

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON DC 20506

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December 30, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS SOVIET POLITICAL ACTION WORKING GROUP

FROM: WALTER RAYMOND, JR.  
National Security Council *WR*

SUBJECT: Soviet Political Action Working Group:  
December 15 Meeting

The group met for an hour to discuss political activities that should be taken consistent with the recently approved action plan for public diplomacy on US Soviet relations. The principal objective was designed to have a meaningful exchange of views and to set some parameters for subsequent committee activities.

The policy objectives were briefly stated:

- To contain and counter Soviet political initiatives around the world.
- To promote the process of change within the Soviet Union.

Discussion ranged between strategic concepts and practical programs. It was agreed that we should identify key foreign policy areas where we should put pressure on the Soviets. This could be best done by probing for Soviet weaknesses and then developing political programs and psychological themes to exploit these weaknesses.

- The Department of State should prepare a list of those areas where the Soviets have extended themselves internationally and identify vulnerabilities therein. They should also develop a series of vulnerabilities affecting the Soviet East European Bloc.

- Themes should be developed by the working group on "moral equivalents" which we would recommend be given a broader mandate.

A number of practical areas were discussed for programmatic exploitation.

- In areas such as active measures/disinformation, there was a belief that one should turn Soviet active measures back onto the Soviets--take the offensive--and make them pay the price for these initiatives. An action paper should be developed on this subject by State/USIA with consultation with Stan Levchenko.

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-- The international peace movement affords an excellent field for programmatic development. One possibility would be to develop action involving Batovrin, seeking to stimulate an internal Soviet/East European peace movement.

-- The question of the Soviet army in Afghanistan and the related issue of the anti-Islamic character of the Soviet invasion should be exploited. Discussion separate from this group is in train concerning the exploitation of Soviet POWs. (Defense, NSC, State and CIA should pursue this issue.) A much more concerted effort on the Soviet anti-Islamic posture should be developed. Several ideas were noted for consideration:

- o Exploitation of the State/Nebraska conference on Afghanistan. A careful examination of the recommendations emerging from that conference should be undertaken. (State Department lead.)

- o Consideration should be given to stimulating an Islamic conference on the Soviet Union. Possibly the Saudis could take the lead. (State lead with consultation with USIA and CIA.)

- o Soviet human rights violations should be given higher international attention. Each USG department and agency has a role to play. Each department and agency should be prepared to discuss their capabilities and plans for expanded activities in this field.

- o Consideration should also be given to those elements in the private sector with whom we should collaborate. <sup>that</sup> consideration should also include the identification of possible funding needs from either public or private sources.

- o Review should be undertaken to determine support needed by Helsinki Watch and Resistance International. (State lead.)

This summary memorandum goes somewhat beyond the actual flow of the meeting but, as I promised it is designed to provide structure and direction to our thinking on this subject. It represents an action agenda for use at a meeting to be called shortly after 1 January.

Attendees: Steve Steiner, John Lenczowski, Walt Raymond (NSC); Jim Jatras, Steve Mann, Tony Salvia (State); Bob Kiernan, Scott Thompson, Herb Romerstein (USIA); [REDACTED]

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