

Statement by Senator Paul Tsongas
Democratic National Conference Panel on Foreign Relations, Defense and Arms Control
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The resignation yesterday of Alexander Haig reveals a disturbing reality in the country— we have a foreign policy cast adrift.

Marked by dissent and misdirection, our foreign policy confuses both friend and foe alike.

Now the most effective voice for moderation in the inner councils has been cast aside. The hardliners have triumphed. As someone who voted against Alexander Haig, I have no stake in saying this -- but the fact is that a voice for stability has been quieted.

The responsibility for all of this lies at the top. The distressing fact is that there is a vacuum of leadership in the Oval office. Into that vacuum have rushed interests of every imaginable variety. Often these interests are contradictory. Often they are not part of a coherent whole.

Now at a time of great crisis the administration goes back to square one. Internal turmoil, public squabbling, news leaks, missed instructions -- that is the unfortunate state of our foreign affairs.

America deserves better.

The World deserves better.

Into this realm of misdirection, we as Democrats have a responsibility. We must articulate a coherent, workable foreign policy consistent with our values as a nation.

The panel will articulate our positions. We feel proud of our views as a party and look forward to a discussion with America about them.