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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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SECDEF BROWN SENDS

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY AS ALPHA 019

SUBJECT: SAUDI DISCUSSIONS

1. (S) YOU MAY CONSULT WITH SAG ON US ASSISTANCE TO ITS AIR DEFENSE WITHIN THE LIMITS INDICATED BELOW. YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT A FOLLOW-ON TEAM WILL PLAN TO COME FROM WASHINGTON IN A FEW DAYS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS SINCE YOUR SCHEDULE WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO STAY.

2. (S) YOU SHOULD INITIALLY LIMIT YOUR DISCUSSIONS TO THE SECOND REQUEST MADE BY CROWN PRINCE FAYD TO YOU AND AMBASSADOR WEST (I.E., QUOTING FROM YOUR CABLE TO ME) "TO ESTABLISH THE CS POSTURE NECESSARY TO FUSE ALL THE DISPARATE SAUDI AIR DEFENSE ELEMENTS." YOU WILL RECALL THAT YOU WERE PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED TO INDICATE THAT USG IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS AUGMENTATION.

3. (S) IF PRESSED TO GO FURTHER, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS OTHER POSSIBLE TEMPORARY US CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAUDI ARABIA'S GROUND BASED AIR DEFENSE EXCEPT THAT YOU ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS US COMBAT UNITS (E.G., US HAWK BATTERIES). YOU ARE ALSO NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS US AIRCRAFT. DETAILED MATERIAL ON IMPROVING THE AIR DEFENSE CS ENVIRONMENT, AND UPGRADING SAUDI SAM DEFENSE WILL BE SEPARATELY TRANSMITTED TO YOU BY JOHN PUSTAY TO HELP IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS.

4. (S) IF THE QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT OR US MANNED COMBAT UNITS FOR GROUND BASED AIR DEFENSE IS RAISED BY THE SAUDIS, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT, IF THE SAUDIS ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN SUCH ASSISTANCE,

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THEY SHOULD LET YOU KNOW SO THAT YOU CAN INFORM WASHINGTON, IN WHICH CASE THE FOLLOW-ON TEAM WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE SUBJECTS. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD TRY TO DEFLECT THEIR INTEREST FROM THESE SUBJECTS AND GET THEM TO FOCUS ON C3 AND SIMILAR IMPROVEMENTS.

5. ~~(S)~~ YOU SHOULD ALSO RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER, IF ONE OF THE NEIGHBORING GULF STATES ALSO ASKED THE US FOR AIR DEFENSE ASSISTANCE, THE SAUDIS WOULD, IN PRINCIPLE AND SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONSULTATION WHEN AND IF A SPECIFIC REQUEST IS RECEIVED, BE WILLING TO HAVE THE US AWACS BASED IN SAUDI ARABIA PROVIDE EARLY WARNING INFORMATION TO SUCH STATES.

6. ~~(S)~~ WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL NAVAL PATROL, YOU SHOULD WELCOME (AND RECONFIRM) SAUDI SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA, NOTE THAT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH UK, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BUT THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, ELICIT MORE SPECIFICS ON POSSIBLE SAUDI CONTRIBUTION, ESPECIALLY SAUDI WILLINGNESS TO SWEEP MINES (FYI: THEY HAVE THE BEST CAPABILITY FOR THIS; ON THE OTHER HAND, IT PROBABLY WON'T BE NECESSARY SINCE IRAN HAS NO MINES). YOU SHOULD ALSO ASK THEM TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION PROMPTLY ON ANY INDICATION OF INTERFERENCE WITH SHIPPING OR SHIP OWNER RELUCTANCE TO PROCEED TO NON-BELLIGERENT PORTS.

7. ~~(S)~~ YOU MAY ALSO, AT YOUR DISCRETION, PURSUE OVERBUILD, PREPOSITIONING, ETC.

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