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Last Updated: 11/14/2023

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12/22/86

TR

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Ronald Reagan
FROM: Ambassador Gerald Carmen, Chairman, Citizens for America
DATE: December 1, 1986
RE: Iranian Initiative and Central America

President Reagan is correct -- he should not "back-off" his position on the diplomatic initiative to Iran. That action sought to improve America's position in an economically and strategically vital country. The Administration should take the offensive in the public debate, and force the president's critics to back-up their accusations.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1) President Reagan's policy is correct.
- 2) The rough outline of events, as we now know it, is accurate.
- 3) Public confidence in the president, as reflected in his continued strong rating in the polls during this political and media onslaught, stems from the president's character and the accomplishments of his Administration: in lowering inflation; cutting taxes for working Americans; increasing employment to an all-time high, spurring sustained economic growth; rebuilding our national defenses; promoting SDI; working for real arms-reductions. The American people trust President Reagan, and respect his abilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That an information center separate from the White House Press Office be established which would be responsible for issuing all information and comments by the Administration relating to the diplomatic initiative to Iran and transfer of money to the freedom fighters in Central America.

- 1) The office should be open from early morning until late evening, to meet all press deadlines and insure that our side is represented in all news stories.

- 2) An office spokesman should be selected who has credibility with the press and/or a public reputation for integrity.
- 3) A daily briefing on this situation should be given by the office spokesman, scheduled so that coverage appears on the evening newscasts and in the morning papers.
- 4) All new information relating to this matter should be released through the information office immediately. To allow delays or leaks to get ahead of us would undermine the credibility of the office, the correctness of the Administration's position, and give the president's opponents a platform for moral posturing. It is important that the president maintain the high ground in this matter.

RATIONALE:

The Administration should stress the "why and how" in its public comments on the diplomatic initiative -- relate to the public the strategic imperative behind the actions, both in Iran and in Central America, and the steps taken to further US national security interests.

The critics of the president on this matter are critics of the president in general. This incident has given them a cover to attack President Reagan without revealing their overall opposition to the Reagan Agenda. The fact is that once the Iran/Nicaragua activities became public knowledge, they changed from a substantive issue into a political issue. Our opponents recognize this, so should we.

Opponents of the president have seized on these events as a means to attack the president personally and to undercut the entire Reagan Agenda. No one can deny the strategic importance of Iran or Nicaragua to the US. Questions concerning methods are subject to legitimate debate, but these are foreign policy matters which offer no real political reward. Therefore, critics concentrate on questions of procedure, not substance, to further their political ends.

The Administration should go on the offensive in the Iran/Nicaragua debate. Both policies are correct, and critics should be called on to justify their attacks -- and to pay the price for their shameless attempts to create another Watergate. In their rush to hurt the president they have put themselves out on a limb -- do they oppose the policy goals, or just the man behind the plans?

President Reagan has always believed that, if given the facts, the American people will reach the proper conclusion. A strong public

posture by the Administration will expose the political motivation of the president's opponents, thereby undercutting their efforts and putting the debate back in the foreign policy sphere. There, the imperative behind the president's actions will be understood, and approved, by the American people.

THE INFORMATION CENTER:

The information center provides the best means to achieve this end. Establishment of this office breaks the link between the Iran/Nicaragua situation and normal White House business. The center also has the potential for serving a greater number of journalists than the White House Press Office, especially those who are not part of the "major media" and less adversarial toward the Administration. Most important, such a move would signal Administration openness and a willingness to deal with this matter head-on.

ATMOSPHERE:

The physical lay-out of the information center should be designed to reinforce the "why and how" theme of Administration comment:

Any photograph taken in the information center should relay the logic behind the policy. Maps depicting the strategic importance of Iran and Central America should be hung from the walls. Management and flow charts which graphically detail the government process should be displayed as well. The public is interested in how policy is implemented. If explained properly, they will appreciate the difference between intelligence and diplomatic methods.

Diagrams and time-lines outlining the events and exchanges involved in the US-Iran contacts should be made available. In addition, information kits should be prepared and distributed. Such efforts serve to focus public commentary on the substance of the issue.

ADDITIONAL POINTS:

The past records and achievements of Admiral Poindexter and Lt. Colonel North should be detailed to the American public. These men have spent a lifetime serving America, and are deserving of public commendation.

NOTES:

The appointment of a special prosecutor could be interpreted as an admission of guilt. Attorney General Meese should take the full 60

days allowed by law to conduct his investigation before any decision is made.

While the convening of a special session of Congress holds some merit, the historical rarity of such an action might contribute to a sense of urgency or crisis that is unwarranted if the recommended steps are taken.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

At this time we know of no laws which have been broken.

Questions remain over the constitutionality of many of the laws which critics allege have been violated.

The media should be reminded that, in America, people are innocent until proven guilty.

In any event, due process will prevail. It should be stressed that if any laws have been broken, the perpetrators will be prosecuted.

During a struggle, the threat does not come from your own people. We should circle the wagons and avoid turning inward, to foster unity instead of division and chaos.

TBDTR

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PRD16

MEMORANDUM

TR

TO: Pat Buchanan
FROM: Gerald Carmen
DATE: December 17, 1986
RE: News coverage of Iran

The Iran/freedom fighter matter continues to dominate the news.
The evening newscasts lead off with the latest speculation, while the Sunday talk shows offer a rehash of the week's revelations. Needless to say, these approaches do not portray the president in a favorable light.

News coverage focuses on the "how," not the "why," meaning media attention is concentrated on policy implementation, not policy formulation. The implementation process makes good news because it is full of innuendo and sordid details. The upcoming congressional investigations will reveal even more details, reinforcing this news trend. Without specific action, the Administration will not receive a fair hearing on the air waves.

I believe it is a mistake to allow the networks to broadcast reports on Iran/Nicaragua without including a response by an Administration official. Only cabinet officers and senior White House

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I believe it is a mistake to allow the networks to broadcast reports on Iran/Nicaragua without including a response by an Administration official. Only cabinet officers and senior White House

officials can be counted on to articulate effectively the "why" -- that is, to spell out what motivated the president's actions in Iran, and make the case for aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters.

The American people are waiting to hear the "why," to understand the logic behind our Iran policy. The strength of the Administration's position lies in the "why." No one argues that the president's policy goals are unsound. Forceful advocacy of the policy goals will reduce the detail questions, the "how," to secondary importance. Critics will be seen correctly as second guessing tactics with 20/20 hindsight.

It is CITIZENS FOR AMERICA's position that the President Reagan's policy decisions were correct. It would have been negligent of the president not to attempt to improve the US position in Iran or aid the freedom fighters in Nicaragua. In these actions Ronald Reagan demonstrated the same foresight and leadership that has made his presidency so successful.

This case must be made to the American people. I have other thoughts and ideas on how this presentation can be done effectively, with the most effective people and the latest technology, and would be happy to discuss them with you or others if you are interested.

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that is, to spell out what motivated the president's actions in Iran,
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TR

January 6, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN

FROM: WILLIAM L. BALL, III 

Subject: Iran hearings

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will convene hearings later this month on the "geopolitical importance of Iran..."

This is a guise whereby the SFRC (Pell, Biden, Sarbanes, Cranston, Dodd, Kerry, Moynihan, et.al.) can get into the Iran matter.

Dr. Kissinger called me seeking advice on whether or not he should agree to appear in response to the Committee's request. I told him this would be a real zoo, and he intends to decline the Committee's invitation.

NOTED BY DTR

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN

FROM: DENNIS, THOMAS

SUBJECT: Iran Working Group

All have agreed on the need and value of a small group that would focus exclusively on the day-to-day management of the Iran inquiry. This group would monitor Hill testimony, information and documents. Additionally, their responsibilities would include the dissemination of materials and talking points for the use of Administration spokesman, the Hill and those in the White House that require guidance.

Operationally it could be coordinated by one individual -- either a lawyer brought in from outside, such as Fred Fielding, or by Peter Wallison's deputy, Jay Stevens.

This memo is meant to focus on the question of establishing such a group and its composition and structure.

In brief there would be a person representing each of the following: Office of Legal Counsel, Press, Legislative Affairs and Communications. They would be housed in the OEOP and report to you. The format would be similar to the arrangement utilized with the Geneva Planning Group, when "directions were handed down and recommendations came up."

Decisions

1. Establish an Iran Working Group

Yes

No

✓ 12/15/86

2. The coordinator should be

from outside

from inside

✓ 12/15/86 probably unless the

3. One person would be selected by each of the appropriate offices (i.e.) Speakes designates press type, Will a legislative person, etc)

Yes

No

4. Group will be housed in the OEOB

Yes

No

5. They begin functioning and report to Chief of Staff and coordinate with appropriate Senior Staff

Yes

No

I recommend a short meeting to focus on these questions and to make decisions as quickly as possible.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN FOR IRAN/CONTRA SITUATION

FOCUS DATES: December 5 - 14

OBJECTIVES

- o GOP/Conservative Unity
- o Emphasize successful Presidency
- o Focus on RR's 1987 Agenda

ASSETS

- o GOP Elected Officials
 - Congress
 - State/local
- o Party Leaders
- o 1986 Candidates RR supported during campaign
- o Conservative Leaders
 - Religious
 - Business
- o Reagan Veterans
 - Former Cabinet Members
 - Former White House Staff
- o Administration Spokesmen not directly involved in issue.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Television talk/news shows.
- o Conservative and other group meetings.
- o "Listening Sessions" with key non-Administration leaders and Senior Staff.
- o Op-eds, surrogate interviews/press conferences.

NEEDS

- o Rhetoric
- o Poll Data - strengths/weaknesses
- o Follow-up effort tracking.

DRAFT

ASSETS

Gerald Ford
Barry Goldwater
Henry Kissinger
Zbigniew Brzezinski
Anne Armstrong
Jeanne Kirkpatrick

GOP Elected Officials -- National

Bob Michel
Ted Stevens
Jesse Helms
Steve Symms
Malcom Wallop
Jim McClure
Alan Simpson
Trent Lott
Dick Cheney
Lynn Martin

GOP Elected Officials -- State/Local

George Deukmejian
Tom Kean
Bill Clements

Party Officials

Paul Laxalt
Frank Fahrenkopf
Rudy Boschwitz
John Heinz
Guy Vander Jagt

Reagan Veterans

Lyn Nofziger
Ed Rollins
Nancy Reynolds
Stu Spencer
Lois Herrington
William Clark
William French Smith
Richard Schweiker

1986 Candidates

Kit Bond
Ed Zschau
Jim Broyhill
Paula Hawkins

DRAFT

Cabinet/sub-Cabinet

Bill Bennett
Bill Brock
Jim Baker
Malcolm Baldrige
Elizabeth Dole
Lt General Abramson
Don Hodel
Lee Thomas
John Lehman
John Herrington
Otis Bowen
Sam Pierce
Steve Trott
William Bradford Reynolds

White House

Mitch Daniels

1988 Candidates

Pat Robertson
Pete duPont
Jack Kemp

Television and Radio Evangelists

Oral Roberts
Pat Robertson
Jimmy Swaggert
Kenneth Copeland
Robert Schuler
Charles Stanley
Jim Bakker
Jerry Falwell
Paul Crouch
Kenneth Hagen
D. James Kennedy
James Dobson
Marlin Maddoux

Religious Leaders

Adrian Rogers (Southern Baptist Convention)
Ralph Bohlmann (Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod)
John Cardinal Krol (Archbishop of Phil.)
Virgil Dechant (Knights of Columbus)
Bill Bright (Campus Crusade for Christ)

DRAFT

Conservative Leaders

Gerry Carmen

Daniel O. Graham

Paul Weyrich

Burt Pines

Martha Roundtree

Tim LaHaye (American Coalition for Traditional Values)

Beverly LaHaye (Concerned Women for America)

Key Supporters of Central American Policy

Stanley Cecys (Lithuanian American Community)

Oscar Moran (LULAC)

Hector Barreto (U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)

Jose Sorzano (Cuban American Foundation)

Carlos Perez (Freedom for Democracy)

David Morales (Hispanic Contractors)

Rudy Sanchez

Alba Moeser

Ana Perera

Fernando DeBaca (RNHA)

OPPORTUNITIES

TALK SHOWS

Program

Preferred Guest

Agronsky & Company
All Things Considered
Crossfire
Evans & Novak
Face the Nation
CBS Morning News
Good Morning America
MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour
McLaughlin Group
Meet the Press
Nightline
Nightwatch
Today Show
Donahue
Washington Week in Review
It's Your Business

PRINT - OP EDS

Dailies

By-line

Washington Post
Washington Times
New York Times
Wall Street Journal
USA Today
Los Angeles Times
Chicago Tribune
Philadelphia Enquirer
Miami Herald
Dallas Morning News
Denver Post

Weeklies - Letters to Editor

Time
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report

OTHER MEDIA

Radio Interviews, major markets

GROUPS/MEETINGS

Council for National Policy
American Legion
AMVETS
Disabled American Veterans
Knights of Columbus
Stanton Coalition
Kingston
National Religious Broadcasters Board
Pro-America
Eagle Forum
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Catholic War Veterans
Catholic Daughters of America
Library Court
721 Group
Conservative Opportunity Society
Concerned Women for America
American Legion Auxiliary
U. S. Chamber of Commerce
National Jewish Coalition
Knights of Columbus
Free Congress Foundation
Heritage Foundation
Leadership Foundation
American Coalition for Traditional Values
Concerned Women for America
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Cuban American Foudnation
Freedom for Democracy
Citizens for America
Coalition for the Strategic Devense Initiative
American-Arab Business and Professional Association
National Council of Hispanic Women

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Good Morning America
MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour
McLaughlin Group
Meet the Press
Nightline
Nightwatch
Today Show
Donahue
Washington Week in Review
It's Your Business

PRINT - OP EDS

Dailies

By-line

Washington Post
Washington Times
New York Times
Wall Street Journal
USA Today
Los Angeles Times
Chicago Tribune
Philadelphia Enquirer
Miami Herald
Dallas Morning News
Denver Post

Weeklies - Letters to Editor

Time
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report

OTHER MEDIA

Radio Interviews, major markets

GROUPS/MEETINGS

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Veterans of Foreign Wars
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Catholic War Veterans
Catholic Daughters of America
Library Court
721 Group
Conservative Opportunity Society
Concerned Women for America
American Legion Auxiliary
U. S. Chamber of Commerce
National Jewish Coalition
Knights of Columbus
Free Congress Foundation
Heritage Foundation
Leadership Foundation
American Coalition for Traditional Values
Concerned Women for America
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Cuban American Foudnation
Freedom for Democracy
Citizens for America
Coalition for the Strategic Devense Initiative
American-Arab Business and Professional Association
National Council of Hispanic Women

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1986

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F6006-01

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: PAT BUCHANAN

This is a followup to our Wednesday meeting. At this time, I cannot conceive of a communications plan that will allow peak-period White House business to go forward in January, uninterrupted by Iran issues. No matter what we say, dissolution will show. I offer a two track White House mechanism to get past crunch of Budget and SOTU.

90 Day Special Counsellor -- Appoint a Special Counsellor to head a "Swat Team" to deal exclusively with the Iran/Contra issue. Goals: 1) Day-to-day management and tracking of all aspects of the Iran issue; 2) Restore the President's standing.

The Special Counsellor should have standing equal to the Chief of Staff and direct access to President; be able to command White House resources; impact the President's schedule; shape events; oversee and sign off on statements and speech materials. He should come equipped to provide the President with sage advice on legal and legislative matters and external relations.

The Counsellor should be provided three substantive detailees (White House experience), full time for 90 days, and staff support as necessary. The detailees should bring experience to accommodate three areas of particular importance.

- o Legal Advice -- Individual works with Counsel's office, DOJ, Tower Commission (as appropriate).
- o Legislative affairs -- Work with White House and agency legislative shops to direct resources, identify hot spots, and provide intercession where necessary.
- o External relations -- Create and disseminate materials and work support groups. Work with White House Staff Secretary; Public Affairs, OPL, Speech Writers, Political Affairs, to orchestrate support for RR.

I believe this arrangement would be viewed as a positive development on the outside. It is difficult now, but soon will become impossible for you or anyone else on staff, likewise concerned with State of the Union and the Budget, to track all aspects of the Iran/Contra issue.

TR



469157

ID # _____ CU

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

00071

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

Chris

Name of Correspondent: Steve Fromang

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Trial lawyer offers his assistance in the Iran affair

ROUTE TO:	ACTION	DISPOSITION			
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CutHoll</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8710115</u>			<u>8710121</u>
	Referral Note:				
<u>CuAT (26)</u>		<u>8710116</u>			<u>8710121</u>
	Referral Note:				
<u>Cuwall</u>		<u>8710121</u>	<u>PW</u>		<u>8710121</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>Jan 21 87 CCC Memo TO PJW</u>			
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4640 _____

Prime Subject Code: 00074 _____ Secondary Subject Codes: FD 003.02 _____
ND 018 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

PJW/CCC:jmy
PJWallison
CCcox
Chron.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 21, 1987

Dear Mr. Fromang:

Thank you for your letter dated December 23, 1986, addressed to the President, which has been referred to this office for response.

The President has asked me to convey to you his deepest appreciation for your words of support. I can assure you that your confidence will be justified by the progress of the Administration in achieving its economic and foreign policy goals during the next two years.

Your offer of legal services is also very much appreciated. While the legal resources available to the President are ample at this time, it is always nice to know that there is a committed reserve of good will to draw upon. As the President's lawyer, I particularly appreciate your thoughtfulness in this regard.

Again, thank you for your courtesy and interest in writing.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PJW

Peter J. Wallison
Counsel to the President


Stephen D. Fromang, Esq.
Legal & Medical Arts Building
2183 Ponce De Leon Circle
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 21, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER J. WALLISON

FROM: C. CHRISTOPHER COX 

SUBJECT: Iran Correspondence From General Public

The attached letter for your signature responds to a correspondent's offer of support and free legal services.

25

P.S. Walliser

Stephen A. Fromang

ATTORNEY AT LAW
LEGAL & MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING
2183 PONCE DE LEON CIRCLE
VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960
PHONE: (305) 567-7778

469157 *cu*

December 23, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

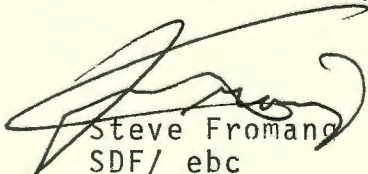
I have been following this Iran-Contra affair through the newspapers. As a Trial Lawyer, I am very interested in "how" the press examines a situation.

I can tell you that the people with whom I have spoken about this matter have all felt that you are the greatest President we have had in this century. I am writing this letter to tell you that you have all the "backing" you need. We are behind you.

Thank you very much for your help in pulling our Nation out of an economic tailspin. You have strengthened our Nation in its defense networks. You have made an effective step towards fiscal responsibility in our "hand-out" Social programs.

If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know. I am an experienced trial lawyer, fully capable of assisting you and your staff. I'd even donate my time and services at no expense to you or the country. Please let me know. I'll be on the next plane to Washington, D.C., if you need me.

Your Ardent Supporter,


Steve Fromang
SDF/ ebc

DEC 23 12 48 PM '86

1987 JAN 15 PM 4 49

Handwritten signature or scribble in the top left corner.

Main body of handwritten text, appearing to be a letter or document, with several lines of cursive script.

Handwritten text at the bottom left, possibly a signature or address.

Handwritten text at the bottom center, possibly a name or title.

Small handwritten mark or character at the bottom right.