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Conversation

DATE: June 4, 1973

SUBJECT: Kuwaiti Concerns About Senator Fulbright's Statement

1973-6-4, Oil, Israel, IranPARTICIPANTS: H.E. Shaykh Salem S. al-Sabah, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait
Mr. Mustafa al Sane, Third Secretary, Embassy of KuwaitHonorable William J. Porter, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs
Mr. Francois M. Dickman, Director, Office of Arabian Peninsula Affairs, NEADISTRIBUTION: S, D, P, E, T, S, NEA, EB, H, PM, Amembassies KUWAIT
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SUMMARY: Kuwait Ambassador al-Sabah called to discuss recent press stories sparked by Senator Fulbright's May 21 speech that the US might be thinking of using Israel or Iran as surrogates against Kuwait and other Arab oil producers in the Gulf to assure a continued supply of oil. He also noted that Iranian Premier Hoveyda had been quoted about the same time as saying the Gulf was important to Iran and Iran was capable of blocking the Gulf for its security. Ambassador Porter denied that Senator Fulbright's statement bore any relation to US policy or to any thought of the Administration. He cited the statement of the Department's spokesman on May 22 and the Department's recent reply to a letter from the Senator. As for Iran, Ambassador Porter pointed out that it was our understanding that Iran's policy was to cooperate with other Gulf riparians for the area's security. END SUMMARY.

Ambassador al-Sabah mentioned recent press articles that had appeared about the possibility that Iran and Israel might attack Kuwait or take over Arab oil producing states in the Gulf to assure a continued supply of oil for the United States. Senator Fulbright, in his statement of May 21, had mentioned the possibility that the US was thinking along these lines in

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