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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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March 23, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR : THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

Meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Ito. During a lengthy meeting today, Foreign Minister Ito indicated that Japan understood the political sensitivities of the automobile issue and was prepared to work with us to prevent protectionist legislation from being passed by Congress. Before deciding on export restraints, however, Japan wanted to hear an authoritative USG group clarify our plans to put the U.S. industry back on its feet, review the anti-trust aspects of any solution, and explain precisely what we want Japan to do.

In other highlights of the meeting, Ito described Japan's relationship with the USSR as "cool". He noted that Japan's own economic sanctions against the Soviets would have to be dismantled if we lifted the grain embargo. He was told that we would consult closely on sanctions. Ito promised that Japan would share the burden of security in terms of defense, economic assistance, and political consultation.

On North-South policy Ito was reassured that we were not going to treat developing countries on a simplistic "friend vs. foe" basis. On the Middle East and the possibility of an Arafat visit to Japan, I asked him not to take any action that would confer legitimacy on the PLO. Ito was uneasy about any changes in our China policy; he thought the current position was working out well for all parties in the region. While welcoming our refurbished relationship with South Korea, he was skeptical about the reality of a North Korean threat. Finally, Ito was emphatic in soliciting our support for the Japanese candidate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, a matter of national prestige. (S)

RDS 2/3 3/23/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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BY CL NARA DATE 7/3/04

MEMORANDUM

The President has seen _____

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET ATTACHMENT

March 24, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of March 23, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker

SECRET ATTACHMENT

RW
3/11/81