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SUBJECT= HAMAS-PFLP CHALLENGE TO THE UNIFIED LEADERSHIP

REFERENCE= 88 JERUSALEM 3860, 88 JERUSALEM 3614

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

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/PPC/CDR	Date 2/12/97
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	MR Cases Only:	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EO Citations	
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	IN PART		
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE Non-Responsive Info			TS authority 88F
FOIA Exemptions		<input type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as	<input type="checkbox"/> S or
PA Exemptions		<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to	<input type="checkbox"/> S or

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ACTION NEA-11

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

[REDACTED]

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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. [REDACTED]

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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CALLLED 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

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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, SIGNALLED 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

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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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ACTION NEA-11

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
-----264153 301502Z /46

O 301438Z NOV 88
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4163
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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LEADERSHIP

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 THE 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.
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