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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

Significant Insights from Eight Nation Trip  
(March 20 - April 4, 1976)

The President returned your report covering Significant Insights From Eight Nation Trip with the following notation:

"Excellent summary"

"Very helpful"

"Fine trip"

James E. Connor  
Secretary to the Cabinet

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Vice Pres

Excellent summary.  
Very helpful.  
Fair trip.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....



THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

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SIGNIFICANT INSIGHTS FROM EIGHT NATION TRIP

(March 20 - April 4, 1976)

I. Tunisia (March 20-21)

- President Bourguiba. Worried about neighbors (Algeria/Libya) and heavy Soviet hand.
- Extended warm regards to President Ford.
- Prime Minister Nouira. Emphasized concerns about Libya and Algeria, with Soviet role in the background.
- Cubans flying into Algeria at rate of 5-10 per day.
- Felt Tunisia might be helped by combination of covert actions and public statement of continuing American interest in Mediterranean basin/North Africa.
- French Interior Minister (Poniatowski). Said Soviets are more dangerous because of setbacks in the Middle East.
  - Egypt
  - Syria and Iraq starting to follow similar pattern.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526 (as amended) SEC 3.3  
NSC Memo, 3/30/06, State Dept. Guidelines  
By HR NARA, Date 8/24/12

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- King Hassan of Morocco is very ill.
- Suggested high profile Sixth Fleet visit to help Tunisia.
- Reported France planning to help Tunisians with light arms.
- Claims 2000 East Germans (not the Cubans) really made the difference in Angola.

II. France. (March 21-23)

1. President Giscard.

- Communists. Completely understands our current line on communists in French Government.
- Socialist leader Mitterrand has to make deal with communists.
- Middle East. Views of French Jewish community changing. Giscard sees need for solution.
- Afars and Issas (Djibouti). French will be asked to maintain external security of new nation and therefore intend to retain naval base at Djibouti for that purpose.

2. Prime Minister Chirac. (Seeming contrast in views between Poniatoski - Chirac.)

- Claims great personal friendship with leaders of Libya, Iraq.



- Pushing for French influence and economic gains in Middle East/Northern Africa, taking advantage of anti-U.S. feeling in radical Arab countries.
- Opposes Sixth fleet presence.
- Downgrades threat to Tunisia.

III. Iran (March 23-26) (Shah).

- Black Africa. U.S. should be in the position of being champion of black cause in Africa in order to cut the feet out from under the Soviets.
  - This would not be in conflict with survival of South Africa with evolution toward more representative government.
- Counter to Cubans. Iran can serve as counter to Soviet sponsored groups, such as the Cubans, in areas where it is difficult for U.S. to act.
- Indian Ocean. Iran plans to be positive factor in Indian Ocean.
- Oil. Feels strongly that building up U.S. strategic oil reserve using surplus tankers, while salt domes are being prepared, would accelerate U.S. purchase of excess Iranian oil.



IV. Malaysia. (March 26-28) (Prime Minister Hussein).

- Thailand. Doesn't know if Thais have the will to resist threat. This is no time for Thais to experiment with one man-one vote democracy.
- Insurgency. Real fight may be in Malaysia. Hanoi is the prime mover, perhaps backed by Soviets.
- Malaysians want military assistance but prefer to pay for it themselves.
- Soviet Navy. Concerned about Soviet naval presence. Feel American naval presence is essential in region and Indian Ocean, even though can't say so publicly.
- Australia/New Zealand. Australia/New Zealand troops are welcomed but U.S. troops would give communists a basis to cause uproar with radical elements.
- Low Cost Housing. Would like some assistance from us on a guarantee basis.

V. Singapore (March 28-29) (Prime Minister Lee).

- Thailand. Thais, especially, are concerned about their situation and need assurance of U.S. support.
- ASEAN nations will try after Thai elections to apply economic pressure to get Hanoi off the back of Thailand.



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- Japan. Japanese also privately expressing anxiety about U.S. ability to defend other than U.S. "white allies."
- Economic/Political Strength. In addition to military strength and ability to suppress subversive activities, economic growth and social progress are essential to the defense against communist inroads.
- What U.S. Should Do.
  - Be less protectionist (e.g. don't destroy tax advantages for multinational corporations).
  - If necessary make special exceptions of areas under communist pressures (e.g. Thailand).
  - Encouragement to multinational corporations in the area (e.g. through guarantees) would be worth "three divisions."

VI. Bali (Indonesia (March 29)).

- Concern about Soviets.
- Conveyed special greetings from President Ford to Suharto.

VII. Australia (March 30-April 1) (Prime Minister Fraser).

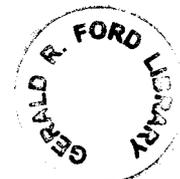
- Visit. Fraser would like to visit U.S. in latter part of July, following his scheduled trip to China and Japan.



- U.S. Relations. Pleased by strong U.S. stance in economic and security areas.
- Likes idea that he will have direct phone link with Secretary Kissinger.
- Is very pro U.S.

VIII. New Zealand (April 1-3) (Prime Minister Muldoon).

- Working Through New Zealand. Would be glad to have U.S. work through them. Much we can effectively accomplish through New Zealand with ASEAN and in South Pacific Island area.
- Muldoon. Present Prime Minister very pro U.S. and has laid this position on line politically.
- Visit. Muldoon wants to be invited to visit U.S. next year and I think it would be very useful.
- Nuclear Power/Meat. Main bilateral issues are:
  - Nuclear power ship visits (Muldoon made it election issue and now wants visit soon.)
  - Meat quotas (economy critically dependent on agricultural exports.)
- Health Care. I was impressed by New Zealand approach to health care (between our system and British system).



IX. General Subjects.

- Reform of U.S. Assistance Legislation. Petty and overly restrictive legislation in assistance programs is causing damage far beyond savings.
- We are holding up our friends and nickle and diming them to death.
  - As an example, in Singapore we have changed training contracts after signature to charge much higher rates.
  - We couldn't come up with two C-130s for Singapore.
- After election must be ready for major reforms.
- US vs USSR. General concern about U.S. intentions and ability (with Congressional restrictions) to remain factor in Asian area. Wariness about Soviet intentions ("imperialism").
  - Emphasized President's Honolulu speech (strong, flexible, continuous presence in Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. Favorable balance of power.)
- Great friendship for United States and desire to work with us.



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-- Shah, Hussein, Lee, Fraser, and Muldoon all seemed reassured by prediction that U.S. will emerge with strong, unified foreign policy following election.

-- Middle East.

-- Several leaders (Giscard, Lee, Australian Cabinet) stressed danger of Middle East situation and need to settle as soon as possible.

-- Cabinet Meetings. Idea of having visitors meet with Cabinet (or National Security Council equivalent) is useful concept.

-- Leader Grant Program. Programs are very effective.

-- Muldoon, for example, participated in program.

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