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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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1 OCT 1976

I-10631/76

8 o SEP 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Middle East Trip -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

Recently, we discussed Saudi Prince Abdallah's invitations for key USG officials to attend the graduation of SANG's first modernized battalion and the annual country-to-country review of the modernization program in Riyadh on 19/20 October 76. The Saudi Arabian Government (SAG) is giving this event its highest level attention. I recommend you designate Mr. Clements to attend as your representative to show our interest in this DOD FMS program, and more broadly, our support for the close security assistance relationship between our two governments. Recent media publicity and Congressional actions (anti-boycott legislation, attempts to block the sale of MAVERICK missiles) undoubtedly have raised questions in Saudi minds as to the steadfastness of USG support for modernization of the Saudi armed forces.

I recommend the trip be expanded to include visits to other Middle Eastern countries as follows-:

Bahrain: To demonstrate interest in reaching acceptable terms for continued stationing of Middle East Force on the island, and to solicit views of Commander, ME Force, regarding developments in the Persian Gulf/Red Sea/Indian Ocean.

Egypt: To demonstrate our continued support of the moderate' policies of President Sadat. (Perhaps a side trip to Alexandria would be appropriate to visit the Al-Gabbari naval shipyard facilities.)

Israel: To project an even-handed balance to the trip, and to obtain first hand impressions of Israeli impressions of current USG security assistance levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That you designate Mr. Clements to represent you at the Saudi graduation ceremony and annual review:

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____ OTHER _____

Gene - you decide and handle it.

Classified by ASDE/ISA
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 82.

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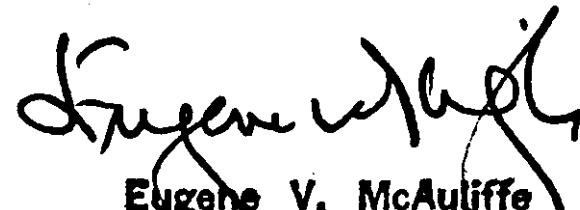
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- That you approve including Bahrain, Egypt, and Israel in the trip and authorize us to seek State/White House concurrence.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____ OTHER _____


Eugene V. McAuliffe
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

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