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BRIEF 2005432

ROUTINE MEA BRIEF

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MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF

FOR 20 MAY 1985.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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- 1. SAUDI ARABIA-IRAN: FOREIGN MINISTER IN TEHRAN
- 2. LIBYA: POSSIBLE COUP PLOTTING IN SUDAN
- 3. IN BRIEF
- 1. SAUDI ARABIA-IRAN: FOREIGN MINISTER IN TEHRAN

//THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF PRINCE SAUD'S VISIT IS AN EXPLORATION OF VIEWS ON THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, BUT NO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IS LIKELY.//

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LATE SATURDAY KILLED ONE PERSON AND INJURED THREE OTHERS. A CALLER IN BEIRUT, CLAIMING TO REPRESENT THE IRANIAN-BACKED ISLAMIC JIHAD, SAID THE GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACKS AND WOULD STRIKE AGAIN AT SAUDI TARGETS REGARDLESS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT. THE IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY, HOWEVER, PROMPTLY BLAMED THE BOMBINGS ON IRAQ.//

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OUTGOING

//IT IS UNCLEAR WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, FOR THE BOMBINGS IN RIYADH OR WHETHER THEY ARE LINKED TO SAUD'S VISIT. DESPITE THE CONCERN IN BAGDAD, THE IRAQIS WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO TAKE SUCH A STEP AGAINST THEIR PRIMARY ARAB BENEFACTOR. IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT LIKELY, THAT XENOPHOBIC ELEMENTS IN THE TEHRAN LEADERSHIP COULD HAVE ENGINEERED THE INCIDENTS, TO INDICATE THEIR OBJECTION TO SAUD'S VISIT.//

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2. LIBYA-SUDAN:

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QADHAFI MADE A TWO-HOUR STOP IN KHARTOUM SATURDAY. WHERE HE CONFERRED WITH SUDANESE LEADER GENERAL SUWAR AL-DAHAB AND POSSIBLY WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR JIDDAH.//

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CLOSENESS OF KHARTOUM'S RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND THE US AND BY SUDAN'S RECEPTIVITY TO LIBYA'S UNION PROPOSALS. QADHAFI IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW 'PRACTICAL' ARAB UNITY SCHEME NEXT MONTH. AND A SUDANESE REJECTION OF THIS COULD PROVIDE QADHAFI THE PRETEXT TO MOVE.//

//FOR NOW, HOWEVER, QADHAFI CONTINUES TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT SUDANESE LEADERSHIP. HIS VISIT TO KHARTOUM, PROBABLY WAS AIMED AT DEMONSTRATING HIS READINESS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. HE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO CONVINCE SUDAN TO JOIN THE LIBYAN-MOROCCAN UNION.// b (3)

3. IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

--//IRAN PREDICTABLY REJECTED IRAQ'S CALL FRIDAY FOR A CEASE-FIRE BEGINNING WITH OPENING OF RAMADAN FASTING THIS WEEK . . . SAYS GESTURE MERELY 'EXHIBITIONIST DRAMA' INTENDED TO COVER UP FUNDAMENTAL WEAKNESSES ON IRAQI HOME FRONT.//

AMERICAS

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SOUTH ASIA

--//
ALLOWING GOVERNMENT TO SEIZE ASSETS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS . . . MOVE
WOULD BE USED AGAINST TOP-LEVEL TRAFFICKERS . . . COURTS STILL NOT
IMPOSING STIFF SENTENCES PERMITTED UNDER 1983 DRUG LAWS.//

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