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PAGE 01 STATE 143370
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LONDON FOR HOOPER/BEIRUT FOR MACK

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PTER, PREL, US, IZ

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY FOR FON MIN TARIQ

AZIZ: IRAQI SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM

REF: (A) SECTO 4281 (B) BAGHDAD 1204

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 143370

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT).

SECRET

2. REF A REPORTED THE SECRETARY'S MAY 10 CONVERSATION IN PARIS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TARIQ AZIZ. AZIZ WAS VERY HELPFUL IN SUPPORTING THE LEBANON WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT. THE CONVERSATION DID NOT COVER THE TERRORISM ISSUE, BUT PROVIDED AN OPENING TO GIVE HIGH-LEVEL EMPHASIS TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ISSUE FOR THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR RELATIONS. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD PRESENT THE PERSONAL MESSAGE BELOW IN WRITING TO TARIQ AZIZ AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. SEPTTEL WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS FOR MORE DETAILED FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION AS YOU MAY FIND APPROPRIATE TO THE CONVERSATION.

3. BEGIN MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME IN PARIS LAST WEEK. I BELIEVE OUR CONVERSATION MARKED A NEW STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR VERY IMPORTANT COMMON INTERESTS. THE SUPPORT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM ITS TERRITORY WILL HASTEN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE WITH SO MANY IN THE REGION. IRAQ'S CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IS BOTH IMPORTANT AND APPRECIATED.

I ALSO VALUE HIGHLY OUR ABILITY TO DISCUSS OUR DIFFERENCES IN COMPLETE CANDOR. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT

SECRET
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 143370

THAT I WANT TO POINT OUT WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE A REMEDIABLE IMPEDIMENT TO CONTINUED GROWTH IN OUR RELATIONS. CLEARLY, INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IS NOT ONLY A PARALLEL MENACE TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IT ALSO APPEARS THAT AT LEAST THE INSPIRATION FOR CERTAIN TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST IRAQ AND AGAINST THE U.S. EMANATES AT TIMES FROM THE SAME SOURCES. BY WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT TERRORISM, OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE.

IN OBSERVING IRAQI POLICY, IT HAD BEGUN TO APPEAR TO ME THAT IRAQ WAS APPROACHING THE CONCLUSION THAT ITS

SECRET

SECRET

NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE NEVER SERVED BY INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS. SEVERAL RECENT EVENTS LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT IRAQ HESITATES TO CUT ITS THREADS TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, NONETHELESS, THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE DANGERS, COSTS, AND INHUMANITY OF TERRORISM AS A POLITICAL MEANS. I HAVE THEREFORE ASKED MR. EAGLETON TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH YOU IN GREATER DETAIL.

YOU ARE AWARE, MR. MINISTER, OF STRONG INTEREST IN THE U.S. CONGRESS IN SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. YOU ARE ALSO AWARE OF SOME OF THE NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS IN AMERICAN AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION OF THE IRAQI POSITION ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS. BECAUSE CONGRESS IS IN THE PROCESS OF ADOPTING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD SHAPE THE COURSE OF OUR RELATIONS BASED LARGELY ON THE TERRORISM ISSUE ALONE, ANY NEW EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ HAS DECISIVELY REJECTED INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE POSITIVE EFFECTS.

MAY I REITERATE TO YOU THE HIGH VALUE I PLACE UPON OUR ABILITY TO DISCUSS OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS IN A CANDID AND COOPERATIVE SPIRIT, AND UPON IRAQ'S INCREASINGLY RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN REGIONAL ISSUES OF BROAD

SECRET
SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 143370

INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. I ALSO REAFFIRM MY COMMITMENT TO DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO PROMOTE THE EARLIEST PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE WAR BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN THAT WILL LEAVE BOTH COUNTRIES SECURE, STABLE, PROSPEROUS AND FREE OF OUTSIDE DOMINATION.

SINCERELY,
GEORGE P. SHULTZ.

4. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

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