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## Department of State

## **TELEGRAM**

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SUBJECT: UNHCR - IRAGI JEWS

REF GENEVA 1098

1. UNHCR PRINCE: SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN: INVITED: MISOFF TO HIS OFFICE MAY 17 TO DISCUSS MATTER: OF PUBLICITY GIVEN TO HIS RECENT EFFORTS BEHALF: DETAINED: JEWS: ÎN IRAG.

2. THIS REGARD HCREREAD TELEGRAM HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS: QUOTE REFERENCE INVITED TO A JTA, DISPATCH DATELINED: WASHINGTON: MAY 3 IMPLYING THAT DAVID M. ABSHIRE ASSIST SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS AT THE US STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISED SENATOR JACOB K. JAVITS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US HAD ASKED PRINCE SADRUDDIN KHAN UN WITH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO VISIT BAGHDAD AND MAKE PERSONAL ENQUIRIES AND APPEALS TO: THE PRESIDENT OF IRAQ: IN QUEST OF THE RELEASE OF JEWS HELD: IN IRAG. ACCORDING TO ABSHIRE THESE: APPROACHES AND OTHERS HAVE SUCCEEDED TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ARRESTED JEWS. THE IRAQ NEWS AGENCY WHICH FOLLOWED WITH KEEN INTEREST THE NEWS OF YOUR VISIT TO IRAQ ON MIDEMARCH 1971 HAD NEITHER HEARD FROM YOU IN-PERSON NOR FROM THOSE WITH WHOM YOU HAD CONFERRED IN BAGHDAD CONCERNING THE ALLEDGED INTERCESSION. AS THE QUESTION IS OF PAR-TICULAR INTEREST TO IRAQI PUBLIC OPINION WE SHOULD ONLY BE GRATE. FUL: IF YOU WOULD LET US KNOW THE EXTENT OF TRUTH TO BE FOUND IN THE QUOTED JTA NEWS DISPATCH. PLEASE ACCEPT DUR COMPLIMENTS. INA. UNQUOTE .

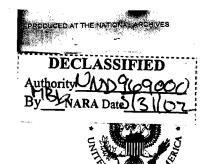
DECLASSIFIED PA/HO Department of State E.O. 12958, as amended June 21, 2006

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3. HCR REFERRED TO UNFORTUNATE HANDLING BY REPIR BAGHDAD OF INFORMATION CONFERNING HIS VISIT TO BAGHDAD AND POSSIBLE INTERVENTION BEHALD JEWISH DETAINEES REPORTED REFTEL AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ONER THIS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WHICH HE CONSIDERS MOST UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY AND WHICH HE FEELS MAY COMPROMISE HIS POSITION VISEA VISIRAGI AUTHORITIES. HCR INDICATED THAT HE MAY TAKE MATTER UP WITH SENATOR JAVITS DIRECTLY.

4. HCR EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT TELEGRAM QUOTED ABOVE WHILE SIGNED BY IRAQI NEWS AGENCY PROBABLY DRAFTED BY GOI MINFORAFFAIRS. SAID HE INTENDS BASE HIS REPLY ON UNHER'S FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN FOR STATELESS PERSONS AND ALLUDE TO POSSIBILITY THAT AMONG DETAINEES THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME PERSONS WITH THIS STATUS. GP-3RIMESTAD