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23 June 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 23 June 1987 HPSCI Briefing

CIA Briefer:

ADDI Helgerson

ADDO [redacted]

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Congressmen Present:

Dwyer, Kastenmeier(chair),  
Kennelly, Lungren, McHugh, and  
Wilson

Subjects Briefed:

Persian Gulf: Military -  
Political Developments  
South Korean Political Situation  
Cambodia: Military -  
Political Developments  
Angolan Military Developments  
El Salvador: Military -  
Political Developments

Questions/Answers:

Kastenmeier:

**QUESTION:** In regard to El Salvador, do the guerrillas operating along the border also use Honduran territory? And if so, what is the Honduran policy on such use?

**ANSWER:** The guerrillas have used and continue to use Honduran territory along the border, particularly the areas in territorial dispute between the two countries. In addition, we know that some Red Cross and UN camps have been used by the guerrillas.

**QUESTION:** With respect to South Korea, what are the prospects for solving the political problems, and what impact will the demonstration have on the Olympic Games?

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**ANSWER:** The Olympic Games are very important to the Koreans politically, economically and for their national prestige. Violence could undermine the games, but we believe every effort will be made to ensure that they will go on as planned.

**QUESTION:** Is it true that the unrest seems to be fueled by the students and not by the population at large?

**ANSWER:** The protests have been sustained primarily by the students but they have had support from religious and opposition groups and in recent weeks increasingly by the general population. There is only limited active popular support for the two Kims. It is not clear who controls whom in the streets or could end the current turmoil.

Lungren:

**QUESTION:** Do the Olympic Games provide any leverage for ending the protests? And would excessive suppression of the demonstrators lead to a withdrawal of teams from the Games?

**ANSWER:** The timing of the games is nonnegotiable and it is terribly important to the Koreans that the games go on as scheduled. Any government will go the extra mile to make things work and ensure that the games are not affected. So far foreign teams have not threatened to stay away.

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**QUESTION:** With respect to El Salvador, how well is Duarte doing today compared to critical press reporting six months ago?

**ANSWER:** Duarte has made dramatic progress in human rights but he has failed on the economic side. The country is facing high inflation, unemployment, declining export revenue, and an unhappy business community. He has cultivated and gained the support of the military which has been his big accomplishment. For US equities, he represents the best situation and he is not likely to be thrown out soon.

Kennelly

**QUESTION:** Have we seen any increased activity in North Korea in relation to current events in South Korea?

**ANSWER:** North Korea's reaction is notable by its inaction. They have been very reserved and they have not raised the Olympic Games issue. We have no evidence of agitators being infiltrated and, in fact, their numbers--over the last couple of years--have fallen off. The North Koreans apparently do not want to give Chun any ammunition to divert attention from his current problems.

**QUESTION:** The protestors in South Korea are referred to as radical students. Radical in what way? Are they Communist?

**ANSWER:** As best we can tell, most of the students are not Communists but there is a mixture of various leftist ideologies involved. The students are radical in the sense that they want immediate and basic changes in the political system.

ADDO. There is very little evidence of external influence.

McHugh:

**QUESTION:** What are the Syrians doing as a result of the Glass abduction?

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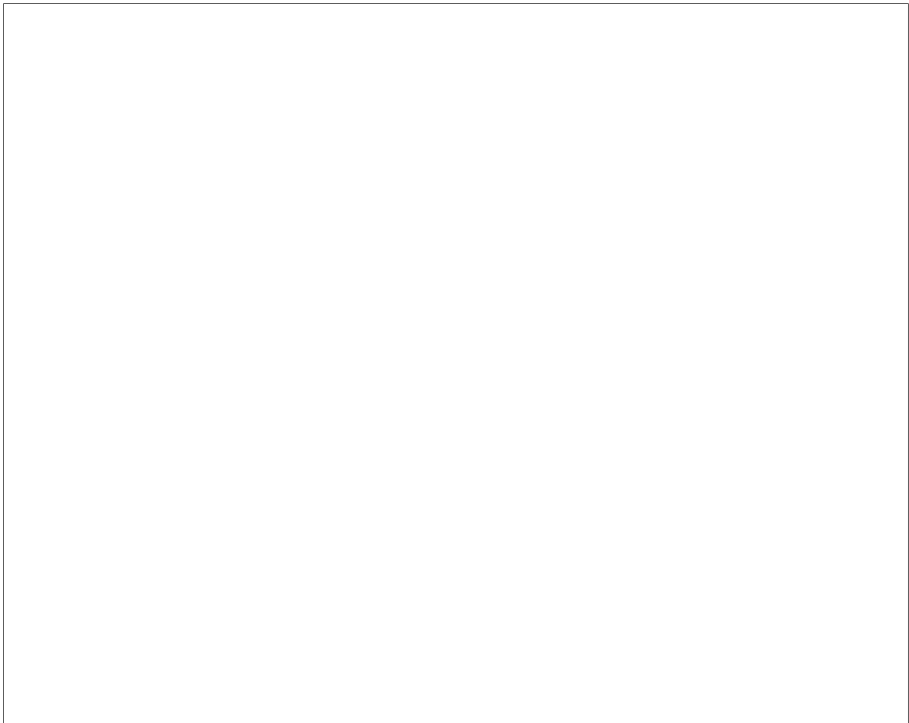
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**ANSWER:** ADDO. The Syrians have delivered another ultimatum but the Syrians are uncertain about what to do. It is possible they could start shelling the southern suburbs and attempt to move in militarily but this is doubtful because of the high human and political costs. They have done nothing effective and it is unlikely that Glass will be released. It is possible that the Defense Minister's son may be released.

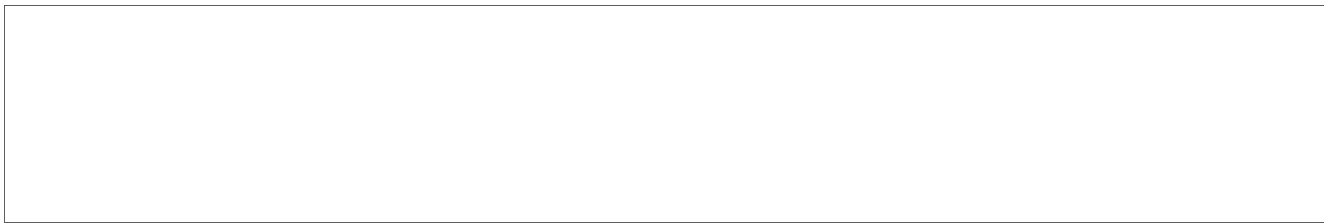
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**QUESTION:** How broad based is the opposition in Panama?

**ANSWER:** Not much has changed as a result of the recent demonstrations and state of emergency. Noriega is greatly unpopular with the populace and he has mishandled the economy. However, he has the backing of the National Guard. He is a ruthless leader and he is unlikely to change his ways. We have no information of any military opposition.

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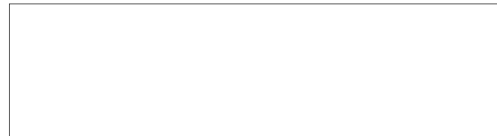
Kastenmeier

**QUESTION:** Is Angola likely to achieve its military objectives against UNITA?

**ANSWER:** The pending Angolan offensive will not be definitive. We have seen them gradually pushing into UNITA-held territory. We expect South Africa will react to any major Angolan advance into the area near Mavinga but the reaction is not likely to be a direct confrontation. It will likely be executed in the southwest under the guise of an anti-SWAPO operation.



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