

"OCTOBER SURPRISE" INTERAGENCY MEETING

6 November 1991

I. Introductory Remarks - Boyden.

Whatever form they ultimately take, the House and Senate "October Surprise" investigations, like Iran-Contra, will involve interagency concerns -- and be of special interest to the President. This is an appropriate time to get our signals straight with respect to communications and coordination responsibilities.

II. Status of Congressional Investigations - Paul.

- A. House. [HANDOUT] Task Force of Foreign Affairs - Hamilton/Hyde - competing resolutions presently before Rules Committee - review major differences - hearing requested by minority - will go Thursday with Askin and GAO witness - focus "why do this at all?" - then sequential referral to Committee on Administration - focus there on "time, money, staff." Floor action possible next week, likely later.
- B. Senate. [HANDOUT] Subcommittee of Foreign Relations - Sanford/Hatch - includes Carter Administration - passed 9-8 - Jeffords voted "present" - Dodd voted no - Lugar threatening filibuster.
- C. Coordination of Investigations. Compare House resolutions language with Senate "principles." Bottom line: separate tracks up to now, hard to see how they'll get together. Potential differences in scope and focus, as well as procedural separation.
- D. Impact of Recent Newsweek and New Republic Stories. [HANDOUT]

III. Policy Issues - Boyden.

- A. Touchstone: No Surprises to White House, and Maintain Ability to Respond to Leaks in Real Time. This is Partisan.
- B. Prompt, Consistent Response Across Agencies Once Congress Establishes Terms of Reference.

-- ISSUE: Do we negotiate document production criteria on Administration or agency

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THAN NEGOTIATION
w/ CONGR
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THAN