

CONFIDENTIAL
FM BAGHDAD
TO DESKBY 222345Z MODUK
TELNO U/N
OF 222200Z JULY 90
AND TO DESKBY 222345Z FCO, ACTOR
AND TO DESKBY 23030Z KUWAIT

ADVANCE COPY

SIC U2H

DESKBY 222345Z

FOR DI(ROW) A2E FROM DA, AND TO FCO
IRAQI MILITARY ACTIVITY 22 JULY.

MY AAA/U2H 221100Z JUL 90 REFERS

GENERAL

1. DEFENCE SECTION NCOS TRAVELLING KUWAIT- BAGHDAD PASS
VIRTUAL CONTINUAL MILITARY CONVOYS TRAVELLING SOUTH AND EXTENSIVE
CAMPS BEING ESTABLISHED WEST OF AZZUBAYR (3023N 4742E). MUCH OF
IRAQI REPUBLICAN GUARD IN PROCESS OF DEPLOYING TO KUWAITI BORDER.
IRAQI INTENTIONS NOT YET CLEAR.

DETAIL

2. DEFENCE SECTION NCOS TRAVELLED KUWAIT - BAGHDAD TAKING
ROUTE SAFWAN - NASIRIYAH (VIA OLD ROAD NOT EXPRESSWAY) - KUT
BETWEEN 1415 - 2015 LOCAL. FROM AREA OF JUNCTION EXPRESSWAY/
OLD NASIRIYAH ROAD (3020N 4731E) THERE WAS VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS
MILITARY TRAFFIC TRAVELLING SOUTH, BECOMING MORE INTENSE AS NCOS
NEARED BAGHDAD. VEHICLES THAT HAD ALREADY ARRIVED AT THEIR
DESTINATIONS WERE MOVING INTO CAMPSITES BETWEEN
EXPRESSWAY/NASIRIYAH ROAD AND AREA 3031N 4712E. ESTABLISHED CAMPS
IN AREA APPEARED FULL AND AT LEAST 5XNEW CAMPS WERE BEING SET UP
BY RECEPTION PARTIES. FURTHER SOUTH IN AREA 3013N 4737E 2XTANK
TRANSPORTERS WERE SEEN BY EXPRESSWAY,
ONE OF THEM HAVING OFFLOADED A BMP1 THAT WAS TRAVELLING WEST
CROSS COUNTRY: PRESUMABLY A STRAGGLER JOINING ARMOURD FORMATION
CAMP.

3. THERE WAS LITTLE ACTIVITY SEEN IN PERMANENT CAMPS PASSED EN ROUTE: SOME INCLUDING CAMP IN KUT, APPEARED EMPTY. ONLY EXCEPTION WAS REPUBLICAN GUARD CAMP LOCATED AT 3306N 4443E, OUTSIDE WHICH 21XBMP1, 3XT-72 AND 5XYW750 AMBULANCE APCs WERE PARKED ON TRANSPORTERS WAITING TO MOVE SOUTH, ACCOMPANIED BY ASSORTED B VEHICLES.

4. ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES ALL DESCRIPTIONS SEEN TRAVELLING SOUTH IN EXCESS OF 3000. GREAT MAJORITY WERE B VEHICLES CARRYING STORES/TROOPS/COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND NORMAL ASSORTED CAMP STORES SEEN ON ROUTINE UNIT MOVES, INCLUDING PORTACABINS. ARMoured VEHICLES SEEN ON TRANSPORTERS INCLUDED 46XT-72, 45XBMP1 AND 50 PLUS X T55T1/2 ARMoured RECOVERY. SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT INCLUDED 17 PLUS X PMP BRIDGING VEHICLES, 2XNBC RECCE BRDM RKH AND ENGINEER PLANT, SOME OF IT TRAVELLING ON CIVILIAN TRANSPORTERS.

5. ONLY MAJOR TRAFFIC SEEN TRAVELLING NORTH WAS TOTAL 93 EMPTY TANK TRANSPORTERS.

6. VIRTUALLY ALL TROOPS AND VEHICLES SEEN WERE IDENTIFIED AS REPUBLICAN GUARD. TROOPS WERE WEARING RED TRIANGLE FLASH ON SLEEVES AND B VEHICLE TACSIGNS SEEN INCLUDED SPECIAL FORCES YELLOW PARACHUTE (APPROX 30 PERCENT TOTAL NUMBER B VEHICLES SEEN). OTHERS CARRIED RED TRIANGLE WITH ARABIC NUMERALS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22 SUPERIMPOSED.

7. TROOPS WERE DRESSED VARIOUSLY IN NORMAL WORKING DRESS /CAMOUFLAGE COMBAT KIT. HELMETS AND WEBBING WERE NOT BEING WORN BUT MAY HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON VEHICLES, AS WERE PERSONAL WEAPONS. TROOPS WERE IN HIGH SPIRITS.

8. NCOs DID NOT SEE EVIDENCE OF SURVEILLANCE ON EITHER LEG OF JOURNEY AND THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH TRAVEL OR HOSTILE REACTION TO THEIR PRESENCE.

9. TRAFFIC AT BORDER CROSSING WAS LIGHT: CIVILIAN TRAFFIC TRAVELLING IN BOTH DIRECTIONS WAS KUWAITI. PROCEDURE AT BORDER WAS NORMAL, HOWEVER AS ON 20 JULY KUWAITIS WERE MORE DEFERENTIAL TO IRAQI AUTHORITIES THAN WHEN PREVIOUSLY SEEN. NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS SEEN ON KUWAITI SIDE OF BORDER.

COMMENT

10. SIGHTINGS PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF MAJOR BUILDUP IN IRAQI MILITARY PRESENCE IN AREA BETWEEN AZZUBAYR AND KUWAITI BORDER. PREDOMINANCE OF B VEHICLES SEEN IMPLIES MOVE OF LOGISTIC ELEMENTS AND PERSONNEL, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THOSE BELONGING TO ARMoured FORMATIONS THAT MAY ALREADY HAVE DEPLOYED. VIRTUALLY ALL TROOPS/VEHICLES SEEN CLEARLY REPUBLICAN GUARD. ARABI NUMERAL/RED TRIANGLE TACSIGN DESCRIBED IN PARA 6 BELIEVED TO BE BRIGADE TACSIGNS. IF THIS IS CORRECT ELEMENTS AT LEAST OF MOST RG BRIGADES MAY BE INVOLVED. USDA SAW TOTAL 400 PLUS VEHICLES CARRYING PROBABLE 11 AND 12 BRIGADE TACSIGN TRAVELLING NORTH TO MOSUL AS RECENTLY AS 15 JULY.

11. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CAMPS APPEARS TO BE AT EARLY STAGE AND IT IS LIKELY TO BE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE TROOPS ARE IN A POSITION TO DEPLOY. GRANTING OF TRAVEL PERMISSION FOR ROUTE TAKEN AND ABSENCE OF INTERFERENCE WITH DEFENCE SECTION JOURNEY MAY BE INDICATION THAT IRAQIS WERE HAPPY FOR BUILDUP TO BE SEEN : IN ANY EVENT IT IS LIKELY TO BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE BEFORE LONG.

12. ABOVE ALREADY PASSED TO USDA.

KEALY

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PAGE 3
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