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FM WASHINGTON

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 1024

OF 220032Z APRIL 86

INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK, TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, AMMAN, CAIRO,

INFO ROUTINE DAMASCUS

UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 308 AND TELECON MAKEPEACE/PRENTICE: UN
PRESENCE ON THE WEST BANK

SUMMARY

1. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT RIFAI'S
PROPOSAL FOR A UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE WEST BANK.

DETAIL

2. STATE DEPARTMENT CONTACTS TELL US THEY SEE NO POINT IN
PROMOTING RIFAI'S FULL-BLOWN PROPOSAL. THEY DOUBT THAT ISRAEL
WOULD TOLERATE ANY UN POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES. THEY BELIEVE THAT UNDP'S GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN
ISRAEL WOULD BE PUT AT RISK BY ANY POLITICISATION OF THEIR ROLE,
(AND MAINTAIN THAT THIS IS UNDP'S STRONG VIEW.) THEY ARGUE THAT NO
UN REPRESENTATIVE COULD HOPE TO HAVE ANY PRACTICAL IMPACT ON THE
POLITICAL ISSUES: THE JARRING MISSION GOT NOWHERE.

3. THE US EMBASSY IN AMMAN HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REPLY ON
THESE LINES TO THE JORDANIANS, BUT ALSO TO NOTE ISRAEL'S RECENT
APPROVAL OF A PERMANENT UNDP REPRESENTATIVE IN JERUSALEM. STATE
WOULD LIKE TO BOOST UNDP BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT UNWRA WOULD
WANT TO BE SUBORDINATED TO A UNDP (OR ANY OTHER) OVERALL
COORDINATOR IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. SUPPORTERS OF UNWRA
WOULD SUSPECT A DISGUISED ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO DISESTABLISH OR
WEAKEN UNWRA.

4. STATE SAY THIS IS NOT THE ONLY IMPRACTICAL NOTION THEY HAVE
HEARD FROM RIFAI SINCE THE KING'S BREAK WITH ARAFAT. HE HAS
ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE US SHOULD ASSIST THE JORDANIAN QUOTE
HEARTS AND MINDS UNQUOTE CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST BANK BY CHANNELLING
MASSIVE SUMS OF US AID TO THE TERRITORIES VIA JORDAN. THE
FIGURES HE SUGGESTED EXCEEDED THE CURRENT TOTAL OF US AID TO
JORDAN ITSELF.

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5. THIS SUBJECT HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN CONSIDERED HERE ABOVE MURPHY'S LEVEL. BUT ISRAEL'S OPPOSITION TO ANY POLITICAL ROLE FOR THE UN IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WOULD CARRY EVEN GREATER WEIGHT AT HIGHER LEVELS. WE SUSPECT THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ATTITUDES DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE THEREFORE DEFINITIVE.

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