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RABIN'S VIEWS ON THE PEACE PROCESS

SUMMARY

1. THE ISRAELI MINISTER OF DEFENCE SEES A STALEMATE IN THE PEACE PROCESS. QUIET CONTACTS WITH JORDAN SHOULD CONTINUE WITH A VIEW TO BUILDING UP THE KING'S POSITION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ARABISATION OF DAILY LIFE WITHIN THE PRESENT LEGAL AND SECURITY FRAMEWORK THE IMMEDIATE AIM.

DETAIL

2. WHEN I TOOK SHIR A URWICK TO CALL ON RABIN ON MAY 1 WE ASKED HIM HOW HE SAW THE PEACE PROCESS. RABIN REPLIED THE KING HAD MADE A MAJOR MISCALCULATION IN HIS FEBRUARY SPEECH. HE HAD BUILT UP EXPECTATIONS IN THE TERRITORIES DURING HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARAFAT IN THE PRECEDING YEAR SEMICLN AND THEN HAD DASHED THEM WITH HIS SPEECH WITHOUT OFFERING ANYTHING IN THEIR PLACE. HE HAD THEN SAID IN EFFECT TO THE ISRAELIS THAT HE COULD NOT WORK WITH ARAFAT, SO PLEASE HELP ME. RABIN SAID THE KING WAS TOO WEAK TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL ALONE SO THERE WAS NOW A STALEMATE. HE THOUGHT ISRAEL SHOULD KEEP UP QUIET CONTACTS WITH JORDAN BUT THERE WAS ALSO NEED FOR THIRD PARTY ASSISTANCE ( HE DID NOT ELABORATE).

3. ISRAEL WOULD TRY TO HELP BUILD UP SUPPORT FOR THE KING IN THE TERRITORIES, BUT THIS WAS A LONG TERM PROPOSITION. EVEN BEFORE THE KING'S SPEECH THE ISRAELIS HAD REALISED THE PLO'S ALLEGIANCE WAS DOMINANT, FOR WHATEVER REASON. AL-MASRI'S ASSASSINATION HAD NOT REALLY ALTERED THE POSITION.

4. WE ASKED WHERE THIS LEFT THE AUTONOMY IDEAS. RABIN SAID THAT AT A RECENT CONFERENCE WITH ISRAELI DEPARTMENTAL HEAD AND ARAB OFFICIALS FROM THE TERRITORIES IT HAD BEEN OBVIOUS THE LATTER DID NOT WANT POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY OR INVOLVEMENT EXCEPT ON THE WELL-KNOWN PLO TERMS OF TAKING OVER ANY PART OF THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND FROM WHICH ISRAEL MIGHT UNILATERALLY WITHDRAW. JORDAN AND EGYPT WERE NOT YET READY FOR ANY MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGE IN THE TERRITORIES. THE MOST THAT WAS POSSIBLE IN CURRENT POLITICAL CONDITIONS WAS GREATER ARABISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK OF LAW AND SECURITY. THIS COULD GO WITH THE VARIOUS IDEAS FOR PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE INHABITANTS WHICH WERE CURRENTLY BEING CANVASSED.

COMMENT

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## COMMENT

5. RABIN'S ANALYSIS OF THE JORDANIAN POSITION LOOKS VERY SIMILAR TO THE EGYPTIAN VIEW. HIS IDEAS ON FUTURE MOVES WITHIN THE TERRITORIES SEEM CONSISTENT WITH THE THINKING IN AMMAN AND CAIRO. THEY ARE LIMITED IN SCOPE BUT MAY BE NEAR THE MARK THAN SOME OF THE BOLDER IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN FLOATED (E.G. GAZA FIRST). HE IS AFTER ALL THE MINISTER WITH EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TERRITORIES. MR PERES IS NOT LIKELY TO GO BEYOND WHAT RABIN THINKS PRACTICABLY, PARTICULARLY GIVEN COALITION CONSTRAINTS.

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