

DECLASSIFIED

From: LEGALADV - Only
Sent: 18 March 2003 03:36
To:

Subject: FW: INFO: OO NYMIS/FCOLN 465: IRAQ: RESOLUTION: STATEMENT

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DTGM: 180300Z MAR
Message To: FCOLN
MessageFrom: NYMIS

From: LEGADV
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2003 3:36:03 AM
To: LEGALADV - Only
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Auto forwarded by a Rule

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MDDPAN 0228 ZILNAN 4711
RESTRICTED
OO FCOLN
FM NYMIS TO FCOLN
180300Z MAR
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FM UKMIS NEW YORK
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 465
OF 180300Z MARCH 03
INFO IMMEDIATE ANKARA, CABINET OFFICE, CANBERRA
INFO IMMEDIATE EU ENLARGEMENT POSTS, EU POSTS, GULF POSTS
INFO IMMEDIATE KUALA LUMPUR, MIDDLE EAST POSTS, MODUK, NEW DELHI
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INFO IMMEDIATE SEOUL, TOKYO, UKDEL NATO BRUSSELS, UKMIS VIENNA
INFO IMMEDIATE

MIPT

SUBJECT: IRAQ: RESOLUTION: STATEMENT

1. The statement that I delivered on 17 March, making clear that the co-sponsors would not be pursuing a vote on the Iraq resolution, follows:

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As you know, we have worked very hard in the last few days in a final effort to seek a Council consensus on Iraq. In an effort to reunite the Council, the United Kingdom proposed last week an ultimatum which would challenge Iraq to take a strategic decision to disarm.

There were three key elements to the compromise we proposed:

tough but realisable tests, including an unequivocal commitment to disarmament by Saddam Hussein;

a realistic but tight timetable for completion of those tests given the urgent need for Iraq to comply after 12 years of prevarication;

and, third, an understanding that if Iraq failed the tests, serious consequences would ensue as set out in resolution 1441.

Having held further discussions with Council members over the weekend and in the last few hours, we have had to conclude that Council consensus will not be possible in line with Resolution 1441. One country in particular has underlined its intention to veto any ultimatum "no matter what the circumstances". That country rejected our proposed compromise before even the Iraqi government itself and has put forward suggestions that would row back on the unanimous agreement of the Council in 1441 - those suggestions would amount to no ultimatum/no pressure/and no disarmament;

Given this situation, we have agreed that we will not pursue a vote on the draft UK/US/Spanish resolution in blue;

The communiques and press statements that issued at the Azores summit explain the position of our governments on the way forward. The co-sponsors reserve their right to take their own steps to secure the disarmament of Iraq.

ENDS

GREENSTOCK

YYYY

MAIN 13

IRAQ/KUWAIT

13

MENAD

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RESIDENT CLERK

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CONSULAR D.

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EMERGENCY UNIT

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PROTOCOL D//PALACE

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ADDITIONAL 1

IRAQ/KUWAIT

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(IRA)

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ATT GEN//C ADAMS

1

BANKE

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