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28 February 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation of 27 February 1980 (U)

1. The DDCI went with me. I covered the Afghanistan issue. There was general agreement that we should not let the Soviets divert us onto discussions of neutrality since the ball was really in their court. That was reassuring. (S/NF)
2. There was a suggestion that we get out into the public the fact that the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan is increasing. I said it had gone up 10-12,000 in the last few days. I'd like to have that quickly massaged into the daily report on what we can say in an unclassified way on Afghanistan--the one that goes to Dean Howells at State. You can tell State that even though they may be nervous about this because they overstated the case some weeks ago we have been told to get the numbers out. (S/NF)
3. I went on to Iran. I mentioned that I wasn't sure what the full state of the negotiations were at this time and hence was giving my views in light of what I did know. I was told that I should be in on that. Dr. Brzezinski was told to have Jordan or Vance keep me clued in. Brzezinski said he would get Hal Saunders to do that. (Later in the day he mentioned this to Vance in my presence. I also saw Ham Jordan later in the day and believe he'd already been told this. ) I was asked "to provide lists of leverage or what negotiating advantages we might have." (S/NF)
4. There was general agreement that we should not let the commission continue if it didn't get to see the hostages as scheduled. (S/NF)
5. I didn't handle the foreign doubts about constancy item. Let's consider that, though, for the next time. (S/NF)

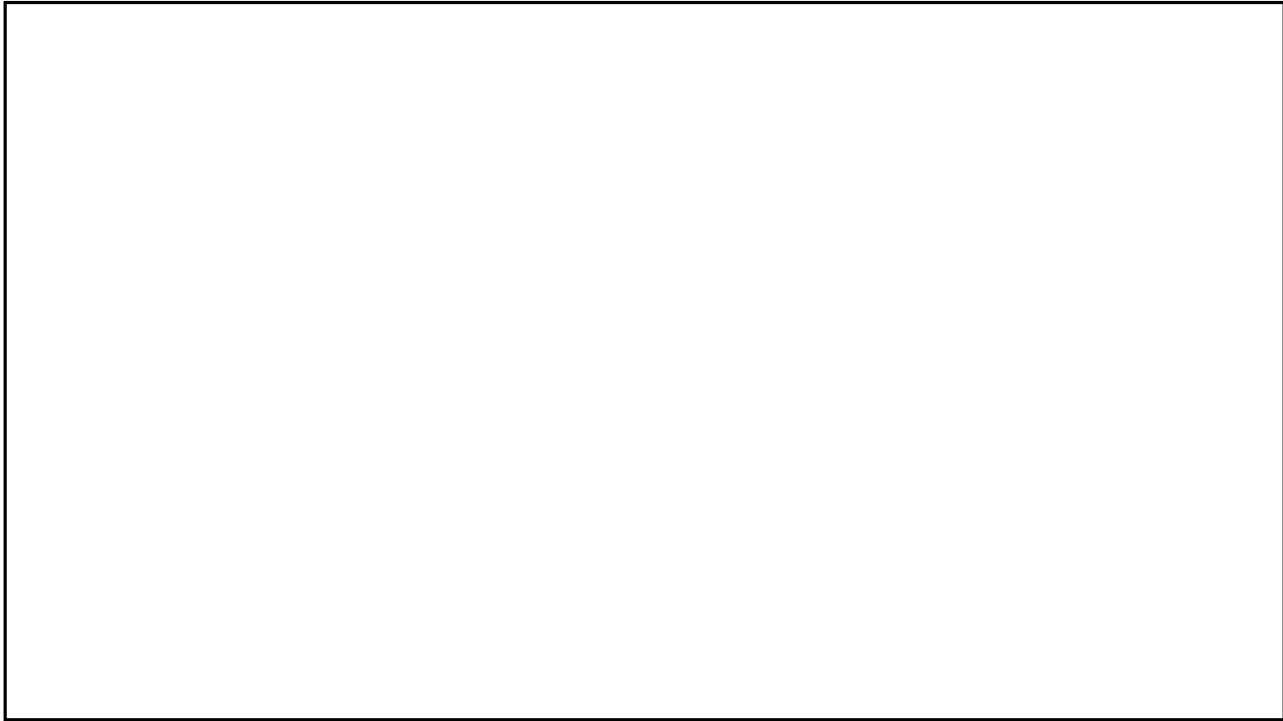
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*Robert M. Gates for*  
STANSFIELD TURNER  
Director

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