

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL
FM BAGHDAD
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1167
OF 041715Z SEPTEMBER 90
INFO IMMEDIATE JEDAH, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKMIS GENEVA, WASHINGTON
INFO IMMEDIATE KUWAIT
INFO ROUTINE EC POSTS, OTTAWA, ANKARA, AMMAN, MODUK
INFO ROUTINE ESC LONDON, ACTOR

SIC I9M

JEDDA FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

UKMIS GENEVA TELNO 612: IRAQ/KUWAIT AND ICRC

1. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR SAW THE ICRC PRESIDENT THIS AFTERNOON AND DEBRIEFED HIMSELF THIS EVENING TO AN EC HEADS OF MISSION MEETING. BY THIS ACCOUNT SOMMARUGA WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS SUCCESSFUL THAN IN THE ACCOUNT IN TUR.

2. SOMMARUGA SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER FOR A TOTAL OF FOUR AND THREE QUARTER HOURS. A LARGE PART OF THE CONVERSATION HAD BEEN TAKEN UP WITH THE MATTER OF THE 'HOSTAGES'. DISCUSSION HAD BEEN UNDER FIVE HEADS:

(I) FOREIGNERS WHO HAD AUTHORITY TO LEAVE KUWAIT AND IRAQ (MAINLY ASIANS)

(II) FOREIGNERS WHO DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO LEAVE

(III) CIVILIANS IN KUWAIT

(IV) POSSIBLE KUWAITI POWS

(V) CITIZENS OF IRAQ AND THEIR WELFARE

IN RELATION TO UN SANCTIONS.

3. TARIQ AZIZ HAD IRRITATED THE ICRC PRESIDENT BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE VALIDITY OF THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION IN RELATION TO KUWAIT, GIVEN IRAQ'S VIEWS THAT THE ABSORPTION OF KUWAIT HAD BEEN A VOLUNTARY RETURN TO THE MOTHERLAND. TARIQ

AZIZ HAD CONSEQUENTLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THAT THERE COULD BE KUWAITI POWS: ITEM (IV) HAD THEREFORE HAD TO BE SUBSUMED INTO (V).

4. WITH REGARD TO (II) TARIQ AZIZ HAD ACCEPTED, AD REFERENDUM OVERNIGHT TO HIS GOVERNMENT, THAT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE DETAINED WESTERN FOREIGNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE EASED (COMMENT: THIS SEEMS ALREADY TO BE HAPPENING IN THAT PO BOX NUMBERS ARE BEING PROVIDED TO WHICH PEOPLE CAN WRITE LETTERS INTENDED FOR THE DETAINEES - SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAMS). ALSO, 'RED CROSS VISITS' WOULD BE ALLOWED, IE VISITS BY ICRC DELEGATES IN WHICH THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONVERSE WITH DETAINEES WITHOUT WITNESSES AND THE DETAINEES WOULD BE ABLE TO FILL IN ICRC FORMS ABOUT THEIR HEALTH ETC.
5. WITH REGARD TO (I) SOMMARUGA HAD OBTAINED IRAQ'S AGREEMENT THAT THE ICRC WOULD BE PERMITTED TO HELP THE UNFORTUNATE EVACUEES IN QUESTION (EXCLAM). THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY THEM WITH FOOD AND MEDICINE, TO ASSIST WITH THEIR EVACUATION (MEANS NOT SPECIFIED IN SOMMARUGA'S ACCOUNT TO TEMPESTA) AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.
6. ON (V) IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THE ICRC WOULD FORWARD TO THE APPROPRIATE UN BODIES IRAQI REQUESTS FOR BASIC FOODS (MEAT, CEREALS, RICE, MILK, TEA AND SUGAR) AND MEDICINES. THE REQUESTS WOULD RELATE TO CIVILIANS ONLY (IN BOTH IRAQ AND KUWAIT). IN PRESENTING THE REQUESTS THE ICRC WOULD OFFER THEIR SERVICES TO MONITOR THAT THE SUPPLIES COMPLIED WITH UN REQUIREMENTS. THE ICRC WOULD OFFER TRANSPORT AND INSPECTION SERVICES AND WOULD ENSURE THAT THE SUPPLIES WENT TO CIVILIANS ONLY.
7. SOMMARUGA TOLD TEMPESTA THAT IF TARIQ AZIZ SECURED THE AGREEMENT OF THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT HE HOPED IT WOULD PROVE POSSIBLE TO SIGN A PROTOCOL, AND ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE, ON 5 SEPTEMBER BEFORE HE LEFT BAGHDAD. HE WOULD IN ANY CASE TELEPHONE TEMPESTA TO SAY WHAT THE OUTCOME WAS.

WALKER

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