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TO IMMEDIATE KUWAIT

TELEGRAM NUMBER 325 OF 7 OCTOBER

MY TELNO 323 OF 6 OCTOBER : PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO SHAIKH SA'AD

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T1988/80

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE, AGREED BY PRIME MINISTER, FROM HER TO SHAIKH SA'AD, FOR MOBERLY TO DELIVER WHEN HE CALLS.
2. QUOTE YOUR HIGHNESS MAY REMEMBER THAT MR JOHN MOBERLY OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS PRESENT WHEN YOU CAME TO SEE ME AT 10 DOWNING STREET IN JUNE. I WOULD LIKE TO USE THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS BEING IN KUWAIT TO PASS ON TO YOUR HIGHNESS A FEW THOUGHTS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN YOUR REGION. IN JUNE WE HAD A MOST USEFUL AND STIMULATING CONVERSATION ABOUT THE DANGERS TO THE SECURITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST POSED BY THE ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE. WE COULD HARDLY IMAGINE THAT WITHIN A FEW MONTHS A NEW AND DANGEROUS THREAT WOULD EMERGE NEAR THE VERY BORDERS OF KUWAIT. I ADMIRE THE SKILFUL WAY IN WHICH KUWAIT HAS MANAGED TO KEEP A BALANCED POSITION IN THE CONFLICT INVOLVING ITS POWERFUL NEIGHBOURS. WE ALL WISH TO SEE AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND WOULD BE GLAD TO SUPPORT ANY MEDIATION OR CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH NEUTRAL AND MUSLIM STATES COULD ACHIEVE.
3. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY VALUABLE FOR US TO BE ABLE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. PETER CARRINGTON, THOUGH NATURALLY UNDERSTANDING THE REASONS, WAS SORRY THAT SHAIKH SABAH AL AHMED WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET HIM IN NEW YORK. I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR OUR TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE CONFLICT AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WHOLE GULF REGION. FORTUNATELY, THE THREAT TO THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ, ON WHICH VITAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES DEPEND, SEEMS FOR THE MOMENT TO HAVE RECEDED. THIS IS AN AREA OF GREAT CONCERN TO US AND WE HAVE BEEN THINKING HOW TO DEAL WITH ANY RISKS WHICH MIGHT ARISE. WE ALL WISH TO SEE THE

WAR CONTAINED AND TO AVOID INCREASING THE RISK OF BIG POWER CONFRONTATION. BUT EQUALLY NO COUNTRY CAN SEE ITS VITAL INTERESTS JEOPARDISED.

4. WE REALISE THAT YOUR COUNTRY MAY WELL PLAY A PART IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS DISPUTE, INSOFAR AS IT CONCERNS THE SECURITY OF THE GULF. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SANCTITY OF AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE RESPECTED. BUT IF ANY SETTLEMENT IS TO LAST, THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ALL HAVE ALSO TO BE ESTABLISHED AND SAFEGUARDED. EQUALLY NO SYSTEM OF GULF SECURITY CAN BE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT THE WHOLE-HEARTED PARTICIPATION OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. IT IS IN THE FIRST PLACE FOR YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS, WITHOUT EXTERNAL PRESSURES, TO DECIDE HOW YOU WISH TO ENSURE THE STABILITY OF YOUR AREA, BUT WE AND OTHERS MAY BE ABLE TO HELP. WE SHALL WELCOME THE CHANCE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT.

5. WE HAVE OF COURSE HAD A CLEAR IDEA, FROM THE INTERVIEW WHICH SHAIKH SABAH GAVE TO MR BALFOUR ON 24 SEPTEMBER, OF THE THINKING OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE EFFORTS IT IS MAKING TO STOP THE CONFLICT AND PREVENT ITS SPREAD. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT AT TIMES SUCH AS THIS WE SHOULD STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH, AND I KNOW THAT OUR EMBASSY ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH YOU TO TELL YOU HOW WE BELIEVE THE CONFLICT IS DEVELOPING.

6. ON QUESTIONS WHICH GO BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE CONFLICT, WHICH WE ALL HOPE WILL BE SETTLED SOON, WE CONTINUE OF COURSE TO GIVE A VERY HIGH PRIORITY TO THE WHOLE RANGE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT. I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT OUR POLITICAL CONTACTS SEEM TO ME TO BE IN VERY GOOD HEALTH. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO GIVE OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS THE FULLEST POSSIBLE DEPTH. I HOPE THAT MR MOBERLY MAY BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH YOU, AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANT WIDER QUESTIONS AFFECTING OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
UNQUOTE.

7. IN THE END THE PRIME MINISTER FELT IT WOULD BE MORE VALUABLE TO RESTRICT HER MESSAGE TO A PURELY POLITICAL CONTENT. BUT MOBERLY WILL DOUBTLESS BE ABLE TO RECOMMEND TO SA'AD THE WEIR BID IN THE COURSE OF HIS CALL.