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FM COPENHAGEN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 464

OF 271500Z DECEMBER 90

INFO PRIORITY BAGHDAD

YOUR TELNO 2226 TO WASHINGTON : FUTURE OF EMBASSIES IN BAGHDAD

SUMMARY

1. DANISH THINKING STILL AT AN EARLY STAGE.

DETAIL

2. ACTION TAKEN WITH THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT CONCERNED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. MUNK RASMUSSEN SAID THE DANES ARE IN FAVOUR OF A COORDINATED EC APPROACH BUT THEIR OWN THINKING HAS NOT YET PROGRESSED VERY FAR. THEIR EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD HAS A PERMANENT STAFF OF 3 DANES, ALL OF WHOM WILL SHORTLY BE IN DENMARK ON LEAVE (THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS SECRETARY ARE ALREADY HERE, THE ATTACHE WILL ARRIVE IN A DAY OR SO). AN OFFICIAL FROM THE MFA HAS GONE TO BAGHDAD TO ACT AS CHARGE, THE IDEA BEING THAT HE WOULD STAY UNTIL 10 JANUARY WHEN THE AMBASSADOR AND THE ATTACHE ARE DUE TO RETURN. BUT THE QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER THE 10 JANUARY CHANGE AROUND SHOULD GO AHEAD AS PLANNED.

3. MUNK RASMUSSEN SAID THAT IN DECIDING WHAT TO DO THE DANES WOULD HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THAT AN ATTACHE FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN KUWAIT WAS STILL IN BAGHDAD TRYING TO GET AN EXIT VISA. IT WOULD BE HARD ON HIM TO WITHDRAW STAFF FROM THE BAGHDAD EMBASSY AND LEAVE HIM ON HIS OWN.

4. MUNK RASMUSSEN'S ONLY COMMENT ON OUR THREE OPTIONS WAS TO QUESTION WHETHER IN PRACTICE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET IRAQI AGREEMENT TO THE DEPARTURE OF A CORE OF STAFF AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES (OPTION II).

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