

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Morning News Summary

The Washington Post

Helen Dewar reports on candidate Carter's remarks in Iowa accusing the Ford administration of "unparalleled incompetence" in its foreign policy. (A-1)

John Saar writes that North Korea proposed yesterday that security guards in the Korean truce village be strictly separated as a way to reduce tensions. The chief U.S. negotiator said the proposal "may be a positive step." The South Korean government, reported angered and embarrassed by the U.S. shift to a softer line, had no official comment. But, criticizing the meeting, a middle-level official said: "It's only a beginning. They have to show remorse and you must squeeze it out of them." (A-1)

According to Dan Morgan, the world has a bountiful supply of rice and wheat this summer for those who can afford to pay for it. An excellent rice harvest in most of Southeast Asia last fall, an American wheat crop that is expected to exceed 50 million metric tons this year, an apparently good Soviet grain harvest and a growing Indian food stockpile of between 16 million and 18 million tons have provided a cushion against catastrophe that was absent in the previous three years. (A-2)

Murrey Marder and Spencer Rich report that a change of ambassadors in at least two major American embassies, Moscow and Bonn, is planned by the Ford administration as part of a multiple shift of envoys abroad, it was learned yesterday. Ambassador Stoessel is expected to be shifted to Bonn, replacing Ambassador Martin Hillenbrand, who is retiring from government service. Stoessel has had a health problem with anemia, and Bonn is expected to be less demanding than the duties and climate in the Soviet Union. A successor to Stoessel is undecided. The leading candidates to replace him are reported to be Richard Davies, U.S. ambassador to Poland, and Malcolm Toon, U.S. ambassador to Israel. Both are in the Ford administration.

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has notified the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that it intends to nominate Graham Martin, the controversial last U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, as an ambassador-at-large with responsibility for portions of Micronesia. A series of other ambassadorial appointments, especially in Africa, also are expected to be made by the Ford administration before its present term runs out in January. (A-16)

A Post editorial says that two years ago President Ford began the process of healing one of the Vietnam war's most searing domestic wounds -- by offering conditional clemency. Not much more than a tenth of draft-evaders and a third of the deserters ended up taking advantage of the Ford offer. Its implementation was, at best, ragged but given the rawness of the Vietnam issue at the time, it was still a bold and good thing to do. Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter has just reaffirmed his intent, if elected, to move beyond the now-ended Ford program and to offer a "blanket pardon." One can question whether Mr. Carter, by this word juggling, was not trying simply to evade the harsh political overtones of the word "amnesty." But this essential purpose is clear enough. It is to close the books, and erase the past, for this large group of Americans whose lives are still stained by their resistance to the Vietnam war. And with that purpose the Post fully agrees. (A-14)

Joseph Kraft details the selection of Senator Dole as President Ford's running mate. Kraft says that, narrow as the ticket may be in appeal, it is hard to see, under the circumstances, how Ford could have done much better. (A-15)

The U.S. should reduce military aid to Israel, deescalate the Middle East arms race and work for a new Arab-Israeli agreement to end the formal state of war, former Defense Minister Dayan said yesterday. But he added that Israel "must have a nuclear option" to offset the numerical superiority of the Arab states and their financial capability to buy weaponry. (A-19)

Anderson and Whitten again charge Nicaragua's President Somoza as the world's greediest ruler. The sad truth is that the U.S. government has provided the ladder for his ascent to this dubious pinnacle. (DC-9)

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The New York Times

Fox Butterfield comments that North Korea yesterday proposed a partition of the Panmunjom truce site as a way to avoid incidents like the one last week in which two U.S. army officers were killed by communist guards. (1)

John Burns reports that the death toll in the strife-torn township of Soweto rose yesterday after a night of terror in which marauding Zulus drove scores of blacks from their homes and injured dozens of others. (1)

According to Flora Lewis, Prime Minister Chirac resigned yesterday, charging that President Giscard d'Estaing would not allow him sufficient authority to deal with France's problems. (1)

William Farrell notes that twenty militant Jews, most of them waving American passports, were arrested by Israeli military authorities in this tense Arab city after they had demonstrated at an abandoned former Jewish hospital that had been declared off limits. (3)

William Borders comments that the recent nonaligned parley may help Sri Lanka's premier with the voters. It is widely assumed that one reason the 60-year-old prime minister wanted the conference was that it would precede the national election by only a matter of months. (3)

According to a special to the Times, the shelling of Beirut residential areas slackened yesterday, but fighting continued in the suburbs and in other parts of Lebanon. (5)

A special to the Times reports that President Sadat yesterday accepted a unanimous nomination by the Egyptian People's Assembly for a second six-year term of office, declaring that "destiny wants me to carry on." (5)

According to Bernard Gwertzman, the Defense Department said yesterday that 110 Americans and South Koreans were sent into the Korean demilitarized zone last Saturday to cut down the disputed tree where two American military officers had been killed by North Korean guards three days earlier. (7)

Bernard Weinraub comments that Queen Juliana, facing the most serious threat to the Dutch throne since World War II, is locked in a sharp dispute with the government over allegations involving the business dealings of her husband, Prince Bernhard. (8)

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Andrew Malcolm reports that Prime Minister Miki appeared last night to have weathered, at least for the moment, yet another concerted assault on his leadership of Japan's governing Liberal-Democratic Party. (9)

A special to the Times reports on France's new premier, Raymond Barre, on page 12.

According to a special to the Times, one of the last acts of the outgoing cabinet of Prime Minister Chirac, who resigned yesterday, was the announcement that despite American objections France would go ahead with the sales to Pakistan of a nuclear-reprocessing plant. (12)

The lead editorial comments that it took the kind of forthrightness that is in short supply in contemporary American politics for Jimmy Carter to tell an American Legion audience in Seattle that, if elected, he would grant a blanket pardon to Vietnam draft evaders. Quite predictably, he was booed for saying what simple decency dictates -- that "it is time for the damage, hatred, and divisiveness of the Vietnam War to be over." Mr. Carter's stand on the issue of amnesty coincides with the Times views. What matters more however, in anticipation of the presidential election campaign, is the clear implication that Mr. Carter intends to speak out on controversial issues, even at the risk of displeasing special interests in direct confrontation. If President Ford is prepared to adopt a similar course, the campaign could become a reaffirmation of democracy in action. (32)

An editorial contends that in his long speech at the non-aligned summit meeting in Colombo last week, Libya's Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi emphatically denied supporting any terrorist activities except those involving "the struggle of a people for independence." He blamed "imperialism, international Zionism and racialism" for the charges that he uses oil revenues to back hijacking, kidnaping and subversion. Colonel Qaddafi is everybody's problem; but for reasons of geography and their own eloquent comments to Arab unity, the Arab governments cannot forever escape a share of the responsibility for halting his aggressions. (32)

Another editorial comments that West Europe's lack of fossil fuel sources and its heavy dependence on Mideast oil led most countries there to step up plans for nuclear energy expansion even more than the U.S. in the wake of the 1973-74 embargo and five-fold oil price increase. But economic factors and public concern over safety, the environment and weapons proliferation now have led to a slowdown similar to that in the U.S. (32)

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Anthony Lewis reports that during the last two months, while Americans have been preoccupied with their own politics, events likely to be of much more lasting significance have been taking place half a world away. The disturbances in the black townships of South Africa, and the white reaction to them, have a profound import for world politics -- and for one's view of human character. (33)

According to Seyom Brown, the deepening resistance to Soviet dominance of the international communist movement -- exposed this summer in the conference of European communist parties -- challenges the anti-communist basis of U.S. alliance policies. Rather than threatening to ostracize Western nations who allow communists into their governments, we should be asking if the anti-communist coalition also has begun to outlive its usefulness and needs to start giving way to a less aligned pattern of world politics. (33)

The Baltimore Sun

Michael Parks reports that despite warnings that it may be embroiling itself in the coming black-white confrontation in southern Africa, Israel is rapidly expanding its diplomatic, commercial and military ties with South Africa. (A-1)

Premier Takeo Miki appeared last night to have weathered at least for the moment yet another concerted assault on his leadership of Japan's governing Liberal Democratic party. (A-2)

The U.S. should reduce military aid to Israel, de-escalate the Middle East arms race and work for a new Arab-Israeli agreement to end the formal state of war, the former Israeli defense minister, Moshe Dayan, said yesterday. "There must be a way of coming down the hill, of deescalating. The only solution is...not to give us more arms for our security, but to give us more security so we can have less arms." (A-6)

According to Henry Trehwitt, the U.S. publicly lost patience with the so-called nonaligned nations yesterday, rejecting briskly their anti-U.S. positions on Korea and Puerto Rico. Their charge of U.S. imperialism in Korea was "tendentious and one-sided," a statement said. Their treatment of Puerto Rico as a "colonial" issue amounted to "interference in U.S. domestic affairs." (A-9)