April 6, 1982

THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

1. France/Nicaragua. As a follow-up to Larry Eagleburger's meeting with Cheysson yesterday, Ambassador Galbraith met in Paris today with an official of the French Defense Ministry to discuss the proposed sale of French helicopters to Nicaragua. Apparently at Cheysson's urging, the French Ministry of Defense has agreed not to deliver any arms to Nicaragua until our two ambassadors in Managua have made a joint assessment of the situation there. Galbraith was also assured that the French helicopters, when delivered, would not be equipped with rocket launchers. Our ambassador in Managua will soon be meeting with his French counterpart to prepare the joint assessment. (S)

Namibia-Angola. Assistant Secretary Crocker has 2. returned from Angola where he and his Contact Group counterparts proposed to SWAPO and the Angolan regime a simplified formula for Namibia elections in order to complete Phase I. This Contact Group initiative to bring the Africans along, paralleled by demarches in other Frontline capitals and South Africa, is aimed at breaking the Phase I logjam and restoring momentum. Crocker also reinforced our message to the Angolans on Cuban withdrawal and reconciliation with UNITA, and pressed for an early reply on ceasefire arrangements we are laying before the key parties (South Africa, MPLA, Savimbi). Discussion of practical arrangements on the ground is our best means of forcing the Namibia and Angola tracks together. On the other hand, the Soviets' best card may be to pour sand into the machinery on Namibia (via SWAPO). We will also soon know whether Moscow will allow or can prevent serious Angolan discussion of our proposals for an overall settlement. (S)

RDS 2/3 4/06/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver