

New Saudi bribe scandal

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national security and national
interest argument.

"I am not sure this new lot
[the coalition] would do the
same for a 'foreign-owned'
EADS company. I am also sure
that if the Americans get a
whiff of wrongdoing in their
interpretation of their jurisdic-
tion then they will be all over
EADS USA. This wouldn't do
the bid for 170 odd tankers any
good.

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"I will keep you informed as
to progress. In the meantime
try to hang on for a bit longer
and if necessary let off steam in
our direction."

One Whitehall source said:
"The SFO has tracked a complex
web of money movements that
are going to Switzerland. It's
going for the use of [a member
of] the royal family. It's a politi-
cally sensitive inquiry."

The SFO is about to decide
whether to press ahead with a

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full-scale criminal investiga-
tion. If, as expected, it does,
Grieve will have to make a
formal ruling on whether the
damage to Saudi ties is in the
national interest.

The SFO is trying to establish
what appetite there is in
government for it to start
digging around again into the
private financial affairs of
senior Saudi royals.

Whistleblower exposes Saudi
royal 'kickbacks', page 16-17

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