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MDHIAN 3212

Prime Minister

*There are the only 2 telegrams
in about US stance at forthcoming
meeting with King Hussein.*

*ans JM
15/8*

UNCLASSIFIED
FM WASHINGTON
TO DESKBY 150800Z FCO
TELNO 1828
OF 150115Z AUGUST 90
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS, MOSCOW, PEKING, RIYADH
INFO IMMEDIATE AMMAN, BAGHDAD, KUWAIT, CAIRO, ACTOR

BUSH PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY

1. THE PRESIDENT GAVE A 40 MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON DEVOTED ROUGHLY EQUALLY TO US BUDGET MATTERS (BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY) AND IRAQ/KUWAIT.
DETAIL (IRAQ/KUWAIT)
2. THE PRESIDENT COVERED A LOT OF FAMILIAR GROUND. BUT HE WAS QUESTIONED CLOSELY ON JORDANIAN OBSERVANCE OF THE UN SANCTIONS AND ABOUT KING HUSSEIN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT. THE PRESIDENT REFUSED TO BE DRAWN: HE SAID QUOTE I OUGHT TO LET KING HUSSEIN TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING. IF A COUNTRY IS PERMITTING A FLOW OF COMMERCE, IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF THE SANCTIONS. HE IS COMING HERE AND I WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM AND EXPLAIN US VIEWS. UNQUOTE. BUT THE PRESIDENT ADDED, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT STOPPING SHIPS GOING INTO AQABA, QUOTE IF IT'S A HOLE THROUGH WHICH COMMERCE FLOWS IN AN OTHERWISE TIGHT NET, I WOULD CERTAINLY THINK THAT AQABA SHOULD BE CLOSED TO IRAQI COMMERCE. UNQUOTE. ASKED WHETHER THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT JORDAN (AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION) ECONOMICALLY, BUSH SAID QUOTE I THINK WE WOULD, PROVIDED JORDAN JOINED THESE OTHER COUNTRIES IN FULFILLING THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE SANCTIONS. UNQUOTE.
3. COMMENTING ON THE POLICY OF INTERDICTION THE PRESIDENT SAID QUOTE WE ARE ACTING WITHIN OUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND I THINK THE WORLD WANTS TO SEE THESE CHAPTER (SIC) 51 SANCTIONS CARRIED OUT AND THAT IS THE ROLE THE US IS TRYING TO DO ... WE ARE DOING IT THE WAY OUR ATTORNEYS AND OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD RECOMMEND, AND I THINK WE ARE DOING IT PROPERLY, AND I HOPE WE ARE DOING IT TO THE DEGREE THAT ALL SHIPS WILL TURN BACK IF THEY ARE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE UN ACTION. UNQUOTE.
4. THE PRESIDENT WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT A POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE FOR THE UN OR FOR A UN JOINT COMMAND. HE SAID: QUOTE THAT IS NOT THE PLAN RIGHT NOW, BUT WE ARE TALKING TO SEE HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS NAVAL PRESENCE MOST EFFECTIVE. BUT THAT (A UN

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COMMAND) IS NOT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE, REFERRING TO SOVIET IDEAS ABOUT ENFORCEMENT OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS HE ADDED QUOTE I DO NOT THINK IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU HAVE A UN FLAG IN ORDER FOR COUNTRIES TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. BUT I WOULD BE SOMEWHAT OPEN MINDED TO TALK FURTHER ALONG THOSE LINES. UNQUOTE. (SEE MY TELNO 1928, NOT TO ALL).

5. THE PRESIDENT RULED OUT SADDAM'S QUOTE PEACE UNQUOTE PROPOSAL AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION: QUOTE NO. I DO NOT SEE ENOUGH POSITIVE ELEMENTS THERE TO THINK THAT THAT WOULD BE A BASIS FOR A NEGOTIATION AT ALL. IT WAS BRINGING IN EXTRANEIOUS PROBLEMS, AND IT DID NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM, WHICH IS THAT THEY HAVE GOT TO GET OUT OF KUWAIT AND THEY HAVE GOT TO LET THE RIGHTFUL RULERS RETURN TO KUWAIT. SO I DO NOT SEE THAT AS A POSSIBILITY TO NEGOTIATION FROM THOSE PROPOSALS AT ALL. UNQUOTE.

6. FULL TRANSCRIPT OF IRAQ/KUWAIT SECTIONS BY FAX TO FCO EMERGENCY UNIT.

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MAIN 280IRAQ/KUWAIT
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