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FM UKMIS GENEVA 050910Z JUL 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

Prime Minister

TELEGRAM NUMBER 259 OF 05 JULY 1979

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, INFO ROUTINE HONG KONG, CANBERRA.
INFO SAVING WASHINGTON, HANOI, PEKING.

6/7

YOUR TELNO 131: INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES: MR HURD'S CALL ON
DR WALDHEIM

1. MR HURD CALLED ON WALDHEIM ON 4 JULY AND HANDED OVER THE
TEXTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S TWO MESSAGES (YOUR TELNOS
129 AND 130).

2. WALDHEIM SAID THAT HE HAD TRIED VERY HARD TO RESPOND TO THE
PRIME MINISTER'S WISH FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE . AS
SECRETARY GENERAL HE DID NOT HAVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL
AUTHORITY TO ACT ON HIS OWN TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE.
BUT OUT OF A DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL HE HAD TAKEN THE
UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF CALLING A MEETING ON THE BASIS OF HIS
PERSONAL INVITATION AND OUTSIDE NORMAL UN PROCEDURES TO
DISCUSS THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS. HE HOPED THAT DISCUSSION AT THE
MEETING COULD BE CONFINED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO THE HUMANITARIAN
ASPECTS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WOULD INEVITABLY BE
SOME REFERENCE TO VIETNAM'S ROLE BUT HE WANTED TO AVOID THE
THE CONFERENCE DETERIORATING INTO A POLITICAL CONFRONTATION WHICH
COULD INVOLVE HIM IN CONTROVERSY AND BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. HE
HOPED GOVERNMENTS WOULD BEAR HIS PERSONAL POSITION IN MIND.

3. HE PROPOSED TO MAKE AN OPENING STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE
PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE AND THEN INVITE STATEMENTS FROM
GOVERNMENTS (NO MORE THAN 10 MINUTES EACH) WHICH IT WAS HOPED
WOULD INCLUDE NEW OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE. MR HURD STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE OF WALDHEIM TAKING THE CHAIR AND WALDHEIM SAID THAT HE
WOULD DO SO FOR THE MORNING SESSION OF THE FIRST DAY AND THEN
HAND OVER TO HARTLING FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION IN ORDER TO
DEMONSTRATE THE UNHCR'S INVOLVEMENT. HE WOULD RETURN TO THE
CHAIR THE FOLLOWING MORNING. WHEN NOT IN THE CHAIR HE WOULD BE
ON HAND IF ANY DISPUTE AROSE. AT THE CLOSE HE WOULD SUM UP.
(SINCE IT WAS NOT A PROPER UN CONFERENCE THERE COULD BE NO
RESOLUTIONS). THE MEETING WOULD BE IN PUBLIC.

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4. MR HURD SAID THAT WE HOPED THE SOVIET UNION WOULD ATTEND. THEY SHOULD BE EDGED INTO TAKING SOME RESPONSIBILITY. WALDHEIM SAID THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD BEEN APPROACHED THROUGH UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL SYTENKO IN NEW YORK TO SEE WHETHER THEY WOULD ACCEPT IF INVITED. THEY HAD SUPPORTED THE VIETNAMESE VIEW THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE SOLELY CONCERNED WITH HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS, BUT HAD SO FAR GIVEN NO CLEAR-CUT ANSWERS. THE CHINESE, WHO UNLIKE THE RUSSIANS WERE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNHCR, HAD ALREADY BEEN INVITED. THEY HAD NOT YET ANSWERED BUT IT HAD SAID THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE MEETING MUST BE TO CONDEMN VIETNAM.

5. MR HURD SAID THAT WE WERE NOW CONSIDERING WHOM WE WOULD SEND TO THE MEETING AND HOW TO RESPOND TO MR HARTLING'S QUESTIONNAIRE.

6. ON ATTENDANCE WALDHEIM SAID THAT THE JAPANESE, THAIS AND MALAYSIANS WERE SENDING CABINET MINISTERS AND THERE WAS TALK OF THE US SENDING MONDALE OR VANCE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES

MURRAY

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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NEWS D
M & VD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR BLAKER
PS/PUS
SIR A DUFF
SIR A PARSONS
MR CORTAZZI
MR MURRAY
MR STRATTON

ADDITIONAL DISTN
BOAT PEOPLE

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