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ACTION OES-09

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 OIC-02  
CIAE-00 EB-00 DINT-05 H-01 MSC-01 IO-19 NEA-06  
NSCE-00 NSF-01 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 NASA-01 SSO-00  
HA-09 L-03 AMAD-01 TRSE-00 PM-10 EAP-00 CIP-08  
ITC-01 AIT-02 PA-01 NAS-01 OMB-01 STR-17 HHS-04  
INRE-00 AGRE-00 ACDA-12 TST-02 USIE-00 SP-02 DOEE-00  
M-01 SNP-01 FAIM-01 C-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01  
/137 W

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O 221710Z SEP 88  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0908  
AFSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO, IMMEDIATE  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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DEPT ALSO FOR OES/SAT, OES/SCT

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: TSPA, PREL, MNUC, MCAP, PINR, IS, KSCA

SUBJECT: ISRAELI SATELLITE

THAN THE CABINET PRIOR TO THE LAUNCH. HE NOTED THAT NO GOVERNMENT, AGENCY OR INDIVIDUAL RECEIVED PRIOR NOTIFICATION, ASIDE FROM CABINET MEMBERS AND THE

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LAUNCH TEAM ITSELF. THE DECISION WAS MADE IN ADVANCE TO PHONE THE U.S. EMBASSY THIRTY MINUTES AFTER THE LAUNCH (COMMENT: THE CALL WAS ACTUALLY MADE NINETY MINUTES AFTER LAUNCH. END COMMENT.) [REDACTED] EMPHASIZED THAT THE INTENTION OF THE DECISION NOT TO TELL THE USG WAS TO ENSURE SECURITY, THOUGH HE NOTED THAT THE ARTICLE IN "TIME" MAGAZINE PRIOR TO THE LAUNCH (WHICH INDICATED SUCH AN EVENT WAS IMMINENT) WAS PUBLISHED SHORTLY AFTER THE CABINET WAS FIRST INFORMED OF THE PLAN ("AND WE HAVE AN IDEA WHO LEAKED IT," [REDACTED] SAID).

7. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE LAUNCH [REDACTED] SAID THE GOI WAS TAKING PAINS TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN SPACE CAPABILITY WHICH WOULD BE A PROFIT-MAKING ENTERPRISE. HE SAID THAT SOME COUNTRIES ARE UNABLE TO USE U.S. LAUNCH VEHICLES DUE TO OUR CONSTRAINTS ON THE TYPES OF HARDWARE WE WILL LAUNCH. HE CITED SWEDEN'S DESIRE TO LAUNCH A POLAR-ORBITING COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE AS AN EXAMPLE. THE SWEDES, HE SAID, WANT TO COMMUNICATE BETWEEN THEIR EMBASSIES WORLDWIDE AND STOCKHOLM USING A DEDICATED SATELLITE THAT THEY ALONE CONTROL. THE U.S. WILL NOT LAUNCH SUCH A SATELLITE AS A MATTER OF POLICY, AND OTHER LAUNCHERS (E.G., ARIANE) HAVE LONG WAITING LISTS. ISRAEL, HE SAID, WOULD NOT IMPOSE SUCH RESTRICTIONS ON THE PAYLOAD OF PROSPECTIVE USERS. [REDACTED] DENIED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A LAUNCH WAS PLANNED OR UNDER NEGOTIATION).

8. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION [REDACTED] DID NOT DENY THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCE MIGHT ONE DAY CONDUCT ITS OWN LAUNCHES, PURCHASE A BOOSTER  
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DIRECTLY FROM IAI WITHOUT INVOLVING ISA, OR LAUNCH A PURELY MILITARY SATELLITE. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PLANS FOR SUCH ACTIVITY.

9. THE DECISION TO LAUNCH FROM EAST TO WEST IMPOSES ABOUT A 15 PENALTY ON THE PAYLOAD TO ORBIT. THIS DECISION WAS MADE [REDACTED] SAID, TO ENSURE THAT NO DEBRIS FELL IN THE ARAB STATES TO THE EAST. THIS POLICY WOULD CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE. HE DID NOTE HOWEVER THAT "THERE ARE MANY COUNTRIES BETWEEN 36 DEGREES NORTH AND 36 DEGREES SOUTH LATITUDE WHERE ONE COULD BUILD A LAUNCH COMPLEX THAT WOULD PERMIT MORE EFFICIENT WEST TO EAST, OR NORTH-SOUTH LAUNCHES (COMMENT: USEFUL FOR INTELLIGENCE SATELLITES. END COMMENT). ASKED IF ISRAEL WAS PLANNING SUCH A COMPLEX OR NEGOTIATING WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY TO THAT END [REDACTED] INDICATED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH PLANS (I.E. HE DID NOT CONFIRM NOR DENY).

10. ALTHOUGH HE HAD LITTLE INFORMATION TO OFFER ABOUT THE LAUNCH VEHICLE, LAUNCH COMPLEX OR RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT HE FELT SURE HE COULD OBTAIN AN INVITATION FOR THE AMBASSADOR, OR ANOTHER SENIOR USG OFFICIAL TO VISIT THE LAUNCH SITE AND INSPECT THE LAUNCH VEHICLE. (COMMENT: THIS SUGGESTS THAT ANOTHER BOOSTER HAS ALREADY BEEN FABRICATED. END COMMENT) WE INDICATED WE WOULD PASS THIS INVITATION ALONG.

11. ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY U.S. TECHNOLOGY IN THE LAUNCH VEHICLE OR SATELLITE [REDACTED] WAS EMPHATIC THAT THERE WAS NOT. HE SAID PARTS OF THE SATELLITE HAD BEEN PROCURED FROM FRENCH, FRG, AND CANADIAN FIRMS. THE SOLAR PANELS WERE MANUFACTURED BY DORNIER OF GERMANY. HE "THOUGHT". DUE TO THE STRICT CONTROLS THE USG PLACES ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HOWEVER [REDACTED] SAID THE GOI HAD DECIDED TO AVOID USING ANY U.S.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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EQUIPMENT. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ISRAELI  
SCIENTISTS HAD GAINED IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN VISITS  
TO THE U.S. SPECIFICALLY CITING A VISIT TO THE  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER.

12. [ ] INDICATED THAT THE BOOSTER WAS A  
THREE-STAGE ROCKET. THE FIRST TWO STAGES WERE 20  
METERS IN HEIGHT AND SOLID-FUELED. HE CLAIMED (NOT  
VERY CREDIBLY) THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE THIRD  
STAGE WAS LIQUID-FUELED OR SOLID. THRUST WAS 9 TONS  
FOR EACH OF THE FIRST TWO STAGES, AND 2 TONS FOR THE  
THIRD STAGE. THE PAYLOAD TO ORBIT WAS 156 KG.

13. [ ] HANDED US A PRESS RELEASE WHICH PROVIDED  
THE FOLLOWING TECHNICAL DATA:

WEIGHT-156 KG: STRUCTURE-33KG, POWER SUPPLY

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SYSTEM-58KG, COMPUTER-7KG, COMMUNICATION SYSTEM-12KG,  
THERMAL CONTROL SYSTEM-5KG, WIRING-9KG,  
INSTRUMENTATION AND BALANCING WEIGHTS-32KG.

SHAPE-OCTAGONAL (A COLOR PHOTO IS BEING HAND-CARRIED  
BY SCIATT TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR DELIVERY OOB 9/26),  
HEIGHT 2.3 METERS, LOWER BASE DIAMETER 1.2 METERS,  
UPPER BASE DIAMETER 0.7 METERS.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: POWER SUPPLIED BY SOLAR PANELS  
246 WATTS, AVG. POWER CONSUMPTION 53 WATTS, BATTERY  
CAPACITY 7 AMPERE-HOUR, VOLTAGE-UNREGULATED 25-42  
VOLTS.

COMMUNICATIONS: S BAND, TELEMETRY TRANSMISSION RATE  
2.4 KBITS/SEC, ON-BOARD MEMORY 128 KBYTES.

HUGHES



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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* 

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