

RESTRICTED

FROM TEL AVIV 741400Z MAY 72

TO PRIORITY FOO  
TELNO 193 OF 24 MAY 1972

FALKLAND ISLANDS

THE CABINET AT ITS WEEKLY MEETING YESTERDAY (23 MAY) ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS:

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN IN CONNECTION WITH THE HOSTILITIES AT SEA, IN THE AIR AND ON LAND IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS) AND THE TRAGIC CASUALTIES CAUSED BY THEM. ISRAEL APPEALS TO THE PARTIES TO CEASE FIRE AND TO MAKE AN EFFORT IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT BY PEACEFUL MEANS THE SOLUTION OF THIS BLOODY CONFLICT WHICH ENDANGERS WORLD PEACE UNQUOTE.

2. THE STATEMENT IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY. PRESS GUIDANCE SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS DELIBERATELY MEANT TO ECHO WESTERN STATEMENTS AT TIMES OF CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. THE LABOUR NEWSPAPER DAVAR REPORTS THAT BEGIN HAD TO OVERCOME RESERVATIONS FROM A NUMBER OF MINISTERS, BUT HE ARGUED THAT IF THE BRITISH COULD GIVE ISRAEL ADVICE ON HOW TO BEHAVE ON HER NORTHERN BORDER, ISRAEL HAD THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE FALKLANDS SITUATION.

4. ACCORDING TO DAVAR, BEGIN HOPED THAT THE CABINET STATEMENT WOULD FOCUS ATTENTION ON HYPOCRISY TOWARDS ISRAEL. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING "A WAR IS GOING ON, PEOPLE ARE BEING KILLED, BUT THERE ARE NO PIOUS RESOLUTIONS, NO VENICE MEETING AND NO US PLANS. WHEN A SINGLE SMOKE BOMB IS THROWN IN ISRAEL THERE ARE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, WARNINGS, HEADLINES AND DEMANDS TO JERUSALEM." THE PRIME MINISTER IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE NOTED THAT THE BRITISH HAD PROTESTED ABOUT ISRAELI ARMS SALES TO ARGENTINA WHILE OTHER NATIONS HAD SOLD A GREAT DEAL MORE.

UNREPLY