

MEMORANDUM

Conversation with Joseph Luns
October 8, 1973, Monday

I talked to Joseph Luns on the phone on October 8, 1973, Monday, to tell him we wouldn't have instructions on MBFR. He said, "OK, that is ironic in view of the fact that we pushed for a Friday meeting." I said, "As far as we are concerned, we don't need a meeting this afternoon," and he said, "Fine, let's go ahead and have a meeting and talk about the Middle East." He said, "Isn't it amazing that we have had absolutely no prior indication or warning of this. Indeed," he said, "the only mention was by the Greeks about three days ago saying that there has been some unusual activity with respect to the movement of people and equipment and possibly some Soviet advisors."

He has a memo he wants to give me that describes Schlesinger's briefing of the Dutch Foreign Ministers and various Foreign Defense Ministers where Schlesinger says we have seven days warning and 30 days to mobilize. He said if we don't get any better warning about the future than we did about this or about Czechoslovakia, it puts into question all those theories about having a long period for mobilization. He said what he would do was go ahead and let any country who has any comments on MBFR go ahead and make them at the meeting this afternoon.

7

