

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

WASHINGTON, DC 20270

November 29, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR : FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE ADVISORS
OF THE REAGAN-BUSH CAMPAIGN AND
TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL
SECURITY TRANSITION TEAMS

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

R. Allen

During this transition period, many of you may be contacted, or may already have been contacted, by Foreign Embassy Officials, official foreign visitors, or journalists. When these people want to see you, they are often under intense pressure to produce a report on the likely policy that the Reagan Administration will pursue regarding areas of interest to them. For journalists, in fact, stories on future "Reagan policies" may be the only game in town.

Given these pressures, even the usual disclaimer of not speaking for the President-elect may not be enough. You have to anticipate the distortions that might result from your conversation. In some cases, a meeting "postponed" may be trouble avoided.

If you are anticipating travel abroad, you should be doubly sensitive to misinterpretation of the purpose of your trip and what you say when visiting a foreign country. Unless I have specifically requested that you speak or act in our behalf, your status is that of a private individual.

This is not to suggest that you ought to curtail your normal professional contacts on travel. And, in some cases, you may be asked by me to convey a message to someone.

Ed Meese has asked me to set up a Foreign Liaison Office that will provide you with guidance and to which we ask that you report relevant foreign contacts or important requests for contacts.

cc: Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Jim Brady

[This was issued because of the consequences of remarks on China by Ray Cline in Taiwan and Singapore] w