



Department of State

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TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3296

~~SECRET~~ ROME 7660

DEPT PASS: TEL AVIV, BEIRUT, USINT CAIRO

SUBJECT: THREE-WAY SWAP AND BWA

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 TIME 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.

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DECLASSIFIED  
PA/HO, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
June 22, 2004

ROME-7660  
11-26-69

EXHIBITS

