



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E 012958
By: CHL NAPA Date 11/7/08

Foreign Ministry of State

TELEGRAM

1973-12-29, Faisal, Qaddafi, Letter

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

DEC 31 AM 9:38

~~SECRET~~ 813

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43
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT=01 ISO=00 /031 W

118979

R 291335Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5781
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

~~SECRET~~ JIDDA 5741

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: QADDHAFI MESSAGE TO KING FAISAL

1. OMAR SAGGAF, SAUDI MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHOWED ME LAST NIGHT (DEC 28) MESSAGE KING FAISAL HAD RECEIVED FROM LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER QADDHAFI. QADDHAFI CHARGED THAT SADAT WAS BETRAYING THE ARAB CAUSE; THAT SADAT HAD BACKED OFF FROM THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ARABISM AND THAT ALL ARAB NATIONALISTS MUST RALLY AGAINST ISRAEL AND ITS MAIN DEFENDER, THE UNITED STATES. QADDHAFI ASKED FAISAL TO JOIN THIS NOBLE EFFORT.

2. SAGGAF SAID THAT QADDHAFI IS NOW ACTIVELY WORKING WITH IRAQ AGAINST SADAT; THAT BOTH HOPE THE PEACE TALKS WILL FAIL AND BOTH WILL DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO ASSURE FAILURE. HE SAID THAT QADDHAFI IS NOW PAYING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY TO SYRIA TO ACHIEVE A SORT OF TRIPOLI-DAMASCUS-BAGHDAD AXIS BUT SO FAR SYRIA IS RESISTING A FULL COMMITMENT TO QADDHAFI. SAGGAF CHARGED, AS HE HAD BEFORE, THAT THE USSR IN SPITE OF ITS APPARENT COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. IS ALSO WORKING FOR SADAT'S

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E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NEW 01/25/89 per LTR 09/16/06

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OVERTHROW.

3. SAGQAF THEN SHOWED ME THE REPLY TO GADDHAFI. IT HAD BEEN DRAFTED BY SAGQAF AND NOT YET SIGNED BY THE KING BUT HE SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT IT WOULD BE TODAY.

4. THE MESSAGE WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS COLDNESS. IT DID NOT INCLUDE THE USUAL OBLIGATORY SALUTATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF BROTHERLY ARAB FEELINGS. IT STARTED BLUNTLY BY SAYING THAT GADDHAFI WAS MISTAKEN. SAUDI ARABIA BELIEVED THAT THE ARABS HAD EMBARKED ON A REALISTIC AND REALIZABLE COURSE, AND ANY ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE SADAT WOULD WEAKEN THE ARAB CAUSE AND PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMIES OF THE ARABS.

5. COMMENT: I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT BOTH MESSAGES WERE GENUINE. I ALSO HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT SAGQAF'S PURPOSES IN SHOWING ME THE EXCHANGE WAS TO REINFORCE HIS POSITION THAT SADAT IS THE BEST ARAB LEADER THE WEST CAN HOPE FOR; THAT IF HE FALLS THE MIDDLE EAST WILL SEE A NEW RISE IN ARAB RADICALISM AND ALL OF AMERICA'S REMAINING ASSETS WILL BE LOST. THE ONLY WAY SADAT CAN BE STRENGTHENED, SAGQAF'S THESIS CONTINUES, AND THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE GENUINE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS FOR THE U.S. TO FORCE OR PERSUADE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS. HE INCLUDES IN HIS FORMULA APPROPRIATE SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ALL STATES OF THE AREA.

AKINS

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