

CONFIDENTIAL

DEDIP

FM JEDDA

TO FLASH WASHINGTON

TELNO 4

OF 041000Z SEPTEMBER 90

INFO IMMEDIATE FCO

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO JIM BAKER BEFORE I SPEAK TO HIM TOMORROW MORNING WASHINGTON TIME (YOUR TELNO 2127).

BEGINS

SINCE WE SPOKE ON THE TELEPHONE LAST WEEK, I HAVE BEEN TO DATAR, ABU DHABI, DUBAI, OMAN, YEMEN AND NOW SAUDI ARABIA. I SHALL BE IN JORDAN ON WEDNESDAY. EVERYWHERE IN THE GULF THERE IS THE FIRNEST OPPOSITION TO SADDAM HUSSEIN'S AGGRESSION, CONTEMPT FOR ARAFAT AND A FEELING OF REAL PAIN AT WHAT THEY SEE AS KING HUSSEIN'S DESERTION. IN NEITHER THE EMIRATES NOR OMAN DID I DETECT ANY IMPATIENCE WITH OUR PRESENT POLICY OR A WISH TO MOVE QUICKLY TO A MILITARY OPTION.

I HAD QUITE A SET-TO WITH PRESIDENT SALEH OF YEMEN, WHO IS A QUICK-WITTED ROGUE, PLEASED WITH HIMSELF AND FAST ON HIS FEET. HE WAS ALL TOO HAPPY TO ARGUE THE TOSS ABOUT THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION. HE SAID, AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATED PUBLICLY, THAT YEMEN WAS OBSERVING SANCTIONS. HE DISAGREED WITH THE ATTEMPT TO STOP FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES BUT SAID THAT YEMEN HAD NO FOOD TO SUPPLY. HE ALSO DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY IRAQI MILITARY PRESENCE (INCLUDING EQUIPMENT) IN YEMEN. THE MAIN WAY IN WHICH HE IS MAKING MISCHIEF, HOWEVER, IS BY POLITICKING IN SEARCH OF A MIDDLE WAY. HE IS GOING ROUND THE ARAB WORLD LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD INVOLVE SIMULTANEOUS WITHDRAWAL FROM KUWAIT BY IRAQ AND FROM THE GULF BY FOREIGN FORCES. THE SAUDIS REGARD THIS ACTIVITY, AND KING HUSSEIN'S SIMILAR ACTIVITY, AS POTENTIALLY DAMAGING TO ARAB UNITY. I SUSPECT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO STOP THE YEMENIS AT LEAST UNTIL THEY REALLY START TO FEEL THE SQUEEZE FROM THE CUT-OFF IN THEIR OIL SUPPLIES. BUT WE MUST CLEARLY MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DETACH KING HUSSEIN.

THE SAUDIS ARE VERY ANXIOUS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PORTRAY HIMSELF AS THE CHAMPION OF THE PALESTINIANS. AS WE DISCUSSED, I HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF BUT I HAVE GONE NO FURTHER THAN THAT. I THINK IN PRACTICE WE WILL (LAST WORD UNDERLINED) NEED TO GO FURTHER. I DISCUSSED WITH PRINCE SAUD, BUT WITH NO-ONE ELSE, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PERMANENT FIVE MIGHT DISCUSS THE ARAB/ISRAEL ISSUE. SAUD MAY WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS. THE DECISION MUST REST WITH YOU BUT PRINCE SAUD BELIEVES DISCUSSION AMONG THE FIVE WOULD ENABLE THE SAUDIS AND OTHERS TO SAY TO THE PALESTINIANS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS ACTING AGAINST THEIR INTERESTS AND THAT THEIR BEST HOPE LAY WITH THE FIVE. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT, IF WE HAD TO GO FOR THE MILITARY OPTION IN DUE COURSE, PRIOR DISCUSSION AMONG THE FIVE OF PALESTINE WOULD MAKE IT MUCH EASIER TO HANDLE ARAB REACTIONS.

ENDS

DUGGAN