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15-11-84

IMMEDIATE

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FM CAIRO 111105Z MAR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 139 OF 11 MARCH

RFI IMMEDIATE: PARIS, WASHINGTON

ROUTINE: UKMIS NEW YORK

PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S VISIT TO FRANCE: EGYPTIAN PRESS REACTION

1. PREDICTABLE PROMINENCE GIVEN TO WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS A SUCCESSFUL VISIT. PRESIDENT MITTERRAND ASKED TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WITH YASSER ARAFAT.

DETAIL

2. PREDICTABLY, THE EGYPTIAN PRESS HAVE GIVEN PROMINENCE TO REPORTS OF PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S VISIT TO PARIS AND HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND. MUBARAK IS REPORTED TO HAVE URGED MITTERRAND TO SUPPORT THE JORDAN/PLO INITIATIVE. HE IS SAID TO HAVE EXPLAINED HIS OWN SUGGESTIONS AND TO HAVE TOLD THE PRESS AFTER HE SAW MITTERRAND THAT THE FRENCH AND EGYPTIAN POINTS OF VIEW WERE IDENTICAL, TO A GREAT EXTENT.

3. AL AHRAM ALSO REPORTS THAT MUBARAK CALLED UPON MITTERRAND TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WITH YASSER ARAFAT WITH THE AIM OF ACTIVATING THE PEACE PROCESS BY MEANS OF FRANCE'S WEIGHT WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

3. AL AHRAH ALSO REPORTS THAT MUBARAK CALLED UPON MITTERRAND TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WITH YASSER ARAFAT WITH THE AIM OF ACTIVATING THE PEACE PROCESS BY MEANS OF FRANCE'S WEIGHT WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

4. THE DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND, VEDRINE, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT FRANCE BELIEVED THAT THE PEACE PROCESS WAS NOW ON THE RIGHT TRACK AS A RESULT OF THE JORDAN/PLO AGREEMENT, AND THAT MUBARAK'S SUGGESTIONS HAD PAVED THE WAY FOR PEACE. FRANCE HOPED THAT NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN WHICH WOULD DAMAGE THE PROSPECTS FOR A SOLUTION: CONTACTS WHICH FRANCE HAD HAD WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES GAVE RISE TO CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM.

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