

GR 270

UNCLASSIFIED

FM TEL AVIV 140800Z OCT 80

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 486 OF 14 OCTOBER

INFO AMMAN BAGHDAD WASHINGTON AND CAIRO

INFO SAVING TO EC POSTS, BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS

MY TEL NO 475 AND AMMAN TELNO 396: IRAN/IRAQ/ISRAEL

M

1. SHAMIR, TALKING TO HIS SENIOR OFFICIALS ON 13 OCTOBER AFTER HIS RETURN FROM EUROPE, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE EC INITIATIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS FADING FAST, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR. EUROPEAN OPINION WOULD FIND IT RIDICULOUS IF EC POLITICIANS WERE TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON THEIR INITIATIVE WHEN THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE GULF WAR. MOREOVER, THE ARGUMENT THAT THE EC INITIATIVE FILLED A VACUUM CAUSED BY THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS WOULD SOON BE INOPERATIVE. BUT WHILE ISRAEL WAS SOMETIMES ESTRANGED AND ALIENATED IN EUROPE, SHE WAS ALMOST "PART OF THE FAMILY" IN THE US; ITS INTERESTS WERE SEEN AS AN ELECTORAL CONSIDERATION AND ITS POSITIONS AND VIEWS WERE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN US MIDDLE EAST POLICY.
2. SHAMIR IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HOWEVER THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR ENDED, IT WOULD BE TO ISRAEL'S DISADVANTAGE. WHICHEVER SIDE WON, IT WAS LIKELY TO BECOME THE MAJOR GULF POWER AND MORE OPENLY HOSTILE TO ISRAEL EVEN IF THERE WERE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THE TWO SIDES MIGHT LATER TURN ON ISRAEL TOGETHER.
3. PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE ARE NOW 43 SHIPS AT AQABA WITH CARGO FOR IRAQ (FOUR SOVIET, FOUR CUBAN, THREE RUMANIAN, TWO YUGOSLAV, ONE IRAQI, ONE SYRIAN AND THE REST, WEST EUROPEAN). THIS IS SAID TO BE THREE TIMES THE NORMAL NUMBER. THE CARGOES ARE REPORTED TO INCLUDE AMMUNITION, SPARE PARTS AND SUPPLIES, BUT NO (NO) HEAVY WEAPONS.

FCO PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES

ROBINSON

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

IRAQ/IRAN STANDARD

ADDITIONAL DISTN.

MEMD

MAED

IRAQ/IRAN

NENAD

TRED

ARAB/ISRAEL

NAD

ERD

UND

ECON D

EESD

CONS D

BCD

CONS EM UNIT

WED

CABINET OFFICE

ES45D

RID

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED