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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

WASHINGTON

September 21, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER *B*

SUBJECT:

Information Items

Strong Venezuelan Reaction to U.S. Statements on Oil Prices:

Reaction in Venezuela to your comments at the UN on oil prices and to Secretary Simon's remarks the same day has been strongly adverse. Venezuelan President Perez has sent you a long, public telegram in which he describes in strongly worded terms Venezuela's reaction to your statements and defends Venezuela's position in favor of petroleum price increases. Perez says a more just balance between the prices of raw materials and of manufactured goods must be established if the developing countries are to improve their economic condition. Perez also released publicly the text of a note from his government objecting to the tenor of our earlier communications on the subject.

Our embassy reports all major political parties have issued statements criticizing U.S. efforts to unite consuming nations against price increases and some characterized your UN statement as "threats." The reactions of economic leaders and representatives of nonpolitical institutions have been considerably more measured. Foreign Minister Schacht, however, told reporters as he departed for the UN that Venezuela and the other OPEC countries have a "perfect right to take all measures they deem suitable to their interests."

Hurricane Damage in Central America: A UPI dispatch from Tegucigalpa today states that Hurricane Fifi has killed 2,800 persons in Honduras alone on its path through five Central American countries; thousands more are missing. An official spokesman of the Honduran National Emergency Committee said between 7,000 and 8,000 persons are missing, with between 40 and 50 percent of them dead. The damage has been most extensive along the north coast of Honduras but has also affected other neighboring countries, particularly Belize.

State has authorized disaster assistance to the area and our ambassador has established a committee to coordinate our efforts in Honduras. A U-21 aircraft with a disaster assistance survey team has been sent from SOUTHCOM to aid in the effort and the Peace Corps has organized and equipped two teams to lend medical

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assistance in the north coast area. The Honduran government has officially requested that we provide disaster assistance in the form of equipment (a helicopter), personnel and provisions, and medical supplies.

Two TU-95s En Route to Cuba: Two Soviet naval aviation TU-95s were detected flying south over the North Atlantic this morning, probably en route to Cuba. The aircraft departed the Soviet Union yesterday afternoon and were expected to arrive at Jose Marti Airfield in Havana around 6:00 a.m. this morning. In the past, TU-95s have been associated with Soviet naval task forces in Cuba, one of which is now approaching the island 300 miles east of Bermuda.

French Army Chief of Staff Comments on Giscard's Defense Posture:

(1) [redacted] General de Boissieu, chief of staff of the French army, said in mid-September that during the "week of reflection" on defense and military matters, President Giscard d'Estaing made it clear that these topics had never been among his major subjects of concentration -- in part, because he does not believe France faces a substantial military threat. Giscard, according to de Boissieu, undertook a thorough review of French military doctrine and the condition of service of French military personnel only because his position as chief of state required him to do so.

De Boissieu reportedly said that Giscard did not reveal his conclusions about strategic doctrine even in the French Council of Defense session which concluded the defense review. The general continued, however, that these conclusions can be defined as follows:

- Reaffirmation of the French nuclear arm, both strategic and tactical.
- Delegation to Defense Minister Soufflet of responsibility for measures to boost morale of the rank and file French military personnel.
- Determination that France would not reenter the integrated military command of NATO (although Giscard indicated he is looking for specific steps of cooperation with NATO which would permit France to

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coordinate its military forces with those of its NATO allies but would not provoke domestic political opposition).

According to de Boissieu, the practical result of Giscard's emphasis on modest steps toward cooperation with NATO has been the strengthening of French military planning for wartime and war-emergency cooperation with the alliance.

Situation in Indochina: The most significant military action in South Vietnam remains centered in the northern provinces, where activity picked up slightly late this week. Along the normally quiet cease-fire line in Quang Tri Province, the communists have increased their shellings of South Vietnamese marine positions and the marines have been returning the fire. Eight marine strongpoints northwest of Hue were shelled and then assaulted. There was also a general increase in communist-initiated actions in southern Military Region 1 during this time. The most significant action was the continued communist effort to overrun the isolated government outpost of Gia Vuc in southwestern Quang Ngai Province. On September 19, communist sappers caused considerable damage to a radar site on Monkey Mountain, just five miles northeast of Da Nang.

The Khmer Communists have launched harassing attacks against widely separated provincial capitals. Kompong Cham City in the north continues to be the target of sporadic shellings; ground probes also occurred near Kompong Chhnang City north of Phnom Penh, at Takeo south of the capital, and at Siem Reap in the northwest. Closer to Phnom Penh, however, government units participating in the major clearing operation southeast of the capital have registered their first gains in several weeks.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

September 21, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Additional Information Items



Genscher Foreign Policy Statement: FRG Foreign Minister Genscher addressed the Bundestag this week and characterized the government's policy as one of "continuity and concentration." He said that its major goals would be to push forward with the process of European unification, to strengthen the Atlantic alliance, and to continue efforts toward detente.

The highlights of the speech were as follows:

- West European unification: This will be the central theme of the FRG's foreign policy. The primary task at this point is the restoration of economic stability in Western Europe, a priority upon which France and the FRG are agreed.
- U.S.: It cannot be repeated enough that the Atlantic alliance and U.S. presence in Europe are indispensable. Although many thought early in the year that European unification would bring Europe into opposition with the U.S., "much has changed in this regard." "Repeated and thorough exchanges with Secretary Kissinger" in recent months and President Ford's letter to Chancellor Schmidt are evidence of further development of close and constructive ties with the U.S. The chancellor and Genscher will be following up very soon on the President's invitation to visit Washington.
- USSR and Eastern Europe: There will be problems, but further progress is possible. There is a "positive trend" in FRG relations with the East, but also problems involving Berlin which cannot be overlooked; FRG-USSR relations can never be better than the situation in Berlin.
- Greece: The FRG will help Greece economically but it regrets Greece's withdrawal from the military organization of NATO. Greek association with the EC cannot replace its participation in NATO.

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The foreign ministry very lightly brushed over CSCE, MBFR, disarmament, and the developing countries. With respect to CSCE, he pointed out that there are important problems that must be dealt with more thoroughly before one could predict when the conference might end. (Gates)

EC Foreign Ministers Political Consultations: French Foreign Ministry Political Director Puaux briefed Ambassador Irwin September 17 on the substance of the EC foreign ministers political consultations the previous day. The main points of the briefing were as follows:

- Cyprus: The foreign ministers concentrated on the humanitarian aspects (refugees) and the political aspects (resumption of fruitful negotiations). Puaux indicated that the EC foreign ministers were concerned that the current refugee problem might develop into a permanent refugee problem. The foreign ministers agreed that talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities were the only way to get genuine negotiations underway. According to Puaux, the ministers had a "faint hope" that the change in the Turkish cabinet might help the Turks become more responsive to the need for a negotiated settlement, and believed that the domestic Turkish situation might have forced Ecevit to be intransigent.
- Greece: The ministers agreed on the need to encourage the democratic chance offered by the Karamanlis government and to encourage the maintenance in Athens of a pro-western orientation. They focused on Greece's relationship with the Council of Europe and agreed to work toward reintegration of Greece in the council.
- Euro/Arab Dialog: The ministers agreed to a meeting in Cairo on October 20 among representatives of the EC presidency, the EC commission, the presidency of the Arab League, and the secretariat of the Arab League. The meeting, which will not involve senior officials, will develop procedures for the dialog. The first meeting of the "general committee" would take place in late November and include high-level representatives of the EC Nine, the EC communities, the Arab League, and all Arab states which might wish to participate.



- EC-Canada: The ministers decided to discuss with Canada its earlier desire to establish a commercial agreement with the EC. Puaux noted that Trudeau will go to France October 21-22 and then to Brussels. Moreover, the EC Nine political directors plan to meet with a senior Canadian official in New York during the UNGA to exchange views. (Gates)

Brazilian-Arab Ties: Forty Arab investors recently visited Brazil to identify potential projects for Arab investments. Lucien Dahdah, an Arab financier, reportedly expressed satisfaction that, in addition to accomplishing that objective, the Arab investors had granted a \$25 million loan to the Brazilian government; arranged for Lebanese collaboration in the construction of a "Brazilian trade center," presumably in Beirut; negotiated an agreement for several unspecified projects in the Middle East; and put forth a proposal for partnership in a private Brazilian bank. Plans are also underway to establish a joint Brazilian-Arab investment company with an initial capitalization of \$50 million. (Low)

