

Syria

FBIS 45'****

AL-ASAD RETURNS; POLITICAL COMMAND WITH EGYPT FORMED

NC211335 DAMASCUS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC 1315 GMT 21 DEC 76 NC

(EXCERPTS) PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASAD RETURNED TO DAMASCUS AT 1415 TODAY AFTER A 4-DAY VISIT TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT WHICH WAS CROWNED WITH FULL SUCCESS AND RESULTED IN A NEW UNIONIST STEP. MEMBERS OF THE ACCOMPANYING SYRIAN ARAB DELEGATION RETURNED WITH THE PRESIDENT.

AT 1045 TODAY, PRESIDENT MUHAMMAD ANWAR AS-SADAT ARRIVED AT AL-QUBBAH PALACE WHERE HE AND PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASAD SIGNED, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS, A DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND BETWEEN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT AND AN EXECUTIVE DECISION ON THIS DECLARATION. AFTER THE SIGNING AND TAKING OF COMMEMORATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THIS OCCASION, PRESIDENT ANWAR AS-SADAT ACCOMPANIED HIS BROTHER PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASAD IN AN OFFICIAL MOTORCADE TO CAIRO AIRPORT.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER 'ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1800 (1600 GMT-- FBIS) TODAY TO SPEAK ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND READ THE DECLARATION ESTABLISHING THE POLITICAL COMMAND AND THE EXECUTIVE DECISION.

A JOINT STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED ON THE DISCUSSIONS HELD BETWEEN PRESIDENTS HAFIZ AL-ASAD AND ANWAR AS-SADAT.

21 DEC 1402Z SSG/SA6'*****

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