

GRS 320

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PM TO PM. 10. DOWNING STREET.

FM WASHINGTON 040445Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 3308 OF 3 NOV 83

INFO IMMEDIATE CAIRO TEL AVIV AMMAN DAMASCUS BEIRUT JEDDA

ROUTINE PARIS ROME UKMIS NEW YORK UKMIS GENEVA

INFO SAVING OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS

MT

US MIDDLE EAST POLICY

1. PRESIDENT REAGAN ANNOUNCED TODAY THE APPOINTMENT OF DONALD RUMSFELD TO SUCCEED MCFARLANE AS HIS SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT FAIRBANKS WOULD CONTINUE AS HIS DEPUTY.

2. RUMSFELD IS A SENIOR FIGURE ON THE MODERATE WING OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. HE REPRESENTED AN ILLINOIS DISTRICT IN THE HOUSE FROM 1963-9, SERVED IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S CABINET FROM 1969-73, AS US AMBASSADOR TO NATO 1973-74, AND IN PRESIDENT FORD'S CABINET AS WHITE HOUSE COORDINATOR AND LATER SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE. HE IS CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF G D SEARLE, A CHICAGO-BASED PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY. HE MET THE PRIME MINISTER ON 25 OCTOBER LAST YEAR WHEN HE WAS ACTING AS THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL EMISSARY FOR UNLOSC.

3. RUMSFELD IS NOT PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO REAGAN, BUT HE IS A FRIEND OF SHULTZ, WITH WHOM HE SERVED IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. HIS STANDING IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY SHOULD GIVE HIM CREDIBILITY BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND THE MIDDLE EAST. HE IS WELL REGARDED ON THE HILL. HE HAS A REPUTATION AS A SKILLED BUREAUCRATIC INFIGHTER WHO IS NOT AFRIAD TO SPEAK HIS MIND. TRIBAL MEMORY FADES BUT I SEEM TO REMEMBER THAT HIS NATO COLLEAGUES FOUND HIM RATHER ABRASIVE ON OCCASION. HE HAS NO DIRECT PRVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. RUMSFELD HAS SAID THAT HE HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL HE HAS READ HIMSELF IN. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE HOWEVER RECOMMENDING THAT HE SHOULD DO SO SOON, AND THAT HE SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT MNF PARTNERS EN ROUTE.

FCO PASS SAVING ABU DHABI ADEN ALGIERS BAGHDAD BAHRAIN DOHA DUBAI JERUSALEM KHARTOUM KUWAIT MUSCAT RABAT SANAA TRIPOLI TUNIS.

WRIGHT

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

MIDDLE EAST

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION

NENAD	SEC D
MED	MAED
NAD	ES & SD
SAD	ERD
UND	ESID
EED	CONS D
SOV D	CONS EM UNIT
ECD	MR EGERTON
WED	MR THOMAS
RID	CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE

CONFIDENTIAL