



Department of State

249

TELEGRAM

RELEASED IN PART B1,A3,A5

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 (AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6185

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECRET BAGHDAD 0009

EXDIS CAPTION REMOVED BY S/S (EK) ON 11/29/93

EO 12356 DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, IZ, IR, JA

SUBJ: MEETING WITH TARIQ AZIZ: EXPANDING IRAQ'S OIL EXPORT FACILITIES

REF 83 BAGHDAD 3163 ✓

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT

2. DEP PH AND FORMINISTER AZIZ ASKED TO SEE ME JAN 2 TO FOLLOW UP AMB RUMSFELD'S VISIT AND MY LATER CONVERSATION (REFTEL) WITH UNDERSEC SAHHAF. DURING THE FIRST PART OF THE CONVERSATION, TARIQ AZIZ READ VERBATIM FROM A TYPED TEXT. HE SAID

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PRES HUSSEIN WAS PLEASED WITH HIS MEETING WITH AMB RUMSFELD

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Date: JAN 18 1984

IS/FPC/CDR

MR Cases Only: EO Citations

TS authority to ( ) CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C OADR ( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C OADR

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AND WITH THE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE CREATED DURING THE VISIT. HE WAS ESPECIALLY HAPPY WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MESSAGE EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO STOP THE WAR AND CONVEYING THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD RELATIONS WHICH LEFT IT TO IRAQ TO DECIDE TIMING OF A FORMAL RENEWAL. THE IRAQI SIDE WILL ENCOURAGE FURTHER MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

3. AFTER COMMENTING ON A SPECIFIC ISSUE RAISED DURING THE RUMSFELD VISIT, AZIZ SAID THAT IRAQ APPRECIATED US SUPPORT FOR INCREASING IRAQ'S CAPACITY TO EXPORT OIL. WHEN HUSSEIN HEARD OF THE US INTEREST IN A PIPELINE THROUGH JORDAN, THIS PROJECT BEGAN TO RECEIVE SERIOUS ATTENTION. IRAQ WILL NOW CONSULT WITH JORDAN AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE CONTINUED INTEREST OF DHJ  
USG IN THE PROJECT ITSELF AND IN "IDEAS REGARDING ITS SECURITY."

4. AZIZ THEN TURNED TO THE GULF. IRAQ, HE SAID, HAD CONSIDERED THE "AMERICAN IDEA" ABOUT TESTING THE IRANIAN REACTION. THIS WAS NOT YET POSSIBLE BECAUSE EXPORT FACILITIES WERE BADLY DAMAGED AND WATERWAYS WERE BLOCKED BY MINES AND OTHER OBJECTS. THE IRAQI GOVT HAD DECIDED THAT THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE REPAIR AND CLEANING.

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5. IN REPLY I SAID THAT THE US HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO ENLARGE IRAQI OIL EXPORTS THROUGH THE GULF. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IRAQI FACILITIES REBUILT AND LARGE SCALE EXPORTS RESUMED. HOWEVER, I WONDERED WHAT CHANCE THERE WAS THAT IRAN WOULD FORMALLY AGREE TO SUCH AN UNDERTAKING. SOME HAD THOUGHT A BETTER APPROACH MIGHT BE TO TEST THE IRANIS

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STEP BY STEP IN THE HOPE THAT THEIR ACQUIESCENCE WOULD BECOME POLICY EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT.

7. AZIZ REPLIED THAT IRAQ DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS WORTHWHILE TO TRY TOKEN SHIPMENTS THAT WOULD NOT PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT EXPORT VOLUME AND WOULD ALWAYS BE SUBJECT TO IRANIAN INTERDICTION. THEREFORE THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE THAT THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO REPAIR FACILITIES. IF IRAN DOES NOT AGREE, IRAQ'S FRIENDS SHOULD NOT EXPECT IRAQ TO RENOUNCE OTHER MEANS. AFTER UNSC RES 540 IRAQ WAS ASKED TO BE FLEXIBLE. THIS IS WHAT IRAQ IS NOW DOING IN THE HOPE OF GIVING DIPLOMACY A CHANCE.

8. WHEN I REITERATED OUR DESIRE TO AVOID ESCALATION IN THE GULF WHILE HELPING IRAQ INCREASE ITS OIL EXPORTS, TARIQ AZIZ RESTATED THE IRAQI POSITION AND ADDED THAT BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED REITERATING IRAQ'S RIGHT TO USE ALL OF ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES. IF IRAN FAILS TO RESPECT IRAQ'S RIGHT TO USE THE GULF.

9. COMMENT: AZIZ HAS INDICATED THAT IRAQ WILL DELAY ESCALATION IN THE GULF AT LEAST A FEW MORE WEEKS TO GIVE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AN OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE A DEAL IN TEHRAN THAT WILL PERMIT THE IRANIANS TO REBUILD THEIR PETROCHEMICAL AND SUPPORT FACILITIES AT BANDAR KHOMEINI IN EXCHANGE FOR PERMITTING IRAQ TO DO THE SAME WITH ITS OIL EXPORT TERMINALS IN THE GULF. IRAQ WILL BACKUP  
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THIS DIPLOMATIC EFFORT BY WARNING THAT FAILURE TO SATISFY IRAQ'S NEEDS WILL BRING IRAQI ATTACKS ON IRANIAN SHIPPING IN THE GULF. ALTHOUGH THE PROSPECT OF EARLY IRANIAN AGREEMENT TO THE IRAQI [REDACTED] PROPOSAL APPEARS TO BE REMOTE, THE DIPLO-  
MATIC PROCESS IN ITSELF WILL GAIN SOME TIME AND PERMIT IRAN'S INTENTIONS AND POSSIBLE ACQUIESCENCE IN SOME KIND OF A DEAL TO BE EXPLORED.

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10. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING ME TO INFORM THE IRAQIS THAT WE WILL SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL [REDACTED] WE SHOULD ALSO REPLY TO AZIZ'S QUERY FOR US IDEAS RE SECURITY FOR A PIPELINE THROUGH JORDAN.

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11. KUWAIT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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