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FM FCO 081800Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE PARIS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 563 OF 9 DECEMBER
AND TO IMMEDIATE ROME, THE HAGUE
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON.

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, CAIRO, UKMIS NEW YORK, OTHER EC POSTS
MIPT: SINAI FORCE

1. FOLLOWING IS REVISED TEXT:

BEGINS. 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.

2. 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. I SUBSEQUENTLY WROTE TO MR HAIG ON 26 NOVEMBER A LETTER THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS AGREED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF FRANCE, ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS. IN IT I CONFIRMED AS THE JOINT US-ISRAEL STATEMENT NOTES, 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 WE HAVE ATTACHED NO POLITICAL CONDITIONS, LINKED TO VENICE OR OTHERWISE, TO OUR PARTICIPATION. WE COULD NOT OF COURSE ACCEPT AN ISRAELI CONDITION THAT WOULD PREVENT US FROM PURSUING OUR OWN WIDER

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MIDDLE EAST POLICY. UNQUOTE THAT REMAINS THE POSITION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. WE ARE READY TO DISCUSS AS APPROPRIATE THE VARIOUS LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARISE AND UPON WHICH AGREEMENT WILL BE NECESSARY. ENDS

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FROM FCO 092001Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE PARIS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 562 OF 9 DECEMBER.

AND TO IMMEDIATE ROME, THE HAGUE.

REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PRIORITY CAIRO, TEL AVIV, UKMIS NEW YORK, OTHER EC POSTS.

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SINAI FORCE.

1. AS HAIG IS DUE IN ISRAEL THIS COMING WEEKEND AND REGARDS HIS VISIT AS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE AN END TO THESE EXCHANGES, THE AMERICANS ARE PRESSING US FOR A RESPONSE TO THE US-ISRELI STATEMENT. THE FRENCH, ALONE OF THE THREE, HAVE NOT YET REPLIED.

2. A COMMON POSITION AMONG THE FOUR MAY BE EASIER TO ESTABLISH ON THE BASIS OF ONE OR TWO AMANDMENTS TO THE DRAFT TEXT GIVEN IN MY TELNO 547. IN PARTICULAR, THE FRENCH SHOULD BE CONTENT WITH THE PROPOSAL (FROM THE DUTCH) TO OMIT THE WORDS QUOTE WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FORCE UNQUOTE IN THE LAST SENTENCE. THIS ALLOWS THE FOUR GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND CAN BE EXPLAINED TO THE AMERICANS IN TERMS OF THE NEED FOR A SPEEDY RESPONSE. THE WORDS QUOTE AS APPROPRIATE UNQUOTE COULD BE SUBSTITUTED.

3. THE OTHER AMENDMENTS ARE:

(A) THE INSERTION OF THE WORDS QUOTE AS THE JOINT US-ISRAELI STATEMENT NOTES UNQUOTE IN THE PASSAGE DESCRIBING MY LETTER OF 26 NOVEMBER TO HAIG, WHICH ADDS NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE BUT OFFERS A NOTE OF REASSURANCE TO THE ISRAELIS: AND

(B) THE ADDITION OF TWO FUTHER SENTENCES FROM PARARAPH 4 OF MY LETTER OF 26 NOVEMBER WHICH REFER TO OUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT SETTING CONDITIONS (QUOTE WE HAVE ATTACHED.... MIDDLE EAST POLICY). THE FIRST IS AS PROPOSED BY VELIOTES (WASHINGTON TELNO 3704). THE SECOND IS AN ESSENTIAL BALANCE TO IT, WITHOUT WHICH THE IMPRESSION WILL BE LEFT THAT WE ARE DISTANCING OURSELVES FROM VENICE. EITHER BOTH THESE SENTENCES SHOULD BE ADDED OR NEITHER.

4. FULL REVISED TEXT OF DRAFT REPLY IS IN MIFT. PLEASE SEEK EARLY COMMENTS FROM THE THREE.

CARRINGTON.

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