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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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January 22, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

SUBJECT:

Information Items

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Soviet Reactions to Your Inauguration: Georgy Arbatov, director of Moscow's USA Institute, took an upbeat view of your inaugural speech, calling it "heartening" and noting the readiness reflected in the speech of the new administration to work towards "improvement of the international political climate." More specifically, Arbatov mentioned the completion of SALT and MBFR agreements and resolution of the Middle East situation as "priority tasks" for both governments, thereby following the line taken by Brezhnev in his January 17 Tula speech; noted that your administration would have to strive to liquidate the negative consequences of the recent campaign by some U.S. circles to "undermine the trust between the two countries." TASS reported extensively on the inaugural ceremony and President Podgorny's congratulatory message.

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Izvestiya commentator Vikentiy Matveyev reflected the receptive Soviet attitude toward the new administration, and said that your statements on SALT "have been met with satisfaction" in the USSR.