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NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(NOFORN IN SLANTS. REMAINING INFO RELEASABLE TO [REDACTED])

1. TURKEY: THE TWO-YEAR-OLD POLITICAL CRISIS CONTINUES. SINCE THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) ADMITTED LAST WEEK THAT IT COULD NOT FORM A GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER INONU HAS ACCEPTED A MANDATE TO DO SO. INONU IS STILL EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN DRAWING TOGETHER A NEW COALITION. HOWEVER, HIS CHANCES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED BY THE JP'S OWN FAILURE. THE POLITICIANS FEEL THAT THE MILITARY MAY INTERVENE IF THE CRISIS IS PROLONGED MUCH FURTHER, AND THE SCARCITY OF OTHER CANDIDATES. (CONF)

2. AFGHANISTAN; //CONSERVATIVE FORMER PRIME MINISTER PRINCE DAUD SEEMS TO BE REASSERTING HIS INFLUENCE. A POLITICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DAUD AND KING ZAHIR SHAH MAY BE DEVELOPING OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR A MORE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION. SHOULD THE KING YIELD TO DAUD'S PRESSURES AND GIVE HIM AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN REVISING THE NEW

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ROUTING

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TO :

FROM: DIRECTOR

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-FOUR TWO-

DRAFT CONSTITUTION, RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER FAYED AND OTHER
REPORTS-INDICED, TWO-SIDED CONFLICT WOULD PROBABLY BECOME
UNTERMINABLE.//

3. SAUDI ARABIA: THE LONG-SUSPENDING DISPUTE BETWEEN KING SAUD
AND CROWN PRINCE FAYED MAY BE REACHING A CLIMAX. ROYAL GUARD ELEMENTS
ON 16 DECEMBER WERE BROUGHTING DOWN SAUD'S SADDLE IN RIYADH AND THERE
WAS EVIDENCE THAT AN IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY WAS
IN PROGRESS AT THE PALACE OF THE CROWN PRINCE. MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS
OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ARE BELIEVED LOYAL TO FAYED; HOWEVER, IT IS NOT
CLEAR HOW THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE SAUDI ARMY WOULD REACT IN THE
EVENT OF AN OPEN SAUDI-FAYED SPLIT. (CONF)

END OF MESSAGE

James W. Featherstone
JAMES W. FEATHERSTONE
DELEGATING OFFICER

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