

SECRET #2

FM FCO

TO DESKBY 081500Z BANGKOK

TELNO 384

OF 081213Z AUGUST 88

AND TO DESKBY 081500Z CABINET OFFICE

INFO DESKBY 081600Z DUBAI, ABU DHABI, UKMIS NEW YORK

FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY

MY TELNO 528 TO CANBERRA: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO DUBAI

1. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED REVISED DRAFT OF A STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE GULF CONFLICT. IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE AGREEMENT OF IRAN AND IRAQ TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE AND DIRECT TALKS. WE EXPECT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE FOR A CEASEFIRE (D-DAY) THIS EVENING 8 AUGUST: THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO MEET TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION SETTING UP A UN OBSERVER FORCE - UNITED NATIONS IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP (UNIIMOG) - ON 9 AUGUST. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS PREDICTED THAT D-DAY WILL BE ABOUT 2 WEEKS HENCE TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE OBSERVER FORCE TO BE PUT TOGETHER. WE ARE PRESSING HIM TO MOVE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

2. BEGINS.

- HAVE DECIDED TO BREAK MY JOURNEY HOME IN ORDER TO VISIT ARMILLA PATROL AND TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR OUR FRIENDS IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF REGION.
- GLAD TO BE HERE ON THE VERY DAY AFTER THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS ANNOUNCED THE DATE FOR A CEASEFIRE BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ. WELCOME THE DECISIONS OF THE IRANIAN AND IRAQI GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE TO BE FOLLOWED BY DIRECT TALKS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. HOPE THIS WILL LEAD TO AN EARLY END TO THIS SENSELESS CONFLICT WHICH HAS COST SO MANY LIVES OVER A PERIOD OF ALMOST 8 YEARS.
- PLEASED THAT BRITAIN HAS BEEN ABLE TO PLAY A LEADING PART IN WORKING AT THE UNITED NATIONS TO END THE CONFLICT. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO OFFER EVERY SUPPORT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN HIS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A RAPID CEASEFIRE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TERMS OF SCR 598. A CEASEFIRE IN ITSELF IS NOT ENOUGH. WHAT IS NEEDED, AND WHAT IS ENVISAGED IN SCR 598, IS A COMPREHENSIVE AND LASTING SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL RESTORE PEACE AND SECURITY TO THE REGION.
- ARMILLA PATROL HAS BEEN DOING A VITAL JOB PROTECTING BRITISH MERCHANT SHIPPING AND HELPING TO UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION. OUR COMMITMENT WILL REMAIN AS LONG AS A THREAT TO MERCHANT SHIPPING CONTINUES. WELCOME DECISION OF THE WEU ON 3 AUGUST TO MAINTAIN FORCES IN THE GULF UNTIL THE JOB IS COMPLETED. PAY TRIBUTE TO THE ROLE OF THE RN MINESWEEPING FORCE IN COOPERATION WITH DUTCH AND BELGIAN ALLIES (CALENDAR).

ENDS.

3. UK/IRAN: THE DECISION TO SEND A BRITISH DIPLOMAT (DAVID REDDAWAY) ON A SHORT VISIT TO TEHRAN WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE FCO SPOKESMAN TODAY. THE RESPONSIVE LINE PROPOSED IN TUR REMAINS VALID.

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