

**ADVANCE COPY**

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM UKMIS NEW YORK  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1704  
OF 230150Z OCTOBER 90  
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, MODUK  
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, PARIS, PEKING

SIC

MY TELNO 1690 : NEXT STEPS ON IRAQ/KUWAIT : MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

## SUMMARY

1. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE (MSC) MEMBERS. INSTRUCTIONS IN YOUR TELNO 848 CARRIED OUT.

## DETAIL

2. POLITICAL COUNSELLORS OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS MET ON THE MORNING OF 22 OCTOBER TO PURSUE DISCUSSION ON THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF MSC MEMBERS. WE WERE UNABLE TO SECURE A POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING PENDING RECEIPT OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS, AS OTHER PARTICIPANTS INSISTED ON GOING AHEAD. ACCORDINGLY WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE COULD ONLY LISTEN AND REPORT. WE EMPHASISED THAT THE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION WERE REGARDED IN LONDON AS BEING OF GREAT SENSITIVITY, AND THAT WE FULLY RESERVED OUR POSITION.

## TIMING OF THE MEETING

3. IT WAS NOTED THAT EVENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OVER THE WEEKEND MADE IT STILL MORE DIFFICULT TO JUDGE WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD HAVE COMPLETED ACTION ON THE NEXT STEPS RESOLUTION ON IRAQ/KUWAIT. THIS MEANT THAT THE TIMING OF THE MEETING OF MSC MEMBERS REMAINED UNCERTAIN: IT MIGHT TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF THE WEEK AT THE EARLIEST, BUT MORE PROBABLY IT WOULD SLIP TO THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK OF 29 OCTOBER. THE CHINESE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD BE VERY UNHAPPY IF THERE WAS ANY QUESTION OF HOLDING THE MEETING OVER TO THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER, WHEN THEY WOULD BECOME CO-ORDINATORS OF THE FIVE AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO CHAIR THE MEETING.

## PARTICIPATION

4. THE FRENCH CONFIRMED THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE ADMIRAL

COATANEA, WHOM THEY DESCRIBED AS NO 5 IN THE MILITARY HIERARCHY. THE RUSSIANS STILL COULD SUPPLY NO NAME, BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE A DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF.

## AGENDA

5. OUR FRENCH CO-ORDINATOR CIRCULATED THE DRAFT OF A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. (THIS WAS A LITTLE CHANGED FROM THE U S DRAFT FAXED TO THE EMERGENCY UNIT BEFORE THE WEEKEND.) SOME FURTHER AMENDMENTS WERE PROPOSED BY THE OTHER THREE. THE RUSSIANS ATTEMPTED TO HAVE THE MEETING IDENTIFIED WITH THE 'APPROPRIATE MECHANISMS OF THE MSC' REFERRED TO IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 4 OF SCR 665, BUT DID NOT PRESS THE POINT. THE CHINESE, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE ANXIOUS TO STRESS THE INFORMAL NATURE OF THE MEETING. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED SCOPE OF THE DISCUSSION, WHICH THEY WISHED TO SEE MORE DIRECTLY FOCUSED ON THE RELEVANT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. IT WAS AGREED TO SUBMIT THE REVISED TEXT TO AMBASSADORS AND CAPITALS AND TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS (TEXT IN MIFT). THE CHINESE SAID THAT THEY THOUGHT THE TEXT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AS A DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MEETING FOR INTERNAL USE, BUT THAT THEIR INSTINCT WAS TO KEEP ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SHORTER AND LESS SPECIFIC.

## COMMUNIQUE

6. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION ON THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH MIGHT BE PRODUCED AFTER THE MEETING. THE AMERICANS SUGGESTED, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THAT THIS NEED GO NO FURTHER THAN THE TERMS OF THE EARLIER PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS: THE FRENCH AND RUSSIANS SUGGESTED THAT A LITTLE MORE WAS NECESSARY, IF ONLY TO INDICATE IN GENERAL TERMS WHAT AREAS THE DISCUSSION HAD COVERED. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE FIVE WOULD NEED TO AGREE IN ADVANCE ON THE LINE TO TAKE IN RESPONSE TO THE MOST OBVIOUS FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS (FOR EXAMPLE TO STRESS THAT THE MEETING DID NOT REPRESENT ANY FORMAL REACTIVATION OF THE MSC).

## OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

7. THE AMERICANS RECALLED SUGGESTIONS AT THE EARLIER DISCUSSION AMONG AMBASSADORS (MY TUR) THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO TWO MILITARY AND TWO CIVILIAN REPRESENTATIVES: AND THAT MILITARY PARTICIPANTS WOULD NOT WEAR UNIFORM: AND THEY ADDED A SUGGESTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FORMAL PRESS BRIEFING OR OPPORTUNITY FOR MEDIA COVERAGE. THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION, BUT OTHER PARTICIPANTS DID NOT SEEM DISPOSED TO QUESTION ANY OF THESE POINTS.

## MEETING OF AMBASSADORS OF THE FIVE

8. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE INSTRUCTIONS IN YOUR TELNO 848 I ASKED FOR A MEETING OF AMBASSADORS OF THE FIVE TO BE ARRANGED. I EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE SEEKING CERTAIN ASSURANCES IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED MEETING: THAT IT WOULD NOT DISCUSS COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS: IT WOULD NOT SEEK TO CONSTRAIN ANY FUTURE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE GULF, FOR EXAMPLE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER: AND THAT NOTHING ON THE AGENDA COULD LEAD INTO SUCH AREAS. THE MEETING SHOULD BE CONFINED TO ACTIVITIES IN PURSUIT OF THE SANCTIONS REGIME SET OUT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. PICKERING (UNITED STATES) SAID HE COULD GIVE ME ON A PERSONAL BASIS THE ASSURANCES I SOUGHT, BUT WOULD SEEK CONFIRMATION FROM WASHINGTON. VORONTSOV (SOVIET UNION) AND LI (CHINA) SAID THEY HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN GIVING THESE ASSURANCES. BLANC (FRANCE) SAID HE WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS. I SAID THAT SUBJECT TO RECEIVING FORMAL ASSURANCES FROM ALL FOUR THE UK REPRESENTATIVE AT THE MEETING WOULD BE THE DEFENCE ATTACHE FROM WASHINGTON.

9. I THEN TURNED TO THE PROPOSED PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT IN MIFT. OBJECTIVE 3 IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD GO OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MEETING AS WE SAW THEM. LI AGREED. HE SAID THE CHINESE APPROACH TO ALL THESE CONSULTATIONS WAS CONDITIONAL ON TWO POINTS: THEY WERE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF MSC MEMBERS AND WOULD REMAIN IN THAT FORMAT, AND THE MEETINGS SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. LI THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THE OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE REVISED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

'THE OBJECTIVES OF THEIR MEETING WOULD BE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND INFORMATION ON:

1. THE SITUATION IN THE GULF REGION:

2. THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ENFORCING THE SANCTIONS REGIME SET OUT IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 661, 665 AND 670.'

(OBJECTIVE 3 WOULD BE DELETED.)

LI ADDED THE REQUEST THAT THE TITLE OF THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE AMENDED TO READ 'INFORMAL MEETING .....'

10. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION, ALTHOUGH VORONTSOV AND BLANC EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE INFORMATION I HAD GIVEN THE MEETING. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A COMMUNIQUE AFTER THE MEETING: ITS IMPACT WOULD BE GREATER IF NOTHING AT ALL WAS SAID. ON TIMING, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE CONTINUING UNCERTAINTIES OVER THE NEXT IRAQ/KUWAIT

RESOLUTION MADE IT DESIRABLE TO TREAT THE MSC MEETING AS A SEPARATE EXERCISE: IT MIGHT BE HELD ON THE AFTERNOON OF 29 OCTOBER, WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE ON THE MORNING OF THE SAME DAY.

11. WE AGREED THAT THESE NEW POINTS SHOULD BE PUT TO CAPITALS OVERNIGHT. WE SHALL MEET AGAIN AT 231530Z. GRATEFUL FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS DESKBY 231430Z.

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DISTRIBUTION

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