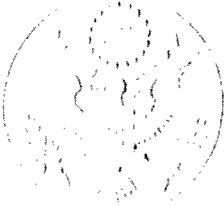


SECRET #3

DOS REVIEWED 12-Mar-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

November 5, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Warren Christopher, Acting W. ✓

1. Kampuchea. Cy told me on the telephone a few minutes ago that the pledging conference at the UN had exceeded its target for the next six months. He also said that the discussions today increased the pressure on the Vietnamese to ensure that all means of transportation into Kampuchea for relief supplies will be employed. Cy will be bringing back some new proposals for tangible actions within Thailand.

2. Bolivia. Although Colonel Natusch apparently retains the support of most military units, his regime has not been able to consolidate its position since the November 1 coup. The general strike begun November 1 to protest the coup remains effective. In La Paz sporadic gunfire was heard in the morning as army units fired on worker and student demonstrators. Unconfirmed reports are circulating that Natusch may be willing to negotiate a political solution to the crisis by stepping down in favor of a civilian government, and there are contacts between him and the Congress. The Embassy has received no reports of American injuries or property damage as a result of the coup and its aftermath.

3. CCC Credits for Poland. When David Newsom informed Polish Ambassador Spasowski of your decision to grant Poland \$500 million in CCC financing for FY-80, he stressed that it had not been any easy decision and that we remain deeply concerned about Poland's financial situation. He told Spasowski that you wanted the Polish Government to know that without improvement in Poland's creditworthiness, it will be very difficult to give favorable consideration to future requests. Spasowski expressed appreciation for the decision and said he would be giving additional information on Poland's

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financial situation to Tony Solomon this week. Newsom also pressed Spasowski for more progress on divided families.

4. India. There has been a mixed reaction in India to Defense Minister Subramaniam's October 29 speech, in which he said he would not be "naive enough to declare on behalf of all future generations and governments that India will not make nuclear weapons." Subramaniam also repeated Prime Minister Charan Singh's August 15 statement that India's future nuclear activities would depend on nuclear developments in Pakistan, as well as on the nuclear programs of the nuclear weapons states and the near-weapons states such as Israel, Taiwan, and South Africa. While the speech elicited some favorable comment in the Indian press, Prime Ministerial contender Jagjivan Ram said that "under no circumstances" should India manufacture nuclear weapons. Foreign Minister Mishra announced that there would be no change in India's nuclear policy, and Foreign Secretary Mehta told Ambassador Goheen that Subramaniam's speech represented "contingency thinking" and was not an official statement of policy. India's present caretaker government is committed not to make any policy decisions.

5. Latin American Security Council Seat. After nine more rounds of balloting Friday evening (for a total of 28 ballots), UNGA President Salim postponed further voting to a date to be determined following consultations. Cuba peaked at 80 votes for the last four rounds, while Colombia's vote ranged from 60 to 66. Although we anticipate that the next few days will see increased pressure on Colombia to split the two-year term with Cuba, we will continue to support Colombia's candidacy for a full term.

6. Iran. We have made no progress today in securing the release of the hostages, who remain in the Embassy compound. By nightfall, the large street crowds outside the Embassy had largely dispersed. Charge Laingen has had only limited and inconclusive contacts with Foreign Minister Yazdi today. He and the other two officers are again spending the night at the Foreign Ministry.

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Yazdi this afternoon publicly expressed regret for the takeover and indicated the Iranian Government was doing everything possible to secure the release of the hostages. Yazdi stated, however, that the U.S. was to blame for the incident, because we had admitted the Shah. The morning press and TV in Tehran violently denounced the U.S., and enthusiastically supported the students. Ayatollah Khomeini's son Ahmad, who is known as a moderate in clerical circles, was in the compound today and said that the matter was in the hands of the students. We spoke by telephone with Ayatollah Behesti in Tehran, in an effort to break the stalemate. While Behesti seemed to understand our concerns and agreed to take the matter up with the Revolutionary Council, he was also very firm in expressing support for the student's actions.

We are taking a number of other steps to seek to press for the release of the hostages. As I noted in the memorandum recommending the sending of emissaries, it seems clear that the power of decision is with the religious authorities.

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