

Q. Isn't it a fact that King Faisal of Saudi Arabia threatened President Ford with another oil boycott unless he pardoned Richard Nixon?—Jerry Mann, New York City.

Pardon 1/20/74

A. According to *Ad-Diyar*, a Lebanese weekly published in Beirut, King Faisal sent a message to President Ford declaring that it would be difficult for Arabs to accept the prosecution of Richard Nixon, since Nixon had been such a good friend to the Arab nations. Two days before Ford decided to pardon Nixon, the magazine points out, the U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia requested an urgent meeting with King Faisal. The implication is that Faisal might have been the only head of state to know of President Ford's pardon decision 48 hours in advance.

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