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NATIONAL SECURITY STUDY
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 4-87

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: Mr. Leary to Weinstein
4/20/05

BY KML NARA DATE 2/24/11

Middle East Peace Process (C)

This directive establishes the terms of reference for an interagency review of our strategy for the Middle East peace process over the coming year. The review should take account of the results of Assistant Secretary of State Murphy's trip to the region in January 1987 and offer recommendations about our overall strategy in time for the scheduled high-level visits by Middle East leaders in February and March. The review should examine such questions as: (C)

- What are the present prospects for a solution to the problem of Palestinian representation? What are the trends in Palestinian politics? What are the implications of current PLO gains in Lebanon?
- How can we strengthen Jordan's role in the peace process and its efforts to assert leadership on the Palestinian question? What further steps could we take, e.g., in the Quality of Life area or in our bilateral relations, to strengthen the King's hand?
- How much flexibility does the present Israeli government have in pursuing the peace process?
- What are the risks and benefits of an international conference in any of its current variants? Could such a conference be effective? How could we protect ourselves from its inherent traps? Are there other approaches to an international framework that would be more effective or easier to manage?
- Are there prospects for a constructive U.S. role in easing tensions over Southern Lebanon? Are tacit understandings of the sort that existed between Israel and Syria from 1976-81 possible? What are the prospects for UNIFIL?
- What is our current assessment of the Syrian factor and of Assad's prospects? What is the role of Egypt? Saudi Arabia? Morocco? Algeria? What are the effects of the Iran-Iraq war?

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-- How do we prepare for the contingency of a Soviet diplomatic initiative on the Middle East? A range of possibilities should be examined, from Soviet restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel to more dramatic events such as a "Tashkent-style" mediation offer. How should we deal with other Soviet diplomatic efforts to improve relations with moderate Arab countries? (S)

The review should be undertaken by an Interdepartmental Group chaired by the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs and should be concluded on or about February 13, 1987. (C)

Donald Ragan
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