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ORIGIN INR-01

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 AIT-03 ARA-01 CIAE-00 DS-00 EAP-01  
EB-01 EUR-01 INRE-00 IO-19 ADS-00 NEA-01 NSAE-00  
PM-01 P-01 SP-01 SS-01 SA-01 /034R

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P 082153Z SEP 92  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO INTSUM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
INFO TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY 0000  
SECDEF WASHDC/ISI 0000  
JCS WASHDC/DJCS/J-5 0000  
NSC WASHDC 0000  
DIA/DE4 WASHDC  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK  
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL/POLAD  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT/INTAF/FOR POLAD  
COMSIXFLT  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
NSA FT MEADE MD  
USIA WASHDC  
NAVMARINTCEN WASHDC//SPEAR//  
JICPAC HONOLULU HI

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D)

S E C R E T STATE 291493

SECRET

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: XF, ZR, IZ, KU, UR, MOPS, PINR, XD  
SUBJECT: INTSUM: 828: SEPTEMBER 8, 1992

LONDON FOR JOHNSON  
PARIS FOR ROSENBLATT  
MOSCOW FOR STOFFER  
ROME ALSO FOR VATICAN AND MFO FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL  
DOD/ISA FOR NESA  
CINCEUR FOR POLAD  
CINCUSNAVEUR FOR INTAF  
NSC FOR HAASS  
NSA FOR CHIEF G GROUP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 10 MAY 2007 200605566

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USVIENNA FOR UNVIE  
OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

CONTENT: 1. SYRIA: ASSAD, THE ALAWIS' AND INTERNAL  
WOES

2. ALGERIA: ISLAMIST OPPOSITION IN DISARRAY

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I. SYRIA: ASSAD, THE ALAWIS. AND INTERNAL WOES  
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1. (S) DISORDER WITHIN PRESIDENT ASSAD'S OWN ALAWI  
CLAN IS TAKING UP AN INCREASING SHARE OF HIS TIME.

2. (S) ALAWIS MAKE UP APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT OF  
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SYRIA'S POPULATION, AND ASSAD SHOWS THEM DEFERENCE NOT  
SHOWN TO THE SUNNI MUSLIM MAJORITY. SOME ALAWI ELEMENTS  
HAVE BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN EVER IN A FEEDING  
FRENZY OVER PERKS AND TURF. THEIR OUTRAGEOUS BEHAVIOR  
HAS WEAKENED ASSAD'S TRADITIONAL POWER BASE AND DARKENED  
THE PUBLIC'S APPRECIATION OF HIS LEADERSHIP.

3. (S) LATAKIA. ONE OF THE FIRST HINTS OF TROUBLE  
WERE REPORTS BEGINNING IN EARLY MAY FROM THE ALAWI  
DOMINATED PORT CITY OF LATAKIA - ASSAD'S HOME BASE AND  
CENTER OF THE ALAWI HEARTLAND - THAT FEUDING BETWEEN  
ASSAD'S NEPHEWS AND OTHER PROMINENT ALAWIS OVER THE  
CONTRABAND TRADE HAD REACHED SERIOUS PROPORTIONS. ON  
MAY 7 ASSAD DISPATCHED BASIL, HIS SON AND HEIR-APPARENT.  
TO LATAKIA TO ARREST THE NEPHEWS AND BRING THE  
EMBARRASSING PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL.

4. (S) [REDACTED] BASIL FAILED  
[REDACTED] TO ARREST THE FAMILY MEMBERS IN QUESTION, WHO WENT INTO  
HIDING. BY LATE MAY A NUMBER OF CHECK POINTS MANNED BY  
SYRIAN INTERNAL SECURITY HAD SPRUNG UP ALONG THE  
TARTUS-LATAKIA ROAD. A ROAD NOT NORMALLY PATROLLED. A  
SHOOTOUT IN EARLY JULY, INVOLVING ASSAD'S NEPHEWS, LEFT  
SEVERAL PEOPLE DEAD. BASIL WAS REPORTEDLY SENT TO  
LATAKIA AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO "COVER  
UP THE INCIDENT."

5. (S) ALAWI TROUBLE ALSO IN DAMASCUS. IN JUNE SOME  
600 SYRIAN SOLDIERS AND CIVILIAN POLICE CLASHED WITH

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