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Department of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03748 01 OF 02 301628Z

44
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 301552Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0131
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPT PASS CAIRO

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

per review 4/19/11
By MIH NARA Date 4/30/12
NIN 04-59/528 [p. 1 of 4]

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PAGE 02 LONDON 03748 01 OF 02 301628Z

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINS, XF

SUBJECT: CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM

REF: BEIRUT 2701 REPEATED AS STATE 5663 STATE
51643

1. BRITISH ARE PROBABLY IN THE FOREFRONT OF WEST EUROPEANS WHEN IT COMES TO COMBATING TERRORISM. THIS IS DUE IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE TO THEIR OWN MAJOR PROBLEM WITH IRA TERRORISM. BY SAME TOKEN, HOWEVER, BRITISH REALIZE COUNTER-TERRORIST MEASURES OFTEN TAKE LONG TIME TO BEAR FRUIT, AND THEY ARE CAREFUL NOT TO DAMAGE OWN FREE SOCIETY IN THE PROCESS. THAT MAKES THEM RESIST SUGGESTIONS WHICH MAY REQUIRE EXCESSIVE DEGREE OF COOPERATION FROM PEOPLE AS NATIONALALLY AND EMOTIONALLY AKIN TO THE TERRORISTS AS OTHER ARABS ARE TO PALESTINIANS. WITH A DEEP BACKGROUND IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND AS TARGETS OF TERRORISM THERE, BRITISH ARE AWARE THAT TERRORISTS HAVE SEVERED SUCCESSFUL NATIONALIST CAUSE WHICH RESULTED IN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STATES. INDEED, APART FROM THE OBVIOUS EXAMPLES OF PRE-1948 PALESTINE, AND PRE-1960 CYPRUS, BRITISH AGENTS SUCH AS LAWRENCE OF ARABIA HAVE IN THE PAST STIMULATED AND ASSISTED NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS RELYING TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON TERRORIST GUERRILLA ACTIONS AS WELL AS MORE REGULAR WARFARE.

2. AS WAS THE CASE IN EARLIER EXAMPLES, HOWEVER, BRITISH EXPECT RECOGNIZED LEADERS OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS, OR NATIONALIST ASPIRANTS, TO SEPARATE THEMSELVES FROM TERRORISTS, AND DENOUNCE TERRORISM AS HARMFUL TO LEGITIMATE NATIONAL PURPOSE, EVEN IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO STOP IT. FAILURE OF MOST ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO DO THIS UP TO NOW IS CAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS IN BRITISH OFFICIAL CIRCLES AND GUIDES THE THRUST OF XGDS-3

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NIN 04-59/5281 [p. 2 of 4]



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03748 02 OF 02 301613Z

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 03748

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NIN 04-59/5281 [P. 3 of 4]

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PAGE 02 LONDON 03748 02 OF 02 301613Z

3346 AND 3501, NOTAL).

3. COMMENTING ON BETRUT'S SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS WE WOULD EXPECT THE BRITISH TO RESIST GOING SO FAR AS TO LABEL PALESTINIAN LEADERS (EVEN IF MANY ARE FEDAYEEN AS OUTLAWS, AND PARTICULARLY TO EXPOSE HMG IN MAKING SUCH A REQUEST OF ARAB GOVERNMENTS. BRITISH WILL PREFER TO LEAVE MORE OPTIONS OPEN AND CONCENTRATE THEIR REPRESENTATIONS ON HARM THAT RESULTS TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE FROM IDENTIFICATION WITH TERRORISM.

4. WE KNOW BRITISH OFFICIALS ARE SKEPTICAL THAT OIL-RICH ARAB MODERATES CAN EVER BE PERSUADED TO CUT OFF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FLOWING TO PALESTINIANS OR EVEN PUBLICLY TO DENOUNCE PALESTINIAN TERRORISM IN ANYTHING BUT LUKEWARM, AMBIGUOUS TERMS. BRITISH WOULD HOPE, RATHER, TO COAX LEADERS OF SUCH GOVERNMENTS INTO (A) GREATER EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, AND (B) SELECTIVE EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP THROUGH INFILTRATION OF AGENTS, JUDICIOUS DISTRIBUTION OF FAVORS, ETC. THIS WOULD SEEM TO FIT IN WITH USG AIMS.

5. BRITISH ARE OF COURSE ENTHUSIASTIC IN THEIR SUPPORT OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND CONVINCED THAT SUCCESS IN THAT DIRECTION WOULD TAKE MUCH WIND OUT OF TERRORIST SAILS.

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NIN 01-59/5281 [p. 4 of 4]