DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

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FACT SHEET: MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

RELEASED IN FULL

I.   SITUATION IN THE REGION IS PARTICULARLY UNSETTLED

o   Ultimate results of Jordan's administrative and legal
    disengagement from the West Bank are still uncertain.

o   Israel will be preoccupied for some time with formation of
    a government and policy formulation.

o   Syria is focussed on Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran wind-down
    and is not ready to move on peace.

o   Palestinian National Council meeting in mid-November will
    set PLO agenda.

II.   U.S. POLICY REMAINS CONSTANT

o   We continue to urge moderation, accommodation, and
    dialogue, on the regional parties.

-- We cannot support any attempt, by either Israel or Arabs,
    to determine unilaterally the ultimate status of the West
    Bank and Gaza; this is an issue for negotiation. A PNC
    declaration of independence would be a unilateral move.

-- U.S. policy towards the PLO remains constant. The U.S.
    will not recognize or negotiate with the PLO until it
    accepts UNSCR 242, 338, and Israel's right to exist. The
    PLO also must renounce terrorism and violence.

o   The U.S. peace initiative remains on the table and its
    principles remain valid: comprehensive peace, UN Security
    Council Resolutions 242 and 338, legitimate political
    rights of the Palestinian people, and security for all
    states in the region.

o   The U.S. will remain active and engaged.

III.   UK VIEWS PARALLEL OUR OWN

o   We have consulted closely with the UK on regional issues
    and hold similar views on the peace process; UK has
    emphasized support for Jordan and for an international
    conference.

o   Important that we adopt similar positions in light of
    latest developments affecting the peace process.

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Working visit of U.K
Pime Minister Thatcher
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