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MHS/2 #155750

BY CW NARA DATE 2/3/16

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: William P. Clark, Acting *wpc*

1. El Salvador: Possible Release of Suspect in AIFLD Murders. A Salvadoran judge has recommended the release of one of the two persons accused of murdering two American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) officials in San Salvador in January. The accused, Salvadoran businessman Ricardo Sol Mesa, is still in jail pending a ruling by the Supreme Court of El Salvador, which is expected in about two weeks. Sol Mesa's release recommendation could jeopardize the September 10 hearing in Miami on El Salvador's request for the extradition of the second suspect, Hans Krist. The release of either or both of the suspects in this tragic, well-publicized murder case would set back our efforts to build public and Congressional support for our El Salvador policy. We have instructed our Embassy in San Salvador to talk to the Government with a view toward heading off Sol Mesa's release.

2. Security Council Considers South African Attack Into Angola. Last night and today the Security Council met informally to consider South Africa's military incursion into Angola. The African Group will reportedly aim for a statement by the Council President which would condemn the South African action, and call for unconditional withdrawal from Angola. We have instructed our delegation in New York to urge a more balanced statement which would deplore violence from any quarter in southern Africa. Without reaching agreement yesterday the Council suspended discussion of a Presidential statement concerning the death sentences imposed by a South African Court against three African National Congress members found guilty of high treason. This question may be put on the table following the Angola debate.

3. PM Fraser's Problems over MFO Participation. Australian Ambassador Parkinson called on me today to outline the difficulties that Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser faces in obtaining Cabinet and public approval for an Australian contribution to the Sinai MFO. Sir Nicholas stressed that the main fear of the Australian Government is that opposition from elements within Fraser's own Liberal Party, from his coalition partner, the National Country Party, from the Labor Opposition, and from the press would cause a widespread reaction which could adversely affect the future of Australian-U.S. relations. Parkinson also discussed the Prime Minister's health, which, while not serious, is not good because of the recurrence of a pulmonary virus that has hit him twice before in the last 24 months.

There is no question that Fraser faces strong, perhaps overwhelming, opposition to participation at this time. It appears, however, that a good deal of the Australian reluctance could be overcome if there were other "old" Commonwealth participants, particularly the UK and Canada. We are raising the matter with the British and the Canadians and hope that some sort of a contingent can be put together, perhaps a Commonwealth communications and air unit complimented by an Italian sea patrol for the Strait of Tiran.

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RDS 2/3 8/28/01 (CLARK, William P.)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AUGUST 29, 1981

SECRET ATTACHMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN
SUBJECT: ACTING SECRETARY CLARK'S EVENING REPORT

ATTACHED IS ACTING SECRETARY CLARK'S EVENING REPORT FOR AUGUST 28, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker
Michael Deaver

SECRET ATTACHMENT
Received August 28, 1981, 10:40 p.m.

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