

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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March 22, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI 20

SUBJECT:

Information Items

Podgorny's Visit to Southern Africa: State does not believe that Podgorny's trip to Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia, which begins today, will produce any major changes in current Soviet policy toward southern Africa, although some move to strengthen Moscow's hand in Mozambique is a possibility. The principal purposes of Podgorny's trip are to dramatize Moscow's continued support for the Africans in the black-white confrontation and to convince African leaders that the USSR can and will act decisively in support of the "liberation" struggle.

Podgorny can be expected to stress the long-term nature of Moscow's interest in southern Africa and to press for tangible recognition by the African leaders of a permanent Soviet voice in the area. In this regard, Mozambique reportedly is to be the centerpiece of the Podgorny trip. President Machel would welcome a high-level Soviet sanction of his troubled regime; he may receive additional offers of Soviet aid.

Torrijos Urges Progress Toward a Canal Settlement: Ambassador Jorden reports that during a meeting last Friday with General Torrijos and Army Secretary Alexander, Torrijos pledged to accept some form of bilateral security guarantee in the post-treaty period. In return, Torrijos demanded the U.S. be considerably more forthcoming regarding the lands and facilities which would be passed to Panama under the treaty. He emphasized Panama's requirement for port areas on both the Atlantic and the Pacific. Torrijos said he was under pressure to show movement in the talks, and urged, if the settlement was going to be prolonged, that the U.S. make a gesture by transferring significant real estate to Panama.

NSA, STATE reviews completed

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