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~~S E C R E T~~ NOFORN NOCONTRACT ORCON
BRIEF 140549Z
TO: PRIORITY EUROPEAN BRIEF.

~~WNINTEL.~~

(~~NOFORN IN~~ SLANTS)

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EUROPEAN BRIEF   FOR 14 AUGUST 1984.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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1. MIDDLE EAST: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RED SEA

PRESIDENT MUBARAK IS BLAMING LIBYA FOR THE RED SEA MINING, DESPITE A RENEWED CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY BY ISLAMIC JIHAD.   b3

AN ANONYMOUS CALLER YESTERDAY TOLD A WESTERN NEWS AGENCY IN BEIRUT THAT THE MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANIZATION HAD LAID THE MINES. HE DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT BY LIBYA OR IRAN.   b3

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MUBARAK, IN A LATER PRESS CONFERENCE, DISMISSED JIHAD'S CLAIM
AND BLAMED TRIPOLI FOR THE EXPLOSIONS. HE SAID HE HOPED IRAN HAD NO
PART IN THE MINING.

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WITHOUT EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, CAIRO MAY START TO
PLAY DOWN ITS EARLIER SUSPICIONS OF AN IRANIAN ROLE IN THE RED SEA
EXPLOSIONS. THE EGYPTIANS HOPE TO HAVE A ROLE IN NEGOTIATING AN END
TO THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR THROUGH THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT, AND THEY HAVE
RECENTLY MADE DISCREET ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN.

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SANAA REMAINS RELUCTANT TO ASK FOR OVERT AID FROM EITHER
SUPERPOWER. THE NORTH YEMENI NAVY IS LARGELY SOVIET-EQUIPPED,
HOWEVER, AND SOVIET ADVISERS ARE ALREADY PROVIDING TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE ON BOARD THE YEMENI MINESWEEPERS.

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4. IN BRIEFS

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