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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

November 1, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID AARON

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Noon Notes

Continued Lack of Official Reaction in North Korea to Pak's Assassination:

[REDACTED] as of today, Pyongyang is quiet and there has been no discernible government reaction, political or military, to the assassination of President Pak. The North Korean leadership continues to take a wait-and-see attitude, awaiting further details, and has taken no special military precautions to suggest a military response. (S)

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UK Press on Trident Purchase: The Guardian lead today is by defense correspondent David Fairhall and titled "UK Ready to Buy Trident Missiles." The article states, "a firm decision has been taken at the ministry of defense that Britain's independent nuclear deterrent should be replaced in the 1990s by a fleet of five submarines carrying American Trident missiles fitted with British warheads. Recommendations

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REVIEW ON NOVEMBER 1, 2009

NSA review completed

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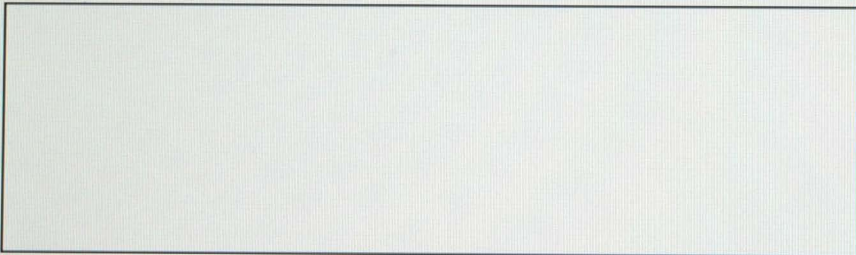
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will be submitted next week to a special cabinet sub-committee, chaired by Mrs. Thatcher, which is expected to endorse the plan. The hope is that the Trident's purchase, can then be finalized with President Carter during Mrs. Thatcher's visit to Washington in December...."

The Pentagon seems to have made a reasonable preliminary offer for the Trident sale. If Mrs. Thatcher and her ministers do endorse the Trident plan next week, its public debate is likely to be vigorous both in Parliament, where the defense secretary, Mr. Francis Pym, has already promised a debate, and in the U.S. Congress. The government is bound to be challenged as to why Britain still needs an "independent" nuclear deterrent, why the Polaris system cannot be modernized and, above all, why the deterrent force should not consist of much cheaper nuclear-armed cruise missiles of the kind we are in any case proposing to have based in this country -- owned and operated by the Americans -- as part of the collective plan to modernize NATO's so-called theater nuclear weapons. (U)

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U.S. Army Helicopter Crashes in Korea with Fatalities: An unarmed 7th Cavalry U.S. army helicopter on a routine training mission crashed in Korea today. The two crew members on board were killed. The cause of the crash has not been determined; no civilian damage occurred. (U)