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MY TELNO 755 : IRAQ/KUWAIT : VISIT TO EGYPT, TUNISIA, ALGERIA BY  
SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER, 2-3 SEPTEMBER

## SUMMARY

1. ORDONEZ SEES KLIBI, MUBARAK AND ARAFAT. READ OUT ON MAGHREB  
UNION MINISTERIAL. IDEAS ON PLO PEACE PLAN.

## DETAIL

2. URTASUN, SUBDIRECTOR GERENAL FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, GAVE A  
COMMUNITY BRIEFING TODAY ON THIS TRIP. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ SAW CHADLI  
KLIBI FIRST, IN TUNIS, HOURS BEFORE HE RESIGNED AS SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO HINT OF HIS INTENTIONS.  
KLIBI ACKNOWLEDGED THE PROFOUND DIVISION WITHIN THE ARAB WORLD  
WITHOUT TRYING TO ASSIGN BLAME, THOUGH HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE  
FEARS OF THE GULF STATES. HE HOPED THAT THE 2-3 SEPTEMBER  
MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE MAGHREB UNION WOULD PROVE A CATALYST TO  
BEGIN ESTALISHING SOME COMMON ARAB POSITIONS. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ SAID  
THAT ONCE THIS HAD HAPPENED, A REVITALISED EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE MIGHT  
BE A USEFUL VEHICLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE CONTINUED EUROPEAN INTEREST  
IN ARAB AFFAIRS AND VIEWS.

3. URTASUN SAID THEY WERE GIVEN A READOUT IN ALGIERS BY GHOZALI ON  
THE DOUMENT PRODUCED AT THAT MEETING AND SUBMITTED TO HEADS OF  
STATE. IT SET OUT FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES:

- THE ACCEPTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, INCLUDING UN RESOLUTIONS
- NO USE OF FORCE
- NO FORCED STARVATION OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS
- NO REDUCTION IN IRAQI SECURITY

FROM THOSE PRINCIPLES IT PROPOSED :

- WITHDRAWAL OF IRAQI FORCES FROM KUWAIT
- RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, IE RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE IN KUWAIT
- DEPLOYMENT OF ARAB FORCES UNDER AUSPICES OF UN IN A BUFFER ZONE
- NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT ON FRONTIES, MEASURES TO ADDRESS IRAQ'S LEGITIMATE STRATEGIC NEEDS, THE WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM THE REGION.

THE SPANIARDS' IMPRESSION WAS THAT GHOZALI WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY ACTIVE, STIMULATED IN PART BY THE ALGERIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE MAGHREB UNION.

4. WHILE IN ALGIERS, FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ HAD A "LIVELY" MEETING WITH ARAFAT, WHO SAID THAT ONE POSSIBLE FACE SAVER FOR SADDAM HUSSEIN WOULD BE TO MAKE A POLITICAL LINK BETWEEN IRAQI WITHDRAWAL AND THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, FOR INSTANCE BY AGREEING TO CONVOKE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE COVERING BOTH MATTERS. IRAQI WITHDRAWAL WOULD COME FIRST. A MILITARY SOLUTION WOULD BE A DISASTER : IF ATTACKED, SADDAM WOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO GO OUT WITH A BANG. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ DISMISSED THE IDEA, SAYING IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THAT KIND OF SOLUTION. MOREOVER, IT CONTRADICTED OTHERS IN THE ARAB WORLD WHO WANTED A PURELY ARAB SOLUTION TO THE IRAQ/KUWAIT PROBLEM. THE PLO SHOULD REALISE THAT THEY HAD HURT THEIR OWN CAUSE BY ALIGNING THEMSELVES SO CLEARLY WITH IRAQ. ARAFAT REPLIED THAT HE HAD GAINED NOTHING FROM ALL HIS EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH WESTERN CONDITIONS FOR PROGRESS IN THE PEACE PROCESS. PALESTINIANS WERE MASSIVELY SUPPORTIVE OF SADDAM HUSSEIN.

5. FINALLY, FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ HAD AN HOUR WITH MUBARAK IN ALEXANDRIA. HIS POSITION REMAINED AS STATED AT THE ARAB LEAGUE MEETING ON 10-11 AUGUST. HE HAD BEEN PERSONALLY INSULTED BY THE INVASION AND WAS READY TO ACCEPT WHICHEVER SOLUTION WOULD LEAD TO THE MOST RAPID WITHDRAWAL OF IRAQI FORCES FROM KUWAIT, ALTHOUGH A STRICTLY ENFORCED EMBARGO SEEMED THE MOST ECONOMICAL (SIC) OPTION AT PRESENT.

ROBERTS

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