

May 14, 1987

For files
shown to
RR
5/14
44717
JK

SUBJECT: Saudi Position on Conversations with the President on Saudi Contributions to the Contras

Up to now the Saudis have taken the position that the President and the King did not discuss Saudi aid to the Contras. Privately they have told me that McFarlane did solicit such aid.

In light of yesterday's flap the Saudis have been in touch with us. King Fahd still does not recall mentioning Contra aid to you when he was here. The Saudis will try to avoid any public comment on this subject. If they are unable to do so they will take the following line:

1. They don't discuss conversations between Heads of State.
2. They do cooperate in many areas with the US Government.
3. They have provided humanitarian aid to people fighting for freedom in various parts of the world.
4. The President has never asked the King for aid to the Contras nor did he raise it with His Majesty or Prince Bandar during the visit.

The Saudis still wonder how to get around the dilemma of your recalling the statement and Fahd being unable to recall it. I told them to simply state they don't recall the statement and do not have this in their records, but in any event the central point is clear. The President of the United States did not solicit funds for the Contras.

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR 507-080 #44717

BY LOI NARA DATE 12/3/08