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KUWAIT 00486 290820Z

INFO 0001-01 EUR-12 ISG-02 OLS-02 NASA-02 NSF-02 DOI-15
 001-02 CIAF-02 PM-02 F-02 INF-12 L-03 NSAF-02
 NSC-02 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NAS-01 /095 W
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R 290800Z JAN 79

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2864

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0486

CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12365: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, PINS, MASS, SOPN, TGEN, KU

SUBJECT: "UFO" SIGHTINGS CAUSE SECURITY CONCERN IN KUWAIT

1. A SERIES OF "UFO" SIGHTINGS ON NOVEMBER 9 CAUSED THE
 GOK TO APPOINT AN INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FROM
 THE KUWAIT INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (KISR).
 THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT WHICH WAS RELEASED JANUARY 20 DESCRIBED
 EIGHT SIGHTINGS FROM NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 14. A NUMBER OF
 THE EARLY SIGHTINGS TOOK PLACE NEAR A KUWAIT OIL COMPANY
 GATHERING CENTER NORTH OF KUWAIT CITY. RELEASE OF THE
 COMMITTEE'S REPORT WAS SOMETHING OF A MEDIA EVENT AS IT
 COINCIDED WITH JAN 21 FRONT PAGE STORIES OF YET ANOTHER "UFO"
 SIGHTING OVER KUWAIT CITY, WHICH INCLUDED PHOTOGRAPHS IN
 LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

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2. THE KISR COMMITTEE REJECTED THE NOTION THAT THE
 "UFO'S" WERE ESPIONAGE DEVICES BUT REMAINED EQUIVOCAL
 ABOUT WHETHER THEY WERE OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORIGIN.
 THE KISR COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE, RATIB ABU ID, TOLD
 EMBOFF THAT THE SCIENTISTS DID NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE
 PHENOMENA TO SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT THEY WEREN'T
 "SPACESHIPS." THE REPORT WENT
 ON TO RECOMMEND THAT THE GOVERNMENT TAKE ALL POSSIBLE
 MEASURES TO PROTECT KUWAIT'S AIR SPACE AND TERRITORY AS
 WELL AS THE COUNTRY'S OIL RESOURCES.

3. SOME LOCAL WAGS HAVE MADE LIGHT OF THE FIRST UFO
 SIGHTINGS WHICH CAME NEAR THE END OF THE LONG AND
 TRADITIONALLY EXUBERANT HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS OF ID-AL-
 AHA. HOWEVER WE HAVE LEARNED RECENTLY OF AN EVENT
 COINCIDENT WITH ONE OF THE UFO SIGHTINGS WHICH WAS

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