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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING GROUP MEETING

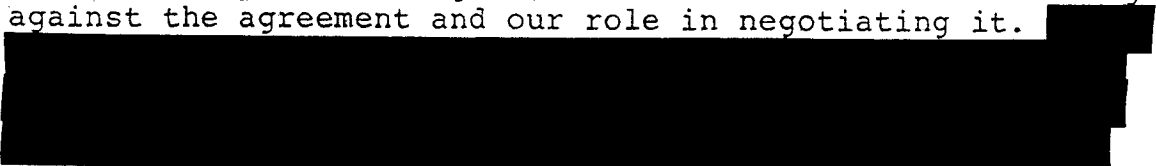
DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 1983
LOCATION: The Situation Room
TIME: 9:45 a.m.
FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK *WPC RR*

I. PURPOSE

To review the progress of our efforts to obtain the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. To review our contingency plans for a partial and unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Aley and Shuf districts of Lebanon, including the possible redeployment of the MNF.

II BACKGROUND

The problems encountered in obtaining Syrian agreement to withdraw from Lebanon when Israel withdraws have created a difficult impasse, and cast a lengthening shadow on prospect for progress on your broader peace initiative. The domestic political scene in Israel grows increasingly restive with continuing attacks on Israeli troops and installations in Lebanon. Ratification of the Lebanon-Israel agreement has led the Syrians to make good on earlier threats to destabilize the Gemayel Government. Behind all this activity in the region, the Soviets continue to inveigh against the agreement and our role in negotiating it.



Against this backdrop, we face several very tough situations which could require quick decisions. One of these is an incident involving the Israelis and the PLO (or the Syrians) which escalates to another major round of fighting.

Another is the growing pressures in Israel for the phased and unilateral withdrawal of the Israeli Army to some new, more secure line in the south. Although approved by the Lebanese and ourselves, the pressures may prove irresistible, particularly if Israeli casualties continue to mount. In this case the Lebanese will want the MNF to join their own Army in deploying behind the withdrawing Israelis. This could be physically dangerous and therefore poses some very tough questions which we will need to answer with our MNF co-contributors and the Hill.

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FOIA(b) (1)

While we are not looking for specific decisions at this meeting, I think it is essential that you review the pertinent intelligence assessments and that we discuss our tentative plans for the contingencies we may face while the Vice President and George are away. I think it is very important that you encourage initiative and innovation. The "wait and see" approach we have necessarily chosen in the past several weeks must not acquire inertia of its own. We may need new and bolder strokes to force the pace. Your support of fresh thinking will help keep us from bogging down and being put entirely in the reactive mode. Talking points for your summary are at Tab A.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The Vice President
Secretary of State Shultz
Secretary of Defense Weinberger
The Director of Central Intelligence
UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick
Chairman, JCS, John Vessey

IV. PRESS PLAN

None.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

See Agenda at Tab B.

Attachments:

- Tab A - Talking Points for Your Summary of the NSPG
with 3x5 cards
- Tab B - Agenda for NSPG

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PRESIDENT'S TALKING POINTS FOR SUMMARY OF THE NSPG

- THE PROBLEMS WE FACE ARE AS SEVERE AS I REMEMBER THEM. WE NEED TO DEVELOP SOME PLANS WHICH WILL ADDRESS WHAT WE DO ABOUT SYRIA, THE SPLIT IN THE PLO, AND HOW WE RESPOND TO ISRAELI PRESSURES FOR WITHDRAWAL.

- OUR PLANS HAVE TO TAKE CAREFUL ACCOUNT OF ISRAELI CONCERNS BUT THEY MUST ALSO BE SEEN AS ACCOMMODATING LEGITIMATE SYRIAN CONCERNS. ABOVE ALL, WE NEED TO BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO LEBANON AND THE GEMAYEL GOVERNMENT.

- WE CANNOT WALK AWAY FROM THE AGREEMENT WE'VE JUST NEGOTIATED. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO PROMPT THE SYRIANS TO MOVE OUT. HERE AGAIN, WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE SIGNIFICANT CHANCES AND EVEN CERTAIN RISKS TO FORESTALL GREATER PROBLEMS AND RISKS SUCH AS ANOTHER WAR OR A GREATER SOVIET ROLE IN THE REGION.

- I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT I WELCOME INNOVATIVE IDEAS ON HOW WE MIGHT UNTIE THIS GORDIAN KNOT IN LEBANON. WITH EVERYONE ALREADY IN THE STARTING BLOCKS, WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO STOP THE RACE.

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