

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 141830Z (FCO, WASHINGTON, DAMASCUS AND UKMIS NEW YORK)

FROM TEL AVIV 141730Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 487 OF 14 DECEMBER 1981

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, DAMASCUS, UKMIS NEW YORK, AMMAN,  
PRIORITY CAIRO, BEIRUT AND JEDDA.  
INFO SAVING OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS.

EXTENSION OF ISRAELI LAW TO THE GOLAN

1. BEGIN LEFT HOSPITAL THIS MORNING. HE SUMMONED A SPECIAL CABINET MEETING IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER AT WHICH IT WAS DECIDED TO SUBMIT A BILL IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS (OUR OWN TRANSLATION FROM THE HEBREW) TO THE KNESSET THIS EVENING:

QUOTE

A) THE LAW, JURISDICTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE SHALL APPLY TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AS DEFINED IN THE ANNEX. (A MAP ATTACHED TO THE DRAFT BILL.)

B) THE LAW SHALL APPLY FROM THE DAY OF ITS ADOPTION BY THE KNESSET.

C) THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW, AND IS EMPOWERED TO ISSUE REGULATIONS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

UNQUOTE

2. ACCORDING TO THE SPEAKER (SAVIDOR, LIKUD), SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF TONIGHT'S SPECIAL SESSION (1520Z), THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PRESS THROUGH THE NECESSARY THREE READINGS OF THE BILL LEADING TO ITS FINAL PASSAGE THIS EVENING. THE OPPOSITION ALIGNMENT, WHOSE ACTING LEADER IN THE KNESSET (IN PERES'S ABSENCE IN THE UNITED STATES) WAS INFORMED THAT THE BILL WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE SPECIAL SESSION ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO, ARE STILL CONSIDERING THE LINE THEY SHOULD TAKE. THERE ARE REPORTED TO BE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE PARTY ON THIS. SOME MEMBERS MAY DECIDE TO BOYCOTT THE SESSION BECAUSE THEY OBJECT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S TACTICS. (AS AT 1630Z THE ALIGNMENT WERE STILL ABSENT FROM THE KNESSET CHAMBER.)

3. THE DEBATE IS NOW PROCEEDING. INTRODUCING THE BILL, AND SPEAKING FROM A WHEELCHAIR, BEGIN ASSERTED THAT NO ONE IN ISRAEL WHO HAD STUDIED THE HISTORY OF "ERETZ ISRAEL" (LAST TWO WORDS UNDERLINED) WOULD TRY TO DENY THAT THE GOLAN HEIGHTS HAD FORMED PART OF IT. AFTER REHEARSING THE THREAT POSED TO ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF SYRIAN CONTROL OF THE GOLAN, HE SAID THAT NO ONE COULD IMAGINE THAT ISRAEL WOULD AGREE TO THE RESTORATION OF SUCH A SITUATION. A WIDE CONSENSUS EXISTED (ON THIS).

4. BEGIN THEN QUOTED THE (JULY) GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDELINES ON THE GOLAN ISSUE: "ISRAEL WILL NOT DESCEND FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND WILL NOT REMOVE SETTLEMENTS FROM THEM. THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE ON THE TIMING OF THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS." THESE GUIDELINES HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE KNESSET AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD TODAY DECIDED, ON BOTH POLITICAL AND MORAL GROUNDS TO APPLY (ISRAELI) LAW TO THE GOLAN.

5. HE HAD TIME AND AGAIN PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS TO SYRIA BUT HAD BEEN REJECTED, A DENIAL OF ISRAEL'S VERY RIGHT OF EXISTENCE. AT THE FEZ SUMMIT, KHADDAM HAD REJECTED THE FAHD PLAN AND HAD SAID THAT THE ARABS COULD WAIT A HUNDRED YEARS UNTIL ISRAEL'S STRENGTH DECLINED. IT WOULD NOT DECLINE BUT THE ENEMIES' PLOT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR BEYOND ALL DOUBT. THEN THEY (THE ENEMIES) WOULD ACT.

6. YESTERDAY ASAD HAD, BEGIN SAID, CONFIRMED THIS (KHADDAM'S SPEECH AT FEZ) TO A KUWAITI NEWSPAPER WHEN HE HAD SAID THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT RECOGNISE ISRAEL EVEN IF THE PALESTINIANS DID SO. HE HAD CALLED ON THE ARAB WORLD TO WAIT UNTIL THEY WERE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO ENFORCE PEACE ON ISRAEL IN THE SPIRIT OF THE ARAB DEMANDS. THIS WOULD MEAN "THE BEGINNING OF THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR STATE."

7. BEGIN ADDED THAT LIBYA WAS BEHIND TERRORISM EVEN IN THE UNITED STATES. IN THIS CONTEXT, SYRIA SAID THAT SHE WAS SUPPORTING THE LIBYANS. SHE HAD ALSO TAKEN CONTROL OF THE LEBANON. IT WAS FOR THESE HISTORIC, SECURITY AND MORAL REASONS THAT HE WAS ASKING THE KNESSET TO ADOPT THE GOLAN BILL.

8. SEE MIFT.

FCO PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

MOBERLY

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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