UNCLASSIFIED *** Current Classification *** *** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a <<<**** OASYS DOCUMENT HEADER ***>>> DOC_NBR= 88JERUSA03939 FILM= D881050-0530 DATE= 30 NOV 88 TYPE= TE FROM= JERUSALEM DRAFTER= n/a **OFFICE= ACTION NEA** TO= STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PC I CDR **TEL AVIV** DECLASSIFY RELEASE MR Cases Onlys 1 DECLASSIFY EO Citations EXCISE CHANNEL= n/aIN PART 1 DENY) DELETE Non-Responsive Info TS authority

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SUBJECT= HAMAS-PFLP CHALLENGE TO THE UNIFIED LEADERSHIP

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Exemptions

REFERENCE= 88 JERUSALEM 3860, 88 JERUSALEM 3614

CONTROL_NBR= n/a

ENCLOSURE= n/a

LOCATOR= TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

ERRORS= N/A

CONCEPTS= DEMONSTRATION, WEST BANK, PALESTINIANS, OCCUPIED AREA, INTIFADA

TAGS= KPAL, PREL, PHUM, ASEC, IS, PLO

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INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 PA-01 INRE-00 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-02 /046 W -------264145 301502Z /48 38

O 301438Z NOV 88 FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4162 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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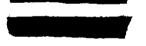
PARIS FOR WINN, LONDON FOR MILLIKEN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, PHUM, KPAL, KIL, ASEC, IS SUBJECT: HAMAS-PFLP CHALLENGE TO THE UNIFIED LEADERSHIP

REFS: A) JERUSALEM 3860, B) JERUSALEM 3614

1.

2. SUMMARY. THE WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM LARGELY ADHERED TO A NOVEMBER 29 GENERAL STRIKE CALLED BY HAMAS AND THE PFLP TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1947 UN PARTITION RESOLUTION. THE UNIFIED NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE UPRISING (UNLU), IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PNC'S ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 181, HAD NOT



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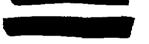
CALLED FOR A STRIKE. HOWEVER, IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE WIDESPREAD OBSERVANCE OF THE STRIKE INDICATES THE POWER OF HAMAS AND/OR THE PFLP, WHO REJECT A TWO-STATE SOLUTION, OR JUST INERTIA. IN ANY CASE, THE UNITY OF THE INTIFADA'S UNDERGROUND LEADERSHIP, IN WHICH



FATAH AND THE PFLP HAVE WORKED TOGETHER IN THE PAST, IS FRAYING. END SUMMARY.

3. THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST HAMAS AND THE PFLP USED THE NOVEMBER 29 ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1947 UN PARTITION VOTE TO CHALLENGE THE AUTHORITY OF UNLU IN THE WEST BANK. NOVEMBER 29 HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A DAY OF STRIKES AND PROTEST AGAINST THE PARTITION OF PALESTINE. WITH THE PNC'S ACCEPTANCE OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 181 AS THE LEGAL BASIS FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE, UNLU DID NOT CALL A GENERAL STRIKE FOR NOVEMBER 29 IN ITS LATEST LEAFLET, NUMBER 29 (REF A). INSTEAD, THE LEAFLET URGED THAT THE DAY BE MARKED BY THE RAISING OF FLAGS AND ESCALATION OF THE INTIFADA.

4. HAMAS AND THE PFLP, HOWEVER, SIGNALED THEIR REJECTION OF 181 AND THE PARTITION OF PALESTINE BY CALLING FOR A NOVEMBER 29 GENERAL STRIKE. IN ADDITION TO CALLING THE STRIKE, HAMAS LEAFLET NUMBER 32 DENOUNCED 181 AS "A TREASONOUS RESOLUTION WHICH DESERVED REJECTION" AND TERMED ATTEMPTS TO ENGAGE ISRAEL IN DIALOGUE "MERELY A WASTE OF TIME AND A CONTINUATION OF DEGRADATION." AN ALTERNATE LEAFLET 29, APPARENTLY ISSUED BY THE PFLP, REJECTED 242,



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DEMANDED THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, AND CALLED FOR A NOVEMBER 29 STRIKE IN PLACE OF THE NOVEMBER 28 DATE CONTAINED IN THE UNLU-AUTHORIZED VERSION. THE PFLP ALSO ISSUED A LEAFLET IN ITS OWN NAME DENYING THAT THE ORGANIZATION WAS BOUND BY THE PNC'S ACCEPTANCE OF 242 AND CALLING FOR SUPPORT FOR ARMED STRUGGLE, ADHERENCE TO PREVIOUS PNC DECISIONS, AND AN ESCALATION OF THE UPRISING.

5. IN THE DAYS PRIOR TO THE CONTRADICTORY STRIKE CALLS, PFLP-FATAH CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN NABLUS. A SPECIAL UNLU LEAFLET ISSUED IN RAMALLAH SPECIFICALLY CALLED ON SHOPS TO REMAIN OPEN ON NOVEMBER 29. THE NOVEMBER 28 STRIKE WAS UNIVERSALLY OBSERVED. IN THE WAKE OF THE U.S. REJECTION OF ARAFAT'S VISA APPLICATION, HOWEVER, RUMORS CIRCULATED THAT UNLU WOULD CALL STRIKES FOR NOVEMBER 29 AND 30 IN PROTEST. THUS, MANY



SHOP OWNERS WERE UNCERTAIN WHAT THE PARTY LINE WAS. IN THE END, THE NOVEMBER 29 STRIKE WAS WIDELY OBSERVED IN THE WEST BANK. IN EAST JERUSALEM, WHERE PREVIOUS HAMAS STRIKE CALLS HAD LARGELY GONE UNHEEDED, SHOPS WERE SHUTTERED AND MANY SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED. STORES FAILED TO OPEN IN HEBRON AND JERICHO. RAMALLAH, WHICH WAS SEALED OFF FROM ITS ENVIRONS BY IDF ROADBLOCKS, REPORTED TOTAL ADHERENCE TO THE STRIKE. IN NABLUS, THE STRIKE WAS ENFORCED BY JOINT HAMAS-PFLP GANGS CHANTING "PALESTINE IS MUSLIM." ONLY IN BETHLEHEM DID SHOPS OPEN. AS

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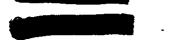
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MANY AS HALF WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SHUT BY HAMAS SUPPORTERS, AND SOME CLASHES WITH FATAH SUPPORTERS WERE REPORTED. (DESPITE UNCERTAINTY, SHOPS AND SCHOOLS OPENED NORMALLY NOVEMBER 30.)

6. COMMENT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHETHER MOST PALESTINIANS OBSERVED TNE NOVEMBER 29 STRIKE OUT OF SUPPORT FOR HAMAS AND/OR THE PFLP, PROTEST OVER THE U.S. REFUSAL TO ISSUE ARAFAT A VISA, OR MERELY OUT OF HABIT. AS INDICATED REF B, PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 181 CROSSED A HAMAS RED



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LINE AND HAS SPURRED INCREASED AND MORE OPEN OPPOSITION FROM THE FUNDAMENTALISTS. THE PFLP ACTION IN SUPPORTING THE HAMAS STRIKE CALL IS POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS, INDICATING THAT THE UNITY OF THE UNDERGROUND INTIFADA LEADERSHIP IN THE TERRITORIES, IN WHICH FATAH AND PFLP HAVE COOPERATED ALTHOUGH UNEASILY IN THE PAST, IS FRAYING. END COMMENT.

7. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. WILCOX

