

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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20 ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT=01 ADP=00 PM=09 NSC=10 SS=15 RSC=01 CIAE=00

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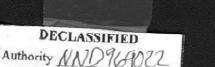
E.O. 11652: GDS. DECLAS 12m31m79 TAGS: MASS BR US SUBJ: SALE OF Fm5'S AND Cm130'S

REF: A. STATE 0675693 B. STATE 040790

1. ON THE BASIS OF AUTHORIZATIONS CONTAINED IN REF B
OFFICIALS AT THE AIR MINISTER LEVEL HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF
FAVORABLE USG CONSIDERATION OF THE SALE OF THE F-5 AIRCRAFT
AND OF ACTIVE CONSIDERATION OF FMS FINANCING. THESE
ASSURANCES HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE POSSIBILITY OF
A GOB DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT. THEY HAVE
ALSO PROVIDED A BASIS FOR PROLONGED DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING
A NUMBER OF CABINET MINISTERS AND AN EVENTUAL DECISION BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY. IT APPEARS TO ME THEREFORE
THAT IN EVEN DECISION MADE TO PURCHASE THE F-5 AIRCRAFT.
IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT USG BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND DECISIVELY
AND AFFIRMATIVELY SHOULD THE GOB CHOOSE TO CONTINUE TO HANDLE
THIS MATTER IN MILITARY CHANNELS AS IT HAS THUS FAR.

2. A REQUIREMENT FOR THE GOB TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE USG WOULD CAST SOME DOUBTS AS TO THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR ESTABLISHED U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

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AS AN INST. HENT OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION, IT COULD ALSO BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE FAB INTEREST AND CONFIDENCE WHICH IS NOW BEING ESTABLISHED BY THE MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDES DEMONSTRATED BY THE USG IN RECENT PAST.

3. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS URGED THAT THE AUTHORIZATION FOR MILTIWYEAR FINANCING BE OBTAINED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. ROUNTREE

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> DECLASSIFIED Authority NND969022