

## **1979-Seizure of "Mecca"**

Folder Citation: Collection: Office of the Chief of Staff Files; Series: Hamilton Jordan's Confidential Files; Folder: Iran-Saudi Arabia, 1979-Seizure of "Mecca"; Container 35

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| cable             | DIA to DIA                       | 11/20/79            | A            |
| <del>embtel</del> | Jidda 7992 OPENED 7/31/98        | <del>11/20/79</del> | <del>A</del> |

FILE LOCATION

Chief of Staff (Jordan)/Confidential File/~~Box 6 of 8 [org.]~~/[Iran]--Saudi Arabia--1979--  
Seizure of "Mecca"

RESTRICTION CODES

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OP IMMED  
UTS143  
DE RUHAYH #1552 3241313  
C 201255Z NOV 79  
FM AMEMBASSY DHAHRAH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7572  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA TACT IMMEDIATE 9965

INFO USINT WASHDC IMMEDIATE 127  
AMEMBASSY DHAHRAH IMMEDIATE 114  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 1432  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE 817  
AMEMBASSY SARAH IMMEDIATE 247  
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE 1207  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 477  
AMEMBASSY DUBAI IMMEDIATE 229  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE 183

~~SECRET~~ DHAHRAH 1554

EO 12855: SDS 11/22/85 (LINDSTROM, RALPH E) OR-M  
TAGS: PINS, ASHC, RA  
SUBJECT: IRANIAN AGITATION OF SAUDI SHIAS AND MECCA MOSQUE  
OCCUPATION  
REF: JIDDA 7971 (ITAL)

1. S- ENTIRE TEXT).

2. INFORMATION REPORTED REPTEL RE OCCUPATION OF GRAND  
MOSQUE IN MECCA MAY BE RELATED TO INFORMATION WE HAVE  
JUST OBTAINED FROM RELIABLE COMPANY SOURCES RE RECENT  
IRANIAN ATTEMPTS TO AGITATE SAUDI SHI'AS.

3. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, SAUDI AUTHORITIES  
EXPERIENCED A MAJOR DIFFICULTY THIS YEAR IN KEEPING  
TRACK OF IRANIANS WHO ENTERED THE KINGDOM FOR THE HAJJ.  
AT ONE POINT THEY DISCOVERED THAT IRANIAN BUSES WERE  
ARRIVING IN MECCA FOR THE HAJJ WITH ONLY ABOUT HALF THE  
NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN RECORDED AS ENTERING  
THE COUNTRY AT THE KUWAIT BORDER.

4. SAUDIS THEREFORE INVESTIGATED AND FOUND THAT BUSES  
HAD BEEN CROPPING OFF ARABIC SPEAKING MULLAHS TO

\*\*\*\*\* WASHR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

ZB MAR SA DEW VP DODH  
EOB:MUNT

PSN:414715

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DTG:201255Z NOV 79

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E.O. 12855, 200.8.6  
PER 203/8846 H/ RE NLC-99-31  
BY [signature] NARS DATE 6/12/98

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PREACH IN MOSQUES IN AL-DASA AND BATIF AREAS OF EASTERN PROVINCE, WHICH IS HOME OF SAUDI ARABIA'S 125,000 SHIA MINORITY (ABOUT 32 PERCENT OF SAUDI POPULATION IN PROVINCE). ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, POLICE HAD TAKEN PROMPT AND SOMETIMES BRUTAL ACTION TO ENSURE RETURN OF ALL IRANIAN HAJJIS TO IRAN. (MOSQUE TAKEOVER REPORT SUGGESTS THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL). THERE WERE REPORTEDLY NUMEROUS ARRESTS OF SAUDI SHI'AS IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING IRANIANS TO GO HOME.

5. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE CURRENT MOOD OF SAUDI SHI'AS WHO KEEP VERY MUCH TO THEMSELVES AND RARELY TALK CANDIDLY TO SAUDI SUNNIS OR FOREIGNERS. TO DATE, DESPITE IRANIAN AGITATION AND AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN EQUATION AS RESULT OF TEHRAN EMBASSY TAKEOVER, WE HAVE DISCERNED NO OUTWARD MANIFESTATIONS WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO CHANGE OUR LAST ASSESSMENT OF SAUDI SHIA EMPLOYEES FROM BATIF (WHO COMMUTE TO DHAKHAN IN A COMMUNALLY OWNED MICRO BUS) REPORTED FOR WORK AS USUAL TODAY). WHILE ARAMCO IS NO LONGER ALLOWED TO KEEP STATISTICS ON RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES, WE ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 5 OR 7 THOUSAND SHI'AS IN ARAMCO'S WORKFORCE. ARAMCO HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT THERE WERE NO UNUSUAL ABSENCES AMONG THEIR WORKERS TODAY.

6. WHILE SAUDI SHI'AS HAVE CLEARLY TAKEN GREAT PRIDE IN KHOMEINI'S TAKEOVER IN IRAN, THEIR FEELINGS HAVE, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS (THOSE ARRESTED), THUS FAR BEEN CAREFULLY CONFINED WITHIN RELIGIOUS PARAMETERS NOT HARMFUL TO THE SAUDI STATE OR U.S. INTERESTS. OBVIOUSLY LOCAL SHIA SITUATION WARRANTS CLOSE MONITORING WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO.

7. APPROPRIATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS INCLUDING STEPPED UP PERIMETER PATROLS BY SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD HAVE BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT AT CONSULATE. ARAMCO HAS ALSO TIGHTENED SECURITY.

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OP TAPED  
STJ157  
OF RUQARA #7999 3254455  
O 21-425Z NOV 79  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN - IACT IMMEDIATE 4977

INFO SECSTATE LASHOD IMMEDIATE 5418

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JIDDA 7999

E O 122661 SDS 11/21/83 (DOVIS, H. EUGENE) DR-P  
TAGS: PINS, SA  
SUBJ: (C) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA  
REF: AMMAN 7284

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. GROUP IS YET UNIDENTIFIED SEIZED GRAND MOSQUE (KAABA)  
ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 20 AND WERE STILL IN CONTROL AS OF  
NIGHTFALL. SAUDI FORCES HAVE SURROUNDED MOSQUE AND SEALED  
OFF AREA. GROUP REPORTED BY SOME TO BE IRANIS AND BY OTHERS  
TO BE SAUDI TRIBAL RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISTS. GROUP ESTIMATED  
BY SOME TO NUMBER FROM 300 TO 600. SITUATION IN JIDDA AND  
OTHER CITIES IN KINGDOM APPEARS TO BE CALM. WE SUGGEST YOU  
TELL CINC JORDAN FORCES THAT WE SEE NO CAUSE FOR ALARM AT  
THIS TIME.

3. WE ARE REPEATING TO AMMAN OUR TELEGRAMS SENT ON NOVEMBER  
20 ON SUBJECT AND WILL INCLUDE AMMAN AS INFO ADDRESSEE AS  
WE REPORT ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

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PG#415920 PAGE 41 OF 41 TOR:325/05:44Z DTG:210425Z NOV 79

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
PER 2/23/98 GLE H/RE NLC-97-31  
BY J NARS. DATE 6/12/98

PRIORITY  
 DE RUEKJCS #3333 3242133  
 P 202058Z NOV 79  
 FM DIA WASHINGTON 02//JSI-7//

TO DIACORTEL  
 AIG 7211  
 AIG 7233

~~SECRET~~ 2205

DIACIN 324-2A (48 FI 1223 EST 20 NOV 79)  
 SUBJ: DIA DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)  
 )  
 SAUDI ARABIA: VIOLENCE IN MECCA. (S)  
 )

1. (S//NOFORN) ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE US EM-  
 BASSY IN JIDDA, A GROUP OF SOME 300 TO 500 INDIVIDUALS FORCIBLY  
 GAINED CONTROL OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA DURING THE EARLY MORN-  
 ING HOURS OF 20 NOVEMBER. THE GROUP, BELIEVED TO BE IRANIAN,  
 APPARENTLY BARRICADED ITSELF WITHIN THE MOSQUE -- THE HOLIEST PLACE  
 IN ISLAM -- AND IS ENGAGED IN A FIREFIGHT WITH SAUDI TROOPS SUR-  
 ROUNDING THE AREA. SAUDI MILITARY FORCES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON  
 PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3333 ~~SECRET~~  
 ALERT, AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT ARE ALSO PATROLLING OVER THE  
 MOSQUE AREA.

2. (S//NOFORN) THE MUSLIM WORLD IS NOW ENTERING THE MONTH OF  
 MUHARRAM, A PERIOD OF GREAT RELIGIOUS FERVOR AMONG THE SHIITES.  
 IT IS THEREFORE QUITE LIKELY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HOLDING THE  
 MOSQUE ARE FANATIC FOLLOWERS OF THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI. SAUDI  
 INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE NAIF ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO DETERMINE  
 THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION. UNTIL THE NATURE OF THE THREAT  
 HAS BEEN DETERMINED AND THE MOSQUE AREA RETURNED TO THE CONTROL  
 OF SAUDI SECURITY OFFICIALS, THE GUARD AT THE US EMBASSY IN JIDDA  
 IS BEING TRIPLED. THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT ALSO APPARENTLY CUT ALL  
 TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM TO PREVENT  
 MEDIA DISCLOSURE UNTIL THE SITUATION IS RESOLVED.  
 PREPARED BY: MR J. MILLER, JSI-5  
 (DECL 20 NOV 85)  
 BT

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 E.O.12958, Sec.3.6  
 PER 9/25/01 D.A.H. RE NEC-97-32  
 BY [Signature] NARS. DATE 11/26/98

\*\*\*\*\* WBSR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

EOB:PASTOR,CUNT

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 PSA:415254 PAGE 21 OF 41 TOR:324/21:572 DTG:202058Z NOV 79

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OP IMMED  
BT0973  
DE CHARRA #7992 324154Z  
O 221454Z NOV 79  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE LAMCOO AINOT IMMEDIATE 0215  
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY 4314  
AMCONSUL CHARRA PRIORITY 3155  
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY 3214  
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 1414

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JIDDA 7992

REPT FOR A/SY/CC/TAGS/ KARACHI FOR RSS  
E O 127661 GDS 11/30/85 (SIELINSKI, STANLEY) OR-A  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJ: SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
ALL THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN  
IMPLEMENTED AT AMEMBASSY JIDDA AS A RESULT OF MECCA INCIDENT.

2. A) ALL PERIMETER GATES LEADING INTO COMPOUND TO INCLUDE  
DUNES CLUB GATE AND ITS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CLOSED AND  
SUSPENDED. ALL ENTRANCE INTO COMPOUND MUST NOW BE THROUGH  
MAIN GATE.  
B) FRIDAY CHURCH SERVICES HELD IN CHANCERY AUDITORIUM  
HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED.  
C) SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD HAS INCREASED PERIMETER COMPOUND  
PROTECTION. TWO (2) NEW STATIONARY POSTS HAVE BEEN ADDED,  
PLUS A THREE (3) MAN MOBILE VEHICULAR PATROL CIRCLING COMPOUND  
VERY TWENTY MINUTES. A REINFORCED PLATOON OF SAUDI  
NATIONAL GUARD NOW CAMPED OUTSIDE COMPOUND WEST WALL  
HAVE BEEN ON ALERT SINCE THIS MORNING.  
D) THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD POST AT CHANCERY HAS  
BEEN DOUBLED. MARINES HAVE BEEN PUT ON ALERT.  
E) ANA BODYGUARD PROTECTION UNIT WILL BE  
INCREASED. WE NOW HAVE EMPLOYED ONE FOLLOW CAR WITH  
THREE ARMED SAUDI GID AGENTS, PLUS A LEAD CAR.  
F) THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ADVISED  
TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE AROUND THE CITY.  
G) COMPOUND AND CHANCERY PUBLIC ACCESS CONTROLS  
HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED.  
H) IN ADDITION TO UNIFORMED SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD  
MOBILE VEHICULAR PATROLS, THERE ARE SEVERAL UNMARKED

\*\*\*\*\*CHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

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BY [signature] NARS. DATE 6/12/02

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GID PATROL CARS ROUTINELY CIRCLING THE EMBASSY COMPOUND PERIMETER.

I) EMBASSY SCHOOL BUS BARRYING AMERICAN CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE GID FOLLOW CAR PROTECTION TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

J) ROST HAS BEGUN TO REDUCE CLASSIFIED. WEST

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PAGE 22

OF 22

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OP IMMED  
STU092  
DE RUQMRA #7993/1 3241530  
O 201510Z NOV 79  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8016  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE 3166  
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE 4316

INFO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 3321  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE 1562  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 1535  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 4387  
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE 3215

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 7993

DEPT ALSO PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS  
E O 120651 GDS 11/20/85 (WEST, JOHN C.) OR-M  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AFSP, SA  
SUBJ: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRND MOSQUE, MECCA  
REFS: A) JIDDA 7971, B) JIDDA 7981

1. S-ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY. OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA CONTINUES BY AS YET UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS. SAG HAS SEALED OFF MECCA. NORTHERN BORDERS CLOSED TO NON-SAUDIS. SAG APPEARS PREPARING TO EXPEL INTRUDERS FROM THE MOSQUE WITH FORCE IF NECESSARY. EMBASSY HAS TIGHTENED ITS SECURITY. JIDDA REMAINS NORMAL. END SUMMARY.

3. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO RECEIVED INFORMATION -- SOME OF IT CONFLICTING -- CONCERNING OCCUPATION OF THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA. IT IS STILL NOT KNOWN FOR CERTAIN WHO IS OCCUPYING MOSQUE, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THEY ARE VERY WELL ARMED. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS INDICATING OCCUPIERS COULD BE IRANIAN OR YEMENI, ALTHOUGH SOME REPORTS FROM SAUDI SOURCES STATE OCCUPIERS ARE SAUDI TRIBESMEN SUPPORTING SOME AS YET UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS.

4. LATEST VERSION OF EVENTS RELATED TO EMBASSY LOCAL NATIONAL BY FRIEND WHO STATES HE WAS IN MOSQUE AT TIME OF OCCUPATION.

\*\*\*\*\* WHSR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

SANITIZED

E.O.12958, Sec.3.6

EOB:ERMAR, PASTOR, UTG, HUNT, COCH

PER 2/23/88 *Shk H* RE *ALC-97-31*

BY *Shk* NARS. DATE 6/12/89

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ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMANT WHO SAYS HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM MOSQUE, NUMBER OF ARMED WORSHIPPERS CLOSED DOORS TO MOSQUE FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING PRAYERS (0518 LOCAL) AND ANNOUNCED TO CROWD IN ARABIC THAT "MECCA, MEDINA AND JIDDA WERE NOW IN THEIR HANDS". FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO HOURS, CIRCUMAMBULATION OF THE KAIABA WAS PREVENTED BUT LATER ALLOWED TO RESUME. AT ONE POINT IN THE EARLY MORNING, A SHOOT-OUT WITH SAUDI SECURITY PERSONNEL OCCURRED, AND INFORMANT INDICATED THAT 5-7 POLICEMEN WERE KILLED. IN ADDITION, A FEW PILGRIMS IN MOSQUE WERE WOUNDED IN CROSS-FIRE.

5. [REDACTED]

HELICOPTER BEGAN MAKING LOW PASSES OVER MECCA IN VICINITY OF GRAND MOSQUE BEGINNING AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS. ON THEIR FIRST SWING OVER MOSQUE, EVERYTHING SEEMED NORMAL. IN APPARENT CONFIRMATION OF REPORT IN PARA 4, APPROX 1000 WERE SEEN CIRCUMAMBULATING HOLY KAIABA AND THERE WAS MODERATE TRAFFIC CIRCULATING IN STREETS AROUND MOSQUE ITSELF. SAUDI SECURITY FORCES WERE IN EVIDENCE IN LARGE NUMBERS, HOWEVER, AND HAD TAKEN UP POSITIONS ON STREETS AND ROOFTOPS AROUND MOSQUE.

6. [REDACTED]

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN COURTYARD OF MOSQUE HAD DWINDLED TO ONLY ONE OR TWO HUNDRED, ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARED TO BE LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE IN SHADOWS TO ONE SIDE OF COURTYARD. AS HELICOPTER FLEW TO NE OF THE MOSQUE, THREE VERY DISTINCT RIFLE SHOTS WERE HEARD. [REDACTED] WERE TARGET OF SHOTS AND IMMEDIATELY INCREASED ALTITUDE. [REDACTED] THAT SITUATION ON MOSQUE FOLLOWING THESE SHOTS CHANGED PERCEPTIBLY. TRAFFIC IN AREA WAS IMMEDIATELY CLEARED, AND ROADBLOCKS WERE THROWN UP IN STREETS IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING MOSQUE. FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THEIR SEVERAL PASSES OVER MOSQUE, COURTYARD APPEARED DEVOID OF HUMANITY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TOLD THEM MOSQUE WAS OCCUPIED BY "IRANISANS", AND THAT SECURITY FORCES INTENDED CLEAR THEM OUT. SAUDI OFFICER STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ARMED INCIDENT AT MOSQUE FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING PRAYER AND THAT OCCUPATION OF MOSQUE

D HAD FOLLOWED. OCCUPATION WAS CONTINUING AND THIS WAS REASON HELICOPTER REQUIRED IN MECCA.

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DE RUQMRA #7993/2 3241545  
O 201510Z NOV 79  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8017  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE 3167  
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE 4316

INFO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 3322  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE 1543/  
47343./AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 1536  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 4388  
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE 3216

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 7993

DEPT ALSO PASS TO A/SY/CC/TAGS  
IN RELIABLE SOURCES REPORTED IN LATE AFTERNOON THAT INTERMITTANT  
GUNFIRE IS BEING EXCHANGED WITH THE GROUP  
OCCUPYING MOSQUE. THESE SOURCES ESTIMATED THAT APPROX 300  
PERSONS ARE OCCUPYING MOSQUE WITH 100 OTHERS ALSO IN BUILDING.  
OCCUPIERS APPARENTLY DEMANDED AT ONE POINT THIS MORNING THAT  
RADIO MECCA BE TURNED OVER TO THEM. THE SAUDI FRONTIER WITH  
JORDAN, IRAQ AND KUWAIT HAS NOW BEEN CLOSED TO ALL NON-  
SAUDIS. HOWEVER, SAUDI AIRLINES HAS NOT INTERRUPTED ITS FLIGHT  
SCHEDULE, ALTHOUGH RESERVE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT HAVE  
BEEN PLACED ON STAND-BY.  
GIM SPECIAL SECURITY FORCES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MINISTRY  
OF INTERIOR RATHER THAN NATIONAL GUARDSMEN HAVE REPORTEDLY  
BEEN ORDERED TO RESTORE ORDER, BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. CONSIDERABLE  
MILITARY AIR TRAFFIC (C-130 TRANSPORTS) REPORTED AT BOTH JIDDA  
AND RIYADH, AND SECURITY HAS BEEN TIGHTENED AT ALL MILITARY  
FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, MODA HOSPITALS IN JIDDA AND RIYADH  
ARE ON FULL ALERT. [REDACTED] CONFIRM THAT BOTH  
DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN AND INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE  
NAYIF HAVE BEEN ON THE SCENE IN MECCA SINCE THE EARLY MORNING  
HOURS. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR PRINCE TURKI AL-FAYSAL  
IS RETURNING FROM TUNIS.

9. SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD UNIT WHICH SECURES EMBASSY COMPOUND  
PERIMETER HAS BEEN AUGMENTED. EMBASSY HAS ALSO TAKEN OTHER  
MEASURES TO HEIGHTEN SECURITY INTERNALLY AND HAS CAUTIONED

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ALL EMPLOYEES AGAINST UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT. ATMOSPHERE IN  
JIDDA REMAINS NORMAL. WEST  
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE DASHED RIAC IMMEDIATE 8028

INFO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 3328

AMCONSUL DHAKRA RIAC IMMEDIATE 3187

USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE 4329

AMEMBASSY DABOUB IMMEDIATE 1534

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 4386

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE 1561

AMEMBASSY SAQA IMMEDIATE 3213

~~SECRET~~ JIDDA 7981

DEPT ALSO PASS RIAC IMMEDIATE TO A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 12958: GDS 11/22/85 (PLACKE, JAMES A.) GR-M

TAGS: PINS ASCI, SA

SUBJECT: (S) OCCUPATION OF GRAND MOSQUE, MECCA

REF: JIDDA 7971

1. (S-COPYRE TEXT).

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY MILITARY COMMANDER FOR WESTERN PROVINCE THAT MOSQUE IS STILL BEING OCCUPIED BY INTRUDERS. MINISTER OF INTERIOR'S OFFICE TELLS US THAT PRINCE NAIF IS AT THE SCENE. IRANIAN EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW IF IRANIANS ARE INVOLVED IN OCCUPATION, BUT THEY SAID THEY WERE INVESTIGATING AND WOULD INFORM US WHAT THEY LEARN.

3. DANISH AND BRITISH EMBASSIES HAVE INFORMED US THAT ALL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM HAS BEEN CUT. WE TESTED THIS BY ATTEMPTING TO PLACE TELEPHONE CALL TO THE U.S. AND WERE INFORMED THAT LINES WERE OUT OF ORDER.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT SAG SUSPENSION OF COMMUNICATION WITH OUTSIDE IS TO KEEP STORY OFF INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS UNTIL SITUATION IN MECCA HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

\*\*\*\*\* WMSR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

SICK CDDA  
EOD:JUNT

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PAGE 01

PSN:214535

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PER 223/98 HALL RE NLC-97-31  
BY *gy* NARS. DATE 6/12/98

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