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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 27 OF 14TH JANUARY 1985

FOR INFO WASHINGTON (STRICTLY PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

FOLLOWING STRICTLY PERSONAL FOR EGERTON.

YOUR TELNO 7 TO BAHRAIN: TORNADO.

1. HAVING ESTABLISHED FROM BAHRAIN THAT KING FAHD WAS WITH THE TRIBES IN THE DESERT, I CONVEYED A REQUEST TO CALL ON HIM THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I RECEIVED THE REPLY THAT THE KING WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE ME IN RIYADH ON HIS RETURN IN ABOUT TEN DAYS TIME, BUT THAT, IF I HAD A MESSAGE TO CONVEY WHICH NEEDED TO REACH HIM BEFORE THEN, HE WOULD SEND HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO RECEIVE ME FROM ME IN RIYADH. HAVING ALSO ESTABLISHED FROM SIR JAMES BLYTH THAT THE PRIVATE SECRETARY CONCERNED, MOHAMMAD SOLIMAN, WAS AWARE OF PRINCE BANDAR'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON 7 JANUARY, I ARRANGED TO MEET SOLIMAN IN RIYADH ON 13 JANUARY (ON MY WAY BACK FROM BAHRAIN), AND HANDED HIM THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE, TOGETHER WITH MY OWN TRANSLATION IN MANUSCRIPT.

2. SOLIMAN CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS ALREADY AWARE OF THE MEETING WITH PRINCE BANDAR, AND THAT THE LATTER HAD BEEN IN TOUCH DIRECT WITH THE KING. HE UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY TO THE KING, AND WAS DUE TO RETURN AT ONCE BY AIR TO THE DESERT. I EMPHASISED THE EXTREME SECRECY AND DELICACY WITH WHICH THIS MATTER WAS BEING HANDLED IN LONDON, AND OFFERED TO TRANSMIT ANY REPLY WHICH THE KING MIGHT WISH TO CONVEY. SOLIMAN TOOK NOTE, AND HAS GIVEN ME GUIDANCE ON HOW TO CONTACT HIM AT ANY TIME.

3. I ALSO DREW TO SOLIMAN'S ATTENTION THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOPE THAT KING FAHD COULD PASS THROUGH LONDON EN ROUTE TO OR FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND UNDERTOOK TO ACT AS THE CHANNEL, IF REQUIRED, FOR FURTHER EXCHANGES ON THIS ASPECT ALSO.

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4. I ASSUME THAT YOU WILL LET ME KNOW IF MR WALKER REQUIRES ANY ASSISTANCE FROM ME IN ARRANGING THE MEETING REFERRED TO IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE (PARA 5 OF YOUR TELNO 1 TO RIYADH ALSO REFERS). I SHOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE GRATEFUL IF I COULD BE KEPT INFORMED, IF NECESSARY ON A PERSONAL BASIS, OF THE OUTCOME OF ANY CONTACTS BETWEEN MR WALKER AND YAMANI.

5. MAY I PLEASE LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DISTRIBUTE THIS TELEGRAM FURTHER TO SIR J. BLYTH AND PS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AS APPROPRIATE.

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PS  
PS/PUS  
MR EGERTON

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