

~~SECRET~~

155921

33

SENSITIVE

2446

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

82 APR 10 AID: 27

April 9, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From: Walter J. Stoessel, Jr. *WJS*  
Acting Secretary of State

1. Possible Israeli Action in Lebanon. Israel is clearly preparing the groundwork to strike into Lebanon, although the decision to act may await Israeli Cabinet discussion on Sunday. Partial evidence indicates the Cabinet is split with Defense Minister Sharon, who desires immediate action, arrayed against Foreign Minister Shamir; Begin appears undecided. We have detected a significant buildup of Israeli forces in the north today. We also have reports of sporadic exchange of fire today in the UNIFIL/Haddad enclave, and high level meetings--highly unusual during Passover--have been held by Israeli leaders. In addition to sending strong messages urging restraint on all parties, in particular a personal one from the Secretary to Begin, we are: (a) updating our military and evacuation contingency plans should conflict erupt; (b) preparing draft UN Security Council Resolutions should we need to preempt unhelpful resolutions by others; and (c) preparing for the possibility of a US emissary to go to Israel as part of our overall efforts to encourage restraint.

2. El Salvador: Coalition Building. The latest round of discussions among the three largest Salvadoran political parties has brought them no closer to agreement on a national unity government. The two rightist parties continue to push boldly for a government in which Duarte's Christian Democrats have only a minor role. Duarte reportedly is considering taking his party into the opposition, leaving the government in the hands of the parties farthest to the right. (This outcome would give us serious difficulties with the public and Congress.) We are continuing to urge all parties to show greater flexibility in forming a government of reconciliation.

3. Law of the Sea. The US delegation is attempting to develop with our allies a co-sponsored set of amendments which must be introduced by next Tuesday. I met today with the Ambassadors of France, Japan, Italy and the United Kingdom--the four countries which are giving indications of submitting treaty amendments separate from our own. I emphasized the critical importance of our unity and your commitment to the negotiating process, but stressed that we would negotiate only within the framework of your January 29 statement.

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M45313#155921  
BY: RW DATE: 9/2/10

~~SECRET~~



TO PRES

FROM STOESSEL, W

DOCDATE 09 APR 82

**URGENT**

KEYWORDS: ISRAEL

LEBANON

EL SALVADOR

LOS

CM

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON / EL SALVADOR COALITION BUILDING /

LOS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR CLARK

DUE: 12 APR 82 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

~~KEMP~~

TANTER

FONTAINE

KIMMITT

*FONTAINE*

GUHIN

LEVINE

MCGAFFIGAN

NORTH

WHEELER

*OBEY RD*

COMMENTS \*\*\* 3 HOURS RESPONSE FOR CABINET LEVEL MEMO \*\*\*

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

( H / )

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

*C 4/13 OBEY per Fontaine*

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH

FILE

*PA (C)*

*ee*