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Authority NND 969049

By Cm NARA Date 6-12-03

Yol S Yemen - Yemen

of State TELEGRAM

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SECRET 526

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45 ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 / 26 W 1972-8-29 Iryani Military Dilemma
R 291045Z AUG 72 130127
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1288
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 0710

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SUBJ: DILEMMA FACING YAR MILITARY LEADERSHIP

1. SUMMARY: YAR ARMY COMMANDER AND HIS CHIEF OF STAFF EXPLAINED TO CHARGE THAT MILITARY LEADERSHIP FACES TWO-PHASE PROBLEM OF DEFENDING BORDER AREAS AGAINST PDRY AGGRESSIONS AND REDUCING ARMY'S DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET EQUIPMENT AND ADVISERS. GENERALS POINTED OUT SOVIETS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ARMING AND TRAINING LAWLESS PDRY REGIME WHICH WAS BENT ON INTERVENING WITH FORCE IN YAR. THEY ASKED WHETHER SOME TYPE OF US COOPERATION IN MILITARY FIELD WOULD BE POSSIBLE. YAR-PDRY HOSTILITY HAS ENTERED MORE SERIOUS PHASE. TO HELP YARG WE SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO OUR TAKING UP WITH USSR WAYS TO LOWER CURRENT TENSION AND VIOLENCE. (END SUMMARY.)

2. COMMANDER OF YARG ARMED FORCES MUHAMMAD AL-IRYANI AND CHIEF OF STAFF HASAIN MASWARI SENT WORD THROUGH MOHAMMED NOMAN, YAR AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, THEY WOULD LIKE DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE. FOUR OF US MET IN MASWARI'S HOUSE EVENING AUG 26. GENERAL IRYANI EXPLAINED THEY WISHED TO PRESENT TO CHARGE AND THROUGH HIM TO WASHINGTON VIEWS OF YAR MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

HE SAID LATER HAD WISHED TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH

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U.S. BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONE BIG POWER WITH OUTLOOK SIMILAR TO THEIR OWN. THEY BELIEVED RESUMPTION OF NORMAL FRIENDLY TIES WITH US WOULD STRENGTHEN YAR SECURITY AS WELL AS THAT OF WHOLE PENINSULA. THEY ALSO WANTED RESUMPTION TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH DIGNITY AND BE FREE OF ANY BARGAINING.

4. MOVING INTO PRESENT TIME FRAME IRYANI SAID YAR AND ALL OF PENINSULA ARE THREATENED BY COMMUNIST REGIME IN ADEN. THEIR AGGRESSIONS AND TERRORIST ACTS ARE INCREASING. THEIR PROPAGANDA IN YAR HAS FORCE AND IS GROWING. ON OTHER SIDE YAR ARMY IS GREATLY HANDICAPPED BY BEING TIED TO SOVIET EQUIPMENT AND ADVISERS. SOVIET HAND IN YEMEN IS HEAVIEST IN MILITARY FIELD. YAR MILITARY LEADERSHIP DID NOT KNOW HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS SITUATION, AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER SECURITY COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND YAR IS POSSIBLE.
5. CHARGE SAID HE THOUGHT RESUMPTION OF NORMAL RELATIONS ADDED FIBER AND BACKING TO SECURITY OF YEMEN AND PENINSULA. US MILITARY AID PROGRAM WAS NOT POSSIBLE, BUT US HAS INFLUENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP IN THIS AREA OF WORLD AND IN MOSCOW. IRYANI COMMENTED THAT RUSSIANS COULD NOT BE TRUSTED. GENERALS WERE ASKED IF THEY HAD ANY GOOD EVIDENCE OF ACTIVE SOVIET INSTIGATION OF AGGRESSIONS AND KILLINGS IN SOUTHERN YAR. MASWARI SAID SOVIETS WERE CLEARLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARMING AND TRAINING LAWLESS REGIME WHICH WAS BENT ON INTERVENING IN NEIGHBORING STATES.
6. CHARGE SAID WE, LIKE OTHERS, BELIEVED BEST DEFENSE AGAINST PDRY WAS TO FOCUS EFFORTS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF YAR. IRYANI REPLIED THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT CURRENT ARMY LEADERSHIP WANTED, BUT THEY WERE BEING FORCED TO GRAPPLE WITH ACTIVE MILITARY PROBLEM. IT APPEARED CHARGE SAID YAR MILITARY'S PROBLEM NOW HAD TWO PHASES. FIRST, SECURITY HAD TO BE RE-ESTABLISHED IN BORDER AREAS, AND THEN THERE WOULD BE LONGER RANGE PHSE OF REDUCING

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INDEPENDENCE ON YAR'S SOVIET SUPPLIERS AND ADVISERS.
 IRYANI AGREED THIS WAS PICTURE.

7. GENERALS WERE ASKED WHAT IN BROAD TERMS YAR
 ARMY NEEDED MOST. AIRCRAFT WAS MENTIONED, BUT THEY
 WERE NOT INTERESTED IN GETTING INTO DETAILS. (THEY
 HAVE TWO SERVICEABLE MIGS AND TWELVE TRAINED FIGHTER
 PILOTS.) MASWARI RUMMAGED THROUGH CABINET AT HIS
 SIDE AND PULLED OUT COPY OF DOCUMENT IN RUSSIAN
 WHICH HE SAID GAVE DETAILS OF SECOND OF THREE
 SUBSTANTIAL ARMS SHIPMENTS RECENTLY RECEIVED AT ADEN.
 DOCUMENT, WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS LECTURE TO BE
 GIVEN BY SOVIET OFFICER IN ADEN, WAS SENT IN
 SURPRISING ERROR TO MASWARI BY SOVIET CHARGE JULY 24.
 WHATEVER ACCURACY THIS EXTENSIVE ARMS LIST MIGHT
 HAVE, GENERALS ARE HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT.
 (DOCUMENT POUCHED TO NEK/ARP. PLEASE RETURN
 TRANSLATION.)

8. WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY WERE GETTING FROM SAUDIS,

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