

Memorandum for Rumsfeld File
Dictated 11/9/73

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When Colonel Rantz came in to see me for his farewell call, he said the following things:

1. He was worried about oil, commenting that Italy and Germany are both more dependent on Middle East oil than the U.S.
2. He said the U.S. pro-Israel position was affecting Alliance solidarity.

He said he felt that NATO breaks down in terms of its basic purpose with respect to the Middle East..

He said we should lay out the kind of things that we should ask of NATO, and don't ask too much.

He went on to say that the future of any alliance is really rather a gloomy one. This one has been a bit of an anomaly because no alliances last, and this one has lasted a good period. It has to be handled with tender gloves. The U.S. is much too rough on it. We can't act with the power image we had before Vietnam. He is concerned about lots of little showdowns that the United States engages in, and that the Alliance really can't take. He feels that burden sharing is a dangerous thing, and that our burden sharing guidance has been silly. He feels that it doesn't produce a good relationship if we keep trying to nickel and dime people.

