

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 426 OF 6TH JULY

FOR INFO PRIORITY EEC POSTS CAIRO TEL AVIV DAMASCUS BEIRUT
WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK AMMAN AND BAGHDAD.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S TALKS WITH GROMYKO 6 JULY:

MIDDLE EAST.

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY.

1. LORD CARRINGTON EXPLAINED THE APPROACH OF THE TEN TO THE ARAB/ISRAEL PROBLEM. MATTERS HAD BECOME MORE COMPLICATED RECENTLY WITH THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE IRAQI NUCLEAR REACTOR AND THE REELECTION OF BEGIN. IT WAS NECESSARY TO GO FORWARD ON THE BASIS THAT SOME SETTLEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE. BUT LORD CARRINGTON QUOTED THE ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARK THAT PERHAPS THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE WERE NOT YET IN THE RIGHT POSITION TO MAKE A SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE. CERTAINLY THE PROSPECTS FOR A CONFERENCE AS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT LOOK GOOD.

2. GROMYKO TOOK A LINE STRONGLY CRITICAL OF ISRAEL AND OF THE UNITED STATES. BEGIN AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAD QUOTE CROSSED OUT ANY REASONABLE APPROACH UNQUOTE. THEY WERE EVIDENTLY NOT

UNITED STATES. BEGIN AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAD QUOTE CROSSED OUT ANY REASONABLE APPROACH UNQUOTE. THEY WERE EVIDENTLY NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT COEXISTENCE WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS. THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACT IN THIS WAS IF THEY DID NOT HAVE A STRONG PATRON IN WASHINGTON. IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IT WAS VERY SURPRISING TO SEE A COUNTRY CLAIMING THE RIGHT TO ACT AS ISRAEL DID ON FOREIGN TERRITORY AND IN FOREIGN AIR SPACE. IF THE RULES WERE FOLLOWED, THE SECURITY COUNCIL OUGHT TO ADOPT SANCTIONS. BUT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT PERMIT THIS. AMERICAN CONDONED WHAT ISRAEL WAS DOING. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REMARK THAT ISRAEL MIGHT HAVE HAD GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION OF IRAQI MOTIVES WAS THE REAL VOICE OF AMERICAN POLICY.

3. AS TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE, GROMYKO SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN WELCOMED BY MOST ARAB COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH NOT BY ALL. THERE WAS A PROBLEM OVER THE POSITION OF EGYPT. BUT THREE YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS WERE BETTER THAN ONE DAY OF WAR, AND THIS MUST BE THE ROAD FORWARD.

4. LORD CARRINGTON AGREED THAT A CONFERENCE MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN THE END. BUT HE WAS DOUBTFUL IF THE TIME WAS RIPE. ISRAEL WOULD NOT JOIN BEFORE 1982 WHEN THE REST OF SINAI WAS DUE TO BE RETURNED, AND A CONFERENCE WITHOUT ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE VERY SATISFACTORY. THERE SHOULD HOWEVER BE SOME POLITICAL INITIATIVE BEFORE LONG IN ORDER TO KEEP THE SITUATION FLUID. OTHERWISE THE ARABS WOULD CONCLUDE THAT ISRAEL HAD GOT AWAY WITH SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PERMITTED.

5. BULLARD BRIEFED COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING.

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