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FM WASHINGTON 280042Z NOV 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3600 OF 27 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, ROME, THE HAGUE, TEL AVIV

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 1802: SINAI FORCE

1. HAIG TELEPHONED FRETWELL THIS EVENING, IN MY ABSENCE. HE SAID HE HAD SPENT A LONG HARD DAY WORKING OUT A JOINT STATEMENT WITH SHAMIR. THEY HAD FINALLY AGREED A DRAFT, WHICH WAS AD REFERENDUM TO THE ISRAELI CABINET. HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GIVE US THE DRAFT BEFORE IT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE ISRAELI CABINET ON SUNDAY, BUT HE DID NOT THINK WE WOULD HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH IT.

2. HAIG SAID THAT THE COMMENTS IN YOUR MESSAGE OF LAST NIGHT HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO HIM. THE JOINT US/ISRAELI STATEMENT WOULD DERIVE LARGELY FROM THEM. THE STATEMENT WOULD EXPLAIN THAT THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE US AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS ON THE ONE HAND AND THOSE EXPRESSED IN THE STATEMENTS OF THE FOUR CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES ON THE OTHER, BUT THERE WOULD BE NO CRITICISM OF ANY SPECIFIC ELEMENT OF THE FOUR STATEMENTS. THE US WOULD EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAELI CONCERN ABOUT THE STATEMENTS, RECOGNISING THAT SOME ASPECTS WERE AT VARIANCE WITH US AND ISRAELI POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. THE STATEMENT WOULD TAKE UP POINTS FROM YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT NOT HAVING ATTACHED POLITICAL CONDITIONS, LINKED WITH VENICE OR OTHERWISE, TO PARTICIPATION IN THE FORCE ETC.

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3. HAIG CONCLUDED BY REITERATING HIS GRATITUDE FOR YOUR TIMELY INTERVENTION. HE WAS EVIDENTLY CONCERNED TO REASSURE US ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT STATEMENT. HE NOTED THAT IT MIGHT POSSIBLY REAPPEAR HERE IN LESS AGREEABLE FORM AFTER SUBMISSION TO THE ISRAELI CABINET, BUT THOUGHT THAT AFTER TODAY'S EFFORTS WE WERE NEAR TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THIS LONG EXERCISE.

4. WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS OF THE DRAFT.

HENDERSON

STANDARD

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MAED
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ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE

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