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OF 231641Z AUGUST 90

INFO PRIORITY BAGHDAD, KUWAIT, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS  
INFO PRIORITY PARIS, BONN, WASHINGTON ESC LONDON, MODUK

SIC I9M

MY TELNO 404: NATO CONSULTATIONS ON IRAQ/KUWAIT

## SUMMARY

1. IRAQI CAPACITY FOR OFFENSIVE MILITARY ACTION INCREASED. FURTHER U S SHOPPING LIST OF POSSIBLE WESTERN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IMS SURFACE REPORT OF POSSIBLE LIBYAN SANCTIONS - BREAKING. FEW IF ANY ALLIED NATIONALS GETTING OUT OF KUWAIT/IRAQ (TURKEY THE ONLY EXCEPTION). UNANIMITY ON MAINTENANCE OF EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT AFTER 24 AUGUST.

## DETAIL

2. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE MET AGAIN TODAY (23 AUGUST).

## MILITARY SITREP

3. IMS REPORTED THAT ELEMENTS OF 11 IRAQI DIVISIONS WERE NOW IN KUWAIT. IRAQI FORCES INCLUDED 165,00 TROOPS, 1350 TANKS, 1550 APCS AND 750 ARTILLERY PIECES. SOME UNITS NOW IN KUWAIT HAD COME FROM THE IRAQI BORDER. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF IRAQI REINFORCEMENT OF THE BORDER WITH TURKEY, NOR OF SCUD DEPLOYMENT IN KUWAIT (U S SAID HIS EMBASSY IN KUWAIT HAD SPOTTED SCUD THERE). THE IRAQI CAPABILITY FOR A SHORT OR NO WARNING OFFENSIVE ACTION HAD INCREASED. BUT OTHER INDICATORS OF IMMINENT ACTION (EG MISSILE CAPABILITY MOVED SOUTH AND USE OF AIRFIELDS IN KUWAIT BY FIXED WING AIRCRAFT) WERE ABSENT. LIBYA WAS REPORTEDLY SHIPPING CARGO TO BAGHDAD BY AIR. THIS COULD INCLUDE CRITICAL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SUPPLIES.

4. UK NOTED THE REPORT ON LIBYA: THERE WAS A NEED TO FOLLOW THIS AND OTHER EVIDENCE OF SANCTIONS - BREAKING CLOSELY. IT REMAINED VITAL THAT THE EMBARGO SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED.

## WESTERN MILITARY COOPERATION

5. U S, ON INSTRUCTIONS, READ OUT A FURTHER SHOPPING LIST OF MATERIEL WHICH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES COULD USEFULLY SUPPLY: MINESWEEPERS, RORO AND CONTAINER SHIPS, LONG-RANGE WIDEBODIED

PASSENGER AND CARGO AIRCRAFT, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, POWER GENERATORS AND WATER SYSTEMS. (TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTE BY FAX TO FCO AND MOD IN DUE COURSE). NORWAY SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WERE READY TO SUPPLY FORCES WERE UN FORCES TO GO TO THE AREA. NORWAY WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO REINFORCE NATO FORCES DRAWN DOWN BY DEPLOYMENTS OUT OF AREA AND COULD OFFER CW DECONTAMINATION EQUIPMENT.

## FOREIGN NATIONALS

6. TURKEY REPORTED PRESIDENT OZAL'S SUMMONING OF THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR AND TRANSMISSION OF A MESSAGE TO SADDAM. OZAL HAD WARNED IRAQ OF THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES LIKELY TO RESULT FROM DETENTION OF FOREIGNERS. TURKS CONTINUED TO LEAVE IRAQ WITHOUT HINDRANCE ACROSS THE TURKISH BORDER. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NORWAY (WHO REPORTED THE DEPARTURE OF 8 NORWEGIAN DEPENDENTS OF UN PERSONNEL) NO-ONE ELSE HAD REPORTS OF ANY OF THEIR OWN NATIONALS SUCCESSFULLY LEAVING IRAQ/KUWAIT. NETHERLANDS REPORTED THAT THE NEUTRALS (FINNS, SWEDES AND SWISS) WERE ALSO NOT BEING ALLOWED OUT. U S SAID THERE WERE NOW 41 U S RESTRICTEES (WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN) IN IRAQ. IT WAS NOT KNOWN HOW MANY (IF ANY) U S CITIZENS WERE BEING HELD IN KUWAIT. UK BRIEFED ON THE SITUATION OF UK NATIONALS IN LINE WITH TODAY'S FCO SPOKESMAN.

## EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT

7. U S REITERATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT CLOSE THEIR EMBASSY IN KUWAIT. A CONVOY OF EMBASSY DEPENDENTS FROM THE EMBASSY WAS HOWEVER EN ROUTE TO THE JORDANIAN BORDER. THE U S HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO JORDAN OVER THE CLOSURE OF THIS BORDER AND WAS SEEKING TO HELP JORDANIANS COPE WITH THE VOLUME OF REFUGEES. UK BRIEFED ON OUR POSITION AND ON CONTACTS WITH THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, DRAWING ON THE FCO SPOKESMAN. CANADA, FRG, BELGIUM AND DENMARK REAFFIRMED THEIR INTENTIONS TO MAINTAIN EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT. U S AND UK EMPHASISED THE CONTINUED IMPORTANCE OF WESTERN SOLIDARITY ON THIS ISSUE.

## ARAB REECTIONS

8. FRG REPORTED ON GADDAFI'S RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE. DESPITE ANTI-U S REHETORIC IT WAS ENCOURAGING THAT HE HAD CONDEMNED THE IRAQI INVASION AND HOSTAGE TAKING AND URGED A SOLUTION THROUGH THE SECURITY COUNCIL. U S REPORTED THAT THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT WAS INSPIRING DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE U S EMBASSY THERE.

## NEXT MEETING

9. THE COMMITTEE WILL RECONVENE TOMORROW, 24 AUGUST AT 0830Z.

ALEXANDER

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