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By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

of State

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101 Yemen-fmeh

YR Aid (Kuwait) Yemen

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-08 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 I-03

OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 IO-12 GAC-01 EA-11 ADP-00 RSR-01

1973-1-6, Iyari, Kuwait South

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R 061140Z JAN 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1614
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0018

SUBJ: YAR-PDRY: VIEWS OF KUWAIT AMBASSADOR

1. SUMMARY: KUWAIT BELIEVES ARAB STATES MUST GIVE PDRY AN ALTERNATIVE TO TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON USSR AND PRC LEST COMMUNIST CONTROL BECOME IRREVERSIBLE. SOME ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER ARAB STATES PLUS ENCOURAGEMENT OF YEMEN UNIFICATION CONSTITUTE BEST MEANS OF

ERADICATING THIS DANGER TO ARABIA PENINSULA. SAUDI POLICY CRITICIZED. GOK WILL CONTINUE GENEROUS AID TO YARG.

2. I PAID COURTESY CALL ON KUWAIT AMBASSADOR MUHAMMAD SALIM AL-BALHAN JANUARY 3. BALHAN IS SOMETHING OF A FOPPISH PLAYBOY WHO VIEWS HIS SANAA ASSIGNMENT AS AN INFRINGEMENT ON HIS ENJOYMENT OF THE COSTA DEL SOL. BUT, THROUGH A GOK BRANCH OFFICE IN ADEN, HE SEEMS MODERATELY WELL INFORMED ON SITUATION IN PDRY AND HAD SOME SERIOUS COMMENTS TO MAKE CONCERNING KUWAIT'S VIEW OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THREAT TO PENINSULA POSED BY SOUTH YEMEN'S MILITANTLY COMMUNIST REGIME.

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3. KUWAIT, BALHAN SAID, BELIEVES IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO LEAVE PDRY NO ALTERNATIVE TO EVER DEEPENING RELIANCE ON USSR AND PRC. NUMBER OF COMMUNISTS RUNNING PDRY NOT MORE THAN 2000 AND BY NO MEANS ALL OF THESE ARE HARDCORE. PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SALIM AL-RUBAYYI, IN PARTICULAR, WOULD LIKE TO LOOSEN SOME OF PDRY'S ENTANGLING TIES. AS LONG AS OTHER ARAB STATES HELP BY KEEPING OPEN THE DOORS OF COMMUNICATION AND ASSISTANCE, CHANGE WILL SOME DAY COME. FASTEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF BRITY BRITING ABOUT SUCH CHANGE IS ENCOURAGEMENT OF YEMEN UNITY WHICH WOULD FREE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SOUTHERNERS TO VOICE THEIR ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENTS.

4. SAUDI ARABIA, IN BALHAN'S OPINION, IS ON WRONG TRACK IN THINKING PDRY REGIME CAN BE TOPPLED BY FORCE. SOVIETS WILL NOT LET THEIR ONLY REMAINING ARAB PROTEGE GO DOWN. MORE FORCE SAG TRIES TO APPLY BY SUBVENTIONS TO REFUGEES AND TRIBES. MORE SOVIETS WILL POUR EQUIPMENT INTO SOUTH AND TIGHTER WILL THEIR HOLD ON IT BECOME. BY PROVIDING PDRY WITH AN EXTERNAL THREAT, SAUDIS ARE HELPING UNITY AND KEEP IN POWER A REGIME WHOSE INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS MIGHT OTHERWISE COME INTO THE OPEN.

5. KUWAIT AMBASSADOR SAID GOKI HAD TALKED TO SAG ON NEED TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT PDRY BUT SAG NOT INTERESTED. THIS A PITY BECAUSE SAG ATTITUDE THE KEY FACTOR IN ADVANCING KUWAIT'S OBJECTIVE OF GIVING ARAB WORLD'S ONLY COMMUNIST STATE AN ALTERNATIVE.

6. BALHAN CONFIRMED WHAT WE HAD HEARD FROM YAR FONMIN NU'MAN; THAT ARAB LEAGUE SEGGEN MAHMOUD RI'AD HAD DETOURED TO ADEN DURING HIS LATE DECEMBER VISIT HERE, IN CONNECTION ARAB MINISTERS OF EDUCATION MEETING. IN HOPE OF PROBING PDRY AND AL-RUBAYYI. IN PARAG, ON WHETHER THERE ANY CHANCE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN RIYADH AND ADEN BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE BE ALONE WITH RUBAYYI AND HAD FOUND NO CHANGE IN PDRY ATTITUDES OTHERWISE.

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7. I ASKED BALHAN WHAT SORT OF ASSISTANCE KUWAIT WAS PROVIDING PDRY, POINTING TO EVIDENCE OF THAT STATE'S SUBVERSIVE MILITANCY AND SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT BE ONE THING FOR OTHER ARABS TO STAY IN CONTACT AND LEAVE DOORS OPEN, ANOTHER TO STRENGTHEN PDRY'S POTENTIAL FOR UNDERMINING ITS NEIGHBORS. BALHAN ASSURED ME GOK AID LIMITED TO SYMBOLS: SCHOOLS, PERHAPS A HOSPITAL. "NOT MORE THAN AN EIGHTH OF OUR HELP TO NORTH." HE EXPLAINED THAT KUWAIT HAS NOW ASSURED YAR OF \$12 MILLION IN GRANT AID ANNUALLY, EXCLUSIVE OF SUCH LOANS AS MIGHT BE ACQUIRED FROM KUWAIT DEVELOPMENT FUND. THIS \$12 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, OTHER PROJECTS AS MUTUALLY AGREED WITH A SMALL GOK GRANT AID OFFICE IN SANAA AND APPROVED BY PARENT COMMITTEE IN KUWAIT. ANY FUNDS NOT USED IN ONE YEAR AUTOMATICALLY ADDED TO FOLLOWING YEAR'S \$12 MILLION AVAILABILITY.

8. COMMENT: WE WOULD CONSIDER THERE SOME COMMON SENSE, SOME WISHFUL THINKING TO KUWAIT'S APPROACH IF THIS IS AS BALHAN PORTRAYED IT. IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY USEFUL FOR SOME OTHER ARAB STATES TO HAVE REPRESENTATION IN PDRY TO BE ABLE OBSERVE DEVELOPMENTS THERE AND AS FEASIBLE ENCOURAGE ANY TENDENCIES WHICH THAT STATE MAY SHOW TO SEEK NON-COMMUNIST OPTIONS. BUT ON BASIS CURRENT EVIDENCE WE WOULD THINK IT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC TO EXPECT THAT PDRY LIKELY CHANGE ITS IDEOLOGICAL SPOTS AND DESIST FROM CURRENT ACTIVE EFFORTS UNDO ITS NEIGHBORS JUST BECAUSE OTHER ARABS EXTEND A KIND HAND.

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