

* For the L's see;
The game is the
lost well.

~~SECRET~~

October 15, 1994

RELEASE IN FULL

NOTE FOR STROBE TALBOTT
JIM COLLINS

DECLASSIFIED

FROM: NICK BURNS NB

I have attached for both of you a strategy paper on NATO expansion that we wrote at Tony's request.

Tony likes it very much and has sent it to Secretaries Christopher and Perry and General Shali. Tony also showed it to the President who read through it and liked its general orientation.

Sandy Vershbow is giving Holbrooke a copy. We plan to discuss it thoroughly with Dick and Jim and to use it as a guide for us as we proceed this autumn.

I suggest you take a close look at it during your trips to London, Africa this week. I would appreciate your comments.

Please note, in particular, the emphasis in trying to figure out how to deal with Ukraine and the Baltics. In my view, and Tony's, these are the real fault lines (not the Visegrad states) as we seek to expand NATO, i.e., they are the countries that could actually face a Russian threat in the future. While they may not be the prime, early candidates for NATO, they cannot be relegated to a Russian sphere. Therefore, we ought to concentrate ourselves intellectually on them as we continue developing our NATO policy.

Finally, you will see that we suggest an institutionalized relationship between NATO and Russia 9 ("an alliance with the Alliance") as one possible avenue for our discussions with Russia down the road. I think we should develop this idea privately in the Holbrooke group this autumn and take a hard look at it.

Have good and successful trips. Please call from the road if you would like to discuss this.

Declassification Authority: Geoffrey W. Chapman, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS
8/3/2020