12/19/79 [1]

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~memo~~	~~From Sanders to The President (one page) re: Aid to Israel~~	~~12/19/79~~	~~A~~
memo w/att	~~From Brzezinski to The President (2 pp.) re: Meeting With PM Callahan / enclosed in Hutcheson to Brzezinski 12/19/79~~ Opened per RAC NLC-126-19-22-1-6 12/2/13	12/18/79	A
memo	From Owen to The President (2 pp.) re: Upcoming Decisions	12/18/79	A
~~memo~~	~~From Cutler to The President (5 pp.) re: SALT Strategy~~ OPENED 8/12/93	~~12/19/79~~	~~A~~

FILE LOCATION

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: LLOYD N. CUTLER LNC

SUBJECT: SALT STRATEGY

Attached is a suggested agenda for the meeting tomorrow on SALT strategy.

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~~SECRET~~-SENSITIVE

December 18, 1979

SALT Strategy Meetings

1. Starting date for floor debate -

   a) Effect of hostages still being held.

   b) Effect of possible Soviet veto or abstention on U. N. Chapter VII sanctions.

2. Plans for meeting with Nunn-Warner group and Moynihan group -

   a) Dates.

   b) Participants.

   c) Possible understandings (see below).

3. Draft understandings relating to Senate participation in future Presidential decision to exercise reserved right of termination under Article XIX of SALT II Treaty (see attached drafts).

4. How to use sensitive verification and monitoring arguments in favor of SALT -

   a) Improved confidence on verification.

   b) Intelligence community strongly believes monitoring capacity better with SALT II than with SALT II rejected or another year's delay.

5. How to use Joint Chiefs' even stronger present conviction than at time of hearings that national security better served by prompt ratification than by rejection or renegotiation.

6. How to use NATO arguments, especially impact of rejection or delay on further TNF steps.

7. Response to other issues -

   a) Ford idea of deferring ratification until after passage of first budget resolution adopting defense budget proposals.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
PER 3/3/93 NSC Hyre MR-14C-92-171
BY [signature] NARS, DATE 7/22/93

b) Warner one-year postponement idea.

c) Stevens desire for SALT III negotiating instruction to ban or limit use of intermediate systems across Bering Sea.

8. Timing of various expected endorsements.

9. Parliamentary issues -

a) Must Senate take up amendments to Treaty text before taking up SFRC Category 1, 2 and 3 understandings dealing with the same provisions of Treaty.

b) Role of Vice President as Presiding Officer.

c) Executive sessions for sensitive points.

d) How we assist in floor debate.

10. Public and private role of President.

11. Developing public attention and support before and during floor debate.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: EDWARD SANDERS

SUBJECT: Aid to Israel

I know that we will soon be arriving at a final decision on aid levels for FY 1981. U

Despite our own budgetary problems and constraints, I think it would be a mistake for us to simply straight-line aid for Israel without serious consideration of at least some increase this year. Israel is facing an unprecedented economic situation, stemming in large part from the costs of the Sinai Force Redeployment and an oil bill as much as $1 billion more than FY 1979. U

Israel has just begun to invoke the sort of economic austerity measures which we have been encouraging, and I believe that we should signal our approval of these steps in concrete ways. At the very least, it would seem appropriate to try to make up for some of the lost purchasing power which the Israelis have suffered due to the inflation in weapons procurement costs. U

Beyond our bilateral relations, I think an increase in aid to Israel would have two benefits. First, by helping to ameliorate a difficult problem within Israel, we can allow the government to turn greater attention to the autonomy talks than is currently possible. Secondly, in the midst of our own crisis in Iran, an increase in aid would demonstrate that we intend to stand by our friends around the world, and that we intend in particular to help our friends in the Middle East. U

In conclusion, I believe that Israel urgently hopes for some aid increase to meet extraordinary needs and that the adverse impact of straight-lining aid may be material. U

I recommend that we increase aid to Israel in FY 1981 in the range of $500 million. I understand that this is also within the range that Ambassador Lewis has recommended. C

cc: Secretary of State
Hamilton Jordan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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PER 3/13/03 NSC Ltr RE NLC-02-171
BY NARS, DATE 7/28/05

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NOT ISSUED

THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

Wednesday - December 19, 1979

7:30 — Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski - The Oval Office.

8:00 (60 min.) — Breakfast with Domestic Policy Advisors. (Mr. Jack Watson) - The Cabinet Room.

may be dropped

9:15 (10 min.) — Meeting with Ambassador Donald McHenry. (Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski) - Oval Office.

10:00 — Mr. Hamilton Jordan and Mr. Frank Moore. The Oval Office.

11:45 (10 min.) — Meeting of VISTA Volunteers. (Mr. Jack Watson) - The Roosevelt Room.

12:00 — Photograph with Vice President Walter F. Mondale - Room 450, EOB.

12:10 — Lunch with Vice President Walter F. Mondale. The Oval Office.

~~1:00~~ (30 min.) — Meeting with Mr. Lloyd Cutler et al. The Cabinet Room.

~~2:00~~ (3 hrs.) — Budget Review Session. (Mr. James McIntyre). The Cabinet Room.

5:30 (30 min.) — Christmas Reception for Members of the Cabinet. The Residence.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

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EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

From: Charlie Schultze CLS

Subject: Real GNP in the Fourth Quarter

Tomorrow (Wednesday, December 19) the Commerce Department will distribute within the Federal government a very preliminary estimate of real GNP growth in the fourth quarter. It will also release publicly (at 11:30 a. m.) revised estimates of third-quarter real GNP. The preliminary fourth quarter figure will never be published.

The third-quarter annual growth rate of real GNP was revised down somewhat -- from 3.5 to 3.1 percent. In the fourth quarter, according to these very preliminary estimates, real GNP rose at a 1.5 percent annual rate. While auto sales declined, consumer spending for nondurables and services rose fairly strongly -- up at a 4-3/4 percent annual rate, adjusted for inflation. This was the principal source of the rise in real GNP. Business fixed investment declined somewhat, but this may largely reflect reduced business purchase of cars and trucks. Investment in business inventories was cut to a very low level -- a good sign, since it means that rapid production adjustments have prevented undesired stockpiling.

This first estimate of fourth quarter GNP is based on data for only part of the quarter, and is therefore subject to very large revision. There are two other reasons for being cautious in interpreting the figure:

- The estimate was put together before the November housing starts figure was available, and starts declined last month a little more than Commerce had assumed in their estimate.

- We have been told by contacts in retail trade that recent monthly retail sales figures (which Commerce uses to estimate personal consumption expenditures) may be overstating the strength of consumer spending. The Commerce Department's estimate of the personal saving rate in the fourth

quarter -- an incredibly low 3.3 percent -- gives credence to this view. This seems implausibly small, particularly for a quarter in which auto sales declined considerably.

Even with these cautions in mind, however, we still haven't found the rock under which the recession is hiding.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Stu Eizenstat

SUBJECT: State Department Budget Appeal

The State Department is appealing a $25 million refugee appropriation that will assist Israel in resettling Soviet and Eastern European refugees. Since 1973, Congress has approved such an appropriation although no administration has requested it. Congress and various Jewish organizations have expressed irritation over the lack of Administration initiative for this program, which is a model resettlement program. When in Israel, Mrs. Carter visited one of the resettlement centers and was favorably impressed by what she saw.

I strongly recommend your approval of this request, which is ranked thirteen in State's total appeal package of twenty-nine.

cc: Jim McIntyre

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12/19/79

Jody Powell

The attached was returned in the President's outbox today and is forwarded to you for your information.

Rick Hutcheson

5833

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

To Ly
info

December 13, 1979

TO: The Acting Secretary

FROM: PA - William D. Blair, Jr., Acting

Public Gives Mandate-Sized Support to President's Modulated Approach to Iran

Summary

During the two-week period, November 26-December 8, there were three national polls of the American public's attitudes toward the Iranian situation, conducted by Gallup, Harris, and Roper. The questions were worded differently but the responses were quite similar, clearly indicating that:

1. By a mandate-sized majority, the public supports the President's modulated responses to the current situation.

2. Support for this tempered approach does not appear to be based on reflexive rally-round-the-President sentiments but on the widespread perception that the hostages could probably not be rescued by military action.

3. The public clearly distinguishes between the kinds of pressure on Iran it currently favors, such as stopping food shipments, and the kind it opposes while the hostages are alive and reasonably well, such as some form of military strike.

End Summary

Public Assessment of the President

When respondents were asked to assess the President's performance, all three polls came up with favorable responses of 70-plus percent and unfavorable responses of less than 20 percent.

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Gallup

In a poll conducted for Newsweek December 5-6, the Gallup poll asked, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jimmy Carter is handling the crisis in Iran?"

Approve - 77%; Disapprove - 19%; Don't know - 4%

Harris

In a poll conducted November 26-29, the Harris poll asked, "Now let me ask you a statement about President Carter. Tell me if you agree or disagree that he has been firm and steady during the crisis in Iran, handling a difficult situation well."

Agree - 78%; Disagree - 19%; Not sure - 3% *

Roper

In a poll conducted December 1-8, the Roper poll offered respondents a wider choice of responses, "Do you think President Carter's response to what Iran is doing to the United States has been too timid and weak, or properly cautious and considered, or unnecessarily provocative and aggressive?"

Cautious, considered	71%
Timid, weak	18
Mixed feelings (volunteered response)	6
Provocative, aggressive	3
Don't know	2

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*Note: The same Harris poll asked another question about the President's performance. At first glance, the responses suggest far less approval: "During this crisis in Iran, do you feel President Carter has been tough enough, not tough enough, or too tough?"

Tough enough - 48%; Not tough enough - 47%; Too tough - 1%; Not sure - 4%

We find more significance in half the public saying the President is "tough enough" than in half saying he isn't. Past analysis of responses to a query about Presidential "toughness" suggests that the desire to be tough is not, for most, a desire to take aggressive action. In the context of the available data, we believe this question allowed respondents to vent frustration over the fact the President had not found a way to lean harder on Iran.

Public Assessment of the Situation

The public's approval of current Administration strategy in dealing with Iran appears to be based on the widespread belief that military action would not bring the hostages out safely and that military action should not be risked so long as the hostages are relatively unharmed.

Gallup

"Do you feel it is possible for the U.S. to rescue the hostages through military action or not?"

Rescue not possible - 67%; Rescue possible - 27%; Don't know - 6%

No poll question has actually asked whether rescue of the hostages should be the first priority, but the overall responses clearly indicate overwhelming acceptance of this premise. As seen below, questions by Harris and Roper clearly indicate the public's unwillingness to put the hostages at risk while other alternatives remain open:

Harris

"Now let me ask you some things that have been suggested as possible ways we might get our people being held hostage in Iran out alive. For each, tell me if you would favor or oppose the U.S. taking that step."

"--Attempt to rescue the hostages from the U.S. Embassy as Israel did in its raid on Entebbe airport."

Oppose - 65%; Favor - 26%; Not sure - 9%

Roper

"If Iran won't release the hostages, another approach that has been suggested is to have a U.S. military strike force invade Tehran to try to rescue them. Some say we should do this. Others say we shouldn't because the hostages would be killed before we could get to them. Still others say we should do it, even if we don't succeed in rescuing the hostages in order to retaliate for Iran's actions and show we won't be pushed around. Do you think we should or should not make a military attempt to rescue the American hostages in Tehran."

Should not - 49%; Should - 24%; Depends on future events (volunteered response) - 21%; Don't know - 6%

The response to the next Roper question further illustrates the public's dubiousness a rescue attempt would succeed:

"Do you think such an attempt would probably succeed in bringing most of the hostages out alive or that it probably wouldn't succeed in bringing them out alive?"

Wouldn't succeed - 75%; Would succeed - 14%; Don't know - 11%

Favored and Opposed Responses--Currently

Another reason a majority of the public prefers to see the U.S. bide its time is modest optimism the hostages will be released unharmed. Gallup asked (December 5-6):

"How do you feel the Iranian situation will end up--do you think the hostages will be released or not?"

Will be released - 50%; Will not be released - 38%; Don't know - 12%

The public has a sense of the kind of retaliatory measures it favors and opposes while the situation remains at a relative impasse.

The Roper poll suggested increasingly severe steps that ranged from taking measures against pro-Khomeini Iranian students in the U.S. (favored 66 to 28 percent) to bombing Iran (opposed 86 to 9 percent). The Harris poll also tested the response to a number of possible measures intended to conciliate Iran. The public opposed denouncing the Shah "as a criminal" or sending the Shah "back to Iran" by virtually the same percentages as it opposed an Entebbe-type raid on Iran (about 65 to 25 percent opposed to all three steps).

Roper

"Various people have proposed a number of different approaches in dealing with the hostage situation in Iran. Bearing in mind the effect that each of them might have on the hostages, on the reactions of other Arab countries, on possible responses by the Russians and on world reaction in general, would you tell me for each one whether you think we should or should not do it? First (listed below in order of most support to most opposition)--is that something we should or should not do?"

	Should	Should Not	Don't Know
Ship back to Iran all the Iranians in this country who support the Ayatollah.	66%	28%	6%
Put all the Iranians in the United States who support the Ayatollah in jail until the hostages are released.	28	66	6

	Should	Should Not	Don't Know
Stop all food shipments to Iran.	72%	24%	4%
Have the United States Navy blockade all Iranian ports to prevent their export of oil.	52	40	8
Have the United States Navy blockade all Iranian ports to prevent their import of food and other goods.	48	45	8
Sabotage the Iranian oil fields to stop their oil production.	14	80	6
Bomb Iran.	9	86	5

Harris

"Now let me ask you some things that have been suggested as possible ways we might get our people being held in Iran out alive. For each, tell me if you would favor or oppose the U.S. taking that step." (Listed below in order of most support to most opposition.)

	Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
Get our allies to denounce Iran for holding our people hostage.	81%	13%	6%
Warn the ayatollah there will be severe U.S. military reprisals taken against Iran if any American hostage is harmed or killed.	77	17	6
Make sure the shah leaves the U.S. for Mexico when he receives his final medical treatment in New York.	76	19	5
Keep trying to negotiate a release of the hostages through secret channels.	72	24	4
Agree to a U.N. investigation of criminal charges against the shah in return for the release of the hostages unharmed.	70	24	6
Agree to an investigation of criminal charges against the shah by the U.S. Congress in return for the release of the hostages unharmed.	43	50	7
Denounce the shah as a criminal in return for the release of the hostages unharmed.	27	63	10

	Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
Attempt to rescue the hostages from the U.S. Embassy as Israel did in its raid on Entebbe airport.	26%	65%	9%
Send the shah back to Iran to be tried.	24	69	7

The clear desire to see the Shah leave the U.S. and the equally clear unwillingness to have the U.S. accede to Iranian demands regarding the Shah illustrate that the public's tolerance does not extend to the point of making visible concessions.

If the Situation Changes

Current opinion on Iran is notable not only for the fact that a majority of the public seems to have a coherent point of view that embraces the major aspects of the situation, but also for the extremely low proportion of no-opinion responses (in striking contrast, for example, to the responses elicited by poll questions on SALT). An important factor in generating the coherence and firmness of present opinion is that the public has been able to define what it thinks is going on, such as the condition of the hostages and the likelihood of being able to rescue them as compared to the likelihood of their safe release.

This leads to the next question: How will public opinion be affected if it becomes apparent the hostages' lives are endangered; or, if they are put on "trial"; or, some of them begin to behave in ways that raise questions about their physical or mental well-being?

Poll data are quite unreliable when hypothetical questions are asked about ambiguous situations. Still, the available responses to several poll questions that have been asked about what should be done if the hostages are "harmed" or "killed" shows a large increase in the proportion favoring some form of military retaliation. For example, the Gallup poll found that, "if the hostages are released unharmed", five percent favored military retaliation for the hostage-taking; "if one or more of the hostages is harmed", the proportion rose to 41 percent.

Other such data suggests that the proportion of the public wanting the U.S. to "do something" retaliatory and with a visible effect will increase significantly if the situation is perceived as worsening.

BR

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

From: Al McDonald
Rick Hertzberg
Chris Matthews cgm

Subject: Talking Points:
Meeting with Vista
Volunteers, 12/19

Attached are the Presidential Talking Points for the above event.

Significant Input

Sam Brown
Marge Tobankin

Clearances

Ray Jenkins
Jack Watson
Stu Eizenstat

11:45 AM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH VISTA VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday, December 19, 1979
11:45 - 11:55 a.m.
The Roosevelt Room

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FROM: Stu Eizenstat Stu
Jack Watson Jack

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting is to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), the federal domestic volunteer service program. The meeting with you launches a six month campaign recognizing the accomplishments of VISTA and encouraging recruitment and support. The campaign theme is "Making a Good Place Better."

II. BACKGROUND AND PARTICIPANTS

Since its creation by Congress in 1964, more than 50,000 volunteers have served in VISTA, a national corps of volunteers whose mission is to address poverty and poverty-related human, social and environmental problems in the United States. Although VISTA has responded to the changing moods, priorities, and needs of the nation's poor, the basic philosophy is still the same--combining the independent spirit of self-help with the strong American tradition of neighbor helping neighbor.

Fifteen years ago on December 12, 1964, President Johnson met with the first group of VISTA volunteers at the White House. No President has met with them since.

Today, there are 3,400 VISTA volunteers serving 700 projects in 2,000 communities in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. By next year, we hope to have 5,000 volunteers, twice the number who served 14 years ago. Currently, 73% of VISTA's volunteers are recruited from the communities they serve, 15% are over 60 years of age, and 79% are black. Volunteers serve for one full year, full time, and live within the povery community they serve at a subsistence level of about $317 per month. The average volunteer mobilizes funds and services of over $26,500 and recruits about 15 non-ACTION volunteers per project.

This Administration has visibly increased support for ACTION programs, contrasting to declining support and White House antagonism of the preceding Republican administrations. (Our FY 1981 VISTA request will be $38 million, contrasting with President Ford's last VISTA request of $8.8 million for FY 1977 which we nearly tripled in FY 1978.) There is some vigorous, but isolated, right wing opposition to ACTION within the Congress that played a large part in the over two year struggle to reauthorize ACTION's program. You recently signed the agency's hard won reauthorization which included some initiatives from the Administration's urban program.

VISTA volunteers help poor people form consumer cooperatives. They help to rehabilitate and weatherize housing for the poor. They serve older people living in poverty in over 22% of all projects. They work to reduce the institutionalization of the elderly and handicapped. Some VISTA volunteers are assisting Indochinese refugees in their resettlement in this country.

Participants. You will meet with a representative group of 24 VISTA volunteers from all over the country and involved in many different projects. They were chosen by ACTION's Regional Directors for their outstanding work. (A list of the volunteers with brief project descriptions is attached.) The following officials from ACTION will attend:

Sam Brown, Director
Mary King, Deputy Director
John Lewis, Associate Director for Domestic and Anti-Poverty Affairs
Margery Tabankin, VISTA Director

Press. The White House Press Corps will cover, with photo session, your opening remarks.

Format. The meeting begins at 11:00 with Stu and Jack, who will hear a brief report on various VISTA projects and answer questions about domestic programs. When you arrive at 11:45, you will make an opening statement of recognition and encouragement for the VISTA program, to be covered by press. (Talking points are attached.) After the press leaves, it would be greatly appreciated if you would have an individual photograph made with each volunteer before departing.

Other VISTA Anniversary Activities. While the volunteers are in Washington they will attend a reception sponsored by Senators Cranston and Javits and Congressmen Simon and Perkins; make courtesy calls on other Members of Congress; and meet with various agency representatives. In an effort to focus more public attention and resources on VISTA, an Anniversary Committee has been established by Sam Brown to make suggestions and give other help during the six month campaign. Members include Bill Moyers, Governor Babbitt, Sargent Shriver, Ambassador Andy Young, Jack Valenti, Lynda Johnson Robb, Carl Holman, Vernon Jordon, and Norman Lear. Actor Ed Asner serves as honorary chairman.

VISTA Volunteers Meeting With the President

Region I	Joseph Reimer Massachusetts Association for Older Americans 75 years old elderly housing and energy
	Debra Hall Providence, Rhode Island 26 years old housing--abandoned properties
Region II	Wong Fonglo Chinese Development Council, New York City 24 years old immigrant and refugee assistance
	Raphaela Muirhead NY Statewide Senior Action Council, Brooklyn 76 years old elderly--problems of living on fixed income
Region III	Nancy Schuster Bucks County, PA, Adult Services 48 years old attorney--works on issues affecting the elderly
	Gail Griesner Easter Seal Society, Reading, PA 48 years old she is handicapped--advocacy and rights of handicapped
	Tim Ridley Greater Homewood Community Center, Baltimore 24 years old housing and energy
Region IV	Hope Peters Macomb, Mississippi 59 years old rural issues
	Sister Frances Bartos Project Comprehend, Kentucky 50 years old community education and advocay for handicapped
	Richard Copeland West Georgia Farmers Cooperative, Hamilton, GA 50 years old economic development, agriculture

Region V	Mary Dowling Alternative Schools Network, Chicago, Ill. 37 years old education
	Sidney Brooks Christian Action Ministry, Chicago 30 years old
	Fran Magoffin Nursing Home Residents Advocates, Minneapolis 54 years old legal and economic needs of nursing home residents
Region VI	Roberto Rodriguez Concilio Sudoeste, San Miguel, New Mexico 60 years old community services in rural areas
	Kim Waring EAO, Little Rock, Arkansas 24 years old food and nutrition
Region VII	Terry Rouse Whitmore Neighborhood Corporation, Kansas City, MO 31 years old energy conservation, small scale technology
	Susan Friedman United Methodist Church, Omaha, Nebraska 30 years old prison reform for Mexican Americans
Region VIII	Carl Roberts Small Farms Program, Devils Lake, N. D. 74 years old
	Jose Martinez Colorado Migrant Council, Alamosa, Colorado 66 years old rural elderly and energy assistance
Region IX	Virginia Rodriguez Centro Adelante Campesino, El Mirage, Arizona 36 years old farmworkers advocacy, health and day care
	Rudy Thompson Reality House, San Francisco, Cal. 33 years old housing, organizing seniors
	Susan Scott Woodland Farmworkers Service Center, Woodland, Cal. 20 years old farmworkers' legal rights

Region X

Annette Jim
Idaho Hunger Action Council, Boise, Idaho
26 years old
hunger, food issues

Lawrence Webster
Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington
80 years old
Native American issues, land claims, cultural preservation

Chris Matthews
12/18/79
Draft A-1

TALKING POINTS:

MEETING WITH VISTA VOLUNTEERS

December 19, 1979

1. Welcome to the White House. Jack and Stu will brief me later on your discussions so far.

2. We are here today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America. It is very fitting that we mark this occasion here in the Roosevelt Room, because FDR did so much to rouse the nation's conscience to the needs of the poor and the powerless. Here is something from his Second Inaugural Address: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much. It is whether we provide enough to those who have too little."

3. A good number of you are my age or older. Like many of you here today, I saw the hardship of the 1930s up close. I knew that when President Roosevelt talked about a third a nation ill-housed, ill-clad and ill-nourished, he was talking to a great extent about the rural South, where I grew up.

4. I saw what the Depression did to people. I also saw what it meant for people -- with the help of their neighbors and the New Deal -- to pull themselves up, to restore their dignity and sense of self-reliance.

5. That is what VISTA is all about. You work in the community. You help people to organize. You make them aware of important government services. You teach them skills. Most important, you help them to help each other -- to work together for a common good.

6. For years, VISTA volunteers like yourselves -- some 50,000 of you -- have done more than feel concern for your fellow citizens. You have gone out and done something about it. You have put your compassion to work.

7. You volunteers are representative of this 15-year effort. You personify the rich diversity both of our country and of VISTA itself. You are from various backgrounds. You are of different ages. You work in different kinds of communities. But you have one great thing in common: you are willing to get out there and <u>try</u>.

8. One of the great things about VISTA volunteers is your ability to respond quickly to urgent new challenges. A great example is the wide range of self-help energy projects now underway. Right now, volunteers are:

-- helping farmers in New Mexico apply solar technology to their greenhouses;

-- helping senior citizens in Massachusetts weatherize their homes and cut fuel bills;

-- helping an Alabama cooperative of 2,000 farmers achieve energy self-sufficiency -- by next year -- through the total use of gasohol.

9. Times change. New challenges arise. But there are certain American ideals that never change. One is the belief in helping your neighbor. You and the other volunteers have been good neighbors over the years. You have more than met the hopes that President Lyndon B. Johnson had for VISTA when he established this great program in 1964.

10. Last week it was my privilege to sign legislation -- which we had all sought for some time -- that re-authorizes funding for VISTA. It was also my privilege to send Congress a budget request that will enable VISTA to put up to 5,000 volunteers in the field this year -- the largest number ever.

11. Sam Brown, John Lewis and Marge Tobankin know that I appreciate the great work you and VISTA are doing for our country. I want you to report back to your fellow volunteers that they have a strong personal supporter here in the White House. And I will do everything that I can in the months ahead to help make the American people much more aware of what you are doing. I believe in your motto of "making a good place better". We cannot have enough of that spirit in our country.

###

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Frank Moore

You have asked for a meeting on SALT strategy tomorrow with Messrs. Brzezinski, Cutler, Moore, Brown and Vance and Ms. Wexler. Should Bob Beckel attend?

✓ APPROVE

____ DISAPPROVE

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

19 Dec 79

Zbig Brzezinski

The attached was returned in the President's outbox today and is forwarded to you for appropreate handling.

Rick Hutcheson

Phil Wise
Fran Voorde

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Per: Rac Project
ESDN: NLC-126-M-22-1-6
BY KS NARA DATE 11/25/13

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

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 7186

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL
DATE: December 18, 1979
FROM: Zbigniew Brzezinski
VIA: Phil Wise

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEETING: Former UK Prime Minister James Callaghan (U)

DATE: January 4-9 and January 12-13, 1980 (C)

PURPOSE: Callaghan would like to meet with you and has written you to that effect. (C)

FORMAT:
--Location: Oval Office
--Participants: Zbigniew Brzezinski
--Length: 15 minutes (U)

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None. (U)

SPEECH MATERIAL: A background paper will be provided by the NSC. (U)

PRESS COVERAGE: The meeting will be announced; photo opportunity. (U)

STAFF: Zbigniew Brzezinski (U)

RECOMMEND: Zbigniew Brzezinski (U)

OPPOSED: None. (U)

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: You last met with Callaghan during the Guadeloupe Summit in January, 1979. (U)

BACKGROUND: Callaghan has been invited to do some lectures in the US and will be visiting here in January with his wife Audrey (the Callaghans will be seeing Margaret and Peter Jay). He has written to you and specifically requested a meeting but recognizes the burdens of your schedule. (C)

Approve ✓ Disapprove _____

Informal - as a friend

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DECLASSIFIED
Per: Rao Project
ESDN: NLC-136-19-32-1-5
BY KS NARA DATE 11/25/13

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Review 12/17/85

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SWIA OAA

29th November 1979.

Dear Jimmy,

I thought I would let you know that Audrey and I will be coming to the United States early in January, partly to see Margaret and Peter and also because I have been invited to do some lectures.

Naturally I would enjoy having a talk with you although I know how busy you are, so I am just letting you know the dates when I shall be in Washington in case it is possible to arrange something.

We shall be there from the afternoon of 4th January until late morning on 9th January, and again on Saturday and Sunday, 12th and 13th January.

Congratulations on the manner in which you are handling the most difficult problem of Iran. We are thinking of you.

Love to Rosalynn,
& best wishes

John Kenneth Galbraith

The President of the United States.

DECLASSIFIED
Per; Rac Project
ESDN: NLC-136-14-33-1-E
BY KG NARA DATE 11/25/19

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRANK MOORE F.M.

SUBJECT: Chrysler legislation

The Eagleton amendment passed the Senate by a vote of 51 to 43. A filibuster is now likely and there is talk of a compromise amendment which will include a $550-600 million contribution by the workers.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

19 Dec 79

FOR THE RECORD:

FRANK MOORE RECIEVED A COPY OF THE ATTACHED.

NAME Senator Sam Nunn

196

TITLE _____

CITY/STATE D-Georgia

Phone Number--Home (___)_____

Work (202) 224-3521

Other (___)_____

Requested by Frank Moore

Date of Request 12/19/79

INFORMATION (Continued on back if necessary)

Talking Points:

1. I really appreciate your vote against tabling the minimum tax amendment. Your help put us over the hump and paved the way for improving the Senate bill.

2. We are also interested in the Chrysler legislation. We are opposed to the Tsongas and Lugar amendments. We oppose efforts to require

---

NOTES: (Date of Call 12-19)

Vote yes on Eagleton

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a three year freeze on wages and efforts to require excessive contributions from Chrysler workers. We think that the Eagleton amendment, which will be voted on this morning, is a good and fair approach.

3. Thanks again for your help on the windfall profits tax.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

19 Dec 79

FOR THE RECORD:

FRANK MOORE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE ATTACHED.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December ~~18~~ 19, 1979

Good

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRANK MOORE FM

SUBJECT: Proposed Meeting with EMB Conferees

It is the opinion of the White House Congressional Liaison and Department of Energy personnel that nothing would be gained at this time in having the EMB conferees come to the White House for a meeting with you to discuss the possibility of compromise.

The conferees are far from deadlocked and any face-to-face meeting in the White House at this time would be viewed by state and local government and the environmental community as a weakening of our positions on substantive over-ride etc.

Both Congressman John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Senator Bennett Johnston (D-La.) feel that there is still time to work out the conference problems and that a White House meeting would not be helpful now.

They plan to meet privately at lunch ~~tomorrow~~ Tuesday to see if some compromise strategy can be worked out. After the lunch discussion, the conference will start again on what we hope will be a more conciliatory track.

After tomorrow's meeting, we will look at the situation again and advise you further.

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12/18/79

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: TIM KRAFT TK

RE: ILLINOIS STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

On December 26, 1979 we will file some 5,000 petitions on your behalf with the Illinois State Board of Elections in order that your name will appear on the March 18, 1980 primary ballot. Attached is the statement of candidacy which must be filed at the same as the petitions. I recommend that you sign the attached.

CARTER/MONDALE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE, INC.
1413 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

NAME	ADDRESS - ZIP CODE	OFFICE	PARTY
JIMMY CARTER	1 WOODLAND DRIVE PLAINS, GEORGIA 31780	PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES	DEMOCRAT

I, JIMMY CARTER, being first duly sworn, say that I reside at 1 WOODLAND DRIVE, in the Town of PLAINS, in the County of SUMTER, in the State of GEORGIA; that I am a qualified voter therein and am a qualified primary voter of the DEMOCRATIC PARTY; that I am a candidate for Nomination (advisory vote only) to the office of PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, to be voted upon at the primary election to be held on the 18th day of MARCH, A.D. 1980; and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ballot for Nomination (advisory vote only) for such office.

X Jimmy Carter

District of Columbia:

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me by JIMMY CARTER, who is to me personally known, this 19th day of DECEMBER, A.D. 1979.

Robert D. Linder

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires April 14, 1983

A copy of our report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

As you are aware, my son, James Earl (Chip) Carter, III is currently being protected by the United States Secret Service, pursuant to the provisions of Section 3056 of Title 18, U.S. Code, authorizing the protection of members of the immediate family of The President.

I hereby decline Secret Service protection for Chip Carter during the period of December 21, 1979 through December 27, 1979. Protection should cease for Chip upon his departure from the Washington National Airport at 1030 hours on Friday, December 21. Protection for Chip should resume upon his return at Washington National Airport on Thursday, December 27, which time is currently scheduled for 1430 hours.

In making this decision, I relieve the United States Secret Service of any and all responsibility for Chip's physical security during the aforementioned period of time.

Jimmy Carter

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM RICHARD HARDEN

RE: Miss Lillian's appearance in Las Vegas and the Fundraiser at Caesars Palace, December 11 and 13

I thought you might enjoy seeing some of the newspaper clippings from the Las Vegas Sun regarding Miss Lillian's appearance in Las Vegas last week.

In addition to all the good press, the fundraiser brought in about $75,000.

Attachments

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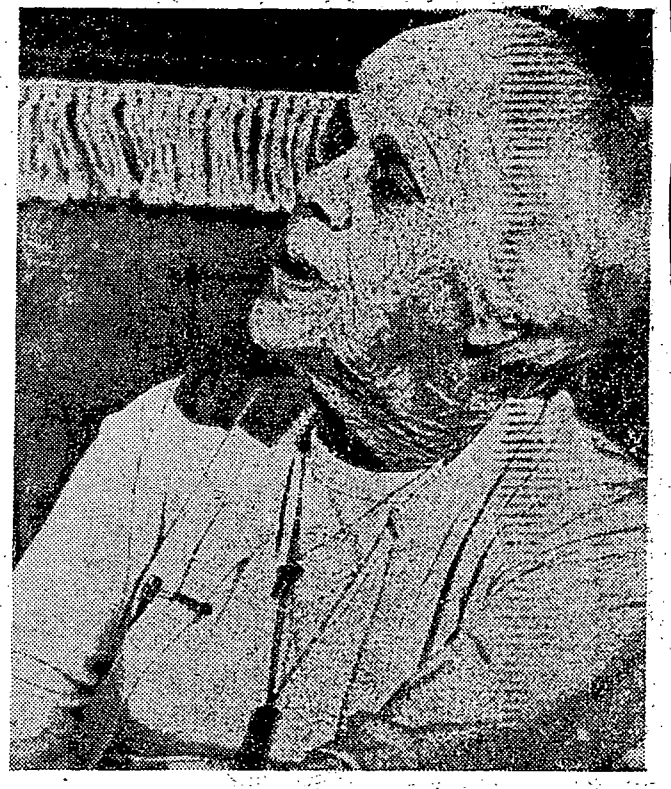
. . . "



"He's never told me what to say . . . "



"Jimmy is doing his very best."



"I've never sat down to knit."

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others won kind words from Miss Lillian.

"He's doing fine, he hasn't had another drink," she said.

"He comes to my house now with a Pepsi-Cola in his hand, which is odd-looking."

Miss Lillian said she sometimes gets tired of being the president's mother, noting she couldn't even put a couple dollars into a slot machine here because it would be front-paged.

But what she wants most is to "get Jimmy in the White House and get the hostages returned. After that, I don't care. I just keep floating along, saying the wrong things."

A standing ovation greeted her later at the Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center as she received a key to the city from Mayor Bill Briare and a plaque and medal from County Commissioner Thalia Dondero, among other commemorations.

Attempts to save her arthritic hands from too many effusive greetings were thwarted by the little woman — she went out of her way to find people to touch and chat with for a moment.

"We're not senior citizens, we're just a little over 50, aren't we?" she asked the enchanted crowd of about 250 older persons.

She urged them to be active, sent them Jimmy's love and acknowledged thanks for birthday and anniversary greetings sent to elderly Las Vegans from the White House.

"They're gettin' mighty sweet up there — maybe it's because he's runnin' again," she grinned to the delight of the audience.

Answering questions from the seniors, she said her son didn't ask her permission to run again.

"He hasn't asked my permission to do anything since I got married — that's a joke," said Miss Lillian.

"When my children get frying pan size, I wean 'em."

A surprised and enthusiastic Catherine Perrotti, 619 S. Sixth St., was among those who received personal greetings and Christmas wishes from the president's mother as Miss Lillian left the center.

"It was so unexpected, I was speechless," said Perrotti.

"She extended her hand to me and pulled me over — I never had such a hug."



FLOWERS FOR MISS LILLIAN —Las Vegan Alice Clifton gives Lillian Carter, mother of the President, some flowers during Mrs. Carter's visit to the Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center Thursday. "Miss Lillian" visited Las Vegas to attend a performance and party to honor Frank Sinatra's 40th year in show business at Ceasars Palace Wednesday night and to drum up support for her son's second attempt to win the presidency. (See Stories, Pages 10-11)

SUNfoto by JIM LAURIE



LAS VEGAS SUN

MISS LILLIAN JOINS THE PARTY—The President's mother joins Frank Sinatra at the celebration at Caesars Palace saluting his birthday and his 40 years in show business

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"I don't know a darn thing about issues . . . "



"He's never told me what to say . . . "



"Jimmy is doing his very best."



"I've never sat down to knit."

Miss Lillian Didn't Gamble, But Still Hit Jackpot In Las Vegas

By JO MORELAND
SUN Staff Writer

She might not have had a chance at the slot machines, but Miss Lillian hit one jackpot after another Thursday in Las Vegas.

The glib mother of President Jimmy Carter laid a load of southern charm from one end of the Strip to the other as she carried her son's re-election campaign to Nevada.

"If you ask me about an issue, I don't know a darn thing about issues," the 81-year-old matriarch said sweetly before a press conference began at her luxurious Caesars Palace suite.

Mrs. Carter arrived here Wednesday from Plains, Ga., attended a dinner party for entertainer Frank Sinatra that evening and Thursday visited a Las Vegas senior citizens center. Thursday night she headed up a private $500 per plate fundraising dinner for President Carter's re-election and is scheduled to depart for her home in Plains during mid-morning Friday.

"Sometimes I say things I shouldn't, but not today," she declared Thursday.

The things she shouldn't say lately have included a comment attributed to her about a contract murder for the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran.

"That was made in a joking situation, absolutely, and they didn't finish the rest of the sentence," she told Las Vegas reporters.

She said when she saw her son two days later, he didn't admonish her about the matter.

others won kind words from Miss Lillian.

"He's doing fine, he hasn't had another drink," she said.

"He comes to my house now with a Pepsi-Cola in his hand, which is odd-looking."

Miss Lillian said she sometimes gets tired of being the president's mother, noting she couldn't even put a couple dollars into a slot machine here because it would be front-paged.

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"It was so unexpected, I was speechless," said Perrotti.

"She extended her hand to me and pulled me over — I never had such a hug."

5:30 PM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JACK WATSON

SUBJECT: Cabinet Christmas Party

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Included below are the names of the guests who have accepted the invitation to attend the Cabinet Christmas Party tonight, December 19, at 5:15 p.m. in the yellow oval room of the private residence. There will be a pianist and buffet will be served.

Secretary and Mrs. Vance(Grace)
Secretary and Mrs. Brown(Colene)
Secretary and Mrs. Marshall(Pat)
Secretary and Mrs. Goldschmidt(Margie)
Secretary and Mr. Hufstedler(Seth)
Secretary(designate)and Mrs. Klutznick(Ethel)
Secretary Landrieu (and son Mitchell)
Secretary Duncan
Attorney General and Mrs. Civiletti(Gaile)
Mrs. Ariadna Miller

The Honorable and Mrs. Charles Schultze(Rita)
The Honorable and Mrs. James McIntyre(Maureen)
The Honorable Reubin Askew
The Honorable Zbigniew Brzezinski
The Honorable and Mrs. Douglas Costle(Betsy)
Admiral and Mrs. Roland Freeman(Dorothy)
The Honorable Max Cleland
Admiral and Mrs. Stansfield Turner(Patricia)
The Honorable and Mrs. John Macy(Joyce)
The Honorable and Mrs. Sol Linowitz(Toni)

wednesday, december 19, 1979
"SALT" meeting

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SALT mtg

a) debate > hostages = reconsider of majority
b) sol veto - move
c) 19 Senators - mtg
d) Bellmon → Mayaldan
e) Treaty termination - annual report on SU progress
f) Verification assurances
g) JC's support
h) NATO arguments
i) Budget applicable
j) No postponement
k) Stevens → 5 yr
l) understands - Glenn, Nunn, Kassyn

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tom Hering
J. Joyce
M Zahorsa

December 19, 1979

Marty
Pat Driscoll
Carol Wise
Alt BB McCoy
Alt Ed Holloway

MR. PRESIDENT:

Congressman Marty Russo called at 3 p.m. to tell you whether or not he is going to be a delegate for you.

Cong. Liaison recommends you return his call.

PHIL

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

December 14, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIOT R. CUTLER
Associate Director for Natural
Resources, Energy & Science
Office of Management and Budget

From: Secretary of the Interior

Because of many inquiries about our conversation of yesterday, please permit me to reiterate my support for DOE's budget appeal on the WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant) site. I believe the storage of nuclear waste is one of the most important decisions that America must make with regards to military superiority and energy independence. We have to recognize that to use these types of military weapons and this form of energy generation, wastes will be created and they must be stored in a safe manner.

While we at Interior continue to support the conservative view of characterizing and banking sites for a high level repository, TRU wastes are continuing to pile up and we must provide safe storage.

DOE's request for $105 million to commence construction of the WIPP site for TRU wastes is supported by the Department of the Interior providing the storage is for:

(1) Transuranic (TRU) wastes;

(2) the waste storage will be in a retrievable mode; and

(3) shall not be limited only to military wastes.

I further recommend that the site be "licensed" although my support is not contingent upon licensing.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 18 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM McINTYRE Jim

SUBJECT: Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP)

I thought you would be interested in seeing the attached note from Cecil Andrus which seeks to clarify his position on the WIPP issue that was discussed at the DOE appeal session last Friday.

The conditions which Secretary Andrus has attached to his support for DOE's appeal that you reverse your position on WIPP illustrate why we characterized his position as ambivalent and anomalous. On the one hand, Secretary Andrus supports the DOE position provided that WIPP "should not be limited only to military wastes." He also recommends that the site be licensed. On the other hand, the Congress has authorized construction of WIPP only for military wastes and only if the site is not licensed. Although Secretary Duncan proposes that we ask for funds for WIPP consistent with these legislative constraints (that is, for unlicensed disposal of defense wastes only), Secretary Andrus does not support that position.

Attachment

I further recognize that this memorandum is after the fact, but too many people have been questioning whether I do or do not support Secretary Duncan's appeal and I want the record to be very clear that I do.

Cecil D. Andrus
Secretary

cc: Secretary Duncan, DOE
Under Secretary Joseph
A/S Davenport
Chris Carlson
Kitty Schirmer, White House

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: STU EIZENSTAT
GUS SPETH

SUBJECT: DOE'S WIPP PROJECT -- OMB ISSUE PAPER

We strongly urge you not to alter your previous decision which would terminate the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) project and "bank" the New Mexico site for possible future use (option one in the DOE issue paper). We believe that there are no new facts or reasons which should lead you to change your decision. EPA and Frank Press' concur with these views. Secretary Andrus will provide his comments later today after he meets with Secretary Duncan.

- Proceeding with an unlicensed facility for (TRU) wastes at WIPP, which has not gone through a process of comparison with other sites would directly contradict a fundamental policy of Interagency Review Group (IRG) -- that TRU waste facilities be licensed by the NRC.

- Current law already requires licensing of military-related high level wastes (HLW). The IRG was unanimous that the long-term hazards of TRU wastes are comparable to those of HLW wastes. Disposal sites for both types of wastes should be licensed in order to provide for state, local, and public participation in the process as well as high quality technical review.

- Option two would start implementation of our nuclear waste strategy off on the wrong foot by disavowing this major policy finding of the IRG. WIPP is highly visible and controversial, and actions taken on it will be seen as the bellweather of the Administration's real intent, particularly by the states and the environmental and scientific communities.

- Congressional interest proceeding with a TRU-only, unlicensed respository is strongly centered in the Armed Services Committees, (and the Senate Energy Committee where major members overlap with Armed Services.) Rep. Udall and Senator Hart, the Chairmen of the Congressional Committees with licensing jurisdiction, feel strongly that all repositories should be licensed, regardless of waste types. Udall and Hart have introduced legislation requiring licensing of TRU disposal. Congress is clearly not

of one mind on this issue, and the licensing requirement may be enacted, particularly if the Administration supports this policy.

- The transuranic wastes now at Idaho present no near-term health hazard and acting now to dispose of them alone -- at a total lifetime project cost (not including Idaho facilities) of $1 billion -- is a waste of taxpayer funds since it is unlikely to lead to establishment of a high level waste repository. Proceeding on a non-licensed basis may well preclude using the site for high level waste in the future.

- The licensing process offers the sole opportunity for obtaining public confidence that TRU (or HLW) wastes will be disposed of properly and in a manner which considers health and safety issues. The State of New Mexico views licensing as a critical aspect of the proposal. Governor King has stated publicly that WIPP must be licensed (though he may be privately more flexible.)

- In addition, there are major technical questions (raised by USGS and others) about the suitability of the WIPP site itself. It has not yet been technically demonstrated as able to accomodate <u>any</u> candidate waste forms, and should be reviewed in the context of our overall process to characterize potential waste sites.

In sum, supporters of Option one believe, contrary to DOE's view, that trying to proceed with WIPP as currently proposed will not in fact speed up the process by taking a concrete step forward, but will instead engage us in a debilitating and devisive fight that will slow the process down.

ID 795685 THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DATE: 13 DEC 79

FOR ACTION: JIM MCINTYRE

INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT STU EIZENSTAT

FRANK MOORE GUS SPETH

SUBJECT: DUNCAN MEMO RE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT

+++++++++++++++++++ +++++++++++++++++++ +++++++++++++++++++

+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +

+ BY: +

+++++++++++++++++++ +++++++++++++++++++ +++++++++++++++++++

ACTION REQUESTED: FOR BUDGET MEETING

STAFF RESPONSE: ( ) I CONCUR. ( ) NO COMMENT. ( ) HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 13, 1979

MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT

Since this memo was prepared, I have spoken with Secretary Andrus who informs me that he supports our position provided that WIPP is for TRU waste disposal only with emplacement on a retrievable basis.

Both Secretary Andrus and I would prefer to see WIPP licensed by the NRC but do not believe it will be possible to gain Congressional approval for this course of action at the present time.

C. W. Duncan

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 13, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CHARLES W. DUNCAN, JR.

SUBJECT: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

In August, an Interagency Review Group (IRG) chaired by the Department of Energy recommended to you a comprehensive nuclear waste management program. The IRG was unable to reach agreement on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to be constructed at a site near Carlsbad, New Mexico for the permanent disposal of certain nuclear wastes.

At that time, your decision was to reserve the Carlsbad site for possible future use as a permanent waste repository but to delay any further work on WIPP until several alternative sites had been examined.

When you made this decision, the Congress had not yet made its final determination on the role of the project in the overall nuclear waste management program. The House had de-authorized the project and the Senate supported going ahead. However, in conference this week, the House and Senate Committees agreed to continue the project. The Conference Report included WIPP as an unlicensed R&D project to demonstrate the permanent disposal of defense transuranic wastes. Both the House and Senate are expected to accept the Conference Report.

As a result, Congressional action places the Administration and the Congress in direct conflict over WIPP. Congress wishes to continue WIPP; your decision would have the effect of cancelling the project.

Under these circumstances, I urge you to reconsider your initial decision on WIPP. As described in the OMB issue paper on WIPP, the following options are available to the Administration:

1. Terminate the project and bank the site until alternatives can be examined, but continue site characterization and R&D activities.

2. Proceed with the WIPP project as authorized by Congress.

DOE (joined by DOS and ACDA) recommends you select Option 2. The major reasons are as follows:

- Your decision on WIPP was made without a clear expression from the Congress on how it wished to proceed. Confrontation, especially with Senators Jackson and Church, who strongly support the project, could be costly at this time.

- Opposing the construction of WIPP will undoubtedly lead to either the cancellation of the project or a prolonged and bitter disagreement with the Congress, especially the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

- Proceeding would permit the Administration to take concrete visible action leading to the construction of a first permanent waste disposal facility on an accelerated schedule and with Congressional support.

If you do not select Option 2, I recommend that $27 million be added to the FY 1981 Budget for lease acquisition and further characterization of the Carlsbad site and related R&D.