

Saudi

~~SECRET~~

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PRIORITY

DE [] #0337 0421416
P 111347Z FEB 74
FM JIDDA

25X1

TO WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET~~ 111347Z FEB 74 []

25X1

FROM AMBASSADOR AKINS, JIDDA 337
TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

1. THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN ON SOWAYEL WERE WORTHWHILE. HE HAD TOLD HIS GOVERNMENT THAT HE HAD AN IMPORTANT NEW MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NIXON FOR THE KING AND THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO DELIVER IT PERSONALLY TO HIS MAJESTY. HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT IT WAS ONLY THE ORIGINAL OF THE MESSAGE I HAD GIVEN TO THE KING THE PREVIOUS DAY (FEB 06).

2. DID THE PRESIDENT MENTION TO SOWAYEL THAT THE ORIGINAL HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO THE KING? I GATHER FROM YOUR LETTER THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRESIDENT ASKED HIM TO DELIVER THE LETTER PERSONALLY.

3. OMAR SAQQAF ASKED IF THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED SOWAYEL BEFORE 10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING - "THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME CHANCE THAT HE WAS SOBER THAT EARLY" AND SAID HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO GET THE STRAIGHT STORY. IT HAD STRUCK HIM AND OTHERS HERE MOST STRANGELY THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD CHOOSE THIS NEW CHANNEL FOR AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE.

4. I LEFT RIYADH YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (FEB 10) AND SOWAYEL WASN'T DUE IN TILL YESTERDAY EVENING. I EXPECT TO SEE SAQQAF TOMORROW AND HE WILL BRIEF ME ON WHAT SOWAYEL SAID. I DON'T THINK IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE WHAT HE SAYS, AS I GAVE SAQQAF COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO ME AND HE SAID HE WOULD PASS IT ON TO THE KING.

5. THE LETTER I GAVE HIM WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY FLESHED OUT. I MUST CONFESS THOUGH THAT I ADDED A BIT OF SELF-AGGRANDIZEMENT: "AL HAIG SENDS HIS GREETINGS." I HAD THOUGHT OF MAKING IT "DICK SENDS HIS GREETINGS" BUT HURRIS DOESN'T CARRY ME QUITE THAT FAR-YET.

6. WARM REGARDS,

300

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

***** W H S R C O M M E N T *****

HAK, SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, RODMAN

State Dept. review completed

MORI/CDF
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RECALLED
PAGE 01

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