

*M. J. J.*

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM UKMIS NEW YORK  
TO DESKBY 170700Z FCO  
TELNO 1656  
OF 170430Z OCTOBER 90  
INFO DESKBY 170700Z JERUSALEM  
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, PARIS, PEKING

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JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

MIPT: NEXT STEPS ON IRAQ/KUWAIT: COMMENT

1. IT IS INFURIATING THAT, JUST WHEN WE HAD CONVINCED THE NEW YORK AMERICANS THAT OUR APPROACH OF INCLUDING IN THE NEXT RESOLUTION MATERIAL ON COMPENSATION AND ON INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY WAS PREFERABLE TO THEIR LARGELY CONTENT-FREE DRAFT, THEY HAD THE GROUND CUT FROM UNDER THEIR FEET BY YET ANOTHER PREMATURE BAKER PRESS STATEMENT WHICH COMMITTED THEM TO THE LATTER APPROACH.
2. PICKERING CLEARLY PREFERS OUR APPROACH TO THE INSTRUCTIONS HE IS GETTING FROM WASHINGTON AND IS DOING HIS LEVEL BEST TO KEEP OPEN THE OPTION OF FUSING THE TEXTS I.E. OF SMUGGLING MOST OF OURS INTO THEIRS. FIRST REACTIONS FROM THE FRENCH HERE INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR OUR APPROACH. NEITHER THE RUSSIANS NOR THE CHINESE SHOWED THEIR HAND: BUT I HAVE SOME HOPE THE FORMER WILL COME DOWN ON OUR SIDE TOO AND, IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THE CHINESE HELD OUT ON THEIR OWN.
3. ALL THIS REMAINS TO FIGHT FOR ON 17 OCTOBER. IF THERE IS ANY OVERNIGHT CONTACT BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND BAKER (ON THIS OR OTHER MIDDLE EAST TOPICS) I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARGUE THE CASE FOR OUR APPROACH AND THUS TO KEEP IT ALIVE. I ASSUME HOWEVER THAT, IF OPINION AMONG THE FIVE SWINGS FIRMLY AGAINST US TOMORROW, RATHER THAN DELAY TABLING A RESOLUTION AT ALL AND THUS RISK A COINCIDENCE IN TIMING WITH THE NEXT ROUND ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, WE SHOULD CONCEDE THE OMISSION FROM THIS RESOLUTION OF THE MATERIAL ON COMPENSATION AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY SO LONG AS IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WILL BE TAKEN UP THE NEXT TIME ROUND.
4. A TRICKIER ISSUE TO HANDLE IS THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF THE PERMANENT FIVE AT CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF LEVEL. THE PROPOSAL, WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE OFFING FOR SOME TIME, IS CAREFULLY CRAFTED TO AVOID THE MOST OBVIOUS PITFALLS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN CERTAIN TO

ELICIT A NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM SOME OR ALL OF THE OTHER FOUR. IT IS NOT CONNECTED WITH ANY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND THEREFORE SKIRTS ROUND THE ARTICLE 42 VERSUS ARTICLE 51 CONTROVERSY. IT IS NOT PROPOSED AS A MEETING OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE AS SUCH. MOREOVER VORONTSOV HAS CAREFULLY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO A MEETING AT A LEVEL SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THAT OF CDS AND THAT OF THE PRESENT MSC MEMBERSHIP. THE ATTRACTIONS IN TERMS OF THE PUBLIC MESSAGE THAT WILL GO TO THE IRAQIS ARE CLEAR: THE POTENTIALLY AWKWARD IMPLICATIONS OF TURNING THE SOVIET PROPOSAL DOWN WILL ALSO NEED TO BE WEIGHED.

5. IT IS NOT EASY TO PREDICT HOW OTHERS WILL REACT. PICKERING EXPECTS MUCH SUCKING OF TEETH IN WASHINGTON AND FOR THEM PERHAPS TO GO FOR A MEETING BELOW CDS LEVEL. THE CHINESE SHOWED DISTINCT SIGNS OF ALARM. THE FRENCH KEPT THEIR COUNSEL. AND I GAVE NO HINT OF OUR REACTION.

6. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS DESKBY 171230Z.

HANNAY

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