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אל: רהמש/1599
מ-: וושינגטון, נר: 1078, תא: 250294, זח: 1616, דח: ב, סג: בל,
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9,257886
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אל: חדר מצב

דע: לש- רוה"מ
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תפוצת תקשורת
קונכ"לים

מאת: תקשורת, וושינגטון

הנדון: דברי הנשיא קלינטון בנושא הפגוע בחברון - 25.2.94

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CLINTON THE WHITE HOUSE 11:55 A.M. EST
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON: GOOD MORNING. I WANT TO SPEAK BRIEFLY ABOUT
EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN RUSSIA.

EARLY THIS MORNING, PALESTINIAN MUSLIM WORSHIPERS AT PRAYER IN
THE MOSQUE OF IBRAHIM IN HEBRON WERE BRUTALLY GUNNED DOWN BY A
LONE ISRAELI SETTLER. IT CAN BE NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE MURDERER
STRUCK DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN AND CHOSE A SITE SACRED
TO MUSLIMS AND TO JEWS. HIS LIKELY PURPOSE WAS TO RUIN THE
HISTORIC RECONCILIATION NOW UNDERWAY BETWEEN THE PALESTINIANS
AND THE ISRAELIS.

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I CONDEMN THIS CRIME IN THE
STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS. I AM OUTRAGED AND SADDENED THAT SUCH A
GROSS ACT OF MURDER COULD BE PERPETRATED, AND I EXTEND MY
DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED
AND WOUNDED. I ALSO CALL ON ALL THE PARTIES TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM
RESTRAINT IN WHAT WE ALL UNDERSTAND IS A TERRIBLY EMOTIONAL
SITUATION.

EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES ARE DETERMINED TO DRAG ARABS AND
ISRAELIS BACK INTO THE DARKNESS OF UNENDING CONFLICT AND

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BLOODSHED. WE MUST PREVENT THEM FROM EXTINGUISHING THE HOPES AND THE VISIONS AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE FOR LIFE OF PEACEFUL EXISTENCE.

THE ANSWER NOW IS TO REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE THE TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PLO AND BEGIN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT THEY HAVE MADE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLY. ACCORDINGLY, THIS MORNING I ASKED THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CONTACT PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND CHAIRMAN ARAFAT AND TO INVITE THEM TO SEND ALL THEIR NEGOTIATORS INVOLVED IN THE ISRAEL-PLO TALKS TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO STAY HERE IN CONTINUOUS SESSION UNTIL THEIR WORK IS COMPLETED. THEY HAVE BOTH AGREED TO DO THAT.

OUR PURPOSE IS TO ACCELERATE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND TO TRY TO BRING THEM TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. THOSE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ALREADY MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS AS MARKED BY THE CAIRO AGREEMENT. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE PARTIES CAN TURN TODAY'S TRAGIC EVENT INTO A CATALYST FOR FURTHER PROGRESS AND RECONCILIATION.

Q MR. PRESIDENT, YOU REFERRED TO THE PERPETRATOR OF THE MASSACRE TODAY AS A LONE SETTLER, AND THE EVIDENCE SO FAR SUGGESTS THAT HE DID ACT ALONE. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED REPORTS OVER THE YEARS OF AMERICANS PROVIDING AID -- BOTH FUNDRAISING AND OTHER SORTS OF AID -- TO EXTREMIST GROUPS ON BOTH SIDES, AND I WONDER WHETHER IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S MASSACRE WHETHER THERE IS MORE THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE HERE TO TRY TO PREVENT AMERICANS FROM PROVIDING AID AND OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT TO JEWISH EXTREMIST GROUPS THAT MAY BE INVOLVED IN THESE SORTS OF ACTIONS?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: WELL, LET ME SAY, BASED ON WHAT WE NOW KNOW, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS KILLER WAS INVOLVED WITH ANY GROUP. IF WE FIND OUT DIFFERENTLY, WE WILL ASSESS OUR POSITION AT THAT TIME.

I CAN SAY THIS, THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN HIMSELF HAS RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY PROVIDED BY ISRAELI FORCES AGAINST THE EXTREMISTS, INCLUDING ISRAELI EXTREMISTS. BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS WAS THE ACTION OF ONE INDIVIDUAL.

Q MR. PRESIDENT, WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS MASSACRE AS OPPOSED TO OTHERS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT HAS BROUGHT YOU TO THE PODIUM TODAY, THAT MAKES YOU FEEL IT NECESSARY TO MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: FIRST OF ALL, ITS SCOPE AND SETTING IS HORRIBLE FROM A PURELY HUMAN POINT OF VIEW. SECONDLY, IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN IT APPEARS TO BE CLEARLY DESIGNED TO AFFECT THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS BY DERAILING THE PEACE PROCESS. AND I AM HOPING THAT STATESMANSHIP OF THE LEADERS IN

THE REGION AND THE ATTENTION THAT THIS WILL BRING TO THE TERRIBLE PROBLEM WILL NOT ONLY DEFUSE WHAT COULD BECOME A MUCH WORSE ROUND OF KILLINGS AND COUNTERATTACKS BUT WILL ACTUALLY BE USED TO THWART THE PURPOSE OF THE MURDER AND TO REINVIGORATE THE PEACE PROCESS.

Q MR. PRESIDENT, JUST TO FOLLOW UP ON THE EARLIER QUESTION, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS FROM THE SCENE THAT THE ISRAELI ARMY STOOD BY AND ALLOWED THIS MASSACRE TO GO ON. WHAT KIND OF RECOMMENDATION WOULD YOU MAKE TO ISRAEL TO TRY TO DO AN INVESTIGATION TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED AND CHANGE THE PERCEPTION, MAYBE, IN THAT?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: WELL, WE HAVE NO REASON -- WE DO NOT KNOW THAT TO BE TRUE. I CAN SAY THAT AT THIS TIME. AND WE HAVE -- THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS TALKED WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN. I WAS NOT ABLE TO TALK WITH HIM MYSELF YET BECAUSE OF THE OTHER MEETINGS I HAD THIS MORNING. I BELIEVE THE ISRAELIS ARE COMMITTED TO INCREASING SECURITY WHERE THEY CAN DO SO. AND I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THAT WITHOUT SOME EVIDENCE OR REASON TO BELIEVE IT'S TRUE.

Q MR. PRESIDENT, IN INVITING THE PARTIES TO COME HERE TO WASHINGTON, DO YOU ALSO ANTICIPATE THAT YOU OR THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL ADOPT A DIFFERENT POSTURE TOWARD THESE NEGOTIATIONS? UP TO NOW, WE'VE KIND OF LET THEM HANDLE IT AND KEEP A HANDS-OFF APPROACH, MAYBE WISELY, BUT DO YOU SEE THAT FACT, NOW THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE HERE, AND GIVEN THE URGENCY YOU'VE ASSIGNED TO IT, DO YOU SEE YOURSELF OR THE SECRETARY TAKING A DIFFERENT POSTURE TOWARD THE TALKS?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I THINK -- FIRST OF ALL, THE VERY ACTION OF INVITING THEM HERE INDICATES SOME SENSE OF URGENCY ON OUR PART. WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO DATE, AS YOU KNOW, IS LARGELY TO TRY TO GIVE BOTH SIDES THE SECURITY THEY NEEDED TO PROCEED AND THE ASSURANCES THAT WE WOULD SUPPORT IT, BUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO FREELY MAKE THE AGREEMENT.

WE STILL BELIEVE THEY WILL HAVE TO FREELY AGREE. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT. WE WANT TO DO THINGS THAT WILL PREVENT THIS LAST TERRIBLE INCIDENT FROM DERAILING THAT, AND TO TRY TO SEND A SIGNAL TO THE PEOPLES IN THE REGION TO NOT OVERREACT TO THIS HORRIBLE ACT, THAT THE PATH OF PEACE IS STILL THE RIGHT PATH. WHETHER THAT WILL REQUIRE US TO DO MORE IN PARTICULAR MEETINGS, I CAN'T SAY BECAUSE WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH CHAIRMAN ARAFAT, WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN, BECAUSE WE WANTED TO MOVE QUICKLY AND THEY DID, TOO. AND WE'LL JUST HAVE WAIT FOR THAT TO UNFOLD.

THANK YOU.

END

תקשורת וושינגטון

תפוצה: שהח, ששהח, @ (רהמ), @ (שהבט), מנכל, ממנכל, מצב, תכנון,
סמנכלשלום, שלום, רחטמזת, ישראלערב, יועמש,
ר/מרכז, ממד, @ (רם), @ (אמן), @ (ר'אגת),
מצפא, סמנכלתקשורת, תקשורת, לעמ, @ (מתאסשטחים), @ (עמית475)

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