

MEMORANDUM

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Morning News Summary

The Washington Post

Marilyn Berger and Michael Getler jointly byline high-ranking U.S. and Israeli officials' revelation that the Soviet Union has begun a "major airlift" of supplies to both Egypt and Syria. The disclosure appeared to open the way for the immediate supply of U.S. equipment to Israel. The U.S. posture in the Middle East will probably be affected and possibly U.S.-Soviet detente. Your Monday statement that the latter cannot survive irresponsibility in any area is noted in this context. (A-1)

William Jones and Thomas O'Toole note Transportation Secretary Brinegar's statement that the Mideast conflict could lead to U.S. fuel and gas rationing. (A-2)

William Dullforce reports Egyptian President Sadat's urging of Saudi Arabia to cut off oil if the U.S. resupplies Israel with war material. The Egyptians are particularly concerned that the U.S. will send its 6th Fleet phantoms into Israel. (A-28)

A Post editorial believes that detente, the President's structure for peace, is not nearly so sturdy as American builders proclaimed it to be. Moscow violated its commitment by choosing war rather than trying to prevent a conflict, which increased international tension. Your Monday statements are again quoted. The Soviet policy has transformed the battle from a local conflict into a big-power rivalry. Detente will be tested by the President's response to the Soviet resupply. (A-30)

Murrey Marder also writes on detente and the Middle East war. The escalation of the conflict has created a tangible danger to that policy. If the crisis reaches the proportions of the Indochina war, detente may not survive as a viable policy. (A-30)

Joseph Kraft echoes the same theme: The Russians are willing to cooperate with this country only on an opportunistic basis. So

this country is justified in holding the Russians to stiff conditions as a price for detente. One way to do this is through the Jackson amendment. (A-31)

#### The Baltimore Sun

Charles Corddry quotes a military analysis prepared by high-ranking Western experts as saying that Israel must achieve some major successes in the next four or five days or other Arab countries will join in the fray. The decisive battle will be fought along the Canal. (A-2)

The Sun editorializes on detente and the war along the same lines as the Post. (A-24)

Nick Thimmesch believes the net result of the "Yom Kippur War" will be to change the Israeli judgment from status quo on the occupied territories to new efforts at negotiation. (A-25)

#### The New York Times

The Times headlines the resignation of former Vice President Agnew on charges of income tax evasion. (A-1)

John Finney writes on the reported Soviet airlift to the Middle East and the administration statement that this would put a "new face" on the conflict. This may lay the groundwork for U.S. resupply of Israel. (A-1)

Henry Tanner reports on the situation on the Egyptian front, while Charles Mohr writes about the Syrian front. (A-1)

Pierre Elliott Trudeau yesterday became the first Canadian Prime Minister to visit China. He began talks with Premier Chou En-lai on trade, exchange programs, diplomatic and consular expansions, and medical and scientific matters. (A-3)

According to Hedrick Smith, Premier Tanaka left the USSR yesterday voicing disappointment over Soviet intransigence over terms of a World War II peace treaty and warning that this would affect Soviet-Japanese relations. (A-3)

Facing deep political trouble, Australian Prime Minister Whitlam has announced he will relinquish his secondary post of Minister of Foreign Affairs after his trip to Japan and China later this month. He will delegate the post to Senator Willesee. (A-5)

The U.S. has agreed to suspend temporarily the withdrawal of American forces from Thailand because of the uncertainty of the military and political situation in Indochina. (A-17)

Drew Middleton quotes qualified American and British military sources that the dimensions of the Mideast war have expanded ominously. The apparent Soviet resupply effort may shift the edge in materiel in favor of the Arabs. The prospect of Jordanian entry into the battle threatens Israel with the opening of a third front. (A-18)

Robert Alden reports on the hostile atmosphere in the UN Security Council toward Israel. (A-19) Other Mideast items appear on pages 18 through 21.

Britain announced an embargo on arms sales to the opposing sides in the Mideast war. She does not furnish arms to Iraq, Syria, or Egypt. (A-20)

A Times editorial states that Mr. Agnew's resignation goes only part way toward resolving the crisis in national leadership. President Nixon has much to do if confidence in that leadership is to be restored. The duty of Congress is to see to it that the President aims higher than his original selection for Vice President. (A-44)

Another editorial states that it is becoming increasingly clear that the Kremlin is doing much to inflame the Mideast conflict and expand the scope of hostilities by large-scale aid and incantation of the Arabs. The need is for an immediate cease-fire and return to the October 6 lines. Your word "irresponsibility" is the softest indictment that can be made of the Kremlin's dangerous double game. (A-44)

William Safire thinks it is a good thing that Agnew quit; he would never again have been a happy warrior. (A-45)

Anthony Lewis terms the resignation shattering news for a troubled country, but it carries a profoundly important reassurance that there are still reliable institutions. (A-45)

David Mizrahi thinks a Midease cease-fire is inconceivable at the moment; a settlement will be very costly. (A-45)