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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 A-02 SY-05 SYE-00 OC-06
CCO-00 EB-08 HA-05 IO-14 USSS-00 SPH-01 SES-01
ACDA-12 /106 W

-----104496 211510Z /41

O 211420Z NOV 79
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDCNIACI IMMEDIATE 7574
AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DHAHRAN 1854

EO 12065: GDS 11/21/85 (LINDSTROM, RALPH E) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MOOD OF SAUDI SHI'AS AND CURRENT SECURITY
SITUATION

1. (S- ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WE ARE GETTING MIXED READINGS ON CURRENT MOOD OF
SAUDI ARABIA'S 125,000 SHI'AS IN EASTERN PROVINCE.
CONSULATE'S SHI'A EMPLOYEES FROM QATIF REPORTED FOR
WORK AS USUAL TODAY, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY TIRED FROM NIGHT-
TIME RELIGIOUS SESSIONS WHICH CHARACTERIZE MONTH OF
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MUHARRAM FOR THIS SECT. ARAMCO REPORTS THAT THERE WAS
NEITHER UNUSUAL ABSENTEEISM NOR OTHER WORK FORCE PROBLEMS
TODAY. MOREOVER, CHIEF OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE
IN EASTERN PROVINCE, GENERAL MALKI, ASSURED POST SECURITY

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OFFICER TODAY THAT ALL SHI'A "TROUBLE-MAKERS" IN QATIF HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR ARE IN PROCESS OF BEING ROUNDED UP.

3. ON OTHER HAND, CHIEF ARAMCO SECURITY OFFICER HAS LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SHI'A SOURCE WITHIN COMPANY THAT THERE HAS BEEN AGITATION BY ARAMCO'S SHI'A WORK FORCE IN SENSITIVE RAS TANURA AREA TO "CHASE" AMERICANS OUT OF REFINERY. HE WAS ALSO TOLD THAT MEETINGS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN QATIF AND SAIHAT (TWO SHI'A TOWNS NORTHER OF HERE) WHERE SIMILAR SENTIMENTS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED. ANTI-AMERICANISM AMONG SAUDI SHI' AS IS NEW PHENOMENON WHICH HAS BEEN GENERATED BY THEIR ADVERSE REACTION TO SHAH'S RETURN TO U.S. SAME SOURCE SAID THAT EMOTIONS OF SHI'AS HERE WILL LIKELY PEAK ON 7TH, 8TH AND 9TH OF MUHARRAM (26,27 AND 28TH OF NOVEMBER) AND WARNED THAT THERE COULD BE DISTURBANCES DURING THIS PERIOD.

4. ON NOVEMBER 20 MEMBER OF CONSULATE STAFF PICKED UP FOR FIRST TIME MODERATELY STRONG TRANSMISSION FROM IRANIAN TV. PROGRAM, WHICH WAS IN PERSIAN, INCLUDED SPEECH BY DKOMEINI. THIS SUGGEST THAT IRANIANS HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO BEEF UP THEIR TV TRANSMISSION CAPABILITY TO REACH ACROSS GULF TO SAUDI SHI'AS IN QATIF AND TARUT ISLAND AREA.

5. CONSULATE IS GETTING EXCELLENT SECURITY SUPPORT FROM ALL SAUDI SECURITY AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING GID, NATIONAL GUARD AND REGULAR POLICE. AFTER EMBARRASSMENT

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OF MECCA, THEY CLEARLY WISH TO AVOID SIMILAR SECURITY FAILURES.
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