

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 12958

By *WA* NARA Date *12-12-00*

Department of State

TELEGRAM

1974-4-29, Faisal, Journalist, Jew

~~SECRET~~CONTROL: 8036Q
RECD: APR 29, 1974
1615ZO 291450Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6895
BT~~SECRET~~ JIDDA 2274

NODIS

FOR : SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. : 11652 : GDS
TAGS: OVIP, XFSUBJ: INCLUSION OF JOSEPH ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ IN SECRETARY'S PRESS PARTY

REF : A) JIDDA 1960; B) STATE 85103

1. ON APRIL 27, I GAVE SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE INFORMATION IN REF (B). HE SAID "THIS IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE, ISN'T IT?"

2. I REPEATED THE REASONS I HAD GIVEN EARLIER FOR GIVING KRAFT A VISA. HE REPLIED THAT I DID NOT NEED TO CONVINCE HIM, BUT HADN'T MY BOSSES IN WASHINGTON UNDERSTOOD THAT HE HAD ALREADY TAKEN UNUSUAL STEPS IN RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE KING THREE TIMES? DID THEY HAVE ANY IDEA OF HOW SAUDI ARABIA OR THE KING WORKED? OR HAD I NOT REPORTED WHAT HE HAD SAID?

3. I TOLD HIM I HAD INDEED REPORTED IT; I ALSO REMINDED HIM THAT EARLIER IN THE WEEK I HAD SENT HIM TWO RELATIVELY OBJECTIVE ARTICLES KRAFT HAD WRITTEN IN SYRIA. I SAID KRAFT MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT THE WHOLE MIDDLE EAST PICTURE IF HE WERE ALLOWED TO SEE ALL ITS FACETS; AND, IN ANY CASE, NOTHING COULD BE LOST IF HE CAME IN. I TOLD HIM AGAIN OF KRAFT'S POWER AND VINDICTIVENESS. HE SAID I WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE THE NEW U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP ADVERSELY AFFECTED IN ANY WAY; AND I FEARED KRAFT WOULD ATTACK IT STRONGLY. HE COMMENTED THAT SOMEONE SEEMED VERY AFRAID OF KRAFT; SAUDI ARABIA WASN'T. NONETHELESS, HE SAID HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER ONCE AGAIN WITH THE KING, AND TELL HIM AGAIN OF THE IMPORTANCE THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND I PERSONALLY ATTACH TO THIS.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

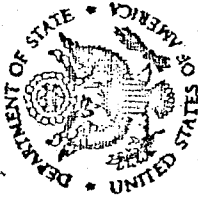
14N161-29/74 14r 24 JULY 2006

By *N'S* NARA, Date *01 AUG 2007* [2 pages]NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 12958

By (U) KARAA Date 12/12/07



Department of State
TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

-2-JIDDA 2274, APR 29

1. I SAW SAYYID OMAR AGAIN BRIEFLY APRIL 28. HE SAID HE HAD RECONSIDERED; HE HAD NOT RPT NOT ASKED THE KING ABOUT KRAFT. HE SAID HE SHOULD JUST COME IN WITH KISSINGER'S PARTY. HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE NOTICED, BUT IF HE WERE, HE (SAQQAF) WOULD DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER.

2. COMMENT: THE CHANCES OF KEEPING THE MATTER SECRET FROM THE KING INDEFINITELY ARE NOT GOOD, ESPECIALLY IF KRAFT WRITES ANYTHING BYLINED RIYADH. WHEN THE KING LEARNS ABOUT HE VISIT, PARTICULARLY IF THE KRAFT ARTICLE IS UNFRIENDLY, SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO BE THE GOAT. IF ARTICLE IS FRIENDLY THINGS WILL BE SOMEWHAT EASIER. IN ANY CASE, I HOPE THIS VISIT WILL BE WORTH ITS RISKS.

AKINS

BT

#2274

~~SECRET~~