

GR 257

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FM MUSCAT 190519Z OCT 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 262 OF 19 OCTOBER

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, CAIRO, KHARTOUM, MOGADISHU, MODUK,  
JEDDA

INFO SAVING TEL AVIV, AMMAN, TRIPOLI, DAMASCUS, BAGHDAD

WASHINGTON TELNO 3046: US/EGYPT

1. ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS HERE ARE STILL PUTTING IT ABOUT THAT OMAN IS TO PARTICIPATE IN BRIGHT STAR (PARA 4 OF TUR) CDS (GENERAL CREASEY) HAS CONFIRMED MY UNDERSTANDING THAT HE HAS RECOMMENDED (WITH THE SULTAN'S AGREEMENT) THAT IT WILL NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR ANY SUCH MANOEUVRES TO TAKE PLACE IN THE SULTANATE UNTIL NEXT SPRING. HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF OMANI TROOPS TAKING PART IN THE EXERCISE ELSEWHERE (AS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN IMPLIED IN SOME RECENT BBC BROADCASTS).

2. ALTHOUGH THIS MAY EMBARRASS THE OMANIS WITH THE AMERICANS AT DIPLOMATIC LEVEL, I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF CREASEY DID NOT GET HIS WAY. WHILE HIS REASONS ARE CONCERNED MAINLY WITH THE FACT THAT OMANI FORCES ARE OTHERWISE OCCUPIED (AMONG OTHER THINGS WITH SAS EXERCISE SANDY WANDER), THE PROPOSED TIMING OF BRIGHT STAR WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE OMANIS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF NATIONAL DAY AND GULF AND ARAB SUMMITS.

3. WHILE I DO NOT QUESTION THE JUDGEMENT THAT BRIGHT STAR SHOULD BE POSTPONED SO FAR AS THE SULTANATE IS CONCERNED, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD NOT FEEL THAT IT IS THE BRITISH WHO ARE SPIKING THEIR GUNS. GENERAL CREASEY HAS TOLD ME THAT MY US COLLEAGUE FOUND IT DIFFICULT, WHEN HE SPOKE TO HIM ABOUT IT, TO UNDERSTAND THAT CREASEY WAS SQUEAKING WITH AN OMANI VOICE.

FCO PASS SAVING TEL AVIV, AMMAN, TRIPOLI, DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD.

LUCAS

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

STANDARD

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ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

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