

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CAIRO

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 409

OF 261235Z JUNE 86

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON

INFO ROUTINE AMMAN, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM

TEL AVIV TELNO 263: TABA

SUMMARY

1. THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMS THAT A COMPROMISE HAS BEEN REACHED ON THE WORDING OF THE QUESTION TO BE PUT TO THE ARBITRATORS BUT CLAIMS THAT ISRAELI CONCESSIONS ON THE ANNEX ARE NECESSARY BEFORE FINAL AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED. THE EGYPTIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN TEL AVIV IS IN CAIRO FOR CONSULTATIONS AND WILL BE RETURNING WITH A MESSAGE FOR PERES.

DETAIL

2. WHEN I SAW THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THIS MORNING, HE CONFIRMED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE WORDING OF THE QUESTION TO BE PUT TO THE ARBITRATORS. THE ISRAELIS HAD DROPPED THEIR INSISTENCE ON THE WORD "CORRECT". HOWEVER, WHAT THEY HAD GIVEN WITH ONE HAND THEY HAD TAKEN BACK WITH THE OTHER, BY INSISTING THAT THE ANNEX TO THE QUESTION PUT TO THE ARBITRATORS SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE BORDER SHOULD BE CHANGED BY INCLUDING THE PHRASE "NOT WHERE THE STONES ARE". THIS WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE EGYPTIANS. AS HE HAD TOLD ME BEFORE, THE EGYPTIAN VIEW WAS THAT THE ROLE OF THE ARBITRATORS SHOULD BE TO STATE WHERE THE BOUNDARY LAY RATHER THAN SEEK TO REDEFINE IT. MAGID ADDED THAT HE MIGHT EVEN ASK THE UK, AS THE RESPONSIBLE POWER IN THE AREA AT THE TIME THE 1906 AGREEMENT WAS DRAWN UP, TO ISSUE A STATEMENT ON OUR VIEW OF THE POSITION (BUT I AM NOT SURE HOW SERIOUSLY HE MEANT THIS).

3. MAGID WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD GIVEN THE US CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A MESSAGE FOR SHULTZ ON 25 JUNE, SAYING THAT IF, AS WAS LIKELY, SOFAER WENT TO ISRAEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE POLLARD CASE, HE WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME TO COME BACK TO EGYPT TO DISCUSS TABA. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE WAITED A FEW DAYS, SINCE THE EGYPTIANS WERE CURRENTLY PREPARING A SUMMARY OF THEIR POSITION WHICH THEY WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

14

CONFIDENTIAL

4. WHEN I SAID THAT OUR EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV BELIEVED PERES WANTED TO RESOLVE THE TABA PROBLEM BEFORE ROTATION, MAGID REPLIED THAT THE EGYPTIANS DID TOO. THE EGYPTIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HAD BEEN SUMMONED HOME AND HAD SEEN MUBARAK ON 25 JUNE. HE WOULD BE GOING BACK WITH A MESSAGE FOR PERES ASSURING HIM THAT MUBARAK WANTED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT: THAT AN EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN TO TEL AVIV AS SOON AS THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED: AND THAT A MEETING BETWEEN MUBARAK AND PERES COULD BE ARRANGED THEREAFTER.

URWICK

MIDDLE EAST

LIMITED

NENAD

MED

NAD

SOVIET D

PLANNING STAFF

UND

ECD(E) (POCO UNIT)

NEWS D

INFO D

PUSD

SED

SCD

DEFENCE D

PS

PS/MR RENTON

PS/PUS

MR FERGUSSON

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR GOODALL

SIR D MIERS

MR SLATER

MR RATFORD

MR LONG

MR MACINNES

MR BARRINGTON

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

ARAB/ISRAEL

2
CONFIDENTIAL