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NLRR DM/53/2 #155598

BY CW NARA DATE 7/3/14

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON
May 5, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: William P. Clark, Acting *wpc*

1. Soviet Communication on Lebanon. Dobrynin called on Walt Stoessel this morning to deliver another communication on Lebanon. The communication followed a consistent line of blaming Israel for the difficulties in Lebanon. It implied that the U.S. was encouraging Israel to expand its military interference in Lebanon. Stoessel rejected those allegations.

Today's statement came closer than the one Dobrynin delivered on Friday to implying that Soviet contacts with Syria were taking place. The Soviet Union, it said, "is doing everything which is within its powers to calm down the passions in Lebanon and to facilitate a lessening of tension there. It is in this spirit that we have been taking steps in the most recent days too."

Stoessel stressed the importance of permitting the Syrian-Lebanese negotiations to proceed to a successful conclusion and described the Habib mission, which would include a meeting with Assad.

2. International Airline Service Difficulties. Representatives of Pan Am, TWA, Braniff and Flying Tiger called on me the afternoon of May 4. They stated that their financial difficulties are so severe that they have been obliged to reduce their labor forces considerably, and to suspend new aircraft purchases. Their difficulties, they affirmed, stem from such factors as the rise in petroleum prices, but also from the manner in which the U.S. has implemented its international aviation policy. They requested that the Administration appoint a group to review the implementation of U.S. aviation policy and, while the review is underway, that it undertake no significant bilateral aviation negotiations. The executives reported that, earlier in the day, Counsellor to the President Edwin Meese had promised to respond within one week to their request. I stated that the Administration would, within three months, prepare an international aviation policy statement. The White House Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade would clearly have a key role.

3. Ceausescu on Relations with the Soviets and Third World. Romanian Foreign Minister Andrei will be visiting Washington May 15, and is bringing a message to you from President Ceausescu. During a two hour discussion with Ambassador Kampelman on May 4, Ceausescu suggested that our support for "conservative" regimes alienated popular movements and played into the Soviets' hand. Ceausescu said he believed the Soviets would be prepared to agree to arms limitations. On Afghanistan, Ceausescu indicated the Soviets had said they were prepared to withdraw, and that they were interested in discussing the situation with the U.S. Ceausescu hailed your lifting of the grain embargo as a move which might provide leverage for a solution in Afghanistan.

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RDS 1, 2 (5/5/01)
(Clark, William P.)

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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ATTACHMENT

May 6, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Acting Secretary Clark's Evening Report

Herewith Acting Secretary Clark's Evening Report of
May 5, 1981.

CC: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

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ATTACHMENT