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Unofficial translation

Dear Mr. President,

I address myself to you in connection with yet another monstrous crime perpetrated by Israel in Lebanon.

Grossly trampling upon unanimously adopted resolutions of the UN Security Council and its own commitments, Israel has unleashed a bloody massacre in West Beirut which is of the same order of the atrocities committed by the Hitler nazies during World War II.

When the Israeli aggression in Lebanon turned out to be a serious moral and political defeat for Israel, the Israeli military brass, intoxicated by militaristic frenzy, launched a bloody orgy. This will never be forgotten or forgiven not only by the Palestinian people, but by other peoples as well.

In condemning the criminal actions, the responsibility for which primarily rests with the Israeli leaders, honest people all over the world cannot fail to believe that a certain share of responsibility for the rivers of blood being shed at present in Lebanon is also borne by those who could but did not prevent what has been committed by Tel Aviv.

Mr. President, we firmly believe that the time has come to put an end to such a situation where the Israeli leaders act in defiance of the UN, consistently and grossly violating the basic principles of that organization and its resolutions, including those of the Security Council.

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DECLASSIFIED / RELEASED

NLS F89-051 # 144

BY smf, NARA, DATE 10/16/00

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I call upon the United States to act in concert with the Soviet Union in the Security Council in order to bridle Israel and make it comply with the resolutions of the Security Council.

Sincerely,

L. BREZHNEV

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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September 21, 1982

82 SEP 21 P11-03

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM P. CLARK
THE WHITE HOUSE

SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: Brezhnev Letter to the President on West Beirut

Brezhnev has sent the President a letter denouncing the massacre of Palestinians in West Beirut as "another monstrous crime perpetrated by Israel." In highly charged language, he also equates alleged Israeli actions with "the atrocities committed by the Hitler Nazis during World War II," and apportsions "a certain share of responsibility" to those "who could but did not prevent what has been committed by Tel Aviv," a clear reference to the United States.

Despite these exaggerated statements, Brezhnev's only concrete recommendation is to call upon the United States to act in concert with the Soviet Union in the UN Security Council in order to force Israel to follow the resolutions of that body.

The letter follows a familiar pattern, employed by the Soviets throughout the Lebanon crisis, of mixing inflated rhetoric with modest and cautious substantive proposals. This combination is basically intended to provide a sharp Soviet reaction for the record, and to create the illusion of Soviet involvement, in the absence of useful ideas or leverage to affect events. In particular, Brezhnev's call for U.S.-USSR cooperation in the UN indicates a Soviet desire to forestall any unilateral U.S. action (such as a return of U.S. military forces to Beirut) and to channel activities to resolve the crisis into multilateral efforts in which the Soviets might play a role.

Attached is a draft reply for the President's consideration. While noting the exaggerated and unhelpful tone of Brezhnev's letter, the reply takes the high ground by emphasizing the human tragedy involved and steps that we are taking to bring peace to the area. The reply recalls the President's earlier actions to deal with the crisis--his call for an Israeli withdrawal and U.S. support for UNSC Resolutions 520 and 521. With regard to reconstitution of the MNF, a step which will be of great concern to the Soviets, the draft reply focuses on the Lebanese Government's request, the limited nature of the Force's mandate, and our intention to withdraw the troops after their limited mission is accomplished.

L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Attachment: Draft Presidential Reply.

F99-051 # 143

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7/25/00