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TO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV

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SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ADDRESSED A MEETING OF THE CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR RIYADH. THE TEXT OF HIS OPENING SPEECH WILL FOLLOW IN THE VERBATIM SERVICE. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARISES HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

- Q. IF THE PLO GAVE UP THE COVENANT AND A PALESTINIAN STATE WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE WEST BANK, WHAT GUARANTEE COULD THERE BE THAT SUCH A STATE WOULD BE DENIED OFFENSIVE ARMAMENT?
- A. IF THESE THINGS HAPPENED, THAT WOULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A LONG AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION. AT LEAST IT WOULD HAVE REMOVED THE LOG JAM. IF I WERE AN ISRAELI I WOULD NEED TO BE SATISFIED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL. THAT IS A MATTER FOR ISRAELI NEGOTIATION.
- Q. WHY SEEK INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE PLO SINCE IT IS A MURDEROUS, ANTI-DEMOCRATIC, TERRORIST ORGANISATION?
- A. I CONDEMN TERRORISM WHEREVER IT IS FOUND AND HAVE NOTHING TO SAY IN ITS DEFENCE. BUT THE PLO, LIKE IT OR NOT, REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY OF PALESTINIANS. IN THE PROCESS OF DE-COLONISING THE BRITISH EMPIRE WE HAVE OFTEN HAD TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO WERE DENOUNCED AS TERRORISTS. WE DID SO BECAUSE THEY WERE A REALITY. IT NEVER DID ANYBODY ANY GOOD TO IGNORE REALITY.

/Q. ISRAEL

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- Q. ISRAEL FEELS BRITAIN TO BE UNSYMPATHETIC AND PREJUDICED AGAINST HER. COULD YOU NOT SHOW SOME SIGN OF GOOD WILL LIKE VISITING ISRAEL?
- A. WHEN I SAW MR SHAMIR IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER I SUGGESTED SUCH A VISIT AND I PLAN TO GO TO ISRAEL EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR. IT IS TRUE THAT MANY ISRAELIS FEEL THAT BRITAIN IS UNSYMPATHETIC. I REGRET THIS AND REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE VENICE DECLARATION IS FAIR.
- Q. LORD CARRINGTON HAS WARNED PROTESTERS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO BEWARE LEAST THEY SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE SOVIET UNION. SHOULD HE NOT TAKE HIS OWN ADVICE OVER THE PLO?
- A. IT IS THE STATUS QUO WHICH PROMOTES THAT CAUSE - THE HOPELESSNESS OF THE PALESTINIANS. THE LONGER IT GOES ON THE MORE LIKELY IT IS THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE WILL INCREASE.
- Q. DOES LORD CARRINGTON STAND BY HIS STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS IN 1976 THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE MILITARILY INDEFENSIBLE IF THE WEST BANK WERE RETURNED TO THE PALESTINIANS?
- A. YES. IT IS FOR ISRAEL TO BE SATISFIED ABOUT HER SECURITY IN ANY NEGOTIATION (CF. ANSWER TO QUESTION 1 ABOVE).
- Q. IS A PALESTINIAN HOME-LAND CONFINED TO THE WEST BANK NOT UNFAIR TO THE PALESTINIANS SINCE 76PER CENT OF THE FORMER PALESTINE IS NOW PART OF JORDAN?
- A. THAT IS A MATTER FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES IN THE PROCESS OF SELF-DETERMINATION. A SOLUTION CANNOT BE IMPOSED ON JORDAN.

CARRINGTON

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