

November 4, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: PAUL BEACH

SUBJECT: Meeting With Ed Williamson - October Surprise

I began the meeting by indicating that we were in the process of considering what arrangements, if any, should be made to ensure that we have an accountable focal point to keep the President informed regarding issues and information of significance as the October Surprise investigations request and receive Executive Branch information. I noted that one option would be to have a "lead agency" exercise this responsibility, and another would be to have it performed centrally. I solicited Ed's views.

Ed responded first by describing State's document collection efforts to date. He noted that document collection should be completed by the end of this week, and that documents seem to fall into three categories:

- material potentially relevant to the October Surprise allegations. In this regard, Ed mentioned only a cable from the Madrid embassy indicating that Bill Casey was in town, for purposes unknown.
- Operation Staunch material.
- Israeli material.

Ed indicated that State was being careful to identify NSC and interagency equities, and intended to coordinate directly with the agencies concerned before producing such material. He also indicated that State is notionally organizing its material at three levels: materials which can be produced; materials which will be shown only to members and staff, but not produced; and materials which will be shown only to senior members. He did not indicate that such a division was the product of any agreement with the Hill.

With regard to process, Ed then made these points:

- Secretary Baker intends to exercise decision authority over privilege issues related to State Department documents.