

UNCLASSIFIED

FM MOSCOW

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MOSCOW TELNO 2124 (NOT TO ALL): IRAQ/KUWAIT: VISIT OF BAKER TO MOSCOW

SUMMARY

1. SHEVARDNADZE ADMITS THAT FORCE IS NOT TO BE RULED OUT, BUT ANY DECISION TO USE IT WOULD NEED TO BE MADE WITHIN THE UN FRAMEWORK

DETAIL

2. JAMES BAKER ARRIVED IN MOSCOW LATE AFTERNOON ON 7 NOVEMBER AND SPENT THE REST OF THE FOLLOWING DAY IN TALKS WITH SHEVARDNADZE PLUS A SEPARATE CALL ON GORBACHEV BEFORE DEPARTING EARLY THIS MORNING FOR LONDON. IN PARALLEL WITH THE BAKER/SHEVARDNADZE TALKS, THERE WERE ALSO WORKING GROUP SESSIONS TO DISCUSS THE FINE PRINT OF THE START AND CFE AGREEMENTS. SINCE THE TALKS WITH SHEVARDNADZE WERE FOR THE MOST PART HELD ONE ON ONE, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HERE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GIVE US ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPLEMENT THE SOVIET MEDIA'S BLAND REPORTING OF THE CONSULTATIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA MOST OF THEIR TALKS CENTRED, AS EXPECTED, ON THE GULF CRISIS/MIDDLE EAST ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION OF START, CFE, AFGHANISTAN, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OTHER REGIONAL PROBLEMS. DURING A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD LATER THAT EVENING, SHEVARDNADZE CONFIRMED THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE UNITED IN THEIR READINESS TO IMPLEMENT THE UN RESOLUTIONS ON THE GULF AND IN THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT NEVERTHELESS THE POSSIBILITY OF USING FORCE 'COULD NOT BE FULLY RULED OUT'. BUT ANY DECISION TO DO SO WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS. FOR HIS PART, BAKER RENEWED CALLS ON IRAQ TO IMPLEMENT THE UN RESOLUTIONS AND CATEGORICALLY RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY PARTIAL SOLUTIONS.

CALL ON GORBACHEV

4. BAKER'S VISIT WHICH CAME ON THE EVE OF GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO GERMANY MEANT THAT THERE WAS DOUBT UP TO THE LAST THAT GORBACHEV WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND THE TIME TO SEE HIM. IN THE EVENT, BAKER DID CALL ON THE SOVIET PRESIDENT FOR TALKS LASTING 2 HOURS TO DISCUSS THE GULF CRISIS. THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING REFERS TO THE

TWO SIDES' AGREEMENT FOR THE NEED FOR CONTINUING UNANIMITY AMONG ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. GORBACHEV IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT 'NO ONE SHOULD COUNT ON CRACKS TO APPEAR IN THE ALLIANCE' AND PRAISING AMERICAN WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT OTHER COUNTRIES ON THEIR APPROACH TO THE GULF CRISIS. THERE WAS ALSO A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, DURING WHICH GORBACHEV IS REPORTED TO HAVE SPOKEN OF THE NEED FOR DISCIPLINE, ORDER AND STABILITY TO BE SHOWN IF THE NEXT STAGES OF TRANSFER TO A MARKET ECONOMY AND OF AGREEING A UNION TREATY WERE TO BE ACHIEVED.

BRAITHWAITE

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