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IMMEDIATE

FRP: .....  
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TOT: 250625Z JAN 89

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BRIEF 250625Z  
TO: IMMEDIATE AMMAN ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEF FOR 25 JANUARY 1989. b3

b3 FROM: [REDACTED]

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1. AFGHANISTAN: RESISTANCE PROGRESS TOWARD SHURA SLOW

AFGHAN RESISTANCE LEADERS, DESPITE THEIR DIVISIONS ON THE SHAPE OF AN EVENTUAL AFGHAN GOVERNMENT, APPEAR WILLING TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO GET DISSIDENTS TO ATTEND NEXT MONTH'S SHURA (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL).

b3 [REDACTED] PLANS TO CONVENE A COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY TO DECIDE THE MAKEUP OF A NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT ARE PROCEEDING SLOWLY. RADICAL AFGHAN INSURGENT LEADER GULBUDDIN HIKMATYAR IS IN TEHRAN NEGOTIATING WITH AFGHAN SHIA GROUPS WHO REJECTED AN EARLIER PLAN LAST SATURDAY, CLAIMING IT IGNORED MINORITY INTERESTS. THE SEVEN MAJOR RESISTANCE GROUPS ARE PUTTING TOGETHER

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Date JUN 1999

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NOMINEE LISTS OF PARTY COMMANDERS, REFUGEES, AND "GOOD MUSLIMS" FROM KABUL. AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS AFGHAN GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE NOT IN THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE ALSO BEEN APPROACHED TO SIT ON THE COUNCIL.

DEBATE OVER THE SHURA CONTINUES NONETHELESS. THE ALLIANCE HAS FORMED A SCREENING COMMITTEE TO REVIEW NOMINEE LISTS

GULBUDDIN IS LIKELY TO SUCCEED IN PERSUADING AFGHAN SHIAS TO PARTICIPATE. RESISTANCE LEADERS ARE UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM ISLAMABAD TO FORM A GOVERNMENT AND PROBABLY WILL HOLD THE SHURA SOMETIME NEXT MONTH. DIVISIONS AMONG AFGHAN GROUPS ARE PROBABLY TOO WIDE, HOWEVER, FOR THE SHURA TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON A NEW GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT A CONSENSUS, EACH INSURGENT PARTY IS LIKELY TO BREAK EVENTUALLY WITH THE ALLIANCE TO PURSUE ITS OWN INTERESTS.

THE RESISTANCE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE'S PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A SHURA (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL) IS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE A POPULARLY SUPPORTED, RESISTANCE-LED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE POWER AFTER THE FALL OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN. THE SHURA OF SOME 480 TO 600 LEADING AFGHANS IS TO SETTLE ON A FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND ELECT BOTH A HEAD OF STATE AND A CABINET FROM AMONG ITS OWN MEMBERS. THE SHURA IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO MEET FROM 10 TO 15 FEBRUARY.

RESISTANCE GROUPS, HOWEVER, HAVE HOTLY CONTESTED THE COUNCIL'S MANDATE AS WELL AS THE METHOD FOR NOMINATING COUNCIL DELEGATES. A PLAN ANNOUNCED LAST OCTOBER TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR DELEGATES THROUGHOUT AFGHANISTAN WAS ABANDONED AFTER MANY FIELD COMMANDERS SAID THEY COULD NOT BOTH FIGHT AND OVERSEE LOCAL ELECTIONS. THE CURRENT PLAN FOR EACH OF THE SEVEN PARTIES BASED IN PESHAWAR TO NOMINATE 60 DELEGATES HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY MINORITY GROUPS WHO FEAR BEING OVERLOOKED AND BY LARGER RESISTANCE GROUPS WHO BELIEVE THEY SHOULD RECEIVE GREATER REPRESENTATION THAN THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

THE DEBATE APPEARS SHARPEST OVER THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO INSURGENT SHIA GROUPS OUTSIDE THE PESHAWAR ALLIANCE. THE EIGHT TEHRAN-BASED SHIA GROUPS SAY THEY SHOULD RECEIVE AT LEAST 120 SEATS, WHILE ISLAMIST SUNNI LEADERS MUHAMMAD YUNIS KHALIS AND ABDUL RASUL SAYYAF ARGUE THAT THE SHIAS DESERVE, AT MOST, ONLY FOUR. ALTHOUGH KHALIS AND SAYYAF APPEAR TO HAVE AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH THE CURRENT ALLIANCE OFFER OF 80 SEATS FOR THE SHIAS WITH 20 MORE GOING TO THREE MINOR PRO-TEHRAN SUNNI FACTIONS, THEY ARE CERTAIN TO OPPOSE ANY FURTHER CONCESSION TO MINORITY GROUPS.

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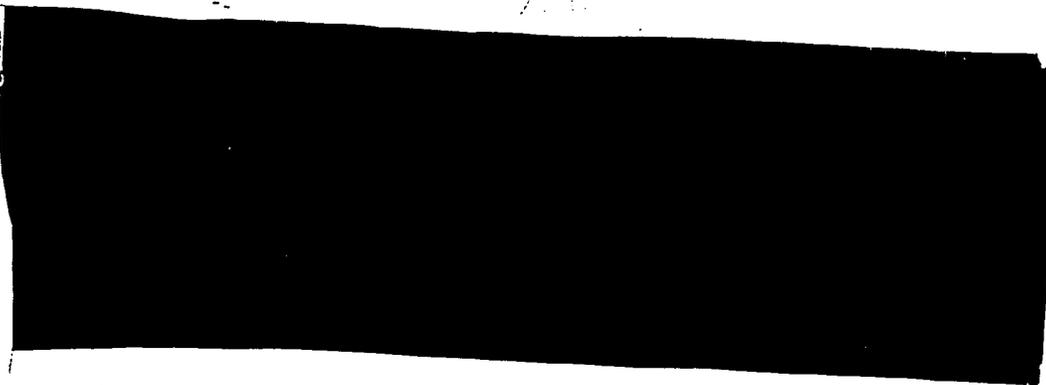
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2. ANGOLA: NEW FOREIGN MINISTER MAY COURT WEST

IN THE FIRST OF SEVERAL ANTICIPATED PERSONNEL SHIFTS, PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS HAS NAMED HIS CLOSE FRIEND AND FORMER ECONOMIC CZAR, PEDRO VAN DUNEM OR "LOY," MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS. DOS SANTOS WILL TAKE OVER MANY OF LOY'S ECONOMIC OVERSIGHT DUTIES, AND ZEFERINO YOMBO, A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE STATE-OWNED OIL COMPANY, REPLACES LOY AS MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY. DOS SANTOS ALSO REPLACED SEVERAL AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING THOSE POSTED TO THE-UK, FRANCE, AND THE USSR. ██████████

██████████ THESE PERSONNEL MOVES PROBABLY ARE PART OF DOS SANTOS'S EFFORT TO CONVERT THE FAVORABLE ATTENTION SURROUNDING THE ANGOLA-NAMIBIA AGREEMENT INTO SOLID INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT BEFORE TACKLING THE TOUGH PROBLEMS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND ECONOMIC REFORM. LOY'S TOP PRIORITIES ARE LIKELY TO BE PURSUING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE IMF AND WORLD BANK, AS WELL AS DISCREDITING UNITA. ██████████



3. INTERNATIONAL: PROSPECTS DIM FOR JOINT OIL ACTION

TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM NINE NON-OPEC PRODUCING STATES ARE MEETING TODAY IN LONDON TO DISCUSS PRODUCTION CUTS AND WILL TALK WITH OPEC REPRESENTATIVES TOMORROW. REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANGOLA, BRUNEI, CHINA, COLOMBIA, EGYPT, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NORTH YEMEN, AND OMAN ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND, ALONG WITH OBSERVERS FROM THE USSR AND PERHAPS NORWAY. OPEC WILL BE REPRESENTED BY SAUDI-ARABIA, KUWAIT, ALGERIA, NIGERIA, INDONESIA, AND VENEZUELA. COLOMBIA AND EGYPT HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY OUTPUT REDUCTION. ONLY CHINA AND MEXICO HAVE OFFERED TO TRIM EXPORTS SO FAR, BUT THESE DECISIONS ARE DUE TO DOMESTIC CONSTRAINTS. ██████████

██████████ THE FAILURE OF PAST ATTEMPTS BY NON-OPEC PRODUCERS TO COOPERATE WITH OPEC AND THE RECENT RISE IN PRICES MAKE SIGNIFICANT CUTS IN OUTPUT UNLIKELY. PRICES HAVE RISEN BY \$3 A BARREL SINCE MID-NOVEMBER, AN INCREASE LIKELY TO BE SEEN BY MANY NON-OPEC PRODUCERS AS OBLVIATING THE NEED TO REDUCE PRODUCTION. EVEN IF A PROPOSAL IS HAMMERED OUT IN LONDON, ANY CUTS IN OUTPUT THAT ARE RECOMMENDED ARE LIKELY TO BE SMALL AND DIFFICULT TO MONITOR, AND COULD NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL APPROVED BY A JOINT MEETING OF OIL MINISTERS FROM THE TWO GROUPS. PRICES MAY JUMP TEMPORARILY IF THERE ARE SIGNS OF PROGRESS DURING THE TALKS. ██████████

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4. IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

X--HIGH-LEVEL INTRA-SHIA NEGOTIATIONS SPONSORED BY SYRIA, IRAN TO END FIGHTING IN LEBANON UNDER WAY IN DAMASCUS . . . AMAL AND HIZBALLAH REFUSING FACE-TO-FACE TALKS . . . CEASE-FIRE LIKELY, BUT DURATION UNCERTAIN. [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED]

EAST ASIA

[REDACTED]

X--SOUTH KOREA, IRAN TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1981 . . . SEOUL PROBABLY SEEKING LARGER SHARE OF IRANIAN CONSTRUCTION MARKET, ACCESS TO OIL . . . MAY ALSO HOPE TO UNDERCUT NORTH KOREAN INFLUENCE. [REDACTED] b3

SOUTH ASIA

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