SECRET

THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON

April 5, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

From

Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

1. Presentation of Presidential Letters to Chinese. This afternoon I presented to Ambassador Chai your letters for Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang, stressing your personal support for stronger US-China ties and the contribution which the Vice President could make to the resolution of differences. John Holdridge then separately informed Chai of our plan to send the \$60 million spare parts notification to Congress.

Chai's response to the offer of a Vice Presidential visit was positive, even after he had heard our spare parts plans. But he pressed Holdridge for a public US statement, coupled with the spares announcement, indicating that we will withhold further Taiwan arms transfers until our talks with China are concluded. Holdridge replied that, as you told Foreign Minister Huang last October, we will "do what we have to do," while being "prudent and discreet." Chai said Beijing's reaction to the spares notification will depend largely on whether and how we clarify our intent on other weapons sales during the period ahead. A more considered Chinese reaction may come tomorrow, when Ambassador Hummel calls on Foreign Minister Huang. (S)

- 2. The Egyptian-Israeli Border Dispute. We have acted on Mubarak's request for direct U.S. involvement in resolving Egypt's dispute with Israel over demarcation of their international boundary by offering to send the State Department's Legal Adviser, Davis Robinson, to the region. Robinson's mission would be to achieve agreement prior to April 26 on a binding method for determining the location of the disputed boundary. He would not try to arbitrate it himself. Mubarak has accepted our proposal although he remains worried about Israel's intentions. Ambassador Lewis will try to win Begin's approval Tuesday for our involvement. Thus far, Israel has insisted to the Egyptians that bilateral negotiations continue despite their lack of progress. (S)
- 3. France/Nicaragua. Larry Eagleburger met with Cheysson in Paris this morning and expressed our strong concern about a report that the French would soon deliver two helicopters to the Nicaraguans. Cheysson was surprised to hear of this development and said he believed his government was sticking by Mitterrand's commitment to you that no arms deliveries would be made until our two Ambassadors in Nicaragua had made a joint assessment of the situation. Cheysson said he would look into the matter and left Larry with the clear impression the helicopter delivery would not occur for now. Ambassador Quainton will contact his French colleague in Managua to reinforce this impression. (C)

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cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver