

ADVANCE COPY

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MDADAN 0534

CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON
TO DESKBY 211800Z FCO
TELNO 1997
OF 211700Z AUGUST 90
AND TO IMMEDIATE ESC LONDON
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, SANA'A, MUSCAT, BAGHDAD, PARIS
INFO IMMEDIATE ACTOR

PARIS FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY

OUR TELNO 1994: YEMEN AND IRAQI TANKER

1. WHEN I CALLED ON MACK (DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MIDDLE EAST) ON 21 AUGUST, HE TOLD ME THAT THE US HAD A QUOTE YEMEN PROBLEM UNQUOTE THAT HE WISHED TO DISCUSS. HE THEN TELEPHONED THE YEMENI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON IN MY PRESENCE, AND TOLD HIM THAT WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SAY WAS QUOTE VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND YEMEN UNQUOTE. THE US HAD RECEIVED AN ASSURANCE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL FROM THE YEMENI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE IRAQI TANKER - THE AIN ZALAH - WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DOCK AT ADEN. WHEN THE US AMBASSADOR (DUNBAR) HAD FOLLOWED THIS UP IN SANA'A, HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE TANKER WOULD NOW BE PERMITTED TO DOCK, BUT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISCHARGE ITS CARGO OF IRAQI CRUDE OIL. MACK TOLD THE YEMENI AMBASSADOR THAT WHILE THE ASSURANCE THAT THE AIN ZALAH WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OFF-LOAD WAS WELCOME, THE DECISION TO ALLOW IT TO DOCK WAS A STEP BACK FROM THE ASSURANCE RECEIVED IN NEW YORK. THIS HAD CAUSED QUOTE DISAPPOINTMENT UNQUOTE IN WASHINGTON. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS AT QUOTE THE TOP OF THE US AGENDA UNQUOTE. MACK ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY TO HIS GOVERNMENT THE STRENGTH OF US CONCERN. THE YEMENI FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR DUNBAR THAT YEMEN WOULD NOT BREAK SANCTIONS. THE FUTURE OF US/YEMENI BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD DEPEND ON YEMEN ADHERING TO THAT UNDERTAKING.
2. MACK TOLD ME THAT WHILE THE US WOULD BE MONITORING PROCEEDINGS IN ADEN BY SATELLITE, HE THOUGHT THAT THE UK MIGHT HAVE A BETTER CAPABILITY ON THE GROUND. ANY ASSISTANCE WE COULD RENDER IN ESTABLISHING WHETHER THE TANKER DISCHARGED ITS CARGO OR NOT WOULD BE GREATLY WELCOMED. AMBASSADOR DUNBAR WOULD BE SPEAKING TO HMA SANA'A, BUT MACK WANTED TO REITERATE WASHINGTON'S

INTEREST.

3. I UNDERTOOK TO REPORT HIS REQUEST IMMEDIATELY. GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION WE CAN PASS BACK TO STATE ON OUR CAPACITY TO MONITOR THE SITUATION.

WOOD

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