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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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May 31, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: The Situation Room
SUBJECT: Additional Information Items

Chinese Views of the New British Government: [redacted]

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[redacted] Beijing views the Conservative victory in the British elections as a positive development from the bilateral point of view, as well as generally. The PRC:

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- expects negotiations for the purchase of Harrier fighter planes and other military equipment to progress more rapidly because the Conservatives won't have to contend with left wing opposition as did Labor;
- is pleased with the tougher stands Mrs. Thatcher has taken regarding relations with the Soviets, increased UK military preparedness and support for a strong NATO.

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[redacted]

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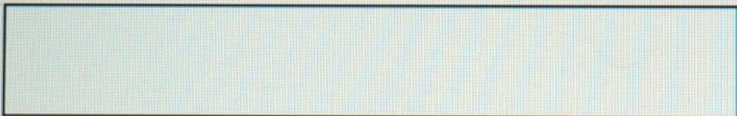
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REVIEW ON MAY 30, 2009
CLASSIFIED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES

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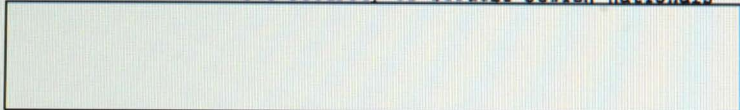
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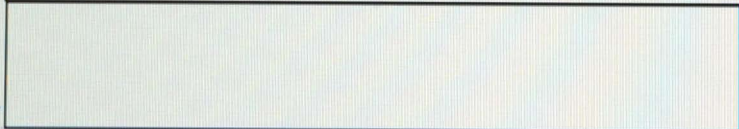
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Jewish Militias: [redacted] several Jewish militias have recently been established in the occupied West Bank and in Jerusalem. They range from vigilantes controlled by Gush Emunim and other Israeli settlement groups to radical nationalist groups led by extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane. Most groups claim to have small arms and seem prepared to use them to assure the security of Israeli Jewish nationals

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Chirac's Political Dilemma: According to a State analysis, tension between President Giscard and his followers and Jacques Chirac and the Gaullists has been rising. Chirac has been losing political ground recently, which makes it difficult for him to set his political strategy. This may be his last chance to challenge Giscard for leadership of the majority, yet such a challenge could provoke early parliamentary elections, thereby risking a victory of the left. In such circumstances, his own political career would be gravely threatened if not destroyed. On balance Chirac probably will opt to continue grudging cooperation with the regime and hope that circumstances will give him an opening to upset Giscard in the 1981 presidential election. (C)

Long-Term Trends in Domestic Japanese Politics: [redacted] fundamental changes in Japan's population distribution, the attitudes and age groups of

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voters, and the socioeconomic issues attendant on Japanese economic growth have significantly affected all the established political parties:

- for the ruling LDP the effect has been a long-term decline.
- The traditional base of the more militant opposition parties has also been eroded.
- The moderate opposition parties have been the major beneficiaries of shifts in voter attitudes.
- A growing number of voters reject formal identification with any single party, establishing a floating vote which increases the fluidity of Japanese politics. (C)

The Liberal Democrats no longer command a majority of the electorate, but [redacted] will continue to control the government and dominate policymaking, alone or in some measure of coalition, for some time to come. While the LDP maintains a united front in the Diet, the opposition parties continue to suffer from both internal and interparty divisions and from limited resources. (C)

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