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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



July 26, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Defense Planning with the Saudis (U)

[REDACTED]

OSD 3.3(S)(9)S.S

SHADI AHADIAH

(S) Within the past ten days we finally obtained Saudi agreement to proceed with the first step in this effort, and a seven-man U.S. Coordination Planning Group arrived in Riyadh on July 21 to begin working with the Saudi Armed Forces [REDACTED]

(S) This past week, Prince Sultan, the Saudi Minister of Defense, asked me (both through his son, Prince Bandar, and Prince Saud, the Foreign Minister with whom I discussed these matters) to provide him with an explanation of how we would come to Saudi Arabia's assistance should there be a serious threat to the Kingdom's security. Specifically, he asked me to give him a letter outlining our concepts and planning in reasonably specific terms, to be followed by more detailed but low-keyed discussion in the Kingdom.

(S) At Tab A is a letter I plan to send to Prince Sultan. This letter clearly states that any decision to provide U.S. military assistance of this type must mutually be agreed beforehand by both the Saudi Government and the U.S. Government. We have provided State and the NSC with copies. If you concur, I intend that this letter be delivered personally to Sultan by my Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Near East and South Asia, Major General Richard Secord. He would be prepared for more technical discussions of how we plan to assist Saudi Arabia, based upon talking points prepared by the JCS (at Tab B). He plans to arrive in Saudi Arabia on July 27 or 28.

~~Classified by [redacted]~~
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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 16 2019

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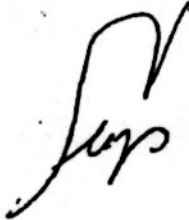
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~~(S)~~ This letter and discussion with Prince Sultan do not commit us to any course of action without further review and mutual agreement, a point that will be stressed, but do imply that we will assist Saudi Arabia in a crisis. While we do not want to over-emphasize the importance of this request by Sultan, our positive response should be another step in moving forward our strategic relationship with the Saudis. It may also lead to necessary cooperative planning that is so vital for the implementation of our Southwest Asia strategy.



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Date: SEP 16 2019

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 16 Sep 2019 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552
Declassify: _____ Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: X _____
Reason: 3.3(D)(5)(C) _____
MDR: B -M- HL3



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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

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 16 2019

Your Royal Highness:

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.

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.

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.

[REDACTED]

detailed and specific advance planning (just for one example,

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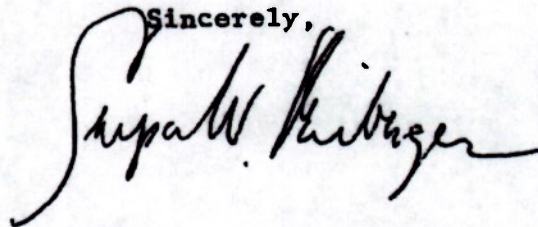
where would needed jet fuel be stored for war time use?), [REDACTED]

(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: [REDACTED]

(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 N.I.C.*

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

~~407~~ 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.

~~407~~ 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.

~~407~~ 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.

~~407~~ 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

Benj:
4 copies of the letter to P. Secord
should go to P. Band...

[Signature]
FRANCIS J. WEST, JR.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)

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