



87
Saudi Arabia

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 August, 1980.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary spoke by telephone to the Prime Minister this morning, following his return from Saudi Arabia.

Lord Carrington explained at some length the problems caused by BBC reports earlier in the week linking his visit with a showing of "Death of a Princess" on the fringe of the Edinburgh Festival.

The Prime Minister emphasised that she would like to see a vigorous protest made to the BBC about this, and Lord Carrington said that he had already written to the Director General.

This apart, Lord Carrington felt that the visit had gone well, and that relations between the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia were now firmly back on an even keel despite the best efforts of the BBC at the last minute. He said that he had had a particularly interesting conversation with Prince Fahd, and that he hoped that the Prime Minister would have time to look at the record. Prince Fahd's views on the Middle East situation in this private conversation were very different from his recent public pronouncements. As a result, Lord Carrington had the germ of a new idea on the Middle East. He would like to discuss this with the Prime Minister in due course.

Lord Carrington concluded by confirming that he would be seeing Mr. Mugabe at lunch today. He promised to let the Prime Minister know if anything of significance emerged from his conversation.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a copy of the record of the discussion with Prince Fahd. You will no doubt let us know when the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is ready to take up again his further ideas on the Middle East following the conversation with Prince Fahd.

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87