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UK EYES ALPHA

230730Z MODUK

FM BAGHD TO MODUK

230630Z AUG

INFO DESKBY 230730Z FCO

INFO DESKBY 230730Z UKDEL NATO

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, ACTOR, MODUK FOR CINCFLEET, HQSTC

SIC AAA/ACA/ZAC/EAD

FOR DESBY 230730Z SEC(O)(C) FROM DA. INFO FCO (MED) AND BDS
FOR INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK FOR CINCFLEET AND HQSTC

IRAQ/KUWAIT DECONFLICTION

REF A SEC(O)(C) ACA/ZAC/EAD 291910Z AUG 90 (NOTAL)
REF B BAGHDAD TELNO 923 TO FCO

1. ON RECEIPT OF REF A I CONTACTED USDA TOCX CONFIRM DETAILS OF REPORTED US EXCHANGE OF ROE WITH IRAQIS. REPORT IN REF B BASED ON INFORMATION USDA GAVE TO ME AND NATO COLLEAGUES ON 22 AUG 90.
2. USDA CLARIFIED THAT TO DATE EXCHANGE CONSISTED OF A US AIDE MEMOIRE SUBMITTED TO IRAQI MFA ON 15 AUG 90 AND A SIMILAR IRAQI AIDE MEMOIRE DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON ON 21 AUG 90. USDA GAVE ME COPIES OF BOTH AIDE MEMOIRES. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

A. US AIDE MEMOIRE

BEGINS

US ARMED FORCES OPERATING IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS WITHIN THE GULF, THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ, THE GULF OF OMAN, THE ARABIAN SEA, THE RED SEA, AND THE STRAIT OF BAB EL MANDEB, ARE TAKING ADDITIONAL DEFENSIVE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE THREAT OF ATTACK.

WATERBORNE CRAFT AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT OF IRAQ SHOULD REMAIN WELL CLEAR OF US FORCES.

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There is a rather different story
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12/21/90

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IRAQI AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN A THREATENING MANNER WILL BE PLACED AT RISK BY US DEFENSIVE MEASURES.

IN PARTICULAR, ILLUMINATION OF US FORCES WITH WEAPONS FIRE CONTROL RADAR WILL BE VIEWED AS HOSTILE INTENT AND WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE US DEFENSIVE REACTION.

WE STRESS THAT MEASURES IN SELF-DEFENSE WILL BE EXERCISED BY US FORCES IN THE REGION. THE MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT UNDULY INTERFERE WITH THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND OVERFLIGHT.

ENDS

B. IRAQI AIDE MEMOIRE

BEGINS

1. THE IRAQI ARMED FORCES OPERATING IN IRAQI TERRITORIAL WATERS, INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND WATERWAYS USED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION IN THE ARAB GULF REGION, HAVE TAKEN DEFENSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE THREAT OF ATTACK FROM ANY SIDE.

2. FOREIGN MILITARY VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT SHOULD REMAIN WELL CLEAR OF THE IRAQI ARMED FORCES.

3. FOREIGN AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN A THREATENING MANNER WILL BE PLACED AT RISK BY OUR DEFENSIVE MEASURES.

4. IN PARTICULAR, THE ILLUMINATION OF IRAQI AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS, BY FOREIGN FORCES, WITH WEAPONS FIRE CONTROL RADAR ON IRAQI TERRITORY AND IN IRAQI TERRITORIAL WATERS WILL BE VIEWED AS HOSTILE ACTION AND WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DEFENSIVE REACTION.

5. ANY APPROACH BY FOREIGN NAVAL PIECES TO OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS WILL BE CONSIDERED A SIGN OF HOSTILE INTENT.

6. WHILE KEEN AT MAINTAINING THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND OVERFLIGHT IN THE ARAB GULF AND AVOIDING REGRETABLE INCIDENTS, IRAQ RESERVES TO ITSELF THE NATURAL RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE.

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(2)

ON/

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ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED POINTS AND IN VIEW
THE CONTENT OF YOUR AIDE-MEMOIRE DATED 15 AUGUST 1990 AND
OF THE AGREEMENT FOR AVOIDING INCIDENTS IN THE GULF, SIGNED
BETWEEN OUR TWO SIDES ON 16 AUGUST 1987, THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT
PROPOSES THAT A MEETING BE HELD ON THE LEVEL OF
EXPERTS FROM OUR TWO SIDES WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDING INCIDENTS
UNDER THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES.

ENDS

3. USDA COMMENTED THAT INFORMATION IN LAST PARA OF IRAQI
AIDE MEMOIRE WAS QUOTE SENSITIVE UNQUOTE: HE SAID THAT
EVERY TWO MONTHS SINCE 16 AUG 87 AGREEMENT US AND IRAQIS
HAD EXCHANGED EMERGENCY CONTACT FREQUENCIES. CONTRARY TO WHAT HE
HAD SAID ON 22 AUG 90 (REFLECTED IN PARA 4 OF REF B) USDA SAID
THAT THE US HAD NOT YET RESPONDED TO IRAQI REQUEST FOR AN EXPERT
LEVEL MEETING AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT RESPONSE WOULD
BE.

4 COMMENT

A. ANY CONFUSION CAUSED BY INACCURATE INFORMATION PROVIDED
BY USDA ON 22 AUG 90 REGRETTED. OTHER NATO MODS MAY HAVE
BEEN SIMILARLY MISINFORMED AS A RESULT OF WHAT THEIR
ATTACHES WERE TOLD.

B. USDA (PLEASE PROTECT) WAS NOT SURE WHETHER TEXT OF AIDE
MEMOIRS, IN PARTICULAR INFORMATION DISCLOSED
IN IRAQI AIDE MEMOIRE CONCERNING 16 AUG 87 AGREEMENT
AND PROPOSED EXPERT LEVEL MEETING, WAS RELEASABLE. PLEASE NOTE
CAVEAT UNLESS/UNTIL US AUTHORITIES PROVIDE DETAILS OFFICIALLY.

WALKER

IRAQ KUWAIT SECRET

MAIN 20
NO DISTRIBUTION
MR YOUNG (EMERGENCY UNIT)
HD/NENAD
HD/UND
HD/NPDD
HD/SECPOL D
HD/AMD
HD/PUSD
DEPUTY HD/PUSD
HD/ISD(O)

PS
PS/M. Waldegrave
PS/PUS
MR TOMKYS
Mr Goulden.
MR FAIRWEATHER
MR BERMAN
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST
SIR P CRADDOCK 10 DOWNING ST
CHIEF OF ASSESSMENTS STAFF
(CABINET OFFICE)

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