

[11/7/79-Not Submitted-DF]

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Hamilton already
gave the President
a copy.

Bay

FOR STAFFING
FOR INFORMATION
FROM PRESIDENT'S OUTBOX
LOG IN/TO PRESIDENT TODAY
IMMEDIATE TURNAROUND
NO DEADLINE
FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING
LAST DAY FOR ACTION

ADMIN CONFID
CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET
EYES ONLY

ACTION
FYI

	VICE PRESIDENT
	JORDAN
	CUTLER
	DONOVAN
	EIZENSTAT
	MCDONALD
	MOORE
	POWELL
	WATSON
	WEDDINGTON
	WEXLER
	BRZEZINSKI
	MCINTYRE
	SCHULTZE
	ANDRUS
	ASKEW
	BERGLAND
	BROWN
	CIVILETTI
	DUNCAN
	GOLDSCHMIDT
	HARRIS
	KREPS
	LANDRIEU
	MARSHALL

	MILLER
	VANCE
	BUTLER
	CAMPBELL
	H. CARTER
	CLOUGH
	CRUIKSHANK
	FIRST LADY
	FRANCIS
	HARDEN
	HERTZBERG
	HUTCHESON
	KAHN
	LINDER
	MARTIN
	MILLER
	MOE
	PETERSON
	PRESS
	SANDERS
	SPETH
	STRAUSS
	TORRES
	VOORDE
	WISE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 7

TO: The President

FROM: ANNE WEXLER

The attached is for your information.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

EYES ONLY

November 7, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR HAMILTON JORDAN
JODY POWELL

FROM: ANNE WEXLER *Ann*

I am sure that you have thought of all of these actions but in the event that some have not been considered, I would like to pose the following questions about possible actions on the Iranian situation:

1. Apparently the Pope is the only world leader whom Khomeini considers to be his equal. When the Iranians executed a wealthy Jewish citizen shortly after Khomeini's takeover, the Pope was asked by the United States to intervene to be sure that other Jewish people were not executed. He did so, with success. Have we considered communicating with the Pope to obtain his assistance in resolving the situation, particularly in preventing any harm to the hostages?
2. Could we get help from the Australians and Canadians who sell large amounts of grain to Iran?
3. Would a call to President Ford, briefing him on the situation, help limit his capability to criticize further?
4. Are we developing a strategy to build public support for slow, deliberate and careful action which will not endanger the lives of the hostages?; and,
5. Are we developing a strategy to show the public that the President is in control of the situation?

NOTE: For example, have we considered briefing the same (or a similar group of) "wise men" who helped us with the Cuba situation so that they could make public statements to the effect that the President is in control; that precipitous

action would endanger the lives of the hostages; that this is not a time for "macho", but rather it is a time for calm, strong leadership; and that every feasible option has been considered (perhaps distinguishing other situations). An additional point to be made by outsiders (reaction to Ford and Reagan) is that there is too much at stake here to play politics on this issue. I presume that bi-partisan public Congressional support is being solicited.

6. Have we consulted with Moslems in this country and other parts of the world who might be willing to deal with the Iranians on behalf of the hostages in the same way that the Ambassadors of Egypt, Iran, and Kuwait dealt with the Hanifi's during the crisis here? Have we considered asking leaders of Moslem countries to pressure the Iranians because of the point that their own diplomats around the world are put at risk by the precedent set in Iran?
7. Concerning the demonstration permits for the Iranian students - although it is necessary to grant the permit, the timing is important because the political risks are enormous. Although I have no answers, it may very well be that the Attorney General (or whoever decides) should take the position that because of the physical dangers and consequences (national security), he is not ready to issue a permit, with the result that we let them take us to court. If people are outraged on this issue, they could irritate or attack the demonstrators and jeopardize the lives of the hostages. Having the decision made by the courts also might help with the political problem of public views of Iranians marching down Pennsylvania Avenue protected by the U.S. government while U.S. citizens are blind folded, held hostage and unprotected in Iran.
8. Would it help to show that we are in control and to provide a better understanding of the situation, if Brown, Vance and Brzezinski did a background briefing for the national security press, emphasizing our control of the situation and responses to those suggesting "macho" action?

9. Have we considered bringing the wives of the hostages to the White House to be reassured by the President?
10. Have we considered a response to the potential cut-off of Iranian oil? In other words we could make it clear that we are not now being, and will not be, blackmailed because of oil.
11. Loyd Hackler suggested the President consider calling in J. William Fulbright to assist. According to Hackler, Fulbright is well respected in the community of educators because of the Fulbright Exchange Program, and he has great respect in the Arab world because of his long term advocacy of an "even handed" policy in the Middle East. Hackler thinks he might play a significant role in the negotiations. I am not sure that I agree with this, but I promised Hackler to pass it along.