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IMMEDIATE

FRP:
STAFF

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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BRIEF
TO: IMMEDIATE

ROUTINE MEA BRIEF. b3

[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEF

FOR 12 NOVEMBER 1988,

FROM: DD1/O/CPAS.

[REDACTED]

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1. AFGHANISTAN: SITUATION REPORT

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THE SALANG ROAD HAS

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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[REDACTED]

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BEEN BLOCKED SINCE MONDAY AT WALANG, SOUTH OF THE TUNNEL, SETTING OFF PANIC FUEL BUYING IN KABUL.

[REDACTED] INSURGENT COMMANDER MASOOD PROBABLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BLOCKING THE SALANG ROAD, BUT HIS FORCES APPARENTLY CANNOT CUT OFF THE ROAD INDEFINITELY BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE AREA. MASOOD CAN, HOWEVER, LIMIT TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD, AS EVIDENCED BY THE SMALL NUMBER OF FUEL TRUCKS ABLE TO REACH KABUL FROM POL-E KHOMRI.

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2. SRI LANKA: BAD SECURITY SITUATION GETTING WORSE

SECURITY IS DETERIORATING AS COLOMBO FAILS TO CURB GROWING VIOLENCE OR TO STOP ECONOMICALLY CRIPPLING STRIKES BY SINHALESE EXTREMISTS.

THE SINHALESE EXTREMISTS GROUP JANATHA VIMUKTHI PERAMUNA IS SUCCESSFULLY EXPLOITING THE RESTIVENESS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS SRI LANKA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION APPROACHES IN DECEMBER. ALL OF SOME 9,000 FOREIGN TOURISTS WERE ADVISED THIS WEEK TO LEAVE THE ISLAND FOR THEIR SAFETY.

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JVP-INSTIGATED STRIKES--WHICH HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY SUCCESSFUL SINCE SEPTEMBER--HAVE SHUT DOWN COLOMBO'S MAIN PORT AS WELL AS MANY BANKS, TOURIST HOTELS, BUSINESSES, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES THROUGHOUT SRI LANKA.

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THE STRIKES ARE CAUSING MAJOR FUEL SHORTAGES AND THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED ON THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TO RUN THE PORT FACILITY AND DISTRIBUTE FUEL.

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THE JVP MAY BE USING TACTICS LIKE THOSE IT USED IN 1971 WHEN IT NEARLY TOPPLED THE GOVERNMENT.

THE GROUP MAY HAVE LED A REVOLT WEDNESDAY IN ONE SOUTHERN TOWN AND THAT FIGHTING IS CONTINUING AS SRI LANKAN POLICE FORCES ATTEMPT TO REGAIN CONTROL.

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PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE'S EFFORTS TO END THE VIOLENCE BY COMBINING OFFERS OF POLITICAL CONCESSIONS WITH THE THREAT OF A CRACKDOWN ARE FAILING. THE JVP APPEARS INCREASINGLY CONFIDENT, WHILE MANY LABOR UNIONS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO PRESS THEIR DEMANDS FOR WAGE HIKES. THE JVP'S BOLDNESS MAY RENDER LOCAL CELLS MORE VULNERABLE TO GOVERNMENT COUNTERMEASURES, BUT COLOMBO'S SECURITY FORCES APPEAR RELUCTANT TO TAKE AGGRESSIVE ACTION AND RISK REPRISALS IF THE INCREASINGLY UNPOPULAR RULING PARTY IS NOT RETURNED TO POWER.

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COLOMBO'S ADVISORY TO TOURISTS WILL EFFECTIVELY CUT OFF AN \$80 MILLION-A-YEAR TOURIST INDUSTRY, FURTHER AGGRAVATING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND STRENGTHENING THE JVP'S POPULAR SUPPORT. THE LOSS OF REVENUE AS BUSINESSES CLOSE, THE DECLINE IN PRODUCTIVITY BECAUSE OF STRIKES, THE SIGNIFICANT DROP IN TOURISM AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT, AND THE SUBSTANTIAL COST OF SECURITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES COMBINE TO FRUSTRATE THE ECONOMY IN WAYS THAT COLOMBO WILL FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME.

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[REDACTED]

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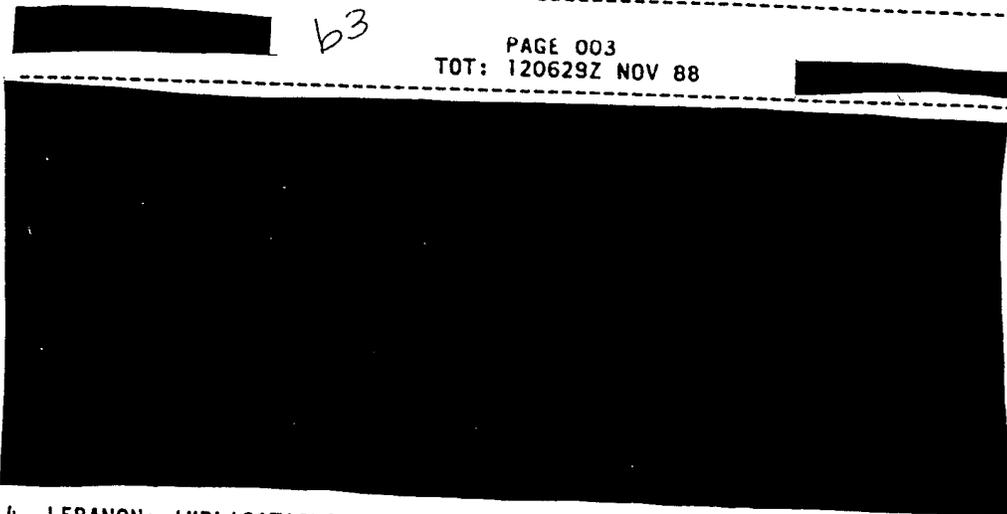
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4. LEBANON: IMPLICATIONS OF LAHAD SHOOTING

THE SHOOTING TUESDAY OF ANTOINE LAHAD, COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI-BACKED ARMY OF SOUTH LEBANON MILITIA, MAY BE PART OF A PLO-HIZBALLAH CAMPAIGN TO CREATE A POWER VACUUM IN GROUPS COOPERATING WITH ISRAEL IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY TOOK CREDIT FOR THE SHOOTING; LAHAD WAS SHOT BY A 21-YEAR-OLD CHRISTIAN LEBANESE WOMAN. [REDACTED] ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAY LAHAD'S CONDITION IS STABLE BUT QUITE SERIOUS.

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COMMENT: DESPITE THE COMMUNISTS' CLAIM, THE PLO AND HIZBALLAH WILL BENEFIT THE MOST FROM LAHAD'S ABSENCE AND PROBABLY COOPERATED WITH THE COMMUNISTS TO FACILITATE THE INCREASE IN ATTACKS AGAINST PRO-ISRAELI FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION FOLLOWS THE KILLING OF AMAL LEADERS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WHO PLAYED KEY ROLES IN PREVENTING PLO AND HIZBALLAH ACTIVITIES THERE. LAHAD'S MILITIA APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY FOR NOW, BUT IF LAHAD DIES OR CANNOT RESUME HIS DUTIES, ISRAEL ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL STEP IN TO SUPPORT MILITIA LEADERS.

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5. WESTERN EUROPE: SPAIN AND PORTUGAL ENTER WEU

[REDACTED] THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LONDON ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY WILL SIGN PROTOCOLS APPROVING MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. BOTH WILL HAVE OBSERVER STATUS UNTIL THEIR PARLIAMENTS AND THOSE OF THE SEVEN WEU MEMBERS COMPLETE THE RATIFICATION PROCESS, PROBABLY BY APRIL. THE MEETING MAY ANNOUNCE THAT JOINT MINE SWEEPING IN THE PERSIAN GULF WILL END LATER THIS YEAR.

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[REDACTED] ALSO [REDACTED] WILL REVIEW [REDACTED] THE MINISTERS IMPLICATIONS FOR WESTERN EUROPE OF ARMS CONTROL TALKS. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] PORTUGAL'S ADMISSION WAS NEVER IN DOUBT, BUT SPAIN'S RELUCTANCE TO MAKE FIRM COMMITMENTS TO NATO UPSET SOME WEU MEMBERS.

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[REDACTED] ANY DISCUSSION ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES IS NOT LIKELY TO BE

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CONTENTIOUS; THE PAPERS PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

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