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Authority **NND 969049**
By **CM NARA** Date **6-12-03**

F&A New-uu

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION EUR-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 BODE-00 PM-08 H-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON **0900**

DEPT PASS ABU DHABI, MANAMA

SUBJECT: US-UK EXCHANGE ON KUWAIT AND BAHREIN

(1)

1. DURING CONVERSATION JANUARY 18 VISITING AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS BRIEFLY REVIEWED US RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT FOR FCO ASST UNDERSECRETARY PARSONS. HE SAID IT IS IN MANY WAYS BETTER FOR KUWAITIS TO BE SNAPPING A BIT AT US POLICIES ON THE SURFACE SINCE KUWAITI COMPLAINTS HELP WARD OFF STRONGER ANTI-AMERICAN PRESSURES ON THEM FROM MORE RADICAL ARABS. IMPORTANT FACT IS THAT RELATIONSHIP IS SOLID UNDER THE SURFACE. KUWAITIS END UP BUYING AMERICAN OR BRITISH AND GENERALLY CONDUET HIGHLY FRUITFUL BUSINESS WITH US. IT IS TRUE KUWAITIS ARE A BIT NERVOUS ABOUT US NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHREIN, BUT A DEGREE OF NERVOUSNESS KEEPS THEM REALISTIC, STOLTZFUS SAID, AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT BECOME TOO NERVOUS.

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2. PARSONS SAID HE AGREED COMPLETELY. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN UNHAPPY WHEN, AT THE TIME OF SUEZ, IRAQ'S NURI SAID REFUSED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH BRITISH AS OTHER ARABS HAD DONE. A SHORT TIME LATER NURI WAS OVERTHROWN AND BRITISH INTERESTS TOOK A NOSE DIVE IN IRAQ. AS TO BAHREIN, PARSONS SAID DURING RECENT VISIT TO GULF HE HAD HEARD NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR ADMIRAL COMMANDING US NAVY THERE. IT IS TRUE SOME OF HIS OLD CONTACTS SUCH AS MINISTER OF ECONOMY YOUSSEF SHIRAMI, WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS CARPING ANYWAY, FOUND THINGS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT. COMPLAINTS RELATED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO MINOR INCIDENTS OF BAD BEHAVIOR AT A LOW LEVEL, OFTEN CONNECTED WITH STUDENTS AT LARGE AMERICAN SCHOOL. NEVERTHELESS, PARSONS HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY ABSENCE OF AMERICANS EXCEPT IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF JETTY.

3. STOLTZFUS THANKED HIM FOR HIS GOOD WORDS. HE SAID NAVY INDEED TAKING PAINS NOT TO INTRUDE ON LOCAL SCENE ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY. LARGE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF SOME 540 CHILDREN UNDENIABLY CREATES PROBLEMS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS INTRODUCTION OF DRUGS. IT IS SOMETHING WE ARE AWARE OF, THOUGH DIFFICULT TO COMBAT.

4. PARSONS CLOSED THIS PART OF CONVERSATION BY MENTIONING HE PLANNED ATTEND CONFERENCE OF BRITISH CHIEFS OF MISSION IN GULF TO BEGIN JUNE 12 IN KUWAIT.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ARU DHABI, MANAMA.

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