

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

We assume e.
hope that this was
written in ignorance
of the message
conveyed by Prince
Bandar, James
Blyth is trying
to find out
whether the French
have had a
similar message
about mirage

GR 200
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY FCO 081300Z
DESKBY MODUK 081300Z
FM JEDDA 081100Z JAN 85
TO IMMEDIATE F.C.O.
TELEGRAM NUMBER 020 OF 8TH JANUARY 1985.
AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK (FOR PS/S OF S, HDS, DEFENCE SALES),
IMMEDIATE INFO RIYADH.
PRIORITY INFO MUSCAT AND BAHRAIN (FOR HARRIS DEFENCE SALES...
FROM H OF C (AMBASSADOR IS IN RIYADH...)

TORNADO

1. A LETTER FROM PRINCE SULTAN TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE WAS BROUGHT TO THE EMBASSY ON 8 JANUARY BY
THE COMMANDER, WESTERN MILITARY REGION, GENERAL SUDAIS. IT
IS DATED 6 JANUARY, AND MARKED 'SECRET AND PERSONAL'.

2. THE LETTER

SAYS THAT, AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION, SAUDI ARABIA HAS DECIDED NOT TO BUY TORNADO
FOR THE TIME BEING. IT REFERS TO THE EFFECT ON THE KINGDOM'S
FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE WEAKNESS OF THE WORLD OIL MARKET
AND 'THE SPECULATION GOING ON IN THAT MARKET' AND SAYS THAT
THE KINGDOM HAS DECIDED TO CONCENTRATE ITS NOW MORE LIMITED
RESOURCES ON SUCH BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPMENT AS
AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND HEALTH. SULTAN LOOKS
FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH US IN FUTURE IN THESE FIELDS AS
WELL AS IN MILITARY MATTERS.

3. ORIGINAL AND FULL TRANSLATION FOLLOW BY BAG TO MED.

WRIGHT
LIMITED
MED
NENAD
ACDD
SON D
PS
PSY MR WUCE
MR EGERTON
MR FERGUSSON

COPIES TO
PS/NO 10 DAWNING ST.

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TEMPORARILY RETAINED. J. Gray 8/7/2014