

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SY-05 MCT-01
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /098 W
-----062541 171514Z /53

P R 171430Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2672
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY DOHA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USUN
COMIDEASTFOR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
DIA WAAHDC

S E C R E T SANA 4080

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, YE
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT GHASHMI
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1. AT 1:00 P.M. TODAY, OCTOBER 17, PRESIDENT GAHSHMI
SENT A PRIVATE EMISSARY, MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDUH SAID,
TO INFORM ME THAT AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OCCURRED ON HIS
LIFE SOME TIME EARLIER THE SAME MORNING. ACCORDING TO SAID,
THE PESIDENT HAD JUST RECEIVED A GROUP
OF ULEMA IN THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AND WAS

LEAVING THE ROOM WHEN A RETIRED ARMY OFFICER, ZAID AL-KIBSI, APPROACHED HIM AS THOUGH TO SHAKE HIS HAND. AT THAT MOMENT, AL-KIBSI PULLED A GUN, BUT THE PRESIDENT WAS FASTER AND PUSHED THE GUN UP INTO THE AIR, FORCING AL-KIBSI TO FIRE INTO THE CEILING. GUARDS RUSHED IN AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN MACHINE-GUNNING AL-KIBSI, KILLING HIM ON THE SPOT. THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN, ZAID AL-KIBSI, WAS A MEMBER OF A WELL-KNOWN SAYYID OR HASHEMITE CLAN WITH STRONG ROYALIST CONNECTIONS.

2. AS A RESULT OF THIS ATTEMPT, THE PRESIDENT AND THOSE AROUND HIM NOW ARE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT HAMDANI AND HIS BROTHER WERE ASSASSINATED BY THE DAYYIDS, OR THE HASHEMITES, WHO HAVE NEVER RECONCILED THEMSELVES TO THE REPUBLIC AND WHO ARE SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE A POLITICAL COMEBACK. ACCORDING TO ABDUH SAID, A MAJOR ROUNDUP IS NOW TAKING PLACE OF FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF AL-KIBSI, INCLUDING SUCH FIGURES AS DR. YAHYA SERAJI, THE EMBASSY'S FORMER DOCTOR, AND AHMAD AL-KIBSI, HEAD OF THE YEMEN DRUG COMPANY. SAID ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR YAHYA AL-MUTAWAKIL IS ALSO UNDER GRAVE SUSPICION BECAUSE OF MEETINGS THIS SUMMER IN EUROPE WHERE A GROUP OF HASHEMITES GATHERED ALLEGEDLY TO PLOT AGAINST THE REGIME.

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3. SAID SAID THAT PRESIDENT GHASHMI IS IN GOOD SPIRITS AND WAS NOT SHAKEN BY THE ATTEMPT. THERE ARE FEARS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE OR ON OTHER PROMINENT MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME SAID HAS MENTIONED THE EXISTENCE OF "HASHEMITE" PLOTTING AGAINST THE REGIME. FRANKLY, THE STORY HAS ALWAYS SEEMED SOMEWHAT FARFETCHED. IN YEMEN, HOWEVER, GRUDGES, AMBITIONS AND JEALOUSIES DIE HARD AND ONE CANNOT RULE IT OUT ENTIRELY. NEVERTHELESS, AS OF NOW THERE IS STILL NO HARD INFORMATION EITHER ABOUT THE HAMDANI KILLINGS OR THIS MOST RECENT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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