

PRUNIAUX Andre

From:

Sent: To:

FERNANDEZ Lucien mardi, 25. mai 1999 10:18 PRUNIAUX Andre POITEVIN Alexis

Cc:

Subject:

VISIT OF THE MOT IN UMM QA\$R

Andre.

Spoke with John Almstrom, as soon as I got the news by telephone; they were in an emergency meeting I called. Their feeling is that this is plain posturing in the context of the negotiation of Phase VI, endorsed by Iraq, although unanimously endorsed by all members of the Security Council.

Their advice as far as we are concerned is to play low key for the moment and keep receiting accounts of what may be said or written in this regard. At their end, they will formally wife to the line Mission asking whether the above mentioned visit implies that the Iraqi Authorities are wither wines their support and cooperation for the authentication. I reminded them that they still had an official carron their support and mission pending, regarding the claims and their settlement (discussed when we will be a line of the last time). John Almstrom said that the official letter had been held up by the legal team, and the processor of the last time). (recently received) rendered the text unusable. They are now awaiting the Jeremy Owen, presently on leave.

Umm Qasr has been badly shaken by the show of force made by the More 20. Theavily armed guards pointing their artillery at you surely make an impression!) and they are not going to authenticate any shipment for the time being unless so instructed and authorities, which I had to endorse until something official comes out of OIP.

Since week-end emergencies are the rule rather than exceptions, land to be reachable at any time (it was past 22:00 hrs when I got the call, but was out of home), and fortunate I was in Iraq when the smuggling and misbehaving was discovered, which required immediate at land to be taken, failing what the whole contract could have been in jeopardy. In view of the above sould you lease approve a cellular phone for me in order to be available 24 hrs a day and 7 days a week within the peed arises, and it seems that it is not going to get any better in the near future. Thank you for issuits the relevant instructions to administration at your earliest

Thanks and best regards, Lucien





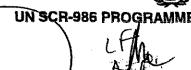






Umm Qaşr

FLASH



Jmm Qasr, May 24, 1999, 20:40 H

At 20:20 Hr, a motorcade stopped in front of the camp. His Excellency the Minister of Trade, Mr. Mohammed Mahdi Saleh, stepped out of his Mercedes and, surrounded by an impressive security cordon, called the invitation to enter the camp.

His Excellency enquired whether we had any problem to the port. Upon our negative answer, he replied that he had one with us Trip message he sent was unequivocal and clear.

Trade Authorities and Grain Board will as from the will as on any vessel before completion of analyses, in Ragindad, on quality as well as on conformity of the cargo with contract specifications.

The Ministry of Trade will, the as the ase may be, authorise the discharge.

In case of discrepancy on quality or on contract specifications, we are not allowed any more to authenticate, nor to pay the supplier.

We explained to be Excellency that we are not the paying authority. His Excellency plied in any case, we are not authorised to send any document has ould entail payment to the supplier.

The Ha Master was present, but had to remain silent.

we wisider the situation as serious.

de Hennin

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