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INFO ROUTINE BAGHDAD

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

SECRETARY OF STATE'S RADIO CONVERSATION WITH HMA KUWAIT

SUMMARY

1. WESTON AND CO IN GOOD HEART BUT FEELING CUT OFF FROM INFORMATION ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS. ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT HANDLING OF SITUATION IF IT DETERIORATES FURTHER.

DETAIL

2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SPOKE TO WESTON BY RADIO TODAY. THE FOLLOWING WERE THE MAIN POINTS.

PHYSICAL SITUATION

3. WESTON SAID THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS THE HEAT. THERE WERE REASONABLE AMOUNTS OF WATER UNDERGROUND AND THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO PUMP WATER INTO THEIR TANK ON 31 AUGUST. THEY HAD ONE SMALL DEEP FREEZE AND WERE OK FOR FOOD. THE QUALITY OF CUISINE HAD GONE UP SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF THE COOK. THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS DIESEL FUEL WHICH THEY COULD ONLY JUST EKE OUT FOR THE 4 WEEKS.

BRITISH AND OTHER COMMUNITIES

4. THERE WAS CONTINUING TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH THE WARDENS, WHO HAD PROVED MAGNIFICENT. THE TELEPHONE STILL WORKED THOUGH THE NUMBER KEPT CHANGING MYSTERIOUSLY. THERE WAS DAILY TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH OTHER EMBASSIES ORGANISED BY THE PRESIDENCY.

EVACUATION

5. WESTON SAID HE HAD HAD NO INFORMATION FOR MORE THAN TWO DAYS ABOUT OUR PLANS FOR EVACUATION. OTHER EMBASSIES WERE GETTING THEIR PEOPLE OUT. HIS ONLY INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PLANS CAME FROM THE WORLD SERVICE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE TOLD WESTON ABOUT TODAY'S PLANNED EVACUATION FROM BAGHDAD. THIS SEEMED TO BE NEWS TO HIM. WESTON SAID IT WOULD HELP ENORMOUSLY IF HE COULD BE KEPT IN THE PICTURE AND TO KNOW HOW OUR PLANS FITTED IN WITH THOSE OF OTHERS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID HE WAS AMAZED TO HEAR THAT

WESTON WAS NOT INFORMED AND WOULD GIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SITUATION TO BE REMEDIED IMMEDIATELY.

END GAME

6. WESTON ASKED THE SECRETARY OF STATE IF THOUGHT COULD BE GIVEN TO WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE DIESEL FUEL RAN OUT. THE MORE RAGGED AND SMELLY HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY LEFT, THE GREATER THE PROPAGANDA VICTORY FOR IRAQ. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT MICHAEL AND HIS COLLEAGUES ALL SMELLED LIKE ROSES. HE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPACT WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BY HIS MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE AND BY THE SOLIDARITY SHOWN BY WESTERN EMBASSIES. THERE WAS ENORMOUS INTEREST AND ABIDING ADMIRATION FOR WHAT WESTON WAS DOING.

COMMENT

7. THE SECRETARY OF STATE REALISES THAT WE HAVE BEEN SPARING IN OUR COMMUNICATIONS TO WESTON FOR GOOD REASONS BUT HOPES HE CAN BE KEPT AS FULLY IN THE PICTURE AS POSSIBLE OVER EVACUATION PLANS: OTHERWISE MORALE WILL CLEARLY BE UNDERMINED.

BURTON

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