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25X1

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82-3552/3

DDI #7204-82/1
8 September 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : CPPG Paper on Soviet Leadership Transition

1. Attached is the second revised edition of the issue paper on the Soviet leadership transition. It reflects comments and discussion at the 26 August CPPG meeting. As I indicated to you after that meeting, this draft is to be shown to principals, who are being asked to approve it for contingency purposes. 25X1

2. I recommend that you concur. The paper takes into account two of the principal suggestions I made at the meeting, one of which (on page 4) was that while we stick to our basic policy approach with the Soviets and restate our agenda after Brezhnev, we should place private emphasis on selected elements of high priority to us. This is basically what we did in the talking points for Secretary Shultz. The second accommodation to our concerns was the paper's recognition that Brezhnev could retire vice die in office and the inclusion of a draft message from the President to his successor if Brezhnev does so. 25X1

3. Overall, I think it is a reasonable planning document. One of the valuable contributions of the paper is its recognition of and warnings about pressures for US gestures to improve relations after Brezhnev dies. I believe the paper addresses itself to this issue realistically and appropriately. The only divergent point of view in the entire paper is OSD's concern that US representation at the funeral not be too high level. In this, we will be constrained to a large extent by the level of representation from our Allies and other countries -- i.e., the dictates of protocol. There is no sense anywhere in the government that the President should go to the funeral. Thus, the Vice President would be the highest possible level of representation 25X1

4. I recommend that you concur in the attached contingency paper. We will forward your concurrence or your suggested revisions to the Department of State. 25X1
25X1

Robert M. Gates

Attachment: As Stated

CONCUR: _____ Date: _____
Director of Central Intelligence

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