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September 29, 1980

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Case No. _____

N. _____

Department No. _____

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FOR: AMBASSADOR WEST/GENERAL JONES

FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI (Following message prepared by SecState/SecDef)

1. If Fahd indicates both knowledge and support of the feelers on military assistance, you should respond as follows:

-- You should indicate that to shorten response time should an official Saudi request be made, the US has already started the movement of AWACS aircraft toward Saudi Arabia and is prepared to deploy four of them into Saudi Arabia if the USG receives an official request, with the first aircraft to arrive within about 24 hours. You should confirm that Saudi Arabia is making an official request.

-- You should indicate that we are prepared to strengthen Saudi air defenses. In the event of an official request, the US is prepared to engage immediately in urgent consultations on what would constitute the most appropriate active air defense improvement package. The details need to be discussed between General Jones and Saudi military authorities so that Washington can consider carefully and act promptly on this request. As in the case of AWACS, you should confirm that Saudi Arabia is making an official request for air defense help.

-- You may also indicate that, if requested, we could provide within 36-48 hours secure SATCOM voice and teletype terminals for Riyadh and Dahrn.

Dep. of State, ISS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify

Exemption (b)(), E.O. 12958, 25x() (Classified By USC)

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SEC DEF CONTR No. _____

IPSY HARE

Date _____

29 Sep 80

5/21/2009

Downgraded to Secret
Date 1/21/2013
by [signature]
Chief, Declassification Division, WHHS

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-- If asked about information on targets in Iran, you should discourage any such request and caution against the risks of widening the war.

-- In agreeing to provide this assistance, you should make clear that the US response to Saudi requests for US assistance in its defense is made on the assumption of continued Saudi neutrality in the Iran/Iraq war and Saudi support for our efforts to prevent widening the war, including discouraging Gulf states from serving as bases for Iraqi attacks on Iran. In addition, we will expect Saudi support for our efforts to protect freedom of navigation in the Gulf Straits area including possible international naval patrols should the need arise. You should draw on previous guidance in making these points.

2. You should also make clear our own policy toward the conflict, making the following points:

-- It is our view that widening of the conflict in any way is not in the interest of Saudi Arabia or any of the Gulf states. Recognizing Saudi Arabia's natural sympathies for other Arab states, we strongly believe it is in the interest of the Kingdom to lend every effort to bring about an end to the hostilities and to work strongly to avoid any action which would bring Iranian retaliation to the Kingdom or widen the conflict. We are being extremely careful not to take sides, or appear to take sides, in this conflict,

-- USG is working in every way that appears constructive to us to bring about prompt cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq.

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You should make the points on Oman in State 260382, adding that we have sent a Presidential message to Sultan Quaboos advising against Omani action that would make it a de facto belligerent. We would like Saudis to make similar demarche to Omanis.

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