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FM WASHINGTON 280100Z OCT 89

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 4406 OF 28 OCTOBER

INFO TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, BEIRUT, CAIRO, UKMIS NEW YORK,

JERUSALEM AND MODUK

INFO SAVING BAGHDAD AND JEDDA.

YOUR TELNO 200 TO TEL AVIV: GOLAN

1. KORN, DIRECTOR, ISRAEL AND ARAB-ISRAELI AFFAIRS, STATE DEPARTMENT, TOLD US TODAY, IN CONFIDENCE, THAT AS WELL AS THE US AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON BEGIN ON 22 OCTOBER, THE US CHARGE IN TEL AVIV HAD TODAY DELIVERED A STRONG ORAL MESSAGE TO BEGIN FROM MUSKIE, WARNING THAT ANNEXATION OF GOLAN WOULD DO QUOTE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO RESOLUTION 242 UNQUOTE. KORN WAS FRANK ABOUT THE DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES WHICH ISRAELI ACTION COULD CAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THIS LAST FEW DAYS BEFORE 4 NOVEMBER. IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A BILL TO ANNEX GOLAN TO BE RUSHED THROUGH THE KNESSET THIS WEEK, EVEN IF ANYONE WANTED THAT. BUT THEY HAD JUST HEARD THAT THE LABOUR PARTY APPARENTLY INTENDED TO TABLE A DRAFT BILL OF THEIR OWN. THIS MIGHT BE NO MORE THAN A MANIFESTATION OF PERES' STRUGGLE WITH RABIN. BUT IF BY ANY CHANCE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ACTION ON GOLAN (EG SOME DECLARATION BY BEGIN) THIS WEEK WERE TO LEAD TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION KORN PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT, IN SPITE OF THE JEWISH VOTE, PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT VETO A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANNEXATION. KORN THOUGHT IT MORE LIKELY THAT (LIKE THE MOVE OF HIS OFFICE TO E. JERUSALEM) BEGIN WOULD USE GOLAN ANNEXATION AS A THREAT TO BE BROUGHT OUT AT INTERVALS.

2. AS BACKGROUND KORN SAID THAT THE US EMBASSY AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ALTERNATELY OPTIMISTIC AND PESSIMISTIC ON THIS QUESTION. AFTER LINOWITZ'S TRIP AT THE END OF AUGUST THE DANGER SEEMED TO HAVE RECEDED. MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET OF ALL PARTIES WHOM THE US EMBASSY HAD CANVASSED HAD VIRTUALLY ALL DEPLORED THE PROSPECT OF A BILL GOING FORWARD THOUGH RELUCTANT INDIVIDUALLY TO BE SEEN TO BLOCK IT. WHAT THEN ALARMED THE AMERICANS WAS BEGIN'S OWN REFUSAL TO COMMIT HIMSELF IN RESPONSE TO AMERICAN PLEAS.

13. WE TOLD

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3. WE TOLD KORN IN CONFIDENCE THAT MR HURD HAD SPOKEN ABOUT GOLAN TO THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. HE SAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD ALSO MADE A DEMARCHE AND VERY LIKELY THE FRENCH TOO. HE BELIEVED THAT ALTHOUGH RELUCTANT TO ADMIT IT THE ISRAELIS FELT THAT THE EAST JERUSALEM AFFAIR HAD TURNED OUT TO BE A SETBACK. THIS MIGHT HELP RESTRAIN BEGIN OVER GOLAN.

FCO PASS SAVING BAGHDAD AND JEDDA.

HENDERSON

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

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