

GR 255
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 131130Z

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CAIRO 130935Z MAR 85
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 148 OF 13 MARCH
RFI IMMEDIATE: AMMAN, WASHINGTON
ROUTINE: TEL AVIV, UKRIS NEW YORK
SAVING: PARIS AND OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS

CAIRO TELNO 140: JORDAN/PLO

LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OF PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH THIS MORNING'S BBC (WORLD AND ARABIC SERVICE) BROADCASTS, WHICH WERE PESSIMISTIC CLAIMING THAT MUBARAK HAD FAILED IN HIS ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A CLEAR AMERICAN ENDORSEMENT OF HIS SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE BEST WAY FORWARD.

2. THE EGYPTIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS THE MORE POSITIVE COMMENTS MADE BY REAGAN, ATTRIBUTING TO HIM STATEMENT THAT THE US HOPES THAT POSITIVE TRENDS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BECOME APPARENT IN THE REGION WOULD BE STRENGTHENED, AND THAT THEY WOULD OPEN A PATH TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. REAGAN IS ALSO QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE PARTIES WERE STILL A LONG WAY FROM THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, THE UNITED STATES TOOK AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD SUPPORT THE PARTIES' EFFORTS TO BUILD ON A PROMISING BEGINNING.

3. IN VIEW OF THE NEGATIVE REPORTS BROADCAST BY THE BBC AND REFERRED TO ABOVE, IT IS LIKELY THAT MUBARAK, OR ONE OF HIS PARTY, WILL SEEK TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONSIDER TO BE AN UNHELPFUL BIAS.

4. SEE MIFT.

WESTON

MIDDLE EAST
STANDARD (PALACE)
NENAD
MED
NAD
UND
EED
SOV D
WED
SEC D
ESSD
SCD
CONS D
CONS EM UNIT
POCO UNIT
MR EGBERTON
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE

CONFIDENTIAL