

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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February 10, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

SUBJECT:

Information Items

Castro Comments on U.S. Relations: Fidel Castro, in remarks to Guyana's foreign minister which he probably assumed would be conveyed to the U.S., stated that he would allow the hijacking agreement to lapse in April, but would continue to honor it on a de facto basis as part of a "gradualist approach" toward diplomatic relations with the U.S. He also told Foreign Minister Wills that he doubts U.S.-Cuban relations can ever be completely normal. State believes that the approaches Castro indicated he would take on the hijacking agreement and on normalizing relations appear quite plausible as they would permit him to maintain maximum flexibility.

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State Department review completed

Approved For Release 2005/01/30 : NLC-1-1-8-51-5

SANTIZED
J. S. Das Project
ESN: M.C.
BY: *[Signature]* DATE: 9/23/05

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Municipal Election Prospects Weaken Giscard: A State Department analysis concludes the President Giscard's handling of the Paris mayoral elections issue calls into question his leadership of the government forces. Former Prime Minister Chirac's bid to become mayor of Paris seems to exploit normal Gaullist strength in a test of wills over leadership of the right.

--Giscard has not supplied impressive leadership thus far and, even though Prime Minister Barre is gaining stature as a competent manager, he lacks the sound base of a large party to dominate the rightist camp.

--Chirac is an attractive and popular figure who would use his election as mayor as a platform to contest the presidency.

State does not believe that these developments will lead to a breakup of the ruling coalition or an alteration of Giscard's foreign policies.

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