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DESKBY 110830Z

FM WASHINGTON 110132Z NOV 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3383 OF 10 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE TO EC POSTS, UKMIS NEW YORK, CAIRO AND TEL AVIV

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 490 TO PARIS: SINAI FORCE

1. WE HAD A FURTHER MEETING WITH HAIG TODAY, FOLLOWING THE SAME FORMAT AS YESTERDAY (MY TELEGRAM NO 3363).

MIFT CONTAINS THE RECORD AGREED BY THE FOUR NOTETAKERS.

2. I SPOKE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT INSTRUCTIONS, CHANGING THE ORDER SO AS TO CONCLUDE BY FOCUSING ON THE NEW DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THE FOUR. HAIG IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT STATEMENT AND THAT HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH IT. HE SHOWED SOME UNEASE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS STATEMENT AND THE FULLER STATEMENTS TO BE MADE BY EACH GOVERNMENT IN EXPLANATION OF THEIR DECISION. HE WONDERED WHY ANY FURTHER STATEMENT WAS NECESSARY. HE APPEARED FINALLY TO ACCEPT THE EXPLANATION THAT THE FOUR GOVERNMENTS WOULD USE THE MATERIAL WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT IN EXPLAINING THE DECISION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT NATIONAL PRACTICE, TO THEIR PARLIAMENTS OR PUBLIC. BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE SHALL HEAR MORE FROM HIM ON THIS WHEN HE HAS THOUGHT ABOUT IT. I SENSED A CONCERN THAT ~~SOME~~^{FOUR} SIMILAR STATEMENTS MAY BE SEIZED ON BY THE ISRAELIS AS OVERRIDING THE STATEMENT COMMUNICATED TO THEM. (THERE WAS A SLIGHT AMBIGUITY BETWEEN THE FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH APPEARED TO ENVISAGE ABSOLUTELY IDENTICAL STATEMENTS, AND OUR OWN WHICH REFERRED TO USING THE WHOLE OF THE STATEMENT IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. IN EXPLAINING OUR INTENTIONS TO HAIG WE LEFT ROOM FOR SOME FLEXIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE FORM THOUGH NOT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATERIAL TO BE PRESENTED.)

3. HAIG'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS WITH THE PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THEN TEN, WHICH HE THOUGHT MIGHT UNDO THE GOOD EFFECT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE FOUR. HE AGAIN QUESTIONED WHY ANY STATEMENT OF THE TEN WAS NECESSARY AND ARGUED FOR A DELAY BEFORE PUBLICATION AND FOR ONE TEXTUAL CHANGE. (THE TEXTUAL CHANGE IS NOT VERY SIGNIFICANT (SEE MIFT) AND THE THREE AMBASSADORS AND I AGREED SUBSEQUENTLY TO RECOMMEND IT TO OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AS IT TENDS TO BRING THE STATEMENT OF THE TEN CLOSER INTO LINE WITH THE STATEMENT OF THE FOUR.) THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND I TOLD HAIG THAT WE SAW NO PROSPECT FOR DELAY BUT THAT WE WOULD REPORT HIS SUGGESTION. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR STRUCK A MORE EFFUSIVE NOTE AND TOLD US AFTERWARDS THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY HAIG'S CONCERN ON THIS POINT AND WOULD RECOMMEND DELAY TO ROME.

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4. HAIG WAS AGAIN VERY CALM AND EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS ONLY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO CARRY THE OPERATION FORWARD AND TO AVOID POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ISRAELIS WHICH COULD UNDO THE WHOLE EFFORT AND LEAD TO A MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. AFTER THE FORMAL DISCUSSION HAD ENDED HE COMMENTED THAT WE HAD MADE VERY GOOD PROGRESS TODAY.

5. THE ONLY IMMEDIATE OUTSTANDING QUESTION IS THEREFORE THE POSSIBLE TEXTUAL CHANGE IN THE STATEMENT OF THE TEN AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT COULD BE DELAYED AFTER THE ISSUE OF THE OTHER STATEMENTS. WE SHALL NEED FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS.

6. PLEASE ADVANCE TO PS/MR HURD FOR SIR N HENDERSON BY 0830 HOURS.

FRETWELL

[ADVANCED AS REQUESTED]

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MIPT : SINAI FORCE

1. FOLLOWING IS THE AGREED REPORT :

1. HEADS OF MISSION OF THE FOUR SAW SECRETARY HAIG THIS EVENING. THE BRITISH CHARGE SPOKE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREED INSTRUCTIONS.

2. HAIG SAID THAT THE REVISED STATEMENT OF THE FOUR WAS EXCELLENT. HE COULD NOT VISUALISE HOW ANYONE COULD TAKE OFFENCE AT IT. BUT HE HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE REST OF THE FOUR'S MESSAGE WHICH SEEMED LIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO THE SAME PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AS THE ORIGINAL STATEMENT OF THE FOUR.

3. HAIG STRESSED THAT WE WERE ALL FACING A COMMON PROBLEM. HE WAS ONLY OFFERING HIS BEST JUDGMENT OF WHAT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ISRAELIS WHILE TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTS OF ALL THOSE CONCERNED

4. ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL STATEMENTS THE FOUR HEADS OF MISSION EMPHASISED THAT ALL THE POINTS IN THE FOUR'S ORIGINAL DRAFT STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE. HAIG EXPRESSED SOME UNEASE, PARTICULARLY AT THE PROSPECT THAT THE SAME POINTS WOULD BE MADE IN ALL FOUR CAPITALS AND THAT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS MIGHT LEAD THE BRITISH TO GO FURTHER EVEN THAN THAT STATEMENT.

5. ON THE PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THE TEN HAIG COMMENTED THAT HE COULD NOT CONTEST THE FIRST SENTENCE. DESPITE BEGIN'S RECENT STATEMENT, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO INSIST THAT THE EC HAD THE RIGHT TO STICK TO THE VENICE DECLARATION. THE REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION WAS TROUBLESOME BUT LESS SO IN THIS CONTEXT. HOWEVER THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENT WAS UNNECESSARILY ABRASIVE. HE THEREFORE WISHED TO SUGGEST THAT IT SHOULD BE AMENDED BY THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WORDS QUOTE ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI UNQUOTE BY QUOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EGYPT/ISRAEL TREATY UNQUOTE.

6. HAIG MADE CLEAR HIS STRONG PREFERENCE THAT THERE BE NO STATEMENT AT ALL BY THE TEN. IF THERE HAD TO BE SUCH A STATEMENT HE HOPED THAT IT COULD BE AMENDED AS HE HAD PROPOSED AND THAT HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR A DELAY OF SOME TEN DAYS BETWEEN THE ISSUE OF THE STATEMENT OF THE FOUR AND THAT OF THE TEN COULD BE ACCEPTED. IS SUCH A DELAY WERE NOT POSSIBLE, AT LEAST HE HOPED THAT THE STATEMENT OF THE TEN WOULD BE AMENDED.

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7. HAIG COMMENTED THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE PRESSING FOR THE LATEST TEXT OF THE STATEMENT OF THE FOUR OF WHICH THEY HAD SEEN AN EARLIER VERSION. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THEIR LIKELY REACTION TO THE STATEMENT OF THE TEN. (IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE AMERICANS THOUGHT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD THIS TEXT) IN CONCLUSION HAIG SAID THAT HE REMAINED WORRIED BUT THAT GOOD PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

8. THE FOUR HEADS OF MISSION AGREED SUBSEQUENTLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE STATEMENT OF THE TEN BE AMENDED AS HAIG SUGGESTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WORDING WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE AMENDMENT ALREADY AGREED TO IN (1) OF THE STATEMENT OF THE FOUR.

2. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO PS/MR HURD (TO SHOW TO SIR N HENDERSON).

FRETWELL

[ADVANCED AS REQUESTED]

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