

~~Top Secret~~

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 16 August 1978 CG NIDC 78/191

[Redacted box]

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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[REDACTED]

SAUDI ARABIA: Camp David Meeting

[REDACTED] *Saudi Arabia has been explaining its support for the trilateral talks at Camp David to key Arab leaders and trying to persuade them to withhold comment on the meeting between Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin until the outcome is known.*

[REDACTED] Intelligence chief Prince Turki al-Faysal returned to Saudi Arabia on Monday after visiting Jordan's King Hussein, Iraqi strongman Saddam Husayn, Syrian President Assad, and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat. Prince Turki told US Ambassador West that his mission had been to explain Riyadh's position to the other Arabs and to convince them that President Carter's involvement as a "partner" in the negotiating process ought to be recognized and appreciated. He acknowledged that the Saudi decision to offer public support for the meeting had not been an easy one.

[REDACTED] The Saudi intelligence chief admitted that his arguments had not met with much success. His overall impression was that the Arabs felt that little would be accomplished at Camp David. He said the general feeling is that, despite unanimously high regard for President Carter's sincerity, the US would not in the final analysis have the will to exert the necessary pressure on Israel to achieve the two basic conditions for peace--withdrawal from occupied territories and Palestinian self-determination.

[REDACTED] Prince Turki did claim to have persuaded Assad not to say anything to detract from the summit and to take a "wait-and-see" position on the talks. The government-controlled Syrian press, however, has strongly criticized the Camp David meeting.

[REDACTED] Yasir Arafat reportedly agreed personally to refrain from further remarks on the summit but said he would have to take up the matter of the PLO's official position with the organization's Central Committee. [REDACTED]

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