

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 SY-05 SYE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SPH-01 SES-01 IO-14 EB-08 COM-02
TRSE-00 DOE-17 NSCE-00 OMB-01 FBO-05 MCT-02 HA-05
SR-04 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-06 H-01 L-03 ACDA-12
SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01 A-02
OCS-06 SS-15 /149 W

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O 021530Z DEC 79
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WADHC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7604
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
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DHAHRAN 1916

EO 12065: RDS-3 12/2/99 (LINDSTROM, RALPH E) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA
SUBJECT: (S) SAG ATTEMPTS TO MOLLIFY SHI'AS

REF: DHAHRAN 1899 AND PREVIO

- 1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)
- 2. UNEASY CALM HAS RETURNED TO THE SHI'A TOWNS
IN EASTERN PROVINCE AFTER THE BLOODY CLASHES BETWEEN
SAUDI SECURITY FORCES AND SHI'AS DURING RECENT RELIGIOUS
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HOLIDAYS ON NOVEMBER 26-30. YESTERDAY NO CLASHES OR
DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRED AND MOST SHI'AS ARE REPORTING
FOR WORK NORMALLY WITH THE ECEPTION OF ONE BUS LOAD
OF 40 ARAMCO WORKERS WHO WERE ACCIDENTLY PICKED

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UP IN A POLICE SWEEP IN QATIF ON THURSDAY NIGHT AND ARE STILL BEING HELD. ARAMCO IS NEGOTIATING THEIR RELEASE AND EXPECTS TO HAVE THEM FREE AS SOON AS A NAME LIST THE POLICE ARE INSISTING ON IS PRODUCED.

3. ACCORDING TO SENIOR ARAMCOSURC , DEUPTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE AHMED BIN ABUDULAZIZ (ONE OF THE SUDARI 7 BROTHERS) AND EASTERN PROVINCE GOVERNOR BIN JILUWI MET YESTERDAY WITH SHI'A LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION AND GET THEIR VIEWS. PRINCE AHMED FIRST TOLD ASSEMBLED SHI'AS THAT FIVE LARGE WEAPONH WHICH HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM SAUDI SECURITY FORCES WHEN THE QATIF POLICE STATION AND EMIRATE HAD BEEN OVERRUN ON THURSDAY NIGHT MUST BE RETURNED. EXCEPT FOR THIS THREAT, SAG OFFICIALS WERE CONCILIATORY AND EVEN APOLOGETIC TO SHI'AS. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT QATIF, IN PARTICULAR, HAD NOT RECEIVED ITS FAIR SHARE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS AND PROMISED TO RECTIFY SITUATION. AHMED SAID THAT HE WOULD TAK THIS QUESTION UP WITH KING KHALID AS SOON AS HE RETURNED TO RIYADH. SHI'AS, INCLUDING SUCH ESTABLISHMENT TYPES AS WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN ABDULLA MATROOD, . WERE SURPRISINGLY OUTSPOKEN IN VICING THEIR GRIEVANCES AGAINST SAG.

4. SECURITY REMAINS TIGHT AT CONSULATE NO SPECIFIC THREATS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS UNEASY, AND IS OBSERVING CONSULATE GUIDANCE TO AVOID GOING TO SHI'A TOWNS AND TO MAINTAIN VERY LOW PROFILE IN ENTERTAINMENT AND OTHER

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MATTERS THROUGH CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS.
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