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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 1, 1982

82 MAR 2 A 9:35  
MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

OR

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Call by Egyptian Ambassador Ghorbal. Ghorbal followed closely Mubarak's oral message (which I sent to you today) describing the Egyptian leader's position on the controversy over his proposed visit to Israel. Ghorbal's tone was low key. The Egyptians are unhappy with the Israeli position, but they are determined to "cool it" in the hope that on-going events, such as the continued Autonomy Talks and Foreign Minister Ali's visit to Israel in two weeks will ease the strain. Ghorbal sought our help in persuading the Israelis to follow a similar line. I responded that we had already tried to urge such a course on Israel, both in Jerusalem and through Ambassador Arens. We recognized that both sides have problems. I told Ghorbal I would speak to you about this, but in the meantime the Egyptian effort to downplay the issue was responsible and statesmanlike. (S)

2. Ambassador Habib's Talk in Lebanon. Phil Habib met in Beirut over the weekend with President Sarkis, Prime Minister Wazzan and Foreign Minister Boutros. He is now in Israel. In Beirut; Phil found strong Lebanese government support for the cease-fire and the Security Council's expansion of UNIFIL. But he reports that little progress has been made on the basic political situation. Saudi and other Arab efforts to improve the political and security prospects have not produced results. The Syrians, despite the Assad regime's troubles at home, are as intransigent as ever. According to Phil, the mass of Christian and Muslim Lebanese are prepared for political reconciliation, but he says there has been no real progress toward finding an acceptable presidential candidate. This may still come, but de facto partition, stemming from control over pieces of Lebanon by armed militias, continues to frustrate the Government's authority and obstruct movement toward political compromise. (S)

3. Meeting with Senators and Congressmen. During my luncheon today with Senator Tower, Senator Stennis, Congressman Price and Congressman Dickinson, I emphasized our position that the current momentum toward defense cuts could undermine our foreign policy. Senator Tower summed up the position of this group of supporters of a strong defense when he said that cuts will be more difficult for many members to support when the defense budget is examined with specificity rather than in general terms. We also discussed a wide range of foreign policy subjects with emphasis on regions to which these members have recently travelled. (C)

RDS 2/3 3/01/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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NLRR M453/3# 155886  
BY RW 9/2/16



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET ATTACHMENT

Tuesday, March 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Al Haig's Evening Report for Monday,  
March 1, 1982.

CC: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
Jim Baker  
Mike Deaver

SECRET ATTACHMENT

RW  
3/16/82