

#20

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ZCZCSPQ190

PAGE 1

DAN: 213-027032

INPUT CDSN = QAA722

TOR: 260242Z NOV 80 TOT: 261232Z NOV 80

ORQ REVIEW: 261232Z NOV 80

ORQ REVIEW: 261232Z NOV 80

OUTPUT CDSN: SPQ137 TOT: 260246Z NOV 80

ORQ REVIEW: 260246Z NOV 80

ORQ REVIEW: 260246Z NOV 80

OUTPUT CDSN: SPQ135 TOT: 260244Z NOV 80

OUTPUT CDSN: PTP585 TOT: 260242Z NOV 80

OUTPUT CDSN: DKA972 TOT: 260243Z NOV 80

AUTO=AQG(1),PTQ(1),SPQ(1)

ACTION*** UNASSIGNED **

INFO*** UNASSIGNED **

ZATMZUW YEKDQA 0140 3310234-MNSH--YFQDID YFQDIL YEKDSV.

ZNY MNSH

ZKZK ZZ SOA DE

Z 260235Z NOV 80 ZYM ZFF 1 & 4 ZZK

FM USD

TO COS RIYADH

INFO COS JIDDA

ZEM

~~SECRET SENSITIVE EYES ONLY~~

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FOR MG DONNELLY (RIYADH) MR. PLACKE (JIDDA)

FROM SECDEF

SUBJECT: SECDEF LETTER FOR PRINCE SULTAN

1. (S) PLEASE PERSONALLY DELIVER TO PRINCE SULTAN AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ME TO PRINCE SULTAN. YOU SHOULD NOT COMMUNICATE ITS CONTENTS TO ANYONE ELSE PRIOR TO DELIVERY. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD BE SURE TO TALK BY TELEPHONE TO GENERAL JONES, WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH THE LETTER'S CONTENTS, BEFORE YOU DELIVER THE LETTER.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

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13-M-5282

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SEC DEF CONTR No. X11841

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PRINCE SULTAN BIN ABD AL-AZIZ
MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO FULFILL GENERAL JONES' PROMISE OF A REPORT TO YOU ABOUT THE STATUS OF OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE F-15 ENHANCEMENT ITEMS AND AWACS.

I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT WE ARE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO AN EARLY AND POSITIVE DECISION ON SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA OF CONFORMAL FUEL TANKS AND AIM-9L MISSILES FOR THE F-15S, AND THE FUTURE SALE OF AWACS. WE BELIEVE THIS EQUIPMENT AND THESE SYSTEMS WILL ENHANCE YOUR SECURITY. MOREOVER, SINCE AWACS PROBABLY COULD NOT BE DELIVERED BEFORE 1985, THE US SHOULD FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE INTERIM PERIOD STATION US AWACS IN SAUDI ARABIA, IF SAUDI ARABIA WISHES, SO THAT YOUR PEOPLE CAN BE GRADUALLY INVOLVED IN AWACS OPERATIONS FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

WE HAVE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO HOW BEST TO PROCEED WITH RESPECT TO THESE SALES, GIVEN THE FORTHCOMING CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS WILL BEST BE SERVED IF FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS ARE BASED UPON AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THESE MATTERS.

WE HAVE ALREADY CONVEYED TO SOME OF PRESIDENT-ELECT REAGAN'S ADVISERS THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM'S REQUESTS ON THESE MATTERS, AND OUR OWN INCLINATIONS AS DESCRIBED HEREIN. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT HAS NOT YET CHOSEN HIS CABINET, BUT WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL DESIGNATE A SECRETARY OF STATE AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN EARLY DECEMBER. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER, OUR REASONS WHY THE POSITIVE APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE IS DESIRABLE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF OUR MUTUAL SECURITY INTERESTS WILL BE CONVEYED TO THEM, WITH AGREEMENT OF THE NEW AMERICAN OFFICIALS, FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NEWLY ELECTED CONGRESS WILL BE INITIATED THEN.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT AERIAL REFUELING IN THE FUTURE WILL ENHANCE THE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OF THE F-15S, AND WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THE SAUDI NEED FOR A GROUND ATTACK CAPABILITY AS A DEFENSE AGAINST AN INVADING HOSTILE FORCE AND BELIEVE THAT THE ALTERNATIVES SHOULD BE FURTHER ANALYZED.

THE APPROACH I HAVE OUTLINED ABOVE IS MOTIVATED BY OUR DESIRE TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS IS PRACTICABLY FEASIBLE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION AND THE LEGALLY REQUIRED PROCEDURES FOR CONGRESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE APPROVAL OF MILITARY SALES OF THIS KIND. WE WISH TO MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT DELAY AND TO AVOID A MISUNDERSTANDING IN OUR RELATIONS WHILE OUR CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IS UNDERWAY.

I PLAN TO SEND YOU A FURTHER REPORT AS SOON AS OUR SUCCESSORS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONSULT WITH THEM.

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DURING THESE TURBULENT AND DIFFICULT TIMES, IT IS EVEN MORE
IMPORTANT THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO COOPERATE CLOSELY.
GENERAL JONES JOINS ME IN SENDING WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

HAROLD BROWN

SSO NOTE: DELIVER AT FIRST LIGHT TO MAJ GEN DONNELLY.

~~DECLAS 25 NOV 86~~

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~~EYES ONLY~~