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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

March 25, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Visit of French Ambassador. The French Ambassador delivered two sensitive messages from President Giscard. First, he has stopped a large French bank consortium loan to Cuba, an issue we raised with the French Foreign Minister during his visit here. This is good news. Second, Giscard asks as a personal favor an informal undertaking that we will not object to the sale of 600,000 tons of French wheat to the Soviet Union. He is waging an extremely tough electoral campaign and the agricultural vote may be critical to his chances. The French Ambassador also explained that France sold 600,000 tons of wheat to the Soviet Union in 1979-80, so that the proposed sale fell within the pattern of earlier French sales. We should discuss this on Friday because Giscard hopes to hear from you before the weekend when he will be making several campaign speeches. (SECRET/SENSITIVE)

2. Meeting with FRG Defense Minister Apel. My meeting this afternoon with FRG Defense Minister Apel enabled me to stress our determination to correct defense imbalances and to counter Soviet expansionism, while maintaining the closest possible coordination with our Allies. We would avoid public hectoring of the FRG on defense spending but the FRG must continue to carry its share of the load. Apel reiterated his government's determination to fulfill its defense commitments and his personal determination to fight for the necessary funds within the FRG government. Apel and his party appeared to be very pleased with their meetings in Washington. (C)

3. Angola: Postponement of Savimbi Visit. A senior UNITA representative in Washington was informed this afternoon of our request that UNITA President Savimbi postpone his visit to the U.S. We stressed that Savimbi's appearance in the U.S. would be misunderstood both here and in Africa, making it difficult to pursue our shared objectives in southern Africa and Angola. (S)

4. Visit of Portuguese Foreign Minister Goncalves Pereira. During his visit with me today, Goncalves Pereira supported our overall foreign policy approach, especially on El Salvador, but warned about the complex situation in Angola, where the Portuguese have a special interest. He feared that support for the UNITA guerrillas might provoke a more active Cuban role. Goncalves was receptive to broader U.S. use of Portuguese military facilities, especially for South West Asian contingencies, but he will bargain hard for Portuguese benefits in return. We will pursue our specific requests for military facilities and examine the possibilities of fulfilling reasonable Portuguese requests. (C)

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

RDS 2/3 3/25/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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NLRR M453/29155AS
BY CA NARA DATE 7/3/14

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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The President has seen

SECRET/SENSITIVE ATTACHMENT

March 26, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of March 25, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker

SECRET/SENSITIVE ATTACHMENT

RW
3/11/81

Historical File