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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: George Bush
Director

Just before 7 o'clock on April 9th, I got a phone call from Ed Proctor telling me that 1000 of the 2000 Syrian troops crossed the Lebanese border from the Damascus/Beirut road. We had three separate reports of this and numbers were indefinite, but they were reported to be Syrian troops. He used the word "uniformed" for one report. I then called, through the White House switchboard, Rumsfeld, Kissinger and Scowcroft and told them about this. I called Kissinger back, clarifying the word "uniformed." I gave no interpretation of this - Kissinger's reaction was it appears to be bad faith, why are they doing it?

At the end of that day, after getting other reports of this and having estimates here that the troop levels were up as high as 5000, I got a call from Oakley at the NSC indicating there might have been a little flap. Apparently, Kissinger called Dinitz and apparently our own NIO, Sam Hoskinson, had not shared the estimate that was conveyed to me by Proctor. I told Bob that when I have information like this called to me from our DDI, I felt I must convey it along. He said yes we should, but he felt Kissinger had gone off and called Dinitz without talking to his own people, and that they then had to call Dinitz to "calm him down."

I have the uneasy feeling that there was a difference between Hoskinson and Oakley on one hand and Proctor on the other. Later in the day I talked to Hoskinson and what I think I detected was the feeling that perhaps I should not have called these principals until there had been better coordination in the building, or in the whole community. My view is that when we get information of that kind, having been seized with it by the NSC meeting last week, I should notify them and I've told everybody that. I'm not sure how big a problem we have on this. Hoskinson and Oakley were telling me that this is something that the Syrians do every once in a while - go down to the customs house and take over. I told

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them yes, but never do they do this in the climate where Israel has been watching to see whether there will be any Syrian involvement under such tense conditions.

I am not sure I understand all the byplay, but it is worth keeping this personal private note.

George Bush

DCI/GB/dlg
Orig - EA/DCI