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THE WHITE HOUSE
1974-2-7, Faisal, ^{W. KISSINGER} N. Amb.

SECRET (GDS)

MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA
IBRAHIM AL-SOWAYEL

Thursday, February 7, 1974
5:00 p.m. (10 minutes)
The Map Room

From: Brent Scowcroft 

I. PURPOSE

To give the Ambassador a signed copy of your latest letter to King Faisal regarding the oil embargo.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: As you know, King Faisal and other high Saudi officials have indicated to us in recent weeks that they share our desire for an early lifting of the Arab oil embargo, but they claim they need the support of other key Arabs to do this. After Secretary Kissinger's December talk with Faisal, they began to talk of easing the embargo when Israeli-Egyptian disengagement was carried out, although they reiterated that this would have to be clearly seen as a step toward total Israeli withdrawal. Now as a result of pressure from Syrian President Assad they have been saying that support from other Arabs is unlikely until disengagement has begun on the Syrian-Israeli front. A meeting of Arab oil ministers is scheduled for February 14 in Tripoli, Libya, to discuss the embargo. We have pointed out to the Saudis that it will not be possible to get disengagement urged that action nevertheless be taken before or at the Tripoli meeting to lift the embargo. Most recent reports from our Ambassador in Jidda indicate that our urgings may be having a favorable effect on the King.
- B. Participants: Ambassador Al-Sowayel; General Scowcroft
- C. Press Plan: Since the meeting will be off-the-record, there will be no press participation nor photo opportunity.

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