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By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

Department of State

TELEGRAM

Xr Aid(vs) 8 Yemen

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO OCT-01 ADR-00 /026 W  
1973-1-25, Ivanyi-Saadi, Aid 039720

R 250730Z JAN 73  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3145  
INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T JIDDA 0309

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STATE PASS CINCEUR AND SECDEF FOR ISA

SUBJECT: US/SAUDI AID FOR YEMEN - DISCUSSION WITH  
MINSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF

REF: STATE 11678

1. BEGAN BY STRESSING TO SAQQAF THAT USG SHARED SAUDI SENSE OF CONCERN WITH THREAT IMPLIED IN PRESENCE OF ARABIAN PENINSULA OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCED PDRY, THAT GREAT DEAL OF CAREFUL THOUGHT AND EFFORT HAD GONE INTO PREPARING REMARKS I WAS ABOUT TO CONVEY TO HIM, AND THAT WE HOPED VERY MUCH, THEREFORE, THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD APPRECIATE FULL EXTENT AND CHARACTER OF SUGGESTIONS WE MAKING. I WANTED FIRST TO GIVE HIM OUR ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO YEMENS AND INSIDE YAR AND, SECONDLY, DESCRIBE TO HIM SOME MEASURES WHICH WE THOUGHT WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN YAR.

2. DRAWING ON PARAS 2-4 REFTEL, I DESCRIBED WEAKNESSES AS WE SAW THEM IN BOTH YEMENS, NOTING WE SHARE SAUDI SKEPTICISM AS TO PROSPECTS FOR REALIZATION OF MEANINGFUL UNITY, HOWEVER, THINK SAUDI GOVT AGREES WITH US ON NEED FOR LETTING UNITY DISCUSSIONS PROCEED TO NATURAL CULMINATION WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

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EMPHASIZED OUR HOPE THAT PRINCIPAL ASSISTANCE COULD BE SENT THROUGH YARG AND THAT PRIMARY TASK IS TO BUILD YAR ECONOMY. CONSEQUENTLY DIRECTION OF FUNDS INTO HANDS OF TRIBES AND NUF CAN ONLY CREATE FURTHER UNCERTAINTY AND INSTABILITY. SAID I HOPED SAGGAF WOULD STUDY CAREFULLY WRITTEN RECORD OF MY REMARKS WHICH I WAS HANDING HIM.

3. MOVING ON TO REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AID, DESCRIBED HOW USG IS RAPIDLY GETTING UNDER WAY WITH PROJECT AS ASSISTANCE AND ENUMERATED BRIEFLY SPECIFIC KINDS OF UNDERTAKINGS WE HAVE IN MIND. MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF FOOD WILL SOON BE ON ITS WAY. WE ARE GALVANIZING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS, ARE FINANCING NUMBER OF YEMENIS STUDYING ABROAD, AND WILL PUSH UN AND PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS INTO AS ACTIVE ROLE AS WE CAN. YEMEN SUFFERS FROM MANY SHORT-RANGE ILLS AND THESE CANNOT BE NEGLECTED, BUT IN OUR DESIRE TO COPE WITH IMMEDIATE EMERGENCIES WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF NEED FOR LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR SOUND ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH OVER LONGER PERIOD WOULD COMMENCE MITIGATE YAR'S CHRONIC STATE OF EMERGENCY. THIS WAS WHERE MOST US EFFORT WOULD BE FOCUSED.

4. AS REGARDS YAR ARMY, WE FOUND BAFFLING THE DEGREE OF CONFUSION WHICH PREVAILS. REQUIREMENTS IN EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING ARE POORLY DEFINED. ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP ARE QUESTIONABLE. THERE IS CONFLICT AND WASTAGE AND LACK OF COORDINATION WITH OTHER MILITARY PARTICULARLY NUF.

5. IN EXPLAINING SPECIFIC STEPS WER PREPARED TO TAKE ASSIST WITH YEMEN'S MILITARY PROBLEM I SAID WE WERE INTENDING, INsofar AS WE COULD, RESPOND FAVORABLE TO EARLIER SUGGESTIONS MADE BY PRINCE SULTAN, ALTHOUGH WE STILL CONVINCED F-86'S AND T-33'S WOULD BE WORSE THAN USELESS IN YAR HANDS. WE PREPARED CONSIDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF ITEMS SAUDIS NOW FIND EXCESS TO THEIR NEEDS. WE PREPARED NOW SELL SELECTED SPARE PARTS AND OTHER GEAR TO YAR THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA ON CASH BASIS. WE ASSUMED SAG WOULD BE PREPARED PROVIDE REQUIRED FUNDS. MENTIONED, TOO, POSSIBILITY OF TRAINING

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HANDFUL OF YEMENI OFFICERS.

6. SAQQAF EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION AND DECLARED YEMEN ARMY IS INDEED IN MESS AND SAUDI ARABIA CHRONICALLY PUZZLED AS HOW BEST PROVIDE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE. OUR IDEAS WOULD BE CAREFULLY STUDIED.

7. WITH REGARD IRANIAN HELP, SAQQAF PLEASSED THAT YAR FOREIGN MINISTER NU'MAN STOPPING JIDDA EN ROUTE HOME FROM BEIRUT AND WOULD NEXT DAY BE LUNCHEON GUEST OF IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE. LATTER HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN EFFORTS PATCH UP IRAN-YAR RELATIONS AND SAQQAF WAS SURE GOI PREPARED BE SINSIBLE BUT REQUIRED YAR FULFILL CONCILIATORY MEASURES. HE WAS HOPEFUL YAR EMISSARY MIGHT SOON GET TO TEHRAN.

8. THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS, SAQQAF SAID, WITH REGARD PROPOSED VISIT HERE OF YAR MISSION FOR FULL DRESS SAG-YAR ARMS AND AID DISCUSSIONS. SAUDIS FEEL NEW YAR CABINET IS NOT AS STRONG AS IT MIGHT BE. THEY WERE THINKING OF ENCOURAGING SOMEONE WITH BROADER SUPPORT THAN NU'MAN TO COME WITH YEMEN TEAM, PERHAPS EVEN IRYANI HIMST LSGM ISSUE REMAINS UP IN AIR SOMEWHAT, BUT SAUDIS HOPE SEVERAL YEMENI POLITICAL ELEMENTS CAN BE REPRESENTED. IN ANY CASE, THERE WAS NO FIRM DECISION YET ON DATE AND CHARACTER OF YAR DELEGATION.

9. COMMENT: SAQQAF'S RESPONSE WAS ONE OF GENUINE SATISFACTION. HIS COMMENTS REFLECTED SOMEWHAT LESS OF HIS USUAL DOLOROUS FOREBODINGS WITH REGARD PDRY'S THREAT TO YAR SURVIVAL, THOUGH HE COMPARED BRIEFLY WHAT HE CONCEIVES TO BE MUCH BETTER COHERENCE AND ORGANIZATION OF PDRY WITH DISARRAY AND INEFFECTIVENESS IN NORTH. ORVIOUSLY HE BELIEVES YEMEN TEAM, WHEN IT COMES, WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF DRAWN FROM SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF CABINET RATHER THAN BEING DEPENDENT ON LEADERSHIP OF NU'MAN ALONE (THOUGH HE SEEMS TO HAVE NOTHING AGAINST LATTER.) SAQQAF WILL SEE THAT MEMOS OF MY REMARKS GET TO SULTAN. LATTER HAS JUST RETURNED FROM JORDAN BUT IS NOT GOING TO CAIRO SO EXPECT SEE HIM NEXT DAY OR SO. GDS.

THACHER

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