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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Begin's Call to Lewis. Prime Minister Begin called Sam Lewis by telephone from his home today to suggest "a way out" of the box into which he has put himself on the Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Cooperation (MOU). In essence, he proposed that we admit that our desire to suspend implementation of the MOU is not allowed by the text of the MOU itself. Sam quite rightly pointed out that this proposal would seem to be useful only if the MOU had already come into effect, which was not the case. He reported Begin's proposal in detail and we will have to decide if and how to respond. Begin also asked to know in advance how we intended to vote on a sanctions resolution at the January 5 Security Council meeting. We would be remiss not to provide the Israelis some advance warning of our intentions, but I see nothing to be lost by keeping the Israelis in suspense for another week or so. Begin is clearly going through a period of unusual soul-searching. He has been discomfited by the stinging criticism of his outburst in Israel, in the U.S. press and in the American Jewish Community. His call to Lewis indicates that the ball is squarely in Israel's court and reaffirms my belief that we should do everything possible to keep it there. (S)

2. Golan and Sinai Peacekeeping. The British Embassy informed us today that Lord Carrington is inclined to go forward with Britain's offer of participation in the Multinational Force and Observers, despite Israel's actions on Golan. The Dutch, French, and Italians also appear prepared to participate. The Four are not likely to respond to Israel's request for confirmation of their acceptance of the principles contained in the Joint U.S.-Israel statement until early January. It is not clear whether this would come before or after the scheduled January 5 Security Council consideration of the Golan issue. (C)

3. Consultations with NATO Allies on Poland. Our talks with European allies on Poland are continuing with reports from meetings with German Foreign Minister Genscher, the Danes and the Norwegians. Genscher favors political steps against the Soviets, specifically, strong letters from you and others to Brezhnev, but he opposes taking immediate economic sanctions, until the political measures have had a chance to work. He conceded, however, that economic measures could be necessary at some point, even before a Soviet invasion. The Danes and Norwegians were reluctant to take measures now, arguing without conviction that this might give a pretext for Soviet invasion. NATO Secretary General Luns received today a copy of my letter to Allied Foreign Ministers. He agrees completely with our thinking. (S)

RDS 2/3 12/22/01 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET ATTACHMENT

December 23, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JAMES W. NANCE

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Al Haig's Evening Report for Tuesday,
December 22, 1981.

CC: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

SECRET ATTACHMENT

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