

SECRET

FM THE HAGUE CORRECTED VERSION (TITLE)
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 534
OF 271138Z DECEMBER 90
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, LUXEMBOURG, PARIS, BONN, ROME, BRUSSELS
INFO IMMEDIATE MADRID, BAGHDAD

YOUR TELNO 2226 TO WASHINGTON: FUTURE OF EMBASSIES IN BAGHDAD ✓

SUMMARY

1. DUTCH INCLINED TOWARDS EARLY WITHDRAWAL BUT CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL SIGNALS AND WANT COORDINATED WESTERN LINE.

DETAIL

2. I CALLED THIS MORNING ON ROELL, DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST, MFA, AND SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED. HE SAID THAT THE DUTCH EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD WERE ALREADY DOWN TO 4 NL-BASED STAFF (CHARGE, SECOND SECRETARY, AO AND SECRETARY). MINISTERS HAD NOT TAKEN ANY FIRM VIEW ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM. ONE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR VAN DAM, FAVOURED COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL BEFORE OR AROUND 15 JANUARY. OTHERS INCLUDING ROELL HIMSELF, RECOGNISED THE RISKS BUT WOULD PREFER TO KEEP OPTIONS (AND THE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION) OPEN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

3. ROELL WAS CONCERNED THAT EFFECTIVE CLOSURE OF WESTERN EMBASSIES WOULD SEND A VERY STRONG SIGNAL TO IRAQ. SOLIDARITY WOULD BE VITAL BUT MIGHT BE HARD TO ACHIEVE. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITHDREW STAFF WITHOUT THE AMERICANS DOING SO. CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE TWELVE SHOULD BE INITIATED URGENTLY, STARTING WITH A REQUEST FOR ADVICE FROM THE EMBASSIES IN BAGHDAD AND PERHAPS THEN A MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OR POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

4. ROELL HAS SINCE CONSULTED HIS POLITICAL DIRECTOR (VAN WALSUM) AND SECRETARY GENERAL (BOT). THEY WILL SEEK GUIDANCE FROM VAN DEN BROEK TODAY AND ROELL WILL INFORM ME OF THE RESULT.

5. YOUR TELNO 810 TO BONN: IRAQI AMBASSADOR AL-FALAKI IS NOT ATTENDING THE MEETING IN AMMAN AND IS STILL IN THE HAGUE.

FLOWER

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

40

MAIN 40

IRAQ/KUWAIT SECRET

NO DISTRIBUTION

HD/EMERGENCY UNIT

HD/ACDD

HD/AMD

HD/ISD(O)

HD/MED

HD/NEWS D

HD/NENAD

HD/NPDD

HD/PUSD

DEPUTY HD/PUSD

HD/SECPOL D

HD/UND

HD/SCD

HD/WED

PS

PS/PUS

PS/MR HOGG

PS/MR LENNOX-BOYD

MR P J WESTON

MR FAIRWEATHER

MR BROOMFIELD

MISS SPENCER

MR GOULDEN

MR GORE-BOOTH

MR BERMAN

MR SLATER

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST

SIR P CRADOCK 10 DOWNING ST

CHIEF OF ASSESSMENTS STAFF

MR REEVES CAB OFFICE

MR APPELYARD CAB OFFICE

MR D GOWAN CAB OFFICE

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

HD/SEC (O) (C) MODUK

MISS WILMHURST LAW OFFICERS

(ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPT)

NNNN