

155632

31

~~SECRET~~

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

My Meeting with French Minister of External Relations Cheysson. In two very productive hours of private discussions with me Cheysson went out of his way to reassure us of French support on a wide range of international problems.

Cheysson began the discussion with a short explanation of the current internal political situation in France; he did not touch on the issue of whether Mitterrand will bring communists into the government after the June parliamentary elections. I did not judge it wise at this early time to warn him that communists in the Mitterrand government would give us great difficulties, but I will do so before he leaves.

We discussed TNF (France will support our position), SALT, and relations with the Soviets. On the latter, Cheysson agreed with your approach; it was extremely important for Moscow to know clearly where the West stood. He was pessimistic about future Soviet action in Poland. Cheysson argued that the West must stand firm, in NATO and in public comment. He believed that if the Soviets did not intervene, Poland would require substantial additional economic assistance from the West before the end of the year.

Surprisingly, on Southern Africa Cheysson agreed readily that France must remain in the Contact Group and support our efforts to find a solution based on Security Council Resolution 435. He accepted my point that the Resolution by itself was insufficient and required elaboration. Cheysson said that France could be persuasive with a number of Black African states and indicated his readiness to try if the U.S. could move the South Africans to a position that facilitated a settlement. He also agreed that a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola might be arranged in tandem with the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia.

I told Cheysson that you were eager for the Vice President to visit Paris after the elections and certainly before the Ottawa Summit. Cheysson accepted this proposal enthusiastically. He added that perhaps during the Vice President's stay a date for a Mitterrand visit to the United States could be fixed. I finessed the proposal; I do not believe we should decide this matter until after the parliamentary elections and an analysis of the new French Government.

Cheysson will probably raise the Mitterrand visit with you. He will almost certainly discuss French concern over high interest rates and his belief that the West must be prepared to provide additional aid to Poland in the absence of a Soviet intervention.

In sum, our first two hours went extremely well. Cheysson was clearly anxious to demonstrate the new French government's desire to work closely with us. Inevitably there will be problems (particularly with regard to the Third World), but we have begun on a very reassuring note. (S)

RDS 2/3 6/04/01 (HAIG, Alexander M. Jr.)

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

NLRRM432/2 * 155632

BY CA NARA DATE 7/3/16

36

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT

June 5, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Secretary Haig's Evening Report for June 4, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Sec 3.4(b), E.O. 12958, as amended
With Exemption(s) of 1.4, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19, 3.20, 3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25, 3.26, 3.27, 3.28, 3.29, 3.30, 3.31, 3.32, 3.33, 3.34, 3.35, 3.36, 3.37, 3.38, 3.39, 3.40, 3.41, 3.42, 3.43, 3.44, 3.45, 3.46, 3.47, 3.48, 3.49, 3.50, 3.51, 3.52, 3.53, 3.54, 3.55, 3.56, 3.57, 3.58, 3.59, 3.60, 3.61, 3.62, 3.63, 3.64, 3.65, 3.66, 3.67, 3.68, 3.69, 3.70, 3.71, 3.72, 3.73, 3.74, 3.75, 3.76, 3.77, 3.78, 3.79, 3.80, 3.81, 3.82, 3.83, 3.84, 3.85, 3.86, 3.87, 3.88, 3.89, 3.90, 3.91, 3.92, 3.93, 3.94, 3.95, 3.96, 3.97, 3.98, 3.99, 4.00
BY NARA RW, DATE 3/12/13