

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

#18

October 2, 1980

Memo For BG SMITH *cr 1/2*

(S) Per SecDef's request to try to maximize staff level interagency agreement on scope of follow-on team's mandate in order to minimize SCC discussion, I sent the attached to Bartholomew and Gary Sick this morning. Bartholomew tells me he will discuss it with Muskie at 5 p.m. SecDef may want to consider calling Muskie at some point in order to forestall another visceral response.

DM

David E. McGiffert

Attachment
a/s

~~Classified by ASD/ISA
Declassify Oct 2, 1986~~

SEC DEF CONTR No. X10926

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B-M-5280

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~~(S)~~ As agreed by West/Jones and the Saudis, we are sending a small technical team which will be headed by an O-6, will be staffed mostly from FUCOM, will arrive in Saudi Arabia on Saturday, and is supposed to help the Saudis better to lash up their present air defense equipment, illuminate deficiencies which can be quickly fixed, and facilitate hookup of the Saudi system to AWACS.

~~(S)~~ There will be another team to arrive a day or two later which is now supposed to be a politico-military team. I'd like your concurrence on the following objectives for this team:

- Improvement of Saudi air defenses, expedition of spares, etc.
In effect it would expand the work of the technical team, with that providing staff support.
- Engage in planning with respect to deployment in the event of a major threat to Saudi Arabia of F-15s, F-14s, KC-135s, and/or HAWK battalions including relevant prepositioning sufficient to permit such deployment to proceed rapidly and to achieve earliest combat capability once deployed. (The Saudi position expressed to General Jones is that such deployments are not now required; contingency planning would be conducted on that understanding.)
- Explore (with Saudis) the feasibility of an integrated regional air defense system, linking Saudi Arabia air defense with that of the Gulf States.
- Explore further Saudi participation in naval freedom-of-navigation patrol to which the Saudis have agreed in principle.
- Explore prepositioning, overbuild, etc. beyond that implied by contingency planning indicated above.

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(8) We believe the foregoing will not only improve our capability to move quickly but also give us an entree on prepositioning, etc. for the longer run. We have an opportunity on which we should capitalize before the F-15 enhancement items return to plague us.

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