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16 November 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Intelligence

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FROM:   
Director of Global Issues

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Senior Interagency Group (SIG) on  
Oceans Policy and Law of the Sea (LOS)

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1. Action Requested: None. This memorandum summarizes for your information the results of the SIG-LOS meeting held on 15 November at the Department of State, which was chaired by William Schneider, Jr., Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science, and Technology.

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2. Background/Conclusions: The meeting was convened to advise SIG-LOS principals of four current issues:

- a. The initial results of the meetings of Presidential Emissary Donald Rumsfeld in West Europe;
- b. status of the negotiations on an alternative deep seabed mining regime;
- c. progress by the Interagency Group (IG) in preparing for a Presidential Proclamation on an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and
- d. preparations for the forthcoming "signing" session of the LOS Conference in Jamaica.

James Malone, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, reported on Ambassador Rumsfeld's recent meetings with highest level political leaders in London, Bonn, and Paris to dissuade them from signing the LOS Treaty. At this time, the UK and the FRG are undecided but appear to lean towards not signing. France, because of its strong commitment to the lesser developed countries, has announced it will sign the Treaty. Additional meetings in the next few weeks are planned with Japan, Belgium, Italy, and the President of the European Economic Community (EEC). Success with the EEC would help sway London and Bonn. NSC staffer Michael Guhin, who accompanied Rumsfeld on his trip, spoke favorably of employing high level contacts to emphasize important US goals.

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Assistant Secretary Malone indicated that discussions were currently underway in regards to arranging an alternative deep seabed mining regime outside the LOS Treaty. The main thrust of any big power arrangement would be to protect the interests of "pioneer" mining countries, pending the formulation of a final regime. The US considers the Treaty regime faulty, and prefers a mining arrangement with its industrial allies outside the Treaty. London and Bonn are uncertain as to whether they will follow the US initiative on this, and ultimately whether they will sign the Treaty or not. The French are considering doing both—signing the Treaty and participating in deep sea mining in an alternative regime outside the Treaty.

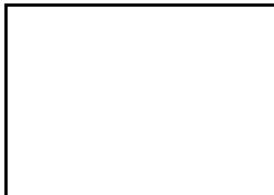
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25X1 Malone indicated that considerable progress has been made by the Interagency Group preparing for the establishment of a 200-mile EEZ by a Presidential Proclamation. The Group, chaired jointly by State and Interior, has a draft report circulating now and expects to have it cleared for Presidential approval by 26 November. Schneider urged timeliness to avoid the White House's 1984 budget crunch.

25X1 Elizabeth Verville, State/Legal, reported that formal US interpretive statements are currently being formulated by the various departments in preparation for the "signing" and final session of the LOS Conference, which starts on 6 December in Jamaica. Malone indicated that since the US is not signing the Treaty, our participation will be limited to a small team. One thorny point that has raised congressional ire is the fact that the US may be obliged to help finance the Preparatory Commission which will set up the Treaty's deep seabed mining regime.

25X1 3. Follow-up Tasks: During this period of changing US oceans policy, OGI oceans analysts will continue to closely monitor and report on possible foreign reactions to new initiatives.

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