

Shaikh Yusuf replied that I could rest assured on that score and he was certain that Saudi Arabia would reciprocate any good-will shown by Aramco—a statement which, knowing Shaikh Yusuf, I interpreted to mean that such good-will could be shown by full compliance with Saudi demands. However, I feel that the conversation did serve a useful purpose and, on the whole, Shaikh Yusuf's attitude was considerably more frank than in normal discussion with him. Furthermore, I have found in the past that such conversations with him are usually made the subject of quite accurate record for the information of the King, Crown Prince and others of the Saudi hierarchy.

No. 301

883A.2553/7-753: Airgram

The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Lebanon ¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, July 8, 1953.

A-6. Re Beirut tele 23 July 7. ² FYI only. Telegram from Duce to C.A. Swigert of Tapline in Beirut dated June 26 follows:

"1. In conference with Malik he states that Chamoun asked him when he was in Lebanon to initiate negotiations within the US for revision of present contract.

"2. Malik explained he had now received papers and was now prepared: (a) discuss this with proper people in Tapline and that Chamoun had explained he did not want to do anything that would appear to be anti-business and, particularly, anti-Western; (b) that Malik was also instructed seek assistance of U.S. Government in negotiations if necessary.

"3. Malik reports that Chamoun was anxious to get matter out of political atmosphere of Beirut, where negotiations were subject to political gossip and undesirable influences.

"4. Chamoun was anxious to complete negotiations before the September meeting of parliament, when he would present a contract for ratification in early days of meeting when ratification is easier.

"5. Malik further stated that he sought my advice as to whether he should send a formal letter to Tapline and take the matter up formally with the U.S. Government. He assured me he was most

¹ Drafted by Funkhouser and cleared by PED.

² Not printed. Swigert informed the Embassy he had told President Chamoun that Tapline's willingness to discuss matters did not mean the company was prepared to consider revising the existing agreement, and the Lebanese request for the U.S. Government to take an active part in discussions between the company and a foreign government was inconsistent with U.S. policy in such matters. The Embassy agreed the company's relations with Lebanon did not require interest beyond that already manifested. (883A.2553/7-753)