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ON PAGE A 8

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WASHINGTON TALK

Briefing

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A New Job

William Perry, a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff adviser to Richard G. Lugar, the chairman, will assume new duties later this month as director of Latin American affairs on the National Security Council.

Described as "a solid, experienced professional," Mr. Perry will work under Raymond F. Burghardt, the senior director, as an Administration point man in the politically sensitive area of Latin American affairs.

Mr. Perry succeeds Philip G. Hughes, a Foreign Service professional who has moved to the State Department in the area of political and multilateral affairs.

Although Mr. Lugar has differed somewhat with President Reagan on foreign policy matters, Mr. Perry is expected to "work hard on behalf of the President's objectives" in Latin America, according to a Security Council staff member.

Another predecessor in that job, Constantine C. Menges, who once ruffled feathers in the foreign affairs apparatus because of undeviating, hard-line views, was "promoted" — some say shunted aside — and is now director of International Communications in National Security.