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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 8, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. El Salvador. I met today with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Chavez Mena and assured him of your support for the government of President Duarte. He discussed Salvador's internal and external political problems, its security situation, and the great pressures on the economy. Chavez Mena also admitted that Salvador's public image was poor.

He outlined plans for elections (first round now scheduled for March 1982), and complementary efforts underway to broaden support for the Government, including private sector support. We agreed that trying to meet a firm electoral date would usefully undercut external efforts to force negotiation with the guerrillas. We also recognized that unless the internal security situation improved, the election date might slip. Chavez Mena told me that Alejandro Orfila, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, has promised technical assistance for the electoral process and that the Government will make every effort to adhere to the timetable.

I thanked him for the progress being made on the issue of the Maryknoll Nuns and reiterated how important this was in our efforts to obtain Congressional support for economic and military aid to El Salvador. (C)

2. Safety of Americans in Libya. The Libyan People's Bureau in Washington has called the Department to convey the official assurance of the Libyan Government for the safety and well being of all Americans living or working in Libya. This assurance is consistent with the public statements by the Libyan News Agency which stopped short of threatening retaliation for the closing of the People's Bureau. U.S. companies in Libya are reporting that operations are normal. (C)

RDS 2/3 5/8/01 (HAIG Alexander M., Jr.)

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NLRR M453/2 #155613

BY GW NARA DATE 7/3/16

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 9, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *for Allen*
SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Secretary Haig's Evening Report of May 8, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker
Mike Deaver

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ATTACHMENT

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, as amended
Authority: 68 CFR 1.101
BY: *RW* DATE: *3/12/13*