

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: The Situation Room
SUBJECT: Morning News Summary

The Washington Post

Edward Walsh writes that it was no accident that President Ford delivered the best speech of his life Thursday night. Weeks of preparation, including two complete trial runs that were videotaped and reviewed by the President, went into Mr. Ford's acceptance speech. (A-1)

Reuter reports from Geneva that the UN High Commission for Refugees said an investigation had found that the raid into Mozambique by Rhodesian forces August 8 destroyed a UN refugee camp, not a guerrilla base as the Rhodesians said. The UN representative in Mozambique said that he saw ten mass graves of men, women, and children in the camp. The Rhodesian government said it had "irrefutable evidence" that the camp was a guerrilla base. (A-1)

The U.S. naval aircraft carrier Midway, heavily escorted by five other warships, left Japan yesterday bound for waters off Korea, escalating America's show of force. A Pentagon official said the cutting down of the tree was intended to demonstrate U.S. firmness in the face of provocation. Despite the Midway's deployment, officials continued to emphasize that U.S. military moves are precautionary and do not foreshadow any retaliation against North Korea for the slaying of the officers. Members of Congress denounced the killings, but expressed opposition to going to war over the incident. (A-2)

Reuter reports from Havana that there are indications that more than the 2,000 Cuban soldiers scheduled to have come home from Angola by now having actually returned, although authorities are issuing no progress reports on the operation. Convoys of buses crammed with waving soldiers have been seen driving through Havana on several occasions. Indications are the troops are returning in large batches and that Cuba is ahead of the 200-a-week schedule. One explanation may be that Cuba is sending home large numbers of troops because the main war is over. It is also possible that some

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of the returning troops are being replaced by fresh ones, although there is no evidence in Cuba to confirm this. (A-4)

Andrew Horvat writes the effects of the American plan to extend jurisdiction over fishing areas to 200 miles from all U.S. coastlines. American-Japanese relations are bound to become strained as fishermen and consumers alike begin to feel the effects of the new law's restrictions on previously bountiful Japanese catches. (A-4)

Andrew Horvat also reports on the arrest of Takayuki Sato, head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party's General Affairs Bureau on bribery charges in connection with the Lockheed scandal. Some observers have suggested that the arrest of Sato, member of a faction which supports Miki's rule, might result in calming those party parliamentarians who fear Miki is using the Lockheed investigation to dispose of political foes. (A-4)

Douglas Watson notes that President Franjyah reportedly has assured President-elect Sarkis that Sarkis will become president when Franjyah's six-year term expires September 23. However, according to the As-Safir newspaper, Franjyah also told Sarkis in a private meeting Thursday that he expects Lebanon's civil war to continue after September 23. (A-4)

Newly reunified Vietnam applied yesterday for membership in the UN. State Department sources said Undersecretary Habib had instructed U.S. officials to make no comment on the Vietnam application. (A-5)

The State Department acknowledged that a U.S. AID official had proposed using earthquake relief to the Philippines as a lever in negotiations over U.S. bases there, but a departmental spokesman said that the official who wrote the memo "has no standing whatever in dealing with...subjects of a political or security nature." The memo prepared by General Earle Anderson, director of the Office of Foreign Assistance pointed out, the aid offered an opportunity to untract attempts by Congress to restrict aid to countries accused of violating their citizens' rights, such as the Philippines. (A-5)

The Post, in its lead editorial on the recent arrest of former Premier Tanaka and impending legislation on foreign payments, says that the best solution comes from Senator Church who recommends full and immediate public disclosure of all fees paid on foreign sales, except for the rare exception that would severely impair national security. Under

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the Church requirement, Japanese prosecutors would have been automatically alerted to the inexplicably large fees that were being paid by Lockheed. Only the Japanese government could pursue the matter beyond that point but, as Mr. Miki is demonstrating, the Japanese government is quite prepared to follow the chain to its end. (A-10)

Tom Braden, in discussing the hazards of ex-secretaries of state, says that in recent times being secretary of state insures a degree of infamy. No reasonable man can assess the world today and believe for a moment that the next secretary of state will leave office to popular acclaim. And yet there are three categories of people who might be able to fit the job description. In the first are politicians. In the second are senior statesmen. In the third are the college professors. In any event, the talent search is now. Democrats, already counting their chickens with Carter and Mondale, are speculating about who will be number 3.

The New York Times

Bernard Gwertzman reports that Secretary Kissinger said yesterday that the U.S. was demanding "explanations and reparation" from North Korea for the killing of two American military officers in the Korean demilitarized zone two days ago. (1)

According to Linda Charlton, Jimmy Carter tried out yesterday what may be the principal themes of his presidential campaign accusing the Ford administration of having allowed the nation to "draft" without a goal or purpose and saying that the voters' choice was between "new leadership in the White House or no leadership." (1)

Fox Butterfield notes that the Chinese have made public little specific information on the damage or casualties in the Tangshan area beyond referring to "great losses." Peking has used the disaster as an object lesson in the current anti-rightist political campaign, driving home the importance of self-reliance, one of the most important virtues in the Maoist canon. (2)

William Borders comments that representatives of the generally impoverished and underdeveloped southern half of the world went away from Colombo yesterday united in a new mood of determination to get a larger share of the kind of life that Americans take for granted. (3)

According to David Binder, a large group of black African countries led by Nigeria is seeking to eject South Africa

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from the International Atomic Energy Agency, U.S. officials said yesterday. (4)

The lead editorial contends that President Ford's acceptance speech was a masterful political performance. Combined with Governor Reagan's brief, skillfully delivered postscript address, it brought the Republican National Convention to a rhetorically effective climax. In its broad design, this pattern of argument is politically legitimate and, if President Ford can sustain the level he achieved in his acceptance speech, is sure to win him votes in November. President Ford is in deep political trouble because, after a brave beginning, he has failed over the last two years to provide the nation with strong, consistent, broad-gauged leadership. His dismaying choice of Senator Dole is the latest example of Mr. Ford's limitations of insight and judgment. If the Democrats did not know that they were in for a hard fight, they should know it now. (20)

According to C. L. Sulzberger, one of Jimmy Carter's main strengths as a candidate is that he owes nobody any favors and this relatively unique asset among American presidential candidates places him in a splendid position to improve the efficacy of U.S. representation abroad. (21)

The Washington Star

Jeremiah O'Leary reports that the U.S. yesterday continued its show-of-force policy in reaction to the killing of two U.S. officers by North Koreans near a symbolic tree in the Panmunjom neutral zone, and a UN party sallied into the zone, cut down the tree and returned. But indications remained that the Ford administration would not launch any punitive military measures on the tense peninsula. (A-3)

An editorial says that the definitive, indisputable account of the fatal clash in the Korean demilitarized zone has not yet been written, and may never be. The needless deaths should remind the Americans assigned to the DMZ that, even 23 years after the truce, it is still rough and dangerous duty calling for the most rigorous defensive precautions. The incident also pointed up the desirability, more than two decades after the end of the Korean conflict, of more permanent peace arrangements. This would go against President Kim's longtime desire to unite South and North Korea under his communist guidance, but may have some appeal to his Chinese allies, with whom Dr. Kissinger consulted the other night. No one benefits from the recurrent violence and the chronic atmosphere of crisis along the Korean cease-fire line. (A-14)

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The Baltimore Sun

Frederic Hill writes that the nonaligned nation's call for an oil embargo against France because of its arms sales to South Africa is not likely to bear fruit, but it underlines deteriorating French relations with the third world that it has so carefully cultivated. The appeal to oil-producers is not expected to get much backing from Arab countries in view of France's generally pro-Arab policies. Furthermore, one of the main suppliers of the 120 tons of oil consumed by France annually is Iran, which is not a member of the nonaligned conference. (A-4)