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WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
From : Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.
Acting Secretary of State

DECLASSIFIED

NLRB M453/3#155872
BY RW NARA DATE 9/2/16

1. SIG on Lebanon Contingencies. I chaired a Senior Interdepartmental Group (SIG) meeting today on the problem of Lebanon. We concluded that the possibility of an Israeli military push into South Lebanon required urgent US contingency planning. Israel has been poised to strike for some weeks and, in recent days, has made clear that a relatively small PLO violation of the ceasefire would bring Israeli retaliation. The Israeli action plan blueprints a deep penetration attack affecting population centers as far north as Beirut, resulting perhaps in the retention of 25 percent of Lebanon's surface as an occupied territory. Israel's basic objective would be the liquidation of the PLO as a military adversary and the creation of a buffer zone wider than the range of any Arab artillery. The SIG tasked three studies: US diplomatic options; Soviet motives and behavior in the event of hostilities; and US military assets with which to reinforce the area and evacuate the 3,800 US citizens in Lebanon. These studies will be prepared on a top priority basis by mid-week.

2. El Salvador. Assistant Secretaries Enders and Abrams testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this afternoon regarding your certification of the human rights situation in El Salvador. The session went relatively well, with Senator Percy emphasizing that there are no good alternatives to our policy of support for the present Duarte Government. Senators Dodd and Tsongas questioned the efficacy of elections in El Salvador and urged that the United States encourage negotiations between the government and the extreme left. Even our liberal critics, however, agreed that major US security interests are at stake in El Salvador, and this point seems to be getting across after a week of hearings.

3. Discussion of Polish Sanctions with European Community Commissioners. Mac Baldrige, Jack Block, Bill Brock and I used our lunch today with three members of the European Community (EC) Commission to have a very useful discussion of Polish-related sanctions against the USSR. The Europeans repeated the importance they attach to the gas pipeline as a way of reducing dependence on the Middle East. They are worried that attempts to push for hard sanctions will turn the focus from Poland to a dispute between the US and Europe. Still, I have the impression that our arguments on the pipeline issue--and other sanctions against the Soviets--did have some impact. We particularly stressed the need for restrictions on credits to the USSR.

RDS-1 2/8/02 (STOESSEL, Walter J., Jr.)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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February 9, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Acting Secretary Stoessel's Evening Report

Attached is Walter Stoessel's Evening Report for February 8, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker
Michael Deaver

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