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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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January 23, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr.



1. Iran: The Iran Working Group met again today. Over the course of the next two weeks, we will prepare a series of memoranda for your decision. We plan to have the first to you this weekend outlining actions that have to be decided immediately. These include steps to protect US claimants and to clarify the status of Iranian-owned military equipment in the US. (S)

2. Demarche on Soviet Actions During the Hostage Crisis: On my instruction, the European Bureau called in the Soviet Deputy Chief of Mission this afternoon to protest the "cynical and unhelpful" treatment in the Soviet media of the hostage crisis. We indicated that continuation of these distorted broadcasts and articles would further aggravate our bilateral relations and stressed that we can only interpret the "consistently hostile" attitude of the Soviet media over the past 14 months as an attempt to hinder and complicate resolution of the crisis and the safe release of our diplomats. (C)

3. El Salvador: In line with our conversation this morning, I have instructed the urgent preparation of an interagency options paper for you on El Salvador. We will have a memo for you Monday. Meanwhile I have instructed that Ambassador White be quietly recalled on consultations. We can then make our decision on how we want to handle him. (S)

4. Polish Contingency Planning: An Interagency Group on Poland, chaired by David Newsom, met at State late this

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Sec 3.4(b), E.O. 12958, as amended
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2006
BY NARA

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afternoon to receive a CIA briefing on the current Polish situation and review the status of political and economic contingency plans. The Group considered what actions to take with our closest Allies and the possibilities for providing aid to Poland. It also reviewed drafts of letters which I plan to send to Gromyko and to certain of our Allies, stressing the views of this Administration on the Polish situation.

In Poland, State-Union negotiations continue but will probably not succeed in time to avoid a confrontation tomorrow over the Union's call for no work on Saturday. Joint Soviet-Polish military exercises now in progress may mean that the Soviets have decided to intervene decisively. At a minimum, the exercises, together with an increase in the harshness of Moscow media commentary, underline the volatility of the situation. (S)

5. Meeting with Congressmen Zablocki and Broomfield: Today I met with Chairman Zablocki and ranking minority Representative Broomfield of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The Congressmen stressed their eagerness to cooperate with the new Administration. I emphasized my intention to place great stress on close cooperation with the Hill and to continue the periodic meetings with the House leadership which had proven effective for my predecessors.

We discussed a number of substantive issues, including arms for El Salvador, Poland, and the future of the International Development Cooperation Agency, a particular concern of Chairman Zablocki, but the meeting was primarily a get-acquainted session. (C)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 24, 1981

OK as seen

~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN
SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report from January 23, 1981.

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3/8/13*