

155903
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 23, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. *AH*

1. Meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister. In useful and broad-ranging talks today with the Japanese Foreign Minister, I emphasized the importance of continuing sanctions against the USSR and also solicited Japanese help in conveying to the Chinese that we have made great efforts toward agreement in the context of our political imperatives. The Foreign Minister seemed supportive on most counts but clearly indicated that Japan does not want to exceed the Western European governments on sanctions. In response to my urgings for early action to open access to Japanese markets and to accelerate Japan's defense efforts, he could not provide a clear indication of where we go next on trade. He assured me, however, that Japan would make a genuine effort to respond to our concerns. (S)
2. Begin Retains Power. Prime Minister Begin nearly lost a no-confidence vote in the Knesset today. He will apparently remain in office and, paradoxically, may even be strengthened by the event. Begin's challengers from Labor, the left and the far right wing have now been impressed by his readiness to go to the brink; with the public opinion polls showing a growing Likud lead, many of them could lose their seats in a new election. Even if Begin lost a subsequent no-confidence motion, he would remain the head of a caretaker government, giving him extraordinary powers under Israeli law, until a new government is formed or new elections held. (C)
3. West Bank Violence. Israel's tough response has had some effect in dampening demonstrations, but the situation remains extremely tense. We expressed our concern again today. Ambassador Lewis will be discussing the matter with Begin, urging him to avoid lethal means of quelling demonstrations. The Security Council could convene formally on the West Bank issue as early as tomorrow afternoon. (S)
4. Nicaragua in Security Council. Nicaragua has requested that the Security Council not convene until Thursday, apparently because Nicaraguan Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega wants to address the Non-Aligned Movement in New York tomorrow. Meanwhile, Honduran Foreign Minister Paz has stolen a march on Nicaragua by appealing to the OAS for a peaceful resolution of the border tensions between the two countries. We are now preparing to respond firmly to Nicaragua in the Security Council in coordination with friendly states in the region who will urge that the matter be remanded to the OAS. (C)

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RDS 3/23/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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NLRR M453/3 #155903

BY RW DATE 9/2/16

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1982

RW
3/15/82
~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

PR

Attached is Al Haig's evening report for Tuesday March 23, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver