

AMBASSADOR ROBERT B. OAKLEY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background

Born in Dallas, Texas; raised in Louisiana
Princeton University; Tulane University
U.S. Navy
Entered Foreign Service - 1957

State Department - Foreign Service Institute - French
Language Training 1957-1958

Khartoum, Sudan - Political/General Services Officer 1958-1960
Environment
Ambassador James Moose
Relations with Sudanese
USAID
General Abboud's coup d'état
al Mahdi family
CIA
Sadiq al Mahdi ousted

State Department - International Organizations - UN Political
Affairs 1960-1963
U.S. government-UN relationship
U.S. tactics in UNGA
"Institutional memory" problem
Joe Sisco
Harland Cleveland
Congo issue
Tshombe
Frank Carlucci
USUN staff

Abidjan, Ivory Coast - Economic Officer/Political Counselor 1963-1965
Ambassador James Wine
Coffee quota issue
President Houphouet-Boigny
Ivory Coast Development Bank
French presence
Prime Minister Tshombe
U.S. interests
Government
CIA

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Chinese and Soviet influence | |
| Saigon, Vietnam - Political Officer | 1965-1967 |
| Phil Habib's "boys" | |
| Environment | |
| Vietnamese army's political role | |
| Montagnards | |
| Political intrigues | |
| Draft constitution | |
| U.S. political role in Vietnam | |
| General Westmoreland's policies | |
| U.S. military role | |
| CIA | |
| Presidential elections | |
| "Exit Strategy" | |
| CORDS policy | |
| Saigon's self-help programs | |
| Pentagon-CINCPAC report | |
| Corruption | |
| Buddhists | |
| Over-optimism | |
| Paris, France - Political Officer | 1967-1969 |
| African and Middle East reporting | |
| Ambassador Sargent Shriver's operational style | |
| African leaders | |
| French views on Middle East and Africa | |
| Ambassador Jarring's peace efforts | |
| President Nixon's visit | |
| Student riots | |
| Communist party | |
| Government reaction to riots | |
| Embassy "Youth Committee" | |
| Vietnam negotiations | |
| President Pompidou | |
| USUN - New York - Mideast Affairs | 1970-1971 |
| Ambassador Charles Yost | |
| Four Power Mideast talks | |
| UN Resolution 242 | |
| Two Power talks - 1970 | |
| Pakistan "tilt" | |
| Joe Sisco | |
| Mideast issues | |
| Beirut, Lebanon - Political Counselor | 1971-1974 |

Ambassador William Buffum
Internal tensions
Environment
Political groups
Palestine Liberation Organization
Sabra-Shatila raid
President Franjeh
UNRWA
Terrorism
Israeli raid
Advice to Lebanese

State Department - Mideast Policy Planning Staff 1974-1977
U.S.-USSR Geneva talks
Cyprus
Ambassador Tasca (Greece)
Greece-Turkey was threat
Greek Junta
Sisco Cyprus mission
Brent Scowcroft
Palestine Liberation Organization opens/closes office in Washington
Contacts with Palestine Liberation Organization
Kissinger - Mideast peace negotiations
Sinai II agreement
Sinai Support Mission
UN and Sinai II
Kissinger's "shuttle" diplomacy
King Hussein's role
Sadat's role
Syrian role
U.S. military assistance to Mideast 1975
Kissinger and Israel
Sisco's "Memorandum of Understanding"
Rabin and Sadat relationship
Kissinger's Mideast "Pen Pals"
National Security Council-State Department relations
U.S. press corps in Mideast
Syria's Assad
Soviet Mideast issue
Afghanistan issues
Pakistan-India relations
Lebanon's civil war

State Department - East Asian Affairs (Southeast Asia and Pacific) 1977-1979
Assistant Secretary Richard Holbrooke
ASEAN rejuvenation

Tariff issues
U.S. participation in ASEAN
Indian Ocean issues
Refugees (Vietnamese, etc.)
Human rights in U.S. policy
Pat Derian
Indochina policy
Vietnam negotiations - postwar
U.S.-China negotiations
Vietnam and Cambodia
U.S.-Vietnam relations
ANZUS relations
U.S.-Philippine negotiations
President Marcos
Economic Policy Council
South Korea troop (U.S.) withdrawal issue
President Carter's intermediaries to North Korea
Holbrooke's congressional relations

Zaire - Ambassador

1979-1982

Staffing
President Mobutu
Economy
Infrastructure
Corruption
Contacts with officials
CIA
Human rights
USAID programs
U.S. commercial interests
President Reagan's letter to Mobutu
Dick Walters' visits
Peace Corps
Missionaries
Congressional interest in Zaire
Israeli relations
French and Belgian presence
Church's influence

Somalia - Ambassador

1982-1984

U.S. bases
Soviet influence in area
Horn of Africa
Sidi Barre, dictator
Ethiopia relations
U.S. assistance

CENTCOM activities
Human rights

State Department - Coordinator for Counterterrorism 1984-1986

- European approach
- International banking element
- Mughniyah, terrorist
- Beirut Marine barracks attack
- French counterterrorism
- Terrorist groups
- Intelligence and law enforcement tools
- International cooperation
- Lebanese counterterrorism
- Claire George, CIA
- Communist involvement in terrorism
- Yugoslav terrorists
- Abu Nidal activities
- Terrorists' motivations
- State Department's anti-terrorist organization
- Oliver North, activist
- Iran-Contra support operation
- Poindexter
- British attitude
- Secretary of State Shultz
- North-Iran (London)
- Deception and cover-up
- Arms to Iran
- National Security Council cuts out State Department and Defense Department
- McNeill-Lehrer TV appearance
- Senator Nunn meeting
- Tower Commission
- Israeli participation

National Security Council - Mideast and South Asia 1987-1988

- Frank Carlucci
- Reorganization
- Colin Powell
- Staffing
- Military assistance issues
- Persian Gulf states
- Iraq-Iran war
- U.S. supports Iraq
- Iraq's chemical warfare capability
- U.S. downs Iran Airbus
- GCC
- Persian Gulf shipping protection

Soviet Afghanistan invasion
Afghan-Pakistan relations
Lebanon
Arab-Israel peace process
Secretary of State Baker's activities
Intifada
U.S.-Soviet talks on Afghanistan
"Negative Symmetry" formula
U.S. arms deliveries to Afghanistan
Afghan Mujahideen
Soviets leave Afghanistan

Pakistan - Ambassador

1988-1991

Ambassador Arnold Raphel's death
Air crash investigation
Staffing
Kashmir issue
India-Pakistan relations
Economic development
Prime Minister Bhutto
Peace Corps
U.S. programs
Pressler amendment issue
Nuclear development issue
President Bush's warning to Pakistan on nuclear program
India-Pakistan provocations
Iran-Pakistan relations
U.S. military cooperation
U.S. Afghanistan policy
CIA
Under Secretary Robert Kimmitt
Pakistan-China relations
Pakistan as channel to Iran
Senator Pell's warning to Mrs. Bhutto
Prime Minister Bhutto ousted

Retirement - Somalia

1991

Somalia Task Force
Executive Committee

Comments on Foreign Service operation, etc.

Personal danger in Somalia
U.S. troops never under UN in Somalia
U.S. media role
Humanitarian assistance
Overwhelming force

Coalition maintained
Limited objectives
Limits of power
UN mandates too large
UN-U.S. “disconnect”
U.S. political “disconnects”
Post-Cold War desires
Humanitarian problems
U.S. military and worldwide involvement