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Authority NND 969049
By CM NARA Date 6-12-08

Department of State
TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-12

*Sanaa 725
4/29/73*

1973-4-29, Iyari, South, East Unity

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAF-00 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

ACDA-19 /118 W ***** 061332

R 291307Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2052

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT ALGIERS
CINCEUR
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YE, YS, SA, UR

SUBJ: PDRY LAUNCHES SUMMIT-LEVEL INITIATIVE ON YEMEN UNITY

CINCEUR FORHLOLAD

SECDEF FOR ISA

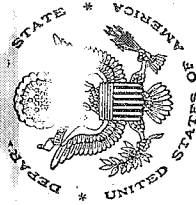
SUMMARY: FOR REASONS THAT ELUDE AND DISTURB YARG, PDRY HAS LAUNCHED AN URGENT INITIATIVE TO ESCALATE PRESENT DESULTORY DISCUSSIONS ON UNITY TO THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL, SINCE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ARAB LEAGUE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBYA AND ALGERIA HAVE GIVEN THIS INITIATIVE FULL SUPPORT, YARG FEELS IT MUST GO ALONG. IT IS APPREHENSIVE, HOWEVER, THAT SAG WILL MISUNDERSTAND REASONS WHY NORTH YEMEN FEELS IT

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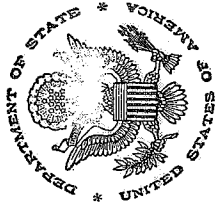
MUST ACQUIESCE IN THIS INITIATIVE AND REACT VIOLENTLY, PERHAPS TO DETRIMENT OF NASCENT MILITARY COOPERATION.

END SUMMARY.

1. WITH AMBASSADOR BROWN WHO VISITING FROM AMMAN, I DINED WITH DEPUTY PRIN/FONMIN NU'AMAN APRIL 27. NU'AMAN INFORMED US THAT THERE HAS BEEN SUDDEN, PUZZLING, AND SOMEWHAT DISTURBING NEW DEVELOPMENT ON YEMEN UNITY FRONT. AMIDST GENERAL AWARENESS THAT UNITY NEGOTIATIONS IN THE VARIOUS SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEES HAVE MADE LITTLE MEANINGFUL PROGRESS (SANAA 706), PDRY HAS INJECTED REQUEST THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE IMMEDIATELY RAISED TO PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL. FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE US FOLLOWING BACKGROUND:

2. DURING PERIOD APRIL 16-20 "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF PRESIDENTS" OF CONCERNED STATES (YAR, PDRY, ALGERIA, LIBYA) AND ARAB LEAGUE DEP SEC GEN HELD MEETINGS ON YEMEN UNITY IN ADEN. THEREAFTER, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE VISITED TAIZ ON APRIL 20 AND SANAA ON APRIL 21 BEFORE RETURNING TO ADEN APRIL 23. DURING VISIT TO TAIZ, SALYM AL-YAFI, THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN MUHMUD RAID, INFORMED PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS IN SOUTH HAD CONVINCED HIM THERE NEW CURRENT BLOWING IN ADEN. PDRY, HE FELT, DISTURBED THAT DISCUSSIONS IN VARIOUS COMMITTEES HAD DEVOLVED INTO STERILE ARGUMENTS LEADING TO IMPASSE ON GROUNDS OF CONFLICTING IDEOLOGY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, HAVING COME AROUND TO VIEW THAT UNITY SHOULD BE PURSUED SERIOUSLY AND THAT THIS COULD BE DONE ONLY WHEN LOWER RANKING IDEOLOGUES PUSHED ASIDE, PDRY BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL RESTORE UNITY DIALOGUE TO PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL WHICH HAD WORKED WELL AT TRIPOLI LAST NOVEMBER. TO THIS PROPOSE, PDRY WISHED, AND AL-YAFI URGED AL-IRYANI ACCEPT, VISIT TO TAIZ IN EARLY MAY BY PDRY PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SALIM RUBAYYI, ALI AND PRIME MINISTER ALI NASTR HASANI.

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3. NU'MAN TOLD US THAT IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT IRYANI AND, AT LENGTH, WITH NU'MAN HIMSELF, PDRY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CHAIRMAN SALIM RUBAYYI' ALI, INFORMATION MINISTER ABDULLAH AL-KHAMIRI, HAD ALSO TRIED TO CONVINCED YARG THAT PDRY HAS UNDERGONE A REAL CHANGE OF HEART IN ITS POLICY TOWARD UNITY. HE ADMITTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH HAD NOT BEEN ENTIRELY SERIOUS HERETOFORE. WITH A PRETENCE OF CANDOR, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PDRY POLICY HAD BEEN OVERLY INFLUENCED BY MILITARISTS AND IDEOLOGICAL ADVENTURERS COMMITTED TO EXPORTATION OF COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY BY FORCE. THESE ELEMENTS HAD REGARDED MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH NORTH YEMEN AS INEVITABLE AND TO BE WELCOMED, AND HAD PREPARED FOR THAT EVENTUALITY. NOW, KHAMIRI ASSERTED, POLICY ASCENDENCY IN PDRY INNER COUNCILS HAD BEEN WON BY PERSONS ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH YAR AND MOVE POSITIVELY TOWARD UNITY. HE URGED THAT AL-IRYANI RECEIVE SALIM RUBAYYI' AND ALI NASIR IN THIS NEW SPIRIT. HE ALSO URGED THAT YAR LEADERSHIP, IN SPIRIT OF RECIPROCITY, DESIST FROM CONTINUED EFFORTS ESTABLISH NATIONAL QUOTE YEMENI UNION UNQUOTE PARTY IN NORTH. AGENTS, HE COMPLAINED, SEE THIS AS A BODY HOSTILE TO THEM AND TO UNITY. THEY CONSIDER ITS ESTABLISHMENT CONTRARY TO TRIPOLI ACCORD WHICH ANTICIPATED CREATION OF SINGLE NATIONALIST PARTY SERVING AS POLITICAL CEMENT FOR EVENTUAL UNITY INSTITUTIONS.

4. NU'MAN COMMENTED THAT YARG LEADERSHIP REGARDS PDRY'S PRETENDED VOLTE FACE AS COMPLETE PHONY BUT IS PUZZLED AS TO REASONS FOR IT. ONE HYPOTHESIS IS THAT PDRY HAS HEARD OF NEW YARG/SAG MILITARY UNDERSTANDINGS AND IS FEARFUL THAT, WITH US BACKING, YARG FORCES WILL SUDDENLY BECOME AN EFFECTIVE THREAT WHICH PDRY MUST TRY TO DEFLECT BY PRETENCE OF POLICY CHANGE IN ORDER ENABLE IT GAIN TIME ABSORB SOPHISTICATED SOVIET WEAPONRY POURING INTO ADEN. ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT PDRY MOVE IS IN SOME WAY A REFLECTION OF INTERNAL POLITICAL INFIGHTING BETWEEN SALIM RUBAYYI' AND YABN AL-FATTAH ISMAIL. ACCORDING YARG'S VERY SKETCHY INTELLIGENCE, POSITION OF LATTER,

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WHO IS CLEARLY RUSSIA'S MAN, MAY BE SLIPPING AND
SOVIETS CONCEIVABLE BEHIND PDY QUOTE PEACE OFFENSIVE
UNQUOTE IN EFFORT GAIN TIME TO SHORE UP THEIR MAN
AGAINST AN EFFORT TO OUST HIM.

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