

Message Text

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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

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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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2. BEGIN TEXT: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY TALKED
OF HIS PERSONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD JUDAISM AND ZIONISM,
STRESSING THAT ABOVE ALL HE "ADMIRERD 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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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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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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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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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 VIENNA 1277
Retention: 0
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3399336
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY'S ADDRESS TO THE ISRAEL LABOR PARTY CONGRESS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, IS, AU, PLO, (KREISKY, BRUNO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37ed0fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009