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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Ambassador West: In view of our decision this morning on the Saudi F-15 package, I am asking Ambassador West to remain in Jidda for a short while beyond his planned departure. He will do so, at some personal inconvenience, but I believe it important that he be available during the sensitive few weeks ahead. We will make a brief announcement to this effect tomorrow. (C)

2. Argentina in the Human Rights Commission: The Human Rights Commission will take up the case of Argentina on Thursday. The technical issue is whether proceedings of the Working Group on Disappeared Persons (which spends most of its time on Argentina) will be public or private. Last year the U.S. led the Western nations in a vote against Argentina, which found support in the Soviet bloc.

In 1976-79, 5-6,000 persons "disappeared" in Argentina, while it was in a virtual state of war against terrorist groups. In 1980, there were only 12 well documented disappearance cases, showing great progress towards a return of order.

We will vote with Argentina this year if no agreement acceptable to us and Argentina can be reached. This should help repair U.S.-Argentine relations and wean Argentina away from the Soviets. Moreover, it will signal our new human rights policy: we will not participate in pillorying Argentina while much larger Soviet bloc human rights violations are downplayed.

You may expect that the Europeans will not vote with us, and that press comment on our new position will be very unfavorable. But a compromise resolution, avoiding a vote, looks probable. (C)

3. Ambassador's Call on Polish Prime Minister: Ambassador Meehan and other key Western Ambassadors were called in separately this morning by Polish Prime Minister Jaruzelski. The Prime Minister stressed that Western financial assistance was crucial to the achievement of Polish

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stability and his government's intention to seek political solutions to Poland's internal problems. Ambassador Meehan emphasized our desire to be helpful on the economic front; we would contribute positively to next week's meeting in Paris with Poland's creditors. He also stressed the importance we attached to the avoidance of violence within Poland. Jaruzelski asked that his thanks be conveyed to you for your congratulatory message; he also passed his greetings to Secretaries Haig and Weinberger. He stressed the tradition of good US-Polish relations, noting General Eisenhower's visit to Poland after World War II and the subsequent visits of Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter. (C)

4. U.S. Mission to Europe on El Salvador: Today, Ambassador Larry Eagleburger, acting as my personal representative, briefed the President of the EC Commission, the Belgians and the Dutch. Once again the Europeans expressed their understanding of the seriousness of the situation in El Salvador. But the Europeans have also informed us of their domestic political problems with their own Left, who see the current regime in El Salvador as a vicious cabal. Tomorrow, Larry will make our case with the British. (C)

5. Liquefied Natural Gas Talks with Algeria: Talks over the price of Algerian LNG shipments to the US concluded today without agreement. We have no immediate need for the gas; the price the Algerians were asking, linked to crude oil, was higher than we pay for Canadian and Mexican imports.

We emphasized to the Algerians that the LNG issue was strictly commercial, and the failure of the talks should not prevent an improvement in US-Algerian relations. So far the Algerians seem to agree. (LOU)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

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February 19, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *RVA*

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Herewith Secretary Haig's Evening Report of February 18, 1981.

cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
James Baker

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*RW*  
*3/8/83*