

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority E012958
 By MBNARA Date 06/05/02

B way

S E C R E T

*****S COPY

FLASH

ESA482ADA389

DE RUEAD #7766 2791040

Z 061033Z OCT 73 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9988

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7766

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF IS US UR

SUBJECT: GOI CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN ATTACK TODAY

Mrs. Meir's early meeting
 with Keating saying Israel
 expects attacks.

1. AT PRIME MINISTER'S URGENT REQUEST, I MET WITH HER AT HER
 TEL AVIV OFFICE THIS MORNING AT 10:15. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, AMB
 DINITZ, MORDECHAI GAZIT OF PM'S OFFICE AND AVRAHAM KIDRON, DIRGEN MFA
 ,
 ALSO PRESENT.

2- MRS MEIR INITIATED CONVERSATION BY NOTING "WE MAY BE IN TROUBLE".
 THEN GAVE ME A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION RE REPORTED SYRIAN AND
 EGYPTIAN BUILD-UPS DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. I NOTED THAT WE
 HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE IDF ON
 SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND WE WERE TOLD THE SITUATION WAS NOT DANGER-
 OUS. MRS MEIR SAID THAT THIS WAS AN ACCURATE EVALUATION AT THE TIME,
 BUT THAT WITHIN THE LAST 12 HOURS THE SITUATION HAD BECOME VERY SERIO-
 US.

ISRAEL HAD INFO FROM A NUMBER OF TOTALLY RELIABLE
 SOURCES THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT WERE PLANNING A COORDINATED ATTACK
 AGAINST ISRAEL TODAY IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

3. IN ADDITION TO INFO RE MILITARY SITUATION GOI HAD HARD
 INFO THAT SOVIET DEPENDENTS AND AT LEAST SOME ADVISORS WERE
 BEING EVACUATED FROM SYRIA AND AEGYPT. AT FIRST, SAID MRS MEIR,
 THE GOI THOUGHT THE SOVIET EVACUATION FROM SYRIA MIGHT MEAN A
 BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BUT THIS NOW DOES NOT SEEM TO BE
 THE CASE SINCE A NUMBER OF SOVIET ADVISORS ARE STILL IN COUNTRY AND
 APPARENTLY PLANNING TO REMAIN. ALSO, GOI HAS INFO THAT SOVIET
 NAVAL VESSELS HAVE DEPARTED ALEXANDRIA. ISRAEL COULD ONLY
 SPECULATE ON REASON FOR SOVIET EXODUS, BUT ONE GOI SOURCE REPORTED
 THIS IS PART OF SOVIET NEGATIVE REACTION TO PLANNED EGYPTIAN AND
 SYRIAN ATTACKS.

PSN:048565

RECALLED
 PAGE 01

TOR:279/11:04Z

DTG:061033Z OCT 73

S E C R E T

*****S COPY

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority EO 12958
 By MBNARA Date 66/05/02

***** S E C R E T *****S COPY

4. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, SAID MRS. MEIR, ISRAEL WANTED THE URGENT HELP OF THE US IN TRYING TO HEAD OFF HOSTILITIES. SHE ASKED IF WE WOULD PASS ON TO THE SOVIETS AND EGYPTIANS THE FOLLOWING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

A. ISRAEL IS NOT PLANNING TO ATTACK SYRIA OR EGYPT. IT HAS DEPLOYED ITS FORCES TO PROTECT ITSELF IN CASE OF ATTACK AND, ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, IS CALLING UP "SOME RESERVES". (SHE CONFIRMED THIS IS NOT GENERAL MOBILIZATION)

B. ISRAEL IS WELL AWARE OF THE MILITARY DISPOSITIONS OF EGYPT AND SYRIA. IF THEY ATTACK, THEY WILL LOSE AS SHE HAS BEEN ASSURED THIS AM BY DEFMIN DAYAN ALTHOUGH THE ATTACKERS CAN CAUSE DAMAGE AND INFLECT CAUSUALTIES WHICH ISRAEL WISHES TO AVOID.

5. IN ANSWER TO MY SPECIFIC QUESTION, MRS. MEIR REPLIED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT RPT NOT LAUNCH A PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK, NOTING THAT ISRAEL WOULD SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND ITSELF IF ATTACKED, BUT EMPHASIZING THAT THE GOI WISHES TO AVOID BLOODSHED.

6. DATT HAS BEEN BRIEFED BY IDF RE DETAILS OF MILITARY SITUATION IS REPORTING SEPARATELY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.

7. PM'S OFFICE HAS JUST CALLED FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR IDF: IN ANSWER TO QUESTION IDF SPOKESMAN WILL SAY: "FOLLOWING CONCENTRATION OF SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN TROOPS THE IDF HAS TAKEN DEFENSIVE MEASURES INCLUDING A CALL UP OF SOME RESERVES."

8. AMB. DINITZ WILL LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON ON FIRST AVAILABLE PLANE. HE SHOULD BE THERE TOMORROW AT LATEST.
 COMMENT: I BELIEVE MRS MEIR SINCERELY WISHES TO AVOID USELESS BLOODSHED. I TRUST WE CAN AID IN THIS WORTHY ENDEAVOR. IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SOME KIND OF REPLY TO PM WITHIN NEXT FEW HOURS.
 KEATING
 BT

PSN:048565

RECALLED
 PAGE 02

OF 02

TDR:279/11:04Z

DTG:061033Z OCT 73

***** S E C R E T *****

*****S COPY