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DESKBY FCO 160900Z
FROM UKMIS NEWYORK 160033Z DEC 81
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1564 OF 15 DECEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE DAMASCUS TEL AVIV WASHINGTON

UNGA 36: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND GOLAN HEIGHTS

1. THE DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION FINISHED THIS EVENING (15 DECEMBER). FOR THE MOST PART IT WAS A REPETITION OF THE DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE. REPORT FOLLOWS BY TELELETTER. I GAVE THE TEN'S STATEMENT ON 14 DECEMBER (COPIES BY BAG TO FCO, WASHINGTON AND MIDDLE EAST POSTS).
2. THERE ARE EXPECTED TO BE TWO RESOLUTIONS, THE USUAL OMNIBUS RESOLUTION AND A SEPARATE RESOLUTION ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. VOTING WILL BE ON THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER. NEITHER DRAFT RESOLUTION HAS YET BEEN TABLED. THE OMNIBUS DRAFT RESOLUTION IS EXPECTED TO BE ON THE LINES OF THE TEXT ALREADY SENT BY FACSIMILE TO HOLMES, NENAD. THE TEXT OF THE INFORMAL (AND MILD) SYRIAN DRAFT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS IS IN MIFT. THE TEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THESE DRAFTS AS THEY STAND ARE AS FOLLOWS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE INTENDED TO GO TOGETHER AS A BALANCED PACKAGE:
 - (A) OMNIBUS RESOLUTION. GREECE HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE IN FAVOUR, BUT COULD ABSTAIN ON SEPARATE VOTES ON OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS 14 AND 15. OF THE REST ONLY THE NETHERLANDS HAS INSTRUCTIONS: THESE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO A COMMON POSITION WHILE PREFERRING A NEGATIVE VOTE. THE NINE AGREED TO MAKE A COMMON RECOMMENDATION TO CAPITALS TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION AND AVOID SEPARATE PARAGRAPH VOTES.
 - (B) GOLAN HEIGHTS RESOLUTION. THE TEN AGREED TO RECOMMEND A COMMON POSITIVE VOTE.
3. THERE IS ONE FURTHER VOTING QUESTION. THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAELI PRACTICES WHICH WERE ADOPTED IN THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE WILL BE VOTED ON IN PLENARY TOMORROW MORNING (16 DECEMBER). THESE INCLUDE DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/36/L22 ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS ON WHICH THE NINE ABSTAINED IN THE COMMITTEE (MY TELNO 1397 - DRAFT RESOLUTION E). THE GERMANS PROPOSED, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN, THAT THE NINE SHOULD NOW VOTE IN FAVOUR IN PLENARY BOTH AS A POLITICAL SIGNAL AND BECAUSE THE TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION NOW APPEAR MORE ACCEPTABLE IN THE WAKE OF THE ISRAELI DECISION. WHILE ACCEPTING /THAT

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THAT THERE WERE STILL DIFFICULTIES WITH OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 4, IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WAS A STRONG POLITICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE CASE FOR SUCH A CHANGE AND THAT IT SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED TO CAPITALS. THE CHANGE OF VOTE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXPLANATION BEFORE THE VOTE THAT WOULD REFER TO THE COMMON STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN ON 15 DECEMBER AND EXPLAIN THAT THE CHANGE WAS MADE IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT ISRAELI DECISION. THE RESOLUTION IS VERY STRONGLY WORDED AND I AM PRETTY SURE THAT THE AMERICANS WILL MAINTAIN THEIR VOTE AGAINST. BUT GIVEN THE HIGH HANDEDNESS OF THE ISRAELI ACTION, THE UNLIKLIHOOD OF A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE STRONG WISH OF OUR PARTNERS, I THINK THAT THE ABOVE RECOMMEN- DATION IS RIGHT.

4. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS BY 1400Z TOMORROW, 16 DECEMBER.

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