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No 10 DOWNING ST

FM JEDDAH 060935Z OCT 80

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 723 OF 6TH OCTOBER 1980.

*for
Smith*

ANGLO/SAUDI RELATIONS

1. I HAVE JUST SEEN THE LEAD STORY IN THE OBSERVER FOR 5 OCTOBER: "LOVE SCANDAL OF SAUDI PRINCE REVEALED"
2. THAT THE FIRST HEADLINE IN A LEADING SUNDAY PAPER SHOULD BE A STORY WHICH IS 29 YEARS OLD AND HAS BEEN WELL KNOWN DURING ALL THAT PERIOD WILL SERVE TO CONFIRM THE SAUDIS' CONVICTION THAT THERE IS A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THEM. MOREOVER THE ACCOUNT IS INACCURATE. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE MOTIVE FOR THE MURDER OF OUSMAN WAS ENTIRELY THE PRINCE'S DESIRE FOR DRINK. I HAVE NEVER HEARD THAT THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN OUSMAN'S WIFE AND THE PRINCE. PRESUMABLY THIS ELEMENT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN ORDER TO MAKE A LINK WITH THE ARNOT/SMITH AFFAIR.
3. I HAVE HEARD NOTHING FROM THE SAUDIS YET. BUT IN CASE I DO I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS ON THE ALLEGATION THAT THE STORY WAS CONFIRMED BY "FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES".

CRAIG

SAUDI/BRITISH RELATIONS
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