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SUMMARY NOTES ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN  
MINISTER OF THE NETHERLANDS.

HELD IN AMSTERDAM AIRPORT ON 14 JUNE 1987 AT 9.45 HOURS

PRESENT:

The Secretary-General  
Mr. Picco

Foreign Minister of Netherlands  
One Aide

"The Foreign Minister referred to the Iran/Iraq war and to the ongoing discussions both among members of the Eastern and among Western countries on the question of free navigation in the Gulf. He had had a long conversation with Secretary-of-State Shultz to whom he had expressed the Netherlands's readiness to provide naval assistance, should it be necessary, in the Gulf. If matters were to deteriorate in this region, the Netherlands felt that only a UN action should be pursued so as to avoid transforming the Gulf into an arena for East/West confrontation. While he was not underestimating the difficulties of a UN approach, the advantages were also evident. He repeated that in case of emergency, the Secretary-General could count on the co-operation of the Netherlands."

"The Secretary-General said that indeed such an operation would be a very complex one both from a logistic and a financial point of view. As of now, he did not believe that the text being prepared by the 5 permanent members had any reference to a UN peace-keeping operation."

"The Foreign Minister said that he was aware of this and furthermore, should Iran comply with the Security Council's call, free navigation of the Gulf would be much easier, but should instead tension increase then he would hope that the matter would not be dealt with, unilaterally or bilaterally. He had said so much to Secretary Shultz, noting that a UN presence even with the Soviet component in it would have the advantage of de-emphasizing the East/West dimension."

"The Secretary-General said that he hoped that the work of the Security Council would proceed speedily and was confident that the Chinese would eventually agree to a common text. The Chinese Government still wished the Secretary-General to be given some time to try a new mediation effort and would like to act jointly with the other members of the Council only if the Secretary-General's efforts were to fail."

"The Foreign Minister said that the Netherlands had been supportive of the Secretary-General's moves in general and even if the draft resolution now being discussed was not implemented, the Council could still meet again and take it from there. He wondered whether Iran was still insisting on the toppling of Sadham Hussein."

"The Secretary-General answered that in his meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Al Islam, the Iranian official had not referred to this matter. However, he would not attribute any particular meaning to this lack of reference. The Secretary-General then asked the Foreign Minister what had been the reaction of Secretary Shultz in the discussion with him."

"The Foreign Minister replied that Secretary Shultz had indicated that he was hopeful and had listened attentively to the Dutch position that a UN presence could even help the US domestically. He then recalled that he was leaving for Israel the following day."

"The Secretary-General then touched upon the decision of the International Conference on the Middle East and referred to his ongoing consultations with the 15 members of the Council and with the parties concerned. All three questions had been raised, viz. how they viewed the agenda for a plenary session of the Conference; what would be the relationship between the plenary session and the bilateral talks; and what would be the participation."

"The Foreign Minister said that his Government realized that the International Conference as called for by the General Assembly resolution did present some difficulties. Furthermore, it was hard to establish the position of the PLO after the PNC meeting. At the same time he was fully aware that unless a negotiating process was started in 1987, it would mean a further delay at least until 1989. The advantage of an International Conference was that it would involve the USSR without which no lasting peace in the Middle East was possible. The Palestinians and the Israelis had to make up their minds."

Shifting to the question of arms' control, the Foreign Minister said that in the recently concluded NATO meeting optimism had been shown with regard to a possible arms-control agreement. The Dutch Government had received the official visit of the GDR leadership only a few weeks earlier and the discussion had been very open. While his Government remained sceptical about the proposals on reduction of conventional arms, he hoped that agreements on nuclear-arms reduction would facilitate the tackling of the question of conventional arms.

He also recalled his meeting with Mr. Gorbachev in November 1986 and referred to the Soviet leader's open admission of the difficulties that his economic reforms were having inside the country.

As the Secretary-General was planning to go to Moscow, the Foreign Minister raised the question of Afghanistan."

"The Secretary-General said that the UN efforts had been quite successful so far but that everything was now linked to the success or the failure of the process of national reconciliation. He was envisaging another trip to the area by Mr. Cordovez so as to prepare a meeting in Geneva which could hopefully be the conclusive one. On the question of national reconciliation a lot of publicity had been given to the former King of Afghanistan. He felt that everybody was in reality very careful about making any move, but that different options appeared to be considered.

In reply to a question by the Foreign Minister, the Secretary-General outlined his recent discussion in China on the question of Kampuchea and touched upon his four-point proposal put forward recently by Mr. Ahmed to the Vietnamese. As for the recent decision of Prince Sihanouk to withdraw from the public scene for one year, China was apparently trying to convince him to return on his decision and so were the Asean countries. Such a move would definitely affect the position of Democratic Kampuchea in the UN in the next General Assembly. He had also asked China to solicit the intervention of Kim Il Sung with Prince Sihanouk."

"The Foreign Minister then referred to Cyprus and realized the difficulties in which the Secretary-General found himself in light of Turko/Greek relations. He mentioned, however, that Mr. Papandreu was in correspondence with Prime Minister Ozal though on very general issues. Nevertheless, this contact had been very useful at the moment of the Aegean crisis a few weeks ago. As for Cyprus, it was evident that time was cristallizing the division of the island."

"The Secretary-General commented that indeed the Greek Cypriots should show some more flexibility and the Turkish Cypriots some more understanding."

"The Foreign Minister then asked the Secretary-General to consider a Dutch national for the number-three position in UNFPA. At the same time he added that he was aware of the Secretary-General's efforts to trim 25% of the high-level positions from the Secretariat. Should the Secretary-General judge that UNFPA was not warranting a further cut at high level, then the Dutch Government would propose a Dutch candidate to the Secretary-General for that position. In any case, The Hague would respect the Secretary-General's decision."

"The Secretary-General said he would consider the matter carefully and said he had not yet decided whether he would keep that post or abolish it. Should the post be kept, the Dutch candidate would be seriously considered.

23.6.1987