

**ADVANCE COPY**

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM MADRID  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1105  
OF 271755Z DECEMBER 90  
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS, BAGHDAD, EC POSTS

YOUR TELNO 2226 TO WASHINGTON : FUTURE OF EMBASSIES IN BAGHDAD

SUMMARY : SPANISH PREFERENCE TO KEEP CORE STAFF AT LEAST UNTIL  
OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH MFA MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT THE OPTIONS OUTLINED IN TUR. BUITRAGO (ASSISTANT DESK OFFICER) SAID THAT THE MFA HAD STILL NOT MADE UP ITS MIND ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT ITS EMBASSY STAFF IN BAGHDAD. THEY DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING EVERYONE SOON AFTER 15 JANUARY (OPTION ONE) BUT IT WAS MORE LIKELY THAT A CORE STAFF WOULD BE KEPT IN PLACE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. BUITRAGO SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT, IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE TWELVE TO AGREE ON A CONCERTED PLAN OF ACTION.
2. RE FCO TELNO 1693 TO BAGHDAD. BUITRAGO CONFIRMED THAT THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR IN MADRID HAD MADE NO DEMARCHE TO THE SPANISH OVER A MEETING BETWEEN THE EC AND TARIQ AZIZ.

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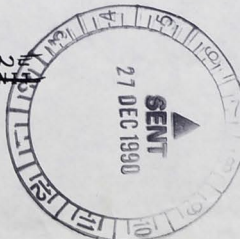
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