

To: OTTAX - eTelegrams
From: COMCEN Gateway 1a
Subject: I:OO:REST:IRAQ: PROSPECTS FOR THE ARAB SUMMIT:CAIRO/FCOLN
Sent: 27 February 2003 07:10:49 GMT

SUBJECT: IRAQ: PROSPECTS FOR THE ARAB SUMMIT

SUMMARY

1. Exile for Saddam will be an issue for the margins.

DETAIL

6. There is unlikely to be much public talk of Saddam going into exile, especially after his Dan Rather interview yesterday. But even those, [REDACT], who don't believe Saddam would ever go voluntarily, are happy to allow the idea to gain steam as it would show once more that he had rejected Arab pleas to avert the war. [REDACT] There will be behind the scenes pressure on the Iraqi delegation to realise that the price of peace is Saddam's departure - dead or alive.

SAWERS

To: OTTAX - eTelegrams
From: COMCEN Gateway 1a
Subject: I:OO:REST:IRAQ: ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT:CAIRO/FCOLN
Sent: 02 March 2003 13:31:29 GMT

SUBJECT: IRAQ: ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT

SUMMARY

1. Summit over, sighs of relief all round. Unhelpful communique, but the media more interested in the Qadhafi/CPA skirmish and Sheikh Zayed's (written) proposal that Saddam should step down. The decision to send an Arab delegation to P5 capitals, and then Baghdad, may become an unwelcome complication.

DETAIL

- a written suggestion from the UAE that Saddam should be given amnesty and step down. [REDACT]

COMMENT

10. Sheikh Zayed's written proposal on Saddam stepping down may be the one useful result from the Summit: the proposal is now aired, and has a top level sponsor, so it can now be discussed more [REDACT]

SAWERS

FCO TELNO 25 TO AMMAN

SUBJECT: IRAQ: ARAB LEAGUE: LOBBYING INSTRUCTIONS

SUMMARY

1. Instructions carried out, though after UAE delegation had departed for Sharm el Sheikh. UAE proposal to the summit for Saddam to go into exile dismissed.

DETAIL

3. AFP reported on Friday that the UAE delegation would submit a proposal to peacefully resolve the Iraq crisis at the summit. This proposal, closely held in advance of the summit (the MFA were unaware when asked), turned out to be a proposal from President Sheikh Zayed that Saddam and the Iraqi leadership go into exile in exchange for legally binding guarantees of immunity from prosecution. [REDACT]

COMMENT

[REDACT]

MCKENZIE

To: [REDACT]
From: [REDACT]
Subject: TEL: COREU; COMEP ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT
Sent: 04 March 2003 06:36:35 GMT

SUBJECT: COMEP: ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT

TEXT

THE SUGGESTION THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN SHOULD STEP DOWN WAS ALSO HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, RANGING FROM SECURITY TO THE ETHICAL QUESTION OF FORCED REGIME CHANGE, WHICH WOULD SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT IN THE REGION AND SEEMS TO BE IN CONTRADICTION WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. ONE LEADER ALSO SAID IT WAS A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS FOR ARAB LEADERS TO ASK SADDAM TO STEP DOWN AND TO IMPOSE A DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ, SINCE MANY OF THEIR OWN COUNTRIES WERE NOT DEMOCRACIES. HOWEVER, THIS PROPOSAL SEEMS TO REMAIN ON THE TABLE, AND, IN PARTICULAR, IS SUPPORTED BY THE GULF COUNTRIES.

DURING THESE MEETINGS, THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A TOP-LEVEL ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO A NUMBER OF CAPITALS, INCLUDING BAGHDAD, WAS DISCUSSED. THE DELEGATION WOULD BE AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL (HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT). THE MESSAGE TO IRAQ WOULD STRESS THE URGENCY OF FULL COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND INDISPUTABLE SIGNS OF COMPLIANCE. WHILE THE IDEA OF ASKING SADDAM HUSSEIN TO STEP DOWN WAS NOT GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED, THERE WAS BROAD CONSENSUS IN FAVOUR OF SENDING A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT HE MUST DISARM FULLY AND IMMEDIATELY. ALL COUNTRIES WELCOMED EU SUPPORT FOR THIS INITIATIVE. SOME LEADERS SUGGESTED THAT THE EU SHOULD PARTICIPATE EITHER WITH OR IN PARALLEL TO THIS INITIATIVE.

END OF TEXT