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FM WASHINGTON 280045Z NOV 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3601 OF 27 NOVEMBER 1981

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, ROME, THE HAGUE, TEL AVIV

MY TELEGRAM NO 3600: SINAI FORCE

1. FRETWELL HAS NOW SPOKEN TO VELIOTES WHO ADDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. SHAMIR STARTED OUT THIS MORNING FROM AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION WHICH WOULD HAVE RULED OUT ANY CHANCE OF AGREEMENT. HAIG HEARD HIM OUT, THEN MADE A PRESENTATION DRAWING HEAVILY ON YOUR MESSAGE. THIS HAD A TREMENDOUS IMPACT AND UNDERMINED THE ISRAELI ARGUMENTS. THE REST OF THE DAY WAS SPENT PUTTING TOGETHER THE DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT. THIS WOULD INCORPORATE A PARAPHRASE OF CERTAIN POINTS IN YOUR MESSAGE BUT NO ACTUAL QUOTATIONS FROM IT. THE STATEMENT WOULD REFER TO CLARIFICATIONS RECEIVED ON 26 NOVEMBER AND WOULD TAKE UP SUCH POINTS AS NOT PUTTING ANY GLOSS ON THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY EGYPT AND ISRAEL, RECOGNITION THAT THE FUNCTION OF THE MFO IS AS DEFINED IN THE RELEVANT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT (ADDING A REFERENCE TO ENSURING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION) AND THERE BEING NO POLITICAL CONDITIONS TO PARTICIPATION IN THE FORCE. THE REMAINDER OF THE STATEMENT WOULD SET OUT AT LENGTH US AND ISRAELI VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF THE FORCE, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TREATY OF PEACE ETC.

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3. VELIOTES BELIEVED THAT IF THE STATEMENT ISSUED IN ITS PRESENT FORM THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR ANYONE TO REPLY TO IT. HE REPEATED HAIG'S EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR PROVIDING THE MATERIAL WHICH HAD MADE SUCCESS AT TODAY'S MEETING POSSIBLE. HE ADDED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WILL CALL BEGIN TOMORROW TO WISH HIM A SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY FROM HIS ACCIDENT AND TO URGE HIM TO ACCEPT THE STATEMENT AS NOW DRAFTED.

4. VELIOTES ASKED THAT WE SHOULD NOT MAKE DETAILS OF THE STATEMENT AVAILABLE TO OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS BEFORE SUNDAY. HE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RISK OF A LEAK. WE HERE WILL SIMPLY INFORM THE OTHER THREE EMBASSIES THAT A STATEMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED AND MAY ISSUE ON SUNDAY AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS INTENDED NOT TO BE CONTROVERSIAL.

HENDERSON

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