

TOP SECRET

31 December 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 31 December 1979

The Director chaired the meeting.

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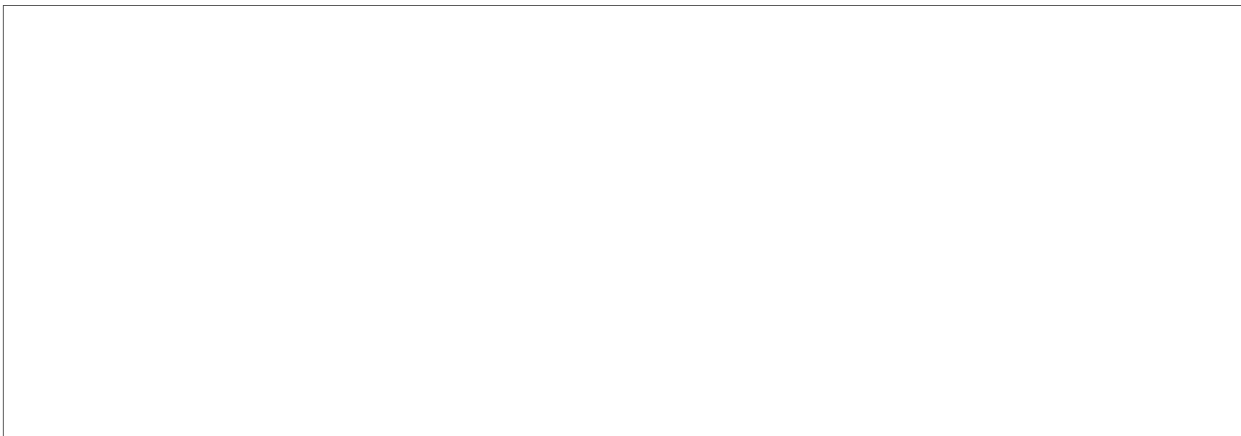
Silver reported briefly on hearings underway in the District Court re constitutional grounds for withdrawal of Philip Agee's passport. Silver said hearings will continue before Judge Gesell on 2 January and thus far things are going well. A brief discussion followed on how the FRG is likely to treat Agee if he should exit that country.

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Waller reported the White Paper being produced on Iran has turned into a library of documents from numerous government agencies. He said he is not certain when the White Paper is due to the White House. The Director responded that the paper is due soon; he said he has advised that such a paper should remain classified to guard against FOIA requests, until the White House is absolutely certain that it can be released publicly.

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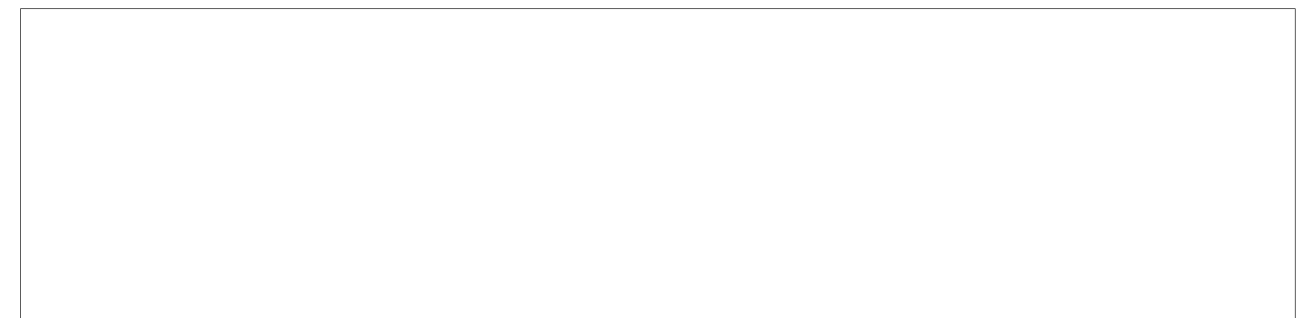
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The Director reported the President has approved the APEX program, that it is to be conducted under the direction of the NSC with the Director as executive agent for implementation. The Director said we are now in good shape to proceed and that  will develop next steps, i.e., detailed implementing instructions and information for our allies and Congress.

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The Director stressed to Hineman the importance of sorting out what the Soviets are trying to do in Afghanistan, that we "put our best minds to work" in NFAC and DIA with help from [redacted] He said we should attempt to determine, for example, how far the Soviets are going to go. Mr. Carlucci opined that it would be too difficult for the Soviets, even at increased military strength, to control the entire country, that their emphasis will be on controlling urban areas. Additionally, the Director emphasized the continued need for deciphering strange and conflicting signals coming out of Iran and for clues which might be used toward successful U.S. negotiations with Iran behind the scenes. [redacted]

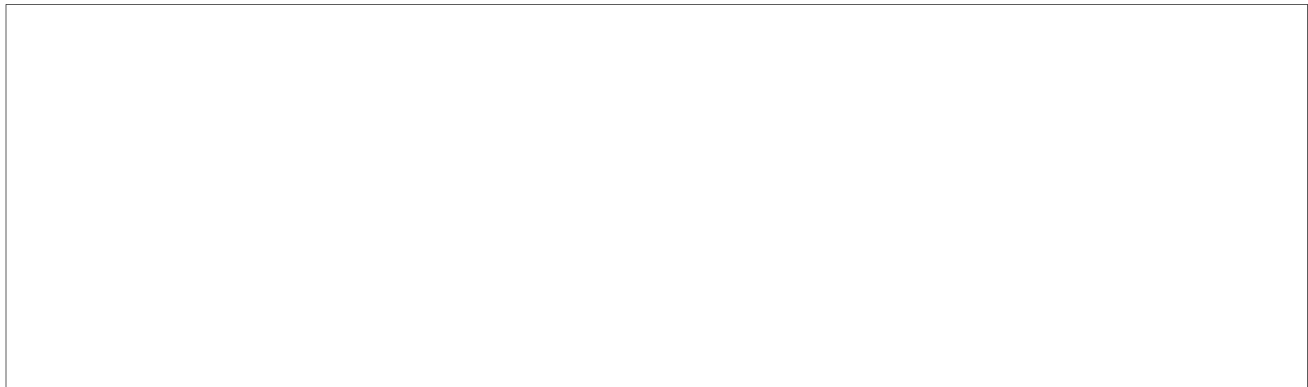
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The Director said he will be out of the city January 1st and 2nd. He noted the year is ending very busy for all of us on all fronts with no less pressure facing us at the outset of 1980. He expressed his appreciation for the support he has received from everyone on these difficult tasks and wished all a Happy New Year. [redacted]

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