

5 March 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 5 March 1980

The Director chaired the meeting. Mr. Carlucci was visiting NPIC.

25X1

The Director stated he has revised his thinking of yesterday and requested comment on the merits of classified testimony before the HPSCI on 18 March concerning Charter Legislation. [redacted] Silver, and Hetu doubted that the Committee would accept closed testimony. Silver suggested we provide the Committee with a list of that which the Director will not get into on an unclassified basis, e.g., prior notification, the details of utilizing journalists, a response to Aspin's letter of 25 February 1980, and other topics yet to be identified. A brief discussion followed. The Director asked [redacted] to commence negotiations with the Committee on that which is to be covered on a classified or unclassified basis. [redacted]

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[redacted] noted the Director would be appearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee tomorrow. Later in the meeting Lehman forecast that Senators Nunn and Jackson can be expected to focus on some aspects of NIE 11-3/8. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] advised that the Director will appear before the Senate Energy Committee providing unclassified testimony. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

McMahon noted receipt yesterday of a letter signed by Senators Bayh and Goldwater, precipitated by SSCI Staffer Bill Miller, and asking if two individuals mentioned were agents. McMahon noted that one was and the other is not, but went on suggesting we maintain the principle of not confirming or denying the identities. The Director said this poses some problems. [redacted]

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[redacted]

Zellmer reported that the SR-71 flight over Cuba has been delayed because of weather. [redacted]

25X1

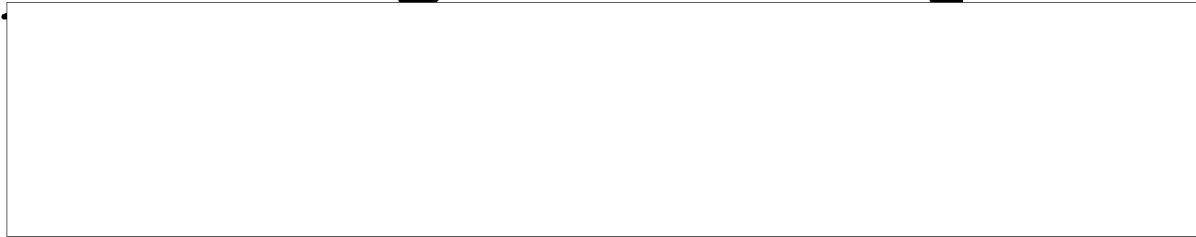
25X1

McMahon spoke of work underway to check out a terrorist plot involving a traveler to Beirut and expressed concern that a PLO official has publicly announced the fedayeen plans to assassinate Sadat...indicating the brazenness of those involved. [redacted]

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1



McMahon noted the Agency is under attack in Nicaragua with claims being made of CIA support to anti-Sandinista elements and allegations that CIA is out to kill the AID bill. [redacted]

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Fitzwater announced that former Inspector General John Waller will receive the National Civil Service League award on 20 March. [redacted]

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Fitzwater said there is no firm information on a hiring freeze but advised that there are [redacted] applicants in process, [redacted] of which are CTs. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

Hetu said he would be appearing before the Aspin Subcommittee tomorrow to brief on the work of the Publications Review Board. [redacted]

25X1

Clarke called attention to Jack Anderson's article alleging Soviet use of nerve gas in Afghanistan and went on to note that we have nothing to confirm the item beyond his 4 March note that the Soviets are using some riot control agents. [redacted]

25X1

Clarke reported the identification of an SS-20 base at Verkhnyaya Salda, bringing the total to 26, against an estimate of 33 bases. [redacted]

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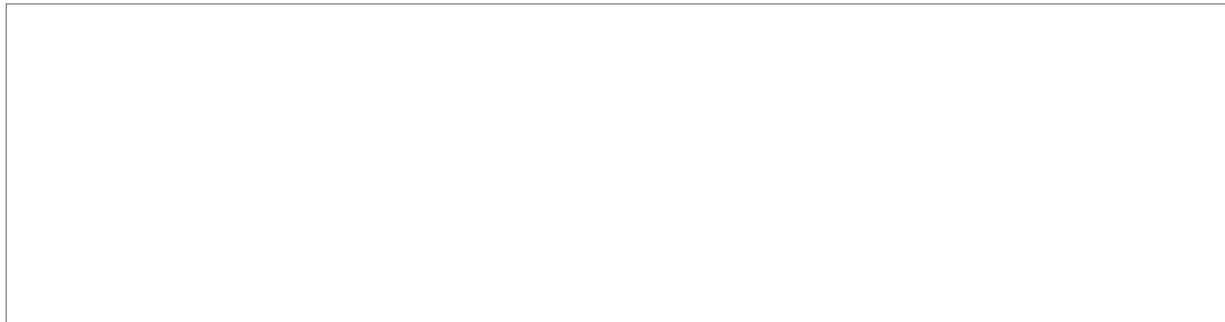
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In response to McMahon's query, the Director advised that he had provided, as reported in the Christian Science Monitor (attached) a letter to Senator Bentsen on atrocities in Afghanistan. [redacted]

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25X1



Attachment

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 1THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR  
5 March 1980

## New Afghan atrocities alleged by the CIA

By Daniel Southerland

Staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

The US Central Intelligence Agency has revealed new reports of atrocities alleged to have been committed by Soviet-supported troops in Afghanistan.

In a letter to Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D) of Texas, CIA director Stansfield Turner listed the following until-now unreported events said to have occurred in Afghanistan in 1979:

- In retribution against a village that refused to cooperate with the Kabul regime, Afghan troops destroyed the village and killed 20 of its inhabitants. The children among the victims were mutilated in front of their parents before the entire group was slain.

- In another incident reportedly motivated by retribution, Afghan soldiers killed 300 villagers.

In addition, the letter from Admiral Turner said that there had been reports of several cases of rape perpetrated by

Afghan soldiers, some of which were alleged to have resulted in the victims' deaths.

The CIA director said details of all of these incidents had to be omitted in order to protect sources of information. He also said that there have likely been numerous unreported incidents of this kind.

The CIA reports coincided with one from a Cairo-based correspondent for the London Observer, who said he had recently seen the destruction of 80 percent of the villages along one of Afghanistan's main roads and with new reports from other US government sources that the Soviets have used nerve gas in trying to crush Afghan guerrillas.

Admiral Turner's letter to Senator Bentsen came in response to a letter from the senator asking for information about a report in The Christian Science Monitor Feb. 4 which quoted survivors as saying that Afghan troops, under Soviet orders, had murdered 1,170 unarmed men and boys last April in the village of Kerala in eastern Afghanistan.

The CIA director said in his response that the agency was "almost certain" that the alleged massacre did occur. He said CIA had no on-the-spot confirmation from its own sources but noted that a strikingly similar account appeared in a Pakistani newspaper on April 29, 1979.

As a result of Admiral Turner's report to him, Senator Bentsen has urged President Carter to seek a UN Security Council investigation of the alleged massacre at Kerala. In a letter to the President dated March 4, the senator said that if the Soviet Union were to veto such an inquiry, then "the veto itself would speak volumes about Soviet conduct, and the debate leading to the veto will insure that the whole world will watch the debate and evaluate the charges."

He suggested that as alternatives, the President might want to consider an investigation by the full UN General Assembly or one by the International Red Cross.

On March 3, Shyam Bhatia of the London Observer, who was held captive by Afghan guerrillas, reported that 80 percent of the villages along most of the 220-mile main Kabul-Kandahar road "were just flattened" by rockets fired by Soviet-supplied helicopter gunships. According to a United Press International report, the correspondent further said that hundreds of civilians, including women and children, were killed in indiscriminate attacks by such gunships.

Carter administration sources, meanwhile, said reports on the use of nerve gas by the Soviets in Afghanistan were based not on "clinical evidence" but on numerous accounts from refugees gathered over a period of several months.

US State Department officials began reporting some weeks ago that the Soviets had taken chemical warfare and decontamination equipment with them into Afghanistan.