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DOCUMENT_ID: 33617873
INQNO: DOC6D 00143371
DOCNO: TEL 008524 8704
PRODUCER: TELAVIV
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: OTHER
DOR: 19870622
TOR: 063238
DOCPREC: 0
ORIGDATE: 198706221014
MHFNO: 87 5216526
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER
OO RUEAIIA
DE RUFHTVA #8524 1731028
ZNR UUUUU
O 221014Z JUN 87 ZYN
FM USIS TELAVIV
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
RUFHRA/AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
BT

CONTROLS
UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 TELAVIV 08524

STATE FOR NEA/IAI, NEA/P, INR, HA, SP, P/M; USIA FOR
NEA, R, P/F, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, P/M, VOA FOR MORT SMITH,
VOA/BN, VOA NEWS/CA; BIB FOR WALTER ROBERTS.

ROME AND JERUSALEM FOR VOA.
LONDON FOR ROBIN RAPHEL; ROME FOR MFO. JERUSALEM FOR
ICD GREEN.

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TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, JUNE 21, 22, 1987

PUT WESTERN-LIKE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES INTO USE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY ISRAEL CANNOT HEAL EVEN A TINY FRACTION OF AFRICA'S ILLNESSES SO FAR, ISRAELI ACTIVITY IN AFRICA HAS CENTERED ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, PRIMARILY LUXURIOUS BUILDINGS. THE PRESENCE OF AN IDF GENERAL IN SHAMIR'S PARTY TESTIFIED TO THE NATURE OF ANOTHER TYPE OF ACTIVITY. HERE, SHAMIR IS NOT VERY SELECTIVE. HE HAS NO PROBLEM APPROVING NEW SECURITY TIES WITH TOTALITARIAN AND CRUEL RULERS IN LIBERIA AND TOGO."

III. HADASHOT'S ZVI GILAT WROTE JUNE 22: "THERE IS NO NEED TO TRIVIALIZE SHAMIR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HOWEVER, A LITTLE MORE SELECTIVE ANALYSIS OF WHAT IS CALLED 'BILATERAL RELATIONS' SHOWS THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO PAY DEARLY FOR MAKING ITSELF LIKED IN BLACK AFRICA LIBERIA IS A GOOD EXAMPLE: A TOTALITARIAN STATE RUN BY MERCILESS PEOPLE WHO PRESUMABLY WANT US TO HELP THEM SHED THE IMAGE OF KILLERS THAT THEY ARE IF AT LEAST LIBERIA OR TOGO OR CAMEROON WERE AMONG THE LEADING NATIONS OF THE CONTINENT ONE MIGHT HAVE PERHAPS TOLERATED A CYNICAL POLICY THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, HOWEVER, THAT THEY ARE NOT AN ASSET ONE SHOULD GO OUT OF ONE'S WAY TO ACQUIRE IF SHAMIR WISHES TO HELP THE POOR, HE COULD FIND PLENTY OF WORK IN THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE TERRITORIES. LET'S PUT IT INTO OUR HEADS THAT OUR AID DOES NOT GO TO THE IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE OF THE CONTINENT BUT TO THE LOCAL TYRANTS AND THAT OUR HELP ACTUALLY HELPS THEM PERPETUATE THEIR OPPRESSIVE POLICIES."

3. POPE JOHN PAUL AND KURT WALDHEIM:

I. MAARIV EDITORIAL SAID JUNE 21: "DURING WORLD WAR II, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IGNORED - TO SAY THE LEAST - THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE NAZIS THE PRESENT POPE, WHO HIMSELF LIVED IN POLAND UNDER NAZI RULE, SEEMED MORE ENLIGHTENED THAN HIS PREDECESSORS STILL, HE AGREED TO RECEIVE AUSTRIA'S NAZI PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM. THE CHURCH, IT TURNS OUT, HAS DRAWN NO CONCLUSIONS FROM THE BEHAVIOR OF ITS HEADS DURING THE WAR. NEITHER HAS JOHN PAUL II LEARNED FROM HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE BY TURNING WALDHEIM DOWN, THE POPE WOULD HAVE ENHANCED THE WORLD'S MORAL STANDARDS - OSTENSIBLY, ONE OF HIS MAJOR TASKS IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY CATHOLIC ONES, WILL CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT WALDHEIM ONCE THE HOLY FATHER SHAKES HIS HAND."

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II. HA'ARETZ EDITORIAL SAID JUNE 22: "THE POPE'S
DECISION, DEFENDED BY NEW YORK MAYOR ED KOCH ... WILL
ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENTS IN CATHOLIC NATIONS ... TO BREAK
THE UNOFFICIAL BOYCOTT ON KURT WALDHEIM JEWISH
REACTION, AS FURIOUS AS IT SOUNDS, IS NOT UNEQUIVOCAL.

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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