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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Israeli Strike Update

DECLASS

NLS E96-127/1 #250

By SMF 2/28/05

The State Operations Center received a call from Ambassador Lewis this morning requesting that the following message be passed to the White House.

BEGIN MESSAGE

Ambassador Lewis met with Moshe Dayan this morning who said that he was being pressed for a reaction to the attack but would wait for a U.S. reaction before making a statement.

Dayan also said that he had gone to the Prime Minister's Office this morning where he was told that the Prime Minister would be sending a message to President Reagan giving the reasons and justification for the attack.

END MESSAGE

The following is a summary of official reaction to the strike we have received thus far:

IRAQ

Principal Officer Eagleton has not yet heard any official word from the Iraqis on the strike. His meeting today with an Iraqi foreign ministry official appeared to be business as usual with no mention of the raid. Eagleton states, however, that we can assume the top level of the Iraqi government is now aware of the Israeli origin of the attack and is considering the Iraqi reaction. Regardless of what we say Eagleton believes we will get a good deal of the responsibility for the raid. However, it is important from the point of view of security that we do everything possible to disassociate ourselves from the Israeli action. (S)

SAUDI ARABIA

[REDACTED] reportedly has said this is one of the most dangerous situations Saudi Arabia has ever faced. It is an insult to both Saudi Arabia and the U.S. and puts the Saudis in an embarrassing position vis-a-vis other Arabs.

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REVIEW ON JUNE 8, 2001
CLASSIFIED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES

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FOIA(b) (1)

IRAQ (Israeli Strike on Iraq Nuclear Facility) (S or G) EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT RECORDS, 1000th rd FILE BOX 37

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The Saudis are awaiting U.S. reaction before they take a stand. (S)

EGYPT

Vice President Mubarak seemed to take the news reasonably calmly and said he would pass the information to Sadat and inform us of his reaction. Mubarak said the attack would create problems for both Egypt and the U.S. in the Arab world when we are trying to build confidence. The USSR and Syria are sure to use the attack against us. He said that Begin would do anything to win the elections and implied Begin's action was unbalanced. (S)

WEST GERMANY

State Secretary Von Staden inquired whether the Israelis had given any justification for their "extraordinary actions." (S)

NATO

Secretary General Luns offered his services for any follow up action with the North Atlantic Council (NAC). (S)

Attached are various press reports, a cable from Habib on the raid's implications for his mission (Geneva NODIS 5717) and a USDAO Tel Aviv report on Israeli views of possible Iraqi responses and request for assistance. (Tel Aviv 9068) (S)

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Iraq (Israeli strike on Iraq nuclear facility) (S or G) [5 or 6] Box 37 EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC RECORDS, 10000th Rd