

Iraq

CONFIDENTIAL

GPS 165

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ALGIERS 301310Z DECEMBER 81

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 327 OF 30 DECEMBER

FOR INFO ROUTINE TO BAGHDAD WASHINGTON NEW YORK

SAVING FOR INFO TO BIS TEHRAN

IRAQ/IRAN WAR: ALGERIAN MEDIATION

1. I TACKLED LAKHDAR BRAHIMI (AMBASSADOR AT LARGE AND MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE) ABOUT THIS LAST NIGHT. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE ALGERIANS WERE INDEED CONSIDERING WHETHER TO CHANCE THEIR ARM. FOREIGN MINISTER BENYAHIA WAS PARTICULARLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE QUESTION.

2. BRAHIMI SAID THAT OPINION WAS ABOUT EQUALLY DIVIDED. SOME, INCLUDING HIMSELF, TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE ALGERIANS SHOULD TRY. OTHERS FELT THAT SINCE IT WAS A HAND THEY COULD ONLY PLAY ONCE, THEY SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE OMENS WERE MORE PROMISING.

3. BRAHIMI HAD VISITED BAGHDAD RECENTLY AND FOUND THE IRAQIS DESPERATE TO END THE WAR AND READY TO ACCEPT THE MOST MODEST OF IRANIAN FACE-SAVERS. IF KHOMENI WERE OUT OF THE WAY, BRAHIMI THOUGHT THE IRANIANS WOULD OBLIGE, BUT SO LONG AS THE OLD MAN DOMINATED THE SCENE, THE CHANCES OF A SUCCESSFUL PEACE INITIATIVE WERE SLIM.

4. STOCKHOLM'S LETTER. I SHOULD PREFER TO PASS THIS TO MY SWEDISH COLLEAGUE HERE, WITHOUT NAMING MY SOURCE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO BIS TEHRAN

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

STRACHAN

IRAQ/IRAN STANDARD

MED	MAED
NENAD	ES & SD
NAD	TRED
UND	ERD
EESD	ESID
ECD	CONS D
RID	CONS EM UNIT
WED	CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

IRAQ/IRAN

[NOT ADVANCED]

CONFIDENTIAL