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TELEGRAM

1968-3-25, Nasser, Israel

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15, JO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 03, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAF 00,

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AID 28, ACDA 16, NIC 01, RSR 01, 158 W

R 051350Z MAR 68

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3353

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN 990

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 878

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 1031

AMEMBASSY LONDON 579

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2766

PRESS REACTION TO NASSER'S MARCH 3 SPEECH AT HELWAN

DEPT PASS CAIRO

1. MAJOR ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS ANALYZED NASSER'S SPEECH IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FOLLOWING MANNER: MOST OF THE SPEECH WAS FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION AND FINCED NASSER'S CONCERN ABOUT DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO HIS REGIME. ALTHOUGH THE STATUS OF THE REGIME IS SHAKY AT BEST, THERE IS, AT PRESENT, NO ORGANIZED

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ALTERNATIVE CAPABLE OF ASSUMING POWER. NASSER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL CONTINUES TO BE HOSTILE.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL DAVAR THOUGHT THAT NASSER SOUNDED TIRED, DISORGANIZED AND NERVOUS AND NOTED THAT HE LACKED HIS USUAL QUOTE AGGRESSIVE UNQUOTE SELF-CONFIDENCE.

3. MAARIY (INDEPENDENT) AND THE JERUSALEM POST FELT THAT NASSER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WOULD HAMPER THE JARRING MISSION. BARBOUR

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