

From Adm. H. H. ... 21
To Secretary H. H. ...
6/14/82

SYSTEM II
90431

Tab C

Unofficial translation

Dear Mr. President,

I consider it most urgent to draw your attention once again to the tragic events taking place on the Lebanese soil. In so doing, I wish to recall the fact that in your message of June 13, you gave the assurance that the U.S. government would act towards implementation of the known Security Council resolutions and that you would personally use your influence with Israel.

However, there are no signs whatsoever indicating that Israel is ready to cease the aggression. On the contrary, there is a growing scale of atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli invaders who are mercilessly killing the Lebanese and the Palestinians. It is reported that the seizure of Beirut is under preparation. And all this is taking place immediately following your lastest meeting with Israeli Premier Begin. How is one to understand it?

Mr. President, the extremely dangerous situation in Lebanon and around that country demands that urgent and effective steps be taken to stop the aggression, to cease hostilities and to withdraw Israeli forces from the Lebanese territory. Right now, this is the central issue, it is all the more so, since the development of events in that area of the world threatens to have also unpredictable international consequences.

We expect that in line with your stated readiness to exert influence on Israel, the United States will take necessary measures

DECLASSIFIED / RELEASED

NLS F99-051 #114

... MADE DATE 10/14/88

in order to bring Tel-Aviv to senses and to compel it to embark on the road of implementing the decisions of the Security Council.

Sincerely,

I. BREZHNEV


June 25, 1982

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

100 D
999-051 #112
CAS DATE 7/25/82

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

June 29, 1982

To: THE PRESIDENT
From: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 
Subject: Brezhnev's Letter to You on Lebanon

Brezhnev's letter to you reflects continuing Soviet concern at the highest level over the crisis in Lebanon, particularly the fate of the PLO. The focus of Soviet concern is the siege of Beirut and alleged Israeli "atrocities" against the Lebanese and Palestinians, an emphasis which almost certainly is designed to be played back in the Arab world as evidence that the Soviet Union has not silently abandoned the PLO to its fate. Interestingly, there is no mention of continuing clashes between Israeli and Syrian forces, even though the Soviet Union has a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with Damascus.

The letter is clearly within the cautious parameters established by Brezhnev's previous correspondence with you during the crisis. Significantly, the Soviets did not use the letter to reiterate in private, high-level channels the public "warning" to Israel which was issued by the Soviet Government on June 14. The only warning contained in the letter is an implicit one--that developments in the Middle East could have "unpredictable international consequences".

The tone of the letter is relatively moderate, although it does imply that you concurred in the Israeli siege of Beirut during your meeting with Begin. Brezhnev did not, however, repeat his allegation of U.S. collusion in the original Israeli attack or his criticism of Phil Habib's activities.

In a brief conversation with Dobrynin, I mentioned Friday's NSC meeting and your continuing commitment to serious arms control negotiations. On Lebanon, I told Dobrynin that the Soviets should not assume that what they observe in public is all that the United States is doing to resolve the Lebanese situation. I indicated that the U.S. is prepared to support enhanced authority for the Government of Lebanon, and that the PLO would have to accept such an arrangement if the fighting is to cease. Finally, I stressed that the U.S. would do everything possible to ensure the effective implementation of such an agreement, and, in this context, would insist upon Israeli withdrawal.

I have attached a draft reply for your consideration.