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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 170001Z JUNE 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

3 TO PM NO 10 DOWNING STREET

TELEGRAM NUMBER 534 OF 16 JUNE

INFO PRIORITY ALL MIDDLE EAST POSTS, ALL EC POSTS, VIENNA (FOR RES
REP IAEA), WASHINGTON.

MY TEL NO'S 529 - 531: ISRAEL/IRAQ IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

1. THERE WERE 12 SPEAKERS TODAY (16 JUNE) INCLUDING 3 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL: NIGER, PHILIPPINES, AND PANAMA. THE LIST OF SPEAKERS IS LIKELY TO BE EXHAUSTED TOMORROW, WHEN THE AMERICANS SHOULD MAKE A STATEMENT. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH ACTIVITY IN THE MARGINS (SEE MIFT). A VOTE IS LIKELY ON 18 JUNE.

2. TODAY'S DEBATE WAS MARRED BY SHRILL AND BITTER STATEMENTS BY THE SYRIAN AMBASSADOR AND TERZI (PLO). THE SYRIAN DESCRIBED THE UNITED STATES AS A MOTHER WHO BLINDLY REFUSED TO SEE THE UGLY DEFORMITIES OF HER PSYCHOPATHIC CHILD. HE Poured SCORN ON THE STATEMENT IN MR. HAIG'S REPORT TO CONGRESS THAT A VIOLATION OF THE 1952 AGREEMENT QUOTE MAY UNQUOTE HAVE OCCURRED AND SPOKE OF BEGIN'S QUOTE HYSTERICAL RAVINGS UNQUOTE. HE ALSO CALLED FOR MANDATORY SANCTIONS AND HIS STATEMENT WAS NO DOUBT INTENDED TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE IRAQIS TO ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS.

3. TERZI DELIVERED THE USUAL TASTELESS DIATRIBE, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HE COMPARED ISRAELI POLICY AND TACTICS TO THOSE OF NAZI GERMANY, AND INSULTED THE UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENT REAGAN PERSONALLY.

4. OTHERWISE, THE FORMAL DEBATE WAS ENLIVENED BY AN EXCHANGE OF RIGHTS OF REPLY BY BLUM (ISRAEL) AND KITTANI (IRAQ). BLUM'S REASON FOR SPEAKING NOW APPEARED TO BE THE FACT THAT THIS MORNING'S DEBATE WAS BEING TELEVISED. HE ARGUED THAT THE QUESTIONS IN HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT ABOUT THE PURPOSE AND NATURE OF, AND NEED FOR, THE IRAQI NUCLEAR PROGRAMME, TOGETHER WITH THE WELL DOCUMENTED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EVIDENCE WHICH PROVED BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT IRAQ WAS BENT ON ATOMIC BOMBS, HAD GONE UNANSWERED. BLUM CONTINUED IN FAMILIAR VEIN, ARGUING THAT THE PRESENT FEVERISH EFFORT IN THE COUNCIL TO BLUR THE ISSUES PROVED YET AGAIN THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ISRAEL TO GET A FAIR HEARING IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR INDEED THE UN GENERALLY.

5. KITTANI (IRAQ) THEN SENT THE ISRAELI STUMPS AND BAILS FLYING IN ALL DIRECTIONS. HE MERCILESSLY EXPOSED THE LACK OF BASIS FOR BEGIN'S ALLEGATION, WHICH BLUM HAD REPEATED, THAT SADDAM HUSSAIN HAD PUBLICLY RE-ASSURED THE IRANISANS THAT THE IRAQI NUCLEAR INSTALLATION WAS AIMED AGAINST THE ZIONISTS. KITTANI QUOTED FROM ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING DAVAR, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ORDERED ISRAELI DIPLOMATS ABROAD TO STOP USING THE ALLEGED QUOTE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE FOR IT, AND THAT IN

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FACT

Play we
put this
in a letter
to our
correspondents

FACT IT EMANATED FROM AN EDITORIAL IN AL JUMHURIYA. HE ALSO QUOTED A JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY REPORT THAT BEGIN AND THE CABINET HAD BEEN CRITICISED BY ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES OVER BEGIN'S CLAIM THAT THE IRAQIS HAD A SECRET UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR FACILITY, AND FROM A STATEMENT BY JOHN SCALI (FORMER US PERMENT REPRESENTATIVE HERE) THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SERIOUSLY QUESTIONED ISRAELI CLAIMS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE FRENCH HAD SUCCESSFULLY QUOTE POISONED UNQUOTE THE URANIUM WHICH THEY HAD SUPPLIED. SCALI APPARENTLY SAID THAT US AUTHORITIES WERE NOT AWARE OF ISRAELS QUOTE UNIMPEACHABLE SOURCES UNQUOTE AND THAT TOP AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE ANGRY AT ISRAELI MIS-REPRESENTATIONS.

6. AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL TOLD ME THAT THE PRESENT INTENTION WAS THAT A RESOLUTION WOULD BE TABLED TOMORROW AFTERNOON, WITH THE VOTE AT LUNCHTIME ON 18 JUNE.

7. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO GRAHAM, MOBERLY AND NENAD.

PARSONS

(Repetition to ...S.A.N.D.A.-----
referred for departmental decision,
repeated as requested to other posts.)

MIDDLE EAST STANDARD
NENAD ACED
MED MAED
NAD ES & SD
UND ERD
EESD ESID
ECD CONS DEPT
WED CONS EM UNIT
RID CABINET OFFICE
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