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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 965

OF 211254Z AUGUST 90

INFO IMMEDIATE OTHER EC POSTS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, BAGHDAD
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*Para 7 is better
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SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER:
21 AUGUST: WEU MEETING

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1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE BREAKFASTED WITH DUMAS BEFORE THE WEU MINISTERIAL MEETING. MIFT (NOT TO ALL) COVERS THEIR EXCHANGE ON 2+4.

2. DUMAS SAID THAT THE FRENCH MEDIA HAD CLAIMED THAT EUROPE WAS ABSENT IN THIS CRISIS. THIS WAS FALSE. HE WANTED FROM THE MEETING POSITIVE RESULTS ON CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN WEU COUNTRIES. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AGREED AND SUGGESTED THAT DUMAS USED THE MEETING ALSO TO BRING PARTNERS UP-TO-DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. ON CO-ORDINATION OF NAVAL FORCES, DUMAS SAID THAT WEU COUNTRIES SHOULD DO, AT THE LEAST, WHAT THE UK/NETHERLANDS/BELGIUM HAD DONE DURING THE GULF WAR. WE SHOULD START WITH AGREEMENT ON CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE WEU AND THEN PROVIDE FOR CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHERS ENGAGED IN THE AREA, INCLUDING THE AMERICANS. AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP DRAWING ON BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY EXPERTS WOULD MEET THIS AFTERNOON. THE AIM SHOULD BE TO AGREE ON POLITICAL GUIDELINES ON CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN NAVAL FORCES ON THE SPOT. THE FRENCH SAW PROBLEMS IN ASSIGNING ZONES OF RESPONSIBILITY, EG FOR ONE COUNTRY ALONE TO POLICE THE AREA OFF AQABA.

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT ALL THIS ENTAILED CO-ORDINATION WITH THE AMERICANS (THOUGH NOT SUBORDINATION TO THEM). IT WOULD BE EASIEST TO CARRY THIS OUT IN WASHINGTON. HE HOPED THAT FRANCE, AS WEU PRESIDENT, WOULD WORK OUT HOW TO ORGANISE THIS. HE ASKED FOR FRENCH VIEWS ON THE DUTCH IDEA OF A SPLIT UK/FRENCH COMMAND, THE FRENCH BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR MEDITERRANEAN CONTRIBUTORS. DUFOURCQ EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM.

5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED FOR THE LATEST FRENCH VIEWS ON THE LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ENFORCING THE EMBARGO. DUMAS SAID

THAT THE EMBARGO MUST BE MADE EFFECTIVE. FRANCE HAD NOW TWICE ANNOUNCED THAT QUOTE MEASURES OF CONSTRAINT UNQUOTE MIGHT BE NECESSARY BUT HAD DELIBERATELY BEEN UNSPECIFIC ABOUT DETAILS. THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN IGNORED BY THE MEDIA. HE WANTED TO HAVE A RANGE OF MEASURES AVAILABLE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED WHETHER HE WAS SATISFIED ABOUT THE EXISTING LEGAL BASIS FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VIEW THAT A FURTHER UN RESOLUTION WAS THEREFORE DESIRABLE, BUT NOT ESSENTIAL.

6. IN A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PROSPECTS, DUMAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT AMERICAN INSISTENCE ON THEMSELVES STEERING THE CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION.

EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT

7. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED HOW THE TWELVE SHOULD INSTRUCT THEIR EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT IN THE FACE OF THE 24 AUGUST DEADLINE. DUMAS SAID THAT WE SHOULD NOT ACCEPT IRAQI THREATS BUT SHOW THE WORLD THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IF THEY REMOVED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AGREED AND SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSIES OF THE TWELVE MIGHT PERHAPS MOVE TOGETHER INTO ONE EMBASSY : WHICH EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED THROUGH DISCUSSION ON THE SPOT ON PRACTICAL GROUNDS.

LLEWELLYN SMITH

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