

Costanza, Midge

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MARKING BY

BB

DATE 1-25-83

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER
FROM: HAMILTON JORDAN
RE: MIDGE COSTANZA

As I told you I would, I met with Midge this morning to discuss her abortion meeting Friday, its origins and its consequences. I told her several things:

- 1) That the perception here was that she had generated the meeting instead of reacting to the expression of women in the Administration that there was a need for such a meeting. Midge says that that is not true. She claims that she received several calls from women in the Administration who requested a group meeting with the President and that the meeting with her (Midge) was offered as an alternative to meeting with you.

2) That such a meeting - held after a final decision was made and announced by you - was of questionable value and inappropriate. I told Midge that your public position on this issue should have come as no surprise to anyone who had ever read your campaign statements and promises. That we certainly had no need or intention to "muzzle" anyone, but for a group of women who are in high positions because of Jimmy Carter to question publicly one of his positions that has been known for over a year after he simply restates it borders on disloyalty.

3) That to the extent that she serves as a conduit to outside groups and organizations, the perception here is that she listens to persons espousing liberal positions and causes and not to others. I told Midge that she should think about her meeting in terms of how she would have reacted if several days after you had announced your decision not to build the B-1, a member of the staff had hosted a meeting of generals at the White House who opposed his decision and made public statements in opposition and circulated a memorandum stating that.