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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 11, 1981
81 NOV 12 A 9: 22

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Meeting with Soviet Ambassador. I met with Dobrynin this afternoon to discuss the timing of my next meeting with Gromyko and to propose that Soviet dissidents Sakharov and Shcharanskiy be released. Dobrynin agreed to forward the suggestion of January 26 or 28 for my meeting with the Soviet Foreign Minister in Geneva. He took my point that release of prominent dissidents could facilitate progress at the Madrid CSCE meeting but said that release of Sakharov was out of the question. He, however, did not reject the idea of freeing Shcharanskiy, and asked for another name in Sakharov's place. I'll follow up with Dobrynin shortly. (S)

2. Norwegian Foreign Minister. Norwegian Foreign Minister Stray appreciated greatly your greetings. I found complete understanding and support for our Soviet policy. Stray's assessment is the same as ours-- we must meet the fear of nuclear weapons in Europe by patiently and persistently explaining where the threat comes from and by emphasizing the defensive character of the Atlantic Alliance. (S)

3. Israeli Knesset Delegation. I received a bipartisan Israeli delegation today whose stated purpose is to "lobby" against the Saudi Eight Points. However, the leader of the group, Moshe Arens (who will replace Ambassador Evron in January), told me--and the press afterwards-- that the Saudi's point about the right of all states to live in peace was "a step forward." The Israelis still reject the Eight Points as highly dangerous to the very existence of Israel and want us to state over and over that Camp David is the only realistic avenue. Arens spent most of his time expressing concern about Israeli fears of a growing perception in the Middle East that the regional balance of power is shifting against Israel. This, he says, will lead the Arabs to speculate once more about defeating Israel militarily. As this kind of mentality could lead to an Israeli first strike in the region, I did my best to reassure them about our support. I also laid heavy emphasis on the importance of holding the ceasefire in Lebanon while seeking diplomatic progress through Phil Habib's mission and in the autonomy negotiations. (S)

4. Lebanon-Arab Follow-up Committee. The Arab Follow-up Committee (Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Arab League Secretary General) met in Lebanon on November 7. As you will recall, this Committee has been meeting at Saudi initiative to resolve Lebanon's political and security problems. The group reiterated its earlier decision to form a committee to try to stem the flow of illegal weapons through Lebanese ports and to take steps to separate warring factions in Beirut. Following this meeting and the Arab Summit later in the month, the time will be ripe for you to send Phil Habib back to the area. (S)

RDS 2/3 11/11/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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BY CV NARA DATE 2/3/16

MEMORANDUM

The President has seen _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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November 12, 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Secretary Haig's Evening Report for Wednesday,
November 11, 1981.

CC: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT

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3/14/83

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