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FM BONN
TO DESKBY 261400Z FCO
TELNO 1368
OF 261149Z OCTOBER 90
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, CICC GERMANY, JHQ HIGH WYCOMBE

SIC
MODSH PASS TO MODUK, CICC GERMANY AND JHQ HIGH WYCOMBE

MY TELNO 1365: IRAQ/KUWAIT: GERMAN ASSISTANCE TO BRITISH FORCES
DEPLOYED TO THE GULF

SUMMARY

1. THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE BRITISH REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE DATING FROM 24 SEPTEMBER. THE SUBMISSION TO KOHL BROADLY SUPPORTS OUR REQUESTS AND WOULD TOTAL SOME DM 100 MILLION IN VALUE. COST HAS BEEN AND REMAINS THE HURDLE. THE GERMANS HAVE ALREADY GIVEN CONSIDERABLE AND VALUABLE PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE BEYOND THE ITEMS REQUESTED FORMALLY. A LINE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO TAKE WITH CHANCELLOR KOHL THIS WEEKEND.

DETAIL

2. AS BACKGROUND, ON 24 SEPTEMBER I TOOK ACTION WITH THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT AND FEDERAL CHANCELLERY TO SEEK GERMAN HELP WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF 7 ARMoured BRIGADE TO THE GULF (MY TELNO 1232). AN ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF THE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED WAS HANDED TO THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (FMOD) ON 25 SEPTEMBER (MY TELNO 1240). THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A MORE SPECIFIC LIST OF EQUIPMENTS ON 15 OCTOBER (MOD SIGNAL 141656Z OCTOBER).

3. ALTHOUGH INITIALLY FMOD THOUGHT STOLTENBERG WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A QUICK RESPONSE, IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. COINCIDENCE WITH THE PERIOD SURROUNDING GERMAN UNIFICATION WAS UNLUCKY. THE SIZE OF THE GERMAN AID PACKAGE FOR EGYPT, JORDAN AND TURKEY AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE US, ANNOUNCED ON 17 SEPTEMBER (MY TELNO 1195): REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES (INCLUDING FRANCE AND SAUDI ARABIA): AND GROWING CONCERN OVER THE COST OF UNIFICATION HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED FURTHER TO COMPLICATING AND DELAYING THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

4. OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT THE FMOD AND

THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT HAVE GIVEN BROAD SUPPORT TO THE BRITISH REQUEST, WITH ANY OPPOSITION COMING FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY. CONTACTS IN FMOD INFORM US THAT ONE TYPE OF REQUESTED EQUIPMENT (THE SKORPION MINELAYER) HAS BEEN EXCLUDED. THE MAJORITY OF EQUIPMENT REQUESTS, HOWEVER, AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR THE MOVEMENT OF 7 ARMoured BRIGADE WITHIN GERMANY, RECEIVED INTER-MINISTERIAL IN A SUBMISSION TO THE CHANCELLERY ON 19 OCTOBER. THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE SUPPORT FORESEEN IN THE SUBMISSION WAS SOME DM 100 MILLION.

5. IN MY CONVERSATION WITH TELTSCHIK ON 24 OCTOBER (MY TELNO 1360) HE CONFIRMED THAT THE BASIC APPROACH IN THE SUBMISSION WAS POSITIVE BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO ANTICIPATE KOHL'S DECISION ON INDIVIDUAL POINTS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE KEY QUESTION WAS THE COST OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF HELP. THE VALUE OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE US WAS ANNOUNCED AS DM 1.6 BILLION. AGAINST THAT A FIGURE FOR US OF DM 100 MILLION IS MODEST, BUT THE RATIO OF 16:1 MAY BE CONSIDERED TO REFLECT THE RELATIVE US/UK STRENGTHS IN THE GULF.

6. ALTHOUGH MOST UNHELPFUL ABOUT LOW FLYING, THE FMOD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE TRAINING FOR 7 ARMoured BRIGADE AND FOR RAF(G) CREWS PRIOR TO THEIR DEPLOYMENT TO THE GULF, BY SURRENDERING GERMAN RANGE AND TRAINING AREA BOOKINGS AND LIFTING TRAINING RESTRICTIONS. HELP WAS READILY PROVIDED FOR THE MOVE OF 7 ARMoured BRIGADE'S VEHICLES AND AMMUNITION AND CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY SHOWN OVER THE INTERPRETATION OF SAFETY REGULATIONS. IN ANTICIPATION OF KOHL'S APPROVAL OF PROVISION TO US OF ELEVEN FUCHS NBC RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES, SOLDIERS OF 7 ARMoured BRIGADE AND THE RAF REGIMENT ARE BEING TRAINED TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE VEHICLES. AGREEMENT WAS READILY GIVEN TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF LIVEOAK SATCOM TERMINALS PURCHASED WITH GERMAN FUNDS. OTHER IMPORTANT, BUT SENSITIVE ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN THE PROVISION OF EX EAST GERMAN T-72 TANKS AND BMP ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS, SUCH AS IRAQ POSSESSES, FOR 7 ARMoured BRIGADE TO EXAMINE AND TO OBSERVE OPERATING TACTICALLY. MIG 29S ARE ALSO BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT BY THE RAF, AS ARE GROUND TO AIR RADAR JAMMING SYSTEMS OF THE TYPE HELD BY IRAQ. OUR REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON OTHER TYPES OF EAST AND WEST GERMAN EQUIPMENT HELD BY IRAQ ARE BEING GIVEN TIMELY AND POSITIVE RESPONSES.

7. THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR NOW HAS THE SUBMISSION ON OUR REQUESTS. HE MAY BE IN A POSITION, WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER SEES HIM THIS WEEKEND, TO INDICATE THE GENERAL NATURE OF GERMAN DECISIONS. IF KOHL CONFIRMS THAT GERMAN HELP WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL, THE PRIME MINISTER, I SUGGEST, SHOULD THANK HIM AND ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL

ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 6 ABOVE.

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