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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 27, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Giscard Proposal on Afghanistan: Shortly before a public announcement by President Giscard today, the French informed Ambassador Hartman of a new proposal on Afghanistan. Giscard proposed an international conference on Afghanistan to include the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the Iranians, Pakistanis and Indians, and an Islamic Conference observer. The objectives of the conference were described as acceptance of Afghanistan's independence and its right to free self-determination and assurance that there would be no further interference and no troops of any outside power.

Ambassador Hartman was instructed to ask a number of questions about the French proposal but not to make a major issue out of the lack of advance consultation, especially since the proposal has all the hallmarks of being an election ploy by Giscard. In responding publicly to the French proposal, we will point out that we have long favored diplomatic initiatives which would lead to restoration of a genuinely independent nonaligned and neutral Afghanistan and stress the importance of the prompt withdrawal of all Soviet troops. (C)

2. Moroccan-Soviet Confrontation: Demonstration of US Interest: Cap Weinberger and I have consulted together on what the US might do to help Morocco in its current standoff with the USSR. The Soviets have positioned three naval vessels off the southern Sahara coast now controlled by Morocco in order to pressure the Moroccans, who have seized several Soviet trawlers for illegal fishing. We decided to have a guided missile cruiser pay a publicized port visit to Agadir, one of

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the southernmost ports in Morocco proper, during the period February 4-9. Assuming the Moroccans agree, our joint publicity on the visit will highlight our strong friendship with Morocco and send the Soviets a clear message. We will also have two smaller vessels in Moroccan waters during some of this period, as part of a long-planned routine visit to Tangier. (C)

3. Reception of the Returnees: After your welcome and reception for the returnees today, they passed by the State Department where they were greeted and cheered by hundreds of their colleagues. Several, including Bruce Laingen, left the buses to embrace old friends. The returnees and their families will spend the evening together in Alexandria and then depart for thirty days of leave. I have heard only praise for your handling of the return from the State Department's professionals. (U)

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MEMORANDUM

The President has seen ✓

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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January 28, 1981

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

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of
January 27, 1981.

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3/8/13