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TELNO 1690  
OF 200455Z OCTOBER 90  
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*If there is no agenda in Moscow do not meeting - it is better not to have one. That is what we said at our Thursday meeting.*

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MY TELNO 1665: NEXT STEPS ON IRAQ/KUWAIT: MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

1. AMERICANS AGREE THAT THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE (MSC) MEMBERS SHOULD MEET AT HIGH LEVEL. DISCUSSION ON PARTICIPATION, TIMING AND PROCEDURE.

DETAIL

2. WHEN AMBASSADORS OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS MET ON 19 OCTOBER, PICKERING (UNITED STATES) SAID HE COULD NOW CONFIRM HIS GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT THE PASSING OF THE NEXT SECURITY RESOLUTION ON IRAQ/KUWAIT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE.

3. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING. PICKERING SAID THE U S REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE LT. GEN. CAIRNS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. BLANC (FRANCE) SAID THE FRENCH PARTICIPANT WAS LIKELY TO BE THE DEPUTY TO THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF (WE UNDERSTAND HE IS ADMIRAL COATANEA). LI (CHINA) CONFIRMED THAT HIS COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE THE MAJOR-GENERAL WHO HEADS CHINA'S DELEGATION TO THE MSC. I SAID I BELIEVED OUR REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE AROUND VCDS LEVEL.

4. ON THE TIMING OF THE MEETING, LOZINSKIY (SOVIET UNION) CONFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S THINKING THAT THE MEETING WOULD COME A FEW DAYS AFTER THE PASSING OF THE NEXT SECURITY RESOLUTION ON IRAQ/KUWAIT. THIS POINTED TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT WEEK, ALL BEING WELL. (COMMENT: GIVEN THE COUNCIL'S CONTINUING PREOCCUPATION WITH THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THIS TIMING COULD SLIP.) THERE WAS A GENERAL FEELING THAT DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE KEPT SMALL (PERHAPS TWO MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES, THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELLOR AS NOTE-TAKER). BLANC AND LI EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES TO WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES, AND PICKERING

AGREED: WHAT WAS IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF THE IMPACT ON IRAQ WOULD BE THE NAMES AND TITLES OF THOSE ATTENDING.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT POLITICAL COUNSELLORS WOULD MEET TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK. THEIR FIRST TASK WOULD BE TO DRAFT THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WOULD BE MADE IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. THEY SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE FORMAT AND SCOPE OF THE MEETING, WHICH MIGHT BE DESCRIBED ON A SEPARATE, CONFIDENTIAL PIECE OF PAPER OR TAKE THE FORM OF A SIMPLE AGENDA. THEY WOULD ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER WHAT REPORT SHOULD GO FROM THE MEETING. PICKERING ARGUED THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE MEETING TO REPORT IN SOME WAY TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE REPORT NEED NOT BE AN ELABORATE ONE. HE WAS OPEN-MINDED ON WHETHER OR NOT IT SHOULD REFER SPECIFICALLY TO THE PROVISIONS OF SCR 665. LI INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR CHINA IF THERE WAS NO DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE MEETING AND THE PROVISIONS OF THAT RESOLUTION.

COMMENT

6. THE MEETING OF COUNSELLORS IS PROVISIONALLY FIXED FOR 221400Z. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS COVERING THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

(A) THE IDENTITY OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MEETING AND THE TIMING OF THEIR AVAILABILITY:

(B) THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MEETING (AN INITIAL U S DRAFT IS BEING FAXED TO EMERGENCY UNIT) AND THE PAPER/AGENDA OUTLINING THE SCOPE OF THE MEETING:

(C) THE SCOPE AND FORM OF ANY REPORT/COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MEETING. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE A SIMPLE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WOULD BE COMMUNICATED BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE UNDER A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL).

(D) THE OTHER PRACTICAL QUESTIONS LISTED ABOVE (ATTENDANCE, UNIFORMS ETC).

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