

CONFIDENTIAL

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 284 OF 26 SEPTEMBER

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

FOLLOWING FOR PS/PRIME MINISTER

OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS 25/26 SEPTEMBER: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE FROM THE UK.

UNDERLINE THE NEXT WORD.

LEBANON: THE SYRIANS AND THE SAUDIS ANNOUNCED ON 25 SEPTEMBER THAT A CEASEFIRE HAD BEEN AGREED. FIGHTING IN BEIRUT CONTINUED IN TO THE EVENING OF 25 SEPTEMBER, BUT REPORTS ON THE MORNING OF 26 SEPTEMBER ARE THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS HOLDING. WE ARE SAYING THAT WE WARMLY WELCOME THE CEASEFIRE: THAT WE SHALL BE CONSULTING OUR PARTNERS IN THE MNF ON THE NEXT STEPS: AND THAT WE HOPE THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY THE CEASEFIRE WILL BE USED TO GOOD EFFECT.

FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE MNF COUNTRIES WILL BE CONSIDERING IN NEW YORK THE TEXT OF A JOINT STATEMENT. THE US CONTINUES TO LOOK TO THE UK TO CO-ORDINATE THIS EXERCISE. WE SHALL BE CIRCULATING A REVISED TEXT IN THE COURSE OF THE MORNING. WE HOPE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF OBSERVERS AND THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE MNF.

UNDERLINE THE NEXT WORD.

HONG KONG: FOLLOWING THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS MARKETS IN HONG KONG HAVE CONTINUED TO REACT BADLY. THIS WAS FURTHER AFFECTED BY ADVANCE RUMOURS ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SIR P CRADOCK'S FORTHCOMING NEW APPOINTMENT. REUTERS IN PEKING PUT OUT A STORY SAYING THAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY WOULD BE MAKING AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT LATER TODAY. IN HONG KONG LOCAL MARKETS REACTED BY SPECULATING THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE FUTURE. THE GOVERNOR, AFTER DISCUSSION WITH MR LUCE, RECOMMENDED THAT, IN ORDER TO COOL SPECULATION, AT LEAST THE SECTION OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT DEALING WITH SIR P CRADOCK'S APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG SHOULD BE BROUGHT FORWARD. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE NO 10 DUTY PRIVATE

SECRETARY, AUTHORITY FOR THIS WAS GIVEN AND HONG KONG RELEASED
THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT 0737 GMT: QUOTE SIR P CRADOCK WILL
BE RETIRING FROM THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.
THEREAFTER HE WILL BE TAKING UP A SPECIAL APPOINTMENT IN THE
FCO AS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG UNQUOTE. BECAUSE OF
THIS THE RELEASE OF THE FULL ANNOUNCEMENT IN LONDON, INCLUDING
SIR P CRADOCK'S APPOINTMENT AS SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE PRIME
MINISTER, WAS ALSO BROUGHT FORWARD TO 0900Z.

UNDERLINE THE NEXT WORD.

ZIMBABWE: MUGABE POLITELY DECLINED, ON GROUNDS OF TIREDNESS,
AN OFFER BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CALL ON HIM AT GATWICK
DURING A STOPOVER ON 24 SEPTEMBER. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW ON RETURN
TO HARARE HE DENOUNCED THE UK FOR MEDDLING IN ZIMBABWE'S INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OVER THE SIX AIR FORCE OFFICERS AND ACCUSED US OF
LOBBYING IRELAND, US AND CANADA TO RAISE THE CASE WITH HIM.

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