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FM BAGHDAD 241205Z NOV 80
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 655 OF 24/11/80
INFO TO PRIORITY AMMAN, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKMIS NEW YORK
SAVING TO DAMASCUS

AMMAN TEL NO 482. IRAQ/IRAN: ATTITUDE OF THE SUPERPOWERS.

1. THE COMPLEMENT TO THIS VERY INTERESTING REPORT IS THAT EAGLETON OF THE US INTERESTS SECTION HERE TOLD ME LAST WEEK THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN IRAQ EARLIER THIS YEAR, BY MINISTER OF STATE HAMID ALWAN AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. ALWAN HAD SAID THAT THE TIME WAS RIPE FOR CLOSER US' IRAQI RELATIONS, AND THAT EAGLETON COULD COUNT ON ACCESS IN FUTURE TO HIM (ALWAN) WHEN EVER HE NEEDED IT.

2. EAGLETON ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT THAT HIS REPEATED EXPLANATIONS HAD GOT THE IRAQIS OVER THE HUMP OF THE US DOLLARS 550 MILLION PACKAGE OF DEFENCE EQUIPMENT, PART OR ALL OF WHICH WOULD BE RELEASED TO IRAN (AFTER CLOSE US INSPECTION OF THE DETAILED LIST), IF AND WHEN THE HOSTAGES WERE FREED. THE IRAQIS WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE A GREAT FUSS ON THEIR PROPAGANDA MACHINE AS AND WHEN THIS PAID-FOR EQUIPMENT WAS DELIVERED, BUT WOULD NOT (NOT), EAGLETON THOUGHT, THROW THE INTERESTS SECTION OUT OF THE COUNTRY IN RETALIATION. HIS STAFF HAD IN ANY CASE ALREADY BEEN SLIMMED DOWN TO THE MINIMUM. THE IRAQIS' MAIN OBJECTIVE NOW WAS TO GET THE AMERICANS TO UNDERTAKE NOT (NOT) TO SUPPLY IRAN WITH ANY REPEAT ANY WARLIKE MATERIAL BEYOND THE US DOLLARS 550 MILLION PACKAGE.

3. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS HERE AMONG MY COLLEAGUES REMAINS THAT THE FORMAL RESTORATION OF US-IRAQI RELATIONS IS STILL SOME WAY OFF.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING TO DAMASCUS

EGERTON

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

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