

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM WASHINGTON  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 2497  
OF 160046Z OCTOBER 90  
AND TO DESKBY 160600Z JERUSALEM  
INFO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV, UKMIS NEW YORK  
INFO PRIORITY CAIRO, TUNIS, AMMAN, RIYADH, BAGHDAD

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JERUSALEM PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

UKMIS TELNO 1635: OCCUPIED TERRITORIES  
SUMMARY

1. BAKER SENDS MESSAGE TO LEVY, URGING THAT ISRAEL COOPERATE WITH THE AIME MISSION. NO CLEAR RESPONSE AS YET, BUT STATE BELIEVE ISRAELIS STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER TO ADMIT THE DELEGATION. HOPE WE WILL PRESS LEVY HARD ON 16 OCTOBER.

DETAIL

2. WE SPOKE ON 15 OCTOBER TO COVEY AND KURTZER (NEA) AND WOLF (INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS) AT STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOLLOWING SC RESOLUTION 672.

3. SECRETARY BAKER SENT A MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER LEVY, WHICH WAS DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR BROWN ON 14 OCTOBER. EXCERPTS FROM THIS MESSAGE HAVE APPARENTLY NOW APPEARED IN THE ISRAELI PRESS. IN RESPONSE, STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE MADE PUBLIC THAT BAKER'S MESSAGE CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THE ADMINISTRATION VOTED FOR UNSCR 672 BECAUSE THEY FELT ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO DEAL WITH VIOLENCE AND A RIOT WITHOUT THERE BEING 21 DEAD AND 150 WOUNDED.

(B) ISRAEL HAD ACCEPTED THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE AS RECENTLY AS JUNE OF THIS YEAR, AND THEREFORE THIS MISSION WOULD NOT SET A PRECEDENT.

(C) THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN OVER ISRAEL'S HANDLING OF THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE LED THEM TO SUPPORT UNSC ACTION, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION IN THE GULF.

(D) THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS ISSUE CONCLUDED AND HOPED THAT ISRAEL WILL FIND A WAY TO WORK WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE.

COVEY TOLD US THAT BAKER HAD MADE CLEAR TO LEVY THAT THE ISRAELI CLAIM THAT THE US HAD ONLY VOTED FOR 672 SO AS TO KEEP TOGETHER THE ARAB COALITION IN THE GULF WAS WRONG. HE URGED ISRAEL NOT TO LET SADDAM HUSSEIN OFF THE HOOK BY SWITCHING WORLD ATTENTION AWAY FROM HIS ACT OF AGGRESSION.



4. ROSS (DIRECTOR, POLICY PLANNING) WENT OVER THE GROUND WITH RUBENSTEIN (ISRAELI CABINET SECRETARY) 15 OCTOBER. HE ARGUED THAT IT WAS CLEARLY IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO LET THE AIME MISSION TAKE PLACE. IF ISRAEL BLOCKED IT, THEN THERE WOULD BE STRONG PRESSURE FOR FURTHER, EARLY DISCUSSION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. ROSS SAID THAT THE OUTCOME LAST FRIDAY COULD BE SEEN AS A DEFEAT FOR THE PLO, IN THE SENSE THAT THEY FAILED TO ACHIEVE THE TOUGHER RESOLUTION WHICH THEY WERE SEEKING. ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE NOW WOULD MERELY GIVE THEM ANOTHER CHANCE. RUBENSTEIN DID NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY, BUT NEITHER DID HE DISMISS THESE ARGUMENTS OUT OF HAND.

5. STATE'S CURRENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MAY BE RETHINKING THEIR APPROACH TO THE AIME MISSION. EARLIER TODAY, STATE HAD BELIEVED THAT THE ISRAELI PERM. REP. TO THE UNITED NATIONS (BEIN) WOULD INFORM THE SECRETARY GENERAL DURING THEIR MEETING THAT AIME'S DELEGATION WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LAND. IN THE EVENT HE HAD SIMPLY DELIVERED THE TEXT OF THE CABINET RESOLUTION (TEL AVIV TELNO 369) AND AGREED TO SEEK CLARIFICATIONS REQUESTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. BEIN ALSO APPARENTLY MADE SOME NOT UNHELPFUL PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOWING THE MEETING. BUT STATE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC. COVEY SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE BEING EXCEPTIONALLY BLOODY MINDED.

COMMENT

6. STATE THINK THAT, WHILE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ARE LIKELY TO STICK TO THE CABINET DECISION NOT TO RECEIVE THE AIME DELEGATION, THEY MAY YET DECIDE NOT TO IMPEDE THEM. THE NEXT 24 HOURS WILL BE CRITICAL. STATE HOPED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD STRONGLY URGE LEVY TO SEE SENSE WHEN THEY MEET ON 16 OCTOBER. THE ADMINISTRATION TELL US THAT - FOR THEIR PART - THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANYTHING MORE THEY CAN USEFULLY DO.

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