

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By SP NARA Date 8-16-02

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 18, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR ROY ASH
JOHN BENNETT
DOLF BRIDGEWATER
PETER FLANIGAN
GENERAL HAIG
BRYCE HARLOW
✓ MELVIN LAIRD
GENERAL SCOWCROFT
GEORGE SHULTZ
BILL TIMMONS
RON ZIEGLER

1129

FROM: DAVE GERGEN *RG*
SUBJECT: Aid for Israel and Cambodia

Attached please find a draft of the message to be sent to the Congress Friday morning. It was worked out this evening between John Lehman, Dolf Bridgewater and my office.

Time is again short. Would you please deliver all suggested changes by 9 a.m. Friday? We will be locking it up very shortly thereafter.

Thanks.

cc: Bruce Kehrli
John Carlson
Jerry Warren
Pamela Needham

I have always favored credit sales to Israel - grants should be limited, if any are made, to Israel only. I do not have figures to back up request for Israel but have been given figures for Cambodia.

DDRS

October 18.

DECLASSIFIED

MESSAGE ON AID TO ISRAEL AND CAMBODIA

Authority E.O. 12958
By W.P. NARA Date 8-16-02

I am today transmitting to Congress a request for emergency security assistance of \$2.2 billion for Israel and \$200 million for Cambodia.

[This request is necessary to permit the United States to follow a responsible course of action in two crises, the Middle East and Cambodia.] There must be stability in both of these areas if we are to build a global structure of peace.

as
For more than a quarter of a century, /strategic interests of the major powers have converged there, the Middle East has been a flashpoint for potential world conflict. [The issue for the United States is not the desirability of ending the present conflict with a settlement, but identification of steps we should take to contribute to that settlement.] The request I am submitting today reflects my decision that the United States should take those steps ^{AND HOPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD TAKE SIMILAR STEPS} which are necessary for maintaining a balance of military capabilities and achieving a stability which can lead to settlement of a war which is tragic for the people of Israel and the Arab nations alike.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By SP NARA Date 8-16-02

- 2 -

To maintain a balance of forces and thus achieve stability, the United States Government is currently providing military material to Israel to replace combat losses. This is necessary to prevent the emergence of a substantial imbalance resulting from the large-scale resupply effort.

The costs of replacing consumables and lost equipment for the Israeli Armed Forces have been extremely high. Combat activity has been intense since the war erupted on October 6, 1973, and losses on both sides have been large. During the first 12 days of the conflict, the United States authorized shipments to Israel of material costing \$825 million, including transportation.

Major items now being furnished by the United States to the Israeli forces include conventional munitions of many types, including air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, artillery, crew-served and individual weapons, and a standard range of fighter aircraft ordnance. Additionally, the United States is providing replacements for tanks, aircraft, radios and other normal pieces of military equipment which have been lost in action.

USSR →

Thus far, Israel has attempted to obtain the necessary equipment through the use of cash and credit purchases. However, the magnitude of the current conflict coupled with the scale of Soviet

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By SP NARA Date 8-16-02

- 3 -

supply activities have created needs which exceed Israel's capacity to continue with cash and credit purchases. The alternative to cash and credit sales of United States military material to the State of Israel is for us to provide Israel with Grant Military Assistance (MAP).

The United States is making every effort to bring this conflict to a very swift and honorable conclusion, measured in days not weeks. But prudent planning also requires us to prepare for a longer struggle. I am therefore requesting that the Congress approve emergency assistance for Israel in the amount of \$2.2 billion. If the conflict moderates, or as we fervently hope, is brought to an end very quickly, funds not absolutely required will of course not be expended.

I am also requesting \$200 million emergency assistance for Cambodia. This amount is urgently needed for ammunition and consumable military supplies. The increased requirement results from the larger scale of hostilities and the higher levels of ordnance required by the Cambodian Army and Air Force to defend themselves without American air support.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By SP NARA Date 8-16-02

- 4 -

The end of United States bombing on August 15 was followed by sharply increased communist activity in Cambodia. In the ensuing fight, the Cambodian Forces acquitted themselves well. They held the Capital of Phnom Penh and the provincial center of Kampong Cham, as well as the principal supply routes. Although this more intense level of fighting has tapered off somewhat during the current rainy season, it is virtually certain to resume when the dry season begins about the end of the year.

During the fighting in August and September, ammunition costs for the Cambodian forces were running almost \$1 million per day. We anticipate similar average costs for the remainder of this fiscal year. These ammunition requirements, plus minimum equipment replacement, will result in a total funding requirement of \$380 million for the current fiscal year, rather than the \$180 million estimated when the budget was requested last year. This is our best estimate at the present time. To fail to provide the additional ammunition would deny the Cambodian Armed Forces the ability to defend themselves and their country.

We remain hopeful that the conflict in Cambodia be resolved by a negotiated settlement. A communist military victory and the

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By SP NARA Date 8-16-02

- 5 -

installation of a government in Phnom Penh which is controlled by Hanoi would gravely threaten the fragile structure of peace established in the Paris Agreements.

I am confident that Congress and the American people will support this request for emergency assistance for these two beleaguered friends. To do less would not only create a dangerous imbalance in these particular arenas but would also endanger the entire structure of peace in the world.

###