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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 302223Z SEPT 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1405 OF 30 SEPTEMBER.

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, BAGHDAD, ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, MOSCOW,
NEW DELHI, ISLAMABAD AND UKDEL NATO.MY TEL NO 1399: IRAQ/IRAN. 

1. AT IRAQI REQUEST, SAADOUN HAMMADI MET MUSKIE AT NOON TODAY (29 SEPTEMBER).

2. THE US MISSION (PLEASE PROTECT) HAS GIVEN US AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSION. MUSKIE BEGAN BY EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING. IF THE SEA LANES WERE PLACED IN JEOPARDY, THE US WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT DEFENDING THEM. MUSKIE EXPLAINED THAT THE AWAC'S HAD BEEN SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA AT SAUDI REQUEST. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM HAMMADI ABOUT WHAT THE US WANTED, MUSKIE SAID THAT THE US WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE FOLLOWED BY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THESE COULD COVER THE 1975 TREATIES, THE NEW TERRITORIES REQUIRED BY THE IRAQIS, AND POSSIBLY THE THREE GULF ISLANDS.

3. HAMMADI SAID THAT IRAQ HAD NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS AND WOULD ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE AND NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT CONDITIONS. THIS POSITION WAS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT THE IRANIANS, THOUGH IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO GET THEM TO THE TABLE. THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY COME, HOWEVER, EITHER BECAUSE OF IRAQI MILITARY PRESSURE OR BECAUSE OF A CRUMBLING OF THE IRANIAN REGIME. FOR MUSKIE'S OWN INFORMATION, THE TWO IRAQI NON-NEGOTIABLE CONDITIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT WERE A REVERSION TO THE TRADITIONAL AND HISTORICAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER IRAQI LANDS, INCLUDING THE SHATT-AL-ARAB, AND A GUARANTEE FROM THE IRANIANS OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN IRAQI INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. HAMMADI ASKED ABOUT HINTS IN THE US PRESS THAT THE AMERICANS WERE PREPARED TO DO A DEAL WITH THE IRANIANS ON SPARE PARTS IN RETURN FOR THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. MUSKIE ADAMANTLY DENIED THIS.

5. THROUGHOUT THE TALKS HAMMADI STRESSED THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD BE PATIENT. THE QUESTION OF FURTHER SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION OR HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE IT DID NOT ARISE. IN CONCLUSION, HAMMADI DECLARED THAT IRAQ WOULD NOT GO BACK TO THE PRE-1975 SITUATION AND ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF THE US AND HER ALLIES IF THE CURRENT REGIME IN IRAN WAS QUOTE CUT DOWN TO SIZE UNQUOTE.

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/6. WALDHEIM

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6. WALDHEIM THIS EVENING ISSUED THE REPORT CALLED FOR IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 479. THE ONLY POINT OF INTEREST IT CONTAINS IS THE NEWS THAT THE IRANIAN MISSION HERE HAS TOLD WALDHEIM THAT HE WILL RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL FOR A CEASE-FIRE BY THE MORNING OF 1 OCTOBER.

PARSONS

IRAQ/IRAN STANDARD

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ADDITIONAL DISTN.

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