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Prime Minister

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FM TEL AVIV 131135Z JUN 79  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 270 OF 13 JUNE  
INFO CAIRO AMMAN AND WASHINGTON

and

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EGYPT/ISRAEL

1. THE ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMONED AMBASSADORS TO A BRIEFING THIS MORNING, 13 JUNE. HE REMARKS TO US WERE IDIOSYNCRATIC, WITH OVER TONES OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME ON 31 MAY (MY TELS 250 AND 251).
2. MR DAYAN SAID THAT HE HAD HAD TWO PURPOSES IN MIND IN SUMMONING US. THE FIRST WAS TO PUT TO US A SUGGESTION FOR TRANSMISSION TO OUR GOVERNMENTS. HE WAS AWARE THAT MANY OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED ROUND THE TABLE BELIEVED THAT THE BEST FORMULA FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE STILL LAY IN A RETURN TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. (IT SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME CLEAR THAT THIS POINT OF VIEW HAD BEEN EMPHATICALLY PRESSED UPON HIM BY A RECENT VISITING ROUMANIAN DELEGATION, WITH WHOM HE SAID HE HAD HAD FRANK TALKS). HE WANTED TO PUT IT TO US THAT EVENTS HAD MOVED ON, AND THE THE GENEVA FORMULA WAS NOW BOTH OUT OF DATE AND IRRELEVANT. THE PEACE TREATY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT WAS A FACT, AND FUTURE IDEAS ABOUT HOW BEST TO PROGRESS MUST START FROM THAT FACT. HE WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM ANY GOVERNMENT ABOUT HOW PROGRESS MIGHT BEST BE ACHIEVED, (CF MY TEL NO 250, PARA 1): BUT URGED THAT SUCH SUGGESTIONS SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION NOW.
3. MR DAYAN SAID THAT HIS SECOND PURPOSE WAS TO LET US KNOW THAT THE PEACE TREATY WITH EGYPT WAS WORKING EXCELLENTLY. HIS MEETINGS WITH THE EGYPTIANS TEN DAYS AGO ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION HAD GONE BETTER THAN HIS WILDEST HOPES. HE HAD IN PARTICULAR FEARED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WOULD BE AWKWARD ABOUT THE POSITION OF EGYPTIAN CITIZENS LIVING EAST OF THE NEW EL ARISH/RAS MUHAMMAD BOUNDARY: BUT IN FACT THEY HAD WANTED THIS "FRONTIER" TO BE CLOSED, AND ACCEPTED THE CONSEQUENCES THEREOF FOR THEIR OWN CITIZENS...
4. FINALLY, AS HE HAS DONE TO ME IN PRIVATE, MR DAYAN WAXED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY TYOQUENT ABOUT HIS ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION BY

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THE EGYPTIAN MAN IN THE STREET. HE BELIEVED THAT THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE WERE AS PREPARED AS THEIR LEADERS TO MAKE THE TREATY WORK AND TO ACHIEVE FULL NORMALISATION. HE HIMSELF FELT AS MUCH AT HOME IN EGYPT, AFTER TWO SHORT VISITS, AS HE DID IN ANY OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRY.

5. WHEN HE INVITED QUESTIONS, MR DAYAN WAS PREDICTABLY ASKED ABOUT THE AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS IN ALEXANDRIA EARLIER THIS WEEK. THE ONLY TIME THAT HE WAS ASKED A QUESTION (ABOUT THE UNITED STATES ROLE) WHICH HE COULD NOT ANSWER FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS, HE HEDGED AND SAID THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DR BURG, THE LEADER OF THE ISRAELI TEAM.

MASON

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