



Department of State
SITUATION ROOM

TELEGRAM

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R 182350Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: ODS
TAGS: PINS, SU
SUBJECT: SENTENCING OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 1296; (B) CAIRO 4094; (C) KHARTOUM 1480

1. DEPARTMENT HAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL A) THAT HE BE INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO NIMEIRI SUBSEQUENT TO JUDICIAL DECISION IN TERRORIST TRIAL. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PRESENTATION OF LETTER FROM U.S. PRESIDENT AT THAT JUNCTURE LIKELY TO BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, AND WOULD BE WIDELY INTERPRETED IN ARAB WORLD, PERHAPS IN SUDAN ITSELF, AS UNDUE PRESSURE. IF LETTER ITSELF SHOULD BECOME PUBLIC, IT WOULD BECOME THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR NIMEIRI NOT TO LIGHTEN SENTENCES SUBSTANTIALLY AS DEMONSTRATION HIS INDEPENDENCE. HIS CONCERN ABOUT THIS SEEMS EVIDENT FROM INTERVIEW WITH MICHELMORE (REFTEL B).

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sect. 3.6

NARA, Date 6/9/98

By [Signature]

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DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
May 4, 2006

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Authority E.O. 12958
By [Signature] NARA Date 10/11/06

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By NSA Date 12/15/08



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2. AS ALTERNATIVE, ASSUMING GUILTY VERDICT, WE PREFER THAT AMBASSADOR MAKE ORAL DEMARCHE TO NIMEIRI ON INSTRUCTIONS OF USG ALONG LINES PARA 3, REFTEL A. AMBASSADOR SHOULD USE HIS DISCRETION IN TIMING DEMARCHE SO AS TO EXTENT POSSIBLE TO AVOID OBVIOUS TEMPORAL CONNECTION BETWEEN VERDICT AND AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST TO SEE NIMEIRI. IN EVENT MEETING GETS PRESS ATTENTION, DISCUSSION OF OTHER SUBJECTS (E.G., U.S. ASSISTANCE) MAY

PROVIDE BASIS FOR DESCRIBING MEETING AS CONCERNED WITH U.S. - SUDANESE RELATIONS GENERALLY.

3. WE REALIZE THAT COURSE OF EVENTS THUS FAR HAS INDICATED THAT NOT GUILTY VERDICT IS UNLIKELY. IF, HOWEVER, VERDICT IS NOT GUILTY, AMBASSADOR SHOULD PLAN TO RETURN TO U.S. FOR CONSULTATIONS. IN SUCH EVENT OUR PRESS STATEMENT WILL INDICATE THAT AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN RECALLED. 81900

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6/29/02/110

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