

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E 012958

By NARA Date 11/7/08



Department of State

TELEGRAM

1974-4-11, Faisal, Lebanon, Am. U.

SECRET 3720

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01891 111019Z

43.

ACTION 88-00

INFO OCT-01 150-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6709

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

SECRET JIDDA 1891

EXD'S

EVO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SA, LE, SAID, PDEV

SUBJECT: SAUDI SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

1. IN THE LAST MONTH I HAVE BEEN APPROACHED
 PRIVATELY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY THREE TRUSTEES
 OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT. ALL HAVE
 SAID THEY WERE CONTACTING ME ON THEIR OWN AND
 I PRESUME THERE WAS NO COORDINATION. THEY ALL
 DESCRIBED THE DIFFICULTIES THE UNIVERSITY IS
 FACING, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE UNIVERSITY DOLLAR
 DEVALUATIONS. THEY SAID THE SUCCESSIVE WILL SOON
 SELL SOME LAND, THIS WILL TAKE IT THROUGH
 THE PRESENT YEAR, BUT AFTER JULY 175 IT WILL SURVIVE
 ONLY BY DEVOURING ITSELF.

2. THEY SAY THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL ARE
 SACROSANCT, THAT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME
 SORT OF A LIBERAL ARTS, PRE-MED PROGRAM
 AND
 THIS WILL LEAVE THE ENGINEERING AND AGRICULTURAL
 SCHOOLS FOR ABOLISHMENT. THEY INSIST (AND I CON-
 CUR) THAT AUB HAS THE BEST ENGINEERING SCHOOL IN
 THE ARAB WORLD AND THE ONLY REAL MODERN SCHOOL
 OF AGRICULTURE IN THE AREA. THEY SAY THIS IS
 IRONICAL AND BITTER GIVEN THE BILLIONS OF EXCESS

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E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NLN 01-29/24 Hr. 24 JULY 2006

By NS NARA, Date 31 JULY 2007
[2 pages]

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

74 APR 11 PM 12:05

EXD'S EXD'S EXD'S EXD'S



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CURRENCY NOT IN USE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PARTICULARLY IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND THIS LEADS THEM TO THEIR PITCH.

3. THEY SAY AUB OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY APPROACHED KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA FOR MONEY AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN ON THE GROUNDS THAT AUB IS A HOTBED FOR PALESTINIAN RADICALS AND COMMUNISTS. (I SUSPECT THAT PART OF THE KING'S DISLIKE OF THE UNIVERSITY IS THE SOCIAL FREEDOM IT ENCOURAGES, AND PERHAPS, EVEN MORE, ITS CHRISTIAN ORIGINS.) IN ANY CASE, THE TRUSTEES HAVE REFERRED TO MY ALLEGED INFLUENCE WITH FAISAL AND HAVE ASKED ME TO INTERVENE WITH THE KING ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY. HN I HAVE GIVEN THEM NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IN THE FUTURE OF AUB? IS THE SURVIVAL OF THE UNIVERSITY REALLY IN QUESTION? IS THIS OF IMPORTANCE TO US, AND SHOULD I ASK THE KING OR OTHER SAUDIS FOR ASSISTANCE?
AKANS

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631/1/1/89-40