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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RHALL KAB
APPROVED BY NEA/P RHA L
PA JHUGHES
NEA.TNASSIF
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER
DATE/CASE ID: 07 NOV 2003 200302235

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AMEMBASSY DHAKA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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//ZFF BEIRUT AND TEL AVIV ONLY

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 9, 1984

FOR ADDRESSEE POSTS' INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING
ARE EXCERPTS FROM TODAY S' PRESS BRIEFING SPOKESMAN WAS
JOHN HUGHES.

Q DOES THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS
THAT IRAQ IS CONTINUING TO USE CHEMICAL WEAPONS OR GAS IN
THE WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF?

AI CANNOT TELL YOU WHETHER WE HAVE EVIDENCE SINCEWE
OFFERED OUR STATEMENT THAT THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONTINUED NO, I CAN'T ANSWER THAT

Q. PARALLEL TO THAT, HAS ANY ASSURANCE BEEN RECEIVED OR
STATEMENT FROM IRAQ TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WILL NOT
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HENCEFORTH USE SUCH WEAPONS?

A YES , THINK THAT REALLY WOULD INVOLVE GETTING TINTO
THE DIPLOMATIC BACK AND FORTH, AND PROBABLY WE WOULDNT
HAVE A GREAT DEAL FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q. CAN YOU CLARIFY THE STATUS OF RUMSFELD? IS HE STILL
MIDDLE EAST ENVOY OR IS HE BACK AT SEARLE? THERE WERE
REPORTS YESTERDAY THE IS IS BACK AT LEAST PART-TIME
RUNNING SEARLE.

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ALWAYS BEEN THAT PART OF HIS TIME HE WILL GO BACK TO CHICAGO AND PICK UP WITH HIS COMPANY AS YOU KNOW, HE'S AN UNPAID SPECIAL NEGOTIATOR, HAS RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS COMPANY AND SO PART OF THE TIME HE WORKS ON THE MIDDLE EAST FULL-TIME. HE HAS COMMUTED BETWEEN CHICAGO AND WASHINGTON THIS WEEK, I THINK HE IS IN FACT HERE IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK.

Q. DOES THAT GIVE THE MIDDLE EAST THE ATTENTION IT MERITS, THAT SORT OF ARRANGEMENT, A PART-TIME ENVOY?

A. I THINK FOR THE MOMENT HE IS LOOKING AT HIS FUTURE TRAVEL PLANS AND HAS NOTHING IN MIND FOR THE MOMENT, BUT WE'LL SEE HOW THAT TURNS OUT.

Q WOULD YOU LEAD US AWAY FROM THE IDEA THAT RUMSFELD IS BACKING OFF THE MIDDLE EAST AND BACKING INTO SEARLE?

ANOWHERE I COULD LEAD YOU IS THAT RUMSFELD IS CARRYING OUT THE KIND OF PROGRAM THAT HE PRETTY MUCH SAID HE WOULD. I THINK HE MADE IT CLEAR WHEN HE CAME ON BOARD THAT HE COULDN'T COME FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. THE TIME WHEN HE WOULD RETURN FULL-TIME TO HIS COMPANY I THINK WAS NEVER SPELLED OUT AND ISN'T SPELLED OUT NOW. BUT I DON'T

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SEE IN HIS PATTERN OF TRAVEL OR OF INVOLVEMENT MUCH DIFFERENT TO WHAT I THINK HE FORECASTED WOULD BE THE SITUATION WHEN HE FIRST CAME. HE'S IN A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SITUATION THAN THE OTHERS WHO WERE KIND OF AN OPEN ENDED THING. I THINK HE MADE IT CLEAR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT AT SOME STAGE HE WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO HIS COMPANY.

Q. DO WE ANTICIPATE THAT RUMSFELD WILL MAKE ANOTHER TRIP OUT TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON HIS TRAVEL PLANS. I'M SURE THAT'S SOMETHING HE'S LOOKING AT NOW.

Q. DO WE THINK THERE WILL BE ANOTHER TRIP BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST BY RUMSFELD?

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A. THERE MAY BE.

Q. DOES KITTANI STILL INTEND --

A. KITTANI IS HERE, I THINK, NEXT WEEK ON AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT, AND WE DO EXPECT HIM TO SEE PROBABLY SECRETARY MURPHY AND SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TODAY ON LEBANON AND REPORTS THAT ISRAEL MAY GO BACK ON THE WEEKEND?

A NO. SHULTZ

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