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MIPT : IRAQ/KUWAIT : SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION : COMMENT

1. DESPITE LAST MINUTE ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS OVER YEMEN'S ATTITUDE, THE RESOLUTION HAS NOW BEEN ADOPTED AS TABLED BEFORE THE WEEKEND AND WITH A MAJORITY AS LARGE AS THAT ACHIEVED ON SOME OF THE OTHER GULF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. (SOME OF THE EARLY ONES WERE ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY AND THE YEMENIS VOTED FOR THE AIR EMBARGO RESOLUTION OF 25 SEPTEMBER AFTER MUCH ARM TWISTING, BUT YEMENI AND CUBAN ABSTENTION IS PAR FOR THE COURSE AND REPRESENTS NO WEAKENING IN THE OVERALL WEIGHT OF THE CONDEMNATION OF IRAQ BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL.)
2. THE YEMENIS BEHAVED WITH A PUSILLANIMITY REMARKABLE EVEN FOR THEM: BUT THEY SHOULD HAVE INFLICTED MORE DAMAGE ON THEMSELVES THAN ON ANYONE ELSE AS A RESULT OF THEIR LAST MINUTE DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON A MODIFIED TEXT WHICH THE U S ONLY CONCEDED TO THEM ON THE EXPLICIT INDICATION THAT YEMEN ACCEPTED IT AND WOULD VOTE FOR IT. THE BITTERNESS AROUSED BY THIS ACT OF BAD FAITH SPREAD A GOOD DEAL WIDER THAN THE U S DELEGATION SINCE SUCH BEHAVIOUR STRIKES AT THE ROOT OF THE WAY BUSINESS IS TRANSACTED BETWEEN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK. THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP ARE DEEPLY EMBARRASSED AND IRRITATED. ALL THIS SHOULD STAND THE U S AND OURSELVES IN GOOD TACTICAL STEAD WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS TO TAKE UP THE ISSUE OF PALESTINE AGAIN.
3. AS TO THE RESOLUTION ITSELF, THE LAST MINUTE DELAY BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE SOVIET UNION SEEMS TO ME TO HAVE ACTUALLY STRENGTHENED ITS POLITICAL EFFECT. ADOPTION THE DAY AFTER THE FAILURE OF PRIMAKOV'S EFFORTS IN BAGHDAD HAS SWITCHED ATTENTION FIRMLY ONTO THE TOUGH MESSAGE OF THE FIRST ELEVEN PARAGRAPHS. THE MUCH CONTESTED QUOTE PEACE PARAGRAPHS UNQUOTE NOW LOOK PRETTY SICK IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRIMAKOV FIASCO.

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