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TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 016 OF 7 JANUARY

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, THE HAGUE, ROME

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE TO MR HAIG WHICH I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

BEGINS. I KNOW FROM NICKO HENDERSON'S REPORT OF THE AMBASSADORS' LUNCH WITH YOU ON 28 DECEMBER HOW CONCERNED YOU ARE THAT THE REPLY FROM THE FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO THE ISRAELIS ON THE SINAI MFO HAS BEEN DELAYED. I SHARE YOUR ANXIETY, AND THE EGYPTIANS', THAT THE ISRAELIS SHOULD BE GIVEN NO EXCUSE TO RENEGE ON THEIR COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAW AND I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE THE QUESTION OF THE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION SETTLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WE HAVE A NUMBER OF LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES WHICH WE NEED TO RESOLVE WITH THE MFO DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND TIME IS GETTING SHORT.

I AM SURE YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE GOLAN BUSINESS HAS BEEN GENUINELY AWKWARD FOR US IN THIS RESPECT (AS IN SEVERAL OTHERS). BUT THE ARGUMENTS YOU HAVE PUT TO US, TOGETHER WITH OUR OWN ASSESSMENT, HAVE CONVINCED US THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DELAY THE REPLY ANY LONGER. I HAVE BEEN PRESSING OUR PARTNERS TO AGREE THAT IT SHOULD BE SENT, IF POSSIBLE IN TIME FOR THE ISRAELI CABINET TO CONSIDER IT ON 17 JANUARY. BUT CLAUDE CHEYSSON STILL HAS DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS. I AM TODAY INSTRUCTING OUR AMBASSADOR IN PARIS TO MAKE A FURTHER EFFORT TO OVERCOME THESE, AND WILL LET YOU KNOW IF WE SUCCEED. BUT IF WE HAVE STILL MADE NO HEADWAY BY THEN, I THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF YOU COULD FIND TIME TO HAVE A WORD WITH CLAUDE IN BRUSSELS ON MONDAY. ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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