

Collection: Office of the Chief of Staff Files

Series: Hamilton Jordan's Confidential Files

Folder: Singlaub, General

Container: 37

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Office of the Chief of Staff Files, Hamilton Jordan's Confidential Files,
Singlaub, General, Container 37

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TO: PRESIDENT CARTER
FROM: HAMILTON JORDAN
RE: GENERAL SINGLAUB

I know that you will be fair in your treatment of General Singlaub and will give him an opportunity to explain his statement and the circumstances under which he made it.

However, given the fact he did make the statement and you have publicly recalled him for a report, we have both public and political considerations that should be recognized.

First, this is an opportunity for you to firmly establish the position of your Administration on the question of civilian control of the military establishment. Going into the SALT negotiations with the high possibility of a fight in the Senate on the treaty, it is important for the military establishment to realize that when they challenge your decisions and judgments, they do so at the risk of their own careers. Secondly, this is an opportunity for you to demonstrate to that same establishment that while you can be firm you are also fair in your dealings with them.

I am sure that you and Harold Brown will be able to make a correct judgment on the question of what to do with General Singlaub. The range of things you could do are send him back to Korea without public comment to dismiss him.

If you send him back to Korea without comment, it would make the whole thing look cosmetic and the point you have an opportunity to make with the military establishment will be lost.

If you fire him, you run the risk of making a martyr out of him with the prospect that he might spend the next couple of years on the conservative banquet circuit ridiculing your Korean decision and policy. He is an old buddy of General Edwin Walker so this would be a real possibility.

My own thought is that a reasonable middle ground that indicates action on your part would be to have him reassigned to the Pentagon. That would certainly not be seen as a promotion nor would it seem that you had been unfair or harsh in dealing with him.

You haven't seen the film that I mentioned recently on SALT. It features the NATO commander, the SAC commander and many other US generals being used publicly to undermine and condemn the notion of arms control. The need for you to strongly establish the principle of civilian control certainly exists.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ok
J

Secretary Brown said they would expedite, and plan to announce decision some time this week.

However, he and General Rogers feel it best to wait until after General Singlaub testifies before any public announcement is made.

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~~(It's not my business, but I don't understand what difference it makes whether it's before or after the testimony... and it might give him a position of confidence for the testimony.)~~

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BY BR DATE 4-5-83

*Susan -
Call H. Brown.
Tell him:
"Expedite assignment
of Singlaub. & announce
publicly"* J

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER
FROM: HAMILTON JORDAN *HJ*
RE: GENERAL SINGLAUB

I noticed several press reports which quote friends of Singlaub's as saying that he is "stunned" by your decision and that lacking another challenging assignment is considering retirement which I gather is an immediate option for him. Some of the press reports insinuate that it is your (the President's) hope and Harold Brown's hope that he retire.

I don't know how you left this with Harold, but would recommend that he expedite offering Singlaub a new position so he does not make a decision in a vacuum. I am sure that he was upset by the Washington Post stories and can see that the option of being a conservative hero might be more appealing to him than continued service in the Army in some position. He needs to know what assignment he might have.