

#5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

30 MAR 1982 10 20



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

29 MAR 1982

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

I-05491/82

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY *JBD* 30 MAR 1982

SUBJECT: DoD Contacts with Israel (U) -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

(S) Present policy prohibits US flag officer visits to Israel, except as expressly authorized. Several exceptions have been made, including one for USAF General Mathis. General Gabriel now wants to go.

(S) A good case can be made for dissolving the prohibition altogether.

- No ban exists for Israeli flag rank visitors to the US.

- The flag rank prohibition is not as important as the bar to moving forward on strategic cooperation, defense trade talks and research and development.

- In general, we should be looking for ways to relax the restrictions, signalling the Israelis at the same time, however, that we must have a much more sympathetic recognition of the impact of Israeli actions on US interests in the area before the MOU suspension can be lifted.

(S) If you agree, we will quietly cancel the extraordinary travel restrictions on US flag rank officers to Israel, but make it clear through the Embassy here and in Tel Aviv that we want to move eventually back to a normal relationship. If not, then we will persist in our refusal to agree to the travel of General Gabriel or others without a good justification for flag rank visits.

Concur _____ Nonconcur *J* 6 APR 1982

Other:

Wish to consider on case by case basis. JC

Noel C. Koch
NOEL C. KOCH

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

APR 6 1982

DEP. SEC HAS SEEN

13-M-4487

SIGNER'S COPY

Classified by ~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sec Def Cont Nr. X-19065