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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
memo w/att	Zbigniew Brzezinski to the President Re: State's Reciprocity Package. (10 pp.) <i>3 pp. declassified per RAC NLC - 126-20-16-1-1 12/11/13</i>	1/24/80	A

FILE LOCATION

Carter Presidential Papers- Staff Offices, Office of Staff Sec.-
 Pres. Handwriting File, "[1/24/80-Not Submitted-DF]." Box 166

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON~~SECRET~~

January 13, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Cyrus Vance *cv*

SUBJECT: Reciprocity in US and Soviet Diplomatic,
Official, Commercial and Media Personnel

We have studied the various forms of Soviet representation in this country with the view to establishing equal numbers in the several categories and strict reciprocity. The enclosed back-up papers give the figures for US representatives in the Soviet Union and Soviet representatives in the United States in four categories: (1) Diplomatic representatives; (2) Non-diplomatic embassy and consular personnel; (3) Media representatives; and (4) Commercial representatives.

In the first category, of diplomatic representatives, we find that the Soviets will have, after the consulates in Kiev and New York are closed, three more than we. We are recommending that equal ceilings be set at the present Soviet number, to allow us to add three people in Moscow who will be needed to oversee the new Embassy construction there.

We are also recommending that equal ceilings be established for non-diplomatic and administrative employees, and that procedures be established to ensure that any new personnel replace existing personnel on a one-for-one basis.

We also recommend that equal ceilings be established for accredited correspondents resident in each country at a level that will not affect our media representation in Moscow.

Finally, we propose if you concur to block three outstanding requests for Soviet joint commercial ventures with US firms. This would prevent nearly 100 new Soviet citizens from taking up residence in this country.

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Per: Rac Project

ESDN: NLC-126-20-16-1-1

BY: *18* NDA DATE: 12/14/13

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As Tom Watson explained, the Soviets do not impose any official limitation on the number of American diplomats, embassy administrative and technical personnel, commercial representatives or journalists permanently assigned in the Soviet Union. However, the expense of assigning Americans in the USSR and the difficulty of obtaining housing for them have contributed to an imbalance in all categories of personnel. Our proposals include requiring the Soviets to acknowledge the obligation to provide additional housing for us as required.

In the key category of diplomatic personnel the discrepancy is small after diplomats from the consular advance parties in New York and Kiev are withdrawn. A detailed review of the imprecise FBI, INS and State records shows that the Soviets will have 158 diplomats in Washington and San Francisco while we will have 155 in Moscow and Leningrad. We have a high degree of confidence in this latest number, but we can expect the Soviets to dispute it. In any case I propose that we set the ceiling at the Soviet figure of 158 to permit us to add diplomatic staff needed to oversee our Moscow Embassy construction project and counter Soviet "bugging" operations. We would also need to establish a ceiling on non-diplomatic Embassy staff to prevent the Soviets from evading their diplomatic ceiling.

Judging by Soviet reaction to the steps we have already announced, we must recognize that some sort of retaliatory action is likely if we implement these proposed steps. We would have to be prepared to respond in kind.

Depending on further Soviet actions in Southwest Asia and elsewhere, we may want to take additional steps to limit the Soviet presence in the U.S., such as lowering the ceiling on diplomatic personnel, closing Soviet commercial offices here and lowering the ceiling on correspondents. However, I believe that we

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should leave these steps in reserve for the moment.

A detailed discussion of our proposals is attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the steps proposed above.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Enclosures:

1. Diplomatic Representation
2. Non-Diplomatic Embassy and Consular Personnel
3. Correspondents
4. News Media Representation
5. US/USSR-Comparison of Presence of Permanently Assigned Diplomatic and Official Personnel in Host Countries

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