

04-F-0625



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

⑦

22 NOV 1983

Honorable Gillis Long
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Page determined to be Unclassified
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
Date: SEP 24 2013

Dear Congressman:

I am replying to your letter of November 3, 1983, in which you requested additional information about the May meeting between Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz and myself.

No transcript of the proceedings was kept. Naturally I sent a reporting cable to the President and the Secretary of State immediately following the talks. As you know, these cables are always private and are communicated only to those in the White House and the State Department who have a need to know.

In general terms, the principal focus of the meeting was on the Lebanon crisis, as the meeting took place at the time Secretary Shultz was conducting his shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East in his effort to break the deadlock. I was most interested in exploring approaches by Saudi Arabia that would persuade Syria to withdraw from Lebanon, as Israel had just agreed to withdraw its forces.

There were also discussions concerning recent GCC visitors to Washington and exchanges of views concerning the situation in the Gulf.

In addition to these topics, the whole range of bilateral security relations was also discussed, as is the case every time we hold our joint military meetings with the Saudis. I can assure you that, of course, no commitments were made on arms sales, as obviously none could be made without the support of both the Executive and the Legislative Branches. This is very well known to the Saudis as a result of the debates over the AWACS planes and other items. That is why the newspaper article is so absurd. It is similar to a claim that I promised someone Federal money without an appropriation by the Congress.

Sincerely,

NOV 53 1 23 PM '83

13-11-3125

50478

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

19 November 1983

Memo For Secretary of Defense **SEC DEF**
HAS SEEN

NOV 22 1983

You asked that I try my hand at a reply to Congressman Long concerning your meeting with MODA Sultan. I have drafted a slightly more informative letter. I hesitate to say that there are "no notes" because there is a reporting cable which went to the President and the SecState. I am given to understand that this cable did not remain just with those two principals, but was circulated throughout the State bureaucracy as well as the NSCs. I will be glad to be more forthcoming in the reply, but perhaps you would like to see the copy of your message to the President?

Very respectfully,

Rh

Richard L. Armitage

Yes
Done: ↑ m.w. understand you've already
see. KL
CD 50473 *Y.*

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SEP 26, 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE MILITARY ASSISTANT
9 November 1983

NOTE FOR ASD/ISA

Please see the Secretary's note on the attached which reads,

Rich,

Let's try your hand at a short summary on what we've done and said at this meeting and tell him these are our only notes - there was no "transcript"; never is at such meetings, etc."

50473

Colin L. Powell
Major General, USA
Senior Military Assistant
to the Secretary of Defense

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5-450 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS ind
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