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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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August 19, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MELVYN LEVITSKY
Executive Secretary
Department of State

COL. WILLIAM M. MATZ
Executive Secretary
Department of Defense

MR. H. LAWRENCE SANDALL
Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS J. FLYNN
Chief of Staff
National Security Agency

MR. JOHN N. RICHARDSON
Assistant to the Attorney General
and Chief of Staff
Department of Justice

MR. ROBERT B. ZOELLICK
Executive Secretary
Department of Treasury

SUBJECT: Operation Staunch ~~(S)~~

In recent weeks, broad consensus has been reached within the United Nations Security Council to bring the Iran-Iraq War to an end. While Iraq has accepted UNSC Resolution 598 contingent on Iranian acceptance, Iran has neither accepted nor rejected it, pursuing instead tactics of delay. Iran has thus far frustrated the Secretary General's efforts to properly consult on the provisions of the resolution. Recent Iranian mining actions in the Persian Gulf have galvanized the support of our Allies and friends, improving chances for passage of a second Security Council resolution which would, in effect, internationalize our Operation Staunch. The Soviets and Chinese, however, are showing increasing reluctance to pursue the second resolution. ~~(S)~~

In the past, efforts to implement Operation Staunch have been frustrated by overriding concerns for the protection of sensitive intelligence sources and methods. Additionally, U.S. arms sold

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to Iran in the Iran/Contra affair undercut the credibility of U.S. efforts to stem the flow of arms to Iran. We have now reached a stage, however, where current international support for our policies in the region provides new opportunities and impetus for pursuing Operation Staunch more aggressively. (S)

The Secretary of State was designated by the President to be in charge of a reinvigorated Operation Staunch and assigned the task to Under Secretary Derwinski. At Under Secretary Derwinski's request, the Persian Gulf Policy Review Group has examined the need for an interagency Staunch support committee, and recommends its immediate establishment. Its purpose would be: (a) to collect, collate, evaluate and provide to the Under Secretary all available, pertinent intelligence on Iranian arms acquisitions; (b) to assist in determining what material is required to make the most effective demarches to foreign governments to deny the sale of arms to Iran; and (c) to clear relevant material for such demarches within the intelligence community in a timely manner, so as to provide information persuasive and detailed enough to make the case. (S)

The Operation Staunch Committee will be composed of representatives from State, Defense, CIA, NSA, Justice, Treasury, and the NSC Staff. It will meet regularly (probably every two weeks) under the chairmanship of Under Secretary Derwinski. State (NEA/RA) will act as Executive Secretary for the group, and will contact agencies directly regarding level of representation and an initial organizational meeting. The Executive Secretary will prepare an agenda for each meeting and coordinate with other committee members to determine which Staunch cases require review. (S)

While the committee must remain sensitive to the protection of intelligence sources and methods, the emphasis will be on timely and compelling Staunch demarches to deny arms sales to Iran. In the event the committee cannot reach agreement on releasability of information or timing of demarches for particular Staunch cases, Under Secretary Derwinski will forward the case with opposing views and his recommendation to the National Security Advisor for final resolution and implementation as appropriate. (S)

Bill Courtney

Grant S. Green, Jr.
Executive Secretary

cc: Donald Gregg, Assistant to the
Vice President for National Security Affairs
Rear Admiral Joseph C. Strasser
Executive Assistant to the Chairman, JCS

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