

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6216

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T USUN 0904

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: ARAFAT GIVES GUYER PLAN FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

REF: USUN 815 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CALL BY AMBASSADOR SHERER AND MISOFF TO DISCUSS USYG GUYER'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP, BRIAN URQUHART DESCRIBED ARAFAT'S PROPOSAL TO GUYER FOR A TEMPORARY, UN/ARAB LEAGUE AUTHORITY IN ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. URQUHART SAID HE ASSUMED IDEA WAS ESSENTIALLY THAT WHICH PRESS REPORTED ARAFAT HAD DISCUSSED WITH SENATOR STEVENSON. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT U.S. HAVE THE DETAILS, BUT ASKED THAT THEY BE CLOSELY HELD.

2. GUYER REPORTED THAT ARAFAT TOLD HIM THE PLO WOULD PUT FORWARD A PLAN FOR TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION OF ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IF WALDHEIM AND THE GENEVA CO-CHAIRMEN WERE AGREEABLE. ARAFAT SAID WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS JOINT SUPERVISION BY THE UN AND ARAB LEAGUE "FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS." AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD, TERRITORY WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO PALESTINIANS. ARAFAT

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SAID THE MERIT OF HIS PROPOSAL WAS THAT IT OVERCAME PROBLEM

OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION -- BY PLO OF ISRAEL AND ISRAEL OF PLO.
(URQUHART NOTED THAT WHILE ARAFAT DID NOT DEFINE THE TERRITORY INVOLVED AS "WEST BANK" OR EVEN "POST-1967 TERRITORIES," HE THOUGHT IT IMPLICIT THAT WEST BANK AND GAZA WERE MEANT.)

3. URQUHART REMARKED THAT HE HAD DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING WHAT WAS BEHIND ARAFAT PROPOSAL SINCE IT SEEMED SO PLAINLY UN-ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL. WE SAID ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE THAT ARAFAT WAS INTERESTED LESS IN THE PROPOSAL ITSELF THAN IN GETTING ACROSS A MESSAGE, VIZ., THAT PLO, DESPITE ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND A LIMITED WEST BANK/GAZA STATE. URQUHART THOUGHT THAT MADE SENSE.

4. TOUCHING ON OTHER TALKS GUYER HAD, URQUHART INDICATED HE DID NOT THINK TRIP HAD ACCOMPLISHED MUCH. NO NEW IDEAS EMERGED EITHER IN ISRAEL OR IN ARAB CAPITALS. SYRIANS, HE SAID, WERE EXTREMELY UNCOMMUNICATIVE, ASSERTING THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO DISCUSS UNDOF EXTENSION AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, THEY HAD BEEN TOO BUSY IN LEBANON TO DECIDE THEIR COURSE. JORDANIANS WERE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR MOVEMENT IN COMING SIX MONTHS. IN ISRAEL, INTEREST CONTINUED IN WEST BANK NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN. (IN URQUHART'S VIEW TIME FOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS HAD PASSED THREE YEARS AGO.) GUYER REPORTED THAT OTHER MAIN SUBJECT IN JERUSALEM, END-OF-WAR NEGOTIATIONS, DID NOT SEEM TO ATTRACT MUCH ENTHUSIASM. DEFENSE MINISTER PERES SEEMED SPECIALLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THIS COURSE. (SYG HAD NOT YET RECEIVED REPORT OF GUYER'S DISCUSSIONS IN CAIRO.)

5. GUYER LEAVES GENEVA FOR MOSCOW MARCH 9. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO NEW YORK LATE THIS WEEK, AND, ACCORDING TO UN SPOKESMAN, WILL VISIT WASHINGTON "SOMETIME LATER."
BENNETT

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