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YOUR TELNO 383 TO OTTAWA: IRAQ/KUWAIT -
NEXT STEPS IN THE UN

SUMMARY

1. MALAYSIANS AGREE ON THE NEED FOR FIRM IMPLEMENTATION BUT HAVE SERIOUS HESITATIONS ABOUT THE USE OF FORCE. DR MAHATHIR TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST.

DETAIL

2. I SPOKE THIS MORNING TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE MFA. MAJID AGREED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD ACT QUICKLY TO SHOW ITS DETERMINATION TO HAVE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 661 ENFORCED. THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO KNOW, HOWEVER, MUCH MORE PRECISELY WHERE A RESOLUTION ON THE LINES OF THE DRAFT NOW CIRCULATING MIGHT LEAD. THIS WAS A VERY DELICATE QUESTION FOR THE MALAYSIANS AND THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE DRAFT. THE MALAYSIANS WANTED TO SEE THE CRITERIA FOR THE USE OF FORCE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED AND TO KNOW WHAT 'MINIMUM FORCE' MEANT. THEY WERE AWARE THAT THE CHINESE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS AND HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THE DRAFT WITH THE OTHER NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS, SOME OF WHOM HAD SIMILAR DOUBTS.

3. MAJID SAID THAT HE TOO WANTED TO GET ON WITH THINGS BUT IT WAS NO GOOD TRYING TO FORCE THROUGH A RESOLUTION WHICH DID NOT HAVE THE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

COMMENT

4. AS EXPECTED, THE MALAYSIANS ARE BEING MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS WHEN IT COMES TO DEEDS RATHER THAN WORDS AND WILL REMAIN SO AT LEAST UNTIL THEY ARE SURE THAT ALL THEIR CITIZENS ARE OUT OF IRAQ/KUWAIT. MAJID WANTS TO BE HELPFUL BUT THE INTEREST OF THE PRIME MINISTER IS GOING TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO GET MALAYSIAN SUPPORT FOR THE SORT OF IMPLEMENTATION WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE.

SPRECKLEY

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