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TO ROUTINE F C O

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INFO MODUK, BAGHDAD AND JEDDA

INFO SAVING PARIS, BONN, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO, TEL AVIV, CAIRO,

UKMIS NEW YORK, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, DUBAI, BAHRAIN

AND DOHA

M I F T: IRAN/IRAQ: US POSITION

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS OF WARREN CHRISTOPHER'S SPEECH YESTERDAY IN BOSTON:

- (I) THE US HAVE VITAL INTERESTS AT STAKE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA AND WILL DEFEND THEM. THE US PURPOSE IS NOT TO DOMINATE THE AFFAIRS OF ANY NATION IN THE REGION BUT TO HELP BUTTRESS THEIR INDEPENDENCE. THE US HAS NOTHING TO GAIN BY CONTINUATION OF THE CONFLICT OR BY TAKING SIDES IN IT. THE IRAN HOSTAGE ISSUE MAKES PEACE ALL THE MORE IMPERATIVE.
- (II) THE LOCATION OF CURRENT HOSTILITIES MAKES THE CONFLICT MORE DANGEROUS. "IF THE IRAQIS TAKE AND ATTEMPT TO KEEP KHUZESTAN, THE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED, AND THE DANGER DRAMATICALLY SHARPENED."
- (III) THE US REFUSAL TO TAKE SIDES IS NOT A SIGN OF INDIFFERENCE. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SEIZURE OF TERRITORY BY FORCE AND THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS. THE US HAS SUPPORTED THE PEACE EFFORTS OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO URGE RESTRAINT ON ALL EXTERNAL POWERS. WE EXPECT THE SOVIET UNION TO EXERCISE ITS OWN SELF-DISCIPLINE. WHILE SOVIET CLAIMS ABOUT US PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFLICT ARE UNTRUE AND IRRESPONSIBLE, THE RUSSIANS HAVE GENERALLY BEHAVED WITH CAUTION. THEY SHOULD PERSIST IN SUPPORTING AN EARLY END TO THE WAR.
- (IV) THE US ALSO SEEK TO PREVENT THE CONFLICT FROM SPREADING. "THE OTHER STATES OF THE GULF AND THE ARABIAN PENINSULA HAVE GROUNDS FOR DEEP CONCERN. THEY DESERVE OUR HELP, WHEN THEY ASK FOR IT, IN DETERRING THE POSSIBILITY OF UNPROVOKED ATTACK." HENCE THE DESPATCH OF AWACS TO SAUDI ARABIA. "THEIR PURPOSE IS STRICTLY DEFENSIVE - TO PROVIDE WARNING TIME AND TO ASSIST THE SAUDIS IN THEIR OWN DEFENSE IF THERE IS SUCH A NEED. THEIR PRESENCE HAS NOT ALTERED IN ANY WAY OUR NEUTRALITY IN THE PRESENT CONFLICT."
- (V) THE US WISH TO KEEP THE CONFLICT FROM ENDANGERING THE FLOW OF OIL, AND NOTE THE CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION ADOPTED BY SAUDI ARABIA AND SOME OTHER PRODUCERS.

/s. Sumner

2 SUMMING UP, CHRISTOPHER EMPHASISED THAT THE US WERE NEUTRAL AND WOULD NOT INTERVENE ON EITHER SIDE, THEY EXPECTED THE SOVIET UNION TO ACT WITH RESTRAINT, AND WOULD WORK FOR AN EARLY END TO THE FIGHTING. FURTHERMORE, 'NEUTRALITY IN THIS CONFLICT DOES NOT MEAN AMERICAN INDIFFERENCE. WE WILL DEFEND OUR VITAL INTERESTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION.

SPECIFICALLY:

- THERE MUST BE NO INTERFERENCE WITH FREE TRANSIT IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND THE PERSIAN GULF. WE WILL DO WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PREVENT SUCH INTERFERENCE.
- TO PREVENT THE CONFLICT FROM EXPANDING IN WAYS WHICH THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE REGION, WE WILL ALSO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM NON-BELLIGERENT FRIENDS IN THE AREA WHO FEEL THREATENED BY THE CONFLICT.'

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AMMAN, DAMASCUS, KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, DUBAI, BAHRAIN,  
DOHA

HENDERSON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

IRAQ/IRAN STANDARD

MED MAED  
NENAD TRED  
NAD ERD  
UND ECON D  
EESD CONS D  
EGD CONS EM UNIT  
WED CABINET OFFICE  
ES+SD

ADDITIONAL DISTN.

IRAQ/IRAN