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FM BAGHDAD 101017Z JUN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 361 OF 10/06/82

INFO PRIORITY MIDDLE EAST POSTS: UKMIS NEW YORK: WASHINGTON:

UKDEL NATO: STOCKHOLM: MOSCOW: PARIS.

INFO SAVING UKREP BRUSSELS

MY IPT 360.

IRAQ-IRAN: CEASEFIRE OFFER.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI SUMMONED ME TODAY, 10 JUNE, TO ACQUAINT HMG, AS A PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER, OF THE TERMS OF IRAQ'S CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL OFFER SUMMARISED IN MY IPT.
2. HAMMADI EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS A SERIOUS OFFER MADE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPEAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES BY THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE'S GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE WHICH HAD MET IN JEDDA FROM 6 TO 8 JUNE. THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WAS GRAVE AND COMPLICATED, SO IRAQ HAD THOUGHT IT OPPORTUNE, AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN ON HIS VISIT HERE ON 9 JUNE, TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE UNILATERAL OFFER TO END THE WAR WITH IRAN. EXPLAINING THE THIRD POINT OF THE RCC'S OFFER, HE SAID THAT IRAQ AIMED TO TRY AND SETTLE ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH IRAN BILATERALLY, BUT WAS READY TO TAKE EVERYTHING TO ARBITRATION IF IRAN WAS NOT YET READY FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. THE POSSIBLE ARBITRATORS WERE SET OUT IN IRAQ'S ORDER OF PREFERENCE. ANYTHING IRAQ'S FRIENDS COULD DO TO GET IRAN TO CONSIDER THIS OFFER SERIOUSLY WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.
3. I ASKED WHERE THIS LEFT THE IDEA OF RESORTING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR A SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION ON THE MAIN ISSUES AGAINST WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED IRANIAN TERRITORY, WHICH TARIQ AZIZ HAD EXPLAINED TO ME 25 MAY (MY TEL NO 330). HAMMADI SAID THAT THE RCC'S THREE-POINT OFFER OF 10 JUNE TOOK PRIORITY OVER RESORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. BUT IF IT WERE REJECTED BY IRAN, IRAQ WOULD HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO CONTINUE TO TRY AND USE THE SECURITY COUNCIL ROUTE.

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4. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE WITH HAMMADI A COPY OF THE 9 JUNE STATEMENT OF THE TEN ON THE SITUATION IN LEBANON (BONN TEL NO 545). HAMMADI READ THIS THROUGH AND SAID HE LIKED THE GOOD STRONG TEXT.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO UKREP BRUSSELS.

EGERTON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

IRAQ/IRAN

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Previous
Reference:
CC(82) 30th
Conclusions,
Minute 3

CC(82) 31st 3.6.82 Item 2.

2. THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that Jordan's efforts to convene a meeting of the Security Council to discuss the continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq had failed to attract support. The course of the conflict did not at present pose a direct threat to King Hussein's own position.

The Cabinet -

Took note.