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FM ROME

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 251145Z FCO

TELNO 792

OF 251035Z SEPTEMBER 85

INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT, AMMAN, TEL AVIV, NEW YORK FOR PRIVATE SECRE-

INFO IMMEDIATE TARY

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, EC POSTS

EXPLOSION AT BRITISH AIRWAYS OFFICE IN ROME

1. AS SCU AND SECURITY DEPT. ARE ALREADY AWARE, AN EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE AT THE BRITISH AIRWAYS OFFICE IN ROME AT 1102 (LOCAL) TODAY 25 SEPTEMBER. 14 PEOPLE WERE INJURED OF WHOM FOUR WERE MEMBERS OF BA STAFF. FIVE PEOPLE WERE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL. ONE, A MEMBER OF BA STAFF, IS SERIOUSLY INJURED. NONE OF THE INJURED ARE BRITISH NATIONALS. HEAD OF CHANCERY AND VICE CONSUL HAVE VISITED THE SCENE OF THE ATTACK.

2. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES THREE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE LEFT (POSSIBLY INSIDE A PACKAGE), ONE OF WHICH FAILED TO DETONATE. ONE ARAB WAS ARRESTED SHORTLY AFTER THE ATTACK. HE IS IDENTIFIED AS HASSAN ITAB, BORN SHATILA 1965. FIRST INDICATIONS TO THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE THAT HE FORMED PART OF A FIVE-MAN TERRORIST GROUP. NO ORGANISATION HAS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.

3. WE ARE ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH THE MFA ABOUT INCREASED PROTECTION FOR THE EMBASSY, SUBORDINATE POSTS AND IDENTIFIABLE BRITISH INSTITUTIONS IN ITALY.

BRIDGES

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