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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1982

82 FEB 19 AM 11:23

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

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

DECLASSIFIED
M453/3 #155879
RW
9/2/16

1. Meeting with New Israeli Ambassador. Arens paid his first call on me today, bringing with him Begin's response to your letter of reassurance on arms sales to Jordan. The tone of Begin's letter, including his statement that he finds your words "reassuring indeed," is the most positive expression we have heard from Begin in a long time. Your decision to reach Begin quickly on Tuesday has clearly prevented a nasty turn in US-Israeli relations. I reinforced your reassurances with Arens today, stressing that our policy is designed to exert influence over Arab arms acquisitions so that they do not turn to other sources with potentially damaging impact on our collective interests. (C)

2. My Meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Colombo. Foreign Minister Colombo told me this afternoon that Italy had expressed its concern to the PLO about rising tensions in Lebanon. The PLO considered an Israeli attack imminent but said it would not exacerbate the situation. Colombo also told me that Italy had now agreed on its contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers. Its naval units would leave for the Sinai March 10. On other matters, Colombo said that a Soviet-supported media offensive has put Central America on the front pages in Italy, eclipsing Poland and putting pressure on his Government. Although Colombo was skeptical about elections in El Salvador, he acknowledged that the Cubans and Soviets were the real villains. (C)

3. Meeting with Tanzanian Foreign Minister Salim. My meeting with Salim focussed on ways to end the current temporary stall on Phase I of the Namibia talks. We agreed it was necessary to proceed quickly. Chet Crocker and his Western Allies Contact Group colleagues have mapped a strategy to help the Front Line States move off the hook. Salim could be most influential with his colleagues and SWAPO, and he recognizes our unique role with the South Africans. (S)

4. Soviet Purchases of US Grain. After an absence of about two months, the Soviet Union returned to the US grain market last week. During the course of the current bilateral agreement (October 1981-September 1982), the Soviets have bought 11.6 million metric tons. The shipment rate indicates that the 8 million metric tons guaranteed under the agreement will have been delivered before April. We believe the Soviets stopped buying temporarily to suggest their independence from the US market. They continue to minimize the risk of US sanctions by buying only for near-term delivery. (C)

RDS 2/3 2/18/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.,)

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MEMORANDUM

The President has seen _____

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RW ~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT
3/15/13

February 19, 1982

WR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Al Haig's Evening Report for Thursday February 18, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

REC'D FEB 19 1982