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FM RABAT 291230Z NOV 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO DESKBY 291400Z

TELEGRAM NUMBER 474 OF 29 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS, TUNIS, JEDDA, AMMAN, DAMASCUS

MIPT 473: VISIT BY ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MOROCCAN NOTE.

BGINS

THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND HAS THE HONOUR TO ASK THEM TO COMMUNICATE TO THEIR GOVERNMENT WHAT FOLLOWS:

THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT ASTONISHMENT THE MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO HIS MAJESTY HASSAN II KING OF MOROCCO AND HEAD OF COMMITTEE OF SEVEN OF THE ARAB LEAGUE FROM MR FRANCIS PYM, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH, AND THE STATEMENT ATTACHED TO IT. THE MINISTRY CONSIDERS THAT BOTH TEXTS ARE IMPROPER REGARDING THEIR FORM, WHILE THEIR SUBSTANCE IS INACCEPTABLE.

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE VISIT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, MEANT TO BE A COURTESY ONE ON THE ONE HAND, AND TO INFORM BRITISH OFFICIALS OF THE ARAB PEACE PLAN AND LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE OTHER. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THIS QUESTION IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND TO THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN PARTICULAR. THEREFORE, IT WAS UNSUITABLE TO IMPOSE ON THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN CONDITIONS OF ANY SORT, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN SUCH CONDITIONS ARE PRELIMINARY AND OFFENDING.

WE CONSIDER THAT INSISTING ON ISSUING A STATEMENT BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE ARAB MINISTERS MEMBER OF THE ARAB COMMITTEE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, THAT THIS STATEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE A DECLARATION OF REJECTION OF TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS, AND THAT ALL COUNTRIES MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS STATEMENT, ARE MATTERS WHICH ARE NOT CUSTOMARY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND A PRECEDENT WHICH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

THE MINISTRY WOULD LIKE TO RECALL THAT HIS MAJESTY KING HASSAN II IS THE HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, AND THAT HE WAS KEEN THAT CONTACTS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF THIS VISIT BE DONE IN A CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE. THEREFORE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE APPROPRIATE THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S REPLY REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE VISIT BE SENT TO HIS MAJESTY ALONE, BE IT CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION OR ANY OTHER MATTER.

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FOR ALL THESE REASONS THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS UNDER THE OBLIGATION TO RETURN THE TEXTS OF THE MESSAGE AND THE DRAFT STATEMENT AS IT CONSIDERS THESE DOCUMENTS INACCEPTABLE AND DO NOT FIT WITH ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS. THE MINISTRY IS SORRY TO INFORM YOU THAT THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN HAS DECIDED TO CANCEL APPOINTMENTS SET FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS ON 1-2 DECEMBER 1982.

THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

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