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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Summary of the Meeting between the Omani Foreign Minister and Secretary Shultz (U) - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Secretary Shultz met yesterday with Yusuf al-Alawi, the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, with whom you will meet October 7 at 10:30. The following summarizes the issues they discussed:

President Reagan's Peace Initiative. Alawi found it encouraging, and Oman is urging the other Arabs to support it, expressing the sentiment that we must stand by our friends.

Middle East Problem and Lebanon. Oman's position remains unchanged from that outlined in your briefing book at TAB D, with one new concern voice by Alawi: that if the Palestinians are forced out of Lebanon, they will seek refuge in the lower Gulf countries and create unrest there.

Security Relationship. Alawi expressed satisfaction with our growing relationship, which he described as going smoothly, although noting that technical difficulties develop from time to time. We should not let smaller details (such as the issue mentioned next under) upset our larger relationship.

Operations and Maintenance Cost Sharing. Alawi believes that we are planning to bear our fair share; however, we have based our formula for cost sharing on actual use, and thus it is not successful. He argues that we have upgraded facilities often for use by types of equipment which are in our possession but not in the Omani Air Force; thus they would not use those facilities and therefore we should maintain them exclusively. (FYI. Our position paper on O & M at TAB B-1 reflects that we intend to pay 100% of the cost of maintaining facilities designed exclusively for our use.)

Secretary Shultz offered some encouragement to Alawi's basic position that the US should be willing to pay these costs. He offered to look into the matter, noting that Alawi would be meeting with you, and recommending he discuss the subject at that time.

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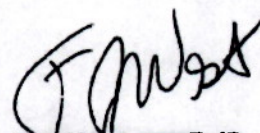
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US Military Relationships in the Region. Alawi encouraged us to expand our military relationships with the other Gulf countries, and offered his assistance in this effort. In particular, he mentioned our desire to establish the RDF Forward Headquarters Element in Bahrain. Secretary Shultz said that we had not begun discussions with the Bahrainis on this subject nor did we have any plans to do so.



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

cc: USDP

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