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MIPT AND YOUR TELNO 823: NEXT STEPS ON IRAQ/KUWAIT: MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

1. DISCUSSION IN THE FIVE ON SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE (MSC) MEMBERS SHOULD MEET AT HIGH LEVEL. AMERICANS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS: OTHER FOUR GENERALLY IN FAVOUR. MEETING COULD TAKE PLACE AROUND MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK, AT LEVEL BELOW CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF.

DETAIL

2. HAVING REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF THE NEXT STEPS RESOLUTION FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL (MIPT), AMBASSADORS OF THE FIVE TURNED TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT THE PASSING OF THE RESOLUTION SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE (MSC). PICKERING (UNITED STATES) SAID THAT HE STILL AWAITED INSTRUCTIONS.

3. BLANC (FRANCE) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO OBJECTION OF PRINCIPLE TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. BUT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIVE RATHER THAN AS A FORMAL SESSION OF THE MSC. WHERE THE LEVEL WAS CONCERNED, FRANCE COULD ACCEPT A MEETING AT THE LEVEL OF CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF OR AT A LOWER LEVEL.

4. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN TUR. WE COULD SUPPORT THE SOVIET IDEA SO LONG AS THIS DID NOT REPRESENT A FORMAL RE-ACTIVATION OF THE MSC, BUT TOOK PLACE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXISTING AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS, I.E. AS A MEETING OF THE FIVE CHAIRED BY OUR CURRENT CO-ORDINATOR. WE HAD NO STRONG VIEWS ON THE WEARING OF UNIFORM RATHER THAN MUFTI, OR ON THE LEVEL OF THE MEETING: BUT WE THOUGHT THIS COULD PROBABLY BEST BE AT A LEVEL BELOW CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE WORK DONE SO FAR IN AD HOC INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF MSC MEMBERS.

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5. LI (CHINA) AGREED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE CURRENT FRAMEWORK OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF OUR CO-ORDINATOR. CHINA WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY THE MAJOR-GENERAL WHO WAS THE LEADER OF ITS DELEGATION TO THE MSC.

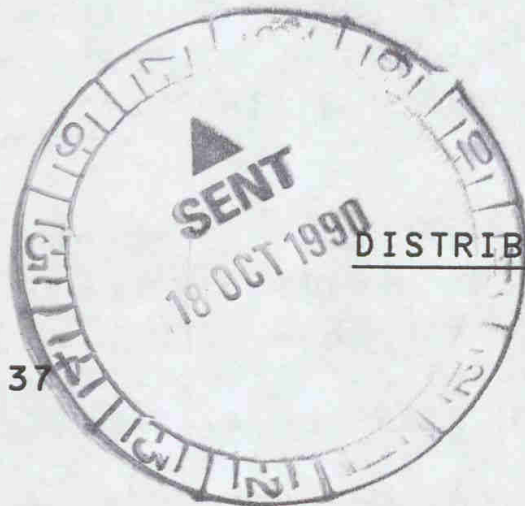
6. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION IT WAS AGREED THAT DELEGATIONS TO THE MEETING SHOULD BE KEPT SMALL. I SUGGESTED THAT OUR POLITICAL COUNSELLORS SHOULD DRAFT A FORM OF WORDS TO BE USED WHEN THE MEETING WAS ANNOUNCED, AND ANOTHER PIECE FOR INTERNAL USE SETTING OUT A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING. THESE MIGHT RELATE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELEVANT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. THIS WAS AGREED. ANY PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION SHOULD BE IMPRECISE.

7. WHERE THE TIMING OF THE MEETING AND ITS ANNOUNCEMENT WERE CONCERNED, IT WAS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD AWAIT THE PASSING OF THE NEXT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION BEFORE ANNOUNCING OUR INTENTIONS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A DOUBLE SHOCK FOR THE IRAQIS, WHILE AVOIDING ANY UNHELPFUL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE RESOLUTION. IF THE RESOLUTION COULD BE PASSED BY THE END OF THE WEEK, OUR ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE MADE ON 22 OCTOBER AND THE MEETING HELD AROUND THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE MEETING WAS A HIGHER LEVEL CONTINUATION OF THE SERIES OF MEETINGS THAT HAD ALREADY BEGUN IN THIS FORMAT.

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