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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Ph...

January 25, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

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

1. Former Hostages Arrive Home: The 52 returnees from Iran arrived safely and in high spirits at Stewart airfield on Sunday to a jubilant welcome. An emotional yet heartwarming reunion of families with their loved ones was realized in a dignified manner, commensurate with your guidance. The bus route of twelve miles from Stewart to West Point was historic, for the route was lined continuously by thousands of persons representing the heterogeneity and unity of the American people. I am told there were tears of joy and thanksgiving in the eyes of all -- returnees and welcomers. (C)

Following a restful night in the Hotel Thayer, the day will be free for the returnees and their families, with an opportunity to visit the many historic sites at the Academy, if they wish, and to participate in an ecumenical church service at the Cadet Chapel. The entire day will be low-key and private in accord with the wishes of the returnees and their families and consistent with your guidance. (C)

2. Conversation with the Mexican Ambassador: Saturday evening the Mexican Ambassador asked to speak to me privately to convey a request that we consider establishing a discrete channel for liaison with insurgent elements in El Salvador. My reply, with some ire, was that your Administration would under no circumstances deal with any insurgent groups engaged in efforts to subvert existing authorities in Latin America. In addition, in the next four years he would witness an unyielding and determined effort to stop Cuban-supported subversion in this hemisphere and beyond and your Administration is committed to the eradication of this menace in all its forms. The Ambassador was astonished at the vehemence of my reaction, but after regaining his composure, sought me out later to express his deep personal gratitude for this unequivocal expression of renewed strength and vigor in American leadership. (S)

DECLASSIFIED

Sec. 246) E.O. 12958, as amended
WFO Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2008

RDS 2/3 1/25/01 (Haig, Alexander M.)

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3. F-15s for Saudi Arabia: As you know, the Carter Administration left office without deciding the issue of improving the capabilities of F-15 aircraft already sold to Saudi Arabia. Having analyzed the issue, I am confident that we can and should go ahead with perhaps an even somewhat more ambitious improvement program than the former Administration had proposed, hopefully without risking an inordinate reaction from the Israelis. A recommendation will be forthcoming to you within the next week. The recommendation will likely include a compensating initiative for the Israelis designed to meet their security needs and also insure legislative support while dampening Israeli opposition. (S)

4. Personnel: Delay in announcing your appointments to key positions here at State is of increasing concern. While inter-agency task forces are already at work on Poland, El Salvador, Iran, and terrorism, it is imperative that we bring aboard new and more forceful leadership in several key slots to manage these efforts. (S)

An additional list of nominees for key State positions, to supplement the one forwarded several weeks ago, will be forwarded later today. The support of your staff will be very helpful in moving this matter along. (S)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET ATTACHMENT

January 26, 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN
SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Reports of January 24 and 25, 1981.

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3/8/13