

155270


22

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

January 29, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Response to Gromyko Letter: Ambassador Dobrynin came in this afternoon to deliver Gromyko's reply to my January 23 letter. In his reply, Gromyko expressed his readiness to exchange views on high priority issues but complained that those I had raised--the hostages in Iran, Poland, and Afghanistan--did not fall within that category. On Iran, he justified the Soviet record by pointing to Moscow's support for international law--for which, he complained, we had never said a "kind word." His remarks on Poland were rather sharp. He accused the US and other Western powers of attempting to influence the Polish situation; he declared that VOA and other American radio broadcasts constituted open interference in Polish internal affairs; he implied that Western interference was not limited only to radio broadcasts. Gromyko's remarks on Afghanistan followed the familiar Soviet line. The US, he said, could contribute to a political settlement by facilitating the opening of a dialogue between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

*We need to
check with
the Russians
re: the
Afghans*

Dobrynin was told that the letter would be studied and that I would confer with you before responding. Furthermore, he was told that events since the early '70's--in Africa, Cuba, Afghanistan--have caused great difficulties for us and that you were elected by the American people to speak out on these matters. It will be necessary for us to move toward greater reciprocity in our relations. I referred specifically to today's disturbing news from Poland, mentioned your concern over developments, and reiterated that the situation must be worked out by the Polish people themselves. Dobrynin professed not to be aware of any late developments that should cause concern. (S)

RDS 2/3 1/29/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
 (S) (U) EO 12958
 M433/2 # 155270-GAS 2/3/16

PRESERVATION COPY

23

~~SECRET~~

-2-

Handwritten note:
The United States
is not

2. Vietnam and Cambodia: The Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, S. Rajaratnam, called on me today and proposed that the US lend its support to the creation of a "third force" to challenge the Vietnamese-controlled Heng Samrin government in Cambodia (Kampuchea) as a first step toward eventually replacing it with a regime acceptable to the non-communist states of the region (ASEAN) as well as to Japan and the United States.

An interagency review of our policies towards Vietnam and the Cambodian problem has been initiated. It will include an assessment of the "third force" option and recommendations on possible moral or material US support. (S)

3. Meeting with Senate Steering Committee: I met at lunch with the Senate Steering Committee at their invitation. In general, the Committee was strongly supportive of your policies as I articulated them. Along with questions about sub-Cabinet appointments, the Senators raised a number of substantive issues, including the Iranian agreements, human rights policy, the grain embargo, and the influx of Cubans and Haitians into southern Florida. Senators Boschwitz, Jepson, and Andrews expressed particularly strong interest in a quick end to the Soviet grain embargo. (C)

4. Call of Turkish Ambassador: Turkish Ambassador Elekdag called on me today. He argued strongly for maximum economic and military assistance; asked that we not take any positions in our current defense negotiations with Greece that would injure Turkey; and explained the process the Turkish Generals are following in returning the country to a democratic system of government.

The Ambassador was informed of your own affection for Turkey and personal interest in its welfare, while reminding him that Greece was also important to us. I assured him that Turkey would not be pressured by the United States to return prematurely to democracy. (C)

5. Poland: A rash of rumors spread this afternoon that the American Embassy in Warsaw was being closed. We made clear that those rumors were false.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

-3-

We are instructing Ambassador Meehan this evening to make clear to the Polish authorities our concern over the possibilities of violence and to recall their earlier assurances that violence would not be used. The Ambassador will also indicate that as we consider the question of new assistance to Poland, we will bear in mind both the previous assurances and the Polish Government's actions. (C)

~~SECRET~~

PRESERVATION COPY

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

→ Dick Allen
Pls. note RR's
comments herein.
R.V.D. ✓

1.4.81

The President has seen ✓

SECRET ATTACHMENT

January 30, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *Allen*
SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of January 29, 1981.

SECRET ATTACHMENT

RW
3/8/83