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PERSONAL FOR GILLMORE.
UK REQUEST FOR STINGER

1. EAGLEBURGER SAID TO MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FROM THE PENTAGON THAT WE HAD PUT OUR REQUEST FOR STINGER ON ICE. THOMAS SAID THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS INDEED A HANG UP AT HOME BUT THAT WE WERE HOPING THE AMERICANS WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK POSITIVELY AT THIS REQUEST. EAGLEBURGER CONFIRMED THAT THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE THE CASE. BUT IT WOULD NOT BE SOMETHING THAT COULD BE DECIDED OVERNIGHT. FORTUNATELY, THE SUMS INVOLVED WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY LARGE TO MAKE IT NECESSARY TO SUBMIT THE MATTER TO CONGRESS. IT COULD THEREFORE BE DONE QUIETLY. BUT A POSITIVE DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN THAT THIS EQUIPMENT WAS NOT REQUIRED BY THE US ARMED FORCES, AND SUCH A DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL. HE WAS NOT URGING US TO RETURN TO THE CHARGE. BUT WHAT HE WAS SAYING, IN CONFIDENCE, WAS THAT IF WE WANTED TO DO SO, WE HAD BETTER GET ON WITH IT.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US HERE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS, BUT THE LATEST NEWS ON THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE NETWORK IS THAT IT MAY TAKE ANOTHER 48 HOURS TO GET A DECISION IN LONDON. APART FROM GIVING AN UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION HERE OF INABILITY TO MAKE UP OUR MINDS, THIS WILL ADD ANOTHER TWO DAYS TO THE AMOUNT OF TIME NEEDED TO GET A DECISION IN WASHINGTON.

HENDERSON

LIMITED
HD/DEFENCE
PS/PUS
MR WRIGHT
MR GILLMORE

COPIES TO:
MR STEWART. AUS. DEF STAFF
MOD
MR JACKLING HEAD DS II
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