

BANNA, Sab, al.

FRP:  
STATE JORDAN

25X1

07  
78 01938  
CORRECTED COPY

PAGE 001  
TOR: 061850Z JAN 78

807  
NC 0193

P R 061815Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1790  
INFO RUQKKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1773  
RUGMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 2589  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1634  
RUQMDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0510  
RUQMDA/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2378  
RUHCR/USINT BAGHDAD 0124  
B.

Dupe Sec 2 0193810A  
Corr copy

PROCESSED BY EUR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 00272

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 AND 2  
TAGS: PINS, PLO, UK  
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PLO REP SAID HAMMAMI

REF: LONDON 131

1. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY COMMANDER NEVILLE OF THE SCOTLAND YARD ANTI-TERRORIST SQUAD YESTERDAY GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE HAS A SUSPECT IN THE CASE OF THE MURDER OF PLO LONDON REPRESENTATIVE SAID HAMMAMI. SCOTLAND YARD CONTINUES TO DESCRIBE KILLER AS "OF MIDDLE EASTERN APPEARANCE."

2. MOST SPECIFIC ALLEGATION OF A SUSPECT IS STORY IN JANUARY 6 GUARDIAN BY ITS PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS EXPERT DAVID HIRST IN BEIRUT. HE REPORTS THAT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE CHIEF SUSPECT IN THE EYES OF ARAFAT AND THE MAIN-STREAM GUERRILLA LEADERSHIP OF THE PLO IS "THE IRAQI-BASED RENEGADE ABU NIDAL, WHO ALONG WITH...HADDAD IS THE OUTSTANDING PRACTITIONER OF PURE, UNBRIDLED TERRORISM IN THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT." HIRST CONTINUES THAT NOT LONG AFTER NEWS OF THE MURDER, PLO MONITORS IN BEIRUT PICKED UP AN ITEM ON VOICE OF PALESTINE BROADCASTING FROM BAGHDAD ANNOUNCING HAMMAMI'S DEATH. HIRST STATES, "THIS PARTICULAR VOICE OF PALESTINE IS REALLY THE VOICE OF ABU NIDAL."

3. HIRST NOTES ABU NIDAL ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED TO KILL PLO MODERATE KHALID AL-HASSAN, AND IN 1976 TOLD HIRST THAT "INTER-ARAB TERRORISM, HOWEVER REGRETTABLE,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

78 01938<sup>07</sup>  
CORRECTED COPY

PAGE 002  
TOR: 061850Z JAN 78

NC 01938<sup>07</sup>

WAS THE PRICE THAT HAD TO BE PAID FOR PRECIPITATING THE ALL-EMBRACING ARAB REVOLUTION THAT ALONE COULD LEAD TO THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE." HIRST CONTINUES THAT ABU NIDAL RUNS A TRAINING CAMP THREE HOURS OUTSIDE OF BAGHDAD AND COULD NOT OPERATE WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE IRAQI BAATHIST REGIME. HIRST QUOTES PLO OFFICIALS AS SAYING ABU NIDAL HAS A MUCH STRONGER FOLLOWING AMONG PALESTINIAN STUDENTS IN BRITAIN THAN IN ANY OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY.

4. STORY CONTINUES TO BE A MAIN FRONT PAGE ITEM IN QUALITY BRITISH PRESS. LATTER REPORTS THAT FOUR "SENIOR OFFICIALS" OF THE PLO ARRIVED IN LONDON NIGHT OF JANUARY 5 IN CONNECTION WITH THE KILLING, INCLUDING REHHI AWAD, FORMER PLO REP IN CAIRO; NIZAR AMMAR, AND NABIL RAMLAWI, WHO REPORTEDLY WAS BEING GROOMED TO REPLACE HAMMAMI WHEN PLO PLANNED TO TRY TO SEND THE LATTER TO WASHINGTON. PRESS REPORTS THE FOUR WERE MET AT HEATHROW AIRPORT BY ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR BRAHIMI, AS WELL AS POLICE "SPECIAL BRANCH" WHO QUESTIONED THEM ON PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT. PRESS QUOTES COMMANDER NEVILLE AS STATING POLICE WOULD NOT WELCOME A PLO INVESTIGATION, AND

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

05/27/

CONFIDENTIAL

FRP: . . . .6. .

STATE

ACTION: NONE

INFO: FILE, RF, ODPS-S, (2/W)

78 0193807

PAGE 003

NC 0193807

TOR: 061850Z JAN 78

P R 061815Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1791  
INFO RUQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1774  
RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 2590  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1635  
RUQMDN/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0511  
RUQMAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2379  
F TCR/USINT BAGHDAD 0125

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 00272

THAT "WE ARE VERY WILLING TO SPEAK TO ANYBODY WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US. BUT THE ONLY PEOPLE MAKING THE INVESTIGATION ARE THE POLICE."

5. FCO PRESS SPOKESMAN STATED THAT HMG IS "VERY SADDENED" BY DEATH AND THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO APPREHEND THOSE RESPONSIBLE. FCO DESK OFFICER ON JANUARY 6 HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION FOR US OTHER THAN WHAT HAD APPEARED IN PRESS, BUT DID EXPRESS PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ABU NIDAL STORY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BRITISH SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT KILLING WAS ACT OF PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST ORGANIZATIONS, SPECIFIC SPONSORSHIP UNKNOWN, BUT MOST LIKELY THE ABU NIDAL GROUP OR THE PFLP.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS FACTOR DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT OUT BY THE PRESS, HAMMAMI WAS A PROMINENT PARTICIPANT IN THE PALESTINIAN SEMINAR IN LONDON LAST OCTOBER 1 (77 LONDON 16432). THIS WAS BILLED AS THE FIRST PUBLIC MEETING BETWEEN PLO MODERATES SUCH AS HAMMAMI AND SARTAWI AND PROMINENT ISRAELI DOVES. HAMMAMI'S CLEAR IDENTIFICATION AS A RELATIVE MODERATE WOULD SUPPORT THE THEORY THAT THE KILLING WAS ORDERED BY THE REJECTIONISTS. FOLLOWING ON THE ASSASSINATION IN LONDON OF YEMENI STATESMAN HAJRI BY A PALESTINIAN LAST YEAR, AND THE AS YET UNEXPLAINED BOMB EXPLOSION WHICH KILLED TWO MEMBERS OF THE SYRIAN EMBASSY HERE IN THEIR CAR IN CENTRAL LONDON LAST SATURDAY DECEMBER 31, LONDON MAY BE EXPERIENCING AN OUTBREAK OF POLITICALLY-INSPIRED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

78 0193807

PAGE 00<sup>4</sup>  
TOR: 061850Z JAN 78

NC 0193807

VIOLENCE IN THE VERY LARGE ARAB POPULATION OF THE CITY.

BREKSTER

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL