

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00653 01 OF 02 250743Z
ACTION SCT-03

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),B6

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 A-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 OASY-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00
DOTE-00 DS-00 EB-01 EUR-01 OIGO-01 FAAE-00 FBIE-00
FBO-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 INSE-00
IO-18 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NEA-01 NRCE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OCS-06 OIC-02 OIS-01 OMB-01 OPR-01 PA-01
PM-01 PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00
TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 ASDS-01 FMP-00 RPE-01
/075W

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O 250743Z FEB 94 ZFF4
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 3013
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

Classification Extended on : 04/29/2013 ~ Class:
CONFIDENTIAL ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on:
02/25/2019

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 000653

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, KPAL, ASEC, IS, PBTS, KWBG
SUBJECT: MASSACRE AT TOMB OF PATRIARCHS IN HEBRON

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. BETWEEN 20 AND 30 PALESTINIANS WERE KILLED
AND DOZENS INJURED DURING EARLY MORNING PRAYERS AT THE
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00653 01 OF 02 250743Z
TOMB OF THE PATRIARCHS IN THE SOUTHERN WEST BANK CITY OF
HEBON EARLY MORNING FEBRUARY 25, REPORTEDLY BY AN
ISRAELI SETTLER. THE SETTLER MAY HAVE TAKEN HIS LIFE OR
BEEN KILLED BY WORSHIPERS. THE WEST BANK, PARTICULARLY
HEBON, IS EXTREMELY TENSE AS CASUALTY NUMBERS CONTINUE
TO RISE. CLASHES BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS ARE
CONTINUING IN HEBON, WITH ADDITIONAL PALESTINIANS
HAVING BEEN KILLED. CONGEN IS PURSUING DETAILS OF
INCIDENT. FAISAL HUSSEINI HAS CONVOKED CONSULAR CORPS
TO MEET AT 10:00 AM LOCAL TIME. CONGEN HAS PUT OUT
SECURITY ADVISORY URGING AMCITS NOT TO TRAVEL IN EAST
JERUSALEM OR THE WEST BANK AND PLANS TO CLOSE ITS EAST
JERUSALEM BUILDING EARLY. END SUMMARY.

THE INCIDENT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

B1
1.4(D)
B6

3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA AND [REDACTED] DURING EARLY MORNING PRAYERS (ABOUT 4:30 AM LOCAL) AT THE TOMB OF THE PATRIARCHS IN HEBRON A SINGLE SETTLER, REPORTEDLY FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF KIRYAT ARBA, ENTERED THE SITE AND OPENED FIRE ON THE ASSEMBLED WORSHIPPERS. FAISAL HUSSAINI CONTACTED CONSUL GENERAL AT 0630 TO INFORM HIM OF THE INCIDENT AND THE SERIOUS CASUALTIES THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE EMPHASIZED THE EXPLOSIVENESS OF THE INCIDENT. THERE WERE HEAVY NUMBERS OF WORSHIPPERS FOR EARLY MORNING FRIDAY PRAYERS DURING RAMADAN. [REDACTED] REPORTS 22 DEAD AND AT LEAST 80 INJURED. [REDACTED] IN HEBRON HAS REPORTED 25 DEAD AND UP TO 210 WOUNDED. HEBRON AND THE SURROUNDING AREA HAS BEEN DECLARED A CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 JERUSA 00653 01 OF 02 250743Z
CLOSED MILITARY ZONE, AND JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM THE AREA. THE WOUNDED ARE REPORTEDLY BEING MOVED TO HOSPITALS OUTSIDE HEBRON, INCLUDING HADASSAH HOSPITAL IN JERUSALEM.

PALESTINIAN REACTION

4. ACCORDING TO CONGEN CONTACTS IN HEBRON, AS OF 9:00 AM LOCAL ARMED CLASHES WERE CONTINUING BETWEEN SETTLERS AND PALESTINIANS AS WELL AS BETWEEN THE IDF AND PALESTINIANS. AT LEAST FOUR ADDITIONAL PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED AND OTHERS WOUNDED.

5. [REDACTED] ALSO REPORTS MILITARY OPERATIONS OF SOME KIND IN AL-RAM, BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND RAMALLAH. [REDACTED] ARE ON THE SCENE IN HEBRON AND AT VARIOUS POSSIBLE FLASHPOINTS THROUGHOUT THE WEST BANK. [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF THEY EXPECT THE WEST BANK TO "EXPLODE." PALESTINIAN SOURCES REPORT THAT CLASHES HAVE BEGUN TAKING PLACE IN RAMALLAH WITH THE IDF.

6. AS NOTED ABOVE, PALESTINIAN LEADER FAISAL HUSSEINI TELEPHONED CG AT 6:30 AM LOCAL TO INFORM HIM OF THE INCIDENT, AND HAS ASKED THE CONSULAR CORPS TO GATHER AT ORIENT HOUSE AT 10:00 AM LOCAL TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT. CG WILL ATTEND.

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PAGE 04 JERUSA 00653 01 OF 02 250743Z
IDF/POLICE REACTION

7. ACCORDING TO OUR POLICE CONTACTS, THE IDF HAS COMPLETELY SEALED OFF THE WEST BANK. ALL LEAVE FOR JERUSALEM POLICE HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND REINFORCEMENTS ARE BEING BROUGHT INTO THE CITY. FRIDAY PRAYERS WILL LIKELY FURTHER INFLAME THE SITUATION. LAST FRIDAY, THE FIRST SERVICE FOR RAMADAN, THERE WERE OVER 100,000 WORSHIPPERS AT AL AQSA MOSQUE. WE ANTICIPATE FEWER THIS FRIDAY, DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF JERUSALEM BUT WE WILL BE MONITORING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY.

CONGEN ACTIONS

8. CONGEN IS PUTTING OUT A SECURITY NOTICE ADVISING ALL AMCITS TO STAY OUT OF EAST JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. CONGEN WILL CLOSE THE EAST JERUSALEM CONSULAR SERVICES BUILDING AT NOON TODAY, AND IS ALLOWING ALL LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO LEAVE EARLIER AS NECESSARY. POLICE AND IDF PROTECTION AT THE NABLUS ROAD BUILDING HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED CONSIDERABLY.

COMMENT

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00653 02 OF 02 250743Z
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/075W

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2011-07430 Doc No. C05304880 Date: 05/28/2013

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O 250743Z FEB 94 ZFF4
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3014
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9. HEBRON, AND THE TOMB OF THE PATRIARCHS IN
PARTICULAR, IS THE PLACE WHERE PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELI
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00653 02 OF 02 250743Z
SETTLERS COME INTO MOST INTENSE CONTACT. HEBRON HAS
BEEN THE SITE OF FREQUENT INDIVIDUAL STABBINGS AND
SHOOTINGS IN THE RECENT PAST, AND WAS THE SITE OF
MASSACRES OF JEWS BY PALESTINIANS IN 1929 AND 1980, AND
OF PALESTINIANS BY JEWISH SETTLERS IN 1983.

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UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2011-07430 Doc No. C05304880 Date: 05/28/2013