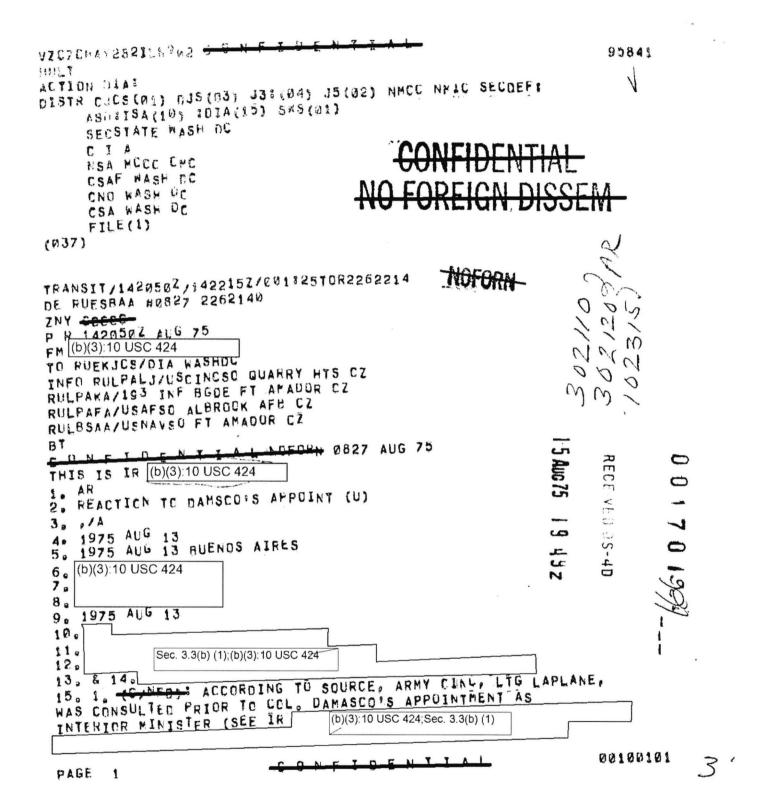
PEPARTMEN FOR WEVENSU

JOHNTON TO STAFF



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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DIRECTLY FROM THE GENERAL. HE ADDED THAT SOME ARMY GENERALS, TO INCLUDE AT LEAST TWO CORPS COMMANDERS, ARE UNHAPPY WITH DAMASCO'S ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT. HE REPORTS THAT DESPITE THE OBJECTIONS, LAPLANE SUPPORTS THE APPOINTMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WILL BE A GREAT ADVANTAGE TO HAVE "HIS MAN" IN THE CABINET. 2. (STATE) SOURCE STATED THAT AS OF 1200 HOURS TODAY (13 AUG 75) GENERAL LAPLANE'S APPOINTMENTS WERE CANCELLED FOR THE REST OF THE DAY FOR URGENT REASONS, ABOUT AN HOUR LATER SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES WOULD MEET DURING THE AFTERNOON, SOURCE, WHO IS A GREAT (b)(3):10 USC 424 ADMIRER OF GNERAL LAPLANE, WAS OBVIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING. WHEN ASKED TS HE WOULD DESCRIBE THE DAMASCO APPOINTMENT AS LAPLANE'S MOST DIFFICULT MOMENT AS CINC, HE READILY AGREED. 3. (U) DAMASCO'S APPOINTMENT AS INTERIOR MINISTER AND THE MILITARY'S REACTION HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST BY THE NEWS MEDIA. REPORTS HAVE REFERRED TO A LAW WHICH GOVERNS THE STATUS OF ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THESE MATTERS. ESSENTIALLY THE LAW PROVIDES THAT A MIL-TTARY MAN CAN SERVE IN A MINISTERIAL POST FOR A TWO MONTH PERIOD IN ACTIVE STATUS AND FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR MONTHS IN AN INACTIVE STATUS WITHOUT AFFECTING HIS PROMOTION CHANCES. AFTER SIX MONTHS HOWEVER, HE MUST EITHER RETURN TO FULL MILITARY DUTIES OR RETIRE. IN OTHER REACTIONS, ONE NEWSPAPER BATICLE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE ABSENCE OF GENERAL VIDELED CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF FROM THE CELEBRATION OF AIR FORCE DAY WHICH DAMASCO AND OTHER NEW QABINET OFFICERS ATTENDED ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT. OTHER REPORTS SAY THAT MANY IN THE ARMED FORCES ARE UNHAPPY WITH DAMASCO'S APPOINTMENT SINCE THEY FEEL IT WILL LINK THE ARMED FORCES DERECTLY WITH THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENSITIVE AREA OF INTERNAL SECURITY. 4. CMT (CAPED): THE DAMASCO APPOINTMENT HAS CAUSED SOME SERIOUS STRAINS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, ASJUE FROM THE PERSONAL JEALOUSIES AND PROTOCOL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE SUR-FACED WITHIN THE ARMY, SOME DEEPER FISSURES MAY ALSO BE APPEARING. FOR INSTANCE, THE CINC'S OF THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE MAY FEEL THAT THEY WERE NOT ADEQUATELY CONSULTED IN THE DECISION. NOFORN TO AVCID COMPROMISE OF SOURCE IN UNIQUE POSITION. GD3 DEG 31 1081

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