

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

7624876 Transition
7624875

S/CL



REVIEWED BY JA DATE 5/11/87
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR XDS/EXT. DATE _____ Washington, D.C. 20520

AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

- ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
- DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
- RELEASE DENIED
- PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

December 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: S/CL - Mr. Tony Lake

SUBJECT: Brezhnev Comments on US-USSR Relations,
Carter Administration

Brezhnev met with Secretary Simon on November 30 and then hosted a dinner for him and the US-USSR Trade and Economic Council in the Kremlin. Brezhnev's comments on relations with the US were directed in part to the new Administration and in part to the top-level US business executives who attended the Kremlin dinner.

At the private meeting with Simon, Brezhnev:

- asked that Carter be told that the Soviet Union would not try to intimidate him by a test of nerves when he takes office;
- said that Soviet support for good bilateral relations was permanent, not tactical;
- expressed misgivings about contradictions in what Carter said about relations with the USSR during the campaign, specifically contrasting his support for "non-discrimination" (amendment of Jackson-Vanik) with comments about pursuing a hard line. "But we will wait and see", he added;
- claimed that the Soviet Union is meeting its commercial obligations and accused the US of being unreasonable on grain shipment and maritime matters by insisting on rates above world market levels (true, but a distortion because high rates are part of the deal to compensate for Soviet advantages).

Brezhnev's speech at the subsequent dinner -- carried in full by TASS that same evening -- was aimed at mustering business support for amending trade legislation and inserting a new note of urgency into calls for progress on disarmament issues. Brezhnev:

- took the US to task for "discriminatory" trade

Dist:
Code T
M
C
EUR
RF:rw

REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~


LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

- 2 -

treatment of the Soviet Union, claimed that US business had lost a billion and a half or two billion dollars in orders because of it, and stressed that Moscow will tolerate no political linkages with trade and no interference in its internal affairs. (Read emigration)

- complained about campaign rhetoric calling for dealing with Moscow from a position of strength;
- accused the Ford Administration of freezing the SALT talks almost a year ago and proclaimed readiness to intensify efforts to reach an agreement based on the Vladivostok understanding with the new Administration;
- expressed readiness to discuss new steps in non-proliferation and other disarmament measures;
- made a ritual call for acceptance of the Warsaw Pact initiative on non-first use of nuclear weapons;
- recalled Soviet initiatives on non-use of force, banning of mass destruction weapons, comprehensive test ban, universal non-use of force treaties, etc. He again called for abandoning new weapons systems (Trident and B-1 and "corresponding" Soviet systems) and said all these proposals are still on the table.

There is nothing new in what Brezhnev said, but his remarks reinforce the impression that he wants to engage the new Administration at an early stage and that SALT and the Most-Favored-Nation/credits issue are at the head of the Soviet agenda.


Lawrence S. Eagleburger
Deputy Under Secretary for Management

Clearances:

S/P:TThornton
P:PHabib

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE