

found it astonishing that Mitterrand, who had fought for the sentence in the Rome Conclusions providing the Presidency with a mandate for contact with the Iraqis, was now seeking to launch a separate French initiative.

4. Poos had seen the Algerian Foreign Minister, Gozali, in Luxembourg on 8 January. The Algerians were playing things straight and, in Poos' view, were a good intermediary. Gozali had spoken to Tariq Aziz late on 8 January and the latter had indicated that the Iraqis were still interested in meeting ~~with~~ the Troika. Tariq Aziz said he would have to refer back to Baghdad before giving a definitive response. Poos had the impression that that response might come late today, 9 January, and that Algiers might be an acceptable venue to the Iraqis.

5. Poos readily agreed with the Secretary of State that the message from the Troika to the Iraqis should be exactly that which Baker was giving to Tariq Aziz in Geneva.

6. Poos added that Van den Broek had told him that if the French ~~came out with their own~~ ^{initiative} initiative late on 9 January he, Van den Broek, would reconsider his position in the Troika. The Secretary of State said he was sympathetic. Either the Troika operated on behalf of the Twelve or, if one country was taking individual action, that option should be open to all.

7. For THE HAGUE. At the Secretary of State's request I have briefed Van den Broek's Private Secretary on this telephone call and the one with Baker.

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LIMITED

IRAQ/KUWAIT SECRET

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DESKBY

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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM FCO

TO DESKBY 091200Z LUXEMBOURG

TELNO

OF

INFO DESKBY 091200Z CAIRO (FOR SIR CHARLES POWELL)

INFO DESKBY 091200Z UKMIS GENEVA

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKMIS NEW YORK, RIYADH

INFO IMMEDIATE BAGHDAD, THE HAGUE, ROME

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

GULF: SECRETARY OF STATE'S CONVERSATION WITH THE LUXEMBOURG
FOREIGN MINISTER

1. Immediately after his telephone conversation with Baker (see separate telegram to UKMIS Geneva), the Secretary of State telephoned Poos (the Luxembourg Foreign Minister).
2. The Secretary of State told Poos that if the Baker/Tariq Aziz meeting in Geneva today was unsuccessful, then he would have no difficulty if Poos were to say publicly that the EC Troika invitation remained on the table and that the meeting could take place somewhere other than Luxembourg. It should not/not be in Baghdad and the Secretary of State still had reservations about Paris but not about other venues, such as Algiers.
3. Poos said that he had spent a sleepless night. The Secretary of State had just hold him what he wanted to hear. He

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