

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL
 FM WASHINGTON
 TO DESKBY 211415Z FCO
 TELNO 1994
 OF 211350Z AUGUST 90
 AND TO IMMEDIATE ESC LONDON
 INFO DESKBY 211415Z UKMIS NEW YORK
 INFO IMMEDIATE SANA'A, BAGHDAD, MOSCOW, PEKING, PARIS, BOGOTA
 INFO IMMEDIATE OTTAWA, HELSINKI, ACTOR

PARIS FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY

YOUR TELNO. 1463 (NOT TO ALL): IRAQI TANKER
 SUMMARY

1. US QUOTE BOUND AND DETERMINED UNQUOTE TO OBTAIN A RESOLUTION TODAY. THEY ASK FOR HELP WITH RUSSIANS, COLOMBIANS AND WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. BUT IF NO RESOLUTION IS OBTAINED TODAY, THEY WILL NOT/NOT STOP TANKER.

DETAIL

2. WE TOOK ACTION ON TUR WITH WOLF (DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS BUREAU). HE SAID THAT THE US HAD QUOTE DODGED A BULLET LAST NIGHT UNQUOTE. THE YEMENIS HAD PROVIDED ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD ABIDE BY SCR 661, BUT ONLY THE PROSPECT OF IMMINENT COUNCIL ACTION HAD CHANGED THEIR MINDS. THE COUNCIL COULD NOT KEEP PLAYING QUOTE LAST-MINUTE, EDGE-OF-THE-PRECIPICE TYPE GAMES UNQUOTE. ITS CREDIBILITY WAS AT RISK AND WOULD BE UNDERMINED IF IT DID NOT MOVE SWIFTLY TODAY. IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM. SADDAM HUSSEIN WOULD EXPLOIT ANY PERCEIVED HESITATION. FAILURE NOW WOULD SHATTER THE UNANIMITY AND PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL AND THE WILL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO IMPLEMENT SCR 661 WOULD BE ERODED.

3. AS A RESULT, WOLF SAID THAT THE US WOULD GO ALL OUT TODAY TO OBTAIN A RESOLUTION. THEY WOULD QUOTE PUT THE SPURS IN UNQUOTE. BUT THEY NEEDED HELP. WOLF SAID THAT WE HAD PROPOSED A NUMBER OF HELPFUL DRAFTING AMENDMENTS WHICH SHOULD HAVE REMOVED THE ARGUMENT THAT THIS RESOLUTION WOULD INITIATE QUOTE OPEN HUNTING SEASON UNQUOTE ON IRAQ. BUT THE RUSSIANS WERE TAKING QUOTE AN INCREDIBLE STANCE UNQUOTE REGARDING THE GRADUATED USE OF FORCE. THEY SEEMED WEDDED TO THE LINE THAT IT SHOULD BE PERMISSIBLE TO STOP AND SEARCH VESSELS, BUT NOT SEIZE THEM. THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE. BAKER HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO SHEVARDNADZE LAST NIGHT AND WOULD TRY TO SPEAK TO HIM TODAY.

*Le Freigh Security
 is going to sell
 to Soviet*

Substantive now.

But reports from

New York suggest

was urgency.

CO2.

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ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO ASSIST WOULD BE WELCOME. STATE WOULD ALSO BE CALLING IN THE NON-ALIGNED THIS MORNING AND WOULD MAKE A PARTICULARLY STRONG EFFORT WITH THE COLOMBIANS. IT WAS ALSO VITAL TO ENSURE SOLIDARITY AMONG OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (FRANCE, CANADA, FINLAND). WOLF SAID AGAIN THAT THE US WOULD WELCOME OUR ASSISTANCE IN NEW YORK AND IN CAPITALS.

4. THE US QUOTE BOTTOM LINE UNQUOTE WAS TO OBTAIN A RESOLUTION TODAY. WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT COULD NOT GO ON. THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN QUOTE MICRO DETAIL UNQUOTE: IT SHOULD INSTEAD SET POLICY - WHICH WAS TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS - AND THEN AGREE TO ENFORCE IT. ONLY A RESOLUTION COULD NOW DEMONSTRATE SUFFICIENT DETERMINATION.

5. IF A RESOLUTION WAS NOT OBTAINABLE TODAY, HOWEVER, WOLF SAID THAT THE US DID NOT/NOT INTEND TO STOP THE IRAQI TANKER. THEY WOULD PERMIT IT TO GO THROUGH TO ADEN. THIS WOULD TEST YEMENI ASSURANCES. IF IT WAS UNLOADED, THIS WOULD PROVIDE SOLID EVIDENCE OF SANCTIONS EVASION WITH WHICH TO GO BACK TO THE COUNCIL.

WOOD

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