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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE O228
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4898
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 11450

NAIROBI PASS TO CODEL SMITH
STATE FOR A/SY/FD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, OVIP, PO
SUBJECT: MORTAR ATTACK ON AMEMBASSY LISBON

1. FOUR MORTAR ROUNDS EXPLODED AROUND THE GROUNDS OF EMBASSY LISBON AT 5:15 AM LOCAL TIME ON NOVEMBER 25. THREE ROUNDS FELL WITHIN THE WALL, WHILE A FOURTH EXPLODED OUTSIDE THE FRONT GATE NEAR THE GUARD HOUSE. LOCAL SECURITY POLICE RESPONDED TO THE ATTACK RAPIDLY. POLICE INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT THE EXPLOSIVES WERE 60 MILIMETER "M-23" MORTAR ROUNDS OF PORTUGUESE ORIGIN. NO PERSONNEL WERE INJURED IN THE ATTACK. DAMAGE WAS LIMITED TO BROKEN GLASS AND VERY MINOR SHRAPNEL DAMAGE ON THREE EMBASSY VEHICLES, AND INSIGNIFICANT SHRAPNEL DAMAGE TO CHANCERY. ONE MORTAR ROUND APPARENTLY EXPLODED IN THE TREETOPS IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY AND BROUGHT DOWN SEVERAL SMALL BRANCHES. AT 1:15 PM THE FAR-LEFT PORTUGUESE TERRORIST GROUP "FORCAS POPULARES DE 25 ABRIL" (POPULAR FORCES OF APRIL 25--FP-25) CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK. THE GROUP'S MESSAGE DEMANDED PORTUGUESE WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO. IT ALSO CONDEMNED ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE NOVEMBER 25, 1975 "MILITARY COUP," A SHOW OF FORCE BY MODERATE MILITARY OFFICERS THAT ENDED THE PROGRESSIVE LEFTWARD DRIFT OF PORTUGAL'S POST-APRIL 1974 REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.

2. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THERE IS ANY SPECIFIC THREAT DIRECTED AGAINST CODEL SMITH WHO WOULD DISRUPT ITS PLANNED VISIT. EMBASSY IS IN A HIGH SECURITY POSTURE BUT IS FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.
HOLMES
END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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