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FM FCO 221844Z OCT 81  
TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL CANCUN  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 64 OF 22 OCTOBER  
AND TO IMMEDIATE PARIS, ROME, HAGUE.  
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, ATHENS.  
INFO ROUTINE OTHER EC POSTS, UKMIS NEW YORK.

FOLLOWING FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY  
SINAI PEACE-KEEPING FORCE (MFO)

1. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR CONTRIBUTORS (INCLUDING THE DUTCH) MET THIS AFTERNOON IN LONDON AND HAVE AGREED, AD REFERENDUM, THE TEXTS OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE FOUR CONTRIBUTORS: A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE TEN : AND A PASSAGE FOR INCLUSION IN THE INDIVIDUALLY DRAFTED LETTERS FROM THE FOUR CONTRIBUTORS TO MR HAIG, MR SHARON AND MR KAMAL HASSAN ALI. TEXTS IN MIFT.

2. WE HAVE OBTAINED ALL THE POINTS OF SUBSTANCE IN THE MAIN STATEMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE IN THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS RELATING TO RECOGNITION OR WELCOME BY EGYPT, ISRAEL AND THE US RESPECTIVELY. THE FRENCH, SUPPORTED BY THE ITALIANS, ARGUED ARGUED STRONGLY AND CONVINCINGLY THAT THERE WOULD BE MERIT IN THE STATEMENT SETTING OUT AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN POSITION TO INCLUDE RECOGNITION OR WELCOME BY OTHERS WOULD MAKE IT LOOK AS THOUGH WE REQUIRE SOME LICENCE OR AUTHORITY. THIS POINT OBVIOUSLY CONNECTS WITH THE DRAFT PASSAGE FOR THE LETTER TO MR HAIG AND THE OTHERS AND THE AMENDMENTS TO THAT ARE CONSEQUENTIAL UPON THE CHANGES IN THE MAIN STATEMENT. HOWEVER, WE ARE LEFT WITH A SQUARE BRACKET IN THIS. THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP WAS THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO STOP SHORT OF THE SQUARE BRACKET, AGAIN BECAUSE TO INCLUDE IT WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO SEEKING AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS. GRAHAM RESERVED YOUR POSITION ON THIS, BUT RECOMMENDS THAT YOU SHOULD AGREE TO DROPPING IT. IN RETURN, THE OTHERS AGREED TO THE NEW LAST SENTENCE, ASKING FOR EARLY CONFIRMATION, WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR POSITION, BY ALL THREE REQUESTING GOVERNMENTS.

3. WE DISCUSSED TIMING. IF MINISTERS AGREE THE TEXTS IN THE COURSE OF TOMORROW WE CAN EITHER DISTRIBUTE THEM AT THE END OF THE MIDDLE EAST WORKING GROUP OR BY COREU. IN SO DOING WE WOULD SAY THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY COMMENT WE WOULD PROCEED TO THE DESPATCH OF THE APPROPRIATE LETTERS TO MESSRS HAIG AND CO. ON TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE THOUGHT THAT M. CHEYSSON WOULD WISH TO PUBLISH THE STATEMENT AT THAT TIME, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD OTHERWISE LEAK. GRAHAM STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND THE DISCOURTESY OF PUBLISHING BEFORE RECIPIENTS COULD HAVE RECEIVED OR CONSIDERED THE TEXTS. THE EARLIEST WE COULD EXPECT REPLIES WOULD BE FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER, WHICH WOULD NOT BE IDEAL IF THE STATEMENT IS TO BE MADE IN PARLIAMENT, WHILE TO WAIT UNTIL MONDAY, 2 NOVEMBER, WOULD BE DIFFICULT, GIVEN THE WEIGHT LEAKS ALREADY, BUT PERHAPS INEVITABLE, THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH M. CHEYSSON EITHER IN MEXICO OR AT LUXEMBOURG, WHERE THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY NEXT MONDAY FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES TO MAKE ANY OTHER POINTS THAT THEY MAY HAVE. THE MINISTER OF STATE THINKS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE A REAL POINT. IF WE COULD OBTAIN CLEARANCE BY MONDAY 26 OCT, WE COULD ASK FOR IMMEDIATE ORAL REPLIES WITH CONFIRMATION TO FOLLOW IN WRITING. THIS MIGHT PERMIT PUBLICATION ON 27 OR 28 OCT.

4. THE OTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE STATEMENT ARE FOR THE MOST PART SELF EXPLANATORY OR MATTERS OF DRAFTING. THE ONE POINT OF SUBSTANCE IS IN THE FIRST SENTENCE, WHERE THE DUTCH WISHED TO REFER TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES AND TO DELETE QUOTE IN PRINCIPLE UNQUOTE AND WHERE WE SUGGESTED THE INCLUSION OF QUOTE AND LEGAL UNQUOTE IN ORDER TO COVER THE NEED FOR A STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT.

5. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE POSITION OF THE NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT WHICH MIGHT, WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THESE EXPLICIT TEXTS, FIND DIFFICULTY. TO MEET THIS POINT IN PART, WE AGREED TO DELETE A SENTENCE FROM THE FRENCH DRAFT FOR THE STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY THE TEN (AINSI QUE LES VUES QU'LS ONT EXPRIMES A CETTE OCCASION) SO THAT THE TEXT SUBMITTED EXPRESSES MERELY APPROVAL OF THE DECISION OF THE FOUR GOVERNMENTS TO PARTICIPATE. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE ATHENS'S URGENT COMMENTS ON THIS ASPECT WITHOUT AT THIS STAGE CONSULTING THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

6. FINALLY, WE AGREED THAT SINCE THESE TEXTS NOW ONLY CALL FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM THE US AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS THERE WAS NO NEED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH THE AMERICANS IN ADVANCE OF DELIVERY. AT THE MOMENT VELIOTES IS STANDING BY TO TRAVEL TO LONDON IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. THIS WOULD STILL BE USEFUL, ESPECIALLY IF THE LETTER HAD BY THAT TIME BEEN DELIVERED AS ENVISAGED ABOVE.

7. GRAHAM THOUGHT IT ADVISEABLE TO INDICATE TO THE OTHER CONTRIBUTORS THAT JUST AS WE HAD TAKEN A NATIONAL DECISION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORCE SO WE WOULD HAVE TO RESERVE TO OURSELVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW OR ALTER OUR CONTRIBUTION IN THE LIGHT OF NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND INTERESTS. HE SAID THAT MINISTERS MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE THAT CLEAR IN PARLIAMENT. THE OTHER THREE CONTRIBUTORS AGREED THAT THAT WOULD BE THE POSITION OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS.

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