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NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(INFOFORM IN SLANTS. REMAINING INFO)

1. CYPRUS: //EXPLOSION OF A BOMB AT THE BASE OF A MONUMENT TO A GREEK CYPRIOT IN NICOSIA ON 3 DEC IS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES. THE INCIDENT FOLLOWED PRESIDENT MAKARIOS' FORMAL, BUT STILL UNPUBLICIZED, PRESENTATION TO TURKISH CYPRIOT VICE PRESIDENT KOCHUK OF THE GREEKS' DEMANDS FOR REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION. REPORTS THAT A GREEK CYPRIOT PARAMILITARY FORCE RECENTLY HAS BEEN RECEIVING INTENSIVE TRAINING UNDER A GREEK ARMY OFFICER STATIONED ON CYPRUS ARE ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE INCREASINGLY TENSE ATMOSPHERE ON THE ISLAND. //

2. EGYPT - SAUDI ARABIA: CAIRO MAY BE PREPARING A MAJOR PRO-
 PAGANA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ISRAELI AND SAUDI ARABIA IN ANTICIPATION
 OF A NEW CRISIS OVER THE YEMEN DISARMAMENT ISSUE. RECENT EGYPTIAN

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RADIOBROADCASTS HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY CRITICAL OF THE US-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP. THIS WEEK BOTH THE VOICE OF THE ARAB AND THE CLAIMS THE VOICE OF THE ARAB ESTATE VICIOUSLY ATTACKED THE US OIL COMPANY IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE USE OF DAMRAN AIRFIELD THERE AS REPRESENTING US EXPLOITATION AND DOMINATION. (CONF)

3. IRAQ: //ANTI-BAAHIST OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEGUN TO ELIMINATE BAAHIST INFLUENCE IN THE REGIME.//

//THE BAAHIST MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, A LEADER IN THE MODERATE FACTION OF THE PARTY, HAS BEEN BASED OUT OF OFFICE AND KILLED TO BRIBED WITH SEVERAL ASSOCIATES, BAAHIST VICE PRESIDENT BAKR REPORTEDLY IS ALSO LEAVING THE COUNTRY. HAN DAN TIKRITI, A STRONG BAAHIST WHO HOLDS THE KEY DEFENSE MINISTRY POST, HAS REQUESTED A BRITISH VISA.//

//PRESSURES FOR A MOVE AGAINST BAAHISTS STILL HOLDING POSITIONS OF POWER HAVE BEEN GROWING AMONG "ARAB NATIONALIST" ARMY OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DESIRING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SAUD. PRESIDENT ALIF HAS APPARENTLY APPROVED IN THE ACTION AGAINST THE BAAHIST BUT HIS ROLE IN THE MOVE IS NOT YET CLEAR.//

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//WHILE THE ANTI-BAATHIST FACTION NOW APPEARS TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND, THE FATE OF 4TH DIVISION COMMANDER NASHAT IS NOT CERTAIN. A DEDICATED BAATHIST, HE REPORTEDLY HAS SURROUNDED BAGHDAD IN THE EXPECTATION OF A SHOWDOWN. IF HE STILL RETAINS HIS COMMAND HE MAY ATTEMPT TO REDRESS THE PRESENT SITUATION.//

//THE DECAY OF THE BAATHIST POSITION IN IRAQ IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO FURTHER UNDERMINE THE POSITION OF THE PARTY IN SYRIA.

4. SOMALI: //A RASH OF RAIDS FROM THE NEIGHBORING SOMALI REPUBLICS INTO KENYA'S NORTHEASTERN REGION MAY BE THE START OF A GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE REGION'S SOMALI INHABITANTS ARE DETERMINED TO SECEDE FROM KENYA.//

//IN NOV , GROUPS OF ARMED SOMALIS CONDUCTED AT LEAST TEN WELL-PLANNED RAIDS INTO KENYA FROM SAFE HAVENS ACROSS THE SOMALI BORDER. BRITISH POLICE ESTIMATE THAT OVER 300 SOMALIS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INCURSIONS AND THEY FEEL THAT THE RAIDERS' RIFLES AND GRENADES PROBABLY CAME FROM SOMALI POLICE STOCKS. RADIO MOGADISCIO HAS LONG BEAMED VITRIOLIC PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS INTO THE NORTHEASTERN REGION.//

//SOMALI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE CATEGORICALLY DENIED INculpating THE ATTACKS OR TRAINING COMMANDOS FOR OPERATIONS IN KENYA. THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE TO REFUTE THESE DENIALS. THE MOGADISCIO

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GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IS FACED WITH DIFFICULT GENERAL ELECTIONS NEXT MARCH, AND MAY SOON FEEL COMPELLED TO RENDER SOME DIRECT MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. EVEN A MODEST AMOUNT OF MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE DISSENTERS COULD RESULT IN A PROLONGED GUERRILLA WAR AND A SEVERE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON KENYA. //

5. NIGER: NIGER PRESIDENT DIORI'S CONSERVATIVE REGIME HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY THE SUCCESSFUL DEFIANCE OF ITS AUTHORITY BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF A KEY ARMY COMPANY. AFTER ORDERING THE OFFICER'S REMOVAL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HE HAD AGITATED FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR THE ARMY, DIORI WAS FORCED TO BACK DOWN WHEN THE OFFICER AND HIS MEN MUTINIED. AN AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BY INTERMEDIARIES, BUT THE ARMY UNIT REMAINS IN CAMP NEAR THE CAPITAL, AND THE INTENTIONS OF ITS COMMANDER ARE UNCLEAR. (CONF)

6. TURKEY: THE TURKISH CABINET CRISIS PERSISTS. PREMIER MINISTER YONU IS MANEUVERING TO SHOW THAT THE OPPOSITION JUSTICE PARTY CANNOT FORM A GOVERNMENT AND MUST REDUCE ITS CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING OR ONE FORMED BY HIS REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY. CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS LOOK ON A "NATIONAL" COALITION OF ALL PARTIES,

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7. PAKISTAN: THE DEATH OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SUHRAWARDY DEPRIVES OPPOSITION FORCES IN PAKISTAN OF THE ONE LEADER ABLE TO UNITE THEM AGAINST THE AYUB REGIME. THE OPPOSITION WAS ALREADY DISHEARTENED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S IMPRESSIVE SHOWING IN RECENT BY-ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH SOME OPPOSITION LEADERS MAY TRY TO USE THE NEWS OF SUHRAWARDY'S DEATH TO FOCUS ANTI-REGIME SENTIMENT, THE BASIC EFFECT PROBABLY WILL BE TO DISCOURAGE THE OPPOSITION STILL FURTHER.

(CONF)

8. CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE): THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BRAZZAVILLE REMAINS CONFUSED AND HIGHLY UNSTABLE AS THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT PREPARES FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS.

BOTH THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE CANDIDATES FOR THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE, WHO RUN UNOPPOSED, WILL PROBABLY BE STRONGLY ENDORSED BY THE VOTERS ON 8 DEC.

THE SUPERIOR PRESTIGE OF MODERATE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADER MASSAMBA-DEBAT MAY SECURE HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY WHEN AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE MEETS THAT DATE ON 19 DEC. HIS ELECTION, HOWEVER, IS NOT CERTAIN AND IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT POWER THE PRESIDENT

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WILL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO FIELD.

A NUMBER OF LEFTIST UNIONISTS AND YOUTH LEADERS ARE AMONG THE 55 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES. SOME OF THESE LEFTISTS MAY GET IMPORTANT MINISTERIAL POSTS WHEN THE CABINET IS FORMED LATE THIS MONTH. THEY PROBABLY WILL PRESS THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A MORE RECEPTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIET BLOC AND MAY CALL FOR THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

THE LEFTISTS MAY ALSO SEEK TO EXPLOIT THE TENSE SITUATION WHICH HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED REGARDING NEIGHBORING CABINDA, WHERE PORTUGUESE POLICE PURSUING NATIONALIST INSURGENTS HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER INTO THE CONGO ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS. THERE HAVE BEEN CLASHES BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND CONGO ARMY TROOPS. (CONF)

9. MIDDLE EAST OIL: MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES AND SECRETARY GENERAL ROUHANI OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC) STILL HAVE NOT REACHED AGREEMENT IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING INCREASED OIL REVENUE FOR MIDDLE EASTERN PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

BECAUSE THE COMPANIES REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE OPEC AS A BARGAINING AGENT ROUHANI WANTS TO RECRUIT SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OPEC MEMBERS.

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HE IS NEGOTIATING, HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT AN OPEC MEETING LAST YEAR.

THE WESTERN OIL CONSORTIUM OPERATING IN IRAN, ACTING AS LEAD MAN FOR THE MAJOR COMPANIES, HAS OFFERED A FORMULA WHICH WOULD INCREASE PAYMENTS TO THE MIDDLE EASTERN GOVERNMENTS BY ABOUT THREE AND A HALF CENTS PER BARREL, BUT ROUHANI UP TO NOW HAS BEEN HOLDING OUT FOR A MUCH LARGER RISE. THERE IS ALSO DISAGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF POINTS RELATING TO THE METHOD OF CALCULATING THE GOVERNMENTS' SHARES. ON 4 DEC A MEETING OF OPEC REPRESENTATIVES IN BEIRUT ANNOUNCED REJECTION OF THE CONSORTIUM'S PROPOSALS.

ROUHANI'S POSITION IS SOMEWHAT WEAKENED BY AN APPARENT TENDENCY OF THREE LEADING OPEC MEMBERS--KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, AND IRAN--TO TAKE A MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE THAN ROUHANI SEEMS TO FAVOR.

THE OPEC MEMBERS (VENEZUELA, LIBYA, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, IRAQ, IRAN, KUWAIT, INDONESIA) WILL DISCUSS POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION AT THEIR NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN SAUDI ARABIA 24 DEC AT RIYADH. (CONF)

10. MOROCCO: THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY IS RECONSIDERING A DECISION, ANNOUNCED 28 OCT, TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH

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CUBA IN RETALIATION FOR CUBA'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ALGERIA.

ON 2 DEC, THE ACTING MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED A CUBAN "GOODWILL" DELEGATION DISPATCHED TO HIS MAJESTY KING HASSAN II TO REINFORCE BONDING RELATIONS. AN OFFICIAL IN THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN RABAT, WHO BELIEVES THAT THE RECEPTION OF THE DELEGATION PROMOTES OFFICIAL REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, CLAIMS THAT MANY DIPLOMATS ARE USING THEIR INFLUENCE TO KEEP THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MOROCCO.

DESPITE MOROCCO'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT RELATIONS WERE BROKEN WITH CUBA, THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR HAS CONTINUED TO ATTEND FUNCTIONS AND TO FLY THE CUBAN FLAG AT HIS CHANCERY IN RABAT, CREATING SOME EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. (CONF)

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