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FM FCO 241600Z FEB 84
TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK
TELEGRAM NUMBER 081 OF 24 FEB 84
INFO PRIORITY BAGHDAD, TEHRAN, WASHINGTON, PARIS, STOCKHOLM,
UKMIS GENVA, AMMAN, CAIRO, THE HAGUE, UKDEL NATO, GULF POSTS,
YOUR TELNO 182:IRAN/IRAQ:MEDIATION

1. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERALS PROPOSAL FOR A TWO-PRONGED MISSION SEEMS AGAIN TO HAVE RUN INTO THE SAND, THOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR THIS. WE NEVERTHELESS, HOPE THAT HE AND CORDOVEZ WILL CONTINUE EXPLORING ALL AVAILABLE POSSIBILITIES OF FULFILLING HIS MEDIATORY ROLE. AS SEEN FROM HERE GENUINE PROGRESS ON MEDIATION IS IMPOSSIBLE, EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF ACTIVITY IS BETTER THAN NOTHING, IF ONLY BECAUSE IT MAY HELP TO PUT OFF THE MOMENT WHEN THE IRAQIS COME TO BELIEVE THAT THE HIGH-RISK STRATEGY OF GOADING THE IRANIANS INTO ESCALATING THE CONFLICT AND THUS INVOLVING OTHER STATES, IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT OPEN TO THEM.

2. PLEASE THEREFORE, SPEAK TO CORDOVEZ AGAIN AND FLOAT THE FOLLOWING IDEAS FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO CONSIDER.

(A) RENEWING PRESSURE ON THE IRAQIS TO ACCEPT A MISSION CHARGED ONLY WITH EXAMINING CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, IN THE HOPE THAT THIS MIGHT NEVERTHELESS FACILITATE MORE WIDESPREAD CONTACTS WITH IRAN.

(B) SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE TO BAGHDAD AND TEHRAN WITH NO STATED PURPOSE OR TERMS OF REFERENCE, BUT MERELY TO CONDUCT INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE LEADERSHIP IN BOTH CAPITALS.

(C) SENDING A TWO-PRONGED MISSION TO BAGHDAD ONLY, IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD FORCE THE IRANIANS ALSO TO ACCEPT IT (WE ACCEPT THAT THEY WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO REMAIN INTRANSIGENT, AND RENEW THEIR ACCUSATIONS OF UN BIAS).

(D) ORGANISING A COLLECTIVE PUBLIC APPEAL FOR RESTRAINT BY THE

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SECRETARY-GENERALS OR PRESIDENTS OF THE UN, ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, ICRC AND ANY OTHER SUFFICIENTLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL BODY WHICH THE IRANIANS COULD NOT REASONABLY CONDEMN AS BEING PARTI PRIS.

3. YOU KNOW OF THE ICRC APPEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER, TO WHICH WE HAVE STILL TO REPLY. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, WE ARE TRYING TO WORK FOR A HELPFUL DECLARATION BY THE TEN (EITHER ON IRAN/IRAQ ALONE OR ON THE MIDDLE EAST AS A WHOLE), WHICH MIGHT ISSUE AFTER THE POLITICAL COMMITTEES MEETING ON 27 FEBRUARY. WE ARE ALSO EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT ZIA AND MRS GANDHI AND AN APPROACH TO THE ALGERIANS, ASKING THEM TO RESUME THEIR MEDIATORY ACTIVITIES.

RECIPIENTS OF THIS TELEGRAM WOULD BE WELCOME.

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