

SECRETSENSITIVE

sent to Camp David)

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

155643

June 19, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.
Acting Secretary of State

1. Meeting with Israeli Ambassador Evron. As you directed, I met with Ambassador Evron this afternoon and conveyed to him your message that nothing that has happened has altered our friendship for Israel and our commitment to it. Ambassador Evron expressed deep appreciation for your words and said he would report them promptly to Prime Minister Begin. In the conversation that followed, Evron expressed regret about our vote and about our having worked with Iraq to produce the resolution that was adopted. He argued that our working with Iraq will undermine prospects for progress and enhance the standing of extremists in the Arab world. I explained that we believe our actions have served the broader interests of peace; that, as you told Evron when you saw him recently, we have to maintain a degree of credibility with Arab countries if we are to be able to work with them in the peace process; and that an extreme resolution which we had to veto would have caused many more problems.

2. Reactions to UN Security Council Vote on Israeli Raid. Initial reactions to today's Security Council resolution on the Israeli raid are good. The Israelis evidence anger mixed with an appreciation that things could have been worse from their standpoint. Most other UN members are very pleased that we were able to go along with the resolution. The Soviets and their allies are predictably bitter since they had hoped to isolate us and damage our relations in the Arab world and elsewhere.

RDS 2/3 6/19/01 (STOESSEL, Walter J., Jr.)

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BY QV NARA DATE 2/3/14