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TO IMMEDIATE BAGHDAD
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INFO IMMEDIATE TEHRAN UKMIS NEW YORK
PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW, PEKING, KUWAIT, JEDDA, AMMAN,
DAMASCUS

YOUR TEL 92: IRAN/IRAQ WAR.

1. STRICTLY FOR YOUR OWN BACKGROUND LATEST REPORTS ON THE MILITARY SITUATION CONFIRM THAT IRANIANS HAVE RECAPTURED 260 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF IRANIAN TERRITORY PREVIOUSLY HELD BY IRAQ AND TWO IRAQI BORDER POSTS (TEHRAN TELNO 75 REFERS). THIS REPRESENTS AN ADVANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 10 KILOMETRES ALONG A 30 KILOMETRE FRONT. AN IRAQI BATTALION (APPROXIMATELY 800 MEN) HAS BEEN COMPLETELY OVERRUN, WHICH SUGGESTS A QUICK IRANIAN ADVANCE.

2. THE ADVANCE HAS NOW STOPPED, EITHER FOR REGROUPING OR BECAUSE OF RESISTANCE BY THE IRAQIS. THE MAIN IRANIAN FORCES NORTH OF FAKEH HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMMITTED BUT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REINFORCED. ALTHOUGH THE MAIN BATTLE HAS YET TO COME, THE RECAPTURE OF IRAQI-HELD TERRITORY IS ALREADY A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL GAIN FOR THE IRANIANS. ALL FIGHTING SO FAR IN THIS

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ROUND HAS BEEN ON IRANIAN TERRITORY.

3. YOU SHOULD NOT SEEK ANOTHER CONVERSATION WITH KITTANI EARLIER THAN NECESSARY. WE SHOULD PREFER TO SEE HOW THE FIGHTING DEVELOPS BEFORE REPLYING AND TO FRAME OUR REPLY IN THE LIGHT OF ANY VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ALLIES (THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSULTATION, E.G. AT THE MIDDLE EAST WORKING GROUP, LATER THIS WEEK). IN THE MEANTIME IF IRAQIS RETURN TO THE CHARGE YOU SHOULD SAY THAT IF AND WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE LATEST ROUND OF FIGHTING WE WOULD HOPE TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION ON THE LINES OF PREVIOUS DRAFTS (I.E. CALLING FOR A JUST AND HONOURABLE SETTLEMENT AS WELL AS AN END TO HOSTILITIES). YOU COULD ADD AT YOUR DISCRETION THAT THE IRAQIS WILL PRESUMABLY NOT WISH ANY ACTION AT THE UN SO LONG AS THE MAIN IRANIAN GAINS SEEM TO BE RECOVERY OF THEIR OWN TERRITORY. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT ANY ACTION BY THE UN SHOULD NOT BE INEFFECTIVE AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS AND LIKELY MERELY TO DIMINISH THE ORGANISATION'S STANDING.

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