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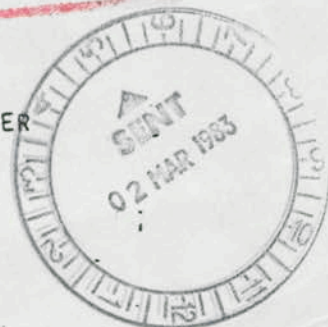
FROM TEL AVIV 020910Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 78 OF 2 MARCH 1983  
INFO CAPETOWN.

PS / NO 10

**IMMEDIATE****NEW ISRAELI AMBASSADOR**

1. TODAY'S ISSUE OF THE LEFT-WING WEEKLY KOTHERETH RASHITH CARRIES A REPORT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SENT A SPECIAL MESSENGER TO ISRAEL LAST WEEK. MR DAVID WOLFSON IS SAID TO HAVE MET BEGIN AND SHAMIR SECRETLY TO INFORM THEM OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO LANKIN.
2. ACCORDING TO KOTHERETH RASHITH THE MESSAGE WHICH WOLFSON BROUGHT WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT APPOINTING LANKIN WOULD HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MRS THATCHER'S MESSAGE ALSO MENTIONED THE FACT THAT SHE HAD PREVENTED THE INCLUSION OF A PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION DUE TO VISIT LONDON SHORTLY. KOTHERETH RASHITH TAKES THIS AS A HINT THAT IF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INSISTED ON NOMINATING FORMER TERRORIST LANKIN AS AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD RECONSIDER HER DECISION NOT TO MEET A PLO REPRESENTATIVE.
3. THE PAPER GOES ON TO SUGGEST THAT SHAMIR ORIGINATED THE IDEA THAT LANKIN SHOULD WRITE AN OPEN LETTER WITHDRAWING HIS CANDIDATURE (AS REPORTED IN TEL AVIV TELNO 72) IN ORDER TO COVER UP THE FACT THAT THE APPOINTMENT WAS BEING CANCELLED AS A RESULT OF DIRECT PRESSURE FROM DOWNING STREET.
4. THE KOTHERETH RASHITH REPORT HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY ONE OF THE TWO MAIN HEBREW LANGUAGE DAILIES. DAVAR SUMMARISES IT PROMINENTLY ON ITS FRONT PAGE. OTHER PAPERS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FOLLOW SUIT.
5. IF ASKED ABOUT THE REPORT, WE SHALL SAY THAT WE ARE UNWARE OF ANY VISIT BY WOLFSON, AND DECLINE TO BE DRAWN FURTHER. KOTHERETH RASHITH ALREADY REPORTS THAT A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EMBASSY DECLINED TO COMMENT IN REPLY TO A QUESTION WHETHER A SPECIAL ENVOY FROM MRS THATCHER HAD COME TO JERUSALEM.
6. GRATEFUL TO HAVE TELEGRAPHICALLY LINE TAKEN BY NEWS DEPARTMENT AND NUMBER 10 IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS.



MOBERLY

LIMITED PS/MR HURD  
 NENAD PS/PUS  
 PCD SIR J LEAHY  
 NEWS.D MR EGERTON  
 PS

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