

Chron

MEMORANDUM

HAK CHRON _____
HAK MARGIN _____
STAFF APP'L _____
HAK APP'L _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION 8161

January 6, 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: FRED MALEK
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *K*
SUBJECT: Future Assignments for Ambassador Tasca

Attached you will find letters from Ambassador Henry Tasca in Athens expressing his thoughts on future assignments. These have been brought back from Athens by Tom Pappas and passed on through John Mitchell. You will want to put them in Ambassador Tasca's file for consideration when his position is reviewed.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Handwritten notes:
Area given to Sit Room D
12:15 PM
Please
do it now

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION
8161

Handwritten: Another document

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL (SECRET ATTACHMENT)

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DR. KISSINGER

December 11, 1972

FROM:

HAROLD H. SAUNDERS *HHS*

SUBJECT:

Henry Tasca's Next Assignment--A Letter For Your Reply

Under the memorandum at Tab A are letters to you and the President--forwarded through John Mitchell by Tom Pappas--touching on the subject of Ambassador Tasca's next assignment. In essence, he would be happy to stay on where he is unless "more challenging" assignments such as the embassies in Paris or Rome were to come along. Beyond that, he comments mainly on his assessment that our posture in Greece is "such that whatever changes might occur in the internal political picture, there are no likely developments which would jeopardize our vital interests there."

Tasca also sent you the back channel message under the draft message at Tab B. He congratulated you on your role in the Vietnam negotiations and called to your attention the letters at Tab A.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That you send Tasca's letters to Fred Malek so that they can be taken into account in considering his future assignment.
2. That you approve the short back channel acknowledgment to Tasca at Tab B.

Approve _____

Other _____

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL (SECRET ATTACHMENT)

Twenty Broad Street

Staffing 8161

November 20, 1972

Dear Henry,

The enclosed were delivered to me by Tom Pappas and not knowing what else to do with the same, I am forwarding them to you for your disposition.

Wishing you well with all of your undertakings, and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



John N. Mitchell

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
The White House
Washington, D. C.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Athens, Greece

8161

October 13, 1972

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Under your inspiring leadership, we have clearly strengthened our bilateral security relations with Greece, as well as the integrity of the southern flank of NATO in the Eastern Mediterranean. At the same time, we have made unequivocally clear in every appropriate way our support for the return of Greece to some form of stable, democratic and representative government. I have traveled all over Greece and from innumerable contacts, I have been deeply impressed by the strong bonds of friendship which exist between our two countries. Incidentally, I have also been struck with the high quality and impressive leadership of the Greek Orthodox Church as a vital element in this friendship. Our present posture in Greece is such that whatever changes might occur in the internal political picture, there are no likely developments, in my view, which would jeopardize our vital interests in this country.

Tom Pappas, my dear friend, thought I should write to you regarding plans for the future. He has talked, I believe, to both you and John Mitchell on this subject. The last time I saw you, in the summer of 1971, you indicated you had another post in mind for me.

Tom and John Mitchell both have indicated you would probably send me to Rome after my service here. If this should materialize, I would be pleased to undertake this assignment because I believe Italy's internal political problem is desperate, and also because it could affect Vatican attitudes, particularly through the Italian clergy, which in turn can influence internal developments in many Catholic countries.

I have been pleased to have had the opportunity to explain why the Nixon policy towards Greece was and remains the only valid approach to our relations with this country. As Tom knows, I should be happy to be helpful in any other way to you during the period ahead, particularly in explaining our completely valid policies in the Eastern Mediterranean.

I would not want to end this message without a word about the wonderfully humane and understanding way in which Tom Pappas has contributed, at times with real personal sacrifice, in maintaining and strengthening the strong ties of friendship between the Greek and American peoples.

With warmest personal best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry".

Henry J. Tasca



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

8161

Athens, Greece

October 13, 1972

The Honorable
Henry J. Kissinger
Special Assistant to the President
for
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Henry:

On the eve of our national elections, I thought it might be useful to let you know that unless something clearly more challenging comes up in the field, that I would be content to remain on in Athens for an indefinite period. In my view, our position is solidly established here, and I believe there are no foreseeable changes which could weaken our posture here. The Greeks now understand fully our policy of non-intervention, our deep respect and hopes for democracy, and the primary importance we attach to our bilateral security interests. Homeporting is firmly established, although a real effort will have to be made to make certain that our military respect in full Greek sovereignty and sense of national dignity. By the time of the deployment of the carrier task force next summer we should be on mutually satisfactory basis in the relations between our military and Greek regime and government. The Cyprus problem continues to give cause for concern. In addition to the problem of inter-communal relations, I am personally deeply concerned by the great strength which the Communist Party and apparatus, in the closest cooperation with the Soviet Union, has been able to develop in Cyprus. Fortunately, Greek-Turkish relations are excellent at this point.

Since I have been here a little over two and one half years, I believe a further stay here would be indicated in terms of an

effective presence should the elements in the regime decide to push for a big change in leadership which possibly will render considerably more fluid the internal political situation, a development which now seems markedly more likely than let's say six months ago. However, I see no change adverse to our security interests in prospect, although it is entirely possible the choice may be between one or more groups favoring the continuance of an authoritarian system and one favoring a quick return to some form of parliamentary government.

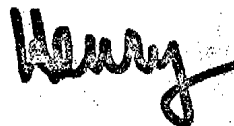
In the event the President considers he wishes to use me elsewhere, my own wishes are strongly for remaining Chief of Mission abroad. Without casting any aspersion whatever on present or past incumbents, should either of these posts be open for reasons extraneous to my own wishes, I would be interested in Rome and Paris. I have served in both countries, know the languages, and with a strong background in finance, trade, and trade promotion believe I could do a first rate job for the President. I am intimately familiar with all aspects of the dangerous internal political picture in Italy, having been the chosen instrument of the U. S. to press for the ousting of the communists from the government after the war. As for France, I have felt for a long, long time that our Ambassador to France should not only be well grounded in the priority issues of trade, finance, exchange rates etc., but also be able to get into a dialogue with the French which reflects the same hardheadedness realism, and regard for national interest which the French have always shown themselves in their dealings with the U. S. My background in NATO, European affairs and service in Paris from 1949 to 1953 are relevant in this context.

I have not mentioned the Federal Republic where I served for four years and where we met for the first time, incidentally, at a dinner given in your honor by former Foreign Minister Brentano, because the President has just appointed an excellent man to that post.

I am keen on remaining in an assignment covering the whole range of our national interests which the position of Ambassador permits.

With warm personal best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry".

Henry J. Tasca



25X1

SECRET

FROM: WHITE HOUSE
HENRY A. KISSINGER

TO: AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMBASSADOR TASCA/Eyes Only

Thank you for your kind message of congratulations on the Vietnam negotiations. I have now also received your letters to me and to the President and shall put them in the right hands.

SECRET

25X1

S E C R E T

*****S COPY

ROUTINE

[Redacted]

25X1

R 101449Z NOV 72
FM ATHENS

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

25X1

S E C R E T 101449Z NOV 72 [Redacted]

25X1

FM AMBASSADOR TASCA ATHENS 692
TO THE WHITE HOUSE, FOR DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE MAGNIFICENT, AND I MAY
SAY, AWE-INSPIRING, MANNER IN WHICH YOU HAVE TAKEN ON THE
PROBLEM OF BRINGING THE WAR IN VIETNAM TO A CLOSE.
ALTHOUGH I KNOW YOU ARE TREMENDOUSLY OCCUPIED WITH
THESE AND OTHER MATTERS, I DID TAKE THE LIBERTY OF WRITING
YOU A LETTER REGARDING MY FUTURE WITH THE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT
FIND THIS USEFUL IN ANY DISCUSSION OF AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS
WITH THE PRESIDENT. TOM PAPPAS VERY KINDLY UNDERTOOK TO
DELIVER IT PERSONALLY THROUGH JOHN MITCHELL TO YOU.
070

KENNEDY, HOWE, LORD

RECALLED
PSN:054337 PAGE 01 OF 01 TOR:315/15:59Z DTG:101449Z