

TUNIS

SANAA

PP WASHINGTON

PP UKMIS NEW YORK

PP PARIS

PP MOSCOW

PP RIYADH (ACTIONED)

GRS 350

CONFIDENTIAL

D E S K B Y 051500Z

FM JEDDAH 051313Z JAN 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 011 OF 5 JANUARY 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE ABU DHABI, DOHA, MUSCAT AND KUWAIT AND OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK PARIS AND MOSCOW AND RIYADH

YOUR TELNO 001 TO ABU DHABI OF 4 JANUARY (NOT TO ALL): YOUR GULF VISIT.

1. I CALLED ON THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT 2 PM LOCAL TIME TODAY (1100Z). I SAID I WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND AS A FRIEND. I BELIEVED THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAD MEANT TO MAKE THEIR GESTURE AND BE DONE WITH IT. BUT WHAT I HAD FEARED WOULD HAPPEN HAD NOW HAPPENED. THE BRITISH PRESS HAD TAKEN UP THE ISSUE AND THE SAUDI PRESS HAD FOLLOWED SUIT. SO HAD OTHER COUNTRIES' PAPERS, NOTABLY KUWAIT. THEY WERE NOW FUELLING EACH OTHER AND WE HAD ALL THE ATMOSPHERE OF A CRISIS. HERE MANSOURI INTERRUPTED WITH: "WHEN THERE IS IN FACT NO CRISIS".

2. SAUDI ARABIA, I WENT ON, WAS NOW BEING PRESENTED AS RIDING A WHITE STEED AT THE HEAD OF THE ARAB LINE OF BATTLE. WAS THIS WHAT SHE WANTED? MANSOURI SAID THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAD MADE NO STATEMENT WHATSOEVER. INDEED, WHEN THE QATARI MFA HAD TELEPHONED HIM, HE HAD SIMPLY CONFIRMED THAT YOUR VISIT WAS POSTPONED AND HAD REFUSED TO MAKE ANY COMMENT. TELEGRAMS OF ENQUIRY FROM THE UAE AND OMAN STILL REMAINED UNANSWERED.



IMMEDIATE

(+7)

LIMITED  
ADVANCE COPY

[Hd of MED] Passed to MED  
 " NE NAB  
 " News  
 " PCB  
 PS  
 PS/PUS  
 Sir J Leahy  
 Mr Egerton

read in full.

*[Handwritten signature]*

I ONLY THAT MY COLLEAGUE IN 1977 HAD FORMED THE IMPRESSION

OF ENQUIRY FROM THE UAE AND OMAN STILL REMAINED UNANSWERED.  
I SAID THAT MY COLLEAGUE IN ABU DHABI HAD FORMED THE IMPRESSION  
THAT THE UAE GOVERNMENT WAS UNDER PRESSURE  
FROM THE SAUDIS. MANSOURI SAID THAT WAS NOT/NOT TRUE.

3. I SAID THE SITUATION WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM US BOTH.  
SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS I WOULD LIKE  
TO SUGGEST THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT SHOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT  
TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY HAD ASKED FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF  
YOUR VISIT (BUT, MANSOURI INTERRUPTED, THE INVITATION STILL STOOD)  
BUT THAT PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT FUTHER MEASURES AGAINST  
BRITAIN WAS ENTIRELY FICTIOUS. MANSOURI SAID HE WOULD PUT  
THIS IDEA TO HIS SUPERIORS. HE WOULD ALSO CONTACT THE MINISTER  
OF INFORMATION AND SEE WHETHER SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO REIN  
IN THE SAUDI PRESS.

4. MANSOURI WAS WHOLLY FRIENDLY AND UNDERSTANDING. I CAME AWAY  
FEELING CHEERED. BUT I HAVE NOW SEEN ABU DHABI TELEGRAM NO 5.  
THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS, AS SEEN FROM HERE:

(A) THAT THOUGH THE SAUDIS HAVE NOT/NOT PUT PRESSURE ON THE UAE,  
THE UAE HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD BE ANNOYED IF THE VISIT  
WENT AHEAD (SEMICOLON) OR

(B) THAT KING FAHD HAS BEEN APPLYING PRESSURE DIRECT WITHOUT  
TELLING THE MFA. AS FAR AS I KNOW, PRINCE SAUD IS NOT YET  
BACK FROM HIS HOLIDAY.

3. I SHALL TRY TO GET CLARIFICATION FROM MANSOURI. BUT THE  
WEEKEND IS NOW UPON US. IN ANY CASE I FEAR THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN  
DONE. IT IS A TYPICAL EPISODE OF THE KIND WHICH MAKES ME WISH  
I HAD SPECIALISED IN OLD ICELANDIC.

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CRAIG

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NNNN