

tion and it would therefore be inappropriate to approach the company on the basis of need unrelated to the service being rendered. Furthermore, the government's request must remain somewhat nebulous in the absence of any specific recommendations or proposals. However, I appreciated the friendly way in which the Prime Minister had raised the question and would report to my government as requested by him.

Just prior to my talk with Yafi, I met with British and French Ambassadors who indicated that Yafi had approached them along same lines as reported above. British Ambassador added that, although he had not given Yafi any comfort aside from saying he would report to his government, he personally felt, and had recommended to London, that serious considerations should be given to encouraging IPC to renew negotiations since he felt that continuance of present situation was intolerable and that, aside from IPC itself, British interests generally were being adversely affected. He mentioned thought which had been given to finding some new and logical basis for pipeline payments and said he felt the road to solution was in that direction. Also he definitely felt that the present government would be more amenable to reasonable dealing than any other which might be expected to replace it. The French Ambassador expressed himself in almost identical terms except for making the point that, in his opinion, an unhealthy situation was developing between the oil rich countries of the Near East and their proletarian and oil-less neighbors; there should be some degree of sharing in oil profits.

I shall submit my comments on foregoing in a following message.<sup>3</sup>

HARE

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<sup>3</sup> Telegram 542 from Beirut, Document 324.

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No. 320

880.2553/12-1853

*Agreed Minutes of the First Session of the United States-French  
Talks on Middle East Oil*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

[WASHINGTON, December 18, 1953.]

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<sup>1</sup> Circular airgram 3431, Dec. 31, transmitted copies of the minutes of each of the four sessions held by the United States and French Delegations on Dec. 18 and 21, to the American Embassies and Legations in Amman, Ankara, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Dhahran, Jidda, Kuwait, London, Paris, and Tehran. The airgram informed them that the enclosed notes had been prepared and agreed to by the two

*Continued*