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TO IMMEDIATE THE HAGUE

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INFO IMMEDIATE OTHER EC POSTS, WASHINGTON, BAGHDAD

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

SECRETARY OF STATE'S DISCUSSION WITH DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER  
SUMMARY

1. VAN DEN BROEK AGREES THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE AN EC MISSION TO BAGHDAD BUT THAT SOME EC CONTACT WITH THE IRAQIS MAY BE NECESSARY IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE AMERICANS. POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER DUTCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

DETAIL

2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE TELEPHONED VAN DEN BROEK THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF EC/IRAQ CONTACTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE FAC MEETING ON 4 JANUARY. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD POOS SAY ON THE BBC THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE MANDATED BY THE FAC TO GO TO BAGHDAD. THE SECRETARY OF STATE THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS GOING RATHER FAR. VAN DEN BROEK SAID THAT HE WAS RATHER SURPRISED TO HEAR THIS ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, THE GERMANS, FRENCH AND ITALIANS HAD SHOWN THEMSELVES IN FAVOUR OF SOME KIND OF CONTACT IF IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE US/IRAQ TALKS WERE NOT GOING TO MATERIALISE. BUT NOTHING HAD BEEN SAID AT THE LAST FAC ABOUT VISITING BAGHDAD. IN ANY CASE VAN DEN BROEK THOUGHT THAT EC TALKS WITH IRAQ SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE LINES AGREED BY THE FAC ON 4 DECEMBER - IN OTHER WORDS TARIQ AZIZ WOULD HAVE TO COME TO EUROPE.

3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO BAKER WHO HAD SAID THAT THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME DEVELOPMENT ON THE PROPOSED US/IRAQI TALKS. WE MUST NOT COMPLICATE THAT EXERCISE. IF POOS WERE MANDATED TO VISIT BAGHDAD THE IRAQIS WOULD SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR THAT VISIT RATHER THAN DEALING SENSIBLY WITH THE US. THEY WOULD TRY TO DIVIDE US. THE SECRETARY OF STATE THOUGHT THAT SOME EC CONTACTS WITH IRAQ PROBABLY WOULD NEED TO BE AUTHORISED BUT THE QUESTION WAS WHAT SORT. VAN DEN BROEK AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY. IF POOS HAD ALREADY SAID THAT HE THOUGHT HE WOULD GO TO BAGHDAD, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE US TO SET UP TALKS WITH THE IRAQIS. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE US SHORTLY BEFORE THE LUXEMBOURG MEETING. VAN DEN BROEK WOULD BE VERY RELUCTANT TO COUNTENANCE AN EC MISSION TO BAGHDAD. ANY CONTACT WITH IRAQ

WITHOUT THE US WOULD ITSELF BE SIGNIFICANT AND NOT WITHOUT RISK ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THAT IT COULD BE MANAGED IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE AMERICANS AND IN LINE WITH WHAT WAS AGREED ON 4 JANUARY. BUT IT WOULD BE DAMAGING IF PEOPLE BEGAN TO TALK AS THOUGH THERE WAS ALREADY A CONSENSUS FOR POOS TO VISIT BAGHDAD.

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT ONE POSSIBLE EC MOVE MIGHT BE FOR THE TROIKA, OR THE PRESIDENCY WITH THE UK AND FRANCE, AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL TO SUMMON TWO OR THREE IRAQI AMBASSADORS TO GIVE THEM THE RIGHT MESSAGE. BUT WE SHOULD AVOID ANY EXPECTATION THAT POOS WOULD GO TO BAGHDAD. HE INTENDED TO SPEAK TO POOS AND THAT HE WOULD URGE HIM TO CONTACT BAKER.

5. VAN DEN BROEK SAID THAT HE WOULD SPEAK TO EYSKENS ALONG SIMILAR LINES. HE THOUGHT THAT THE BELGIANS WOULD BE HELPFUL, AS THEY HAD BEEN AT THE FAC ON 18 DECEMBER. DUTCH SUPPORT FOR MILITARY EFFORT IN THE GULF

6. VAN DEN BROEK THANKED THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIS MESSAGE ABOUT FURTHER ASSISTANCE. HE WAS TRYING TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES TO SENDING MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO THE GULF ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT THINK IT LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND MORE THAN 20 OR 30 DOCTORS OR MEDICAL STAFF. OBVIOUSLY THEY WANTED TO DO IT ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS.

7. VAN DEN BROEK ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO WOERNER ABOUT THE TURKISH REQUEST FOR BELGIAN AND GERMAN F-16S FROM THE ACE MOBILE FORCE. HE HAD TOLD WOERNER THAT IF THE BELGIANS OR GERMANS COULD NOT SUPPLY THEM, THEN HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO GET THE DUTCH TO DO SO. BUT WOERNER WAS KEEN AT THIS STAGE TO GET THE GERMANS AND BELGIANS TO AGREE TO THE REQUEST.

8. VAN DEN BROEK ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED THE DUTCH MOD TO CONTACT THEIR UK OPPOSITE NUMBERS TO FIND OUT WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANY ROLE FOR DUTCH MARINES (IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHAT VAN DEN BROEK HAD IN MIND). THE COALITION PARTNERS WERE ARGUING THAT THE MARINES HAD ONLY LIGHT EQUIPMENT AND COULD NOT, THEREFORE, PLAY A USEFUL PART. BUT VAN DEN BROEK SAW SOME POSSIBILITY THAT THIS COULD BE CHANGED IF WE CAME UP WITH A CLEAR-CUT REQUEST.

9. FINALLY, VAN DEN BROEK SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD DROP A HINT TO THE FRENCH THAT AT THE NEXT WEU MEETING ON 17 JANUARY, THE TURKS AND NORWEGIANS, AS WELL AS THE GREEKS AND THE DANES SHOULD BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS.

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