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HEADER

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TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
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RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB  
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE  
RUQMGG/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE  
RUEHEY/USIS CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
RUFHUKI/USIS LONDON IMMEDIATE  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
RUEHMA/AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE  
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH IMMEDIATE  
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
RUEHMY/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW SU IMMEDIATE  
RUFHTH/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE  
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 TELAVIV 06798

STATE FOR NEA; INR, SP, PM; FOR P/RC, P/F, P/P,  
P/FW, P/FN, P/M, HA.  
NEA; ROME AND JERUSALEM FOR VOA; VOA NEWS/CA.  
VOA FOR MORT SMITH; BIB FOR WALTER ROBERTS.  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE FOR DCM HUGHES. AMEMBASSY ROME FOR  
MFO. JERUSALEM FOR ICD GREEN.  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FOR POLAD AMB. LANE AND PAO.  
MACDILL FOR USIA ADVISER BRIAN BELL.

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STATE FOR NEA/IAI WILCOX, NEA/P AUSTRIAN.

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, MAY 6, 1986

PEACE PROCESS. CORRESPONDENTS YAARI AND BARNEA POINTED OUT THAT ASSAD NEEDED HUSSEIN IN ORDER TO GIVE AT LEAST AN APPEARANCE OF NOT BEING TOTALLY CUT OFF FROM THE MODERATE ARAB BLOC. AS TO HUSSEIN, HE CONTINUED TO USE HIS TIES WITH DAMASCUS AS A STICK TO SCARE ASSAD'S ARCH-ENEMY ARAFAT INTO PLAYING BALL.

III. HADASHOT CORRESPONDENT GUY BECHOR SPECULATED THAT "KING HUSSEIN IS TRYING TO TALK PRESIDENT ASSAD INTO MAKING PEACE WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK." MAARIV COMMENTATOR MOSHE ZAK BELIEVED THAT "ASSAD MADE UP HIS MIND TO GO TO AMMAN AFTER HE HEARD PM PERES' ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT HIS QUIET DIPLOMACY WITH HUSSEIN. AS FOR THE JORDANIAN MONARCH, FOR YEARS NOW HE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO PLAY A DELICATE, ACTUALLY A LIFE AND DEATH, BALANCING ACT BETWEEN HIS SECRET CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL AND HIS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD."

IV. MAARIV EDITORIAL SAID: "THE VISIT OF SYRIA'S PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD IN JORDAN MARKS ANOTHER STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. THE PROCESS WAS INITIATED BY SYRIA AT THE END OF 1985, AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF HOSTILITY, AND WELCOMED BY HUSSEIN . . . . THE VISIT COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IS DEADLOCKED AND WHEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT HAVE NOWHERE TO GO BUT UP. HOWEVER, THE POLITICAL PROCESS WILL NOT BE ON THE AMMAN AGENDA. IT SEEMS THAT THE TWO WILL MAINLY DEAL WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED AND DEEPENED DURING THE LAST MONTHS, IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING THE POOR STATE OF INTER-ARAB RELATIONS. ASSAD'S CENTRAL OBJECTIVE WILL PROBABLY BE TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND JORDAN. THIS SHOULDN'T ALARM US, ONLY CALL FOR GREATER ALERTNESS ON OUR PART."

2. ISRAEL AND **KURT WALDHEIM'S** ALLEGED NAZI RECORD:

I. YEDIOT CORRESPONDENT SHLOMO SHAMGAR REPORTED: "PM PERES ASKED THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE ALL EVIDENCE CONCERNING **KURT WALDHEIM'S** PAST, SO THAT THE GOI CAN FORM A SERIOUS OPINION BASED ON FACTS. 'I DO NOT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AUSTRIAN ELECTIONS OR TO SPECULATE ON THEIR OUTCOME,' SAID THE PREMIER, 'IF WALDHEIM'S ACTIVE NAZI PAST IS PROVED, WE WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY'." PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE KNESSET SET UP A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO WATCH OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTINUING AUSTRIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

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II. ALL MEDIA FEATURED MINISTER MOSHE ARENS' COMMENTS  
THAT THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTIONS IN AUSTRIA WERE "SHOCKING" AND THAT "IF  
AUSTRIA CHOOSES A WAR CRIMINAL FOR A LEADER, NOT ONLY  
ISRAEL BUT THE WHOLE CIVILIZED WORLD WILL HAVE TO  
END OF MESSAGE

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