

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969049

By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

OFFICES

ROBERT M. BECKMAN  
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

ROBERT M. BECKMAN  
DON W. CROCKETT

August 10, 1971

MEMORANDUM

Re: 4402 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20011

**1971-8-10, Iryani, Embassy Building 7.1e 40:JHMichael**

1. In 1951, the Yemen Embassy in Washington was instructed to purchase a building at 4402 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. in the name of the King of Yemen. The building was purchased for \$46,500. A copy of the deed is attached hereto.

2. The property was used as the Yemenite Legation in Washington. The chargé d'affaires of Yemen informed the Secretary of State on June 21, 1951 that "title of the property . . . had been taken as of this date for the use of this Legation." The Department of State acknowledged receipt of said note in a reply dated June 22, 1951 which recited, "in regard to the purchase by the Government of Yemen of the property . . ."

3. By notice dated February 12, 1952, the property was exempted from taxation as of July 1, 1951, by the Board of Commissioners of the Government of the District of Columbia which recognized that the lot is "assessed to the King of Yemen."

*Robert M. Beckman*

①

*Pol 17-7 YEMEN-US*

*Discussed with Beckman  
9/20/71 -  
① DC authorities have  
informally consented  
property will not be  
sold.  
CODE 202-638-6050  
CABLE ADDRESS: BECKMANLAW*

*② We cannot act, on  
tax exemption until  
diplomatic use  
is established.*

*③ He may have a  
Fulbright Act problem*

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4. Al-Imam Annas I R. Liddin, Ahmad Ibn Yahya Hamid Iddin, King of Yemen, died September 19, 1962.
5. The United States recognized the Yemen Arab Republic, which sought to gain possession of the property by a spurious eviction action initiated in the Landlord and Tenant Branch of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions, Civil Division, entitled Yemen Arab Republic v. Assayed Ahmed Zabarah, L&T LT48011-'63.
6. Mr. Zabarah defended this action on the ground that the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions did not have jurisdiction to try questions of title. This position was upheld by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in March, 1964, and no further legal action was taken thereafter by the Yemen Arab Republic.
7. By virtue of the controversy as to title of this property, pursuant to legal advice to protect its position, District of Columbia real estate taxes were paid on the property commencing in 1963. Taxes were paid regularly since then until 1971.
8. After the formation of a coalition government in Yemen, controversy over ownership of the house was resolved, and the Yemen Arab Republic is recognized as the true beneficial owner of the property. A copy of the insurance endorsement reflecting the change of ownership is attached.
9. Since the basis for the prior advice to pay District of Columbia real estate taxes had now disappeared, real estate

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taxes were not paid in 1971 again pursuant to legal advice.

Taxes have not been paid for either the first half or second half of 1971. A penalty has been assessed for delinquency in the first half 1971 tax payment. A final delinquent tax notice dated July 1, 1971 has been sent advising that if taxes are not paid by August 13, 1971 the property will be advertised in September, and if the delinquency still exists, the property will be sold in October. Copies of the real estate tax notices are attached.

RMB:hc

Enclosures:

Copy of Deed  
" " Insurance Endorsement  
" " Final Delinquent Tax Notice  
" " Tax Notice

*Robert M. Beckman*  
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