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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08429 070436Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SY-05
SYE-00 MCT-02 A-02 HA-05 SES-01 SPH-01 SSN-02
SSM-03 ANAE-00 /087 W

-----093768 070517Z /17

P 061516Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8206
INFO USLO RIYADH PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 08429

EO 12065: GDS 12/6/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJECT: (C) END OF SEIGE OF GRAND MOSQUE

REF: JIDDA 8351

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, SAG ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 4 THAT
LAST OF GUNMEN HAD BEEN CLEARED FROM GRAND MOSQUE IN
MECCA. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08429 070436Z

NAYIF SAID THAT NEARLY 60 SAUDI SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND
200 WOUNDED WHILE 75 GUNMEN WERE KILLED AND 170 CAPTURED.
(EMBASSY COMMENT: SOURCES AT HOSPITALS IN JIDDA INDICATE
GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES MUCH HIGHER THAT STATED. IN ADDITION,

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WE CANNOT BE SURE OF ACCURACY OF FIGURES ON GUNMEN. END
COMMENT.)

3. ON DECMEBER 4 SAUDI TELEVISION BROADCAST FROM A MECCA PRISON PICTURES OF CAPTURED GUNMEN, INCLUDING JUHAYMAN AL-UTAYBI. BODY OF MAN SAID TO BE MUHAMMAD ABDALLAH AL-QAHTANI WAS SHOWN ON SAUDI TV DECEMBER 5. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE, NAYIF STATED SOME NON-SAUDIS (EGYPTIANS, NORTH AND SOUTH YEMENIS, PAKISTANIS, MOROCCANS, AND KUWAITIS) WERE AMONG GUNMEN, BUT HE REEMPHASIZED EARLIER SAG DECLARATION THAT NO FOREIGN STATE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ATTACK ON MOSQUE.

4. ON DECEMBER 5, PRINCE NAYIF AND GOVERNOR OF MECCA, PRINCE FAWAZ, INSPECTED MOSQUE AND CALLED FOR ITS SWIFT REOPENING FOR PRAYER. WE UNDERSTAND KING KHALID AND SAUDI NOTABLES WILL PRAY AT KA'ABA THIS THURSDAY/FRIDAY. PRINCE SULTAN HAS RETURNED TO RIYADH, DEMONSTRATING THAT CRISIS IN MECCA IS OVER.

5. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT A FEW GUNMEN MAY BE TRIED BY FRIDAY AND EXECUTED FOLLOWING NOON PRAYER TO UNDERLINE GOVERNMENT PROMISE OF SWIFT AND HARSH RETRIBUTION FOR THOSE WHO HAVE VIOLATED SANCTITY OF HOLIEST MOSQUE.
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