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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

During my Presidency you have carried out your responsibilities as Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in an exemplary manner, and I want to take advantage of Don Rumsfeld's final NATO Defense Planning Committee meeting as Secretary of Defense to convey my appreciation to you directly.

You know, of course, in what high regard you are held by Don, who has frequently expressed to me his admiration for your forceful leadership during a period of critical importance for the Alliance. My Administration has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work closely, in the conduct of the vital business of the North Atlantic Alliance, with one so knowledgeable and skilled.

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Warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Joseph M.A.H. Luns
Secretary General of the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Brussels

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

December 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CONNOR

FROM: Brent Scowcroft 

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Letter to be Carried by
Secretary Rumsfeld to NATO Secretary General Luns

I recommend against the proposed Presidential letter to NATO Secretary General Luns forwarded with your memorandum of December 1, 1976:

-- We do not have a precedent of Presidential letters to the NATO Defense Planning Committee and NATO Ministerial meetings. If a letter is carried by the Secretary of Defense to the Defense Planning Committee meeting we will immediately face the question of a letter to be carried by the Secretary of State to the NATO Ministerial meeting in Brussels on December 9-10.

-- Of greater importance, I do not believe it would be appropriate for the President to send a farewell letter to NATO when there are still almost two months remaining in the Administration. The President, as leader of the most important NATO nation, should not suggest that he is putting NATO affairs behind him.

-- Finally, I believe the President may wish to consider honoring Secretary General Luns in a more formal way (Luns' predecessor received the Medal of Freedom).

The President met with Luns, Secretary Rumsfeld and the members of the North Atlantic Council at the White House on September 15, 1976. I believe it would be appropriate for the President to provide Secretary Rumsfeld with a photograph taken on that occasion and inscribed to the NATO Secretary General. An initial look at the photo files would indicate that either of the following prints would be suitable:

Fitz-Patrick, 09-16-76, B 1513, prints 6A/7 & 8A/9, black and white

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With high personal regard,

Sincerely,



His Excellency
Joseph M.A.H. Luns
Secretary General of the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Brussels

Original letter was hand-carried by Secretary Rumsfeld to the Secretary General. Complete back-up file with Presidential Handwriting.
GBF

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 2, 1976

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

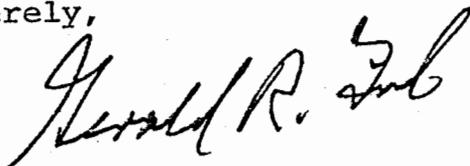
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December 2, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

**Proposed Presidential Letter to be
Carried by Secretary Rumsfeld to
NATO Secretary General Luns**

Secretary Rumsfeld will be leaving tomorrow on his NATO trip and has requested your signature on the attached letter which he would like to carry to Secretary General Luns.

Both Brent Scowcroft and Jack Marsh reviewed this letter and have problems with it. Brent Scowcroft's comments recommending against signing the letter are at TAB B and Jack Marsh has prepared a ~~revised~~ letter to the Secretary General at TAB C.

Do you approve sending a letter?

Approve - Tab A _____
 Tab B _____

Disapprove _____

Jim Connor

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: December 1, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

- Jack Marsh
- Brent Scowcroft
- ✓ Bob Hartmann

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: COB Today

Time:

SUBJECT: ~~James E. Gannon memo, 12/1/76 re~~
Presidential Letter to NATO Secretary
General Luns.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks |

REMARKS:

Hartmann — see changes x

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

1 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR Honorable James E. Connor
Secretary to the Cabinet

SUBJECT: Presidential letter to NATO Secretary
General Luns

Jim:

Attached per our conversation is the proposed letter which Secretary Rumsfeld would carry with him on his NATO trip. Your assistance in getting this expedited would be very much appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SEH".

Stephen E. Herbits
The Special Assistant

Attachment



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ADMINISTRATIVELY
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FROM: Brent Scowcroft *B*

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Letter to be Carried by
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WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: December 1, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jack Marsh
Brent Scowcroft
Bob Hartmann

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:

COB Today

Time:

SUBJECT:

Presidential Letter to NATO Secretary
General Luns.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

12/1 Copy sent to researching. g
12/1 Researched copy returned. n

OK authorized by RTA

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Jim Connor
For the President

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Warm personal regards ~~With high personal regard,~~
~~Sincerely,~~

Gerald Ford

I question whether this is historically true. They have been fundamentally dependent on the continued perception of peril. The pgh is not required and might be read as naive.

RFF

ok/jmc

Date: December 1, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jack Marsh
Brent Scowcroft
Bob Hartmann

*to Pres 2:15
12-1 Graham*

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

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Presidential Letter to NATO Secretary
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China, Res. activity

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Bob Linder -

Secretary Rumsfeld has requested this letter today ---- NSC is coming in with a strong recommendation against sending it, however, when it is presented to the President for a decision the letter should be in final form in case he goes with Defense. Can you have it prepared in final. Thanks.

Trudy Fry





OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

1 December 1976

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*Print IP
2. Note
change IP
[Signature]*

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