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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 24 OF 22 JANUARY

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YOUR TEL NO 14; MESSAGE TO THE AMIR.

1. I TOOK THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE AMIR THIS MORNING, HIS LAST WORKING DAY BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT. HE READ CAREFULLY THROUGH THE TRANSLATION WE HAD PROVIDED, AND WAS CLEARLY GREATLY PLEASED BY THE FACT AS WELL AS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LETTER.

2. HE LAUGHTED OUT LOUD OVER THE PASSAGE ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION TRYING TO DESTABILISE THE REGION, AND COMMENTED THAT THE P M WAS VERY ROUGH WITH THE RUSSIANS. I ASKED HIM WHETHER HE DID NOT SHARE THAT OPINION. HE REPLIED "100%".

3. WHEN HE CAME TO THE PARAGRAPH REGARDING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GULF STATES ("YOUR HIGHNESS WILL KNOW THAT....."), HE SAID THAT HE COULD TELL ME THAT SUCH COOPERATION WAS BEING STEPPED UP CONSIDERABLY. ON 4 FEBRUARY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OMAN, THE EMIRATES, QATAR, BAHRAIN, KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA WOULD MEET IN SAUDI ARABIA TO COORDINATE AND GIVE SUBSTANCE TO MANY FACETS OF THEIR JOINT RELATIONS AND ECONOMIES. IRAQ WAS NOT TO BE INCLUDED AS YET. (HE MADE THE GESTURE OF SETTING SOMETHING ASIDE).

4. ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, HE ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS VERY WARM APPRECIATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AND ASSURE HER THAT HE WOULD BE REPLYING TO HER LETTER MORE FULLY IN DUE COURSE. SHE WOULD BE MOST WELCOME TO VISIT QATAR AT ANY TIME SHE COULD MANAGE. (HE DID NOT QUERY WHEN SHE COULD COME HERE, THOUGH I SPOKE TO ISSA KAWARI, HIS CHEF DE CABINET, LATER, IN THE SENSE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS IN YOUR TEL NO 28 TO JEDDA). BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO URGE THAT SHE CAME TO QATAR TO SEE FOR HERSELF THE PROGRESS THAT THE COUNTRY WAS MAKING, AND OBTAIN A PERSONAL INSIGHT ACCORDINGLY. HE REMARKED THAT ONE COULD READ ALL THE BRIEFS IN THE WORLD, BUT STILL GAIN A VERY DIFFERENT PERCEPTION FROM PERSONAL INSIGHT OF A PLACE. HE HOPED PARTICULARLY THAT MRS THATCHER COULD SEE THE INDUSTRIAL AREA AT UMM SAID (NOW A SPECIAL POINT OF PRIDE WITH HIM), AND MEET THE BRITISH COMMUNITY HERE TO SEE HOW THEY FOUND IT LIVING AND WORKING HERE.

5. LATER IN OUR TALK, HE REMARKED THAT SHAIKH ABDULLAH AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES HAD BEEN HAVING A GOOD VISIT TO THE UK, A POINT LATER CONFIRMED SEPERATELY BY ISSA KAWARI.

6. HE HAD ALSO BEEN INTERESTED AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR DISCUSSION IN H M GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH IRAN. HE CHARACTERISED ONCE AGAIN THE IRANIAN BEHAVIOUR OVER THE U S HOSTAGE AS TOTALLY REPUGNANT TO THE SPIRIT AND PRACTICE OF ISLAM. THE IRANIANS HAD BEHAVE EXACTLY LIKE KIDNAPPERS, THOUGH ON A LARGER SCALE.

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7. SINCE THE AMIR WAS SHORTLY TO LEAVE FOR TAIF, I FOREBORE TO WORK HIM ROUND TO THE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM. BUT I HAD EARLIER WARNED ISSA KAWARI THAT THOUGH I HAD EVERY HOPE THAT IF A CONTRACT FOR RAPIER WERE CONCLUDED FAIRLY RAPIDLY, SOME EQUIPMENT COULD BE DELIVERED SOON, THE WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL INTEREST NOW DEVELOPING IN RAPIER MENAT THAT OUR ABILITY TO DO SO WOULD BECOME PROGRESSIVELY LESS CERTAIN. HE TOOK THE POINT, AND HAD UNDERTAKEN TO REPORT IT TO SHAIKH KHALIFA, WHICH I HAVE NO DOUBT HE DID. SINCE THE QATARI MILITARY DELEGATION IS DUE BACK TONIGHT, I RECOMMENDED THE AMIR'S RETURN SHOULD BE THE SIGNAL FOR A RENEWED APPROACH ON THIS SUBJECT.

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