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1 SEP 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

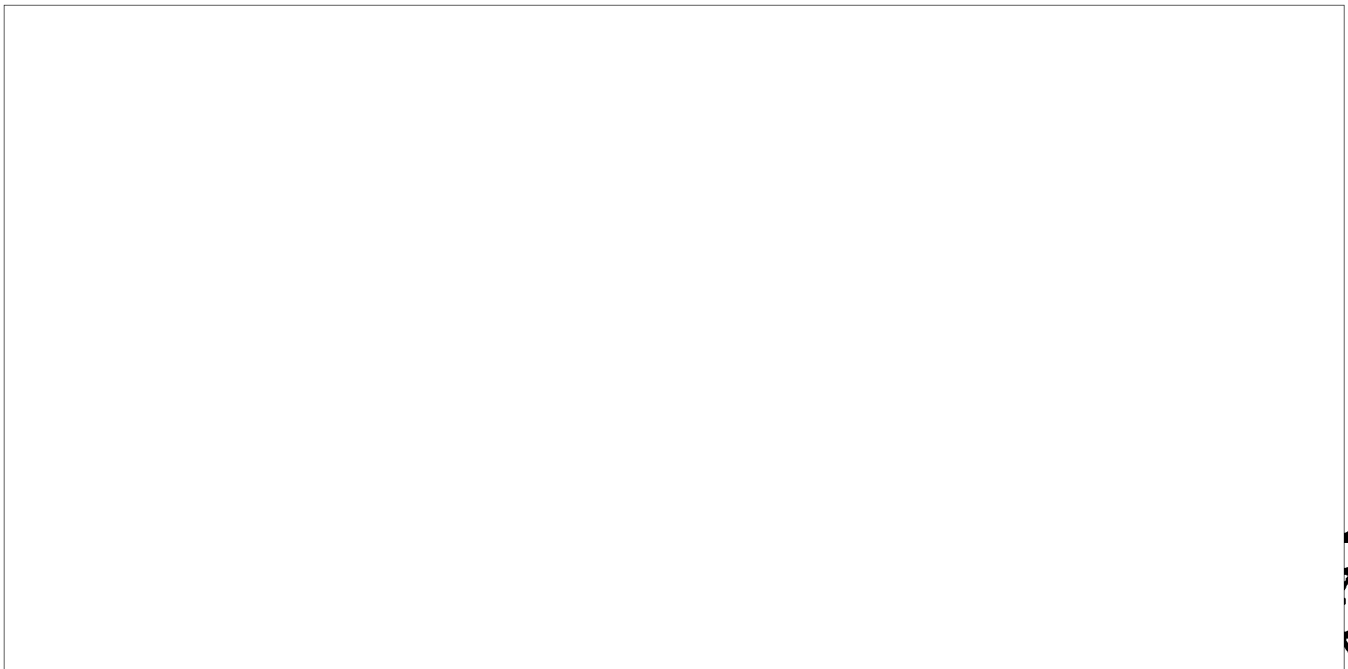
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SUBJECT: SIG Meeting on Refugees

1. The meeting addressed three refugee-related issues.
 - o Admission of 200 Salvadorans (including families) freed under the government's recent amnesty program.
 - o The number of refugees (72,000) from all sources that will be admitted to the US in Fiscal 1984.
 - o The formation of a working group to examine possible future Central American refugee flows.

There were no important disagreements on either of the first two issues. On the general refugee question there was some discussion about the political pressures that are accumulating in countries now hosting large numbers of refugees, especially Pakistan, Thailand, and Sudan. The SIG Chairman (Amb. H. Eugene Douglas) argued strenuously that more attention should be paid to the foreign policy implications of this refugee overhang.

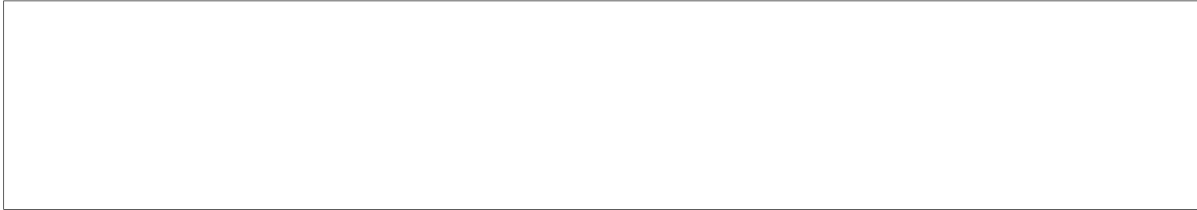
2. The most interesting discussion focused on a proposal to establish an interagency working group to look at possible future Central American refugee flows. The key question was what would the refugee flow be if things went very bad for us in the region and the Leftists take control. Although the Chairman insisted this wasn't contingency planning, it comes awfully close. He said he was pushing for an interagency group in order to avoid any surprise along the lines of the sudden, large-scale Cuban inflow, ala Mariel.

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These arguments were well presented; the Chairman assured State that the terms of reference for any working group would be extremely narrow and subject to State approval.

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Deputy Director of Global Issues

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