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FM WASHINGTON  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 535  
OF 070115Z MARCH 90

AMENDED DISTRIBUTION - 7/3/90

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*ms*

OUR TELNO 529: HOSTAGES

## SUMMARY

1. KIMMITT RELAYS PERSONAL ASSURANCE FROM BAKER THAT THE US IS ENGAGED IN NO/NO NEGOTIATIONS OVER HOSTAGES, EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT. THE US HAD OUR CONCERNS VERY MUCH IN MIND, AND WOULD TELL US IMMEDIATELY IF THERE WAS ANYTHING MOVING OF SUBSTANCE.

## DETAIL

2. KIMMITT TELEPHONED MINISTER (COMMERCIAL) TONIGHT, FOLLOWING OUR APPROACH TO HIS OFFICE EARLIER TODAY (TUR). KIMMITT SAID THAT HE HAD REPORTED YOUR CONCERNS TO BAKER. BAKER HAD ASKED KIMMITT THAT THE FOLLOWING ASSURANCES BE PASSED TO YOU:
- A) THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ALL THE HOSTAGES IN MIND ALL THE TIME, BOTH IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND IN THEIR PRIVATE CONTACTS WITH ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP. THEY WERE NOT/NOT JUST LOOKING OUT FOR THEIR OWN.
  - B) THE US WAS ENGAGED IN NO NEGOTIATIONS OVER HOSTAGES, EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT.
  - C) SO FAR AS THE ADMINISTRATION COULD TELL, THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR THE CURRENT FLURRY OF PRESS RUMOURS, WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION THOUGHT HAD BEEN GENERATED BY THE PRESS ITSELF.
3. KIMMITT SAID THAT WHAT FITZWATER HAD BEEN TRYING TO CONVEY IN HIS CIRCUMLOCUTIONS LAST WEEK (OUR TELNO 508) WAS THAT ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE CAME TO THE ADMINISTRATION OFFERING INFORMATION ON HOSTAGES. BUT THIS WAS A ONE-WAY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION.
4. KIMMITT CONCLUDED THAT IF ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE MOVED ON THE HOSTAGE FRONT, THE US WOULD TELL US IMMEDIATELY.

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