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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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February 8, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

SUBJECT:

Information Items

Boyd Continues to be More Optimistic than Torrijos: Foreign Minister Boyd's optimistic statements -- the most recent of which being a press conference on arrival in Panama Sunday -- continue to be out of step with Torrijos' repeatedly expressed pessimism regarding the Canal negotiations. This pessimism is partially a negotiating tactic, but Torrijos does appear genuinely to fear -- among other things -- that the "sudden U.S. haste" to conclude a treaty masks a plan to "put something over on him." Moreover, he probably also feels unready to make the major policy decisions (e.g., duration, compensation, neutrality and defense) necessary before a treaty can be signed. Boyd told the press that he was generally satisfied with his visit to Washington since he had had the opportunity to discuss the Canal treaty with the highest U.S. officials. The foreign minister also noted that while he must be cautious until he had reported to General Torrijos, he was "undefeatably optimistic" and that he had found a general feeling in Washington that a treaty will be concluded within the next six months.

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PRC Guidance on Sino-U.S. Relations:

[redacted] Peking recently provided official guidance on Sino-U.S. relations to PRC officials overseas. The guidance reportedly emphasizes that any new initiatives on normalization, however welcome, must come from the U.S. Taiwan was identified as the key to normalization, but the U.S. must take the initiative. The guidance also noted close PRC interest in U.S.-USSR relations, gradual expansion of Sino-U.S. trade over the next two years, and a preoccupation with Chinese domestic development. The State Department comments that this guidance apparently reflects the PRC view that improving relations with the U.S. is important to the PRC, but not urgent. It also indicates that Peking is preparing to resume their criticism of detente, which had eased during the U.S. election campaign.

State Department review completed

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Meanwhile, Prime Minister Huang Hua recently attacked speculation that China might agree to peaceful liberation of Taiwan as a part of a Sino-U.S. "normalization" package. The prime minister reportedly told [redacted] that Taiwan would have to be liberated sooner or later [redacted]. The U.S. Liaison Office in Peking comments that the Chinese may be smarting from U.S. media speculation that they might agree to a softer line on Taiwan. It is interesting to note, however, [redacted]

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[redacted] Huang Hua confirmed that China does not see Taiwan as a major problem in the current overall situation.

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European Communists to Hold Summit in Madrid: Embassy Rome has learned that leaders of the Spanish, French and Italian Communist parties will meet in Madrid either late this month or in early March. The purpose of the meeting is allegedly to give a boost to the Spanish Communist party in its efforts to gain support and legitimacy in Spain. An Italian communist official reportedly rejected the suggestion that the summit draw up a "Charter for Eurocommunism," hinting obliquely that each national party should operate without having to refer to a central authority.

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