

Memo for MG Tixier

Subject: Your Meeting with Gen Meron ~~(S)~~

~~(S)~~ I have requested that the US Attache in Tel Aviv arrange a one-on-one meeting between you and the Israeli Director General, General Meron, during your upcoming trip to Israel. The date for this event has not been confirmed at this time. The prime purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the shipment of the remainder of captured PLO weapons out of Israel for use by the USG. On the US side, this effort has been known as TIPPED KETTLE. The idea of you talking to General Meron on this subject has been cleared by Mr. Armitage. I am preparing a memo for the ASD/ISA to handcarry to SECDEF on this subject. Mr. McMann of CIA has already spoken to SECDEF about this and has received Mr. Weinberger's support for this effort. Following information is provided to you as background for this meeting.

~~(S)~~ Operation TIPPED KETTLE came into being after Mr. Casey asked SECDEF to see if DoD could obtain, at little or no cost, infantry weapons that the GOI had confiscated from PLO forces during the Lebanon invasion. CIA wanted DoD to front for them in this operation so that Israel would not be aware that the weapons were being used by them in covert operations. The discussions that allowed for this transfer to take place were conducted between General Meron and MG Secord. General Meron found that it would be in the best interest of the US/Israeli relationship to provide these weapons on a gratis basis. As a result, 300 tons of weapons were provide to DoD on a grant basis in May of 1983. These weapons were moved by the Navy from Israel to the US and turned over to the CIA at dockside.

~~(S)~~ In February of 1984, I was again contacted by CIA and asked if there were additional weapons in Israel that might be obtained at little or no cost for CIA operational use. Contacts with the GOI in March of 1984 revealed that there were additional weapons "for sale" from the remaining stocks of PLO weapons. A joint DoD/CIA team headed by myself went to Israel in April to view the items available. DoD drew up a listing of all weapons shown. This list was given back to the GOI in May. This listing, with pricing data added, was returned to DoD in early June. The GOI had placed a value of over \$77M on these weapons. In a working session with Ed Ezell of the National Museum during mid-June, it was determined that a fair market value for these items is more in the area of \$27M. This came as no surprise considering the fact that the GOI was asking twice the market value for the decoys the Navy obtained during my last trip.

~~(S)~~ With the above in mind, and with the objective being to obtain the second shipment of weapons quickly at little or no cost, I believe the following points should be raised in your meeting with General Meron.

- The US appreciates the prior shipments of weapons. The goodwill shown in this effort helped get US/Israel relations through a difficult period.
- These earlier weapons have been used in several areas of the world to meet Soviet advances, which serves the best interest of both countries. In order to continue to confront Soviet advances we would like to obtain a second shipment of weapons from your stock of items that were obtained during the Lebanon War.

DECLASSIFIED

BY USD(P)

DATE 4 MARCH 2010

- The price of the weapons in the total context of the relationship is small. In addition, purchasing these types of weapons for DoD is both complex, time consuming and attention drawing. We desire none of these elements to become involved in this effort.
- I feel the best interest of both countries would be served if these weapons were provided on a grant basis as quickly as possible. I can assure you the benefits of goodwill that this action would provide through the upper elements of the DoD would far outweigh the market value of these items.
- My staff is ready to move these items now. (b)(6) will be the project manager for this effort and is in-country with me now, ready to discuss how we can move forward quickly on this effort. From the US perspective, we would like to have this effort completed within the next 30-45 days.

- The US appreciates the prior shipments of weapons. The goodwill shown in this effort helped get US/Israel relations through a difficult period.
- These earlier weapons have been used in several areas of the world to meet Soviet advances, which serves the best interest of both countries. In order to continue to confront Soviet advances we would like to obtain a second shipment of weapons from your stock of items that obtained during the Lebanon War.
- The price of the weapons in the total context of the relationship is small. In addition, purchasing these types of weapons for DoD is both complex, time consuming and attention drawing. We desire none of these elements to become involved in this effort.
- I feel the best interest of both countries would be served if these weapons were provided on a grant basis as quickly as possible. I can assure you the benefits of goodwill that this action would provide through the upper elements of the DoD would far outweigh the market value of these items.
- My staff is ready to move these items now. (b)(6) will be the project manager for this effort and is in-country with me now, ready to discuss how we can move forward quickly on this effort. From the US perspective, we would like to have this effort completed within the next 30-45 days.