

RECEIVED

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS NEW YORK
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 900

OF 302350Z JULY 90

INFO PRIORITY MIDDLE EAST POSTS, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, PARIS, PEKING
INFO PRIORITY ACTOR

YOUR TELNO 400 (NOT TO ALL): IRAQ/KUWAIT: DISCUSSION AMONG THE FIVE

SUMMARY

1. LOW KEY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG THE FIVE. RECOGNITION THAT THE IRAQ/KUWAIT BORDER REMAINS AN OUTSTANDING PROBLEM.

DETAIL

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS IN TUR I RAISED IRAQ/KUWAIT AT MY LUNCH FOR AMBASSADORS OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS ON 30 JULY. I SAID THE HEAT APPEARED TO HAVE GONE OUT OF THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS WITH THE FIXING OF A NEW AND HIGHER OPEC OIL PRICE. BUT THIS WAS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT. THE QUESTION OF THE BORDER COULD CAUSE FURTHER PROBLEMS: IT WAS RIGHT THAT THE FIVE SHOULD TAKE NOTICE AND EXCHANGE ASSESSMENTS.

3. PICKERING (UNITED STATES) DESCRIBED AMERICAN CONTACTS WITH THE IRAQIS AND KUWAITIS. HE AGREED THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT OUTSTANDING PROBLEM WAS IRAQI PRESSURE ON KUWAIT OVER THE UNDEFINED BOUNDARY AND THE TWO OFF-SHORE ISLANDS OF BUBIYAN AND WARBA.

4. LOZINSKIY (SOVIET UNION) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE TWO SIDES THAT THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW MATTERS TO ESCALATE OUT OF CONTROL. THE SOVIET UNION ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THE EFFORTS OF ARAB MEDIATORS AND TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. LI (CHINA) SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS. BLANC (FRANCE) NOTED THE DESIRE OF THE ARABS TO KEEP THE DISPUTE WITHIN AN ARAB FRAMEWORK.

5. SUMMING UP I SAID THAT IF MATTERS DEGENERATED INTO AN ARMED CONFRONTATION, THE FIVE WOULD NEED TO MEET VERY QUICKLY TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE. THE KUWAIT/IRAQ DISPUTE HAD IMPLICATIONS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ: THE SINGLE MOST WORRYING FEATURE FOR THE ARABS WAS THE EXTENSION OF IRAQI POWER DOWN THE GULF. PICKERING ADDED THAT WHEN PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD SPOKEN TO THE U S AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD, HE HAD APPEARED MORE RELAXED THAN FOR YEARS

ABOUT THE SHATT AL ARAB AND THE STATUS OF THE ALGIERS PROTOCOL. I COMMENTED THAT EVEN IF THE SHATT AL ARAB WERE REOPENED TO IRAQI SHIPPING, IRAQ WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE OFF-SHORE ISLANDS BECAUSE THEY PROTECTED THE APPROACH TO THE ALTERNATIVE OIL FACILITIES IT HAD NOW CONSTRUCTED AROUND UMM QASR.

TICKELL

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 257

MAIN 219

IRAN/IRAQ MED
LIMITED

ADDITIONAL 38

IRAN/IRAQ

NNNN