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To: NYMIX - eTelegrams; NYMIZ - eTelegrams
From: COMCEN Gateway 1a
Subject: I:OO:UNCL:ROCKET ATTACK ON AL RASHEED HOTEL:IRAQR/FCOLN
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LNGFDN 9833 MVLNAN 7165

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OO BREC BREMB BRNAT CAIRO CANBE COPEN DAMAS DOHAA DUBAI DUBLI
OO GEDIS GEMIS HELSI HOSEE ISLAM JERUS KHART KUWAI LISBO LUAND
OO LUXEM MADRI MEXIC MODEV MOSCO MUSCA NYMIS OTTAW PARIS RABAT
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OO VIDEL VIENN VIMIS WASHI
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FCO FOR RESIDENT CLERK

SUBJECT: ROCKET ATTACK ON AL RASHEED HOTEL

SUMMARY

1. Another rocket attack on the Rasheed hotel. One US citizen killed, and many injured, including a Brit.

DETAIL

2. At 0615 local time on 26 October the al Rasheed Hotel suffered another rocket attack. Early reports say that one US citizen is dead, three (including one Brit, Jacob Nell, a Treasury secondee) seriously injured and 15 others receiving medical attention.

3. Six rockets hit the hotel. They were fired from wasteland approximately 400 metres to the west of the hotel. A rocket launcher has been found; it appears to have been a similar device that was used in the first attack on 27 September.

4. Jacob Nell is currently undergoing surgery for blast injuries, cuts and lacerations, mainly to his legs and lower body. His condition is not thought to be life threatening. We have been in direct contact with his family and his fiancée, and will arrange for them to speak with Jacob when he recovers from surgery this afternoon. I will visit him as soon as the medics approve.

5. I am holding a meeting at 12 o'clock local time for all UK civilian staff in Baghdad and will report further on initial

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reactions then. We will also report further on the incident itself as details come to light.

COMMENT

6. Terrible news. This is the first time a CPA civilian has been killed in Iraq, a fact which will have serious repercussions. CPA/CJTF7 authorities are addressing the situation as best they can, gathering evidence, cleaning up the hotel (which received fairly extensive exterior damage and has at least two floors flooded), assessing whether the hotel can be re-used for accommodation in the immediate future, and looking at the longer term security implications.

7. Our security team did a thorough review of Rasheed Hotel and green zone security measures after the first attack on the hotel and the 15 October mortar attack on the green zone, which we have already shared with the Americans. We will keep closely involved and insist that correct measures are taken for the safety of our staff.

GREENSTOCK

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