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TELEGRAM

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DRAFTED BY S/SN:THILLER
APPROVED BY S/SN:DRUMSFELD
S/S:JCOVEY

S/S-O: TLRANDALL, JR.

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EXDIS. FROM RUMSFELD

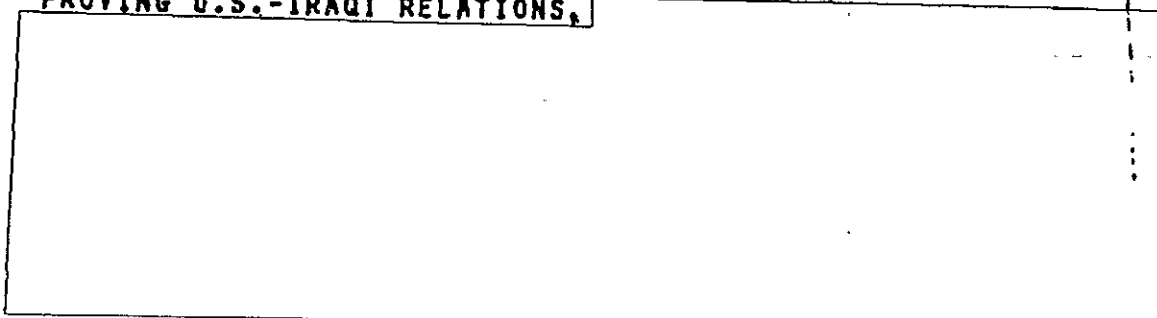
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TAGS:

SUBJECT: RUMSFELD MISSION: MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN
IN LONDON, DECEMBER 21, 1983

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD AND KING HUSSEIN MET FOR
ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS IN LONDON, DECEMBER 21, 1983.
DISCUSSION REVIEWED THE STATUS OF AND PROSPECTS FOR IM-
PROVING U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS.



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END SUMMARY.

3. RUMSFELD, VIETS, TEICHER AND MILLER MET WITH KING HUSSEIN AND CINC ZAYYID BIN SHAKER FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS MORNING OF DECEMBER 21 IN THE KING'S CLARIDGE HOTEL SUITE IN LONDON. THE KING BEGAN THE MEETING BY NOTING HOW PLEASED HE WAS THAT RUMSFELD HAD VISITED BAGHDAD. RUMSFELD EXPLAINED THE U.S. ANALYSIS OF THE REGIONAL DISEQUILIBRIUM CAUSED BY EGYPTIAN ISOLATION AND THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR. DURING HIS TALKS WITH TARIQ AZIZ AND SADDAM HUSSEIN, THERE WERE MORE AREAS OF AGREEMENT THAN DISAGREEMENT. "A GENERATION OF AMERICANS AND IRAQIS HAD GROWN UP WITHOUT KNOWING ONE ANOTHER. THIS WAS NOT NORMAL." THE KING CHARACTERIZED RUMSFELD'S VISIT TO BAGHDAD AS "A VERY GOOD AND USEFUL STEP. THE IRAQIS ARE THE FRONTLINE OF THE GULF AGAINST IRAN. IF IRAQ IS DEFEATED, THE SAUDIS AND OTHERS WILL BE IN GREAT DANGER. THE LEADERSHIP IN BAGHDAD IS DEMONSTRATING MORE MATURITY. ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO NORMALIZE IRAQI-U.S. RELATIONS WILL BE HELPFUL."

4. HUSSEIN ASKED WHETHER AN IRAQI PIPELINE THROUGH JORDAN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. RUMSFELD SAID IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED (ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE) IN THE TETE-A-TETE WITH TARIQ AZIZ. THE IDEA APPEALS TO THE IRAQIS, BUT IT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN DISMISSED OUT OF FEAR OF AN ISRAELI THREAT. BAGHDAD IS STILL INTERESTED, ESPECIALLY IF THE PIPELINE INVOLVES ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT "A COMPLICATED
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TARGET" FOR ISRAEL. U.S. POLITICAL INTEREST IN IRAQ NOT LOSING THE WAR SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGING. HUSSEIN WAS PLEASED THAT RUMSFELD HAD DISCUSSED THE PIPELINE. "U.S. INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, BUILDING A BRIDGE BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE U.S." HE ADDED THAT JORDAN WAS CONSIDERING CONSTRUCTION OF A REFINERY COMPLEX, AS WELL AS THE PIPELINE, IN AQABA. RUMSFELD TOLD HUSSEIN THAT THIS TYPE OF DISCUSSION DEMONSTRATED THAT THE U.S. IRAQI DIALOGUE IS OFF TO A GOOD START, ADDING THAT "THE U.S. IS AVAILABLE IF BAGHDAD IS INTERESTED IN NORMAL RELATIONS."

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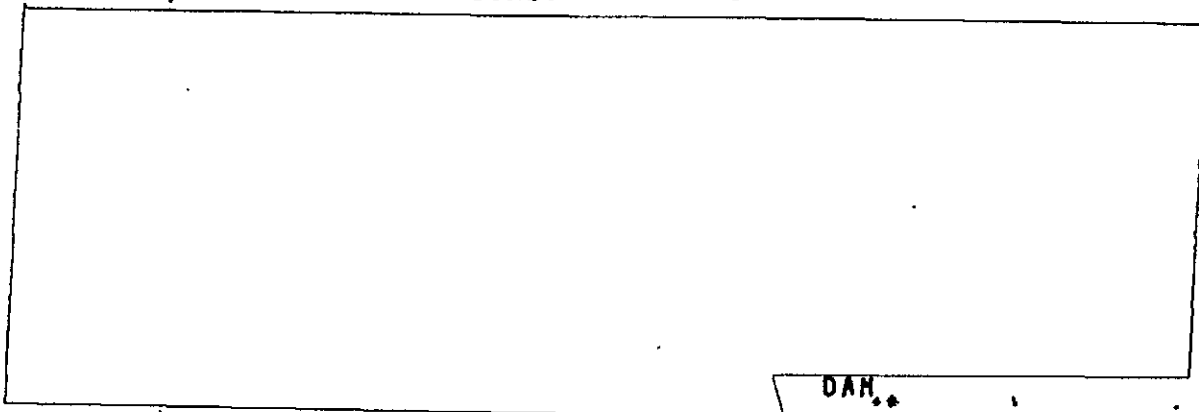
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