

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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ACTION

February 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: STEPHEN LOW *SL*

SUBJECT: U.S.-Brazilian Memorandum of Understanding on Consultations

When the Secretary visits Brasilia later this month he will sign a Memorandum of Understanding which has now been worked out between John Crimmins and the Brazilian Foreign Office. The Memorandum establishes a mechanism for communication between the two countries at the Cabinet level. According to its terms, "the two Governments will normally hold consultations semi-annually . . . alternately in Brazil and the U.S. . . . conducted by the Secretary of State on the part of the U.S. . . . and by the Minister of Foreign Relations on the part of . . . Brazil."

This agreement was worked out on the specific instruction of the Secretary after the Bureau had suggested to him one meeting a year. I am frankly skeptical that this Secretary of State or any succeeding one will make a trip every year to Brazil or engage in Cabinet-level discussions twice a year with Brazil. Granted the term "normally" provides flexibility, I nevertheless believe we would be better off to understate the understanding by an expression like "at least once a year" and then, if the situation warrants, hold two meetings rather than constantly fall short of our publicly stated and formally committed word.

Attached at Tab A is a copy of the telegram from Brasilia transmitting the text of the agreement.

If there is any possibility that you could shake the Secretary from his desire to commit us formally to the two meetings, I think it would be very helpful. The understanding has already received Brazilian Government approval. Any request on our part to decrease

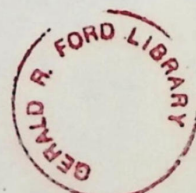
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NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY *gh* . NARA DATE *7/2/2002*



the stated frequency of meetings would be seen by them as backing away from our preliminary proposal. However, the agreement was ad referendum. It has not reached the public. Furthermore, difficult as a change may be at this stage, it is still preferable to the criticism to which we will be subjected in the future when we fail to live up to the yardstick commitment of two meetings a year. The understanding is now before the Secretary for final approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you explore the possibility of getting the wording of the understanding changed from "normally hold consultations semi-annually" to "hold consultations at least annually."

