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Authority NND 969049
By CM NARA Date 6-2-03

Yemen
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TELEGRAM

XX Pol S. Yemen - Yemen

1973-2-13, Iryani, General Nyman, overall

PAGE 01 SANAA 00220 01 OF 02 140910Z XR Pol Libya - Yemen
XX Pol 13 Eth.

15
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 AF-04 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01

L-02 OMB-01 T-01 PASS-00 IO-03 RSR-01 /067 W
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Sanaa 220
2/13/73

R 191315Z FEB 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1750
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL ASMARA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 0220/1

LIMDIS
NOFORN

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL 'ABD
AL-WASI' NO'MAN

1. SUMMARY: YAR AMBRASSADOR TO SUDAN CLAIMS TO
SERVE AS PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI'S PRIVATE EMISSARY TO
LIBYAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN/GADHAFI,
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SA'DAT AND LEADERSHIP OF ERITREAN
LIBERATION FRONT (ELF), AMONG OTHERS. DESCRIBES
NATURE OF GADHAFI'S PRESSURES ON YAR AND PORY TO
UNITE. PREDICTS ETHIOPIA WILL LOSE ERITREA AFTER
EMPEROR'S DEATH, WHICH IS WHY YAR CHOOSES MAINTAIN
DISCREET CONTACTS WITH ELF. DECRIES SAUDI POSTURE

5

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Authority NND 969049

By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

t of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 SANAA 00220 01 OF 02 140910Z

IN YAR AND VIS-A-VIS PDRY.

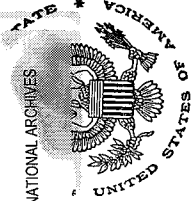
2. BRIGADIER, NOW AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN, 'ABD AL-WASI' NU'MAN, RECENTLY CALLED ON ME FOR LENGTHY CONVERSATION THAT FULLY BORE OUT HIS REPUTATION, AS DEAN OF YEMENI INTELLIGENCE/SECURITY OFFICERS, FOR ENERGY, CUNNING AND SURVIVABILITY. BY HIS OWN RECOUNTING, BRIGADIER NU'MAN (WHO IS NOT ON CLOSE TERMS WITH STRONGLY ANTI-MONARCHIAL BALANCE OF NU'MAN FAMILY) SERVED LATE IMAMS YAHYA AND AHMAD FOR 16 YEARS, RISING TO POSITION COMPARABLE TO DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY; WEATHERED 1962 REVOLUTION TO AGAIN BECOME CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE AND AT ONE TIME MINISTER OF INTERIOR UNDER SALLAL'S EGYPTIAN-DOMINATED REGIME; AND HAS CONTINUED HAVE VOICE IN INNER COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT SINCE 1967 COMING-TO-POWER OF PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI WITH WHOM HE CLAIMS VERY CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS. COMMENT: WHILE THIS MAY BE SLIGHTLY EXAGGERATED AND NU'MAN IS BY NATURE A FLAMBOYANT POSEUR, HE DOES SEEM TO HAVE PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENCE AND HIS REMARKS ON HIS ROLE AS IRYANI'S ROVING PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO LEADERS OF NORTHEAST AFRICA SEEM TO CHECK OUT.

3. JUST IN CASE WE MIGHT CHECK THE FILE (WE HAD) NU'MAN SOUGHT AT OUTSET ESTABLISH BONA FIDES BY ACCURATELY RELATING HIS CONTACTS WITH US OFFICIALS OVER YEARS, INCLUDING HIS 1967 EFFORTS OBTAIN US INTELLIGENCE TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR YEMENI SERVICE.

4. DISCUSSING YEMEN UNITY MOVES, NU'MAN SAID HE SERVES AS PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI'S PRIVATE CHANNEL TO LIBYAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN GADHAFI, SOMETIMES BY VISITS TO TRIPOLI, OR FOR LESS SENSITIVE MATTERS THROUGH LIBYAN AMBASSADOR IN KHARTOUM. HE REVIEWED GADHAFI'S ROLE ON YEMEN UNITY MOVES, AS SEEN IN HIS

OWN CONTACTS WITH LIBYAN LEADER PRIOR TO LAST NOVEMBER'S TRIPOLI UNITY ACCORD, AT TRIPOLI MEETINGS, AND SINCE. GADHAFI, NU'MAN SAID, IS MOTIVATED BY A BURNING DETERMINATION ELIMINATE COMMUNISM, IN THIS CASE PRESENT ADEN GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS ZIONISM AND IMPERIALISM FROM ARAB WORLD. BELIEVING THAT THIS BEST ACHIEVED BY ABSORBING PDRY INTO ITS MORE

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nt of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANAA 00220 01 OF 02 140910Z

POPULOUS DEMOCRATIC NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH, QADHAEI HAS USED TAJECS OF CARROT AND STICK TO MAXIMUM EFFECT. CARROT, PREFERRED BOTH YAR AND PDRY AS INDUCEMENT MEET IN TRIPOLI, IS LARG PROMISE PROVIDE UNIFIED YEMEN WITH 20 MILLION POUNDS STERLING ANNUAL GRANT, FOR 15 YEARS COMMENCING ON DATE UNITY ACHIEVED. CHEQUE FOR FIRST ANNUAL PAYMENT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN MADE OUT AND SHOWN TO PARTIES. STICK IS VERY BLUNT QADHAFI STATEMENT THAT FULL FORCE OF LARG DISPLEASURE WILL BE DIRECTED AGAINST PARTY WHICH CAN BE DOCUMENTED AS FIRST FALTERING IN SERIOUS EFFORT ACHIEVE UNITY; IN SUCH CASE, PROMISED SUBSIDY WOULD GO TO PARTY WHICH HAD CONTINUED NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY. WHEN, AT TRIPOLI, PBNY REPRESENTATIVE COMPLAINED THAT LIBYA HAD SENT ARMS TO YAR DURING SEPT-OCT BORDER WAR, THEREBY SHOWING FAVORITISM FOR NORTH, QADHAFI HAD REPLIED "YES, AND I WOULD AGAIN SUPPORT EITHER OF YOU AGAINST THE SIDE WHICH RELIES ON ARMS FROM THE COMMUNISTS."

5. WHILE QADHAFI'S RAIT IS ATTRACTIVE, NU'MAN STATED, YAR PURSUES UNITY FOR ITS OWN REASONS AS WELL. IT IS CONVINCED PDRY THREAT CAN BEST BE CONTAINED IN CONTEXT

UNITY NEGOTIATIONS BROADLY SUPPORTED BY OTHER ARAB STATES. IF UNITY COMES ABOUT, THERE WILL BE LITTLE PROBLEM IN ABSORBING AND RENDERING HARMLESS PDRY'S THIN CRUST OF MILITANT COMMUNIST LEADERS. (NU'MAN RELIED OFF THEIR NAMES AND CHARACTERS, DESCRIBING HOW EACH COULD BE DEALT WITH). WITH GENEROUS FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND A CHANCE IMPROVE THEIR PRESENT MISERABLE LOT, MAJORITY OF SOUTHERN YEMEN POPULATION WILL BE GLAD TO BE QUIT OF COMMUNIST PROGRAMS. IF UNITY DOES NOT WORK OUT, AT LEAST SOUTH WILL RE IN THE WRONG.

6. NU'MAN COMMENTED THAT IN EVENT OF UNITY, HE WOULD EXPECT BE RECALLED AS INTERIOR MINISTER.

7. DISCUSSING ANOTHER PORTFOLIO ASSIGNED HIM BY PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI, NU'MAN SAID HE HAS RESPONSIBILITY

NOTE BY OC/T: SANAA 220 PASSED CINCEUR FOR POLAD.

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TELEGRAM

SECRET 872

PAGE 01 SANAA 00220 02 OF 02 140537Z

15

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 AF-04 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01

L-02 OMB-01 T-01 RSR-01 PASS-00 IO-03 /067 W
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R 131315Z FEB 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1751
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL ASMARA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SANAA 0220

LIMDIS

NOFORN

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO, CTNCEUR FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL 'ABD AL-WASI, NU'MAN

FOR CONTACT WITH LEADERS OF ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT.
THESE DIVIDE ROUGHLY INTO THREE FACTIONS SUPPORTED
RESPECTIVELY BY TRIPOLI, CAIRO AND DAMASCUS. FIRST
TWO ARE WORTH CULTIVATING. THEY HAVE AGREED WITH
NU'MAN THAT FORTUNES OF AN EVENTUALLY FREE ERITREA
LIE ULTIMATELY WITH WEST. DAMASCUS-SUPPORTED GROUP
DOES NOT CONCUR.

8. USG, NU'MAN ARGUED, WOULD DO WELL ESTABLISH
DISCREET CONTACT WITH TRIPOLI AND CAIRO-SUPPORTED

SECRET

6



DECLASSIFIED

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By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

of State
TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANAA 00220 02 OF 02 140537Z

ELF FACTIONS. IN YARG VIEW, ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAS VITALITY AND REFLECTS MAJORITY SENTIMENT IN THAT PROVINCE. AS LONG AS EMPEROR LIVES, IEG WILL BE ABLE HOLD ON TO IT. BUT WHEN HE DIES ERITREA WILL SPLIT OFF. IT IS IN WESTERN INTEREST BUILD RELATIONSHIP CONTACTS WHICH WILL GIVE FUTURE ERITREAN LEADERS AN ALTERNATIVE TO DEPENDENCE ON COMMUNIST STATES AND RADICALS SUCH AS PALESTINIANS. PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI, NU'MAN SAID, HAD APPROVED HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT, THROUGH HIM, YARG MAINTAIN CONTACT -- AND ONLY THAT -- WITH ELF LEADERS. IRYANI DOES NOT WISH ALIENATE HAILE SELASSIE, WHOSE FRIENDSHIP YAR NEEDS IN ITS CONFRONTATION WITH PDRY. TRUE, YARG DID GIVE IN TO GADHAFI PRESSURES TO RETURN TO PDRY SOME OF ELF ARMS STOCKS CAPTURED ON KAMARAN LAST FALL. HOWEVER, NU'MAN WITH APPROVAL OF IRYANI HAD SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED TO GADHAFI EMBARRASSMENT WITH IEG CAUSED FOR YARG BY SUCH ACTIONS AND YARG'S CONSEQUENT WISH AVOID IDENTIFICATION WITH ELF. GADHAFI HAD SHOWN SOME SYMPATHY WITH THIS POSITION AND HIS PRESSURES ON YARG TO SUPPORT ELF HAD RECENTLY EASED SOMEWHAT.

9. AS A PERSONAL OBSERVATION, I COMMENTED THAT I THOUGHT YARG WOULD BE VERY FOOLISH GO BEYOND MAINTENANCE OF CONTACT WITH ELF LEADERSHIP. KAMARANI INCIDENT NOT LIKELY BE FORGOTTEN BY IEG AND ANY SUSPICION OF RECURRING YARG ASSISTANCE TO ELF, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, WOULD JEOPARDIZE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA WHICH FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO YAR THAN CARRYING FAVOR OF ERITREAN TERRORISTS AT LIBYA'S URGING.

10. CONTINUING IMMONENTLY TO DEPICT IMPORTANCE OF HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI'S REPRESENTATIVE TO NEIGHBORING LEADERS, NU'MAN SAID HE VISITS EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SA'DAT TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR. MEETINGS ARE PRIVATE AT SA'DAT'S HOME WITH CONVERSATIONS TAKING PLACE OVER A BOTTLE OF SCOTCH. AT MOST RECENT SUCH MEETINGS, SA'DAT HAD ASKED PLAINTIVELY WHY WEST DIDN'T TRUST HIM. "MY GETTING RID OF RUSSIANS WAS SIGNAL FOR WHICH THEY HAD ASKED. I DID IT."

11. NU'MAN COMMENTED THAT UNFORTUNATELY FOR POLICIES

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of State
TELEGRAM



SECRET

PAGE 03 SANAA 00220 02 OF 02 140537Z

OF USG, AND YARG AS WELL TO CERTAIN EXTENT, SAUDI ARABIAN ACTIONS IN YEMEN ARE AROUSING AN ALREADY WIDESPREAD AND GROWING IRRITATION. CORROSIVE EFFECTS OF SAUDI BRIBERY OF HIGH OFFICIALS AND TRIBAL LEADERS ARE RESENTED BY YEMENIS AT ALL LEVELS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH NEED TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. SAUDI STIMULATION OF ATTACKS IN PDRY, WITH RESULTANT UNNATURAL COHESION OF LATTER, RUNS COUNTER TO YARG'S EFFORTS EXPLOIT LATENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PDRY LEADERS. DESPITE SAG PRETENDED TOLERANCE OF UNITY, SAG USING ITS FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIVIDUALS TO TRY TO THWART THIS. IN LONG RUN IT MUST BE ASKED IF SAG DOES NOT REALLY SEE ITS INTERESTS SERVED BY CONTINUED FRICTION BETWEEN, AND WEAKNESS OF, TWO YEMENS. AS CASE IN POINT, NU'MAN SAID, PLANS HE HAD MASTERMINDED FOR A 1968 COUP IN PDRY, USING ABDALLAH AL-ASNAG, FLOSY AND PDRY ARMY UNITS, OF WHICH SAG INFORMED, WERE THWARTED AT LAST MINUTE WHEN A MILITARY DIVERSION APPARENTLY INSPIRED BY SAG IN SIXTH GOVERNORATE OF PDRY DREW PDRY TROOPS INVOLVED IN COUP PLANNING OUT OF ADEN.

12. CONCLUDING, NU'MAN THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE IN SAUDI ARABIA WHEN FAISAL DIED. YEMEN CONTAINED AT LEAST HALF OF ARABIAN PENINSULA'S POPULATION. USG SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN GENEROUS ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH YAR, IN MILITARY AS WELL AS ECONOMIC FIELD, AS PENINSULAR INSURANCE POLICY AGAINST THIS FORECAST INSTABILITY.

GDS
 CRAWFORD

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