

Iraq

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 PS/SIR I GILMOUR
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/FUS
 SIR E YOUDE
 SIR J GRAHAM
 MR J C MOBERLY
 MR BRAITHWAITE
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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 647 OF 6 OCTOBER

INFO PRIORITY BAGHDAD, WASHINGTON AND JEDDA - ROUTINE TEL AVIV,

UKMIS NEW YORK AND AMMAN

INFO SAVING KHARTOUM, TRIPOLI AND DAMASCUS

IRAN/IRAQ WAR

1. WHEN I ACCOMPANIED MR DAVID STEEL AND A GROUP OF LIBERALS TO CALL ON PRESIDENT SADAT ON 4 OCTOBER, SADAT WAS ASKED ABOUT THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR. HE SAID HE REMAINED ABSOLUTELY NEUTRAL AND CONDEMNED BOTH SIDES. THEY WERE IRRESPONSIBLE AND WOULD BOTH SUFFER. IT LOOKED AS IF IRAQ WAS IN FOR TROUBLE HAVING UNDER-ESTIMATED THE CAPACITY OF THE IRANIAN AIRFORCE. SYRIA, LIBYA AND ALGERIA WERE OPPOSING IRAQ. NOW IRAN WAS WRONGLY THREATENING THE SMALLER GULF STATES. THESE NO LONGER HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. THE SITUATION PRESENTED GREAT DANGERS, THEREFORE, AND THE WEST SHOULD BE ALERT TO IT THAT THE CONFESSION DID NOT SPREAD. HE WOULD

2. THE SITUATION PRESENTED GREAT DANGERS, THEREFORE, AND THE WEST SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT THE CONFLAGRATION DID NOT SPREAD. HE WOULD REVEAL A SECRET WHICH HE HAD NOT REVEALED PUBLICLY BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR SAUDI ARABIA, BUT HE KNEW THAT WHEN SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD VISITED SAUDI ARABIA RECENTLY HE HAD WARNED THE SAUDIS OF HIS INTENTIONS AND THEY HAD PASSED THIS TO THE AMERICANS. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DONE NOTHING. IN THIS SITUATION THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE MORE RESOLUTE. HE HAD EXPRESSED HIMSELF VEHEMENTLY TO THIS EFFECT IN AN INTERVIEW AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAD COMPLAINED TO HIM, JUST NOW, THAT THIS WAS REFLECTING BADLY ON HIM (CARTER). CARTER WAS A GOOD FRIEND, THOUGH HESITANT, AND SADAT DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE HIM TROUBLE, BUT THE US HAD A RESPONSIBILITY. WESTERN EUROPE, WHICH WOULD BE MUCH MORE AFFECTED THAN THE US BY ANY INTERRUPTION IN OIL SUPPLIES FROM THE GULF, SHOULD PUT PRESSURE ON THE US. HE DIDN'T WANT NATO TANKS TO STAND LIKE SCARECROWS IN THE FIELDS OR WESTERN CIVILISATION, WITH WHICH EGYPT WAS BOUND UP, TO BE PUT AT RISK.

3. HE HAD BEEN ANNOYED TOO AT NOT BEING INFORMED THAT THE US ALREADY HAD A NAVAL FORCE INSIDE THE GULF. THIS WOULD BE USED TO LIMIT THE WAR.

4. NOW THAT THE SHAH HAD DISAPPEARED EGYPT WAS THE ONLY STABILISING FORCE IN THE AREA, WITH CORRESPONDING RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS WAS WHY, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID, HE HAD OFFERED FACILITIES TO THE UNITED STATES IN EGYPT. NOT BASES; HE NEEDED ARMS BUT NO MEN. HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE THESE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE ALSO IN ORDER TO PRESERVE STABILITY IN THE GULF.

FCO PASS SAVING KHARTOUM, TRIPOLI AND DAMASCUS.

C PARA 2 LINE 10 WA PRESIDENT CARTER

BARRINGTON

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