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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SES-01 SSN-02 SPH-01 SY-05 SYE-00
MCT-02 /061 W

-----120434 231433Z /44

O 231421Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5610
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 07670

E.O.12065: GDS 11/23/85 (NEWTON, DAVID G.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, SY, US
SUBJECT: (C) SYRIAN MEDIA ATTACKS LINKING US TO SEIZURE
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OF GRAND MOSQUE

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 06 JUL 2006 200600046

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2. THE INFLAMMATORY BROADCAST BY RADIO DAMASCUS NOVEMBER 21 LINKING THE US AND ISRAEL TO THE SEIZURE BY RELIGIOUS FANATICS OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA WAS CARRIED IN SUMMARY FORM BY THE LOCAL PRESS NOVEMBER 22. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE COMMENTARY WAS BROADCAST TWICE ON THE SAME DAY BY SYRIAN TELEVISION.

3. IN ADDITION, AL-BAATH SAME DAY CARRIED EDITORIAL MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

--HE WHO FOLLOWS THE ACTIONS OF THOSE SEIZING THE MOSQUE CAN EASILY KNOW THE OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPERIALIST AND ZIONIST DESIGNS: TO EXPLODE THE DIFFERENCES AND CONTRADICTIONS IN THE REGION WITH THE AIM OF IMPEDING THE WORK OF THE FORCES WHICH STAND IN THE FACE OF THESE DESIGNS;

--ISRAEL BURNT THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE AFTER THE AGGRESSION OF 1967 WITH THE AIM OF HARMING ISLAMIC TEXTS AND RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS AND NOW COMES THE ROLE OF THE REACTIONARY AGENTS OF AMERICA TO COMPLETE THE RING OF PLOTTING BY ATTACKING THE HOLY MOSQUE IN MECCA TO ACHIEVE THIS VERY END;

--HODDING CARTER ANNOUNCED THE EVENTS IN MECCA BEFORE THE ISSUANCE OF ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY SAUDI SOURCES;

--IT CAN BE SAID THAT THIS ATTACK (ON THE MOSQUE) AFFIRMS THAT THE FORCES OF CAMP DAVID ARE CONTINUING TO CARRY OUT THEIR CONSPIRACY.

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4. PRESS NOVEMBER 23 DOES NOT CARRY SUCH ARTICLES BUT REPORTS ON EVENTS IN MECCA IN STRAIGHTFORWARD FASHION, RELYING ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. DURING FRIDAY SERVICES AT MOSQUE NEAR EMBASSY, SERMON DEALT WITH SEIZURE OF MOSQUE, STATING THIS WAS ACT CONTRARY TO ISLAM AND AGAINST WILL OF GOD. THOSE WHO COMMIT SUCH ACTS ARE HERETICS AND WILL BE PUNISHED ACCORDINGLY. NO REPEAT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF US OR ISRAEL BEING BEHIND ACT. SERMON WAS BEING TAPED FOR BROADCAST ON SYRIA RADIO AND TELEVISION.

5. COMMENT: TEXTS OF FRIDAY SERMONS ARE PROVIDED BY MINISTRY OF AWQAFS AND RELIGIOUS FIGURES ARE INSTRUCTED NOT TO DEVIATE FROM GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED TEXTS. POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS MIGHT DELIVER THEIR OWN REMARKS SINCE THIS HAS OCCURRED IN THE PAST WHEN

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SERMONS HAVE ATTACKED GOVERNMENT. AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING,
HOWEVER, SARG APPEARS TO HAVE BACKED OFF ITS OFFENSIVE AND
INFLAMMATORY ATTACKS AGAINST USG. NEWTON

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