

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, W. AVERELL HARRIMAN AND
SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, 7 FEBRUARY 1978, 12:30 PM

I had a very pleasant and relaxed lunch of about fifty minutes with Cy at the State Department. He seemed very appreciative of the things I have been doing, including Panama.

In answer to my question, Cy said they had not set a deadline for a SALT Treaty, nor would they try to force a settlement, but they expect it to be agreed to by May or June--after which time it would be submitted to Congress. There is absolutely nothing to the rumor that it may be kept over until after the election. Cy authorized me to state this to Carl Marcy and others who had reason to know.

I told Cy of my concern that much should be done to try to educate the public (in addition to consulting the Senate) on the general reasons for SALT, and he fully agreed it was wise for me to do what I could and to talk to Matthew Nimetz, to whom this matter is referred in the State Department.

Cy had on his own mind the situation in Africa on the Horn and wanted to know if I had any ideas. He told me he had been trying to get Gromyko to work for a peaceful settlement, perhaps giving the Ogaden area a certain autonomy within Ethiopia, but the Somalis would not agree. He thought the last day or two they were perhaps considering it. I told him I would be ready to go to Moscow to

talk with Brezhnev about it provided there was something to negotiate. He liked the idea and would bear it in mind. He thought it would be very adverse to SALT if the Russians used the Cubans to drive the Somalis out by force. He didn't think they would invade Somalia. I said we couldn't be sure of that once the Cubans got started. He said he thought the Saudi Arabians would help, and possibly the Shah, to persuade the Somalis to be sensible.

The Secretary excused himself about 1:30 because he was going to the White House to talk to the President about the situation there (Africa) and would let me know if there was anything I could do.