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MY TELNO 1711 : SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MISSION TO ISRAEL

## SUMMARY

1. AMERICANS ADOPT MY IDEA OF A LAST ATTEMPT TO GET THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE INTO ISRAEL. THEY GAIN BREATHING SPACE UNTIL 24 OCTOBER.

## DETAIL

- 2. ON THE MORNING OF 23 OCTOBER MY U S COLLEAGUE (PICKERING) TOLD ME THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO TAKE UP THE IDEA I HAD PUT TO HIM AND TO MAKE A LAST EFFORT WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW A REPRESENTIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO GO TO ISRAEL. BUT FOR THIS BREATHING SPACE OF ABOUT 24 HOURS WAS NEEDED.
- 3. IN ORDER TO HELP SECURE THIS, WHILE CREATING AN IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT, I THEN CIRCULATED TO ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS THE REVISED TEXT OF MY PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT, TOUGHENED UP SLIGHTLY IN THE WAY OUTLINED IN PARA 8 OF MY TELNO 1695. (TEXT FAXED TO NENAD, UND AND EMERGENCY UNIT.) I ASKED FOR AN INDICATION FROM EACH COUNCIL MEMBER WHETHER THE LANGUAGE COVERED THE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS TO BE MADE IN ANY POSITION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RESPECTING THE STRONG PREFERENCE OF SOME MEMBERS FOR THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION.
- 4. HOWEVER WHILE I WAS ATTENDING A MEETING OF AMBASSADORS OF THE FIVE ON ANOTHER ISSUE LATER IN THE MORNING I LEARNT THAT I HAD BEEN SENT A FORMAL LETTER, IN MY CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, FROM THE FOUR CO-SPONSORS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION REQUESTING A FORMAL MEETING ON 23 OCTOBER IN WHICH THE DRAFT WOULD BE PUT TO THE VOTE. ALL THE OTHER FOUR, INCLUDING PICKERING, AGREED THAT I HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SUMMON INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS FOR LATE THE SAME DAY WITH A VIEW TO PROCEEDING TO A FORMAL MEETING AND VOTE.

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- 5. IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING, HOWEVER, THE AMERICANS APPROACHED THE MALAYSIANS AND YEMENIS WITH A PRESSING REQUEST THAT THEY HOLD OFF ACTION ON THEIR DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR 24 HOURS. THEY SAID THEY WERE PLANNING TO MAKE A FINAL EFFORT TO SECURE ADMISSION TO ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. TO THIS END BUSH WOULD BE SENDING A MESSAGE TO SHAMIR, BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE 24 HOURS TO SEE WHETHER THIS HAD EFFECT. AT THE END OF THAT PERIOD THE AMERICANS WOULD LIFT THEIR OBJECTIONS TO A VOTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.
- 6. AFTER CONSULTING TO PLO, THE YEMENIS AGREED TO THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL. AFTER SOME HESITATION THE MALAYSIANS ALSO AGREED.
- 7. COUNCIL MEMBERS MET FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT 2130Z.
  PICKERING SAID THAT ON THE BASIS OF CONTACTS MADE SINCE THE LAST
  INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, HE HAD ADVISED HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THERE WAS
  INTEREST IN SEEING ANOTHER EFFORT OVER THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
  MISSION. HIS GOVERNMENT NOW SUGGESTED HOLDING OFF A VOTE UNTIL THE
  AFTERNOON OF 24 OCTOBER TO PERMIT CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS AND
  OTHERS TO BE PURSUED. THIS WAS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY AND HE HOPED
  THE U S REQUEST WOULD BE TREATED SERIOUSLY.
- 8. AL-ASHTAL (YEMEN) SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE FOUR CO-SPONSORS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, SAID THAT IN THE LIGHT OF PICKERING'S INTERVENTION AND THE IMPORTANT CONTACTS THE U S GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESOLUTION, THEY HAD AGREED TO DELAY THEIR REQUEST FOR A FORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL UNTIL 24 OCTOBER.
- 9. IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD CONVENE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT 1915Z ON 24 OCTOBER TO BE FOLLOWED BY A FORMAL MEETING AT 2000Z. THE CO-SPONSORS INSISTED THAT A PRECISE TIME SHOULD BE FIXED AND PUBLISHED IN ADVANCE IN THE UN JOURNAL.

COMMENT

10. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING WAS MOST AMICABLE, AND THE AMERICANS HAVE WON THEIR BREATHING SPACE. BUT UNLESS THE AMERICANS CAN PULL OFF A COUP WITH SHAMIR, THERE SEEMS NO WAY IN WHICH THEY CAN AVOID A VOTE ON 24 OCTOBER.

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