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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



21 JUN 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: My Meeting with Prince Sultan, Saudi Arabia, 17 June 1982

This is a report on a meeting I had with Prince Sultan, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Defense, at his home in Riyadh on June 17, 1982. The discussion continued the themes expressed the previous night and early that morning by King Fahd during our two and a half hour meeting with him at which Prince Sultan had also been present.

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[REDACTED]

We discussed briefly his earlier request of me for an M-1 tank to be brought to Saudi Arabia so it could be demonstrated. When I told him that we would be glad to demonstrate it in the United States and then bring it to Saudi Arabia, he said he wanted it in Saudi Arabia to be tested during the heat and in the desert, but that he would send instructions to the Chief of Staff to arrange a group to come to the United States to see it here.

Prince Sultan also raised with me their strong need for enhancements of the F-15 fighter planes because as he put it, conditions have now changed drastically, and "We (Saudi Arabia) feel that it is even more necessary that we strengthen our air defenses after we have seen what happened to Lebanon." He asked particularly for the LANCE missile or something like it. I told him that we felt the LANCE missile was somewhat obsolete now and he said, "Of course it is. It's been 10 years that we have been asking for it." He mentioned specifically multiple ejection racks and improved command and control equipment and training.

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He said that he only raised these points reluctantly, and because we had had the discussion about the tank, because he knew this was a condolence call. Nevertheless, he thought it proper, since we had discussed the tank, for us to know the strength of their needs and of their request, and of the urgent need they felt for this equipment now.

[REDACTED]

Later his son, Bandar, who was also present during the meeting, asked to come to the airport with me, and during the ride explained that the translation of his father's remarks, and of my remarks into Arabic, was not giving the full flavor of the feelings. Bandar said that his father's remarks indicated a much warmer feeling toward the United States, and that none of my remarks concerning the really vital importance of the United States maintaining a strong, warm relationship with Saudi Arabia were getting through.

[REDACTED]

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Bandar said specifically that his father had various meetings with the King before our visit to the King the previous night. He said that many of the King's brothers had urged the King to be very anti-U.S. in his statements to us, but that King Fahd had considered it carefully and said to him, "Would this really represent what I feel?"

[REDACTED]

Bandar said that his father reported particularly the strong humanitarian instincts of King Fahd and how extremely distressing the casualties in Lebanon were to him, and indeed to the whole Royal family, and that it was vital that we do everything within our power to stop the killing and the aggression,

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They all support a strong, sovereign Lebanon, with Lebanon deciding whether it wants Palestinians to live in Lebanon or not.

Bandar said that it would be far more effective if American government spokesmen would say, rather than "all foreign troops must get out of Lebanon", that we would "try to get the Lebanese government to ask for the withdrawal of all troops, including the Syrians". This is because the new Lebanese government may well want to offer the Palestinian people, as opposed to the Palestinian military, an enclave or some similar homeland within Lebanon.

During my meeting with Prince Sultan, he indicated he had no problems with the meetings and continuation of the contingency planning group or the "coordination planning group" established when I was there. In fact, that will mean he will have no objection to its beginning its work since it is not really under way yet. Also, Prince Sultan indicated no problem with their signature on the final portion of the AWACS agreement which relates to general security of military information.

Finally; Bandar stated that King Fahd had greatly appreciated your call to Prince Bandar here in this country.



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