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TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~ 151

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03377 01 OF 02 261225Z

15  
ACTION SS-25

INFO UCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

020537

073 MAR 23 AM 8.43

R 261120Z MAR 73  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1248  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 4 OF 2 BEIRUT 3377

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FROM GRIFFIN: ABU DHABI

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO AND AMEMBASSY MANAMA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TC, XF  
SUBJ: CALL ON UAE PRESIDENT SHAYKH ZAYID

REF: A. ABU DHABI 366; B. STATE 47847; C. STATE 32219; D. KUWAIT 565

PART I OF 2 PART MSG. OH

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: (A) HAD LONG MEETING MAR 20 WITH SHAYKH ZAYID DEVOTED MAINLY TO TERRORISM ISSUE. CHARGE'S PRESENTATION FOLLOWED CLOSELY THAT MADE SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER TO FM SUWAIDI, WITH EMPHASIS PLACED ON:

- (1) INDISPUTABLE CONNECTION BETWEEN BSO AND FATAH, AND
- (2) IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES, WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONS, TO SEEING EVIDENCE OF STEPS ARAB

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

NLN 09-13/15 per sec 3.3(b)(1)(v) Pr. 1122/2010  
By AM NARA, Date 11/15/2010

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03377 01 OF 02 261225Z

STATES TAKING TO DENY ASSISTANCE TO TERRORIST GROUPS. THRUST OF ZAYID'S REPLY WAS PALESTINIAN TERRORISM CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM FRUSTRATION FELT THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD OVER IRRESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT. AS SOLUTION TO PALESTINIAN DISUNITY, WHICH HE FEELS IS CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO BREEDING EXTREMISM, ZAYID PROPOSED USG FORCE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT UNIFY RANKS OR BE DEALT OUT OF

SETTLEMENT TERMS. IN GENERAL, I CONSIDER ZAYID'S RESPONSE THIS ISSUE DISAPPOINTING.

(B) ACKNOWLEDGING NEED FOR PENINSULAR-WIDE APPROACH TO COMBAT LEFTIST SUBVERSIVE THREATS, UAE PRESIDENT STATED HIS READINESS INCREASE AID TO OMAN, BUT OBJECTS TO SULTAN'S INSISTANCE ON CASH PAYMENTS. [REDACTED]

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PER SEC 3.3(b)(6)

[REDACTED] ZAYID WELCOMES ALL MANNER OF AREA AND WESTERN MILITARY HELP FOR OMANI ARMY, BUT WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF DABUSI DECISION INTRODUCING IRANIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL INTO COUNTRY. THIS MOVE HE STRESSED, DISAPPROVED BY ALL ARAB STATES, EVEN SAUDIS. END SUMMARY.

2. LONG POSTPONED MEETING WITH SHAYKH ZAYID FINALLY TOOK PLACE MAR 20. HAD ORIGINALLY REQUESTED APPOINTMENT LATE FEB. MEETING NEVER TOOK PLACE BECAUSE ZAYID DECIDED SUDDENLY REMOVE HIMSELF FOR SEVERAL WEEKS TO DUBAI BOTH TO ESCAPE FROM TURMOIL AND FRUSTRATIONS OF ABU DHABI AND TO REFURBISH HIS POLITICAL IMAGE BY VISITING SHAYKHS AND ISOLATED COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN EMIRATES. FROM ALL ACCOUNTS ZAYID'S EFFORTS MAKE HIMSELF MORE VISIBLE POLITICALLY AND TO DEMONSTRATE HIS INTEREST IN CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS OF POORER EMIRATES WAS SUCCESSFUL. NET RESULT OF PRESIDENT'S LONG ABSENCE COUPLED WITH HIS SLIGHT ILLNESS WAS UNABLE SEE HIM UNTIL HE RETURNED ABU DHABI.

3. CALLED ON SHAYKH ZAYID EVENING MAR 20 FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSION LASTING 90 MINUTES. PRESIDENT CHARMING, CONSIDERATE AND PATIENT AS EVER, BUT WAS MORE VISIBLY TIRED THAN I HAVE SEEN HIM ON PREVIOUS CALLS. FOLLOWING OUR MEETING, HE WAS RECEIVING YEMENI PM HAJARI FOR MAIN SUBSTANTIVE SESSION. STRAIN OF CONSTANT VISITORS AND HEAVY OFFICIAL WORKLOAD WHILE HE IN ABU DHABI TAKES TOLL

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03377 01 OF 02 261225Z

ON ZAYID AND IS MAIN REASON HE SEEKS FREQUENT ESCAPES TO AL 'AIN AND DESERT.

4. OPEN CONVERSATION BY INFORMING ZAYID THAT ON QUESTION OF TERRORISM I ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS. THERE ALSO NUMBER OTHER MATTERS OF CURRENT INTEREST WHICH DEPT AND AMB STULTZFUS WISHED ME TAKE UP WITH HIM PRIOR TO MY GOING ON LEAVE.

5. RE KHARTOUM AND PALESTINIAN TERRORISM, I WENT OVER WITH PRESIDENT ALL POINTS COVERED IN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH FM SUWAIDI (REF A), ON WHICH HE HAS BEEN BRIEFED. EMPHASIZED THAT I UNDER INSTRUCTIONS INFORM HIM USG POLICY IN FUTURE TOWARD ARAB STATES WILL BE AFFECTED TO CONSIDERABLE DEGREE BY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF MEASURES THEY ARE TAKING TO DENY SUPORT TO BSO AND SIMILAR TERRORIST GROUPS. KHARTOUM MURDERS HAD SHOCKED US PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH DEMANDING ITS GOVT PREVENT REPETITION OF SUCH WANTON KILLINGS AND PURSUE POLICY OF NO-COMPROMISE WITH TERRORIST ELEMENTS. STATED TO ZAYID THAT UNTIL KHARTOUM, AS HE AWARE, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF POSSIBLE BSO ACTION DIRECTED AGAINST TARGETS IN ABU DHABI, INCLUDING US EMBASSY, SPECIFICALLY, WE RELIABLY INFORMED OF PRESENCE IN DUBAI OF DANGEROUS FATAH/BSO LEADER, RIBHI HALLOUM, WHO SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER INTERCEPTED TRANSITING AMSTERDAM AIRPORT ON ALGERIAN BIPL PPT WITH BAG FULL OF WEAPONS. BAG CONFISCATED BUT HALLOUM HAD BEEN ALLOWED CONTINUE TRAVEL TO LATIN AMERICA. ALTHOUGH HALLOUM'S IDENTITY AND PRESENCE KNOWN TO UAE SECURITY FORCES, TOLD ZAYID I WOULD FEEL MORE AT EASE IN TERMS SAFETY MY STAFF IF THIS KNOWN TERRORIST WERE DEPORTED.

6. THROUGHOUT MY PRESENTATION PLACED MAJOR STRESS ON IRREFUTABLE LINKAGE BETWEEN FATAH AND BSO. USG HAS CONCLUDED FROM ITS ANALYSIS THAT VIRTUALLY NO DISTINCTION NOW CAN BE DRAWN BETWEEN BSO AND FATAH, PARTICULARLY AT TOP ECHELON. THIS CONNECTION, CAREFULLY SUMMARIZED FOR ZAYID INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING CONTAINED REFTEL (B) POINTING OUT THAT AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS OF FATAH LEADERSHIP COMMAND, INCLUDING 'ARAFAT'S DEPUTY, SALAH KHALAF, ALSO COMPRISE BSO HIGH COMMAND. EXPLAINED TO ZAYID THAT THIS INFO BEING BROUGHT HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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35

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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 0337Z 01 08 02 261225Z

BECAUSE WE THINK HE SHOULD KNOW THAT ANY FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT BEING GIVEN TO FATAH/PLO LIKELY BE DIVERTED TO BSO.



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PER SEC. 3.3(b)(1)

NOTE BY OC/TJ NOT PASSED CAIRO AND MANAMA.

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**TELEGRAM**

~~SECRET~~ 187

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03377 02 OF 02 261258Z

52  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

020737

R 261120Z MAR 73  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1249  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 3377

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7. ZAYID LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO PRESENTATION AND SEEMED APPRECIATIVE OF EFFORT WE WERE MAKING TO ALERT HIM AND GOVT ABOUT PALESTINIAN EXTREMISM.



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PER SEC 3.3(b)(6)

8. ZAYID STATED HE AND ALL ARAB LEADERS DEEPLY SORRY AND ASHMAED FOR SENSELESS DEEDS AT KHARTOUM THAT DETRIMENTAL TO ARAB CAUSE. HE PRAISED COURAGE OF NUMEIRI IN HIS HANDLING OF AFFAIR AND ASSURED ME SUDANESE LEADER WOULD NOT ALLOW MURDERERS TO GO UNPUNISHED. REFLECTING ON PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT IN GENERAL, ZAYID SAID KHARTOUM WAS SYMPTOMATIC OF POOR STATE TO WHICH PALESTINIANS AND THEIR LEADERS HAVE SUNK. HE CHARACTERIZED THEM AS DRIFTING BANDS OF INDIVIDUALS, WHO HAVE LOST ALL HOPE FOR NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03377 02 OF 02 261258Z

FUTURE AND WHO ATE WITHOUT RESPONSIBLE LEADERS. THEIR DISUNITY AND HOPELESSNESS HAVE MADE IT EASY FOR BETTER ORGANIZED AND MORE LEFTIST GROUPS TO DOMINATE PALESTINIANS. INEFFECTIVENESS AND INSTABILITY OF RESISTANCE MOVEMENT POINTED UP BY FACT NOT ONE OF FRONTLINE STATES PERMITS THEM OPERATE FREELY. ONLY IN LIMITED SENSE ARE THEY ALLOWED OPERATE IN LEBANON, AND EVEN THERE WEAK LEBANESE FORCED OCCASIONALLY CLAMP DOWN ON PALESTINIAN ACTIVITIES. ZAYID EMPHASIZED POINT THAT FACT SO MANY PALESTINIAN GROUPS OPERATING SEPARATELY INEVITABLY LEADS TO EXTREMISM. HIS OWN EXPERIENCE YEARS BEFORE AS GOVERNOR EASTERN REGIONS HAD CONVINCED HIM THAT TRIBES HAVING WEAK LEADERS WERE DANGEROUS THREAT TO GENERAL SECURITY OF AREA.

9. ZAYID PROPOSED THAT US, AS ONLY NATION POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL ENOUGH TO DO SO, SHOULD INFORM PALESTINIANS IN CLEARST TERMS THAT THEY AND THEIR ASPIRATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN EVENTUAL PEACE SETTLEMENT ONLY IF THEY UNIFY THEIR RANKS AND SELECT SINGLE LEADER WHO CAN DEAL WITH OTHER STATES AND WHO CAN BE HELD RESPONSIBLE BY WORLD LEADERS FOR ACTS OF VARIOUS COMPONENT PARTS OF MOVEMENT. IN EFFECT, ZAYID SEEMED TO BE CALLING FOR US TO SUPPORT FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN GOVT IN EXILE. SUCH A GOVT WITH RECOGNIZED LEADER SHOULD THEN BE TOLD IN UNMISTAKABLE TERMS BY US REALITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF PEACE SETTLEMENT. WITH THESE IN MIND PALESTINIANS SHOULD THEN BE ASKED DEFINE THEIR REALIZABLE GOALS. ZAYID REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT EXTREMISM OF PALESTINIANS IS NOT ISOLATED PHENOMENON, BUT DIRECT FUNCTION OF UNRESOLVED PEACE PROBLEM, AND US THEREFORE SHOULD NOT DELAY TAKING INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT.

PART 2 OF 2 PART MSG.

10. FOLLOWING DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF TERRORISM ISSUE OUR DISCUSSION TURNED TO AREA SITUATION. NOTED THAT VISIT OF YEMENI LEADERS TO BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY VISIT OF SULTAN QABUS POINTED UP COMMON PROBLEMS FACED BY THESE COUNTRIES. BOTH ARE EMERGING RAPIDLY FROM LONG PERIOD OF HISTORICAL ISOLATION AND BACKWARDNESS, ECONOMIES BOTH ARE POOR, AND BOTH MAY BE CONSIDERED IN FRONT LINES

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TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03377 02 OF 02 261258Z

OF STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNISM AND LEFTIST SUBVERSION. IF FRONT LINES BREACHED IN EITHER PLACE, BATTLEGROUND IMMEDIATELY TRANSFERRED TO SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE. STRESSED TO ZAYID ASBUIEW THAT STATES OF PENINSULA SHOULD TAKE CONCERTED ACTION MEET THIS COMMON SECURITY THREAT, AND WE BELIEVE IT ESPECIALLY INCUMBENT UPON SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE, AS STATES MOST VIVALLY AFFECTED, TO INCREASE LEVEL OF THEIR ASSISTANCE.

11. ACKNOWLEDGING ADEN-INSPIRED THREAT TO ENTIRE PENINSULA, ZAYID CONFINED HIS COMMENT ABOUT EXTEND UAE ASSISTANCE TO OMAN. ALLUDING TO BD 3 MIL (DOLS 7.5 MIL) GRANT PLUX MISCELLANEOUS HELP ALREADY GIVEN SULTAN, ZAYID AFFIRMED HIS READINESS DO EVEN MORE IN WAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, BUT SAID MAJOR PROBLEM WITH SULTAN IS MANNER OF PAYMENT.

[REDACTED]

12. RE IMMEDIATE OMANI MILITARY NEEDS, MENTIONED PROMPT IRANIAN AND SAUDI RESPONSE IN LENDING HELICOPTERS AND MOST APPRECIATED GIFT BY UAE OF MORTOR ROUNDS. ZAYID SAID HE WELCOMED FRIENDS OF OMAN CONTRIBUTING MATERIAL AND EVEN PERSONNEL TO WAR EFFORT, BUT HE OBJECTED STRONGLY TO SULTAN'S DECISION INTRODUCE IRANIAN TROOPS, EVEN IF THEY IN TRAINING CAPACITY. ZAYID STATED HE UNDERSTANDS THAT ALL ARAB STATES, INCLUDING EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE PRESENCE IRANIAN FORCES ON ARAB SOIL AND HE FEARFUL THIS ISSUE WILL SOON BREAK OUT INTO PUBLIC DEBATE. THERE NO DOUBT MY MIND THAT ZAYID WILL PRESSURE QAZUS AT FORTHCOMING MEETING TO REMOVE IRANIAN PERSONNEL.

13. AT NO TIME DURING CONVERSATION DID ZAYID RAISE SAUDI-UAE BORDER ISSUE, AND FOLLOWING DEPT'S INSTRUCTION, I LEFT INITIATIVE TO HIM. DID USE OCCASION, HOWEVER, TO MAKE STRONG PITCH IN SUPPORT OF VARIOUS US FIRMS BIDDING ON MAJOR ABU DHABI AND UAE PROJECTS AND TO INFORM PRESIDENT OF FORTHCOMING USG-SPONSORED MEDICAL TRADE MISSION.

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TELEGRAM

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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 03377 02 OF 02 261258Z

14. COMMENT: DESPITE HIS COURTESY AND ATTENTIVENESS IN HEARING ME OUT ON TERRORISM ISSUE, I WAS DISAPPOINTED FRANKLY WITH ZAYID'S LACK OF POSITIVE RESPONSE.

[REDACTED]

PER SEC. 3.3(b)(1)(b)

THIS ATTITUDE ALSO MANIFESTED BY HIS STRONG REACTION TO INTRODUCTION IRANIAN TROOPS INTO OMAN. BRITISH AMB TELLS ME THAT ZAYID PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ABOUT CLOSE TIES THAT HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN IRAN AND OMAN, AND PRESIDENT MAY HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATING FOR MY BENEFIT EXTENT OF ARAB-WIDE DISPLEASURE.  
BUFFUM

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