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S E C R E T

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BOOK MESSAGE AS REFLR

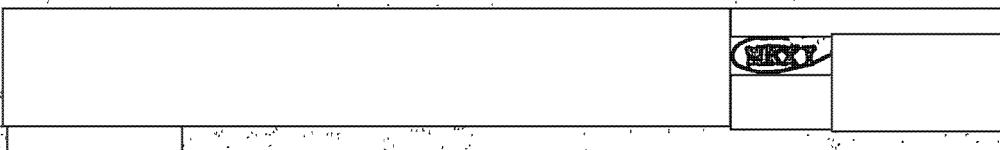
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CA 4, CAPTION, 10/19/69, CUSP, W/OPS, DC, VR

ROUTINE

CITE DIR

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PERIOD

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(BRIEFING IS SLANTED. REMAINING INFO RELASABLE TO LIAISON.)

1. ALGERIA-MOROCCO: THE CRASE-PTE WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED 1 NOV BECAME EFFECTIVE 4 NOV WITH ARRIVAL OF A MALIAN OBSERVER AT THE FRONT. A SECOND MALIAN OFFICER AND TWO ETHIOPIAN OBSERVERS APPARENTLY ARE STILL TO COME.

//ETHIOPIAN MINISTER HAILE SELASSIE HAS AGAIN CONTACTED KING HASSAN AND PRESIDENT BEN BELLA TO URGE THEM TO CONFER THE CRASE-PTE. HE INFORMED THEM THE AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE PROBABLY WOULD BE CONVENED IN ADDIS ABABA IN TWO WEEKS, THE DELAY BEING DUE TO SLOWNESS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES // THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOSTILITIES AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT.

2. JORDAN: FOLLOWING CABINET CHANGES 31 OCT KING HUSAYN STILL HOPES TO PERSUADE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

S E C R E T

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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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TO NO. 100000

SUBJ. NO. 100000

SAC NO. 100000

FROM DIRECTOR

CONF:

INFO:

TO

INFO

CITE DIR

SF-F59

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THIS HE HOPES TO INCREASE THE REGIME'S POPULARITY AND REDUCE THE DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. HE APPARENTLY ALSO BELIEVES APPOINTMENT OF SUCH "NATIONALIST" ELEMENTS TO THE CABINET WOULD IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN REPROOCHEMENT. HUSAYIN IS ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH CAIRO BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN OVER WHAT HE REGARDS AS A MORE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO JORDAN FROM THE IRANIAN REGIME IN DAMASCUS AND RAMALLAH.

HUSAYIN'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION RECENTLY HAVE FOCUSED ON SULEIMAN NABULSI A PRO-NASSIR FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF THE OUTLAWED NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY. SO FAR THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL PROBABLY BECAUSE NABULSI AND HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES WANT MORE REPRESENTATION THAN HUSAYIN IS PREPARED TO GRANT THEM.

ON 31 OCT THE KING APPOINTED NABULSI TO THE SIEHATE. CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED THE SAME DAY DO NOT ESSENTIALLY CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AND PROBABLY WILL BE RECEIVED WITH INDIFFERENCE BY THE JORDANIAN PUBLIC. THE RESIGNATION OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS CABINET AND THE FORTY NEW APPOINTMENTS, ACCOMPANIED

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S E C R E T

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SOME RESHUFFLING OF RESPONSIBILITIES, MAY CONSTITUTE AN IMPROVEMENT IN TERMS OF COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH FORMERLY SHABIP HUSAYN FORMERLY HEADED, PROBABLY WILL NOW HAVE FIRMER LEADERSHIP UNDER ABDUL ATALLAH, A PROMINENT AND RESPECTED LAWYER AND BAKER FROM JEMDALAH. TWO OF THE OTHER APPOINTMENTS WILL REPLACE MINISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED OF CORRUPTION. (CONF)

3. SYRIA: THE BAATHIST REGIME'S SOCIALIST MEASURES AND ITS PURGES OF NONBAATHIST MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVANTS ARE RAPIDLY ANTAGONIZING IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF SYRIAN SOCIETY.

SYRIA'S INFLUENTIAL UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES HAVE BEEN ALIENATED BY THE REGIME'S RECENT ATTACK ON THE "BOOMSHISTS" AND BY ITS DECLARED INTENTION TO ELIMINATE PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE TO "COLLECTIVIZE" FARMING AND TO DEVELOP WORKER ADMINISTRATION OF INDUSTRY. THEY HAD ALREADY BEEN OFFENDED BY EARLIER RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND BY A RECENT REDUCTION IN GOVERNMENT SALARIES.

ALTHOUGH THE REGIME IS MAKING A STRONG BID FOR SUPPORT OF SYRIA'S PEASANTS AND WORKERS, THESE ELEMENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY PLAYED ONLY

S E C R E T

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET

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ROUTING

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ROUTINE

FROM: DIRECTOR

CCM

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A MINOR ROLE IN SYRIAN POLITICS.

A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF WELL-EDUCATED AND TECHNICALLY TRAINED SYRIANS ARE SEEKING WAYS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THEIR DEPARTURE COULD CRIPPLE THE BAATHIST EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS.

THEY IS NO INDICATION THE DISSECTED MEMBERS OF THE UPPR OR MILITIA CLASSES ARE FORMING AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME. RECENT PURGE OF NON-BAATHIST ARMY OFFICERS HAS ALIENATED ANOTHER IMPORTANT GROUP WHICH COULD POSE A SERIOUS POTENTIAL THREAT TO CONTINUED BAATHIST RULE. (CONT)

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET