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MDADAN 2597

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1797
OF 010207Z NOVEMBER 90
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ADVANCE COPY

MY TELNO 1793: HOSTAGES HELD BY IRAQ

SUMMARY

1. BRANDT'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. NO UN COVER FOR HIS VISIT TO BAGHDAD.

DETAIL

2. BRANDT DULY CALLED ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL LATER ON 31 OCTOBER. A CONTACT IN THE GERMAN MISSION HAS TOLD US THAT BRANDT INFORMED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF HIS VISIT TO BAGHDAD NEXT WEEK. HE TOLD PEREZ DE CUELLAR THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ADVISED HIM TO GO: BUT THAT HE HAD FELT THAT HE SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE HIS SERVICES AS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, TO DISCUSS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE GULF CIRSIS. PEREZ DE CUELLAR HAD WISHED HIM WELL. BUT BOTH FELT THAT IT WOULD BE MORE OF AN OBSTACLE THAN AN ADVANTAGE IF BRANDT WAS SEEN TO GO WITH A MANDATE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS: INDEED THERE WAS SOME DOUBT WHETHER IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES HE WOULD BE WELCOME IN BAGHDAD.

3. BRANDT SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A SHORT STATEMENT TO THE PRESS. TEXT IN MIFT.

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