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WASHINGTON

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May 20, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. *A*

1. Israeli Threat to Lebanon: The threat of a major Israeli assault into Lebanon appears to have receded for the moment. Significant numbers of Israeli troops have been withdrawn from the border following a build-up late last week and Defense Minister Sharon will arrive in the U.S. Friday. Moreover, Prime Minister Begin told Ambassador Lewis Wednesday that the Cabinet had not taken a decision to launch a major assault; the Israeli demarche made here earlier this week was intended only to impress upon us that if the present situation continued (i.e. PLO violations of the ceasefire) then the U.S. should not be surprised by a major Israeli reaction. ~~(S)~~

2. El Salvador: New Decree on Land Reform: On May 18 the new Constituent Assembly passed legislation modifying Phase III of the land reform under which tenants and sharecroppers are granted title to the land they farm. The Salvadoran and US media are reporting that this key phase of the land reform may now be dead. Such reports are complicating our efforts to move the CBI package through Congress. In fact, there is great confusion over the real effect of this legislation. The Salvadorans have told us that the modification is not a step backward. They have assured us that it specifically guarantees the rights of those who were potential beneficiaries under the existing program while allowing landowners to rent for one crop year land that has been lying idle, without fear of expropriation. The intent of the measure, they emphasize, is to give a quick boost to agricultural production, not freeze the land reform. We are instructing our Embassy to explain to the Salvadorans the difficulties this measure is causing us with the Congress and the urgent need to clarify its intent and effect. ~~(C)~~

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XDS-1 5/20/02
(HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

BY CW NARA DATE 1/29/08

The President has seen _____

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFICATION(S)

CAS 2/22/07

SECRET ATTACHMENT

May 21, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

OR

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Al Haig's Evening Report for Thursday, May 20, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

85 MAY 21 1982