

SECRET

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

PAGE 01 STATE 310446
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:NEA:EHULL
APPROVED BY:NEA:EHULL
S/S-O:SBUTCHER

-----050595 020219Z /70

O 020136Z DEC 79 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUQMRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE 0000
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 310446

NODIS DECAPTIONED

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 7527 ACTION SECSTATE DTD DEC 01:

QTE: S E C R E T AMMAN 7527

NODIS

E.O. 12065: RDS-1&3, 12/1/99 (VELIOTES, NICHOLAS A.)OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, SA, JO
SUBJECT: (S) HUSSEIN'S VIEWS ON SITUATION IN SAUDI ARABIA

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON EVENING OF NOVEMBER 30, KING HUSSEIN BRIEFED ME
ON HIS ONE-DAY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA ON NOVEMBER 28.
WHILE THERE, HE SAW KING KHALID, ROYAL ADVISOR PHARAON
AND PRINCE ABDULLAH. CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND PRINCE
SULTAN, BOTH OF WHOM HE VERY MUCH HOPED TO SEE, UNFOR-
TUNATELY WERE IN THE HEJAZ.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 310446



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 2 DEC 2009
DATE/CASE ID: 28 JUN 2006 200600046

[REDACTED]

3. HUSSEIN SAID THAT EVENTS IN MECCA

[REDACTED]

HUSSEIN SAID THAT KHALID WAS UNFAILING IN HIS COURTESIES, AS USUAL, AND HUSSEIN WAS TOUCHED BY KHALID'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK FRANKLY TO HIM ABOUT THE VERY SENSITIVE TOPIC OF TAKEOVER OF THE GRAND MOSQUE.

[REDACTED]

MADE CLEAR HIS BELIEF THAT SAUDIS HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL IN THE KINGDOM, RELYING SOLELY ON THEIR OWN MILITARY RESOURCES.

4. HUSSEIN NEXT DESCRIBED IN VERY POSITIVE TERMS HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRINCE ABDULLAH

[REDACTED]

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03

STATE 310446

[REDACTED]

5. THE KING DEVELOPED FOLLOWING INSIGHTS ON THE MECCA INCIDENT

FIRST (AND HUSSEIN EMPHASEIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS POINT), THE REBELS WERE FROM THE NEJD. THE PROBLEMS DID NOT, THEREFORE, REFLECT REGIONAL DISAFFECTION WITHIN THE HEJAZ, BUT RATHER, DISSENSION IN THE NEJD HOMELAND OF WAHABISM. SAG LEADERS ARE THANKFUL THAT THE PROBLEM TOOK THE FORM OF AN ACTION ESSENTIALLY BY NEJDIS IN THE HEJAZ WHERE THERE WOULD BE LITTLE OR NO RECEPTIVITY OR SYMPATHY FOR THE INSURGENTS. IF, ON THE CONTRARY,

UNCLASSIFIED

THE ACTION HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE NEJD, IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE DANGEROUS.

[REDACTED]

HUSSEIN OBSERVED THAT THE ATTACK ON THE GRAND MOSQUE HAS EXACERBATED THE RESENTMENTS OF THE HEJAZIS TOWARDS THE NEJDIS, PARTICULARLY FEELINGS AMONG FORMER OF BEING CONSIDERED SECOND CLASS CITIZENS BY THE RULING AUTHORITIES.

[REDACTED]

6. HUSSEIN REMAINS CONVINCED THAT OTHER "SINISTER FORCES" (READ COMMUNISTS) ARE USING THESE RELIGIOUS FANATICS FOR THEIR OWN LONGER-TERM PURPOSES. CONCERNING REPERCUSSIONS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 310446

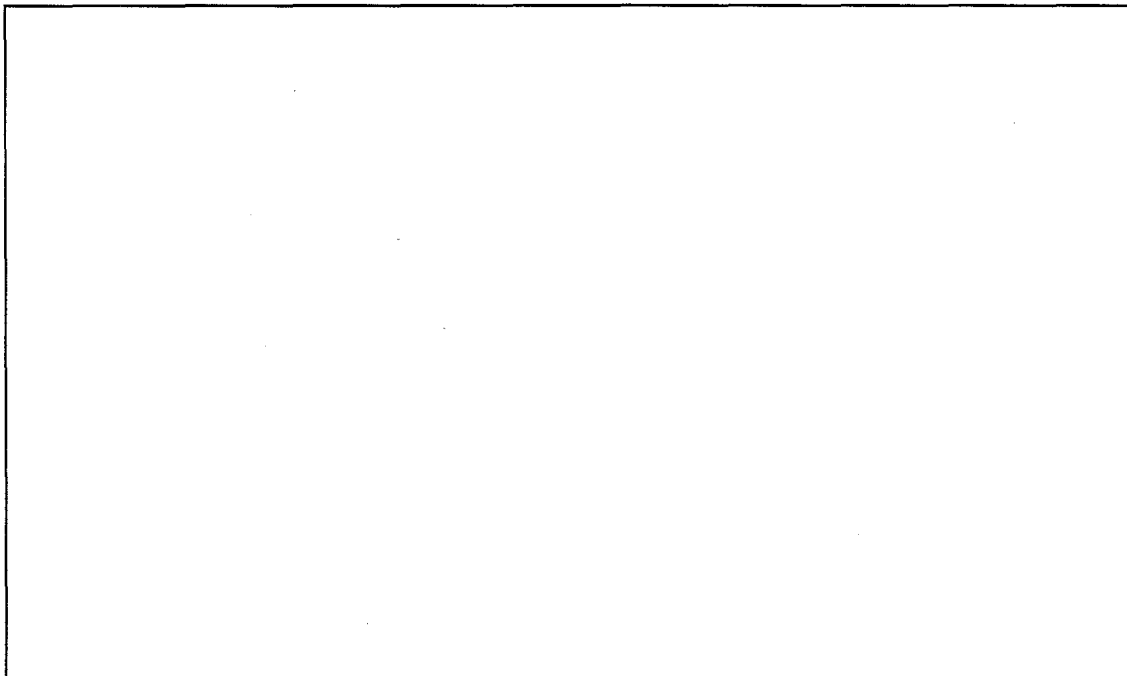
ELSEWHERE, HUSSEIN SAID THAT HE HAD ONLY ONE REPORT OF SOME ARMED ELEMENTS (INTERCEPTED BY THE SAUDIS) WHO WERE CLEARLY MOVING TO JOIN THE "MAHDI." THIS INVOLVED A GROUP OF FOUR PERSONS, THREE OF WHOM THE SAUDIS KILLED AND THE FOURTH ESCAPED. [REDACTED] ALLUDED TO A DOCUMENT WHICH PRESUMABLY WAS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE INSURGENTS WHICH INCLUDED MENTION OF THE FIRST 3 CALIPHS INCLUDING THE MURDERED SHIA MARTYR HUSSEIN, AS HEROES OF THIS GROUP OF FANATICS. THIS WAS THE ONLY (ADMITTEDLY MOST TENUOUS) EVIDENCE OF ANY SHIA RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRENT PROBLEM HUSSEIN PICKED UP ON HIS VISIT.

7. I ASKED THE KING IF, ON THE BASIS OF HIS VISIT, HE THOUGHT THE SAUDIS COULD MAINTAIN THE ORDER AND SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES. HUSSEIN SAID THAT THE SAUDIS APPEARED CONFIDENT OF THEIR ABILITY TO HANDLE THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION. IN CONTEXT OF OUR DISCUSSION, I NOTED THE REPORTS OF SHIA DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE WHERE SOME YOUNG SHIA MEN WERE KILLED BY SAUDI SECURITY FORCES, THUS INCREASING TENSIONS THERE. HUSSEIN RESPONDED THAT HE ASSUMED THERE IS SOME CONCERN IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THE LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS WHO RESIDE IN SAUDI ARABIA. IN ANSWER TO HIS FOLLOW-ON

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

QUESTION, I TOLD HIM MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 40,000 AMERICANS IN SAUDI ARABIA THE BULK OF THEM IN THE DHAHRAN CONSULAR DISTRICT. AT HIS REQUEST, I RAN OVER THE STATUS OF OUR DRAWDOWN OF AMERICANS IN THE 11 COUNTRIES, DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AS TO OUR REASONING.



10. DEPARTMENT PASS TO WHITE HOUSE AND JIDDA. VELIOTES UNQTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED