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SENSITIVE

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE

December 15, 1981

WASHINGTON

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DECLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

NLRR M453/2 #155833  
BY CN NARA DATE 7/3/16

1. Meeting with Cardinal Casaroli. Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Casaroli met with me today prior to your luncheon for him. He stressed caution on Poland, noting that the Pope was ready to deplore Polish government actions but he did not want to exacerbate the situation or give the Soviets a pretext for intervention. I agreed that we must avoid public statements which could inflame the situation. Nonetheless, we would condemn violence. Casaroli said that the Church too would speak out forcefully if necessary. He termed Jaruzelski a Polish nationalist and hoped that his government and Solidarity could still exercise restraint in order to avoid Soviet intervention. On another matter Casaroli said he met with the Salvadoran bishops last week in Mexico, who told him that 85% of the people were against the guerrillas. (C)

2. The Golan Heights: Meetings with Ghorbal and Evron. In a meeting with me this afternoon Egyptian Ambassador Ghorbal expressed Egypt's serious concerns over Israel's Golan actions, which he described as very damaging to our mutual interests and objectives in the region. He urged us to consider measures that would demonstrate more concretely our rejection of the move; he underlined the importance of ensuring that the UN presence remains in the Golan as evidence of its international status. Ghorbal repeated the position taken by Mubarak: Egypt was committed to the peace process, despite the Israeli action, and would not violate the peace treaty or jeopardize final Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai.

This evening, Israeli Ambassador Evron handed me a letter from Foreign Minister Shamir explaining Israel's actions as caused by Syria's recent reiteration that it will not negotiate, recognize, or make peace with Israel. (Our Embassy in Damascus says Assad did not go this far.) Israeli political pressures were also described as having played a part in the Knesset's decision. The letter stated, however, that Israel "remains irrevocably committed to a secure and lasting peace with its neighbors and to the fulfillment of the Camp David Accords." I told Evron of our deep concern over the Knesset's action; without warning or consultation, Israel had put us in a position where both our credibility and our consistency were being tested on long-standing positions, such as Resolution 242. Evron agreed to inform Begin that we were looking to Israel for something that might ameliorate the situation quickly. (S)

3. Chinese Demarche on Arms Sales to Taiwan. Ambassador Chai called on Bill Clark today to decry our spare parts sale to Taiwan. He termed it a violation of our "agreement" not to sell any arms while follow-up talks on the arms sales question were underway. He said China would be forced to "react strongly" if we went ahead with this transaction. Bill told the Ambassador that you had never agreed to Huang Hua's October ultimatum and had made clear we would "do what we have to do" while being prudent and discreet. He also noted that our decision to sell spare parts and not weapons at this time was in line with your measured approach. (SECRET/SENSITIVE)

RDS 2/3 12/15/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

The President has seen 12/18/81

22

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE  
ATTACHMENT

December 16, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JAMES W. NANCE

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Al Haig's Evening Report for December 15, 1981.

cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
Jim Baker  
Mike Deaver

AW  
3/15/83 ~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE  
ATTACHMENT

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