



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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Authority NND 969049

By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

CONFIDENTIAL 946

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-011972-3-24, 1974-01-25, 018727
EUR-20 NIC-01 ENVA-01 018727
W TribesR 241400Z MAR 72
FM USINT SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 970
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0198

SUBJ: YEMENI TRIBAL LEADERS COMMENT ON PDRY

REF: SANAA 197

1. LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 23 PRINCIPAL OFFICER MET WITH PARAMOUNT SHAIDK OF HASHID TRIBE, ABULLAH BIN HASSAIN ALI AHMAR, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, AND SINAN ABU LAHUM WHO IS HARD-DRIVING, INFLUENTIAL GOVERNOR OF HODEIDAH AND ONE OF DEPUTY LEADERS OF BAKIL TRIBE. AS DEPT AWARE, HASHID AND BAKIL ARE TWO LEADING HIGHLAND TRIBAL CONFEDERATIONS. APPOINTMENT WAS WITH SHAIKH ABDULLAH WHO OBVIOUSLY HAD ASKED ABU LAHUM TO SIT IN TO HELP HANDLE SUBJECTS I MIGHT RAISE. ABU LAHUM, WHO DID GREATER PART OF TALKING, IGNORED QUESTION PUT TO THEM ABOUT CURRENT TENSIONS WITH PDRY. WHEN HE WAS CALLED FROM ROOM, I ASKED AGAIN ABOUT ISSUE IN TERMS OF FRIENDLY CONCERN FOR MODERATE GOVT IN YEMEN.
2. SHAIKH ABULLAH SAID MARXIST PDRY IS CONTROLLED, SUPPLIED AND INSTIGATED BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES FROM WHICH ADEN REGIME BETS ITS CONTEMPTIBLE IDEOLOGY, OF SO-CALLED SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM. BOTH COMMUNIST STATES AND REGIME HAVE DESIGNS NOT ONLY ON YEMEN BUT ON REST OF ARABIAN PENINSULA. SOVIETS, CHINESE, EAST GERMANS AND SMALLER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AT SOVIET ORDERS PROVIDE ALL EQUIP-
MENT AND TRAINING ADEN GOVT REQUIRES TO KEEP ITS

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PEOPLE DOWN AND THREATEN NEIGHBORS. SHAIKH ABDULLAH CLAIMED PDRY HAS NO FRIENDS IN ARAB WORLD. EVEN RADICAL ARAB STATES DO NOT LIKE WHAT HAS DEVELOPED THERE.

3. ADEN REGIME, HHE DECLARED, REPRESENTS FOREIGN INTRUSION AMONG ARABS. PDRY IS A PARIAH. IT IS CANCER WHICH MUST AND WILL BE CUT OUT. ABU LAHUM, WHO HAD JUST RE-ENTERED, ADDED, AND SHAIKH AGREED, SUCH OPERATION WOULD NOT BE SIMPLE, AND PROPER TOOLS AND RESOURCES WOULD BE NEEDED. AT THAT POINT ABU LAHUM CUT OFF FURTHER DISCUSSION.

4. COMMENT: YEMENI LEADERS APPARENTLY ARE RELUCTANT TO GO VERY FAR IN DISCUSSING CURRENT CONFLICT. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAS SAID THIS HAS BEEN HIS EXPERIENCE TOO. HOWEVER, THESE TWO IMPORTANT TRIBAL LEADERS GAVE IMPRESSION THEY ARE NOT UNDERESTIMATING STRENGTH OF ADEN REGIME AND ARE ENVISAGING ITS DOWNFALL AS SOMETHING FOR FUTURE AND NOT AS NEAR POSSIBILITY. IF THIS IS TRUE, IT WOULD SEEM YEMENI BUILDUP IS MAINLY MOVE TO STRENGTHEN DEFENSES AND INCREASE CAPABILITY FOR TRIBAL SKIRMISHING.
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