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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: The Situation Room  
SUBJECT: Morning News Summary

The Washington Post

Jules Witcover writes that President Ford surprised the Republican National Convention yesterday by picking as his 1976 running mate Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, a conservative with a reputation for slashing partisanship and a quick wit. The choice, clearly designed to give the President an aggressive partner on the campaign trail, enhances the prospect that Mr. Ford will be able to limit his own campaigning. His senior advisers want him to concentrate on functioning in the White House this fall, believing the maintenance of a presidential image will be one of his best campaign tactics. (A-1)

Murrey Marder states that the U.S. and North Korea both put their military forces on alert and more American air power was sent into South Korea yesterday in growing tension over Wednesday's bloody melee in the Demilitarized Zone. (A-1)

According to news dispatches, the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) yesterday rejected the announced provisional date of December 31, 1978, for the territory's full independence from South Africa and the planned creation of an interim government. (A-1)

Jay Mathews writes that the fifth nonaligned summit ended early this morning in unexpected turmoil as it passed, over the objections of at least 15 nations, a resolution condemning "imperialist maneuvers for aggression against Korea." (A-6)

The lead editorial comments that the selection of Senator Dole shows that after two years in the White House, Mr. Ford still seems unable to escape the confines of this predisposition -- George Bush, Donald Rumsfeld, Howard "Bo" Callaway, William Scranton, Rogers Morton are a mixed bag and includes some pretty estimable fellows. But it strikes the Post as a weakness in the President, as evidence of a narrow vision and a homing instinct that again and again; in moments of crisis or decision. Mr. Ford relies on a selected circle with its own ingrained

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-267-3-48-0

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the Post thinks it has played him false. (A-26)

Evans and Novak write that minutes before President Ford unexpectedly decided on Senator Dole, high Ford operatives were frustrated near the point of quitting the campaign. The reason: Embarrassing failure to follow a meticulously detailed Thursday timetable for the President, calling for This failure portrayed a President who, having just been legitimized as chief of his party, was allowing his first tough decision to bog down in unpresidential indecision. The anguish of these aides was relieved by the sudden choice of Dole. A moderate conservative who made lasting Republican contacts during his brief 1972 tour as national chairman. In sum, Dole is no risk as a running mate, whom a president trailing by 30 percentage points might well gamble on. But considering his platform skill, right-to-life connections and farm support, neither is Dole the totally bland running mate that Baker would have been. What worries Republicans more than the choice of Bob Dole is the way he was chosen. (A-27)

According to the AP, President Ford's narrow nomination victory was welcomed yesterday by a leading Israeli newspaper, called unconvincing by the Yugoslav news agency and seen as a blow to "ultra-reactionaries" by Soviet commentators. (A28)

### The New York Times

Nicholas Horrock and John Crewdson write that agents of the FBI, assigned to investigate a series of burglaries carried out by their colleagues, removed yesterday what one Federal official termed "file cabinet after file cabinet" from the bureau's headquarters here in Washington and from its field office in New York City. (1)

John Burns notes that policemen opened fire on a crowd of stone-throwing blacks yesterday when they stormed four factories in an industrial suburb of the coastal city of Port Elizabeth in the second day of anti-government unrest. The death toll in the rioting overnight rose to 14 and the number wounded to 28. (1)

Christopher Wren writes contends that the Soviet Union's contention that it is the truest friend of the third world reached crescendo pitch as the nonaligned nations met this week in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Yet by one key index -- foreign economic assistance -- Moscow's contention does not appear borne out by the facts. The Soviet foreign aid program offers a fraction of the amount rendered by the U.S. Moreover, Soviet aid is highly restricted.

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relatively inflexible, according to some Western and third world diplomats who have studied its operation. (A-2)

According to William Borders, the conference of nonaligned leaders ended early yesterday with the adoption of a stinging warning to the world's rich nations that they must yield more of their wealth to a new economic order. In a wide-ranging final communique adopted by acclamation just before adjournment, the conference also deplored what it called imperialist aggression in Korea and said it could lead to war. (3)

Malcolm Browne writes about the so-called "nonaligned" countries. In general, being nonaligned appears to entail being economically backward, being non-European (except Yugoslavia), not belonging to the Warsaw Pact or NATO, demanding a greater share of the world's wealth, and more or less opposing the U.S., Israel, South Africa, Rhodesia, Chile, and Taiwan. (3)

Juán de Onis says a retired army general and an executive of an automobile company were assassinated yesterday in the first major guerrilla action in Buenos Aires since a Marxist guerrilla chief was killed a month ago. (6)

Steven Roberts writes that, after two years in power, the government of Prime Minister Caramanlis still enjoys extraordinary popularity and prestige in Athens and abroad. The main question facing the government is whether the prime minister can use that personal authority to modernize this relatively poor and backward nation of nine million people and make it a full partner in the European Common Market. (8)

The lead editorial states that President Ford's choice of Senator Dole of Kansas reflects a politics of despair, if not of desperation. It is impossible to believe that in selecting Mr. Dole yesterday for the Republican vice-presidential nomination, Mr. Ford could have thought first of the supreme and only truly valid qualification for that office: Is this man (or woman) the best suited of all the party's available candidates to assume the presidency of the U.S. should the office for any reason become vacant? Judging from the nature of his choice, it seems unlikely that Mr. Ford thought of this aspect of the task at all. (20)

James Reston and Tom Wicker both blast President Ford's selection of Senator Dole as a running mate. (21)

The Baltimore Sun

AP reports that in an unprecedented move, influential South African industrialists called on the government yesterday to make life better for the nation's blacks, who have been rioting since June against the white minority regime. (A-1)

Charles Corddry writes that the U.S. has reacted with more-than-usual speed and firmness to the latest violent episode in the Korean buffer zone. While the government describes its moves as precautionary, it plainly means to impress on North Korea that it is keeping open all options -- including military action. (A-1)

Ernest Furgurson writes that at first glance, the selection of Robert Dole says President Ford ignored the old traditions of geographical, ideological, and religious balance in a national ticket and went instead for someone who is 100 percent slasher. (A-1)

Michael Burns writes that improved Soviet nuclear and conventional military strength, combined with "a diminishing cushion of warning" of attack, has pressured NATO to integrate its military forces, General Haig said yesterday. (A-4)

Henry Trehitt writes that Henry Kissinger finally arrived in Kansas City yesterday and promptly seized an opportunity to needle his boss, President Ford. Before hundreds of whooping, stomping young Republicans, he said with a grin: "I notice the Republican platform mentions detente in its morality plank, and far be it for me not to follow the platform of the Republican party." Whereupon he proceeded to describe the familiar process of detente -- the attempt to find accommodation with the Soviet Union. Ford supporters of college and immediate postgraduate years, cheered happily, apparently not seeing the needle. (A-6)

The lead editorial states that the very fact that the President has decided to go on the attack by picking so aggressive a ticket mate shows how the bruising battle for the nomination has toughened Mr. Ford as a political animal. In Mr. Reagan, he was up against a man he learned to respect as "the best campaigner in the country," a polished and artful speaker backed by the fervent legions of the Republican right wing. That Mr. Ford underestimated Mr. Reagan at first and failed for months to put together a coherent, effective campaign to exploit the advantages of incumbency was a measure of how far the President had to go to triumph this week. (A-14)

Another editorial states that even relatively good neighbors

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have been known to lose their judgment when in dispute over the trimming or nontrimming of a tree on the property line. North Korea and the U.S. are bad neighbors. Perhaps it was "vicious and unprovoked murder" as President Ford said. He should know more about the incident than the American people do, which is precious little. According to a South Korean paper's interview with a South Korean workman, the lethal weapons wielded by North Korean guards were brought to the tree by the South Korean trimmers. That sounds more like a mindless brawl than premeditated aggression. Hardly the stuff for which the North Korean army or U.S. air force units in Idaho should be put on alert, but they were. Secretary Kissinger took a pasting from fellow Republicans in Kansas City for alleged softness with communist adversaries. But what Koreans and Americans now need in their situation rooms is cool heads, not wounded pride. (A-14)

Charles Yost writes that Henry Kissinger has been active of late in Iran and Pakistan seeking to erect new barriers to the spread of nuclear weapons. His efforts coincide with disclosure by the State Department that American materials may indeed, as was long suspected, have been misused by India in the preparation of its 1974 nuclear explosion. As long as nuclear weapons are considered both prestigious and usable, nations will demand to have them, or at least the option to make them. The U.S. cannot halt this process, but there are at least three steps it could take to slow it down. All would be difficult. First, the U.S. could in its own energy program concentrate far more funds in research on the development of alternatives to nuclear energy, such as conservation, coal, and solar energy. Second, it could proceed with the Soviet Union to a significant and dramatic reduction of nuclear weapons arsenals, and at the same time could in its official doctrine emphasize not the possible use of nuclear weapons but their unusability other than as a deterrent. Finally, the U.S. could, along with others, seek to persuade potential nuclear weapons states that the acquisition of such weapons, or even the capability of producing them would in cold fact be contrary to their interests both in national security and in economic development. This effort at persuasion will be plausible and convincing, however, only if the U.S. has itself taken the first two steps. It must, that is, demonstrate by deeds, not words, that it is moving away from, not toward, reliance on nuclear weapons in war and on nuclear energy in peace. (A-15)