

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MUSCAT

TO DESKBY 051500Z FCO

TELNO 387

OF 051445Z SEPTEMBER 90

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, BAGHDAD, SANA'A, ADEN, UKDEL NATO,  
INFO IMMEDIATE ESC LONDON, RIYADH

ADVANCE COPY

MY TELCOMS WITH GREEN, EMERGENCY UNIT

## SUMMARY

1. IRAQI SHIP SETS SAIL FOR SRI LANKA: LESSON TO BE DRAWN.

## DETAIL

2. ACCORDING TO MY US COLLEAGUE, THE ZANOOBIA WAS ESCORTED TO WITHIN 6 MILES OF MUSCAT THIS AFTERNOON BY USS GOLDSBOROUGH. AN OMANI POLICE LAUNCH TOOK THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO IT WITH APPARENTLY FRESH ORDERS FOR THE MASTER, AS HE LATER INFORMED THE AMERICAN SHIP THAT HE WAS SETTING SAIL FOR SRI LANKA. THE GOLDSBOROUGH WILL CONTINUE SHADOWING IT FOR SOME WHILE.

## COMMENT

3. AS MY US COLLEAGUE AGREED, THIS HAS BEEN A SALUTORY LESSON FOR US ALL AND SHOULD HELP FOCUS MINDS ON THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF INTERDICTION AT THE CONFERENCE OF ALLIED NAVIES IN BAHRAIN NEXT WEEK, BUT DECISIONS NEED FIRST BE TAKEN IN CAPITALS.

CLARK

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