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THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. *AMH*

1. Namibia: Chet Crocker's mission to consult with African leaders on next steps in Namibia and Angola has run into some heavy weather, much as Mrs. Thatcher's 1979/80 effort to resolve the Rhodesia problem did. South Africa and Front Line and other African states, sensing a new bargaining situation created by our initiative, have retreated to their maximum positions.

The next hurdle is the meeting of the Contact Group scheduled for April 22-23 in London, where Crocker will brief them on his trip. It will almost certainly take place against the April 21 Security Council debate on Namibia.

I have sent a message to the Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group countries urging them to hear Crocker out, and to work together to devise next steps, retaining Western composure and unity. (C)

2. Japan: Submarine Incident: In our continuing effort to keep the Japanese reaction to the submarine incident in proper perspective, Ambassador Mansfield met with Foreign Minister Ito today. The Ambassador laid particular stress on the legal constraints and the need to protect the individuals involved until due process had been served. Following presentation of your letter to the Prime Minister, the Ambassador pressed the Foreign Minister to make a statement which recognized US sincerity in this matter. Press coverage has highlighted your message to the Prime Minister and has been much more balanced than in recent days. The Foreign Ministry is working on an expanded statement for presentation to the Diet on Monday in which the Foreign Minister reportedly will stress the sincerity of the US approach to this issue and the enormous importance of bilateral relations. (C)

3. Malta-Soviets Make Approach on Refugee: For more than two months we have had in our Embassy in Malta a Soviet citizen who has asked for asylum. The UNHCR has interviewed him and determined that he is a refugee. The Maltese Government, however, supposedly under pressure from the Soviet Union, has refused to let him leave the country. On Thursday Soviet authorities in Moscow complained to our Embassy that the refugee was being held illegally and asked that a Soviet representative be allowed to meet with him. We are not sure what the Soviets motivation is. Regardless, we believe a meeting in our Embassy and on our terms would be useful in the off chance that it might be the precursor to a move by the Soviets to lessen pressure on Malta. The refugee is willing and we are telling the Soviets that we are prepared to set up a meeting. (C)

RDS 2/3 4/18/01 (HAIG, Alexander M. Jr.)

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BY CA NARA DATE 7/31/8

MEMORANDUM

The President has seen _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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April 20, 1981

OK

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of
April 18, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker
Michael Deaver

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ATTACHMENT

RW
3/11/83