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## MEMORANDUM

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State Dept. review completed

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATIONON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLYSECRET/NODIS

July 17, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DR. KISSINGER

FROM:

MORI C05139776

HAROLD H. SAUNDERS *Hal*

SUBJECT:

US Involvement in Israeli Spy Case in Yemen

Sisco wants you to be aware of a minor new element in our relationship with Israel which also gets involved in the current discussions on exchange of prisoners.

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The situation arose when the Israelis asked Barbour whether we could usefully intervene with the government of Yemen to discourage the summary execution of one Baruch Mizrachi. He was sent to Yemen by the Israeli intelligence service to observe any Palestinian activities there being planned against Israeli shipping. They believe that, if they can just forestall summary execution, they can work his release over time through a variety of other channels.

Since Mizrachi had Egyptian nationality, the Egyptians reportedly not only want to interrogate him but also want him turned over to Egypt so Egypt can use him in any prisoner exchange with Israel. The Syrians may also have proposed using him in their efforts to get their captured officers back from Israel. Also, the Israelis are apparently working through the Ethiopians, with whom their security services have a working relationship. The Yemenis told our Charge some time ago--perhaps not truthfully--that Mizrachi said he was working for CIA. The Egyptian press has reportedly claimed that Mizrachi was supported by the US as well as by Israel, although these charges are so common as not to mean much.

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Our Charge in Sanaa judges that the chances for success of a humanitarian approach are low. He does have enough of a relationship with the deputy prime minister that he could mention the issue if some approach were thought desirable, but he would obviously rather not get into this kind of issue right at the start of our relationship. The potential usefulness of Mizrachi in a prisoner exchange would seem to delay consideration of execution, the main Israeli concern.

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Secretary Rogers has approved a response to the Israelis (a) giving them all the information we have from Yemen including the name of the Yemeni minister opposing turning Mizrahi over to the Egyptians but (b) saying that we fear that US intercession would be of minimal help and would risk damaging our new relationship without much chance of return.

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