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 Department of State TELEGRAM

1974-2-11 Faisal, Summit  
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O 110909Z FEB 74  
 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6132  
 BT

S E C R E T JIDDA 0682

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: ARAB MINI-SUMMIT CONFERENCE; LIFTING  
 OF OIL BOYCOTT

REF: A) JIDDA 628; B) JIDDA 629; C) JIDDA 632

SUMMARY: SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER SAQQAF HAS COME BACK FROM SYRIA WHERE HE TRIED TO CONVINCE SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO LIFT THE OIL BOYCOTT. HE THINKS ASAD UNDERSTANDS THE SAUDI RATIONALE. SAUDI ARABIA HAS PROPOSED A "MINI-SUMMIT" OF FAISAL, SADAI, BOUMEDIENNE AND ASAD IN ASUAN FEBRUARY 14 - OR IN DAMASCUS IF ASAD INSISTS. ASAD WANTS TO INCLUDE THE RULER OF KUWAIT - THIS DOES NOT ENTHUSE THE SAUDIS. IF THE GROUP AGREES THAT THE BOYCOTT SHOULD BE LIFTED THEY WILL ADVANCE A UNITED POSITION AT THE TRIPOLI MEETING (WHICH MAY BE POSTPONED FEW DAYS FROM FEBRUARY 14) AND THE ACTION WILL THEN BE ANNOUNCED. END SUMMARY.

1. SAYYID OMAR SARGAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD ME THIS AFTERNOON (FEB 10) THAT HE HAD MADE THE SAME POINTS TO ASAD ON FEB 8 I HAD MADE TO THE KING (REF A). HE HAD DONE THIS BECAUSE SAUDI ARABIA, AND ESPECIALLY THE KING, NOW ACCEPTED THEM ALL WITHOUT RESERVATION. THEY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- A. ONLY U.S. HAS THE ABILITY TO BRING A JUST PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST;
- B. IN THE U.S. ONLY THE NIXON-KISSINGER TEAM HAS THE WILL TO TAKE ON THIS TASK;
- C. THE CONTINUATION OF THE OIL BOYCOTT DOES NOT PUT PRESSURE ON NIXON-KISSINGER TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE ARABS; TO THE CONTRARY, IT WEAKENS THEM AND REDUCES THEIR FLEXIBILITY;

SECRET

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