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FROM TEL AVIV 171315Z MAR 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 93 OF 17 MARCH 1983

INFO WASHINGTON AND MODUK.

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**ISRAELI ARMS FOR ARGENTINA**

1. SEVERAL MPS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THE CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY THIS WEEK HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO ISRAELI MINISTERS ABOUT CONTINUING CONCERN IN BRITAIN OVER REPORTS OF ISRAEL SUPPLYING ARMS TO ARGENTINA. THEY INCLUDE GREVILLE JANNER, MICHAEL LATHAM AND IVAN LAWRENCE. DETAILS BY BAG TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. WHEN ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED THE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION THIS MORNING, DR RHODES BOYSON RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM TOO. DR BOYSON SAID THAT AFTER OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT WE WERE BOUND TO BE CONCERNED AT REPORTS THAT ARGENTINA WAS GETTING ARMS FROM ISRAEL. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BUT THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE IN BRITAIN WHO DID NOT WISH ISRAEL SO WELL AND IT WOULD ONLY HELP THEM IF IT TURNED OUT THAT ISRAEL WAS SELLING ARGENTINA WEAPONS LIKE GABRIEL MISSILES. THIS WAS A VERY REAL PROBLEM IN BRITAIN. HE HOPED THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE IN NO DOUBT AS TO FEELINGS THERE.

3. MR BEGIN THANKED DR BOYSON FOR SPEAKING SO FRANKLY. HE TOOK UP THE REFERENCE TO GABRIEL MISSILES AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THE STORY. AT THIS POINT I EXPLAINED THAT AFTER RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE ISRAELI DEFENCE MINISTER MR GREVILLE JANNER HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO GABRIEL SALE NOR ANY CONTACTS AIMED AT AGREEING SUCH A SALE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARGENTINA. THIS WAS NOT QUITE THE END OF THE DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, FOR AS WE LEFT HIM THE PRIME MINISTER REVERTED TO WHAT I HAD SAID. I WAS ABLE TO ADD THE POINT THAT ALTHOUGH THE RUMOUR ABOUT GABRIEL SEEMED TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE DEFENCE MINISTER'S ASSURANCE, OTHER REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT WEAPONRY REACHING ARGENTINA FROM ISRAEL REMAINED A WORRY FOR US.

4. MR BEGIN WAS IN MELLOW AND RELAXED MOOD WITH DR BOYSON. I THOUGHT HE WAS LOOKING FITTER THAN FOR SOME TIME.

**THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED**

MOBERLY

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