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 MILNAN 0978 OCMIAN 0978
 CONFIDENTIAL
 DD 071530Z CAIRO
 FM FCOLN TO CAIRO
 071420Z MAR
 GRS 250

CONFIDENTIAL
 FM FCO
 TO DESKBY 071530Z CAIRO
 TELNO 78
 OF 071420Z MARCH 86

YOUR TELNO 142: MESSAGE TO MUBARAK

1. THANK YOU FOR THIS ADVICE. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DECIDED AGAINST SENDING A MESSAGE TO MUBARAK AT THIS STAGE.
2. WITHOUT UNDERESTIMATING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RECENT DISTURBANCES, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A MESSAGE, WHICH WOULD BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, WOULD RISK CREATING AN EXAGGERATED IMPRESSION OF THE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO EGYPT'S STABILITY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SETTING A PRECEDENT THAT WOULD BE HARD TO SUSTAIN IF IN COMING MONTHS THERE ARE FURTHER OUTBREAKS OF DISORDER. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT DETERIORATION OF THE ECONOMY, WE WISH TO AVOID APPEARING TO ENDORSE MUBARAK'S SPECIFIC DOMESTIC POLICIES OR TO BE PEDDLING THE VIEW HIS TROUBLES ARE NOW OVER. NOR, WHILE EGYPT AND JORDAN APPEAR TO BE OPERATING AT CROSS PURPOSES, DO WE WISH TO EXPRESS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT FOR MUBARAK'S APPROACH TO THE PEACE PROCESS.
3. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, TELL THE EGYPTIANS THAT MINISTERS ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE MEASURES TAKEN TO PROTECT BRITISH LIVES AND PROPERTY AND GLAD THAT ORDER HAS NOW BEEN RESTORED AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED YOU TO CONVEY HER PERSONAL GOOD WISHES TO THE PRESIDENT.

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LIMITED

NENAD

MED

PROTOCOL DEPT

NEWS DEPT

INFO DEPT

PLANNING STAFF

PS

PS/MR RENTON

PS/PUS

MR EWEN FERGUSSON

SIR D MIERS

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 ASSESSMENTS STAFF

PS / NO 10