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SECRET

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 1, 1981

155689
DECLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

HLRR 1453/2 #155689
BY CV NARA DATE 7/3/11

1. Arms Control Compliance. In accordance with our recent NSC decision, I have instructed our Charge in Moscow to tell the Soviets of our increasing concern about their overall compliance with several arms control agreements. This approach will complement and reinforce our discussion of specific SALT issues at the Standing Consultative Commission in Geneva. We will emphasize (1) that full compliance with all arms control agreements is a prerequisite for an effective SALT process, and (2) that the willingness of the Soviet Union to resolve compliance issues in a candid and cooperative manner will affect the possibilities for future progress in arms control.

The specific concerns to be raised by the Charge are: broad Soviet strategic activities inconsistent with the objectives of the SALT agreements; the unresponsive Soviet attitude toward compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention (the 1979 anthrax outbreak in Sverdlovsk); continuing reports about use of chemical weapons by Soviet forces in Afghanistan; radioactive material released into the atmosphere from Soviet underground nuclear tests; and Soviet nuclear tests that may have exceeded the 150 kiloton threshold we are both pledged to observe. (S)

2. Soviet Defector at US Embassy in Prague: A man identified as Soviet soldier Vladimir Onishchenko made his way into our Embassy compound last week seeking assistance to travel to the West. We have told him we cannot give him asylum in the Embassy or assist him in getting to the West, but that we will not force him to leave. There is no indication yet that the man is a Soviet plant, nor does he appear to be of intelligence interest to us. However, we realize that the Soviets may subsequently try to use him against us, and we are tailoring our actions accordingly. Onishchenko is now in the chancery, where he is being watched but not prevented from leaving. We have advised the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Embassy in Prague of the presence of a Soviet soldier in our Embassy, and at the request of the Soviet Embassy in Washington agreed to ask Onishchenko if he will meet with a Soviet Consul in our Embassy in Prague. We have protested strongly the intensified Czechoslovak surveillance of our Embassy and several apparently related incidents of harassment of Embassy personnel. The press is not yet aware of the case, but we have prepared contingency guidance which would confirm Onishchenko's presence and decline further comment. From our standpoint, the best outcome we might expect would be Onishchenko's eventual agreement to depart the Embassy voluntarily. We will not hand him over against his will. We are monitoring this case very closely. (S)

RDS 2/3 6/01/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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n.w.s.

The President has seen _____
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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT

June 2, 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Secretary Haig's Evening Report of June 1, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker
Michael Deaver

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RW
3/12/13