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DESKBY 041300Z PARIS, ROME AND THE HAGUE.  
FM FCO 041700Z DEC  
TO IMMEDIATE PARIS  
TELNO 543 OF 4 DEC  
AND TO ROME, THE HAGUE,  
INFO WASHINGTON, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, UKMIS NEW YORK,  
OTHER EC POSTS.

M I P T: SINAI.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SHAMIR'S LETTER:

"DEAR SECRETARY OF STATE,

I AM IN RECEIPT OF YOUR COMMUNICATION OF THE 22ND OF  
NOVEMBER 1981, CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF A BRITISH  
CONTINGENT IN THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS IN SINAI (MFO).

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S. AND ISRAEL  
HAVE RECENTLY HELD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS, AS A RESULT OF  
WHICH A JOINT U.S. -ISRAEL STATEMENT WAS PUBLISHED TODAY, A  
COPY OF WHICH I ATTACH.

IN ENDORSING THE JOINT STATEMENT BY THE U.S. AND ISRAEL,  
THE ISRAELI CABINET ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION WHICH I  
HAVE THE HONOUR TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION:

"THE CABINET DECIDED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT PROPOSAL OF  
THE JOINT U.S.-ISRAEL STATEMENT REGARDING THE CONDITIONS  
FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS.

"THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL COMMUNICATE THE JOINT STATEMENT  
TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES  
WHICH EXPRESSED THEIR READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
MFO AND WILL ASK THEM TO CONFIRM THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF  
THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE JOINT STATEMENT."

I TRUST THAT YOU WILL APPRISE ME OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF THESE PRINCIPLES.

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*h.a.*  
*m/n.*  
*m*

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I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ISRAEL  
IN THE NEW YEAR AND AWAIT THE ARRANGEMENT OF A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT  
DATE THROUGH OUR AMBASSADORS.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

YITZHAK SHAMIR  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS"

CARRINGTON

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OO PARIS DESKBY 041800Z

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DESKBY PARIS, THE HAGUE AND ROME 041800Z

FROM FCO 041400 DECEMBER 81

TO IMMEDIATE PARIS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 547 OF 4 DECEMBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE ROME, THE HAGUE,

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, UKMIS NEW YORK, OTHER

EC POSTS

SINAI

1. MIFT CONTAINS THE TEXT OF SHAMIR'S LETTER. WE ASSUME THAT LETTERS IN THE SAME TERMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE OTHER THREE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTORS. IT IS DISAPPOINTING THAT US ASSURANCES THAT WE WOULD NOT BE CALLED UPON TO RESPOND TO THE US/ISRAELI JOINT STATEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN BORNE OUT. SHAMIR'S CAREFUL REFERENCE TO QUOTE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT UNQUOTE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE STATEMENT DOES NOT OVERRIDE THE CABINET DECISION TO ASK US TO CONFIRM OUR QUOTE ACCEPTANCE UNQUOTE. OF THE PRINCIPLES.

2. OUR AIM IS TO GET THIS ISSUE OUT OF THE WAY ONCE AND FOR ALL, WHILE AVOIDING A REPLY TO SHAMIR WHICH WOULD IN ANY WAY SUGGEST ENDORSEMENT ON OUR PART OF THE TERMS OF THE US/ISRAELI JOINT STATEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT A REPLY CAN BE DEvised WHICH MEETS US AND ISRAELI REQUIREMENTS WHILE PRESERVING OUR POSITION SUFFICIENTLY. WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE THREE REPLYING TO SHAMIR IN THE SAME TERMS.

3. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED REPLY, WHICH COULD BE ADAPTED AS NECESSARY TO SUIT NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU SHOULD SHOW THIS TO HOST GOVERNMENTS DRAWING ON THE ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE AND AS FOR THEIR COMMENTS. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO SEND A REPLY TO SHAMIR BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK, AFTER CONSULTING THE AMERICANS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE REPLIES IN THE COURSE OF MONDAY 7 DECEMBER IF POSSIBLE. PARIS SHOULD DO THEIR BEST TO ENSURE THAT CHEYSSON SEES THE DRAFT BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR ISRAEL

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BEGIS: I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF 3 DECEMBER. I NOTE THE VIEWS OF THE US AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS EXPRESSED IN THE STATEMENT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED ON 3 DECEMBER, A COPY OF WHICH YOU ENCLOSED.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS INVITED BY THE US GOVERNMENT, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS IN SINAI IN A LETTER FROM MR HAIG TO ME OF 2 SEPTEMBER. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S FORMAL REPLY TO THIS REQUEST, EXPRESSING READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORCE, WAS CONVEYED IN MY LETTER TO MR HAIG OF 21 NOVEMBER, OF WHICH I SENT YOU A COPY UNDER COVER OF MY LETTER OF 22 NOVEMBER. OUR AGREEMENT WAS MADE PUBLIC IN A STATEMENT OF 23 NOVEMBER. IN A SUBSEQUENT LETTER TO MR HAIG ON 26 NOVEMBER, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS AGREED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF FRANCE, ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS, I CONFIRMED THAT QUOTE NEITHER THE FOUR NOR THE TEN HAVE ANY INTENTION OF SEEKING TO PUT ANY GLOSS ON THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY EGYPT AND ISRAEL, STILL LESS ON THE EGYPT/ISRAEL PEACE TREATY ITSELF ..... WE ALL RECOGNISE THAT THE FUNCTION OF THE MFO IS AS DEFINED IN THE RELEVANT EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI AGREEMENTS, NO MORE AND NO LESS UNQUOTE. THAT REMAINS THE POSITION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. WE ARE READY TO DISCUSS WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FORCE THE VARIOUS LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARISE AND UPON WHICH AGREEMENT WILL BE NECESSARY. ENDS

4. WE SHALL NOT BE SEEKING PUBLICITY, AND WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THE LESS SAID THE BETTER. IF ASKED, WE SHALL SAY ONLY THAT WE ARE STUDYING THE ISRAELI COMMUNICATION BUT WE MAY HAVE TO ADD IF PRESSED THAT OUR POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE REMAINS AS STATED

CARRINGTON

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