

Scowcroft

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OPENING OF SPECIAL
MEETING OF ARAB OIL
STATES ON OCT 16.

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MIDEAST-OIL

KUWAIT, OCT. 13, REUTER -- KUWAIT TODAY CONFIRMED THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF ARAB OIL STATES WILL OPEN HERE ON TUESDAY TO DISCUSS USE OF OIL AS AN INDIRECT WEAPON IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AFTER KUWAIT'S FINANCE AND OIL MINISTER, MR ABDEL-RAHMAN AL-ATIQI, HAD REPORTED TO THE CABINET ON THE RESPONSE OF OTHER PRODUCER STATES TO A KUWAITI CALL FOR THE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE.

OFFICIALS SAID THIS MINISTERIAL GATHERING WOULD BE QUITE SEPARATE FROM CONSULTATIONS HERE, SCHEDULED TO START THE SAME DAY, BETWEEN GULF OIL STATES WHICH HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING IN VIENNA THIS WEEK FOR HIGHER CRUDE PRICES.

THE COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY LISTED.

THE ORGANIZATION OF ARAB PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OAPEC) HAS TEN MEMBERS. IN ADDITION THERE ARE TWO OTHER PRODUCERS IN THE LOWER GULF -- DUBAI, WHICH DROPPED ITS OAPEC MEMBERSHIP, AND SHARJAH, SHARING WITH IRAN REVENUE FROM OIL AROUND ABU MUSA ISLAND.

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TWO KUWAIT NEWSPAPERS TODAY URGED ALL ARAB PRODUCERS TO USE THEIR OIL WITHOUT DELAY AS A WEAPON IN THE WAR, PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

THE ARABIC-LANGUAGE AL-QABAS ALSO ECHOED A CALL TWO DAYS AGO BY THE OIL WORKERS UNION HERE, AND KUWAITI PARLIAMENTARIANS DEMANDS, FOR TAKEOVER OF AMERICAN OIL INTERESTS -- THE GULF OIL SHARE IN THE KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (KOC), FOR EXAMPLE.

AL-QABAS SAID: "IF AMERICA DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES, THEN HOW CAN AMERICA ASK OTHERS TO PROTECT ITS RIGHTS?"

"ON EVERY OCCASION, AMERICA HAS GIVEN MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO ISRAEL, AND IN THIS WAR THE U.S. IS SENDING VOLUNTEERS TO ISRAEL."

"AMERICA HAS GIVEN 1.1 BILLION DOLLARS TO ISRAEL DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS," AL-QABAS ADDED. "WHERE DID THIS MONEY COME FROM? . . . IT CAME FROM ARAB OIL COUNTRIES."

ANOTHER KUWAIT DAILY, AL-RAI AL-AAM, SAID DAYS WERE PASSING, AND STILL NO MOVE HAD BEEN MADE TO STOP THE FLOW OF ARAB OIL TO THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES SIDING WITH ISRAEL.

"THE U.S. IS PRACTICALLY TAKING PART IN THE WAR AGAINST US," IT DECLARED. "IT IS UNCEASINGLY SENDING ARMS TO ISRAEL TO CONTINUE ITS KILLING OF ARABS. . . ."

"NOW IS THE TIME FOR ARAB OIL TO BE USED IN THE BATTLE. LET US STOP THE FLOW TODAY, NOT TOMORROW."

REUTER GR/MIT 1009

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