

FOIA(b)(3)

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SIT744

SSO DIA [REDACTED] 2223
AN008399

DTG: 230802Z OCT 83 PSN: 064217
TOR: 296/0812Z

DISTRIBUTION: KIMM VP HKY KEMP DUR SIT EOB /008
WHSR COMMENT: GOOD WRAP-UP

OP IMMED
DE YEKDQA #2223 2960803
O 230802Z OCT 83 ZYH
FM SSO DIA [REDACTED]

FOIA(b)(3)

TO [REDACTED]

INFO SSO DIA //SECDEF//

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN

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SUBJ: DIA SPOT REPORT. (U)

1. ~~(S)~~ AT 230420Z OCTOBER, TASK FORCE 61 COMMANDER REPORTED THAT A LARGE VEHICLE DROVE THROUGH A ROAD BLOCK AND INTO THE LOBBY OF THE BUILDING HOUSING THE BATTALION LANDING TEAM (BLT). SUBSEQUENT REPORTING STATED A YELLOW PICKUP TRUCK DROVE THROUGH WIRE ON THE USMNF PERIMETER AND CRASHED INTO THE BLT HEADQUARTERS. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT 40 MARINES WERE KILLED WHEN THE THREE STORY BUILDING COLLAPSED. AN EARLIER VERBAL REPORT FROM THE USMNF STATED AS MANY AS 200 MARINES HAD BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.
2. ~~(S)~~ AT ALMOST THE SAME TIME AN APPARENT REMOTE CONTROLLED CAR BOMB WAS DETONATED IN OR NEAR A NINE STORY BUILDING, SERVING AS A TROOP BILLET FOR ELEMENTS OF THE FRENCH MNF. THE BUILDING, ON RUE VERDUN IN THE RAMET EL BAIDA AREA OF WEST BEIRUT, WAS BADLY DAMAGED. AT LEAST 10 FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE KILLED.
3. ~~(S)~~ AT ABOUT 0645Z, SEVERAL MINUTES OF FIRING WERE REPORTEDLY DIRECTED AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN THE YARZE AREA, BUT NO CASUALTIES HAVE YET BEEN REPORTED.
4. ~~(S/NF)~~ COMMENT: THESE ATTACKS ARE PROBABLY THE WORK OF THE

~~SECRET~~

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PRO-IRANIAN LEBANESE SHIA HIZB ALLAH (PARTY OF GOD), LED BY MUHAMMAD HUSAYN FADLALLAH. THIS GROUP WAS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APRIL CAR BOMBING OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. IT HAS ALSO BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF THE SHOOTING DIRECTED AT THE MARINES. THE FRENCH ARE A LOGICAL TARGET OF IRANIAN SYMPATHIZERS VENGEANCE SINCE THEY ARE A PRIMARY ARMS SUPPLIER OF IRAQ AND WILL SOON DELIVER FIVE EXOCET-EQUIPPED SUPER ETENDARDS. THE FIRING ON THE LEBANESE MOD MAY OR MAY NOT BE RELATED TO THE EARLIER BOMBINGS.

PREP: [REDACTED]

~~DECL: OADR~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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DTG: 230807Z OCT 83 PSN: 064222

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, MOPS, LE, FR, US

SUBJECT: MAJOR BOMB ATTACK ON US AND FRENCH MNF
CONTINGENT - SITUATION AS OF 0830 LOCAL

1. ~~THE~~ ENTIRE TEXT).

DECLASSIFIED
NLS Fa7-047#11
BY MJJ NARA, DATE 5/23/00

2. AT 0622 LOCAL SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 23, A VEHICLE LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES DEMOLISHED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE USMNF BATTALION LANDING TEAM AT THE BEIRUT INTERENATIONAL AIRPORT (BIA). THE USMNF HEADQUARTERS ESTIMATES THAT AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE IN THE BUILDING, WHICH SERVES ALSO AS BARRACKS, AT THE TIME. THEY BELIEVE MOST OF THE PERSONNEL IN THE BUILDING ARE NOW DEAD. (SIMULTANEOUSLY, A FRENCH MNF SUBORDINATE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED BY AN EXPLOSION IN AN ADJACENT BUILDING IN THE RAMLET AL BAYDA AREA. WE HAVE FEW DETAILS AT THIS TIME, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 10 DEAD AND MANY MORE WOUNDED).

3. THE US MARINE BLT IS A SUBORDINATE UNIT TO THE 24TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT WHICH MAKES UP THE USMNF PRESENCE IN BEIRUT. THE COMMANDER OF THE 24TH MAU, COL. TIMOTHY GERAGHTY, IS UNHURT AND IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. HIS HEADQUARTERS, IN A NEARBY BUILDING CONTINUES TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. SURVIVORS AND BODIES ARE STILL BEING EVACUATED FROM THE RUINS OF THE BLT BUILDING. RED CROSS AND OTHER LEBANESE DISASTER RELIEF PERSONNEL ARE ON THE SCENE, AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TO CLEAR THE WRECKAGE. WOUNDED PERSONNEL ARE BEING EVACUATED TO THE ITALIAN MNF FIELD HOSPITAL NEAR SABRA/SHATILA REFUGEE CAMP, TO US NAVY SHIPS OFFSHORE, AND PROBABLY TO LOCAL HOSPITALS AS WELL. FRENCH WOUNDED ARE ALSO BEING SENT TO THE ITALIAN HOS-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PITAL AND TO LOCAL HOSPITALS. LEBANESE ARMED FORCES ARE ON THE SCENE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

4. AS THE USMNF CONTINGENT RECONSTRUCTS THE INCIDENT A TRUCK LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES WAS DRIVEN INTO AN AIRPORT PARKING LOT IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE BLT BUILDING. IT CRASHED THROUGH A METAL GATE, PAST MARINE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AND INTO THE LOBBY OF THE BUILDING. THE BUILDING IS ABOUT 50 METERS NORTH OF THE EDGE OF THE PARKING LOT. THE LOBBY EXTENDED THE FULL HEIGHT OF THE 4 OR 5 STORY BUILDING, AND THE TRUCK APPARENTLY EXPLODED IN THE CENTER OF THE BUILDING, PEELING IT OUTWARD IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

5. CODEL HUMPHREY, WHICH HAD ARRIVED IN BEIRUT THE PREVIOUS EVENING, HAD SPENT THE NIGHT ON BOARD THE USS I-WO JIMA OFFSHORE AND HAD NOT COME ASHORE. THE EMBASSY IS ADVISING THE SENATOR TO REMAIN ON BOARD SHIP UNTIL THE SITUATION HAS CLARIFIED.

6. AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW WILL BE VISITING THE SCENE SHORTLY.

BARTHOLOMEW

BT