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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with the President
March 17, 7:45 a.m., Oval Office

PRESENT: President Ford
Brent Scowcroft
George Bush

We did not discuss the current intelligence items in the President's brief. The President raised two issues with me:

1. Our reporting on coups. This was in direct line with the Rockefeller conversation I had had. I explained to the President that no leaks had come from the coup, that in our coup reporting in the Peru case we had wanted it on the streets since it was widely known in Peru that there is a balance between time sensitive coups and others, and that we are coming up with recommendations on this but that it was a judgment call. He asked for no action, simply said he wanted to raise the matter because of his talk with Nelson Rockefeller.

2. He raised the question of the leaks coming out of the CIA at the meeting of the aeronautical AIAA group. I told him we had fouled it up, and I accepted the responsibility; and that it was bad because of a certain sensitivity in terms of the Israelis, and that that information was factually correct. He asked about the "Soviet space program being in a shambles." I told him that was not true, but that they had had some problems. I counseled him that if he were asked about this to simply say that he had called me in, told me he was displeased about it, that I had accepted the responsibility, and that we would try to take steps to see that nothing happened again on this. I further advised him that I immediately had gotten a report from the Inspector General.

Items I raised with the President:

1. Pictures of Soviet residence in New York (pictures provided by [REDACTED])
2. The tank firing - news media event - in Lebanon. I read to him from the cable on this.

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3. I told him we are keeping my trip to Europe very quiet but that apparently reporter Schecter of Time had asked Brent where else I was going [REDACTED] We're going to look carefully the trip.

4. In closing, I asked him if he was going to be there Saturday because I'd like to get John Newcombe to come down and hit at the White House; he indicated that he would not be there.

George Bush