

CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK
TELNO 400
OF 261703Z JULY 90

Handwritten: *NSH 02/2*

RE: *IV* - REGISTRY

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1-24	PA	

Handwritten signature: *[Signature]*

(51)
YOUR TELNO 885: IRAQ/KUWAIT

1. WE SHOULD LIKE YOU TO RAISE IRAQ/KUWAIT AT YOUR LUNCH ON 30 JULY. WE HAVE TWO MOTIVES.
2. THE 'PUBLIC' REASON FOR PUTTING IT ON YOUR AGENDA WOULD BE TO ENGAGE THE FIVE ON A POTENTIAL THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY WHICH HAS MERCIFULLY BEEN DEFUSED BUT HAS NOT BEEN REMOVED. WE JUDGE THE UNSG WOULD NOT WANT THE ISSUE RAISED FORMALLY AT THIS STAGE IN THE COUNCIL, GIVEN IRAQ'S HOSTILITY TO 'INTERNATIONALISING' THE DISPUTE, AND HIS GREATER CONCERN TO PRESERVE HIS INFLUENCE OVER THE IRAN/IRAQ NEGOTIATIONS. BUT, AS THE SERIOUS PRESS IN THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN POINTING OUT, IT IS SCARCELY CREDIBLE FOR THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS SIMPLY TO IGNORE IT. THE OBJECTIVE OF YOUR DISCUSSION WOULD BE TO COMPARE NOTES AND ASSESSMENTS. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC INTITIAIVE BY THE FIVE IN MIND. BUT TWO ASPECTS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR DISCUSSION WOULD BE THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING ARAB GOVERNMENTS THE CHANCE TO SORT OUT DISPUTES OF THIS KIND THEMSELVES: AND THE NEED TO DO SO WITHOUT OCCUPYING TERRITORY.
3. THE PRIVATE REASON IS THE OBVIOUS VALUE IN EXTENDING COOPERATION AMONG THE FIVE ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. THE EAST. ALTHOUGH IT MAY APPEAR TO HAVE ITS OWN DYNAMIC SEPARATE FROM ARAB/ISRAEL IT IS IN FACT THE ABSENCE OF PROGRESS ON FRONT THAT HAS GIVEN SADDAM HUSSEIN THE CHANCE TO INFLATE HIS POSITION. AS THE COLD WAR RECEDES IT IS VITAL THAT THE FIVE USE THEIR REMAINING INFLUENCE TO RESOLVE THE REGIONAL DISPUTES WHICH THE EAST/WEST THAW HAS THROWN INTO STARKER RELIEF.
4. THE EXERCISE MAY HAVE THE ADDITIONAL VALUE OF FOCUSING US ATTENTION ON OUR CONCERN (SHARED BY THE SOVIETS AND THE FRENCH TO AVOID WORDS OR ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE MISREAD IN THE REGION. US HANDLING OF THE DISPUTE HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN AT ITS MOST SKILLFUL. THE EARLY PUBLIC STATEMENT REAFFIRMING THE US COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF GULF OIL SUPPLIES AND THE PROTECTION OF GULF STATES, TOGETHER WITH THE UNFORTUNATELY TIMED AIR EXERCISE WITH THE UAE, CARRIED RISKS OF RAISING RATHER THAN LOWERING THE TEMPERATURE. WE HAVE AN INTEREST IN USING THE FIVE NOT ONLY TO MAXIMISE BRITISH (AND FRENCH) INFLUENCE BUT TO BRING HOME TO THE AMERICANS THAT UNILATERAL ACTION MAY NOT BE THE MOST

CONSTRUCTIVE IN AN INCREASINGLY MULTIPOLAR WORLD.

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