

**January 8, 1982**

**Memorandum for the President [Ronald Reagan]  
from Secretary Weinberger, 'Weekly Report to the  
President'**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

In a memorandum for the president from January 1982, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger expressed his criticism of Israel's Minister of Defense Ariel Sharon and his tendency of "going public whenever it suits him".

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Weekly Report to the President

Meeting with French Minister of Defense: I met with French Minister of Defense Hernu on Thursday at the Pentagon for broad gauge and detailed discussions. We reviewed the situation in Europe, particularly Poland, where I noted our approval of the strong rhetoric Paris has used during the Polish crisis. I also carefully conveyed perceptions within the United States on world events and the NATO Alliance. With a view toward enhancing Alliance security, we also discussed possibilities for further U.S.-French arms cooperation. I mentioned our concern over increased transfer of high and mid-level technology to the USSR and the East, and I reminded Hernu that our concerns related not only to purely military technology but also to other technology transferred apparently for civilian purposes, but which ends up in sophisticated Soviet weaponry.

I was explicit about the Thompson CSF firm involved in providing Siberian pipeline software computer technology, and I expressed our concern over the potential such software has for Soviet military capability. Hernu outlined the attention and specific procedures used by the French government he thinks will protect vital technology. Agreeing with the dangers inherent in unrestricted flow of technology eastward, Hernu indicated France would join us in a special group to review quietly Coordinating Committee (COCOM) procedures and the list of special technology items desired by the East or planned to be provided by industry in the West to the USSR or Eastern European nations. He stressed, and I agreed, the need for such a group to be low-key and quiet. I believe we are well on our way to strengthening technology transfer procedures and restraints.

I discussed with him the reports we had of their arms sales to Nicaragua (at that time I did not know they had completed and have announced sales). I told him of our great displeasure with such sales. He said France thinks these sales will "wean Central America" away from the USSR. I think this is pure sophistry. (S)

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1/10/82 - 2/10/82  
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC:  
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Meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister: I met with new Norwegian Foreign Minister Stray on Thursday. We covered East-West relations, U.S.-Soviet arms control negotiations, and the Nordic Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone concept. We also discussed the status of the U.S.-Norwegian program to preposition additional military equipment in northern Norway, and the contribution that Norwegian oil and gas can make to provide Western Europe with an alternative to dependence upon the Soviet Union for energy. (S)

Use of Fort Drum for Detainees: Now that we have settled on Fort Drum, New York as the temporary detainment facility, we will continue to help Justice and HHS move the Cubans and Haitians there. Yesterday we flew Congressman Dave Martin down to Chaffee, with some people from HHS, so he could see the operation first hand. I talked with him after you had seen him, and he is going to be a good soldier about selling the plan, and its economic benefits, to his district. The next step is for the Army and Justice to work out a written agreement covering what services the Army will provide. I want to minimize the adverse effect on readiness and morale by ensuring that we do not take volunteer soldiers from their units and send them to Fort Drum to police the camp. (U)

Israel: Talks on Strategic Cooperation: Under Secretary Ikle hosted preliminary talks on Thursday with Major General Tamir (Minister Sharon's Assistant for Strategic Planning). Our purpose was to hear the Israelis out in detail on their various proposals in preparation for our meeting with Defense Minister Sharon on November 30. General Tamir stressed that Sharon would come here only if we will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on agreed procedures for strategic cooperation. I believe a way can be found to meet the perceived needs of the Israelis without damaging our relations with the moderate Arab States. Fred Ikle urged Tamir to tell Sharon that we cannot move forward on items of mutual interest unless Sharon refrains from going public whenever it suits him. Of course any further Israeli incursions into Saudi airspace will add many difficulties to the whole problem. (C)

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