



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0203-16

The last three briefing papers received by Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond MP on the topic of Yemen, from the date of receipt of this FOI request (16 February 2016):

29 January 2016: Foreign Secretary Updates – Yemen and Al Jubeir. Partially released, some information withheld under Section 27(1)(a), Section 27(2) and Section 40.

5 February 2016: Foreign Secretary Updates on Saudi Arabia: (Includes reference to Yemen). Document withheld in full under Section 42. Further Section 27(1)(a), Section 35, Section 40 also apply in the document.

11 February 2016: Foreign Secretary-Al Jubeir Bilateral: (includes reference to Yemen). Withheld under Section 27(1)(a) and Section 40).

Information from briefings which we can release below:

29 January 2016: FS Updates - Yemen and al Jubeir.

As requested, updates for the FS on Yemen and contact with al-Jubeir:

Yemen/ political negotiations: The UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, continues his shuttle diplomacy in the region and is expected back in Riyadh on 7 February. The next round of political negotiations between the Government of Yemen and Houthi/Saleh representatives are likely to take place towards end February. Significant preparation on developing clear Confidence Building Measures (CBM) is underway, with a particular UK focus on measures to prevent the collapse of the Central Bank. Work is also ongoing to strengthen the “De-escalation and Security Committee” (which provides a channel for military-to-military contact between the sides), which is essential in laying foundations for a further ceasefire... even modest progress on CBMs could help open the way to further political discussion.

Saudi/al Jubeir: ... If this is not possible, then we recommend that the Foreign Secretary call Jubeir after the Syria Conference. This would be a good opportunity to discuss . In the meantime, DSAME will be in Riyadh this weekend.

Arabian Peninsula and Iran Department