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RNR 199

URGENT... MIDEAST-WALDHEIM

UNITED NATIONS, OCT 11, REUTER - SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM SAID IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT TODAY THAT THE CONFLICTING GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SHOULD "CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE COURSES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, SO THAT FIGHTING AND BLOODSHED MAY CEASE."

BREAKING THE SILENCE HE HAD PRESERVED SINCE THE WAR ERUPTED LAST SATURDAY, HE ALSO URGED THE DEADLOCKED SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO MAKE ANOTHER EFFORT TO OVERCOME "THE OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE AND PEACEFUL ACTION."

HE SAID HE HAD NO DETAILED SOLUTION TO SUGGEST.

"I DO, HOWEVER, EARNESTLY APPEAL TO ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO LOOK URGENTLY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF TURNING THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT INTO A STARTING POINT FOR A NEW EFFORT AT A REAL SETTLEMENT," WALDHEIM SAID.

MORE PJS/MIT 1625

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RNR 200

MIDEAST-WALDHEIM 2 U.N.

"I BELIEVE THAT IF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WERE TO TAKE THIS ATTITUDE, THEY WOULD FIND IN THE UNITED NATIONS THE INSTRUMENTALITIES TO ASSIST THEM TO GO FORWARD," HE SAID.

"I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT TO TURN FROM WAR TO PEACE. I HAVE NO WISH TO DEFLECT ANY GOVERNMENT FROM WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE ITS LEGITIMATE SOVEREIGN AIMS.

"I DO, HOWEVER, QUESTION WHETHER THE CONTINUATION OF THE WAR CAN POSSIBLY ACHIEVE THOSE AIMS PERMANENTLY FOR ANY OF THE PARTIES. I AM ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE WIDER THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY WHICH THIS SITUATION MAY CREATE.

"I THEREFORE EARNESTLY APPEAL TO THE CONFLICTING GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE COURSES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, SO THAT FIGHTING AND BLOODSHED MAY CEASE," HE SAID.

"I ALSO HOPE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBER STATES, WILL REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO SEEK AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND AN IMMEDIATE AND DETERMINED RESUMPTION OF THE QUEST FOR A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

MORE PJS/MIT 1628

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RNR 201

MIDEAST-WALDHEIM 3 U.N.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID HE HAD REFRAINED PREVIOUSLY FROM MAKING A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT IN ANY WAY TO INTERFERE WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

"NOW, HOWEVER, AFTER MORE THAN FIVE DAYS OF HEAVY FIGHTING WHICH HAS ALREADY CAUSED APPALLING HUMAN LOSSES, I FEEL OBLIGED TO SPEAK OUT AS SECRETARY-GENERAL," HE SAID.

"NONE OF THE PARTIES IS PREPARED TO CONCEDE ITS OBJECTIVES, EITHER MILITARY OR POLITICAL. THEY WOULD APPEAR, THEREFORE, TO BE EMBARKED ON A WAR OF ATTRITION WITH THE GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES NOT ONLY FOR THE REGION ITSELF, BUT FOR THE WORLD COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

HE SAID THAT IF THE WAR CONTINUED, IT WOULD POSE AN INCREASING THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN A MUCH WIDER CONTEXT. "I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THIS PROSPECT," HE ADDED.

"I AM ALSO PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED WITH THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF OUR ORGANIZATION IS THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. IF WE FAIL IN THAT ROLE THE CENTRAL POINT OF THE ORGANISATION'S EXISTENCE IS JEOPARDISED.

"I HAVE NO DETAILED SOLUTION TO SUGGEST", HE SAID.

"I DO, HOWEVER, EARNESTLY APPEAL TO ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO LOOK URGENTLY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF TURNING THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT