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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
UNBER BERLIN UNN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 506

SUBJECT: ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION RALLY

1. CONGEN HAS LEARNED FROM GUENTER MUELLER, MDB AND SPD CANDIDATE FROM MUNICH-SOUTH THAT HIS CSU OPPONENT DR. ERICH RIEDL HAS INVITED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ASHER BEN NATAN TO HOLD A LECTURE IN MUNICH ON MONDAY, AUGUST 25 UNDER RIEDL'S SPONSORSHIP. THIS INFORMATION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY AN INVITATION RECEIVED BY THE CONGEN TO ATTEND A LECTURE BY BEN NATAN. THE INVITATION HAS THE CSU SYMBOL AT THE TOP, AND WAS ISSUED IN THE NAME OF MUNICH (DEPUTY) MAYOR STEINKOHL (CSU), AND KARL SCHOEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CSU DISTRICT-MUNICH. THE INVITATION READS IN PART "UPON THE INVITATION OF THE CSU BUNDESTAG CANDIDATE FOR MUNICH-SOUTH, DR. ERICH RIEDL, HIS EXCELLENCE THE AMBASSADOR FROM ISRAEL, ASHER BEN NATAN WILL COME TO THE BAVARIAN CAPITAL FOR A LECTURE PERFORMANCE."

2. MUELLER FULLY INTENDS TO EXPLOIT THE INCIDENT FOR ALL ITS WORTH. HE HAS ALREADY NOTIFIED THE PRESS THAT HE WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE 25TH. ADDITIONALLY, HE PLANS TO SUBMIT AN OFFICIAL PROTEST TO FOMMIN BRANDT, TO THE CSU HEAD-QUARTERS, TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, TO RIEDL AND TO "CLOSE FRIENDS" IN THE MAPAI PARTY IN ISRAEL. MULLER BELIEVES THAT THE INCIDENT

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6000 / Ben Natana

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

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WILL GAIN RIEDL VERY FEW VOTES AMONG ANY GROUP, AND WILL BADLY DAMAGE RIEDL'S PRESTIGE AMONG LARGE NUMBER OF CSU VOTERS WHO WOULD DISAPPROVE OF ANY FOREIGN DIGNITARY INTERFERING IN INTERNAL GERMAN POLITICS.

3. UNLESS CALLED OFF AT THE LAST MINUTE, THE SITUATION COULD TURN INTO A MAJOR INCIDENT WITH WIDE-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR DOMESTIC GERMAN POLITICS AND WITH POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES AS WELL. LOCAL POLITICAL OBSERVERS ARE TOTALLY MYSTIFIED AS TO HOW BEN NAJAN COULD HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A FLAGRANT BREAK IN INTERNATIONAL DECORUM AND WITH RIEDL'S LACK OF POLITICAL SAVVY. WHATEVER SYMPATHY BEN NAJAN HAS GAINED FROM THE DISTURBANCES CAUSED BY LEFTIST AND ARAB STUDENTS AT OTHER SPEECHES HE HAS GIVEN IN THE FRG WILL PROBABLY BE LARGELY NULLIFIED BY THIS INCIDENT. SIMILAR DISTURBANCES IN MUNICH CANNOT BE RULED OUT, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THE CSU HAS BEEN QUITE CAUTIOUS WITH ITS INVITATION LIST. GP-4.BYRD

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