

Encl 34. NAVCRIMINSERV MIDDLE
EAST//MEBJ//081641Z SEP 99, pages 1-3
are classified and not releasable.

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[REDACTED]

D. (U) LOCAL POLICE IN ADEN ARE EASILY IDENTIFIED BY THEIR BLUE AND BLACK CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS AND BLACK BERETS. POLICE VEHICLES ARE PAINTED A DISTINCTIVE BLUE AND WHITE COLORING. POLICE UNITS IN YEMEN ARE GENERALLY FOUND AT LARGE INTERSECTIONS AND TRAFFIC CIRCLES IN URBAN AREAS. YEMENI POLICE ARE NOT NOTED FOR THEIR ENERGY OR HONESTY, AND IT IS COMMON FOR THEM TO SOLICIT BRIBES ("BAKSHEESH") FROM LOCAL DRIVERS AND FOREIGNERS.

6. (U) CRIMINAL THREAT:

A-

[REDACTED]

7. (U) FORCE PROTECTION INFORMATION:

A. (U) IN APR97, U.S. NAVAL VESSELS RESUMED PORT VISITS TO ADEN. SINCE THIS VISIT, DEFENSE TIES BETWEEN YEMEN AND THE U.S. HAVE EXPANDED. U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIALS AND THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THAT DEFENSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL GROW IN THE FUTURE.

B. (U) MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND YEMEN HAS BEEN A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE IN YEMEN FOR EXTREMIST ISLAMIC GROUPS AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AND SUCH GROUPS REGULARLY DENOUNCE U.S. SHIP VISITS TO ADEN. IN ADDITION, VISITS BY HIGH-RANKING U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE GENERATED WIDESPREAD PUBLIC SPECULATION

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ABOUT ALLEGED U.S. PLANS TO ESTABLISH BASES IN ADEN, SOCOTRA ISLAND AND OTHER YEMENI LOCALES.

C. (U) PUBLIC SENTIMENT (INCLUDING ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENT) IN YEMEN, AS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, IS USUALLY EVENT DRIVEN. STRONG PUBLIC SYMPATHY STILL EXISTS IN YEMEN FOR STATES SUCH AS IRAQ, AND DON PERSONNEL MAY BE AT GREATER RISK DURING PERIODS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SUCH STATES (EX. DEC98 U.S. BOMBING RAIDS AGAINST IRAQ). DON PERSONNEL ARE ADVISED TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE CENTCOM AOR BEFORE VISITING YEMEN.

D. (U) SINCE THE REUNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY IN 1990, YEMEN HAS ENJOYED A VIBRANT FREE PRESS, WITH NEWSPAPERS ADVOCATING A WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL OPINION IN THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, MANY OF THESE PAPERS HAVE PRINTED INACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS IN YEMEN OR ABOUT THE MISSIONS OF U.S. FORCES DEPLOYING THERE.

E. (U) THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SECTIONS OF ADEN THAT ARE ASSESSED AS UNSAFE FOR DON PERSONNEL, INCLUDING CRATER, SHEIKH UTHMAN, AL MANSURA, AND LITTLE ADEN. THESE AREAS HAVE BEEN THE SCENES OF NUMEROUS LOW-LEVEL BOMBINGS, GRENADE ATTACKS AND GUNFIGHTS. IT REMAINS POSSIBLE THAT DON PERSONNEL VISITING THESE SECTIONS COULD INADVERTENTLY BE INJURED IN SUCH INCIDENTS. DON PERSONNEL ARE ADVISED TO RESTRICT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ADEN TO THE MAALLA, TAWAHI, GOLD MOHUR AND KHORMAKSAR DISTRICTS.

F. (U) WEAPONS ARE READILY AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL AREAS OF YEMEN, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE MORE PREVALENT IN THE NORTH THAN IN THE SOUTH. A VARIETY OF WEAPONS ARE SOLD, INCLUDING HANDGUNS, RIFLES, RPGS, MORTARS AND GRENADES.

G. (U) DON PERSONNEL VISITING ADEN OR OTHER PARTS OF YEMEN SHOULD EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN DRIVING. THE CHAOTIC ROAD CONDITIONS IN YEMEN, INCLUDING THE POOR DRIVING SKILLS OF TYPICAL YEMENIS, MAKE DRIVING A DANGEROUS PROPOSITION.

H. (U) THE SOLICITATION OF "BAKSHEESH" OR BRIBES BY GOVERNMENT AND POLICE OFFICIALS IS A RELATIVELY COMMON OCCURRENCE IN YEMEN. DON PERSONNEL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT POLICE IN YEMEN FREQUENTLY PULL OVER CARS WITH FOREIGNERS IN THEM TO DEMAND SMALL BRIBES.

8. (U) ADEN/PORT INFORMATION:

A. (U) THE PORT OF ADEN IS ONE OF THE WORLDS BEST NATURAL HARBORS, WITH A DEEP DRAFT IN MOST AREAS, AND NATURAL LAND PROTECTION ON ALL SIDES. THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF REVIVING ADENS PORT FACILITIES, WHICH SUFFERED FROM GENERAL NEGLECT DURING THE SOUTH YEMEN PERIOD, AND BY FIGHTING IN THE 1994 CIVIL WAR.

B. (U) RECONSTRUCTION OF ADENS PORT HAS INCLUDED THE OPENING OF A STATE OF THE ART CONTAINER LOADING/STORAGE FACILITY BY THE SINGAPORE PORT AUTHORITY. THE ADEN PORT AUTHORITY IS IN THE PROCESS OF REMOVING A NUMBER OF IMPOUNDED IRAQI MERCHANT SHIPS THAT HAVE BEEN AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE HARBOR SINCE THE GULF WAR. OTHER PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE HARBOR AREA, INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF SEVERAL SUNKEN VESSELS, ARE ALSO UNDERWAY.

C. (U) BERTH NUMBER ONE OF THE COMMERCIAL PORT IN MAALLA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE BERTHING AREA FOR U.S. NAVAL VESSELS VISITING ADEN. BERTH ONE IS LOCATED ON THE NW END OF THE PIER, AND WAS SELECTED FOR THE LARGE STANDOFF SPACE IT AFFORDS. WHEN U.S. NAVAL VESSELS GO PIERSIDE, SPECIAL FORCE PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE SHIPS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY NCIS PERSONNEL.

D. (U) IN 1999, ADEN BECAME THE SITE FOR THE PRIMARY U.S. NAVY BUNKERING CONTRACT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AREA, REPLACING DJIBOUTI. SHIPS VISITING ADEN WILL NOW BE ABLE TO REFUEL AT ONE OF TWO FUELING "DOLPHINS" LOCATED NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE HARBOR. THE DOLPHINS WILL ALLOW U.S. NAVAL VESSELS TO ENTER ADEN AND REFUEL WITHOUT HAVING TO GO PIERSIDE.

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9. (U) ADEN/GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. (U) ADEN IS LOCATED ON YEMENS SOUTH COAST, BORDERING THE GULF OF ADEN. ADEN IS YEMENS PRIMARY SEAPORT AND SECOND LARGEST CITY, WITH A POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 440,000. ADEN IS KNOWN FOR ITS SPECTACULAR NATURAL HARBOR, AND IN THE PAST HAS SERVED AS A REGIONAL BASE FOR A NUMBER OF COLONIAL POWERS WHO HAVE RULED THE AREA, INCLUDING THE ROMANS, THE TURKS AND THE BRITISH.

B. (U) BETWEEN 1968 AND 1990, ADEN WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (PDRY/SOUTH YEMEN), A MARXIST STATE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH THE FORMER SOVIET BLOC. DURING THIS TIME, THE PDRY WAS OPPOSED BY THE CONSERVATIVE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (NORTH YEMEN), WHICH WAS ALIGNED WITH THE WEST. DURING THE PDRY PERIOD, ADEN WAS HOST TO A NUMBER OF SOVIET-BLOC MILITARY CONTINGENTS, INCLUDING THE RUSSIAN NAVY AND CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS.

C. (U) IN MAY90, THE TWO COUNTRIES UNITED TO FORM A SINGLE NATION, THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN. IN MAY94, SECESSIONIST FORCES IN THE SOUTH BROKE OFF TO FORM AN INDEPENDENT STATE, AND ESTABLISHED ADEN AS THE CAPITAL OF THE BREAKAWAY STATE. BETWEEN MAY AND JULY94, A SHORT BUT INTENSE CIVIL WAR TOOK PLACE, WHICH ENDED WITH THE DEFEAT OF THE SECESSIONIST FORCES. THE CIVIL WAR PROVED TO BE COSTLY FOR YEMEN, LEAVING AN ESTIMATED 7,000 PERSONS KILLED AND PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IN RUINS. THE WAR WAS PARTICULARLY DEVASTATING TO ADEN, WHICH WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED BY THE FIGHTING.

10. (U) MISCELLANEOUS:

A. (U) YEMEN IS A CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC COUNTRY, AND CLOTHING THAT COULD OFFEND CONSERVATIVE YEMENIS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. PERSONNEL VISITING YEMEN ARE ADVISED NOT TO CALL ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES IN EITHER DRESS OR MANNER.

B. (U) DOD PERSONNEL VISITING YEMEN ARE PROHIBITED FROM BRINGING ANY TYPE OF WEAPON INTO THE COUNTRY VIA COMMERCIAL CARRIER. PROHIBITED ITEMS INCLUDE FIREARMS, MACE, PEPPER SPRAY OR KNIVES. PERSONNEL ATTEMPTING TO BRING THESE ITEMS INTO THE YEMEN MAY BE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND/OR DEPORTATION BY YEMENI AUTHORITIES.

C. (U) DOD PERSONNEL CONDUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS IN YEMEN ARE ADVISED TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS. IN ORDER TO AVOID POTENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS WITH THE GOV, THE U.S. EMBASSY SHOULD BE ADVISED OF ANY LIAISON OR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY CONDUCTED BY DOD PERSONS OR COMPONENTS IN COUNTRY.

D. (U) DON PERSONNEL VISITING ADEN SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT MALARIA IS STILL PREVALENT IN ADEN AND SOUTHERN YEMEN. PERSONNEL TRAVELING IN SOUTHERN YEMEN ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE MALARIA PROPHYLAXIS BEFORE ENTERING THE COUNTRY. PERSONNEL ARE ALSO ADVISED TO DRINK ONLY BOTTLED WATER THAT HAS BEEN SECURELY SEALED.

E. (U) THE LOCALLY GROWN NARCOTIC "QAT" IS WIDELY USED AND SOLD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. QAT, THE LEAF FROM THE QAT BUSH, IS GROWN WIDELY THROUGHOUT YEMEN, AND CAN BE PURCHASED IN MARKETS AND ALONG THE ROADSIDES FROM VENDORS. QAT CHEWS ARE A SOCIAL OCCASION IN YEMEN AND VISITORS ARE OFTEN ENCOURAGED TO PARTAKE. VISITING DON PERSONNEL ARE ADVISED THAT QAT IS CONSIDERED A "MILD" NARCOTIC AND IS A PROHIBITED (CLASS 4) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. POSSESSION OR USE OF QAT BY MILITARY PERSONNEL CAN RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

11. (U) POINTS OF CONTACT:

A. U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE, MIDDLE EAST
FIELD OFFICE, BAHRAIN:

COM: (973) 724-271/DSN: (318) 439-4271

B. U.S. EMBASSY SANAA:

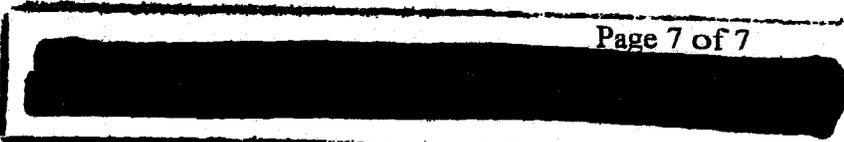
DHAHR HIMYAR ZONE, SHERATON HOTEL DISTRICT
(MAIN SWITCHBOARD): (967) 1238-842

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12. (U) NCIS ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:
 U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE
 REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (ONLY) 08SEP99
 THREAT ASSESSMENT (II) CCN: 08SEPT99-MEBJ-0189-5GNA/A
 I/ADEN, YEMEN, THREAT ASSESSMENT
 COMMAND/COMUSNAVCENT, BAHRAIN/57007
 MADE AT/MEBJ/MANAMA, BAHRAIN [REDACTED] INTELLIGENCE ANALYST
 PARTICIPATING STAFF: [REDACTED], SPECIAL AGENT
 DECL/X1, X5, X6//
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