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Authority E.O. 12958

By W NARA Date 12/12/01

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E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

MLH01-29/12 per hr 14 July 2006By NS NARA, Date 31 JULY 2007

[6 pages]

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

1974-2-3, Faisal, Nixon Letter To

0 031725Z FEB 74 ZFF

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 6065

BT

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 0552

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA

SUBJ: NEW ARAB CONDITION FOR LIFTING OIL BOYCOTT

REF: A) JIDDA 0529; B) STATE 22597

SUMMARY: KING FAISAL ISOENDING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON IN WHICH HE SAYS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS CONTACTED OTHER ARAB STATES AND HAS FOUND NO SUPPORT FOR THE SAUDI PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE OIL BOYCOTT NOW. MOST OF THE ARAB STATES ASREE WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD THAT THIS ACTION CANNOT BE TAKEN UNTIL DISENGAGEMENT OF TROOPS BEGINS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE SAUDIS WERE SUPPORTED ONLY BY QATAR AND EGYPT, AND SAID THAT SYRIA IS NOW THE KEY TO PEACE IN THE AREA. HE SAID THIS LETTER DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE AN UNWENDING SERIES OF NEW DEMANDS, AND AGREED TO SEND ANOTHER LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OR THE PRESIDENT VERY SOON STATING EXPLICITLY THAT THE BOYCOTT WILL BE LIFTED WHEN DISENGAGEMENT IN GOLAN BEGINS. END SUMMARY.

1. SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ASKED TO SEE ME AT 1 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON (FEB 3, 1000-GMT). HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM RIYADH AND GAVE ME A MESSAGE FROM THE KING. ITS TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

"HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT:

"WE INFORMED YOU EXCELLENCY PREVIOUSLY THROUGH YOUR AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA THAT WE HAD BEGUN OUR CONTACTS WITH THE ARAB OIL PRODUCING STATES: WE HAVE DISCOVERED, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THESE STATES OF AMERICA UNWILLING TO LIFT THE BOYCOTT ON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNTIL AFTER AGREEMENT (AS REACHED) ON THE DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES ON THE GOLAN FRONT.

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CONTROL: 0 6 2 7Q
 RECD: 03 FEB '74 3:28PM

HAK

SELOWCRAFT
 McFARLANE
 RODMAN
 SAUNDERS

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By NARA Date 01/20/07

Department of State

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-2- JIDDA 0552, SECTION 1 OF 2, 03 FEB '74

"WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASAD THAT THE SYRIANS PRESENTED SECRETARY KISSINGER A PROPOSAL FOR THE DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES. UNTIL NOW NO REPLY HAS REACHED THEM. SINCE THE REVIEW OF THE QUESTION OF LIFTING THE BOYCOTT AT THE MEETING OF PETROLEUM MINISTERS IN TRIPOLI ON FEBRUARY 14, 1974 WILL NOT BE POSITIVE IF AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY REACHED ON DISENGAGEMENT ON THE GOLAN FRONT AND IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEGUN, WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL ATTEMPT TO ATTAIN THIS GOAL BEFORE THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OF PETROLEUM CONVENES IN ORDER TO ASSIST US IN ACHIEVING THAT.

"PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY (MY) BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED HEALTH. FAISAL, RIYADH, 3 FEB 1974."

2. I TOLD SAYYID OMAR I WAS MOST DISTRESSED; I WAS SURE THAT BOTH YOU AND THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE ALARMED AND ANGERED, AND THERE WOULD BE NO COMPREHENSION WHATSOEVER IN WASHINGTON OF THIS NEW DEMAND. I REVIEWED ALL EARLIER SAUDI STATEMENTS ABOUT LIFTING THE BOYCOTT. I SAID THAT THE LIFTING OF THE BOYCOTT TO HAVE HAD ITS MOST POSITIVE EFFECT IN THE U.S. AND THE WORLD SHOULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WHEN THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED; THE NEXT MOMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN WHEN DISENGAGEMENT BEGAN; AND IT CERTAINLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN LIFTED BEFORE THE PRESIDENT GAVE HIS STATEMENT OF THE UNION MESSAGE ON JANUARY 30. EVERY DELAY WEAKENED ARAB POSITION IN THE U.S.; EVERY FURTHER CONDITION THEY IMPOSED REDUCED THE WILL OF THE UNITED STATES EVEN TO TRY TO REACH A JUST PEACE IN THE AREA.

3. OMAR SAQQAF ALJEED WITH EVERY POINT BUT SAID THAT WE HAD UNFORTUNATELY NOT BEEN SO PERSUASIVE AS OTHER ARAB CAPITALS. HE SAID THAT ALGIERS, KUWAIT, AND ABU DHABI ALL AGREED COMPLETELY WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD'S POSITION THAT THE BOYCOTT SHOULD NOT BE LIFTED UNTIL DISENGAGEMENT BEGINS ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, THAT ASAD HAD JUST COME TO RIYADH TO REINFORCE HIS CASE WITH KING FAISAL. SAQQAF SAID LIBYA AND IRAQ DO NOT WANT THE BOYCOTT LIFTED AT ANY TIME. IN FACT, THE ONLY SUPPORT SAUDI ARABIA GOT WAS FROM QATAR, "WHICH DOESN'T EVEN COUNT."

4. I ASKED ABOUT EGYPT'S POSITION. HE REPLIED THAT EGYPT WOULD AGREE TO LIFT THE BOYCOTT IMMEDIATELY "EGYPT DOESN'T COUNT CRISIS ISSUE EITHER." HE SAID THE ARABS WERE DISMAYED AT THE WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT WHICH LEFT ONLY TOKEN

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

-3- JDDA 0552, SECTION 1 OF 2, 03 FEB'74

EGYPTIAN FORCES ON THE EAST BANK OF THE CANAL. HE SAID THIS CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO THE ARABS: THE EGYPTIANU HAD TOLD THE SAUDIS IN NOVEMBER THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ISRAELIS WAS THAT TWO-THIRDS OR THREE-FOURTHS OF EGYPT'S SECOND AND THIRD ARMIES WOULD STAY IN PALCE. THERE WAS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN THE ARAE WORLD, HE SAID, THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN HAD.

5. I SAID THAT THE KING'S LETTER WAS EXACTLY WHAT I HAD REPORTED TO WASHINGTON MIGHT HAPPEN -- WE WOULD MEET ONE DEMAND, AND THEN ANOTHER WOULD BE MADE. I WAS NOT PLEASED TO HAVE MY PREDICTION FULFILLED SO SOLIDLY. WHAT GUARANTEE COULD WE NOW POSSIBLE HAVE THAT A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ON THE SYRIAN FRONT WOULD NOT BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER DEMANDS?

6. SAYYID OMAR SAID THAT PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA HAD TOLD THE KING EXPLICITLY THAT HE WOULD AAVOR LIFTING THE BOYCOTT AS SOON AS THE DISENGAGEMENT BEGINS; THAT HE WAS SURE OTHER ARABS WOULD AGREE (EXCEPTING IRAQ AND LIBYA) AND THAT HE COULD GIVE ME HIS WORD THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD LIFT THE BYCOTT AT THAT TIME.

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