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FM UKMIS NEW YORK
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 1667
OF 181315Z OCTOBER 90
AND TO FLASH ATHENS
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

HSW11

FCO FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY, PS/MR WALDEGRAVE, PS/PUS, BROOMFIELD,
GORE-BOOTH, SLATER, HEADS OF UND AND EMERGENCY UNIT

ATHENS FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

WASHINGTON PERSONAL FOR HM AMBASSADOR

AIRBORNE TELNOS 003 AND 004 : IRAQ/KUWAIT

1. THE U S MODUS OPERANDI IN NEW YORK IS CERTAINLY NOT DESIGNED TO GET THE BEST RESULTS EITHER FROM THE FIVE OR FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE. HAVING SPENT THE WHOLE OF 17 OCTOBER LABORIOUSLY STITCHING TOGETHER AMONGST THE FIVE A NEW DRAFT RESOLUTION THAT CONTAINED MORE SUBSTANCE THAN THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES ORIGINALLY WANTED BUT WHICH HAD A REAL PROSPECT OF GETTING THE SECURITY COUNCIL SWITCHED FIRMLY, SWIFTLY BUT REASONABLY UNCONTENTIOUSLY BACK FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ON TO IRAQ/KUWAIT, THEY NOW SEEM ALL SET TO ROLL IN A NEW ELEMENT WHICH WILL, IN MY ESTIMATION, PREVENT ANY OF THESE OBJECTIVES BEING ACHIEVED.

2. THE TROUBLE WITH THE NEW TEXT IS THAT IT NOT ONLY HAS MORE THAN A WHIFF OF A LEAD-IN TO MILITARY ACTION BUT THAT ITS NET IS CAST FAR WIDER THEN THE U S (OR OUR) EMBASSY IN KUWAIT. IT IS IN FACT DRAFTED SO AS TO APPEAR TO OFFER SCOPE ALSO FOR UNILATERAL ACTION SHOULD THE IRAQIS REFUSE TO RELEASE OUR NATIONALS HELD HOSTAGE IN IRAQ. IT IS CLEARLY UNWORKABLE WITHOUT EITHER IRAQI COOPERATION OR MILITARY ACTION.

3. GIVEN THE WIDE-RANGING IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW TEXT I WOULD SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF THE EARLIER SCENARIO, APPROVAL OF A NEW RESOLUTION BY THIS WEEKEND THUS KEEPING WELL CLEAR OF THE INEVITABLE REPRISÉ NEXT WEEK ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BEING ACHIEVED. THE CONTRARY IS ALL TOO LIKELY.

4. I HOPE THEREFORE THAT WE COULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TODAY TO

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PERSUADE THE AMERICANS TO KEEP THIS ELEMENT UP THEIR SLEEVE FOR THE
ROUND AFTER THIS ONE OR LATER.

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