

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 22 AUG 2013 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 13-M-3156

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

(48)

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

September 1, 1983

The Honorable Casper W. Weinberger  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your letter of August 25. I can certainly appreciate your concern over this matter as I hope you can appreciate mine. I share your expressed view that "the American public is ill-served by the confusion created by this obvious forgery" but I am "surprised and disappointed" (to use your words) that you would imply that I am in part responsible for that confusion.

As you know, the transcript at issue was published in the Lebanese news magazine, Al Sapiro, on July 17, 1983. For more than a month, there was no denial, demand for retraction or any public explanation on your part or on the part of our government whether in the Lebanese press or here at home. Certainly these allegations were serious enough to the United States as well as our allies, to warrant reply of some sort. It was their initial publication and the failure of response which is responsible for any possible "confusion". As a public official and in my capacity as a private citizen when I became aware of these charges I felt a duty to see to it that the record was set straight. To my knowledge you have not yet responded to Al Sapiro, if you have I would appreciate receiving your reply. While I would never take the position that your own comments on this matter are anything but the truth, I sincerely believe that in order to maintain America's credibility with our allies, you must dispel even the perception that such a recitation of the May 12 meeting could conceivably be true. I believe this issue must be addressed more carefully and more specifically because although personally I would accept at face value your assertion that the transcript is an "obvious forgery" others who are not so trusting do not. In order to put this matter to rest completely, I suggest that you might address the allegation that your meeting with the Saudi Defense Minister on May 12, in Paris, included discussion of the following issues:

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P The Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement; the Saudi request for a squadron of F-15 jets (and President Reagan's ignorance of this request because of the fear of his leaking information to Congress); the Regional Integrated Air Defense system; the sale to Israel of the "Levi" jet; and the Saudi request of M-1 tanks, which even the American forces do not have.

Your letter and public denial related to what appeared in the transcript. You and I know that there can be nuances which would make the transcript "a complete fabrication" but nevertheless allow for the delivery to Saudi Arabia of the advanced equipment but in different quantities and at different times and under different circumstances, and covered at the meeting of May 12.

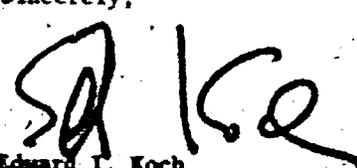
If you can unequivocally deny having discussed these items at the May 12 meeting it would be imperative to do so. Certainly, if you have made the alleged commitments on arm sales or deliveries, which after all are subject to Congressional approval, and have to date withheld such information from the public, you now have an obligation to disclose it whatever the political strategy might have been to keep it secret, if that be the case.

America has a right to know for what, if anything, it is committed to the Saudis in the way of arm sales and deserves to know now rather than after the 1984 presidential elections. Therefore, I again urge that you fully comment on the allegations above especially those relating to the delivery of arms.

All the best.

Sincerely,

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Edward I. Koch  
MAYOR

P.S. I would appreciate your earliest response. This matter should not linger

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Original sent by mail