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**Collection:** Ross, Dennis: Files  
**Folder Title:** Explanation of Iran Arms Deals to  
Middle East Leaders: Dennis Ross  
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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. file index	(1p)	n.d.	<del>P-1</del> B1
2. notes	re: Middle East (1p)	n.d.	<del>P-1</del> B1
3. speech draft	re: Middle East (5pp)	12/27/86	<del>P-1, P-5</del> B1
4. talking points	re: dialogue with Iran (7pp)	n.d.	<del>P-1</del> B1
5. memo	from Rodney McDaniel to Nicholas Platt re: presidential letters to King Huisein and President Mubarek (9pp)	11/24/86	<del>P-1</del> B1
6. memo	from Robert Oakley to Frank Carlucci re: updte on Iran developments (3pp)	1/2/86	<del>P-1, P-5</del> B1
<del>7. talking points</del>	<del>re: Iran policy: themes for use by administration spokesmen (2pp)</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P-5</del> <del>B1</del> 12/15/00
8. memo	from Alton Keel to the President re: maintianing perspective on Iran (3pp)	n.d.	<del>P-1, P-5</del> B1
9. memo	re: message to pased by Dunbar to Mehdi-Nejat (1p)	n.d.	<del>P-1</del> B1
10. memo	from N. Platt to Sec. Weinberger, et al. re: talking points (1p)	12/24/86	<del>P-1</del> B1
11. memo	re: message to be passed by Dunbar o Mhdi-Nejat (1p)	n.d.	<del>P-1</del> B1
COLLECTION:			
ROSS, DENNIS B.: Files			ggc
FILE FOLDER:			
Explanation of Iran Arms Deals to Mid. East Leaders: D. Ross <i>Box 1</i>			3/6/95

### RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violete a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violete a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(B)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

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- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
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EXPLANATIONS OF IRAN ARMS DEAL TO MIDDLE EAST LEADERS

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Exp. Iran Arms Deal

ROSS, Dennis Files

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November 24, 1986

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ROD MCDANIEL  
PETER RODMAN  
BILL COCKELL  
PAUL THOMPSON  
DENNIS ROSS ✓  
OLIVER NORTH

This is the final version of  
talking points.

Howard



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IRAN POLICY: THEMES FOR USE BY ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN

- Managing foreign policy is rarely simple. Presidents must not only respond to events, but try to shape them as well. When countries of strategic significance, like Iran, are in midst of transitions, we can choose to sit back and ride out storm or try to position ourselves to deal with the emerging reality.
- Our dialogue with some of the more pragmatic members of the Iranian leadership sought to explore possibilities for a better relationship with a post-Khomeini Iran prepared to live at peace with its neighbors. We all understand the strategic imperative of preserving Iran as a buffer separating the Soviets from the Gulf. It is neither in our interests nor in the interests of our regional friends to see that buffer disappear.
- Our initiative also aimed to hasten a negotiated settlement of the Iran-Iraq war; curb Iranian support for terrorism; and help secure the safe return of all hostages in Lebanon--or at least those held by groups linked to Iran.
- No one involved in the decision-making process here had any illusions that those goals would be easily achieved. In the end, however, the President decided that the stakes and the potential rewards were worth running some substantial risks.
- It is clear in retrospect that these risks were underestimated and that we made serious tactical mistakes in pursuing our dialogue with Iran. We should have anticipated that our contacts were bound to leak out eventually. And we should also have anticipated that our limited shipments of military equipment--intended as a signal of the President's commitment to a more constructive relationship with Iran--would help foster an inaccurate but damaging image of trading arms for hostages.
- The President is acutely aware of the need to repair the damage. He has directed that there be no more shipments of military material to Iran so long as the Iranian government refuses to negotiate an end to its war with Iraq and continues to support terrorism. Nor will we condone arms shipments to Iran by other countries.
- The President has also pledged his full cooperation with the efforts of Congress and the independent <sup>COUNSEL</sup> ~~council~~ to determine whether laws were violated in the execution of our Iran initiative, either through diversion of funds or any other means. He is determined to get the whole truth out as quickly as possible.

- Whatever tactical errors may have been made along the way, the time has come to look ahead to the important strategic goals we all share. We accept the Iranian revolution as a fact, and we look forward to the day when a better relationship with Iran will be possible. We are not closing the door to that, but it is up to Iran to demonstrate that it is prepared for such a relationship.
- We remain firmly committed to a prompt and honorable end to the Iran-Iraq war. We are determined to push ahead in the Arab-Israeli peace process.
- We will not give in to terrorism or terrorists--our policy on that score has not changed, nor will it change in the future.
- This Administration has two years to run and an important but unfinished agenda for the future. Neither the Administration nor the country can afford to be paralyzed by the Iran affair. We ~~[seek to]~~ <sup>MUST</sup> move ahead now and address the larger questions of war and peace, regional stability, the expansion and protection of freedom, and the eradication of terrorism.
- We have a President who is prepared to be bold and to take risks for peace; we must not foresake opportunities to fulfill the promise of his Presidency.

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