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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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August 17, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

u/s

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

CW

SUBJECT: Arms Sales to Taiwan (S)

As you know, I have agreed to the issuance of a joint communique with the People's Republic of China in which we express United States policy toward the matter of continuing arms sales to Taiwan. (S)

The talks leading up to the signing of the communique were premised on the clear understanding that any reduction of such arms sales depends upon peace in the Taiwan Straits and the continuity of China's declared "fundamental policy" of seeking a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan issue. (S)

In short, the U.S. willingness to reduce its arms sales to Taiwan is conditioned absolutely upon the continued commitment of China to the peaceful solution of the Taiwan-PRC differences. It should be clearly understood that the linkage between these two matters is a permanent imperative of U.S. foreign policy. (S)

In addition, it is essential that the quantity and quality of the arms provided Taiwan be conditioned entirely on the threat posed by the PRC. Both in quantitative and qualitative terms, Taiwan's defense capability relative to that of the PRC will be maintained. (S)

Ronald Reagan

NSC Declassification Review [EO 13526]

DECLASSIFY IN FULL

by John R. Bolton on 8/30/2019

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Declassify on: OADR

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