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3. ISRAEL-US: RABIN'S VISIT

25 June 82

ON THE EVE OF HIS US VISIT, ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN HAS ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF A SMALL NUMBER OF PALESTINIANS DETAINED FOR PROTEST ACTIVITY--EVIDENTLY TRYING TO HEAD OFF CRITICISM OF HIS TOUGH SECURITY MEASURES. HE ALSO HAS MET WITH PROMINENT PALESTINIANS AND REOPENED SOME HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE WEST BANK. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS ON ISRAELI MEASURES TO QUELL THE PALESTINIAN UNREST, RABIN EXPECTS HIS VISIT TO FOCUS ON DEFENSE ISSUES--INCLUDING THE PROSPECTS FOR ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN SDI PROJECTS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. HE IS LIKELY TO EXPLORE US THINKING ON THE PROLIFERATION OF MISSILES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, AND CHEMICAL MUNITIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD. [REDACTED]



COMMENT: RABIN MADE THE CONCILIATORY GESTURES TO COUNTERACT THE UNFLATTERING PORTRAYAL OF HIM IN FOREIGN MEDIA FOR HIS "IRONFIST" POLICY. RABIN PROBABLY TIMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RELEASES TO FORESTALL US CRITICISM OF CONTINUING PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES AND


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VIOLENCE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. BY KEEPING CONTENTIOUS

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DISCUSSION OF ISRAELI SECURITY MEASURES TO A MINIMUM, RABIN PROBABLY
HOPES TO EXTEND CONSULTATIONS ON ISRAELI ACQUISITIONS OF MILITARY
HARDWARE AND ON ARAB WEAPONS PROGRAMS. HE IS LIKELY TO FOCUS ON THE
PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER SYRIAN MISSILE ACQUISITIONS--ESPECIALLY THE
CHINESE M-9--AND THE STATUS OF SAUDI ARABIA'S CSS-2 SITES. 



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