

MEMORANDUM

November 11, 1976

The President-elect

FROM: Jack Watson, David Aaron, Tony Lake
SUBJECT: Foreign Policy Issues For Your Action

This memorandum covers foreign policy subjects on which your guidance would be useful. It covers:

- Further follow-up on foreign policy issues, growing out of the campaign;
- The question of contacts with foreign press.

1. Foreign Policy Issues Remaining from the Campaign.

In a previous memo it was suggested that you may wish to contact key countries through their embassies in Washington to assuage certain concerns which may have arisen from the campaign. Since that time:

--Averell Harriman has talked to Ambassador Dobrynin (USSR). In a separate memo, we propose a cautious but positive response.

--Senator Mondale had a positive talk with Ambassador Dinitz (Israel).

--You have addressed the OPEC question in your first press conference.

OPEC.

Deputy Secretary Robinson has indicated privately that it would be desirable for you to make a further statement on an OPEC price rise (See attached memo of conversation with Henry Owen). Robinson claims that your remarks at the last press conference are being misinterpreted and that a further comment would be helpful.

Since an OPEC price rise could hurt your plans for our domestic economic recovery, we believe you should say something more at the first opportunity.

We recommend you say:

--An OPEC price rise at this time would seriously undermine efforts for economic recovery throughout the industrialized world as well as damage the developing countries. It would damage our relations with the OPEC countries and be a poor way to start with a new U.S. Administration.

_____ Agree

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Panama

Deputy Secretary Robinson also suggested that a comment on Panama would help defuse the tense situation there. We suggest that Sol Linowitz be asked to call the Panamanian Ambassador and say that you asked him to reiterate your intention to pursue the negotiations and your hope that progress can be made before the inauguration. (This would not commit you to particular details in your negotiating strategy as President.)

_____ Approve
_____ Disapprove

Angola

One other issue is that Holden Roberto, head of one of the factions the CIA backed in Angola, has written to you through Tony Lake. The letter takes issue with your comment that the U.S. backed the wrong or losing side in Angola and asked foreign support.

_____ we recommend that you not respond personally but authorize Tony Lake to provide a non-committal acknowledgement on your behalf.

_____ Approve
_____ Disapprove

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2. Contacts with Foreign Press

We have had several requests for you to meet with members of the foreign press.

We generally recommend that you avoid any specific interviews or even group discussions with foreign press representatives during the next few weeks. (Jody Powell agrees). This is consistent with our general suggestion that you keep a low profile on foreign policy issues during the transition.

The Japanese

A prominent Japanese professor with close ties to leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has asked for an extensive interview on all outstanding issues between the U.S. and Japan. He previously requested such an interview during the campaign, but was told that there would not be time. The interview would be published in a widely-read Japanese journal. Part of his purpose in requesting the interview was to help the LDP in the forthcoming

Japanese elections. The calculation was that your making warm statements about your desire to work closely with Japan would help our traditional friends there -- i.e., the LDP.

Since it is probably too late to achieve that effect now, we recommend that we respond by saying that your current schedule is full but that he should check again in mid or late December to see whether it might be possible then. Jody Powell agrees.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

You have also been asked by the Dean of the Foreign Press Corps in Washington, Arnaud deSegonzac, if you would meet with a group of foreign press on a basis similar to the meeting you held in Plains with the American press corps shortly after the election. Again, our recommendation would be that you avoid such a meeting for the next few weeks. Jody Powell agrees. We will explain it on scheduling grounds.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove