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ACTION NODS-00

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NLS 197-10911-138
By CRS, NARA, Date 2/6/03

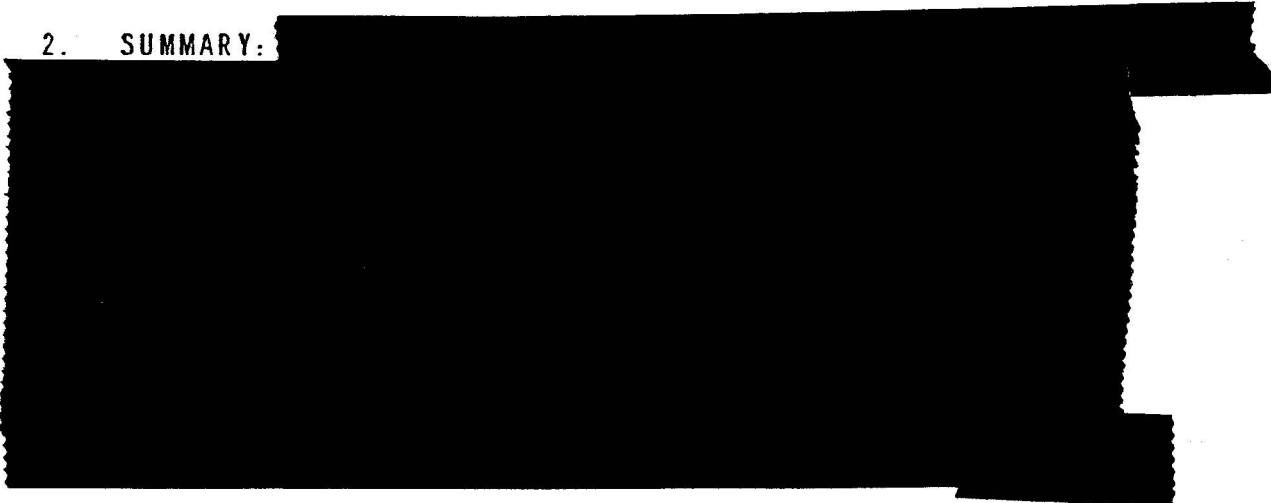
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PTER, PREL, US, SY, LE

SUBJECT: KHADDAM ON THE SEVEN AMERICAN KIDNAPPEES

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY:



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SUMMARY.

END

3. WHEN I SAW KHADDAM ON JULY 6, I DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITH HIM THE REMAINING AMERICAN AND OTHER KIDNAPPEES IN LEBANON (OTHER SUBJECTS BY SEPTEL).

4. I TOLD KHADDAM THAT DESPITE SOME INACCURATE PRESS STORIES, JUST AS THE USG HAD MADE NO LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWA HOSTAGES AND THE ATLIT PRISONERS, WE WILL MAKE NO LINKAGE BETWEEN THE ATLIT PRISONERS AND THE SEVEN REMAINING KIDNAPPEES.

5. I RECALLED THAT FOR MORE THAN A YEAR WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE SYRIANS OUR INSISTENCE ON THE IMMEDIATE SAFE RELEASE OF THE KIDNAPPEES OF ALL NATIONALITIES IN LEBANON. WHILE SOME HAVE BEEN CONVINCED OF SYRIA'S EFFORTS ON THEIR BEHALF, OTHERS POINT OUT THAT THE LIST KEEPS LENGTHENING. FURTHER, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TWA AFFAIR, AND NOW THAT WE KNOW OF THE BRUTALITY OF THE HIZBALLAH HIJACKERS, IT SEEMS EVEN MORE INHUMANE THAT THE SEVEN SHOULD LINGER IN THE HANDS OF SUCH UNCIVILIZED INDIVIDUALS. I RECALLED THAT LEVIN HAD REPORTED HE HAD BEEN CHAINED FOR ONE YEAR AND BRUTALIZED IN OTHER WAYS. I RECALLED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SHARA' HAD ADVISED ME TWO DAYS AGO TO BE PATIENT. FRANKLY, HOWEVER, THIS ADVICE IS NOT SUFFICIENT.

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[REDACTED]

7. I RECALLED THAT DURING THE TWA NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SYRIANS NOW HAVE HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE HIZBALLAH. WILL THIS HELP IN THEIR CURRENT EFFORTS?

[REDACTED]

8.

[REDACTED]

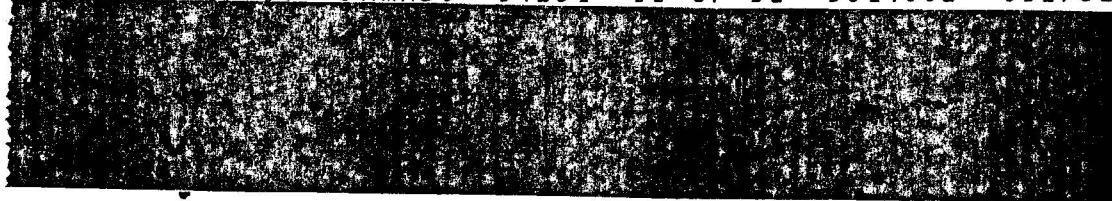


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9. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. EAGLETON

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