

MEMORANDUM

ACTION 21187 & 1008

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *AK*

SUBJECT: Appointment for Ambassador Palmer

Secretary Rogers has recommended that you see our Ambassador to Libya, Joseph Palmer, who is here until Friday on consultation. [Memo at Tab A] The Secretary has also transmitted a memorandum for you on recent Soviet arms deliveries to Libya. [Tab B] That issue along with the problems currently facing our oil companies there and the Libyan role in the Mid-East situation are the subjects which Palmer is here to discuss.

As has been mentioned to you previously:

--The Libyans may be aiming at establishing a government-owned petroleum production complex. They have already approached several production-related American companies with joint venture schemes giving Libya 51% control.

--The Soviets have been shipping arms to Libya (continuing into this week). Revolutionary Command Council head Qadhafi has stated that this represents Libya's interest in avoiding dependence on any one supplier.

--Qadhafi has informally assumed the role of trying to harmonize Arab disunity. Following the meeting he convened of Arab foreign and defense ministers last week, he issued a statement which, in essence, supported everyone, including Nasser and the armed Palestine struggle.

Ambassador Palmer has been thoroughly debriefed in Washington and my staff has talked at length with him. I do not believe that a meeting with you is necessary. The essence of Secretary Rogers' memo on the Soviet arms shipments was covered in last week's brief.

Recommendation: That I extend your regrets to Ambassador Palmer.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

[Redacted]