

CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 852

ADVANCE COPY

OF 110030Z APRIL 90
INFO PRIORITY TUNIS, TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, CAIRO, AMMAN
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, UKMIS NEW YORK

TUNIS TELNO 114: ARAB/ISRAEL
SUMMARY

1. ADMINISTRATION HOPE THAT, IF PERES FORMS HIS GOVERNMENT, A TRILATERAL MEETING CAN BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF APRIL, WITH CAIRO TALKS BEGINNING SOON THEREAFTER.

DETAIL

2. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO BURNS (DEPUTY HEAD OF PLANNING STAFF, STATE) ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR THE PEACE PROCESS. WHILE NOTING THAT PERES HAS GOT HIS KNESSET SUMS WRONG BEFORE, BURNS THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT HE WOULD WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TOMORROW (11 APRIL), HOLD HIS FIRST CABINET MEETING ON 15 APRIL AND BE READY TO MOVE ON THE PEACE PROCESS AT THE END OF PASSOVER. HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT PERES WOULD WANT TO SEND SOMEONE, PERHAPS BEILIN OR NOVIK, TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK. THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD WELCOME THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PROGRESS, FINALISE SIDE ASSURANCES AND, IN PARTICULAR, CONFIRM THAT PERES ACCEPTED THAT THE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WOULD INCLUDE DEPORTEES AND DUAL ADDRESSEES (THE ISSUE AT WHICH SHAMIR HAD BAULKED).

3. BURNS SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE A FIRST EXCHANGE WITH WHOEVER CAME ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. BUSH AND BAKER WOULD LIKE A COMMITMENT FROM PERES TO FREEZE SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BURNS THOUGHT IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT PERES WOULD MAKE A PUBLIC COMMITMENT, BUT SAID THAT A PRIVATE ASSURANCE WOULD IMPROVE THE US/ISRAELI POLITICAL CLIMATE IN WASHINGTON. IT WOULD ALSO PAVE THE WAY FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL US ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL FOR ABSORPTION OF SOVIET JEWS. DESPITE BAKER'S REMARKS ON LINKAGE BETWEEN SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, BURNS THOUGHT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEK GUARANTEES SIMILAR TO THOSE ON ALL OTHER AID TO ISRAEL - IE THAT MONEY SHOULD NOT BE SPENT EAST OF THE GREEN LINE. TO PRESS FOR SOMETHING MORE SPECIFIC WOULD RISK RAISING THE QUESTION OF EAST JERUSALEM ONCE MORE. (COMMENT: BURNS CLEARLY THOUGHT THAT, GIVEN PERES'S INTEREST IN MOVING QUICKLY ON THE PEACE

PROCESS, THIS BUSINESS WITH THE NEW PERES GOVERNMENT COULD BE DESPACHED SWIFTLY AND SUCCESSFULLY.)

4. WHILE ADMITTING THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN CONGENITALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PACE OF THE CURRENT PEACE PROCESS, BURNS STILL THOUGHT THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONVENE THE TRILATERAL FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING BEFORE THE END OF APRIL. ASSUMING ALL WENT WELL, THE ADMINISTRATION HOPED THAT THE CAIRO TALKS WOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. BAKER WOULD ATTEND THE OPENING (HOPEFULLY IN COMPANY WITH ABDUL MAGUID AND THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER). BURNS THOUGHT THAT AFTER OPENING STATEMENTS, THE CAIRO TALKS WOULD FOCUS ON THREE AREAS: HOW TO GET TO ELECTIONS, THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS, AND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ELECTIONS AND TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS, WHILE SUPERFICIALLY FOCUSED ON ELECTIONS, WOULD INEVITABLY DEAL WITH A NUMBER OF THE CORE ISSUES RELATED TO FINAL STATUS. HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SAW ITS ROLE AS KEEPING THE PARTICIPANTS FOCUSED UPON PRACTICAL QUESTIONS, AND PERSUADING THEM THAT THEIR INTERESTS WERE SERVED BY STICKING WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT IF BOTH DELEGATIONS WERE STILL SITTING AT THE TABLE AFTER OPENING STATEMENTS THIS IN ITSELF WOULD BE AN ACHIEVEMENT.

5. BURNS SAID THAT THE ISSUE OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION AT THE OPENING OF THE CAIRO TALKS HAD RECEDED. SHEVARDNADZE DID NOT RAISE IT SPECIFICALLY LAST WEEK, THOUGH HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD WISH TO PLAY A ROLE IN AN ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE. BURNS THOUGHT THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD WATCH CLOSELY AND, ONCE THEY DETERMINED THAT THE DIALOGUE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, COULD MOVE QUICKLY TO PAY THEIR ADMISSION FEE BY NORMALISING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. BURNS HAD NOTHING ELSE TO ADD TO THE BRIEFING YOU HAVE RECEIVED ON THE BAKER/SHEVARDNADZE TALKS FROM THE AMERICANS IN LONDON (NOW SUPPLEMENTED BY MOSCOW TELNO 656).

6. KURTZER IS ON LEAVE THIS WEEK. WE WILL PURSUE THE POINTS IN YOUR TELNO 609 WITH HIM NEXT WEEK.

ACLAND

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15

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