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FM TEL AVIV 050850Z JUN'81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 267 OF 5 JUNE

INFO PRIORITY CAIRO WASHINGTON DAMASCUS ROUTINE BEIRUT AMMAN

MIPT: BEGIN/SADAT MEETING

1. BEGIN (THIS WAS "ONE OF THE GOOD DAYS IN MY LIFE") WAS CLEARLY DELIGHTED BY THIS MEETING WHICH ENABLED HIM TO ENLIST SADAT PUBLICLY IN THE ANTI-ASAD CAMP OVER THE LEBANON PROBLEM AND GAVE HIM THE REASSURANCES HE WANTED ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE CAMP DAVID PROCESS DESPITE RECENT EVENTS. THIS WILL ALL HELP TO STRENGTHEN HIM ELECTORALLY (FOR HIM THE MAIN AIM OF THE EXERCISE).
2. IT IS HARDER TO SEE WHAT SADAT GAINED. NEGOTIATIONS OVER BUILDINGS COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT LOWER LEVELS. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN SUGGESTED HERE (MYTEL NO 249) THAT SADAT MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT BEGIN WILL BE ISRAEL'S NEXT PRIME MINISTER, AND IT WOULD BE TO SADAT'S ADVANTAGE TO HELP BEGIN. SADAT MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN SOME UNDERTAKING ON ACCELERATED ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IF BEGIN FORMS THE NEXT GOVERNMENT. BUT THIS IS SPECULATION.

ROBINSON

MIDDLE EAST STANDARD

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