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M I G H T Y D E R R I N G E R

Chronological Media Play, "Site City," beginning 12/7/86

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NM-9 071245 IWS story, Montrev, says large number of U.S. citizens in oil field has been reduced. They are either headed home or to other location after having been staged. Rumor that military action has taken place in Bullatcha oil field.

NM-10 071336 Official announcement by Montrev police chief and President announcing crisis in oil field was over, and that U.S. had assisted. No further danger to Montrev people, with thanks.

NM-11071548 NBS news bulletin reports that lack of information in Montrev situation continues to be disturbing. Could this be another Grenada?

NM-12 081600 IWS reports that a U.S. Congressman angry because U.S. involvement in Montrev not cleared with Congress.

(All times hereafter Eastern Standard Time.)

NM-13 081200 Videotape of terrorist threat given to FBI by "Site City" station WARB-TV news director who agrees not to broadcast information.

NM-14 081300 Real world inquiry from Franklin Daily Journal. Handled by FBI who gave earlier RTQ (response to query).

NM-15 081330 WARB-TV station manager Richard Simms called by FBI and asked for committment not to run story.

NM-16 081345 Simms calls SAC. Asks if WARB families should evacuate city? When should public be notified of threat? What could be said now? SAC repeats request for cooperation and no comment. Simms said others getting information, and WARB could not hold if story broke. Asked for reporter on scene to cover story as pool reporter.

NM-17 081400 FBI calls Simms; wants to know source of rumors. Simms says all media in city know about big story and are calling every source in the city, county, and state, including Congressional offices. Has told WARB personnel to tell families to head south. Recommended that FBI brief media.

NM-18 081550 Information play update; media will be allowed to go to Montrev.

NM-19 081800 WDOE/WARN broadcast by Sgt Stephenson mentions Montrev and "Site City" ~~situation~~ ~~lead~~ ~~to~~ ~~FBI~~.

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(Note: There is a 24-hour hold about media play.)

NM-20 081730 White House press conference announced action in Montrev, including theft of two Pu cores, and recovery of one in Bullatcha oil field action. States that second core is being sought in U.S.

NM-21 090925 Call from IWS (HQ Control) that situation in Montrev is far from clear. NEST identified as participant. Questions -- Has Montrev bomb been disarmed? If bomb is in U.S., why is NEST still in Montrev? Where is bomb in U.S.? Any progress in finding it? Why the stonewalling? No information out of Montrev because of police control.

NM-22 090944 Fred Bimms, IWS, calls FBI to inquire of hostage situation in "Site City." FBI would not comment on hostage situation or possible connection with nuclear weapon search.

NM-23 090947 FBI PAO Gary Schoon called Simms, WARB, to say they have no further information to pass on. Also asked that WARB not broadcast story about hostage situation, or speculate on connection with bomb search. Schoon would not comment on speculation that NEST had been called to "Site City."

NM-24 091040 WARB called FEMA to inquire about what was going on. FEMA PAO not there, but said he'd call back.

NM-25 091043 Special bulletin on WDOE-TV to announce change in hostage situation. Videotape delivered to players.

NM-26 091115 WARB called FEMA; Mr. Conner said FEMA was establishing a command center, but would not say why. He also said that a Joint Information Center (JIC) was being established, but did not know where or when. WARB's Simms said FEMA only called for serious problems, and asked what problem was. Conner made no comment.

NM-27 091132 Hold on media play pending controller coordination. No media injects, including special bulletin, until guidance received from controllers representing White House.

Calls received from Sig Higdon in Washington, D.C., and Jack Campbell in Montrev requesting information regarding timing of release of terrorist tape and his demands on WARB-TV. Also concern that all players had not received copy of Presidential statement (See NM-20).

NM-28 091250 FBI PAO called Simms, WARB, and expressed appreciation for not broadcasting terrorist tape. Also said that female hostage wounded and released, and taken to hospital. Terrorists have one other hostage. He said that evacuation had not been ordered because terrorist said he would detonate nuclear bomb if evacuation was attempted.

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NM-29 09 Copy of real world story about exercise in Franklin newspaper.

NM-30 091330 IWS story from Montrev; after action story asking what happened to bomb? Where is bomb in U.S.? News mmedia still under surveillance in Montrev, etc.

NM-31 091410 WARB radio called DOE/HQ and asked if NEST had been sent to "Site City." Was referred to Nevada Operations Office.

NM-32 091523 Special bulletin on WDOE-TV/WARB listing terrorist demands and stating that there is a nuclear threat in "Site City." Also noted that FEMA is setting up an office. FBI requested that TV station hold broadcast, or to inform them if broadcast to be made. Told FBI that NBS would broadcast entire threat tape from Washington, D.C., and WDOE felt they would have to go before NBS, since WARB/WDOE had the tape first. FBI tried to stop NBS broadcast, to no avail. Also promised to have news conference or news release at 1630; that was not acceptable.

NM-33 091533 Radio news bulletin confirming hostage release and shootout; one hostage still held. No comment from FBI whether or not this was connected to search for nuclear weapon.

NM-34 091600 WARB-TV and IWS called FBI and asked for additional information on both hostage and nuclear weapons search situations. Were told that a statement was being prepared and that a news conference would be called at 5 p.m.

NM-35 091730 No news conference was held by FBI. Governor made statement that search was being centered in "Site City," asked people to stay indoors and not move, and promised news conference in one hour (notionally).

NM-36 091730 IWS story tells of terror and concern in "Site City," and asking why reasonable questions have not been answered.

NM-37 White House announcement of lead agencies assigned to control "Site City" nuclear bomb threat.

NM-38 NBS Washington, D.C. bulletin that panic rules in "Site City" because of nuclear bomb threat.

NM-39 100800 WNS story that officialdom maintained tight jawed silence after announcing that search for nuclear bomb was centered in "Site City" area. In two briefing, Governor gave little information, except to request that people stay indoors and let search continue. Many citizens left despite Governor's plea.

NM-40 101000 WDOE-TV network news cast showed panic in streets. Showed interview with Governor.

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NM-41 101115 Governor held news briefing to say that NEST was continuing search for nuclear bomb at "Site City." He gave no information concerning the success of the search., and asked people to remain calm. He had not evacuated his family.

NM-42 101130 WARB broadcast live from JIC that Governor had given usual assurances, and that search continued.

NM-43 101800 WARB broadcast suggestions for self-evacuation based on information from staff meteorologist and general knowledge of police activity downtown.

NM-44 101800 WARB station manager asked by FBI to interview terrorist Commandant Ali at Ali's request. Simms actually went to house where Ali was holding hostage and interviewed the Commandant. Ali presented three demands, gave details about the bomb, and gave his plans if his demands were not carried out. Interview also with SAC. Information was also presented on WARB-TV concerning evacuation routes from "Site City."

NM-45 101815 Wire service report on Simm's interview with Ali.

NM-46 10 DOE meeting with Montrev President to discuss replies to inquiry.

NM-47 10 Story from Montrev stating that DOE did not want announcement on disarmament of Bullatcha bomb until "Site City" situation solved.

NM-48 101600 Media asked JIC to take series of questions to be answered concerning "Site City" situation, including why no evacuation.

NM-49 101800 Final news cast of day, showed map of area to evacuate on voluntary basis, and interview by Richard Simms of Commandant Ali, noting cooperation of FBI.

NM-50 110715 Morning TV newscast videotape showing reporter flying over city, and then nuclear detonation. Officially transitioned into recovery/consequence phase.

NM-51 110815 First FEMA news conference following detonation. Statement by Governor broadcast on Emergency Broadcast Service (EBS) requesting people to take shelter. Background briefing by NEST on radiation measurement and consequences. Request to continue pressure on players without production of news stories.

NM-52 110900 Request from Toronto Star to DOS for information on fallout headed for Canada.

NM-53 110945 Morning newscast showed file photos of blast, and statement by Governor. ~~DOE HE TOLD ABOUT NEW ESTIMATE OF RADIATION DISPERSAL.~~

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NM-54 111015 News conference with Bruce Churce of DOE. Gave estimate of fallout and other information on radiation monitoring. Bomb exploded with 500-ton yield. Gave some safety measurements. had no information on water safety.

NM-55 111015 News conference with Mayor and Governor. Gave estimate of damage; no estimate of casualties. Evacuation at 3 a.m. Water safe to drink. Federal assistance requested by State. Emergency Broadcast Service (EBS) in use areawide.

NM-56 111120 Reply from DOS to inquiry by Toronto Star.

End of media play.

Peter Mygatt

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