

SECRET/NODIS DECAPTIONEDFACT SHEET: SYRIARELEASED IN
FULLI. WALTERS TRIP

- o Results generally positive
 - Assurance of no further acts of terrorism from Syria.
 - Abu Nidal organization members will not be allowed to reenter Syria.
 - Syria taking strong measures against Hizballah in Lebanon.
 - Asad took question on Abu Nidal facilities in the Biqa' Valley; no response as of yet.
 - Asad unwilling to take on responsibility for BIA security.

II. PM THATCHER'S VIEWS

- o Dialogue with Asad and premature disclosure of our actions have caused embarrassment for Mrs. Thatcher with her partners.
- o Mrs. Thatcher understands why we sent Walters to Damascus, but she will press for more evidence of Syria's efforts to end support for terrorism before she will be supportive of normalizing relations.
- o She sees inevitability of other governments moving toward normal relations with Syria and will, we believe, try to manage a gradual easing of sanctions.

III. OUR THEMES

- o Attach importance to efforts to pursue counter-terrorism goals.
- o Also believe in importance of testing Asad on regional issues in which he is a key player.
- o High-level dialogue important to move peace process forward.
- o Encouraged by Asad's comments to Walters on counter-terrorism concerns.
- o Will be looking at useful next steps to pursue counter-terrorism and regional political objectives.

SECRET/NODIS
DECL: OADRREVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer

lot #88D140, Box #5
The official visit of Prime
Minister Thatcher July 17, 1987