

RELEASE IN
PART B5,B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2011 6:30 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Barak's move

Fyi - consistent w article I sent earlier.

----- Original Message -----

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Mon Jan 17 18:26:14 2011
Subject: FW: Barak's move

[REDACTED] from Martin Indyk about the meaning of Barak's departure from the Israeli cabinet.

B5

-----Original Message-----

From: Martin Indyk [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2011 6:22 PM
To: Walles, Jacob; Feltman, Jeffrey D; 'george [REDACTED]'; 'Daniel_B._Shapiro [REDACTED]'
Subject: Barak's move

B6

Greetings from Tel Aviv!

Initial assessment of Barak's preemptive strike on the Labor Party is that it stabilizes Bibi's coalition and eliminates any remaining moderating influence of Barak.

The coalition math leaves Bibi with 5 more votes for his coalition than if Labor had forced Barak to leave the government.

On the other hand, Barak and his 4 followers will not dare leave the government now for fear of being consigned to oblivion.

Of course Lieberman or Shas can bring the government down at any time so Bibi remains dependent on them.

This is exacerbated by Tzipi's withdrawing of any potential safety net for Bibi. She is now intent on bringing the government down and has convinced Mohfaz to stick with her (especially because with Barak velcroed to Bibi, there's no place for Mohfaz in the government).

So, bottom line, the already dismal prospects for a peace breakthrough just grew dimmer.

This is not Bibi's spin. His line is that this will prove to Abu Mazen that the Israeli government will run its course and therefore he is better off negotiating with it than waiting another 2 years.

Have a nice day (not)!

Martin