

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00972 240756Z

17
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 102699

R 240717Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6375
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0972

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ME
SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS: ARAFAT PROPOSAL

REF: TEHRAN 1776 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTS PORTION SENATOR STEVENSON'S CONVERSATION WITH ARAFAT IN WHICH LATTER DISCUSSED IDEA OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OF A "FEW KILOMETERS" IN GAZA STRIP AND WEST BANK TOGETHER WITH EXPENDED UN ROLE. THIS, ARAFAT SAID, WOULD GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO SHOW HIS PEOPLE BEFORE HE COULD ACKNOWLEDGE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. STEVENSON COMMENTED HE WAS UNCERTAIN THAT ASAD COULD AGREE TO SUCH PROPOSAL IN ABSENCE OF MOVEMENT ON THE GOLAN FRONT.

2. ASAD'S POSITION, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, HAS BEEN THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS FOR MOVEMENT ON GOLAN WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE UNLESS PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS FOR MOVES OCCURRED AFFECTING WEST BANK/GAZA. ARAFAT'S IDEA IS FOR US FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD PROPOSITION REVERSED, I.E., THAT PALESTINIANS GET FIRST MOVE. HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER PRESENT DYNAMICS OF PLO/SYRIAN RELATIONSHIP TO BE SUCH THAT PRIOR MOVEMENT FOR PLO WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO DAMASCUS AND NEED NOT BE TIED

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TO MOVEMENT ON GOLAN. ONE POINT AFTER ALL ON WHICH DAMASCUS AND

JERUSALEM SEEM FIRMLY AGREED IS THAT THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WILL BE
SETTLED ONLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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