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CYPHER/CAT A  
IMMEDIATE DUBAI TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
IMMEDIATE DUBAI TELEGRAM NO. 494 TO BAHRAIN RESIDENCY OF 30 OCTOBER, 1968

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ADDRESSED TO BAHRAIN TELNO. 494 OF 30 OCTOBER  
REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO FCO, TEHRAN, JEDDA, DOHA,  
AND ABU DHABI AND SAVING TO WASHINGTON AND BAHRAIN AGENCY.

YOUR TELNO. 647 <sup>ω</sup> TUNBS.

APA MET RULER OF RAS AL KHAIMAH'S SON LAST NIGHT ON  
HIS RETURN FROM TEHRAN. KHALID SEEMED IN A BITTER  
MOOD AND CLEARLY THE TALKS WITH THE IRANIANS HAD GONE BADLY.

2. HE SAID HE FOUND THE IRANIANS FANATICAL WHERE THE ISLANDS  
WERE CONCERNED. THEY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT NOTE HE  
BROUGHT WHICH THEY CONSIDERED WAS COUCHED IN TERMS UNFRIENDLY  
TO IRAN. THEY DEMAND THE ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR DRAFT BEFORE  
THE SHAH LEFT FOR RIYADH, OTHERWISE RAS AL KHAIMAH WOULD  
LOSE IRAN'S FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. (KHALID DES-  
CRIBED THIS AS A TEN-DAY ULTIMATUM). THEY SAID THERE  
HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WITH HMG ON THE MEDIAN LINE AND THE TUNBS  
WERE ON THE IRANIAN SIDE OF IT. THE ISLANDS BELONGED TO  
IRAN AS THEY HAD ALWAYS DONE.

/ 3.

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Reference: FCO 8/960

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3. APA ASSURED KHALID THAT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT OF THE KIND. KHALID SAID HE WAS GOING TO REPORT TO HIS FATHER AND THEN WOULD BE GLAD OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH US. HE ASKED ME TO COME AND SEE SAQR TOMORROW, 31 OCTOBER.

4. THE IRANIAN VERSION OF EVENTS WILL NO DOUBT BE DIFFERENT AS USUAL AND YOU AND THE FCO MAY WISH TO HEAR IT BEFORE COMING TO ANY FIRM DECISIONS. HOWEVER I SHOULD LIKE TO GIVE SAQR SOME VERY EARLY REASSURANCE AND COULD VERY CONVENIENTLY GO THERE TOMORROW. I ASSUME I CAN CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN HMG AND IRAN EITHER ON THE MEDIAN LINE OR ON THE FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS. MAY I GO ON TO SAY THAT OUR VIEW ON THE STATUS OF THE TUNBS HAS NOT CHANGED AND THAT THIS HAS BEEN MADE PLAIN TO THE SHAH? IT WOULD OF COURSE BE BETTER STILL IF I COULD SAY THAT HMG WILL STAND BY THEIR OBLIGATIONS SO LONG AS RAS AL KHAIMAH REMAINS UNDER OUR PROTECTION.

5. GRATEFUL FOR REPLY BY 0900 LOCAL TIME 31 OCTOBER.

FCO PASS IMMEDIATE TEHRAN, ROUTINE JEDDA AND SAVING WASHINGTON, BAHRAIN RESIDENCY PASS SAVING AGENCY.

MR BULLARD.

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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