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TAP005

~~SECRET~~

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DN

OP: IMMED
DE: RUMTYV 0557 1871756
Z: 061752Z JUL 81 2PP-5
FM: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO: SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0107

INFO: WHITEHOUSE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 16 2019

~~SECRET TEL AVIV 10957~~

NO DIS:

ELD: 12065; RDS-1 7/6/81 (LEWIS, SAMUEL W.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, MILI, IS, IZ, US, NORF, MASS
SUBJECT: BEGIN ANGRILY REJECTS ORAL DEMARCHE CONCERNING
RAID ON IRAQI REACTOR
REF: A) STATE 175950, B) TEL AVIV 10495, C) STATE 175875

As per

1. ~~45 ENTIRE TEXT~~

2. I MADE THE ORAL DEMARCHE TO BEGIN ON THE IRAQI RAID MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 6. THE RESPONSE WAS NINETY MINUTES OF COLD FURY, ALTERNATING WITH AGGRIEVED DEFIANCE. HE WAS CLEARLY WELL PREPARED ALTHOUGH HE TOOK A FEW ROUGH NOTES. THOUGH THEATRICAL, BEGIN'S REACTIONS WERE GENUINE.

3. IN WHAT HE HIMSELF CHARACTERIZED AS HIS ANGRIEST AND SHARPEST EXCHANGE WITH ME IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, BEGIN CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE "ORAL NOTE" WHICH HE SAID HAD NOW PRECIPITATED THE WORST CRISIS IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS SINCE GOLDA MEIR SIMILARLY REJECTED THE RODGERS PLAN.

4. BEGIN WAS INFURIATED BY THE SUBSTANCE AND TONE OF THE DEMARCHE, AND, AS HE PUT IT, "DEEPLY HURT AND INSULTED." TRY AS I DID TO EXPLAIN THE NEEDS OF THE PRESIDENT IN HANDLING THIS MATTER WITH THE CONGRESS, BEGIN WOULD NOT BUDGE FROM HIS CONTENTION THAT THE RAID WAS AN INESCAPABLE "SUPREME ACT OF LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE" FOR WHICH HE HAD NO INTENTION OF APOLOGIZING IN ANY MANNER. WHEN I URGED HIM TO THINK OVER HIS ORAL RESPONSE WITH CARE, HE SAID: "I WILL ALWAYS THINK, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY ANSWER YOU WILL GET TO THAT "ORAL NOTE," NOW OR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE."

5. BEGIN SAID THERE WAS NO POINT IN HAVING MGRAREANE COME.

SITI RA NAN COL VP JP
EQB: KEMP, KENNITT
WNSR COMMENTS: RBD TAG

7 Jul 81

PAGE 01

TEL AVIV 0557
RECALLED

DTG: 061752Z JUL 81
TOR: 187180Z

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320-82-0104, 48, Israel (Jul-Aug) 81

18-M-1192

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HERE TO HEAR THE SAME EXCHANGE. HOWEVER, HE OFFERED TO RECEIVE MCFARLANE IF RPT IF HE WOULD WITHDRAW THE ORAL NOTE. IF WE DID SO, HE WOULD THEN SET ASIDE MONDAY MORNING, JULY 13, FOR A FREE DISCUSSION WITH HIM. I REPLIED THAT I WAS NOT EMPOWERED TO WITHDRAW OUR DEMARCHE BUT WOULD REPORT HIS REMARKS IMMEDIATELY TO SECRETARY HAIG AND TO THE PRESIDENT.

6. FULL REPORT ON MEETING FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL, LEWIS
BT

Office of the Secretary of Defense 50.6.c 8552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 16 AUG 2019 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: K Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 18-M-1192

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 16 2019

PAGE 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 0557
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DTG: 061722Z JUL 81
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