



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0421-16

Papers and minutes from the regular fortnightly meetings on military, humanitarian and political developments in Yemen which are chaired by FCO officials and incorporate representatives from FCO, BIS, MOD, DFID and other departments. since 1 July 2015 to the present.

Below are the papers connected to the Minutes:

Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 5 April 2016: Attached YOS update and initial reporting on Ali Mohsen appointment.

From: [name redacted], British Embassy Riyadh
Sent: 01 April 2016 10:00
To: DL YOS (Internal) (Sensitive)
Subject: Yemen Military Update: 1 Apr 16

There has been a significant spike in fighting on all fronts this week . The uptake in the fighting is at the same level as Pre-Peace talks in Dec 15 (this is assessed to be both sides jostling for position before the ceasefire/peace talks start). The only positive sign is the calming measure (ceasefire) between KSA and the Houthis is still holding, with both sides still speaking and negotiating with each other(Direct talks have happened).

Aden

- The security situation in Aden remains the biggest concern, especially with the 3 VBIEDs which killed 26 people on 25 Mar 16 and then Police found a further 3 VBIED devices in the city on the 26 Mar 16.

Ta'iz

- The Deputy Governor of Ta'iz escaped an attempted assassination by unknown gunmen while he was travelling through one of the areas controlled by GoY forces .

Sa'dah

- The ceasefire (calming measures) between the Houthi and KSA is still holding with both sides... This resulted in a further prisoner exchange between both... It is hoped that this can be a template for the rest of the Country (starting off in Hajjah and them moving onto Ta'iz).
- The Houthi spokesman Abdul Salam stated that the "violations" in Maydi and Harrad towns might undermine the current understanding with KSA, however he stressed that the consultations will continue.

Regards

| Defence Section | Yemen Office | British Embassy Riyadh

From: [name redacted], British Consulate-General Jeddah

Sent: 04 April 2016 09:04

To: [name redacted], MENAD FCO London

Cc: DL Yemen Office Saudi Arabia (Sensitive); DL MENAD - Yemen Team (Sensitive);

Subject: Hadi Reshuffle 3 April: New VP and PM

..., President Hadi officially announced the following appointments at about 22:30 local last night:

- Ali Mohsen, Presidential Military & Security Adviser & Deputy Commander in Chief of Armed Forces, is now Vice President;
- Bahah is to become a Presidential Adviser;
- Ahmed bin Daghr, then Presidential Adviser and a Minister for Telecoms in 2014) is now Prime Minister.

In his statement, Hadi said Bahah had been dismissed "due to the failures that have accompanied the performance of the government during the past period in the fields of economy, services, and security". Bahah later issued a statement, uncritical of Hadi, in which he said "a new page of my service to Yemen is turning".

Reactions

Their official media silent on the issue.

KSA state media has been factual. Commentators have noted Mohsen's close relationship with KSA, several stating that KSA now has "full" control over the GoY and linking the appointments to MBS's recent interview with Bloomberg that the end of Yemen's crisis would be soon. Observers have noted that the presence of a strong man loyal to the Saudis in Yemen would help prevent the Houthis having further/increased influence, and Mohsen would likely continue to build strong coordination with tribes and military against the Houthis. Constitutionally, the President can delegate whatever tasks to the VP he sees fit –. A statement was issued last night welcoming Mohsen as VP signed by some radical elements within the popular resistance (Adib Alabsi, Anis Alwali, Basam Almihdar)].

Kind regards,

| Yemen Office | British Consulate-General Jeddah |

Yemen XWH Meeting, Tuesday 19 January 2016: Attached note from DA Sana'a

From: [name redacted], British Embassy Sana'a
Sent: 19 January 2016 14:33
To: Edmund Fitton-Brown (Sensitive)
Cc: DL MENAD - Yemen Team (Sensitive)
Subject: Yemen military ground situation round-up: 18 Jan 16

All (used for today's X WH VTC Deep Dive)

I met yesterday (18 Jan 16) with ... for a 'battlefield' roundup of Yemen. Also in attendance were Yemen MSA and BE Riyadh SO1 CT.

It has been a quiet week for military ground force activity and there has been no noticeable change. Military activity remains at pre-Dec UN brokered peace talk levels.

KSA Border **No Change to reporting on 13 Jan 16**

- Activity levels have returned to pre-ceasefire levels/pre-talks.
- 18 Jan airstrike on a police station, a Houthi stronghold, understood to have killed up to 25 people according to open source reporting.
- A number of IED and drive-by assassination attempts have occurred in the past week resulting in 4 Houthi commanders and one pro-Houthi lawyer being killed as reported in Yemen Update 18 Jan 2016. AQAP has reportedly claimed responsibility for one of the attacks.

Aden

- The level of fighting has slowed down in the past week after the arrival of the mil/pol combined force as it has attempted to take responsibility for the security of Aden.
- Assassinations attempts continue against high profile security officials.

Ta'iz

- Open source reporting on 13 Jan that a Yemeni Bn (anything between 500-800 pax) deployed from Al Anad in support of this advance NFTR.