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Department of State



ACTION MEMORANDUM

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary  
FROM: PM - Jonathan T. Howe  
SUBJECT: State Department Update Report on Chemical and Toxin Weapons Use

ISSUE FOR DECISION:

Whether to delay release of the update report on chemical and toxin weapons use for two weeks.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS:

The update on Soviet use of chemical and toxin weapons in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia is currently scheduled for release next Tuesday, November 16. In view of Brezhnev's funeral, release on schedule would probably be counter-productive.

Delay until the end of the month (for example the November 29 return of Congress) appears appropriate. This new timing should not have a significant impact on the objectives of our program. We will still brief the United Nations Group investigating use of these weapons on Monday, November 15 as scheduled. Their report to the UN General Assembly which would contain our new information will not be circulated until early December. The NSC staff and EUR concur with this delay.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve delay in circulation of two weeks -- until the end of the month -- of the updated report.

Approve

CAS/mz

Disapprove

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DECL: OADR

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Drafted: PM/TMP: JLeonard  
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