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FM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
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MODIS **DECAPTIONED**

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PORG, IR, IZ, LE, IF, SY
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MAY 10 MEETING WITH IRAQI FOREIGN
MINISTER TARIQ AZIZ

1. S-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE SECRETARY AND IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER TARIQ AZIZ
MET FOR APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES IN THE SECRETARY'S
SUITE IN PARIS ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 10. ALSO
PRESENT WERE ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES AND THE IRAQI
AMBASSADOR TO PARIS. TARIQ AZIZ INITIATED THE
DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING HIS GRATITUDE TO THE SECRETARY
FOR MEETING WITH HIM ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. HE NOTED
THAT THE SECRETARY WAS WELL REGARDED BY THE IRAQI
GOVERNMENT AND ISSUED AN INVITATION FOR THE SECRETARY
TO VISIT BAGHDAD. TARIQ AZIZ CONTINUED BY THANKING THE
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SECRETARY FOR RECEIVING DR. HAMMADI. HIS

AN: NB30004-0241

Date: 1/4/96

IS, FPC/CDR, MOP

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MR Cases Only
EO Citations
TS authority to
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PREDECESSOR, EARLIER IN THE YEAR, EXPLAINING WHY HE COULD NOT MAKE IT TO WASHINGTON AT THE TIME. HE NOTED HOWEVER THAT HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO VISITING WASHINGTON. THE SECRETARY ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO VISIT BAGHDAD AT SOME FUTURE TIME AND SAID THAT TARIQ AZIZ WOULD BE WELCOME IN WASHINGTON. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED IN ANY EVENT THAT THEY WOULD MEET IN NEW YORK AT THE UNGA IF NOT BEFORE. DURING THE COURSE OF THIS INITIAL DISCUSSION, TARIQ AZIZ EXPRESSED THE DESIRE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND OF PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN PERSONALLY FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE NOTED IN THIS RESPECT THAT HE MET OFTEN WITH MR. EAGLETON IN BAGHDAD FOR THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES

3. AT THE SECRETARY'S INVITATION TARIQ AZIZ DISCUSSED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE CAN BE NO NEGOTIATION WITH THE IRANIANS UNLESS THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY CANNOT CRUSH IRAQ MILITARILY. IN THIS RESPECT THE LAST TWO BATTLES WERE VERY IMPORTANT SINCE THE RESULTS HAVE IN EFFECT BROUGHT MAJOR HOSTILITIES TO AN END. TARIQ AZIZ SAID HE BELIEVES THAT THE IRANIAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP KNOWS THE FACTS OF LIFE BUT HE IS NOT SURE THAT THE MULLAH/POLITICIANS ARE YET READY TO RECOGNIZE REALITY. IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID THAT THE MULLAHS WILL NEED A COVER, A FACE-SAVER, AND IRAQ IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS. HE THEN TURNED TO THE RECENT INITIATIVES BY THE GCC LEADERSHIP WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CALLING FOR A STRONG SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD GIVE THE IRANIANS A FACE-SAVER IN THE SENSE THAT THEY COULD CLAIM THAT THEY WERE "FORCED BY THE SUPER POWERS TO
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STOP FIGHTING". HE NOTED THE NEED FOR "COMPULSORY" PHRASING IN SUCH A RESOLUTION AND CLAIMED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE SOVIETS WHO SAID THEY WERE READY TO GO ALONG THESE LINES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AZIZ NOTED THAT THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO THE UN WAS IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK WHO EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR AN EFFECTIVE UN MOVE TO END THE WAR. AZIZ ASKED THE SECRETARY TO COMMENT ON SUCH A POSSIBILITY. IN REPLY THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAD CONSISTENTLY FAVORED AN END TO THE WAY WE CONSIDERED IT

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DEBILITATING FOR BOTH COUNTRIES, DANGEROUS TO THE OTHERS IN THE AREA. IN ADDITION, WE ARE NOW EXPERIENCING AN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER BECAUSE OF THE HOSTILITIES. THEREFORE, FOR HUMANITARIAN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS IT WAS LONG PAST TIME TO STOP THIS WAR. THE SECRETARY MENTIONED OUR POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IN THE CONFLICT IN THE SENSE OF OUR NOT PROVIDING ARMS TO EITHER SIDE. NEVERTHELESS, AS AZIZ KNOWS, WE HAD BEEN HELPFUL TO IRAQ IN VARIOUS WAYS. THE SECRETARY CONCLUDED WITH THE THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS AT THIS POINT A NEW INITIATIVE MIGHT SUCCEED AND WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK.

4. TARIQ AZIZ SHIFTED THE UN FOCUS BY NOTING THAT IRAQ HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY THE IRANIAN UN PERMANENT REP CONCERNING THE DESIRABILITY OF A UN SPECIAL COMMISSION TO VISIT THE CITY OF DEZFUL AND OTHER CIVILIAN AREAS IN IRAN AND IRAQ THAT HAD BEEN HIT BY THE FIGHTING. PRESUMABLY THIS COMMISSION WOULD THEN REPORT BACK TO THE UN. AZIZ SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS COULD BE AN IRANIAN PROPAGANDA PLOY BUT IT ALSO MIGHT HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF TEHRAN ACCEPTING A UN ROLE TO STOP THE WAR. HE SAID HE HAD ASKED THE IRAQI PERM REP IN NEW YORK TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH

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AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A U.S. EVALUATION. IRAQ WOULD BE WILLING KTO RUN THE PROPAGANDA RISKS OF SUCH A VENTURE IF THERE WAS ANY CHANGE THAT THIS COULD ACTUALLY BE A STEP ALONG KTHE RIGHT PATH. THE SECRETARY PROMISED TO INFORM AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK IMMEDIATELY OF THIS DISCUSSION TO REQUEST A REPORT ON HER DISCUSSION WITH HER IRAQI COLLEAGUE UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

5. TARIQ AZIZ THEN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF LEBANON AND THE SECRETARY'S RECENT ODYSSEY IN THE AREA. HE THANKED THE SECRETARY FOR THE LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED AFTER THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON. HE SAID THAT WE MIGHT DISAGREE ON CERTAIN DETAILS WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON BUT HE WOULD NOT DWELL ON THEM. AZIZ THEN SAID HE WANTED THE SECRETARY TO

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KNOW THAT IRAQ IS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM LEBANON. HE NOTED THAT THE IRAQI POSITION IS NOT RELATED TO CURRENT RIVALRIES WITH SYRIA BUT REFLECTS OFFICIAL BAAATH PARTY POLICY CONCERNING THE INADMISSABILITY OF THE USE OF FORCE BY ONE ARAB COUNTRY AGAINST ANOTHER. THEREFORE IRAQ SUPPORTS THE POSITION THAT SYRIAN AND PLO FORCES MUST WITHDRAW.

6. AZIZ THEN NOTED THAT IRAQ HAD NEVER BEEN IN FAVOR OF ENCOURAGING THE ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON BECAUSE IRAQ WAS CERTAIN THAT OVER TIME IT WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD TO THE PALESTINIANS. HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS WITH REMOVING THE PALESTINIAN FORCES AND NOTED THAT THIS AGAIN POINTS UP THE NECESSITY OF A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. IN ANSWER TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, AZIZ SAID THAT IRAQ WOULD BE SECRET.

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WILLING TO TAKE SOME OF THE PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS BUT THAT NO ARAB COUNTRY WOULD TAKE THEM ALL.

7. AZIZ THEN TURNED IN A SOMEWHAT ELLIPTICAL MANNER TO THE PEACE PROCESS POINTING OUT THAT THE AREA HAD SUFFERED TOO MUCH DESTRUCTION AND INSTABILITY THROUGH REPEATED WARS. IRAQ BELIEVES THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR A CHANGE OF DIRECTION. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT IRAQ WOULD NOT ADVOCATE PEACE AT ANY PRICE, IMPLYING THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINE PROBLEM, BUT THE FOCUS WAS ON THE NEED FOR PEACE.

8. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR TARIQ AZIZ'S PRESENTATION ON LEBANON AND THE PEACE PROCESS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IF AZIZ WOULD STATE PUBLICLY THAT IRAQ SUPPORTS THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN AND PLO FORCES FROM LEBANON. AZIZ SAID HE AND OTHER IRAQI SPOKESMEN HAD ALREADY MADE SUCH STATEMENTS. AZIZ GAVE THE SECRETARY PERMISSION TO TELL THE PRESS AFTER THE MEETING THAT HE WAS TOLD THAT IRAQ'S POSITION IS THAT THE PLO AND SYRIA SHOULD WITHDRAW. SHULTZ

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