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OF 211405Z AUGUST 90

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SIC

IRAQ/KUWAIT: SOVIET ROUND-UP, 21 AUGUST

SUMMARY

1. SHEVARDNADZE DISCUSSES IRAQI 'PROPOSALS' AND SITUATION OF FOREIGN CITIZENS WITH VISITING IRAQI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.
2. SOVIET ENVOY SYTENKO CONTINUING HIS MIDDLE EASTERN ITINERARY.
3. MOST SOVIET CITIZENS NOW EVACUATED FROM KUWAIT: FINAL BATCH OF 166 DUE TO DEPART.

DETAIL

4. IRAQI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAMMADI IS VISITING MOSCOW ON 20/21 AUGUST. HE HAD THREE HOURS OF TALKS WITH SHEVARDNADZE ON 20 AUGUST. THESE WERE REPORTED TO HAVE FOCUSED ON THE PROSPECTS FOR SETTLING THE CRISIS AND ON THE SITUATION OF FOREIGNERS IN IRAQ. SHEVARDNADZE EMPHASISED THAT THE TALKS WERE CONSULTATIONS AND AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, NOT NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS AGREED THAT, DURING THIS VISIT AND LATER, 'MORE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS' WOULD BE DEVELOPED.
5. THE TWO MINISTERS WERE DESCRIBED AS DISCUSSING POSSIBLE WAYS OF OVERCOMING THE CRISIS SO AS TO AVERT A SHARPER CONFRONTATION, WHICH COULD RESULT IN A MILITARY CONFLICT WITH UNFORSEEABLE CONSEQUENCES. SHEVARDNADZE COMMENTED IN A TASS INTERVIEW THAT ELEMENTS OF SADDAM HUSSEIN'S LATEST PROPOSALS DESERVED ATTENTION. THE RUSSIANS WERE STUDYING THE DETAILS AND WOULD RESPOND APPROPRIATELY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE OF MANY IN THE WEST TO THE PROPOSALS.
6. IN THE OFFICIAL REPORT, THE SITUATION OF FOREIGN CITIZENS WAS SAID TO HAVE RECEIVED PARTICULAR ATTENTION. SHEVARDNADZE EXPRESSED

SATISFACTION AT IRAQI CO-OPERATION IN THE RETURN HOME OF SOVIET CITIZENS, AND CALLED FOR A SIMILAR DECISION TO BE APPLIED TO THE CITIZENS OF OTHER STATES. ELABORATING IN HIS TASS INTERVIEW, SHEVARDNADZE SAID THAT THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES HAD HELPED TO MAKE THE EVACUATION OF SOVIET CITIZENS 'NORMAL, PAINLESS AND WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTIES'. THE FIRST TWO GROUPS OF SOVIET EVACUEES FROM KUWAIT HAD REACHED MOSCOW. SOVIET WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE NOW RETURNING ALSO FROM IRAQ. SOVIET SPECIALISTS REMAINED THERE FOR THE TIME BEING. A DECISION ABOUT THEM WOULD BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION. SHEVARDNADZE DESCRIBED DISCUSSION WITH HAMMADI ABOUT THEIR NATIONALS AS 'VERY USEFUL, WITH CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS' AND SAID:

'WE CARE NOT ONLY FOR OUR PEOPLE BUT ALSO FOR CITIZENS OF OTHER STATES. WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO CLAIM THE ROLE OF A MEDIATOR IN SETTLING THIS QUESTION. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS ALSO OUR DUTY, AS WELL AS THAT OF ANY CIVILISED STATE, TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF OTHER STATES, PEOPLES AND EVERY CITIZEN OF ANY STATE OR PEOPLE'.

7. WE HAVE ASKED THE MFA TO BRIEF US ON THE CONCLUSION OF THIS VISIT.

SYTENKO MISSION

8. HAVING VISITED DAMASCUS, CAIRO AND TRIPOLI, SOVIET SPECIAL ENVOY SYTENKO HAD REACHED SANA'A BY 20 AUGUST, AND WAS DUE TO TRAVEL THENCE TO JORDAN, IRAQ AND POSSIBLY OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

EVACUATION DETAILS

9. COMMENTING SEPARATELY ON SCR 664, THE MFA SPOKESMAN SAID ON 20 AUGUST THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO HELP TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF CITIZENS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES IN IRAQ AND KUWAIT, 'IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE BASIC RULES OF HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES AND A RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS'.

10. THE SECOND GROUP OF SOVIET EVACUEES FROM KUWAIT (124 PEOPLE) REACHED MOSCOW ON 20 AUGUST. THE THIRD GROUP (363) IS EXPECTED ON 21 AUGUST. THE FINAL 166 SOVIET CITIZENS IN KUWAIT ARE DUE TO LEAVE THAT COUNTRY 'SOON'.

LOGAN

ADVANCE 30

IRAQ/KUWAIT
PS
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
PS/PUS
MR TOMKYS
~~MR GORE BOOTH~~
MR FAIRWEATHER
MR ~~GOULDEN~~ GREENSTOCK,
MR BERMAN (LEGAL ADVISERS)
HD/MED
HD/NENAD
HD/NAD
HD/SED
HD/UND
HD/CONSULAR D
HD/NEWS D
HD/NPDD
HD/SECPOL D
NNNN.

HD/AMD
HD/ECD(E)
MR PRIDDLE, DEPT OF ENERGY
MR W D REEVES CABINET OFFICE
MR D J GOWAN CABINET OFFICE
MR BARRASS, CABINET OFFICE
(BY TUBE H29)
PS/NUMBER 10 DOWNING ST
SIR P CRADOCK,
(NO 10 DOWNING ST)
CABINET OFFICE DIO
(BY TUBE H29)
SIR ROBIN BUTLER, CAB OFFICE
AUS (C) MODUK
HD/SEC (O) (C) MODUK
MR LS SMITH BANK ENGLAND (2)
~~EMERGENCY UNIT~~
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~