


155682  
SECRET

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 1981

SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

The Muldoon Visit: Concern over Law of the Sea Negotiations.  
New Zealand Ambassador Gill and Australian Ambassador Parkinson met today with Under Secretary Buckley and Assistant Secretary James Malone to discuss their governments' serious concerns about the August session of the Law of the Sea negotiations. Though appreciative of the trilateral discussions earlier this month and understanding of the US position, their governments were very concerned that the US review would be viewed as obstructionist, particularly by the developing countries (the group of 77). If the 77 felt that the US was unsympathetic to their fundamental concerns, then they might take actions at Geneva that foreclosed policy options and jeopardized Western interests. Under Secretary Buckley replied that our Law of the Sea review was nearly complete and the Geneva meeting would help to assess whether some provisions of concern to us were negotiable. He added that we would be "very sensitive" to the atmosphere in Geneva in order to preserve as many options as possible for your final decision. Prime Minister Muldoon will probably raise that issue with you tomorrow. → (Friday)

Stoessel Briefing on Lebanon for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Walt Stoessel's briefing in closed session today evoked from the Senators deep concern about Begin's actions and their negative impact on U.S. interests in the region. They urged that the Administration contact Begin at the highest level to urge a cessation of hostilities and an end to the use of U.S. equipment in attacks on civilians. Led by Senator Percy, the members offered their assistance if needed.

Eagleburger-Bessmertnykh Talks on TNF. Soviet Embassy Chargé Bessmertnykh called on Larry Eagleburger today to give the Soviet response to our July 13th proposal on modalities for TNF negotiations. The Soviets propose that the talks begin on November 17; they prefer Geneva as the site. They agree with our suggestion that the delegations be headed by a senior official with ambassadorial rank. We will now seek interagency consensus on the proposals in order to give the Soviets a prompt response.

Meeting with Finnish Foreign Minister Vayrynen. Vayrynen saw me this afternoon to discuss several subjects, including the Nordic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone concept. I emphasized that current discussions of this concept would damage the prospects for TNF talks and negotiated reductions of systems in Central Europe, which constituted the best way to reduce the threat to the Northern area. Vayrynen said the Norwegians had initiated the current debate on a Nordic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, and that the Finns are not pushing it and do not intend to raise it.

RDS 2/3 7/23/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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BY CU NARA DATE 3/11/81

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT

July 24, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Secretary Haig's Evening Report for July 23, 1981.

cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
James Baker  
Michael Deaver

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*3/12/13* ~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT  
Received on July 24, 1981 - 9:25 a.m.

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