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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

1-7157/76

7-6-76

Saudi Arabia

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Talking Paper for Abdallah Discussions

I am attaching some suggested talking points for your use in the event that Prince Abdallah wishes to discuss the Israeli action in Uganda, the possible role of one of the extremist Palestinian groups, or the position of Kenya in the affair.

Attachment a/s

6 JUN 1976

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Classified by ASD/ISA
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 12-31-89



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See Det Cont No. X - X

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6 July 1976

TALKING PAPER FOR SECDEF

SUBJECT: Air France Skyjacking and the Israeli Action in Uganda

- In his statement on the affair, President Ford expressed his "satisfaction" that the lives of the hostages were saved.
 - He made no reference to the means by which the rescue was effected.
 - USG had no advance notice; Israel apparently acted alone, as PM Rabin said in his statement to the Israeli parliament.
 - President Kenyatta of Kenya also apparently did not know of the operation beforehand.
- The U.S. believes that international terrorism must be resisted: terrorists left to go free or whose demands are met will strike again, and be emboldened by their success.
 - We would prefer that all states would do their duty to combat this form of international piracy.
- International nature of skyjacking groups is clear:
 - Skyjackers included a German man, a Turkish woman, and a Latin American who are associated with the terrorist called "Carlos."
 - These are extreme leftists interested in worldwide revolution; any state in the free world could be their victims, including the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.
- There is some evidence that the group was associated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), headed by George Habbash, or to a splinter group from the PFLP.
 - The PFLP is an extreme leftist, Marxist group which counts Saudi Arabia and the U.S. among its enemies only slightly less so than it does Israel.
- Speaking of the Palestinian organizations, they seem to be in considerable disarray.
- The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), the Syrian-sponsored Sa'iqa group, and the so-called "Rejection Front" composed of the PFLP and other extreme Marxist groups seem to find themselves on different sides in the shifting situation in Lebanon.



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2.

- It appears that Syria would like to have seen the leader of Sa'iqa (Zuhair Muhsin) take over leadership of the PLO from Yasir Arafat. Events in Lebanon seem to make that an unrealistic outcome.

(You might wish to ask the Prince how he 'sees the future of the PLO and the Palestinian organizations in light of the events in Lebanon.)

KENYA

- At the current OAU meeting in Mauritius, there is of course an outpouring of rhetoric condemning the Israeli intervention in Uganda.
 - We suspect that much of this is pro forma and that most African leaders are wary of Amin and certainly not sympathetic to terrorism..
- Kenya is placed in a particularly delicate position by the affair.
 - Israeli use of Nairobi airport after the Uganda operation was apparently necessary for medical and refueling purposes.
 - Kenyatta, with whom I met only a few weeks ago in Nairobi, is of course gravely concerned about Amin's attitude as well as that of the Siad leadership in Somalia.
 - - In February, Amin publicly claimed a large portion of western Kenya.
 - The Somalis claim the northern third of Kenya.
 - Soviets are active in both countries, particularly in Somalia where they are building major facilities for military use.
 - Kenya could hardly have refused to assist in humanitarian medical support and refueling to enable Israeli planes to return to Israel.
 - Kenya is, however, vulnerable militarily to the far better armed Somalis and/or Ugandans who might seize this occasion to strike at Kenya in retaliation.

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