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FM UKMIS GENEVA 261655Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 26 OF 26 JANUARY 1982

INFO PRIORITY WARSAW, PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS, PRIORITY UKDEL  
NATO BRUSSELS, ROUTINE IKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

*Red cross*  
ICRC AND POLAND

1. HAY, PRESIDENT ICRC, TOLD A GATHERING OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TODAY (26 JANUARY) MAINLY DEVOTED TO ICRC'S 1982 BUDGET AND THE MANILA CONFERENCE (REPORT FOLLOWS BY BAG) THAT THE ICRC HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE POLISH AUTHORITIES TO VISIT DETAINEES AND THAT THE VISITS MAY TAKE PLACE UNDER ICRC CONDITIONS (IE ACCESS TO ALL DETAINEES ON A CONTINUING BASIS WITH NO WITNESSES PRESENT). THE VISITS COMMENCED ON SATURDAY 23 JANUARY. SO FAR 500 DETAINEES HAVE BEEN SEEN AT TWO CAMPS NEAR WARSAW. THE ICRC HAVE HEARD OF A TOTAL OF 49 CAMPS BUT HAVE NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF NUMBERS OF DETAINEES. THEY ARE INCREASING THEIR STAFF IN WARSAW TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK.
2. HAY EMPHASISED THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL THEY MADE IT PUBLIC. THEY HOPE TO DO THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW SHORTLY. IF THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE THEY WILL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN GENEVA.
4. HOCKE (DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, ICRC) THANKED GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF ICRC'S ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE DETAINEES.

MARSHALL

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