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FM FCO

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELNO 1865

OF 071455Z JULY 87

PC

IRAN/IRAQ AND SHIPPING IN THE GULF

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER:

QUOTE.

DEAR RON

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 29 JUNE ABOUT ACTION AT THE UN AIMED AT ENDING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ.

THERE SEEMS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL BE READY TO ADOPT A MANDATORY RESOLUTION SOON. WE ARE CERTAINLY READY TO VOTE FOR SUCH A RESOLUTION AS SOON AS IT IS TABLED. I AGREE THAT MORE WORK IS NEEDED BY THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF NON-COMPLIANCE BY ONE OR OTHER OF THE PARTIES. WE SHALL SUPPORT AN ARMS EMBARGO IF OTHERS DO, ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL A GOOD DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE ON DETAILS.

WE MUST ALSO FIND A WAY TO TACKLE ONE OF THE IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF THE ESCALATION IN THE SHIPPING WAR, WHICH IS IRAQI AIR ATTACKS ON IRANIAN TANKERS. THE IRAQIS WILL INEVITABLY BE RELUCTANT TO CUT BACK ON THESE. WE WOULD BE ASKING THEM TO GIVE UP A

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BY *PCW* NARA DATE 11/18/19

MEAN OF PURSUING THE WAR IN WHICH THEY ENJOY THE ADVANTAGE. HOWEVER, IF IRAQI ATTACKS WERE STOPPED OR REDUCED, THE IRANIANS WOULD BE DEPRIVED OF MUCH OF THEIR RATIONALE FOR ATTACKING FOREIGN SHIPPING, ESPECIALLY THAT BOUND TO KUWAIT. AND THE FACT IS THAT OPEC QUOTAS ARE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN IRAQI ATTACKS IN RESTRICTING IRANIAN OIL PRODUCTION. IRAQ WOULD STILL OF COURSE RETAIN THE OPTION OF ATTACKING ECONOMIC TARGETS INSIDE IRAN.

I DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES OF THIS APPROACH, FOR WHICH WE WOULD NEED TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF OUR ARAB FRIENDS. BUT IT OFFERS A POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT WAY OF REDUCING THE RISK OF OTHERS BEING DRAWN INTO A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH IRAN AND I THINK IT WORTH A TRY. MAY I STRESS THAT THIS IS NOT IN ANY WAY INTENDED TO CUT ACROSS OR UNDERMINE PROGRESS TOWARDS A MANDATORY RESOLUTION AT THE UN.

I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO DISCUSSING ALL THIS IN GREATER DETAIL WHEN WE MEET ON 17 JULY.

WARM REGARDS,
MARGARET
UNQUOTE

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226494	CABLE	RE. IRAN/IRAQ AND SHIPPING IN THE GULF <i>R 11/18/2019 M6995/1</i>	2	7/7/1987	B1
226495	CABLE	RE. IRAN/IRAQ AND SHIPPING IN THE GULF [COPY OF DOC. 226494] <i>R 11/18/2019 M6995/1</i>	2	7/7/1987	B1
226497	CABLE	080510Z JUL 87 <i>R 11/18/2019 M6995/1</i>	9	7/8/1987	B1
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