FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1982

REAGAN DENIES GIVING ISRAEL

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Haig reportedly accepted the Israeli view that such a signal would encourage the Palestine Liberation Organization to continue fighting and thus prolong the conflict in Lebanon.

But when he was asked about the Speakes' statement, Reagan replied: "I think also his (Speakes) not having heard the original -- the conversation between Prime Minister Begin and myself, that what he (Speakes) called a promise actually was in a discussion in which, to be more accurate, the Prime Minister had said to me, that they didn't want to (go into west Beirut), and that they had not wanted to from the beginning.'

The President refused to condemn the Israeli invasion into Lebanon, and stressed that "we were not warned or notified of the invasion." But he noted that "there had been a breaking of the cease - fire which has held for about 11 months" and for which he praised special U.S. envoy Philip Habib highly for establishing and helping to maintain. Reagan noted that "we have a situation in Lebanon, in which there was a force, the PLO, literally a government within a government, and with its own army. And they had pursued aggression themselves across the border by way of rocket firing and artillery barrages."

Earlier, State Department spokesman Dean Fischer emphasized the importance of "all parties observing the cease-fire so that the political dialogue can continue and further loss of life can be averted." He denied a report in the Sunday Times of London that Saudi Arabia had threatened the U.S. with an oil embargo and financial and diplomatic sanctions unless the

Israelis were persuaded to withdraw their for-ces surrounding Beirut. When asked to comment on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's charge that the U.S. revealed "a lack of firm-

ness" toward Israel in the Lebanese crisis, Fischer said he believed the U.S. and Egyptian governments "remain in basic accord on objectives in the Middle East."

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