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FM TOKYO

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 490

OF 300713Z APRIL 86

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, BONN, ROME, OTTAWA, WASHINGTON

*This took
place before
we submitted
our alternative
text.*

JAPAN: TERRORISM

SUMMARY

1. MR NAKASONE AND MR ABE HAVE YET TO FINALISE THEIR APPROACH TO THE DISCUSSION OF TERRORISM AT THE SUMMIT. THE GENERAL PREFERENCE AT OFFICIAL LEVEL IS FOR LEAVING THE EXISTING DRAFT TEXT UNCHANGED.

DETAIL

2. THE MINISTER CALLED ON SEO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CONSULAR AND EMIGRATION AFFAIRS, MFA, ON 30 APRIL TO SOUND OUT JAPANESE THINKING ON DISCUSSION OF TERRORISM AT THE SUMMIT. STRESSING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD STILL NOT DECIDED HIS FINAL POSITION, SEO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON A PERSONAL BASIS:

(A) WHILST POLITICAL SUBJECTS SHOULD NOT REPLACE ECONOMICS IN FIRST PLACE AT THE SUMMIT, THERE WAS CERTAINLY SUFFICIENT CONCERN ABOUT TERRORISM TO WARRANT DISCUSSION.

(B) THE JAPANESE WERE STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER OTHER SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE CONTENT WITH A GENERAL DISCUSSION ON TERRORISM OR WHETHER SOME WOULD BE SEEKING AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION. IF THE LATTER, THEN CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS COULD FULLY ENDORSE ANY AGREEMENT. PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS OVERRIDING WISH WAS THAT THE SUMMIT SHOULD DEMONSTRATE UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS, IE CRITICS SHOULD BE GIVEN NO CHANCE TO SPOT DIVERGENCES.

(C) IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE DISCUSSION ON THE GENERAL THREAT OF TERRORISM FROM THE SPECIFIC THREAT POSED BY LIBYA. HOWEVER, HIS OWN PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO LEAVE THE TEXT DISCUSSED BY PRS UNCHANGED, SINCE IF SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS STARTED TO RE-DRAFT THE TEXT, IT COULD TAKE UP A GREAT DEAL OF TIME. THE TEXT AS IT STOOD REFLECTED THE VIEW OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE IT SUBSTANTIALLY UNLESS EG THE FRENCH WERE PREPARED RADICALLY TO ALTER THEIR POSITION. IF THERE WAS TO BE MENTION OF LIBYA, THIS MIGHT BE MADE ELSEWHERE EG IN THE POLITICAL DECLARATION.

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3. SEO EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION OF BRITISH COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE PREPARATORY STAGES OF THE SUMMIT HANDLING OF TERRORISM AND ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE SUMMIT WOULD ISSUE A RENEWED MANDATE TO THE EXPERTS GROUP ON TERRORISM TO MEET AFTER THE SUMMIT TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSION OF PRACTICAL MEASURES TO COMBAT TERRORISM.

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