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Help in need

PS/Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER'S TALKS WITH THE SULTAN: SUBSTANCE & FORM

1. Qais Zawawi asked me to call at his house this morning to compare notes on the topics likely to be raised on each side during the Prime Minister's visit.
2. I said that, so far as bilateral relations were concerned, I believed that Mrs Thatcher would emphasise Britain's wish, despite our reduced aid programme, to be involved in economic development in the Sultanate through training in Britain, advisory visits, and full participation by British industry in new projects (especially the University, in which we were interested in the academic input - if we could be of help in this connection - as well as the design and construction).
3. On defence, I thought that the Prime Minister would welcome a review of
- a) the general and specific threats to the region;
 - b) the US dimension;
 - ? c) possible British assistance, on the lines discussed with Mr Nott last month. *Training L.S.P.*
4. On general topics, I suggested that Mrs Thatcher would wish to discuss
- a) Gulf co-operation;
 - b) YAR/PDRY;
 - c) Iran/Iraq;
 - d) Europe and the Arab/Israel problem;
 - e) Afghanistan;
 - f) the world economy and the Mexico Summit.
5. I believed that the bilateral and defence subjects were likely to be in the forefront of the Prime Minister's mind.

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6. Qais Zawawi took careful notes, and commented that his own list of topics (which he consulted) covered much the same field. He would only add ~~that~~

- a) threats to the region should include Libyan expansionism and the situation in the Horn of Africa;
- b) the Prime Minister's assessment of the situation in Poland;
- c) her impressions of India, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

*I will
have too
Purd*

7. I asked Zawawi who was likely to be present at the Audience on 23 April. We were proposing to restrict our side to the Prime Minister, Mr Hurd, Sir Ronald Ellis, Sir John Graham and myself, [the object of this being to limit the overall numbers in order to get the best out of the Sultan]. Zawawi replied that this had not yet been decided, but that it was useful to know who would be present on the British side.

8. I also asked whether it was still the intention that the Sultan and the Prime Minister should talk alone at Ma'murah before the restricted lunch on 24 April [when our proposed representation is the Prime Minister, Mr Hurd, Sir John Graham and myself]. Zawawi confirmed that this was so, though no doubt a few advisers would be in the offing.



I T M Lucas

22 April 1981

cc: PS/Mr Hurd
Sir John Graham

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