

SECRET

(2) 19b (arb)

070747
MDHIAN 3570

SECRET
FM BAGHDAD
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 832
OF 161530Z AUGUST 90
INFO FLASH MODUK, WASHINGTON, EC POSTS

✓

SIC ACA/U2H
YOUR TELNO 253 (NOT TO ALL)

POSSIBLE DETENTION OF BRITISH COMMUNITY IN KUWAIT
FROM DA INFO DI(ROW)A2 CRISIS CELL

1. AT LEAST 40 CIVILIAN BUSES HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED AT BAGHDAD CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION THIS EVENING. EN ROUTE BETWEEN WEST BAGHDAD AND BRITISH EMBASSY I SAW AT LEAST 12 CIVILIAN BUSES BEING MARSHALLED INTO A CONVOY BY POLICE. WHEN I APPROACHED BUS DRIVERS AT THE RAILWAY STATION AND ASKED WHAT BUSES WERE FOR I WAS TOLD THEY WERE TO BE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR A SPECIAL TASK.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THESE BUSES MAY BE BEING USED EITHER FOR AN EVACUATION EXERCISE, OR AS REQUIRED FOR REPATRIATION OF IRANIAN POW WHICH IS REPORTEDLY DUE TO BEGIN TOMORROW. HOWEVER THERE HAVE BEEN NO OTHER INDICATIONS IN LAST FEW DAYS OF PREPARATIONS FOR EVACUATION AND IF BUSES WERE FOR TRANSPORT OF POW THE RAILWAY STATION WOULD NOT BE AN OBVIOUS PLACE FOR THEM TO ASSEMBLE. THEIR LOCATION AND THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PREPOSITIONED TO TRANSPORT DETAINEES BROUGHT BY RAIL FROM BASRA.

WALKER

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

24

MAIN 24

NO DISTRIBUTION
MR YOUNG (EMERGENCY UNIT)
HD/NENAD
HD/UND
HD/NPDD

PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/PUS
MR TOMKYS
MR GOULDEN

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HD/SECPOL D
HD/AMD
HD/PUSD
DEPUTY HD/PUSD
HD/ISD(O)
PS

MR FAIRWEATHER
MR BERMAN
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST
SIR P CRADDOCK 10 DOWNING ST
CHIEF OF ASSESSMENTS STAFF
(CABINET OFFICE)

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TOTAL P.04