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 FM AIRBORNE  
 TO FCO 005 DESKBY 200900Z  
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 OF 191836Z OCTOBER 90

TEMPORARILY RETAINED S. Gray 7/1/2017

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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 SECRETARY 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 IRAQ 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 BACKGROUND 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 FRIENDLY 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



