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COMMENT:

SECRET

FM FCO

TO DESKBY 142100Z WASHINGTON

TELNO 1419

OF 142030Z AUGUST 90

INFO IMMEDIATE AMMAN, TEL AVIV, RIYADH, UKMIS NEW YORK

IRAQ/KUWAIT/JORDAN

SUMMARY

1. SCOWCROFT/POWELL CONVERSATION ON INTERDICTING SHIPPING AT AQABA. SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD SAY TO HUSSEIN ON ASSISTANCE IF HE IMPLEMENTS SANCTIONS.

DETAIL

2. POWELL SPOKE TO SCOWCROFT ON 14 AUGUST. HE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE USE OF AQABA TO EVADE SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ. WE WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY ACTION YET TO INTERDICT SHIPPING GOING TO OR FROM AQABA. WE SAW THAT MAINLY AS A TASK FOR THE AMERICANS OR OTHER WESTERN NAVIES, SINCE OUR EFFORT WAS MAINLY IN THE ARABIAN GULF. THE WORST OUTCOME WOULD BE IF THE ISRAELIS WERE TO TRY TO INTERDICT SUCH SHIPPING. BUT UNTIL SOMETHING WAS DONE, AQABA WOULD REMAIN A MAJOR HOLE IN THE SANCTIONS ARRANGEMENTS. SCOWCROFT SAID THAT THE AMERICANS FULLY SHARED OUR CONCERN. HE HAD JUST COME OFF THE TELEPHONE WITH HUSSEIN WHO HAD ASKED TO COME ACROSS TO THE UNITED STATES IMMEDIATELY TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THIS AND OTHER PROBLEMS. THE KING HAD NOT GIVEN MUCH INDICATION OF HOW HELPFUL OR OTHERWISE HE WAS GOING TO BE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS PROBABLY A GOOD SIGN THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR A MEETING. SCOWCROFT SAID THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO THE AMERICANS IF WE COULD LET THEM HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE PUT TO THE KING.

3. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD MAKE THIS FOLLOWING POINTS TO THE AMERICANS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT SEES THE KING:
- REINFORCEMENT OF POWELL'S REMARKS ABOUT THE NEED FOR WESTERN AND PREFERABLY THE US NAVY TO BLOCK THE HOLE AT AQABA AND THE IMPERATIVE NEED TO STOP THE ISRAELIS GETTING IN ON THIS ACT,
- THE NEED TO GIVE THE KING CLEAR REASSURANCE ABOUT FINANCIAL HELP IF HE IMPLEMENTS UN SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ. OUR THOUGHTS ARE THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT OFFER TO SET UP AND LEAD AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF POTENTIAL DONORS INCLUDING PERHAPS JAPAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT. URGENT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN IN WHITEHALL TO HOW WE MIGHT HELP IF SUCH A GROUP IS SET UP AND WE HOPE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE AMERICANS SHORTLY,
- THE USEFULNESS TO THE KING OF WHATEVER ASSURANCE THE PRESIDENT CAN GIVE THAT THE US WILL NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PEACE PROCESS, AND THE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, ONCE THE PRESENT CRISIS HAS BEEN RESOLVED,

4. AS BACKGROUND. THE (UK/US EYES) JIC ASSESSMENT ON JORDAN IS ISSUING TONIGHT (14 AUGUST) AND IS BEING TELEGRAPHED TO YOU.
5. POWELL ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST TO SCOWCROFT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO AVOID BEING HEAVY-HANDED IN ATTEMPTS TO COORDINATE THE ACTIONS OF WESTERN NAVIES IN THE GULF. THIS SORT

OF COORDINATION FUNCTIONED BEST IF IT WAS DONE AT AN OPERATIONAL LEVEL, WITHOUT A LARGE POLITICAL FLAG STUCK TO IT. GENERAL SCOWCROFT SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF SENSITIVITIES IN THIS AREA AND WAS GLAD TO HAVE THEM DRAWN TO HIS ATTENTION.

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MAIN	15	
NO DISTRIBUTION		0
PS		1
PS/MR WALDEBRAVE		1
PS/PUS		1
MR TOMKYS		1
MR GOULDEN		1
MR MILES		1
HD/NENAD		1
EMERGENCY UNIT		1
HD/ERD		1
HD/PUSD		1
HD/NEWS D		1
HD/SECPOL D		1
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST		1
SIR P CRADDOCK		1
CHIEF ASSESSMENT STAFF		1
(GOBLE)		