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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

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MORI/CDF

~~SECRET/EXDIS (GDS)~~

April 3, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

HAROLD H. SAUNDERS *HL*

WILLIAM B. QUANDT *W.B.*

SUBJECT:

Letter to the President from the Amir of Kuwait

State has forwarded the original of a letter from Kuwaiti Amir Sabah to the President. The letter is a response to the President's January 9 message to heads of oil producing states.

The letter warns against a confrontation between oil producing and consuming countries, but includes little else of note other than one offensive paragraph alluding to "unfounded allegations, provocations and pointless threats which high officials of your Administration have persisted in directing against the Arab nation."

There is no reason to reply to the letter. Our Ambassador has already raised the offensive language with the Kuwaiti foreign ministry. This does not seem to be the time to pursue confrontation with the Kuwaitis.

RECOMMENDATION: That Amir Sabah's letter to the President be filed without a reply.


_____ Approve

_____ Prepare a draft reply.

State Dept. and NSS review completed

~~SECRET/EXDIS (GDS)~~

MORI PER C03353494



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

March 2, 1974

SECRET/EXDIS

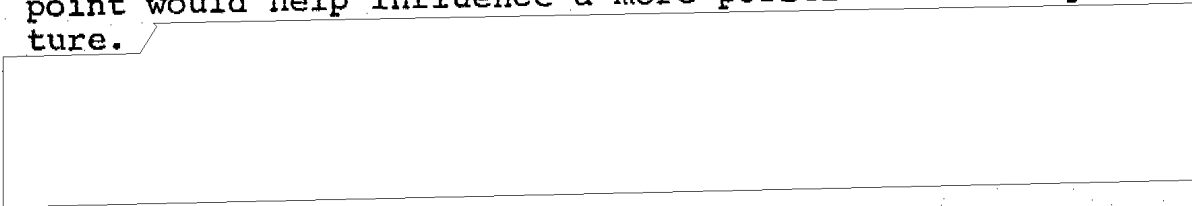
MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter to the President from the
Ruler of Kuwait

Attached is a letter to the President from the Ruler of Kuwait, Amir Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah. It was handed to Under Secretary Sisco on February 20 by the Amir's son, Shaykh Salem, who is Kuwaiti Ambassador here.

The Ruler's letter is in response to the President's January 9 letter to the heads of oil producing states regarding the Energy Conference. An advanced text of the Ruler's letter, and our own Ambassador's comments on it, were received on February 12 in Embassy Kuwait's cables 568 and 572, both attached.

As anticipated, the original copy of the Ruler's letter delivered February 20 retains an inappropriate and offensively worded fifth paragraph. However, in that our Ambassador has already made the necessary counter points, we do not believe anything we might say at this point would help influence a more positive Kuwaiti posture.



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Also on the positive side, the GOK has recently (1) reassured us of its intentions to continue to hold in prison the five Palestinian terrorists involved in the Rome attack pending trial in another Arab country; (2) expressed strong interest in a bilateral civil air agreement; and (3) indicated, in spite of the continuing problems of the Middle East, that it is still interested enough in US assistance in developing a defense capability

SECRET/EXDIS

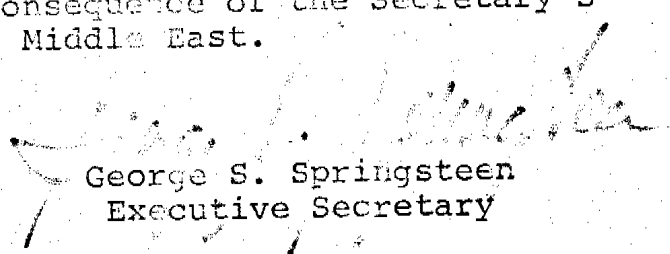
GDS--DECLAS DEC. 31, 1982

SECRET/ENDES

2

to send approximately 100 of its air force personnel here for English language training, which it hopes can subsequently lead to flight training.

Thus, for the time being, we believe we should defer any further reaction to the Kuwait Ruler's reply to the President's letter about the Energy Conference and wait to see what sort of posture the Kuwaitis adopt on rescission of the oil embargo as a consequence of the Secretary's current initiative in the Middle East.


George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Letter to President
 2. Kuwait 568 and 572
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Department of State

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SECRET 192

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00568 121349Z

50
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

002453

O 121317Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8753

S E C R E T KUWAIT 0568

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG
SUBJ: AMTR'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE RE ENERGY CONFERENCE

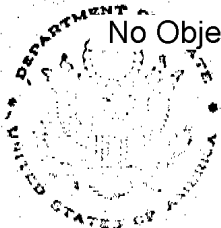
REF: STATE 04156

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON FROM
OF KUWAIT IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S JAN 9 MESSAGE (REFTEL)

RE FEB 11 MEETING OF MAJOR OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES IN WASHINGTON.
THE LETTER IS DATED 5 FEB, DELIVERED TO EMBASSY FEB 10 AND
RELEASED BY FONMTR (SEE SEPTEL) FEB 12. ORIGINAL HAS BEEN
POUCHED TO KUWAIT EMBASSY, WASHINGTON.

2. QTE: MR. PRESIDENT: WHILE WE APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE OF
JANUARY 9, 1974, NOTHING WOULD PLEASE KUWAIT MORE THAN TO TAKE
PART IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO ANY CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE EFFORT
EXERTED TOWARDS ESTABLISHING NEW MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AND RELATED ECONOMIC MATTERS. WE
AGREE WITH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE NEED FOR SUCH EFFORTS
IS MOST URGENT. RECOGNIZING THIS, OUR MINISTER OF FINANCE
AND OIL, HAS ALREADY AS FAR BACK AS LAST JUNE, SUPPORTED THE
HOLDING OF SUCH A MEETING ATTENDED BY ALL NATIONS, PARTICULARLY
BOTH THE MAJOR OIL CONSUMING AND OIL PRODUCING ONES, TO DISCUSS
THE SUBJECT AND SEEK APPROPRIATE SOLUTION.

IN OUR OPINION, HOWEVER, TO BE TRULY CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRUITFUL
THESE EFFORTS SHOULD BE REALLY INTERNATIONAL IN CHARACTER FROM



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THE VERY START, IT IS ESSENTIAL NOT TO CONDUCT THESE EFFORTS IN A MANNER LEADING TO THE POLARITY OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD INTO TWO OPPOSITE BLOCS, OIL CONSUMING NATIONS OPPOSING OIL PRODUCING NATIONS. FOR SUCH A POLARIZATION CAN LEAD ONLY TO A CONFRONTATION INSTEAD OF LEADING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION NECESSARY FOR WORLD PEACE AND PROSPERITY. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, WE INTEND TO TAKE PART IN ANY INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE GENERAL PROBLEM, WORLD ENERGY, AS A WHOLE. THIS WAS CLEARLY SHOWN IN THE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MINISTERS CONFERENCE OF THE OPEC STATES IN GENEVA ON JANUARY 19, 1974.

AS REGARDS THE PARTICULAR PROBLEM OIL, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FUTURE OIL SUPPLY AND PRICES COULD OR SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ISOLATED FROM SUPPLIES AND PRICES OF COMMODITIES AND MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GOODS TRADED INTERNATIONALLY, OR FROM THE FLOW OF TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW, SKILLS AND THEIR COSTS, OR FROM SYSTEMS OF WORLD MONETARY AND CAPITAL MOVEMENTS IN THE FUTURE. A NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL POLICY THAT ATTEMPTS TO IGNORE ANY OR ALL OF THESE FACTORS WILL ACTUALLY BE MEANINGLESS AND DOOMED TO FAILURE.

BUT AS TO THE PLACE WHERE THESE WIDE-RANGING AND FAR-REACHING ISSUES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED, WE THINK THAT THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SPECIALIZED ORGANS ARE THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR SUCH. SUSPICIONS WOULD THERE BE ALLAYED, CONFIDENCE AND HOPE WOULD BE INCREASED THAT TRULY FAIR AND EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE TO STAND FOR THE FUTURE.

INDEED, MR. PRESIDENT, NOTHING COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE DESIRED FRIENDLY COOPERATION BETWEEN US, MORE THAN THOSE UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS, PROVOCATIONS AND POINT-LESS THREATS WHICH HIGH OFFICIALS OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION HAVE RECENTLY PERSISTED IN DIRECTING AGAINST THE ARAB NATION. IT IS REGRETTED THAT SUCH A THING HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO HAPPEN.

WE BELIEVE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH ITS HUGE POSSIBILITIES IN DIFFERENT FIELDS, IS CAPABLE OF DOING A GREAT DEAL FOR THE REALIZATION OF A WORLD IN WHICH UNDERSTANDING AND PROSPERITY PREVAIL.

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PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY BEST REGARDS AND HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION. (SGD.) SABAH AL-SALEM AL-SABAH, AMIR OF KUWAIT.
UNQTE.
STOLTZFAU



Department of State

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SECRET 236

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00572 121424Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
----- 002814

O 121408Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8756

S E C R E T KUWAIT 0572

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM STOLZFUS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG
SUBJ: AMTR'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER RE ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: A) KUWAIT 0568; B) STATE 04156

1. REF A CONTAINS TEXT OF AMIR OF KUWAIT'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S JAN 9 LETTER TO HIM RE FEB 11 ENERGY CONFERENCE. AS SOON AS I RECEIVED COPY OF IT (SIGNED ORIGINAL SENT KUWAITI AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON), I CALLED UP FONMIN SABAH DURING CABINET MEETING FEB 10. I TOLD HIM THAT WHILE I DID NOT WISH APPEAR RE TELLING GOK HOW TO WRITE ITS LETTERS, I THOUGHT THIRD FROM LAST PARA COMPLAINTING OF "UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS, PROVOCATIONS, AND POINTLESS THREATS" OF HIGH USG OFFICIALS WAS OFFENSIVE, DETRACTED FROM MAIN THRUST OF LETTER, AND WAS CALCULATED ONLY TO IRRITATE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY. FONMIN SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN LETTER BUT WOULD READ IT AND BE IN TOUCH LATER IN DAY.

2. WHEN I SAW FONMIN AND UNDERSEC RASHID THAT AFTERNOON, THEY SAID WORDS SUCH AS "BLACKMAIL" MADE LIFE VERY DIFFICULT FOR GOK, AND AMIR FELT OBLIGED TO REFER TO "PROBLEM" OF US STATEMENTS WHICH INTERPRETED BY ARABS AS PRESSURE TACTIC. I REITERATED MY PERSONAL VIEW PARAGRAPH WAS OFFENSIVE. I ASKED WHEN PROVOCATIVE KUWAITI STATEMENTS WERE GOING TO STOP AND WHEN POSITIVE KUWAITI WORDS AND DEEDS IN SUPPORT OF US EFFORT IN MIDEAST WERE GOING TO START. I SAID I CONSIDERED IMPORTANT

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PART OF FONMIN'S AND MY JOBS TO BE AVOIDANCE OF POLEMICS AND SEIZING ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PUBLIC GOVT POSITIONS. FONMIN ASKED ME TO HOLD UP ON SENDING LETTER TO DEPT AND HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO.

3. AT AIRPORT TO GREET MOBUTU FEB 12, UNDERSEC RASHID SAID HE INSTRUCTED TELL ME ON BEHALF OF FONMIN SABAH THAT FONMIN HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH CROWN PRINCE/PM WHO HAD COMMENTED THAT HE APPRECIATED MY RAISING SUBJECT AND HE AGREED I HAD A POINT. TROUBLE WAS AMIR HAD ALREADY DISPATCHED LETTER TO HIS SON (THE AMBASSADOR) IN WASHINGTON. RASHID SAID CROWN PRINCE AND FONMIN BOTH WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT THEY WOULD HAVE FAVORED DELETION OF OFFENDING PARAGRAPH AND THAT THEY RECOGNIZED DAMAGE THAT COULD BE DONE TO RELATIONS WITH US THROUGH NEEDLESSLY CRITICAL STATEMENTS.

4. I WAS UNABLE TO TONE DOWN AMIR'S LETTER, BUT PERHAPS I AT LEAST STRUCK ANOTHER BLOW IN HIGH GOK CIRCLES FOR MORE TEMPERATE KUWAITI REACTIONS TO OUR CURRENT MIDEAST AND ENERGY INITIATIVES.
STOLTZFUS

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