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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #6289-83
1 September 1983MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central IntelligenceFROM : [REDACTED]
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT : NIO Monthly Warning Assessments: August

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1. The reports on the NIO warning meetings are attached.
2. Comments on warning situation.

a. Lebanon

(1) The renewed fighting in late August poses the most serious threat to the survival of the Gemayel government since last fall. Collapse of the government, the assassination of Gemayel, or major Muslim defections from the Army would precipitate a showdown between the Christian Lebanese Forces and the Muslim-Druze coalition. Israeli withdrawal to the Awwali River will remove the only remaining restraint on a contest for control of the Shuf and a renewed partition of Beirut along the Green Line.

(2) The Syrians almost certainly will seize the opportunity to deepen their intervention in Lebanese politics. Syrian media have warned that "Syria cannot be neutral" when Israel and the Phalange militia are attempting to sharpen the polarization between Christian and Shia/Druze forces, and it may orchestrate the installation of a separatist regime based on the National Salvation Front formed by Druze leader Junblatt in late July. The Syrians may also exploit the chance to gain control over the port of Tripoli and to eliminate Palestinian forces loyal to Arafat in refugee camps outside the city.

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(4) If the Lebanese Forces appear to be losing in a showdown with Syrian-backed Shia and Druze forces, the Israeli government almost certainly will intervene to prevent a Christian defeat. This contingency would sharply increase the chances of renewed Israeli-Syrian hostilities, particularly if Assad pursues a deliberately provocative course in an attempt to force the U.S. and the Soviet Union to intervene to arrange a cease-fire and negotiations for a "comprehensive" Arab-Israeli settlement, including the return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

b. USSR-INF

(1) The Soviets are setting the stage for a new proposal ostensibly designed to break the impasse in the Geneva talks. Moscow's immediate objective will be to generate strong sentiment in Western Europe for a postponement of INF deployment. A new Soviet initiative may be announced in connection with the next round at Geneva that opens on 6 September or during Andropov's visit to Bulgaria in late October.

(2) The Soviets may couple a proposal for a mutual moratorium on INF deployments as long as the Geneva talks continue with further revisions of Andropov's December 1982 offer to reduce Soviet delivery vehicles and warheads to a level equal to that of Britain and France. Andropov's 26 August offer to "liquidate" all missiles the Soviets would reduce, including a "considerable number" of SS-20's, suggests that Moscow is preparing further gestures along this line, perhaps an offer to allow Britain and France to retain three missiles for each SS-20 in order to freeze warheads at 162 on each side.

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c. Iran-Iraq

(1) An Iraqi decision in the next three months to use five Super Etendards armed with Exocet missiles to attack Iranian shipping in the Gulf and Iranian oil facilities could trigger a dangerous escalation of the war. Although the Iraqi intent presumably would be to compel the U.S. and the Soviet Union to intervene to arrange a settlement, this gamble more likely would backfire by forcing Iran to carry out its threats to block oil exports from other Gulf states. The Iranians may conduct air strikes on other Gulf countries and/or mine the Straits of Hormuz.

d. Chad

(1) The de facto cease-fire and partition of the country have created a temporary and highly unstable situation. Qadhafi apparently is content to hold the northern third of the country while waiting for domestic pressures to induce the French to withdraw their personnel and aircraft.

(2) Habre cannot afford to acquiesce in the loss of the north, and he probably will initiate small unit raids on Goukoni and Libyan forces in the next few weeks. Such actions will trigger counteractions which probably will escalate into another test of strength in the next three months.

e. Central America

(1) The Salvadoran rebels appear to believe that the FDR's meetings with the government's Peace Commission in Bogota on 29 August and with Ambassador Stone in Costa Rica on 30 August represent a significant political breakthrough which implies de facto recognition of the FMLN-FDR as an equal and legitimate negotiating partner. FDR representatives described the Bogota talks as "historic" and made it clear that they intend to seek further meetings.

(2) FMLN-FDR political strategy probably is to exploit this dialogue to influence U.S. public and Congressional opinion. They may also believe that continuing contacts with the Peace Commission will eventually precipitate a rightist backlash in El Salvador that will

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weaken the government, divide the armed forces, and perhaps lead to a rightist coup attempt.

(3) FMLN-FDR strategy may also envisage further political initiatives, coordinated with the Sandinistas and Cubans, possibly including a proposal for negotiations to arrange a cease-fire and formal talks between the FMLN and the Salvadoran government.

f. Chile

(1) The government's strategy to keep the lid on, strengthen military support, and divide the opposition by making a number of concessions is vulnerable to leftist-instigated violence. The next major test probably will occur on 8 September, when opposition leaders plan a fifth day of national protest--the 10th anniversary of the overthrow of the Allende government.

(2) If these demonstrations result in casualties that exceed those of the clashes on 9-12 August, there would be heightened chances of a split in the armed forces that could lead to military pressure for Pinochet's resignation. The Navy and Air Force appear to be increasingly restive. Air Force Chief General Matthei called on 12 August for an "understanding" with the political parties and for a "political debate."

g. Pakistan

(1) Violent disturbances by the Pakistan People's Party have disrupted life throughout Sina Province and forced Army units to take control in several areas. If the movement spreads to the Punjab, the home of most of the Army, Zia's hold on power would be threatened.

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Attachments:

NIO/AF
NIO/EA
NIO/Narcotics
NIO/LA
NIO/NESA
NIO/USSR-EE
NIO/WE

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