

Scowcroft
Spundeis
McFarlane

TOSEC-25



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~TOP SECRET~~

R 021324Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5817
BT

0096Q
02 JAN 74 Z15 11

~~TOP SECRET~~ JIDDA 0011

NODIS/CHEROKEE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, SA
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT TO KING
FAISAL ON OIL BOYCOTT; AND POSSIBILITY OF SYRIAN-
ISRAELI HOSTILITIES

REF: A) JIDDA 0009; B) JIDDA 5793

1. IN THE SAME MEETING LATE YESTERDAY EVENING (REF A) SAQQAF TOLD ME HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A LONG LETTER FROM EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT TO KING FAISAL. HE HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO GIVE IT TO FAISAL WHO WAS IN MECCA FOR THE HAJ, AND HE VERY LIKELY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET IT TO HIS MAJESTY FOR ANOTHER DAY OR TWO. SAQQAF READ THE LETTER TO ME BUT ASKED THAT I NOT REPORT IT; THE KING AND SADAT WOULD BOTH BE ANGRY IF THEY FOUND HE HAD EVEN TOLD ME ABOUT IT. I DON'T KNOW IF SAQQAF REALLY EXPECTS ME NOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE LETTER BUT HE IS FULLY AWARE OF HOW EMBARRASSING IT WOULD BE TO HIM IF THE WORD GOT BACK TO EGYPTAINS OR THE KING. ON A PERSONAL NOTE, IT WOULD ALSO END THE USEFUL REALTIONSHIP I HAVE WITH SAQQAF. ACCRODINGLY, I HAVE CLASSIFIED THIS CABLE TOP SECRET.

2. THE FIRST HALF OF THE LETTER WAS PAEAN TO KISSINGER AND NIXON. YOU ARE THE ONLY AMERICAN POLITICIANS SINCE 1946 TO UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO WORK FOR A JUST PEACE IN THE AREA. UNFORTUNATELY, HE CONTINUED, PRESIDENT NIXON IS NOW IN A VERY WEAK POSITION. THIS WAS MADE CLEAR BY HIS LETTERS OF DEC 25 TO SADAT AND FAISAL, AND WAS EMPHASIZED BY THE ALARM REFLECTED BY YOUR LETTERS OF DEC 28 TO FAHMY AND SAQQAF. IT IS ALSO CLEAR FROM EGYPTAIN REPORTS FROM THE U.S. THAT PRESIDENT NIXON COULD EASILY BE IMPEACHED (SAQQAF COMMENTED THAT HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DOES NOT FUNCTION BUT HE HAS INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES THAT THE EGYPTIAN ANALYSIS IS CORRECT. HE QUOTED A MR. MCMULLEN, A "FRIEND" OF VICE PRESIDENT FORD, AS TELLING KING FAISAL A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT PRESIDENT

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DECLASSIFIED
EO 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5
NLN 01-29/141 147 24 JULY 2006
By NS NARA, Date 02 AUG 2007
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TOP SECRET



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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-2- JIDDA 0011, JAN 02, NODIS/CHEROKEE

NIXON WOULD BE IMPEACHED WITHIN TWO MONTHS. I'M REPORTING THIS SEPTEL WITH THE HOPE THAT IT CAN BE USED TO BRING AGAINST DR. McMULLEN UNDER THE LOGAN ACT.)

3. THE ARAB BOYCOTT AND THE RESULTING ECONOMIC DISLOCATION IN THE U.S. WILL INCREASE DISSATISFACTION AGAINST PRESIDENT NIXON AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS BEING IMPEACHED THEREBY WILL GROW. THE ARABS ARE NOT SERVING THEIR OWN CAUSE BY CONTINUING THE BOYCOTT.

4. SADAT CONTINUED THAT THE ARABS MUST DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO STRENGTHEN PRESIDENT NIXON. THE ONE THING THEY COULD DO WHICH WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE WOULD BE TO ASSURE THE PRESIDENT THAT THE BOYCOTT WOULD BE LIFTED AS SOON AS DISENGAGEMENT IS ACCOMPLISHED, WHICH SADAT SAID WOULD BE VERY SOON. (I ASKED SAQQAF IF THIS MEANT THE BOYCOTT WOULD BE LIFTED AS SOON AS AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT IS REACHED OR AS SOON AS DISENGAGEMENT IS COMPLETED. HE SAID THERE WAS AN AMBIGUITY HERE, BUT THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER MUCH AS THE TIME DIFFERENCE WOULD BE SMALL.)

5. SADAT SAID THAT AN INTER-ARAB CONFERENCE WOULD BE CALLED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER BUT THAT IF ALGERIA AGREED WITH THE SAUDI-EGYPTIAN POSITION (AS HE BELIEVED IT WOULD) THE OPPOSITION OF IRAQ AND LIBYA WOULD NOT MATTER. SADAT SUGGESTED THAT THE KING SEND OMAR SAQQAF TO ALGIERS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE TO INSURE HIS COOPERATION. (SAQQAF ASKED WHETHER I THOUGHT HE SHOULD GO; I REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY GOOD IDEA.)

6. SADAT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SAQQAF GO TO THE U.S. TO MEET WITH YOU AND PRESIDENT NIXON TO EXPLAIN THOROUGHLY THE CURRENT ARAB THINKING. SAQQAF ALSO ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT OF THIS. I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T KNOW BUT I WOULD ASK YOU. HE REQUESTED THAT THE QUERY NOT BE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SADAT LETTER, AND I TOLD HIM I WOULD MAKE A GENERAL INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER A VISIT WOULD BE OPPORTUNE AT THIS TIME. (COMMENT: I DO NOT THINK SAQQAF WOULD HAVE ANYTHING NEW TO OFFER OR ADD TO THIS LENGTHY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND HENCE WOULD NOT ADVISE HIS TRAVEL NOW. I WILL NOT, HOWEVER, DISCOURAGE HIS TRIP UNTIL I HEAR FROM YOU.)

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-3- JIDDA 0011, JAN 02, NODIS/CHEROKEE

7. SADAT ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF SYRIA. HE SAID EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOU ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A SYRIAN RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES (SAQQAF HAD ALREADY TOLD ME ABOUT THIS - REF B.) HE SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH SAQQAF AND BOTH HE AND THE EGYPTIANS HAD CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE DANGER. BUT ON REFLECTING ON THE URGENCY OF YOUR LETTER AND THE STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THE AMERICANS HAD ACCESS TO SECRET INFORMATION TO WHICH THE ARABS WERE NOT PRIVY, HE THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT IN FACT BE TRUE. ACCORDINGLY, HE ASKED THE KING TO SEND OMAR SAQQAF TO DAMASCUS TO TRY TO FIND OUT IF THERE WERE ANY SUBSTANCE TO THE REPORT, AND TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN TO THE SYRIANS THE NEED FOR CALM. (THIS TIME SAQQAF DID NOT ASK IF I THOUGHT HE SHOULD GO; HE COMMENTED THAT SADAT SEEMED TO THINK THAT HE, SAQQAF, WAS HIS FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT SADAT WAS ASKING HIM TO DO A LOT. SAQQAF WAS NOT UNHAPPY WITH THIS PROMINENCE AND I SUSPECT HE WILL BE OFF TO DAMASCUS SOON UNLESS THE KING VEToes THE IDEA.)

8. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THE VERY REAL CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF PRESIDENT NIXON, THERE WAS NO HINT IN THE LETTER THAT THE BOYCOTT COULD OR SHOULD BE LIFE TIME BEFORE DISENGAGEMENT. IF SAQQAF READ ME ALL PERTINENT PARTS OF THE LETTER, AND I BELIEVE HE DID, THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE CONCLUDED THAT DISENGAGEMENT WILL TAKE PLACE SOON; THAT THIS WILL GIVE THEM SUFFICIENT REASON TO EXPLAIN TO OTHER ARABS WHY THE BOYCOTT SHOULD BE LIFTED, AND THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WILL NOT BE DONE IRREPARABLE HARM BY A SHORT DELAY. THERE IS OF COURSE THE POSSIBILITY THAT SAQQAF WAS STRONGLY EDITING THE LETTER IN ORDER TO CONFIRM HIS PREVIOUS REPORTS ON THE EGYPTIAN POSITION, BUT I DOUBT IT. THE LETTER SEEMED CONSISTENT WITH FAHMY'S DECEMBER 30 LETTER TO YOU.

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