

NAME B. BELLA
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BOOK MESSAGE AS BELOW

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FRAND

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(NOFORN IN SLANTS. REMAINING INFO RELEASABLE TO LIAISON.)

1. ALGERIA-MOROCCO: THE CEASE-FIRE WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED 1 NOV BECAME EFFECTIVE 4 NOV WITH ARRIVAL OF A MALIAN OBSERVER AT THE FRONT. A SECOND MALIAN OFFICER AND TWO ETHIOPIAN OBSERVERS APPARENTLY ARE STILL TO COME.

//ETHIOPIAN EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE HAS AGAIN CONTACTED KING HASSAN AND PRESIDENT BEN BELLA TO URGE THEM TO OBSERVE THE CEASE-FIRE. HE INFORMED THEM THE AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE PROBABLY WOULD BE CONVENED IN ADDIS ABABA IN TWO WEEKS, THE DELAY BEING DUE TO SLOWNESS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES.// THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOSTILITIES AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT.

2. JORDAN FOLLOWING CABINET CHANGES 31 OCT KING HUSAYN STILL HOPES TO PERSUADE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

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THUS HE HOPES TO INCREASE THE REGIME'S POPULARITY AND REDUCE THE DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. HE APPARENTLY ALSO BELIEVES APPOINTMENT OF SUCH "NATIONALIST" ELEMENTS TO THE CABINET WOULD IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHMENT. HUSAYN IS ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH CAIRO BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN OVER WHAT HE REGARDS AS A MORE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO JORDAN FROM THE BAATHIST REGIMES IN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD.

HUSAYN'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION RECENTLY HAVE FOCUSED ON SULAYMAN RABULSI A PRO-NASIR FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF THE OUTLAWED NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY. SO FAR THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL PROBABLY BECAUSE RABULSI AND HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES WANT MORE REPRESENTATION THAN HUSAYN IS PREPARED TO GRANT THEM.

ON 11 OCT THE KING APPOINTED RABULSI TO THE SENATE. CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED THE SAME DAY DO NOT ESSENTIALLY CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AND PROBABLY WILL BE RECEIVED WITH INDIFFERENCE BY THE JORDANIAN PUBLIC. THE RESIGNATION OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS CABINET AND THE NEW APPOINTMENTS, ACCOMPANIED ...

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SOME RESHUFFLING OF RESPONSIBILITIES, MAY CONSTITUTE AN IMPROVEMENT IN TERMS OF COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH PRIME MINISTER SHARIF HUSAYN FORMERLY HEADED, PROBABLY WILL NOW HAVE FIRMER LEADERSHIP UNDER ASTON ATALLAH, A PROMINENT AND RESPECTED LAWYER AND BANKER FROM JERUSALEM. TWO OF THE OTHER APPOINTMENTS WILL REPLACE MINISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED OF CORRUPTION. (CONF)

3. SYRIA: THE BAAATHIST REGIME'S SOCIALIST MEASURES AND ITS PURGES OF NONBAAATHIST MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVANTS ARE RAPIDLY ANTAGONIZING IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF SYRIAN SOCIETY.

SYRIA'S INFLUENTIAL UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES HAVE BEEN ALIENATED BY THE REGIME'S RECENT ATTACK ON THE "BOURGEOISIE" AND BY ITS DECLARED INTENTION TO ELIMINATE PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE TO "COLLECTIVIZE" FARMING AND TO DEVELOP WORKER ADMINISTRATION OF INDUSTRY. THEY HAD ALREADY BEEN OFFENDED BY EARLIER RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND BY A RECENT REDUCTION IN GOVERNMENT SALARIES.

ALTHOUGH THE REGIME IS MAKING A STRONG BID FOR SUPPORT OF SYRIA'S PEASANTS AND WORKERS THESE ELEMENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY PLAYED ONLY

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A WINDS HOLE IN SYRIAN POLITICS.

A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF WELL-EDUCATED AND TECHNICALLY TRAINED SYRIANS ARE SEEKING WAYS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THEIR DEPARTURE COULD CRIPPLE THE BAAATHIST EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS.

THERE IS NO INDICATION THE DISGRUNTLED MEMBERS OF THE UPPER OR MIDDLE CLASSES ARE FORMING AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME. EXTENSIVE PURGING OF NON-BAAATHIST ARMY OFFICERS HAS ALIENATED ANOTHER IMPORTANT GROUP WHICH COULD POSE A SERIOUS POTENTIAL THREAT TO CONTINUED BAAATHIST RULE. (CONF)

END OF MESSAGE

James *John*