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RUQMQG/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
RUFHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
RUEHMY/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW SU IMMEDIATE
RUFHTH/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
BT

CONTROLS

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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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2000**

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

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, MAY 13, 1986

IV. MAARIV BANNED MILITARY CORRESPONDENT YOSEF WALTER'S REPORT THAT "SYRIA'S CREEPING ADVANCE CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS PROVOCATION, IN THAT THE SYRIAN TROOPS IN LEBANON ARE NOW CLOSER THAN EVER TO THE ISRAELI BORDER. THEY NOW ENJOY A STRONGER SPRINGBOARD FOR LAUNCHING A TWO-FRONT ATTACK ON ISRAEL AND FOR ENCOURAGING LOCAL TERROR GROUPS."

V. IN AN INDEPENDENCE DAY INTERVIEW WITH ISRAEL RADIO (TO BE AIRED IN FULL TOMORROW, MAY 14), PM PERES REVEALED THAT "SYRIAN DEPLOYMENT IN LEBANON IS UPSETTING ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS. OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON SYRIA'S TERROR ACTIVITIES . . . 'WE'VE MADE AN EFFORT TO INDIRECTLY ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH THE SYRIANS ON ISSUES INVOLVING LOCAL PROBLEMS, IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND LEBANON, AND WIDER MATTERS ON THE LEVEL OF COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN IMMEDIATELY ON THE LATTER. IT TOOK THEM A LITTLE LONGER TO REJECT OUR EFFORTS ON THE LOCAL LEVEL.' THERE IS NO CHANCE OF GETTING SOMETHING DONE WITH SYRIA AS LONG AS ASSAD IS IN POWER."

VI. DAVAR FRONT-PAGED WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT AMIR OREN'S REPORT THAT "U.S. OFFICIALS DOWNPLAYED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SYRIA'S EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ITS MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IN LEBANON. THEY SAID THAT DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN'S COMPLAINTS ON THE ISSUE TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WEINBERGER LEFT THEM UNIMPRESSED. THEY ADDED THAT THE U.S. IS KEEPING IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH ISRAEL AND SYRIA, TO AVOID A FLARE UP AND TO TRY TO DEFUSE TENSION."

2. U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWIN MEESE IN ISRAEL:

I. HA'ARETZ POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT AKIVA ELДАР REPORTED THAT "VISITING ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE DISCLOSED THAT THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS GATHERING EVIDENCE ON **KURT WALDHEIM'S** NAZI PAST. JERUSALEM SOURCES WERE SATISFIED BY MEESE'S REVELATIONS. THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL NOW BE WORKING JOINTLY ON THE ISSUE."

II. YEDIOT QUOTED MEESE AS HAVING SAID THAT "WASHINGTON SHARES ISRAEL'S CONCERN OVER WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF EVIDENCE THAT WALDHEIM TOOK PART IN THE NAZI WAR CRIMES EMERGED AFTER HE IS ELECTED PRESIDENT." YEDIOT AND THE JERUSALEM POST REPORTED THAT "ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWIN MEESE VISITED YAD VASHEM (HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL) YESTERDAY AND PROMISED TO HELP SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH EVIDENCE AGAINST NAZI WAR CRIMINALS."

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3. ISRAEL CELEBRATES 38TH INDEPENDENCE DAY:

I. ALL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED MESSAGES OF GOOD WISHES SENT
BY PRESIDENT REAGAN AND SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ ON
THE OCCASION OF ISRAEL'S 38TH ANNIVERSARY.
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