

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01399 01 OF 02 251527Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02 /086 W  
-----251612 044695 /44

R 251342Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5033  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 1399

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, AU, PGOV

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY'S ADDRESS TO THE  
ISRAEL LABOR PARTY CONGRESS

REF: VIENNA 1277

SUMMARY: KREISKY SAID HE DID NOT CARRY A SPECIFIC  
MESSAGE FROM THE PLO TO THE ISRAELIS. HE DID PRESENT A  
SUMMARY OF PLO VIEWS TO BRANDT AND RABIN. HE EMPHASIZED IN  
THIS TALKS WITH ISRAELIS THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE  
GIVEN SOME RECOGNITION AND THAT IT IS NOT UP TO ISRAEL  
TO DEFINE A PALESTINIAN STATE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SUMMARY OF CHANCELLOR  
BRUNO KREISKY'S ADDRESS TO THE ISRAEL LABOR PARTY CONGRESS  
ON FEB 23, 1977. THE TEXT WAS PROVIDED BY THE  
LABOR PARTY PRESS OFFICE.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01399 01 OF 02 251527Z

2. BEGIN TEXT: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY TALKED  
OF HIS PERSONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD JUDAISM AND ZIONISM,  
STRESSING THAT ABOVE ALL HE "ADMIRING THE GREAT CON-  
TRIBUTION TO CIVILIZATION WHICH YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED  
IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD BASED ON YOUR INSISTENCE  
ON THE RIGHTS OF YOUR PEOPLE, AFTER ALL THAT IT HAD

TO ENDURE, TO ATTAIN  
A SECURE HOME OF ITS OWN ON THIS LAND." HE TALKED  
OF THE SPECIAL ROLE OF AUSTRIA IN FACILITATING THE  
PASSAGE OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EMIGRANTS ACROSS  
EUROPE. HE DECLARED THAT THIS POLICY WULD BE MAIN-  
TAINED AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, REGARDLESS OF THE  
DISTORTED STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE  
ISRAELI PRESS.

3. BRUNO KREISKY SAID FURTHER THAT HE HAD BEEN PER-  
SUADED THAT PEACE WILL BRING ABOUT PROGRESS, PROS-  
PERITY, AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST,  
WHEREAS A WAR IN THE AREA WOULD PROBABLY SPREAD TO  
EUROPE. THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIALIST INTER-  
NATIONAL HE HAD UNDERTAKEN TO HEAD A COMMISSION OF  
INQUIRY INTO THE QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. "TODAY, AFTER A PROLONGED INQUIRY OVER SEVERAL  
YEARS I, AS HEAD OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, HAVE  
CONCLUDED THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR PEACE EXIST. WITH  
ONLY A FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE LEADERS OF THE ARAB WORLD  
WANT PEACE AND IT IS THE MORE REMARKABLE THAT THEY  
SO DESIRE IT, FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR GREAT  
FINANCIAL POWER."

5. CHANCELLOR KREISKY DECLARED THAT THE ARABS HAVE  
RECOGNIZED THAT THEY HAVE MORE DANGEROUS ENEMIES THAN  
ISRAEL AND THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE SUFFERED MORE  
LOSSES IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST ARAB STATES THAN IN  
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 01399 01 OF 02 251527Z

ALL THEIR BATTLES AGAINST ISRAEL. HOWEVER, THE  
PALESTINIANS ALSO WANT RECOGNITION OF THEIR NATIONAL  
IDENTITY.

6. "ISRAEL CANNOT INSIST ON SIMPLY BEING VIEWED BY  
ALL SIDES AS AN INNOCENT VICTIM, NOR ON DETERMINING  
UNILATERALLY WHETHER THE TERRITORY WHICH THE PALES-  
TINIANS CONSIDER AS THEIR HOMELAND CAN BE A VIABLE  
STATE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ARAB WORLD CAN PUT ITS  
RESOURCES AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE PALESTINIANS IN  
ORDER TO RENDER THEIR COUNTRY VIABLE."

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 1399

7. KREISKY, WHO HAD LONG LAMENTED THE ABSECNE OF A DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE ARAB WORLD, HAILED THE CHANGE IN THIS REGARD WHICH HAD FINALLY COME AFTER SEVERAL DECADES AND COMMENTED THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE UNDERGONE A CHANGE BY ESTABLISHING A QUASI-STATE IN THEIR REFUGEE CAMPS. "THESE CAMPS MUST DISAPPEAR, FOR THEY ARE THE FERTILE GROUND FOR THE GROWTH OF HATRED WHICH CAN BE ENDED ONLY THROUGH ASSIMILATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF ARAB COUNTREIS."

8. PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL IS NOT NECESSARILY MORE UTOPIAN THAN WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN EUROPE, WHERE HISTORICAL HATREDS HAVE FINALLY BEEN FORGOTTEN, A TASK WHICH HAD NOT PROVEN INCOMPATIBLE WITH REALPOLITIK.

9. KREISKY ADDED "I BELIEVE THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, BUT I WANT TO STRESS THAT I DO  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01399 02 OF 02 251539Z

NOT HAVE ANY AMBITION TO PLAY THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR."

10. "YOU HAVE TO YOUR CREDIT EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR WHICH YOU DESERVE THE ADMIRATION OF ALL THOSE WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD YOU. YOUR NATION HAS DEVELOPED THE VIRTUES OF WARRIORS, TO WHICH ONE SHOULD NOT ASPIRE UNLESS ONE SERVES A CAUSE AS NOBLE AS YOURS. THIS HAS EARNED YOU THE RESPECT OF EVEN

YOUR ENEMIES. NOW ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR DETERMINATION TO APPLY THE COURAGE, WHICH YOU HAVE ALREADY SHOWN, TO BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS AND TO PROVING YOUR GOOD WILL. PEACE IS YOUR CAUSE, AS IT IS OURS." END OF TEXT

11. AN AUSTRIAN EMBASSY OFFICER HAS TOLD US THAT KREISKY DID NOT BRING A SPECIFIC MESSAGE FROM THE PLO. KREISKY EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD HAD A DISCUSSION WITH SARTAWI AND HAD ASKED HIM TO SUMMARIZE HIS VIEWS IN WRITING. AS HEAD OF THE SI COMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, HE HAD PASSED THAT SUMMARY TO SI PRESIDENT BRANDT AND TO RABIN AS A VICE-PRESIDENT OF SI. KREISKY ALSO TOLD AUSTRIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE FELT HE SHOULD SPEAK PLAINLY TO THE ISRAELIS ABOUT HOW EUROPEANS SEE THEIR STRUGGLE WITH THE ARABS.

12. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KREISKY INSISTED THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO COME AROUND TO ACCEPTING AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, HE WENT A LONG WAY TOWARD ASSUAGING ISRAELI RESENTMENT BY STRESSING HIS FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE LABOR PARTY AND BY PRAISING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND COURAGE OF THE ZIONIST PIONEERS IN ESTABLISHING THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE BELIEVE HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN THIS AND THAT HE LEFT ISRAEL FEBRUARY 23 WITH HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ISRAELI LEADERSHIP BETTER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME.

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 01399 02 OF 02 251539Z

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## Message Attributes

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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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