


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR ARTHUR B. CULVAHOUSE, JR. 
FROM: WILLIAM B. LYTTON III
SUBJECT: TESTIMONY OF ADMIRAL JOHN POINDEXTER
JULY 21, 1987 (MORNING SESSION)

I. Overview

The testimony of Admiral Poindexter continued this morning with questioning and statements by various members of the Committees.

On questioning by Representative McCollum, Poindexter testified that it is safe to assume that, during the period Poindexter was National Security Advisor, Donald Regan knew everything about the Iran initiative and Contra resupply effort that the President knew.

Senator Nunn asked Poindexter about a November 20, 1985 interview of the President by Reverend Pat Robertson in which Robertson asked the President whether it was true that a White House staff member had been recently dispatched to Iran to try to gain release of the hostages. Poindexter was unaware of the interview.

Nunn also asked Poindexter about his lunch with DCI Casey on Saturday, November 22, 1986. Poindexter could not recall North being there. He stated that he was sure that diversion was not discussed; he also testified that he was unaware Casey knew of diversion. He cannot specifically recall the topic of conversation, but said he thinks much of the luncheon was devoted to Casey debriefing Poindexter on Casey's Congressional appearances the previous day.

Poindexter reiterated that he does not recall McFarlane ever saying that the Boland Amendment applied to the NSC.

II. The President's Knowledge

A. Diversion

Poindexter testified that when he submitted his resignation to the President on November 25, 1986, the President

did not ask Poindexter whether he had authorized the diversion and did not express displeasure about not being told of the diversion.

Poindexter testified that he does not think Casey told the President about diversion.

B. Boland Amendment

Nothing to report.

C. Iran Operations

Nothing to report.

D. Third Country Aid to Contras

Nothing to report.

E. Private Support to Contras

Nothing to report.

F. November 1986 Chronologies

Nothing to report.

III. Continuation of Hearing

The questioning of Admiral Poindexter will continue at 2:00 p.m. and is expected to conclude this afternoon. Chairman Hamilton announced that the Committees will be in recess tomorrow and will hear the testimony of Secretary Schultz on Thursday and Friday. The hearings will resume on Tuesday, July 28. The remaining witnesses are expected to be Attorney General Meese, Donald Regan and Secretary Weinberger.