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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 21, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

JIM CONNOR 

The attached file was returned in the President's outbox with the request that it be forwarded to you.

cc: Dick Cheney

Attachment:

Chronology

Change in Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jack Marsh

Return to

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

CHANGE IN ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Chronology

Monday

November 3

In a meeting with the NSC Staff at 5:00 p. m. General Scowcroft informed the Staff of the various personnel shifts and that he would be replacing Secretary Kissinger as Assistant to the President.

Tuesday

November 4

The NSC Staff was informally advised by the Office of the Staff Secretary that all staff papers henceforth should be addressed to General Scowcroft. (This advice was not formalized in writing because of the uncertainty as to General Scowcroft's legal ability to assume the position while holding military rank.) The staff was informed, however, that to save time and effort it would not be necessary to recall and/or retype papers to or for signature by Secretary Kissinger but that General Scowcroft would initial opposite the name.

Tuesday

November 4

A staff memorandum to Jim Connor was prepared for General Scowcroft's* approval asking that a signature element be prepared for him for use by the White House Correspondence Unit in connection with his appointment as Assistant to the President. (Tab A)

>
*Never
Signed by
Brent.

Wednesday

November 5

An NSC Staff Procedure was issued instructing that henceforth all material prepared for or from General Scowcroft would use "Brent Scowcroft" without indication of rank or title (Tab B). This was issued to confirm the informal advice given earlier and to make it possible for General Scowcroft to sign material as Assistant to the President without raising the question of his retaining his military rank.

Wednesday
November 5

The secretaries in the West Wing offices were informally advised to answer the telephones "General Scowcroft's office" rather than "Secretary Kissinger's office." (These instructions were confirmed on November 6.)

Signature of Material

Since November 3, no papers have been signed by Secretary Kissinger as Assistant to the President. In that time, General Scowcroft has signed 16 items prepared for Kissinger signature as Assistant to the President. There are two apparent discrepancies which are explained as follows:

--On October 30 Secretary Kissinger initialled a Memorandum to the President on an issue regarding South Africa. The President approved, with his initials, a particular course of action, but subsequently reconsidered his decision. The final page of the memorandum was retyped to permit the President to initial his preferred course of action. The date on the original memorandum was changed to November 8 and the memorandum submitted to the President for approval. (Tab C)

--In mid-October Secretary Kissinger initialled a memorandum to the President containing a reply to a letter from Dr. Nicholas Nyaradi on CSCE (Tab D). Instead of forwarding it to the President, however, he asked for additional State Department views. Those were obtained and the original memorandum, with Secretary Kissinger's initials, was forwarded to the President on November 7.

Attendance at Meetings

The only meeting of the NSC or an NSC sub-group has been one 40 Committee meeting on Friday, November 14, 1975, which was chaired by Brent Scowcroft.

Since that date, General Scowcroft has regularly attended meetings with the President and others as Assistant to the President. On no occasion since November 3 has Secretary Kissinger attended a meeting as Assistant to the President. (At Tab E is a list of meetings attended by General Scowcroft since November 3; those bearing an asterisk were also attended by the Secretary of State.)

Change in the Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

CHRONOLOGY

Monday, November 3

On the afternoon of Monday, November 3 I asked Brent Scowcroft if he would obtain a resignation letter from Henry Kissinger in order to keep the records straight. Brent indicated that he would do so.

Shortly thereafter, I asked Don Rumsfeld for such a letter and Don indicated he would be staying on until his confirmation but that he would prepare the letter at the appropriate time.

Tuesday, November 4

I inquired of Brent was the letter ready and he indicated to me that it had been prepared and was on HAK's desk but that he did not wish to sign it. I have not pursued the matter since with Brent.

✓ In the period from November 3 a total of nine memoranda from HAK to the President were received. They are listed at Tab A. In one particular case, a memorandum of November 12, the original memorandum was from Brent Scowcroft to the President, however, upon reading it appeared that the memo was quoting HAK. We returned this to the NSC and asked that they revise the memo so that the sender and text were correlated. They returned the memo without revising the text but merely by substituting HAK's name in for Brent Scowcroft. All of the memorandums referred to are on White House stationery.

Jim Connor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

All of the memos mentioned are on
White House letterhead

November 3 -

Memo from HAK re Letter to Col. Thomas
A. P. Krock of Dallas, Texas

November 5 -

Memo from HAK re Establishment of the
U. S. Sinai Support Mission

November 7 -

X Memo from HAK re Reply to Dr. Nicholas
Nyaradi (this has not gone to President
yet still in staffing)

November 10 -

Memo from HAK re reply to Letter of
thanks from Prime Minister Miki

November 10 -

Memo from HAK re National Intelligence
Estimate "The Soviet Assessment of the US"

✓ copy loaned to J.M.
X original sent J.M.

THE WHITE HOUSE.
WASHINGTON

November 8 -

Memo from HAK re Cooperation with
South Africa on Ocean Surveillance

November 12 -

✓
Memo from HAK re Request to You by 15
AID Officers for Continued Employment with
the USG (this has not gone to President
yet in staffing)

November 14 -

Memo from HAK re Objectives for
the Intelligence Community for FY 1976
(this has not gone to the President
yet)

November 12 -

Memo from HAK re US Spanish Bases
Negotiations - Status Report