countries.



David Aaron
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

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Declassified/Released: 6-19-95
under provisions of E.O. 12356
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council
F88-212