

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

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NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
CABINET OFFICE DIO

PS  
PS/~~MR J GRAHAM~~ L/S X3  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
~~SIR J GRAHAM~~  
MR J C MOBERLY

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

HD/NENAD  
HD/MED  
HD/UND

Prime Minister

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RESIDENT CLERK

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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM TEL AVIV 291420Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 502 OF 29 DECEMBER 1981

INFO PRIORITY CAIRO, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS, ROME AND THE HAGUE.

YOUR TELNO 587 TO PARIS: SINAI FORCE

1. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF HANDLING THE ISRAELIS I AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GET A REPLY ABOUT SINAI OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE NEXT WEEK'S SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON GOLAN. I AM ALSO GETTING THIS ADVICE INFORMALLY FROM WELL-DISPOSED ISRAELIS WHO ARE CLOSE TO OFFICIAL THINKING ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THEMSELVES HAVE MADE NO MOVE IN MY DIRECTION TO TRY AND HASTE<sup>N</sup> OUR REPLY.

2. GENERALLY SPEAKING THE SEVERER WE EXPECT TO BE ON ISRAEL IN A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, THE STRONGER THE CASE FOR GETTING IN A REPLY ON SINAI OF THE KIND IN YOUR TELEGRAM NO 643 TO JEDDA BEFORE BATTLE IS JOINED IN NEW YORK.

3. THERE IS ONE FURTHER REASON FOR AN EARLY REPLY IN PURELY

3. THERE IS ONE FURTHER REASON FOR AN EARLY REPLY IN PURELY ANGLLO/ISRAELI TERMS. THE ISRAELIS HAVE PERSUADED THEMSELVES THROUGHOUT THAT BRITAIN IS THE LEAST KEEN OF THE FOUR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SINAI FORCE AND THAT AT TIMES WE WERE DELIBERATELY PUTTING OBSTACLES IN THE WAY. THERE WILL BE PEOPLE HERE WHO WOULD CHARACTERISE A REPLY WELL ON IN JANUARY AS EVIDENCE THAT ONLY WHEN THE UK HAD GIVEN UP THE PRESIDENCY WAS THE OBSTACLE TO PARTICIPATION BY THE FOUR FINALLY CLEARED AWAY. A REPLY DELIVERED IN THE VERY FIRST DAYS OF JANUARY SHOULD NOT BE OPEN TO THAT MISREPRESENTATION AT OUR EXPENSE.

POBERLY

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