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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection:** EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: Records:  
Subject File

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~~Vol. III-F1~~ Box 91382

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. schedule	of Richard Allen for 3/30/81 (p 2, partial), 2p	n.d.	P6, F6
2. schedule	of the President for 3/30/81 (p 2, partial), 2p	n.d.	P6, F6
3. memo	memo for the record, re assassination attempt on Reagan (w/notations), 1p	3/30/81	P1, F1
4. cable	<i>PART 4/9/02 F97-098/2 # 75</i> 31 MAR 1122Z (w/notations) (partial), 1p <i>P 6/12/00 NLS F97-098/2 # 76</i>	3/31/81	P3, F3
<del>5. cable</del>	<del>311453Z MAR 81, 1p</del> <i>R " " 77</i>	<del>3/31/81</del>	<del>P1, F1</del>
<del>6. cable</del>	<del>302120Z MAR 81, 1p</del> <i>R " " 78</i>	<del>3/30/81</del>	<del>P1, F1</del>

### RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].



PRESERVATION COPY

[Original transferred to Preservation File]

RVA SCHEDULE

Monday, March 30, 1981

0800- WH Staff Meeting  
0845

0900- Geoff Kemp Re: Haig's  
0930 Trip

0945- Brief President  
1015

1030 Don Johnson

1100- NSC Staff Meeting (305)  
1130

1145 Secretary Baldrige/MCA  
(Commerce Dept.)

Lunch

1400- Marvin Kalb  
1420

HOLD

REDACTED

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*[Original transferred to Preservation  
File]*

THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

Monday, March 30th, 1981

0830 Leadership Breakfast  
0930 Staff Time  
0945 National Security Briefing  
1015 Mtg. w/JB/EM/MD/MF/JB/DG  
1030 Mtg. w/Hispanic Supporters  
1100 To Residence for lunch and  
speech preparation time  
1345 Depart for Washington Hilton  
to address Nat'l. Conf. of  
Bldg. & Construction Trades,  
AFL/CIO  
1400 Remarks by the President  
1435 Return to White House

1510 Mtg. w/select GOP Members  
of House Ways & Means Cte.  
(Gradison, Vander Jagt,  
Crane and Martin)

1530 Personal Staff Time

1630 Courtesy Visit by Messrs.  
Rockefeller, Berthoin and  
Watanabe

1700 Staff Time

1800 Return to Residence

~~REDACTED~~

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March 30, 1981 file

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Washington, D.C.)

For Immediate Release

March 30, 1981

BRIEFING FOR THE PRESS  
BY LYN NOFZIGER

Ross Hall,  
George Washington University Hospital,  
Washington, D.C.

(5:10 P.M. EST)

MR. NOFZIGER: I have two bits of information here. The first concerns the President. He went into surgery roughly an hour ago. He is still there and will be there for a while longer. However, the doctors have come out and given a preliminary report to Mrs. Reagan and their word is that his condition is good and it is stable.

Beyond that, I have no further comments.

Regarding Jim Brady, the Press Secretary, he is still in surgery. He has a head wound and beyond that I have no further knowledge.

Q What kind of operation are you performing -- or is the doctor performing on the President/

MR. NOFZIGER: I think that we'll just let it go that he is in surgery and it is -- well, I think we'll just let it go at that.

Q Can you confirm it or not that Brady has suffered a serious head wound?

MR. NOFZIGER: I can confirm that Mr. Brady suffered a serious head wound, yes.

Q Where is Vice President Bush?

MR. NOFZIGER: Last I heard, he was on an airplane headed this way.

Q Are you going to arrange a medical briefing for us later today?

MR. NOFZIGER: We will try to arrange one after the President is out of surgery and after we've talked to them. Yes, we will try to do that.

Now, one further thing. We will continue to keep you posted here this afternoon and tonight. Tomorrow we expect to move the briefings back down to the White House and do them in their regular -- in the regular setting there.

Q How about the other men who were shot?

MR. NOFZIGER: I have no information on them.

One at a time.

MORE

Q Was the bullet inside the President? Is that why they went in and was there more than one bullet?

MR. NOFZIGER: There was only one bullet and I just cannot comment on the operation. I haven't had a chance to talk to the doctors.

Q Who is the President's doctor?

MR. NOFZIGER: I do not have a name.

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. NOFZIGER: The only thing that I want to say is that he will be in there for a while yet.

Q Do you know whether or not the lung collapsed because of the wound?

MR. NOFZIGER: I have not heard. As I say, the doctors say his condition is good.

Q Lyn, did you get to see him before the operation began?

MR. NOFZIGER: Did she?

Q Yes.

MR. NOFZIGER: Yes.

Q Is there any thought of transferring the President to any other hospital?

MR. NOFZIGER: We'll just wait and see. You're a little premature.

Q Can you confirm that it's open chest surgery?

MR. NOFZIGER: No, I can't.

Q Lyn, did they give you a specific location on the bullet? How close to the heart did it come?

MR. NOFZIGER: My preliminary reports were that it entered the left chest and clearly it did not -- no, I can't. It did not, obviously -- there is no indication that it nicked the heart or anything like that.

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. NOFZIGER: I can't tell you.

Q Was the President conscious before the surgery or did he lose consciousness?

MR. NOFZIGER: He was conscious as he went into surgery.

Q Did he say anything?

MR. NOFZIGER: Oh, yes. I have some stuff here. I'm glad you reminded me of that because I took some notes. As he was going down the hall into surgery he winked at Baker, James Baker.

Q Say it again, please?

MR. NOFZIGER: Yes. As he was going down the hall on the gurney, I guess they call them, to surgery, he winked at Baker. He had earlier told Senator Laxalt, who was there, "Don't worry about me. I'll make it." He had told Mrs. Reagan, "Honey, I forgot to duck."

Q What?

MR. NOFZIGER: "I forgot to duck." And as they were wheeling him into surgery he saw Meese and Baker and Deaver there and he said, "Who's minding the store?" And then when he got into the operating room he looked at the doctors and he said, "Please tell me you're Republicans." (Laughter.)

So --

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. NOFZIGER: That, literally, is all I have and if you will excuse me we will keep you informed as quickly as we know anything.

Q Lyn, are they still in the operation?

MR. NOFZIGER: I don't know. I don't have the vaguest idea. I don't know. I'll check on that. I don't know.

END

5:25 P.M. EST



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 30, 1981

BRIEFING FOR THE PRESS

BY

SECRETARY HAIG

The Briefing Room

4:14 P.M. EST

SECRETARY HAIG: I just wanted to touch upon a few matters associated with today's tragedy. First, as you know, we are in close touch with the Vice President who is returning to Washington. We have in the Situation Room all of the officials of the Cabinet who should be here and ready at this time.

We have informed our friends abroad of the situation, the President's condition as we know it, stable, now undergoing surgery. And there are absolutely no alert measures that are necessary at this time we're contemplating.

Now, if you have some questions, I'll be happy to take them.

Q The Crisis Management, is that going to be put into effect when Bush arrives?

SECRETARY HAIG: The Crisis Management is in effect.

Q Who is making the decisions for the government right now? Who's making the decisions?

SECRETARY HAIG: Constitutionally, gentlemen, you have the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State in that order and should the President decided he wants to transfer the helm to the Vice President, he will do so. He has not done that. As of now, I am in control here, in the White House, pending return of the Vice President and in close touch with him. If something came up, I would check with him, of course.

Q What is the extent of the President's injury?

SECRETARY HAIG: Well, as best we know, he's had one round enter his body, in the left side, into the left lung and there is surgery underway to remove the round now. When the President entered surgery, he was conscious. His signs were stable. And the situation is very clear.

Q Did you talk with him by phone before surgery?

SECRETARY HAIG: No, I did not nor was it necessary. I was in close touch with both Mr. Mæse and Mr. Baker throughout and have been from --

Q Mr. Secretary, approximately when did you arrive at the White House after following --

SECRETARY HAIG: Very few moments after the incident, very few moments after the incident

Q And do you know what is the condition of Mr. Brady?

SECRETARY HAIG: We understand that -- I just saw on

MORE

television what you saw and it sounds serious.

Q What's the reaction of the Soviets on this?  
Any reaction?

SECRETARY HAIG: I don't anticipate any reaction.  
I think you've gotten all that you need for the moment. In fact --

Q Will you remain in charge here until the Vice  
President returns?

SECRETARY HAIG: We will stay right where we are until  
the situation clarifies.

Q How long has the President been in surgery, sir?

Q When is the Vice President expected here?

Q 8:00.

SECRETARY HAIG: Later this afternoon.

Q Do you know when the operation began on the President,  
about what time?

Q Will he go to the hospital?

SECRETARY HAIG: Was I here? Yes.

Q What time?

SECRETARY HAIG: What time was the -- I don't know. Just  
it was shortly after that announcement that you heard on the --

Q What time will the Vice President be back, sir?

Q Early evening.

SECRETARY HAIG: I'm not going to make it a habit of  
saying what I --

Q Will you come back and talk to us soon?

Q Mr. Secretary, any additional measures being taken --  
was this a conspiracy or was this a --

SECRETARY HAIG: We have no indications of anything like  
that now, and we are not going to say a word on that subject until the  
situation clarifies itself.

Q Do you anticipate from what you know of the President's  
condition that the Vice President will have to for a period of time  
take the role of acting President?

Q That's a fundamentally premature question,

END

(4:22 P.M. EST)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 30, 1981

PRESS BRIEFING BY  
LYN NOFZIGER

The Briefing Room

9:37 P.M. EST

MR. NOFZIGER: May I have your attention? My name is Lyn Nofziger.

They are passing out a little hand-out, but I came from the hospital just a few moments ago and I talked to the doctor who operated on Jim Brady and the prognosis is certainly better at this moment than it was earlier this afternoon. The doctor is Dr. Arthur Kobrine. K-o-b-r-i-n-e. Usual spelling on Arthur. He is the Professor of Neurosurgery at the George Washington University Medical School. Jim came out of surgery at about 8:15. His vital signs are stable. His pupillary reflexes -- that's the reflexes of his pupils in his eyes -- are normal. Dr. Kobrine feels that there may be some impairment, but he doesn't know how much at this time nor will he be able to know for quite some time.

Now, there will be, tomorrow morning at 8:30, a complete briefing on the status of the President and Jim and of the Secret Service Agent and I really have nothing further to say at this time. I think it's better for you to wait for the briefing in the morning and really the only reason I'm here is because there have been many questions about Mr. Brady and a lot of bad rumors going around.

Q Lyn, did Kobrine indicate to you what the impairment might be?

MR. NOFZIGER: He's not sure at this time and I, not being a doctor, would much rather wait until we have a doctor here at 8:30 in the morning to get into that.

Q Here in this room?

MR. NOFZIGER: No. It will be in 450 across the way.

Q Well, surgeons who've worked on both cases or all of the injuries --

MR. NOFZIGER: No. My understanding is that Dr. Dennis O'Leary who did the briefing on President Reagan will do the briefing in the morning.

Q Lyn, this statement says something about tubes in the President's mouth. What is the function of those tubes and how many are there?

MR. NOFZIGER: I'm not a doctor. I cannot answer that.

Q Lyn, when did the operation on Jim begin?

MR. NOFZIGER: I asked the doctor that and he couldn't tell me. He said he didn't look at a watch and so -- sometime in mid-afternoon.

Q Where is he now? In intensive care or --

MR. NOFZIGER: Yes.

Q About how long was the operation?

MORE

MR. NOFZIGER: I can't talk of that because I don't know when it began.

Q Then, will there be medical bulletins during the night?

MR. NOFZIGER: No. I don't expect any medical bulletins during the night barring the unforeseen. This operation will remain open and there's no lid on. So, you know you're going to have to play it by ear. We will have people at the hospital and people here in case something happens. I do not expect anything to happen.

Q Lyn, you said the prognosis for Jim was better than it was this afternoon. Why was there that kind of optimism? A result of what they found in the surgery?

MR. NOFZIGER: Because the doctor feels better about him.

Q Did the doctor say the significance of the pupils?

MR. NOFZIGER: It indicates that things are functioning --

Q The brain?

MR. NOFZIGER: The brain scan apparently is functioning, whatever that may mean. Once again, you get into this stuff, and I will not guarantee for the veracity or the authenticity or the accuracy of any of it.

Q Did the doctor use a condition word? Grave, critical, serious?

MR. NOFZIGER: Certainly is critical. And that, really, is all we've got to say at this time. Thank you all.

Q Somebody said something about a pool up at the hospital.

MR. NOFZIGER: Well, there are people pooling up there, but they're not in the hospital.

Q It's not your pool?

MR. NOFZIGER: It's not my pool.

END

9:45 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

March 30, 1981

PRESS BRIEFING BY  
VICE PRESIDENT BUSH, LARRY SPEAKES, DAVID GERGEN

Press Briefing Room

8:20 P.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: The Vice President will be in the Briefing Room shortly. For your information, the Vice President landed at Andrews at 6:30. He came to the Situation Room at 7:00 which he presided over a meeting of some members of the Cabinet. He will make a brief statement and will not take questions, but I will follow and take some questions.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I have a very brief statement that I'd like to read. I am deeply heartened by Dr. O'Leary's report on the President's condition, that he has emerged from this experience with flying colors and with the most optimistic prospects for a complete recovery. I can reinsure this nation and the watching world that the American government is functioning fully and effectively. We've had full and complete communication throughout the day and the officers of the federal government have been fulfilling their obligations with skill and with care. I know I speak on behalf of the President and his family when I say that we are very grateful to all -- the many people from across this country who've expressed their concern at this act of violence and finally, let me add our profound concern on behalf of two brave law enforcement officers who served to protect the President and then, of course, for a friend of everybody here, dedicated public servant, Jim Brady. We're going to watch their progress with all our prayers and with all our hopes.

Now, I'm going to walk over and speak briefly to Mrs. Reagan who's returned to the residence. Thank you all very much.

Q Larry, who was in the Situation Room?

MR. SPEAKES: Let me go over what I know to be the situation as I saw it here. As I said, the Vice President arrived in the Situation -- at Andrews at 6:30. He came to the Situation Room at 7:00, was present in that meeting and this does not necessarily mean the order, but it's more or less the way they were sitting at the table. The Vice President, of course, Ed Meese, Richard Allen, Secretary Lewis, Attorney General Smith, Secretary Weinberg, Secretary Regan, Admiral Murphy of the Vice President's staff, Jim Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, and Secretary Haig. Also Secretary Block, Secretary Baldrige, Secretary Watt and CIA Director Casey. In addition, there were other staff members present such as Martin Allin, David Gergen, and Max Friedersdorf and Fred Fielding.

The meeting continued for about 30 minutes. At which time the medical press conference from the hospital came on the television and we watched that basically to its conclusion and the Vice President then went to his office, drafted the statement and came here. Mrs. Reagan has returned from the hospital as the Vice President said and he's now going over to visit with her.

As far as tomorrow, we will basically continue with the schedule as the President had planned. There is a plan for a brief meeting of the Cabinet. A plan for a brief meeting with the Congressional Leadership and then a continue with the schedule which includes a meeting and a working luncheon with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands.

MORE

Q -- working luncheon?

MR. SPEAKES: The Vice President.

Q During the meeting in the Situation Room, what subjects were discussed?

MR. SPEAKES: I really don't want to go into that, except to say that the general situation was discussed. The Vice President received the very latest information on the President. Jim Baker and Ed Meese had been at the hospital and they returned some time earlier. So, they were up to the minute.

Q Larry, was the question of Poland discussed?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm just not going into the subject matter --

Q Larry, has the President turned over control or authority to the Vice President?

Q What was the question?

MR. SPEAKES: Has the President turned over control or authority to the Vice President? There has been no cause for that to take place.

Q The President will be under sedation until tomorrow morning. Can't we assume that the Vice President would have to be able to take charge in that case, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, there is, for your information, an automatic assumption of command authority that requires no steps be taken. It goes first on the Vice President and second on the Secretary of Defense.

Q Why did the Vice President wait six hours to reassure the country that things were under control?

Q Doesn't it go to the Speaker?

MR. SPEAKES: Question about --

Q Larry, please answer this. How come it goes to the Secretary of Defense?

MR. SPEAKES: Let me get started here so you can understand it. There is a succession. That goes from the President to the Vice President, to the Speaker, to the President Pro Tem. There is another one called the command authority which is an automatic assumption and that's the only thing that happened at this time.

Q What is the line up in the automatic assumption, then? What is that?

MR. SPEAKES: I just gave it to you. The Vice President and the Secretary of Defense.

Q Larry, what triggers that?

Q Not the Secretary of State? Secretary of Defense?

MR. SPEAKES: It is an automatic assumption.

Q Larry, where will the Vice President have his working headquarters while the President is in the hospital?

MR. SPEAKES: I would assume the Vice President would remain in his office in the West Wing as he operates --

Q Larry, who is the Commander in Chief tonight at this hour?

MR. SPEAKES: Certainly the President is the Commander in Chief. If any actions are required, I'm sure that it will be taken by the appropriate official in the government.

Q Larry, why did the Vice President wait six hours to reassure the country that everything was under control?

MR. SPEAKES: The Vice President came directly back to Washington, as I understand it. There was a 30-minute meeting and then it's been followed by less than an hour after the conclusion of that meeting that the Vice President made the statement. I think we were constantly reassuring the nation through Secretary Haig and through the statement that we could make here at the time. We were all awaiting the outcome of the surgery and we were confident throughout it and the reports, as the Vice President said, have been excellent and that's --

Q Then why reassure us with Haig rather than the Vice President?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes?

Q Larry, then what you just said about the succession of command authority, Haig was completely wrong when he thought he was in command here when Weinberger was in the building?

MR. SPEAKES: The Vice President was in the Situation Room, the President's Chief of Staff and the Counsel of Mr. Meese and Mr. Baker were at the hospital. They were conferring with Secretary Haig. Secretary Haig talked to them and offered to be helpful. He was in charge of the situation in the Situation Room and that's basically it.

Q Larry, when you talk about command authority, are you talking about what specifically? Military command? Specifically what?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q But can you say that Vice President Bush is now the Acting President of the United States?

MR. SPEAKES: No. There is no move --

Q Larry, what triggers the command authority?

MR. SPEAKES: It's automatic.

Q I mean, upon what conditions?

Q How is Jim Brady?

Q Does Haig still make any foreign policy?

Q How's the condition of Jim Brady, now?

Q Could it be set off by anesthesia, for example?

MR. SPEAKES: It was my understanding from the legal people that it's an automatic situation.

Q Larry, where does Secretary Haig --



MR. SPEAKES: You aren't letting me finish my answers. It's an automatic situation and if there's a need to act, there is a capacity to act here. And I don't think it needs any further explanation.

Q Larry, how is Jim Brady?

MR. SPEAKES: You saw the television reports and that's the latest we've heard.

Q What about foreign policy? Is Haig still handling that?

MR. SPEAKES: The situation is the same as it has been before the incident and after the incident.

Q Larry, may I follow up on my question? What conditions however set off the automatic assumption of authority that you're speaking of?

MR. SPEAKES: I can't address that specifically.

Q Does it have to be a declaration of incapacity?

MR. SPEAKES: No. There does not have to be a declaration.

Q Has it been assumed, is this trigger -- are we in that process now with the Vice President?

MR. SPEAKES: It isn't. If need be, it could be. But there's been no need for that.

Q Could you explain --

Q To respond to a military threat, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: You're putting words into my mouth and I'm not going to accept it. If there's a need for the Vice President to assume command authority, he will.

Q Larry, -- this interval -- Secretary Haig was here. Secretary Weinberger was in the White House in the Situation Room at that time. Now, under this automatic assumption, goes from the Vice President to the Secretary of Defense. How did it happen that Secretary Haig said he would be charged until --

MR. SPEAKES: Let me make a statement and hopefully I'll cut off this line of questioning. The President's staff was at the hospital. They were talking to the President. Secretary Haig was in the Situation Room and they were talking to Secretary Haig and Secretary Weinberger who were there. We have just come through a very serious situation as far as the President's concern. We have come through with a very optimistic outcome. I think that's the important thing to dwell on. I can assure you that there were no problems with succession and there were not problems with command authority. And, frankly, that's all I'm going to say on it.

Q Larry, could you tell us --

Q Who asked Haig to come down here, Larry? Larry, who asked Haig to come down to brief us?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm just not going to discuss it any more. I think everything is obvious.

Q Did he mispeak himself when he said he was in command of the White House?



MR. SPEAKES: I'm just not going to discuss it any more. I've made a statement. I think you're looking here when you should be looking here.

Q Larry, can you tell us why it took -- the President came out of surgery at 6:20. The briefing at the hospital wasn't until 7:30. Can you tell us why no where in the White House command structure could assure the nation that the President had survived surgery and that he was all right?

MR. SPEAKES: Not having been there, I don't know the situation at the hospital. I know that once the Vice President was here that he moved very expeditiously.

Q What's the crisis management system that's been so talked about. Was that invoked today?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know in a formal sense, but there was no problem with what was going on --

Q So, what assembled in that room was not his crisis management team? Is was just the Cabinet --

MR. SPEAKES: It's my judgement that it was most of the Cabinet who happened -- who was in town at this time.

Q Larry, on the automatic assumption -- after you get through with the Vice President and Weinberger, then what happens? Does anybody else --

MR. SPEAKES: Sarah, I don't know the specifics on that. I'm sure a legal person can tell you that.

Q Larry, did the Attorney General either provide or was he asked to give an oral opinion during that 30-minute meeting on the formal constitutional succession particularly the incapacitation provision?

MR. SPEAKES: I just don't want to go into the details of the meeting.

Q Haig says the crisis management is in effect and you say not? So, there is a contradiction there.

MR. SPEAKES: No, there's not a contradiction.

Q Larry, how long does -- how long does the Vice President have this -- holds much of this command authority?

Q Until tomorrow morning?

MR. SPEAKES: It is not a thing that is -- it's an assumption.

Q I understand.

MR. SPEAKES: It's not a thing that requires an act. It is just if the need arises -- there is an authority that moves automatically.

Q For how long if the need arises? Tomorrow morning when the President will presumably be free of the effects of --

MR. SPEAKES: We'll just have to cross that bridge when we get to it.

Q Where is the man with the black bag? Is he with the President or is he with the Vice President?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I can assure that -- I don't want to discuss that. Because, of course, we don't discuss security matters of this type, but I can assure you there were certainly no problems in that direct capacity.

Q Larry, is the Vice President going to spend the night at the White House? Or at his own residence?

MR. SPEAKES: I trust he'll go to his residence.

Q Are they stuffing up security protection on everyone more?

MR. SPEAKES: I won't comment on security.

Q Larry, was there any consideration of invoking the disability provisions of the 25th Amendment?

MR. SPEAKES: There has been no need for it nor any cause for it because the information we're receiving was optimistic almost from the first, so there has been no need for it.

Q --Bush was advised of the --

Q I wonder, if there has been made a check of the background of the assailant of the President to see where that --

MR. SPEAKES: Can I have the question again?

Q This is an act of terrorism against the President of the United States. I wonder if there has been a check of the background of this gentleman to see where that kind --

MR. SPEAKES: I have your question. I think anything, you know, discussing the background of the individual who is in custody should come from the Justice Department.

Q Is there any reason to think anybody else was involved, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: That kind of information, law enforcement information, should come from the Justice Department.

Q Could you tell us when Bush was advised of the shooting? Where he was and what he did immediately thereafter?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have the timetable, but the White House staff and the Situation Room were in full contact with the Vice President during the entire period and Mr. Meese and Mr. Baker talked with him in route to Washington while he was airborne.

Q When didn't Meese and Baker become aware that the President had, indeed, been shot? Was that Deaver's call over here?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. I presume -- yes. They -- I went to the hospital with both of them and with Lyn and --

Q What? About 2:40 roughly?

Q Larry, could you describe what you saw when you got there at the hospital?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I think you've had -- Lyn and I were side-by-side through that and I think you've had it from Lyn except the note that the President was in the emergency room.

He was transported to the operating room, and that is about the extent of it.

Q Why was he not carried inside, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Carried inside of --

Q Why did he walk into the hospital? Wasn't that rather dangerous when he was shot?

MR. SPEAKES: I think he was --

Q Was he being offered the stretcher?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I was not there, so I really do not want to go into it.

Q Larry, has anyone spoken to the President since the operation or is he able to talk?

MR. SPEAKES: Mrs. Reagan has visited with him. I don't know whether she has spoken with him.

Q Larry, was there a decision made to delay for maybe ten or fifteen minutes the announcement that the President had been shot to give time to inform either Mrs. Reagan or the Vice President? There seems to be a time gap there between the time that you people heard that he had been shot and the time that the rest of the world heard about it.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I think that we moved as quickly as we could with accurate information.

Q But did you say, "Well, let's first tell the Vice President and then we will make the announcement"?

MR. SPEAKES: I am not privileged to know what was going on because I was in one place and things were going in another place. I don't know of any purpose of delaying for notification. Let me clear up -- to be absolutely certain that you understand this command of authority. Early in the afternoon Haig was informally helping to coordinate activities in the Situation Room through regular communications with the Baker, Meese, and the Vice President. The command authority is simply an agreement whereby if the President is temporarily unavailable, then the Vice President has command authority. It is not a constitutional delegation and no formal declaration is required.

Q Was this operative under the Carter and before that administrations or is this something new?

MR. SPEAKES: I do not know.

Q Where did this exist?

MR. GERGEN: This is not an agreement.

Q Well, when did it originate?

MR. SPEAKES: We will get the legals.

Q How long do you expect the President to be unavailable?  
A week or --

MORE

Q Is that what happens? The Vice President decides that he needs command authority and he takes it?

MR. SPEAKES: As I say, we will get the legal end of it for you.

MR. GERGEN: It is clearly not statutory.

Q If it is not statutory then how did it get to be in effect?

Q Shh. Let him finish.

MR. GERGEN: There are arrangements which I think that are-- conferring with the attorneys on this matter, I think that the -- frankly we have not been spending the whole afternoon researching the law and the Constitution.

Q Well, you should have been.

MR. GERGEN: Well, our concerns were with the President's health and we thought that the arrangements were working rather smoothly in here, frankly, and I think that there will come a time that we can give you more information on this. It is my understanding, in conferring with the President's counsel, that this command authority is nonstatutory. There is an arrangement whereby in the event that the President is not available, say under sedation as he has been this afternoon, that the command authority resides with the Vice President.

But I think the thing to be -- aside from the fact that all of us take heart from the President's progress and prognosis -- I think the thing that I would raise and press upon you is the fact that this administration pulled together and there was a very smooth operation. Frankly, it was fairly informal.

Q We are a nation of laws, are we not?

MR. GERGEN: That is correct. But I wouldn't -- I cannot describe for you because I am not exactly sure how these arrangements work. The more important thing was that people gathered here spontaneously. They came because of the situation that we were in. And the Vice President was in contact and the Chief of Staff and Mr. Meese and others were in complete contact and we, frankly, did not spend a great deal of time sorting through the statutory book and that sort of thing. Fred Fielding, the lawyer, was there constantly and the Attorney General was there. But as to describing these arrangements in great detail --

Q The Justice Department was supposed to have sent things over. Why didn't they --

MR. GERGEN: The Justice Department was here. I don't think that we are equipped tonight to describe this for you. We really didn't come out here to talk about the law and the Constitution, frankly, and I think that that is a subject --

Q Well, sir, if it is there, you ought to be able to find it in a few seconds.

MR. GERGEN: This is a subject that we can address in greater detail at an appropriate time, if you don't mind. We are really out here to let the Vice President make a statement.

Q Would you just give us an idea of what "command" encompasses? What is command?

MR. GERGEN: Well, I think that you have asked that question as to whether it had military aspects in it, and I think that you got an answer on that.

Q Could you tell us who gave Haig the authority to come and talk to the administration?

MR. GERGEN: Frankly, we were all very appreciative that he was here.

Q Was it Meese and Baker?

MR. GERGEN: He was here before Jim and I went over. He was here in the building.

Q Did they ask him to come and show that there was someone in charge?

MR. GERGEN: No, he came here. I am not sure what the information flow was, but frankly, a lot of people came here spontaneously and some may have been called. But frankly most people showed up spontaneously.

Q Did Haig talk to Bush on the plane?

MR. GERGEN: I do not know the answer to that.

Q What precautions are being taken that Haig is not going to try a coup d'tat?

MR. GERGEN: I think that we have exhausted --

Q Will there be further briefings?

Q Are there any plans yet for the recuperation? Anything said about --

MR. SPEAKES: WE are just not that far along. The house-keeping situation -- I think, if it suits you, we will remain open through the night. We will staff here. I would anticipate a regular briefing at some time during the day tomorrow as soon as we see how we are cleared to do it. Hopefully we can do it around noon. Lyn has made an announcement, I understand, about an 8:30 briefing --

Q 8:30?

Q 8:30 in Room 450. Will that be cancelled?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. Was that a medical briefing?

MR. GERGEN: Yes, he said that he would bring doctors over. We are going to work on that tonight and we will try to get an advisory out tonight on that.

Q Larry, will be photo coverage tomorrow on the Vice President's schedule?

MORE

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. We'll put the schedule out --

Q Will there be another briefing tonight?

MR. SPEAKES: We will be available tonight but I don't anticipate the need for another formal briefing.

Q What will Mrs. Reagan do, Larry?

END

8:45 P.M.



THE JOINT STAFF

~~SECRET~~

RA, NAN, COL, VP

NMCC

THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

30 March 1981  
2000 EST

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Assassination Attempt on President Reagan

(S) At approximately 301430 EST March 1981, as President Reagan was leaving the Washington Hilton Hotel, he was shot in the chest allegedly by a young white male identified as Mr John Hinckley, Jr. At the time of the incident, Vice President Bush was in Fort Worth, Texas. The Vice President departed Fort Worth at 1610 EST enroute Washington.

The Vice President's aircraft arrived Andrews AFB, Maryland 301826 EST Mar 81. Notifications made in accordance with NMCS OI 3100.2

*J. T. Boddie, Jr.*

J. T. BODDIE, JR.  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Deputy Director for  
Operations (NMCC)

Distribution:

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CIA REP  
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BRIEFER (NMCC)

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFIED BY DDO (NMCC)  
DECLASSIFY 30 MAR 87

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

NLS FOI-09812 #75  
By CA, NARA, Date 4/9/02

FOIA(b)(1)



(WORLD REACTION)

(BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL)

RA

WORLD LEADERS EXPRESSED SHOCK AT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN AND WISHED THE U.S. LEADER A SPEEDY RECOVERY, BUT MOSCOW GAVE THE NEWS SECOND BILLING BEHIND THE RETURN OF TWO COSMONAUTS.

IN THE STREETS OF THE WORLD, SOME VOICES, ESPECIALLY IN JAPAN, SAID VIOLENCE APPEARED ENDEMIC TO AMERICA BECAUSE OF A LOOSE CONTROL ON GUN SALES. "AMERICA IS A TERRIBLE PLACE," SAID AN OFFICE CLERK IN TOKYO. "WHY CAN'T THEY BAN GUNS LIKE WE DO?"

BUT IN THE CHANCELLERIES OF THE WORLD, BOTH TRADITIONAL ALLIES LIKE AUSTRALIA AND BRITAIN AND NEWLY BEFRIENDED COUNTRIES LIKE ARGENTINA AND SOUTH KOREA LAMENTED THE WOUNDING OF A LEADER THEY FEEL IS TAKING AMERICA ON A MORE VIGOROUS PATH.

"IT'S A TRAGEDY NOT ONLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND HIS FAMILY, BUT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES," AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM FRASER SAID. "HE'S TAKING AMERICA IN THE DIRECTION THAT I BELIEVE WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO THE U.S. AND ALSO TO AUSTRALIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE FREE WORLD."

SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV SENT A TELEGRAM SAYING, "WE HAVE LEARNED WITH INDIGNATION ABOUT AN ATTEMPT ON YOUR LIFE. WE ARE FIRMLY CONDEMNING THAT CRIMINAL ACT. ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP AND ON MY OWN BEHALF I WISH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, FULL AND EARLY RECOVERY.

IN MOSCOW, HOWEVER, THE SHOOTING WAS GIVEN SECONDARY MENTION ON MOSCOW RADIO BEHIND A REPORT TWO COSMONAUTS HAD RETURNED TO EARTH. THE TASS NEWS AGENCY MOVED A NINE-LINE STORY ON THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT 75 MINUTES AFTER THE NEWS WAS FLASHED ELSEWHERE.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT ROBERTO VIOLA, WHOSE NATION WAS SHUNNED BY JIMMY CARTER FOR ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BUT WHO RECENTLY MET REAGAN IN WASHINGTON, "DEPLORED AND REJECTED THE TREMENDOUS TREACHERY OF THE CRIME," SAYING YOUR...SHORT PERIOD IN OFFICE" HAS ALREADY "DEPOSITED A LARGE QUOTA OF HOPE."

EL SALVADOR, WHICH HAS LOST 17,000 PEOPLE TO LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST BERTH SQUADS BUT CHOSEN AS A TEST CASE OF REAGAN'S TOUGH POLICY AGAINST LEFTIST INSURGENCIES, SAID: "WE CONDEMN ALL OF THESE ACTS, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY COME FROM AND WHO THEY ARE AIMED AT."

IN SOUTH KOREA, WHICH HAS IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON SINCE REAGAN ENTERED OFFICE, PRESIDENT CHUN DOO HWAN SAID, "JOINED BY MRS. CHUN AND ALL THE KOREAN PEOPLE, I PRAY FOR HIS PROMPT AND FULL RECOVERY."

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM EXPRESSED "SHOCK AND DISGUST" AND CONDEMNED "THIS ACT OF TERRORISM."



CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU DEPLORED THE "INSANE ASSAULT" AND SENT A MESSAGE TO REAGAN SAYING "MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND MRS. REAGAN."

BRITISH QUEEN ELIZABETH SENT A MESSAGE, SAYING SHE "WAS VERY SHOCKED TO HEAR ABOUT THE ATTACK" THAT WOUNDED REAGAN, HIS PRESS SECRETARY JIM BRADY, AND A SECRET SERVICE AGENT TIMOTHY MCCARTHY. "I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF MAKE A SPEEDY AND SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY FROM YOUR INJURIES," THE QUEEN SAID.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER SAID IN A MESSAGE SHE WAS SHOCKED AND DISTRESSED AND "I HAVE PRAYED THAT YOUR INJURIES ARE NOT SERIOUS."

IN TOKYO, JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER ZENKO SUZUKI CABLED A TELEGRAM OF SYMPATHY EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN AND JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MASAYOSHI ITO DEPLORED "SUCH SENSELESS ACTS OF VIOLENCE."

BUT SOME JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN WHETHER A PLANNED U.S.-JAPAN SUMMIT NEXT MONTH WILL TAKE PLACE.

THE OFFICIAL CHINESE NEWS AGENCY XINHUA REPORTED THE ASSASSINATION TRY IN A SEVEN-PARAGRAPH ARTICLE WITHOUT COMMENT. BUT CHINESE PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG SENT A CABLE TO REAGAN, EXPRESSING SHOCK AND WISHING HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT SENT A MESSAGE, SAYING "WHILE CONDEMNING THIS CRIMINAL ACTION, WHICH JOLTED THE ENTIRE WORLD, I PRAY ALMIGHTY GOD TO GRANT YOU A SPEEDY RECOVERY SO THAT YOU MAY RESUME THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR GREAT AND FREE COUNTRY."

SPANISH KING JUAN CARLOS TELEPHONED THE WHITE HOUSE TO EXPRESS "FULL SOLIDARITY...AGAINST THE CRIMINAL ATTACK WHICH DISGRACEFULLY PROVED THAT TERRORIST VIOLENCE TODAY IS GENERALIZED."

WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT, WHO HAD TALKED TO REAGAN THAT MORNING BY TELEPHONE, SAID IN A TELEGRAM: "WITH DEEP HORROR I HAVE JUST LEARNED OF AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON YOU. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE NEWS THAT YOU ARE NOT SERIOUSLY HURT IS ACCURATE."

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN REACTED "WITH SHOCK AND ASTONISHMENT" AND FOREIGN MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR SENT A TELEGRAM WISHING "SPEEDY RECOVERY."

IN BEIRUT, THE PLO SAID "IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS."

TEHRAN RADIO ANNOUNCED THE SHOOTING IN A BRIEF MORNING BULLETIN WITHOUT COMMENT.

UPI 03-31-81 10:09 AES

8IT391

\*\*\*\*\*U N C L A S S I F I E D\*\*\*\*\*S COPY

IN

ROUTINE

DE RUEBGG #1223 0901104

R 311104Z MAR 81

FM USS GROTON

TO PRESIDENT USA WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS //N00000//

SUBJ: CONDOLENCES

1. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE USS GROTON (SSN694) SEND THEIR  
CONDOLENCES AND WISH YOU A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

BT

\*\*\*\*\*  
BIT: CNL VP

EOB:

WHSR COMMENTS:

PAGE 01 OF 01 USS GROTON 1223

DTG:311104Z MAR 81 PSN:004789  
TOR: 090/1634Z

\*\*\*\*\*U N C L A S S I F I E D\*\*\*\*\*S COPY

66

SIT077

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ \*\*\*\*\* COPY

FLASH

DE WTER WASHINGTON  
Z 302150Z MAR 81  
FM VICE PRESIDENT ARDARD AF2

COB

4/7/91

TO WHITE HOUSE 311 ROOM FOR SEC HATS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WE WILL TOUCHDOWN AT 1835 LOCAL AT ANDREWS.  
I PLAN TO HELICOPTER IN THE OBSERVATORY AND MOTORCADE  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE. (000/9.53 (1207-)) 54343 1900. PLEASE STANDBY  
ABOUT PROPER MODE OF ARRIVAL UNLESS SITUATION  
DICTATES MORE IMMEDIATE ROUTE TO WHITE HOUSE  
BOTH ANDREWS AND OBSERVATORY WILL BE CLOSED TO  
PRESS. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST OF ANY CHANGE  
IN SITUATION.  
SIGNED . . .

SIT:  
EOR:  
WHEN COMMENTS:

PAGE 01 OF 01 VICE PRESIDENT ARDARD 0001 DTG:302150Z MAR 81 PS:0003622  
RECALLED TCR: 489/22042

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ \*\*\*\*\* COPY

FBIS 49

TASS REPORTS BREZHNEV MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

LD311104 MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH 1100 GMT 31 MAR 81


(TEXT) MOSCOW, 31 MAR (TASS)--FOLLOWS FULL TEXT OF LEONID BREZHNEV'S TELEGRAM TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA:

"TO HIS EXCELLENCY RONALD W. REAGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"WE HAVE LEARNED WITH INDIGNATION ABOUT AN ATTEMPT ON YOUR LIFE. WE ARE FIRMLY CONDEMNING THAT CRIMINAL ACT.

"ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP AND ON MY OWN BEHALF I WISH YOU, MR PRESIDENT, FULL AND EARLY RECOVERY.

"L. BREZHNEV."

31 MAR 1122Z 

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLS 897-098/2 # 76

By WJS, NARA, Date 6/12/00

FLASH  
DE RUEHC #0707 0900103  
Z 310103Z MAR 81 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

~~TO ALL AMEMBASSIES~~  
AMEMBASSY KABUL FLASH 0010  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY FLASH 5307

UNCLAS STATE 080707

E.O. 12065IN/A

TAGSIPDIP

SUBJECT: ~~STATEMENT TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS~~

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS UNDERGONE SURGERY FOR THE GUNSHOT WOUND RECEIVED IN THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION THIS AFTERNOON IN WASHINGTON. THE BULLET HAS BEEN REMOVED. THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN REMOVED TO POST-OPERATIVE CARE, IS IN GOOD CONDITION WITH PROGNOSIS EXCELLENT.
2. PLEASE INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENT OF THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUE TO REASSURE YOUR HOST THAT THE CONTINUITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS ASSURED.
3. WE WILL KEEP YOU CLOSELY INFORMED AS EVENTS WARRANT.

HAIG  
BT

\*\*\*\*\*  
SIT: ~~ARMY/NAVY/COLE/VP~~  
EOB: ~~SEA~~  
WHOR COMMENTS:

PAGE 01 OF 01 SECSTATE WASHDC 0707  
RECALLED

DTG1310103Z MAR 81 PSN1003015  
TOR: 090/0111Z

\*\*\*\*\*U N C L A S S I F I E D\*\*\*\*\*S COPY

UP073

B W

ADD REAGAN-SHOTS

THE FIRST LADY WAS NOT WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PRESS SECRETARY JIM BRADY, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL DEEVER AND OTHER ASSISTANTS.

WHEN THE SHOTS WERE FIRED PEOPLE BEGAN TO PANIC, DUCKING, SOMETIMES FALLING TO GROUND OTHERS IN CROUCH.

IT WAS RAINING AT THE TIME WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE STANDING ALONG THE SIDEWALK AT THE TIME. THEY WERE CHEERING AND WAVING WHEN THE PRESIDENT CAME OUT. HE TURNED TO WAVE AND THE SHOTS WERE FIRED.

BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND A POLICEMAN HAVE BEEN REPORTED HIT.

UPI 03-30-81 02:48 PES

UP074

R U

REAGAN-GUNSHOTS, 1ST LD-1ST ADD,

WASHN: NOT HARMED

THREE MEN WERE WOUNDED, INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY JAMES S. BRADY, ACCORDING TO HIS DEPUTY, LARRY SPEAKES.

BRADY WAS RUSHED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. REAGAN, WHO DID SUFFER A BUMP IN THE CHAOS, ACCOMPANIED HIM.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS SHOVED THE PRESIDENT INTO HIS ARMORED LIMOUSINE, WHICH SPED AWAY FROM THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL. TWO OTHER MEN, ONE A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND THE OTHER A WASHINGTON POLICEMAN, WERE WOUNDED, JUST STEPS FROM WHERE REAGAN HAD BEEN SPEAKING TO REPORTERS.

THE PRESIDENT HAD DELIVERED A SPEECH TO THE AFL-CIO'S BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TRADES CONFERENCE MEETING AT THE HOTEL.

POLICE GRABBED A SANDY-HAIRED MAN WHO APPEARED TO BE IN HIS LATE 30S OR EARLY 40S, CBS NEWS REPORTED.

ONE REPORTER SAID HE HEARD FIVE SHOTS.

THE SCENE OUTSIDE THE HOTEL IMMEDIATELY BECAME ONE OF CHAOS. A CROWD GATHERED.

REAGAN HAD EMERGED FROM THE HOTEL'S VIP ENTRANCE AND REPORTERS WERE ATTEMPTING TO SHOUT QUESTION AT HIM WHEN THERE WAS A RAPID FIRE SUCCESSION OF SHOTS.

AP-WX-03-30-81 1454EST

U W

ADD REAGAN-SHOTS THE WHITE HOUSE SAID REAGAN WAS NOT HIT, BUT WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JAMES BRADY WAS SHOT AND WOUNDED.

SECRET SERVICE MEN SHOVED THE PRESIDENT INSIDE HIS WRITING LIMOUSINE AS SOON AS THE SHOTS WERE FIRED -- REPORTEDLY FOUR SHOTS, JUST TO HIS RIGHT -- BY AN UNKNOWN MALE.

ABC REPORTED THAT IN ADDITION TO BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT WAS WOUNDED IN THE SHOOTING ABOUT 2:30 P.M. OUTSIDE THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL.

THE GUNMAN WAS TACKLED BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AND POLICE AND PINNED TO THE GROUND AS THE MOTORCADE SPED AWAY TO SAFETY.

UPI 03-30-81 02:53 PES



UP078

U W

ADD REAGAN-SHOTS

THE ASSAILANT WAS A YOUNG WHITE, BLOND MALE, AND HE WAS SHOVED INTO A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SQUAD CAR SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT.

AMBULANCES SPED TO THE SCENE TO TAKE BRADY TO THE HOSPITAL.

BRADY WAS APPARENTLY STRUCK IN THE HEAD, BLOOD POURING PROFUSELY FROM THE WOUND. THE SEVERITY OF HIS WOUNDS WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN.

WHEN THE SHOTS RANG OUT, REAGAN WAS LEAVING THE HOTEL, LAUGHING AND WAVING TO A CROWD OUTSIDE THE HOTEL WHERE HE HAD BEEN ADDRESSING AN AFL-CIO MEETING.

UPI'S DEAN REYNOLDS SAID THE GUNMAN WAS ABOUT 10 FEET FROM REAGAN WHEN THE SHOTS RANG OUT.

BRADY WAS JUST A STEP OR TWO BEHIND REAGAN AS THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WAS LEAVING THE HOTEL.

DEPUTY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY LARRY SPEAKES, EXPLAINING INITIAL CONFUSION ABOUT WHETHER REAGAN WAS HIT, SAID, "THERE WAS SOME PUSHING AND SHOVING WHEN THEY WENT INTO THE CAR."

REAGAN WENT TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE BRADY WAS TAKEN, SPEAKES SAID. HE SAID DEPUTY WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL DEEVER ACCOMPANIED REAGAN TO THE HOSPITAL.

R157U 077111420TMY023A

AM-REAGAN 4 WASHINGTON

MR SPEAKES SAID: "THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT HIT."

HE SAID MR BRADY WAS HIT AND SECRET SERVICE AGENTS OR POLICEMEN WERE ALSO SHOT.

THE PRESIDENT WAS FIRED AT AS HE WAS LEAVING THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, WHERE HE HAD MADE A SPEECH TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT OF THE AFL-CIO LABOR MOVEMENT.

MR REAGAN WAS THROWN INTO HIS CAR BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS WHEN THE SHOTS WERE FIRED.

MR SPEAKES SAID THE PRESIDENT SUSTAINED "A BUMP" WHEN HE WAS PUSHED BY THE AGENTS BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHERE.

A MAN DESCRIBED AS WHITE WITH BLOND HAIR WAS IMMEDIATELY OVERPOWERED BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AND TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. HE WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIED.

MORE 1459 RH

R163F I7874Z9TCYNZYR

AM-REAGAN-LEAD\*\*\*\*\*SNAP (R-154)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 30, REUTER -- PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS SHOT  
AND WOUNDED IN THE LEFT SIDE OF HIS CHEST TODAY BUT WAS  
REPORTED CONSCIOUS AND IN STABLE CONDITION IN HOSPITAL,  
PRESIDENTIAL AIDE LYN NOFZIGER ANNOUNCED.  
REUTER 1516 NL



UNCLASSIFIED

S/S: JHKELLY:LD  
3/30/81 X28448  
D: WCLARK

FLASH

ALDIP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: STATEMENT TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO GOVERNMENT TO WHICH YOU ARE ACCREDITED:

2. YOU WILL HAVE HEARD THAT ON MARCH 30 THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN. ALTHOUGH HE WAS INJURED IN THAT ATTACK, HIS CONDITION IS STABLE. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE GOVERNMENT THAT IN SPITE OF THIS TERRIBLE EVENT, THE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO CARRY OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS PEOPLE AND ITS ALLIES. YY

WC

JHK JHK

UNCLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Ray*  
*June*

*To March 30, 1981*

*for*  
*jr*

8-16

8 4 111111111111 12/3  
10 WASHINGTON TODAY: 400 11:30 AM  
810V 03

FOR RELEASE FRI FEB APRIL 3  
AM 87 NEWS ANALYSIS

BY WALLER R. WEHRS

AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP) - SOME DAYS, ORDINARY DAYS, A PRESIDENT DOESN'T GO TO WORK, AND THE GOVERNMENT KEEPS ROLLING, GOING BUSINESSES ARE ALWAYS, LIKE ANYBODY ELSE, PRESIDENTS GET TIRED, OR CATCH COLDS, OR NEED OR WANT A DAY OFF. THEY'RE ALWAYS VULNERABLE, BUT THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS AT WORK.

THAT IS WORTH REMEMBERING AS PRESIDENT KEROEN RECUPERATES FROM THE ROUND HE SUFFERED IN AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT MONDAY. HE IS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING IN THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT HE DOESN'T DO EVERYTHING. NO ONE COULD.

MANY OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES CAN BE DELEGATED AND ARE - WHETHER HE IS IN THE Oval OFFICE OR IN A HOSPITAL BED. SOME LEGISLATION, HIS SIGNATURE ALONE, CAN MAKE AN OFFICIAL PAPER OFFICIAL, OR A BILL LAW. KEROEN SIGNED A BILL YESTERDAY, THE MORNING AFTER SURGERY, BLOCKING AN INCREASE IN BARRY PRICE SUPPORTS TO PUT \$147 MILLION FROM THE BUDGET THIS YEAR.

A PRESIDENT CANNOT, WITHOUT YIELDING THE POWERS OF OFFICE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, DELEGATE HIS AUTHORITY TO ORDER USE OF THE NATION'S ULTIMATE WEAPONS.

SHOULD THE PRESIDENT YIELD POWERS, EITHER BY HIS OWN DECISION OR BECAUSE A MAJORITY OF THE CABINET DETERMINES HE IS INCAPACITATED, THE AUTHORITY WOULD PASS TO THE VICE PRESIDENT.

NONE OF THAT HAPPENED MONDAY, BUT THE MECHANISM TO TRANSFER POWER WAS THERE.

WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES H. BAKER III SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ANY CONTINGENCY AT ALL TIMES. A MAJORITY OF THE CABINET WAS ASSEMBLED AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH HAS ACCESS IN HIS AIRPLANE TO THE CODES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN NEEDED TO ORDER THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BUT THERE WERE NO SUDDEN FOREIGN CRISES AND SO NO NEED FOR AN ACTING PRESIDENT IN THE HOURS AFTER THE SHOOTING.

THERE IS ANOTHER ROLE NO PRESIDENT CAN ASSIGN TO A SUBORDINATE, A SYMBOLIC ROLE. THE MAN AND THE OFFICE ARE A SYMBOL OF LEGISLATION, STABILITY AND CONTINUITY. A PRESIDENT BECOMES AN EMBLEM OF AUTHORITY, AND NO ONE CAN FILL IN FOR HIM.

THAT IS A ROLE KEROEN PLAYED TO THE FULL. ALL THOSE MISSING AND KILLED TOOK THE SHOOTING GOOD AND THE HOSPITAL BEDS CARRIED A DISCOURAGING MESSAGE. THEY SAID KEROEN WAS STILL HERE, STILL IN POWER.

EVERY 11-11, WHEN THE THREE STRUCK BY THE ASSASSINATION WERE COMING TO WORK, IT WAS

To  
Jim Biden  
Ed Moore  
Dick Allen  
Dave Bergery/Frank U.  
Larry Spauldes -  
Fy1-  
Excellent  
just -  
Not

"YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS RUNNING NORMALLY,"  
REAGAN AIDE LYN ROFEIZER SAID HE TOLD THE PRESIDENT THE OTHER DAY.

"WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D BE HAPPY ABOUT THAT?" REPLIED REAGAN;  
AND IS TRYING TO RESHAPE THE GOVERNMENT.

BUT AT EVERY LEVEL OF DECISION-MAKING, SAVE THE VERY HIGHEST, THE  
GOVERNMENT DOES FUNCTION NORMALLY; WHETHER THE PRESIDENT IS AT HIS  
DESK; OR CONVALESCING OR, FOR THAT MATTER, TAKING A VACATION OR RIDING  
A HORSE.

PRESIDENTS MAKE THE BIG DECISIONS, BUT THEY DON'T SPEND ALL DAY  
EVERY DAY AT IT.

AND IN THE REAGAN PLAN OF GOVERNMENT, DECISIONS THAT DON'T REALLY  
DEMAND HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION HAVE BEEN DELEGATED. HE CAME TO OFFICE  
SAYING THAT MEMBERS OF THE CABINET WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO RUN THEIR  
OPERATIONS. HE ASSEMBLED A TEAM OF TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS TO HANDLE PART  
OF THE LOAD. HIS STYLE OF GOVERNING HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS COLLEGIAL.  
THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME A PRESIDENT HAS WORKED FROM A HOSPITAL  
BED.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON DID AFTER THE GALL BLADDER SURGERY THAT PRODUCED  
THAT FAMOUS SCAR. AND JOHNSON WAS NOT ONE TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY WHEN  
HE COULD HELP IT.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR SEVEN WEEKS AFTER HIS  
HEART ATTACK ON SEPT. 25, 1955.

REAGAN IS SIX BLOCKS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE; EISENHOWER WAS IN DENVER.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL GO ON AS USUAL WITHOUT ANY DELAY BECAUSE OF  
THE PRESIDENT'S TEMPORARY ABSENCE," SAID THEN-VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD  
M. NIXON.

IT DID.

AND THAT IS JUST WHAT REAGAN'S LIEUTENANTS ARE SAYING; AND SEEKING  
TO DEMONSTRATE; AS THEIR PRESIDENT RECOVERS FROM HIS WOUND.

END ADV PM FRI APRIL 3

AP-NY-04-02 1018EST

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

1668

CONFIDENTIAL  
ATTACHMENT  
INFORMATION

April 6, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FIRST LADY

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *Allen*

SUBJECT: Listing of Foreign Leaders Expressing Concern  
for the President

Attached is a listing of foreign leaders who have sent messages of concern as of April 1, which I thought you would like to see (Tab A).

Jordanian King Hussein and Queen Noor have sent messages and have expressed their interest in telephoning you at a convenient time (Tab B).

Please let me know if you would want to consider accepting the call and when you would like to have it placed. Should you not wish to do so, Their Majesties will understand.

Your Preference:

Yes, I would \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

No, not at this time \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer sending a note instead \_\_\_\_\_  
(NSC will provide)

cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
James Baker ✓  
Michael Deaver

A

April 1, 1981

MESSAGES OF CONCERN FROM HEADS OF STATE  
FOREIGN LEADERS

Prime Minister Fraser	Australia
Premier Charles Court	Western Australia
General Jorge Rafael Videla	Argentina
President Roberto Eduardo Viola	Argentina
President Bendjedid	Algeria
Premier Vere Cornwall Bird, Sr.	Antigua/Barbuda
Ex-President Hugo Banzer Suarez	Bolivia
President Garcia Meza	Bolivia
Premier Zhao Ziyang (PRC)	Beijing (China)
Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping	"
President Figueiredo	Brazil
Prime Minister Wilfried Martens	Belgium
Chairman Todor Zhivkov	Bulgaria
President Ne Win	Burma
Prime Minister Trudeau	Canada
Governor General Ed Schreyer	"
President Spyros Kyprianou	Cyprus
President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte	Chile
Ambassador Echeverria	Costa Rica
President Carazo	
President Fidel Castro	Cuba
President Dacko	Central African Rep.
President Pereira	Cape Verde
President Gustav Husak	Czechoslovak Soc. Rep.
President Guzman	Dominican Republic
Queen Margrethe	Denmark
Prime Minister Anker Joergensen	"
President Sadat	Egypt
President Jaime Roldos Aguilera	Ecuador
President Jose Napoleon Duarte	El Salvador

President Kekkonen	Finland
President Giscard	France
Francois Mitterand (Member of Parliament)	"
Robert Andre Vivien (Member of Parliament)	"
Madame Georges Pompidou (wife of Former President of France)	France
Jacques Chaban Delmas (Former PM - current President National Assembly)	"
Jacques Chirac (Former PM - current Mayor of Paris & Candidate for Presidency)	France
Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet	"
Chancellor Schmidt	FRG
President Karstens	"
Foreign Minister Genscher	FRG
Former Chancellor Willy Brandt	FRG
Ambassador Filipe Bole	Fiji
Acting Prime Minister Walker	"
Acting President Assan Musa Camara	Gambia
President Gernando Romeo Lucas Garcia	Guatemala
President Bongo	Gabon
Erich Honecker	German Democratic Rep.
Dr. Helmut Kohl	Germany
President Karamanlis	Greece
Prime Minister Rallis	Greece
Queen Elizabeth	Great Britain
Prime Minister Thatcher	" "
Dr. Limann (President)	Ghana
President Burnham	Guyana
President Policarpo Paz Garcia	Honduras Republic
President Losonczi	Hungary
President Duvalier	Haiti
President Suharto	Indonesia
Ambassador Timothee Ahoua	Ivory Coast
President Felix Houphouet-Boigny	Ivory Coast
President Pertini	Italy
Senate President Fanfani	"
Prime Minister Arnaldo Forlani	Italy
Socialist Party Secretary Craxi	"
President Hillery	Ireland
Prime Minister Haughey	"
Israeli Opposition Leader Shimon Peres	Israel
Prime Minister Menachem Begin	Israel
President Vigdis Finnbogadottir	Iceland
Emperor Hirohito	Japan
Prime Minister Suzuki	Japan
Foreign Minister Ito	"
Prime Minister Seaga	Jamaica



King Hussein I	Jordan
President Moi	Kenya
President Sarkis	Lebanon
Prime Minister Werner Foreign Minister Flesch	Luxembourg "
Grand Duke Franz Josef II	Liechtenstein
Acting Prime Minister Ringadoo	Mauritius
President Jose Lopez Portillo Margaritta Portillo	Mexico "
President Amata Kabua	Micronesia
King Hassan	Morocco
President Gayoom	Maldives
Prime Minister Mintoff President Buttigieg	Malta "
President Kabua	Marshall Islands
President Didier Ratsiraka	Madagascar
President Khouna Ould Haidalla	Mauritania
Governor David Dale	Montserrat
Prime Minister Dato Hussein Onn Deputy Paramount Ruler Tunku Abdul Rahman	Malaysia "
Prince Rainier	Monaco
President Kountche	Niger
Prime Minister van Agt Queen Beatrix	Netherlands Netherlands
Prime Minister Muldoon Governor General Beattie	New Zealand New Zealand
King Birendra	Nepal
Minister of Exterior Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann	Nicaragua
King Olav V	Norway
Prime Minister Brundtland	"
President Shagari	Nigeria
Qaboos Bin Said (Sultan)	Oman

Ambassador Juan Jose Amado III	Panama
President & Prime Minister Ferdinand E. Marcos	Philippines
President Eanes	Portugal
Prime Minister Balsemao	"
Minister of Administrative Reform (Eusebio Marques De Carvalho)	Portugal
President Stroessner	Paraguay
President Belaunde	Peru
Amir of Qatar Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani	Qatar
Premier Rene Levesque	Quebec
President Ceausescu	Romania
Premier Kennedy Simmonds	St. Christopher-Nevis
President Chin	Suriname
President Furgler	Switzerland
King Juan Carlos	Spain
Prime Minister Sotelo	"
President Viljoen	South Africa
President Nimeiri	Sudan
President Jayewardene	Sri Lanka
President Said Barre	Somalia
King Khalid	Saudi Arabia
Prince Fahd	"
King Sobhuza	Swaziland
Prime Minister Mabandla	Swaziland
King Gustaf	Sweden
Prime Minister Faellidin	"
President Nyerere	Tanzania
President Eyadema	Togo
President Merdez	Uruguay
President Brezhnev	USSR
Ambassador Dobrynin	"
President Herrera Campins	Venezuela
Pope John Paul II	Vatican
President Zayed	United Arab Emirates
President Zerbo	Upper Volta
President Salih	Yemen Arab Republic
President Mijatovic	Yugoslavia
Ambassador Budimir Loncar	"
President Mobutu	Zaire

ORGANIZATIONS

Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission of the European Communities

Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, Director General of UNESCO

Taroichi Yoshida, President of the Asian Development Bank (Manila)

B

EOB832

\*\*\*\*\*~~CONFIDENTIAL~~\*\*\*\*\*E COPY

IN

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DE RUEHAM #2421 0901453  
O 311453Z MAR 81  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0762

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ AMMAN 02421

NEA/ARN FOR NEUMANN

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PPDC

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN:  
KING HUSSEIN'S REACTIONS

DECLASSIFIED  
NLS E97098/2 #77  
BY MSJ NARA, DATE 6/12/00

1. IN COURSE OF A BRIEF AUDIENCE ON MARCH 31, KING HUSSEIN AGAIN EXPRESSED TO ME HIS SENSE OF OUTRAGE AND DEEP SHOCK AT THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT REAGAN. HE SAID THAT HE AND QUEEN NOOR HAD STAYED AWAKE A GOOD PART OF THE NIGHT TRYING TO KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS.

2. THE KING SAID THAT HE HAD CONSIDERED PLACING A TELEPHONE CALL TO EITHER SECRETARY HAIG OR VICE PRESIDENT BUSH, BUT AGREED WITH THE POINT I HAD MADE LAST NIGHT THAT THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. NOW, HE AND QUEEN NOOR WOULD LIKE AT AN EARLY TIME TO ARRANGE TO SPEAK BY TELEPHONE WITH MRS. REAGAN IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. I TOLD THE KING THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT A FEW DAYS FOR THINGS TO SETTLE DOWN A BIT, BUT PROMISED TO SEND HIS REQUEST ALONG TO FIND OUT WHEN IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR SUCH A CALL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF MRS. REAGAN WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO A CALL FROM THEIR MAJESTIES, AND IF SO WHEN SUCH A CALL MIGHT BE ARRANGED.

ZWEIFEL

BT

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SIT: COL VP

EOB: NEA

WESR COMMENTS:

PAGE 01 OF 01 AMMAN 2421  
RECALLED

DTG: 311453Z MAR 81 PSN: 204640  
TOR: 090/1506Z CSN: HCF949

\*\*\*\*\*~~CONFIDENTIAL~~\*\*\*\*\*E COPY

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DE RUEHAM #2411 0901202

O 311201Z MAR 81

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0756

INCLAS AMMAN 02411

U.O.12365: N/A

CLASS: PDIP, PPDC, US, JO

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN:

- MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. REAGAN FROM KING AND  
- QUEEN OF JORDAN

1. BELOW ARE TEXTS OF A MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY  
KING HUSSEIN TO PRESIDENT REAGAN AND FROM THE KING AND  
QUEEN TO MRS. REAGAN:

2. (BEGIN TEXT)

THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

3. WE HAVE BEEN MOST DEEPLY SPOCKED BY THE NEWS OF  
THE HEINOUS CRIMINAL ACT AGAINST YOUR GOOD SELF. THE  
GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF JORDAN JOIN ME AND MY FAMILY  
IN PRAYING FOR YOUR SPEEDY AND COMPLETE RECOVERY. OUR  
HARDEST FEELINGS ALSO GO TO MR. PRADY, THE SECRET  
SERVICE AGENT AND POLICEMAN WHO FELL VICTIMS OF THE  
CRIME AND TO THEIR FAMILIES. TOGETHER WITH THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF HONOUR, DECENCY AND GOOD WILL THE  
WORLD OVER WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY, FAITH AND PRAYER  
THAT GOD PROTECT AND BLESS YOU AND THAT YOU MAY  
CONTINUE IN THE BEST OF HEALTH SOONEST TO FULFILL YOUR  
GREAT MISSION FOR THE BETTER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND FOR ALL OF MANKIND.

4. MOST SINCERELY, YOUR FRIEND,

HUSSEIN OF JORDAN

(END TEXT)

5. (BEGIN TEXT)

\*\*\*\*\*

IT: RA NAY COL VP

CC: NEA

FOR COMMENTS:

PAGE 01

AMMAN 2411

DTG:311201Z MAR 81

PSN:004448

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CSN:000976

MR. RONALD REAGAN  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

- WE HAVE BEEN MOST DEEPLY SHOCKED AND ANGERED BY  
THE CRIMINAL ACT AGAINST THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT  
AND WE PRAY FOR HIS SPEEDY AND COMPLETE RECOVERY. OUR  
THINKERS, WARMEST AND SINCEREST WISHES ALSO GO FOR THE  
RECOVERY OF MR. BRADY, THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND  
THE POLICEMAN WHO WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THIS  
HEINOUS CRIMINAL ACT AND TO ALL THE FAMILIES OF  
THE VICTIMS FOR COURAGE AND FAITH.

- WE AND THE PEOPLE OF JORDAN SHARE WITH YOU AND  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF HONOLULU AND GOOD WILL TRY  
TO DO OUR PART IN EXTENDING TO THE PRESIDENT OUR WARMEST  
GOOD WISHES AND IN STANDING BY YOU AT EVERY HOUR AND  
MINUTE IN SOLIDARITY, FAITH, HOPE AND PRAYER.

- MOST SINCERELY  
- HUSSEIN OF JORDAN  
- MOHAMMED EL KASSAB OF JORDAN  
(END TEXT)

1. ORIGINALS ARE BEING FORWARDED TO S/COJ UNDER  
REFUGEE NUMBER 660000. (11/17/77)

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\*\*\*\*\*~~CONFIDENTIAL~~\*\*\*\*\* COPY

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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3745

DECLASSIFIED

NLS F92098/2 #78

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY mwp NARA, DATE 6/12/00

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 02392

NO.12065: N/A

INFO: PEP, PPDC, JO, US

SUBJECT:: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN

IMMEDIATELY UPON LEARNING THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN MARCH 30 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, PHONED PALACE TO INFORM KING HUSSEIN. QUEEN NOOR, WHO COINCIDENTALLY HAD HEARD THE NEWS AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AND WAS TRYING TO REACH ME. QUEEN SAID THAT SHE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF KING HUSSEIN AS WELL AS HERSELF. BOTH WERE DEEPLY SHOCKED BY THIS ATTACK, BELIEVED TO HEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CONDITION APPEARS TO BE STABLE, AND HOPEFUL FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

QUEEN ASKED IF THEY SHOULD TRY TO GET A CALL THROUGH TO WASHINGTON TO SPEAK TO VICE PRESIDENT BUSH. I COUNSELLED AGAINST THIS, NOTING THAT THERE IS GREAT CONFUSION AT THIS TIME AS WELL AS ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL BE FULLY OCCUPYING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TIME. I THANKED THE QUEEN FOR HER AND KING HUSSEIN'S EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AND PROMISED TO KEEP THEM ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. ZWEIFEL

BT: RA NAN COL WP

CD: NEA

NSR COMMENTS:

PAGE 01 OF 01

AMMAN 2392

RECALLED

REG:302120Z MAR 81

FOR: 089/2154Z

PSN:003607

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*Press Briefings*

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

April 3, 1981

PRESS BRIEFING  
BY  
DAVID GERGEN  
FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

National Press Building  
Washington, D.C.

11:16 A.M. EST

MR. MEMBERS: Sorry we're getting started a little bit late. Our guest today is Mr. David Gergen, Assistant to the President and White House Staff Director. We thought it would be very useful in light of the events of this week to have someone from the White House, specifically, Mr. Gergen, come down and give us a view of the situation as of today. We hope that this will be the first of a number of meetings with senior White House officials here at the press center in the weeks and months to come.

Mr. Gergen is on a tight schedule. We will try to end this shortly before noon. This is, as you know, a background briefing, attribution to a senior White House official. Tape recorders are permitted for note taking purposes only. Following a few introductory remarks, we'll take questions. As is our custom, would you please identify your organization when you ask the question as a courtesy to Mr. Gergen. And those who may have neglected to sign in, please do so at the end of the session. There is some biographic data on Mr. Gergen available on the table where you signed in. Mr. Gergen.

MR. GERGEN: Well, let me say I'm delighted to be here. I understand that you all have had an opportunity through the foreign press center and ICA to have and talk with other people in the administration in the last few weeks. I guess we've now -- about 75 days that this administration has been in office. I hope that we can continue those talks in the future. We want to encourage as many people on our side to meet with you as possible. I'd also like to request, to the extent we can, if we can help you do a better job through our White House Press Office or our Communications Office, please let us know what we can do to help. We're anxious to provide as much access to you as possible. We're anxious for you to have an opportunity to talk to the people that you need to talk to in order to understand what's going on in this country as well as you can.

We do have in the Press Office -- there are a variety of people who can talk with you, who can give you help. Also, we have had some one come on board here recently in the White House by the name of Frank Urso, who's heading up our Communications Office who can also provide you with assistance in the event that you need people to talk to.

Now, this is, you can understand, has been an extraordinary week for this administration. We all -- unfortunately, it's becoming a tragedy that we've seen before in American politics. And I know that violence is not unique to America but it's something we're deeply distressed about. Perhaps the most encouraging part of the week, to us, has been the President's remarkable courage and spirit during this period. We feel he's not only inspired us internally but we feel he's provided an example to the country and we're very -- I think all of us find this man is establishing himself in terms of his personality and who he is. I think the people have a much clearer sense of him than they did once before. They understand -- his character is much clearer than it was before and I think that's

MORE

going to have an impact upon the future of his Presidency. We think it will have a very beneficial impact.

Before President Reagan became President, some of us went back and had an opportunity to look at the first 100 days of the last five Presidents who've come in like he has. From Roosevelt on through Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, and Carter, it became very apparent in that study that the first 100 days is particularly important for establishing and etching in the public mind the personality of the man in that office. And this event of the past week has done more than anything else, I think, to establish the character and the kind of man that Ronald Reagan is. And I think that that's important to his administration. I think this is as important as anything else that's happened this week in fact.

We often hear a great deal in the television age about packaged candidates and the media managers. And I think it's very apparent no one packaged Ronald Reagan during these hours. The man himself, his true character, I think, came through. Fortunately, all of us who try to be, futilely try to be image makers, had nothing to do with it, and we all had a true glimpse, I think, of the man's spirit. And that again is something which we count as very positive.

I think the other positive aspect of the week, from our perspective, is that this government continues in a -- as our Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes has said and as Senator Baker has said, without really missing a beat, there was, I'm sure some things have changed, and I'm happy to talk about that, but at the time of particular tension and stress, for the most part, went very smoothly. People who were very fresh to this office, had only been in office a matter of weeks or days, understood and carried out the functions of their office very effectively. I think the government was prepared to meet any contingency. The administration was prepared to meet any contingency. We had, as some of you. I think know, a majority of the Cabinet officers gathered in the Situation Room in the White House who were prepared in the unhappy circumstances if we had to move down through the 25th Amendment, if the President had suffered an incapacitating disability, we were prepared to exercise the 25th Amendment. Very happily, that question never came up. We never had to do it but we were prepared. At the same time, we had folks there who were from the National Security side of the House, who were prepared to move in the event that we have any questions arising that dealt with an international posture.

Of course, in the first hour after this all occurred on Monday, we had no idea who this assailant was, what his connection was, whether he was a loner, whether he was connected to some larger effort. And that, of course, in any situation, in any government, becomes an immediate question that one has to confront. You have to be very alert to what's going on in the international community at that point. And I think that that kind of information was flowing effectively into the White House and we were prepared to move forward if we had to. Fortunately, we didn't have to go down that road either. This was a very -- I think, at this point, we see this as an isolated event that was dealt with as well as one could have hoped. And our task now is to ensure that the government continues to operate effectively. Everyone is pitching in. We've had a good deal of team work this week to ensure that's the case. And I think you'll find this government will continue down the same paths by and large that the President had laid out before he was hurt. There will continue to be a dominant interest in the economic future of this country. We've been very pleased by the votes that have occurred this week in the Senate, and in particular, the vote that occurred last night. You know, this was a major vote in the Senate on the President's budget package. And as you know, it passed by 88-10. The significance

of that vote was not simply that the Republicans voted for it but that of the Democrats in the Senate, 37 Democrats voted for the budget cuts and nine voted against. And we hope this augurs well for the other side of the Congress, the House, which, as you know, is controlled by the Democrats. And we hope that the Democratic vote in the Senate augurs well for the Democratic response we'll see in the House. So we're very encouraged about our progress on the economic package. We realize there are many difficult challenges ahead.

On the foreign policy side, we are going forward just as is, on the domestic side, is business-as-usual on the foreign policy side. Secretary Haig is leaving, as you know, this afternoon for the Middle East. Secretary Weinberger is leaving for Europe. I think that both Secretaries will -- I'm anticipating they'll have an opportunity to see the President today. Both would like to see him before they leave. They'd like to have final instructions. I'm anticipating that meeting will happen in about an hour. Those meetings will happen in about an hour. They may not but that's the present plan.

So that I think you will find that just as on the domestic side, the foreign policy, and the foreign activities of the government will continue in the same direction. There may be, in terms of the President's health, we will have to deal with that on a day-to-day basis. He has made a strong recovery but he has suffered a serious wound. And there is a recovery process that takes place with that as he, himself, has said this weekend. He has had some pain this week. He's had some soreness. He discovered it hurts to be shot. So, I think we all are going to, in terms of what he's going to do day to day, we're going to have to play it out by ear. It's going to be something -- we'll go down that road as best we can. But I think the important thing from our point of view is that he remains in full command and that he is able to make decisions and carry out the major Constitutional responsibilities of the office. He will not, of course, be able to travel to the degree he'd like to travel. He will not be able to -- in the immediate future. He will not be able to see as many people, of course, as he would like to see. But the critical responsibilities of the office, the Constitutional responsibilities, the major decision making, we believe will go forward as it has in the past.

So, what we see is a week, I think, in which a government and a democratic government has responded to a tragedy and we believe in a very good fashion and we're very encouraged about it. Now, with that, I know there are probably questions some of you may want to delve into specific aspects of this. And I'd be happy to respond to as many questions as I can. Yes, sir?

Q Robert Soleil, "Le Monde." Could you tell us something about Mr. Haig, about his intervention and his mistake about the Constitution?

MR. GERGEN: Well, I had the privilege of working with Secretary Haig -- I should point out, I worked with him in the Nixon administration when he was Chief of Staff. And I was on the White House Staff in the Nixon administration and reported through him and I've had an opportunity to know him for several years. And I have a very high regard for him.

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During the afternoon on Monday, we gathered in the Situation Room, and I was with him there from 2:30 on to whenever we broke up, which was around 8:00, 9:00. And much as been written and said about what happened that day. My own view has been, and has been steadily that he -- his performance in the Situation Room was very steady. He was very much in control of what -- he had been asked and was serving as the chief contact point with the senior members of the White House Staff who were over at the hospital, namely, Jim Baker, Ed Meese, and Mike Deaver. We were in a situation in which it was a -- ~~various members of the Cabinet~~ were working on their aspects, working on their particular portfolios. For instance, the Secretary of Defense was concerned about what was going on in the military outlook, whether there was any troop movements, whether there was any change in the world condition. On the military side, the Secretary -- the Attorney General was concerned about the FBI side of it, the investigatory side. Secretary Regan was concerned not only with the -- he has charge of the Secret Service. And he was concerned about what they were doing but also with the international financial markets and what impact this might have.

Various individuals in the Cabinet were working and reporting through, and Dick Allen, as National Security Adviser, was working on a variety of issues that arose in his area. And the process was that until the Vice President arrived there in early evening, the Secretary of State was essentially running that meeting at the request of the Chief of Staff at the White House and serving as a contact point. And for the most part, it was a very harmonious meeting. There were occasions when there were differences of opinion expressed. And I can go into the post -- into the -- let me just talk about two instances which I have been asked a continual series of questions about. One was Secretary Haig's appearance on television and the second one was what occurred thereafter with Secretary Weinberger. And if you'd like to just go ahead and get those out of the way if we can and then we can move on.

As I say, Secretary Haig had been very steady, very calm, composed. It was a very good -- everything was working very harmoniously. We had had a situation there, downstairs, in the situation room, in which we were in contact, had open lines with the hospital. And we'd agreed, because of the sensitivity and delicacy of what we were dealing with, and the facts were coming across in such a way as being a little unclear at times, the first report we had was the President had not been hit. That was the first report that came into the White House. And the first report was that Jim Brady had been hit. And we had a report that Jim Brady had not been hit. Then we had a report that Jim Brady had been hit and, indeed, the President had been hit. So you see, we were dealing -- we realized instantly with facts that changed. We couldn't be sure of the facts, particularly at the White House, because we were not on the scene.

And so what we agreed between the group at the hospital and the group at the Situation Room was, "Look, you folks at the hospital will always make the first announcement about the condition of the individuals involved, their physical condition. You're closer to the facts. You're there. We're operating to some extent, on incomplete information. Once you've made your statement, we will, in fact, go up and confirm to the White House press corps what's going on. So that way, both sides will be consistent in our views. And that process worked fairly smoothly. And we were working off that until about 3:30. Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes came back from the hospital, came back from the hospital to the White House. He had been there with Lyn Nofziger who was acting as Press

MORE

Spokesman at the hospital. Larry had not been fully aware that we were down in the Situation Room. He came back and had seen Lyn say some things to reporters and he came back to his office up in the Press Office, and there were a variety of reporters standing there asking him questions and he said, "Let's not deal with those questions here in a small cluster, let's go down to the Press Room and I'll talk to you." He went down to the Press Room and started talking. We were in the Situation Room not knowing that this was going on and the first thing we knew was he was on live television. And we were looking at him and saying, "How did he get there?" This isn't part of our understanding of how this is going to work. Larry had acted very naturally. We were surprised. The questions then got into the issue of the alertness of our forces and what the National Security situation was.

MORE

Secretary Haig felt, and properly so, that this was something that Larry had not been down in the Situation Room, had not had an opportunity to have a briefing and did not know what the alert-status of our forces was. As it turned out, Larry didn't say anything of any -- he didn't announce anything, but the Secretary felt that the questioning was going down the line of national security and that this was being broadcast around the world and he was concerned for the message that would go around the world about our international situation. And having someone up there who was not fully on top of the facts, who had really gone up there to talk about the hospitalization problem and questions about the health of the President and Jim Brady and others -- so the Secretary said to Dick Allen who was sitting there, "We've got to go up there and speak and take these questions. We can't let Larry sit there, in effect, because he's not prepared on this issue."

So, he went out of the room with a fairly fast clip and without any discussion because, in fact, this was on live television and he had to move. And he went up into the Press Room, and that's when he appeared. Now, my own private theory is there have been questions about, "Well, he looked like he was not as composed as he normally is," and nor was he composed as he had been downstairs. My own private theory -- and I have never talked to him about this, is he went at such a rapid pace, and we were downstairs and he had to run up some stairs to get there, and he had to burst into that room, and if any of you were in that room, you know it was hot and a lot of lights and it was very intense and there was a lot of tension.

My sense of it that he may have been out of breath when he hit that microphone. So if you'll look at the tape, you'll see that he immediately -- he very quickly calmed down, and sort of regained his normal composure, and then he was fine.

Some questions have arisen, "Well, what was his demeanor? What was going on? Why was he so --" That was the background to what happened, and frankly, I left the Situation Room shortly after he did to go up there because I knew he was going out there and I was not present for the conversations back in the Situation Room. We didn't make a lot out of it at that time -- at that very instant. I mean, he said what needed to be said. He was seeking to reassure the world, our allies, that essentially this government was continuing, that we were on top of things and that there was no reason for alarm, that we were in a position to deal with the contingencies and people were there, and recognized figures of authority were there in full operation. And that was an important message to send.

He has had the full and will continue to have the full support of the senior White House staff. And his decision to go up there, there's no disagreement about. We think he did a -- let me just say I think he did a marvelous job the whole day. I think he served his President well. I think he served the country well in his performance that day.

When he returned to the room, there were some differences, but there was -- it's been stated on television there may have been some altercation there with the Secretary of Defense or some big row. There were differences. There were a couple of sparks, but I didn't think there was anything overly significant about it. I felt that there were some minor differences or disputes or differences of opinion that were expressed there. At the time, I didn't read a great deal into it, to be honest with you, and I think it's because of the context of events and the sensitivities that now exist that people have read a great deal into it -- a great deal more than we have at the White House.



Let me just assure you -- and also those differences were resolved and we went on. It was very amicable and the meeting continued on until the Vice President arrived and we then had a briefing for the Vice President and watched Dr. O'Leary give that superb briefing he did that evening and we broke not long thereafter.

More than anything else, I want to underline the fact that -- because questions have arisen about this -- this Secretary has the full confidence and support of the President of the United States. He chose Al Haig because he knew him to be a strong man, because he knew him to be a man who was effective, because he knew him to be a man who could get things done and carry out -- and he and Al Haig who are very much on the same wavelength -- they have almost an identity of philosophy and views about what needs to be done in the world. All of those same conditions exist. One of the great virtues of the Secretary of State is his personal strength. He is a man of belief, of some passion, and he is not a shy person who is going to be silently sitting over in the corner.

The President believes that in order to accomplish the things this country needs to accomplish in world affairs, we do need a man of strength and character in that job. And so I can tell you without question, one of the other strengths that this Secretary has, he does get along well with the President personally. They have a good relationship. There is a settling-in process which is occurring here in this government. I think it occurs in every new administration. Questions arise about the lines of authority and that sort of thing. We've settled many of those questions internally. Some of them have been settled in the public press. But they are being settled. And I assume that matters will settle down and we'll have less discussion about personalities and more discussion about policy. We would encourage that. But I can't give you any guarantees. This is an interesting city.

Q Mr. Gergen? May I ask -- (inaudible) -- West German. Mr. Gergen, I have one question. In that Situation Room, there seemed to be -- have happened a discussion between the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense about a certain alert-status of parts of the united forces or individual units. I just wonder what your status of knowledge was. Did you have at any time the impression or the suspicion that behind that shooting incident was a group of terrorists, that it's some kind of a conspiracy or -- and what did you do? Did you alert certain troops, for instance Fort Myer? What was the military situation in this whole sequence?

MR. GERGEN: Well, of course, we were aware that there were many different alternative explanations for the shooting and terrorism **could not** be excluded as one of them. And of course, we were in contact with our military commanders. But as to what happened and what orders were given and what communications occurred and the content of those communications, I'm sorry, I really -- I think that that's -- you can understand the security aspects of that and I really don't want to go into that.

MR. : We are well into the allotted time so we will go as quickly as we can with questions.

Q To what extent does -- (inaudible) -- there is some confusion about the precisional language which the Secretary of State is employing, not only when he's defining the Constitution in a mentally pressured situation, but when he's appearing in Congress, for instance, and talking about exchange of fire and it turns out he doesn't mean exchange of fire. And there have been several instances of this quite eloquently described and analyzed

MORE

by William Safire who was also in the White House at that time, and knows something about language and --

MR. GERGEN: (Inaudible) --

Q But what I'm after is to what extent does it worry you that there is some confusion about the clarity with which American foreign policy is being expressed by the Secretary?

MR. GERGEN: That's not a level of high concern. Let's go back to the Constitutional incident. I think what the Secretary -- I can't speak for the Secretary on this. Let me assure you though, this Secretary, during the course of the 1970s, has become quite familiar with the 25th Amendment and he knows with some precision, I would suggest, of the Constitutional arrangements. I mean, after all, he was there at times when these became fairly important issues.

And I think that what was -- I have not talked to the Secretary about what -- but I do know about his understanding of the Constitution. I have no questions about that at all. In effect, the Secretary of State is, as you know, the senior member of the Cabinet and in effect, in terms of -- and running a meeting without getting into the Constitutional succession question or the command authority question or anything like that, and the running of a meeting -- in the Cabinet Room itself, the President sits in the middle of the Cabinet Room; the Vice President sits across from him as the sort of the second person within the room and the Secretary of State sits at the right hand of the President as an indication of the symbolic importance of that office. So then, I think it was really in that sense that he was talking about the President, the Vice President and the Secretary of State.

It is only natural that that respect and authority and in the context of an informal gathering that the Secretary of State in the absence of the President and the Vice President would serve as a contact-point, as has been expressed. Now, as to his other statements on the Hill, without talking about the question of El Salvador and the nuns and that sort of thing, which is what I think you were referring to, if I understand it -- I think if you look at the totality of what the Secretary of State has said about American foreign policy, you will find a great deal of clarity about our intentions and where we were going.

There may have been instances in which you may want to question some of the wording, but I think one has to look at the totality of it, and I would suggest to all of us, if we have to talk and testify in front of cameras hour after hour after hour, we may say things that sometime later we might wish to say a different way. I don't find a great deal of significance in that. Others might.

Q Mainichi Shimbun, Japan. You said that the President couldn't travel in the immediate future. Is it that you are suggesting that the White House is rearranging his scheduled trip to Mexico --

MR. GERGEN: No, I'm not suggesting that. I'm simply suggesting that -- well, for instance, we had trip planned to the State of Illinois this week, on Wednesday. The President was going to go out there. He clearly had to cancel that trip. He had hoped to visit some other state legislatures and we probably

MORE



will not be able to do some of those trips. He had planned to throw out a first baseball in Cincinnati this next Wednesday. He's not going to be able to do that. So his travel is going to have to be curtailed to a limited extent. We simply cannot say with any accuracy right now because I think that's going to have to be a doctor's judgment and that's going to be a judgment on his part as to how much travelling he can do. But clearly, a man has been seriously wounded. He's just not going to hop up and go out and hit the road the next day.

I'm not prepared to say what trip he's going to take and what trip he's not going to take, but there's going to be some change in schedule for the immediate future. Over time, I'll think you'll find him travelling. I can also assure you this is not the kind of man who wants to be confined in the White House. He's a physically active man.

Q How seriously does the White House consider the chances of an imminent invasion of Poland because yesterday Weinberger said that the troop levels and those preparations were very serious, and yet, you've got your Secretary of State going off today, or your Defense Secretary -- so although, one message seems to suggest -- newspaper headlines -- that any moment now, Russian troops might invade Poland. Another message suggests that you don't really consider it much --

MR. GERGEN: Phyllis Kaminsky is here from the National Security Council, and probably has a better sense of this than I would. I would not deviate from what the Secretary of State said. I think he said it was very serious and he meant what he said. The administration stands by that. These other trips were planned. I think you'll find that both Secretary Weinberger and Secretary Haig and Dick Allen and others will be continually monitoring the situation in Poland. If anything happens there, I think you'll find this government responding -- I mean, these individuals will respond appropriately.

I think it's -- we are in a situation of international communications, and we live in a world of international communications, as you folks know so well, and I think you'll find this government prepared to deal with that and I would not read a great deal of significance in the fact that they're going on with their trips. I wouldn't say, I wouldn't read more than the fact that the trips were scheduled and they're going forward.

Phyllis, do you have anything to add?

MR. KAMINSKY: : No, thank you.

MORE

Q Hangu Jungo (?), Korea. Because of this assassination attempt, do you think that it is necessary for the President to limit contact with the public?

MR. GERGEN: Well, that is a question that is a recurring one in American politics after these outrageous attacks occur, and my own sense of it is that in a democracy, the essence of a democracy is dealing with people and direct contact and this President very much enjoys personal contact with outside people and I -- of course one has to take the necessary precautions, but I would be very skeptical of any suggestion that this President is going to isolate himself in the White House. He is simply not that kind of man. He is so thoroughly outgoing and affable and enjoys and loves company that I think that he is going to continue that. I think that he is a tough fellow. The Secret Service doesn't call him Rawhide for nothing.

In the back row there. Yes, sir.

Q (Inaudible), Germany. One more question about Secretary Haig. For a man who you said is apparently so close to the President, has access and is so compatible in his views with him, how do you think the unfortunate impression was allowed to emerge in the last few weeks that some of the internal processes you worked out that you referred to, and lines of command, appeared to put as many checks and balances around Secretary Haig as was possible? That he was not given Crisis Management, and so forth. It seems to contradict other testimony like yours that he is very close to the President and that he trusts him and that he wants a strong Secretary of State.

MR. GERGEN: Well, let me say this. He is, as I said, close to the President in identity of views. He has not been a long personal friend of his and we are -- I think that you know that he began meeting with the President three times per week before this incident occurred. The crisis management question is, in my view, that the decision of how to deal with crisis management had very little to do -- in fact it did not spring from any desire to put a check or balance on the Secretary of State. It was simply that in the event of a crisis, where is it best to coordinate that activity? Now, the President will be the ultimate crisis manager. We all agree with that. There are going to be times when the President is not available, or present in the room. And the question becomes, who runs that meeting when the President is not there? The President's view is that the Vice President ought to run that meeting. And it ought to be done in the Situation Room. Now one of the reasons for that is that the Situation Room is the center of communication, international communications. It happens that the Situation Room is built and located in the White House. It is not built and located in the Defense Department or the State Department or anywhere else. It is in the White House, and if you are going to do that, it seems appropriate to have your meetings there chaired by someone who is right there, is close in, and so forth.

Also I would point out to you that in a crisis management situation, what you are doing, if effect, is coordinating among a series of departments, and it seems appropriate and has been traditional with the last several presidents to have that crisis management done by someone who can appropriately coordinate among departments and cut across lines, and the Vice President, in the President's view, was the appropriate person to fill in in the absence of the President.

MORE

Again, I think that there has been -- I don't want to put this as journalists are making too much of this. I don't think that this is the case. I think that people -- there has been an unfortunate tendency, I think, basically there have been a few individuals, frankly, in the lower levels of the government, perhaps the mid-levels. I can't tell where because I frankly don't know who they are who have for a variety of reasons, some of the mischievous have seen fit to, I think, present things out of character of what they truly are.

And what I think is important to understand is that at the highest levels of this government, there is cooperation, there is coordination and there's a common belief in each other, and I think you find -- you found last week and I think you found this week, a belief -- a unity among those people. And that, to us, is what's important. And the Secretary of State leaves today with full colors as the Secretary of State. He is a man who goes with the full confidence of the President.

MR. : It's five of twelve. Do you want to take a couple of more?

MR. GERGEN: A couple of more. Sure.

Q I have one question. The New York Times quoted today a verbatim quote of an exchange between Secretary Haig and Secretary Weinberger. Were those quotes correct?

MR. GERGEN: I saw those quotes and I would -- I have taken a view that, and I think it's important that those discussions in that Situation Room were delicate -- I mean, they were conducted in tense hours. One can understand that. I think we were dealing with a situation that none of us knew the full ramifications of it, and many of those discussions did deal with national security issues. They were done in confidence. I just think it's inappropriate to go beyond a characterization.

I think that once I start going down the road or any of us start going down the road with "This quote's accurate and this one's not," or "You actually said this or you actually said that," I just don't think that's very productive.

Q For how many hours was the President not able to deal with any international crisis and during that period, in the event of nuclear war, who was in charge of the football?

MR. GERGEN: The President was, I think, in surgery -- I'm not sure of the exact -- Joanna, do you know?

MS. BISTANY: Two hours and 35 minutes. I'm not even sure, but I think --

MR. GERGEN: Two hours and 35 minutes. That's the approximate time?

The question has come up about the football before and I don't know the answer to that, I'm sorry. You know, the football ordinarily travels with the President as a so-called "football."

Q Who would have made the decision?

MR. GERGEN: Let's talk about the football and then we'll move on. All right?

MORE

I don't know where the football was. I can't say. Presumably it went to the hospital, but I don't know what then happened, and frankly, if I knew I'm not sure I'd tell you. But, in any event, let's go beyond that issue.

From the moment -- even before we knew for a fact that the President was shot -- had been shot, we were in contact with the Vice President. As you know, he was on an aircraft. There is almost instant communication that's possible. The Secretary of State talked with the Vice President from the White House just a moment or two after we learned that indeed -- that we confirmed that the President had been shot, that he'd been one of the victims of the attack. The Secretary of State got on the phone with the Vice President and said, "I recommend that you return to Washington immediately. We are not on a secure line. I can't tell you all the events of it, but I recommend you come back here immediately."

Thereafter, the Secretary of State had several conversations with the Vice President and with the senior members of the White House staff. The Secretary of Defense was in the Situation Room, the National Security Adviser was in the Situation Room, the Director of Central Intelligence was in the room. We were prepared, among that collectivity, to deal with any event, military or otherwise, and I think you would have found this government responsive in the event -- we had complete communications, open lines, complete communications between all of the individuals who would have been essential in the event of an attack in order to deal with that and make the decisions.

Q (Inaudible)--Commander-in-Chief -- I mean, can he give the order on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief?

MR. GERGEN: Well, this begins to enter under certain questions of national security, frankly, and there's some classified documents that deal with this. Let me just say, there are some standing orders in the government which deal with this and I'm not really at liberty to say what -- in the event of the incapacitation or unavailability of the Commander-in-Chief, there are standing orders about how to deal with that. This raises the whole question of command authority that came up the other night and caused some confusion and there are understandings within the government about how that works, and I'm just not at liberty to say exactly how that works, but I think we made it clear that there was the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense, but it's done with the complete understanding that no one is going to go out and act irrationally.

MR. : In all fairness, I think that we could keep you here for a long time.

MR. GERGEN: I'll take one more question, then I'd like to go, if I can. Can I take this woman in the back here, please? If you don't ask a too hard one, I'll take it.

Q (Inaudible) -- how does the change of command work in the event of --

MR. GERGEN: I knew I shouldn't take the last one.

Q -- of the incapacity of the President and how in the event of a military event, can you underline for us in both cases?

MR. GERGEN: I'm sorry. I thought I'd responded to that in the last question. Perhaps I didn't answer it. I'd

MORE

just have to tell you that a lot of that deals with classified information and I'm not prepared to -- I'm sorry. As interesting as it might be, I'm just not prepared to get into that. I think we've outlined the basic structure, but how the communications work and so forth, that is not a matter we are putting on the public record. I'm sorry.

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. GERGEN: Well, I think you'll find if you go back and read the various briefings we've had on all of this that we've said very firmly that there are some standing orders. They're traditional in the government. These orders were renewed by this government, by this administration when it came into office. The people within the government have an understanding of how it works. We're not prepared to tell the world how it works and we have indicated that basically the President and the Vice President and then the Secretary of Defense are the sort of the three critical players to begin with. But we're just not prepared to go beyond that. I'm sorry.

Q As a result of this experience of the assassination attempt -- whether you are reviewing the system of the Situation Room in the White House of communication -- how are you going to deal with this now? I mean, are you satisfied with the entire way the whole thing was dealt with or are you reviewing some of the methods you're using --

MR. GERGEN: Let me just say we're never satisfied -- fully satisfied with anything in government and I hope that one result of this administration is that we can improve things in government.

MR. : Thank you all very much. Remember this was on background, attributable to a senior White House official.

END

12:00 P.M. EST

—  
Hay —

Cross file

REAGAN-BRADY  
URGENT

RA

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT REAGAN, TOLD FOR THE FIRST TIME TUESDAY THAT HIS PRESS SECRETARY HAD BEEN CRITICALLY WOUNDED IN THE SAME FUSILLADE THAT HIT HIM, REPLIED:

"OH, DAMN. OH, DAMN."

REAGAN WAS TOLD BY THE WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN, DR. DANIEL RUGE, JUST AFTER NOON THAT PRESS SECRETARY JAMES S. BRADY, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND A CITY POLICEMAN HAD ALSO BEEN HIT OUTSIDE THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL.

THEN, REAGAN'S CHIEF OF STAFF, JAMES A. BAKER, TOLD REPORTERS, THE PRESIDENT ASKED IF BRADY HAD BEEN HIT IN THE BRAIN.

RUGE SAID HE HAD AND REAGAN SAID, "OH, DAMN. OH, DAMN."

AP-WX-03-31-81 1416EST

fil

OMAHA (UPI) -- A CALLER TELEPHONED THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD AND CLAIMED A GROUP CALLED THE EARTH LIBERATION ARMY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT REAGAN. THE FBI WAS INVESTIGATING THE REPORT.

RA

A MAN WHO SAID HE WAS CONNECTED WITH THE ORGANIZATION TELEPHONED THE NEWSPAPER YESTERDAY AND SAID:

"THIS IS THE EARTH LIBERATION ARMY AND I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TELL YOU THE ASSASSINATION WILL BE COMPLETED. THIS ATTEMPT WAS A FAILURE AND THE NEXT ATTEMPT WILL NOT BE. WE WISH TO MAKE THE FACT KNOWN AND THAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE AND THE NEXT TIME WILL NOT BE A FAILURE."

THE CALLER, WHO SPOKE PRECISELY AND WITHOUT ACCENT, DECLINED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF OR INDICATE FROM WHERE HE WAS CALLING.

FBI OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD NOT HEARD OF THE EARTH LIBERATION ARMY BUT WERE INVESTIGATING ALL REPORTS CONCERNING THE SHOOTING.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SENIOR STAFF

FROM: JAMES A. BAKER III *JAB*  
SUBJECT: Compilation of Log of Internal Events

There is a need to compile an accurate log of relevant internal events for the period (approximately) 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on March 30 (yesterday).

This will be required to provide authoritative responses to external questions, and to provide a basis for our own review of internal operating procedures.

I am asking Dick Darman to take overall responsibility for pulling this compilation together. I have asked him also to coordinate the development of a preliminary analysis of this compilation -- with a view toward recommending necessary changes (if any) in operating procedures and support systems. He will work closely with Dick Allen and Fred Fielding on this -- consulting with all of us as necessary.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 2, 1981

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: PETER DAILEY

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Newspaper, Magazine, etc. Archive  
on the Shooting of the President and His  
Recovery et cetera

We really need to make sure that we have a complete collection of all the stories surrounding the shooting of the President plus the recovery. These will be very useful in later years, and I think few people will have a complete record. If for no other reason, I'd like to have them for my archives to give to a library at some later date, so let's go back and make sure you've got all of those stories and some of the pictures that appeared in the newspapers, too. If necessary, go back and get full copies of the Washington Post, at the Post offices, for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Try for the New York Times and the Star. Let's really get a collection of these things, and put them in notebooks. They don't need to be put in plastic, but should be adequately preserved, perhaps using double-faced scotch tape.

See me if there's any problem about this. Make particularly sure that you've got the cartoon from Wednesday night's Washington Star. Probably ought to keep the Haig stories of this week in this file too and then properly indexed--maybe in a separate book. We want to keep them anyway; there'll be lots and lots of commentary on that. This also includes magazine articles and anything else of the type.

Phoned to Sally Stelman  
3/2/81 Cef

(Message retyped + sent to  
Carole Farrar 4/3/81)

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440557 PTMC UI.....  
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MARCH 31, 1981  
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MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN

PLS CONVEY OUR HEARTY SYMPATHY TO THE FIRST LADY ON MR. PRESIDENT'S  
HOSPITALIZING CAUSED BY ACCIDENTAL GUNSHOTWOUND AND WE WISH HIM A  
QUICK AND SMOOTH RECOVERY TO RESUMING HIS GLOPALLY PIVOTTING IMPORTANT  
OFFICE SHORTLY.

REGARDS

YOURS CORDIALLY

P. T. KUGA / CMC

\*  
440557 PTMC UI

CRISIS

MOKE 1450 JM

R186R 14635)JZGTRYRCYN

AM-REAGAN-HAIG 3 WASHINGTON

THE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHEN MR HAIG RETURNED TO THE SITUATION ROOM FOLLOWING HIS APPEARANCE ON TELEVISION THERE WERE "A COUPLE OF SPARKS".

DEFENSE SECRETARY CASPAR WEINBERGER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ARGUED WITH MR HAIG ABOUT HIS ASSUMPTION OF CONTROL AND OVER THE NEED TO RAISE THE ALERT STATUS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES TO A HIGHER CATEGORY.

"OF COURSE, WE WERE AWARE THAT THERE WERE MANY DIFFERENT EXPLANATIONS FOR THE SHOOTING AND THAT TERRORISM COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED," SAID THE OFFICIAL, WHO WAS PRESENT IN THE SITUATION ROOM AT THE TIME.

MILITARY COMMANDERS WERE ALERTED, HE SAID.

THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE SITUATION ROOM WERE DELICATE, AND CONDUCTED AT A TENSE TIME, THE OFFICIAL SAID.

MR HAIG WAS THE CHIEF POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF AND THE NEARBY HOSPITAL WHERE THE PRESIDENT WAS TAKEN AFTER THE SHOOTING.

"FOR THE MOST PART," HE SAID, "IT WAS VERY HARMONIOUS."

THE INCIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE IS PART OF A SERIES OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY INVOLVING MR HAIG AND OTHER CABINET MEMBERS.

MOKE 1453 JM

R187R 14638)LZGTRYRZSA

AM-REAGAN-HAIG 4 WASHINGTON

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY JOHN BLOCK YESTERDAY COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BY MR HAIG THAT FRANCE WAS CONSIDERING SELLING SURPLUS WHEAT TO THE SOVIET UNION DESPITE THE U.S. GRAIN EMBARGO AGAINST THAT COUNTRY.

MR HAIG HAS ALSO BEEN ACCUSED BY AIDES TO TRADE REPRESENTATIVE BILL BROCK OF TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE TOUCHY ISSUE OF JAPANESE CAR EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

AND LAST WEEK THE SECRETARY OF STATE PUBLICLY TOLD A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH A WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO PUT VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH IN CHARGE OF A SPECIAL "CRISIS MANAGEMENT" COMMITTEE.

REUTER 1455 JM

R188R 14646)17070Y00Y0

APR 7 1981

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



MEMO FOR: *Pick Allen*

FROM: WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY OFFICE

FYI



# Sunday Newsday

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER • NASSAU EDITION

75 CENTS  
APRIL 5, 1981

Crisis  
file

## U.S. Hints Arms for China If Soviets Move on Poland

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### *Briefings And Visits For Reagan*

Page 3

### *Flashbacks Of a Nation's Day of Crisis*

Page 4

### *Budget Aims To Shift, Cut Student Aid*

Series Begins on Page 3

*Brady's visitors, including Vice President George Bush, with folder, Sarah Brady, partly hidden, and Bush's press aide Peter Teeley, right, peer into his room at hospital.*

UPI Photo



# Reagan Briefed on Poles

—Continued from Preceding Page  
chased explosive bullets, but agents did not tell doctors because the bullet already had been removed from Reagan.

It was not until late Thursday night, in emergency surgery prompted by an FBI warning, that an explosive bullet was removed from Delahanty.

"We did not relay that information [about the bullets] to the hospital authorities because we were concentrating on the President and were not aware of Delahanty's treatment and his condition at that time," Secret Service spokesman Jack Warner said. "We did nothing with that information after we realized the President's surgery was complete."

Delahanty's doctors did not find out until the FBI warned them Thursday that the bullet could explode inside his body, and Reagan's surgeon first read about the explosive bullets in Friday's newspapers. Robert Dickerson, director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said Friday night, "Our logs show we did notify the Secret Service twice on Monday so they would notify the hospital."

## More Exams For Hinckley

Combined News Services

Raleigh, N.C.—John W. Hinckley Jr. is expected to meet tomorrow with psychologists brought in by attorneys preparing his defense against charges of trying to assassinate President Reagan, a Justice Department spokesman said yesterday.

Hinckley, 25, met with defense attorneys and spent several hours with his parents Friday, said Tom DeCair, a Justice Department spokesman in Washington.

"The court-ordered [psychological] exam has begun, and the defense team of lawyers is expected to see him again on Monday," he said. DeCair said Dr. Sally Johnson, a government psychiatrist, began examining Hinckley on Friday.

The court order that resulted in Hinckley's being sent to the Federal Correctional Institution at Butner directed government psychiatrists to determine Hinckley's competence to stand trial and to determine if the alleged offense resulted from mental disease, a mental defect or mental disorder.

Hinckley's parents, Jo Ann and Jack Hinckley, issued a statement saying they were "pleased with the manner in which he has been treated and protected."

They added, "We are all very grateful for God's mercies in the miraculous way in which He has sustained the lives of the President, Mr. [James] Brady, agent [Timothy] McCarthy and officer [Thomas] Delahanty, and, of course, we pray constantly for their continued recovery to full health, and for the comfort of their families."

The statement continued, "We are joining in the prayers of millions for the President and the other victims and their families. We ask that you join us in prayers for our son John. We have seen certain press reports that we believe to be inaccurate. We simply ask that you realize John is a sick boy, and that you give him the benefit of the doubt until all the true facts concerning his mental condition are known."

# Day of Crisis: March 30, 1980

Shortly after noon Monday, a stocky young man arrived at a side entrance to the Washington Hilton Hotel and stationed himself amid the spectators and reporters gathered outside. He had come from a room in a much cheaper hotel across town and had arrived with an American movieland fantasy spinning in his head and a German-made handgun hidden in his clothing. At 2:25 PM, according to federal investigators, he fired six quick shots at the presidential party exiting the hotel, one of which struck President Reagan.

Not since Nov. 22, 1963, had the presidency been under an attack such as this. Within minutes there began a series of events not only to save Reagan's life, but to ensure that the presidency was protected. As a bleeding and wobbly Reagan walked into the hospital emergency room, the word went out to the cabinet members and to the vice president in Texas: Get to the White House. The Joint Chiefs of Staffs were summoned to the Pentagon's National Command Center. Heads of foreign governments were notified. Research began immediately into the 25th Amendment—the one on presidential succession. Within minutes, too, the question would be raised: How did a man with a gun get so close to the President? During the next four hours, hours filled with extraordinary cooperation and unusual conflict, there would be two major concerns: the President's health and the government's continuity.

What follows is a reconstruction by Patrick J. Sloyan, Jim Klurfeld and Susan Page of Newsday's Washington Bureau of some of those developments from the scene outside the hotel to the Situation Room in the White House and the plane rushing George Bush back to Washington.



Agents shove President Reagan into his limousine during the shooting outside the Washington Hilton

## At the Scene

Washington—"Base to all cars: Arrive, Arrive."  
"Rawhide"—Ronald Reagan's Secret Service code name—was once more at the Washington Hilton Hotel. The routine radio announcement heard in every car in the presidential motorcade marked Reagan's seventh arrival at the hotel since his inauguration 69 days earlier. It has been one of the most routine trips for all presidents since the hotel opened during the Kennedy administration. The big hotel perched on a hillside attracts many major conventions and social events.

"Every time you turn around, you'd be at the Washington Hilton," said Mike Pohl, who did the advance work for scores of trips there for President Jimmy Carter. On each visit, the Secret Service and the White House staff carry four pages of diagrams showing how the motorcade will pull up at the presidential entrance; the route the president will follow into the grand ballroom; the route out of the ballroom, and the position of the motorcade for departure. "Those diagrams were the most Xeroxed things in the advance office files," Pohl said.

"Pool over here," said Rocky Kounen, holding up a notebook as members of the press pool, including reporters from The Associated Press, United Press International, NBC, The Baltimore Sun, as well as

photographers and network crews, got out of the press vans in the motorcade. Kounen has a muscular build, sandy hair and moustache, and he wore an oval gold pin in his lapel, and a concealed radio. He looked like a Secret Service agent, but he represented the White House advance office and was in charge of making sure the press pool moved easily through security checkpoints designed to protect the President.

Hank Brown, a camera man for ABC, was upset during Reagan's arrival. Brown and his crew had set up behind a white rope, strung by the Secret Service, 25 feet from the presidential entrance. Because there was no rope behind the press during the President's arrival, Brown was annoyed by people milling around as he photographed Reagan entering the hotel. One child almost smacked his head on Brown's 40-pound minicam. He complained to Rocky Kounen: "Somebody's going to get hurt."

Brown asked Kounen to have the area cleared and limited only to reporters wearing credentials. What Kounen did—or did not do—is not known. Rocky Kounen isn't talking. But three levels of superiors in the White House, the Secret Service and deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes now say that

—Continued on Page 26

# A Day Of U.S. Crisis

—Continued from Page 4

the area was for the public—not restricted to the press, although the press was welcome to use it.

Had the area been designated for the press, it would have been roped off, front and back, with Kounen and a Secret Service agent assigned to ensure that only reporters with credentials would be within the ropes. But it was not. Anyone, including John W. Hinckley Jr., could get close to the white rope, less than 15 feet from the President.

So, just before Reagan emerged, there was a public area to be scrutinized by the Secret Service. But that area appeared to agents to be a phalanx of television cameras and reporters with credentials. A quick glance could lull agents into believing it was a restricted press area that did not need constant attention.

Secret Service officials acknowledged that one of their agents had traveled to the Hilton with the press pool. But they would not identify him or recount his movements of that day.

The area had a history of being restricted for press. "We used to have a press-only area there," said William D'Arcy, who handled countless press advances to the hotel during President Richard Nixon's term. That view was echoed by Dorrance Smith, who did the same job for President Gerald Ford. "We used to lock the lobby entrance doors just behind the press area to keep the public back. That whole driveway area was cleared of everyone who didn't have credentials." Former White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said that under President Jimmy Carter, that area outside the Hilton was not always restricted to press.

Shelly Fielman, who has photographed presidents at the Hilton since 1963 for NBC television, came out of the hotel while Reagan was still speaking inside. No one else was near the white rope. He took up a position toward a 25-foot limestone retaining wall. Soon other colleagues gathered, including Hank Brown of ABC. But the television cameras soon drew a crowd.

"National press, let me through," said Walter Rodgers, a radio reporter for The Associated Press. As he pushed his way to the white rope, the microphone to his tape recorder picked up a voice of a bystander saying, "You ought to get here on time . . . They can do anything they want . . . Don't let them do that." Rodgers ignored the griping then. But now he thinks it was the voice of John W. Hinckley Jr.

The pushing and shoving along the white rope irritated Fielman. "Hey," he said to a city police officer standing in front of the rope, "how about moving some of these people back?" The officer smiled and walked away. Just then, the motors started in the the presidential motorcade. Fielman knew the Secret Service had just radioed the cars that Rawhide was walking out.

Reagan came through the doorway, and a White House photographer behind him took a picture showing the President waving and the line of reporters and photographers in front of the white rope. A blowup of that photograph shows a face just behind Fielman's left shoulder—a face Fielman identified as that of Hinckley.

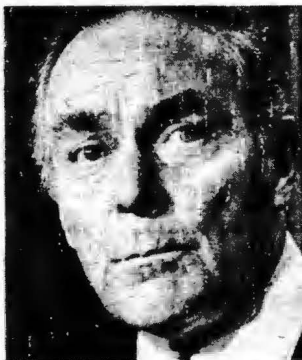
Fielman and Brown recorded for the world what happened about 2:25 P.M. There is almost no reaction to the first shot in any of the faces photographed. Then, with the second shot, the face of Michael Deaver, a presidential assistant, grimaces. Reagan's smile fades as he is twisted toward the limousine by Agent Jerry Parr.

Agent Timothy J. McCarthy turns and opens his body in front of Reagan and Parr and moves a leg to lunge toward the gunman. The other leg never follows as McCarthy's body flies backward, his face reacting as the bullet strikes his chest. The camera catches a glimpse of the fallen White House Press Secretary James Brady. Sprawled next to him is Police Officer Thomas R. Delahanty.

At least four bullets hit targets, one of them ricocheting off the President's car and striking him in the left side. That bullet—there is speculation that it was the second round fired—was squashed to the size of a dime after hitting the bulletproof car before it entered Reagan's body, causing an unusual slit of a wound.

Inside the limousine, Reagan coughed up bright blood. The President said he thought a rib, which he believed was broken as he was pushed into the car, had punctured his lung. Parr knew only that the brightness of the blood indicated it came from a lung. He told the driver to ask the White House to alert the nearest hospital.

The car arrived at George Washington University Hospital at 2:35.



Halg at press briefing on shooting

## The Situation Room

Word spread quickly, but the first reports were not accurate. White House Chief of Staff James Baker called Secretary of State Alexander Haig and told him the President had not been hit. Vice President George Bush, in Texas, was given the same information. Minutes later, Deaver, at the hospital, called Baker and told him Reagan had been shot. Baker then called Haig again, and Haig volunteered to come to the White House. Baker agreed.

"At 3:04 Haig arrived at the White

House as Baker was leaving and went directly to Baker's corner office. There staff director David Gergen had just reached Bush in Air Force Two. Gergen was about to give an update to Bush, who had already been told the President had been shot, but when he saw Haig, he handed him the phone.

"Mr. Vice President, I think you'd better come back here," Haig said.

By 3:10 Haig, Gergen, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and National Security Adviser Richard Allen were in the basement White House Situation Room.

"At first we acted as if anything was possible," said a participant who asked not to be named. "We began to monitor everything that was happening in the world. We were especially worried about Poland. And we didn't know the background of the person who had shot the President or whether this was part of some larger conspiracy. We also knew that we had to clarify the procedures of the 25th Amendment."

In the next 15 minutes other cabinet members, including Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, Attorney General William French Smith, CIA Director William Casey, as well as the vice president's chief of staff, Adm. Daniel J. Murphy, entered the Situation Room.

"It was essential to have more than half the cabinet there if we had to use the 25th Amendment," the official said. "One of the very first things we did was to locate all the cabinet secretaries and to tell them we had to know where they would be at all times." The 25th Amendment stipulates the line of succession and how presidential power can be transferred when a president is disabled. It takes a majority vote of the cabinet to put it into effect, or a declaration by the president.

Haig took the seat to the left of the head of the table, which would be Bush's seat. Another seat was left empty for presidential counselor Edwin Meese, who had gone to the hospital.

"There was no doubt in anybody's mind that Haig, as secretary of state, the senior cabinet position, would chair the meeting," said an official who had long worked in the national security area. Haig had proposed the arrangement, and Baker had accepted.

The Situation Room is a long, oblong, paneled, windowless room in the White House basement. It is almost filled by a large conference table.

Weinberger called the Pentagon and was put through to the National Command Center, where the Joint Chiefs of Staff had gathered. The command center is a large, bowl-like room in the Pentagon with a huge map of the world, video display consoles and a large round table. It looks like mission control of a NASA rocket launching.

Attorney General Smith, outside the Situation Room, was on the telephone to the Justice Department, which was frantically preparing a report on the 25th Amendment and then to the FBI, which was checking Hinckley's background.

Haig immediately spoke by telephone with Baker at the hospital.

Baker was using unsecure commercial telephone lines at the hospital, which had been shaken by Reagan's arrival. Dr. Joseph Giordano, who had been finishing a gall bladder operation, was summoned to the emergency room, where he heads the trauma unit. On a table, with an oxygen mask over his face, was the President of the United States.

"He was the last person in the world I expected to see," Giordano said.

An ashen Reagan had walked into

the hospital supported by Parr and another agent. But as he walked through the emergency room doors his knee buckled and touched the floor before the agents grabbed him. Giordano's first move was to insert a tube in Reagan's bullet wound. It immediately drained off 1,200 cubic centimeters of blood. Even though blood was being transfused into his veins, the President's bleeding continued steadily. He would lose more than 3.5 quarts before doctors finished with him that night.

"We had a problem," Giordano said.

Weinberger directed the Joint Chiefs to get hold of all the CINCs [American military commanders-in-chief throughout the world] and inform them of what had happened, to increase the frequency of reporting and reporting on unusual intelligence activities," a senior Pentagon military official said. The official says those actions did not constitute an increase in the alert status of American forces. But that would become a point of contention between Haig and Weinberger.

In minutes the Command Center would report back to Weinberger that there were no unusual military activities. Casey, of the CIA, made a similar report.

Both the Situation Room and the Command Center were in direct contact with Bush's plane.

Haig directed that the nations of the world be notified, by cable, that the President had been shot. White House congressional liaison Max Friedersdorf was directed to notify the leaders of Congress.

There was also a quick decision to notify the former presidents. Haig called Richard Nixon, whom he had served as chief of staff during the Watergate period, and Jimmy Carter. Gergen called Gerald Ford.

The American people still had not been informed that Reagan had been shot. Only after those calls was the announcement made.

Weinberger and Casey again reported no unusual military movements, and Smith periodically updated the FBI's information on Hinckley.

Smith's staff delivered a short paper on the 25th Amendment. It was quietly passed around the table, and small groups, in corners of the room, discussed it. "It was not discussed by the group as a whole. There was just an understanding that it would not be. It was a taboo subject," a White House official said.

At the hospital, according to Baker, no one suggested—nor did Reagan offer—that the President declare himself disabled during surgery. Baker recalled that Reagan was cracking jokes and winking as he was rolled into the operating room for what was to last for three hours.

By the end of the first hour in the Situation Room it was clear that there were no unusual military activities in the world. There were no indications that Hinckley was part of a conspiracy or that any other government official was under attack.

Officials moved in and out, making telephone calls and watching a television set. Haig was the contact with the hospital. Murphy was in touch with his boss, Bush.

"After the first hour, our job there was really to decide when to make statements, what to say and to coordinate our statements with those being made at the hospital," a White House official said. "The concern was about the President."

At this point the encounter between Haig and Weinberger began. The discussion was about the alert status of American forces. Officials present said there was disagreement on the nature of the status, on



whether an increased alert was necessary and on who had the authority to make such a decision.

Just after 4 PM, Speakes, the deputy press secretary, returned from the hospital and went to his office. He was besieged with questions from reporters. "Let's do it in the press room," he said.

In the Situation Room the television picture suddenly switched to Speakes. The room quieted. Nobody there knew he was going to make a statement.

The reporters asked about Reagan's health, but then began to ask about an increased military alert and notification of foreign governments.

"Who's running the government now?" a reporter asked.

"I cannot answer that question at this time," Speakes replied.

In the Situation Room, Haig became increasingly fidgety over the confusion that Speakes' less-than-precise answers might cause. Finally, Haig looked at security adviser Allen and said: "Let's go up there."

Haig bolted from his seat and ran up a flight of steps, turned right and dashed into the press room.

"He was trying to get there before Speakes was finished," said an official in the Situation Room.

Reporter Leo Rennett of the Sacramento Bee looked at Haig as he entered and said: "He's really out of breath." But to a jumpy nation watching television, Haig seemed choked and emotional. And what he said proved to be controversial, as well.

"Who is in charge?" a reporter asked.

"Constitutionally, gentlemen, you have the president, the vice president and the secretary of state in that order . . . As of now I am in control here in the White House, pending return of the vice president, and in close touch with him. If something came up, I would check with him, of course."

In the Situation Room, eyebrows were raised, according to people who were there. Haig had run out without telling them what he was going to do.

"I can't believe that. What is that guy doing and under what authority?" a participant quotes Weinberger as saying.

When Haig went back to the Situation Room, Weinberger asked him what he was doing and added that he did not think his comments were "appropriate," according to a firsthand recollection.

Haig replied: "Look, you better go back and read your Constitution, buddy."

Weinberger then replied, according to this account, "If you are going to cite the Constitution, at least get it right. You're fifth in succession, not third."

The rest of the cabinet members and staff aides watched silently until Treasury Secretary Regan interrupted with a report on Hinckley's background. Then there was another report on Reagan's condition.

But none of the White House staff, nor anyone in the Situation Room, knew what surgeon Benjamin Aaron was going through. "To our chagrin, we could not find that bullet," Aaron says.

Reagan had been under general anesthetic for almost an hour. Aaron had traced the bullet's path through his left side, down to the seventh rib, where initial X-rays showed it had then ricocheted upward into the lower lobe of the left lung. Despite probing, Aaron couldn't find the bullet. And Reagan's lung continued to bleed, "at a rather alarming rate," Aaron said later.

In most such gunshot cases, the

bleeding stops and the lung reinflates after the blood has been drained. But Reagan's continued bleeding had forced the surgery. Now Aaron had no choice but to stop the operation long enough to take another X-ray. It reconfirmed the initial location.

"I knew why we couldn't find it when I felt it with my fingers," Aaron said later. "It was flat as a dime, about the width of a dime, but a little conical."

With his fingers, he pinched the bullet loose. The bleeding stopped. Aaron then could complete the operation.

About 4:50 the room was once again silenced. Gergen was given a Secret Service report.

"We are told that Jim Brady has died," he said.

"Oh, God," Regan said. "Let us have a moment of silent prayer for our friend and colleague, Jim Brady," said Allen, a close friend of the press secretary's.

"That was the low point," Gergen said later.

After the moment of silence, Gergen left the room to call Baker to confirm the news. Baker checked and told him it was not true. Gergen immediately informed the Situation Room. There was a sigh of relief.

The room was then stunned when, 10 minutes later, the television networks announced the same misinformation about Brady. A call was quickly made to correct it.

The final operating room procedure was to sew up Reagan's wound, a procedure that often produces medical malpractice suits. "We did it very carefully," Dr. Dennis O'Leary, the hospital spokesman, said with a twinkle.

"Gradually we were beginning to relax," said a participant in the Situation Room. "There wasn't any one point, but obviously when we heard the surgery was successful, a lot of the tension eased."

Now they were waiting for the vice president's return.



Bush reassures the nation

## Air Force Two

When Bush flew to Texas on Monday morning to deliver two speeches, he was interviewed by Janet Battaile of the Dallas Morning News, who was covering the trip. She asked about his new job as crisis manager, awarded by Reagan over Haig's heated objection. He insisted that the controversy had been overblown.

"Too much has been made of this," Bush said. "This is not something that happens every day. And anyway, I would only be doing it in the President's absence."

If there was a crisis, the reporter asked, wouldn't the President be there?

"Well, yes, of course," the vice president replied. "Almost always."

Three hours later, Reagan had been shot and the administration's crisis management plan went into effect for the first time—with Bush half the country away.

His first speech that morning, before the Southwestern Cattleman's Association in Fort Worth, had gone well. As the plane taxied for take-off to Austin, where he was to address the state legislature, Bush relaxed in his private compartment.

Then Ed Pollard, head of the Secret Service detail assigned to protect him, slipped in.

"There was a shooting incident at the Washington Hilton involving the President," he said, "and two agents are down." Reagan was reported safe.

Bush began to ask questions. Who were the agents? What was their condition? Pollard went back to the communications center at the front of the plane to get more information. Bush talked on the telephone with his press secretary, Peter Teeley, and other aides in Washington, who relayed the early, inaccurate news reports that the President had not been hurt. They agreed that Bush would deliver the Austin speech, then cancel the rest of the afternoon schedule and return immediately to Washington.

In a moment Pollard was back, and his face was grim. "We just got word the President was shot."

Bush said: "We'll go right back to Washington."

It was 2:45 PM EST. Four hours and 15 minutes would pass before Bush would stride into the White House Situation Room to take command in person.

If a decision of national importance had to be made, he would have made it, the dispute between Haig and Weinberger over command authority notwithstanding. A knowledgeable official who was in the Situation Room said national security arrangements were in effect that would have allowed the vice president, as commander-in-chief in the President's absence, to make military decisions and order them implemented. The official, who did not want to be identified, would not describe the arrangements.

Deputy Press Secretary Shirley Green walked to the rear of the plane, which was curtained off, to alert the handful of reporters about the news.

In the center compartment, the two Texas congressmen who had accompanied Bush on the trip, Majority Leader Jim Wright and Republican James Collins, were tuning in the small television set mounted on one wall to watch tapes of the shooting, already being shown on ABC.

The plane landed in Austin to refuel, but Bush decided not to get off. Gov. William Clements, his wife, Rita, and Texas Secretary of State George Strake—who were at the airport to greet him—went on board and talked with him briefly.

Wright and Collins also sat talking with Bush for half an hour, and Collins couldn't help wondering whether Bush would be thrust into the presidency this way, wondering how that must feel. "Suppose the call comes," Collins finally asked. "What are you thinking?"

Bush had loosened his tie slightly and replaced his suit coat with a navy blue flight jacket. "I was thinking, how could anyone have taken a shot at Ronald Reagan?" he said. "I just keep thinking, he's so considerate, such a kind person. I never found anyone who was such a pleasure to work with."

Bush, the others aboard said, never indicated he was considering the

prospect of becoming president himself. He never signaled indecisiveness or uncertainty. He never raised his voice. The composure remained even as he watched Haig appear unexpectedly on TV and declare himself "in control," adding, "If something came up, I would check with him [Bush], of course."

That was too much for Collins, who believed that with modern communications the vice president was clearly in charge, even aboard the plane. "I didn't think it was appropriate," Collins said later. "I really sounded off."

Victor Gold was watching the scene with Bush. He had been Vice President Spiro Agnew's press secretary when Haig, then President Richard Nixon's chief of staff, ordered Agnew to resign. Gold was no friend of Haig, but this time he came to his defense.

"Do you know what he's doing?" Gold asked Bush.

"Yeah, yeah," Bush said noncommittally.

"He's warning the world that he's ready if anything happens."

"Yeah, yeah," Bush said. "I understand."

Finally, the good news came. Meese called to tell Bush the results of Reagan's operation. Bush listened for a moment, then said, "Well, that's wonderful. That's great news." Bush hung up and reported calmly: "The bullet has been removed, the operation has been a success, and the President is fine."

It was 5:30.

In an hour, the plane would land at Andrews Air Force Base, taxiing into a hangar as an extra security measure before Bush disembarked. Now the debate on the plane was over where the helicopter waiting for Bush at Andrews in suburban Maryland should take the vice president.

The staff members who dealt with logistics and security argued that the helicopter should go straight to the White House. But Bush expressed concern about the symbolism of landing on the South Lawn, a president's prerogative.

The helicopter flew to the vice president's residence, a military aide briefing Bush on the way. It landed 15 minutes later, and Bush was met by his wife and Meese. The two men climbed into the black limousine for the motorcade to the White House.

At 7 Bush arrived at the White House and went directly to the Situation Room. He took his seat at the head of the long conference table.

The cabinet officers and White House staff gave him an update on the President's condition, the national security situation—Weinberger talked about the military aspect and Haig about the foreign policy aspect—and what needed to be done in the next 24 hours.

Quickly there was a decision to hold a cabinet meeting. The one item that could not be delayed beyond the next day was the signing of the milk price support bill. It had been a major legislative victory for Reagan. It was hoped that the President would be well enough to sign it in the morning.

"The major question was whether Bush should make a statement and when," said an official in the room. "We wanted to demonstrate the government was functioning and the vice president was now in place."

From the Situation Room, Bush went to his White House office, where he was briefed on the provisions of the 25th Amendment.

It was decided that O'Leary would make his medical statement first. Then, at 8:30, Bush walked into the press room and said: "I can assure this nation and a watching world that this government is functioning fully and effectively."

# MORNING DIGEST

# Foreign Media Reaction

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Keep

April 3, 1981

AFTERMATH OF ASSASSINATION TRY--Foreign media today saw both the President and the nation recovering quickly from the shooting incident.

Some writers expressed concern and mistrust over official reports of the seriousness of the President's wound and his condition.

Speculation that differences between the White-House and State could have an impact on foreign policy continued as an editorial theme. Editors offered various suggestions how future crisis situations might be averted or managed.

Headlines in London today included "Reagan Takes a Walk" (conservative Daily Telegraph, front page), "Instant Popularity as U.S. Rallies to Injured Reagan" (liberal Guardian, front page) and "U.S. Gets Over Shooting With Depressing Ease" (Times of London).

## "Still a Long Way to Go"

Today's Guardian ran Washington correspondent Alex Brummer's assertion that the "President is enjoying an instant rise in popularity as a result of the attempt on his life....But in spite of all the good cheer radiated by the White House about Mr. Reagan's recovery and business as usual, it has become clear that the President still has a long way to go before he is back to normal."

## Disbelief of Spokesmen

Patrick Brogan, reporting from Washington for the Times, declared that "we have seen too many spokesmen mislead us to trust Dr. Dennis O'Leary or to believe all the stories of the President's remarkable recovery....Assassination is as American as apple pie....The country will be back to normal quickly enough.... That a man of 70 should come through such an ordeal so well (if we can trust his friends and doctors) and handle himself so well

This summary is based on ICA field reports received by 8 a.m. EST. It does not represent a complete sampling of the world press. Questions on content and sources should be directed to PGM/RC: phone 724-9057

**International Communication Agency**

with such grace, is remarkable enough. That the country can absorb yet another attempted assassination so calmly is deeply depressing."

"President Needs a Major Figure"

A byliner in today's Times spoke of the "physical wounding of the President" and the "political wounding of the Secretary of State" and suggested that while "Mr. Alexander Haig's injury was self-inflicted...it too is likely to be of considerable importance for the future of the Reagan Administration..."

The writer held that the President needs a "major figure" in the foreign policy field "with authority in the Administration. If a wounded Haig cannot perform this role, who can?"

"Reagan Should See These Things Do Not Happen Again"

In West Germany independent Westdeutsche Allgemeine of Essen carried Washington correspondent Emil Boelte's observation that "what has happened in Washington...cannot be viewed with benevolent understanding. Even after it turned out that Reagan had not merely bumped his head against something or broken a rib, but that a bullet had caused vital injuries, the White House claimed he had escaped virtually unscathed..."

"What was also strange was that, even though the Constitution outlines the procedure to be followed in the event of the President's disability, Reagan's advisers tried to maintain the semblance of normality by preventing Vice President Bush from taking over Presidential authority..."

"They refrained from urging the Secretaries who had assembled in the White House to act in accordance with the Constitution.... This led to squabbles, the aftereffect of which is still making itself felt. As soon as Reagan is really able to take decisions and assess the situation he should see to it that these things do not happen again."

"Even in an extreme crisis clarity is better than confusion..."

"Initial White House Reaction Prompts Concern"

In the view of pro-Christian Democratic Rheinische Post of Duesseldorf, "The Americans and their allies can breathe again. Even if his injuries were more severe than initially presumed, President Reagan's recovery shows good progress.... Nevertheless, the White House's initial reaction to the shots fired at the President prompts concern. This reaction reflects continuing rivalries among the new team..."

The writer held that Secretary Haig "has turned out to be the weakest member in the chain of the new U.S. Administration. This is regrettable especially for the Europeans who had placed particular confidence in him..."

Paris headlines today were "Mystery About Reagan's Health" (mass-circulation France-Soir), "Doctors Say Reagan Was Close to Death" (pro-Gaullist Parisien Libere), "Reagan More Seriously Wounded Than Reported" (Communist Humanite), "President Reagan in Good Health" (conservative Figaro), "Reagan Was Lucky" (independent Quotidien) and "Triumph for Ronald Reagan, But Serious Difficulties Ahead" (financial Les Echos).

"Leaves the Memory of a Power Vacuum"

Washington correspondent Robert Sole in liberal Le Monde said the assassination attempt "will leave the memory of a power vacuum for a few hours in Washington. The contested attitude of General Haig did not strengthen the cohesion of the Republican Administration. It weakened the Secretary of State who appeared somewhat inconsistent and quite emotional at a time when...it was necessary to reassure the country."

A byliner's inside-page comment in financial Les Echos held that "Ronald Reagan's team is exploiting in a masterful way the assassination attempt against the U.S. President...(whose) popularity has reached a new peak..."

Fear of Foreign Policy Delay

Independent Le Quotidien said that "three days after the attempt, political circles wonder if the popular reaction in favor of the chief of state will not contribute to the adoption by the Congress of his economic program," but added that internationally there was fear of delays in defining the new foreign policy because of "the struggle between the White House and State Department."



"Recovery Does Not Hide Political Aftermath"

Among Italian headlines today were "U.S. Recovering From... Trauma" and "Reagan to Shorten Convalescence" (liberal La Stampa, Turin), "President Will Leave Hospital in Few Days" and "Reagan in Full Recovery--Prestige Increases" (conservative Il Tempo, Rome), "Reagan Almost Died Because of Grave Hemorrhage" (leftist La Repubblica, Rome), "Will President Recover Before White House Wound Is Healed?" (pro-Communist L'Unita, Rome) and "U.S. Foreign Policy on Move While Reagan Recuperates--Haig Meets With Dobrynin and Leaves Today for Middle East" (Christian Democratic Il Popolo, Rome) and "Reagan's Exceptional Recovery Does Not Hide Political Aftermath of Attempted Assassination--Haig on Wane, Bush on Rise" (liberal Il Giorno, Milan).

Japan: "Still Hope for Early Settlement of Auto Issue"

Today's moderate Mainichi of Tokyo, noting reports that a U.S. Government delegation is expected in Tokyo next week to discuss the U.S.-Japan auto problem, said "despite the assassination attempt on President Reagan, both America and Japan still hope to settle the auto issue at an early date."

South Korea: "It Was U.S. Media That Kept Nation Informed"

Independent Hankook Ilbo of Seoul today ran a Washington correspondent's report headed, "Wisdom of U.S. Media Prevented Rumors." He said U.S. media were efficient, wise and cool-headed in reporting the attempt on Mr. Reagan's life and subsequent developments. The writer contended that it was neither the White House nor Capitol Hill, but television and newspapers that actually kept the nation informed and the situation under control during the time between the shooting and the President's emergence from surgery. He concluded that he had seen a "positive side of America" in the mutual trust between the people and press which contributed to social stability at a time of crisis.

Singapore: "A Freedom the U.S. Can Do Without"

Today's Straits Times carried a columnist's assertion that the assassination attempt illustrates that "the United States has preserved for its people the liberty to kill, almost at will. It is a freedom they can do without, but it is one they will not lose in the immediate future....(This is in) sharp contrast with the situation in totalitarian countries. Here, with rare

exceptions, it is the state that enjoys the practice, indeed the monopoly, of deciding--usually not randomly but with cold certainty--who or what is to die."

Bangladesh: "The Real Target Is Democracy"

Dacca's influential Ittefaq said, "There is not much difference between gun-barrel philosophy and the philosophy of terrorism.... Although Reagan has been made a target for the bullet...(the real) target of assassination is democracy. Through this terrorists want to shut up the voice of human rights, and want to prove to their own controlled society that the concept of a free world is not effective."

Tunisia: "Should Have Had a Temporary Transfer of Authority"

Yesterday's independent As-Sabah of Tunis maintained that "the world faced a very difficult period as a result of the assassination attempt.... This is because of the vacuum that occurred in the highest authority in the United States.... The three-hour period of unconsciousness through which President Reagan went while in surgery should have witnessed a temporary transfer of authority to one of those in line for succession.... This indicates that the article in the U.S. Constitution that deals with the prevention of any vacuum in authority is not without imperfections."

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HAIG MIDDLE EAST TRIP--Media anticipated that Secretary Haig's visit would seek to initiate formation of a regional anti-Soviet bloc and to persuade Jordan and Saudi Arabia not to let the continuation of the Camp David process deter them from acceptance of this strategy. Arab media considered the visit an introductory contact and deferred further judgments.

"Will Stress Need to Stand Up to Soviets"

Washington correspondent Richard Beeston reported in today's conservative London Daily Telegraph that Secretary Haig would be visiting Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia and that a "senior Administration official said yesterday" that in those countries Mr. Haig would "stress the need for the region to stand up to the Soviet Union and their surrogates."... The reference to 'Soviet surrogates,' said the official, includes elements of the Palestine Liberation Organization, 'funded and armed directly and indirectly by Moscow.'...

"Haig will also be discussing with the four leaders the Middle East peace process and efforts to raise a multinational peace force to put in place when Israel makes its final withdrawal from the Sinai."

"Will Examine State of Health of Relations With Egypt"

Andrew McDermott, Cairo correspondent of the Financial Times, said that when Secretary Haig arrives in Egypt "he will examine the state of health of the fastest growing American relationship in the Middle East. The United States has been relatively successful in deliberately trying to keep signs of its military, economic and political involvement in the region as unobtrusive as possible....In February 1974 the U.S. Embassy in Cairo was a slimline operation of five diplomats, (but) today it is staffed by 435."

McDermott said many people believe "this kind of commitment may have established an unstoppable momentum of its own. It could become counterproductive in the Middle East as a whole, where Egypt and President Sadat are pariahs because of the peace treaty with Israel. In his 24-hour visit, Mr. Haig is not expected to announce any decision or to bring pressure on the Egyptian Government....A key point in Mr. Haig's discussions will be the exact status of the 'facilities' which Egypt will be able to offer in the future to the United States (or its European allies)..."

"First Objective to Show U.S. Not Neglecting Middle East"

Mass-circulation France-Soir of Paris today reported from Jerusalem that "the Secretary of State's first objective will be to show Sadat and Begin that the United States is not neglecting the Middle East and that the United States intends to participate actively in the negotiations on Palestinian self-rule.... Mr. Haig is convinced that to succeed he needs the support of the most influential country in the area, Saudi Arabia. Along these lines, it would first be necessary to strengthen the military forces of that country, which faces Marxist regimes in Ethiopia and South Yemen..."

Israel: "Arrives in the Midst of Developments"

A political correspondent on Israeli radio said today that "Secretary Haig is arriving in the area in the midst of...a power struggle at home, the crisis in Poland, pre-election in Israel and a freeze of the political process....There are no

great expectations from this brief visit. Everybody knows that Haig will reiterate Israel's key role in the area's pro-American strategic lineup and the need to strengthen its economy....But broad initiatives and significant changes are not on the horizon..."

"Does Not Intend to Abandon Peace Process"

Washington correspondent Ron Ben-Yishai of independent Yediot Aharonot of Tel Aviv said Secretary Haig would tell heads of Government he will visit that "the Middle East is faced with an unprecedented Soviet threat triggered by Moscow's thirst for oil and its growing military strength." He said Mr. Haig "feels the Soviet threat should be fought on two fronts: creating a deterrent Western-backed military power and stabilizing pro-American regimes in the area....Washington holds that repulsing the Soviet threat, arming the Arabs and dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict are inseparable issues, which is why the Secretary--although focusing on Persian Gulf security during this current visit--does not intend to abandon the peace process..."

"Believes a Secure Israel Will Be More Flexible"

A political commentator for the paper reasoned that Haig policy for the Middle East rests on "the assumption that if you strengthen the Saudi regime militarily...you might get the Saudi leaders to change their minds about a potential peace settlement with Israel and thus enhance the prospects of a joint anti-Communist strategic alignment....On the other hand, Mr. Haig feels that a secure Israel, confident of U.S. support, will be more flexible and prepared to make concessions on the Jerusalem and Palestinian issues. This, Secretary Haig reportedly believes, will be another incentive for the Saudis to join the peace process."

"Need to Discuss U.S. Parallel Relationships"

A political correspondent for independent Haaretz of Tel Aviv said in a contrasting view that Israeli leaders would be eager "to discuss with Secretary Haig...the negative influence--from the Israeli standpoint--of the parallel relations the Administration seeks to foster with each of the four countries." He said that "they will seek to make Mr. Haig realize that Israel can hardly be expected to put up with a network of relationships which the Reagan Administration is cultivating with Saudi Arabia without demanding that Riyadh change its position on the question of Israel."



Egypt: First Practical Test of U.S. Reliability

Cairo papers today maintained that Secretary Haig's visit is the first practical test of U.S. ability to confirm to its allies the constancy and reliability of U.S. policy. The press also said the trip is considered a test of Mr. Haig's position in the Reagan Administration, his diplomacy and his negotiating ability.

Semiofficial al-Ahram today carried its editor in chief's perceptions of U.S. regional strategy on the eve of Secretary Haig's visit. These were 1) the United States wants to tackle the Arab-Israel conflict within the framework of confronting the greater threat of Soviet expansionism in the region, 2) a U.S. military presence in the area will help confront Soviet threats, and 3) U.S. strategy therefore calls for manifesting a capability to confront Soviet influence, ensuring the continued flow of Gulf oil, enhancing the strength of America's regional friends and pursuing peace between Israel and the Arabs.

Jordan: "We Will Tell Haig Communists Do Not Threaten Us"

Independent ar-Rai of Amman headlined yesterday, "Tour of U.S. Secretary Will Not Be Affected by Assassination Attempt on Reagan...Haig Carries to Area Countries a Solution to Palestine Issue That Associates It With Security of Gulf."

Jordanian weekly Akhbar al-Osba, as reported in a press roundup yesterday, front-paged a report citing Arab diplomatic sources as saying that Secretary Haig carried with him "a dangerous U.S. plan designed to impose U.S. hegemony on the area military and politically..." The report held that Washington has a plan to obliterate the Palestine issue, with concentration on the "need to establish a military-political alliance that includes Washington, Tel Aviv and Cairo..." The report asserted that such a plan would be rejected because "Arab countries insist that the Zionist danger is the only danger in the area."

A columnist stressed that before Secretary Haig goes to any Arab country, he must know that "Arabs will not accept any maneuver...because we have lost confidence in what is being announced in Washington even if it were an official statement made by the White House, for we are used to...lies, or retractions of every position that disagrees with the interest of Israel."

An editor wrote, "If Mr. Haig comes...referring to the Communist threat, then we will tell him frankly that this danger does not threaten us...and the only danger that worries us...is the Israeli danger....Will he understand what we want, and then go home to tell all the truth?"

Saudi Arabia: "Difficulties Posed for Haig"

The Saudi Press Agency yesterday cited leading ar-Riyad's view of the Haig trip to the Middle East, which it reportedly said "is no more than an exploratory and study visit." The news agency added, "Ar-Riyad says at the present time it is not believed that Haig is coming to reverse the picture or to speed up the finding of solutions aimed at preventing the explosion or reducing the turmoil in the most dangerous strategic region in the world..."

"Ar-Riyad underlines the difficulties posed for Haig from certain circles in Washington: the White House's silence toward the hardliners on the one hand, and the postponement of a study of the region and linking it with possible events on the other hand, such as Peres winning the coming elections or Begin remaining in power..."

"Ar-Riyad concludes...by saying: All that Haig will be able to get acquainted with and to hear from the Arab side, especially, is known. As a reminder it is this: Arab adherence to the legitimate and just rights of the Palestinian people, the ending of the repressive Israeli occupation, and for Washington to be aware more and more of the dimensions of its bias toward Tel Aviv."

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REAGAN MEXICO VISIT--Mexico City media yesterday gave prominence to the White House statement that the April 27-28 meeting between President Reagan and Lopez Portillo was still planned.

Leftist-nationalist Excelsior said that aside from giving both leaders an opportunity "to discuss agenda issues, it would encourage their personal relationship and a high degree of cordiality..." Leftist-nationalist El Sol said this demonstrated that "relations between the two bordering countries will remain unaffected by the regrettable attempt on Reagan's life" and that the meeting would give impetus "to progress in solving our common problems." Papers emphasized that the President's wish to go ahead with the meeting in spite of his condition indicated "the importance he ascribes to relations with our country."