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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
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Origin

Info:

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV

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1. During call on Acting Secretary July 29, at which Deputy Secretary of Defense Packard also present, Ambassador Rabin raised question of advancing deliveries of F-4s. GOI knew from manufacturer that production was one month ahead of schedule. Since contract date of September for first deliveries had been based on estimate of when aircraft would begin to be available, GOI hoped deliveries could now begin in August. In support of this request, Rabin recalled that Israel had received no supersonic aircraft since 1967 war and said that ratio of Arab to Israeli supersonics was now 5 to 1, whereas it had been 3 to 1 when June war broke out.

2. Deputy Secretary Packard said September delivery date was still alright as originally agreed. Number of matters would have to be considered, however, before we could know whether the delivery schedule could be advanced. [XXXX

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[redacted] September was now only one month away and there was serious question whether deliveries could be advanced.

3. Noting this matter largely within DOD jurisdiction, Acting Secretary said he could not add to what Mr. Packard had said. He was aware of request for advanced delivery but could only assure Rabin that we planned go forward on dates originally agreed.

4. Rabin said he and General Hod had just attended graduation of first Israeli F-4 team; Israel could absorb F-4s if earlier delivery were possible. Acting Secretary replied that he could say nothing more on this subject today.

GP-3

END

RICHARDSON

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