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TELEGRAM NUMBER 2512 OF 21 JULY

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, JEDDA, TUNIS, PARIS, BEIRUT,
AMMAN AND UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 2500: LEBANON

1. KEMP (NSC) TOLD US TODAY THAT REAGAN'S MEETING WITH THE SAUDI AND SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD BEEN MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED.

2. AFTER PREDICTABLE POLEMICS, KHADDAM HAD SHOWN HIMSELF PRACTICAL ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES. THE SYRIANS WOULD NOT TAKE ALL THE PLO PERSONNEL FROM BEIRUT FOR REASONS OF INTERNAL SECURITY, THEIR NUMBERS, AND BECAUSE IT WAS NOT A SYRIAN PROBLEM. BUT THE SYRIANS WOULD ACCEPT THE PLO LEADERSHIP. KEMP BELIEVED THAT THIS COULD BE FLEXIBLY DEFINED TO INCLUDE UP TO 1000 PERSONNEL PROVIDED THAT OTHER ARAB STATES WERE WILLING TO TAKE THE REST.

3. SAUDI HAD BEEN LOW KEY AND CONSTRUCTIVE. THE SAUDIS WERE LOOKING FOR TOKEN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN PARALLEL WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE PLO FROM BEIRUT. THEY THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO GET THE WITHDRAWAL...
... THAT THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION OF THE

TEL FROM BEIRUT. THEY TROUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO GET THE WITHDRAWAL PROCESS UNDER WAY AND CLAIMED THAT THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION OF THE PLO WOULD CEASE TO BE A PROBLEM ONCE THE ARABS SAW THAT THE AMERICANS WERE SERIOUSLY COMMITTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCR 508 AND 509.

4. KEMP COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A REMARKABLE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON LONG-TERM GOALS FOR LEBANON. ON THE NEXT STEPS, HE SAID (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT HABIB MIGHT VISIT LONDON IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO TO SEE KING HUSSEIN. (COMMENT: IF HE DOES YOU WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DE-BRIEF HIM ON HIS EFFORTS SO FAR (YOUR TELNO 290 TO BEIRUT)).

5. KHALED EL HASSAN (PLO) TOLD QUANDT (EX-NSC) THAT THE PLO WOULD BE WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND TO ACCEPT SCR 242 AND 338 PROVIDED THAT PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND NATIONAL RIGHT ARE RESPECTED. QUANDT MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES NOTHING LESS THAN AN UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT FROM ARAFAT WILL SUFFICE IF THERE IS TO BE A US/PLO DIALOGUE. QUANDT COMMENTED THAT KHALED EL HASSAN APPEARS TO HAVE AN EXAGGERATED IDEA OF THE STRENGTH OF THE PLO BARGAINING POSITION AND TO DISCOUNT THE VERY REAL RISK THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL TAKE FURTHER MILITARY ACTION IN WEST BEIRUT. KEMP CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S LINE IS UNCHANGED.

HENDERSON

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