

TOP SECRET

7 March 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 7 March 1980

The Director chaired the meeting; Mr. Carlucci was testifying on the Hill. []

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Stein said he and McMahon have been mulling over ways to possibly counter Washington Post columnist Lardner's recent articles which allege U.S. spying on Martin Luther King. The Director asked Strong to consider a denial. Briggs and Strong concluded there are risks a denial might provoke questions we are unwilling to answer. []

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Lehman reported a "slow game" underway between Syria and Israel (e.g., 7 March NID report that a Syrian brigade is preparing to leave Beirut) which he said bears watching though no cause for alarm at the moment. He said the situation is one which could easily be miscalculated or become problematical, and emphasized it would make no sense for the Syrians to make any bold moves at this point. []

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In response to a query from the Director concerning a possible hiring freeze and a reported [] prospective hires, [] explained we will not be affected by a hiring freeze if notices of processing are sent out to potential hires beforehand. He said [] letters went out this week, noting, for example, [] addressed hard to get applicants needed by NPIC. []

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Hitz reported [] is scheduled to brief the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 19 March re where we stand currently on SALT II (the presentation will be informal and unrecorded). Hitz said he is apprehensive that some on the Hill may be pushing to bring this matter up immediately following settlement of the hostage situation in Iran. In response to a query from Hitz on the Administration's current position, the Director referred Hitz to a Bruce Clarke memo of 29 February re ratification prospects discussed at the SCC. The Director said the Administration is clearly anxious to resume efforts on SALT II when an opening occurs between other major activities, e.g., Iran, U.S. elections, etc. []

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Hitz reported HAC Staffer, Snodgrass, has offered us the S&I study on intelligence production. He noted Snodgrass' request that in any rebuttal we not nitpick and said Snodgrass has requested a formal response. He added it is in our best interests to get a copy of the study which can be made available today, and that review of this study will be particularly useful before the Director testifies again on the Hill. Hitz said he will provide copies to Hineman, [] and others as appropriate. [] advised, and the Director agreed, that we be clear in any disclaimer, i.e., statements in the study which go unaddressed imply concurrence. []

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Hitz said he will meet with Representative Hamilton today re Hamilton's erroneous assertions during yesterday's HFA Subcommittee mark-up session on the matter of intelligence notification to Congress re special activities in Afghanistan. Hitz said he would point up Hamilton's errors of fact; the Director advised Hitz to clear up with Hamilton the matter of principle also involved. []

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The Director expressed his concern re an S&I study on the SIGINT Special Collection Service. Zellmer said the study is continuing. The Director advised we keep a sharp eye on its progress with special regard to the careful arrangement we have made with NSA re interface. []

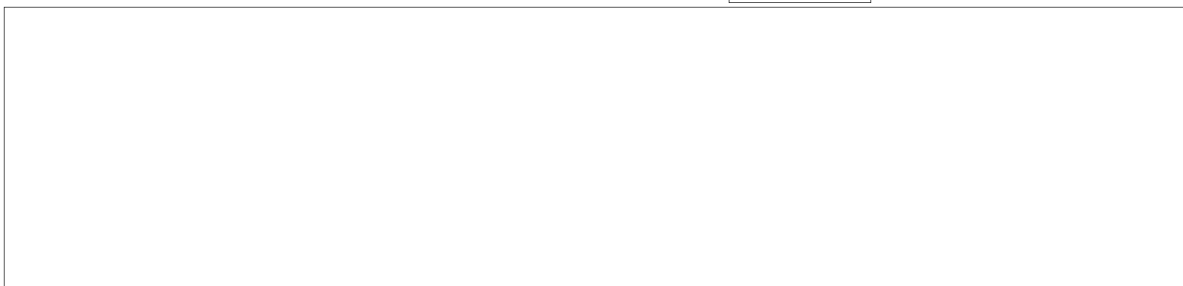
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Silver said he met yesterday with Lloyd Cutler re revised language for Charter Legislation and noted Cutler advised that the Hill is unlikely to accept our revised language which deals with the issue of "full access." Discussion followed on many aspects of the overall problem and how to develop a strategy for preparing a revision which will include the interests of all principals concerned. The Director said he prefers that his next testimony on Charters not occur until after Secretary Brown, Secretary Vance, and Attorney General Civiletti testify. Hitz said he will work on this. Relatedly, Silver said he has received the Attorney General's proposed alternative language for FOIA in the Charters package. He said the Attorney General's version permits the Director or his designee authority for certification and eliminates litigation risks but does not alleviate the burden of file search. Silver said he is studying this version and will soon forward a recommendation to the Director. The Director asked that an ExCom session be scheduled for next week to deal with the whole matter of Charters Legislation. []

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The Director noted to Hart he had received an employee complaint re the closing of the Ames Building cafeteria only to hear recently that the office space has remained unused for some time. Hart said he doubted this was true but would check it out today. []

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[] reported the President held a staff meeting yesterday to advise that henceforth he wants at least 24-hours' notice on urgent matters requiring his decision and at least 48-hours' notice for decision on more cyclical matters. [] said the White House will prepare each Friday a calendar of decisions the President will be called on to make during the following week, and that each agency is to advise the White House of its decision request(s) by Thursday of each week. The Director asked that a request for decision on Charters Legislation be forwarded for the President's upcoming calendar; [] will convey. []

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The Director asked Hineman to provide updates on the following:

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--The current situation in North Korea, specifically what President Kim Il-song may be up to;

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--Our current outlook on the Philippine situation; and

--Soviet propaganda against Norway and the Scandanavian region. []
(Action: NFAC)

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