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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 285 OF 16 JULY

INFO WASHINGTON CAIRO AND JERUSALEM

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CAIRO TELNO 446: EGYPT/ISRAEL

1. IT WAS SADAT'S TURN YESTERDAY. BEGIN'S OFFICE LAST NIGHT ISSUED A LENGTHY STATEMENT WHICH WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF SADAT AND WHICH WAS PROMPTED BY AN INTERVIEW WHICH SADAT HAD GIVEN TO THE READER'S DIGEST.
2. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE STATEMENT WERE THAT (A) SADAT WAS TRYING TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE; (B) UNLIKE SADAT, BEGIN HAD NO AUTHORITY ALONE TO ISSUE DIRECTIVES IN ORDER TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES ON AUTONOMY; (C) SADAT COULD ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON FULL AUTONOMY WITHIN A FEW DAYS OR HOURS BY INSTRUCTING HIS REPRESENTATIVES NOT TO MAKE PROPOSALS WHICH CONFLICTED WITH CAMP DAVID AND ENDANGERED ISRAEL'S SECURITY (IE ON THE STATUS OF EAST JERUSALEM; LEGISLATIVE POWERS FOR THE SGA; THE NATURE AND POWERS OF IDF FORCES IN THE AUTONOMOUS AREA); (D) SADAT MUST NOT EXPECT BEGIN TO RENOUNCE HIS BELIEF THAT ERETZ ISRAEL WAS THE LAND OF HIS FATHERS.
3. FULL TEXT BY BAG.
4. THIS IS THE SHARPEST ATTACK ON SADAT FOR SOME MONTHS. BEGIN IS USING EVERY OPPORTUNITY, IN ANTICIPATION OF ISRAEL'S ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR, TO BUILD UP HIS POSITION AS DEFENDER OF THE FAITH AND THE BEST GUARDIAN OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

ROBINSON

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