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OF 041700Z SEPT 90,

INFO IMMEDIATE BAGHDAD, EC POSTS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

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YRTEL NO. 361 (NOTAL): EC EMBASSISES IN KUWAIT.

1. I HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED WHY I THINK CONGREGATING EITHER IN ONE EMBASSY OR AN HOTEL IS IMPRACTICABLE. THE FIRST, AND APPARENTLY INSUPERABLE, PROBLEM, IS HOW TO GET THERE. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE GDR AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS PICKED UP ON HIS WAY TO THE FRG AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND FORCED TO GO TO BAGHDAD, CONFIRMS FEARS THAT THE IRAQIS WOULD NOT PERMIT CONGREGATION. SECONDLY, AS FAR AS THE HOTEL IDEA IS CONCERNED, ALL THE MAIN HOTELS ARE BEING USED AS HOLDING CENTRES FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS PICKED UP AND AWAITING TRANSFER TO BAGHDAD: THEY ARE OTHERWISE CLOSED. BY MOVING TO AN HOTEL, WE SHOULD ALSO BE GIVING UP OUR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH CAPITALS (ONE OF OUR FEW REMAINING ASSETS), SINCE I ASSUME WE WOULD NOT BE ABKE TO TAKE OUR HFSSB WITH US.
2. CONGREGATING IN ONE EMBASSY WOULD CREATE CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL LOGISTIC PROBLEMS, EVEN IF IT COULD BE ACHIEVED, AND ONLY A LITTLE FURTHER PRESSURE FROM THE IRAQIS WOULD MAKE LIFE INTOLERABLE FOR ALL OF US. FROM THE PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW, A BETTER SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THOSE EMBASSIES FOR WHOM A CONTINUED SEPARATE EXISTENCE BECOMES IMPOSIBLE REPEAT IMPOSSIBLE TO TRY TO MOVE IN WITH COLLEAGUES (ALWAYS BEARING IN MIND THE EAST GERMAN EXPERIENCE). IN THE CASE OF THE FRENCH AND OURSELVES, THIS WOULD DEFINITELY NOT, OF COURSE, BE POSSIBLE.
3. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE NOT YET PUT ANY REAL PRESSURE ON ANY EC EMBASSIES EXCEPT THE FRENCH, THE GREEK AND OUR OWN. WATER AND ELECTRICITY HAVE BEEN CUT OFF FROM ALL CHANCERIES, BUT ONLY FROM THOSE RESIDENCES WHICH ARE CO-LOCATED (UK AND GREECE). WATER, BUT NOT ELECTRICITY, HAS BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE BELGIAN RESIDENCE, LOCATED VERY CLOSE TO THEIR CHANCERY. THE FRG, DUTCH, DANISH AND SPANISH RSESDIDENCES ARE COMPLETED UNAFFECTED. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS HIS WIFE AND A NUMBER OF EMBASSY STAFF LIVING WITH HIM, AND THE DUTCHMAN HAS SOME MEMBERS OF HIS COMMUNITY. THE DANE AND THE SPANISH CHARGE ARE ALONE. THE FIRST THREE GOT TO THEIR CHANCERIES, WHICH ARE NEAR THEIR RESIDENCES, FOR A

OF THE BELGIAN, BUT HE IS OLD AND TIRED, AND VERY NERVOUS.

8. AS FOR OURSELVES, WE ARE CONTENT THAT, BARRING DISASTERS, WE CAN LAST OUT UNTIL 24 SEPTEMBER, WHICH IS OUR CURRENT TARGET. AS LONG AS OUR SMALL GENERATOR SURVIVES, OUR FUEL SHOULD KEEP US GOIN UNTIL THEN, THOUGH WE SHALL HAVE TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CONTACTS ON OUR MAIN RADIO AND MAKE AS MUCH USE AS POSSIBILBLE OF THE HFSSB, WHICH WE HAVE MODIFIED TO RUN OFF CAR BATTERIES. OUR FOOD WILL CERTAINLY HOLD OUT TILL THEN AND WE SHOULD MANAGE FOR DRINKING WATER, IF WE ARE CAREFUL. WE USE VERY LITTLE OTHER WATER SINCE THE SWIMMING POOL, THOUGH STAGNANT, IS STILL USEABLE FOR WASHING. WE ARE ALL SUFFERING FROM PRICKLY HEAT BUT ARE OTHERWISE REMARKABLY WELL, DESPITE THE HEAT AND THE INSECTS AND THE LACK OF ANY FRESH FOOD. LOOKING AHEAD, WE ARE BUSY BOTTLING OUR PRE-INVASION VINTAGE (BOTH RED AND WHITE) AND BREWING A SPECIAL BEER TO COMMEMORATE THE RELIEF OF THE SIEGE, WHENEVER THAT MAY BE.

9. SEVERAL NON-EC EMBASSIES REMAIN. THE US ARE STILL SURROUNDED, BUT DETERMINED TO RESIST FOR AT LEAST ONE MONTH. THEY SAY THAT THEY HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO SO, VERY COMFORTABLY. THE EGYPTIANS AND THE NORWEGIANS ARE ALSO SURROUNDED. MY EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUE TOLD ME TWO DAYS AGO THAT HE COULD NOT HOLDOUT FOR MORE THAN TEN DAYS (HIS CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE ARE CO-LOCATED). THE DANE SAYS THE NORWEGIAN IS ALSO IN A BAD WAY. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER THE JAPANESE HAVE ACTUALLY LEFT, BUT THEY DO NOT ANSWER THE TELEPHONE. THE AUSTRIAN, SWEDE AND SWISS LIVE COMFORTABLY AT HOME, AS DO THE REMAINING EUROPEANS (CZECH, ROMANIAN, POLE AND YUGOSLAV) AND ARABS (SYRIAN AND BAHRAINI).

10. AS FOR THE LONGER TERM, I CONTINUE TO DOUBT WHETHER ANYTHING IS TO BE ACHIEVED BY WAITING FOR EACH EMBASSY TO CAPITULATE AS THE PROBLEMS OF SURVIVAL BECOME TOO GREAT. (AN ADDITIONAL POINT TO BEAR IN MIND IS THAT, BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE EMBASSY WE FACE CONSIDERABLY GREATER PROBLEMS THAN OTHERS, THE AMERICANS APART. DESPITE THE PREPARATIONS WE MADE IN ADVANCE, WE MAY THEREFORE FIND OURSELVES THE FIRST EC MISSION TO FALL TO THE SIEGE.) OBVIOUSLY, WE SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY FINAL DECISION AT THIS STAGE, BUT CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT SANCTIONS WILL WORK AND THAT SADDAM HUSSAIN WILL CRACK. MY ITALIAN COLLEAGUE TELLS ME THAT HE HEARD ON THE FRENCH NEWS THAT THE U N SECRETARY GENERAL CLAIMED TO HAVE MADE PROGRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT. IF TRUE, THIS IS ANOTHER REASON FOR DELAYING A DECISION.

11. BUT MY VIEW REMAINS THAT, IF WE FIND WE CANNOT STARE DOWN

SADDAM HUSSAIN, THE EC HEADS OF MISSION SHOULD LEAVE EN MASSE, WITH FLAGS FLYING, A JOINT STATEMENT HAVING BEEN MADE IN ROME THAT WE ARE BEING WITHDRAWN FOR CONSULTATIONS AND THAT MEANWHILE OUR EMBASSIES REMAIN OPEN. IF BY THE TIME WE REACH THAT STAGE, ALL BRITISH CITIZENS WISHING TO LEAVE KUWAIT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO SO, WE SHOULD LEAVE THE EMBASSY IN THE CARE OF THE SENIOR LOCALLY ENGAGED MEMBER OF STAFF. ON THE MORE LIKELY ASSUMPTION THAT BRITISH CITIZENS REMAIN, WE SHOULD TRY TO TAKE THE IRAQIS UP ON THEIR EARLIER OFFER TO ALLOW IS TO LEAVE A UK BASED MEMBER OF STAFF BEHIND TO LOOK AFTER COMPOUND AND TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY, IF SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF NON-RECOGNITION OF IRAQ'S ILLEGAL ANNEXATION OF KUWAIT. SEEN FROM HERE, WE SHOULD ALSO SEE IF THE IRAQIS CAN BE PERSUADED TO PERMIT THE DEPARTURE OF ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE, IN RETURN FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADORS FOR CONSULTATIONS. I HAVE MADE THIS SUGGESTION BEFORE, BUT I AM NOT SURE THAT IT HAS BEEN FULLY CONSIDERED.

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