

IRAN/IRAQ

ADVANCE COPIES

22 20X

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PS/SIR I GILMOUR  
PS/MR HURD  
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~~SIR I YONDE~~  
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IMMEDIATE

Sir I GILMOUR

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CONFIDENTIAL

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TO IMMEDIATE ABU DHABI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 38 OF 8 OCTOBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE FCO

INFO PRIORITY MODU BAHRAIN DOHA JEDDA HKUWAIT MUSCAT PARIS

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON

YOUR TELNO 322 TO FCO: IRAN/ IRAQ

1. I RECEIVED A MESSAGE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON THAT THE RULER OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH WISHED TO SEE ME ON AN URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL MATTER. I CALLED ON HIM THIS MORNING. THE CROWN PRINCE, SHAIKH KHALID, WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. SHAIKH SAQR SAID THAT A FEW DAYS AGO HE HAD VISITED SHAIKH ZAID IN ABU DHABI. THEY HAD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONTINUING IRAQ/ IRAN WAR, AND HAD AGREED THAT IRAN WAS UNLIKELY TO BE AMENABLE TO MEDIATION BY ANY CONCEIVABLE COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES. IRAN HAD ALREADY THREATENED THE U A E AND OTHER STATES WITH RETALIATION FOR THEIR ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR IRAQ.

3. SHAIKH ZAID HAD REVEALED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED UNSPECIFIED OFFERS OF SUPPORT FROM FRANCE, WHICH HE WAS DISPOSED TO ACCEPT. SAQR HAD ARGUED VERY STRONGLY THAT BRITAIN HAD FAR GREATER HISTORICAL LINKS WITH AND EXPERIENCE OF THE AREA, AND IT WOULD THEREFORE BE GREATLY PREFERABLE TO RELY ON US. HE THOUGHT THAT ZAID HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THESE ARGUMENTS, BUT SOME SORT OF RESPONSE FROM

OF COUNTRIES. IRAN HAD ALREADY THREATENED THE U A E AND OTHER STATES WITH RETALIATION FOR THEIR ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR IRAQ.

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4. THIS APPROACH SEEMS TO FIT WITH THAT BY MANA AL-OTEIBA REPORTED IN YOUR TUR. WHATEVER THE NATURE OF THE FRENCH CONTACTS WITH ZAID, THEY HAVE CLEARLY DISMAYED SOME OF HIS ADVISERS AND OTHER SHAIKHS. SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM US WOULD THEREFORE BE VERY TIMELY.

5. I TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY OF ASKING SHAIKH SAQR WHETHER HE HAD RECEIVED ANY IRAQI REQUEST FOR USE OF FACILITIES IN RAS AL-KHAIMAH FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST IRAN. HE SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT HE HAD NOT: ANY SUCH SUGGESTION WAS MERELY A MALICIOUS RUMOUR ORIGINATING IN ABU DHABI. HE KNEW OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF IRAQI AIRCRAFT TO OMAN, BUT SAID THAT THE TARGET, IF AN OPERATION HAD BEEN MOUNTED, WOULD HAVE BEEN BANDAR ABBAS AND NOT REPEAT NOT THE ISLANDS. THE IRAQIS HAD GIVEN HIM AN ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE THAT NO ATTACK WOULD BE MADE ON THESE WITHOUT U A E KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT.

FCO PLEASE PASS ✓ TO SAVING ADDRESSEE.

HASKELL

BT

[cannot saving, as requested.]

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