

ated between the company and the Lebanese Government. It had been signed on May 15 by Sami Solh and S. Belgrave, for the IPC. The agreement was to be submitted to the Parliament for ratification within the next few weeks but, since it had been approved by the President and Prime Minister, little opposition was expected. Documentation on this topic is in Department of State file 883A.2553.

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No. 257

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*Memorandum by David Longanecker of the Office of African Affairs to the Deputy Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs (Kopper)*

CONFIDENTIAL

[WASHINGTON,] June 6, 1952.

Subject: Conferences with major oil companies in New York on June 2-4.

In accordance with your suggestion, I accompanied Mr. Moline and Mr. Ortiz to New York for the conferences they arranged for June 2-4 with officials of the major oil companies concerned with foreign production, refining and marketing operations, particularly in the Middle East. These conferences were arranged to give the appropriate officials of the companies an opportunity to meet and discuss their problems, current and anticipated, with Messrs. Moline and Ortiz before their departure this month for their assignments as Petroleum Attachés to London and the Middle East, respectively.

We met with officials representing the (1) Asiatic Petroleum Company on Monday morning; (2) Socony Vacuum Oil Company on Monday afternoon; (3) Standard Oil Company of New Jersey on Tuesday morning; (4) Aramco followed by Standard Oil Company of California Tuesday afternoon; (5) California-Texas Oil Company on Wednesday morning; and (6) Gulf Oil Corporation Wednesday afternoon. The discussions were very cordial, and the principal points may be summarized as follows:

(1) The companies all feel they will be faced with continuing governmental demands for larger payments for producing concessions and transit rights in the Middle East. All share the opinion in varying degrees that some means should be developed to stabilize their position on bases which are equitable to both the governments and the companies. Aramco, however, appears to feel that for the time being the companies must struggle along on their own