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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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INFO RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 2183
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 8945
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2381
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 5413
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EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ORIGINATING DRAFTER ADVISES THAT
PARA 10 LINES 4 THRU 6 CORRECT AS ORIGINALLY SENT)

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OREP, KPAL, PLO, PREL, UNSC, IS, JO, SY
SUBJECT: CODEL MATHIAS MEETING WITH SYRIAN VICE

ISSUES. KHADDAM DOWNPLAYED THE VALUE OF HAVING ANYONE
AT THE TABLE IF THE PALESTINIANS SEE "TRENDS AGAINST
SUCH REPRESENTATIVES."

THE HURDLE OF STARTING A CONFERENCE

9. SENATOR MATHIAS OBSERVED THAT SYRIA'S CONCEPT OF
A CONFERENCE APPEARED TO INVOLVE MANY PRECONDITIONS.
RARELY, HE SAID, DOES HE ENTER A MEETING KNOWING
ITS RESULT AND OFTEN IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A CHEMISTRY
TO DEVELOP TO FACILITATE AN AGREEMENT. THUS, THE
EFFORT TO START A CONFERENCE IS WORTHWHILE, WITHOUT
FOCUSING ON HEAVY PRECONDITIONS. KHADDAM ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT THE U.S. HAD TRIED THIS APPROACH WITH CAMP DAVID
AND ADMITTED THAT RESULTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. BUT IT
IS DIFFICULT, HE SAID, TO REPEAT THE SADAT PROCESS
IN THE ARAB WORLD. IF THE RESULTS ARE NOT CLEAR,
THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY FOR "US" TO HOLD AN INTER-
NATIONAL CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE A CONFERENCE
COULD BE HELD RESULTING IN A MEANINGLESS AGREEMENT.

10. IN THIS SCENARIO, HE CONTINUED, THE PALESTINIANS
WILL CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE, AS WELL AS SYRIA, THUS
TENSIONS WILL REMAIN. HE ARGUED THAT THERE ARE ONLY
TWO BASIC POWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ISRAEL AND
SYRIA.
JORDAN AND ARAFAT ARE NOT
PART OF THE POWER BALANCES. "THE ONLY PEACE IS ONE

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WHICH WILL BE MADE BY SYRIA AND ISRAEL." WHETHER OR NOT JORDAN OR ARAFAT SIGN WILL NOT INFLUENCE EVENTS. KHADDAM SAID JORDAN IS DIFFERENT FROM EGYPT--THE EGYPTIANS ARE SLOW PEOPLE, WHEREAS THE JORDANIANS, WHO ARE TWO-THIRDS PALESTINIAN, ARE NOT AND WILL MOVE QUICKLY IF THEIR GOVERNMENT GETS EMBROILED IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

11. MATHIAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SYRIA WAS IMPORTANT AND SAID THAT THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WHO UNDERSTOOD THE ROLE OF SYRIA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT. KHADDAM REPLIED THAT WITHOUT SYRIA, NOTHING CAN TAKE PLACE IN THE REGION. NO ONE, INCLUDING ISRAEL, EGYPT OR THE U.S., CAN IMPOSE ANYTHING ON THE REGION WITHOUT SYRIA'S ASSENT. MATHIAS TOLD KHADDAM THIS IMPOSES A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY ON SYRIA TO SEEK A SETTLEMENT.

THE U.S. IS NOT A FAIR ARBITER

12. KHADDAM AGREED, SAYING SYRIA WANTS A GENUINE SETTLEMENT, BUT THE IDEAS BEING PROPOSED NOW ARE NOT GENUINE; THEY ARE TO DEPRIVE THE ARABS OF THEIR RIGHTS. READING PRESIDENT REAGAN'S STATEMENTS CLOSELY, COUPLED WITH OVERALL U.S. POLICY, SYRIA SEES ONLY PROTECTION FOR ISRAEL AND ITS INTERESTS. A FRESH EXAMPLE IS THE HIJACKING OF AN AIRPLANE CARRYING SYRIAN VIPS, IN VIOLATION OF EVERY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND REGULATION. YET THE U.S. VETOES A UNSC RESOLUTION. WHY? IS IT A CRIME OR NOT? SENATOR MATHIAS SAID THE ISRAELIS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR MISTAKE. KHADDAM SAID THAT THE U.S. RESORT TO THE VETO COVERS THE ISRAELI ACTION AND IMBUES IT WITH JUSTICE.

13. THUS, HE CONTINUED, THE U.S. IS NOT QUALIFIED ANY MORE TO ACT IN A PEACE SETTLEMENT, WHICH MUST BE DONE BY A PARTY AT EQUAL DISTANCE FROM ALL SIDES. HE BEMOANED THE FACT THAT THE U.S. "DOES NOT SPEAK FOR ITS OWN INTERESTS" AND IS NOT NEUTRAL.

14. SENATOR MATHIAS SAID NO PARTY IS NEUTRAL, BUT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SEPTEMBER 1982 PROPOSALS PLUS THE CAMP DAVID FORMULA ADDRESS THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUE WITH FAIRNESS. KHADDAM DISAGREED, LABELING THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AS A GREAT CALAMITY, THE PROOF OF WHICH IS THE STRING OF CALAMITIES--THE LEBANON INVASIONS, ARMS BUILDUP, GREATER SUPERPOWER INVOLVEMENT,
END OF MESSAGE

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