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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 16, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Lopez Portillo to Visit Nicaragua. According to Mexican Ambassador Margain, Lopez Portillo will go to Nicaragua on February 21 "to receive homage" for Mexico's economic support of the Sandinistas. Lopez Portillo agreed to make the trip if the Sandinistas would release the private sector prisoners on Sunday, February 14 (they did so). He was also promised that Nicaragua would be prepared to accept our proposals of last August on normalizing relations with the U.S. (We doubt that Managua will agree to stop interfering in El Salvador.) Lopez Portillo intends to warn the Sandinistas that Mexico cannot tolerate a continuation of the arms buildup in Nicaragua. He will also reinforce the strong objections reportedly lodged with Mitterrand by the Mexican Ambassador in Paris over the French arms sales to Nicaragua. According to Margain (who tends to emphasize the positive), the Mexicans understand that Lopez Portillo may be "used" by the Sandinistas, and that his warm reception in Managua could have great impact on the U.S. (S)
2. Socialist International Meeting Postponed Over Nicaragua Issue. The Socialist International (SI) postponed its February 24-25 Caracas meeting on Latin America and the Caribbean because key Latin American Socialists, including the host Venezuelans and the Costa Ricans, objected to the presence of Nicaragua's Sandinistas. Latin American socialists and some Europeans, including Spain's Felipe Gonzalez, are increasingly concerned over the Sandinistas' Marxist course and military buildup. When Willy Brandt sought to include the Sandinistas as observers at the Caracas meeting, the Venezuelans and Costa Ricans led the opposition. The postponement of the SI meeting amid public disagreement over policy toward Nicaragua is a major blow to Sandinista efforts to maintain Western support. Postponement of the SI meeting also serves our interests by avoiding another formal statement of support for the Salvadoran opposition. (C)
3. Saudi Clarification of U.S.-Saudi Joint Military Projects Committee. Saudi Minister of Information Abdu Yamani issued a "clarification" regarding the establishment of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Joint Military Projects Committee on February 15. Yamani stressed that it was formed to follow-up military purchases and projects between the Kingdom and the U.S. He denied Arab assertions that it harmed Arab interests and was similar to the U.S. - Israel strategic alliance. We were assured by Crown Prince Fahd prior to the statement's release that Yamani's comments were for domestic and Arab consumption; Saudi commitments were unchanged. (C)

RDS 2/3 2/16/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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BY RW NARA DATE 9/2/16

MEMORANDUM

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The President has seen _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SMRA 5187 58

February 17, 1982

RW
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

WILLIAM P. CLARK WPC

SUBJECT:

Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Al Haig's Evening Report for Tuesday February 16, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver