

remained unchanged and that there had been no new developments.⁵

4. *Aramco-Saudi Arabian Government negotiations.* Mr. Greenhill stated that he had been informed that the firm of McNaughton-DeGolyer had agreed to act as consultants to the Saudi Arabian Government on several of the issues which have not been settled in the current SAG-Aramco negotiations.

The British were advised that officials of Aramco had met informally with Department officials earlier in the day regarding the status of the SAG negotiations, but as none of this group had attended that meeting we were unable to confirm the British information.

5. *Discussion of construction of Syrian oil refinery.* The British were advised that the Department and the IBRD are presently studying a Syrian Government request for the construction of a 12,000 to 20,000 barrel per day oil refinery. They were also advised that the subject had been discussed with U.S. oil companies but that the companies had not indicated any interest either in constructing a refinery for their own account or in operating a refinery for the account of the Syrian Government.

Mr. Beckett said that in compliance with a request from the Department he had requested the British Government's views regarding the refinery but had not yet received a reply.

⁵ See the memorandum of conversation, Document 254.

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No. 260

Memorandum of Conversation, by Robert Sturgill of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON, June 20, 1952.¹

Subject: (1) Oil Advisory Firm Selected by the SAG.
(2) An Independent Advisor to Prince Mish'al.

Participants: Aramco—
J. Terry Duce, Vice President, Government Relations.
Floyd W. Ohliger, Vice President, Concession Affairs.
Garey Owen, Company Representative to the SAG.
NE—Mr. Hart
NE—Mr. Sturgill

¹ This memorandum of conversation was prepared on June 23.