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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 25, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Meeting with Defense Minister Sharon. In my meeting with Sharon, the potentially troublesome issue of the MOU and related defense trade initiatives was well-covered. Sharon understands our sympathies on this issue and appreciates the fact that you want personally to inform Prime Minister Begin of your decision to proceed with these initiatives when you meet with him in mid-June. On Lebanon, Sharon indicated that Israel could move into Lebanon at any time if an Israeli life is lost. He drew back, however, from claiming that an Israeli move into Lebanon would be large-scale--following instead Begin's most recent message to you that the Israeli response will fit the level of provocation. Most of the meeting consisted of a series of expressions of Israeli needs, such as greater financial support for Israel's defense industry and loan of aerial tankers. We have these requests under consideration. Sharon also handed me a letter to you from Begin which we are sending under separate cover. (S)

2. Meeting with Bessmertnykh. Soviet Charge Bessmertnykh delivered a lengthy brief to Walt Stoessel today. On START, Bessmertnykh reiterated Brezhnev's objections to our allegedly "one-sided" proposal, but proposed that talks begin in Geneva on June 29 (virtually the same date we had in mind), and suggested that this be announced on June 1. Rick Burt will continue discussions this week to nail down the date and agree on the text of a joint announcement. We will propose that the text be released on May 31, so that you can include it in your Memorial Day speech. Per your instructions, Walt delivered a warning to Bessmertnykh against Soviet and Cuban involvement in the Falklands crisis. Bessmertnykh replied that while the Soviet Union is not involved, it also cannot remain indifferent to the "increasingly dangerous actions" of the British in the conflict. Bessmertnykh broke no new substantive ground on other regional issues. (S)

3. Export Credit Restraints to the Soviet Union. Walt Stoessel, accompanied by Jim Buckley, called in French Ambassador Vernier-Palliez this afternoon to urge French cooperation in reaching an agreement on restraints on officially-supported export credits to the USSR before the Versailles Summit. Walt noted that all Summit countries agree on the technical/legal feasibility, and all except France agree on a package; what is lacking is French political will. Vernier-Palliez was not encouraging but promised to pass the message to Paris. These same points were made in my luncheon meeting with the EC-10 Ambassadors. In addition I reviewed our overall approach to the upcoming Summits and stressed your determination to work for success in both Versailles and Bonn. (C)

RDS 2/3 5/25/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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NLRR F05-096#34332

BY Cots NARA DATE 1/29/08

MEMORANDUM

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

As 2/22/09

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET ATTACHMENT

May 26, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

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

Attached is Al Haig's Evening Report for Tuesday, May 25, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

