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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1141 OF 23 DECEMBER 1981

INFO PRIORITY TO ROME THE HAGUE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK
CAIRO TEL AVIV BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG UKREP BRUSSELS AND ATHENS

YOUR TELNO 581: SINAI FORCE

1. ACTION TAKEN WITH DELAYE IN M. CHEYSSON'S CABINET. ACCORDING TO DELAYE, M. CHEYSSON AGREES THAT IN SPITE OF EVENTS RELATING TO THE GOLAN THE FOUR SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE M.F.O. HE ALSO AGREES THAT THE FOUR'S REPLY TO MR SHAMIR SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE GOLAN.

2. DELAYE ADDED THAT M. CHEYSSON WANTED TO CONSULT THE EGYPTIANS BEFORE MAKING A MOVE. M. CHEYSSON BELIEVED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE EGYPT IN THE DISCUSSIONS BECAUSE IT WAS ONE OF THE PARTIES MOST CONCERNED AND FRANCE DISLIKED BEING PUT IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO DEAL WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED ONLY THROUGH THE INTER-MEDIARY OF THE US. M. CHEYSSON WILL BE VISITING CAIRO ON 2 AND 3 JANUARY.

3. DELAYE RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EUROPEAN CONTINGENTS AND THE PROBLEM OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MFO. FOR THE FRENCH MR HUNT HAD NO LEGAL STATUS. THEY WERE THEREFORE CONSIDERING A COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHEREBY THE FOUR WOULD CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MFO PROVIDED THE LATTER WAS GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE STATUS THROUGH BEING MANDATED TO NEGOTIATE BY THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS. DELAYE COMMENTED THAT IF THE ISRAELIS MADE PROBLEMS OVER THIS OR ANY OF THE OTHER LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS, THE FRENCH WOULD NOT BE TOO CONCERNED. THE FRENCH WOULD NOT MIND IF THE EUROPEAN CONTINGENTS DID NOT REACH SINAI UNTIL AFTER THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THE POLITICAL GESTURE.

HIBBERT

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