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MDADAN 9129

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RESTRICTED
FM THE HAGUE
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 318
OF 131511Z AUGUST 90
AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK, MODUK NAVY
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, BAGHDAD, KUWAIT, EC POSTS

SIC I9M

IRAQ/KUWAIT : DUTCH CONTRIBUTION TO GULF FORCE *MW*

SUMMARY

1. DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO SEND TWO FRIGATES TO GULF.

DETAIL

2. AT AN EXTRAORDINARY CABINET MEETING THIS MORNING, THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT AGREED TO SEND TWO FRIGATES TO THE GULF. THE SHIPS, THE ANTI-AIR WARFARE FRIGATE WITTE DE WITH AND THE STANDARD CLASS PIETER FLORISZ, ARE EXPECTED TO SAIL ON 20 AUGUST AND TO ARRIVE IN THE GULF SOME 14 DAYS LATER.
3. ALL OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. THE GENERAL PREFERENCE AMONG MPS IS THAT THE SHIPS SHOULD OPERATE AS PART OF A UN FORCE, BUT IT IS ACCEPTED THAT THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE.
4. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DEN BROEK WANTS THE MODALITIES OF THE DEPLOYMENT TO BE WORKED OUT IN A WEU CONTEXT.
5. DEFENCE ATTACHE UNDERSTANDS FROM MODNL NAVY THAT NL DEFENCE ATTACHE LONDON IS IN TOUCH WITH MODUK NAVY NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP OVER COMMAND AND CONTROL ASPECTS OF DUTCH CONTRIBUTION. DEFENCE ATTACHE HAS FURTHER BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY THAT RNLN IS KEEN TO LINK UP WITH ROYAL NAVY ON RULES OF ENGAGEMENT AND FUELLING.

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