

18

FM FCO 161728Z OCT 80

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELNO. 1650 OF 16 OCTOBER,
AND TO IMMEDIATE: BONN, PARIS,
INFO IMMEDIATE ROME (FOR WALDEN).

Prime Minister

Mr

(1) x

Mr

YOUR TELNO4276: IRAQ/IRAN: ALLIED CONSULTATIONS.

1. WE SHALL LET YOU KNOW THE FRENCH AND GERMAN RESPONSES AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE THEM. (PARIS TELNOS 852 AND 857 SUGGEST THAT THE FRENCH REPLY MAY BE NEGATIVE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GERMANS ARE HESITATING: THEY MAY SUGGEST, INSTEAD OF A MINISTERIAL MEETING AS WE HAD PROPOSED, THAT THE MEETING ALREADY FIXED AT POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL FOR 27 OCTOBER BE GIVEN SPECIFIC TASKS OF AN OPERATIONAL CHARACTER..) AT ANY RATE WE PROPOSE TO GIVE THEM BOTH UNTIL THE WEEKEND TO RESPOND. THIS MEANS THAT TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER IS THE EARLIEST REALISTIC TIME FOR A MEETING HERE.
2. IF THE FRENCH AND/OR THE GERMAN REPLY IS NEGATIVE, WE SHALL WANT TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHETHER OR NOT TO GO AHEAD BILATERALLY WITH THE AMERICANS ALONE. OUR PRESENT VIEW IS THAT THIS WOULD RISK SERIOUSLY DAMAGING THE QUADRIPARTITE FORUM WITHOUT BRINGING THE BENEFITS OF CO-ORDINATION WHICH WE HAD HOPED TO SECURE BY A MEETING OF THE FOUR. IT MIGHT BE DIFFERENT IF THERE WERE A CHANCE OF CHRISTOPHER COMING TO LONDON IN SECRET, WHICH WE JUDGE TO BE IMPOSSIBLE, OR AS PART OF A EUROPEAN TOUR, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ORGANISED SEPARATELY AND BY THE AMERICANS.
3. IN CONVEYING THE FOREGOING TO THE AMERICANS YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE PROPOSE TO KEEP ABSOLUTELY QUIET ABOUT THE IDEA OF A MEETING IN LONDON AND HOPE THAT THEY WILL DO LIKEWISE. IF IT SHOULD LEAK, NEWS DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE THE LINE THAT THE SITUATION IN THE GULF HAS NATURALLY LED TO A GOOD DEAL OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS AND THAT THE IDEA OF A VISIT BY CHRISTOPHER TO EUROPE REPEAT EUROPE IS ONE OF MANY THAT HAVE BEEN UNDER ?CONSIDERATION.
4. THE FOREGOING IS SUBJECT TO ANY COMMENTS WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY WISH TO SEND.
5. BONN AND PARIS: PLEASE INFORM THE GERMANS AND FRENCH THAT CHRISTOPHER IS WILLING TO COME TO LONDON ON THE BASIS SUGGESTED IN MY TELNO 389 TO BONN AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THEIR REACTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE ALSO TELL THEM ABOUT THE CONTINGENCY PRESS LINE SUGGESTED IN PARA. 3 ABOVE.

CARRINGTON

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