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*United States Record of the Third Session of the United States-
United Kingdom Talks on Middle East Oil*¹

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] September 9, 1953.

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

Participants: British Embassy Team—

Mr. Harold Beeley, Counselor

Mr. R. W. Bailey, Political Officer, NE

Mr. J. A. Beckett, Petroleum Attaché

U.S. Team—

NE—Mr. Hart

NE—Mr. Robertson

L/E—Mr. Stanley Metzger

OMP—Mr. Willis Armstrong

PED—Mr. Robert Eakens

Mr. Hart invited Mr. Beeley to comment on the items to be considered by this session of the U.S./U.K. talks on Middle East oil. Mr. Beeley opened his remarks by stating that he would first like to discuss the question of how the interested companies should meet to discuss the specific questions involved in working out transit agreements. The Foreign Office had suggested that IPC and Tapline meet at the management level, holding several meetings before initiating negotiations with the transit countries. Thereafter the negotiators should consult on the spot as the negotiations proceed. It was hoped that this could be fitted into some sort of procedure meeting the requirements of U.S. anti-trust legislation. Mr. Hart observed that the Foreign Office possibly had in mind, in respect to pipeline negotiations, the kind of discussions undertaken between Davies and Gibson in London. Mr. Beeley indicated agreement.

Mr. Beeley continued that reports from London indicated that the American oil companies' representatives there were apprehensive over the Davies/Gibson type of talks. Mr. Armstrong observed that as of the middle of September, the oil companies which were defendants in the cartel case would be called on to respond to the Government complaint and were instructed to turn in the documents pertaining to the case. During the course of the past summer they were supposed to have been turning in these documents. The Gulf Oil Company had been complying with the Gov-

¹ Drafted by Robertson.