

therefore, that prospects for renewal of the Dhahran Airfield Agreement were doubtful, and in December, 1960, the then Prime Minister, Crown Prince Faisal, had in fact informally proposed voluntary United States relinquishment of our Dhahran Airfield privileges. The proposal lapsed with the advent of the King's Government a few weeks later.

The Dhahran Airfield has been used primarily as a Military Air Transport Service terminal, but also represents a potential post-strike field in being. There are at present 1,332 American airmen stationed at Dhahran and 10 transport aircraft. Some months ago, the Department of Defense advised the Department of State that, if possible, the Dhahran Airfield Agreement should be renewed in 1962 to provide for additional facilities, but that suitable alternatives were already under study by the Joint Chiefs of Staff should the Saudis not wish to renew the Agreement. More difficult, however, is the potential effect of the Saudi action on our military base complex elsewhere and especially in Libya.

A summary of United States arrangements with Saudi Arabia concerning the Dhahran Airfield is enclosed.⁴

W.J. Stoessel

⁴ Attached but not printed.

⁵ Stoessel signed for Battle above Battle's typed signature.

25. Editorial Note

On March 22, 1961, Secretary Rusk reported to his staff meeting, according to the minutes of the meeting, "that Eric Johnston has suggested that he return to Jordan to help ease the tension building up as a result of the Israeli plans to divert the Jordan waters. Mr. Labouisse felt that this (Johnston's return) would not be helpful. Mr. Labouisse will talk with Mr. Jones further on this subject and then will speak to Johnston about it." (Department of State, Secretary's Staff Meetings: Lot 66 D 147)

A memorandum from Evan M. Wilson of the Policy Planning Council to McChes on "Israeli Plans for Jordan Waters," dated March 30, indicates: "As you may know, Johnston saw the Secretary a few days ago and apparently suggested that he be sent out again to try to get agreement on the Unified Plan. I gather the Secretary did not make any