



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

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October 31, 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : The Secretary

FROM : NEA - Nicholas A. Veliotis
PM - Richard Burton

SUBJECT: Linking the Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone to the Middle East Peace Process

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (MENWFZ) should be linked to the Middle East Peace Process, as Gene Rostow would like.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Gene Rostow has sent you a personal memorandum - ATTACHED detailing his reasons for including a reference to the Middle East Peace Process as a preamble in this year's Egyptian draft resolution on the MENWFZ to be put before the UNGA soon. The Egyptians have resisted this.

ACDA believes such a reference will strengthen our insistence that the MENWFZ must be reached through "agreement" of the parties, as Israel wants.

NEA and PM agree that we must insist on a reference to "agreement" in the Egyptian resolution. We also have no objection to general references to peace and security in the Middle East and elsewhere. However, we believe there should be no linkage, explicit or implied, between the MENWFZ and the Peace Process. Our language, however innocuous on the surface, will be closely scrutinized for the intentions thought to lie underneath. Any such

State Dept. review completed.

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connection risks suggesting to the Egyptians and others that the MENWFZ has become an ingredient of the Peace Process, along with autonomy talks, the Palestinian problem, etc; this would clearly overburden the already fragile Peace Process. At the same time, other Arab governments are likely to react against any linkage of MENWFZ with a Peace Process they are on record as opposing; thus it builds another impediment to consideration of MENWFZ by a wider audience in the Middle East region.

RECOMMENDATION (also favored by IO)

That we avoid any suggestion of a linkage between MENWFZ and the Middle East Peace Process in our instructions to USUN.

Approve Am H/ku Disapprove _____
11/3

GBL
Drafted: NEA/RA:GBLambrakis:pw
10/31/81 x21154

Clearances: NEA:PDConstable *GBL*
IO:NPlatt *GBL*

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