

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

*Re* *S/B* 140900z

*X18*

PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR EGERTON  
SIR J BULLARD  
ED/NENAD  
ED/MED  
ED/UND

(15) NO 10 DOWNING STREET (4)  
CABINET OFFICE D10

ED/... ..

**IMMEDIATE**

*[Recd 104101  
140920z]*

ED/CONSULAR DEPT

ADVANCE COPY

PUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
~~CONSULTANT CLERK~~



*ml*

GRS 350  
CONFIDENTIAL  
D E S K B Y 140900Z  
FM JEDDAH 140715Z FEB 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 077 OF 14 FEBRUARY  
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, RABAT AND RIYADH  
INFO ROUTINE ALL MMM// ME POSTS

YOUR TEL NOS 53 AND 54 (NOT TO ALL): MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME  
MINISTER TO KING FAHD

1. I DELIVERED THE MESSAGE ON 13 FEBRUARY. THE KING'S REACTION WAS DISAPPOINTING. THOUGH HE WAS COUTEOUS AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT, HE PLEADED EARNESTLY AND AT LENGTH FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY ON OUR SIDE ON THE QUESTION OF PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION AND SAID THAT UNTIL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE DELEGATION'S VISIT, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO POSTPONE VISITS TO SADI ARABIA BY BRITISH MINISTERS AND ALSO BY THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT. (I HAVE SINCE HEARD THAT HE WILL PROBABLY ON REFLECTION AGREE THAT THE KENTS' VISIT SHOULD GO AHEAD).

~~REFLECTION AGREE THAT THE KENTS' VISIT SHOULD GO AHEAD).~~

2. THE MEETING LASTED WELL OVER TWO HOURS, MOST OF WHICH WAS, AS USUAL, A LONG MONOLOGUE BY THE KING. HE CANNOT RESIST SIDETRACKING HIMSELF INTO DETAILED EXPOSITIONS OF ANY SUBJECT WHICH HE MENTIONS, HOWEVER IRRELEVANT TO THE MAIN ISSUE.

3. PRINCE BANDAR BIN SULTAN, WHO WAS WAITING OUTSIDE DURING THE MEETING, CAME TO SEE ME AFTERWARDS AT MY HOUSE. HE HAD HAD AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING FROM PRINCE SAUD AND SHARED MY DISAPPOINTMENT. BUT HE SAID, BY WAY OF EXPLANATION, THAT THE KING WAS IN A DEPRESSED MOOD, HAVING HEARD (I DO NOT KNOW HOW) THAT THE GERMANS HAD REPORTED TO THE AMERICANS THE SAUDI RESPONSE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S APPROACH (MY TEL NO 55) AND THAT THE AMERICAN REACTION HAD BEEN NEGATIVE. BANDAR, DESPITE HIS DISAPPOINTMENT, WAS NOT INCLINED TO DEPAIR, THOUGH CRITICAL OF THE MOROCCANS' INEPTITUDE OVER THE PLO QUESTION.

4. WE TOO, SHOULD NOT BE OVER-DEPRESSED. WE CAN TAKE SOME COMFORT FROM THE KING'S REPEATED EMPHASIS ON HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR BRITAIN, HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, AND HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION PROBLEM AS ''TRIVIAL'' (BASITA) (LAST WORD UNDERLINED). NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT HE FINDS OUR POSITION ON THE PLO QUITE INCOMPREHENSIBLE, FOR ALL HIS GOOD WILL TOWARDS US, AND CONSIDERS THAT THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM IS OURS.

5. SEE MIFT FOR A FULL RECORD.

CCN PARA 3 LINE 7 THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S ... ETC

FCO PLEASE PASS TO RIYADH

CRAIG

NNNN