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*** Current Classification *** [REDACTED]
*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

<<<**** OASYS DOCUMENT HEADER ***>>>

DOC_NBR= 88TELAV15385

FILM= D880951-0845

DATE= 26 OCT 88

TYPE= TE

FROM= TEL AVIV

DRAFTER= n/a

OFFICE= ACTION SS

TO= SECSTATE WASHDC
JERUSALEM

CHANNEL= n/a

ORIGHAND= EXDIS **EXEMPTED**

ORIGPHAND= n/a

ORIGCLASS= [REDACTED]

ORIGPCLASS= n/a

EO= N/A

SUBJECT= QUERY TO GOI ON PRESS REPORT OF DEATH SQUADS

REFERENCE= 88 STATE 347937

CONTROL_NBR= n/a

ENCLOSURE= n/a

LOCATOR= TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

ERRORS= N/A

CONCEPTS= DEATH, ALLEGATION, POLICE FORCE, MEETING

TAGS= PREL, IS, US

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date

- RELEASE
- EXCISE
- DENY
- DELETE Non-Responsive Info
- FOIA Exemptions _____
- PA Exemptions _____

- DECLASSIFY
- DECLASSIFY IN PART

MR Cases Only:
EO Citations _____

TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as S or
 DOWNGRADE TS to B or

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 15385 261554Z
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1682
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 12356: OADR
TAGS: PREL, IS, US
SUBJECT: QUERY TO GOI ON PRESS REPORT OF DEATH SQUADS

REF: STATE 347937

1. [REDACTED]

2. DCM RAISED THE PRESS REPORT OF IDF DEATH SQUADS OPERATING IN THE TERRITORIES WITH GOREN ON 10/26. DCM SAID WE HAD SEEN THE REUTER REPORT OF OCTOBER 23 ALLEGING THE EXISTENCE OF IDF DEATH SQUADS IN THE TERRITORIES, THE IDF DENIAL STATEMENT OF 10/24 AND THE TEXT OF A RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN BY RABIN 10/25 WITH VOICE OF ISRAEL ALSO DENYING THE REUTER REPORT. DCM SAID HE WANTED TO ASK GOREN, IN HIS CAPACITY AS GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL COORDINATOR FOR ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES, FOR HIS OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE REUTERS REPORT. GOREN SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THERE WERE NO SUCH ACTIVITIES. NONE AT ALL. HE SAID THE GOI WAS USING SPECIAL UNITS IN THE TERRITORIES TO CARRY OUT SECURITY WORK BUT THAT NONE HAD ANY AUTHORITY TO OPEN FIRE BEYOND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF WHICH THE U.S. HAD BEEN INFORMED.

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3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO/NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THE ALLEGATION IN THE REUTER REPORT. IN OUR MANY CONVERSATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ISRAELI HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND PALESTINIANS, WE HAVE NEVER HEARD AN ALLEGATION OF DEATH SQUADS. TO BE

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SURE, WE HAVE HEARD PLENTY ABOUT ABUSES LEADING TO SERIOUS INJURY AND DEATH (THREE CASES OF DEATH WHILE IN DETENTION ARE NOW UNDER ISRAELI INVESTIGATION). WE ALSO UNDERSTAND FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESS SOURCES THAT REUTER MAY HAVE RUN A STORY WITH INSUFFICIENT SUBSTANTIATION. HOWEVER, THERE IS A SMALL GRAY AREA OF GOI OPERATIONS WHICH MAY HAVE SPARKED THE REUTER PIECE. WE KNOW THAT THE IDF IS SETTING UP AMBUSHES AIMED, WE WERE TOLD, AT APPREHENDING PALESTINIANS CARRYING OUT ACTION AGAINST THE OCCUPATION. THE IDF APPARENTLY USES INTELLIGENCE DATA TO STAKE OUT TARGETED LOCATIONS OR ROUTES OF INGRESS/EGRESS. IT IS REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT SOME OF THESE IDF OPERATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN THE USE OF LIVE FIRE AND PROBABLY PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES. WE WILL BE PURSUING THIS FURTHER. WE ALSO HAVE SEVERAL REPORTS, ESPECIALLY RE GAZA, OF IDF PROVOCATIONS LEADING TO PALESTINIAN REACTION AND A TOUGH IDF RESPONSE. THE GIVATI BRIGADE SEEMS PARTICULARLY TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS. END COMMENT. PICKERING

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*** Current Classification *** [REDACTED]
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<<<**** OASYS DOCUMENT HEADER ****>>>

DOC_NBR= 88TELAV15542

FILM= D880962-0625

DATE= 29 OCT 88

TYPE= TE

FROM= TEL AVIV

DRAFTER= n/a

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TO= SECSTATE WASHDC
JERUSALEM

CHANNEL= n/a

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ORIGPHAND= n/a

ORIGCLASS= [REDACTED]

ORIGPCCLASS= n/a

EO= N/A

SUBJECT= FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH TERRITORIES

REFERENCE= 88 TEL AVIV 15885

CONTROL_NBR= n/a

ENCLOSURE= n/a

LOCATOR= TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

ERRORS= N/A

CONCEPTS= DISCUSSION, PRESS COMMENTS, DEATH SQUAD

TAGS= PREL, IS, US

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RELEASE DECLASSIFY

EXCISE DECLASSIFY

DENY IN PART

DELETE Non-Responsive Info

FOIA Exemptions _____

PA Exemptions _____

S/FPC/CDR _____ Date: _____

MR Cases Only: _____

EO Citations _____

CLASSIFY as _____ TS with _____

DOWNGRADE TS to () & or _____

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 15542 01 OF 02 291200Z
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1752
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 15542

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E.O. 12356: OADR
TAGS: PREL, IS, US
SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH TERRITORIES
- COORDINATOR ON PRESS REPORT OF DEATH SQUADS

REF: TEL AVIV 15885

1. [REDACTED]

2. IN MEETING OCTOBER 27, DCM PURSUED WITH GOI
COORDINATOR FOR THE TERRITORIES GOREN THE REUTER
REPORT OF IDF DEATH SQUADS IN THE TERRITORIES AND
GOREN'S COMMENTS IN THEIR CONVERSATION OF THE PREVIOUS
DAY (SEE REFTEL). DCM SAID HE WANTED TO EXPAND ON HIS
QUESTION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY AND HAVE GOREN'S
REACTION. HE SAID THAT, AS GOREN AND OTHERS HAVE TOLD
US, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOI HAS VARIOUS SPECIAL UNITS
OPERATING IN THE TERRITORIES CARRYING OUT SPECIAL
OPERATIONS INCLUDING SETTING UP AMBUSHES AIMED AT
PALESTINIANS CARRYING OUT ACTIONS AGAINST THE
OCCUPATION. DCM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE ISRAELI
UNITS, USING INFORMATION FROM INTELLIGENCE SOURCES,
STAKE OUT ROUTES OF APPROACH AND ESCAPE IN ORDER TO
APPREHEND PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS. HE ASKED ABOUT THE

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ROE IN SUCH CASES, AS WELL AS THE ROE FOR SPECIAL
UNITS INVOLVED IN OTHER KINDS OF OPERATIONS.

3. GOREN SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD NO OBJECTIVE AND NO
UNIT TO CARRY OUT THE KINDS OF THINGS ALLEGED IN THE
PRESS. HE SAID THERE WAS NO IDF UNIT, NO POLICE UNIT

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OR NO UNIT OF THE SERVICES WHICH HAD ANY AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF ROE OTHER THAN THOSE WE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF. DCM SAID THAT, NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAD BEEN HINTS IN THE ISRAELI PRESS AND THE WORD WAS CIRCULATING AROUND THAT THERE HAD BEEN DEATHS UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THERE WAS A PERCEPTION THAT SOME UNITS WERE OPERATING BEYOND THOSE ROE OR AT LEAST ON THE VERY MARGINS OF LEGALITY. GOREN REPEATED THAT THERE WERE NO ISRAELI UNITS WHICH WERE AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE BEYOND THE STANDARD ROE. DCM ASKED ABOUT THE KILLINGS IN YATTA. GOREN SAID THAT WAS A CASE OF A GROUP OF MASKED PALESTINIANS CARRYING OUT AN ACTION WHO WERE CONFRONTED BY REGULAR IDF SOLDIERS. THE SOLDIERS WERE IN DANGER AND HAD FIRED AT THOSE PALESTINIANS WHO SEEMED TO BE GIVING ORDERS. GOREN INDICATED THE IDF WAS SURPRISED AFTERWARD TO LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEAD PALESTINIANS AND REGRETTED THE FATALITIES NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN OF MORE VALUE TO THE IDF ALIVE.

4. DCM ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF PROVOCATIONS, NOTING THAT THE GIVATI BRIGADE IN PARTICULAR HAD A REPUTATION OF AGGRESSIVENESS AND PROVOCATION TO DRAW PALESTINIAN REPOSE. GOREN WENT INTO A LONG MONOLOGUE ABOUT THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE GIVATI BRIGADE (HIS OLD UNIT -- HE WAS S-2) AND THE DIFFICULTY OF SOLDIERS

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CARRYING OUT POLICE WORK BUT HE DID NOT WANT TO ENGAGE AT ALL IN THE QUESTION OF PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR.

5. COMMENT: AN INTERNATIONAL PRESS SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING ON A "DEATH SQUADS" STORY FOR MONTHS AND WAS CONVINCED THERE WAS SOMETHING TO IT. HE TOLD US HIS ORGANIZATION HAD BUILT UP A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS FROM BOTH PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI SOURCES. IN OUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM, HE FOCUSED ON WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE THE VERY BROAD TERMS OF ISRAELI DENIALS AND SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS TRUE THAT THERE WERE VERBAL ORDERS TO SHOOT THOSE WITH BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS. HE ASSERTED THAT THE IDF RULES WERE SUFFICIENTLY ELASTIC THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO BREAK THE LAW IN ORDER TO SHOOT SOMEONE.

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6. COMMENT CONTINUED: IF THERE WERE EXTRA-LEGAL OPERATIONS ON DEATH SQUAD LINES BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE TERRITORIES, WE WOULD THINK THAT ALL OF THE

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PUBLICITY OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS WOULD BE CAUTIONARY. AS STATED REFTEL, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THE ALLEGATION OF DEATH SQUADS IN THE REUTER REPORT, EXCEPT OCCASIONAL CLAIMS BY PALESTINIANS TO CONGEN JERUSALEM OFFICERS, WHICH WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE, OF PALESTINIANS BEING KILLED IN COLD BLOOD. REGARDING ISRAELI SECURITY PRACTICES, ESPECIALLY IN THIS PERIOD BEFORE THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS (NOVEMBER 1) AND LEADING UP TO A POSSIBLE PNC ONE CAN BE SURE THAT THE ESRAELIS ARE

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 15542 02 OF 02 291200Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1753
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SECTION 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 15542

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E.O. 12356: OADR
TAGS: PREL, IS, US
SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH TERRITORIES

GOING TO BE VERY ACTIVE AND EVEN AGGRESSIVE IN THEIR

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SECURITY OPERATIONS. END COMMENT. PICKERING

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