

CONFIDENTIAL

FM JEDDA 070635Z DEC 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 795 OF 07 DEC

INFO WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, TEL AVIV, UKREP BRUSSELS, RABAT, CAIRO, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, ALL OTHER EC POSTS.

INFO SAVING MOSCOW AND ALL OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS.

MY TELNO 793: FEZ SUMMIT AND THE 8 POINT PLAN

1. THIS LOOKS LIKE A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE MFA AND FAHD: I.E. THE MFA HAVE GONE ALONG WITH THE CONTINUATION OF THE PLAN BUT HAVE PRESUADED FAHD TO LET SAUDI ARABIA STEP OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT. TO SOME EXTENT IT HAS OVERTAKEN THE RECOMMENDATION IN MY TELEGRAM NO. 790 (NOT TO ALL) IN SO FAR AS WE NOW KNOW THAT THE MODERATE ARABS INTEND TO PERSEVERE.
2. BUT WE STILL DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHETHER FAHD REMAINS ENTHUSIASTIC AND IS BEING HELD BACK SOMEWHAT BY THE MFA SEMICOLON OR WHETHER HE IS FEELING RELIEVED THAT THE CUP HAS PASSED FROM HIM (AS MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUE THINKS). AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE MFA'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IS SHARED BY PRINCE SAUD HIMSELF. SO I STILL SEE ADVANTAGE IN SENDING OUT A PRIME MINISTERIAL MESSAGE WITH MR HURD SO AS TO EXPLORE FURTHER HOW FAR THE SAUDIS' HEARTS ARE IN THE PLAN AND HOW FIRMLY THEY WILL PERSIST IF OPPOSITION CONTINUES, WHETHER INSIDE THE KINGDOM OR AMONG OTHER ARAB STATES. A VISIT BY MR HURD WOULD HAVE THE OTHER ADVANTAGE OF MAKING A PUBLIC GESTURE OF CONTINUED EUROPEAN INTEREST, PARTICULARLY IF HIS VISIT WAS ENDORSED BY THE COMMUNITY AND HE CAME IN A PRESIDENTIAL ROLE.
3. I FLOATED THIS IDEA AT A MEETING OF COMMUNITY HEADS OF MISSION ON 6 DECEMBER, POINTING OUT THAT SINCE THE SAUDIS HAD ADOPTED ARGUMENTS SUGGESTED TO THEM BY EUROPE (PARA 4 OF MY TUR) WE HAD AN OBLIGATION, AS WELL AS AN INTEREST, TO SUPPORT THEM. THE GERMAN WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOUR. THE FRENCHMAN WAS ABSENT. THE REST, AS USUAL, WERE EITHER SILENT OR SAID THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT THEIR GOVERNMENTS BEFORE EXPRESSING A VIEW.
4. THE GERMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE SAUDIS WERE OVER-OPTIMISTIC IF THEY REALLY THOUGHT THAT 15 ARAB STATES WOULD SUPPORT THE 8 POINTS SEMICOLON HE INSTANCED MAURETANIA. THOUGH I KNOW NOTHING OF THE MAURETANIAN ATTITUDE, I THINK HE IS PROBABLY RIGHT. ANOTHER QUESTION TO EXPLORE WITH THE SAUDIS?

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

CRAIG

STANDARD

NENAD
 MED
 NAD
 UND
 EESD
 ECD
 WED
 RID

MAED
 ES & SD
 EED
 ESED

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
 ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE

THIS TELEGRAM
 WAS NOT
 ADVANCED

CONFIDENTIAL