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TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 177 OF 14 FEBRUARY

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY FROM RICKETTS

YOUR TEL NOS 209 AND 210: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

1. ALTHOUGH RUMSFELD HAS TOLD US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT QUOTE EVERYTHING IS ON THE TABLE UNQUOTE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE HAS SAID TO THE SYRIANS OR THE LEBANESE AND THE SIGNALS COMING OUT OF WASHINGTON ARE CONFUSING. THE DEPARTMENT SUSPECT THAT RUMSFELD HAS NOT BEEN AS EXPLICIT WITH THE SYRIANS AS HIS REMARK TO US SUGGEST. NN A VERY RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENT THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE REPEATED THAT THE 17 MAY AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE ABROGATED. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW FROM THE AMERICANS IS AN ASSURANCE WHICH THE SYRIANS CAN TRUST THAT THE 17 MAY AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. THEY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD EXPECT SYRIAN CONCESSIONS IN RETURN. IN THEIR DETERMINATION NOT TO GIVE INTO SYRIA PRESSURE THE AMERICANS HAVE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES EVEN TO EXPLORE WHAT HHE SYRIANS MIGHT BE WILLING TO OFFER IN EXCHANGE. WE THEREFORE SEE VALUE IN A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE TERMS REDRAFTED.

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