



**Director of  
Central  
Intelligence**

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# **National Intelligence Daily (Cable)**

**24 August 1982**

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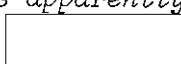
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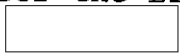
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ISRAEL-LEBANON: Evacuation Continues


(Information as of 2330 EDT)

*//The PLO evacuation proceeded on schedule yesterday. A combination of Shia support and strong-arm tactics apparently provided Bashir Jumayyil with his election victory.//* 

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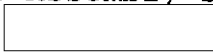
The third group of PLO fighters--numbering 518--left Beirut yesterday for South Yemen. Most reportedly are members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the largest of the PLO's radical factions, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist fedayeen group. 

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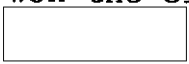
*//The group's departure was delayed temporarily when a car bomb exploded near its convoy in West Beirut. A second group of Palestinians is scheduled to depart for South Yemen tomorrow.//* 

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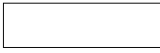
Jumayyil's Victory

*//Bashir Jumayyil's victory in the presidential election yesterday was in doubt until the last minute. At the scheduled opening of the Assembly session, only 58 deputies were present.//* 

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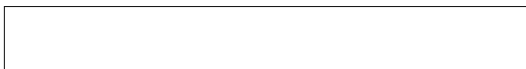
*//Jumayyil's arm-twisting of deputies residing in areas under his control finally forced the attendance of the four additional deputies needed for balloting to begin. Jumayyil won the election on the second ballot with 57 votes.//* 

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According to press reports, the homes of a Christian and a Muslim deputy who attended the session were attacked later in the day. The reports differ on whether the houses were hit by antitank rockets or were dynamited. Another report said that the office of Shia Assembly Speaker Kamal al-Assad was burned down. 

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[REDACTED]

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Comment: //Jumayyil's win evidently reflects his ability to hold onto the support of a majority of the Shia deputies. Kamal al-Assad, a Jumayyil supporter, probably played a decisive role in keeping these votes firmly committed to Jumayyil in the face of lobbying over the weekend by Sunni and leftist opponents attempting to enlist broader Muslim support to block Jumayyil's election.// [REDACTED]

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#### Israeli Reactions to US Remarks on Palestinians

Israeli officials and media continue to reject any change in the prevailing Israeli interpretations of the provisions of the Camp David Accords. A senior Israeli cabinet minister, in an apparent response to Secretary Shultz's comments on Sunday, told the *Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the US knows Israel's stand on autonomy and that any attempt to distort that interpretation would "come to nothing." [REDACTED]

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A widely read daily said yesterday that Israel is rejecting "out of hand" Secretary Shultz's ideas for concessions on the Palestinian issue. Another paper reported that Israeli officials believe the US is formulating a new plan and is presenting it as part of Camp David, but that Prime Minister Begin's remarks after the cabinet meeting on Sunday, in which he refused to accept "amendments" to the accords, made it clear that Israel would strongly oppose any such plan. [REDACTED]

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Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Ben-Elissar said last week that Israel has reached the limits of its negotiating flexibility regarding the autonomy talks. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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CUBA-IRAQ: Deteriorating Relations

*//The unilateral withdrawal of most Cuban advisers from Iraq and Havana's efforts to move the Nonaligned Summit from Baghdad have strained relations between the two countries.//*

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Comment: Cuba has been trying for several months to divert the Summit meeting from Baghdad in the hope of retaining the Movement's chairmanship. Havana, moreover, probably believes Iraq will lose the war and has been trying to strengthen its political and economic ties with Iran.

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Havana's decision to evacuate its personnel in Iraq probably is based primarily on concern for their safety. The majority were on contract as construction workers, however, and their departure will reduce Cuba's hard currency earnings at a time when it already has a severe shortage of foreign exchange needed for imports.

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ITALY: Political Developments

*Parliament probably will approve a new Spadolini government by a wide margin next Monday, but the two-week-long crisis has deepened divisions in the five-party coalition, and the new government's tenure will be precarious.* [redacted]

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Comment: Spadolini's decision to return his entire first cabinet to office demonstrates how stalemated the political scene has become. Despite extensive discussion of the need to strengthen the powers and independence of the Prime Minister, Spadolini was forced to bow to political expediency and reconstitute his old cabinet. [redacted]

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Neither the Christian Democrats nor the Socialists-- the two largest parties of the coalition--are happy to see Spadolini return to office. The Christian Democrats, however, want to avoid elections, and the Socialists apparently have concluded they will not benefit if they are the only group pushing for elections. [redacted]

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Socialist leader Craxi probably will prod Spadolini to move rapidly on the government's proposals for institutional reform. Although Craxi would like to replace Spadolini as Prime Minister in the not-too-distant future, he believes reforms to strengthen the power of the Prime Minister are necessary to improve his chances. [redacted]

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Barring developments that would allow him to topple Spadolini without risk of a voter backlash, Craxi may reduce the tempo of his campaign against the government until early December. If at that point the government has not moved on institutional reform, he is likely to use this as a rationale to press for elections in the spring. [redacted]

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