



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

of State
TELEGRAM

Sanaa 1136
 12/18/22

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SECRET 875

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT 201 /026 W

036152

R 181044Z DEC 72
 FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1556
 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
 AMEMBASSY JIDDA
 AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SANAA 1136 SECTION ONE OF TWO

EXDYS

DEPT PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD

SURJ: YAR/PDRY: USG VIEWS SOUGHT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE
 AGAINST PDRY, AND UNITY

1. SUMMARY: YARG SAYS IT IS CONCERNED ABOUT RECRUDESCENCE OF PDRY SABOTAGE IN SOUTHEAST; WONDERS ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF USG SECURITY ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY MINE DETECTION EQUIPMENT, AND SEEKS DEFINITION OF USG VIEWS ON UNITY.
2. IN MY DEC 15 CONVERSATION WITH HIM REFLECTED REFEELS, AND FOLLOWING HIS COMMENTS ON CABINET CHANGE, YAR AMBASSADOR TO PARIS MUHAMMAD NU'MAN (PROTECT) SAID THERE WERE THREE MATTERS HE WISHED REVIEW WITH ME FOR PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI'S BACKGROUND IN CONNECTION MY FORTHCOMING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.

3. FIRST, DID USG HAVE ANY REASON BELIEVE FAISAL HAD SHIFTED BACK TOWARD HARD LINE AGAINST YEMEN UNITY SINCE NU'MAN MISSION TO RIYADH AFTER TRIPOLI? YARG CONCERNED OVER COUPLE OF DISTURBING STRAWS IN WIND: ATTACK ON UNITY IN SAG-FINANCED NUF (ADEN REFUGEE) PAPER "NIDA AL-JANUB," AND RECENT REIMPOSITION OF TAX

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ON YEMENI PILGRIMS WHO ENTITLED MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT UNDER 1934 TREATY OF TAIF.

4. I GAVE NU'MAN OUR CONSIDERED ESTIMATE THAT "NIDA AL-JANUB" ARTICLE HAD GONE TO PRESS BEFORE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH SAG DURING HIS RIYADH VISIT. ON PILGRIMAGE TAX, I SAID WE HAD NO INFORMATION; SUGGESTED THIS THE KIND OF MATTER ON WHICH WE WOULD URGE YARG DEAL DIRECTLY WITH SAG. COMMENT: AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, SAG MADE SPECIAL CONCESSION TO YAR LAST YEAR IN WAIVING PILGRIMAGE FEES. PERHAPS EMBASSY JIDDA COULD DISCREETLY ASCERTAIN FOR OUR BACKGROUND WHETHER REIMPOSITION WAS DELIBERATE ACT OR WHETHER SAG OFFICIALS SIMPLY REVERTED TO NORMAL PROCEDURE ON TAXES IN ABSENCE OF NEW SPECIAL WAIVER DECISION FOR CURRENT YEAR FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY. WE APPRECIATE THAT FEES ARE IN FACT LARGELY CHARGES FOR SERVICES RENDERED SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION AND GUIDE EXPENSES.

5. SECOND INTENSE YARG PREOCCUPATION AT THIS TIME, ACCORDING NU'MAN, IS RECURRENCE OF PDRY SABOTAGE IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST. THIS HAS BEEN ON UPSWING SINCE SHORTLY AFTER TRIPOLI BUT HAS PARTICULARLY INTENSIFIED SINCE ABOUT DEC 12. PARTICULARLY DISTURBING HAS BEEN RENEWED MINING OF ROADS BY PDRY TEAMS.

6. TO MEET THIS KIND OF THREAT, NU'MAN ASKED FOR MY VIEWS ON FEASIBILITY OF (A) USG ASSISTANCE IN SECURITY FIELD GENERALLY (NU'MAN DID NOT SPECIFY BUT OTHERS WHO MAY DO MAY NOT HAVE BEEN SPEAKING FOR PRESIDENT HAVE SUGGESTED THIS MEANS USG HELP IN UPGRADING YARG'S ALMOST NON-EXISTENT INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES); AND (B) USG PROVIDING MINE DETECTION EQUIPMENT ON URGENT BASIS.

7. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT THINK WE WOULD BE HELPFUL TO YEMEN IF WE IDENTIFIED USG WITH YAR, THROUGH SECURITY ASSISTANCE, IN ITS TROUBLES WITH PDRY. USG WANTED A STRONG YAR CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITSELF AGAINST INCURSIONS FROM COMMUNIST SOUTH, BUT FOR US TO ENTER FIELD DIRECTLY AGAINST A SOVIET AND PRO-BACKED PDRY WOULD TEND INTRODUCE A COLD WAR FLAVOR INTO



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SITUATION, REDUCING YARG FLEXIBILITY TO LESSEN TENSIONS ALONG BORDER WITH SOUTH THROUGH ITS OWN DIPLOMACY, RELIANCE ON OVERWHELMING SUPPORT IT ENJOYED FROM OTHER ARAB STATES BY CONTRAST WITH BDRY, ARAB LEAGUE MECHANISMS, ETC. IF YARG FELT IT NEEDED HELP IN SECURITY FIELD, I SPECULATED THAT SOME OTHER NATION MIGHT BE ABLE ASSIST WITH EQUAL EFFECT AND LESS DISADVANTAGEOUS -- FOR YARI -- POLITICAL OVERTONES. SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THIS OVER MORE CAREFULLY AND MIGHT LATER HAVE SOME SPECIFIC IDEAS TO OFFER.

8. ON MINE DETECTION EQUIPMENT - USE OF WHICH WOULD ALSO REQUIRE TRAINING - I TOLD NUMAN I WOULD DISCOURAGE YARG LOOKING TO USG AS CRASH SUPPLIER. THERE WAS BROAD QUESTION OF IDENTIFICATION I HAD MENTIONED, AND SPECIFIC LEGAL PROBLEMS HAVING TO DO WITH YAR'S ELIGIBILITY FOR DIRECT SALES, ETC. I CONTRASTED DIFFICULTIES USG WOULD FACE IN THIS SENSE WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, GDS

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W

036094

R 181044Z DEC 72
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1557
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SANAA 1136 FINAL SECTION OF TWO

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD

SUBJ: YAR/PDRY: USG VIEWS SOUGHT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE
AGAINST PDRY, AND UNITY.RATHER DRAMATIC WAY SAG HAD BEEN ABLE RESPOND
DURING SEPT-OCT BORDER WAR.

9. NU'MAN TOOK THIS POINT AND SAID FELT PRESIDENT
WOULD AGREE ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING DIRECT USG
IDENTIFICATION WITH IMPROVED SECURITY EFFORTS YARG MUST
NOW UNDERTAKE. HOWEVER, IF I DEVELOPED ANY FURTHER
IDFAS CONCERNING USG OR OTHER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN
THIS FIELD, THESE OULD BE WELCOMED.

10. NU'MAN SAID PRESIDENT'S THIRD CONCERN WOULD BE TO
OBTAIN FROM ME USG'S UNDERLYING ATTITUDE TOWARD YAR-PDRY
UNITY. I SAID I COULD ASSURE PRESIDENT THAT USG
FAVORED UNION WITHIN CONTEXT TRIPOLI COMMUNIQUE PRO-
VIDED THIS CAME ABOUT AS RESULT OF VOLITION OF BOTH
PARTIES AND PRODUCED FOR ALL OF YEMEN A GOVERNMENT
FOUNDED ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. IN LIGHT ITS OWN
HISTORY, US COULD NOT MORALLY TAKE ANY OTHER STAND.

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OUR ONLY CONCERN IN PRESENT SITUATION WAS, FRANKLY, THAT YAR BE ABLE NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH REFLECTING ITS POPULATION PREPONDERANCE TO ENSURE THAT ITS ATTITUDES, RATHER THAN THOSE OF MILITANTLY COMMUNIST SOUTH, PREVAILED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITY.

11. NU'MAN SAID PRESIDENT WOULD BE PLEASED TO LEARN THIS, BUT HE URGED THAT I BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE IN CONVERSATION WITH AL-IRYANI TO PUT US IN BEST LIGHT VIS-A-VIS SOVIETS, WHO CLEARLY AGAINST UNITY, AND PRC WHICH SOMEWHAT EVASIVE.

12. FOR DEPARTMENT'S BACKGROUND, I HAVE INCLUDED IN PRESENTATION REMARKS GIVEN FONOFF FOR PRESIDENT FOLLOWING NON-COMMITTAL STATEMENT ON UNITY, WHICH CAN BE INTERPRETED AS REFERENCE TO INTERNAL YUR COHESION OR UNITY OF TWO YEMENS, AS LISTENER SHOUSES: "I HAVE LONG LOOKED FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, WHO SYMBOLIZE YOUR NATION'S LONG STRUGGLE TO FREE THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT OF THE YEMENI PEOPLE, TO MODERNIZE, TO UNITY."

13. EMBASSY WILL COMMENT SEPARATELY ON YARG'S INTEREST IN INTERNAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

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