

10 April 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable James A. Baker III
Chief of Staff and Assistant
to the President

FROM: William J. Casey

SUBJECT: Events in the Situation Room on
30 March 1981

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1. I was called out of a meeting at 2:40 p.m. on Monday, 30 March, to be informed that the President had been shot at but he had not been hit, and that he had been taken away from the scene of the shooting safely but that three other men had been hurt. Almost immediately, Dick Allen called and asked me to come over to the Situation Room at the White House right away. I left immediately. It took about twenty minutes to get across the river and reach the Situation Room. There I learned that the President had been taken to George Washington Hospital. I learned also that Jim Brady had been hit in the head and that a Secret Service man and a Washington policeman had been hit and were in the hospital.

2. When I arrived, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, Dick Allen, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Counsellor to the President were there. The Attorney General reported the assailant's name and said that he came from Evergreen, Colorado. I called John McMahon, CIA's Deputy Director for Operations, to ask that a name check be made on John W. Hinckley, Evergreen, Colorado, and asked that any indication of follow-up activities or reaction to the shooting that came in from our forces around the world be phoned in to me in the Situation Room. We informed the Secret Service that CIA had no information on Hinckley. In addition, CIA sent a flash message worldwide asking for any information that might bear on the assassination attempt. Responses were passed immediately to the Secret Service and FBI unevaluated. The Secretary of State was the senior Cabinet officer present and functioned as chairman and sought to maintain order in the discussion. This seemed to be by common consent. He and Jim Baker at the hospital were the contact points between the Cabinet and the developments at the hospital.

3. The Secretary of Defense consulted with those gathered in the Situation Room as to what should be done about putting our military forces on alert and took responsibility for any steps that were called for in that respect. Notification of the families of the victims, arranging for their