

## No. 244

*Editorial Note*

A conference on boundary problems between Saudi Arabia and the British, speaking for Qatar and Abu Dhabi, began at Damman, Saudi Arabia, on January 28, 1952. Prince Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, headed the Saudi Arabian Delegation. The British Delegation was headed by Sir Rupert Hay, British Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and included Shaikh Ali ibn Abdullah al-thani of Qatar and Shaikh Shakhbut ibn Sultan of Abu Dhabi. The discussions were confined to the land boundaries between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and the western land boundaries of Abu Dhabi. The boundaries of Buraimi and Oman were not discussed at the Damman Conference. Despatch 74 from Dhahran, February 20, 1952, transmitted a summary of the early negotiations to the Department of State. (780.022/2-2052) Additional documentation on this topic is in Department of State file 780.022.

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On January 25, 1952, a group of officials of the Iraq Petroleum Company arrived in Baghdad, where they met with the Prime Minister on January 26, and later with the Minister of Economics. At those meetings most of the outstanding issues between the company and the Government of Iraq were settled. The one remaining unsettled issue concerned the availability of sterling balances. That issue was to be treated by an exchange of letters outside the text of the agreement and had been submitted to the British Foreign Office, since it was primarily a governmental problem. (Despatch 697 from Baghdad, February 2; 887.2553/2-252)

Telegram 601 from Baghdad, February 3, reported the IPC oil agreement had been signed by the company and the Government of Iraq, and required only Parliamentary ratification and the signature of the Regent. Telegram 614 from Baghdad, February 9, reported the signing of the IPC agreement had been publicly announced on February 7 and had been sent to Parliament on February 9. Despatches 854, March 11, and 1074 and 1075, April 30, contained some additional information on the IPC agreement, and also on the nationalization of the oil refining and distributing functions of the Khanaquin and Rafidain Oil Companies, subsidiaries of AIOC. Agreements between the Government of Iraq and those two