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FM TEL AVIV 080530Z JUN 81

TO FLASH F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 269 OF 8 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK BAGHDAD PARIS ROME

BONN UKDEL NATO AMMAN DAMASCUS

YOUR TELNO 96: ISRAEL ATTACK ON IRAQ

1. THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO CONFIRMATION HERE (0500Z.)
2. IN ORDERING THIS OPERATION BEGIN WILL HAVE HAD ELECTORAL ADVANTAGE UPPERMOST IN MIND. BUT THE ADVANTAGE WILL DEPEND ON THERE BEING NO SERIOUS ESCALATION OR COUNTER ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL, NOR ANY SERIOUS AMERICAN REACTION, AND THIS MUST BE HIS CALCULATION. (THERE WILL BE SOME EMBARRASSMENT AND CRITICISM HERE IF EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN KILLED, BUT NO VOTES LOST ON THAT ACCOUNT.)
3. EXTENSIVE CONTAMINATION COULD BACKFIRE ON BEGIN ELECTORALLY. BUT IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO ARE IN A POSITION TO ENSURE THAT THIS OPERATION FAILS IN ITS ELECTORAL PURPOSE. IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO AID AND ARM ISRAEL, AND WHO HAVE CONNIVED AT AND EVEN ENCOURAGED USE BY ISRAEL OF U.S. WEAPONS FOR AGGRESSIVE OPERATIONS. UNTIL THE AMERICANS PUT A STOP TO THIS, AS THEY CAN, ANY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER WILL BELIEVE HE CAN REPEAT SUCH OPERATIONS WITH IMPUNITY.

FCO PASS WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK BAGHDAD PARIS ROME BONN
UKDEL NATO AMMAN DAMASCUS.

ROBINSON

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PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR HURD

PS/PUS

SIR A ACLAND

MR BULLARD

SIR J GRAHAM

MR J C MOBERLY

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CABINET OFFICE

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[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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