

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 061248Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0458
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3297

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, KU, US, PFOR, EFIN

SUBJ: KUWAITI INTEREST IN ATOMIC ENERGY AND CONVERSION OF SEA
WATER

REF: KUWAIT 3127

1. SUMMARY: AS INDICATED REFTTEL, DURING SECRETARY SIMON'S RECENT VISIT TO KUWAIT ACTING AMIR/CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER JABIR AL-AHMAD SOUGHT GREATER AND MORE URGENT US/KUWAITI CONTACTS IN FIELDS OF ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES AND CONVERSION OF SEA WATER. ACTING AMIR EXPRESSED SPECIFIC INTEREST IN ENTERING INTO DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING ATOMIC ENERGY. THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT USG PURSUE KUWAITI INTEREST IN THESE SUBJECTS AND THAT WRITTEN AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BE OFFERED TO ACTING AMIR AT AN EARLY TIME. END SUMMARY

2. ON AUG 5 I ASKED MINFINANCE & OIL ATEEQI FOR HIS COMMENTS ON WHAT ACTING AMIR HAD IN MIND WHEN HE MENTIONED DESALINATION AND NUCLEAR ENERGY TO SIMON. ATEEQI SAID SHAIKH JABIR WAS VITALLY INTERESTED IN DESALINATION, ENERGY, ELECTRICITY AND WATER

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AND HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT USG COULD DO TO HELP. ATEEQI SUGGESTED

A MEMO TO SHAIKH JABIR FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY OUTLINING ANY IDEAS WE HAVE.

3. PRESUMABLY SHAIKH JABIR WAS TALKING ABOUT KUWAIT BUT I AM CERTAIN HE WOULD WELCOME IDEAS FROM US ON US/KUWAITI COOPERATION IN THESE FIELDS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, PROBABLY ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING AREAS. IN ANY CASE, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND WE NOT IGNORE THIS OPENING AND THAT MATTER BE PURSUED AT AN EARLY TIME WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER MUTUAL BENEFIT CAN BE DERIVED.

4. LIKE SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, KUWAIT IS INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE ATOMIC ENERGY MIGHT PLAY IN ITS ECONOMY. THE CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF NATURAL GAS FOR POWER GENERATION AND SALT-WATER CONVERSION PROBABLY WILL INHIBIT EARLY KUWAITI INTEREST IN THE PURCHASE OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS. HOWEVER, A REQUIREMENT FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES (INCLUDING ATOMIC ENERGY) MAY COME SOONER RATHER THAN LATER AS MORE NATURAL GAS IS COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPING PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY. IN THE SHORTER TERM IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT GOK WOULD CONSIDER INVESTING SUBSTANTIAL SUMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT FIELD. THE EUROPEANS, IN PARTICULAR, CAN BE EXPECTED TO INVESTIGATE THIS POSSIBILITY IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

5. KUWAIT ALREADY HAS BENEFITED FROM ADVANCED SEAWATER CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIED THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS AND, IN FACT, IS DEPENDENT ON CONVERTED SEA WATER TO MEET ITS POTABLE WATER NEEDS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT BOTH THE USG AND GOK COULD BENEFIT FROM A GREATER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PERSONNEL IN THIS AREA. FURTHER, SUCH COOPERATION COULD RESULT IN KUWAITI SUPPORT OF DESALINATION PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER A MEMO(S) OF THE KIND DESCRIBED BY ATEEQI CAN BE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR INTERESTED USG AGENCIES FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SHAIKH JABIR. I ALSO BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE FOR USG EXPERTS IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY AND SEA WATER CONVERSION FIELDS TO VISIT KUWAIT AT AN EARLY TIME TO EXPLORE MORE FULLY KUWAITI INTERESTS AND DESIRES. (WE UNDERSTAND SUCH EXPERTS HAVE OCCASION TO VISIT THE AREA IN CONNECTION WITH PROGRAMS IN SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND

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IRAN.) BECAUSE OF THE PERSONAL INTEREST OF THE ACTING AMIR, HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS (I.E., A COMMISSIONER FROM THE USAEC FOR ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FOR SEAWATER CONVERSION) WOULD BE IDEAL. ALTERNATIVELY, WE COULD INVITE ACTING AMIR TO SEND KUWAITI GROUP TO VISIT US FOR DISCUSSIONS AND TO TOUR SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES.

STOLTZFUS

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