

ADVANCE COPY

RESTRICTED
FM BAGHDAD
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1152
OF 031900Z SEPTEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE AMMAN, PARIS, WASHINGTON, KUWAIT, ABU DHABI
INFO PRIORITY OTHER EC POSTS

MR TELNO 1145 (NOT TO ALL): EVACUATION OF WESTERN CITIZENS

1. SO FAR 36 WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM THE BRITISH COMMUNITY (BOTH THOSE RESIDENT IN IRAQ AND TEMPORARY VISITORS) HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THEY WISH TO TRAVEL BY THE US-CHARTERED IRAQI AIRWAYS BOEING 727 FROM BAGHDAD TO AMMAN ON THE EVENING OF 4 SEPTEMBER. UP TO 24 (BRITISH MUSLIM PILGRIMS PLUS FORMER KUWAIT DETIANEES) MAY ALSO BE TRAVELLING, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILTIY OF SEATS AND TO ISSUE OF EXIT VISAS EARLY ON 4 SEPTEMBER. FULL DETAILS OF UK PASSENGERS AND NUMBERS OF OTHER NATIONALS ON BOARD WILL BE SENT EARLY ON 4 SEPTEMBER.

2. WE ASSUME THAT MOST OF THOSE ON BOARD WILL WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN ONWARD CHARTER FLIGHT (PARA 3 OF TUR), US EMBASSY HERE SAY THAT WASHINGTON IS LIAISING ON THIS WITH YOU AND WITH PARIS.

3. THERE REMAINS SOME DOUBT OVER THE LIKELY NUMBER OF FRENCH PASSENGERS ON BOARD, SINCE THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAVE THEMSELVES CHARTERED A FURTHER IRAQI AIRWAYS FLIGHT TO AMMAN ON 5 SEPTEMBER. THEY EXPECT TO HAVE 50 OF THEIR NATIONALS ON BOARD AND THE REMAINING SEATS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO OTHER COMMUNITIES. THIS FLIGHT SHOULD CONNECT WITH AN AIR FRANCE CHARTER FROM AMMAN TO PARIS (THE AIRCRAFT IS APPARENTLY STANDING BY IN PARIS TO FLY TO AMMAN).

WALKER

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