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4 November 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Chief, Interdepartmental Affairs Staff, OPP

SUBJECT: NSPG Meeting on TNF and the Caribbean [redacted]

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1. Tomorrow's NSPG meeting will address two topics:

--The SecDef proposal to adopt the "zero option" as our incoming position at the 30 November TNF negotiations with the Soviets

--The State-revised paper on a "strategy for Cuba and Central America." [redacted]

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2. [redacted] has pulled together comments on the TNF paper. Defense makes a strong argument for the zero option -- an attempt to play hard-ball with the Soviets (and NATO Allies). It is hard to refute Defense's claim that such a position, were it actually agreed to by both sides, would reduce significantly the Soviet nuclear missile threat to Western Europe. There is, of course, almost zero chance that the Soviets would ever buy on. But it just might put the European pacifists on the defensive - hard to criticize such an effort. But, of course, those who demonstrate against NATO modernization are skeptical enough to turn around and criticize the U.S. for being too unrealistic. They want it both ways. [redacted]

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3. In any case, there appears to be some sentiment for having the President publicly announce such a position to put Brezhnev on the defensive prior to his Bonn visit later this month. We were expecting an NSC-level meeting on this subject, but not until mid-month. [redacted]

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4. On the Central America issue, [redacted] Constantine Menges, and Dewey Clarridge believe that the 3 November State draft covers our equities. They are concerned, however, that one more time Defense may insist on changes that will make the Phase I approach no longer acceptable. All we can do is wait to see how Defense reacts. The paper has been redrafted on an almost daily basis. I asked each of the above to provide you a one-page commentary. [redacted]

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cc: D/OPP

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