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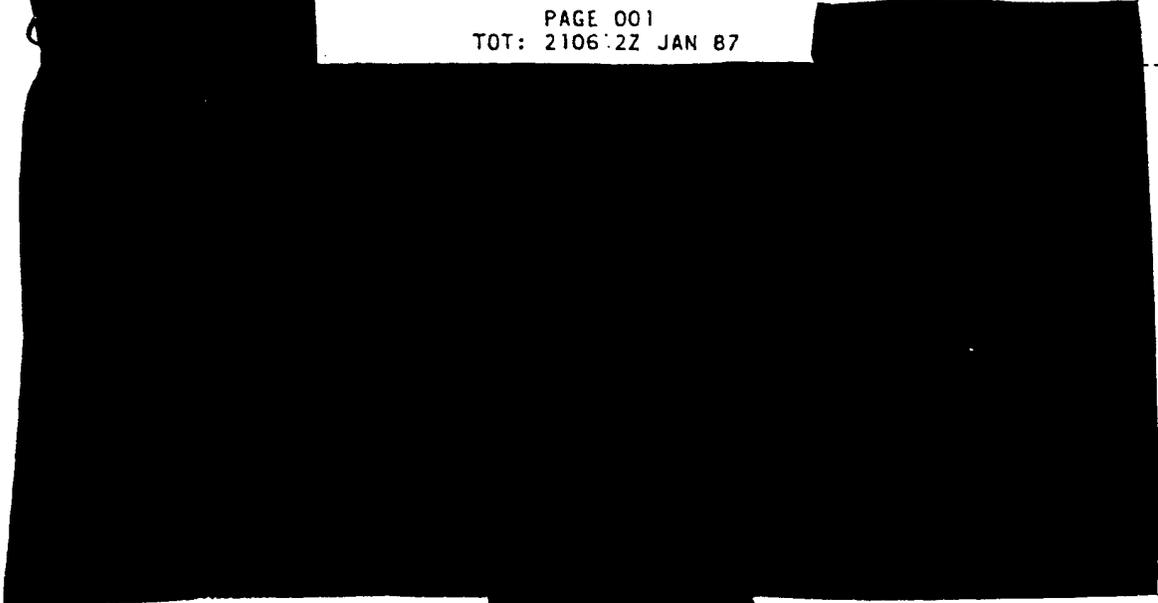
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SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST ASIA BRIEF
1987.

FOR 21 JANUARY

FROM: DDI/O

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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b3 [REDACTED] PAGE 002 [REDACTED] b3
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1. IRAN-IRAQ: CONCERN AMONG PERSIAN GULF ARABS

IRAQI FORCES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO KEEP IRAN FROM GAINING GROUND EAST OF AL BASRAH, RAISING FEARS AMONG OTHER PERSIAN GULF STATES THAT THE CITY MAY FALL.

b3 [REDACTED]

b3 THE GULF STATES HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT OF IRAQ. [REDACTED] GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL BISHARA HAS URGED THE US AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS TO CALL PUBLICLY FOR A NEGOTIATED END TO THE WAR. [REDACTED]

b3 [REDACTED] IRAN PROBABLY WILL LAUNCH NEW ATTACKS IN ITS EFFORT TO BREACH IRAQI LINES. BAGHDAD PROBABLY CAN PREVENT THE FALL OF AL BASRAH, BUT, BECAUSE TEHRAN IS KEEPING THEM ON THE DEFENSIVE, THEY ARE HAVING TROUBLE ORGANIZING A CONCERTED COUNTERATTACK TO REGAIN LOST TERRITORY. AIR AND MISSILE ATTACKS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATIONS IN EACH COUNTRY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE. [REDACTED]

b3 IRAQ'S INABILITY TO REPULSE IRANIAN ADVANCES HAS INCREASED FEARS AMONG GULF STATES OF AN IRANIAN VICTORY. MANY PROBABLY BELIEVE THE FALL OF AL BASRAH AND THE OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN IRAQ WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO IRANIAN MILITARY PRESSURE ON OTHER ARAB STATES, ESPECIALLY KUWAIT. CONTINUED IRANIAN SUCCESSES WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY PROMPT THE GULF STATES TO ASK THE US FOR CLOSER SECURITY COOPERATION. [REDACTED]

b3 2. KUWAIT-IRAN: ISLAMIC SUMMIT DEVELOPMENTS

THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SUMMIT PROBABLY WILL CONVENE IN KUWAIT MONDAY AS SCHEDULED DESPITE THE RECENT SABOTAGE OF KUWAITI OIL FACILITIES AND CONTINUED HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND AL BASRAH. [REDACTED]

b3 [REDACTED] AT LEAST THREE SIMULTANEOUS EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED AT KUWAIT'S AHMADI OFFSHORE SEA ISLAND TERMINAL, HAQL AL MAQWA' OILFIELD, AND MINA 'AB DALLAH OIL REFINERY. THE EXPLOSIONS SHUT DOWN ONE SEA ISLAND BERTH AND THE REFINERY. NO ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPLOSIONS, AND KUWAITI [REDACTED] OFFICIALS ARE DENYING THEY ARE TERRORIST RELATED.

b3 [REDACTED] IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER MUSAVI RECENTLY TOLD [REDACTED] b3 [REDACTED] THAT THE SUMMIT MIGHT BE DISRUPTED BY VIOLENCE AND THAT ISLAMIC JIHAD, THE IRANIAN-BACKED SHIA GROUP HOLDING HOSTAGES IN LEBANON, WARNED KUWAIT LAST WEEK IT WOULD TAKE NEGATIVE ACTION IF THE SUMMIT CONVENED. [REDACTED]

b3 MOST ISLAMIC HEADS OF STATE PLAN TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT, ALTHOUGH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD'S PARTICIPATION IS STILL IN DOUBT AND IRAN PROBABLY WILL NOT SEND A DELEGATION. [REDACTED]

b3 [REDACTED] THE EXPLOSIONS IN KUWAIT MAY HAVE BEEN INSTIGATED BY IRAN. THERE ARE MANY IRANIAN SYMPATHIZERS IN KUWAIT AMONG NATIVE SHIAS AND FOREIGN WORKERS EMPLOYED AT OIL [REDACTED] FACILITIES; IRANIAN-BACKED

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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TERRORISTS PROBABLY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIMILAR ATTACKS LAST JUNE. THE DAMAGE IS NOT LIKELY TO REDUCE KUWAITI EXPORTS OF ABOUT 1 MILLION BARRELS A DAY. [REDACTED]

b3

IRAN HAS BEEN TRYING TO FORCE A POSTPONEMENT AND CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THE CONFERENCE AND PROBABLY HOPES THAT SABOTAGE AND IRANIAN MILITARY ADVANCES NEAR AL BASRAH--ONLY 40 MILES (65 KILOMETERS) FROM KUWAIT'S BORDER--WILL DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE. BECAUSE THE HEAVILY DEFENDED CONFERENCE SITE WOULD BE A DIFFICULT TARGET, IRANIAN-BACKED GROUPS MAY TRY TO EMBARRASS KUWAIT BY ATTACKING EASIER TARGETS, SUCH AS OTHER OIL FACILITIES, CAFES, OR SECURITY INSTALLATIONS. [REDACTED]

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DESPITE KUWAIT'S STRICT SECURITY MEASURES, OTHER TERRORIST INCIDENTS ARE LIKELY, AND US [REDACTED] INTERESTS ARE AT PARTICULAR RISK.

[REDACTED]

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4. INDIA: OFFENSIVE BY SIKH EXTREMISTS

SIKH MILITANTS ARE INCREASING THEIR ATTACKS IN PUNJAB TO DISRUPT CELEBRATIONS OF INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY NEXT MONDAY, BUT NEW DELHI AND THE MODERATE SIKH STATE GOVERNMENT HAVE MOVED QUICKLY TO CONTAIN THE VIOLENCE.

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SIKHS KILLED NINE PEOPLE IN PUNJAB, INCLUDING A SENIOR LOCAL OFFICIAL OF PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S CONGRESS PARTY, IN SIX SEPARATE INCIDENTS ON MONDAY.

b3

PUNJAB POLICE AND PARAMILITARY FORCES ENTERED THE GOLDEN TEMPLE--THE SIKHS' HOLIEST SHRINE--LAST WEEKEND AND ARRESTED 50 SIKHS, INCLUDING SIX MILITANT LEADERS. GANDHI SUMMONED PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER BARNALA TO NEW DELHI LAST FRIDAY TO DISCUSS ANTITERRORIST STRATEGY AND THE DEMANDS OF MODERATE SIKHS.

BARNALA AND A BREAKAWAY FACTION OF HIS PARTY HAVE AGREED TO POSTPONE PROTESTS DESIGNED TO FORCE CONCESSIONS FROM NEW DELHI.

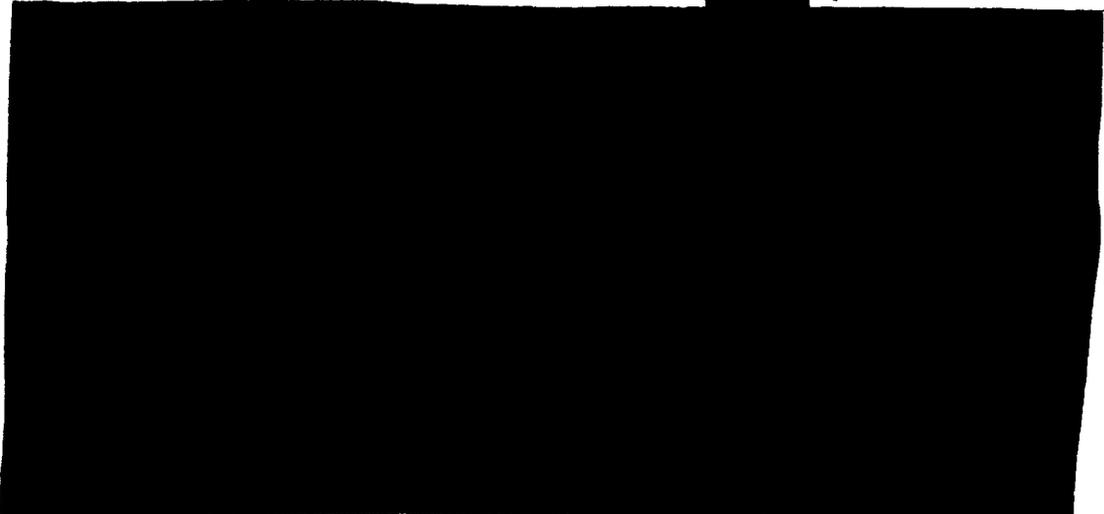
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THE POLICE SWEEP AND THE ARREST OF SEPARATIST LEADERS SUGGEST NEW DELHI IS DETERMINED TO KEEP MODERATE SIKHS IN CONTROL OF THE GOLDEN TEMPLE AND TO PREVENT THE EXTREMISTS FROM ENTERING THE TEMPLE ON REPUBLIC DAY AS THEY DID LAST YEAR. NEW DELHI'S PROMISE TO REVIVE THE STALLED TALKS ON MODERATE SIKH DEMANDS WILL HELP BARNALA TO DEFLECT ATTACKS FROM MORE HARDLINE RIVALS IN HIS OWN PARTY EVEN IF NO AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED.

b3

THE INCREASE IN VIOLENCE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE AND COULD PEAK WITH A LARGE ATTACK ON OR NEAR REPUBLIC DAY. NONETHELESS, GANDHI IS UNLIKELY TO DISMISS BARNALA OR TO REIMPOSE NEW DELHI'S DIRECT RULE, ESPECIALLY AMID SIGNS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN BARNALA AND HIS RIVALS. EVEN IF BARNALA IS UNABLE TO STEM THE SURGE IN EXTREMIST ATTACKS, GANDHI IS LIKELY TO INCREASE THE PRESENCE OF PARAMILITARY FORCES IN PUNJAB BEFORE HE CONSIDERS DISMISSING BARNALA.

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6. PLO: FATAH'S INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORIST ATTACKS

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[REDACTED] b3
A PALESTINIAN MEMBER OF A SPECIAL FATAH SECURITY GROUP WHO WAS ARRESTED IN CASABLANCA IN AUGUST HAS IMPLICATED A SENIOR AIDE TO PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT IN THE BOMBING OF TWA FLIGHT 840 IN APRIL, [REDACTED] b3

b3 [REDACTED] INTERROGATION OF THE PALESTINIAN REVEALED THAT THE FATAH SPECIAL OPERATIONS ORGANIZATION, HEADED BY AN ARAFAT LOYALIST, COLONEL HAWARI, RECRUITED A LEBANESE WOMAN TO CARRY OUT THE ATTACK AND THAT HAWARI'S OPERATIVES IN EGYPT GAVE HER THE EXPLOSIVES. [REDACTED] b3 THE ARREST OF HAWARI'S OPERATIVES IN MOROCCO HAS FUELED INTENSE DEBATE WITHIN FATAH OVER HAWARI'S CLOSE TIES TO ARAFAT AND ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ARAFAT IS INVOLVED AGAIN IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. [REDACTED] b3

b3 [REDACTED] THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE BOMBING DEVICE RESEMBLED THAT USED BY THE RADICAL PALESTINIAN IS MAY ORGANIZATION, WHOSE FORMER OPERATIVES HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH HAWARI'S GROUP. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT EXPLICITLY CONFIRMS ARAFAT'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN HAWARI'S OPERATIONS, BUT ARAFAT'S CLOSE AND LONGSTANDING ASSOCIATION WITH HAWARI IS LIKELY TO GENERATE SUSPICION THAT ARAFAT WAS INVOLVED AND TO FUEL CONTINUING FRICTION BETWEEN HIM AND MODERATES IN FATAH. HAWARI'S INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST OPERATIONS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL ALSO FURTHER COMPLICATE ARAFAT'S RELATIONS WITH SOME MODERATE ARAB STATES, PARTICULARLY TUNISIA AND JORDAN. TO AVOID EVEN MORE SERIOUS RIFTS WITHIN FATAH OVER HAWARI, ARAFAT IS LIKELY TO RESTRICT HAWARI'S OPERATIONS TO ISRAELI AND SYRIAN TARGETS. [REDACTED] b3

7. SOUTH AFRICA: POLITICAL CRISIS IN COLORED COMMUNITY

b3 PRESIDENT BOTHA'S PRIVATE ULTIMATUM MONDAY TO THE TROUBLESOME LEADER OF THE COLORED LABOR PARTY MAY PROVOKE A CRISIS IN THE TRICAMERAL PARLIAMENT. BOTHA REACTED TO A SWIM AT A SEGREGATED BEACH EARLY THIS MONTH BY LABOR PARTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER ALAN HENDRICKSE BY DEMANDING THAT HE APOLOGIZE, RESIGN HIS POSITION, OR CALL FOR AN ELECTION IN THE COLORED PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER. [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED] b3 HENDRICKSE ALSO HAS RECENTLY CRITICIZED NEW PRESS RESTRICTIONS AND THREATENED TO REVIEW HIS PARTY'S PARTICIPATION IN PARLIAMENT IF THE GROUP AREAS ACT--WHICH PROTECTS SEGREGATED RESIDENTIAL AREAS--IS NOT SCRAPPED. [REDACTED] b3

b3 [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH BOTHA PROBABLY DOES NOT WANT TO CREATE A CONTROVERSY BEFORE THE ELECTION EXPECTED IN THE SPRING, HIS ULTIMATUM REFLECTS HIS INTOLERANCE OF ANY OPPOSITION, EVEN FROM DOCILE PARTIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT. HENDRICKSE, WHOSE RECENT STANDS PROBABLY HAVE ENHANCED HIS POPULARITY IN THE COLORED COMMUNITY, FACES THREE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE OPTIONS. AN APOLOGY OR RESIGNATION WOULD BE HUMILIATING; CALLING AN ELECTION WOULD REOPEN THE DIVISIVE ISSUE OF WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN A LEGISLATURE THAT EXCLUDES BLACKS. HENDRICKSE IS LIKELY TO STALL FOR TIME, BUT IN THE END HE PROBABLY HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ATTEMPT A FACE-SAVING APOLOGY TO AVOID EXPULSION FROM THE CABINET. [REDACTED] b3

8. NORTH YEMEN-SOUTH YEMEN: POSSIBLE RENEWED RELATIONS

b3, b1 NORTH YEMENI PRESIDENT SALIH IS INTERESTED IN RESUMING RELATIONS WITH SOUTH YEMEN. [REDACTED] b3 SALIH HAS [REDACTED] AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A VISIT BY SOUTH YEMENI SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER AL-BAYD TO DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES AND OTHER ISSUES, ALTHOUGH NO DATE HAS BEEN SET. MEANWHILE, [REDACTED] b3 SALIH WAS TO MEET YESTERDAY WITH THE SOUTH YEMENI INTERIOR MINISTER IN SANAA. [REDACTED] b1

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[REDACTED]

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SALIH WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY ON RELATIONS WITH ADEN
BECAUSE OF THE LIKELY NEGATIVE REACTION AT HOME AND IN THE REGION.

[REDACTED]

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9. IN BRIEF

AFRICA

--LIBERIA CALLING FOR US TO INCREASE PAYMENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, LIQUIDATE MONROVIA'S BILATERAL, IMF DEBTS
... AS ECONOMY DETERIORATES, PRESIDENT DOE MAY DEMAND LARGE RENTAL
FEES FOR OTHER US FACILITIES, INCLUDING PORT, AIRFIELD RIGHTS.

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MIDDLE EAST

[REDACTED]

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