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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----050384 020153Z /62

R 281600Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2132
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 8371

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12065: GDS 11-28-85 (WAYNE, EARL A.) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR MO SA
SUBJECT: (7) MOROCCAN SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR SAUDIS AFTER
MECCA MOSQUE TAKHEVER

REF: A. FBIS LONDON 212115Z NOV 79, B. FBIS LONDON 230011Z
NOV 79

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. KING HASSAN REACTED RAPIDLY AND REPORTEDLY WITH CONCRETE ASSISTANCE TO THE OCCUPATION OF MECCA'S AL-HARAM MOSQUE, DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO RELATIONS WITH THE SAUDI REGIME. ON NOVEMBER 21 HASSAN SENT A MESSAGE TO KING KHALID DENOUNCING THE TAKE-OVER AND EXPRESSING MOROCCO'S "COMPLETE SOLIDARITY" WITH SAUDI ARABIA. ON THE SAME DAY, ROYAL COUNSELOR AHMED BENSOUA CONVEYED HASSAN'S CONCERN TO SAUDI FONMIN SAUD AT THE TUNIS ARAB SUMMIT (REF A). AFTER KING KHALID'S REPLY (REF B), ON NOVEMBER 25 ROYAL COUNSELOR BENSOUA
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AND CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL AND HOUSEHOLD (I.E. COURT MINISTER) GENERAL MOULAY HAFID EL ALAOUI WERE DISPATCHED TO JIDDA, REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANIED BY SOME ROYAL GENDARMARIE COMMANDOS TO BE PUT AT KING KHALID'S DISPOSAL. HASSAN

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ALSO REPORTEDLY ORDERED THE ROYAL GENDARMARIE TO PREPARE SEVERAL HUNDRED COMMANDOS FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE TO SAUDI ARABIA. IT APPEARS THAT THE INITIATIVE ON THE COMMANDOS MAY HAVE BEEN HASSAN'S.

3. COMMENT: KING HASSAN'S ACTIONS, IF REPORTED CORRECTLY, HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAUDI MONARCHY, WHICH HAS PROVEN A CLOSE AND GENEROUS ALLY AND ARE TOTALLY EJ LINE WITH MOROCCAN ACTIVISM ELSEWHERE, E.G. ZAIRE AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA. MOROCCAN POPULAR OPINION, WHICH WAS OUTRAGED BY THE MOSQUE TAKEOVER, WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT HASSAN'S DECISION TO SEND AID SHOULD IT BECOME PUBLIC, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF MOROCCO'S LEFT WHICH HAS LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THE SAUDI REGIME.

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