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FM ROME 271420Z MAR 85  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO FLASH  
TELNO 314 OF 27 MAR 85  
INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

MY TELNO 311: EUROPEAN COUNCIL: POLITICAL COOPERATION: MIDDLE EAST

1. THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY IS CIRCULATING 'ON AN INFORMAL BASIS' BY COREU LATER TODAY TEXTS REPRESENTING A SUMMARY OF ELEMENTS ALREADY 'AGREED' IN POCO CONCERNING (PRINCIPLE) SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THE COREU STATES THAT TWO TEXTS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP WITH THE AIM OF SPEEDING UP THE COUNCIL'S WORK. TEXTS COVER EAST WEST RELATIONS, MIDDLE EAST, ARAB/ISRAEL, IRAN/IRAQ AND LEBANON, LATIN AMERICA (INCLUDING CHILE AND CONTADORA) AND MOZAMBIQUE.

2. FOLLOWING IS PRESIDENCY DRAFT TEXT ON MIDDLE EAST.

MIDDLE EAST

' THE TEN ARE CLOSELY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AS REGARDS THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR AND THE LEBANESE QUESTION.

THEY WELCOMED THE TREND, WHICH HAS RECENTLY EMERGED, TOWARDS A REACTIVATION OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. THE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PLO IN AMMAN ON 11 FEBRUARY AND THE IDEAS PUT FORWARD BY THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENCY, MR MUBARAK, FALL INTO THIS CONTEXT.

THE TEN CONSIDER THESE INITIATIVES TO BE IMPORTANT IN AS MUCH AS THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO AVOIDING A PROLONGED STALEMATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

THEY CONFIRM THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION CALLS FOR THE PARTICIPATION AND THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE TEN CONSIDER THAT NO EFFORT SHOULD BE SPARED TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT MOVEMENT IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND TO FACILITATE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING SYRIA.

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THE TEN RECONFIRM THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE VENICE DECLARATION AND SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS BY THE TEN. IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED, THE PRESIDENCY AND EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATE WILL WORK TO PROMOTE THE REMOVAL OF PRECONDITIONS AND TO HELP IN RECONCILING THE VARIOUS POSITIONS.

THE TEN VIEW WITH UTMOST CONCERN THE AGGRAVATION OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN. THE PRESENT ESCALATION IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES AGAINST CIVILIAN TARGETS IS A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, THE TEN CALL UPON IRAQ AND IRAN TO COMPLY ONCE AGAIN WITH THE COMMITMENT MADE UNDER THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN JUNE 1984, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, TO REFRAIN FROM BOMBING CIVILIAN TARGETS. THE TEN INTEND TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO THE PROFOUND HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS RAISED BY THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CONFLICT, SUCH AS THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND THE ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

THE CONTINUED LOSSES OF LIFE AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, THE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE ECONOMY OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND THE PERMANENT RISK OF AN EXTENSION OF THE HOSTILITIES MAKE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT MORE NECESSARY AND PRESSING THAN EVER. RECALLING THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, THE TEN URGE IRAN AND IRAQ TO AGREE UPON AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND TO START A NEGOTIATING PROCESS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WHICH IS HONOURABLE AND ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES.

THE TEN CONTINUE TO VIEW WITH CONCERN THE DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, WHICH CONTINUES TO BE SUBJECTED TO UNJUSTIFIABLE ACTS OF VIOLENCE.

THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS CANNOT BE BROUGHT TO AN END UNTIL THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM THAT REGION HAS BEEN COMPLETED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. THE TEN WELCOME THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES. THEY NOW EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT DECISION IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER SUFFERING ON THE PART OF THE POPULATIONS IN THE AREA AND TO HELP RESTORE THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON. ACCORDINGLY, THE TEN CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT ADEQUATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BE REACHED BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND LEBANESE GOVERNMENTS. UNIFIL COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS CONTEXT.

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THE TEN APPEAL TO ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, BOTH WITHIN LEBANON AND OUTSIDE, TO ACT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS OF RESTORING THE SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON ''.

3. SEE MIFT.

BRIDGES

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