

oro

Premier Minister

(2)

~~Michael Alexander~~

Personal.

PS/PUS

To note the point
in the final sentence.

The 27th I mentioned
to you on the phone.

Roderic Lyne

Position of Mr Haig

Henry Brandon, speaking in confidence to the Secretary of State this morning, said that Haig's position was stronger than it had been but by no means secure. Haig's major disadvantages were that he was temperamental and that he remained an outsider in the Administration. Brandon contrasted him in both respects to Weinberger, who was on the inside, and a master both of his brief and his emotions. He also said that Clark was an insider and acted on occasions as an intermediary between Haig and the White House. Brandon went on to say that Haig's position was helped by his relations with the Europeans and by evidence of his success in selling US policies to them. Furthermore, there was no agreement as to who might succeed Haig if he were to go.

7/11

The Secretary of State had to leave the meeting and asked me to continue it briefly. Brandon added that Haig himself had recently indicated to him that he had been thinking whether he should stay on: he complained in particular of having to stand up alone in the Administration for unpopular causes (saying that he had never thought that the time would come when he would be left of centre!). Brandon said that it would be difficult to move Weinberger from defence at this stage, and volunteered that soundings had recently been made of Schultz to see if he would be prepared to take on the job of Secretary of State. Schultz had apparently refused.

ms

John

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

28 October 1981

- cc: PS
- PS/LPS
- PS/Mr Hurd
- Mr Bullard
- Mr Mallaby

fa. Hurd



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