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October 15, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER  
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Joint Strategic Planning Document (FY 1985-1992) (U)

I have reviewed the FY 1985-1992 Joint Strategic Planning Document and am delighted that we are making substantial progress in improving our defense posture. I support the view that our defense needs can be met only if we sustain the momentum established during the past 20 months. The JCS assessment of the force that will be fielded as a result of our current program is most encouraging. (U)

The JCS emphasize the need to begin the process of increasing force structure while continuing to address other pressing requirements. I will be interested to see how this issue is addressed in the Defense Guidance during the forthcoming budget cycle. In this regard, I look forward to reviewing the Defense Guidance prior to its release. (S)

Please pass on my appreciation for the fine efforts of the JCS. I am sure that you will find their assessments and recommendations useful as you begin the next planning and programming cycle. Of particular note, I was pleased to see stressed the continuity between NSDD-32, US National Security Strategy, and the Joint Strategic Planning Document. I anticipate seeing this emphasis on the relationship between priority national security policy objectives and defense planning, programming, and budgeting continue as the FY 1984 DOD budget cycle proceeds. (U)

*Ronald Reagan*

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