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(b)(3):10 USC 424,
(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

(b)(3):10 USC 424

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) ISRAEL (IS); LEBANON (LE).

SUBJ: ISRAELI PARLIAMENT CONSIDERS

ACTION AGAINST LEBANESE DRUG TRAFFICKERS (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 930100.

REQS: (U)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: A. (U)

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

B. (U)

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C.

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D.

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(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

SUMMARY: (U) SOME ISRAELI KNESSET MEMBERS ARE PRESSING FOR CRACKDOWNS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LEBANESE BORDER. MEANWHILE, ISRAEL'S DRUG PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO MOUNT, BOTH IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR AND IN THE MILITARY.

TEXT: 1. (U) ISRAEL'S DRUG PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO MOUNT ACCORDING TO RECENTLY PUBLISHED STATISTICS. AS A RESULT, SELECTED MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET ANTI-DRUG COMMITTEE, RAFAEL ((EITAN)), ARE PRESSING FOR STRONGER ACTION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF THE TFX OF SOURCE A, A RECENT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN WHICH EITAN PRESSED FOR POSSIBLE CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS OF THE SPECIAL NORTHERN-BASED DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT.

2. (U) BEGIN QUOTE. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET ANTI-DRUG COMMITTEE, MK RAFAEL ((EITAN)), SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO CHECK WITH THE MINISTER OF POLICE ON WHETHER ACTIONS COULD BE TAKEN AGAINST DRUG DEALERS IN LEBANESE TERRITORY BY OPERATING THE SPECIAL NORTHERN-BASED DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT. "IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO LIMIT OUR ACTIVITY TO ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE BORDER," HE SAID DURING A VISIT OF THE COMMITTEE IN TEL AVIV.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO HIM, ISRAEL SERVES AS A JUNCTION FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHOSE TURNOVER IS ESTIMATED AT THREE (3) BILLION U.S. DOLLARS ANNUALLY. ACCORDING TO THE ESTIMATE, AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THE NARCOTICS ARRIVE VIA CARGO FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL. SOME REMAIN IN ISRAEL, OTHERS ARE CARRIED OVERLAND THROUGH ISRAELI BORDER CHECKPOINTS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE SECURED.

4. (U) DELIVERING A TALK TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN HAIFA, THE COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI BORDER POLICE UNIT ON THE LEBANESE BORDER - YAKI ((OVED)) - REVEALED THAT IN THE PAST YEAR (1992), THE POLICE SUCCESSFULLY CAPTURED 72 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN THAT WERE SMUGGLED FROM LEBANON TO ISRAEL, AND WITH WHICH 72,000 HEROIN "FIXES" COULD BE MADE.

5. (U) ACCORDING TO HIM, "THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS SYSTEMATICALLY INFUSE DRUGS INTO ISRAEL, BUT DRUGS ARE USED BY TERRORISTS AS A MEANS TO BUY WEAPONS."

6. (U) OVED COULD NOT ESTIMATE WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL DRUG TRADE IS ACTUALLY INTERCEPTED BY THE POLICE, BUT SAID IT WAS LOW, ADDING THAT THE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS - HASH AND HEROIN - MAKING THEIR WAY INTO ISRAEL ARE ESTIMATED AT HUNDREDS OF KILOGRAMS. ACCORDING TO MK EITAN, THERE ARE 300,000 SUBSTANCE ABUSERS IN ISRAEL, AND SOME 30,000 DRUG ADDICTS. THE PROBLEM IS MUCH MORE SERIOUS IN THE ARAB SECTOR. END QUOTE.

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1. (C)

(b)(1); (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)

2. (C) (b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)

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