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Message Text

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---------- 035733
R 130027 Z MAR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045570

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS AMMAN JIDDA KUWAIT
TEL AVIV TRIPOLI TUNIS FROM BEIRUT 05 MAR 73:

QUOTE BEIRUT 2543

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO; AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS XF
SUBJECT: PLO ROLE IN SURRENDER OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS

REF: BEIRUT 2488

1. SUMMARY: FROM VARIOUS REPORTS APPEARING IN LOCAL
PRESS, ESPECIALLY PAPERS CLOSE TO FEDAYEEN, RE CONTACTS
MAR 3 BETWEEN ' ARAFAT AND SUDANESE GOVT, WE HAVE PIECED
TOGETHER WHAT WE THINK IS FAIRLY ACCURATE SCENARIO OF
EVENTS LEADING TO SURRENDER OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS
MAR 4. IN PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN ' ARAFAT
AND PLO ESTABLISHMENT ON ONE HAND AND BLACK SEPTEMBRISTS
ON OTHER, IT GIVES LIE TO ' ARAFAT' S CLAIM THAT PLO IN
NO WAY INVOLVED IN KHARTOUM TRAGEDY. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN SEVERAL PAPERS (INCLUDING
THOSE WITH GOOD FEDAYEEN CONNECTIONS), PLO EXECUTIVE
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

COMMITTEE MET HERE MORNING OF MAR 3 FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF
NEWS FROM KHARTOUM RE " EXECUTION" OF THREE US AND
BELGIAN DIPLOMATS. PLO/ EC REPORTEDLY TOOK DECISION
AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN ' ARAFAT SEND SPECIAL PLO REP (UNNAMED)
TO KHARTOUM FOR URGENT TALKS WITH SUDANESE GOVT AND
CARRYING " ORDER" FOR EIGHT TERRORISTS HOLDING OUT IN SAUDI
EMB THAT THEIR " MISSION" WAS COMPLETED AND INSTRUCTING
THEM TO TURN THEMSELVES OVER TO SUDANESE AUTHORITIES.
LATER IN DAY, ' ARAFAT REPORTEDLY CONTACTED SUDANESE GOVT DIRECTLY
(IN PHONE CALL SAID TO HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY LEBANESE
PRIMIN SALAM VIA SUDANESE EMB HERE), ASKING HIM REFRAIN
FROM ASSAULTING SAUDI EMB AND BE PATIENT " PENDING ARRIVAL
IN KHARTOUM OF PLO REP WHOSE PRESENCE WOULD ASSIST IN
FINDING SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS."

3. SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS APPEARED CONFIRMED DURING
NIGHT OF MAR 3-4, SINCE LOCAL PRO- FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR
REPORTED NEXT MORNING THAT " BSO HAS DECIDED END ITS
KHARTOUM OPERATION BY HAVING FEDAYEEN SURRENDER TO SUDANESE
AUTHORITIES" (FBIS 040723 Z). PAPER SAID THIS DECISION
HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO NUMAYRI SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT
AND QUOTED BSO AS BEING CONFIDENT SUDANESE PRES " WOULD
ACCORD OUR FEDAYEEN YOUTH STATUS OF REVOLUTIONARY
STRUGGLERS." IT ALSO QUOTED PLO OFFICIAL IN DAMASCUS
SAYING EIGHT TERRORISTS WOULD GIVE THEMSELVES UP
" TRUSTING THAT VERDICT OF SUDANESE COURTS WILL TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT FEELINGS OF SUDANESE PEOPLE AND SACRED CAUSE OF
PALESTINE."

4. HAVING CORRECTLY FORECAST WHAT TOOK PLACE IN KHARTOUM
LATER ON MAR 4, AL MUHARRIR ON MAR 5 CARRIED ALLEGED
TEXT OF BLACK SEPTEMBER " ORDER" SENT TO TERRORISTS AT
SAUDI EMB MAR 3. (PAPER CLAIMED IT RECEIVED BSO STATE-
MENT GIVING THIS TEXT FROM IRAQI NEWS AGENCY IN BEIRUT,
BUT WE BELIEVE IT CAME STRAIGHT FROM FEDAYEEN.) TEXT OF
" ORDER" FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: YOUR MISSION HAS ENDED. RELEASE SAUDI AND JOR-
DANIAN DIPLOMATS. SUBMIT IN COURAGE TO SUDANESE AUTHOR-
ITIES TO EXPLAIN YOUR JUST CAUSE TO GREAT SUDANESE PEOPLE,
ARAB MASSES AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION. WE ARE WITH YOU
ON SAME ROAD. GLORY AND IMMORTALITY TO MARTYRS OF BEDDAWI,
NAHR AL BARID AND LIBYAN AIRCRAFT. END QUOTE. BSO STATE-
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MENT ADDED: QUOTE: NOW THAT OUR YOUTHS HAVE GIVEN THEM-

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SELVES UP AS INSTRUCTED, WE WISH MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THEIR OPERATION WAS AIMED AT LIBERATING ABU DA' UD, HIS COMPANIONS AND SIRHAN BESHARA SIRHAN WHO ARE BEING TORTURED IN VIOLATION OF ALL HUMAN ETHICS. IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO SHED BLOOD, BUT TO SET THESE MEN FREE.

(B) OWING TO ARROGANCE AND OBSTINACY DISPLAYED BY NIXON AND JORDANIAN RULERS, OUR REVOLUTIONARIES EXECUTED THREE HOSTAGES WHO CONTRIBUTED TO PLANNING MASSACRE OF OUR NATION AND CONSPIRED AGAINST IT. MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE WAS CURTIS MOORE, WHO WAS CIA BRAINS IN AREA AND ONE THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SEPT 1970 MASSACRES.

(C) OUR FIGHTERS WERE FEARLESS AND FOLLOWED INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LETTER. THEY WERE NOT DETERRED BY THREATS OR PITY AND DID NOT CRAWL BEFORE AMERICANS WHO CONTROL FATE OF NATIONS. THOSE WHO SHED CROCODILE TEARS FOR HOSTAGES MUST REMEMBER THOUSANDS OF OUR NATION MASSACRED IN UNPRECEDENTED BRUTALITY AND THOUSANDS MORE IN JORDANIAN PRISONS. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: A. BASED ON WELL- KNOWN DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN LO AND AL MUHARRIR (WHOSE SENIOR EDITOR IS PLO REP FOR LEBANON), PAPER' S PAST ACCURACY IN REPORTING FEDAYEEN VIEWS, AND ACCURATE PREDICTION IN ITS MAR 4 ARTICLE RE IMPENDING SURRENDER OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT MUHARRIR ARTICLES OF MAR 3 (REFTEL), 4 AND 5 ARE FAITHFUL RENDI- TIONS OF BSO ATTITUDES AND DIRECTIVES. MOREOVER, VERY CLOSE CORRELATION OF BSO ATTITUDES AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THOSE OF ' ARAFAT AND PLO EC, EVEN EXTENDING TO DESCRIPTION OF TERRORISTS AS " REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLERS", REVEALS PUBLICLY JUST HOW FLIMSY IS MASK WITH WHICH ' ARAFAT AND PLO TRY TO HIDE THEIR CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH BSO. THIS MAY BE OF SOME VALUE WITH ARAB LEADERS WHO PROFESS TO BELIEVE THAT PLO IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, AS WILL ACTIONS OF PLO REPS IN KHARTOUM WHO REPORTEDLY INVOLVED DIRECTLY IN OPERATION AGAINST SAUDI EMBASSY. WHILE WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT ' ARAFAT WAS INVOLVED IN PRIOR PLANNING OR DECISION MAKING, OR EVEN AWARE OF KHARTOUM OPERATION BEFORE FACT, HE CLEARLY PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLE ONCE OPERATION UNDERWAY.

B. WE HAVE REPORTED ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS THAT MORE MODERATE FEDAYEEN LEADERS, INCLUDING ' ARAFAT HAVE BEEN FORCED BY EXTREMISTS EITHER TO MOVE CLOSER TO THEIR VIEWS RE USE OF TERRORISM OR BE FORCED OUT OF KEY POSITION IN MOVEMENT (E. G., KHALED EL HASSAN). ' ARAFAT' S LAST- MINUTE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MOVE TO HELP AVERT ASSASSINATION OF SAUDI AND JORDANIAN
AMBASSADORS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED MAINTAIN SOME SLIGHT
CREDIT WITH ARAB MODERATES AND THOSE WITHIN FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT
WHO BELIEVE THAT EXTRMINSTS LIKE SALAH KHALAF ARE LEADING MOVE-
MENT TO DESTRUCTION. BUFFUM UNQUOTE ROGERS

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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