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1973-4-29, Iryani, South, Union

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAF-00 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01
ACDA-19 /118 W

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R 291307Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2052
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT ALGIERS
CINCEUR
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 725

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YE, YS, SA, UR
SUBJ: PDRY LAUNCHES SUMMIT-LEVEL INITIATIVE ON YEMEN UNITY

CINCEUR FORHLOLAD

SECDEF FOR ISA

SUMMARY: FOR REASONS THAT ELUDE AND DISTURB YARG, PDRY HAS LAUNCHED AN URGENT INITIATIVE TO ESCALATE PRESENT DESULTORY DISCUSSIONS ON UNITY TO THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL. SINCE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ARAB LEAGUE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBYA AND ALGERIA HAVE GIVEN THIS INITIATIVE FULL SUPPORT, YARG FEELS IT MUST GO ALONG. IT IS APPREHENSIVE, HOWEVER, THAT SAG WILL MISUNDERSTAND REASONS WHY NORTH YEMEN FEELS IT

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MUST ACQUIESCE IN THIS INITIATIVE AND REACT VIOLENTLY, PERHAPS TO DETRIMENT OF NASCENT MILITARY COOPERATION.

END SUMMARY.

1. WITH AMBASSADOR BROWN WHO VISITING FROM AMMAN, I DINED WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN/FONMIN NU'MAN APRIL 27. NU'MAN INFORMED US THAT THERE HAS BEEN SUDDEN, PUZZLING, AND SOMEWHAT DISTURBING NEW DEVELOPMENT ON YEMEN UNITY FRONT. AMIDST GENERAL AWARENESS THAT UNITY NEGOTIATIONS IN THE VARIOUS SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEES HAVE MADE LITTLE MEANINGFUL PROGRESS (SANAA 706) PDRY HAS INJECTED REQUEST THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE IMMEDIATELY RAISED TO PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL. FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE US FOLLOWING BACKGROUND:

2. DURING PERIOD APRIL 16-20 "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF PRESIDENTS" OF CONCERNED STATES (YAR, PDRY, ALGERIA, LIBYA) AND ARAB LEAGUE DEP SEC GEN HELD MEETINGS ON YEMEN UNITY IN ADEN. THEREAFTER, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE VISITED TAIZ ON APRIL 20 AND SANAA ON APRIL 21 BEFORE RETURNING TO ADEN APRIL 23. DURING VISIT TO TAIZ, SALIM AL-YAFI, THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN MUHMUD RAID, INFORMED PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS IN SOUTH HAD CONVINCED HIM THERE NEW CURRENT BLOWING IN ADEN, PDRY, HE FELT, DISTURBED THAT DISCUSSIONS IN VARIOUS COMMITTEES HAD DEVOLVED INTO STERILE ARGUMENTS LEADING TO IMPASSE ON GROUNDS OF CONFLICTING IDEOLOGY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. HAVING COME AROUND TO VIEW THAT UNITY SHOULD BE PURSUED SERIOUSLY AND THAT THIS COULD BE DONE ONLY WHEN LOWER RANKING IDEOLOGUES PUSHED ASIDE, PDRY BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL RESTORE UNITY DIALOGUE TO PRESIDENTAIL LEVEL WHICH HAD WORKED WELL AT TRIPOLI LAST NOVEMBER. TO THIS PRUPOSE, PDRY WISHED, AND AL-YAFI URGED AL-IRYANI ACCEPT, VISIT TO TAIZ IN EARLY MAY BY PDRY PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SALIM RUBAYYI' ALI AND PRIME MINISTER ALI NASIR HASANI.

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3. NU'MAN TOLD US THAT IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT IRYANI AND, AT LENGTH, WITH NU'MAN HIMSELF, PDRY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CHAIRMAN SALIM RUBAYYI' ALI, INFORMATION MINISTER ABDULLAH AL-KHAMIRI, HAD ALSO TRIED TO CONVINCE YARG THAT PDRY HAS UNDERGONE A REAL CHANGE OF HEART IN ITS POLICY TOWARD UNITY. HE ADMITTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH HAD NOT BEEN ENTIRELY SERIOUS HERETOFORE. WITH A PRETENCE OF CANDOR, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PDRY POLICY HAD BEEN OVERLY INFLUENCED BY MILITARISTS AND IDEOLOGICAL ADVENTURERS COMMITTED TO EXPORTATION OF COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY BY FORCE. THESE ELEMENTS HAD REGARDED MILITARY CONFRONTATON WITH NORTH YEMEN AS INEVITABLE AND TO BE WELCOMED, AND HAD PREPARED FOR THAT EVENTUALITY. NOW, KHAMIRI ASSERTED, POLICY ASCENDENCY IN PDRY INNER COUNCILS HAD BEEN WON BY PERSONS ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH YAR AND MOVE POSITIVELY TOWARD UNITY. HE URGED THAT AL-IRYANI RECEIVE SALIM RUBAYYI' AND ALI NASIR IN THIS NEW SPIRIT. HE ALSO URGED THAT YAR LEADERSHIP, IN SPIRIT OF RECIPROCITY, DESIST FROM CONTINUED EFFORTS ESTABLISH NATIONAL QUOTE YEMENI UNION UNQUOTE PARTY IN NORTH. ADENIS, HE COMPLAINED, SEE THIS AS A BODY HOSTILE TO THEM AND TO UNITY. THEY CONSIDER ITS ESTABLISHMENT CONTRARY TO TRIPOLI ACCORD WHICH ANTICIPATED CREATION OF SINGLE NATIONALIST PARTY SERVING AS POLITICAL CEMENT FOR EVENTUAL UNITY INSTITUTIONS.

4. NU'MAN COMMENTED THAT YARG LEADERSHIP REGARDS PDRY'S PRETENDED VOLTE FACE AS COMPLETE PHONY BUT IS PUZZLED AS TO REASONS FOR IT. ONE HYPOTHESIS IS THAT PDRY HAS HEARD OF NEW YARG/SAG MILITARY UNDERSTANDINGS AND IS FEARFUL THAT, WITH US BACKING, YARG FORCES WILL SUDDENLY BECOME AN EFFECTIVE THREAT WHICH PDRY MUST TRY TO DEFLECT BY PRETENCE OF POLICY CHANGE IN ORDER ENABLE IT GAIN TIME ABSORB SOPHISTICATED SOVIET WEAPONRY POURING INTO ADEN. ANTOHER THEORY IS THAT PDRY MOVE IS IN SOME WAY A REFLECTION OF INTERNAL POLITICAL IN-FIGHTING BETWEEN SALIM RUBAYYI' AND 'ABN AL-FATTAH ISMAIL. ACCORDING YARG'S VERY SKETCHY INTELLIGENCE, POSITION OF LATTER,

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WHO IS CLEARLY RUSSIA'S MAN, MAY BE SLIPPING AND SOVIETS CONCEIVABLE BEHIND PDRY QUOTE PEACE OFFENSIVE UNQUOTE IN EFFORT GAIN TIME TO SHORE UP THEIR MAN AGAINST AN EFFORT TO OUST HIM.

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RSR-01 /118 W
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R 2913077 APR 73
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SANAA 0725

5. NU'MAN FELT THAT WHETHER THEORY ONE OR THEROY TWO OR SOME BLEND OF BOTH WERE TRUE, USSR IS SOME WAY BEHIND PDRY PRETENDED NEW POSTURE.

6. NU'MAN COMMENTED THAT DESPITE SUSPICION AND MIS-GIVING, PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI AND YARG HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT ARAB LEAGUE-SUPPORTED PROPOSAL FOR MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS, IN KEEPING WITH CONSISTENT POLICY OF MAKING SURE THAT ONUS FOR EVEN-TUAL AND INEVITABLE FAILURE OF UNITY TALKS LAY WITH PDRY NOT YARG.

7. NU'MAN TOLD US HE WOULD BE GOING TO TAIZ APRIL 28 FOR MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI AND OTHERS TO DEVELOP YAR IDEAS FOR AGENDA FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS. HE HOPES TO REINJECT ONE OF HIS OWN

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FAVORITE IDEAS, A PROPOSAL FOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO YEMENS RENOUNCING USE OF VIOLENCE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

8. THROUGH A SEPARATE CHANNEL APRIL 28 PRESIDENT AL-IRYANI SENT ME A MESSAGE SAYING HE HOPED USG AND SAG WOULD NOT MISUNDERSTAND YARG'S MOTIVES IN AGREEING TO NEW PRESIDENTIAL-LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH, NOR LET THIS INTERFERE WITH CURRENT AND DEEPLY APPRECIATED USG EFFORTS COORDINATE AND SUPPORT EFFECTIVE SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR NORTH YEMEN. I HAVE REPLIED THAT WE ENTIRELY UNDERSTAND YAR'S SITUATION, PARTICULARLY ITS NEED TO RETAIN PRESENT BROAD ARAB DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AND NOT LET PDRY APPEAR TO STEAL PROPAGANDA MARCH BY APPEARING THE MORE EFFETIVE ADVOCATE OF UNITY. HOWEVER, I CAUTIONED, YARG MUST BE VERY CAREFUL TO KEEP ITS LINES CLEAR WITH SAG CONCERNING THIS NEW UNITY MOVE. UNLESS THERE COMPLETE SAG UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHY YARG PROCEEDING ON THIS COURSE, THERE COULD INDEED BE SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF CURRENT MOVES ENLIST EFFECTIVE SAUDI SUPPORT IN MILITARY FIELD. FOR PRESIDENT'S BACKGROUND I CONVEYED CURRENT STATUS OF EMBASSY JIDDA'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG LOOKING TOWARD PROMPT TRANSFER OF SOME OF MOST URGENTLY NEEDED EQUIPMENT.
CRAWFORD

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