

~~SECRET~~


155589

10

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Meeting with the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. I met today for an hour and a half with Howard Squadron, the President of the Conference of Jewish Presidents, and about thirty-five of his colleagues representing the leadership of the major Jewish organizations in the U.S. Jack Stein and Max Fisher also attended. Cap Weinberger was able to participate in the first half hour of the meeting. He made a valuable contribution toward explaining our policy, and our joint appearance reinforced the perception of Administration solidarity on the controversial issue of Saudi F-15/AWACS. As expected their opposition to the sale was vigorous, yet articulate. Their concerns centered around a fear that Saudi Arabia cannot be trusted with this sensitive equipment, and what the Conference sees as our failure to exact a quid pro quo from the Saudis in exchange for the sale.

We emphasized to them that Israel has a great friend in you, and that this Administration will not do anything to compromise the security of Israel. We told them that the AWACS sale is in the strategic interest of both the U.S. and Israel, and that we want Saudi help in meeting the Soviet threat to the region. We asked them "to keep their powder dry" and to hold their opposition to the sale until more of the technical details are worked out. There was a clear feeling by the Conference that they had to act now, in order to organize their opposition, and quite frankly, it does not appear that they were dissuaded from this by our discussions.

We did however, have a constructive dialogue, and some of their concerns about transfer of the AWACS (and its technology) to Syria and Libya were alleviated. The Conference will remain in opposition to the sale, but discussions such as this are necessary to educate the opposition, and to show our genuine concern for their position. (S)

2. POLAND: Suslov and Rusakov in Warsaw. Mikhail Suslov, the Soviet Politburo member with responsibilities for ideology, and Konstantin Rusakov, Central Committee Secretary for liaison with ruling Communist Parties, arrived in Warsaw this afternoon under tight security. They were met by Kania and several Polish Politburo members. The surprise visit, coming just six days before the Tenth Plenum of the Polish Party, probably represents an urgent Soviet effort to stop the growing drift toward liberalization within the Polish Party. (LOU)

RDS 2/3 4/23/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

NLRRY/453/2 #155589

BY Gov NARA DATE 3/16

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET ATTACHMENT

April 24, 1981

OK  
RZ

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

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

cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
James Baker  
Michael Deaver

SECRET ATTACHMENT

RW  
3/11/83