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PRIME MINISTER'S

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 281130Z

PERSONAL MESSAGE

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 367 OF 28/6/81

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, THE HAGUE, PARIS, BONN, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, LUXEMBOURG AND VIENNA (FOR RES REP TO IAEA)

FOR RESIDENT CLERK

IRAQ/ISRAEL: PRESIDENT HUSSAIN'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. UNDER-SECRETARY AHMED HUSSAIN AL-SAMMARA'I OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SUMMONED ME TODAY, 28 JUNE, TO RECEIVE FOLLOWING REQUEST TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSAIN. ORAL MESSAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"I THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATE YOU FOR YOUR SWIFT AND UNEQUIVOCAL CONDEMNATION OF THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQ'S NUCLEAR REACTOR ON 7 JUNE. I AM SURE THAT THIS ACT OF AGRESSION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 29/30 JUNE, UNDER THE MIDDLE EAST AGENDA ITEM.

AS THE BRITISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EC IS SO NEAR, IRAQ EXPECTS BRITAIN TO TAKE A LEAD IN THAT DISCUSSION. IRAQ FELT THAT A CALL FOR UN SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL WOULD HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED, BUT SETTLED INSTEAD FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S STRONG UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION OF THIS ISRAELI ACT. WE SHOULD LIKE TO SEE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL REPEAT THAT CONDEMNATION."

2. I SAID I WOULD PASS ON THIS MESSAGE AT ONCE, BUT ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY SPECIFIC ASPECT OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 487 WHICH THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE RE-ENDORSED. SAMARRA'I SAID PRESIDENT HUSSAIN WAS PARTICULARLY KEEN ON A REPETITION OF THE CALL ON ISRAEL TO PLACE ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES (WHICH IRAQ WAS SURE ALREADY HAD THE POTENTIAL TO CONSTRUCT AN ATOMIC WEAPON) UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS, OR INDEED UNDER ANY OTHER FORM OF INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION.

3. SAMARRA'I CONFIRMED, IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, THAT IRAQ HAD NO (NO) INTENTION AT PRESENT OF SEEKING AN EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UKMIS NEW YORK TELELETTER OF 23 JUNE)

4. SAMARRA'I CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO CONVEY A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES THROUGH THEIR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HERE, BUT TO SPEAK TO THE UK FIRST BECAUSE OF OUR FORTHCOMING PRESIDENCY. THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR AT THE HAGUE WILL BE DELIVERING A THIRD PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, BUT IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, TO THE OUTGOING NETHERLANDS PRESIDENCY LATER TODAY.

5. RESIDENT CLERK PLEASE PASS TO NO 10.

EGERTON

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