

the oil companies were concerned, when a Departmental position had been determined, the Department planned to consult the companies on an informal basis to see whether the proposal was acceptable to them.

The letters to the Embassies and staff study are in Department of State file 880.2553/10-1653. A summary of the replies from the Embassies is in the memorandum by Byroade, Document 325.

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### No. 316

#### *Editorial Note*

Despatch 80 from Jidda, August 16, informed the Department of State that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Aramco went to Jidda on August 15 for discussions with the Crown Prince and Minister of Finance. He informed them that Aramco's new price proposals were ready, and the company was prepared to resume negotiations at the convenience of the Saudi Arabian Government, provided Aramco was given 2 week's notice to enable company officials to make the trip from New York. Telegrams 101 from Jidda, September 10; 120, September 23; and 125, September 26, reported first that Prince Faisal wanted to reconvene the negotiations on September 24 and Aramco had agreed; then the Saudi Arabian Government postponed them, and finally that negotiations would begin again on November 8. According to telegram 195 from Jidda, November 1, the Saudi Arabians requested the discussions be postponed to December 8; and telegram 268 from Jidda, December 8, reported the pricing discussions had again been put off, probably until late in January. (King ibn Saud died on November 9, 1953.) Additional information on the discussions between Aramco and the Saudi Arabian Government on oil pricing is in Department of State file 886A.2553.

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### No. 317

#### *Editorial Note*

Despatch 126 from Jidda, September 29, reported a disturbing degree of labor unrest among Aramco employees in Dhahran. A number of anti-Aramco petitions being circulated in the area had come to the attention of the Crown Prince, who had then appointed a governmental committee of investigation. Despatch 143 from Jidda, October 11, reported the committee had arrived in Dhahran and had begun its investigation. Despatch 145 from Kuwait, No-