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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3361 OF 15 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK TEL AVIV BEIRUT DAMASCUS ROUTINE CAIRO

AMMAN JEDDA TUNIS RABAT PARIS ROME MOSCOW

INFO SAVING OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS.

US/ISRAEL : SHAMIR'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

1. SHAMIR SPENT FOUR HOURS WITH SHULTZ ON 14 OCTOBER AND HAD SEPARATE SHORTER MEETINGS WITH BUSH AND WEINBERGER TODAY. HE IS EXPECTED TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING WITH SHULTZ BEFORE HE LEAVES WASHINGTON. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES FROM LEBANON. HILL (STATE DEPARTMENT) AND TEICHER (NSC) HAVE GIVEN US A PRELIMINARY BRIEFING.

2. THE ISRAELIS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN A DELIBERATE DECISION TO ABANDON THE CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACH ASSOCIATED WITH SHARON AND TO ATTEMPT TO RESTORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

~~2. THE ISRAELIS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN A DELIBERATE DECISION TO ABANDON THE CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACH ASSOCIATED WITH SHARON AND TO ATTEMPT TO RESTORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION. SHARON HIMSELF WROTE TO WEINBERGER EARLIER THIS WEEK TO INVITE HIM, WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, TO SEND A TEAM TO ISRAEL FOR A BRIEFING ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT IN LEBANON. SHAMIR WAS CONCILIATORY AND WORKMANLIKE THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SHULTZ, WHICH CONCENTRATED ON LEBANON.~~

3. THE ISRAELIS PUT FORWARD A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, WHICH THEY WERE ALSO PUTTING TO THE LEBANESE, FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM LEBANON. HILL DESCRIBED IT AS BASICALLY WORKABLE BUT HEDGED WITH UNACCEPTABLE PRECONDITIONS. THE ISRAELIS ARE INSISTING THAT THE FIRST STAGE SHOULD BE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL PLO FORCES FROM NORTHERN LEBANON. THE SECOND STAGE WOULD BE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM MOUNT LEBANON TO THE BEKA'A VALLEY, AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF ELEMENTS OF THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE ALONG THE BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD AS FAR AS CHTAURA AND ZAHLE. ONCE THIS WAS COMPLETED THE ISRAELIS WOULD WITHDRAW SOUTH TO THE DAMOUR RIVER. IN THE THIRD STAGE THE ISRAELIS AND SYRIANS WOULD WITHDRAW THE REMAINDER OF THEIR FORCES IN PARALLEL.

4. THE AMERICANS POINTED OUT THAT THE PLO WERE ALREADY COMMITTED, AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BY HABIB IN AUGUST, TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM LEBANON WHEN OTHER FOREIGN FORCES WITHDREW, AND TO BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY ON WHERE THEY SHOULD GO. THE PHASING OF THE SECOND STAGE WOULD ALSO PROVE DIFFICULT: THE SYRIANS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT WITHDRAW BEFORE THE ISRAELIS DID. THE AMERICANS WERE RESERVING JUDGEMENT ON THE PLAN AS A WHOLE UNTIL THEY HAD ASCERTAINED LEBANESE VIEWS, (DRAPER IS TO SEE GEMAYEL IN NEW YORK ON 17 OCTOBER); OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSULTED.

5. ON SOUTH LEBANON, SHAMIR REPEATED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD NOT ACCEPT UNIFIL OR A MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN THE BORDER AREA. THE SECURITY ZONE (25 MILES FROM THE BORDER) SHOULD BE KEPT FREE OF HEAVY WEAPONRY (ARTILLERY, ROCKET LAUNCHERS ETC) AND PATROLLED BY THE LEBANESE ARMY. ADMITTEDLY THIS WAS NOT YET UP TO THE TASK, BUT IT COULD BE REINFORCED BY INCORPORATING UNITS OF HADDAD'S MILITIA. (CAMILLE CHAMOUN TOLD AMERICAN OFFICIALS EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSAL). SHAMIR IMPLIED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD NOT OBJECT IF A ROLE WERE TO BE FOUND FOR UNIFIL NORTH OF THIS SECURITY AREA. THE ISRAELIS REGARDED THE NEGOTIATION OF QUOTE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS UNQUOTE WITH THE LEBANESE, AS ESSENTIAL BEFORE THEIR FORCES WITHDREW, BUT SHAMIR

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LEBANESE, AS ESSENTIAL BEFORE THEIR FORCES WITHDREW, BUT SHAMIR
DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF A PEACE TREATY.

6. THE AMERICANS MADE CLEAR THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY ROLE FOR HADDAD AND THEIR BELIEF THAT UNIFIL COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED. HILL SUGGESTED TO US THAT IT MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, POLICE THE NORTHERN PERIMETER OF THE 25 MILE SECURITY ZONE.

7. SHAMIR STRESSED THE ISRAELIS' DETERMINATION TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM LEBANON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND INDICATED THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE OVER THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS. THE AMERICANS HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HADDAD WILL NOT PROVE TO BE A STICKING POINT BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD DROP THEIR DEMAND FOR PRIOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE PLO FORCES.

8. ON THE PEACE PROCESS, SHAMIR TOOK THE LINE THAT THE DIFFERENT PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT AND THE AUTONOMY TALKS RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO PROCEED TO SETTLE THE FUTURE OF THE DISPUTED TERRITORIES AND, TO THIS END, TO CONCENTRATE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, RATHER THAN THE FINAL STAGE WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO DEADLOCK. THE PARTICIPATION OF JORDAN AND SOME PALESTINIANS WOULD BE WELCOME. SHAMIR DID NOT MENTION THE VILLAGE LEAGUES IN THIS CONNECTION. THE AMERICANS WERE ALSO STRUCK BY THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO THE ISRAELIS' BIBLICAL CLAIM TO JUDEA AND SAMARIA. TEICHER ATTRIBUTED SHAMIR'S MORE MODERATE ATTITUDE TO THE EFFECT OF THE POLITICAL FERMENT INSIDE ISRAEL AND TO THE CARE THE AMERICANS HAD TAKEN TO AVOID GIVING BEGIN A PRETEXT TO RALLY PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST AMERICAN PRESSURE.

9. SHULTZ TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE THE AMERICAN POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA. SHAMIR'S RESPONSE WAS LOW-KEY: JEWS LIVING IN THOSE SETTLEMENTS SHOULD NOT NOW BE ASKED TO LEAVE. HE DID NOT RESPOND TO SHULTZ'S PRESSURE FOR A FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS, BUT NOR DID HE SAY THAT THEY WOULD BE FURTHER EXPANDED.

10. SO FAR THE AMERICANS ARE PLEASED WITH THE WAY THE TALKS HAVE GONE. THEY SEE SHAMIR'S ATTITUDE AS AN INDICATION THAT THE STRATEGY UNDERLYING REAGAN'S PEACE INITIATIVE - OF MOBILISING ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION - MAY BE WORKING. THEY DO NOT FOR THE MOMENT INTEND TO RELAX THE PRESSURE: DESPITE ISRAELI HINTS, THEY HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO PRESS AHEAD WITH THE NOTIFICATION TO

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CONGRESS OF THE SUSPENDED SALE OF 75 F 16'S, NOR HAVE THEY YET
RESPONDED TO THE RECENT ISRAELI REQUEST FOR US DOLLARS 3.3 BILLION
AID FOR FY84.

FCO PASS SAVING ABU DHABI ADEN ALGIERS BAGHDAD BAHRAIN CAIRO
DAMASCUS DOHA DUBAI JERUSALEM KHARTOUM KUWAIT MUSCAT SANA'A
TRIPOLI

WRIGHT

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