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Memorandum of Conversation

1973-8-3, Faisal, Argy

DATE: August 3, 1973

SUBJECT: Saudi Concern Over U.S. Veto in UN Security Council

PARTICIPANTS: H.E. Ibrahim al Sawayyel, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

The Secretary
Francois M. Dickman, Director, Arabian Peninsula
Affairs

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POSTS: Jidda, Cairo, Tel Aviv, USUN

SUMMARY. Ambassador Sawayyel reported that King Faisal is very disturbed at what he views is the negative U.S. policy in the Middle East which could affect U.S.-Saudi relations and friendship. Although he had not yet heard from his government about the U.S. veto of the Middle East resolution at the UN Security Council, he knew the King was very upset over this decision. The Secretary reaffirmed the importance the U.S. attaches to its relationship with Saudi Arabia, reviewed the efforts made by the U.S. to avoid a veto in the UN, and explained the reasons why the non-aligned resolution if approved would have distorted UNSC Resolution 242 which continues to be the only basis on which to construct a Middle East settlement. The Secretary also reviewed efforts the U.S. has made to get negotiations started on an interim agreement between Egypt and Israel. END SUMMARY.

Ambassador Sawayyel said he had recently returned from Jidda where there had been a meeting of all Saudi Ambassadors. He had met with King Faisal who was very upset about U.S. policy in the Middle East. Faisal had described this policy as "negative" and had told the Ambassador that it could affect U.S.-Saudi relations and friendship. Faisal was very keen in maintaining this friendship but Saudi Arabia's neighbors were always criticizing him for his close relations with the United States which was continuing to provide arms and financial support to Israel. Faisal was constantly being asked why he did not do something with the Americans. The Ambassador said he had not yet received word from Jidda about the U.S. veto of the resolution on the Middle East at the UN Security Council but he knew that the King would be very unhappy.

NEA/ARP:FMDickman:bdj

(Drafting Office and Officer)

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