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DOCUMENT_ID: 30547059
INQNO: DOC3D 00123340
DOCNO: 8616114A
PRODUCER: DIN
SOURCE: DIA
DOCTYPE: OTHER
DOR: 19860611
TOR: 062532
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 198606110101
MHFNO: 86 1161004
DOCCLASS: C
CAVEATS: NOFORN

HEADER

RR RUEAIIA
DE RUEKJCS #8945 1620816
ZNY CCCCC
R 110101Z JUN 86
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC//JSI-7//
TO DIACURINTEL
AIG 7011
AIG 7046
AIG 7033
AIG 7034
BT

CONTROLS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN
SERIAL: DIADIN 161-14A

TEXT

SUBJ: ISRAEL: REACTION TO WALDHEIM'S ELECTION. (U)
DOI: 10 JUN 86 (AS OF 1639 EDT)
TEXT: 1. (C/NF) ISRAEL HAS RECALLED ITS ANBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA IN RESPONSE TO KURT WALDHEIM'S ELECTION AS AUSTRIA4 PRESIDENT AND WILL PROBABLY NOT NAME A REPLACEMENT WHEN THE ENVOY'S TERM EXPIRES.
2. (C/NF) EXPRESSING "DEEP SORROW AND DISAPPOINTMENT" AT THE ELECTION OF FORNER UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIN, ISRAEL RECALLED AMBASSADOR NĚCHAEL ELITZUR FROM VIENNA ON 9 JUNE FOR -CONSULTATIONS.= WALDHEIM, WHO HAS ADMITTED BEING LESS THAN CANDID ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES IN WORLD WAR II, HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY IN WAR CRIMES WHILE IN GERMAN SERVICE IN THE BALKANS. PROMPTED BY STRONG PUBLIC FEELING ON THE ISSUE, ELEMENTS OF THE ISRAELI PRESS HAVE URGED THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA BE SEVERED. ISRAELI BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISTS HAVE CANCELED TRIPS TO AUSTRIA, AND A BOYCOTT OF AUSTRIAN GOODS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED. MOREOVER, THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDER STRONG PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE NOT TO NAME A NEW AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA WHEN THE CURRENT ENVOY'S TERN EXPIRES IN LESS THAN 2 MONTHS.
3. (C/NF) COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THE FINAL DECISION ON ISRAEL'S RESPONSE WILL BE MADE DURING A MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER PERES AND VICE PRIME MINISTER/FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR LATER THIS WEEK. ALTHOUGH PUBLIC OUTCRY WILL INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT'S COURSE AND THE ISRAELI LEADERSHIP IS OUTRAGED AT THE ELECTION RESULTS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE GUIDED BY

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A CAREFULLY REASONED APPRAISAL OF ISRAEL'S INTERESTS. NEITHER THE SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC TIES NOR A RETURN TO BUSINESS AS USUAL IS AN OPTION UNDER CONSIDERATION. AUSTRIA IS IMPORTANT TO ISRAEL AS A MAJOR TRANSIT POINT FOR SOVIET JEWS AND AS A KEY MEDIATOR

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IN PRISONER EXCHANGES WITH PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS. MOREOVER, THE ISRAELIS ARE RELUCTANT TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH ANY STATE.

4. (C/NF) ISRAEL WILL PROBABLY NOT APPOINT A NEW AMBASSADOR BUT WILL MAINTAIN REPRESENTATION AT A LOWER LEVEL. A NEW AMBASSADOR WOULD HAVE TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT, A DISTASTEFUL PROSPECT. WALDHEIM DOES NOT ASSUME HIS POST UNTIL NEXT MONTH, HOWEVER, AND THE ISRAELIS CAN BE EXPECTED TO ACCELERATE THEIR INVESTIGATION OF HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES DURING THE INTERIM.

ADMIN

PREP: MR B. HARDCASTLE, JSI-5A, 695-2505; DIST 960-3171; KY 2574

DECL: OADR

END OF MESSAGE

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