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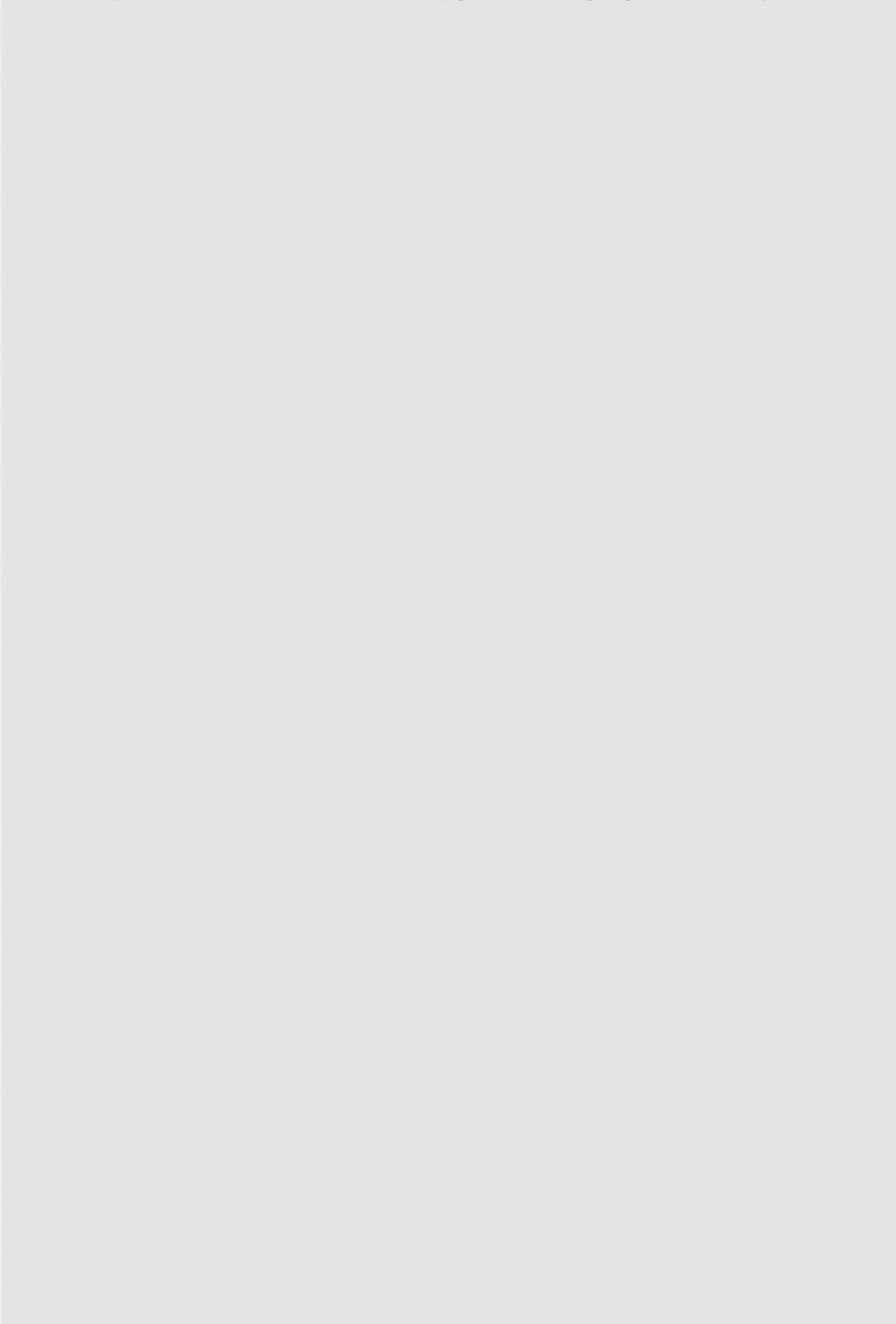
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Ford on Foreign Policy

Out on the campaign trail something curious is happening to foreign policy. President Ford spoke up for the navy in New Hampshire, and against Castro in Florida. Now

While this scenario has an obvious plausibility, it is also true that cynicism is cheap. For all the frequent sordidness of democratic politics, democracies have over history



ADMINISTRATION'S CURRENT
FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES



National Security Council
5/20/76

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Current Initiatives - Part I

Title

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES:
AN AGENDA FOR COOPERATION

Description
and Status

On behalf of President Ford, Secretary of State Kissinger made a major address on April 27 at Lusaka, Zambia, pledging United States commitment and cooperation to the tasks of racial justice and economic development in southern Africa.

The Secretary listed a ten-point United States policy for a rapid negotiated settlement in Rhodesia, leading to majority rule with minority rights. Of particular importance were: his pledge to urge the Congress this year to repeal the Byrd Amendment, which authorizes Rhodesian chrome imports to the United States despite UN sanctions; an offer of economic assistance to Mozambique, whose closure of its border with Rhodesia to enforce sanctions has imposed economic hardships; a commitment to help any other countries neighboring Rhodesia that decides to enforce sanctions by closing their frontiers; and a call for international support to the people of Rhodesia as they make the peaceful transition to a newly independent Zimbabwe.

On Namibia the Secretary reiterated United States support for an independent Namibia and the United States view that South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal. He urged the South African Government to announce a definite timetable acceptable to the world community for achievement of self-determination.

On South Africa the Secretary appealed to the Government of South Africa to bring about a peaceful end to institutionalized inequality in that country.

Lastly, the Secretary called for urgent programs to lay the foundations for sustained growth to enable the developing nations of southern Africa to deal effectively with global shocks and trends. He mentioned four special needs relevant to southern Africa: trained local manpower, rural development, advanced technology, and modern transportation.

As a follow-up to Secretary Kissinger's address, the President has directed an NSC study to determine what needs to be done to implement this new policy toward southern Africa.



Title

AMERICA AND AFRICA

Description
and Status

On behalf of President Ford, Secretary of State Kissinger spoke on this subject in Monrovia, Liberia, on April 30. In his address he outlined four principles of United States policy toward Africa. First, the United States unambiguously supports Africa's struggle to perfect its independence. Africans must determine their own destiny and the new Africa must be free of great power rivalry. Second, the United States is prepared for friendly relations with all independent African nations. The Secretary indicated that in this context we are willing, in principle, to open discussions with the Angolan authorities with a view toward normalizing our relations and seeking means of cooperating. But before we can go far down that road we want to know Angola's intention with respect to the presence of foreign forces on its soil. Third, the United States pledges itself unambiguously on the side of majority rule, racial justice and human dignity in southern Africa. Fourth, the United States will help African nations develop and strengthen their economies.

Title

UNITED STATES PROPOSAL FOR SAHEL DEVELOPMENT

Description
and Status

On behalf of the President, Secretary of State Kissinger made a major proposal for Sahel development at Dakar, Senegal on May 1. He called for a comprehensive international program that, rather than ease the effects of the drought, will help roll back the desert, develop additional water resources, increase crop acreage and provide food-storage facilities in order to insure that hard-won progress in economic development will not continue to be wiped out by recurrent national disaster. To meet the challenge, he indicated the United States is prepared to begin discussions with concerned nations aimed at the creation of an international development investment program to be integrated and dedicated to the goal of eventual self-sufficiency for the Sahel.

The President subsequently directed an NSC study to provide concrete proposals for United States participation in such an international effort.

Title	SALT
Description and Status	<p>The United States and the Soviet Union are continuing negotiations on a new treaty limiting strategic offensive arms. The new treaty will replace the 1972 Interim Agreement which expires in October of 1977. A major breakthrough in these negotiations was achieved in November of 1974 in Vladivostok when President Ford and General Secretary Brezhnev agreed on a ceiling of 2400 strategic delivery vehicles and a ceiling of 1320 MIRVed missiles. The negotiations have continued in Geneva and in meetings between President Ford, Secretary Kissinger, and General Secretary Brezhnev. Agreement has been reached on most issues; however, the sides have not as yet reached agreement on how to limit cruise missiles and the Soviet Backfire bomber.</p>
Recommended Change	None

Title	PNE TREATY
Description and Status	<p>The United States and the Soviet Union have completed negotiation of a treaty governing the conduct of peaceful nuclear explosions (PNE). The new treaty was called for in the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) of July 1974, which limits underground nuclear weapons tests to maximum yields of 150 kilotons. The PNE negotiations began in October 1974 and were formally completed on May 13, 1976, when the treaty was initialed in Moscow. There are several significant provisions in the agreement but the most far-reaching is its precedent-setting provision for on-site inspection of PNE events under certain conditions. The PNE Treaty is expected to be signed in the near future and forwarded, along with the TTBT, to Congress for ratification.</p>
Recommended Change	None



MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Description and Status

The Administration has continued its participation along with the Soviet Union, Canada and eight central European countries in negotiations designed to reduce and limit military forces in Central Europe. In December, 1975, the Alliance approved a U.S. offer to withdraw certain U.S. tactical nuclear weapons and delivery systems in addition to 29,000 U.S. soldiers in a first phase of MBFR. In exchange the Alliance had earlier proposed that the Soviet Union withdraw one of its three tank armies in Central Europe, including 68,000 men and 1,700 tanks, and agree to the concept of equal military manpower in Central Europe (a Common Ceiling) as the final outcome of the MBFR negotiations. The Administration initiative was designed to provide some impetus to the talks which have been going on now for about 2-1/2 years with no agreement. We and our allies had recognized from the beginning of the talks that it may be necessary at some point to add U.S. nuclear elements to our proposal in order to offset the greater reduction in Warsaw Pact forces necessary to achieve an improvement in the conventional balance. By the same token, an improvement in the conventional balance makes possible a reduction of some U.S. nuclear weapons.

Recommended Change

None

Title North-South Dialogue

Description In order to increase the commitment of the developing nations to the global economic structure, we have undertaken to renew and expand the dialogue on economic issues of mutual concern, to search for realistic and mutually constructive ways to open new opportunities for the developing countries within the existing world economic system.

--Seventh Special Session of the United Nations.

On September 1, 1975 before the U.N. Seventh Special Session, the United States launched a new effort to achieve a constructive dialogue. Secretary Kissinger made a far-reaching series of proposals designed to challenge the developing countries to turn from ideological rhetoric to pursuit of realistic solutions to specific problems. We have seen rapid and significant action on certain of these proposals, in the International Monetary Fund, in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva and elsewhere. Other proposals are under discussion at the CIEC and UNCTAD (see below).

--Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC). The CIEC was established at a ministerial-level meeting in Paris in December 1975. That meeting set up four commissions - on energy, raw materials, development, and financial affairs - as "energizing" centers for the search for mutually beneficial solutions to the issues of the dialogue. Meetings of these commissions have been held at approximately monthly intervals and will continue through the year. Another ministerial-level meeting will be held this summer.

--United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Secretary Kissinger made a major address at the opening of this Conference in Nairobi in early May, giving additional momentum to the dialogue, and expressing U.S. determination to continue constructive discussions. He proposed the creation of an International Resource Bank (IRB), which would encourage private investment in natural resource projects in the developing countries.

Discussion of the proposals and issues of the renewed dialogue will continue through this year and beyond. Many of them represent important policy initiatives which must



be negotiated with other countries, and the results of these discussions will be brought to the President for his approval as appropriate. Other smaller proposals can be accomplished administratively as agreement is reached; these will be summarized in periodic reports.

Recommendation None.
for change

May 19, 1976

Title RAMBOUILLET ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Description of script President Ford met with the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom at Rambouillet, France from November 15-17, 1975. The leaders recognized that increasing economic interdependence required that they maintain close communication as the industrialized nations moved from economic recovery toward sustained and stable economic growth. They agreed that it would serve no country to attempt to export economic difficulties through "beggar thy neighbor" policies in trade or other areas. They further agreed that the opportunities presented by the North-South dialogue demanded coordination and priority attention.

At the meeting agreement of major significance was reached between France and the United States on exchange rates and modification in the charter of the IMF.

The progress which has been made by all the industrialized economies in the period since Rambouillet is testimony to the success of the meeting, both in instilling confidence in continued recovery and in assuring that continued coordination of economic policies would take place. Strong resistance to protectionist pressures, encouraging momentum in the North-South dialogue, progress in the multilateral trade negotiations, and an improved climate of international economic cooperation are also significant results.

Discussions continue on these subjects and opportunities for further cooperation.

Recommendation for change None.



Title AID TO ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Status The Administration has proposed grant assistance of \$25 million for direct aid to the earthquake victims and has sent Vice President Rockefeller and AID Administrator Parker to Italy to study the situation and to reflect our concern and sympathy. The \$25 million aid proposal is expected to have final House and Senate approval by Friday, May 21. On May 17, Vice President Rockefeller and AID Administrator Parker reported to the President on the results of their on-scene survey of the disaster area.

Recommendation
for change None.



Title CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS

Status The Administration continues to stand ready to assist the parties involved -- Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus -- to reach agreement on a negotiated solution to the Greek-Turkish dispute over Cyprus. On June 5, the President will submit the fourth in a series of periodic reports to the Congress on the Cyprus situation. At the same time, the Secretary of State, on the fringes / ^{during} the NATO Ministerial meeting in Oslo May 20-21, is scheduled to meet individually with the Greek and Turkish Foreign Ministers on ways to facilitate progress toward a Cyprus settlement agreeable to all concerned parties.

Recommendation
for change None.



Title US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Status On March 26, the United States and Turkey successfully concluded the negotiation of a new Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) updating and modernizing a 1969 bilateral defense accord. The new agreement reflects the many important defense interests we share with the Government of Turkey bilaterally and as NATO allies. Plans are for the President to submit the new DCA to the Congress in mid-May for approval, after which US operations at joint defense bases in Turkey can resume. The prospects for favorable Congressional action on the DCA would improve substantially if Turkey were to demonstrate increased flexibility and accommodation on the Cyprus problem.

Recommendation
for change The necessary budget amendments to implement the agreement will be submitted for the President's approval following transmittal of the DCA to the Congress.



Title US-SPANISH TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

Status On February 19, the President submitted the US-Spanish Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification. The treaty strengthens and builds on the traditionally strong ties between the United States and Spain, particularly in the area of defense cooperation. On May 18, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, by a vote of 11 to 2, favorably reported out the Treaty to the full Senate. Final action by the Senate is expected before King Juan Carlos' State Visit to the United States June 2-3.

Recommendation for change None



Title

US-GREEK SECURITY AGREEMENT

Status

Following year-long negotiations, the United States and Greece initialled the "framework" of an updated and modernized bilateral security agreement. The new agreement, the details of which will be worked out over the next few months, reflects the very important defense interests we share with the Government of Greece both bilaterally and as NATO allies. The new agreement is similar to the recently concluded US-Turkish defense accord and will be submitted to the Congress for approval.

Recommendations
for change

None

Tit GENERAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVES

At the NATO Summit a year ago in Brussels, the President pledged the United States to six primary tasks, each involving important foreign policy initiatives:

Maintaining a Strong and Credible Defense

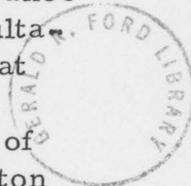
The President has submitted the largest peacetime defense budget in American history -- \$113.9 billion (112.7 in January and 1.2 additional in April). We have maintained the level of American forces in Europe and are adding to their combat capability by conversion of support forces to two additional combat brigades. At the same time, the United States has led the way in initiating a NATO-wide review of the possibilities for standardization of procurement and production of armaments in the Alliance.

Preserving the Integrity of the Alliance

Throughout that past 18 months, the United States has expressed the view that membership in the Alliance must be on the basis of unqualified participation and not on the basis of special arrangements or partial membership. At the same time, the Administration publicly and in private consultations with our Allies has made clear our position that membership in the Alliance by a Communist-dominated government or coalition including communists would be inconsistent with the democratic principles of the Alliance and maintaining its defense capabilities.

Improving the Process of Political Consultation

The President has engaged during the past year in intensive consultations with virtually every member of the Alliance, a number on more than one occasion. At the NATO Summit in May 1975, he met with the heads of government of virtually all the Allies, consultations which he continued at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Helsinki in July-August 1975. In this connection, the United States led the way during the year preceding the Conference in closely coordinating positions among the Alliance governments on the CSCE Final Act and in presenting a united western front in Helsinki with respect to the interpretation and significance of the Conference document. The President also participated in consultations among our leading Allies on the international economic situation at the Rambouillet Summit in France in December, 1975. Additionally, throughout the past 18 months, the heads of government/heads of state of many of the Alliance countries have met with the President in Washington -- most recently the President of France.



Developing a Productive and Realistic Agenda for Relations with the USSR

The United States has cooperated with our allies in closely monitoring implementation of the CSCE Final Act by all parties, but particularly the Communist signatories. As a result of this joint effort, the Allies have presented a united front to the East on implementation of the human rights provisions of the Final Act. Additionally, we have continued to coordinate closely all aspects of the Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions Talks in Vienna, ensuring Allied unity on issues and initiatives in the negotiations. Finally, within the North Atlantic Council in Brussels, we have kept our allies fully informed as to progress and current issues in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

Encouraging the Growth of Democratic Processes

The United States has encouraged the emergence of moderate, democratic governments -- both with political support and, where appropriate, with economic assistance. We have signed a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with Spain, which is now before the Congress for ratification. And, King Juan Carlos will make a State Visit to the United States in early June.

Coping with Issues of the Future

We have coordinated closely and frequently with our allies on common approaches to the Conference on International Economic Cooperation. The President met with the leaders of several of our Allies at Rambouillet to work out common approaches to Western monetary and economic problems. Similarly, we are presently working with France and other allies to work out means to assist the developing nations of Africa.

Additionally, the President has taken the opportunity offered by foreign leaders' visits to the U.S. in connection with the Bicentennial to arrange far-reaching substantive meetings with a number of Allied and other friendly governments. These initiatives have included:

Prime Minister Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg: Prime Minister Thorn's official visit and meeting with the President last November provided an opportunity for substantive talks on relations between the United States and the European Community, developments at the United Nations (Thorn was President of the General Assembly) and relations between the developing and developed nations in the context of CIEC and the Seventh Special Session of the UN.

Prime Minister Jorgensen of Denmark: Prime Minister Jorgensen's official visit to the United States in November 1975 at the President's invitation permitted wide-ranging talks on Atlantic Alliance issues, including standardization of weapons procurement, as well as US-European economic issues -- including tariff and duty questions.

Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave of Ireland: Prime Minister Cosgrave's official visit in March was the occasion for useful discussions on US-European economic developments and cooperation as well as questions concerning US-Irish trade and investment.

President Giscard d'Estaing of France: President Giscard d'Estaing's state visit to the United States in May permitted the President to continue his talks with Giscard which in the past 18 months have restored a harmony in US-French relations not witnessed for decades. Their wide-ranging discussions on international economic developments, initiatives by both countries to foster African economic development, western security issues and current developments abroad contributed importantly to improving bilateral cooperation on a growing number of international issues and problems.

King Juan Carlos of Spain: The forthcoming state visit by King Juan Carlos to the United States in June is an important initiative by the President that will emphasize the United States' support for the emerging democratic Spain and, together with the recently signed Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, underscore the importance we attach to bringing Spain closer to the NATO Alliance and European institutions. This initiative should help contribute to stability in the Mediterranean area.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of the Federal Republic of Germany: Chancellor Schmidt's visit at the invitation of the President will permit the two leaders to continue their close consultations and cooperation begun when the Chancellor visited Washington in December 1974 and continued thereafter in Brussels, Helsinki and Rambouillet. These discussions will enable the President and the Chancellor to review developments since last December on a wide-range of Alliance and other western security issues, international economic developments, and progress on initiatives by the U.S. and other allies in connection with the December 1975 Rambouillet Summit and proposals for cooperation between the developing and developed countries.

Recent Developments -- Part I

Title

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINADescription
and Status

President Ford visited Peking on December 1-5, 1975 for a wide-ranging exchange of views and to demonstrate our mutual desire to sustain the relationship.

The United States continued a steady withdrawal of its military forces on Taiwan. The U.S. has reduced its current force level on Taiwan to approximately 2800 from a total of over 10,000 in 1972.

U.S. and People's Republic of China government-facilitated cultural and scientific exchanges will continue in 1976 at approximately the same level as last year.

On April 1 the Senate confirmed President Ford's nomination of Thomas S. Gates, Jr. as the new Chief of our Liaison Office in Peking. The President held a swearing-in ceremony for Mr. Gates on April 14 confirming him in the rank of Ambassador. In remarks prepared for the ceremony, the President reaffirmed the commitment of his Administration to complete the normalization of US-PRC relations on the basis of the Shanghai Communique, and emphasized that our relationship with Peking remains a cardinal element of American foreign policy.

Recommendation

No change or modification of this policy is required at this time.



Title	ENCOURAGEMENT OF JAPAN TO SIGN THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY
Description and Status	The Administration has encouraged Japan to ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Lower House of the Japanese Diet approved ratification on April 28, 1976, and the Bill is currently before the Upper House.
Recommendation for change	None.



Title

COOPERATION WITH THE JAPANESE ON THE
LOCKHEED INVESTIGATIONS

Description
and Status

The Administration has worked out an arrangement with the Japanese Government to allow Japanese legal authorities access to information obtained by the SEC and the Church Sub-committee on alleged bribery payments by the Lockheed Corporation. In order to protect the rights of individuals concerned and legal proceedings in the United States, the Japanese have agreed to release the information only in connection with judicial actions.

Recommendation
for change

None.



Title	INCREASED HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN
Description and Status	During Prime Minister Miki's trip to Washington in August 1975, he and President Ford agreed to expand further our high-level consultations on multi lateral problems and to hold regular exchanges between the U. S. Secretary of State and the Japanese Foreign Minister. Since the Prime Minister's visit, Secretary Kissinger has conferred several times with Japanese Foreign Minister Miyazawa. In addition, on his way to Peking last November, the President stopped briefly in Tokyo. Again in December during the summit conference at Rambouillet, the President met with Prime Minister Miki.
Recommendation for change	None.

Title	ENHANCING DEFENSE CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN
Description and Status	During Prime Minister Miki's visit to Washington in August 1975, President Ford and he agreed to further enhance U. S. -Japan cooperation on defense matters and on implementation of the Mutual Security Treaty. Subsequently, the two countries agreed to establish a new organization for defense cooperation. In parallel with the Japanese government's growing attention to this issue, most of the opposition parties in Japan have shown a greater interest in defense problems. To varying degrees, they have taken more favorable positions than previously on the U. S. -Japan Security Treaty. We expect to announce the new consultative organization sometime this year.
Recommendation for change.	None.

Title

NEGOTIATIONS OF SPECIALTY STEEL

Description
and Status

A U. S. negotiating team reached agreement in principle with the Japanese in Tokyo May 5 on limiting imports of Japanese specialty steel into the United States. This agreement, which will limit imports from Japan for three years to about the average level during 1971-1975, will be formalized soon.

Recommendation
for change

None.



Title

INITIATIVES ON THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND
AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN
ISSUE

Description
and Status

The Administration, together with the Republic of Korea, has proposed termination of the United Nations Command in Korea provided that the parties concerned agree to alternative arrangements to continue the Armistice. We have also proposed a conference of the concerned parties to discuss this question and have indicated that such a conference could be expanded to consider long-term solutions to the Korean issue.

Recommendation
for change

None.



Title	MOVE FROM GRANT TO CREDIT SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO KOREA
Description and Status	The Administration's submission for security assistance for Korea for fiscal year 1977 effectively marked the end of grant aid in this field to the Republic of Korea. The FY 77 request for security assistance for the ROK in the form of FMS credit will assist the ROK in the completion of its military modernization plans and achievement of military self-sufficiency.
Recommendation for change	None.

Title KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Description
and Status

After the Security Council in August 1975 refused to consider membership for the Republic of Korea in the United Nations, the United States vetoed the applications of the two Vietnams. The Administration has supported the principle of universality in the United Nations but maintains that the U.N. should not apply this principle selectively.

Recommendation
for change

None.



Title	RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR WARSHIP VISITS TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
Description and Status	Following favorable statements on the subject from the new governments in Wellington and Canberra, the United States is currently submitting a request for Australian and New Zealand approval of visits by a nuclear-powered cruiser, the USS TRUXTON. The previous Australian and New Zealand governments had banned visits by nuclear powered warships.
Recommendation and change	None.

Title	APPROVAL OF A COMMONWEALTH WITH THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
Description and Status	The President, on March 24, 1976, signed the bill approving the future establishment of a commonwealth relationship with the Northern Marianas. The Administration is currently moving to set up a separate local administration for the Northern Marianas in preparation for the drafting of a constitution by the Marianians and eventual establishment of the commonwealth when the trusteeship is concluded.
Recommendation for change	None.



Title

NEGOTIATIONS ON THE STATUS OF THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC

Description
and Status

Following Presidential signature in March of the bill to approve the future establishment of a commonwealth relationship between the United States and the Northern Marianas, the Administration is now focusing on the future status for the rest of Micronesia. An inter-agency study group has completed a review of the U. S. position on this subject, and the Under Secretaries Committee is currently drafting a memorandum to the President. Meanwhile, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, has held informal talks with the Micronesian leaders.

Recommendation
for change

None.

Title	DISCUSSIONS ON GUAM'S FUTURE STATUS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Description and Status	The Administration has also been holding informal discussions with Guamanian leaders on Guam's desire for alterations in the current relationship with the federal government. The Administration will soon be consulting with Congress on this issue, and formal talks with the Guamanians will probably begin this summer.
Recommendation for change	None.

Title	MIA'S FROM THE VIETNAM WAR
Description and Status	On March 26, 1976 our Embassy in Paris delivered a note to the North Vietnamese Embassy exploring the possibility of opening discussions on their accounting for American servicemen who did not return from Southeast Asia and a number of other bilateral issues. We are continuing to exchange messages with the Vietnamese on this subject.
Recommendation for Change	None.

Title	PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS
Description and Status	Negotiations designed to facilitate our continued use of military bases in the Philippines opened in Washington on April 12, 1976. These talks will resume in mid-June in Manila.
Recommendation for Change	None.

Title	PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS
Description and Status	Negotiations to improve trade between the U. S. and the Republic of the Philippines, and to protect U.S. investments in that country, convened on March 29, 1976 in Washington. The talks are now in recess and will begin again in the near future.
Recommendation for Change	None.



Current Initiatives -- Part I

Title	EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA
Description and Status	<p>The Administration responded rapidly to provide emergency relief assistance to Guatemala following the devastating earthquake of February 4 which left over 22,000 dead and more than a million Guatemalans without homes. The President sent AID Administrator Daniel Parker to Guatemala to assess the relief effort and report to him on the longer term needs for recovery. Following his report, the Administration submitted to the Congress, and Congress has approved, legislation authorizing \$25 million for the continuing relief and recovery effort in Guatemala.</p> <p>A US Army Engineer battalion funded by the Agency for International Development has reopened the highway between Guatemala City and the Caribbean which is of major importance to the country's economy. The overall assistance effort has concentrated on the restoration of vital services and construction of temporary shelters for the homeless prior to the beginning of the rainy season in May.</p>
Recommendation for Change	That we continue to support recovery needs at a level that can be usefully absorbed by Guatemala.

Current Initiatives -- Part I

Title	ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA
Description and Status	<p>In February 1976, the Administration reiterated its pledge to maintain direct assistance to the neediest nations in this hemisphere. The largest part of our nearly \$300 million annual bilateral assistance to Latin America is now allocated to the region's poorest nations. This assistance is aimed at meeting priority needs in the areas of health, education, and agriculture. The United States also provides important disaster relief assistance, as demonstrated in the case of the recent earthquake recovery assistance to Guatemala following the devastating earthquake of last February.</p> <p>In addition to our bilateral assistance, the Administration continues to support multilateral concessional assistance through the Inter-American Development Bank and the other international financial institutions active in the hemisphere. We recently proposed and Congress authorized a major replenishment of the funds of the Inter-American Development Bank, with the US share of the replenishment coming to \$2.5 billion over the next four years. These activities, supplemented by new programs in agricultural development and to assist balance-of-payments shortfalls, make an important contribution to the neediest nations in this region.</p>
Recommendation for Change	None



Current Initiatives -- Part I

Title	MODERNIZATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM
Description and Status	In order to respond to the needs of our times, the Administration has proposed a number of steps to modernize the Inter-American system. In concert with the other members of the OAS, the Rio Treaty was reviewed and an agreement signed which would reaffirm and revise it. The amendments have been submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent. Secretary Kissinger and the US Representative to the OAS have also stated that the structure and procedures of the OAS itself need to be simplified and rationalized. We are now working with other members to strengthen and restructure the organization and will be discussing the matter with them at the OAS General Assembly in Santiago this June. We will also discuss reduction of the proportion of the financial burden which the US shares from its present level of two-thirds, while emphasizing our continuing commitment to support of the OAS and hemispheric security.
Recommendation for Change	None

Current Initiatives -- Part I

Title	NEGOTIATION OF A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY
Description and Status	President Ford has renewed the commitment of Presidents Johnson and Nixon to continue negotiations with the Republic of Panama for a new Canal agreement. Ambassador Bunker was appointed as Chief Negotiator in the fall of 1973. In February 1974, Secretary Kissinger signed a set of Principles with Panamanian Foreign Minister Tack which serve as the basis for the negotiations. Ambassador Bunker has met regularly with the Panamanians and some progress has been made. However, a number of difficult issues remain to be resolved between us. The aim is a treaty which preserves for the US control over the defense and operation of the Canal during the treaty's lifetime and a neutral Canal to which we are assured access after that. The President has stated that any treaty which is negotiated will be submitted to the full constitutional process, including submission to the Senate for advice and consent.
Recommendation for change	None



Current Initiatives -- Part I

Title	US OPPOSITION TO FURTHER CUBAN INTERVENTION
Description and Status	President Ford and Secretary Kissinger have said the US would not accept further Cuban intervention such as occurred in Angola. They have warned that the Administration would take appropriate action to prevent Cuban intervention in this hemisphere. The Administration has made it clear that there is no possibility for an improvement in relations with Cuba so long as such attitudes and policies of aggression are pursued by the Government of Cuba. Our commitment to the principles of non-intervention and collective security in this hemisphere remain strong and have been reasserted by the hemisphere community of nations through the recent negotiation of the Inter-American Treaty of Mutual Assistance.
Recommendation for Change	None

Current Initiatives -- Part I

THE MIDDLE EASTUS Assistance RequestsAid to Israel

- Administration is proposing about \$2.3 billion for Israel for FY 76 and \$1.8 billion for Israel for FY 77 for a total of about \$4.1 billion in direct support for US commitment to Israel's security. These requests are pending in Congress.

Administration position is that these requests--larger than any previous two-year period--are sufficient but Israel (and Congress as well) remains interested in additional Transition Quarter funds. Some additional funds could emerge although this is presently unclear.

Aid to Arab Friends

- In addition to normal Administration requests for on-going security assistance to our friends in the area who do not have oil revenues (Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco), the Administration is proposing economic assistance for Egypt (\$1.5 billion) for FY 76 and 77 to buttress Sadat's peace efforts and the Administration is taking the lead to encourage other Western donors and Arab moderates to provide aid to Egypt as part of a large international effort. Administration also proposing modest economic assistance for Syria (\$180 million) for FY 76 and 77.

Middle East Negotiations

- Consultations are continuing with the parties to explore ways of bringing further progress in the negotiations, including the idea proposed by Israel for Arab agreement on the end of belligerency in exchange for significant Israeli territorial concessions. Consultations have included Presidential visits with President Sadat, King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin over recent months, as well as diplomatic exchanges.
- US Sinai Support Mission is carrying out its mandate for an early warning system, having achieved operational surveillance capability on February 22, 1976. This mission



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helps support the Basic Agreement between Egypt and Israel of September 1, 1975 which represents a significant step toward an overall peace settlement. In conformity with the requirement for a six-month report to the Congress required by Section 4 of the Joint Resolution authorizing implementation of the US proposal for this early warning system (Joint Resolution signed last October 13, 1975), the First Report of the US SSM was transmitted to Congress on April 30, 1976.

Lebanon

- Administration proposal for \$20 million US contribution to relief and reconstruction efforts in Lebanon has been sent to Congress for consideration, taking into account strong Congressional sentiment to be helpful in this way as a reflection of the traditional US humanitarian concerns and a special relationship with Lebanon. The appropriation has been approved by the Senate. Authorization is pending but approval expected soon.

- Continuing efforts to help bring about a lasting ceasefire and a political settlement.



Title

UN LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS

Status

The next substantive negotiation session of the UN Law of the Sea Conference is scheduled to be held in New York for a six week period beginning in early August. The United States strongly supports the work of the Conference aimed at producing a timely, comprehensive and widely acceptable law of the sea treaty which meets all our oceans interests -- national security/defense, environmental, and resource, including the legal framework for the mining of the minerals of the ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction. In this connection, as an indication of our interest in reaching early agreement on an international oceans treaty, Secretary of State Kissinger will lead the US Delegation to the August/September session of the Conference.

Recommendations
for change

None

