



Department of State

TELEGRAM

EXCISE

SECRET

AN: DB40142-0829

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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EXDIS **DECAPTIONED**

E.O. 12356 DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PARM, PREL, US, IZ  
SUBJECT: U.S. CHEMICAL SHIPMENT TO IRAQ

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ACTION REQUESTED PARAS 4-5.

3. MARCH 2 THAT A U.S. FIRM WAS PREPARING TO EXPORT 22,000 POUNDS RPT POUNDS OF PHOSPHOROUS FLOURIDE TO IRAQ. DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED MARCH 3 THAT SHIPMENT WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE BY AIR FROM JFK AIRPORT TO IRAQ VIA EUROPE AND THAT THE CUSTOMER IN IRAQ WAS PURCHASING THE CHEMICAL FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF INSECTICIDES. DEPARTMENT OFFICER ADVISED THE SHIPPING AGENT OF OUR CONCERN OVER IRAQ'S POSSIBLE INTENTION TO  
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USE THE CHEMICAL IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

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IS/FPC/CDR *OK* Date: 9/18/96

MR Cases Only: \_\_\_\_\_  
EO Citations: \_\_\_\_\_

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FOIA Exemptions B1 B7D E  
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( ) DECLASSIFY  
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B1  
B7D E

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HE ASKED THE FIRM TO HOLD UP THE SHIPMENT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE SHIPPING AGENT AGREED TO DO SO, AND DEPARTMENT OFFICER AGREED TO GET BACK TO THE SHIPPER ON MONDAY, MARCH 5 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

4. MEANWHILE THE ISSUE OF IRAQI USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAS BEEN RECEIVING GREATER MEDIA ATTENTION IN THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE PREPARING PRESS GUIDANCE THAT WILL FORCEFULLY CONDEMN IRAQ FOR ITS USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THE GUIDANCE WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO YOU WHEN IT IS IN FINAL FORM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE THE MFA THAT, AS WE HAD WARNED IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, AND EARLY FEBRUARY IN BAGHDAD, THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS ISSUE IS OF GRAVE CONCERN TO US, AND WE ANTICIPATE MAKING A PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF IRAQI USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AS YOU REVIEW OUR SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE WITH THE IRAQIS, PLEASE EXPLICITLY LIST THE DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN NEA DAS PLACKE AND IRAQI CHIEF HANDOUN OF FEBRUARY 22 (REFTEL), WHICH WE SUSPECT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FULLY REPORTED TO THE MFA. ALSO, YOU SHOULD ADVISE THE MFA THAT WE HAVE HELD UP A SHIPMENT OF CHEMICALS CONSIGNED TO IRAQ OSTENSIBLY FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PESTICIDES. THIS SAME CHEMICAL IS ALSO A COMPONENT OF LETHAL GASES FOUND IN CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THE U.S. WILL NOT ALLOW ITSELF KNOWINGLY TO BECOME A SOURCE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ELEMENTS. THEREFORE, WE SEEK CLARIFICATION AND ASSURANCE BY THE GOI REGARDING THE PURPOSE AND PRECISE USE OF THIS CHEMICAL, E.G. DETAILS OF TIMING, POINT OF INTENDED MANUFACTURE INTO FINISHED PRODUCT, CHEMICAL DESCRIPTION OF FINISHED PRODUCT, AND INTENDED USE.

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6. BEYOND REITERATING OUR URGENT REQUEST THAT IRAQ NOT MAKE PROHIBITED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, YOU SHOULD INFORM THE IRAQIS THAT WE ARE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO IRAQ'S ATTEMPTING TO ACQUIRE THE RAW MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, OR EXPERTISE TO MANUFACTURE CHEMICAL WEAPONS FROM THE UNITED STATES. WHEN WE BECOME AWARE OF ATTEMPTS TO DO SO, WE WILL ACT TO PREVENT THEIR EXPORT TO IRAQ. SHULTZ

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