

Saudi Arabia

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 170
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FM JEDDA 300715Z DEC 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 632 OF 30 DEC
INFO IMMEDIATE DOHA, ABU DHABI, DUBAI, MUSCAT, PRIORITY KUWAIT,
BAHRAIN AND ROUTINE RIYADH

YOUR TELNO 439: SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT

1. ON THE WHOLE I DO NOT THINK IT LIKELY THAT THE SAUDIS WILL ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE GULF STATES TO REJECT YOUR VISIT, THOUGH IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. THE DANGER IS MORE THAT THE BRITISH PRESS WILL BUILD UP A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE AND BE FOLLOWED BY THE SAUDI PRESS. THIS IN ITS TURN MIGHT MAKE THE GULF RULERS NERVOUS AND START A PROCESS OF CONSULTATION IN WHICH THE SAUDIS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE A VIEW. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THAT VIEW WOULD BE. ON THE ONE HAND, THEY ARE ALWAYS HAPPIER IN COMPANY SEMICOLON ON THE OTHER, I DO NOT/NOT BELIEVE THEY WANT A ROW WITH US.
2. ONE DIFFICULTY IS THAT BECAUSE OF HIS LONG ABSENCE I CANNOT JUDGE THE STRENGTH AND DIRECTION OF THE KING'S PERSONAL FEELINGS. YOU MIGHT BEAR IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY OF A MESSAGE TO HIM FROM THE PRIME MINISTER WHICH WOULD GET ME IN TO SEE HIM. BUT WE SHOULD NEED A GOOD STRONG PEG TO HANG IT ON.

CRAIG

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No. 10 DOWNING STREET

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NEWS .D

SIR J LEAHY
SIR J BULLARD
MR GOODISON

PS |
PS | MR HURD

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