

IMMEDIATE

Saudis Akbra

PS  
 PS/L  
 PS/MR HURD  
 PS/PUS  
 SIR D MAITLAND  
 MR J C MOBERLY  
 MR ADAMS  
 MR FERGUSSON  
 NENAD MILI  
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~~MISS PHILIPPA DREW H.O.~~~~MR G L ANGEL H.O.~~

PS No 10 DS

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CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 021100Z

FM JEDDAH 020953Z JUN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 429 OF 2ND JUNE 1980.

MIPT: ANGLO-SAUDI RELATIONS

1. PRINCE FAHD'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS LETTER AS A "FRIENDLY REBUKE" IS, I THINK, APPOSITE. IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT LET US OFF THE HOOK, NOTABLY IN ITS REFERENCE TO THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR APOLOGY. IT RESTATES THE ARGUMENTS WHICH WE HEARD FROM MANSOURI (OUR TELNO 349) AND DRAWS UNFAVOURABLE COMPARISONS BETWEEN US AND THOSE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES WHERE THE FILM WAS NOT SHOWN. IT EXPRESSES PLEASURE AT THE ATTITUDE OF SOME MPS AND PRIVATE UK CITIZENS BUT DOES NOT, SIR, MENTION YOUR SPEECH. IT COMES DOWN FIRMLY IN FAVOUR OF USING MFA/FCO CHANNELS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND DOES NOT HINT AT OTHER CHANNELS.

2. BUT IT IS A FULL REPLY AND IT EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT OUR PROBLEM WILL BE TEMPORARY. MOREOVER THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH GIVES US A PEG ON WHICH TO HANG PROPOSALS AIMED AT AVOIDING A RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS. WE SHOULD NOW CASH IN ON THE LETTER (WHICH SHOWS SIGNS OF MFA DRAFTING) BY PUTTING SOMETHING MEATY TO THE MFA. IF THE PACKAGE IS NOT READY IN ALL ITS DETAILS, COULD I AT LEAST BE INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS THE OUTLINES WITH KABBANI?

3. AS REGARDS CHANNELS, ALTHOUGH MFA/FCO CONTACTS ARE MOST

3. AS REGARDS CHANNELS, ALTHOUGH MFA/FCO CONTACTS ARE MOST EASILY CONDUCTED THROUGH THIS EMBASSY, I WONDER IF THERE IS ANY WAY IN WHICH WE COULD USE KING KHALED'S FOURTH-COMING STATE VISIT TO BONN (STARTING ON 16 JUNE) TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND SOME SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL IN THE KING'S ENTOURAGE (HOPEFULLY AT DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL). IF YOU THOUGHT IT WORTH TAKING THIS IDEA FURTHER I COULD PURSUE IT WITH EITHER KABBANI OR MANSOURI, AGAIN USING THE CROWN PRINCE'S LETTER AS A PEG (SIXTH PARAGRAPH THIS TIME), AND ARGUING THAT CRAIG, AS ONE WHO KNOWS SAUDI ARABIA WELL AND WHO HAS BEEN AT THE CENTRE OF OUR EFFORTS IN LONDON TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE, WOULD BE A UNIQUELY QUALIFIED INTERLOCUTOR.

GRAY

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