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INFO PRIORITY OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS, EC POSTS, MOSCOW, PEKING

MUSCAT FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

MY TELNO 493: IRAQ/KUWAIT: VISIT OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO AMMAN

SUMMARY

1. DE CUELLAR DISAPPOINTED THAT NO PROGRESS WAS MADE DURING THE TALKS. BOTH HE AND TARIQ AZIZ ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THEIR CONTACTS.

DETAIL

2. THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HELD TWO FURTHER ROUNDS OF TALKS ON 1 SEPTEMBER. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ATTENDED THE FIRST OF THESE ROUNDS. TARIQ AZIZ RETURNED TO BAGHDAD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS. DE CUELLAR STAYED IN AMMAN TO GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON 2 SEPTEMBER BEFORE FLYING TO PARIS, WHERE HE WAS HOPING TO MEET KING HUSSEIN.

3. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS, TARIQ AZIZ STRESSED THAT, WHILE LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO BECOME INVOLVED, AN ARAB SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE FOUND. TARIQ AZIZ WOULD REMAIN AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. NOW WAS THE TIME FOR QUIET DIPLOMACY. TARIQ AZIZ CRITICISED AT LENGTH THE STRUCTURE OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND IN PARTICULAR THE PERMANENT MEMBERS, MANY OF WHOM FOLLOWED THEIR OWN BIASED POLICY: HE REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO THE US VETO EARLIER THIS YEAR. TARIQ AZIZ CLAIMED THAT IRAQ HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN ENOUGH TIME TO PRESENT ITS CASE TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

4. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 2 SEPTEMBER, DE CUELLAR EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS, AT WHICH NO REAL

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PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. HE HAD EXPECTED AN OPENING FROM THE IRAQIS WHICH HAD NOT MATERIALISED AND HE SAW NO CHANGE IN THE IRAQI REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW FROM KUWAIT. HOWEVER, HE WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE IN HIS CONTACTS.

5. THE SECRETARY GENERAL STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE BASED ON RESOLUTIONS 660/2/4, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ISSUE WAS PRIMARILY AN ARAB AFFAIR, THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT HAD TO BE RECOGNISED. THE UN SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

6. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, DE CUELLAR REFUTED THE CRITICISM OF THE UN FAILURE TO SOLVE OTHER REGIONAL DISPUTES (IE ARAB/ISRAEL). HE COMMENTED THAT OTHER SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED. IT WAS UP TO INDIVIDUAL STATES TO VOTE FOR THIS. HE HOPED THAT WHAT WAS HAPPENING NOW WOULD OPEN THE EYES OF THE WORLD TO THE NEED FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. IN ANY CASE, ONE SIN DID NOT JUSTIFY ANOTHER SIN.

7. PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS HAD FOCUSED ON THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF THE CRISIS. DE CUELLAR CATEGORISED SADDAM'S MOVE IN RELEASING WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS IMPORTANT BUT NOT SUFFICIENT. ON THE QUESTION OF SANCTIONS, DE CUELLAR STATED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE SANCTIONS COMMITTEE TO DEFINE EXACTLY WHICH FOOD STUFFS WERE PERMITTED TO ENTER IRAQ.

8. DE CUELLAR WAS LOOKING FORWARD HOPEFULLY TO THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS BUSH AND GORBACHEV. HE WOULD BE BRIEFING THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON HIS DISCUSSIONS IN AMMAN WHEN HE RETURNED TO NEW YORK.

9. SEE MIFT.

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