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## WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Collection Name	WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMEN (WHORM): SUBJECT FILE	Withdrawer DLB 6/1/2010				
File Folder	CO083 (KUWAIT) (060000-499999)		FOIA	0/1/2010		
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Box Number	118		SYST: 721	EMATIC		
ID Doc Type	Document Description No Pag		Doc Date	Restrictions		
92014 MEMO	CHARLES HILL TO ROBERT MCFARLANE, RE: REQUEST FOR COURTESY CALL BY THE KUWAITI PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	1	9/19/1984	B1		
	R 10/11/2022 DEPT. OF STATE G	UI	DELINES			
92015 LETTER	REAGAN TO KING FAHD	2	ND	B1		
92016 MEMO	WILLIAM BURNS TO JOHN POINDEXTER, RE: MEETING WITH KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER	1	9/23/1986	B1		
	R 10/11/2022 WH GUIDELINES					

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT 1983 JAN -7 P 3: 33

### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR

EDWIN L. HARPER

FROM:

KEVIN R. HOPKINS

SUBJECT:

THE ATTACHED

Ms. Peterson needed an immediate answer. At the time she called, everyone who might know the answer was gone for the New Year's break or otherwise unreachable. Thus, I told her I could not provide an answer until Monday, which she said would be too late. Her story ran in the <u>Post</u> on December 31.

DOCUMENT NO. 102902

## OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT

## STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	1/4/83	ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:		1/10/83				
SUBJECT:	Proposal	to	lease	land	to	Kuwait		

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**REMARKS**:

What was the answer?

Please return this tracking sheet with your response

Edwin L. Harper Assistant to the President for Policy Development (x6515)

- -PD

PRESS CALLS

DECEMBER 30, 1982

3:30 pm

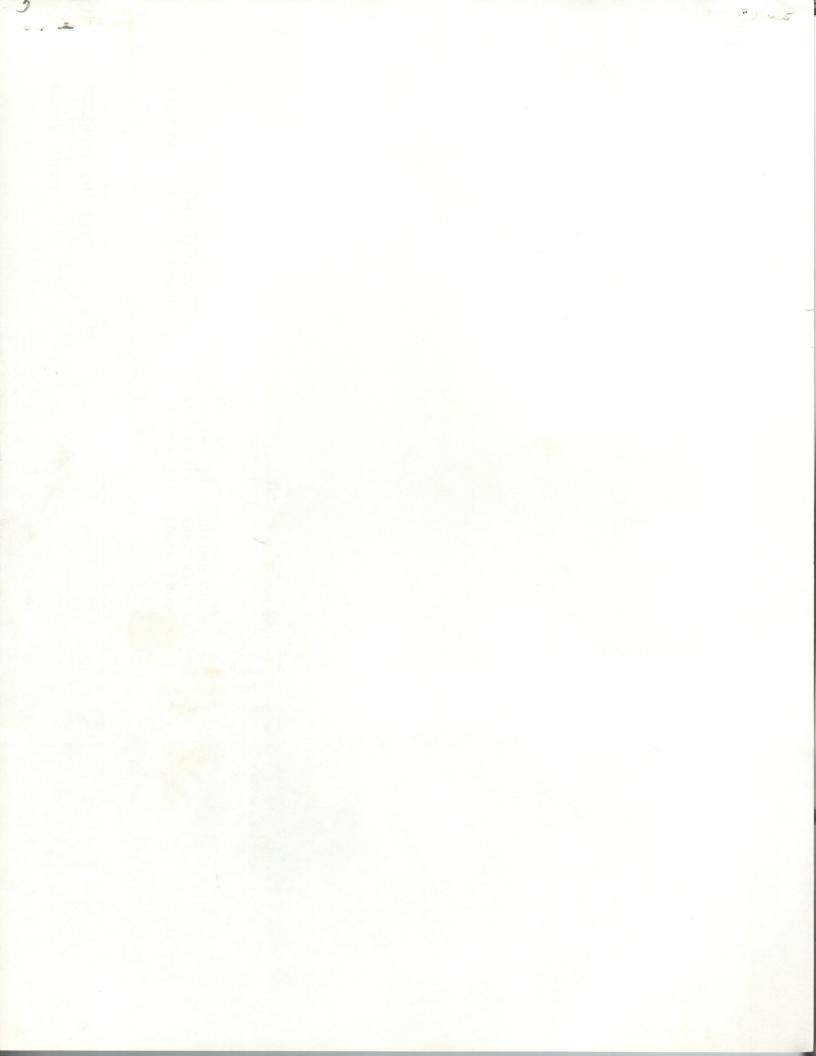
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Cass Peterson Washington Post Proposal to lease land to Kuwait. What kind of review is required on MLL Act.

what was The annual,

334-6921

Kevin R. Hopkins





## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1983

14 7982 1180 00083 F-G038 FG006-12

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMIT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FROM:



SUBJECT:

Vice President's Meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador Al-Yagout

The Vice President will meet with Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Quasim Omar Al-Yagout, at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, in his West Wing office. May we please have recommended talking points and background papers for the Vice President's use by Tuesday, May 24?

Thank you.

N5C# 8303468

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

REFERRAL

DATE: 20 MAY 83

PAGE E01

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: KIMMITT

SOURCE: GREGG, D

DATE: 20 MAY 83

KEYWORDS: KUWAIT

UAE

AL-YAGOUT, QUASIM O

AVP

SUBJ: REQUEST TALKING POINTS & BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR VP 26 MAY MTG W/ AMB

REQUIRED ACTION: PREPARE TALKING POINTS & BACKGROUND

PAPERS

DUEDATE: 24 MAY 83 COMMENTS:

Hardd

for ROBERT M. KIMMITT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY 

ID 8303468

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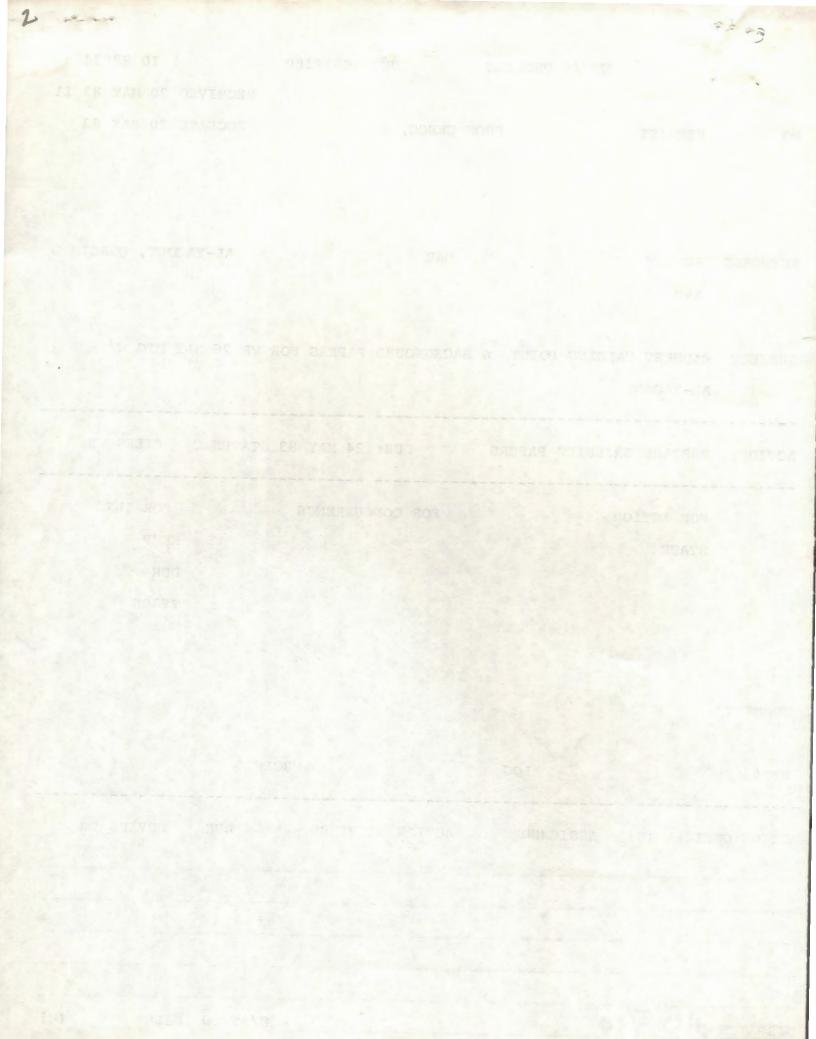
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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June 11, 1983 RA

MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLES HILL Executive Secretary Department of State

SUBJECT: Santa Fe / Kuwait

Attached is a copy we received of a submission to Interior Secretary Watt. It is forwarded for information and whatever action the Department deems appropriate. Please coordinate, as required, with Interior.

Zohert M. (mmitt Robert M. Kimmitt Executive Secretary

Attachment as noted

NSC#8304050

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			RECEIVED	11	JUN	83	16	

DOCDATE 11 JUN 83

TO HILL, C

FROM KIMMITT

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KEYWORDS: LEGAL ISSUES

KUWAIT

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF SANTA FE INTL CORP & KUWAIT PETROLEUM CORP RE STATUS OF KUWAIT UNDER MINERAL LANDS LEASING ACT OF 1920

ACTION:	KIMMITT SGD MEMO	TO HILL	DUE :	STATUS C FILES WH
	FOR ACTION		FOR CONCURRENCE	FOR INFO
	STATE			KIMMITT
				KEMP
				DUR

COMMENTS

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ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
DISPATCH ed 6/11 m	nd		W/ATTCH	FILE (C)

National Security Council 677 The White House 02 Red 5/25/83 850 p-SEQUENCE TO HAS SEEN ACTION John Poindexter **Bud McFarlane Jacque Hill** Judge Clark John Poindexter **Staff Secretary** Sit Room A-Action R-Retain D-Dispatch N-No further I-Information Action DISTRIBUTION Baker Deaver Other cc: VP Meese COMMENTS nd we refer to

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

May 24, 1983

Bud McFarlane:

-

Re: Santa Fe/Kuwait Issue

This issue was raised at tonight's staff meeting. Judge Clark's comments confirmed my legal assessment -- that this matter was not appropriately referred to us and that the issue is better left to Interior, State, Treasury, and Commerce. Geoff Kemp is following this issue from a policy perspective and will advise if any appropriate actions develop in the future.

Sorry this is late back to you. Although your note is dated May 11, I only received it last week.

Robert M. Kimmitt

cc: Geoff Kemp

#### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON May 11, 1983

Bob Kimmitt

Subject: Pakcage from Coleman (?) on Sant Fe issue.

With your Counsel hat on, please consider whether this is even appropriately referred to us by Coleman before staffing it.

If it is, ok, but if it isn't then we should refer it back to Coleman or direct to the appropriate agency (Interior)?

Bud ul

#### DRAFT

The Honorable William P. Clark Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Judge:

As you know, Secretary Watt determined on March 10, 1983 that Kuwait is a disqualified country under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (MLLA) on the ground that Kuwait discriminated against U.S. interests in terminating concessions held by U.S. interests. I know this matter has previously been on the agenda of the Senior Inter-Departmental Group on International Economic Policy, and I hope that you and your colleagues on the SIG will now consider revisiting the matter.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter to Secretary Watt and accompanying materials prepared by counsel for Santa Fe and its shareholder, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. These demonstrate, in my view, that Secretary Watt reached his conclusion that Kuwait had discriminated against American companies on the basis of incomplete and erroneous information resulting from procedures which did not allow Santa Fe or Kuwait to explain the actions of Kuwait during the 1970's. If you review the memorandum, I hope you will agree that, far from suffering from discrimination, American interests

Re Further Consideration of the Status of Kuwait Under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920

long enjoyed the paramount position in the Kuwaiti oil industry and that Kuwait terminated American interests entirely on objective grounds without any intended or <u>de facto</u> discrimination against Americans.

I am informed that the enclosed materials were delivered to Secretary Watt on Wednesday, May 4, and that Santa Fe and KPC have requested a meeting on this matter on Wednesday, May 18. Now that a more accurate and complete picture of the Kuwaiti oil industry is available, perhaps the SIG should encourage Secretary Watt to treat Kuwait like other state ownership countries which have long been found to be qualified under the MLLA. This result would be supported by well-established legal precedent, by the pressing need for new capital to help develop our frontier oil and gas resources, and by the need to maintain good diplomatic relations with Kuwait and other countries with similar laws.

Thank you for your attention to this. Please call if I can give you any additional information.

Very truly yours,

[signature]

O'MELVENY & MYERS

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ISOO CENTURY PARK EAST LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067-ISS9 TELEPHONE (213) 553-6700 TELEX 67-4097

OUR FILE NUMBER

COMMENTS OF SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION AND KUWAIT PETROLEUM CORPORATION IN SUPPORT OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS OF KUWAIT UNDER THE MINERAL LANDS LEASING ACT OF 1920

and

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL TO THE HONORABLE JAMES G. WATT, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Distributed by O'Melveny & Myers, 1800 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, special counsel for Santa Fe International Corporation. O'Melveny & Myers is registered with the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (Registration No. 3346) as a foreign agent of Santa Fe International Corporation, 1000 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91802. As required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act, the registration statement of O'Melveny & Myers is available for inspection at, and copies of the attached documents are being filed with, the Department of Justice. Registration of agents of foreign principals required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act does not indicate approval by the United States Government of their political propaganda.

#### May 4, 1983

#### BY HAND

The Honorable James G. Watt Secretary of the Interior Department of the Interior 18th and C Streets, N.W. Room 6151 Washington, D.C. 20240

#### Re March 10, 1983 Determination Regarding Kuwait

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Our respective clients, Santa Fe International Corporation (Santa Fe) and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), were encouraged to learn, from Assistant Secretary West's letter of April 19, 1983, that the Department of the Interior is giving further consideration to the decision you announced on March 10, 1983 regarding the status of Kuwait under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (MLLA), 30 U.S.C. § 181.

We understand that the Ambassador of Kuwait, His Excellency Saud N. Al-Sabah, is delivering a letter to Mr. West today which provides detailed answers to the questions posed in Mr. West's letter and should be of material assistance in this further consideration by the Department. In addition, we are enclosing a memorandum showing that American companies enjoyed the paramount position in the Kuwaiti oil industry through the period that concessions were granted to private companies, and when such concessions were restricted or terminated, Kuwait acted without any discrimination against U.S. interests. The memorandum also addresses certain procedural deficiencies we perceive in the process leading to your March 10, 1983 decision.

We respectfully submit that these materials demonstrate that you should confirm the qualified status of Kuwait under the MLLA, in accordance with the decision of December 29, 1982. We hope that, after this submission, we may move beyond an exchange of written submissions to a personal dialogue on a matter which is of importance to our foreign relations and U.S. economic policy. We would propose that, on Wednesday, May 18, 1983, we meet with you or your delegate to discuss this matter. In the meantime, we would #2 - The Honorable James G. Watt - 5/4/83

appreciate your staff acknowledging receipt of this transmittal and would be happy to respond to any questions.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Coleman at 202/457-5300, Mr. Marans at 202/728-2700, or their respective colleagues identified on the enclosed comments.

Very truly yours,

WSt - Cinc

William T. Coleman, Jr. of O'MELVENY & MYERS Counsel for SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 1

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Eugene Marans.

J. Eugene Marans CLEARY, GOTTLIEB, STEEN & HAMILTON Counsel for KUWAIT PETROLEUM CORPORATION

cc: The Honorable J. Robinson West The Honorable Garrey E. Carruthers William H. Coldiron, Esq. Mr. Robert F. Burford Alexander H. Good, Esq. COMMENTS OF SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION AND KUWAIT PETROLEUM CORPORATION IN SUPPORT OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS OF KUWAIT UNDER THE MINERAL LANDS LEASING ACT OF 1920

> William T. Coleman, Jr. Richard C. Warmer Carl R. Schenker, Jr. Susan S. Richardson O'MELVENY & MYERS 1800 M Street, N.W. Suite 500, South Washington, D.C. 20036

Counsel for SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

Donald L. Morgan J. Eugene Marans Jonathan J. Rusch CLEARY, GOTTLIEB, STEEN & HAMILTON 1752 N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Counsel for KUWAIT PETROLEUM CORPORATION

May 4, 1983

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COMMENTS OF SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION AND KUWAIT PETROLEUM CORPORATION IN SUPPORT OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS OF KUWAIT UNDER THE MINERAL LANDS LEASING ACT OF 1920

In his March 10, 1983 decision (Decision), Secretary Watt determined that citizens of Kuwait are disqualified from owning interests in petroleum leases issued under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (MLLA), 30 U.S.C. § 181 et seq. (Decision, p. 9.)\* Santa Fe International Corporation (Santa Fe), and its stockholder, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), present these comments in support of their request that Kuwait's status as a qualified country be confirmed. Attached to these comments are two related documents which will be cited throughout. The first (at Tab 1) is a letter dated May 4, 1983 from the Ambassador of Kuwait, His Excellency Saud N. Al-Sabah, to the Honorable J. Robinson West responding to the questions posed in Assistant Secretary West's letter of April 19, 1983 (cited as "Response, p. "). The second (at Tab 2) is a document dated May 4, 1983 entitled "Background Notes on Oil Concessions Granted by the Government of the State of Kuwait" (cited as "Notes, p. \_\_").

\* "Decision on the Status of Kuwait Under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. § 181 <u>et seq</u>.)."

There is no charge that Kuwait ever discriminated against U.S. companies in the <u>granting</u> of hydrocarbon concessions. No new concession has been granted to any private company of any nationality for more than 15 years;\* previously companies owned in whole or in part by U.S. interests held the two most important on-shore oil and gas concessions in Kuwait. The Decision's sole ground for disqualification is the alleged pattern of "effective discrimination" (Decision, p. 8) against U.S. companies during the change-over from private concessions to government ownership:

"The record before the Department shows that the Kuwaiti custom of nationalization systematically eliminated all Kuwaiti petroleum concessions held by U.S. citizens and corporations. However, the record also demonstrates that there was no such systematic elimination of the concessions held in part by Japanese-owned, by British and Dutch-owned, and by Spanish-owned companies. Indeed, the concession with Japanese interests continues to operate."

#### (<u>Id.; see also id.</u>, p. 6.)

Thus, the Decision asserts that Kuwait's concession termination practices constituted de facto discrimination

<sup>\*</sup> The Decision acknowledges the even-handed application of Kuwait's present policy of exploiting its oil and gas resources through government-owned corporations: "We have no evidence, however, that the Government of Kuwait has offered, granted or otherwise provided an opportunity for, or any concessions to, privately-owned entities since it began its policy of nationalization in the 1970's." (Decision, p. 7.)

against U.S. interests. This conclusion distorts the wellestablished meaning of de facto discrimination -- a pattern of results disadvantageous to a group and having no reasonable explanation other than an underlying reliance on impermissible discrimination against that group. (See infra, pp. 38-39.) These comments will demonstrate in detail that, when Kuwait chose to increase its control over the oil industry, the two concessions with American interests were terminated because of the importance of the concessions, not because of the American nationality of the concessionaires. Conversely, concessions with non-American owners were treated somewhat differently because of objective, reasonable distinctions arising from the circumstances of those concessions, not because of the nationality of the concessionaires. In short, the conclusion of de facto discrimination is arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to both the facts and prior Departmental administration of the MLLA. Since there simply are no grounds for concluding that Kuwait ever discriminated against U.S. interests, the qualification of Kuwait under the MLLA should be confirmed.

#### SUMMARY

On the merits, the Secretary's Decision was fundamentally flawed in at least seven separate respects:

First, the Decision completely disregards the fact that American interests historically enjoyed an unequaled position in Kuwait, which should have been of critical importance in evaluating the reasonableness of Kuwait's steps to take control over its oil industry. While private concessions were being granted, companies owned in whole or in part by U.S. interests had enjoyed an unequaled position in Kuwait, participating in the earliest concessions, with the most favorable terms, and which produced over 90 percent of the oil lifted in Kuwait from 1946 through 1975. State ownership of those concessions was essential to Kuwait's program of government control, and by disregarding the importance of those concessions, the Decision punishes Kuwait for having granted extremely productive concessions to U.S. interests and in effect penalizes Kuwait for adopting a state ownership program.

Second, Kuwait had granted a total of only five concessions and even though private ownership was reduced or eliminated in every concession during the 1970's, the Decision ignores objective, reasonable grounds for the different treatment of various concessions and unjustifiably infers a pattern of "effective discrimination" based on the nationality of the concessionaires. In fact, Kuwait treated each concession on the basis of its own circumstances and acted in each case

on the basis of reasonable, non-discriminatory considerations. Since Kuwait's actions with regard to all five concessions are readily explained by non-discriminatory considerations, there is no support whatever for the inference of an unarticulated policy based on the nationality of concessionaires.

#### Third, the Decision draws arbitrary inferences

from the purchase of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), which was under 50 percent British ownership and 50 percent U.S. ownership and produced over 90 percent of the oil in Kuwait. KOC was acquired first because of its prime importance, not because it was 50-percent U.S. owned. Moreover, the purchase of KOC left important U.S. concession interests in existence, while it eliminated the <u>only</u> producing British concession in Kuwait, thus negating the charge that Kuwait discriminated against the United States in favor of "British and Dutch-owned" companies. (Decision, p. 8.)

<u>Fourth, the Decision impermissibly considers Kuwait's</u> <u>continental shelf concession practices, including the present</u> <u>concession rights of Arabian Oil Company (Arabian Oil)</u>. After the purchase of KOC, 100-percent U.S.-owned American Independent Oil Company (Aminoil) held the <u>only</u> on-shore production in private ownership. Moreover, contrary to an erroneous factual assertion in the Decision, Aminoil was the <u>last</u>

private on-shore concessionaire in Kuwait. Thus, there was no "systematic elimination" of on-shore concessions with U.S. interests while similar concessions in favor of other foreign interests continued to exist. Kuwait's concessions for continental shelf areas are not relevant under the MLLA because U.S. off-shore leases are governed by the entirely distinct Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and thus continental shelf leases are not "similar or like privileges" under the MLLA. This has been recognized explicitly in the prior precedents of the Department. 1

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Fifth, the Decision attaches a wholly arbitrary significance to the fact that producing companies with U.S. ownership were taken over, whereas non-producing companies with Spanish and British-Dutch ownership were allowed to relinguish their concessions. Obviously, there was no reason for Kuwait to acquire non-producing concessions in implementing its policy to take control of the oil industry. The choice between state acquisition and allowing relinquishment was based on the insignificance of the relinquished concessions, not on discrimination based on the nationality of the concessionaires. Moreover, the Decision is factually flawed in assuming that these non-producing concessions were still under active exploration following 1975; in fact, they were virtual dead letters. Sixth, even if the continental shelf concession held by Arabian Oil were relevant, there would have been no discrimination in the complete reacquisition of the Aminoil concession while the Arabian Oil concession was allowed to continue in limited partial private ownership because the distinction in treatment was made on the reasonable, nondiscriminatory grounds that Arabian Oil held concessions from both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the jointly administered Divided Zone and that off-shore operations are more technically complex. An impartial international arbitral tribunal explicitly found that Aminoil was not taken over because of U.S. ownership and that the Arabian Oil concession was allowed to continue in partial private ownership because of its objective circumstances rather than the Japanese nationality of the concessionaire.

Seventh, the situation in Kuwait bears no similarity to the Netherlands precedent relied upon in the Decision. In the 1920's Dutch concessions were available to privately held companies (principally Royal Dutch Shell), while American companies were excluded. Thus, the Netherlands did not have a general state ownership policy and were affirmatively discriminating against U.S. interests in favor of Dutch and British private interests.

The Decision was also vitiated by at least six procedural errors, which rendered the Department's reevaluation unfair, unsound, and unlawful. Most seriously, as detailed in Part III: (1) the Department suspended and then reopened a decision in favor of Kuwait's qualification without stating the reasons for reevaluation or identifying the issues under consideration, (2) the Department never identified its "particular focus" to Santa Fe or KPC, although Santa Fe asked repeatedly that the issues under review be disclosed, (3) the Department not only failed to allow meaningful comment by Santa Fe and KPC, but also failed to adequately inform itself concerning critical issues, (4) the Department disregarded its precedents on the irrelevance of off-shore resources without either opportunity for public comment or explanation, (5) Secretary Watt met at least once with private interests antagonistic to Santa Fe and KPC while refusing to meet with Santa Fe, and (6) the Department did not disclose to Santa Fe or Kuwait the existence of a list of gualified countries which would have constituted an important source of Departmental precedent for this proceeding.

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#### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At the outset, one must recognize that the scale of Kuwait's concession grants and terminations is infinitesimal

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## THE WHITE HOUSE

#### WASHINGTON

Your Highness:

I wish to take this opportunity to add my personal assurances to those given by Secretary Shultz to Foreign Minister Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on September 30, 1983 that the United States looks forward to having constructive bilateral relations with Kuwait. Despite the recent strain in our relations, our two countries share important mutual interests, including those in the economic and commercial sphere, which we wish to continue to develop. We also appreciate the importance of continuing and deepening if possible our exchanges on political issues of importance to both of our countries, such as the search for a permanent solution to the problems of Lebanon and an end to the Gulf War.

It is with the hope that we can work together to strengthen the longstanding and constructive dialogue between our governments on these matters of mutual interest that Secretary Regan is visiting Kuwait at this time.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

ON

10/21/83.

His Highness Sheikh Jabir Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Emir of the State of Kuwait Kuwait

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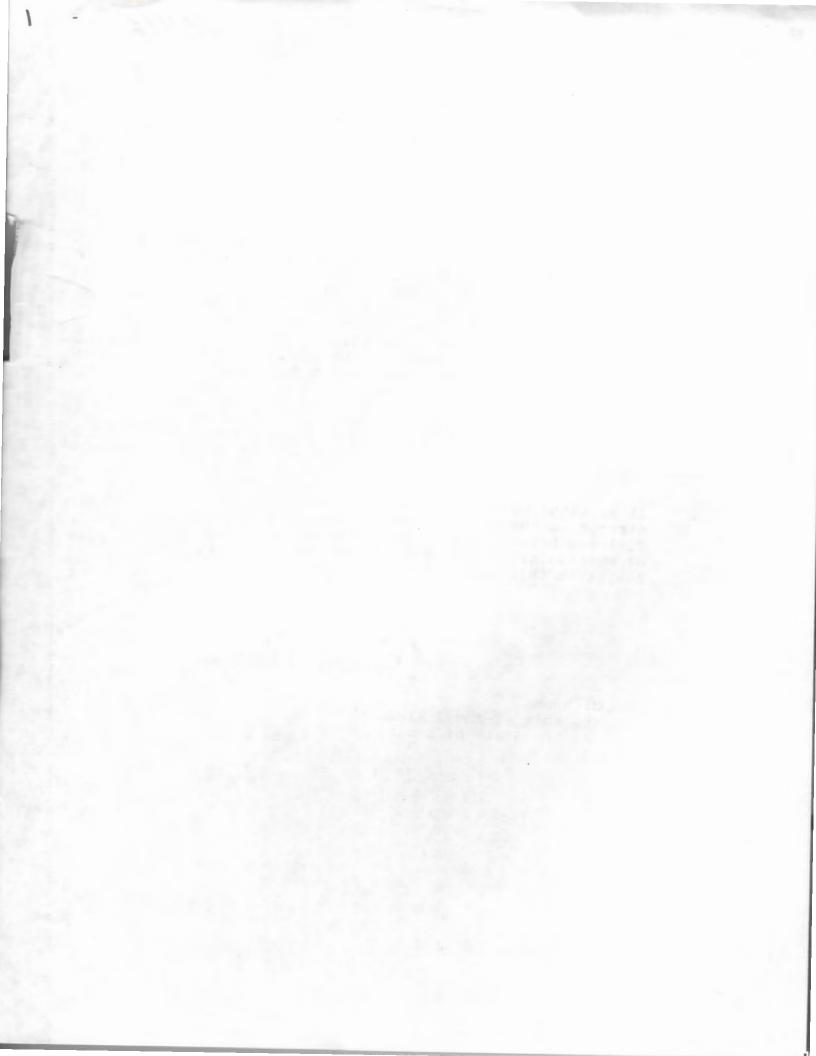
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92014 S/S 8425667 United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 19, 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE THE WHITE HOUSE

#### Subject: Request for Courtesy Call by the Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah, has asked to meet with you in Washington during his visit to the U.S. for the UNGA. He is particularly interested in exchanging views on recent significant developments in the region. As Kuwait will host the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council summit in November, Shaikh Sabah will be in a key position to influence GCC strategy and planning during the coming year. In the past few months, there has been a perceptible trend toward improved bilateral relations with Kuwait, including the arrival last week of Ambassador Quainton who has been warmly received. Nevertheless, we can anticipate that Kuwait will continue to pursue in public its traditional policy of non-alignment with the two superpowers, as evidenced by the recent visits by the Kuwaiti Minister of Defense to both the Soviet Union and the U.S. We believe that a meeting with you would be useful in underscoring the points about U.S. Mideast policy which the Secretary will be making when he meets with the GCC Foreign Ministers in New York on October 1 and in encouraging Kuwaiti receptivity to continuing the recently established dialogue on a security relationship with the U.S.

We would appreciate it if you would advise us whether you will be able to meet with Shaikh Sabah. The Kuwaiti Embassy has informed us that the dates most suitable to the Minister are October 2 or 3.

Charles Hill Executive Secretary



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CONFIDENTIAL

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## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Smoak, Robert

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary of State Secretary of Treasury Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Chief of Staff and Assistant to the President

From:

Chief, Division of Enforcement and Security Management, Office of Administrative Services

Subject:

Kuwait - Reciprocity and the Right to Acquire Federal Mineral Leases

This is with reference to a memo of March 4, 1983 to the above addressees from Secretary of the Interior James Watt outlining the issues regarding media attention, expected public reaction, and background on the decision that Kuwait had been determined to be a "Non-reciprocal Nation" and that its citizens would not be allowed to hold federal mineral leases.

Pursuant to Executive Order 12356, paragraph 3.1 "Declassification Authority", this Department has reviewed the Secret classification of the attached document to determine whether classification is still warranted. As we have concluded that classification is no longer required, we have declassified the document from Secret to Unclassified.

This action has been administratively coordinated with the Information Security Oversight Office and our action concerning it was found to be proper.

Upon receipt of this memo with the attached Unclassified document, please retrieve the copy of this correspondence that was sent to you on March 4, 1983 and take the necessary steps to declassify our original letter under the provisions stated above.

Enclosure: Copy of 3-4-83 letter



# UNCLASSIFIED SECRET

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

March 4, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary of State Secretary of Treasury Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Chief of Staff and Assistant to the President

From:

Secretary of the Interior

Kuwait - Reciprocity and the Right to Acquire Subject : Federal Mineral Leases

#### Issue:

It is my intention to announce on March 10, 1983, at 11:00 a.m., that the country of Kuwait has been determined to be a "Non-reciprocal Nation." Therefore, its citizens (Kuwait Petroleum Corp.) will not be allowed to hold federal mineral leases.

This means that Sante Fe International Inc. (an American company) which was purchased by the Kuwait Petroleum Corp., a wholly-owned corporation of the government of Ruwait, will not be able to acquire or hold federal mineral leases until the government of Kuwait can demonstrate that it does, in fact, allow American interests to invest in the minerals of that country.

Media Attention:

Likely to receive heavy attention.

Expected Public Reaction:

General public - very supportive.

American Jewish Community - enthusiastically supportive.

Santa Fe International Inc. and other Arab countries - very critical.

Oil Companies with international operations - general concern.

Background:

My intended announcement will reverse an earlier decision approved by all agencies of the Government. Since that earlier decision was made, but not finalized, the NSC-SIG, chaired by Secretary Regan, discussed the issue in considerable detail. While no formal action was taken at that SIG meeting, my decision is not inconsistent with the discussions and views expressed. Derived from multiple

Grate, Energy,

cc: Craig Fuller LOP bcc: Robin West White House file

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## WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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**Ronald Reagan Library** 

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The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

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B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

97014 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 6905 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506 September 23, 1986

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION

DECLASSIFIEL PER ADA PER

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: WILLIAM J. BURNS WB

SUBJECT: Meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, is in the United States for the UN General Assembly and has asked to meet with you in Washington on October 3, 6, or 7.

The Iran-Iraq War would clearly be the principal item on Sheikh Sabah's agenda. Your meeting would provide an important opportunity to express support for our friends in the Gulf on the eve of Iran's expected offensive and discuss ways in which we can work together to contain the Iranians. (It might also be useful to sound out Sabah on Kuwait's growing security ties to the Soviets.)

This year also marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of U.S.-Kuwaiti diplomatic relations. Since Secretary Shultz has thus far been unable to fit a meeting with Sheikh Sabah into his schedule in New York and leaves shortly thereafter for Africa, it would be useful for you to meet with Sabah to reaffirm the Administration's continuing commitment to a close relationship with Kuwait.

Dennis Ross concurs.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That you meet with the Ruwaiti Foreign Minister early next month. The Kuwaitis' preferred dates are, in order, October 3, 6, or 7.

Approve Disapprove 2.00

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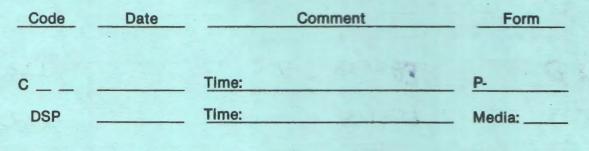
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  - n 0 Unknown n 1 Ronald Wilson Reagan n 2 Ronald Reagan

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- X Miscellaneous
- Y Study

December 15, 1986

Bob Tuttle

448246

The Honorable Donald T. Regan Chief of Staff and Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Don:

I understand from Bill Ballin, a member of our Citizens for America Founders Committee that he has been contacted by the White House to determine his availability as a candidate for the Ambassadorship in Kuwait. He told me of his keen interest in the position and I would like to add the highest possible recommendation on behalf of his candidacy.

Bill comes from the business sector and his background has been essentially in the corporate and government relations areas so he does not fall into the category of the usual "political appointment" profile. He is a seasoned spokesman and business diplomat with access to leading businessmen and government officials in the Middle East. He has the temperament, demeanor, and discretion of a professional Ambassador.

For the past several years he has been an independent advisor to financial groups and corporations doing business in the Middle East. He is based in Geneva affiliated with an investment bank there. Previously he was an international executive and officer for Marathon International Oil Company and American Export Lines and was especially active in Europe and the Middle East. He has a background and a personality which qualifies him uniquely for an embassy post in any part of the world where sensitivity, self-discipline and dedication are required.

For your guidance Bill was seriously considered for the ambassadorship in Egypt last year. In my opinion he was well qualified for Egypt but certainly Kuwait would equally suit his talents and the interests of the Administration and the State Department.

Bill would be a credit to his country and I know he wants very much to serve where he can be most useful. Please meet Bill for he is in the United States until the beginning of the year. Call me if I can help.

Sincerely.

Lewis E. Lehrman

IEL/SY Jon, Gill would be parfed in Kanet-42 East 71st Street, New York, New York 10021 • (212) 734-0037 Yours, USA,

