

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ATHENS

TO FLASH FCO

TELNO 637

OF 181600Z OCTOBER 90

INFO DESKBY 181715Z WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON AND UKMIS NEW YORK PERSONAL FOR HM AMBASSADORS
FCO FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY, PS/MR WALDEGRAVE, PS/PUS,
BROOMFIELD, GORE-BOOTH, SLATER, HEADS OF UND AND EMERGENCY
UNIT

GULF CRISIS: NEXT STEPS AT UN

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SPOKE TO BAKER ON THE TELEPHONE FROM ATHENS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW US PROPOSAL WORRIED HIM A LOT. IT WOULD SURELY DRIVE A COACH AND HORSES THROUGH ALL WE HAD SAID ABOUT FOOD. IF IT WAS PASSED (ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT COULD BE PASSED) THE SRI LANKANS, RUSSIANS, VIETNAMESE AND PLO WERE ALL LINING UP TO SEND FOOD SHIPS. IT WOULD BE AN END TO THE FOOD EMBARGO.
2. BAKER SAID THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF BACKGROUND THAT HE COULD NOT TALK ABOUT ON THE TELEPHONE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE. GIVEN THAT THE NEW DRAFT RAN COUNTER TO OUR POSITION ON FOOD, IT WOULD LOOK ODD AND PEOPLE MIGHT LOOK FOR ANOTHER MOTIVE. HE KNEW THAT THE AMERICANS HAD A REAL PROBLEM WITH THEIR EMBASSY IN KUWAIT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS ALSO WORRIED THAT THE IRAQIS MIGHT AGREE TO TALK ABOUT IT AND DRAG US INTO PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS.
3. BAKER SUGGESTED TWO ALTERNATIVES TO MEET THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S CONCERNS. EITHER WE COULD NARROW THE PASSAGE TO COVER ONLY KUWAIT OR TO COVER ONLY EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT. BUT HE SAW THAT THE LATTER WOULD NOT HAVE MUCH INCENTIVE FOR THE NON-ALIGNED. THE SECRETARY OF STATE POINTED OUT THAT THE FORMER OPTION WOULD STILL BE CONTRARY TO OUR LINE ON THE FOOD EMBARGO. HE AGREED HOWEVER THAT WE SHOULD PRESS AHEAD WITH A RESOLUTION QUICKLY. HIS TALKS IN JERUSALEM HAD SHOWN LITTLE GIVE IN THE ISRAELI REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MISSION SO IT WAS IMPORTANT QUICKLY TO SECURE A FURTHER RESOLUTION ON THE GULF. HE WONDERED WHETHER WE COULD NOT MAKE SOMETHING OF THE RESOLUTION WHICH OUR DELEGATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TALKING ABOUT.
4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND BAKER AGREED THAT IN THE MEANTIME OUR TWO DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK SHOULD CARRY THE ARGUMENT FORWARD. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WONDERED WHETHER SOMETHING TO MEET US CONCERNS ON ITS EMBASSY MIGHT BE SLIPPED INTO A RESOLUTION COVERING A NUMBER OF OTHER THINGS.
5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AGREED WITH BAKER THAT HE WOULD TALK TO HIM ON HIS RETURN FROM ATHENS TOMORROW NIGHT.

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