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EXCISE



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Department of State

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F.O. 12WAS: RDS-1 12/12/95 (LENTS, SAMUEL W.) OP-M
TAGS: 19, US, MTLI, 19, SA
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH [] []

1. IS - ENTIRE TEXT
2. DURING GENERAL REVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS WITH [] HE RAISED WITH ME TWO SUBJECTS WHICH I PROMISED TO REPORT TO WASHINGTON.
3. [] QUESTIONED ME CLOSELY ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS VIA ALGERIA WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. I SUMMARIZED THE STATE OF PLAY FOR HIM AS BEST I JUDGE IT FROM PUBLIC SOURCES. HE THEN SAID THAT HE SHOULD KNOW ISRAEL WAS CONTINUING TO RECEIVE "A STEADILY MOUNTING PILE" OF REQUESTS FOR SALE OF AMMUNITION AND SPARE PARTS TO IRAN.

[] WOULD DO NOTHING TO RESPOND TO THESE REQUESTS SO LONG AS OUR HOSTAGES WERE STILL CAPTIVE. BUT HE WANTED ME TO BE AWARE OF THE PRESSURES [] DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT TO RESPOND, "EVEN IF SELLING ONE ITEM," IN ORDER TO HAVE AN ISRAELI FOOT- IN THE DOOR FOR LONG-TERM ISRAELI POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS. NONETHELESS, []

SECRET

b1 a9
b1 a9
b1 a9
b1 a5
b1 a9

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MK

REVIEWED BY [] Date 12/12/95

- () RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
- () EXCISE (A) DECLASSIFY in PART
- () DENY () DELETE
- () Non-responsive info.

FOI, BO or PA exemptions: b1, b5
TS authority to: GADR
() CLASSIFY in: GADR
() DOWNGRADE TO () of () G, OADR

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

SECRET

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NOTHING UNTIL OUR HOSTAGES WERE FREED

I SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE SUPPOSED WE WERE AWARE THERE WERE VARIOUS ARMS DEALERS IN EUROPE WHO WERE IN FACT SUPPLYING SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNITION TO TRAN, WHETHER WITH OR WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE VARIOUS EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS (I UNDERSTOOD THE REFERENCE TO BE PARTICULARLY TO THE FRENCH). I SAID THAT THERE COULD WELL BE SOME SUCH LEAKAGE THROUGH THE ARMS DEALER NETWORK, BUT THAT GOVERNMENTS PER SE WERE STANDING FIRM WITH US.

4.

NR

5.

LEWIS
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TRANSCRIBED COPY FOLLOWS

Subject: Conversation with [--excised----]

1. (S - Entire Text)

2. During general review of recent events with [excised], he raised with me two subjects which I promised to report to Washington.

3. [--excised--] questioned me closely about the state of our negotiations via Algeria with the Iranian Government over the release of the American hostages. I summarized the state of play for him as best I deduce it from public sources. He then said that we should know Israel was continuing to receive "a steadily mounting pile" of requests for sale of ammunition and spare parts to Iran.

[--excised -----
-----] would do nothing to respond to these requests so long as our hostages were still captive. But he wanted me to be aware of the pressures [excised -----] defense establishment to respond, "Even [by?] selling one item," in order to have an Israeli foot in the door for long-term Israeli political and diplomatic interests. Nonetheless, [excised -----] determination to do

nothing until our hostages were freed. [excised-----
-----] said, however, that he supposed we were aware there were various arms dealers in Europe who were in fact supplying spare parts and ammunition to Iran, whether with or without the approval of the various European governments (I understood the reference to be particularly to the French). I said that there could well be some such leakage through the arms dealer network, but that governments per se were standing firm with us.

4. [paragraph excised]

5. [paragraph excised]

Lewis