"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