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19

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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February 24, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Ottawa Visit. As I wrote you on January 30, contention over two U.S.-Canadian treaties could cloud your March 10-11 visit. One delimits the offshore boundary and the other allocates fishing zones. The treaties have been stalled in the Senate since they were signed two years ago because of intense domestic opposition in the New England States. This is a major Canadian issue: 40% of the domestic economy in the Canadian Eastern Provinces is derived from fishing.

In advance of your visit, Ambassador Rozanne Ridgway has been instructed to begin urgent consultations with the Canadians, key figures on the Hill, and the affected political groups and industries. The objective is to separate the less controversial boundary treaty from the politically hot fisheries agreement.

If this plan works, we would ask you to send a letter to Senator Percy just before you leave for Ottawa, requesting that the Senate separate the treaties and proceed on the boundary agreement. This will enable you and Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau to avoid a potentially nasty political issue. (C)

2. Human Rights Groups Protest Appointment of Dr. Lefever to Head Human Rights Bureau. Representatives of several human rights groups called on Judge Clark today to protest the appointment of Dr. Ernest K. Lefever as Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. Among those present were: Mr. David Carliner - Chairman, Washington International Human Rights Law Group; Ms. Amy Young-Anawatty - Executive Director, Washington International Human Rights Law Group; Mr. Michael Posner - Executive Director, Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights; Rev. Robert Drinan - Georgetown University; Mr. Ari Neyir - Helsinki Watch Committee; American Civil Liberties Union; Professor Lou Henkin - Columbia University Law School.

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20

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-2-

Based on his public statements and publications, they questioned Lefever's commitment to existing human rights legislation. Claiming that the entire human rights community had been shocked by the appointment, the group asked that it be reconsidered. They were also concerned about the future of the human rights country reports, our change of policy on Chile, and our position on Argentina with the Human Rights Commission at Geneva.

Judge Clark pointed out that the President and the Secretary were committed to human rights and Dr. Lefever would execute Administration policy. Numerous appointees, including himself, will work in many ways for the same goals, though perhaps more quietly than their predecessors.

A broadly-based ad hoc human rights group held a press conference at the National Press Club today to launch a campaign opposing the appointment of Dr. Lefever. (C)

3. FRG Views on TNF. In meetings today with Ambassador Stoessel and Eagleburger, FRG Arms Control Commissioner Ruth stressed the need to proceed with TNF arms control negotiations if we are to move ahead with the TNF modernization program. Ruth predicted political difficulties in the FRG for modernization if we allowed the arms control side to lag. He suggested a meeting of the NATO Special Consultative Group (SCG) in March or early April as the first step. He added, however, that progress on SALT would not be required to maintain support for modernization.

Ambassador Stoessel emphasized U.S. support for both the modernization and arms control tracks of the December 1979 NATO decision but added that no decisions on the timing of arms control negotiations had been made. Ambassador Eagleburger explained that linkage with Soviet behavior elsewhere would be an important consideration but assured Ruth that the U.S. would consult fully with the FRG on this as well as other issues. At this point, we could not commit the U.S. to a meeting of the SCG in March. (C)

4. Meeting with Japanese Economic Representative Okita. Japanese Special Representative for External Economic Affairs (and former Foreign Minister) Saburo Okita called this afternoon to discuss briefly international economic problems in the light of the new administration's strategic goals. Okita cautioned that we should not ignore the impact of trade conflicts on our security; we must demonstrate the superiority of the free enterprise system. Also, the West should encourage Third World movement away from the Communist sphere.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

21

-3-

I agreed, noting that trade difficulties among developed countries arose from general insecurity. The U.S. was anxious to relieve this insecurity by improving its own defenses and countering Soviet moves in the Third World. Japan should increase its defense efforts, but it can also help by exercising caution on trade, especially autos.

Okita acknowledged that Japan could not push the U.S. and Europeans too far on market penetration, but argued that the Europeans were wrong to blame Japan for all their woes. Remarking that the U.S. and Japan have always resolved their economic difficulties, Okita argued that a strong, productive U.S. was the best cure. Finally, Okita urged more cooperation in high technology research and development and support of the SRC-II (coal liquefaction) project. (C)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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February 25, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of February 24, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker

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RW
3/8/83

18