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JEDDA FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

MY TELNO 665: ISRAELI ACTION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SUMMARY

1. DRAFT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION PUT TO THE VOTE LATE ON 31 MAY.
AMERICANS VETO. 14 VOTES IN FAVOUR.

DETAIL

2. DURING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE MORNING OF 31 MAY THE YEMENI AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS WOULD ALL CO-SPONSOR THE ARAB DRAFT RESOLUTION, AMENDED BY THE INSERTION OF THE NEW PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH THAT I HAD PROPOSED (PARA 1 OF TUR). THERE SHOULD BE A VOTE BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY. THE U S REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS. IT WAS AGREED THAT MEMBERS WOULD RECONVENE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON. IN THE MEANTIME EFFORTS WERE MADE TO PERSUADE THE AMERICANS TO ABSTAIN IF THE RESOLUTION WERE PUT TO THE VOTE. SHORTLY BEFORE THE RESUMED MEETING THE PLO - ACTING, THEY SAID, ON MY ADVICE - OFFERED TO DELAY THE VOTE IF THAT WOULD HELP THE AMERICANS TO AVOID CASTING A VETO. BY THEN THE AMERICANS HAD DECIDED TO VETO IN ANY CASE, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE VOTE SHOULD GO AHEAD.

3. FOLLOWING BRIEF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS THE FORMAL MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH HAD BEEN ADJOURNED IN GENEVA ON 26 MAY, WAS RESUMED. AHMED (PAKISTAN) SPOKE BRIEFLY, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ARAFAT'S PROPOSALS IN GENEVA FOR THE PROTECTION OF PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS. BEIN (ISRAEL) MADE AN AGGRESSIVE SPEECH WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY A REWORKING OF THAT MADE BY THE ISRAELI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER (NETANYAHU) IN GENEVA (UKMIS GENEVA TELNO 363 REFERS). BEIN GLOSSED OVER THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND CLAIMED THAT ISRAEL HAD THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO ADMINISTER THEM. THIS POINT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED UP AND USED

TO GOOD EFFECT BY MAKSOUD (ARAB LEAGUE). HATANO (JAPAN) MADE A TOUGH SPEECH CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED SINCE 1967 AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT A NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD.

4. THE COUNCIL THEN VOTED ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. THERE WERE 14 VOTES IN FAVOUR BUT THE AMERICANS EXERCISED THEIR VETO. IN AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE PICKERING (UNITED STATES) REAFFIRMED UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF A VISIT TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY A SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. HE URGED ALL PARTIES TO BE FLEXIBLE AND PERMIT SUCH A MISSION. THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MISSION BECAUSE IT DID NOT FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE NEED TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD. VORONTSOV (SOVIET UNION) EXPRESSED SORROW THAT IT HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO PERSUADE THE UNITED STATES NOT TO BLOCK A SENSIBLE AND MODERATE RESOLUTION. PEOPLE WERE DYING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND IT WAS THE JOB OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DECIDE HOW TO PROTECT THEM. TERZI (PALESTINE) SAID IT WAS UNPARDONABLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO USE ITS VETO TO PREVENT THE SECURITY COUNCIL CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES. THE UNITED STATES TALKED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS BUT PREVENTED THE SECURITY COUNCIL FROM INVESTIGATING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. AL-ALFI (YEMEN) SAID THAT THE NEGATIVE AMERICAN VOTE WOULD INEVITABLY CAUSE A REACTION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HE STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO DISPATCH A SECURITY COUNCIL COMMISSION HAD BEEN SEEN BY THE ARABS AS ONLY A FIRST STEP TOWARDS PROTECTING PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS. THE ARABS WOULD BE PUTTING FORWARD OTHER PROPOSALS. THEY HOPED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD REQUIRE A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE. THE ISSUE WAS FAR FROM CLOSED.

5. FOR COMMENT SEE MIFT.

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