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IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

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

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10



Prue Murtin

See elsewhere

to the box or
note regarding SW

Antony Parsons conversation
with Prince Bandar

H 25/12

FD/.../

FD/CONSULAR DEPT

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PUSD (2)
NEWS D

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 281400Z

FM JEDDAH 281300Z FEB 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 115 OF 28TH FEBRUARY

INFO PRIORITY RABAT, ALGIERS, TUNIS, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, WASHINGTON, CAIRO.

ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO LONDON

1. PRINCE BANDAR BIN SULTAN HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME. HE SAID HE HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SEEING ARAFAT ON BEHALF OF KING FAHD.

2. ARAFAT HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE PALESTINIAN MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION WOULD NOT/NOT BE FROM THE PLO. THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE WAS BASIL AKL WHO, PRINCE BANDAR SAID IN RESPONSE TO MY RAISED EYEBROWS, WAS NOT IN THE P.L.O.. OTHER POSSIBLE NAMES WERE MILHIM AND WALID AL-KHALIDI, THOUGH EVERYONE SEEMED TO WANT TO KEEP THE FORMER IN RESERVE FOR OTHER OCCASIONS.

3. BANDAR SAID HE WAS FLYING TO LONDON TONIGHT OR TOMORROW TO SEE KING HUSAIN. THEY WERE ON THE VERGE OF "SOMETHING SPECTACULAR" BUT DID NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT UNTIL IT WAS ASSURED. IF THINGS WENT WELL THEY WOULD NEED THE HELP OF ALL THE FRIENDS THEY COULD FIND IN ORDER TO GET THE

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4. ACCORDINGLY, ONCE THE VISIT TO LONDON HAD TAKEN PLACE, HE HOPED THE VISITS OF OUR TWO MINISTERS (PRESUMABLY TRADE AND ENERGY) TO SAUDI ARABIA COULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - PERHAPS BY THE END OF MARCH OR EARLY APRIL.

CRAIG

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DWF G 070/28

LEB 800/00

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