

~~SECRET~~

155904

SENSITIVE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Alexander M. Haig, Jr. *AMH*

1. Middle East Troubles: West Bank Violence and the Taba Border Dispute. Arab demonstrations have spread from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip, with additional casualties. The violence is part of a struggle over Israel's attempt to replace the influence of elected officials sympathetic to the PLO with Palestinians belonging to the Israeli-supported Village Leagues. A very strident Arab-sponsored resolution on the matter has been tabled at the UN. We are considering the best strategy for handling this while continuing to express concern over the situation. Ambassador Lewis also met with Begin and urged him to avoid resort to lethal force in quelling the demonstrations.

In the meantime, the dispute between Egypt and Israel over the location of the border at Taba (a Sinai site just south of Eilat) may become a serious problem. The Israelis claim a border that puts a hotel complex in the area on the Israeli side. Sharon and others have suggested that the entire withdrawal might be jeopardized unless Egypt agrees to let Israel continue to occupy the place, pending further negotiation. The Egyptians assert that the border lies 600 meters further north; they propose an Israeli withdrawal, with the MFO to occupy the area pending arbitration. Mubarak intends to ask for U.S. mediation, in accordance with the Treaty, if Israel fails to agree; the Egyptians appear to have a strong case. Egyptian Defense Minister Abu Ghazala, who will be here Monday, will probably raise this issue, among others and we may find ourselves in the middle of the problem. (SECRET/SENSITIVE)

2. The Coup in Guatemala. The first stage of a bloodless coup has apparently been consolidated in Guatemala. The political orientation of the three-man army Junta led by retired General Jorge Efraim RIOS MONTT, however, remains unclear. Ambassador Chapin has been instructed to avoid any meetings or acts of recognition until we know more about the Junta's direction. (S)

3. Nicaragua in UN Security Council. The Security Council convenes tomorrow morning to hear Nicaragua's complaint against us. We have redoubled our efforts to have the matter remanded to the OAS, lest a mild resolution gain enough support to give the Security Council a mandate to pursue the issue. (C)

4. Situation in Bangladesh. The military takeover in Bangladesh does not immediately affect our important regional interests. We intend to continue our aid programs and other cooperation, while counseling in private an early return to an elected government. (C)

RDS 2/3 3/24/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

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NLRR M453/3#155904

BY *RW* 9/2/16

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 25, 1982

RW
3/18/82
SECRET ATTACHMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

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Attached is Al Haig's evening report for Wednesday March 24, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver

APR 1 1982