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**Collection:** Reagan, Ronald: 1980 Campaign Papers,  
1965-80

**Folder Title:** Memo: Insert for American Legion Speech –  
week of August 17-23

**Box:** 867

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MEMO

TO: ED MEESE

FROM: ANTHONY DOLAN

RE: SUGGESTED INSERT FOR AMERICAN LEGION

The final sad consequence of a weak, makeshift, ramshackle foreign policy was seen last January when an American President went before a joint session of Congress and made threats of military action that his own Secretary of Defense admitted he could not carry out.

Those famous four words: "inordinate fear of communism" led this Administration to ignore the early warning signs of danger in Afghanistan, those words led to the events of last January -- the fear, the war rumors, the newspaper accounts of our military weakness and shattered prestige.

Was there ever a better illustration of what those who have fought our nation's wars -- those of you here today -- know full well that it is weakness not strength that leads to war.

When will the Carter Administration learn that after the schoolyard bully has stolen your lunch money, noisy squawking and furious foot-stomping only gets you another bloody nose.

Mr. Carter is not the first American President the Soviets have tried to push around.

Other American Presidents have responded with intelligence, firmness, tact, resolve. We can have that again in Washington. We can make America the nation we want her to be -- we can once more make this country and the office of the presidency so respected that no foreign aggressor would ever dare to challenge our national purpose of our commitment to peace.

cc Bill Casey  
Bill Gavin  
Stef Halper  
Dick Wirthlin

MEMO

TO: ED MEESE ✓

FROM: ANTHONY DOLAN

RE: SUGGESTED INSERT FOR AMERICAN LEGION

Prepared Aug 19, 1980

The final sad consequence of a weak, makeshift, ~~ramshackle~~ foreign policy was seen last January when an American President went before a joint session of Congress and made threats of military action that his own Secretary of Defense admitted he could not carry out.

Those famous four words: "inordinate fear of communism" led this Administration to ignore the early warning signs of danger in Afghanistan, those words led to the events of last January -- the fear, the war rumors, the newspaper accounts of our military weakness and shattered prestige.

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When will the Carter Administration learn that after the schoolyard bully has stolen your lunch money, noisy squawking and furious foot-stomping only gets you another bloody nose.

*Mr. Carter is not the first American President to face Soviet threats,*  
Mr. Carter is not the first American President the Soviets have tried to push around.

Other American Presidents have responded with intelligence, firmness, tact, resolve. We can have that again in Washington. We can make America the nation we want her to be -- we can ~~create~~ make this country and the office of the presidency so respected that no foreign aggressor would ever dare to challenge our national purpose of our commitment to peace.

cc Bill Casey ✓  
Bill Gavin ✓  
Stef Halper ✓  
Dick Wirthlin ✓



MEMO

TO: ED MEESE ✓

FROM: ANTHONY DOLAN

RE: SUGGESTED INSERT FOR AMERICAN LEGION

*Prepared Aug 14, 1970*

*pub*

The final sad consequence of a weak, makeshift, ~~resizable~~ foreign policy was seen last January when an American President went before a joint session of Congress practiced a brimanship of his own and made threats of military action that his own Secretary of Defense <sup>*defense policies*</sup> admitted he could not carry out. *made commitments not kept, and unkept*

Those famous four words: "inordinate fear of communism" led this Administration to ignore the early warning signs of danger in Afghanistan, those words led to the events of last January -- the fear, ~~the war rumors~~, the newspaper accounts of our military weakness and shattered prestige.

Was there ever a better illustration ~~of what those who have fought our nation's wars~~ -- those of you here today -- know full well that it is weakness not strength that leads to war.

When will the Carter Administration learn that after the schoolyard bully has stolen your lunch money, noisy squawking and furious foot-stomping only gets you another bloody nose.

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- cc Bill Casey ✓
- Bill Gavin ✓
- Stef Halper ✓
- Dick Wirthlin ✓