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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 211528Z MAR 73  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9873  
INFO USINT ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANAA  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03346

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DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652; XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINS, XF, XG

SUBJECT: BRITISH THINKING ON ARAB SUPPORT FOR BLACK  
SEPTEMBER TERRORISTS

REF: BRUSSELS 1503; STATE 48874, 50638

SUMMARY: BRITISH ARE PREPARING INDIVIDUAL DEMARCHES TO

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DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

By NIP 04-89/15277 [p. 1 of 5]  
NARA, Date 4/30/12  
RR Review 4/19/11

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SEVERAL ARAB CAPITALS AND ARAB LEAGUE. THEY DO NOT EXPECT CONCERTED EUROPEAN STAND. THEIR MAIN HOPE IS TO GAIN GREATER ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON TERRORISTS FROM SOME ARAB GOVERNMENTS. THEY DOUBT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE VERY EFFICACIOUS, BUT SUSPECT SOME POINTS MAY BE SCORED IF ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE MADE TO REALIZE THEY RISK BECOMING RELATIVE PARIAS IN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC WORLD. END SUMMARY

1. ASST UNDERSECRETARY PARSONS (WHO IS TOP MAN BELOW MINISTERIAL RANK FOR ME) TOLD US MARCH 20 THAT FCO IS PREPARING TO INSTRUCT SEVERAL BRITISH MISSIONS TO MAKE DEMARCHES ON TERRORISM. EXACT DETAILS STILL BEING WORKED OUT AND MINISTERIAL APPROVAL NECESSARY, BUT INSTRUCTION WILL PROBABLY GO OUT NEXT DAY OR TWO. LIKELY TO BE AIMED AT EGYPTIANS, ARAB LEAGUE, SAUDIS, AND LEBANESE. MANY OF THE OTHER ARABS ARE EITHER ALREADY CONVERTED OR NOT CONVERTIBLE.

2. PARSONS RULED OUT ANY CONCERTED EUROPEAN EFFORT AT THIS STAGE. HE CONFIRMED (BRUSSELS REFTEL) NOT MUCH WAS DECIDED AT BRUSSELS EC MEETING.

3. PARSONS SAID APPROACHES LIKELY TO BE DIFFERENT IN EACH ARAB CAPITAL. THEY WOULD GENERALLY FOLLOW LINE THAT TERRORISM ULTIMATELY DOING ARABS GREAT DEAL OF HARM.

4. PARSONS NOTED OUR ORAL PRESENTATION ON BSO-FATAH LINKS BASED ON STATE 47847. HE KEPT COPY WE PROVIDED OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S MARCH 6 REMARKS AT STATE DEPARTMENT (STATE 48874). HE ALSO NOTED SOME RELATED POINTS WE MADE BASED ON EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT AND REPORTED RECENT THREATS TO BELGIAN AMBASSADORS IN BEIRUT AND TUNIS (TRIPOLI 342) OF WHICH HE WAS PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE.

5. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, PARSONS THOUGHT ONE SHOULD NOT EXPECT MUCH FROM APPROACHES. ABOUT ONLY ACHIEVABLE AIM OF SIGNIFICANCE WOULD BE CONVINCING SOME ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE US BETTER PRIVATE INFORMATION ON TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. HE THOUGHT MOST OF THESE GOVERNMENTS MUST KNOW GOOD DEAL MORE THAN THEY PASS ON

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TO US. HE WAS INTERESTED TO LEARN WE WERE PURSUING THAT AVENUE BILATERALLY WITH SOME OF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

6. AS TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS AGAINST TERRORISTS, PARSONS THOUGHT THESE OFTEN MAKE MATTERS WORSE RATHER THAN BETTER. ARAB GOVERNMENTS TEND TO QUALIFY STATEMENTS AND BACK AWAY FROM THEM WHEN QUESTIONED, SO THAT END RESULT IS OFTEN COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

7. INTERESTINGLY, PARSONS THOUGHT ONE OF MOST EFFECTIVE ARGUMENTS WITH MANY ARAB GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE THAT THEIR COUNTRIES ARE BECOMING UNSAFE AND THEREFORE DIFFICULT FOR WESTERN DIPLOMATS TO LIVE IN AND CONDUCT BUSINESS.

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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IN NORMAL WAY. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT SCHEDULED LARGE RECEPTION AND THEN CANCELED IT, EXPLAINING TO FOREIGN MINISTER THAT HE COULD NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY OF GUESTS, THIS MIGHT MAKE CONSIDERABLE IMPRESSION. PARSONS (WHO HAS HAD LONG CONTACT WITH ARAB MIND) THOUGHT MANY ARAB GOVERNMENTS WOULD WORRY ABOUT HAVING THEIR COUNTRIES PUT IN A CLASS OF RESTRICTED DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY SIMILAR, SAY, TO ALBANIA OR CUBA. PARSONS SPECULATED OUT LOUD THAT SEASON FOR QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING. WHETHER OR NOT TO HOLD PARTIES WOULD BE LEFT TO

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DISCRETION OF INDIVIDUAL AMBASSADORS. HOWEVER, HE READILY ADMITTED OUR POINT THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON, MOST AMBASSADORS WERE LIKELY TO MAKE THE HOLDING OF SUCH PARTIES A MATTER OF PRIDE. HE LEFT IMPRESSION WITH US THAT POINT WOULD BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.

8. PARSONS EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT USG HAD "ALLOWED" KING HUSSEIN TO COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCES OF ABU DAUD AND GANG. HE THOUGHT THIS BAD PRECEDENT. ALTERNATIVELY, IF HUSSEIN SO MINDED, HIS COMMUTATION AT TIME OF KHARTOUM MIGHT HAVE SAVED LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE THERE. WE REPLIED WASHINGTON SEEMED CONTENT ENOUGH WITH MOVE, WHICH WILL IN EFFECT RENDER ABU DAUD AND ASSOCIATES HOSTAGES FOR TERRORIST GOOD BEHAVIOR. DAUD HAS BEEN "SINGING" ON TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. COMMUTATION CAN BE REVERSED IF NECESSARY. MEANWHILE TERRORISTS UNLIKELY TO BE RELEASED BY JORDANIANS, WHICH ONE CANNOT BE SO SURE OF WITH SUDANESE. BESIDES WE THOUGHT WASHINGTON DOUBTED TERRORISTS AT KHARTOUM WOULD HAVE SETTLED FOR SIMPLE COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCES. PARSONS SEEMED TO HAVE RECONSIDERED AND AGREED WITH US.

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