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**Collection:** Executive Secretariat, National  
Security Council: Country File

**Folder Title:**

USSR-Lifting of the Grain Embargo-All  
Cables (April 1981) (1 of 4)

**Box:** RAC Box 21

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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

**Withdrawer**

KDB 10/26/2015

**File Folder** USSR - LIFTING OF THE GRAIN EMBARGO - ALL  
CABLES (APRIL 1981) (1)

**FOIA**

F03-002/5

**Box Number** 21

SKINNER

183

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
169874	CABLE	BONN 8285	1	4/24/881	B1
169875	CABLE	AMMAN 3197	1	4/24/881	B1
169876	CABLE	TOKYO 7402	2	4/23/1981	B1
169877	CABLE	CANBERRA 3978	3	4/23/1981	B1
169878	CABLE	CANBERRA 3976	2	4/23/1981	B1
169879	CABLE	CANBERRA 3928	2	4/22/1981	B1
169880	CABLE	BEIJING 4052	2	4/23/1981	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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169881	CABLE	TOKYO 7403	2	4/23/1981	B1
169882	CABLE	BRUSSELS 5510	2	4/23/1981	B1
169883	CABLE	BRUSSELS 5548	1	4/23/1981	B1
169884	CABLE	BONN 8201	2	4/24/1981	B1
169885	CABLE	STATE 5466	3	4/24/1981	B1
169886	CABLE	STATE 5465	3	4/24/1981	B1
169887	CABLE	SAME CABLE AS DOC #169886	3	4/24/1981	B1

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
169888	CABLE	STATE 3839	2	4/23/1981	B1
169889	CABLE	STATE 3838	2	4/23/1981	B1
169890	CABLE	STATE 3066	3	4/22/1981	B1
169891	CABLE	SAME CABLE AS DOC #169890	3	4/22/1981	B1
169892	CABLE	STATE 3064	3	4/22/1981	B1
169895	CABLE	STATE 3063	3	4/22/1981	B1
169898	CABLE	SAME CABLE AS DOC #169892	3	4/22/1981	B1

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169894 CABLE	SAME CABLE AS DOC #169893	3	4/22/1981	B1
169896 CABLE	SAME CABLE AS DOC #169895	3	4/22/1981	B1
169893 CABLE	STATE 3062	3	4/22/1981	B1
169897 CABLE	STATE 3061	3	4/22/1981	B1

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 6, 1981

FROM:

**FRANK A. URSOMARSO**  
*Director of Communications*

Information

Action

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Talking Points On The Presidential Decision  
To Lift The Grain Embargo

President Reagan's decision to end the Soviet grain embargo fulfills a commitment of his campaign:

- The President has always been committed to its lifting when conditions would permit
- Began in-depth assessment of embargo during first days in office
- Considered trade, national security, and foreign policy factors

President Reagan decided embargo could now be lifted without any risk of misinterpretation because:

- U.S. resolve to condemn and oppose aggression and intervention is now clear and unambiguous
- Evidence has mounted that the embargo had not been effective policy tool
- Evidence also mounting that adverse impact on American farmers was not improving
- Has been some easing of tensions in Eastern Europe

The decision was made on the day announced, Friday, April 24, 1981, but international consultations were conducted to keep appropriate nations advised:

- Allies were notified at the time of decision and had been kept informed throughout previous week of considerations being given to the subject
- Soviet Union had been advised that the action was under consideration

The embargo had proved ineffective:

- U.S.S.R. imports of grain were disrupted in the early months of the embargo but over the first year, total imports from all sources were higher than ever, though imports from the U.S. were the lowest since 1977.
- American agriculture had to forego a large market for its products which remained available to producers of many other countries

The lifting of the embargo applies only to agricultural products:

-- The embargo on sales of high technology industrial items remains in place; export licenses for other goods and equipment will continue to be reviewed on case-by-case basis.

The long-term grain sales agreement negotiated with the Soviets in the fall of 1975 expires on September 30th.

-- Decision remains to be made on U.S. position with respect to extension or renegotiation of the agreement

-- A new agreement is possible. Both U.S. and Soviets agree current agreement has served well but changes could be considered

-- 8 million tons committed to be sold to Soviets under the agreement have been sold and most of it shipped to the Soviets by April 1

-- Not known how much additional will be sold now. Record wheat harvest of 1980 can accomodate several extra million tons in export trade

There is no reason to expect any major adverse impact on the domestic economy resulting from this decision.

-- Domestic food prices in 1981 should be relatively unaffected since any additional tonnage sold will be a small fraction of total supplies available

-- Planting intentions of American farmers promise another record crop in 1982. Weather and general inflationary conditions in the economy would affect food prices more than any decision affecting 1982 exports

-- Farmers should be aided by the addition of this market for their export trade

The lifting of the grain embargo does not, in and of itself, indicate change in basic U.S.-Soviet relations:

-- No change in our opposition to invasion of Afghanistan

-- No implication of willingness to accept status quo there

-- We remain concerned about Poland and believe conditions there should be resolved by Polish people without outside intervention

-- U.S. and allies remain committed to firm response of Soviets should act against Poland

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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**IN**

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169874	CABLE  BONN 8285	1	4/24/881	B1

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169875	CABLE  AMMAN 3197	1	4/24/881	B1

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169876	CABLE  TOKYO 7402	2	4/23/1981	B1

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169877	CABLE  CANBERRA 3978	3	4/23/1981	B1

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169878	CABLE  CANBERRA 3976	2	4/23/1981	B1

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169879	CABLE  CANBERRA 3928	2	4/22/1981	B1

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169883	CABLE  BRUSSELS 5548	1	4/23/1981	B1

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169885	CABLE  STATE 5466	3	4/24/1981	B1

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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169886	CABLE  STATE 5465	3	4/24/1981	B1

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**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

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169887	CABLE  SAME CABLE AS DOC #169886	3	4/24/1981	B1

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**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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169888	CABLE  STATE 3839	2	4/23/1981	B1

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

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169889	CABLE  STATE 3838	2	4/23/1981	B1

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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169890	CABLE  STATE 3066	3	4/22/1981	B1

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

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169891	CABLE  SAME CABLE AS DOC #169890	3	4/22/1981	B1

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**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]**
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]**
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169892	CABLE  STATE 3064	3	4/22/1981	B1

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**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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169895	CABLE  STATE 3063	3	4/22/1981	B1

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**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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169898	CABLE  SAME CABLE AS DOC #169892	3	4/22/1981	B1

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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169894	CABLE  SAME CABLE AS DOC #169893	3	4/22/1981	B1

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

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169896	CABLE  SAME CABLE AS DOC #169895	3	4/22/1981	B1

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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	<i>Document Description</i>	<i>pages</i>		<i>tions</i>
169893	CABLE	3	4/22/1981	B1
	STATE 3062			

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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169897	CABLE  STATE 3061	3	4/22/1981	B1

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**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

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