LNMD 0291 ZXLNAN 7819 CONF ENTIAL DD 200900Z FCOLN FM AIRBN TO FCOLN 191836Z OCT GRS 659

CONFIDENTIAL

FM AIRBORNE

TO FCO 005 DESKBY 200900Z

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FM AIRBORNE

TO DESKBY 200900Z FCO

TELNO AIRBORNE 005

OF 191836Z OCTOBER 90

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL'S
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR PS/NO 10, PS, PS/MR WALDERGRAVE, PS/PUS

EGYPT, ISRAL AND GREECE, 12 -19 OCTOBER

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MINUTE FROM THE SCRETARY OF STATE TO THE PRIME MINISTER:

BEGINS:

EGYPT

THE ISRAELIS ARE WORRIED ABOUT EGYPT'S STABILITY, BUT I FOUND NO CORROBORATION. I SAW MUBARAK ON THE DAY OF THE FUNERAL OF THE SPEAKER, WHO HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED IN MID-MORNING OUTSIDE A HOTEL IN CENTRAL CAIRO. BUT HE SHOWED NO SIGNS OF ANXIETY, AND WAS HIS USUAL BREEZY SELF. HE PRESENTS HIS VIEWS WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY AND THEY ARE SOME TIMES WRONG (BEFORE OVER SADDAM HUSSEIN, NOW OVER QADAFI). BUT I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF HE WAVERED IN HIS STANCE AGAINST IRAO NOW. NATIONALIST FEELING IN EGYPT IS (FOLLOWING WORD UNDERLINED) EGYPTIAN, NOT ARAB. MUBARAK HAS REAL PROBLEMS WITH MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISM, BUT THEY GO BACK WELL BEFORE SADDAM HUSSEIN, WHO WITH HIS NON-RELIGIOUS BACKGOUND IS NOT WELL PLACED TO EXPLOIT THEM. THE ECONOMY IS IN A BAD WAY, WITH MANY CANCELLED TOURIST BOOKINGS AND REVENUE FROM THE CANAL AND GULF REMITTANCES WELL DOWN.

ISRAEL

I AM AFRAID I LANDED IN THE MUD THERE AND AM SORRY IF THIS CAUSED YOU DIFFICULTY. THE TACTIC OF SPEAKING OUT IN ADVANCE (SO THAT I DID NOT HAVE TO SPOIL THE VISIT BY SPELLING OUT OUR CRITICISM OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC WHILE THERE) WORKED IN THE SENSE THAT, WITHOUT SKIMPING THE ISSUES, I HAD FRIENDLEY AND SERVICEABLE TALKS WITH SHAMIR, ARENS AND LEVY, AND COULD NOW GO BACK TO ANY OF THEM DIRECT AND INFORMALLY AT SOME MOMENT OF CRISIS. THIS MIGHT BE USEFUL. BUT JERUSALEM IS SO TENSE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT KILLINGS THAT THE PALESINIAN NOTABLES WERE KNOCKED OFF BALANCE BY A MISQUOTATION AND THAT PART OF THE EXERCISE, NECESSARY FOR BALANCE, WENT WRONG. (I GATHER THERE WAS THE SAME CLIFFHANGER DURING OUR VISIT FOUR YEARS AGO, BUT IN THE END THEY CAME TO SEE YOU BUT BOYCOTTED ME.) LEVY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, IS A VAIN,

BUT NOT UNFRIENDLY. I

FOUND SHAMIR MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN I EXPECTED - QUIETLY

INFLEXIBLE.

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO VISIT THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES FOR AN HOUR OR SO, BUT EVERYTHING I HEARD WAS DEEPLY DEPRESSING. ARENS ADMINISTERS THE POLICY OF SUPPRESSING THE INTIFADA IN AN INTELLIGENT WAY, AND UNTILE 2 AUGUST HAD MANAGED TO REDUCE THE CASUALTIES. EVEN SO 23,000 PEOPLE WERE HURT LAST YEAR AND 249 KILLED. THE FAMOUS EYE HOSPITAL IN JERUSALEM AND THE SMALL REHABILITATION UNIT WHICH WE HELP NEAR BETHLEHEM TREAT EVERY DAY PALESTINIANS WHO HAVE BEEN BEATEN UP, ROUGHLY TWO THIRDS BY THE ISRAELIS AND ONE THIRD BY OTHER PALESTINIANS. THERE WAS UNTIL RECENTLY A COMBINATION OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE PLO AND RESPECT FOR THE TRADITIONAL STRUCTURES OF WEST BANK SOCIETY WHICH PRODUCED SOME SORT OF FRAMEWORK. NOW THE STRUCTURES ARE BREAKING DOWN AND THE PLO IS LOSING GROUND TO MORE EXTREME GROUPS DEVOTED TO SADDAM HUSSEIN.

GREECE

THE NEW DEMOCRACY MINISTERS UNDER MITSOTAKIS ARE REALLY RATHER IMPRESSIVE, AS IS HE ON HIS HOME GROUND. THEY ARE PLEASED TO HAVE IMPROVED THEIR POPULAR SUPPORT IN LOCAL ELECTIONS DESPITE THE BEGINNINGS OF AUSTERITY. THEY KNOW THEY HAVE ALONG WAY TO GO, I.E. THEY ARE AT 1980 IN THE COMPARISON WHICH THEY ALL DRAW. THEY ARE EXTREMELY OPEN AND FRIENDLY, CROWDING INTO THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN A WAY UNKNOWN FOR MANY YEARS. THEY HARDLY MENTIONED TO ME THEIR AMBITIONS FOR AN EC LOAN, BUT CHRISTODOULOU, THE MINISTER CONCERNED, IS MANOEUVRING HARD TO GET INFORMAL AGREEMENT ON THIS BEFORE AN OPEN REQUEST IS MADE. YOU WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HEAR MORE OF THIS AT ROME, AND HE IS COMING TO LONDON TO SEE THE CHANCELLOR. WHEREAS MITSOTAKIS AND THE YOUNG FOREIGN MINISTER, SAMARAS, ARE GUNUINELY ANXIOUJS TO MAKE THE BEST OF OZAL, A REVEALING PRESENTATION BY SERVICE CHIEFS SHOWED THAT FOR THE GREEK FORCES TURKEY IS STILL THE ENEMY AGAINST WHOM THEY MUST MATCH THEM SELVES

ENDS

ZXLNAN 7819

S INTE

6 19971

SHIP

A STATE