

GRS 400

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DESKBY 280800Z

FM JEDDA 280600Z JUL

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 545 OF 28 JUL 80

MF

TELECONS HUMFRAY/RESIDENT CLERK AND HUMFREY/LEVER:
VISIT OF MR HURD

1. MR HURD CALLED ON PRINCE SAUD AS PLANNED IN TAIF ON 27 JULY. AFTER MR HURD HAD EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, SAUD QUICKLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT BOTH HE AND THE KING WERE ANXIOUS THAT YOU SHOULD COME HERE SOON AND THAT THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE FILM SHOULD BE OVER AND DONE WITH BY THE TIME YOU CAME. THEY HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY YOUR SPEECH TO THE MEA AND BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO PRINCE FAHD. SAUD ALSO WELCOMED THE INFORMATION PACKAGE WHICH WE HAD PROPOSED. HE PERSONALLY LOOKED FORWARD VERY MUCH TO DISCUSSING INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WITH YOU; THERE WAS A LOT OF CATCHING UP TO DO. MR HURD'S VISIT SHOULD BE USED TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON RESTORING RELATIONS. THE NEW SAUDI AMBASSADOR SHOULD PROCEED TO TAKE UP HIS POST IN LONDON AND CRAIG SHOULD RETURN TO JEDDA - TO BE THERE BEFORE YOUR VISIT. A DATE FOR YOUR VISIT SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED.

2. AFTER DISCUSSINS IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE PARALLEL PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR HURD AND BY THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE AIRPORT ON MR HURD'S DEPARTURE. THE AGREED TEXTS, INCLUDING DATE FOR YOUR VISIT ARE IN MY TWO IFTS.

3. SAUD THOUGHT THIS WAS NOT THE OCCASION FOR SAYING PUBLICLY THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAD NOW BEEN RETURNED TO NORMAL; THIS OUGHT PROPERLY TO AWAIT YOUR VISIT WHICH SHOULD BE CONCERNED GENERALLY WITH POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. SAUD'S DEPUTY MINISTER, AFTER SPEAKING TO PRINCE SAUD, CONFIRMED PRIVATELY THAT MR HURD COULD SAY THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS WERE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING AND THIS PROCESS WOULD BE COMPLETED AT THE TIME OF YOUR VISIT. YOU WILL SEE THAT MR HURD'S PRESS STATEMENT, WHICH WAS CLEARED WITH THE SAUDIS, REFERS TO THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO CONDUCT 'ALL ASPECTS' OF THEIR RELATIONS IN THE TREADITIONALLY FRIENDLY WAY.

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4. NEWS DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO RELEASE THE TEXT OF MR HURD'S PRESS STATEMENT AT THE DAILY PRESS CONFERENCE. THEY MAY ALSO DRAW UNATTRIBUTABLY ON THE ABOVE IN SPEAKING TO THE PRESS.

5. PRINCE SAUD ENTERTAINED MR HURD TO AN INFORMAL DINNER AT WHICH ALL THE MAIN MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSSED. PRINCE SAUD WAS VERY CRITICAL OF US POLICY BUT NO PARTICULARLY NEW POINTS EMERGED.

GRAY

DEPARTMENTAL
T.E.D.
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