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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----119420 231138Z /21/13

O 221101Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO NECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8044
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
URQMYA/USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE 4336

S E C R E T JIDDA 8072

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

FOR SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 12065: RDS-1 11/22/99 WEST, JOHN C) OR-M
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, SA
SUBJ: (S) KHOMEINI STATEMENT ON EVENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: A) COUNTRYMAN-PLACKE TELCON NOV 22; B) JIDDA 8043;
C) STATE 301838

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. I MET WITH ZAKI YAMANIA THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE
NECESSITY OF A STRONGER SAUDI STATEMENT EXCULPATING US
INVOLVEMENT IN MECCA INCIDENT. WE ARE PROCEEDING ON
PARALLEL COURSES WITH 1) ATTEMPTS TO REACH MINISTER
OF INFORMATION YAMANI AND 2) EFFORTS BY SPECIAL
COUNSELOR SABBAGH TO REACH CROWN PRINCE FAHD IN TUNIS.

3. I GAVE YAMANIA A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL KHOMEINI
ACCUSATION AND WE ANALYZED THE SAUDI
WEDNESDAY NIGHT STATEMENT OF NO FOREIGN
NATIONALITY INVOLVEMENT AS CONTAINED IN MORNING
PRESS. YAMANIA AGREED THAT SAUDI STATEMENT WAS
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PROBABLY INADEQUATE ESPECIALLY SINCE IT REFERRED
TO "FOREIGN NATIONALITIES" AND DID NOT
SPECIFY COUNTRIES OR GOVERNMENTS. HE STATED THAT
HE HAD JUST BEEN LISTENING TO ANOTHER STATEMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 06 JUL 2006 200600046

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BY DR YAMANI ON THE 1100 (0800 GMT) NEWS IN WHICH HE WAS SLIGHTLY MORE SPECIFIC BUT STILL HAD NOT PROVIDED THE KIND OF REFUTATION WHICH THE US FELT WAS ESSENTIAL.

4. YAMANI POINTED OUT THE RELUCTANCE OF SAG TO MAKE A STATEMENT AS TO INVOLVEMENT WHEN THE MOSQUE HAD NOT BEEN SECURED AND THE INVADERS CAPTURED. HE SAID IN THE ABSENCE OF AN INVESTIGATION, ANY STATEMENT COULD BE CALLED SOMEWHAT SPECULATIVE. I REPLIED BY TELLING HIM THAT THE KHOMEINI ACCUSATION WHICH WE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN REPEATED EVEN SUBSEQUENT TO THE SAUDI STATEMENT OF LAST NIGHT WAS PUTTING IN JEOPARDY THE LIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AS WELL AS AMERICAN DIPLOMATS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAMIC WORLD. BECAUSE OF THE GRAVE CONCERNS WHICH WE HAD AND THE FACT THAT EVEN WITHOUT AN INVESTIGATION, SAG KNEW THERE WAS NO USG INVOLVEMENT, WE FELT WE HAD TO INSIST ON A STRONGER STATEMENT.

5. YAMANI AGREED AND STATED THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTACT PRINCE SULTAN AT MECCA. HE ADDED THAT HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT THE FINAL MOPPING UP AT MECCA WOULD HOPEFULLY BE COMPLETE TODAY (ALTHOUGH HE HAD MADE THE SAME STATEMENT YESTERDAY) AND THAT IN ANY EVENT HE COULD REACH PRINCE SULTAN AT APPROX 1430 (1130 GMT).

6. YAMANIA PROMISED TO REPORT BACK THE RESULTS OF
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HIS CONVERSATION. WEST

NOTE: STADIS DELETED PER JIDDA (DRAFTER) 11/22/79

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