NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

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REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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E.O. 12958 Sec. 1.5 (d)

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mr.01-101, # 42; OSD Pt. 3/2/04

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense

Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for

National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Tuesday, April 6, 1976

9:20 - 10:15 a.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

Rumsfeld: Thailand. I think our press coverage should be that we are proceeding as before, and not fall all over ourselves.

Scowcroft: I agree.

President: Fine.

Rumsfeld: Here is an article about Soviet pilots in Cuba. They are operating not as trainers. We can't deny it.

President: How are we coming with the Cuban contingencies?

Scowcroft: We had a meeting yesterday. There will be more on Monday.

President: When will I see it?

Scowcroft: The end of next week.

Rumsfeld: How should we deal with this article?

Scowcroft: How about saying there are some Soviet pilots in Cuba periodically. We have noticed more recently. We are watching to see what if any significance it may have.

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Rumsfeld: You check the intelligence and let's talk. That sounds okay.

President: You two work it out.

Rumsfeld: Dismantling SS 7 and 8 silos. [Discussion of what we can do.]

<u>President:</u> My inclination is a note from me to Brezhnev. But we need to move fast.

Rumsfeld: [Describes status of Sixth Fleet for Lebanon-contingencies.

President: I want to see anything significant we get from Dean Brown.

Scowcroft: Brown hasn't reported anything significant since Henry talked to you yesterday.

Rumsfeld: The are interested in AWACS and in increases in the intelligence flow.

There was a conference here in town. The consensus was could go communist within a few months. We all have said we didn't see how an Italy with communists in the government could participate in NATO. The question is what we can do.

<u>President:</u> Why not? If that is what we should do, then we should at least go to the Congress. For us to sit on our hands just because of Congress would be irresponsible.

Rumsfeld: Structure a debate in NATO that a communist government means automatic suspension from NATO. If we lost





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