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OP'S

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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE

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MDHOAN 7142

SERIAL No. T 781/90

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TO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV  
TELNO 64  
OF 181500Z APR 90  
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IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS: MESSAGE FROM SHAMIR TO PRIME MINISTER

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECEIVED A MESSAGE DATED 28 MARCH FROM MR SHAMIR ABOUT THE IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS. TEXT IN MIFT.

2. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: BEGINS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 28 MARCH ABOUT THE EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL.

IT IS INDEED A MOST WELCOME DEVELOPMENT THAT THE JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE NOW FREE TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL AND ELSEWHERE. THIS IS AN OUTCOME TO WHICH, AS YOU RIGHTLY SAY, I HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY COMMITTED FOR MANY YEARS. I AM GLAD THAT YOU APPRECIATE THE FIRM POSITION WHICH WE AND OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS HAVE TAKEN ON THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION, NOTABLY IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED IN DUBLIN ON 20 FEBRUARY.

YOU WILL HAVE NOTED HOWEVER THAT THIS STATEMENT ALSO SAID THAT THE ATTAINMENT BY SOVIET JEWS OF THEIR RIGHTS TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION MUST NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. I MADE THE SAME POINT IN A SPEECH I GAVE TO THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS ON 18 FEBRUARY.

YOU SAY THAT FEWER THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE SOVIET IMMIGRANTS HAVE CHOSEN TO SETTLE IN THE WEST BANK OR GAZA. MAY I MAKE TWO POINTS. FIRST, THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES INCLUDE IN OUR VIEW NOT ONLY THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, BUT ALSO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND EAST JERUSALEM. IF ONE INCLUDES THOSE IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY CHOOSE TO SETTLE IN EAST JERUSALEM AND ITS SUBURBS, THE NUMBERS INVOLVED ARE NOT SO SMALL. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF NUMBERS, BUT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE REGARD THE SETTLING OF SOVIET JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN ANY PART OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, AS ILLEGAL AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

IT WOULD BE DEEPLY REGRETTABLE IF THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE ON THE PEACE PROCESS OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS WERE TO BE

JEOPARDISED BY THIS MATTER.

ENDS

3. THERE WILL BE NO (NO) SIGNED ORIGINAL.

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