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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Breakfast with House Congressional Leadership; Coffee with House Foreign Affairs Committee Members. At breakfast this morning in the Capitol Building I discussed the broad outline of our foreign policy and the importance of Congressional support with Tip O'Neill, Minority Leader Bob Michel, Majority Leader Jim Wright and the Whips, Trent Lott and Tom Foley (Congressman William Alexander also attended). About half of the time was devoted to El Salvador, clarifying our policy after the inflammatory rhetoric of former Ambassador White. We got good bipartisan support for our initiatives, and Jim Wright offered to lead a Congressional delegation to Central America at the Easter recess if this was desirable.

Subsequently, some 30 members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and key majority and minority Committee staff personnel met with me for an informal discussion. Most questions dealt with El Salvador and future American policy toward the Soviet Union. The atmosphere was basically friendly despite the Committee's liberal reputation, and I believe we rallied support for our El Salvador policy. (C)

2. Washington Visit of Dutch Prime Minister. The Dutch Ambassador reiterated strongly to us today the importance the EC nations place in a Washington visit by the current EC Council President, Dutch Prime Minister van Agt. He hinted that the Prime Minister wants a meeting with you to bolster his candidacy in the May elections, which are crucial to future Dutch policy on nuclear weapons and the Dutch commitment to NATO. The Ambassador stressed that a van Agt visit would demonstrate U.S. concern for the views of the smaller NATO allies. The best timing now seems to be March 25-30. (C)

3. Egypt's Views on Israeli Settlements and U.S.-Egyptian Relations. Egyptian Ambassador Ghorbal met today with Bill Clark and asked that Egypt's views on two subjects be conveyed to you: (1) the Israeli settlement policy seriously

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complicates the peace process and, if the U.S. views the settlements as legal, the pro-settlement Israelis are given an advantage in the forthcoming elections, while the Palestinians have less reason to negotiate. (2) Our relations with Egypt should demonstrate the benefits of close association with the U.S., particularly in the security sphere. Egypt needs military equipment to help us resist the Soviet threat. (C)

4. Luncheon for the ASEAN, ANZUS and Japanese Ambassadors.

A luncheon in honor of the ASEAN, ANZUS, and Japanese Ambassadors was held today to demonstrate our commitment to allies and friends in the Pacific. I told the Ambassadors that the Pacific region had an exceptionally promising future if political upheaval could be avoided and we intended to correct the military imbalance that might invite such upheaval. The Ambassadors were assured that concern for human rights was an essential ingredient of our policy, but that we would not pursue human rights to the exclusion of other equally important components. We would not indulge in public criticism of traditional allies and friends, preferring instead quiet and more effective diplomacy.

On the subject of foreign assistance, I stated that we would continue our participation in multinational aid programs, but with stretched out payments, preferring to focus on bilateral assistance that could yield rapid results.

The Malaysian and Australian Ambassadors both noted that trade access would continue to be one of the most cost-effective methods of assistance, and that it should be viewed in a broad political and strategic framework. They were concerned about growing American sentiments for protectionist policies against foreign manufactured products.

The Thai Ambassador stated that the USG's response to the El Salvador conflict suggested our readiness to deal with similar outbreaks in the future and I assured him that our allies and friends could depend on our performance.

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The President has seen

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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March 4, 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of March 3, 1981.

cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
James Baker

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RW  
3/8/83

Historical File