

RESTRICTED

## ADVANCE COPY

FM UKMIS GENEVA  
TO DESKBY 231500Z FCO  
TELNO 584  
OF 231416Z AUGUST 1990  
INFO IMMEDIATE BAGHDAD, KUWAIT, UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELNO 205: BUCHAN FAMILY

SUMMARY

1. SOMMARUGA RECEPTIVE. REAFFIRMED ICRC'S CLEAR RIGHT TO ACT IN KUWAIT. INTENSE EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE ENTRY. NEW PROGRAMME IN JORDAN. EC PROMISE OF FUNDS.

DETAIL

2. SOMMARUGA RECEIVED ME AT 3PM TODAY, 23 AUGUST, AND ACCEPTED THAT THE PLIGHT OF THE BUCHAN FAMILY WAS INDEED AN EXTREME EXAMPLE OF IRAQI CONTEMPT FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. THEY WERE REDOUBLING THEIR EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE ACCESS TO KUWAIT. THEIR EMISSARY IN BAGHDAD HAD AT LEAST NOW BEEN ABLE TO MEET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AT DIRECTOR LEVEL AND TO DELIVER SOMMARUGA'S LETTER TO TARIQ AZIZ PROPOSING A VISIT.
3. SOMMARUGA SAID THAT HE HAD APPRECIATED MR WALDEGRAVE'S CALL AND USEFUL DISCUSSION. AT THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ICRC THIS MORNING, THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STRICTURES, ON WHICH HE HAD DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC COMMENT. SOME HAD ARGUED THAT THEY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE ICRC WAS NO WESTERN STOOGE, OTHERS TOOK THE CONTRARY VIEW.
4. SOMMARUGA EMPHASIZED THAT, FRUSTRATED AS THEY WERE AT NOT BEING ABLE TO GET INTO KUWAIT, THEY WERE IN ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT THEY HAD A CLEAR RIGHT TO DO SO UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS.
5. SOMMARUGA SAID THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE JORDAN GOVERNMENT, THEY WERE NOW ABOUT TO MOUNT AN OPERATION IN JORDAN, MAINLY CLOSE TO THE IRAQI BORDER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND THE JORDAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY, TO HELP THE MASS OF PEOPLE LEAVING IRAQ. THEY WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, WHO WERE OFFERING MONEY FOR TRANSPORT FOR EGYPTIANS STUCK THERE TO GET BACK TO EGYPT.

6. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SWEDEN, WE HAVE TAKEN ACTION AT LOWER LEVEL WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE BUT I HOPE TO GET MARTENSON BY TELEPHONE LATER TODAY.

7. I SUGGEST NEWS DEPARTMENT, IF ASKED, SIMPLY CONFIRM THAT I HAVE DULY CARRIED OUT MY INSTRUCTIONS BUT THAT OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED WITH SOMMARUGA SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AS USUAL.

MORLAND

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