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FM UKMIS NEW YORK
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1681
OF 190200Z OCTOBER 90
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, PARIS, PEKING, ATHENS

ATHENS PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY
MY TELNO 1664: IRAQ/KUWAIT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

SUMMARY

1. NO PROGRESS. AMERICANS STILL DO NOT HAVE CLEARANCE. COUNCIL WILL REVERT TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ON 19 OCTOBER.

DETAIL

2. NO PROGRESS WAS MADE ON 18 OCTOBER ON THE DRAFT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AGREED BETWEEN MISSIONS OF THE FIVE. THE AMERICANS REMAINED UNABLE TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE OF THE TEXT FROM WASHINGTON.

3. NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL MET ON THE AFTERNOON OF 18 OCTOBER AND DISCUSSED A 'PIRATE' COPY OF THE TEXT PROPOSED BY THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS (WE ARE NOT SURE WHICH VERSION). THE YEMENIS AND CUBANS GRUMBLED THAT IT LACKED FOCUS AND THAT THE TWO PARAGRAPHS DRAWN FROM THEIR 'PEACE OFFENSIVE' DRAFT HAD DISTORTED THEIR INTENTIONS. THEY ALSO ARGUED THAT SINCE THE FIVE WERE STILL WORKING ON THEIR TEXT, THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT THESE PARAGRAPHS WOULD SURVIVE. THEY THEREFORE URGED THE AFRICANS TO JOIN THE OTHER NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN SPONSORING THE 'PEACE OFFENSIVE' DRAFT.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR ETHIOPIAN COLLEAGUES, THE AFRICANS RESISTED. THE ETHIOPIANS SAID THAT THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE INVITED TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON WHETHER IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO PUT FORWARD SUCH A RESOLUTION AT THIS STAGE, AND THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD BE ASKED WHETHER HE SAW ANY SCOPE FOR AN EARLY DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE. THE ETHIOPIANS AND IVORIANS BROADLY WELCOMED THE IDEAS IN THE TEXT OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS AND SAID HOW HELPFUL IT WAS THAT THEY HAD TAKEN NON-ALIGNED CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CUBANS HAD EARLIER TOLD A NUMBER OF ARAB DELEGATIONS THEY WERE GOING TO PUSH HARD FOR THE 'PEACE OFFENSIVE'

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DRAFT. THEY TOLD THE NON-ALIGNED THAT THIS DRAFT SHOULD HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY PROPOSALS BY THE FIVE WHEN THE COUNCIL VOTED. THE CUBANS AND YEMENIS HINTED THAT THE TEXT OF THE FIVE WOULD REQUIRE MUCH DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION: OUR ETHIOPIAN CONTACTS SPECULATED THAT THIS AMOUNTED TO AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY CONSIDERATION OF IT UNTIL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ITEM RETURNED TO THE COUNCIL.

6. WHEN THE NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SUBSEQUENTLY SAW THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO URGE HIM TO DESPATCH HIS MISSION TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THEY ALSO ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE 'PEACE OFFENSIVE' DRAFT. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WISHED HIM TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES IN THE WAY PROPOSED, THIS WOULD GIVE HIM NO DIFFICULTIES.

COMMENT

7. THE POSITION HAS NOW BEEN RADICALLY CHANGED BY THE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TOWARDS THE END OF THE DAY - FIRST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S DECISION NOT TO SEND HIS MISSION TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND TO REPORT ACORDINGLY TO THE COUNCIL, AND SECOND THE REPORTS OF VIOLENCE IN THE GAZA STRIP (SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM). THESE MAKE THE FUTURE OF OUR NEXT STEPS RESOLUTION HIGHLY PROBLEM-ATICAL. MY U S COLLEGE TOLD ME AT THE END OF THE DAY THAT HE BELIEVED WASHINGTON HAD 'ALMOST DECIDED' TO AUTHORISE HIM TO ACCEPT THE TEXT OF THE FIVE AS IT STOOD. IN THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES HIS INCLINATION WOULD BE TO LEAVE THE DRAFT ON THE TABLE 'IN BLUE' (IE AS A DRAFT FORMALLY TABLED BUT STILL SUBJECT TO CHANGE) UNTIL WE COULD ASSESS ITS PROSPECTS.

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