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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 40 OF 29 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE BAGHDAD, TEHRAN,

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, STOCKHOLM, PARIS, GULF POSTS, UKMIS NEW YORK.

MIPT

ALGERIAN MEDIATION IN IRAN/IRAQ WAR

1. DECISION TO ISSUE THIS PUBLIC APPEAL WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER AND ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL ARE STILL ABSENT IN ADDIS CONFIRMS ALGERIA'S REAL SENSE OF CONCERN AND READINESS TO STEP UP EFFORTS AT RENEWED MEDIATION. DEVICE OF A PUBLIC APPEAL AFFORDS A WAY OF GETTING MESSAGE ACROSS TO IRANIAN AUTHORITIES WITH WHOM ALGERIANS HAVE RECENTLY FOUND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULT, WHILE HELPING KEEP ALGERIA ON SIDE WITH ARAB STATES. YOU WILL NOTE ALGERIANS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO SET APPEAL IN AN ISLAMIC CONTEXT.

2. YOU MAY WISH ME TO PASS BRIEF WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO MFA.

3. LOCAL BBC CORRESPONDENT, KIRBY, IS LIKELY TO REPORT THE APPEAL. YOU MAY LIKE TO CHECK WHETHER BBC OVERSEAS HAVE RECEIVED TEXT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER IT IS REPORTED IN THE BBC'S RESPECTIVE VERNACULAR BROADCASTS, PARTICULARLY FARSI.

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