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79 KUWAIT 486

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ACTION NEA-07

KUWAIT 00486 290820Z

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OFS-09 NASA-02 NSC-03 DBS-15
SOE-02 CIAE-04 PM-05 F-02 INS-13 L-03 NSAF-08
NSC-05 FA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NAS-01 /DBS
-1002479 290820Z 11R 290606Z JAN 79
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2906
INFO AMEMBASSY APH DRAPI
AMEMBASSY DOFA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR
USICA WASHDC
UNCLAS KUWAIT 2486
CINCEUR ALSO FOR ROLAD
E.O. 12065: N/A

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

SUBJECT: UFO SIGHTINGS CAUSE SECURITY CONCERN IN KUWAIT
1. A SERIES OF UFO SIGHTINGS ON NOVEMBER 9 CAUSED THE
GOV TO APPOINT AN INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FROM
THE KUWAIT INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (KISR).
THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT WFC 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.UNCLASSIFIED
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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, BATIR ABU ID, TOLD
EMBASSY 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 MAGS HAVE MADE LIGHT OF THE FIRST UFO
SIGHTINGS WHICH CAME NEAR THE END OF THE LONG AND
TRADITIONALLY EXUBERANT HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS OF ID-AL-
ADBA. HOWEVER, WE HAVE LEARNED RECENTLY OF AN EVENT
COINCIDENT WITH ONE OF THE UFO SIGHTINGS WHICH MAY
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CONFOUNDED SOME OF OUR MOST LEVEL-HEADED KUWAITI FRIENDS.
AND MAY HAVE BEEN WHAT PERSUADED THE GOV TO MAKE A SERIOUS
INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTER. A SENIOR KUWAIT OIL COMPANY
(KOC) OFFICIAL TOLD US THE "UFO" WHICH FIRST
APPEARED OVER THE NORTHERN OIL FIELDS SEEMINGLY DID
STRANGE THINGS TO KOC'S AUTOMATIC PUMPING EQUIPMENT.
THIS EQUIPMENT IS DESIGNED TO SHUT ITSELF DOWN
WHEN THERE IS SOME FAILURE WHICH MAY SERIOUSLY DAMAGE
THE PETROLEUM GATHERING AND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM AND
IT CAN ONLY BE RESTARTED MANUALLY. AT THE TIME OF THE
UFO'S APPEARANCE THE PUMPING SYSTEM AUTOMATICALLY
SHUT ITSELF DOWN AND WHEN THE "UFO" VANISHED THE
SYSTEM STARTED ITSELF UP AGAIN. THIS EVENT WAS NOT
ADDRESSED BY THE KISR COMMITTEE REPORT.

4. EVEN THOSE WHO ARE NOT INCLINED TO BELIEVE IN

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VISITORS FROM OUTER SPACE DO TEND TO THINK SOMETHING
STRANGE HAS BEEN GOING ON IN KUWAITI AIRSPACE.
THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT
HELICOPTERS OR ROVERCRAFT BRINGING REFUGEES OR
MONEY OUT OF BELLAGUERED IRAN. AT THE LEAST, THE
PHENOMENA HAVE STIMULATED A NEW DEGREE OF INTEREST
AMONG TOP KUWAITI OFFICIALS IN THE COUNTRY'S AIR
DEFENSE SYSTEM, WHICH DID NOT REACT IN ANY WAY TO THE
EVENTS IN THE KOC NORTH FIELD BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSED DOWN
FOR THE NIGHT (SEPTEL).
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ENCLOSURE # 1

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