

Mr Alexander

X I hope the French knows what they are doing.
I am not absolutely sure that the Egyptians would
prevail in a head on collision. I would have thought
it more profitable to cause trouble in Chad.

Secretary of State's second private discussion with Mr Haig:

27 February 1981 *Phd*

Libya/Chad

X Haig said that the French were inciting the Egyptians to
move against Qadhafi. The Saudis, to whom the French were
increasingly close, were thinking in the same direction.

Middle East

Haig listened to the Secretary of State's exposition of
our thinking. His mind was clearly not closed, though he
said emphatically that he could not deliver politically either
on a Palestinian state or negotiations with the PLO.

China

Haig said that he had inherited from Reagan's election
campaign a difficult situation over US relations with Taiwan,
and that it would take time to mend America's fences with
Peking.

Arms Control

Lord Carrington explained the importance in a European
context for continuing to show interest in arms control.
Haig took the point.

State Department/White House Relations

Haig was even more emphatic in his private discussion with
the Secretary of State than in the formal session of the talks
at the State Department about his determination to be the
President's main adviser on foreign policy. He told Lord
Carrington that if his authority were challenged (eg from the
White House or the Defense Department) he would resign.

J. F. H. Walden

(G G H Walden)

2 March 1981