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Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:38 PM
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Subject: Abraham Accords update

Allen –

I hope you are doing well and had a good recharge week. I'm reaching out on behalf of the UAE Embassy, which our firm represents.

Last week the UAE, Bahrain, Israel and U.S. forces conducted their [first joint naval exercise](#) in the Red Sea. This multilateral maritime security operations exercise in the Red Sea comes as Iranian aggression in the region continues to percolate.

"It is exciting to see U.S. forces training with regional partners to enhance our collective maritime security capabilities," said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of NAVCENT, U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces. "Maritime collaboration helps safeguard freedom of navigation and the free flow of trade, which are essential to regional security and stability." An Israeli naval officer added that these drills, "will increase the cooperation and the safety of the Red Sea, but not just the Red Sea, because we are dealing with Iranian terror" in the region as a whole.

The five-day exercise includes at-sea training aboard amphibious transport dock ship USS Portland focused on visit, board, search and seizure tactics. The training will enhance interoperability between participating forces' maritime interdiction teams.

If you have questions or would like additional information please let me know.

Thanks so much!

Geoff

These materials are being distributed by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP on behalf of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Geoff K. Verhoff

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