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Department of State
SECRET
TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5758
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26 DEC 73 Z17 56

S E C R E T JIDDA 5704

1974-12-26, Faisal, Nixon

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA

SUBJ: KING FAISAL'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

REF: A) JIDDA 5663; B) STATE 236510

1. OMAR SAGQAF GAVE ME THIS MORNING A LETTER FROM THE KING TO THE PRESIDENT. IT FOLLOWS BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. HE SAID HE HAD DRAFTED IT AND HE POINTED OUT SEVERAL POINTS HE CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT.
2. HE SAID THE TONE WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY AND HE HOPED THE PRESIDENT WOULD UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THE KING APPRECIATED THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY YOU AND THE PRESIDENT.
3. SAGQAF SAID THE LAST PARAGRAPH'S REFERENCE TO THE "STORM CLOUDS" LIFTING EARLY NEXT YEAR MEANT THAT THE BOYCOTT WOULD BE LIFTED AND SEPTEMBER PRODUCTION LEVELS RESTORED. AS EARLY AS JANUARY, WHEN THE ARABS CAN SEE THAT PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IS BEING MADE. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE WHEN DISENGAGEMENT BEGINS OR EVEN IS ANNOUNCED.
4. FINALLY HE ASKED ME TO REMIND YOU THAT HE HAD GIVEN HIS WORD TO WORK TOWARD A LIFTING OF THE BOYCOTT ON THE BASIS OF WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH. HE SAID HE WAS IN NO WAY DISAPPOINTED IN WHAT YOU HAVE DONE ALREADY AND HE, ON HIS SIDE, (WAS STILL WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOAL. BUT, HE SAID, TO THE KING WAS DIFFICULT. AT TIMES HE THOUGHT THE KING WANTED TO LIFT THE BOYCOTT IMMEDIATELY; AT OTHER TIMES HE SEEMED MOROSE, DISSPIRITED AND HOSTILE. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID THAT SADAT HAD TOLD YOU NOT TO EXPECT ANY ACTION ON THE OIL FRONT YET (REFTEL) AND THEREFORE NEITHER YOU NOR I COULD BE DISAPPOINTED BY HIS FAILURE TO MOVE THE ARABS TO LIFT THE BOYCOTT NOW.

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NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

