



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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*Thursday
23 September 1982*

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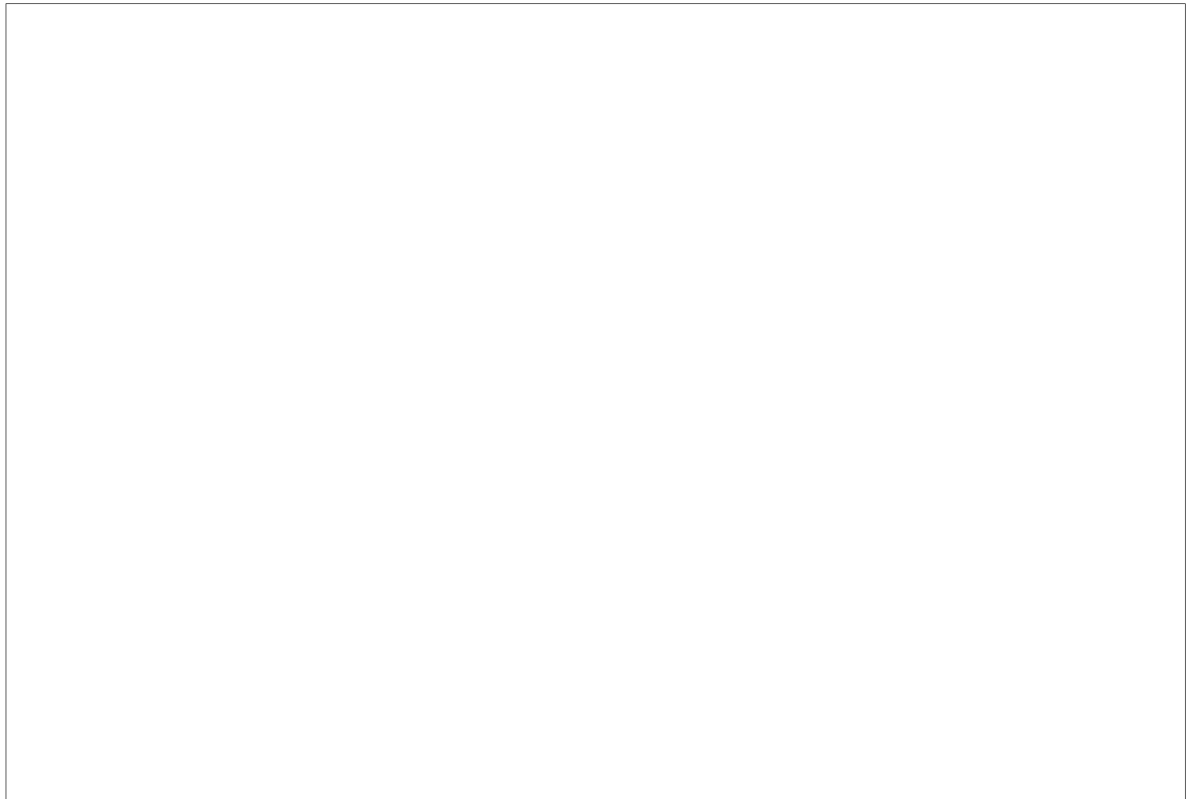


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② ISRAEL: Controversy Continues

Prime Minister Begin's success in defeating Labor-led motions in the Knesset yesterday will strengthen his conviction that he has enough support to ride out the controversy over the massacre. [Redacted]

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Begin defeated motions calling for an independent inquiry into the incident and criticizing the government's decision to enter West Beirut. One minister resigned from the cabinet after voting against the coalition, but the pivotal National Religious Party appears to have supported the government. [Redacted]

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Protests over the incident have spread to Israel's Arab population. According to press accounts, demonstrations against the government occurred yesterday in several predominantly Arab towns in the north and in Arab-populated areas of central and southern Israel. Police opened fire on some of the protestors, seriously wounding several of them. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Labor is clearly disappointed over its failure to attract more support, but it almost certainly will continue its effort to wean dissident coalition members from Begin in the hope of forming a new government. Even if Begin fell and Labor were asked to form a new government, however, a Labor coalition would be unstable because it probably would be dependent on the religious parties. [Redacted]

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Labor leaders support President Reagan's peace plan, but many of the prospective members of a Labor-dominated coalition would have reservations about the plan. This is particularly the case with the hawkish National Religious Party, which has traditionally opposed territorial compromise on the West Bank. [Redacted]

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