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 HOLIDAYS ON NOVEMBER 26-30. YESTERDAY NO CLASHES OR DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRED AND MOST SHI'AS ARE REPORTING FOR WORK NORMALLY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE BUS LOAD OF 40 ARAMCO WORKERS WHO WERE ACCIDENTALLY PICKED.
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, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE AHMED BIN ABDULAZIZ (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 WEAPONS 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 TAKE 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 VINCING 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 SECRET MATTERS THROUGH CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS. LINDSTROM

SECRET

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