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ACTION SCT-03

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-16 LAB-01 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 SA-01 ASDS-01
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3017
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANAA NIACT IMMEDIATE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 000657

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, KISL, KPAL, KWBG, PREL, IS, PBTS, JE
SUBJECT: WEST BANK CHAOTIC FOLLOWING MASSACRE; AMCIT
ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE

REF: JERUSALEM 000653

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. [] HAS REVISED ITS COUNT OF PALESTINIAN
FATALITIES IN AN EARLY MORNING MASSACRE IN HEBRON
(REFTEL) UPWARD TO 58, BASED ON VISITS TO HOSPITALS BY
[] AT LEAST FOUR MORE REPORTEDLY
WERE KILLED DURING SUBSEQUENT RIOTING. THE ASSAILANT
HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

IMMIGRATED IN 1982 AND WAS RESIDENT AT THE SETTLEMENT OF KIRYAT ARBA IN HEBRON. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] AS OF 11:30 AM LOCAL AN UNEASY TRUCE PREVAILED BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND IDF IN THE SOUTHERN WEST BANK CITY OF HEBRON. EARLIER IN THE MORNING, CONGEN CONTACTS IN HEBRON REPORTED THAT THE AHLI HOSPITAL IN THE CENTER OF TOWN WAS BESIEGED BY PALESTINIANS SEEKING NEWS OF THEIR RELATIVES FOLLOWING THE MASSACRE AT THE TOMB OF THE PATRIARCHS (REFTEL). UNREST HAS BROKEN OUT IN BETHLEHEM AND RAMALLAH, AND WE HAVE HEARD OF ONE INCIDENT IN JERUSALEM. THE IDF REPORTEDLY IS TRYING TO IMPOSE A CURFEW IN HEBRON AS WELL AS OTHER WEST BANK CITIES. END SUMMARY.

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AMCIT RESPONSIBLE

3. CONGEN SETTLER CONTACTS REPORT THAT THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRE WAS AN AMCIT NAMED BENJAMIN GOLDSTEIN. GOLDSTEIN, REPORTED DEAD BY ISRAELI OFFICIALS (HE MAY HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE OR BEEN KILLED BY A PALESTINIAN), WAS A MEDICAL DOCTOR, RESIDING IN THE HEBRON SETTLEMENT OF KIRYAT ARBA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PALESTINIANS HAVE CLAIMED GOLDSTEIN ESCAPED ALIVE AND WAS HIDING IN KIRYAT ARBA. WE TOLD FAISAL HUSSEINI AND OTHER PALESTINIAN LEADERS THAT THE GOI CONFIRMED GOLDSTEIN'S DEATH. A SEARCH OF CONGEN CONSULAR FILES FAILED TO TURN UP PASSPORT APPLICATIONS FOR EITHER GOLDSTEIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] GOLDSTEIN, WHO RENAMED HIMSELF "BARUCH" AFTER HE MADE ALIYAH IN 1982, IS REPORTEDLY FROM SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK. [REDACTED]

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

4. [REDACTED] WENT FROM HOSPITAL TO HOSPITAL IN THE AREA AND NOW ESTIMATE THE DEAD AT 58 PALESTINIANS, WITH THE WOUNDED RANGING FROM 80-215. A NUMBER OF SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT MEDICAL RESOURCES IN HEBRON ARE OVERWHELMED BY THE MASSACRE. CONGEN HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ICRC AND UNRWA, AND UNDERSTANDS THAT

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URGENT NEEDS FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE NOW BEING MET.

5. [REDACTED] OF THE UNION OF PALESTINIAN MEDICAL RELIEF COMMITTEES, TOLD ECONOFF THAT THE INJURED HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO SIX AREA HOSPITALS. NOTING THAT CLASHES BETWEEN SOLDIERS AND PALESTINIANS HAVE BROKEN OUT NOW IN BETHLEHEM AND RAMALLAH, HE FEARED THAT THE CASUALTY TOLL WILL CONTINUE TO RISE. [REDACTED] PLEADED FOR THE U.S. TO PERSUADE THE RABIN GOVERNMENT TO KEEP THE IDF OUT OF DENSELY POPULATED URBAN CENTERS, WHICH IN HIS VIEW WILL ONLY INFLAME THE SITUATION.

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VIOLENCE IN BETHLEHEM

6. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] OF BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY, THE CLASHES IN BETHLEHEM ARE THE WORST SINCE THE START OF THE INTIFADA. [REDACTED] TOLD ECONOFF THE NEWS OF THE MASSACRE HIT CAMPUS ABOUT 8 AM, LEAVING THE STUDENT BODY VIRTUALLY IN A STATE OF SHOCK. WHEN MOSQUE LOUDSPEAKERS BEGAN BROADCASTING URGENT APPEALS FOR BLOOD DONATIONS, MANY STUDENTS RUSHED TO TWO HOSPITALS LOCATED CLOSE TO THE MAIN TRAFFIC INTERSECTION. AS LONG LINES OF STUDENTS AND LOCALS FORMED, [REDACTED] SAID, FIGHTING BROKE OUT WITH THE IDF.

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7. [] SAID THREE BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE, INCLUDING ONE GIRL WITH A GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE CHEST. STUDENTS AND LOCALS BLOCKED STREETS WITH BURNING TIRES AND TRASH CANS, STONING PASSING VEHICLES. SHOOTING CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE MORNING. [] SAID, AS SMOKE MINGLED WITH TEAR GAS DRIFTED THROUGH THE CITY STREETS. WE HEAVE HEARD FROM [] THAT CURFEWS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON BETHLEHEM AND NEIGHBORING BEIT JALA.

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INCIDENT IN JERUSALEM

8. CONGEN HAS MONITORED A POLICE REPORT OF AN INCIDENT AT THE IDF CHECKPOINT IN NORTHERN JERUSALEM OF AN ARMED PALESTINIAN FIRING AT IDF SOLDIERS. THE SOLDIERS PURSUED THE PALESTINIAN TO A HOUSE AND REPORTED FIRED RPG'S AT THE HOUSE. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORT, THE PALESTINIAN ESCAPED.

NIGHTMARE SCENE AT THE HOSPITAL
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9. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] AND TO PALESTINIAN CONTACTS IN
HEBRON, FOLLOWING THE MASSACRE EARLY THIS MORNING THERE
WERE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE LOUDSPEAKERS AT THE TOMB OF
THE PATRIARCHS CALLING LOCAL RESIDENTS TO DONATE BLOOD
AND SUMMONING ALL MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO AHLI HOSPITAL IN
THE CENTER OF HEBRON. HEBRNITES REPORTEDLY POURED INTO
THE STREETS, MANY OF THEM HEADING TO THE HOSPITAL TO
SEEK NEWS OR DONATE BLOOD. IDF SOLDIERS STATIONED IN
FRONT OF THE HOSPITAL REPORTEDLY ARE TRYING IN VAIN TO
KEEP PALESTINIANS (OTHER THAN THE DEAD AND WOUNDED)
OUT. POLOFF OVERHEARD GUNFIRE FROM INSIDE THE HOSPITAL
ON UNRWA RADIO, AND CONGEN CONTACT CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN
FIVE PALESTINIANS SHOT BY SOLDIERS IN FRONT OF THE
HOSPITAL. THE IDF HAS DECLARED A CURFEW IN HEBRON AND
IS NOW TRYING TO ENFORCE IT.

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