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15/23 OCT 63/05/50

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TO: DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SECRET 37

FROM: [REDACTED]

DATE: 21 OCT 63

NO. [REDACTED]

BOOK MESSAGE AS BELOW

INFO: [REDACTED]

CONF: [REDACTED]

TO: [REDACTED]

ADDRESSES: CA 2, CA/PROP, CDS 2, HR/OPS, RE, VR

IMMEDIATE LORO

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PHAND

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF (FOR LIAISON) (NOFORN IN SLANTS)

1. LEBANON-SYRIA: THE INCURSION INTO LEBANON BY A SYRIAN PATROL ON 19 OCTOBER AND THE RESULTING CLASH WITH LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES ARE INDICATIVE OF SYRIAN EXASPERATION WITH LEBANON'S POLICY TOWARD SYRIA. THE LEBANESE FOR SOME TIME HAVE ALLOWED EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE TO USE LEBANON AS A BASE FOR SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST SYRIA. LEBANESE INTERNAL POLITICS HAVE LED THE SHIHAB REGIME TO CLOSE ITS EYES TO THESE ACTIVITIES. (CONF)

2. MOROCCO-ALGERIA: THE MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN BORDER CONFLICT SEEMS ON THE VERGE OF ESCALATING AS BOTH COUNTRIES REINFORCE THEIR TROOPS ALONG THE ENTIRE BORDER AREA.

THE ALGERIAN CAPTURE ON 18 OCT OF A SMALL MOROCCAN FRONTIER POST NORTHEAST OF COLON-BEGHAR AND THE BUILD-UP OF ALGERIAN FORCES

NORTHWEST OF THAT CITY SUGGEST THAT THE ALGERIANS ARE POISED TO

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SEIZE THE FIGHTING AREA OF MOROCCO IN RETALIATION FOR THE CASE OF EAST BENA AND TINJOUR.

SHOULD THE ALGERIANS MOVE TO SEIZE FIGHTING MOROCCO COULD BE EXPECTED TO PRESS ITS CASE IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AS WELL AS TO INTENSIFY ITS REQUESTS FOR WESTERN SUPPORT. AS LONG AS THE KING IS CONCERNED OVER THE LEGALITY OF HIS CASE BEFORE INTERNATIONAL BODIES, A MOROCCAN STRIKE ON TINJOUR SEEMS UNLIKELY.

THE REPORTED CAPTURE ON 30 OCT OF SEVERAL EGYPTIANS AMONG ALGERIANS ABOARD A HELICOPTER FORCED DOWN IN EASTERN MOROCCO WILL REINFORCE MOROCCAN CHARGES OF EGYPTIAN INVOLVEMENT. MOROCCO CLAIMED TO HAVE CAPTURED ONE EGYPTIAN OFFICER AND FOUND AN EGYPTIAN BODY AMONG ALGERIAN CASUALTIES. NASIR WOULD SEEM TOO ENGROSSSED WITH YEMEN AND HIS INTERNAL PROBLEMS TO GIVE ALGERIA MUCH EFFECTIVE SUPPORT, AND HAS HITHERTO SEEN A PREFERENCE FOR LIMITED AND NONATTRIBUTABLE AID.

KING HARRAN HAS SENT EMISSARIES TO MADRID AND PARIS TO REQUEST MORAL, DIPLOMATIC AND MATERIAL SUPPORT. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH FRANCE AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT NUÑEZ GRANDES, HOWEVER, HAS INTIMATED TO

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A US OFFICER THAT SPAIN WOULD BE FORCED TO INTERVENE IF THE USSR AND EGYPT ENTERED THE CONFLICT ON THE ALGERIAN SIDE BY SUPPLYING ARMS OR "OTHER MEANS." SPAIN'S POSITION IS COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO BEGIN EARLY SOON ON MOROCCO'S CLAIMS TO VARIOUS SPANISH-HELD TERRITORIES. THE SPAIN RESPONSE IS NOT YET KNOWN.//

BEN BELLA, REVERES HAVING AGAIN POSTPONED HIS VISIT TO THE UN, HAS SENT MOHAMED YAZID, HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN RECENT FRUITLESS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MOROCCANS, TO LINE UP SUPPORT AMONG AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK. BOTH MOROCCO AND ALGERIA HAVE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY DO NOT WANT UN INTERVENTION AT THIS TIME.

BOTH ALGERIA AND MOROCCO ARE ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUATION OF MEDIATION EFFORTS (ALTHOUGH REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH HAVE TOLD THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL THAT THERE IS NO CHANCE OF A CEASE-FIRE SO LONG AS THE OTHER OCCUPIES THE DISPUTED AREA). THE ALGERIANS SEEM TO FAVOR THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY BECAUSE OF ITS OPPOSITION TO BORDER CHANGES. MOROCCO STILL STRESSES THAT IT REGARDS DISCUSSIONS OF THE WHOLE BORDER PROBLEM AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ANY AGREEMENT.

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MOROCCO HAS GIVEN KEENESEST INDIRECT BUT CLEAR PROPAGANDA SUPPORT TO ALGERIA. AN AUTHORITYATIVE BEAVIS COMMENTATOR OBSERVED ON 17 OCT THAT IT WAS THE MOROCCANS WHO HED REACHED TO ADMS AND THAT WHILE HIS IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE "THE EARLIEST FRAGTUL RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT," IT IS NECESSARY TO "HELP THE ALGERIAN PEOPLE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR REVOLUTIONARY GAINS."

KING HASSAN'S INTERNAL POSITION HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT STRENGTHENED BY THE CRISIS. HIS POSITION MIGHT WELL BECOME VULNERABLE, HOWEVER, SHOULD THE QUREL WITH ALGERIA DEGENERATE INTO A PROLONGED CONFLICT IN WHICH THE KING RELIED HEAVILY ON THE WEST WHILE ALGERIA WAS SUPPORTED BY CERTAIN ARAB STATES AND THE BLOC.

THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS SPARING NO EFFORT TO WHIP UP NATIONAL FEELING AGAINST MOROCCO AND HASSAN'S "OUTDATED REGIME" AT THE SAME TIME, THE DISSIDENTS IN THE KABYLIE ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ALGERS' PREOCCUPATION WITH MOROCCO TO ENGAGE IN GURBILIA OPERATIONS. ON 18 OCT THREE GENDARMES WERE KILLED AND THREE INJURED IN A CLASH SOME 30 MILES EAST OF ALGIERS. (CONF)

END OF MESSAGES

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