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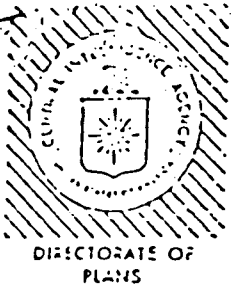
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DIST 7 MARCH 1975

COUNTRY ARAB STATES/SUDAN.

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DOI 1-4 MARCH 1973

SUBJECT 1. YASIR ARAFAT'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE BSO
KHARTOUM OPERATION; OTHER DETAILS OF THE OPERATION
2. ARAFAT'S APPROVAL FOR MORE SUCH OPERATIONS AGAINST
AMERICANS

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(SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE KHARTOUM OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY THE BLACK SEPTEMBER ORGANIZATION (BSO) WAS PLANNED BY BSO LEADER SALAH K H A L A F, IT HAD THE PERSONAL APPROVAL OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) CHAIRMAN AND FATAH LEADER YASIR A R A F A T, WHO TOGETHER WITH KHALAF CLOSELY MONITORED THE OPERATION WHILE IT WAS IN PROGRESS. WHEN THEY LEARNED OF THE EXECUTION OF THE DIPLOMATS, THEY WERE EXUBERANT. IT WAS NOT EXPECTED THAT THE STATED DEMANDS OF THE BSO TEAM WOULD BE MET, AND THE TEAM EXPECTED, FROM THE BEGINNING, TO KILL THE HOSTAGES. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE OPERATION WAS TO CREATE A SHOCK EFFECT AROUND THE WORLD. A TARGET LIST OF HOSTAGES WAS PREPARED IN ADVANCE, WITH THE NUMBER ONE TARGETS BEING THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND HIS DEPUTY. MEMBERS OF THE BSO TEAM WERE PALESTINIANS WHO TRAVELLED TO KHARTOUM, WHERE THEY RECEIVED FINAL BRIEFINGS AND THEIR WEAPONS FROM THE PLO OFFICE. IT WAS ARAFAT WHO ORDERED THEM TO SURRENDER. ARAFAT FEELS THAT THE KHARTOUM SUCCESS WILL BE A TONIC FOR THE PALESTINIAN MASSES, THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED THE

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WITH IMPUNITY. ARAFAT HAS GIVEN HIS PERSONAL APPROVAL FOR MORE SUCH OPERATIONS AGAINST AMERICANS IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY).

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2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KHARTOUM OPERATION--SALAH KHALAF (A B U I Y A D) WAS THE FATAH/BSO OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANNING AND DIRECTION OF THE KHARTOUM ATTACK, WITH THE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF YASIR ARAFAT.

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PLACE, ARAFAT PERSONALLY DIRECTED AND DICTATED OFFICIAL PLO AND FATAH REACTIONS. THIS WAS APPARENTLY A PURELY PALESTINIAN OPERATION; NO MENTION WAS MADE OF ANY ASSISTANCE EXPECTED OR RECEIVED FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY. ARAFAT HAD MADE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS, [Redacted] FOR PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WITH THE BSO TEAM. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] ARAFAT USED THIS MEANS ON 4 MARCH TO ORDER THE BSO TEAM TO RELEASE THE REMAINING SAUDI AND JORDANIAN HOSTAGES AND TO SURRENDER TO THE SUDANESE AUTHORITIES.

3. PERSONNEL INVOLVED--MEMBERS OF THE BSO TEAM WERE PALESTINIANS ORIGINALLY FROM JORDAN, WHO TRAVELLED TO KHARTOUM SPECIFICALLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS OPERATION. UPON ARRIVAL IN KHARTOUM, THEY WENT TO THE PLO OFFICE FOR FINAL BRIEFINGS AND TO RECEIVE THEIR WEAPONS. ONE PLO OFFICIAL IN KHARTOUM, RIZIK AL - Q A S, INSISTED HE BE

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INCLUDED IN THE OPERATION BECAUSE HE KNEW THE TARGET BUILDING AND SPOKE ENGLISH. AL-QAS WAS INCLUDED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTACK.

4. PURPOSE- THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE KHARTOUM OPERATION WAS TO CREATE A SHOCK EFFECT AROUND THE WORLD AND PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES. THE BSO TEAM HAD ORDERS THAT, IF THEIR DEMANDS IN KHARTOUM WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY MET, THEY WERE TO ATTEMPT TO FLY, WITH THEIR HOSTAGES, TO THE UNITED STATES, WHERE THEY WERE TO EXECUTE THE HOSTAGES AND GIVE THEMSELVES UP TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. THE IMMEDIATE PRETEXT FOR THE OPERATION WAS TO DEMAND THE RELEASE OF IMPRISONED FATAH OFFICIAL, A B U D A ' U D, BUT NEITHER ARAFAT NOR KHALAF EXPECTED THE JORDANIAN OR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO CAPITULATE TO BSO DEMANDS. IT WAS GENERALLY EXPECTED, FROM THE FIRST, THAT THESE DEMANDS WOULD BE REFUSED. THE BSO TEAM EXPECTED AND WAS DETERMINED TO KILL THE HOSTAGES FROM THE BEGINNING.

5. A TARGET LIST OF HOSTAGES TO BE SEIZED WAS PREPARED IN ADVANCE, PROBABLY BY THE PLO OFFICE IN KHARTOUM. THE NUMBER ONE TARGETS WERE THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND THE

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AMERICAN DCN, SECONDLY THE BSO TEAM WAS TO SEIZE THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR, AND THIRDLY , ANY OTHER TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY.

COMMENT:

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THE JORDANIAN CHARGE MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN ON THE TARGET LIST, BUT IT WAS IMMEDIATELY DECIDED HE SHOULD NOT BE HARMED BECAUSE HE IS PALESTINIAN BY ORIGIN AND RELATED BY MARRIAGE TO A FORMER FATAH OFFICIAL, WHO DIED IN AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT.)

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6. THE GEOGRAPHY FOR THIS OPERATION, THE SUDAN AND THE SAUDI EMBASSY, WAS SPECIFICIALLY CHOSEN TO DEMONSTRATE TO ARAB COUNTRIES THAT THEY ARE NOT IMMUNE TO ATTACK BY THE BSO IF THEY WAIVER IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN

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CAUSE.

7. REACTIONS OF PLO LEADERS-YASIR ARAFAT AND THE PLO LEADERSHIP LEARNED OF THE EXECUTION OF THE THREE HOSTAGES FROM THE RADIO. ALL WERE IMMEDIATELY DELIGHTED AND EXUBERANT, AND ARAFAT AND KHALAF ACCEPTED CONGRATUALIONS FROM ALL PRESENT. [Redacted] COMMENT: APPARENTLY, NOT A SINGLE VOICE WAS RAISED TO QUESTION EITHER THE MORALITY OF THE ACT OR THE POSSIBLE HARM TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE BY THE COLD-BLOODED EXECUTIONS.) ARAFAT COMMENTED THAT THE WORLD WILL BELIEVE NOW, WHEN BSO THREATENS TO KILL HOSTAGES, THESE THREATS MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, THAT BSO CREDIBILITY HAS BEEN PROVEN. AFTER THIS INITIAL EXUBERANCE, ARAFAT BECAME IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED THAT SAUDI ARABIA NOT BE FURTHER OFFENDED BY THE OPERATION. ARAFAT WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED LEST THE SUDANESE ARMY ASSAULT THE SAUDI EMBASSY, RESULTING IN DESTRUCTION OF SAUDI PROPERTY AND THE DEATH OF THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR. [Redacted]

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ARAFAT THEN SENT A TELEGRAM,

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[Redacted] NO PERSONAL EMISSARY WAS SENT TO KHARTOUM.

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8. FUTURE-PLANNING - AFTER THE KHARTOUM ATTACK, ARAFAT AND OTHER TOP PLO LEADERS CONTINUE TO BE SATISFIED WITH RESULTS. THEY FEEL THE KHARTOUM SUCCESS WILL BE A TONIC TO PALESTINIAN MASSES USE TO FAILURES IN THE PAST AND DESPAIRING OF EVER ATTAINING ANY REAL SUCCESSES AGAINST THEIR PRIMARY ENEMY, ISRAEL. ARAFAT BELIEVES THE PALESTINIANS HAVE PROVEN IN KHARTOUM THEY CAN CHALLENGE THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND GET AWAY WITH IT. YASIR ARAFAT HAS GIVEN HIS PERSONAL APPROVAL FOR MORE SUCH OPERATIONS AGAINST AMERICANS IN THE FUTURE.

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