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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SS0-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /036R
DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI/KRSMIT
APPROVED BY NEA - ALAMYTON, JR.
S/S - MR. EALUM

R 231698Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T  S T A T E  159161

EXDIS
E,0,11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PROR, IS, XF
SUBJECT: GOI POSTURE RE SETTLEMENTS IN AND RETENTION OF
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REFERENCE: STATE 151938/ TEL AVIV 3874 AND 3899

1. TEL AVIV REFELTS OUTLINE LATEST ISRAELI STATEMENTS OF
INTENT TO EXPAND ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
WHICH HAVE PROMPTED MOUNTING EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FROM
SAUDIS INCLUDING KING FAISAL AS REPORTED IN SEVERAL RECENT
JIDDA MESSAGES. EMBASSY WILL RECALL OUR EFFORTS AT END OF
1973 TO SEEK TO HOLD DOWN PRESS ARTICLES IN ISRAEL ABOUT
ALLEGED PLANS TO ESTABLISH NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN
TERRITORIES. EFFORT WAS HAMPERED BY ABSENCE OF PRESS
CENSORSHIP IN ISRAEL ON ANY BUT PURELY MILITARY MATTERS AND
ALSO BY STRONG OPPOSITION ON PART OF INDIVIDUAL ISRAELIS
IN HIGH PLACES TO ANY WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES. THESE.
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ISRAELIS ARE ABLE TO PLANT AUTHORITY-SOUNDING REPORTS

IN PRESS ABOUT ALLEGED SETTLEMENT PLANS.

2. AS EMBASSY KNOWS WE APPROACHED GOI IN NOVEMBER RE PRESS

ARTICLE PREDICTING IMMEDIATE DISCUSSION BY MINISTERIAL

COMMITTEE FOR SETTLEMENT IN ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES OF

PLAN TO DOUBLE ISRAELI SETTLER POPULATION IN GOLAN HEIGHTS,

SAYING WE FELT SUCH STORIES WERE MOST UNHELPFUL TO MIDDLE

EAST PEACE EFFORTS. MRS. MEIR REPLIED THAT SHE TOO

CONSIDERED PUBLICITY OF THIS KIND TO BE UNHELPFUL, AL-

THOUGH SHE IN PRINCIPLE FAVORED ENLARGING ISRAELI POPU-

LATION IN GOLAN HEIGHTS AS NEEDED FOR SECURITY REASONS.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT ZIONIST ORGANIZATION AND NOT GOI ITSELF

WAS SOURCE OF PRESS STORY AND WOULD BE HARD TO MUZZLE,

SINCE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE DID EXIST AND DID HOLD DISCUSS-

IONS OF SUCH MATTERS. SHE AGREED TO SEEK TO MUTE SUCH

PUBLICITY, AND IN REMARKS OF OUR RECOLLECTION, NO FURTHER

STORIES OF THIS KIND APPEARED IN ISRAELI PRESS FOR ABOUT

TWO MONTHS.

3. ON BASIS OF ABOVE EXPERIENCE, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT

FURTHER ADMONISHMENT OF GOI ON PUBLICITY ALONE WILL BE

EFFECTIVE. NEVERTHLESS, IN VIEW DIFFICULTIES SUCH

PUBLICITY GENERATES IN US-ARAB RELATIONS, WE WANT TO TAKE

ANOTHER LOOK AT PROBLEM. TO ASSIST OUR REVIEW, WE WOULD

LIKE: (A) UPDATE OF EMBASSY TEL AVIV'S ASSESSMENT OF

LIKELYHOOD GOI WILL PRESS FORWARD WITH PLANS ALONG THESE

LINES BETWEEN NOW AND END OF YEAR, AND (B) VIEWS OF

EMBASSY TEL AVIV ON WAYS GOI MIGHT BE INDUCED TO TURN OFF

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON EXPANDING SETTLEMENTS IN TERRITORIES,

PUNDOWN BY EMBASSY TEL AVIV ON ACTUAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENT

ACTIVITY IN TERRITORIES SINCE OCTOBER WAR (ESPECIALLY NEW

STARTS) IS ALSO REQUESTED. KISSINGER