

Sonnenfeld has seen and taken with Scowcroft.

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TO: Secretary Kissinger
FROM: Brent Scowcroft
SUBJECT: May 7 Meeting with Gromyko - US-USSR Bilaterals

The following status report on the various US-USSR bilateral proposals is forwarded for your possible use during your May 7 meeting with Foreign Minister Gromyko.

I. Energy. You have State's reporting cable on Bill Donaldson's April 30 meeting with the Soviets (TOSEC 128, State 089705, 012302Z May 74).

Three differences emerged in the first round of talks:

- the Soviets are trying to downplay general exchange of energy information;
- they want a detailed statement on exchanges in fields of oil and gas;
- they want to avoid non-conventional energy items, such as solar and geo-thermal energy, in the agreement.

The result is that the agreement would focus too much on oil and gas, and from our viewpoint would be difficult to sell to the U.S. Congress and public. Donaldson has urged the Soviets to meet our concerns. A second round of talks is scheduled for Moscow in mid-May.

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You will want to stress that the concerns raised by Donaldson are real ones, and that the Soviets must be more forthcoming.

2. Second Space Mission. The Soviets are moving very slowly on this (perhaps because of President Keldysh's serious illness). Despite our urging, they have informed NASA that they will not be able to meet before the end of May, and NASA has also been told that the Soviets will in all probability only be able to consider a second Apollo-Soyuz spacecraft flight, not the larger mission proposed by NASA involving the USSR Space Station Salyut together with US and USSR spacecraft. NASA has its doubts about the value of a second mission limited to Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft only.

NASA is presently awaiting a formal response from Keldysh to George Low on next steps in considering the proposal. You will want to ask Gromyko to shed light on the slow pace at which the USSR is moving.

3. Artificial Heart Research. HEW has given the USSR the draft text of a bilateral agreement on artificial heart research. You will wish to note to Gromyko that the proposal appears to be proceeding smoothly.

4. Housing Cooperation. HUD Under Secretary Mitchell is in Moscow for May 6-7 talks with the USSR on a housing and construction technology agreement.

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Based on a pre-visit exchange of draft texts, the two sides appear fairly close together. You may wish to note to Gromyko that talks are underway in Moscow and that you are not aware of any noteworthy problems.

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5. Long-Term Economic Agreement. The draft text is ready for review by the US-USSR Joint Commercial Commission at its meeting in Washington later this month.

6. Electro-Transport Project. Gromyko asked you if the United States had taken any action on the electro-transport proposal mentioned by the USSR Foreign Ministry to Ambassador Stoessel in March 1974. The Secretary of Transportation has been asked to explore this proposal with his counterparts on the bilateral transportation committee and to give you his assessment by May 20. You may wish to tell Gromyko that the US side has been instructed to review the proposal with their Soviet counterparts.

7. Ban on Environmental Warfare. The Under Secretaries Committee is moving ahead with its interagency options paper which will be formally submitted to the White House by May 10. As is to be expected, the paper included DOD's position that the U.S. must keep its weather modification

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options open. You may wish to tell Gromyko that our internal review of the proposal is moving ahead, and that you should be able to offer a detailed reaction within the next few weeks.

~~8. Warm regards.~~

8. Consulates.

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