

Mr. Duce concluded his remarks by stating that some formal arrangement must be worked out whereby the United States, United Kingdom, France and the producing Arab states [would?] consult with representatives of industry participating in an observer or advisory status. Countries transitted might also be included but he had some reservations about including consumer countries because of the resulting size of such [a group?] This group need only have an advisory role as advice on the part of the participating Governments on agreed positions would have a very large influence on the decisions of the companies concerned.

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*United States Record of the First Session of the United States-  
United Kingdom Talks on Middle East Oil*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

WASHINGTON, August 27, 1953.

Subject: First Session—U.S./U.K. Talks on Middle East Oil

Participants: British Embassy Team—

Mr. Harold Beeley, Counselor

Mr. R.W. Bailey, Political Officer, Near East

Mr. J.A. Beckett, Petroleum Attaché

U.S. Team—

NE—Mr. Hart

NE—Mr. Robertson

OMP—Mr. Willis Armstrong

PED—Mr. Robert Eakens

L/E—Mr. Stanley Metzger

Mr. Hart opened the meeting by expressing the regrets of Mr. Byroade that he was unable to attend the opening session because of pressure of work, and by indicating that the Department welcomed the opportunity of holding these talks. He then invited the British to set forth their views.

Mr. Beeley expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of holding these talks, referred to the memorandum which the British Minister had left with the Under Secretary<sup>2</sup> and described the British views in the following terms: The security of Middle East oil is becoming increasingly important to Western Europe, including the United Kingdom. While at the present time the Middle

<sup>1</sup> Drafted by Robertson.

<sup>2</sup> Attached to Document 306.