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Authority NND 969049

By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

F STATE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

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TO : The Secretary

FROM: NEA - Joseph J. Sisco ~~off~~ **1973-14, Iryani, Humani**

Visit by New YAR Foreign Minister

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POL Yemen

Ambassador Crawford, who has had very close and cordial relations with the newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the YAR, Mohammed Ahmad Nu'man, has suggested that we take the initiative in asking Nu'man to visit the United States at a time of mutual convenience.

Nu'man is planning to make several trips in the near future--to Iran (to overcome the Shah's sensitivity to mention of the Arab Gulf in the recent Tripoli Unity Accord); to Moscow (to extract a statement supporting Yemen unity on the basis of the Tripoli agreement); and to Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi (in connection with recent development assistance).

Since it seems clear that Nu'man intends to play an active role in seeking to strengthen the YAR's political and economic position, we believe the Ambassador's suggestion of our taking the initiative to have Nu'man visit Washington is a good one. A visit by Nu'man to Washington would give us an opportunity to review the YAR's assessment on unity developments, its ability to obtain economic and military aid from other sources, and to review measures we are taking to assist Yemen in its development program. We would not wish to encourage the Yemenis to expect that this visit would result in new assistance commitments. On the other hand, your gesture of indicating pleasure at seeing Nu'man would reflect our interest in Yemen's welfare. Nu'man's visit would also be looked on with

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GDS--DECLASS Dec. 31, 1981

NEA/ARP: FM Dickman SAB

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favor by the Saudis who are pleased with the new YAR Government. Accordingly, we have prepared a telegram for your approval offering to meet with Nu'man should he come at a mutually convenient time.

Recommendation:

That you approve the attached telegram at Tab A.

Attachments:

- Tab A: Suggested telegram
- Tab B: Sanaa 002

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Drafted: NEA/ARP: FMDickman: sb *[initials]*
1/3/73 x22647

Concurrence: NEA - Mr. Davies *RMD*