

RESTRICTED

GRS 350
RESTRICTED
FM BAGHDAD 281045Z DEC 80
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 707 OF 28/12/80
AND TO ROUTINE MODUK DI4
INFO TO ROUTINE AMMAN, JEDDA, KUWAIT, STOCKHOLM, UKMIS NEW YORK,
MOSCOW, PARIS AND WASHINGTON

Prime Minister

MP 29/12/80

SIC U/N

mo

IRAQ/IRAN: SADDAM HUSSAIN'S 24 DECEMBER SPEECH

1. IN A SPEECH TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSAIN SAID THAT IRAQI POSITIONS IN DEZFUL, GILAN, AHWAZ AND ABADAN WOULD CONSTITUTE IRAQ'S MILITARY FRONTIER FOR THE PERIOD OF THE PRESENT STATE OF WAR. THE MILITARY MAP THUS DRAWN AFFORDED THE BEST MEANS OF DEFENDING IRAQI TERRITORY: ANY WITHDRAWAL WOULD PUT IRAQ IN A WORSE POSITION. IRAQI FORCES WOULD THEREFORE REMAIN WHERE THEY WERE UNTIL IRAN CONCEDED IRAQI RIGHTS.

2. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT "BECAUSE OF IRANIAN STUBBORNESS, IRAQI TROOPS IN KURDISTAN HAD BEEN ORDERED TO CLOSE ANY SALIENTS AND LOOPHOLES IN THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER. A WEEK AGO THEY HAD CROSSED INTO IRANIAN TERRITORY. IRAQ WAS NOW OCCUPYING THE BEST POSSIBLE MILITARY POSITIONS FROM THE JUNCTION OF THE IRANIAN, TURKISH AND IRAQI BORDERS IN THE NORTH, TO THE SHATT AL-ARAB IN THE SOUTH.

2. HE REPEATED THAT IRAQ WOULD NOT (NOT), AS ADVISED BY SOME, CONSIDER THE 1975 ALGIERS AGREEMENT AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION, ADDING (MORE INSISTENTLY THAN IN HIS OTHER SPEECHES) THAT ALTHOUGH IRAQ COULD HAVE HONOURED IT HAD IT NOT BEEN VIOLATED BY IRAN, THE LEGAL RIGHTS IT CONFERRED HAD ACCRUED IN ABNORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I.E. WHEN IRAN WAS BACKED BY US AND ZIONIST FORCES HOSTILE TO IRAQ.

/4.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

4. HUSSAIN'S REMARKS CONSTITUTE THE CLEAREST STATEMENT WE HAVE HAD RECENTLY OF THE REDUCED SCALE OF IRAQI MILITARY OBJECTIVES. THEY INDICATE A DETERMINATION TO CONSOLIDATE A LONG BUT SHALLOW FRONT AND AWAIT EVENTS IN IRAN, WHILE 'CREATING FACTS' THROUGH THE ABSORPTION OF EG. KHORRAMSHAHR INTO THE ADMINISTRATION (MY TEL NO 704). THE MENTION OF OPERATIONS IN KURDISTAN SUGGESTS, THAT THE IRANIAN AGITATION AMONG THE IRAQI KURDS MAY AGAIN BE BEGINNING TO TAKE EFFECT, AND THAT IRAQIS ARE CONSCIOUS THAT, IN THE WAR OF ATTRITION WHICH THEY NOW EXPECT, THE NORTH-EAST MAY IN TIME PROVIDE THE MOST PERSISTENT DRAIN ON THEIR RESOURCES.

EGERTON

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

IRAQ/IRAN STANDARD

MED
NENAD
NAD
UND
EESD
ECD
RID
WED
MAED
ES & SD

TRED
ERD
ESID
CONS DEPT
CONS EM UNIT
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
IRAQ/IRAN

2
RESTRICTED