

ops

Subject file - April 80  
Iraq Situation

CONFIDENTIAL

MD

45021 - 1

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.186/80

OO BELGRADE DESKBY 260500Z

GRS 342

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 251900Z SEP 80

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 782 OF 25 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE BELGRADE FOR NO 10 DUTY CLERK (DESKBY 260500Z)

AND IMMEDIATE TO WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN

IRAN/IRAQ

1. FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT GISCARD TO THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED THIS AFTERNOON:  
MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN, WHO HAS SENT ME  
THREE MESSAGES BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE  
IRAQI-IRANIAN HOSTILITIES, I RECEIVED THIS MORNING MR TAREQ AZIZ,  
DEPUTY PM OF IRAQ.

MY INTERLOCUTOR AFFIRMED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO  
TERRITORIAL OBJECTIVE BEYOND THE CONTESTED TERRITORIES AND THAT  
IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES TO MAINTAIN ANY  
MILITARY PRESENCE IN IRAN OUTSIDE THESE TERRITORIES. WE  
DISCUSSED THE CONDITIONS FOR OPENING NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A  
POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THIS CONFLICT AS WELL AS VARIOUS POSSIBLE  
FORMULAE FOR NEGOTIATION. IN THIS RESPECT, I SAID THAT A  
SPECIAL ROLE MUST DEVOLVE TO THE ISLAMIC STATES IN THE PROCESS  
LEADING TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT.

I ALSO URGED ON MR TAREQ AZIZ THAT IRAQ EXPRESS AS QUICKLY  
AS POSSIBLE HER POSITION ON THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS.

FINALLY, I RECALLED EMPHATICALLY THE IMPORTANCE WHICH FRANCE  
ATTACHES TO THE MAINTENANCE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE GULF  
AND THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ.

THE IRAQI DEPUTY PM GAVE ME THE ASSURANCE THAT THE IRAQI  
GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN  
THAT ZONE.

MR TAREQ AZIZ CONFIDED TO ME ALSO THAT IRAQ DID NOT AT THIS  
STAGE INTEND TO UNDERTAKE MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE GULF

/ISLETS

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ISLETS (LITTLE TUMB, GREAT TUMB AND ABU MUSA) WHICH SHOULD HOWEVER REVERT TO THE UAE.

AFTER THIS CONVERSATION, MY PERSONAL EVALUATION IS THAT IRAQ'S OBJECTIVE IS TO SEIZE TERRITORIAL GAINS, AND EQUALLY POLITICAL GAINS IN THE FORM OF PUBLICLY INFLICTED DEFEATS ON THE IRANIAN ARMED FORCES. MY OPINION IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MR SADDAM HUSSEIN GIVES ITSELF ANOTHER FOUR TO FIVE DAYS TO REACH THIS OBJECTIVE.

MESSAGE ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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LIMITED

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HD/MAED  
HD/DEFENCE D  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
PS  
PS/LPS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
SIR A ACLAND  
SIR J GRAHAM  
MR J MOBERLY  
MR P MOBERLY  
MR BULLARD

COPIES TO

MR S HAMPSON DOT  
MR J WEST DEPT/ENERGY  
MR D WHITE CABINET OFFICE