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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SYSTEM II
91542

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBERT C. MC FARLANE *RMF*
SUBJECT: NSPG Meeting on Next Steps in Lebanon,
Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. January 3, 1984,
White House Situation Room

Issue

To discuss next steps in Lebanon and agree on milestones to be reached before Congress reassembles on January 23.

Discussion

The publication of the Long Commission Report has intensified the domestic debate on our Lebanon policy. Tip O'Neill has announced that he is reconsidering his support for the 18-month limit for Marine deployment to Beirut. We can expect a growing crescendo of criticism from both liberals and conservatives when Congress reassembles on January 23. The growth in domestic opposition comes at a time when the situation on the ground in Lebanon has not deteriorated significantly even though major fighting and more terrorism could erupt at any time. Don Rumsfeld plans to return to the region later this week, and it is important that before he departs we fully review our options and reach decisions on next steps, including specific milestones to be achieved by January 23.

The agenda for Tuesday's meeting (Tab I) is structured so as to focus discussion on the immediate problem we face, including whether or not we should readjust our objectives in Lebanon to more manageable goals and what we should do about the deployment of the Marines. We also need to develop a legislative strategy for dealing with the Congress.

In view of the fact that there are likely to be differences of opinion among your key advisors on some of these issues -- most notably how and when to redeploy the Marines and the appropriateness of the incremental use of U.S. military power

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By *AM*, NARA, Date 3/2/06


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 -- it is probably best to use the session on Tuesday to discuss the various options with a view to your making a final decision later in the week. No papers will be circulated for the meeting. However, I suggest you review the NSC Non-Paper on Lebanon options with State and DOD comments, which I attach at Tab II.

Recommendation

OK No

✓ OK

That you review the paper at Tab II before the NSPG on Tuesday, January 3.

Attachments

Tab I Agenda
Tab II NSC Non-Paper

Prepared by:
Geoffrey Kemp

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