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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
166151	LETTER	THEODORE OLSON TO WILLIAM WILLIAMS, RE: PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION	43	7/31/1984	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

October 10, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING
Counsel to the President

FROM:

Paul B. Thompson
Paul B. Thompson
Deputy Executive Secretary
Staff Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: Views on Presidential succession

The attached letter from Ted Olson is forwarded for your review and analysis.

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APPENDIX
PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS INVOLVING THE USE OR POTENTIAL
USE OF SIGNIFICANT MILITARY FORCE

1945 to PRESENT

[Sources and abbreviations are noted at the end of the appendix]

1945. President Truman made the decision to use the atom bomb in the war against Japan. H.R. Doc. 443 at 12.

January 31, 1950. President Truman directed the development of the hydrogen bomb. H.R. Doc. 443 at 12.*/
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June 27-30, 1950. President Truman authorized the use of United States troops in the Korean conflict. H.R. Doc. 443 at 13.

July 15, 1958. President Eisenhower ordered 5,000 marines to Lebanon to "protect American lives" and to "assist" Lebanon in preserving its political independence. Emerson at 107.

May 17, 1962. President Kennedy ordered the 3d Marine Expeditionary Unit to land in Thailand to support that country during the threat of Communist pressure from outside. Emerson at 107.

October 24, 1962. President Kennedy ordered a quarantine in the waters around Cuba to prevent delivery of additional Russian missiles and to obtain the removal of offensive Russian weapons already in Cuba. Emerson at 107.

November 24-26, 1964. President Johnson assumed "full responsibility" for the United States role in the transportation of Belgian paratroopers to undertake rescue operations in the Congo. Emerson at 108.

1964-1965. President Johnson authorized substantial United States military involvement in hostilities in Vietnam, including the use of United States ground combat troops and United States planes and personnel for bombing of North Vietnamese targets. Emerson at 108-09; Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 7.

*/ While not a decision to use force, this is an important event in the context of the issues raised in the attached memorandum.

April 28, 1965. President Johnson ordered the Secretary of Defense to land necessary troops in the Dominican Republic to protect the lives of United States citizens in that country. Emerson at 109; Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 7-8.

June, 1967. President Johnson ordered the United States Sixth Fleet to move to within 50 miles of the Syrian Coast, during the Arab-Israeli War. Emerson at 109.

April 30-June 30, 1970. President Nixon ordered United States troops to attack Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. Emerson at 110; Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 26-27.

February, 1971. President Nixon ordered United States support for South Vietnamese incursion into Laos. Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 70-71.

October, 1972. President Nixon ordered resumption of full-scale bombing and mining of North Vietnam. Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 104.

February, 1973. President Nixon ordered resumption of bombing in Cambodia. Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 106-07.

March 29 - April 29, 1975. President Ford authorized participation by the United States Navy and Marines in evacuation of Danang and Saigon, South Vietnam. Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 181-82; War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents at 40-41, 43-44.

April 3 - April 12, 1975. President Ford authorized use of military force to assist in evacuation of Cambodia. Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 186-87; War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents at 42.

May 12, 1975. President Ford ordered military action to rescue U.S.S. Mayaguez. Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 205-07; War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents at 45-46.

April 24, 1980. Mission to rescue hostages in Iran authorized by President Carter. Committee on Foreign Affairs Study at 239-40; War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents at 47-49.

August - September, 1982. President Reagan authorized deployment of United States troops in Lebanon as part of the Multinational Force. War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents at 60-63.

August 7, 1983. President Reagan authorized deployment of United States aircraft to Chad to assist in defense against Libyan-supported aggression. War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents at 64.

October 25, 1983. President Reagan authorized deployment of United States armed forces to Grenada. War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents at 84-85.

SOURCES FOR APPENDIX

The Powers of the President as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, H.R. Doc. No. 443, 84th Cong., 2d Sess. (Comm. Print 1956) (H.R. Doc. 443)

Emerson, "War Powers Legislation," 74 West Virginia L. Rev. 53, 107 (1971) (Emerson)

The War Powers Resolution, A Special Study of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, 97th Cong., 2d Sess. (Comm. Print 1982) (Committee on Foreign Affairs Study)

The War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents, Correspondence, Reports, Subcommittee on International Security and Scientific Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, 98th Cong., 1st Sess. (Comm. Print 1983) (War Powers Resolution: Relevant Documents)