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DOCUMENT ID: 107529492  
INQNO: DOC1AD 00440071  
DOCNO:  
PRODUCER:  
SOURCE: MILITARY  
DOCTYPE:  
DOR: 19870706  
TOR: 10470000  
DOCPREC: R  
ORIGDATE: 198707061047  
DOCCLASS: U

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TEXT  
STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, SP, P/M, ALSO PASS  
BIB; USIA FOR NEA, R, P/F, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, P/M, VOA  
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ROME AND JERUSALEM FOR VOA.  
LONDON FOR ROBIN RAPHEL; ROME FOR MFO. JERUSALEM FOR

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ICD GREEN.

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FOR POLAD AMB. LANE AND PAO.  
MACDILL FOR USIA ADVISER BRIAN BELL.

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, JULY 3-6, 1987

A) STORIES COVERED IN REPORT:

1. LAVI CONTROVERSY.
2. THE U.S. AND M-E PEACE PROCESS.
3. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S IMAGE.

INTRODUCTION:

ALL MEDIA CONTINUED TO REPORT AND COMMENT ON THE LAVI, HIGHLIGHTING DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN'S ACCOUNT TO THE CABINET OF HIS WASHINGTON TALKS. THE PRESS OF JULY 6 FRONT-PAGED PLANS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE IN PUBLIC SERVICES CALLED FOR NEXT SUNDAY BY THE TRADE UNIONS, IN PROTEST AGAINST THE STALEMATED ANNUAL WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. EDITORIALS PRAISED FRENCH JUSTICE FOR THE LIFE SENTENCE METED OUT TO **KLAUS BARBIE**. YEDIOT BANNERED A PROPOSAL BY A SENIOR GOVERNMENT PANEL FOR A SERIES OF ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. AN IDEA BY A LEADING ISRAELI RIGHTIST TO SHIP WEST BANK ARABS TO JORDAN INSPIRED A GREAT DEAL OF MOSTLY NEGATIVE REACTION.

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

1. LAVI CONTROVERSY:

-- ISRAEL TV CALLED THE LAVI "ISRAEL'S NO. 1 NATIONAL PROBLEM." THE JERUSALEM POST CITED "WASHINGTON OBSERVERS" TO THE EFFECT THAT "DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH THE LAVI WOULD DAMAGE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL." HA'ARETZ WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT BAREL WROTE THAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD REACT UNFAVORABLY TO WHAT MAY ERRONEOUSLY BE PERCEIVED AS AMERICAN HATRED FOR THE PROJECT.

-- ALL MEDIA REPORTED THAT ALTHOUGH DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WITH GENEROUS OFFERS OF HELP TO OFFSET THE CANCELLATION OF THE LAVI, THE CABINET, LED BY SHAMIR AND PERES, IS LIKELY TO ADOPT A PROPOSAL KEEPING THE PROJECT ALIVE, THOUGH CONSIDERABLY SCALED DOWN.

-- YEDIOT EDITORIAL CHARGED: "THE NATION CANNOT LIVE WITH THE LAVI, BUT SHAMIR AND PERES LACK THE POLITICAL STRENGTH TO STOP IT."

2. THE U.S. AND M-E PEACE PROCESS:

-- MAARIV COLUMNIST ZAK ARGUED THAT AS FAR AS THE ARABS ARE CONCERNED, AMERICA'S "BACKPEDALING" ON THE LAVI IS FURTHER PROOF THAT THE U.S. IS LOSING GROUND IN THE M-E TO THE SOVIET UNION. ZAK'S CONCLUSION: WITH A WEAK END OF MESSAGE

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STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, SP, P/M, ALSO PASS  
BIB; USIA FOR NEA, R, P/F, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, P/M, VOA  
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MACDILL FOR USIA ADVISER BRIAN BELL.

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, JULY 3-6, 1987  
AMERICA AS ITS ALLY, ISRAEL SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM AN  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

-- DAVAR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT MELMAN FELT THAT  
AMBASSADOR PICKERING'S RECENT PUBLIC APPEARANCES ARE  
"PART OF A NEW DRIVE BY AMERICAN DIPLOMACY TO REASSERT  
ITSELF .... IN THE FACE OF THE NEW SOVIET DYNAMISM." SO  
FAR THE U.S. HAS SHOWN ONLY "INDIFFERENCE AND  
IMPOTENCE."

-- JERUSALEM POST DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT MORRIS  
WROTE: "THE UPSHOT OF AMERICAN MISCALCULATIONS IS THAT  
SOVIET DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN THE M-E HAS INCREASED  
DRAMATICALLY."

3. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S IMAGE:

-- AL HAMISHMAR U.S. CORRESPONDENT RAPHAEL INTERPRETED  
PRESIDENT REAGAN' JEFFERSON MEMORIAL ADDRESS AS AN  
ATTEMPT "TO RECAPTURE LAST YEAR'S MAGIC."

C) HEADLINES:

1. LAVI CONTROVERSY:

"DECISION NEXT WEEK - MAYBE" (HADASHOT), "SHAMIR, PERES  
TILT FOR 'SCALED-DOWN' LAVI" (HA'ARETZ), "CABINET TENDS  
TO APPROVE SCALED-DOWN LAVI" (DAVAR), "DEFENSE MINISTER  
RABIN: UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS I'M AGAINST PROJECT"  
(ALL MEDIA).

2. THE U.S. AND M-E PEACE PROCESS:

"A WEAK FRIEND" (MAARIV COMMENTARY), "SEMBLANCE OF  
PEACE MOMENTUM" (JERUSALEM POST COMMENTARY), "I TALK  
THEREFORE I EXIST" (DAVAR COMMENTARY).

3. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S IMAGE:

"REAGAN WANTS MORE POWER" (AL HAMISHMAR).

D) SUPPORTIVE TEXT:

1. LAVI CONTROVERSY:

I. A FRONTPAGE REPORT IN THE JERUSALEM POST SAID JULY  
5: "A DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH THE LAVI WOULD DAMAGE  
ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL,  
OBSERVERS IN WASHINGTON NOTED .... SENIOR GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE U.S. DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE  
TO PROVIDE VISITING DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN WITH ANSWERS  
SO THAT A DECISION COULD BE REACHED ON THE LAVI.  
ALTHOUGH THEY ADMITTED THAT THE FINAL DECISION RESTS  
WITH THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT, THEY SAID IT WOULD BE VERY  
END OF MESSAGE

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E.O. 12356: N/A

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STRANGE FOR THE ISRAELIS TO TURN THEIR BACK ON THE GOODWILL THAT THE U.S. HAS SHOWN IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE PROJECT."

II. HA'ARETZ WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ZVI BAREL WROTE JULY 5: "ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE 'GOODIES' THE ADMINISTRATION AGREED TO GIVE ISRAEL WOULD MAKE THE ISRAELIS FEEL THAT WASHINGTON WAS DEAD SET AGAINST THE PROJECT AND, CONSEQUENTLY, STIMULATE A PRO-LAVI BACKLASH. SEVERAL OFFICIALS WENT AS FAR AS ASKING ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS TO MINIMIZE REPORTS ON WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION AGREED TO GIVE ISRAEL .... THE OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD ON THEIR MIND NOT ONLY THE CANCELLATION OF THE LAVI, BUT ALSO THE GOOD OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THEY SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS ALL OF A SUDDEN TURNED ITS BACK ON ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS. IT WAS SIMPLY A QUESTION OF HOW THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WOULD REACT TO A DELIBERATE WASTE OF SCARCE FUNDS .... ON THE OTHER HAND, CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAID THAT ANY, REPEAT ANY, DECISION TAKEN BY THE GOI WILL BE SUPPORTED ON THE HILL."

III. ALL MEDIA REPORTED JULY 5-6 THAT DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN TOLD THE CABINET THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIALS THAT IF THE LAVI PROJECT IS SCRAPPED, ISRAEL COULD COUNT ON THE DELIVERY, AS OF 1991, OF 100 F-16C JET FIGHTERS, THAT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS IT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE MORE U.S. AID DOLLARS FOR LOCAL DEFENSE PROJECTS AND CONTINUE WITH THE OFFSET AGREEMENTS. HA'ARETZ REPORTED JULY 6: "YESTERDAY'S LENGTHY CABINET DEBATE, THE SIXTH ON THE ISSUE, AGAIN ENDED WITH NO VOTE TAKEN. HOWEVER, A MAJORITY, LED BY SHAMIR AND PERES, IS EMERGING IN FAVOR OF A PROPOSAL TABLED BY THE LAVI MAKER, FOR A TRIMMED DOWN, SMALLER AND LESS EXPENSIVE AIRCRAFT." (SIMILAR REPORTS APPEARED IN OTHER LEADING DAILIES.)

IV. YEDIOT EDITORIAL SAID JULY 5: "ON THE FACE OF IT, THE LAVI WAS BURIED IN THE COURSE OF RABIN'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON. THE WORD FROM THE U.S. WAS THAT RABIN HAD BEEN PERSUADED THAT THE LAVI EXTRAVAGANZA OUGHT TO BE DROPPED IN FAVOR OF BETTER ALTERNATIVES. HOWEVER, THE MOOD IN JERUSALEM IS DIFFERENT. SHAMIR AND PERES ARE PUSHING FOR A VAGUE COMPROMISE WHOSE PRECISE NATURE BOTH HAVE YET TO FINALIZE, AND THE BOTTOM LINE OF WHICH IS THAT THE LAVI WOULD MOVE ON, THOUGH AT A SLOWER PACE. THE IDEA MIGHT WELL BE ENDORSED BY THE CABINET. IT STEMS FROM THE INABILITY OF THE TWO LEADERS TO TAKE A COURAGEOUS DECISION. THE NATION CANNOT LIVE WITH THE LAVI, BUT SHAMIR AND PERES LACK THE POLITICAL STRENGTH TO STOP IT."

END OF MESSAGE

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STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, SP, P/M, ALSO PASS  
BIB; USIA FOR NEA, R, P/F, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, P/M, VOA  
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E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, JULY 3-6, 1987

2. THE U.S. AND M-E PEACE PROCESS:

I. MAARIV COLUMNIST MOSHE ZAK WROTE JULY 3: "THROUGHOUT THE M-E, THERE IS A MARKED INCREASE IN SOVIET INFLUENCE AND A DEVALUATION OF AMERICAN PRESTIGE. THIS IS VERY SAD FOR ISRAEL WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN CEMENTING ITS TIES WITH THE U.S., FROM STAR WARS TO THE FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT ... THE ARABS ARE READING AMERICA'S ZIG-ZAG POLICY AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICANS ARE FOLDING IN THE FACE OF A DETERMINED AND RESOLUTE NEW SOVIET LEADERSHIP .... THE ARABS, WHO LOOKED WITH ENVY ON THE JEWISH JET FIGHTER BUILT WITH AMERICAN MONEY, ARE INTERPRETING WASHINGTON'S BACKPEDALING ON THE LAVI PROJECT AS A RETREAT FROM A BOLD PROGRAM BY ITS M-E ALLY .... FINALLY, ISRAEL OUGHT TO DISENGAGE ITSELF RAPIDLY FROM THE (INTERNATIONAL) CONFERENCE. ANY SUPERPOWER NEGOTIATIONS ARE POTENTIALLY VERY DANGEROUS WHEN AMERICA IS WEAK AND THE SOVIETS ARE ON THE OFFENSIVE."

COMMENTED JULY 6: "AMBASSADOR PICKERING MAY ARGUE THAT THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR REASON FOR HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT IT TOOK PLACE SPOKE LOUDER THAN WORDS. IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE UNTALKATIVE DIPLOMAT HAD WITHIN A SINGLE WEEK MADE TWO PUBLIC APPEARANCES. IT IS PART OF A NEW DRIVE BY AMERICAN DIPLOMACY TO REASSERT ITSELF. THE AMERICANS FEEL THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT. THEY CAN SEE SOVIET OFFICIALS MOVING AROUND IN THE AREA, USING THEIR LEADER'S GLASNOST IN MATTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS .... IN THE FACE OF THIS SOVIET DYNAMISM, WASHINGTON OFFERS ONLY INDIFFERENCE AND IMPOTENCE. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WORDS ALONE CAN BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE OSSIFIED ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY."

III. JERUSALEM POST DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT BENNY MORRIS WROTE IN A FRONT PAGE ANALYSIS JULY 7: "FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY HAS GONE INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION .... PERHAPS REAGAN AND SECRETARY SHULTZ DON'T REALLY BELIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE M-E PEACE OR EVEN AN ISRAELI-JORDANIAN PEACE OR NON-BELLIGERENCY ARE ATTAINABLE. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT WASHINGTON, WHETHER DELIBERATELY OR NOT, HAS PLAYED NO MEAN PART IN THE DEMISE OF THE CURRENT PEACE PROCESS: IT HAS ACTED MORE THE UNDERTAKER THAN THE HANDMAIDEN OF PEACE .... THE UPSHOT OF AMERICAN MISCALCULATIONS IS THAT SOVIET DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE M-E IN RECENT MONTHS HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY .... WE HAVE SEEN NOT A PAX AMERICANA BUT THE SOVIETS OUTPLAYING THE U.S. IN THE M-E."

3. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S IMAGE:

I. AL HAMISHMAR U.S. CORRESPONDENT DALIA RAPHAEL WROTE

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END OF MESSAGE

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STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, SP, P/M, ALSO PASS  
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E.O. 12356: N/A

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JULY 5: "IN AN ADDRESS AT JEFFERSON'S MEMORIAL,  
PRESIDENT TOLD A CHEERING CROWD THAT THE CONSTITUTION  
NEEDS TO BE AMENDED TO ADD MORE SUPERVISORY POWERS TO  
THE EXECUTIVE . . . . AT THE PRECEDING FOURTH OF JULY, THE  
PRESIDENT ADDRESSED THE NATION FROM THE RESTORED STATUE  
OF LIBERTY. HE WAS THEN AT THE PEAK OF HIS CAREER. BUT  
A LOT OF WATER HAS FLOWED THROUGH THE POTOMAC IN THE  
LAST YEAR. TODAY'S REAGAN IS A PRESIDENT BRUISED BY A  
DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS AND SCANDALS SUCH AS IRANGATE. AT  
THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL, HE TRIED TO RECAPTURE LAST  
YEAR'S MAGIC."

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED FOR BEIRUT. LANE

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