

GRS 340

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FM CAIRO 090910Z JUN 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 349 OF 9 JUNE

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, BAGHDAD

INFO ROUTINE AMMAN, JEDDA, DAMASCUS

ISRAELI RAID

MF

1. THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQ'S NUCLEAR REACTOR. A SPOKESMAN AT THE PRESIDENCY LAST NIGHT CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI AGRESSION AS A PROVOCATIVE AND ILLEGITIMATE ACT WHICH WOULD ONLY LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF TENSION IN THE REGION. A FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT SAID THAT WHATEVER THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE HOPED TO GAIN BY SUCH A VIOLENT ACT THE RESULT WILL BE NEGATIVE AND AN INCREASE IN TENSION AND TURMOIL IN THE AREA.

2. AS SOON AS THE US CHARGE HERE HEARD ABOUT THE RAID HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO INFORM THE VICE PRESIDENT. THE FIRST UNDER SECRETARY AT THE MFA SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED HIM IN TO CONVEY THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONDEMNATION OF THE RAID AND OF THE USE OF WEAPONS SUPPLIED BY THE US IN AN ACTION WHICH WAS AGGRESSIVE RATHER THAN DEFENSIVE IN CHARACTER. SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON, THE UN AND THE HAGUE (FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY). USANA AL BAZ'S PLACE AS HEAD OF THE DELEGATION TO HERZELIA TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN TEL AVIV. BUT THIS MAY BE BECAUSE AL BAZ IS ACCOMPANYING THE VICE-PRESIDENT ON HIS VISIT TO THE PARIS AIR SHOW AND TALKS WITH FRENCH LEADERS, LEAVING TOMORROW.

3. THE EGYPTIANS ARE PROTESTING STRONGLY BECAUSE ALTHOUGH THERE MAY HERE AND THERE BE SOME SNEAKING ADMIRATION FOR THE BOLD CONCEPT OF THE RAID AND THE WAY IT WAS CARRIED OUT, THE TIMING IS SEEN TO BE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING FOR PRESIDENT SO SOON AFTER HIS BILATERAL MEETING WITH BEGIN AT SHARM EL SHEIKH. THE EGYPTIANS FEAR OTHER ARABS WILL CONCLUDE EITHER THAT SADAT ACQUIESCED IN SUCH AN ESCAPE (WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY) OR THAT HIS POSITION ISSO WEAK THAT WHEN HE URGES RESTRAINT ON THE ISRAELIS BEGIN FEELS HE CAN FLOUT THIS WITH IMPUNITY.

BARRINGTON

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THIS TELEGRAM
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