



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 29, 1982

His Royal Highness
Prince Sultan bin abd al-Aziz
Second Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Defense and Aviation
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Royal Highness:

(S) During this time of utmost gravity and concern with respect to both the situation in Lebanon and the Iranian attack on Iraqi forces around Basra, I have been pleased and heartened to have the opportunity to consult with His Highness, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, and to receive through him an understanding of your views and concerns. This is a time for close friends to consult together and work toward positive solutions to the difficult problems threatening our common interests. I am gratified at the vision and steadfastness demonstrated by you and by His Majesty King Fahd as we jointly pursue peace and stability in the area. I look forward to discussing these issues with you in person at an early date.

(S) The Iranian invasion of Iraq is particularly disturbing in our view because it heightens the threat to peace and security of other states in the Gulf region. As President Reagan stated in his July 16 letter to His Majesty King Fahd, "We will continue to support international efforts to achieve an early end to the hostilities between Iran and Iraq," but at the same time "we are ready to help support the security of Saudi Arabia and its Gulf state neighbors during the conflict." I have, in fact, discussed this very issue with Prince Bandar.

(S) We have done extensive work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to develop concepts and planning for active mutual cooperation in the defense of Saudi Arabia in the event of a serious threat to the Kingdom's security. Of course, we would come to the assistance of Saudi Arabia in this manner only under circumstances in which the Saudi Government requested our help, and the President in accordance with Constitutional processes directed such action. In the current circumstances, we believe it would be most appropriate and helpful to concentrate on air defense.

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(S) Because of my great interest in sharing our thoughts with you on this matter, I have asked Major General Richard Secord, my Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Near East and South Asia, and Brigadier General Andrew Cooley of our Joint Staff to discuss with you in greater detail ways we can work together in meeting serious threats to the Kingdom's security.

(U) Please accept my warm regards and best wishes for continued good health and success.

Sincerely,

James W. Buckley

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



July 26, 1982

His Royal Highness
Prince Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz
Second Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Defense and Aviation
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Your Royal Highness:

(S) During this time of utmost gravity and concern with respect to both the situation in Lebanon and the Iranian attack on Iraqi forces around Basra, I have been pleased and heartened to have the opportunity to consult with His Highness, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, and to receive through him an understanding of your views and concerns. I also appreciated the opportunity to discuss these vital matters with Prince Saud during his trip here last week. This is a time for close friends to consult together and work toward positive solutions to the difficult problems threatening our common interests. I am gratified at the vision and steadfastness demonstrated by you and by His Majesty King Fahd as we jointly pursue peace and stability in the area. I look forward to discussing these issues with you in person at an early date.

(S) The Iranian invasion of Iraq is particularly disturbing in our view because it heightens the threat to peace and security of other states in the Gulf region. As President Reagan stated in his July 16 letter to His Majesty King Fahd, "We will continue to support international efforts to achieve an early end to the hostilities between Iran and Iraq," but at the same time "we are ready to help support the security of Saudi Arabia and its Gulf state neighbors during the conflict." I have, in fact, discussed this very issue with Prince Bandar.

(S) We have done extensive work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to develop concepts and planning for active mutual cooperation in the defense of Saudi Arabia in the event of a serious threat to the Kingdom's security. Of course, we would join in your defense in this manner only under circumstances in which there was full and complete agreement between our two Governments, and our National Command Authority directed such action. In the current circumstances, we believe the first priority is our defense of the Kingdom, and that it would be most appropriate and helpful to concentrate on that. Our general concept and planning would provide, if you fully concurred, for operations by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy forces to work with Saudi air defense forces, particularly in the Eastern Province. Such augmentation, once requested and authorized, and given sufficient detailed and specific advance planning (just for one example,

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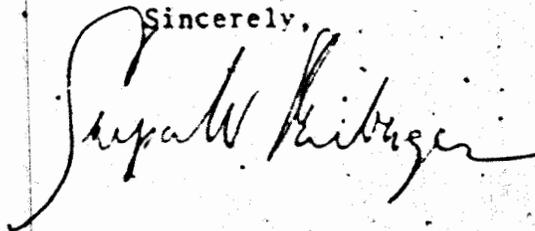
where would needed jet fuel be stored for war time use?), could be provided on very short notice, and could not only enhance the Kingdom's air defense capabilities, but could also free other Saudi Arabian Armed Forces elements for other operations required to defend the Kingdom.

(S) In addition to our in-place naval forces in the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean and our AWACS and aerial refueling aircraft in the Kingdom, these augmenting U.S. forces and actions could include: the increase and movement of in-place naval forces in the Indian Ocean up to the Gulf of Oman, closer to the Strait of Hormuz; the provision of the additional refueling aircraft necessary to provide fighter coverage for air defense augmentation; the provision of land-based fighter aircraft for strengthening defense; the provision of selected surface-to-air missile units for adding to air defense; and, if you concur, planning for the deployment, or preparation for deployment, of selected ground force units.

(S) Because of my great interest in sharing our thoughts with you on this matter, I have asked Major General Richard Secord, my Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Near East and South Asia, to deliver this letter to you personally. Additionally, in order to expand upon the points outlined in this letter, Major General Secord and Brigadier General Andrew Cooley of our Joint Staff are prepared to discuss with you in greater detail our concepts and planning for assisting you in meeting serious threats to the Kingdom's security.

(U) Please accept my warm regards and best wishes for continued good health and success. I greatly look forward to seeing you before long.

Sincerely,



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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

24 JUL 1982

I-24324/82



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

Coordinated with Dr. Ivie

SUBJECT: Planning with the Saudis (U) -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

~~(S)~~ Attached at Tab A is the revised version of your letter to Prince Sultan outlining our concepts and planning for assisting Saudi Arabia. The substance of the fourth paragraph of this letter was discussed by the JCS yesterday, and has been cleared by the Director, Joint Staff.

~~(S)~~ Attached at Tab B is the set of detailed talking points prepared by the Joint Staff for use by Major General Dick Secord and Brigadier General Andy Cooley in discussing this matter with Prince Sultan. These talking points were also discussed by the Chiefs yesterday and have been cleared by the Director, Joint Staff.

~~(S)~~ I have discussed this matter with Bud McFarlane, who has in turn discussed it with Judge Clark. According to Bud, Judge Clark likes the initiative and thinks that it would be of interest to the President. We have prepared a memo to the President.

~~(S)~~ If you approve, we will inform State on Monday. State has preferred that the President determine what commitments we are willing to make to Saudi Arabia's defense, before we permit anyone to talk to Sultan. State has called an Eagleburger SIG on this subject (and Secord's trip) for 1600, Monday afternoon. I think a discussion about commitments can be productive. But it need not drive (or stop) the Secord trip. Secord will make no commitments. He will go only after he receives his marching orders from Frank and from you.

(U) Next under is a memo for the President.

Attachments

Bing
9 Copy of R. Letter to P. Secord & P. Band
West

FRANCIS J. WEST, JR.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

DECLASSIFY ON: 24 Jul 88

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BY OSD

DATE 08 JUN 2009

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TALKING PAPER

SUBJECT: Talking Points for use by DoD Representative in Defense Planning Discussions with Senior Saudi Officials

- Specific initial measures to ensure AWACS coverage.
 - In-place naval forces in IO could be augmented and moved up close to the Strait of Hormuz/Gulf of Oman.
 - 6-7 KC-135s would be required to refuel carrier TACAIR or fighter cap.
- Primary goal: Assist Saudi Arabia to protect the Kingdom using existing contingency plans which are generally outlined below.
 - 1 TFW deployed to Saudi Arabia.
 - If time is a constraint, 1 SQDN could be deployed to Saudi Arabia within 24 hours, but would require considerable Saudi support since they do not have organic deployable support and mobility equipment.
 - Deployment of SAM units.
 - 1 HAWK BN (4 BTYS)
 - 1 Chaparral BN (-) (2 BTYS)
 - Additionally, USG could provide augmentation to Saudi in terms of equipment/personnel to maximize SA ground/air defense.
 - Intro of ground security units and on-call/pre-positioning of forces.
 - Deploy 1 ABN BN.
 - Pre-position NTPF within 2 days of POD in SA.
 - Deploy MAB within 48 hours.
 - ARG/MAU in position within 2 days of POD in SA.
 - Position MEDMAU in Eastern MED.
- US force deployment would require support in the form of water, POL, maintenance facilities and access to ports, the specifics of which would be the subject of subsequent military-to-military discussions.

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