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EXDIS DECAPTIONED

E.O.12065: RDS-1&3, 11/22/99 (VELIOTES, NICHOLAS A.)OR-M  
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, JO, SA, US  
SUBJECT: (S) CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND TAKEOVER OF MOSQUE  
- IN MECCA

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS ON NOVEMBER 21, BOTH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN (REGENT) AND CINC GENERAL BIN SHAKER EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TAKEOVER OF THE MOSQUE IN MECCA. THEY NOTED ALMOST FRANTIC EFFORTS GOJ HAD MADE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE SAUDIS AFTER HEARING PRELIMINARY REPORTS OF TAKEOVER, AND NOTED THEY HAD FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN ACTIVATING DIRECT LINK BETWEEN BIN SHAKER AND PRINCE TURKI'S OFFICE. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT ANY SENIOR SAUDI LEADER. BOTH NOTED THAT JORDANIANS WERE PREPARED, IF REQUESTED, TO SEND TO MECCA ANY HELP SAUDIS MIGHT WISH, INCLUDING JORDANIAN COMMANDOS WHO ARE EXPERIENCED IN HANDLING SUCH SITUATIONS. KING HUSSEIN HAD BEEN IN FREQUENT TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH AMMAN FROM TUNIS IN HOPES OF OBTAINING INFO RE MECCA SITUATION. KING DESCRIBED CROWN PRINCE FAHD AS TAKING NEWS VERY CALMLY.

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3. BOTH JORDANIAN LEADERS ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT WOULD RESULT IN SAUDIS BEING RESPONSIVE TO JORDANIAN RECOMMENDATIONS RE JOINT CONTINGENCY PLANNING. BIN SHAKER STATED THAT DURING PILGRIMAGE,

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KING RUSSEIN HAD PRESSED PRINCE SULTAN RE DESIRABILITY OF EARLY VISIT BY BIN SHAKER TO SAUDI ARABIA. QUITE BY CHANCE, BIN SHAKER MET WITH SULTAN IN PARIS ON HIS RETURN FROM U.S.; SULTAN TOOK INITIATIVE TO MENTION KING'S SUGGESTION AND ASKED BIN SHAKER TO MEET WITH HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT WAS AGREED THAT BIN SHAKER WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA DURING CURRENT MONTH OF MUHARRAM.

4. BIN SHAKER SAID HE DEFINITELY WILL RAISE CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND URGE EARLY MEETINGS. BIN SHAKER INTENDS TO INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT U.S. ALSO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. VELIOTES

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