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Facilities

Name: ABU SAYAF

Name: IIS

Name: MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT	
Biographic Information	
Name:	[REDACTED]
Name:	[REDACTED]
Name:	[REDACTED]
Sex :	MALE
State Of Birth :	jordan
Name: MUHAMMAD MAHDY SALH	
PROFESSIONAL TITLE : Trading Minister	
Name: SALAH AL-SAMARMUD	
PROFESSIONAL TITLE : Iraqi ambassador in Manila	
Document Remarks	
<p>[REDACTED] ISGP-2003-00014100 Partial Translations and Summaries [REDACTED] File contains varying subject matters and correspondence between the IIS, the Iraqi embassy in the Philippines, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as follows: -General personnel information such as requests, denials, and approvals for Philippine citizens seeking entry permits and visas into Iraq on business or for studies, as well as general information on different trade delegations and employees (non-IIS related) to various countries and general political and economical studies. -Reports on the MILF, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Abu Sayaf terrorist group in the Philippines which conducted a kidnapping operation in 06/2001. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Full summary/partial translation is available in the translation file. -A report on a certain individual traveling to Pashwar, Pakistan, and his involvements with the Bin Laden group. Full translation is also available in the translation folder</p>	
Batch Information	
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Transmittal Information Transporting Unit:202 MI BN Date/Time of Arrival:231500LAPR03 Transmittal Number:UNK Point of Contact:[REDACTED]	
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ISGP-2003-00014100

Partial Translations and Summaries

File contains varying subject matters and correspondence between the IIS, the Iraqi embassy in the Philippines, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as follows:

General personnel information such as requests, denials, and approvals for Philippine citizens seeking entry permits and visas into Iraq on business or for studies, as well as general information on different trade delegations and employees (non-IIS related) to various countries.

(TC: The following pages regarding the Abu Sayaf group and Libya's involvement with it has been fully summarized or partially translated.)

Page 89-96: An eight page (*poor quality*) facsimile from the Iraqi Embassy in Manila, dated 2001/06/06, to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Secondary Policy Directorate concerning hostages taken in the Philippines as follows:

There was a conference of the Diplomatic B'athists in the Philippine Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2001/06/05, and a briefing on the situation in the south Philippines with the Abu Sayaf group. The incident began in the Balwan Island at 6 am on 2001/05/27 and the hostages were taken to the So?? Island in Tawitawi ??? in the evening and then to the Basilan Island in the city of Latiyan. 200 hostages were taken from a church in this city and most the civilians were Christian.

The evening of the same day the army tried to surround them but the hostages were aided by other groups that had been kidnapped by human forces, and they all fled into the nearby city.

On the morning of 2001/06/? there appeared to be a struggle and 9 of the original hostages were able to flee, although 11 hostages remained with the terrorists. The kidnappers killed two of the civilians from the Latiyan city.

The Philippine president Arroyo announced that there are no talks or negotiation with the kidnappers. Up till now there has been no official decision or state of emergency announced as the Philippine constitution does not provide for a state of emergency without the consent of the (Philippine) Representative Council.

In addition the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has agreed to peace talks Mundanau, and has no requests in the separation and has agreed to autonomous rule in the scope of the Phillippine Republic. There are three countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, and Libya) participating in these talks with the MILF which focus on the problems in the upcoming six months.

The kidnappers were formerly (from the previous year) receiving money and purchasing combat weapons. From now on we (IIS) are not giving them this opportunity and are not on speaking terms with them.

After the minister of tourism Dabke Coron spoke on the situation in this area after this incident, he said that the kidnappers came wearing military uniforms. This is what the tourism authorities are facing. The authorities in the Ministry of Tourism have met with various security apparatuses (the army, the police, and fisherman (?)) to cooperate in preserving tourism.

The Abu Sayaf group is from a far-off location, which is why this incident not on the Balwan island was unexpected.

The hotel owners met to confirm the national protection of their hotels and tourism areas. In addition we have all cooperated in the field of intelligence information with some of our friends to encourage the tourists and the investors in the Philippines. Later on the Presidential advisor on security matters, Roilo Golez, mentioned that the talks began with kidnappers as well as a military operation in the same time. The talks solely outlined the requests to release the hostages, and confirmed that there is no official decision or state of emergency at this present time.

We (IIS) would like to inform you on the details of the incidents and what was discussed in the diplomatic circles and on behalf of the Philippine newspapers. The incident began on 2001/05/27 and the repercussions up till now are put forth in the information that the American government offered to aid the Philippine government to free the hostages who were kidnapped by Abu Sayaf. Robert Underwood and the Governor of Guam came to the Philippines to undertake this mission and discussed the subject with the Philippine President Arroyo. The following day the Philippine government announced that no foreign government shall interfere in their internal affairs, especially in regards to Abu Sayaf.

(TC: the remainder of this paragraph and the next two continues with the diplomatic situation between the Philippines and the U.S., as well as Philippine newspaper commentaries on the MILF, and the refusal by the government of any follow-up by the MILF against the Abu Sayaf group.)

Libya on its part announced via its former ambassador, Rajib Al-Marzuq that it does not interfere with the current hostage-taking operation. Al-Marzuq was in Manila for several months during last years kidnapping, and was sent by the Libyan government to negotiate with the kidnappers. The operation ended after the hostages were released and after the European governments paid ransom for some of hostages belonging to them, in addition to the Libyan government which paid the remaining portion of the ransom. In addition the current Libyan ambassador announced on television that Libya will not interfere this time in this operation.

After the release of nine of the hostages, an announcement from the FBI appeared in newspapers announcing their desire to interview the escaped Philipinos in order to make a decision on the status of the three American hostages. The embassy stated what was mentioned above. The three American hostages were a missionary husband and wife who had lived in the Philippines for a while, Martin and Gracia Burnham, from Kansas City, and Juil Lermos Sobero, from California. They are still in the hands of the Abu Sayaf kidnappers from a total of 20 people who were kidnapped from (Dos Palms) Resort in the Balawan Island.

The Phillipino government conducted discussions with the Abu Sayaf group but was determined not to give in to the group's demands this time nor provide them with the opportunity to buy weapons, obtain money, or conduct a kidnapping again in the future.

The relationships with the MILF began in Kuala Lumpur with various representatives from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Libya in 2001/06/04. New discussions the MILF and these countries as well the Philippines will take place in Tripoli, Libya on 2001/06/20 to attempt to solve the problem in Manila.

The Philippine government people mentioned that there were ten killed and tens of peoples people aside from the losses of the Abu Sayaf group. Independent sources confirmed that the casualties were more than ten.

Signed by Salah Samarmad *(TC: This is the same individual who submits a letter, pages 110-116, regarding an individual traveling to Peshwar.)*

Page 148
Full Translation

Republic of Iraq
Republican Presidency
Intelligence Apparatus

(Iraqi) Secret

2001/03/18
#362
M4 D1/4/5

Dept. 1
3/2

To: D4/4

1. There are connections between [REDACTED] and the Abu Sayaf group in the Philippines; meanwhile, this establishment is providing material support to them.

[REDACTED]

Please review..... it appears of intelligence value to proceed into connections with this establishment and its intelligence investments in the Abu Sayaf group....with regards....

(TC: Primary Signature)
(SATTs: "M. D)
2001/ 03/18

(TC: Handwritten signatures)

(Signed)
M/ Section 4
2001/03/20

(Signed)312

Mr. Dept. 3:
Study this idea, the pros and cons, the relative reactions, and any other remarks regarding this.

Page 149
Summary

An internal memo of the same kind as page 148 which discourages the supporting of connections with the Abu Sayaf group, as the group works against the Philippine government and relies on several methods for material gain such as kidnapping

foreigners, demanding ransoms, as well as being accused by the Philippine government of terrorist acts and drug smuggling.

Page 150
Summary

This memo reiterates the same information previously given on the Abu Sayaf group in pages 148 and 149. In addition, there is a reference of the Libyans interfering with the Abu Sayaf group during the kidnapping incident last year; the Libyans fostered the idea of releasing the hostages in order to clean up its image after the Lockerby incident to circumvent the accusations of Libya's involvement in terrorism.

The IIS also recommends that a distance be put between itself and those groups which are not beneficial or would on the contrary have a negative impact.

Pages 110-116
Translated by other linguists, Full translation
Date: 04-12-2001
To : The investigation and information analysis department.
Pages: 4 of 21

Subject: report

Enclosed is my security report that was presented by the third secretary, Ahmad Mahmud Ghalib, according to my instructions and after coming across the latest information which can be provided to us by [REDACTED]. The report contained a variety of issues including intelligence issues and how the Philippines, American and Zionist intelligence operate in the Philippine, especially the movements of the American Intelligence in their efforts to fight terrorism [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We were able to obtain some of the names that were approached for this purpose, for example; [REDACTED] Any and other names that was mentioned before like [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

He will also discuss his future plans and his trip to Pashwar in Pakistan and there is a group of Iraqis over there that are willing to turn in their names. I shall meet with him in the near future and obtain more details from him. I shall also try to work with him on more serious level as he is especially in need financially.

Best regards
Salah- Al- Samarmad

The classification markings are original to the Iraqi documents and do not reflect current U.S classification.

Page redacted in accordance with DIA Memorandum S-07-1509/CE,
Subject: Classification Review of Iraqi Perspectives Project (IPP) Report
Saddam and Terrorism

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