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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 2, 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

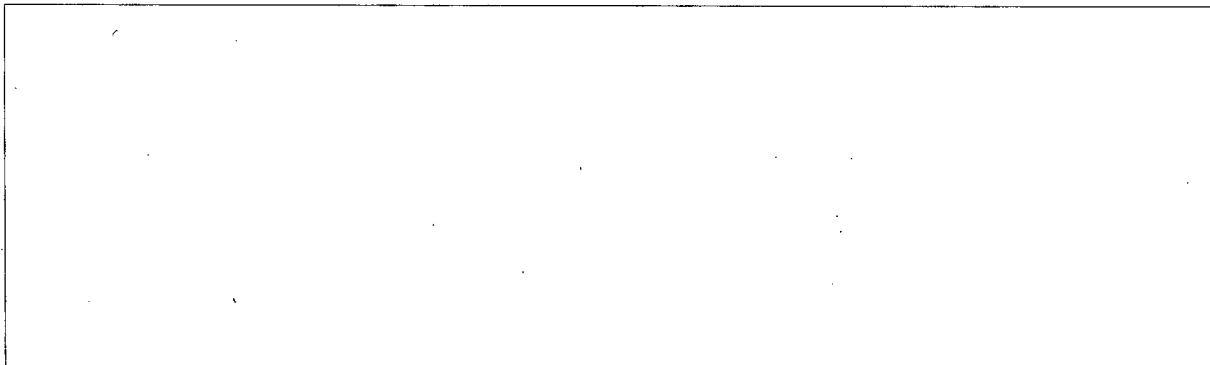
SUBJECT:

Information Items

InformationHuman Rights in the Middle East: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] most Middle East states perceive the U.S. policy on human rights as an unwarranted intrusion into their domestic affairs. Both Arabs and Israelis tend to interpret the U.S. policy on human rights according to their own interests. The Arabs view human rights in terms of their concern over Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories, the fate of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails, and recognition of the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." Some Arab states (e.g., Morocco, Syria, and Sudan) have made modest gestures of political liberalization, but the degree of liberalization depends largely on the regime's perception of its internal security and problems with minority political or religious groups and only to a slight extent on concern about improving relations with the U.S.

[REDACTED] given the current state of tension in the Middle East over the results of Camp David and the U.S. role in mediating the Sadat-Begin discussions, it is difficult to foresee human rights developments in the region over the next 12 months. The moderate Arab states' perception of a shift in U.S. thinking about Palestinians may make those states more receptive to U.S. demarches on issues related to human rights.

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