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TELNO 661  
OF 090546Z APRIL 91  
INFO PRIORITY HONG KONG  
INFO ROUTINE NICOSIA, ANAKAR, ATHENS

HONG KONG FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

MRS THATCHER'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL, 8 APRIL

SUMMARY

1. DISCUSSION OF THE GULF, ARAB/ISRAEL AND CYPRUS.

DETAIL

2. MRS THATCHER, WHO IS MAKING A PRIVATE VISIT TO NEW YORK, CALLED ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON 8 APRIL. I ACCOMPANIED HER.

THE GULF

3. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL RECALLED HIS MEETING WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN JUST BEFORE THE CONFLICT BEGAN. HE HAD BEEN SERENE IN THE FACE OF THE IMPENDING WAR, IN STARK CONTRAST TO PRESIDENT BUSH WHO HAD SO OBVIOUSLY WANTED PEACE. MRS THATCHER COMMENTED THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN WOULD CERTAINLY ACT IRRESPONSIBLY AGAIN IF HE REMAINED IN POWER.

4. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE TURKS WERE SPEAKING OF A 'PROTECTORATE' FOR THE KURDS. I DESCRIBED OUR VIEWS ON A SAFE HAVEN. IT WAS IMPORT TO DO SOMETHING OF THIS SORT, MAKING USE OF THE RESOURCES OF THE UN AGENCIES, TO STOP THE EXODUS AND, IF POSSIBLE ENCOURAGE THE REFUGEES IN TURKEY AND IRAN TO RETURN. MRS THATCHER COMMENTED THAT THIS WOULD NEED IRAQ'S ACQUIESCENCE. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE TEMPORARY. THE KURDS, LIKE THE CAMBODIANS, MIGHT GET USED TO LIVING IN CAMPS. I COMMENTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES BY SADDAM HUSSEIN TWICE BEFORE, BUT HAD ALWAYS SHOWN A STRONG TENDENCY TO RETURN.

5. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION IN

IRAQ, KUWAIT AND ALSO IRAN (THE LOST OF WHICH SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN - SCR 598) WAS IMMENSE. SO WAS THAT OF ESTABLISHING SECURITY FOR A REGION STRETCHING FROM AFGHANISTAN TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. MRS THATCHER OBSERVED THAT MANY COUNTRIES IN THE AREA WERE HEAVILY ARMED (THOUGH NOT VERY GOOD AT USING THEIR ARMAMENTS). THEY HAD A TYRANT IN THE AREA AND WOULD CONTINUE TO WANT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. THERE WAS ALWAYS A WAY TO ACQUIRE WEAPONS, FROM THE BLACK MARKET OR SAY NORTH KOREA. I SAID THAT 85% OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE AREA CAME FROM THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE HAD TO TRY TO ESTABLISH A SUPPLIERS CLUB TO LIMIT THE ARMS BUILD-UP.

6. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT THE EMIR OF KUWAIT'S STATEMENT THAT ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD 'SOME TIME IN 1992' WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. MRS THATCHER COMMENTED THAT HE WAS A NICE MAN, BUT HE NEEDED TO BE TOLD TO EASE OFF ON HIS CONSPICUOUSLY LUXURIOUS LIFESTYLE WHILE HIS PEOPLE WERE SUFFERING.

#### ARAB/ISRAEL

7. MRS THATCHER SAID THAT IT WAS VERY BAD THAT SOVIET JEWS WERE BEING SETTLED ON THE WEST BANK. IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE RAPID PROGRESS ON ARAB/ISRAEL BECAUSE THERE WAS TOO MUCH EMOTION AND TOO LITTLE REASON AMONG THOSE INVOLVED. SHAMIR WOULD NEVER BE THE ONE TO GIVE UP LAND. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD TO BE GIVEN SOME HOPE. MRS THATCHER SAID THAT THEIR PLIGHT WAS EVEN WORSE NOW THAT MANY OF THEM HAD LOST THEIR LIVELIHOODS IN KUWAIT AND ELSEWHERE IN THE GULF. KUWAIT WAS ALSO SUFFERING FROM THE LOSS OF SUCH ABLE AND CULTURED PEOPLE.

8. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT HE WAS THINKING OF GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST PERSONALLY TO INTRODUCE HIS NEW SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, BRUNNER. I WELCOMED THIS.

#### CYPRUS

9. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THE TURKS WERE NOW PREPARED TO PUT SOME PRESSURE ON DENKTASH. HE WAS DISMAYED BY SOME OF THE CRITICISM THAT HE HAD HAD RECENTLY FROM THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE, INCLUDING 'EVEN MY FRIEND VASSILIOU'. I SUGGESTED, AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AGREED, THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MRS THATCHER COULD TELL VASSILIOU WHEN SHE SEES HIM ON 14 APRIL THAT SHE HAD SPOKEN TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE TURKS WERE SERIOUS ABOUT WORKING

TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT HIS AIM WAS TO GET THE TALKS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY LEADERS BACK ON TRACK AGAIN BEFORE HE LEFT OFFICE.

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