SECRET
4/18/71

Department of State

TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 ROME 07660 2618052

ACTION SS-45

INFO DCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CC0-00 \46W 072259

O 261749Z NOV 69 7FF-4

FM AMBASSADY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3296

ROMF 7660

DEPT PASS TEL AVIV BEIRUT USINT CAIRO

SUBJECT: THREE-WAY SWAP AND TWA

REF: ROME 7571

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS GIVEN US SUBSTANCE TWO TELEGRAMS FROM
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DAMASCUS WHICH INDICATE THREE-WAY SWAP OF
ASSORTED EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, ISRAELI CAPTIVES AND
HIJACK PASSENGERS IS BACK ON TRACK.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMS US THAT ICRC REPRESENTATIVE RENARD
IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR RICCARDI IN DAMASCUS WITH
RESPECT TO REFTEL SUGGESTION THAT ITALIANS MIGHT WISH TO PRESS
SYRIANS TO MOVE AHEAD ON TRANSACTION, RENARD BELIEVED HE SHOULD
CONTINUE TO ACT ALONE. RICCARDI COMMENTS HOWEVER THAT IF TWA
VICE PRESIDENT WILSON BELIEVES TIMES HAS COME TO SET FINAL
DEPARTURE TIME FOR AIRCRAFT, THEN RICCARDI BELIEVES IT MIGHT
BE HELPFUL FOR HIM TO TAKE ACTION ALONG LINES OF REFTEL
SUGGESTION.

3. IN LATER MESSAGE RICCARDI REPORTS RENARD HAS TOLD HIM IN
STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT ISRAELIS HAVE ACCEPTED SARG REQUEST
AND WILL RELEASE TOTAL OF 13 SYRIANS INCLUDING TWO MIG PILOTS ON
CONDITION THAT TWO ISRAELI DETAINEES ARE RELEASED IN ADVANCE
AND TURNED OVER TO ISRAELI EMBASSY IN THIRD COUNTRY CAPITAL,
PROBABLY ATHENS. ISRAELI ADVANCE RELEASE REQUIREMENT IS FOR
FLYING TIME FROM DAMASCUS TO ATHENS.

DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 22, 2004
RICCARDI COMMENT IS THAT IF SARG AGAIN TRIES TO UP PRICE AND INSISTS ON SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE, THEN IN HIS OPINION, HE SHOULD AND WOULD MAKE REPRESENTATION TO SARG TO AVOID SUCH PRICE INCREASE. RICCARDI BELIEVES IN THAT CASE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF CAIRO AND MOSCOW WOULD ALSO WEIGH IN.

GP-1

MARTIN.

NOTE: NOT PASSED ABOVE BY OCT.