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RECEIVED
 THE SECRETARY OF STATE
 WASHINGTON

February 24, 1982

02 FEB 25 A 9: 26
 MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Reactions to Your Speech. Almost every member we contacted on the Hill liked the general thrust of the CBI, but no one thinks passage is going to be easy. In the U.S. media, initial themes stress U.S. strategic concerns--"U.S. will not permit 'new Cubas'" (UPI) and deteriorating economic conditions in the Caribbean (CBS). El Salvador drew less focus than expected. Initial hemispheric opinion has been very favorable. Prime Minister Seaga described the CBI as "bold, historic and far-reaching in concept." Prime Minister Charles of Dominica said the CBI would be a "powerful antidote" to leftist politicians in her country and throughout the region. The Vice President of Panama is expected to make a speech this evening praising the CBI. The Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic gave a favorable speech today. We have no high-level reaction as yet from Mexico but lower level Mexican officials found the security portion of the speech "very harsh." At the OAS, the Southern Cone and Andean Ambassadors were very supportive. The Jamaican and Colombian Ambassadors especially appreciated the positive references to their countries. The Central Americans, with the exception of the Nicaraguans ("harsh and tough on us"), were enthusiastic about the speech. The Mexican Ambassador termed the speech "strong and impressive, very tough." Turning to Europe, French Foreign Minister Cheysson's initial reaction was most favorable and we expect he will be helpful. (C)

2. Meeting With Baker and Laxalt. I invited Senators Baker and Laxalt to breakfast this morning to underscore the importance to our foreign policy of insuring Congressional support for the 1983 defense budget request. I stressed that comments by Republican leaders in favor of defense cuts send counterproductive signals abroad. Both indicated that it would be extremely difficult in the current political and economic environment to avoid some cuts. They believe the objective should be to minimize reductions and seek an outcome that will permit us to claim a Presidential victory based on the low level of reductions when compared with previous years. (C)

3. European Community (EC) Measures Against Soviet Exports. On February 23, EC Foreign Ministers agreed tentatively to tighten restrictions affecting 20 percent of Soviet exports of luxury and manufactured items to the Community, worth \$825 million annually. This measure does not affect energy or raw materials. Only Greece opposed the measure. Final approval is expected, although it may take as long as several weeks to work out details. This EC action is a major boost to the Allied sanctions program and comes from unexpected German and French support. We are conveying our appreciation and urging member countries to follow through on their commitment. (C)

RDS 2/3 2/24/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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BY RW NARA DATE 9/2/16

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 25, 1982

AW CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT
3/15/13

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK
SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

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Attached is Al Haig's Evening Report for Wednesday, February 24, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

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