

IMMEDIATE

*Sir M. Palmer
has a copy of
cheques*

IRAN/IRAQ

ADVANCE COPIES

ADVANCE COPIES

28 28

PS (6)
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR E YOUDE
SIR J GRAHAM
MR J C MOBERLY
MR BRAITHEWAITE
HD/MED
HD/NENAD
HD/UND
HD/CONS D
CONSULAR EMERGENCY UNIT
HD/ES & SD
HD/MAED
HD/DEF D
PUSL (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

~~28 28~~
D/O 280900Z

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE DIO

IMMEDIATE

*Prime Minister
29-9-80*

Sir A. Adams

M Adams

CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 280500Z
FM DUBAI 272155Z SEP 80
TO IMMEDIATE ABU DHABI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 34 OF 27 SEPTEMBER
AND TO IMMEDIATE FCO (*DUBAI 280900Z*)
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK BAGHDAD MUSCAT
JEDDA KUWAIT BAHRAIN DOHA

YOUR TELNO 19 TO ME AND WASHINGTON TELNO 2 TO MUSCAT: IRAN/IRAQ.
1. WITH YOUR AGREEMENT, I CALLED ON SHAIKH RASHID AT 2300 HOURS
TONIGHT. I SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF THE
LIKELY USE OF OMANI FACILITIES BY IRAQI FORCES FOR AN IMMINENT
ASSAULT ON THE GULF ISLANDS OCCUPIED BY IRAN BUT BELONGING TO
THE U A E. THIS CLEARLY TOUCHED THE U A E'S VITAL INTERESTS VERY
DEEPLY. WE DID NOT KNOW HOW FAR THE U A E MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE OMANI AND IRAQI GOVERNMENTS ON THIS
MATTER, BUT ALTHOUGH THIS EMBASSY HAD NO DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS, WE
BELIEVED THAT THE U A E SHOULD BE AWARE THAT H M G VIEWED THE
PROPOSED ACTION WITH THE GRAVEST MISGIVINGS, AND WERE URGING CAUTION
ON THE OMANI GOVERNMENT IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS.
2. THE NEWS CLEARLY CAME AS A TOTAL SURPRISE TO SHAIKH RASHID. HE
SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONSULT SHAIKH ZAID AND OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE U A E GOVERNMENT

2. THE NEWS CLEARLY CAME AS A TOTAL SURPRISE TO SHAIKH RASHID. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONSULT SHAIKH ZAID AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE U A E GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD REPEATEDLY TAXED SHAIKH SAQR OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH WITH PLOTTING SOME MISCHIEF WITH THE IRAQIS, BUT SAQR HAD ALWAYS ASSURED HIM THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF USURPING THE AUTHORITY OF SHAIKH ZAID AS PRESIDENT OR THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF RULERS, AND HAD EMPHASISED THAT HE NO LONGER HAD ANY ARMED FORCES UNDER HIS PERSONAL CONTROL. I SAID THAT I HAD NO INDICATION OF ANY INVOLVEMENT BY SHAIKH SAQR IN THE SCHEME, WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN EVOLVED SOLELY BY THE OMANI AND IRAQI GOVERNMENTS.

3. SHAIKH RASHID CLEARLY APPRECIATED ALL THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THE SAFETY OF THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ AND THE STABILITY OF THE WHOLE GULF AREA. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS ALREADY DUE TO SEE SHAIKH MOHAMMED AT 1000 LOCAL TIME TOMORROW, 28 SEPTEMBER (0600 G M T), BUT HE MAY WELL SUMMON ME HIMSELF. I SHALL TELEGRAPH AGAIN AS SOON AS I SEE EITHER OF THEM.

4. SHAIKH RASHID MENTIONED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL OVERFLIGHTS OF U A E TERRITORY BY IRANIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT TODAY. A PROTEST HAD BEEN MADE TO THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD SIMPLY DENIED THE FLIGHTS OCCURRED AT ALL. I IMAGINE THEY MAY HAVE BEEN IN REACTION TO MOVEMENTS OF IRAQI AIRCRAFT TO SIB: IN WHICH CASE, THE IRANIANS WILL ALREADY BE AWARE THAT SOMETHING IS AFOOT.

HASKELL

BT

NNNN