
~~SECRET~~

SEPTEMBER 1986 AMIRAM NIR HAD, AT THE REQUEST OF LT. COL. OLIVER NORTH, SET UP A MEETING BETWEEN RABIN AND NORTH WHICH NIR ATTENDED. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN RABIN'S HOTEL IN A "HOLE" IN RABIN'S SCHEDULE. RABIN'S

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MILITARY AIDE, BRIG. GEN. HAGAI REGEV, HAD ALSO ATTENDED AND TAKEN NOTES.

5. AT THE MEETING, NORTH TOLD RABIN THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS OUT OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE CONTRAS. IN THAT SENSE, NORTH SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT ISRAEL HAD IN ITS POSSESSION SOME 400-600 AK-47 RIFLES WHICH HE, NORTH, WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROVIDED TO THE CONTRAS. RABIN ASKED IF NORTH WAS THINKING OF A GIFT AND NORTH REPLIED THAT HE WAS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS LEFT OPEN AS TO WHETHER MONEY WHICH WAS BECOMING AVAILABLE LATER COULD BE APPLIED TO THE CASE.

6. RABIN SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER WITH HIS COLLEAGUES. LATER, IT WAS DECIDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND THE WEAPONS WERE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT. RABIN INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD ONLY PROVIDE THE WEAPONS TO THE UNITED STATES, NOT DIRECTLY TO ANY OTHER RECIPIENT. WHAT THE UNITED STATES THEN DID WITH THE WEAPONS WAS ITS OWN BUSINESS.

7. IN OCTOBER, THE WEAPONS WERE LOADED ON A SHIP AND THE SHIP DEPARTED ISRAEL. HOWEVER, THE STORY BEGAN TO BREAK AND THE SHIP WAS RETURNED TO ISRAEL AND THE WEAPONS UNLOADED HERE.

8. RABIN WANTED US TO KNOW THAT THE CONVERSATION HAD TAKEN PLACE. SECONDLY, HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT NORTH'S STATEMENTS ABOUT BEING OUT OF FUNDS WERE AT LEAST CIRCUMSTANTIAL PROOF THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT INVOLVED IN DIVERTING FUNDING TO THE CONTRAS. FINALLY, RABIN SAID IT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS ISRAEL'S FIRM VIEW THAT IT WILL NOT PROVIDE WEAPONS OR SUPPORT TO THE CONTRAS. IF THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO HAVE WEAPONS FROM SOVIET SOURCES WHICH ISRAEL CAN SUPPLY, ISRAEL WILL BE SYMPATHETIC, BUT IT IS UP TO THE UNITED STATES TO DECIDE HOW AND IN WHAT WAY IT WISHES TO USE THOSE WEAPONS.

PICKERING

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