

GRS 350

SECRET

SECRET

DESKBY 051130Z

FM JEDDA 051105Z NOV 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 735 OF 05 NOVEMBER 1981

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, THE HAGUE, ROME.

MIPT: SINAI

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM MR HAIG TO SECRETARY OF STATE DELIVERED IN RIYADH ON 5 NOVEMBER.

BEGINS:

DEAR PETER: I KNOW THAT AMBASSADOR HENDERSON HAS REPORTED IN DETAIL OUR DISCUSSION TODAY, BUT I DO WISH TO MAKE A FEW ADDITIONAL PERSONAL COMMENTS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IT WAS NOT EASY FOR ME TO URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU HALT ACTION ON YOUR PLANNED SCHEDULE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FOUR IN THE SINAI PEACEKEEPING FORCE. I ALSO WISH TO REITERATE THAT I AM WELL-AWARE OF AND APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE FACED YOU AND YOUR PARTNERS AS YOU WORKED TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE FORMULA FOR ANNOUNCING YOUR PARTICIPATION. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, THE LAST 48 HOURS HAVE SEEN A DEEPENING OF THE TENSIONS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ISRAEL, AND WE NOW HAVE A FULL BLOWN CRISIS ON OUR HANDS. THIS IS DUE TO A VARIETY OF FACTORS WHICH I DESCRIBED TO AMBASSADOR HENDERSON SEMICOLON THE MOST RECENT INGREDIENT IS THE ISRAELI NEGATIVE REACTION TO WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED WOULD PROBABLY BE THE NATURE OF YOUR STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION.

AS A RESULT, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT YOUR PROCEEDING AS PLANNED WITH THE STATEMENTS WOULD RESULT IN A CATEGORIC ISRAELI REJECTION. IT WAS TO FORESTALL THIS CERTAIN ISRAELI REACTION, WITH ALL THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THIS WOULD ENTAIL, AS I DESCRIBED TO HENDERSON, THAT I MADE MY URGENT REQUEST TO YOU AND YOUR THREE EC COLLEAGUES.

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR DECISION TO PUT THE ISSUE ON HOLD. I LOOK FORWARD TO EARLY DISCUSSIONS IN ORDER TO FIND A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT BOTH WITH THE POLICY IMPERATIVES OF YOU AND YOUR EC PARTNERS AS WELL AS THE REALITIES OF THE ISRAELI SITUATION.

IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, I AM PREPARED TO COME TO LONDON IMMEDIATELY FOR MEETINGS WITH YOU AND YOUR DUTCH, FRENCH AND ITALIAN COLLEAGUES.

Ends.
CRAIG

(Offer declined)

STANDARD

NENAD
MED
NAD
UND
EESD
ECD
WED
RID

MAED
ES & SD
ERD
ESID

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE

SECRET