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POL 29 IRAQ
XR SOC 14 IRAQ



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15, IO 13, SSO 00, NSCE 00, USIE 00, CIAE 00, SA 01, DODE 00, GPM 00,
H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, SAH 02,
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5453
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN

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SUBJ: EXECUTION OF JEWS IN IRAQ

1. NEWS OF PUBLIC HANGING OF IRAQI JEWS THIS MORNING HAS HIT ISRAEL HARD. STATEMENT BY PRIMIN ESHKOL SCHEDULED FOR LATE AFTER-NOON KNESSET SESSION WILL PRESUMABLY SET TONE FOR REACTION.

2. CANNOT BE PRECLUDED THAT GOI WILL SEEK FIND SOME WAY TO RETALIATE AGAINST IRAQ FOR THESE EXECUTIONS, BUT AS OF NOW WE CANNOT THINK HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE WITHOUT FURTHER ENDANGERING LIVES OF OTHER JEWS REMAINING IN IRAQ.

3. REACTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO THIS ACT, WHICH ISRAELIS REGARD AS MURDER OF HELPLESS JEWS, WILL BE IMPORTANT FACTOR. IN CONTRAST TO DEATH OF ISRAELI IN ATHENS PLANE INCIDENT, THESE DEATHS OPEN ACT BY GOVERNMENT WHICH ISRAEL WILL WANT TO SEE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AT LEAST TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IF NOT TO LEGAL CONSEQUENCES.

4. URGE DEPARTMENT TAKE LEAD IN PUBLIC STATEMENT CONDEMNING EXECUTIONS AND CALLING ON IRAQ TO DESIST FROM ANY FURTHER TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS, AND URGE UN, OTHER GOVERNMENTS, VATICAN, ETC.

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TO DO LIKEWISE. REALIZE THAT CONSIDERATIONS OF AMERICANS IN
IRAQI HANDS MAY INVOLVE OTHER DANGERS, BUT SILENCE OR RETICENCE
BY USG AT THIS TIME WOULD HAVE STRONG ADVERSE EFFECT HERE.

GP-3. BARBOUR

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