



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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1-2609/79

Office of the Secretary of Defense *545C552*  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS *and*  
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DR: 13-M-2994

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JUL 25 2013

Honorable Lee H. Hamilton  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Europe  
and the Middle East  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in reply to your February 27, 1979 letter to Secretary Brown regarding his February 1979 visit to Saudi Arabia.

In view of recent events in the Middle East, a primary objective of the Secretary's trip was to assure the leaders visited that the United States understands the dangers to the region and intends to act to protect its interests. Further objectives were to strengthen bilateral relationships and probe the degree to which friendly states in the area share a degree of common security interests. The Secretary undertook consultations with the various leaders in the context of these objectives, emphasizing the peace process and its importance to regional security.

In Saudi Arabia, Secretary Brown concentrated on the need for broad, systematic consultations on how best to meet the threats posed by the Soviet Union and radical states. The Secretary offered and the Saudis welcomed further consultation, and he indicated that the United States was prepared to work closely with the Saudis in designing a strategy for regional security. The thrust of the Secretary's discussion was toward a broader examination of security requirements, especially planning, to lay the groundwork for identifying appropriate U.S. actions. Possible forms of increased U.S. military presence in the area were discussed such as periodic aircraft deployments, joint exercises, naval presence, and collaboration on future basing arrangements, but no decisions were reached. In this regard, the Secretary made no specific proposals for basing nor did the Saudis specifically reject a U.S. base in the area, though they stressed the political sensitivity of U.S. military presence. They agreed that this could be examined further in the joint consultations on U.S. security assistance, along with other options.

I trust the above information will be useful to you.

Sincerely,  
WALTER Slocomba

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense  
International Security Affairs

13-M-2994

Saudi Arabia

SPN Files

(2) Feb 79

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1979 MAR -2 AM 9:11

OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
Congress of the United States  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 27, 1979

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.  
CHIEF OF STAFF

The Honorable Harold Brown  
Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The New York Times on February 27, 1979 reported that during your recent visit you discussed with the Government of Saudi Arabia a number of potential security measures, including the establishment of an American base in the region.

I would like to know the range of security concepts discussed with the Saudis and the reaction of the Saudis to these proposals. In particular, I would like to know whether the U.S. made an offer of an American base in the area and what was the reaction of the Saudis to any such effort.

I would appreciate an early reply to this letter.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Lee H. Hamilton, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Europe  
and the Middle East

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Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: JUL 25 2013

*3/2 should not be accurate but very general answer*  
HTB

MAR 1979  
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Saudi Arabia

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Secretary of Defense  
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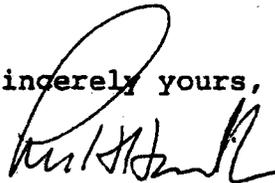
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*Saudi Arabia*

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