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FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T SENSITIVE VIA

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T0HAK 164

MAY 13, 1974

TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: AMBASSADOR EILTS, CAIRO 151

1. WHEN WITH FAHMY AND MARWAN AT 0200 THIS MORNING, MARWAN AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR VISITING KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, QATAR AND BAHREIN. WHILE PROFESSING TO RECOGNIZE THE TIME PRESSURE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE OPERATING, BOTH CONTENDED THAT A VISIT TO THE GULF STATES COULD BE DONE IN 24 HOURS. THEY FEAR THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WILL MAKE THE JUNE 1 ARAB PETROLEUM MINISTERS' MEETING DIFFICULT TO MANAGE, ESPECIALLY IF SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT DOES NOT WORK OUT AT THIS TIME. IF IT DOES WORK OUT, THEY VIEW IT AS A DESIRABLE TRIUMPHAL TOUR WHICH "CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF GULF POLITICS." THEY ARE DIVIDED ON VISIT TO KUWAIT. FAHMY STILL THINKS IT INADVISABLE. MARWAN CLAIMS THE ENTIRE KUWAITI ARMY IS ON THE ALERT AND THAT WITH EGYPTIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES NOW THERE, SECURITY SITUATION IS MANAGEABLE. AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY DONE, MARWAN SUGGESTED THAT KUWAIT BE NO MORE THAN AN AIRPORT STOP, AND THAT SIMILAR AIRPORT STOPS BE MADE AT ABU DHABI, QATAR (DOHA) AND BAHREIN. THIS MORNING MARWAN TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT SHARES HIS VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR VISITING THE GULF STATES ON THIS TRIP IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

MORI/CDF
C03345625

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

2. A TRIP BY YOU TO THE GULF STATES WOULD, IN MY JUDGEMENT, BE DESIRABLE IN PRINCIPLE. UNFORTUNATELY, OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS APPEAR TO HAVE PROMISED THE GULF RULERS, WHO WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE YOU VISIT THEM, THAT THEY CAN PRODUCE YOU. AS A RESULT, SADAT'S PERSONAL PRESTIGE IS ENGAGED IN YOUR APPEARING THERE. THERE IS NO DOUBT, TOO, THAT IF SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT DEVELOPS, A VISIT

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

MCFARLANE, SECFILE

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TO THE GULF STATES, HOWEVER BRIEF, COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EFFECT.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THERE ARE TWO ALTERNATIVES:

(A) IF YOUR OVERBURDENED SCHEDULE DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS SOMEHOW PERMITS YOU TO MAKE A BRIEF "WHISTLE STOP" VISIT TO THE FOUR GULF STATES, YOU COULD PERHAPS ARRANGE TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS FOR AN HOUR OR TWO AT AIRPORTS. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE ALL FOUR STATES. IF YOU WENT TO QATAR, ABU DHABI AND BAHREIN AND NOT TO KUWAIT, THE KUWAITIS WOULD TAKE IT NOT SIMPLY AS A SNUB, BUT AS HAVING CAUSED THEM TO LOSE BEFORE THE ARAB WORLD THAT ALL IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF "FACE." I SEE LITTLE VIRTUE IN TAKING THE TIME TO GO TO MUSCAT.

(B) IF IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO, I BELIEVE A WARM LETTER FROM YOU TO THE RULERS OF THESE STATES INDICATING THAT YOU HAD VERY MUCH HOPED ON THIS TRIP TO BE ABLE TO VISIT THEM, BUT THAT YOU NOW REGRETFULLY FIND THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS AND YOUR NEED TO RETURN PRECLUDE THIS. HOWEVER, YOU LOOK FORWARD TO A VISIT ON YOUR NEXT TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST AREA. THIS IS A SECOND BEST ALTERNATIVE, BUT I THINK IT IS SALEABLE. SHOULD YOU HAVE TO OPT FOR THIS SECOND COURSE, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO SEND PRESIDENT SADAT COPIES OF YOUR MESSAGES TO THE GULF RULERS AND ASK HIS ASSISTANCE IN EXPLAINING YOUR INABILITY TO VISIT THESE PLACES AT THIS TIME.

4. WARM REGARDS.

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