President Ronald Reagan
Oral History Project

Briefing Materials

Caspar Weinberger

November 19, 2002

Prepared by Stacie Pettyjohn, Research Assistant
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960-1962</td>
<td>Weinberger is the vice-chairman of the California Republican State Central Committee. As vice-chairman, Weinberger enlists Ronald Reagan as a spokesman for the party. (&quot;Biography Resource Center Casper Weinberger, United States Secretary of Defense 1981-1987&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962-1964</td>
<td>Weinberger serves as the chairman of the California Republican State Central Committee.</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Governor Ronald Reagan appoints Weinberger California’s Director of Finance.</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>Weinberger serves as the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Weinberger succeeds George Schultz as Director of the OMB, where his budget cutting policies earn him the nickname “Cap the Knife.”</td>
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<td>1973-1975</td>
<td>Weinberger serves as the Secretary of Health Education and Welfare.</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Weinberger works at Bechtel Corporation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Ed Meese, Reagan’s transition director, divulges that Weinberger is Reagan’s top budget advisor and has created a list of suggested budget cuts, totaling $40 billion. (The New York Times, 11/13/1980)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Weinberger dismisses the Reagan Pentagon transition team, headed by William R. Van Cleave because of Van Cleave’s</td>
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commitment to a program of “quick fixes,” which were intended to rapidly modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Most military officials prioritized building up U.S. conventional forces over new strategic programs. (*1981 CQ Almanac*, pp. 191-192)

### 1981

*January*

It is reported that Weinberger insists on selecting Frank C. Carlucci as his Deputy Secretary, or he will not serve in the cabinet. On the 10th, Reagan nominates Carlucci for the Defense Deputy Secretary position. (*The New York Times*, 1/9/1981; *The Washington Post*, 1/11/1981)

At his Senate confirmation hearing, Weinberger testifies that the Reagan Administration will strive to close the strategic gap between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. (*The New York Times*, 1/9/1981)

As Ronald Reagan is being sworn in as President, on the floor of the Senate, Jesse Helms (R-NC) contests the nomination of Weinberger as Defense Secretary, arguing that "Mr. Weinberger is not ... prepared to make the clean break with the very policies ... which have managed our military and international decline." However, the Senate confirms Weinberger’s nomination by a vote of 97-2. (*The New York Times*, 2/8/1981)

*February*

After Weinberger remarks that the U.S. would use the neutron weapon to strengthen their forces in Europe, the official Soviet news agency, TASS, warns that this move would set off an arms race and worsen relations with the Soviet block. (*The Washington Post*, 2/5/1981)

On the 19th, President Reagan reveals his budget proposals, which include increases in defense spending from 24.1 percent of Federal spending to 32.4 percent over the next three years. (*The New York Times*, 2/19/1981)

The Reagan administration discloses its organizational plan for foreign policy with interdepartmental groups for foreign, defense and intelligence policy to be headed respectively by representatives of the State Department, the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency. The National Security Council, headed by Allen and Meese will delegate issues to the interdepartmental groups and designate which department will take the lead. (*The New York Times*, 2/27/1981)
March


April


In his testimony before a Senate committee, Weinberger urges the Justice Department to drop its six-year-old antitrust case against American Telephone & Telegraph Co. because of the importance of the telephone to national defense. (*The Washington Post*, 4/9/1981)

Weinberger relays a message to Saudi Arabia that the U.S. is willing to sell the country a package of military gear including the coveted Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) planes. (*The Washington Post*, 4/9/1981)


May

On the 6th, the U.S. expels Libyan diplomats and closes Libya’s mission. (Levy, p. 398)

On the 7th, the House passes Reagan’s budget. (Levy, p. 398)

While visiting Portugal, Weinberger promises Portuguese Defense Minister Luis Azevedo Coutinho that he will push for more U.S. military aid for their country. (*The Washington Post*, 5/15/1981)


June

The Pentagon threatens to take to court Virginia public schools if they opt to charge tuition to military families because of the Reagan Administration’s federal budget cuts. In a memo Weinberger states that "I am determined that no soldier, sailor, airman or marine will be forced to pay tuition for the public-school education of his or her dependents." (*The Washington Post*, 6/11/1981)

**Weinberger: 1981**

*July*

On the 9th, the Reagan administration declares that its policy on selling conventional arms will be decided on a “case-by-case basis” and that human rights records will be considered, but they will not be the “sole criteria” for sales. (*1981 CQ Almanac*, p. 125)

The Pentagon proposes a plan to modernize its troops in Western Germany and to advance them closer to the border with Eastern Europe. It is reported that Weinberger has discussed this with German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The proposition comes at a time when Western alliance relations are already strained and sure to face opposition. (*The Washington Post*, 7/10/1981)

On the eighth straight day of Israeli air assaults in Lebanon, Weinberger asserts that the Israeli military operations in Lebanon and Iraq have disrupted the Middle East peace efforts of the U.S. special envoy and that Israeli Prime Minister Begin’s responses “cannot really be described as moderate.” (*The Washington Post*, 7/24/1981)

*August*

Weinberger orders the Sixth Fleet to conduct maneuvers off the Gulf of Sidra in waters claimed by Libya. (*Newsweek*, 8/24/1981)

*September*

As it becomes apparent that the deficit will be much larger than President Reagan’s initial estimate of $42.5 billion, OMB Director Stockman aims to make cuts in defense spending. On the 11th, Reagan announces that the defense budget for 1982-1984 will be trimmed by only $13 billion. (*1981 CQ Almanac*, p.194)

On a Voice of America broadcast, Weinberger, responding to allegations that the Soviet Union is using chemical-biological weapons in Cambodia, suggests that the U.S. might amend treaties concerning these types of warfare so that it could develop a weapon to “respond in kind” so as to deter the Soviets. (*The Washington Post*, 4/18/1982)


*October*

After an eight-month review of U.S. strategic armaments, President Reagan announces his arms plan on the 2nd, which replaces B-52 bombers with B-1 long-range bombers and
temporarily places about three dozen new MX intercontinental missiles in existing silos. (*1981 CQ Almanac*, p. 195)

On the 6th, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is assassinated. Weinberger and Haig attend his funeral and meet with his successor Hosni Mubarak. (The Washington Post, 10/12/1981)

On the 14th, the House overwhelmingly passes a resolution to reject the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia; however, on the 28th, the Senate fails to veto the deal by a vote of 48-52. (*1981 CQ Almanac*, p. 127)

Weinberger and President Reagan propose the zero option policy, which eventually becomes the basis for the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. The zero option policy proposes that the Soviets remove all of their intermediate-range missiles from Europe and that the U.S. refrain from deploying any there. (Caspar Weinberger, *Fighting For Peace: Seven Critical Years in the Pentagon*, New York: Warner Books, 1990, p. 333)

November

Weinberger testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee, and defends defense programs including the B1 bomber and MX missiles. (*The Wall Street Journal*, 11/6/1981)

It is reported that Secretary of State Alexander Haig is engaged in feuds with the “guerrillas” on the White House staff and Weinberger. Weinberger denies hostility between him and Haig, stating, "It wasn't infighting. Al Haig and I had differences of a policy nature. That was all. We get along fine." (The Washington Post, 11/7/1981)

The House adopts the FY 1982 defense authorization bill, which largely follows President Reagan’s recommended defense budget. (*1981 CQ Almanac*, p. 212)

On the 18th, Reagan quiets critics of his plan to station nuclear weapons in Europe by offering to stop the deployment if the Soviet Union does likewise. Reagan further proposes that the two superpowers resume negotiations in 1982 on reducing the existing arsenals of long range strategic weapons, and names the new negotiations START, Strategic Arms Reduction Talks. (*1981 CQ Almanac*, pp. 126, 194)

It is reported the Haig is pushing the Pentagon to formulate plans for U.S. intervention in the war in El Salvador to save the government from Marxist rebels. However Weinberger and

On the 30th, the U.S. and Soviet Union begin arms talks in Geneva. (Levy, p. 399)

**December**

While visiting Turkey, Weinberger negotiates with Turkish officials over military aid. Weinberger then travels to Morocco to meet with King Hassan II and discusses U.S. support for Morocco in its war against the independence movement in Western Sahara. (*The Wall Street Journal*, 12/2/1981; *The Washington Post*, 12/4/1981)

The Polish government imposes martial law, prompting President Reagan to impose economic sanctions against Poland and the Soviet Union, including the prohibition of materials or equipment to construct a natural gas pipeline from Siberia. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 130)

**1982**

**January**

On the 1st, the Department of Defense announces that at least forty MX missiles will be placed in existing silos in Minuteman missile fields in the northern high planes. (*The New York Times*, 1/1/1982)

On the 4th, National Security Advisor Richard V. Allen resigns, and is replaced by the former Deputy Secretary of State William P. Clark. (*1981 CQ Almanac*, p. 186)

On the 8th, AT&T is broken up. (Levy, p. 399)

**February**

On the 24th, Reagan reveals his Caribbean Basin Initiative, which is designed to stabilize the area of vital interest to the United States. The plan includes provisions to remove duties for twelve years on Caribbean imports, $350 million of economic aid for FY 1982 and $60 million of military aid, and incentives to encourage private investment in the region. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 152)

**March**

On the 10th, the Reagan administration announces an embargo on Libya. (Levy, p. 399)

On the 16th, the Senate approves the entry of Spain into NATO. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 143)

**May**

The budget deadlock ends with Senate Republican forging a new agreement with Reagan that contains $95 billion tax increase, $40
billion in savings in Social Security and a $22 billion reduction in defense spending over a three year period. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 74)

On the 9th, Reagan makes an opening offer for the START talks that would cut land based ICBMs of both arsenals to levels much lower than the current U.S. force. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 75)

On the 13th, the House passes the Department of Defense authorization bill to provide $177.9 billion in military procurements for fiscal year 1983. (*The New York Times*, 5/16/1982)

**June**


On the 12th, a huge public demonstration occurs in New York City calling for a nuclear freeze. (Levy, p. 400)

Reagan expands the economic sanctions against the Soviet Union and Poland to include pipeline-related exports by foreign subsidiaries of U.S. firms or by foreign firms holding U.S. licenses. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 130)

On the 23rd, the budget resolution with further cuts to defense spending clears. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 74)

On the 25th Alexander Haig resigns as Secretary of State and Reagan nominates George Shultz to replace him. (Levy, p. 400)

**July**

Rep. Jim Wright (D-TX) proposes an amendment to the defense authorization bill to prevent the Pentagon from purchasing weapons from foreign manufacturers, if that company is the sole provider. Weinberger opposes the move, contending that the prohibition would damage the effort to get allies to cooperate in the manufacture of weapons, rather than compete against each other and develop duplicate products. (*The New York Times*, 7/12/1982)

A U.N. multinational force is deployed to Lebanon to oust the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) from Beirut. (Weinberger, p. 144)
On the 27th, the White House releases a report on the situation in El Salvador, certifying that although violence continues, there are “Tangible signs of progress” by the El Salvadoran government in curtailing human right’s abuses. (1982 CQ Almanac, p. 138)

### August

On the 5th, the House narrowly defeats a proposal for an immediate freeze on U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons. Instead the House passes a resolution calling for a weapons freeze but at “equal and substantially reduced levels.” (1982 CQ Almanac, p. 113)

President Reagan issues a joint communiqué with the People’s Republic of China (PRC) announcing that they reached an agreement on the issue of U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. The communiqué culminates ten months of secret talks and limits the quantity and quality of military sales to Taiwan below 1979-82 levels and ultimately will end them. (1982 CQ Almanac, p. 140)

On the 12th, Israel bombs Beirut. The action upsets President Reagan and influences him to listen to the counsel of Bill Clark, Jim Baker and Weinberger, members of the administration who are less pro-Israel. (Strober and Strober, pp. 206-209)

On the 18th, the final version of the budget resolution clears Congress and heads to the president with $5.59 billion less than Reagan had originally demanded for his defense budget. (1982 CQ Almanac, p. 74)

Congress passes only one of the three parts of President Reagan’s Caribbean Basin Initiative in the 1982 supplemental appropriations bill. In the bill, Congress approves $350 million in emergency economic aid, but the tax incentives and trade proposals are not enacted. (1982 CQ Almanac, p. 156)

On the 25th, the U.S. dispatches marines to join a peacekeeping mission in Beirut, Lebanon. (Levy, p. 400)

### September

In a nationally televised address, President Reagan uncovers his Reagan Plan, a Middle Eastern peace initiative that would create something less than an independent Palestinian state. Also on that day, the PLO evacuation from Lebanon is completed. (Strober and Strober, p. 215)

On the 14th, the U.N. multinational force departs Lebanon having successfully completed their mission of displacing the PLO; however on that date the Lebanese president-elect is assassinated and the conflict flares up again. The State Department and
McFarlane want to send another peacekeeping force, but Weinberger objects. (Weinberger, p. 150)

In a speech at Georgetown University, Weinberger argues that the U.S. must attack the Soviets economically, by denying them the foreign currency that a Siberian gas pipeline would earn. Weinberger advocates sanctions against European and American countries that sell the Soviets materials that they can use to create the pipeline. (*The Washington Post*, 9/26/1982)

On the 29th, the House failed to pass a bill to overturn the economic sanctions against Poland and the Soviet Union by a vote of 206-203. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 130)

On the 29th, a second U.N. multinational force containing U.S. troops is sent into Lebanon, but this time with unclear goals. (Weinberger, p. 152)

**November**

On a tour of Asia, Weinberger tries to reassure the U.S.’s Asian allies that it is committed to their security. (*The Washington Post*, 11/4/1982)

In an effort to gain support for the defense budget, Weinberger warns that U.S. nuclear forces are no longer an effective deterrent. Weinberger comments “I think we have to do all the things we are doing (in new arms programs) to regain an effective deterrent strength that can give us the confidence that we can maintain the peace as we have for nearly 40 years by an effective deterrent." (*The Washington Post*, 11/5/1982)


On the 13th, President Reagan lifts the pipeline related sanctions on Poland and the Soviet Union. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 163)

**December**

On the 7th, Congress declines to fund the MX missile. (Levy, p. 400)

It is reported that National Security Advisor William Clark is being blamed for the failure to get funding for the MX missile along with Weinberger. (*Newsweek*, 12/27/1982)

On the 8th, the House passes its version of the defense appropriations measure, which was $17.99 billion below Reagan’s
request for new budget authority in the bill. (*1982 CQ Almanac*, p. 74)

**1983**

*January*  
On the 3rd, a presidential commission, the Scowcroft Commission is created to investigate different ways to base the MX missile. (Levy, p. 401)

Reagan requests $11.3 billion less than originally intended for FY 1984 defense spending, which still amounts to a 10% real increase in defense appropriations. (*1983 CQ Almanac*, p. 171)

*February*  
It is reported that President Reagan is softening his rhetoric against the Soviet Union to ease the fears of allies who are worried about nuclear war. (*The Washington Post*, 2/4/1983)

President Reagan reveals his FY 1984 budget, allocating $238.6 billion for defense spending, which is $55 billion less than his five-year budget called for. (*The New York Times*, 2/6/1983)

Testifying before Congress who is opposed to Reagan’s plan to increase military assistance to El Salvador, Weinberger states that "one way or another" the administration is "going to get into El Salvador $60 million” for military assistance. (*The New York Times*, 3/1/1983)

*March*  
On the 8th, President Reagan describes the Soviet Union as an “evil empire.” (Strober and Strober, p. 228)

It is reported that there is mounting pressure from European nations for the U.S. to take the first step and put forth a interim agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe with the Soviets. (*The Washington Post*, 3/22/1983)

On the 23rd, President Reagan calls for the creation of a space-based antiballistic missile system (Levy, p. 401)

*April*  
On the 17th, the Scowscroft Commission report is released, and President Reagan endorses its proposals, including an end to the search for an invulnerable MX basing method and to instead house MX missiles in existing silos. The report also calls for the development of a smaller missile and a more flexible negotiating position on arms issues with the Soviets. (*1983 CQ Almanac*, p. 174)
On the 18th, a bomb explodes in the U.S. embassy in Beirut killing sixty people including seventeen Americans. (1983 CQ Almanac, p. 114)

May

On the 4th, the House adopts a measure calling for an immediate freeze on U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons. (1983 CQ Almanac, p. 205)

June

On the 8th, President Reagan announces a modified negotiating position in START II negotiations, calling for a less radical cut in the number of deployed missiles. (1983 CQ Almanac, p. 200)

President Reagan ends a two-year debate siding with Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige over Weinberger, and opts to allow China to purchase American dual-use technology. (The Washington Post, 6/21/1983)

September

Weinberger tours Central America to inspect American troops stationed in the area and to inform the region that the U.S. will only assist in "helping them help themselves." (The New York Times, 9/13/1983)

On the 28th, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping delivers a proposal to Weinberger suggesting that the U.S. and China work together to encourage peace on the Korean peninsula. (The Washington Post, 11/17/1983)

October

On the 4th, President Reagan proposes a bilateral nuclear arms build down with the Soviets. (1983 CQ Almanac, p. 204)

Weinberger travels to Peking to engage in strategic talks and to reaffirm their concern for China’s security. (The Washington Post, 10/10/1983)

On the 15th, William Clark resigns as NSC advisor and is replaced by Robert McFarlane. (Levy, p. 83)

On the 23rd, a truck bomb explodes in U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, killing two hundred and twenty five Americas. Weinberger comments that circumstantial evidence "points in the direction of Iran" as the architect of the terrorist attacks on U.S. and French forces in Beirut. (Levy, p. 33; The Washington Post, 10/25/1983)

Following the Marxist overthrow of the Grenade government, the U.S. invades Grenada, at the request of the Organization of East
Caribbean States (OECS), to protect the hundreds of American medical students on the island. During the invasion, Weinberger refuses to allow news crews on the island. (Strober and Strober, p. 250; The Washington Post, 10/26/1983)

On the 31st, the Senate rejects an amendment calling for an immediate nuclear freeze by a vote of 58-40. (1983 CQ Almanac, p. 205)

November
On the 18th, the FY 1984 defense appropriations bill clears Congress, approving $249.8 billion for defense, or about a 4% increase. The measure imposes more controls on Pentagon’s procurement policies by creating an independent office to test weapons before they are approved for full production, requiring that manufacturers to issue warranties, and alters the procedure for purchasing small parts. (1983 CQ Almanac, pp. 172-173)

December
Senator Alfonse M. D’Amato (R- NY) states that Weinberger is "a liability for the United States” in it’s Middle East policy. (The New York Times, 12/3/1983)

1984

January
President Reagan nominates William H. Taft IV to be Deputy Secretary of Defense to replace Paul Thayer. (The Wall Street Journal, 1/5/1984)

February
President Reagan requests a defense budget authority of $305 billion in fiscal 1985, which is a 13% increase from the previous fiscal year. Weinberger asserts that "A very substantial amount of reductions have been made” already and that after last year’s budget cuts nothing else can be cut. (The Wall Street Journal, 2/2/1984)

President Reagan orders U.S. marines to exit Beirut to ships off the Lebanese shore, but pledges continued support for the Lebanese government. (The Wall Street Journal, 2/8/1984)

March

President Reagan, James Baker, Donald Regan and Weinberger attend a budget meeting with Republican Senate leaders, but fail to come to an agreement. (The Wall Street Journal, 3/9/1984)
The White House and Congressional Republicans reach an agreement on the budget and to reduce the deficit by $74 billion over the next three years. The compromise differs from the budget that Reagan originally submitted last month in that defense spending is curbed and a higher tax is implemented. Weinberger reportedly endorses the deal. *(The Wall Street Journal, 3/16/1984)*

On the way to a NATO meeting in Turkey, Weinberger stops by the Netherlands, and urges the Dutch to consent to the full deployment of NATO cruise missiles in their nation. The deployment is a contentious issue in Dutch society that is under debate. *(The Wall Street Journal, 3/30/1984)*

**April**

On the 2nd, Argentina invades the British controlled Falkland Islands. *(Levy, p. 144)*

The Pentagon publishes its third report on Soviet armaments, concluding that their military power continues to grow. Weinberger comments that the goal behind the buildup is "Military domination, it's just that simple." *(The Washington Post, 4/13/1984)*

On the 20th, Weinberger, Shultz, MacFarlane, and Casey issue a joint statement clearly stating that the U.S. is not planning on invading any Central American country. *(The Washington Post, 4/20/1983)*

On the 30th, President Reagan decides to full support and aid the British in their battle against Argentina. *(Levy, p. 144)*

**May**

The White House sends an amended budget to Congress that includes $13.9 billion of cuts in the defense budget. The revision still allows for an increase in defense spending, and favors strategic nuclear weapons programs over conventional arms. *(The Wall Street Journal, 5/4/1984)*

**June**

On the 14th, Argentina surrenders. The British victory is largely attributed to the immense assistance that the U.S. supplied Britain during the war. Weinberger is purported to have been instrumental in getting the aid approved and rapidly dispersing it to the British. *(The Washington Post, 3/7/1984)*

**July**

A House subcommittee’s staff report is released that questions America’s combat readiness. Weinberger attacks the report as “a dangerous disservice to the United States,” warning that “our foes...
and some of our friends, will get a wrong impression of both our capabilities and our resolve.” (The Washington Post, 7/30/1984)

August

It is reported that Treasury Secretary Regan and Weinberger cannot agree on defense spending for the 1988-1989 budgets. (The Wall Street Journal, 8/8/1984)

September

On the 27th, Congress clears the defense authorization bill for FY 1985, which funds the ASAT program, but applies new restrictions on testing the ASATs and approves MX funding with more strings attached. (1984 CQ Almanac, p. 37)

October

On the 11th, Congress clears the intelligence authorization bill, which puts provisions on the military aid to the Contras. The bill states that the aid can be dispersed to the Contras only after February 28, 1985 and with approval by Congress. (1984 CQ Almanac, p. 93)

November

Rumors circulate that Weinberger will resign at the end of the first presidential term, and be replaced by retiring Senator John Tower (R-TX). (Business Week, 11/12/1984)

Overruling the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Weinberger settles on a no-compromise $333.7 billion budget request for FY 1986. (The Wall Street Journal, 11/28/1984)

Weinberger announces a set of six tests before sending U.S. troops abroad, dubbed the Weinberger doctrine. Weinberger explains “These tests can help us to avoid being drawn inexorably into an endless morass, where it is not vital to our national interest to fight.” (The Washington Post, 11/30/1984)

December

After a NATO meeting, Weinberger announces that the White House will resist any congressional effort to link the continued presence of U.S. troops in Europe to the expanded non-nuclear defense commitments by the European allies. (The Washington Post, 12/6/1984)

On a trip to Riyadh, Weinberger meets with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to discuss military cooperation. (The Washington Post, 12/7/1984)

On the 9th, Shultz gives a speech stressing that the U.S. must be ready to use military power to back up diplomacy, and that public support is not necessary for military action. (The Washington Post, 12/18/1983)
Weinberger: 1984-1985

President Reagan accepts Weinberger’s proposal to cut the three-year defense budget increases by $30 billion, rejecting Stockman’s plan that included deeper defense cuts. (The Wall Street Journal, 12/18/1984)

1985

January

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-KA) accuses Weinberger of preventing serious deficit-reduction efforts. President Reagan counters Dole and supports Weinberger, stating that further cuts would be “very risky.” (The Wall Street Journal, 1/28/1985)

March

On the 12th, U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations begin in Geneva. The talks occur right after Soviet leader Cherneko dies, and Gorbachev is selected to be the new General Secretary. The change spurs President Reagan to change his longstanding policy of meeting with Soviet leaders, and to extend an offer to meet with Gorbachev. (1985 CQ Almanac, p. 175)

Weinberger punishes defense contractors by suspending for at least 30 days all payments to General Dynamics, the nation’s largest defense contractor, for overhead costs because of egregious past phony bills and overcharges to the government. (Newsweek, 3/18/1985)

On the 19th and 20th, Congress approves funding for twenty-one more MX missiles in the FY 1985 budget. The vote is a response to accusations that not approving the missiles would hamper the U.S. at arms negotiations in Geneva. (1985 CQ Almanac, p. 119)

On the 28th, Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) announces a proposal to limit the total number of MXs deployed in existing launch silos to forty. (1985 CQ Almanac, p. 127)

May

On the 14th, Weinberger announces that the Pentagon has $4 billion in unspent appropriations from previous years. Weinberger asks Congress to apply these funds to weapons programs for the FY 1986 budget. (The Wall Street Journal, 5/24/1985)

On the 23rd, the White House and Congressional leaders reach an agreement concerning the MX missile cap, temporarily limiting MX missile deployment to fifty. (1985 CQ Almanac, p. 128)

The Senate rejects an amendment to prohibit Anti-Satellite Missile Tests (ASAT), and then adopts an alternative amendment that allows the president to order more than three tests in the FY 1986
Weinberger: 1985

if he certified to Congress that the U.S. is negotiating seriously with the Soviets towards an eventual limit on the missiles. (*1985 CQ Almanac*, p. 162)

June


On the 10th, President Reagan announces that he will continue to honor the unratified START II arms control treaty by dismantling a Poseidon submarine. (*U.S. News and World Report*, 6/24/1985)

On the 14th, TWA flight 847 is hijacked by Lebanese Shiite terrorists. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 448)

On the 17th, McFarlane sends a draft of the National Security Decision Directive to Weinberger and Shultz, encouraging the exploration of a better relationship with Iran. (Weinberger, p. 362)

On the 19th, six Americans are killed in a café in El Salvador. (*The Washington Post*, 8/19/1985)

July

Weinberger announces that the El Salvadoran government “with our assistance has taken care of, in one way or another, taken prisoner or killed . . . a number of the people who participated in that killing” of six Americans in June. (*The Washington Post*, 6/1/1985)

Congress passes the conference agreement on the defense authorization bill, authorizing the funding of twelve additional MX missiles in FY 1986, but making the proposed MX missile cap permanent. (*1985 CQ Almanac*, p. 129)

On the 23rd, Weinberger orders the Pentagon to seek written refund guarantees from defense contractors for spare parts that are determined to be overpriced. (*The New York Times*, 9/2/1985)

Defying pressure from Congress, Weinberger announces that he will remain the Secretary of Defense. (*U.S. News and World Report*, 7/29/1985)

August

After eight years of development, Weinberger cancels the Army's Sergeant York antiaircraft gun, which was riddled by problems. (*The New York Times*, 8/28/1985)

The White House establishes a commission to study the Pentagon and to recommend ways to increase efficiency. Weinberger
opposes the commission, but MacFarlane’s push for its creation wins out. (*The Wall Street Journal*, 11/12/1985)

On the 30th, a shipment of 508 TOWs leaves Israel for Iran. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 448)

October


On the 22nd, Weinberger accuses the Soviets of deploying SS-25 intercontinental ballistic missiles and violating the SALT II agreement. (*1985 CQ Almanac*, p. 178)

On the 29th, the House finally passes the defense authorization bill, allocating $302.5 billion for FY 1986. The bill authorizes funds for President Reagan’s major weapons programs, including the MX missiles, anti-satellite (ASAT) missile, and anti-missile defense research with conditions. (*1985 CQ Almanac*, p. 138)

November

A letter that Weinberger wrote to President Reagan is leaked to the press. In the letter, Weinberger warns Reagan that the Soviets are untrustworthy and not to reach new arms control agreements with them because they have not complied with SALT II. Weinberger also urges the president to stop complying with the SALT II treaty limits. (*The Washington Post*, 11/19/1985)


Israelis fly a CIA-supplied plane to Iran to deliver 18 Hawk missiles. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 448)

December


President Reagan meets with his advisors to determine if he should continue the secret arms shipments to Iran. Shultz and Weinberger vociferously object to the policy, but their protests fall on deaf ears. (*Strober and Strober*, p. 420)
1986

January

On the 7th, President Reagan bans all U.S. trade with Libya. *(1986 CQ Almanac, p. 390)*

President Reagan meets with Bush, Shultz, Weinberger, Casey, Meese, and Poindexter to discuss the arms shipments to Iran. Weinberger and Shultz again object, and the meeting is adjourned without resolving the issue. However, the next week President Reagan signs a secret intelligence finding, approving direct arms shipments to Iran through the CIA. *(1986 CQ Almanac, p. 449)*

On the 9th, Weinberger reveals that the Soviets have forty-five new mobile SS-25 ICBM's in violation of SALT II. Weinberger recommends that the U.S. respond by only dry-docking but not dismantling two older nuclear submarines, and thus not complying with SALT II. *(U.S. News and World Report, 1/20/1986)*

President Reagan authorizes direct U.S. involvement in the transfer of weapons to Iran. *(Strober and Strober, p. 421)*

After Qaddafi increases his backing of terrorist training camps, Shultz supports using force against terrorist with Weinberger opposing military action. *(U.S. News and World Report, 1/27/1986)*

February

On the 5th, President Reagan presents his budget to Congress, which allocates $320.3 billion for defense, including $4.8 billion for SDI and $1.4 billion to finance the construction of twenty-one new Trident subs. Reagan argues that without any action the deficit will decline over $100 billion by 1991 and a report by Congressional Budget Office supports this claim. *(The Washington Post, 3/2/1986; The Wall Street Journal, 2/5/1986)*

On the 15th, 1,000 TOW missiles are transported from the U.S. to Israel, and later the shipment is delivered to Iran in two installments. *(1986 CQ Almanac, p. 449)*

Democratic Senators attack Air Force Lt. General James Abrahamson, the head of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, for classifying an accounting report that specifies how SDI funds have been spent. The controversy comes at a bad time as the Reagan administration is currently seeking a 74% increase in funding for SDI in its FY 1987 budget. *(The Wall Street Journal, 2/24/1986)*
March


April

An unsigned White House memo reviews plans for U.S. officials to visit Tehran, after which hostages will be released. The memo also reports that the proceeds from the transaction will be used to support the Contras. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 449)

On the 14th, the U.S. bombs Tripoli and Benghazi Libya in retaliation for a bombing in a West Berlin dance club, frequented by American servicemen. (Strober and Strober, p. 381)

May

The Senate and House pass measures to block President Reagan’s Saudi arms sale package; however on the 21st, Reagan vetoes the bill. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 374)

On the 23rd, McFarlane and other officials travel to Tehran to meet with Iranian officials. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 449)


June

On the 5th, the Senate votes to sustain President Reagan’s veto of a bill that would block the arms sale to Saudi Arabia, by a vote of 66-34. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 375)

On the 26th, for the first time in three years, the House grants the military aid the President has requested for the Contras. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 449)

August

In a speech, Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev extends the Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing and expresses optimism in reaching more arms agreements with the U.S. (*The Washington Post*, 8/24/1986)
Weinberger: 1986

Five former national security advisors and foreign affairs officials send President Reagan a memorandum on arms control, counseling him to remain on the course set by the previous three presidential administrations and continuing to adhere to previous arms control agreements and to forge new ones. (*The New York Times*, 8/20/1986)

**October**

On the 1\(^{st}\), President Reagan signs a bill reorganizing the Department of Defense, and shifting the power from the separate military services to those officials intended to coordinate them over the objections of Weinberger. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 455)

On the 7\(^{th}\), Weinberger arrives at the first stop in his world tour, Hong Kong. (*The Washington Post*, 10/7/1986)

On the 11\(^{th}\), President Reagan meets with Gorbachev in a surprise summit in Reykjavik, Iceland. The talks end without an agreement because Gorbachev demands a ban on SDI testing outside the laboratory, but Reagan refuses to consent to such a measure. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 461)

On the 15\(^{th}\), Congress passes legislation, authorizing $217.4 billion for military programs in FY 1987. The legislation grants about $28.5 billion to defense less than the White House requested. The measure also creates the Undersecretary for Defense Acquisition who is third in charge at the Pentagon and is charged with supervising the acquisition of weapons, which was previously in the hands of the separate armed services. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, pp. 464, 475)

Weinberger makes a highly contentious proposal to provide Pakistan with AWACS so that it can defend its border with Afghanistan. (*Newsweek*, 10/27/1986)


**November**

On the 2\(^{nd}\), Lebanese newspaper *Al-Shiraa* runs an article exposing McFarlane’s trip to Tehran. (Strober and Strober, p. 470)

On the 13\(^{th}\), President Reagan admits that the U.S. sold a “small quantity” of “defensive” weapons to Iran. (*1986 CQ Almanac*, p. 355)
On the 25\textsuperscript{th}, President Reagan admits that his aides could have funneled the profits from the arms sales to Iran to the contras, but that he had not been “fully informed” of their actions. Reagan also announces the resignation of Poindexter and North’s dismissal because of evidence that the proceeds from the arms sales had been transferred to the Contras. To investigate the National Security Council’s actions, Reagan names a three-member commission headed by former Sen. John Tower (R-TX). \((1986 \text{ } CQ \text{ } Almanac, \text{ pp. } 355, 415)\)

\textbf{December}

Congress creates a joint committee to investigate the Iran-contra affair and a panel of judges also appoints an independent counsel, Lawrence E. Walsh, to probe possible violations of the law. \((1986 \text{ } CQ \text{ } Almanac, \text{ p. } 355)\)

\textbf{1987}

\textbf{January}

Weinberger submits President Reagan’s defense budget to Congress, calling for more funds for high-tech defense programs, but sacrifices AirLand Battle, a plan to modernize the army. \((\textit{Newsweek}, 1/19/1987)\)

On the 29\textsuperscript{th}, a bill is introduced in the Senate that would prevent the Pentagon from deploying any nuclear weapons that would surpass SALT II sub limits. \((1987 \text{ } CQ \text{ } Almanac, \text{ p. } 215)\)

\textbf{February}

The findings of the investigation by John Tower, Edmund Muskie and Brent Scowcroft into the Iran-Contra affair are released and are highly critical of Chief of Staff Regan who subsequently resigns. The report faults all of Reagan’s National Security Advisors for allowing the arms transfers to become routine policy and censures Weinberger and Shultz for not continuing to advise the president against the arms deal. \((\textit{The Washington Post}, 2/27/1987; \textit{1986 \text{ } CQ \text{ } Almanac}, \text{ p. } 423)\)

\textbf{March}

On the 7\textsuperscript{th}, Weinberger notifies Kuwait that the U.S. Navy will escort eleven Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. \((\textit{The New York Times}, 5/27/1987)\)

Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA) rejects the Reagan administration’s "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty and denounces the administration’s claim that it could test space-based anti-missile weapons without violating the treaty. \((\textit{The New York Times}, 3/18/1987)\)
Weinberger: 1987

Tower Commission report reprimands Weinberger and Shultz for not talking Reagan out of the Iran arms deal. However, in a radio address, President Reagan absolves Weinberger and Shultz of the blame assigned by the Tower Commission. *(The Wall Street Journal, 3/17/1987)*

On the 25th, an amendment is added to the House defense appropriations bill that would impose SALT II nuclear sub limits on the Pentagon. *(1987 CQ Almanac, p. 215)*

The Reagan administration informs Congress that it is in the midst of negotiating an agreement with Kuwait to re-flag their oil tankers as U.S. vessels. *(1987 CQ Almanac, p. 252)*

**May**

On the 17th, an Iraqi missile hits the U.S.S. Stark, killing thirty-seven. After the attack, the White House announces that the U.S. will begin escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers in June; however, the U.S. still needs to obtain permission to use air bases in countries neighboring the Persian Gulf. *(The New York Times, 5/27/1987)*

On the 21st, the Senate votes by an overwhelming majority to block the re-flagging of Kuwaiti ships until the Pentagon gives Congress a report specifying the threats to U.S. forces under the re-flagging program. *(1987 CQ Almanac, p. 253)*

On the 28th, Weinberger and Carlucci meet and agree that Reagan will support the measure requiring a report on U.S. activities in the Persian Gulf, and that re-flagging will continue, but will be delayed until mid-June. *(1987 CQ Almanac, p.253)*

**June**


**July**

On the 21st, the U.S. convoys begin to escort re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in the Persian Gulf. Three days later a mine damages a re-flagged Kuwaiti tanker. *(1987 CQ Almanac, p. 254)*

From the 31st to the 3rd of August, Weinberger testifies before the Senate Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition. *(Weinberger, p. 381)*

**September**

Richard P. Godwin, the first Pentagon procurement “czar” resigns, citing resistance to his efforts to reform the Pentagon’s acquisition procedures. *(The New York Times, 10/21/1987)*
On the 21\textsuperscript{st}, U.S. helicopters encounter an Iranian ship laying mines in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. forces capture the ship and its crew. \cite{1987_CQ_Almanac, p. 254}

During a five-day tour of the Middle East, Weinberger rejects the notion that President Reagan needs to invoke the War Powers Resolution as long as the hostilities in the Persian Gulf remain at their current level. \cite{The_Washington_Post, 10/28/1987}

\textit{October}

On the 8\textsuperscript{th}, four Iranian boats fire on U.S. helicopters, compelling the U.S. force to return the fire and sink at least one boat. The following day the Senate fails to table the Weicker resolution to invoke the War Powers Act. \cite{1987_CQ_Almanac, p. 254}

On the 16\textsuperscript{th}, the \textit{Sea Isle City}, a tanker under the U.S. flag is hit by an Iranian Silkworm missile. The next day the U.S responds by shelling two Iranian offshore drilling platforms. \cite{1987_CQ_Almanac, p. 254}

\textit{November}

On the 23\textsuperscript{rd}, Weinberger resigns as Secretary of Defense and is replaced by his deputy Frank Carlucci. \cite{The_Washington_Post, 11/6/1987; Weinberger, p. 347}

\textit{December}

On the 8\textsuperscript{th}, Reagan and Gorbachev sign the INF treaty, banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles. \cite{1987_CQ_Almanac, p. 136}

\textit{1992}

\textit{June}

Lawrence Walsh, the independent prosecutor investigating the Iran-Contra Affair brings a five-count felony indictment against Weinberger. The leading charge of “obstructing” Congress is later dismissed, leaving only four subsidiary charges. \cite{The_Wall_Street_Journal, 6/17/1992; Caspar Weinberger, \textit{The Arena A Memoir of the 20\textsuperscript{th} Century}, Washington DC: Regnery Publishing, Inc, p. 359}

\textit{October}

On the eve of the Presidential election, Walsh submits a new indictment against Weinberger, alleging many of the same charges as the charge that was already dismissed. \cite{Weinberger, \textit{In the Arena}, p. 366}

\textit{December}

On Christmas Eve, President Bush pardons Weinberger. \cite{Weinberger, \textit{In the Arena}, p. 369}
CASPAR W. WEINBERGER SUGGESTED TOPICS
Prepared by Stacie Pettyjohn
Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 9/24/2002

California Years
- In the 1966 California gubernatorial primary you initially supported George Christopher. What drew you to Ronald Reagan and convinced you that he would be a great governor?
- Describe Ronald Reagan the person and the politician. Were there differences between the two?
- Discuss the development of your relationship with Governor Reagan.
- Discuss Governor Reagan’s style of decision-making. What made it successful?
- Why were the gubernatorial cabinet meetings “more substantive and helpful than many of the federal cabinet sessions?” (In the Arena, p. 161)

Joining the Administration
- Discuss your involvement in Ronald Reagan’s 1980 presidential campaign.
- Discuss your role in the transition as a member of the “kitchen cabinet.”
- How did you come to be appointed Secretary of Defense, as opposed to another office?

Relationships
- Discuss your relationship with President Reagan. How had it evolved since your time in California?
- What were your most important working relationships with other presidential appointees in Defense, in other departments, and in the White House? With which members of the White House staff did you work most closely?
- Discuss your relationship with other members of the President’s Foreign Policy team including: Alexander Haig, George Shultz, William Casey, George H. W. Bush, Richard Allen, William Clark, Robert McFarlane, Frank Carlucci and Jeane Kirkpatrick.
- Reflect upon the frequent turnover at the National Security Advisor position during the Reagan Administration.
- Discuss the Pentagon’s relationship with the OMB, NSC, CIA, and Department of State during the Reagan Administration.
- Comment upon the findings of the Tower Commission.
- Discuss your relationship with Congress in the first term and your struggle to obtain and sustain funding for key defense initiatives including SDI, the MX missiles, ASATS, etc.
- How did your relationship with Congress change over the course of your tenure?
- Comment upon running the Pentagon and adjudicating rivalries between the services.

Defense Strategy and Policy
- Describe your goals as Secretary of Defense. What were yours and the president’s views on the proper defense posture?
- Discuss the processes of forming the defense budget, and who influenced the choices made.
- Discuss the inefficiencies that were found in the Pentagon’s procurement procedures and the Congressional efforts to reform the Pentagon. How much impact did the revelations
about the Pentagon’s mismanagement of finances have on your efforts to secure defense funding?

• What convinced you and President Reagan to commit yourselves to building SDI?
• Discuss the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia.
• Explain the “Weinberger doctrine” and your reluctance to involve American troops in missions abroad.
• Discuss American military involvement in Lebanon and Grenada. What was your stance on the use of force in these cases?
• Comment upon the U.S. involvement in the Middle East and the war powers issues that these incidents raised (including the conflict with Libya, the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers, etc.)
• Discuss your efforts to aid Great Britain during the Falklands War.
• Comment upon the letter that you wrote to President Reagan, urging him to not comply with SALT II limitations. What affect (if any) do you think this had on the Geneva Summit?
• Reflect upon Gorbachev and the thaw that occurred at the Reykjavik summit. What was your stance on the summits and what were your concerns about these meetings?
• Discuss the evolution of the U.S.-Soviet relationship during Reagan’s presidency, culminating with the INF Treaty, which espoused the zero-sum principal that you formulated. What in your opinion made the INF Treaty a good arms agreement? What enabled the U.S. and the Soviets to come to this agreement?

The Reagan Presidency in Retrospect

• What do you consider your greatest accomplishments as Secretary of Defense?
• What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Reagan administration?
• What features of the presidency were missed or misunderstood by the press?
• How should the Reagan presidency be viewed in history?
TIMELINES

- Caspar W. Weinberger Timeline, prepared by Stacie Pettyjohn, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 9/24/02.


POLITICS AND POLICYMAKING AT THE DoD


KEY ISSUES AND EVENTS

Defense Budget and Arms Policy


AWACS Sale


Lebanon


Grenada

Rearming Japan

China

Libya

Israel

Persian Gulf
U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS


IRAN-CONTRA


