

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

PS

PS/SIR I. GILMOUR

PS/HR HORD

PS/PUS

SIR A PARSONS

J C HOBERLY

Mr. Flanagan

Mr. Sullivan

HD/NENAD

HD/MED

HD/UND

HD/OID

(2)

HD/IPD

(K.C.O. (2))

.....

PUSD

(2)

NEWS D

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TEL AVIV 201220Z JUN 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 290 OF 20 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS CAIRO AND WASHINGTON

IMMEDIATE

MIPT:

FOLLOWING IS TEXT, IN THE ORIGINAL ENGLISH:

THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TOTALLY REJECTS THE MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF JUNE 18TH AND VIEWS IT AS INJURIOUS TO THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE AREA AND TO THE SEARCH FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CAN ONLY DISCOURAGE THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES OF ALL THE VARIOUS ISSUES INVOLVED IN AUTONOMY AND THE FUTURE OF JUDAEA, SAMARIA AND THE GAZA DISTRICT.

IT HAD BEEN OUR HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WOULD GIVE ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ISRAEL EGYPT PEACE TREATY AND TO THE ARDUOUS NEGOTIATIONS UPON WHICH WE ARE NOW EMBARKED. HOWEVER, AFTER THE NEW STATEMENT, I CAN ONLY ASK YOU TO WEIGH MOST CAREFULLY THE GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSEQUENCES OF ATTEMPTS TO PREJUDICE AND DICTATE FROM WITHOUT THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. STRENGTHENING THE FORCES AND

IMMEDIATE

24

NO 10 DOWNING STREET (2)
CABINET OFFICE SIR J HUNT
CABINET OFFICE DIO

ASK YOU TO WEIGH MOST CAREFULLY THE GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSEQUENCES OF ATTEMPTS TO PREJUDICE AND DICTATE FROM WITHOUT THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, STRENGTHENING THE FORCES AND POSITIONS COMMITTED TO THEIR FAILURE AND THEREBY CAUSING IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE HOPES OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ARE, IN OUR OPINION, STRICTLY IN ACCORD WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND WE KNOW OF NO RULE OF LAW WHICH COULD FEASIBLY BAN JEWS FROM LIVING IN JUDAEA, SAMARIA AND GAZA DISTRICT. NOT A SINGLE ARAB HAS BEEN DISPLACED BY THESE SETTLEMENTS. ON THE CONTRARY, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS IN THE AREAS HAS BROUGHT WITH IT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF EMPLOYMENT TO THE ARAB INHABITANTS OF THESE AREAS.

DESPITE THE STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND MANY OTHER OBSTACLES IN OUR PATH, ISRAEL WILL DO ITS BEST TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE HOPE OF ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS - BOTH IN LETTER AND IN SPIRIT.

ENDS.

MASON

NNNN

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

23

2

PS
PS/SIR I. GILMOUR
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
MR A PARSONS
MR J C MOBERLY

NO 10 ~~DOWNING STREET~~ (2)
CABINET OFFICE, SIR J HUNT
CABINET OFFICE DIO

HD/RENAD
HD/MED
HD/UND
HD/OID (2)
HD/IPD

UD. (L.F.D.) E. 2

IMMEDIATE

Prime Minister
B.W.
20/6

.....
PUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TEL AVIV 201215Z JUN 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 289 OF 20 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE UKRE BRUSSELS, WASHINGTON AND CAIRO

YOUR TEL NO 206: EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT

1. PREDICTABLY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS THIS MORNING, 20 JUNE, SUMMONED SEPARATELY EACH COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR, STARTING WITH THE FRENCH, IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE IDENTICAL LETTERS FROM THE ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTER TO EACH FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE COMMUNITY. (TEXT IN MIFT.) ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT CERTAIN, SASSON THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THE TEXT OF LETTERS WOULD BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS. THE FACT OF THEIR EXISTENCE ALREADY HAS BEEN.

2. IN SUPPORT OF MR DAYAN'S LETTER, SASSON SPOKE IN FAMILIAR TERMS ABOUT THE MALADROIT CONTENTS AND TIMING OF THE COMMUNITY STATEMENT. DID THE COMMUNITY REALLY THINK THAT IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE? I REPLIED THAT THE COMMUNITY WERE AS CONCERNED AS ANYBODY TO SEE A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY WERE AT PRESENT EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT HELPFULLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROCESS. IF THEIR OWN STATEMENT TURNED OUT TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED NOTHING ITSELF, THIS WOULD BE BECAUSE ISRAEL HAD NOT TAKEN TO HEART ITS CONTENTS.

3. I ASKED WHETHER MR DAYAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE ISRAELI SETTLE-

3. I ASKED WHETHER MR DAYAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS WERE STRICTLY IN ACCORD WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW WAS BASED ON THE RECENT SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT, OF WHICH MR BEGIN GAVE THE PRIME MINISTER A COPY DURING HIS VISIT LAST MONTH. WHEN SASSON RATHER RELUCTANTLY INDICATE THAT IT WAS I DEALT WITH THE IRRELEVANCE OF THE JUDGMENT, AND THEN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICE, FIRST, THE ISRAEL LEGISLATURE'S FAILURE TO TRANSFORM THE RELEVANT PARTS OF THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTION FROM CONVENTIONAL INTO CUSTOMARY LAW; AND SECOND, THE FACT THAT THE SUPREME COURT'S JUDGMENT WAS BASED ON ISRAEL'S SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, WHICH THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE HIMSELF HAD SAID DID NOT APPLY IN THE LATEST CASE OF ELON MOREH. (AT THE TIME, NEITHER SASSON NOR I UNFORTUNATLY KNEW OF THE SUPREME COURT'S REJECTION OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S SUBMISSION TO THE CONTRARY ON WHICH WE SHALL BE REPORTING TOMORROW AFTER THE DEBATE NOW GOING ON IN THE KNESSET ON THE COURT'S DECISION HAS CONCLUDED.)

4. SASSON MADE THE POINT, TO WHICH ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE ATTACHED, THAT IT WAS THE COMMUNITY RATHER THAN THE EGYPTIANS WHO WERE MAKING ALL THE FUSS ABOUT SETTLEMENTS. I DID NOT FEEL ABLE TO DRAW ON THE CONTENTS OF PARA 2 OF YOUR TELNO 256 TO CAIRO (NOT TO ALL), AND THEREFORE LET THE POINT GO BY DEFAULT.

5. SASSON WAS ENTIRELY AT HIS EASE WHILE DETAILING THE COMMUNITY'S SHORT-COMINGS, BUT BY NO MEANS AS HAPPY DEFENDING ISRAEL'S PRESENT STANCE. UNUSUALLY FOR THE ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTRY, THERE WAS A NOTE TAKER PRESENT, SO MY ANIMADVERSIONS WILL AT LEAST HAVE BEEN PLACED ON RECORD.

MASON

IMMEDIATE

NNNN