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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Collection Name NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AFFAIRS
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Withdrawer

RBW 5/14/2018

File Folder ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE ON PLO CAMPS IN TUNISIA
(09/30/1985): 10/03/1985-10/05/1985

FOIA

M11-397/2

Box Number 6

WEINBERG

180

ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
221822 MEMO	[RE. JOHN WHITEHEAD AND AMBASSADOR BEN YAHIA OF TUNISIA MEETING]	1	10/3/1985	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-5 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(5) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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~~SECRET~~

7927 1
United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 3, 1985 *J. Reid*

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Acting Secretary's Meeting with the Tunisian
Ambassador

Acting Secretary Whitehead prepared the attached Memorandum of Conversation with the Tunisian Ambassador this afternoon. He asked me to send it to you immediately.

Nicholas Platt
Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

Attachment:
Memorandum of Conversation.

~~SECRET~~

DECL: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
Dept. of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
BY *rw* NARA, DATE *5/14/18*

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

3
Raid

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E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, IS, JO, EG, US, XF
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF PERES' EXPLANATION
OF TUNIS RAID

REF: FBIS TA 022100

1. SUMMARY

IN A MEASURED AND FULL PRESENTATION OF THE ISRAELI POSITION REGARDING THE TUNIS RAID, PRIME MINISTER PERES STRESSED THE "SMOKING GUN" TYING THE LARNACA KILLINGS TO THE FORCE 17 OPERATION IN TUNISIA. HE UNDERScoreD THAT ISRAEL'S TARGET WAS THE PLO AND NOT TUNISIA -- NOR OTHER COUNTRIES THAT PROHIBIT TERRORIST OPERATIONS FROM THEIR TERRITORY. PERES CLEARLY REFLECTED THE ISRAELI CONVICTION THAT THE ATTACK WAS JUSTIFIED IN WAKE OF THE LARNACA AND OTHER PLO TERRORIST OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) PRIME MINISTER PERES GAVE AN INTERVIEW ON ISRAELI TELEVISION THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 3. FOLLOWING ARE SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS REMARKS REGARDING THE TUNIS RAID:

- --"THE ATTACK IN LARNACA WAS NOT ONLY AN ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL, BUT WAS ALSO A TORPEDO AIMED AT HUSSEIN AND MUBARAK, WHO WERE IN THE UNITED STATES AT THE TIME. I AM CONVINCED THAT THOSE WHO PERPETRATED THIS ATTACK WERE AWARE OF THE POLITICAL TIMING. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT THESE PEOPLE BELONGED TO FORCE 17, AND THAT IT WAS DONE UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE FORCE'S COMMANDER, WITH ARAFAT'S KNOWLEDGE."

- --"WE ARE HOLDING EIGHT DETAINEES, WHO IDENTIFIED THE THREE IN LARNACA, AND WHO CONFIRMED THAT FORCE 17 WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK."

- --"THE BRITISH SUBJECT, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN FORCE 17 FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS."

- --(IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION OF WHETHER THE GOI WAS INTERESTED IN HITTING ARAFAT PERSONALLY,) "THE WAR IS AGAINST THE PLO, AND I DO NOT THINK WE HAVE ANY SPECIAL INTEREST IN DEALING WITH THIS OR THAT LEADER (ARAFAT). A STATE IS USUALLY VERY WARY OF GETTING INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE OF PERSONAL TERRORISM."

- --"IT WAS AIMED AT TWO MAIN TARGETS: THE HEADQUARTERS OF FORCE 17 -- AND WE KNEW EXACTLY WHERE IT WAS, AND IT WAS DESTROYED. A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE KILLED BELONGED TO FORCE 17. THE SECOND OBJECTIVE OF THE ATTACK WAS THE OPERATIONS BRANCH--THAT IS, THE PLO'S TERROR BRANCH. THESE TWO BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED IN A DIRECT HIT."

- --(IN ADDRESSING A QUESTION ON WHY PLO HEADQUARTERS IN JORDAN WERE NOT ALSO A TARGET,) "JORDAN IS A COUNTRY THAT ACTIVELY FIGHTS AGAINST TERRORISM. JORDAN, AS A COUNTRY, DOES NOT ALLOW THE TERRORISTS TO CROSS THE JORDAN RIVER. JORDAN, AS A COUNTRY, DOES NOT ALLOW THEM TO ESTABLISH TERRORIST BASES AGAINST ISRAEL WITHIN ITS TERRITORY."

- --"TUNISIA MUST PREVENT TERRORIST ACTIONS FROM BT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority State Waiver
BY PW NARA DATE 5/14/18

CONFIDENTIAL

4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 14405

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, IS, JO, EG, US, XF
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF PERES' EXPLANATION

ITS BORDER AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES. THE VERY FACT THAT IT HAS PERMITTED A TERRORIST, EXTRATERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION TO ATTACK OTHER COUNTRIES IS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW. CONTRARY TO THIS, ISRAEL HAS ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW, BECAUSE THIS WAS A CLEAR ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE."

- --"NOBODY SUGGESTED TAKING ACTION AGAINST JORDAN. THE SUGGESTIONS WERE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE PLO AND THE CONSIDERATION WAS THE LOCATION OF THE REAL, PERMANENT, AND ACTIVE CENTER."

- --"TUNISIA SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING. IT IS NOT OUR ENEMY; ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS A MODERATE STATE."

- --"I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, UNEQUIVOCALLY: WE DID NOT TELL A SINGLE AMERICAN -- NOT ONLY DID WE NOT TELL THE UNITED STATES -- WE DID NOT TELL ANY AMERICAN IN ADVANCE. WHEN THE AIR FORCE PLANES COMPLETED THE MISSION AND WERE ON THEIR WAY HOME,

WE DECIDED TO CALL THE AMERICANS AND THEN TO INFORM THEM, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT THIS OPERATION HAD BEEN EXECUTED. THEY WERE SURPRISED."

3. (C) COMMENT: PERES' STRESS ON THE "SMOKING GUN" IDENTIFYING FORCE 17 AS THE PERPETRATORS OF THE LARNACA KILLINGS UNDERSCORES THE GOI'S POSITION THAT LARNACA REPRESENTED A CLEAR CROSSING OF "RED LINES" THAT COULD NOT GO UNANSWERED. LIKEWISE, HIS FOCUS ON ISRAEL'S WAR AGAINST THE PLO -- AND HIS SPECIFIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE TARGET -- HIGHLIGHT THE THEME THAT ISRAEL'S STRIKE WAS NOT AIMED AT TUNISIA, BUT AT PLO FACILITIES WHEREVER THEY MIGHT BE, ESPECIALLY IF LOCATED AND FREELY OPERATING IN COUNTRIES THAT DO NOTHING TO CONTROL TERRORIST OPERATIONS ORIGINATING IN THEIR TERRITORY.

4. (C) PERES WAS TALKING TO A RECEPTIVE AND FRIENDLY AUDIENCE, AND HIS PRESENTATION WAS CONTROLLED AND STATESMANLIKE, NOT BOASTING OR BELLIGERENT. AS PERES DEMONSTRATED, AND OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE REMARKED, THE GOI FEELS ON VERY SOLID GROUND ON THIS ISSUE, GIVEN THE SPECIFIC LARNACA PROVOCATION, AND THE FOILING OF OTHER TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS MOUNTED BY THE PLO.

6. MINIMIZE BEIRUT CONSIDERED. PICKERING
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Covey 5

Φ Tunis
RAID

Copy to GMP
JC

asap.

Δx,
BoL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

'85 DEC -4 12:00

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

B

S/S #

URGENT

MESSAGE NO 001732 CLASSIFICATION LOW 3/13/19 No. Pages 2

FROM JIM COLLINS S/S 8448
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION SECURITY COUNCIL: TUNISIA RAID

TO (Agency)	DELIVER TO:	Extension	Room No.
NSC	ROBERT MCFARLANE	456-2255	
NSC	ROBERT PEARSON	456-2224	
	W. ACTIN		

FOR CLEARANCE ☒ INFORMATION ☐ PER REQUEST ☐ COMMENT ☐

REMARKS: WHSITRM. PLS CALL FOR PICK UP RIGHT AWAY. MR. MCFARLANE
WANTS TO SEE ASAP.

S/S Officer:

JFC/cj J. Anderson

The Security Council,

Having examined the letter dated 1 October 1985 by which Tunisia made a complaint against Israel following the latter's air raid in the territory of Tunisia,

Having considered the preceding terrorist attacks on Israeli nationals,

Having heard the statements on these matters of the Foreign Minister of Tunisia and of the Permanent Representative of Israel,

Considering that paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that "all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations",

Considering also that established principles of international law proscribe and call for the prevention and punishment of terrorists acts of murder against nationals of all States,

Deeply concerned over the danger to peace posed by the Israeli raid and preceding attacks against Israeli nationals,

Calling attention to the grave consequences that the escalating violence will have on the establishment of a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

Considering that the Israeli Government acknowledged responsibility for the raid as soon as it was carried out,

1. Condemns all resort to violence in the context of ongoing efforts to attain peace in the Middle East;

2. Strongly deplores the Israeli raid of 30 September 1985 at Hammam Shott, Tunisia, as well as the preceding attacks against Israeli nationals;

3. Requests all concerned to desist in the future from the perpetration or the threat of such acts, and to take appropriate steps to prevent persons or groups within their sovereign territory from perpetrating such acts;

4. Urges all parties to take note of and respond appropriately to the human and material losses resulting from the action in Tunisia and the preceding attacks;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution in a period of time not exceeding;

6. Decides to remain seized of the matter and to reconvene as soon as it has received the report of the Secretary-General in order to examine progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution;

7. Calls on all members of the United Nations Organization to reaffirm their support and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States.

US proposed
Draft.

8A

Revised Draft-10/4/85:
10:30 a.m.

The Security Council,

Having examined the letter dated 1 October 1985 by which Tunisia made a complaint against Israel following the latter's air raid in the territory of Tunisia,

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OK

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7. Calls on all members of the United Nations Organization to reaffirm their support and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States.

9
Draft US
Statement
of 1200 10/4

DRAFT UNSC STATEMENT

The occasion for this meeting is a particularly sad one for the U.S., stemming from a raid by one close friend into the territory of another. This tragic sequence of events has roots deep in by what is now an all too familiar pattern of escalating force and counter-force. We deplore such acts of violence from whatever quarter they come. We have extended to the Government of Tunisia our sincere condolences over the loss of life of its citizens. Our sympathies lie with the people of Tunisia for their grievous loss, as indeed with all the innocent victims of acts of terror and the response they inevitably provoke.

Despite our deep and abiding friendship for the Tunisian Government and people, my Government cannot support this resolution, disproportionately placing all blame for this latest round of the rising spiral of violence in the Middle East onto only one set of shoulders, while not also holding at fault those responsible for the terrorist attacks which provoked it.

We must be absolutely explicit in identifying the real threat all civilized peoples are facing. That threat is terrorism, and the failure adequately to address the subject prevents my government from supporting this resolution. In large measure because of this failure to recognize that

10²

terrorism is at the heart of much of the violence we face, we have seen a steady increase in terrorist attacks directed against innocent people everywhere. The most recent examples are an illustration of terrorism at its most senseless and vicious: the murder of three Israelis at Larnaca, and the kidnapping and murder of a Soviet diplomat in Beirut. We reject absolutely the assertion that there can be any justification for such acts which can only be categorized as the basest of crimes.

We speak of a pattern of violence, but we must be clear: it is terrorism that is the cause of this pattern, not responses to terrorist attacks. We do not yet have all the relevant facts concerning this particular response. However, we recognize and strongly support the principle that a state subjected to continuing terrorist attacks may respond with appropriate use of force to defend against further attacks. This is an aspect of the inherent right of self-defense recognized in the UN Charter. We support this principle regardless of attacker, and regardless of victim. It is the collective responsibility of sovereign states to see that terrorism enjoys no sanctuary, no safehaven, and that those who practice it have no immunity from the responses their acts warrant. Moreover, it is the responsibility of each state to take appropriate steps to prevent persons or groups within its sovereign territory from perpetrating such acts. In view of

the number of countries in this organization that have suffered from the scourge of terrorism, we find it frankly inconceivable that this Council has not forthrightly censured the acts of terrorism that result in violent responses. Until the world community is prepared to resolutely face and eliminate the problem of terrorism, the pattern of violence will continue.

Looking to the future, we believe that we must not address this incident as an obstacle to peace but rather as an impetus for the peace process and renewed efforts toward its successful completion. If this unhappy event demonstrates anything, it is that we must concentrate our efforts to bring about peace in the region and thereby obviate the need for ever considering such incidents in the UN context.

The U.S., for its part, is resolved to do everything in its power to support the peace process. President Reagan reaffirmed this objective, following his September 30 meeting with King Hussein, when he said "the United States is dedicated to achieving a just and durable peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbors. We'll do all that we can to maintain the momentum already achieved."

Tunisian Draft

12

(2)

2 October 1985

The Security Council,

Having considered the letter dated 1 October 1985, in which Tunisia made a complaint against Israel following the act of aggression which the latter committed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia,

Having heard the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia,

Having noted with concern that the Israeli attack has caused heavy loss of human life and extensive material damage,

Considering that, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Charter, "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purpose of the United Nations",

Gravely concerned at the threat to peace and security in the Mediterranean region posed by the air raid perpetrated on 1 October 1985 by Israel in the area of Hammam Plage, situated in the southern suburb of Tunis,

Drawing attention to the serious effect which the aggression carried out by Israel, and all acts of violence contrary to the Charter, cannot fail to have on any initiative designed to establish an overall, just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

Considering that the Israeli Government claimed responsibility for the attack as soon as it had been carried out,

1. Vigorously condemns the act of armed aggression perpetrated by Israel against Tunisian territory in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and norms of conduct;

2. Demands that Israel refrain in future from perpetrating such acts of aggression or threatening to do so;

3. Urgently requests all States Members of the United Nations to take measures to dissuade Israel from resorting to such acts against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States;

4. Considers that Tunisia has the right to appropriate reparations as a result of the loss of human life and material damage which it has suffered and for which Israel has claimed responsibility;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it on the implementation of this resolution by 30 November 1985 at the latest;

6. Decides to remain seized of the question and to meet again as soon as the report of the Secretary-General has been submitted, in order to examine the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

E.N.D

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6. Decides to remain seized of the question and to meet again as soon as the report of the Secretary-General has been submitted, in order to examine the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

E.N.D

Talking Points for Meet the Press

~~Guidance~~
Raid

16

The Israeli Raid

- We knew nothing about it until informed by Israel as planes were returning from strike. Can state categorically that no U.S. forces were aware of or supported the Israeli strike in any way.
- Surgical strike on well-known PLO facility known to be associated with Force 17, which we are confident was responsible for Larnaca incident.

U.S. Attitude

- Deeply regret loss of innocent Tunisian lives and the distress it has caused to this long-time friend of the U.S.
- Deeply deplore rising pattern of violence in the region. Important to note that raid was preceded by recent attempts at infiltration into Israel for "terrorist spectacles", and by outrageous murder of three Israelis at Larnaca.
- Such acts of violence work against the peace process, and we oppose them -- from whatever quarter they come.
- At same time, U.S. resolutely opposed to terrorism. International community must be able to defend itself. Those who practice terrorism cannot assume they are immune from retaliation -- anywhere ... ever.

DECLASSIFIED
Sec.34(b), E.O. 12958, as amended
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2008
BY NARA RW DATE 5/14/12

Tunisia

- Tunisia is a moderate, Western-oriented, long-time friend of the U.S.... Has often gone out of its way to support U.S. objectives on complex regional issues.
- President Bourguiba is a great statesman, visionary and wise. Bitterly ironic that he was one of the very first to urge negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- In 1982 we urged Tunisia to accept PLO refugees from Beirut
-- not for purpose of relocating PLO headquarters, but on simple grounds of urgent humanitarian need.
- In intervening three years, PLO clearly did same as in Lebanon and elsewhere: established operational base over which host had no real knowledge or control.
- Our hearts go out to the Tunisians who have been swept up in this maelstrom.

Impact on Peace Process

- Return to cycle of violence particularly abhorrent because it is so useless: there is no military option that will solve Arab-Israeli conflict.
- Only way out is to address underlying circumstances -- and can only do that through negotiations -- direct, peaceful negotiations.
- Hussein is ready to bring a delegation to the table, under appropriate auspices. His approach explicitly excludes belligerent and hostile acts.
 - o He is well aware that extremists trying to use violence to derail the process.
 - o He -- and we -- are determined they shall not succeed.
- As practical matter, this episode may momentarily slow process. But it doesn't change circumstances pushing Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians toward the table.
 - o Expect process to carry on, even if quietly for awhile.

19

Statement by Ambassador Vernon Walters in Explanation of USG
Abstention in UNSC Vote on Tunisian Resolution: October 4, 1983

The occasion for this meeting is a particularly sad one for the U.S., stemming from a raid by one close friend into the territory of another. This tragic sequence of events has roots deep in by what is now an all-too-familiar pattern of escalating force and counter-force. We deplore such acts of violence from whatever quarter they come. We have extended to the Government of Tunisia our sincere condolences over the loss of life of its citizens. Our sympathies lie with the people of Tunisia for their grievous loss, as indeed with all the innocent victims of acts of terror and the response they inevitably elicit.

Despite our deep and abiding friendship for the Tunisian Government and people, my Government cannot support this resolution, disproportionately placing all blame for this latest round of the rising spiral of violence in the Middle East onto only one set of shoulders, while not also holding at fault those responsible for the terrorist attacks which provoked it.

We must be absolutely explicit in identifying the real threat all civilized peoples are facing. That threat is terrorism, and the failure adequately to address the subject prevents my government from supporting this resolution. In large measure because of this failure to recognize that terrorism is at the heart of much of the violence we face, we have seen a steady increase in terrorist attacks directed against innocent people everywhere. The most recent examples are an illustration of terrorism at its most senseless and vicious: the murder of three Israelis at Larnaca, and the kidnapping and murder of a Soviet diplomat in Beirut. We reject absolutely the assertion that there can be any justification for such acts which can only be categorized as the basest of crimes.

We speak of a pattern of violence, but we must be clear: it is terrorism that is the cause of this pattern, not/not responses to terrorist attacks. We do not yet have all the relevant facts concerning this particular response. However, we recognize and strongly support the principle that a state subjected to continuing terrorist attacks may respond with appropriate use of force to defend against further attacks. This is an aspect of the inherent right of self-defense recognized in the UN Charter. We support this principle regardless of attacker, and regardless of victim.

It is the collective responsibility of sovereign states to see that terrorism enjoys no sanctuary, no safehaven, and that those who practice it have no immunity from the responses their acts warrant. Moreover, it is the responsibility of each state to take appropriate steps to prevent persons or groups within its sovereign territory from perpetrating such acts. In view of the number of countries in this organization that have suffered from the scourge of terrorism, we find it surprising that this Council has not forthrightly censured other acts of terrorism that have resulted in violent responses. Until the world community is prepared resolutely to face and to eliminate the problem of terrorism, the pattern of violence will continue.

Looking to the future, we believe that we must not address this incident as an obstacle to peace but rather as an impetus for the peace process and renewed efforts toward its successful completion. If this unhappy event demonstrates anything, it is that we must concentrate our efforts to bring about peace in the region, and thereby obviate the need for ever again considering such incidents in the UN context.

The U.S., for its part, is resolved to do everything in its power to support the peace process. President Reagan reaffirmed this objective, following his September 30 meeting with King Hussein, when he said "the United States is dedicated to achieving a just and durable peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbors. We'll do all that we can to maintain the momentum already achieved."

WANG 3659W

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Print
Press Guidance re UNSC Vote On Tunisian Complaint

October 4, 1985

NOTE. To be reviewed by clearance list Saturday morning. PA officers should draw on Ambassador Walters' statement in explanation of vote (attached) to answer queries tonight.

Q. What happened in the October 4 Security Council vote on Tunisia's complaint against the October 1 Israeli air raid?

The Council adopted at 8:20 p.m. Friday evening a draft resolution based on Tunisia's complaint against Israel for its October 1 air raid on the PLO Headquarters in Tunis. The vote was 14 in favor, none opposed, and one abstention (the U.S.) This text became Security Council Resolution 573.

The United States delegation was in close touch with all concerned parties, especially Tunisia and Israel, during the three days of debate which led to this resolution.

The United States is president of the Security Council for the month of October. Our Permanent Representative, Ambassador Vernon Walters, represented us in this debate. He made a statement in explanation of vote after the resolution was adopted.

Q. What does this resolution do?

There are five main operative paragraphs. They condemn the Israeli strike on Tunis, demand that Israel refrain from committing any more such acts, request member states to take steps to deter Israel from such acts, state that Tunisia has the right to appropriate reparations, and request the UN Secretary General to report to the Council on implementation of the resolution by November 30, 1985.

Q. Why did the United States abstain on this resolution?

We abstained because, as Ambassador Walters noted in his statement in explanation of vote, the resolution failed to give due note to the broad context of violence in the Middle East and assigned blame to only one party, Israel.

We could not vote for a resolution which disproportionately blames one side of a dispute and ignores the central issue, which is terrorism. Moreover, we believe it our collective responsibility to see that terrorism enjoys no sanctuary

and that those who practice it have no immunity from the responses their acts provoke.

We thus find understandable Israel's response to the recent pattern of terrorist attacks on Israeli nationals. At the same time, we regret the loss of innocent life and extend our condolences to the Government and the people of Tunisia.

Q. Why did the United States not veto this resolution?

We concluded that a veto would not have advanced the peace process which is central to our policy in the Middle East. *Not would it have adequately accurately reflected our*

Q. How does your abstention square with earlier statements made by senior USG officials justifying the Israeli action?

The view of the Reagan Administration toward this incident and the events which preceded and provoked it is well known. We believe that the Israeli action was an understandable, if regrettable, act of self defense.

[Without judging the specifics of this case, the USG has long held that states have a right to respond in an appropriate way to terrorist acts against their interests and their nationals.]

The real problem which threatens the peace process in the region is terrorism, and the way in which terrorism feeds the cycle of violence. It is against the background of terrorist assaults on Israelis in recent weeks that the October 1 air strike on Tunis must be seen and understood.

Our policy toward terrorism remains firm and clear. As Secretary Shultz said, there must be no sanctuary for this scourge. All nations and all governments must stand together in resisting and defeating it.

WANG 3660N

IO/UMP:JAMilliams:jaw

Clear: IO:MKovner
NEA:ARaphel
NEA/P:MAustrian (draft)
L:ASofaer
M/CTP:ROakley
PA:PMartinez
P:Cross

Concern for the Government and people of Tunisia and the loss of innocent lives.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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S/S #

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MESSAGE NO. _____ CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED No. Pages 4

FROM KEN QUINN S/S 8448 7224
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE RE UNSC VOTE ON TUNISIAN
COMPLAINT AND STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR WALTERS

TO (Agency) NSC DELIVER TO: _____ Extension _____ Room No. _____

JOCK COVEY

MARTIN

NSC/S

FOR: CLEARANCE ☐ INFORMATION ☐ PER REQUEST ☐ COMMENT ☐

REMARKS: _____

S/S Officer: MW for Ken Quinn

J. Andrews