

04-F-0625



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

41

20 SEP 1983

Page determined to be Unclassified
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
Date: AUG 21 2013

Honorable Edward I. Koch
Mayor
City of New York
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Koch:

With regard to your letters of September 1 and 14, 1983, it has been the policy of this and every other Administration not to reveal details of classified diplomatic exchanges. I have no intention of deviating from a practice that is essential to the conduct of diplomacy. I stand by what I said in my previous letter, which is that the purported transcript is a fabrication in its entirety.

No one here ever heard of the "news magazine" you mentioned so, of course, "there was no denial, etc." on our part. I cannot believe you are serious in suggesting that "these allegations," meaning the obvious forgery and disinformation in some obscure publication, "were serious enough to the U.S. . . . to warrant a reply." It is exactly as if I chided you for not replying to some Iranian publication of which you had never heard, accusing you of being anti-Semitic.

I have "unequivocally denied" the nonsense in this false transcript, and I certainly do not appreciate what seems to me to be a clumsy effort to make political capital out of these lies.

Very truly yours,

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 22 AUG 2013 Authority: EO 13526
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Reason: _____
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INTERNATIONAL
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

14 SEP 1983

Through: Under Secretary of Defense for Policy *TJ*

SUBJECT: Response to Mayor Koch's Second Letter (U) -- ACTION
MEMORANDUM
I think

Mayor Koch, in response to your letter of August 25, attempts to explain why he went public with his initial letter and the purported MEMCON between you and Prince Sultan. He also demands that you deny having discussed with Prince Sultan a long list of issues, to include sale of F-15 aircraft and M-1 tanks to Saudi Arabia.

Our proposed reply is short and to the point: diplomacy cannot be conducted effectively without assurance of confidentiality, and this has been the consistent policy of all recent Administrations. Thus, I recommend that no further information in regard to your meeting with Prince Sultan be released.

Recommend you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachment
as

James A. Kelly
JAMES A. KELLY
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

Coordination:

Benjamin Welles

ASD/PA
Benjamin Welles

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary 7 SEP 1983

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