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FM FCO 111800Z JUNE 82
TO PRIORITY JEDDA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 156 OF 11 JUNE 1982
INFO PRIORITY RIYADH, MODUK (FOR DIC ARMS CELL)
INFO SAVING PARIS, WASHINGTON, TRIPOLI, BAGHDAD

ARMS FOR ARGENTINE

1. I RAISED WITH THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY (11 JUNE) THE REPORT IN THE TIMES OF 9 JUNE THAT ARMS WERE FINDING THEIR WAY TO ARGENTINA VIA SAUDI ARABIA. I MENTIONED EXOCET. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT THESE REPORTS MUST BE ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE. THE STORY WAS INSIDIOUS AND IMPOSSIBLE. HE ADDED THAT THE SAUDI DEFENCE MINISTER HAD RECENTLY ASKED THE FRENCH CHIEF OF STAFF HOW FRANCE HAD ALLOWED SUCH SIGNIFICANT FRENCH WEAPONS TO GET INTO THE HANDS OF ARGENTINA FOR USE AGAINST THE BRITISH.

PYM

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