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RELEASED IN PART

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ACTION SS-25

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O 191914Z MAR 85
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5684
INFO AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 02602

DECAPTIONED

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, JO
SUBJECT: HUSSEIN ON MUBARAK'S VISIT AND THEIR JOINT TRIP
TO IRAQ

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.
 2. SUMMARY. KING HUSSEIN WAS PLEASED TO GET PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S REPORT ON HIS U.S. VISIT, WHICH HUSSEIN FOUND NOT DISCOURAGING ON THE PROBLEM OF NEXT STEPS. HUSSEIN, HOWEVER, STILL CONSIDERS HIS MARCH 21 MEETING WITH ARAFAT AS THE KEY TO WHAT CAN HAPPEN NEXT. HUSSEIN SAID BOTH HE AND MUBARAK FELT RIGHT ABOUT THE GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY REPRESENTED BY THEIR GOING TOGETHER TO SEE SADAM HUSSEIN. HUSSEIN BELIEVED MUBARAK HAD PROBABLY CLEARED THE WAY FOR AN EARLY RESTORATION OF EGYPTIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS. SADAM HUSSEIN REPORTED A CLEAR VICTORY FOR IRAQ IN THE BATTLE IN THE MARSHES, WITH THE IRANIANS NOW DRIVEN BACK TO VIRTUALLY THEIR INITIAL
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POSITION, WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES. SADAM HUSSEIN ALSO PROFESSED TO BE VERY PLEASED WITH HIS CURRENT STATE OF COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

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3.

THE KING WAS, IN THIS GROUP, MORE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT IRAQ THAN THE MUBARAK VISIT, BUT WE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN LATER THIS WEEK.

4. THE KING DID TELL ME BEFORE LUNCH THAT HE WAS NOW PLEASED THAT MUBARAK HAD COME. MUBARAK'S REPORT ON HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS VERY POSITIVE AND SOMEWHAT MORE UPBEAT THAN MY OWN ON THE DEGREE OF AGREEMENT ON NEXT STEPS (NO COMMENT). MUBARAK WAS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY SHULTZ AND REPORTED TO THE KING THAT THE SECRETARY WAS WARMING TO THE CHALLENGE OF MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS. THIS SEEMED TO IMPRESS HUSSEIN WHO SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A LONG CHAT WITH THE SECRETARY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. HUSSEIN SAID HIS LAST MINUTE PROPOSAL TO MUBARAK OF A JOINT TRIP TO BAGHDAD HAD BEEN AN ARAB'S INTUITIVE GAMBLE, BUT HE FELT IT HAD WORKED. BOTH HE AND MUBARAK FELT SADAM HUSSEIN SHOULD HAVE THIS GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT. MUBARAK WAS NOT REALLY COUNTING ON ITS LEADING IMMEDIATELY TO RESTORATION OF EGYPTIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS, BUT HUSSEIN FELT THE VISIT HAD PROBABLY ASSURED THIS WILL COME SOON, MAYBE VERY SOON.

6. HUSSEIN AND MUBARAK HAD FOUND SADAM HUSSEIN AND HIS IMMEDIATE ADVISORS EXHAUSTED BUT CONVINCED THEY HAD

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WON A GREAT VICTORY IN THE MARSHES. THE IRANIANS HAD ATTACKED WITH 10 DIVISIONS, 2 REGULAR ARMY AND 8 REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS. THIS ENTIRE FORCE HAD NOW BEEN REPULSED OR DESTROYED. THE BRIDGEHEAD ACROSS THE TIGRIS WAS ELIMINATED, THE TWO MAJOR BRIDGES RESUPPLYING THE ADVANCING DIVISIONS HAD BEEN DESTROYED AND THE IRANIANS HAD BEEN THROWN OUT OF VIRTUALLY ALL THE MARSHLAND TERRITORY SEIZED IN THE OFFENSIVE. IRANIAN CASUALTIES HAD SURELY BEEN VERY HEAVY, BUT THE IRAQIS WERE NOT COMMENTING ON THEIR OWN LOSSES.

7. THE IRAQIS THOUGHT THEIR AIR FORCE DID WELL, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE STILL OBSESSED WITH ANY LOSS OF AIRCRAFT. THEY PROUDLY CLAIMED THEY HAD LOST ONLY TWO AIRCRAFT,

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BUT HAD RECOVERED BOTH PILOTS. THE SCUDS WORRIED THE IRAQIS, IN PART BECAUSE THEY DID NOT KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN THESE MISSILE ATTACKS ON BAGHDAD TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE. THE IRAQIS SAID THAT THEIR OWN ATTACKS ON IRANIAN POPULATION CENTERS WOULD CONTINUE AS LONG AS THE IRANIANS SHELLED BASRA AND FIRED SCUDS AT BAGHDAD. THE IRAQIS SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT FOR THE MOMENT THEIR ATTACKS ON IRANIAN CITIES WILL INCREASE PRESSURE WITHIN IRAN FOR PEACE. I TOLD HUSSEIN THIS EFFECT WAS NOT LIKELY ON THE BASIS OF HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF BOMBING CIVILIAN POPULATIONS OR ON THE BASIS OF WHAT ONE COULD TELL SO FAR FROM IRANIAN REACTIONS.

8. HUSSEIN SAID THE IRAQIS WERE VERY PLEASED WITH U.S. SUPPORT FOR THEIR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO GET AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND WITH THEIR OVERALL COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BOEKER

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