

back production to amount which can be lifted by parent company tankers."

3. Deptel 303 April 23³ was received after foregoing drafted. Will consult further with Duce before replying.

WADSWORTH

³ Not printed, but see footnote 3, *supra*. Telegram 445 from Jidda, Apr. 26, informed the Department of State the Ambassador had called at the Saudi Arabian Foreign Office on that day to request official copies of the Onassis agreement and express his misgivings about it. (886A.2553/4-2654)

No. 342

886A.2553/5-154: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Saudi Arabia (Wadsworth) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET NIACT

DHAHRAN, May 1, 1954—6 p. m.

164. Re first sentence Department telegram 180, April 28 to Dhahran.²

1. On April 29 I discussed Deptel 179, April 23³ with Aramco executives Davies, Ohliger and Owen. We reviewed recent developments and past instructions and concurred desirability my handing King written communication as follows: "I am directed by my Government to inform Your Majesty that, on basis of what it has learned about the so-called Onassis tanker agreement, which was confirmed by Your Majesty's decree of sixth Shabat, my Government is concerned over its effects on American interests, both those of private American companies and those of American national defense.

I am to refer in particular to the apparent stopping of United States Government tankers (specifically those operated by or under the control of the Maritime Sea Transport Service of the American Navy) from lifting at Ras Tanura oil from Saudi-Arabian fields; and I am to request Your Majesty's assurance that the transportation of such oil by these tankers will not be affected by this agreement.

¹ Repeated as telegram 331 to Jidda.

² Not printed; it informed the Embassy that since the Department of State did not have the text of the Onassis agreement, it was not able to elaborate on the instructions it had already transmitted to the Ambassador. (780.022/4-2754)

³ This was the same as telegram 303 to Jidda, not printed, but see footnote 3, Document 340.