



Canonical ID: 1973THEHA05612_b
Subject: PRICE BERNHARD'S PROPOSAL FOR WILDLIFE REFUGE IN THE SINAI
From: Netherlands The Hague
To: Secretary of State, United Nations (Geneva)
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Previous Handling Restrictions: -- N/A or Blank --
Archive Status: Electronic Telegrams
Type: TE
Locator: TEXT ONLINE
Reference(s): n/a
Executive Order (E.O.): -- N/A or Blank --
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State E0
Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005
Enclosure: -- N/A or Blank --
Concepts: -- N/A OR BLANK --
TAGS: Middle East [XF]
Netherlands [NL]
Social Affairs--Environment [SENV]
Office: -- N/A or Blank --
Document Character Count: 2387
Date: 1973 December 21, 14:59 (Friday)

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71
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 SMI-01 EB-11 SCEM-02

AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /199 W
----- 069977

R 211459Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO USMISSION GENEVA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2640

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, NL, XF
SUBJ: PRICE BERNHARD'S PROPOSAL FOR WILDLIFE REFUGE



IN THE SINAI

1. PRINCE BERNHARD, FULLY AWARE THAT FOLLOWING CONCEPT IS AT BEST A LONG SHOT, ASKED NONETHELESS THAT IT BE PASSED TO THE SECRETARY.
2. LAST SEPTEMBER PRINCE BERNHARD PROPOSED TO DEPARTING EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE IN THE SINAI UNDER AUSPICES OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND WHICH HE HEADS. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TWOFOLD: FIRST TO RELIEVE TENSIONS IN THE AREA, AND SECOND TO PRESERVE RARE DESERT FLORA AND FAUNA AND UNUSUAL SEALIFE IN ADJACENT COASTAL WATERS. WORLD WILDLIFE FUND HAS ALREADY DONE TECHNICAL STUDIES SUPPORTING THE ECOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A PARK IN THE SINAI
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AREA. FINANCING FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT IS ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FUND.

3. BERNHARD TOLD EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR THAT IF SADAT LIKED THE CONCEPT HE WAS WELCOME TO TREAT IT AS ORIGINATING IN EGYPT AND TO PROPOSE IT AS AN EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE. BERNHARD SAYS THE AMBASSADOR HAD REACTED FAVORABLY, INDICATING HE WOULD TRANSMIT THE SUGGESTION TO PRESIDENT SADAT, BUT BERNHARD HAS NO KNOWLEDGE AS TO WHETHER IT WAS IN FACT TRANSMITTED AND IF IT WAS AS TO WHAT REACTION ENSUED.

4. IT ACCURS TO ME THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD PARK AND WILDLIFE RESERVATION COULD CONCEIVABLY BE INCORPORATED INTO OR IN CONNECTION WITH A DEMILITARIZED ZONE. OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES WOULD FLOW FROM HAVING A GENUINE AND ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT NON-HUMAN REASON FOR MINIMIZING HUMAN ACTIVITY IN THE AREA, AND FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ECOLOGICALLY-ORIENTED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND. IT WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR ANY COUNTRY WHICH MUST YIELD SOVEREIGNTY TO A DEMILITARIZED AREA.
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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1973
DecapTION Date: 01 JAN 1960
DecapTION Note: n/a
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date: n/a
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event: n/a
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason: n/a
Disposition Remarks: n/a
Document Number: 1973THEHA05612
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path: n/a
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973129/aaaaagjj.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: n/a
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event: n/a
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>;
<21-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings: n/a

APPROVED



US Department of State
E0 Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: n/a
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date: n/a
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRICE BERNHARD'S PROPOSAL FOR WILDLIFE REFUGE IN THE SINAI

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