

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM UKMIS NEW YORK  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 22  
OF 050041Z JANUARY 91  
INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, PEKING, PARIS, LUXEMBOURG  
INFO IMMEDIATE BAGHDAD, MODUK, ACTOR  
INFO PRIORITY OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS, ANKARA

LUXEMBOURG TELNO 12: IRAQ/KUWAIT: GULF CRISIS

## SUMMARY

1. FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE DISMISSIVE OF MITTERRAND'S REPORTED SUPPORT FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE 15 JANUARY DEADLINE. SECRETARY-GENERAL TO MEET BUSH ON 5 JANUARY.

## DETAIL

2. I HAD A WORD WITH THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON 4 JANUARY ABOUT THE AGENCY REPORTS OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND HAVING SAID TO THE PRESS THAT HE FAVOURED THE SUMMONING OF A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE 15 JANUARY. WAS THIS A FIRM PROPOSAL? WHAT WOULD BE THE OBJECT OF SUCH A MEETING?

3. BLANC WAS DISMISSIVE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID, THOUGH HE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO DENY THAT HE HAD SAID IT. HE RECALLED FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCES AT THE ELYSEE THAT THESE ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTIONS FOR THE PRESS WERE A NIGHTMARE. THE PRESIDENT WAS ALWAYS REPORTED AS HAVING COMMITTED SOME SORT OF INDISCRETION. THIS YEAR WAS NO DIFFERENT. BLANC ADDED THAT HIS OWN RECOMMENDATION TO PARIS HAD BEEN THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THE GULF IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE 15 JANUARY. HE HAD ADVISED AGAINST AND BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SPEAK AGAINST THE ZAIROIS ATTEMPT TO LAUNCH A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT (MY TELNO 10). HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE RECEIVING ANY INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING THE MITTERRAND PRESS CONFERENCE. HE BELIEVED THAT ALL THE FOCUS NEXT WEEK WOULD BE ON THE BAKER/TARIQ AZIZ AND POOS/TARIQ AZIZ MEETINGS AND NOT ON ANY ACTIVITY IN NEW YORK.

4. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN NEW YORK ON 4 JANUARY THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD BE VISITING CAMP DAVID ON 5 JANUARY FOR A MEETING AND LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT BUSH. AIME' IN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S OFFICE TOLD ME THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THIS MEETING HAD COME FROM THE U S SIDE. THE AMERICANS HAD NOT GIVEN ANY

INDICATION OF THE SPECIFIC OBJECT OF SETTING UP THIS MEETING WHICH HE ASSUMED WOULD BE DOMINATED BY DISCUSSION OF THE GULF ISSUE. THEY HAD MERELY DESCRIBED IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. ON THE SECRETARIAT SIDE AIME SAID THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR HAD NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS IN MIND ON THE GULF NOR ANY INTENTION OF GETTING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CONTACTS WITH THE IRAQIS HIMSELF. THE FIELD NEXT WEEK MUST BE LEFT CLEAR TO THE CONTACTS BETWEEN TARIQ AZIZ, BAKER AND THE EC EVEN IF, AS THE SECRETARIAT WERE, ONE COULD BE DEEPLY SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF ANYTHING POSITIVE EMERGING FROM THOSE MEETINGS. AIME ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CONTACT WITH THE NEWLY RETURNED IRAQI AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN COMPLETELY USELESS. AL-ANBARI HAD MERELY SUNG THE OLD PALESTINIAN LINKAGE TUNE AND HAD HAD NOTHING NEW TO SAY.

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