

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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September 17, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT:

Information Items

Indian-Pakistani Relations Advanced: Talks between Indian and Pakistani officials on normalizing relations, upset by the Indo-Pak war of 1971, made some headway over the weekend with the conclusion of agreements to resume normal postal and telecommunications services and to have further talks on trade and scientific and cultural cooperation. However, no mention was made of resuming diplomatic relations, which were broken in 1971. The Indians have preferred a more cautious approach of testing normalization in other areas before tackling the larger issue of political ties.

This latest round of negotiations is one further step in the Simla process of reconciliation which began with agreement in the summer of 1972 by Prime Ministers Gandhi and Bhutto to establish a framework for rebuilding their bilateral relations following the war. Progress has been extremely slow and further aggravated by the Indian nuclear explosion in mid-May, in response to which Pakistan broke off negotiations. With the resumption of talks this weekend, both sides appear interested in keeping the Simla process alive; however, progress can be expected to be slow, given the longstanding suspicions between the two. Among the issues which have added to the general climate of distrust are India's nuclear test and Pakistan's subsequent proposal for a nuclear free zone in South Asia; Pakistani concern about recent Indian initiatives in the disputed Kashmir, against the backdrop of Indian success in tying Sikkim more closely to India; and Pakistan's general perception of a Soviet/Indian/Afghani axis operating against its interests.

Brazilian Position on Cuba: Brazilian Foreign Minister Silveira told U.S. officials sent to discuss the Cuba matter that the Brazilian decision on its position in the OAS consideration of the Cuba question will depend largely on the terms of reference for the OAS resolution and committee of

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inquiry. Brazil will vote for establishment of a committee of inquiry if the terms of reference propose examining the sanctions issue "in light of the principle of nonintervention" rather than in view of "international political circumstances." Brazil will then gauge Castro's reaction and behavior in the interim before the November meeting. Silveira fully agreed with our view that something should be obtained from Castro in return for lifting the sanctions, but thought "correct behavior" was probably the best we could hope for. Brazil's final vote in November will be determined by Castro's actions and by the report of the inquiry committee. It is obvious that Brazil does not want to confront her Latin American friends over the Cuba issue and may be prepared to acquiesce gracefully in lifting the sanctions if the proper terms of reference, specifically related to the Cuba issue, are obtained. However, no final decision on how Brazil will vote at the end of the process has yet been made by President Geisel.

Situation in Indochina: The most significant military activity in South Vietnam remains concentrated in the hills south of Hue. North Vietnamese units are continuing to pressure government positions which were seized from the communists earlier this year; they reportedly suffered sizable losses over the weekend at the hands of the South Vietnamese 1st Division. Communist sappers have also been trying to cut Route 1 between Hue and Da Nang by destroying bridges and culverts along the vital north-south road. Elsewhere in the country, most recent communist activity has been limited to harassing attacks and light shellings. The delta has seen an increase in activity, but no major incidents have been reported in the past few days.

The Khmer communists on September 15 and 16 used 105-mm. howitzers to shell the provincial capital of Kompong Cham -- on the Mekong River some 45 miles north of Phnom Penh. These were the first such shellings since the city was under heavy insurgent attack nearly a year ago. Despite artillery fire, there is no evidence that the communists are planning to renew major ground action against Kompong Cham. Elsewhere, government forces are continuing their successful clearing operations in Kompong Chhnang Province northwest of Phnom Penh, where 4,000 civilians have returned to government lines in the past few days. This raises to over 20,000 the number of civilians freed in Kompong Chhnang and nearby Pursat Province since early August. Government operations near Phnom Penh and along Route 4 in the far southwest remain stalled.