

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NODIS~~

March 4, 1981

DECLASSIFIED

NLRM/SB/2/155355  
BY CL NARA DATE 7/3/16

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. @

1. El Salvador. This morning's Washington Post carried a story from San Salvador to the effect that we would favor a right-wing military takeover of the Duarte Government. To set the record straight, I told the assembled news media this afternoon that such an action would run counter to our policy in El Salvador; in fact, it would seriously affect our ability to pursue that policy. We have communicated this response to the Duarte Government and to appropriate members of the military high command. (C)

2. Saudi Arabia F-15 Enhancement Items. In concluding the consultation process, Fred Ikle and Jim Buckley met with the House Armed Services Committee in closed session to discuss the F-15 enhancement items sale to Saudi Arabia and financial assistance to enable Israel to purchase additional F-15's (or other military equipment). The Committee was generally supportive, suggesting that they understand that the proposed actions will contribute to our own security. It appears to be widely accepted that we must move quickly and decisively to redress the balance in the Gulf region.

Meanwhile, we should confirm our plans to the Saudi Government if we are to hold the positive Saudi reaction indicated a few days ago. I understand that you are having several domestic Jewish groups to the White House this Friday, when we had planned to make the announcement. If you decide that Friday is not possible, I hope we will be able to make the announcement Monday at the latest. It should also be preceded by advance notice to Congressional leaders and the Saudi Government. If we are to make the announcement Friday, we should start to make the calls tomorrow morning. (SECRET/NODIS)

3. Foreign Policy Briefing for United States Senate. At the request of Senator Baker, I met today for forty-five minutes in closed session with the Senate. Sixty-one Senators attended, with approximately equal representation of Republicans and Democrats. My remarks covered an overview of your Administration's foreign policy, stressing the themes of consistency, reliability and balance, and going in some detail into our positions on East-West Relations, Human Rights, Poland, Arms

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RDS 2/3 3/4/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

Control and Central America. Subsequent questions by the Senators concerned Central America. Drawing on your comments to Walter Cronkite last night, I made the point that, press obsessions with the military notwithstanding, we are viewing the situation in El Salvador and the region in a broader and more balanced context. After the meeting, Senator Baker, Senator Percy and I met briefly with the press. (C)

4. North/South Summit. Myer Rashish and Larry Eagleburger briefed the Ambassadors of Canada, France, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Austria and Yugoslavia separately on your possible attendance at the North/South Summit. The Ambassadors were informed that you would be willing to attend a summit scheduled later in the year if the Cubans were not in attendance. Summit discussion should be free, open and devoted to general subjects--not specific issues. No negotiations would occur, hence no communique on the Summit would be necessary.

The Ambassadors all welcomed your decision and your conditions had been fully anticipated: Timing and format would not be a problem. On the question of Soviet participation, we doubted Moscow had much to contribute; if other participants insisted on including them, we would consider it.

We indicated you were not likely to announce a final decision until your visit with President Lopez Portillo in late April.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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*R.P.*  
*A*  
The President has seen           

~~SECRET~~/NODIS ATTACHMENT

March 5, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of March 4, 1981.

cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
James Baker

~~SECRET~~/NODIS ATTACHMENT

*RW*  
*3/11/81*