Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00957 071716Z ACTION IO-13

R 071608Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0723
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN, AU
SUBJ: PLO OBSERVER AT UNIDO. OTHER ARAB ACTIVITY IN VIENNA

1. RECENT PRESS REPORT FROM DAMASCUS THAT PLO HAD NAMED GHAZA HUSSAIN AS PLO REPRESENTATIVE TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA AND FROM CAIRO THAT UNION OF ARAB NEWS AGENCIES HAD GIVEN PRELIMINARY APPROVAL FOR JOINT OFFICE FOR ARAB NEWS AGENCIES IN VIENNA, COMBINED WITH MEETING OF PLO REPRESENTATIVE DR. ISAM SARTAWI WITH CHANCELLOR KREISKY ON JANUARY 27, HAS LET TO CONFUSED MEDIA SPECULATION ABOUT PLO AND OTHER ARAB ACTIVITIES IN VIENNA.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS WITH MEMBER OF CHANCELLOR'S CABINET AND WITH SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIAL HANDLING SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THESE CONVERSATIONS, AND CHECK WITH UNIDO OFFICIALS, INDICATE PLO HAD NOT YET APPROACHED UNIDO ABOUT ESTABLISHING PLO OBSERVER OFFICE WITH UNIDO, AS AUSTRIANS SUGGESTED LAST OCTOBER (VIENNA 8489). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUSTRIANS SAID PLO REALLY WANTED GENERAL INFORMATION OFFICE IN VIENNA WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS THAT WOULD APPLY TO LIAISON OFFICE WITH UNIDO BUT GOA WAS NOT PREPARED TO APPROVE INFORMATION OFFICE. AUSTRIANS THOUGHT DR. SARTAWI OR OTHER PLO REPS WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH UNIDO SOON. (U.S. DEPUTY REP. TO UNIDO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT PLO OBSERVER OFFICE WAS

APPROVED BY UNIDO AND THAT HUSSAIN WOULD PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO UNIDO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON FEBRUARY 8.)

3. MAIN PURPOSE OF SARTAWI VISIT, ACCORDING TO BHT AUSTRIANS, WAS TO REVIEW CERTAIN ASPECTS OF KREISKY'S FINAL REPORT TO SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL ON HIS THREE FACT-FINDING TRIPS TO MIDDLE EAST AND SPECIAL, PRIVATE REPORT KREISKY IS MAKING IN THAT CONTEXT TO HEADS OF WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES. AUSTRIANS SAID NOTHING NOEW DEVELOPED FROM MEETING BUT TALK WITH SARTAWI HAD CONFIRMED IMPRESSION KREISKY HAD RECEIVED EARLIER THAT ARAB ATTITUDES TOWARD EXISTENCE OF STATE OF ISRAEL HAD CHANGED TO ACCEPTANCE (VIENNA 2395).

4. MATTER OF JOING ARAB NEWS AGENCY OFFICE WAS NOT RAISED WITH GOA, AUSTRIANS SAID.BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, AU, XF, UN, PLO, (KREISKY, BRUNO)

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