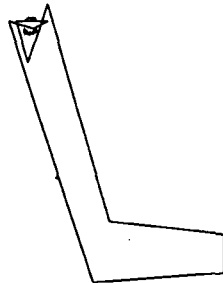


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CITE KUWAI [REDACTED]

TO: TEHRAN.

RYBAT

EYES ONLY [REDACTED] FOR KNIGHT

1. SIGNIFICANT AREA DEVELOPMENTS

A. BAHRAIN. ELECTIONS FOR BAHRAIN'S FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ARE DUE TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE 1973. 60 PER CENT OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS ARE IN THE 18-40 YEAR OLD AGE GROUPD AND THIS TROUP GENERALLY OPPOSES THE CONXERVATIVE RULING FAMILY. THE VARIOUS LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH ARE THE ONLY WELL-ORGANIZED POLITICAL ENTITIES IN THE COUNTRY, ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE LEFTIST CONTROL OF THE ASSEMBLY. ALTHOUGH THE ASSEMBLY IS THEORETICALLY A RUBBER STAMP OUTFIT, THE LEFTISTS, WHO ARE VIRTUALLY ASSURED CONTROL, WILL BE ABLE TO EXERT MUCH POPULAR SUPPORT AND AGITATION IF THE RULER TRIES TO OVERRIDE TOO MANY OF THE ASSEMBLY'S PROPOSALS.

B. OMAN. THE FIGHTING IN DHUFAR HAS BEGUN NOW THAT THE MONSOON HAS ENDED. AS PREDICTED, MOST OF THE FIGHTING IS COFINED TO THE PDRY-OMAN BORDER AREA, BUT IT IS MUCH HEAVIER THAN EXPECTED. PFLOAG HAS MORE FIRE POWER AND ITS

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FIGHTING COMPETENCE HAS IMPROVED. THE IRANIAN CONTINGENT CONTINUES TO IMPRESS ALL AND THE SULTAN LOOKS MORE TO IRAN AS THE ARABS DRAG THEIR FEET ON SUPPORT. SHOULD THE SULTAN BE FORCED TO DEPEND MORE ON IRAN, ARAB-IRAN SUSPICIONS WILL GROW AND CHANCES OF ARAB-IRANIAN COOPERATION IN THE GULF WILL BECOME MORE REMOTE.

C. YEMEN. THE POWERFUL CONSERVATIVE NORTHERN TRIBAL LEADERS ARE TIRING OF PRESIDENT IRYANI'S LIBERAL POLICIES VIS-A-VIS UNITY WITH PDRY AND SOFTNESS TOWARD THE SOUTHERN LEFTISTS. THEY ARE MANUEVERING TO CLIP IRYANI'S WINGS AND THE RETURN OF EXAPRESIDENT HASAN AL-AMRI IS RUMORED. IRYANI IS THE ONLY MAN CAPABLE OF HOLDING THE FACTION-RIDDEN COUNTRY TOGETHER AT THIS TIME AND SHOULD BE RESIGN OR BE OUSTED, THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE COJNTRY WOULD BE FIPE FOR A NEW WAVE OF SUBERSION. ANCILLARY TO THE IRYANI-CONSERVATIVE FEUD IS THE FACT THAT THE SAUDIS ARE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE CONSERVATIVES AND SAUDI MOTIVES IN YEMEN ARE NOW BECOMING SUSPECT ONCE AGAIN, AT A TIME WHEN SAUDI AID IS ESSENTIAL FOR AREA SECURITY. THE LIBERALS ASK THE QUESTION, "DOES THE SAUDI MONARCHY REALLY WANT A STRONG REPUBLICAN

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REGIME ON ITS SOUTHERN BORDER?"

D. PDRY. PDRY, LONG THE PRIAH OF THE ARAB WORLD, APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO MEND ITS FENCES. COMPLETELY OUT-CLASSSED BY SUCH REACTIONARY STATES AS SAUDI ARABIA, OMAN, AND YEMEN AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE, PDRY REALIZES IT MUST BROADEN ITS BASE. ALTHOUGH IT IS HARD TO FATHOM THE ENIGMA THAT IS PDRY, THIS MOVE FOR WIDER RECOGNITION MIGHT RESULT IN LESS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR PFLOAG.

E. THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE CURRENT CONFLICT ARE NOTABLE PRINCIPALLY IN THEIR LACK OF

~~ANY~~ <sup>ANY</sup> REACTION WORTH NOTING. THE LACK OF INFLAMATORY RHETORIC AND THE RESERVED (FOR ARABS) MILITARY BULLETINS HAVE PEOPLE TIED TO THEIR RADIOS TRYING TO GET A HINT OF WHAT REALLY IS HAPPENING RATHER THAN IN THE STREETS. THE LARGE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IS CALM, THE KUWAIT GOVERNMENT HAS SENT ITS VERBAL SUPPORT FOR EGYPT AND SYRIA AND WARNED AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION. THERE HAVE BEEN NO LOCAL ANTI-AMERICAN. ACTS.

F. A TREND WORTH WATCHING. WE HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST THE SWING TOWARD CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES IN

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THE ARAB WORLD. THE LEADERS OF THE THREE MOST POWERFUL  
FACTIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD: PROGRESSIVE/RADICAL (QADHAFI),  
MODERATE (SADAT) AND CONSERVATIVE/REACTIONARY (KING FAYSAL)  
ARE ALL VERY STRONG ON ISLAM. THIS COULD BE THE UNIFYING  
FACTOR ALTHOUGH, AT THIS TIME, EACH IS INTERPRETING THE  
PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM IN HIS OWN WAY. WE NOTE OF EXAMPLE,  
THAT KUWAIT, WHICH HAS ALWAYS INTERPRETED RAMADHAN IN A VERY  
LIBERAL FASHION, HAS IMPOSED SEVER PENALTIES ON THOSE  
CAUGHT VIOLATING FASTING REGULATIONS. THIS TREND IS WELL  
WORTH WATCHING IN THE GULF, WHERE EVEN LEFTISTS ARE GIVING  
LIP-SERVICE TO ISLAM, BECAUSE TH ARABS GENERALLY CONSIDER  
THE IRANIANS LAX ON ISLAM AND, AS SHIA'S, HERETICS. 32 IMPDET.

~~SECRET~~