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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1-22882/81

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Time and Place: 1100-1130, Tuesday, 9 June 1981, Room 3E928

Participants:

US

Secretary Weinberger
General David C. Jones, USAF,
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Mr. J. H. Rixse, Special Assistant
to SECDEF
Major General R. V. Secord, USAF
Deputy Assistant Secretary (ISA/NEASA)
(Acting)
Major General Charles L. Donnelly,
USAF, Chief, US Military Training
Mission to Saudi Arabia
Brig General Carl R. Smith, USAF,
Military Assistant to SECDEF
Mr. Abdul Azim Karaman, US Military
Training Mission Arab Affairs
Advisor and Interpreter
LtCol John H. Garrison, USAF,
ISA/NEASA (notataker)
LtCol Robert L. Sims, USAF,
Escort Officer

SAUDI ARABIA

General Muhammad al Saleh al-Hammad
Major General Sa'ad al-Mowaini, Dir.
of Operations, Royal Saudi Army
Brig General Ahmad A. Tayeb, Dir. of
Air Training, Royal Saudi Air Force
Colonel Mohammed Abdullah Nadi, Defense
and Armed Forces Attache, Embassy of
Saudi Arabia
Colonel Othman Khattab, Executive Asst
to General al-Hammad, Royal Saudi Army
Captain Zaki Abou Assaoud, Dir. of Plans,
Royal Saudi Navy
Captain Abdulaziz al-Musfer, Aide to
General al-Hammad, Royal Saudi Air
Force

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DISCUSSION:

(U) Secretary Weinberger welcomed General Hannad, noting that while this was not the General's first visit to the US, it was the first opportunity for them to meet. General Hannad expressed his thanks for the opportunity to meet with the Secretary, and particularly wished to thank General Jo is for making the opportunity possible. He also wished to convey Prince Sultan's greetings to Secretary Weinberger, and to reiterate Sultan's invitation to the Secretary to visit Saudi Arabia at any time he pleases. Secretary Weinberger stated that he was indeed looking forward to visiting the Kingdom sometime this fall.

~~Classified by DABD-NEASA~~
~~Review 9 June 1987~~
~~Reasons: DAB Reg 5200.1A para 2 30101.~~

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(d) Secretary Weinberger said that he was willing to discuss anything of interest to General Hammad, including our plans for gaining Congressional approval for the AMACS sale. General Hammad indicated that he would rather leave discussion of the AMACS aside, and that he really did not feel the need to discuss other matters since they were all in good hands. Secretary Weinberger emphasized that we are pushing ahead on the AMACS sale as vigorously as possible, through ongoing consultations and discussions with our Congress, and that we anticipate a successful conclusion to the matter.

(d) General Jones explained that General Hammad has much experience in the air defense field, and has been working hard on planning to integrate AMACS into the Saudi air defense system. He also has been working to develop a regional air defense concept for the friendly Gulf states. General Jones indicated that we have offered our assistance in this endeavor wherever it might be useful. Secretary Weinberger said that he has always felt that AMACS could contribute to regional air defense capabilities in the Gulf area, and he agreed that it was good to strive to organize a Gulf state regional air defense structure. General Hammad recounted a discussion he had yesterday with General Meyer, Army Chief of Staff, on regional air defense in the Gulf. Hammad had indicated that all nations in the Gulf region have their own requirements for air self-defense, but that they also look to Saudi Arabia for help. The region needs to have its own capability for air defense, in order to keep the nations of the area from the mercy of the "other side," but they also look to the US for help.

(d) Secretary Weinberger agreed with this point, indicating that we should help the nations of the region develop their defense capabilities. In this regard, he believed that the establishment of a Joint Military Commission (JMC) would be a good step to help contribute to this effort. General Hammad responded that it would be fine to have a JMC, but it would first be necessary to know what its mission would be; what it would be for? He said that we already have the US Military Training Mission (USMTM) which is doing an excellent job. To have a JMC come in before the new F-15 equipment and AMACS do, with nothing to work on, would be a waste of time. However, it would be good to have such a team come into the Kingdom after the new equipment is delivered. He summarized by saying that if we are to have a JMC, we must first know what it is to do. Secretary Weinberger agreed that we must first know what the JMC is to do, and that after the AMACS has been approved would be a good time to move ahead on this matter. He believed that creating such a JMC would be a good and useful consultative and coordinating device, but only if the Saudi Arabian Government (SAG) wanted it. If USMTM is doing the job adequately, we do not want to push the JMC on the SAG.

(d) General Jones explained that the thought behind the JMC was to address policy issues at a level above USMTM, involving senior US Department of Defense and Saudi Ministry of Defense and Aviation personnel to look at defense cooperation and needs in a manner that USMTM cannot. One area that would be helpful in this regard would be to move the Chief of USMTM from Dhahran to Riyadh, where most of his people, and most of the Saudi officials he deals with, are located. This would be a good first step in continuing the cooperative interface, and then we could move ahead to address continuing issues once a year or so at meetings of the JMC. Secretary Weinberger agreed, indicating that he hoped to meet with Prince Sultan about once a year, but that such meetings would really be useful on if the SAG thought so.

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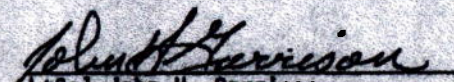
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(F) General Hammad recounted that the JMC issue was discussed by Prince Sultan and former Secretary Brown in Geneva last year, and suggested that he would like to leave major decisions on the JMC to His Highness and Secretary Weinberger when they meet later this year. However, he did review discussions with Mr. Koch (PDASD/ISA) on the JMC issue held earlier in the morning. During these discussions, he and Mr. Koch had agreed that OASD/ISA will draw up a suggested agenda of topics to be addressed in preparation for the Secretary's meeting with Prince Sultan later in the fall. This suggested agenda will be provided to USKTH in the weeks ahead for passing to the Saudis for consideration and additions or deletions. Once both sides have agreed to the topics on the agenda, this will then be used for discussions and meetings in preparation and planning for the meeting between the Secretary and Prince Sultan. Secretary Weinberger approved of this proposal.

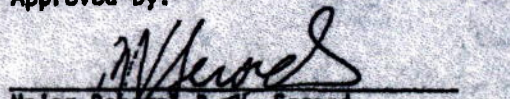
(G) General Hammad went on to state that as far as moving the Chief, USKTH was concerned, he had no objection. He feels that the USKTH Chief should be located at the place where he can be most effective. General Jones responded that he was pleased at General Hammad's view on this, adding that Major General Donnelly (current Chief, USKTH) feels strongly that he can be more effective located in Riyadh. General Hammad indicated that there would be no problem making the move from Dhahran.

(U) Following a further exchange of thanks and pleasantries, the meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:


LtCol John H. Garrison
OASD/ISA Notetaker

Approved by:


Major General B. V. Secord
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Near Eastern, African, and South
Asian Affairs

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