

asked that the Department arrange for him to talk to Aramco. General Smith instructed Mr. Jernegan to communicate with Mr. Duce and suggest to him that he in turn call Mr. Skouras at his New York office tomorrow. Mr. Skouras said he would be available until about noon on Wednesday, the 8th, when he was leaving for Europe. If given clearance by Mr. McCone he would plan to see Onassis in Europe.

No. 367

886A.2553/8-2454

Memorandum of Conversation, by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Jernegan)

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] September 24, 1954.

Subject: Utilization of Papers Showing Bribery in Connection with Onassis Contract

Participants: Mr. Paul Gerrity of Maheu Associates

SCA—Mr. McLeod

NEA—John Jernegan

Mr. Gerrity had with him a file composed of a lengthy statement purporting to be signed by Mr. Cotopadis and to detail the negotiations by which Onassis obtained his agreement with the Saudi Government.¹ It appeared to specify the exact terms agreed upon between Onassis and Ali Reza, including the payment Ali Reza was to receive. Photostats of various documents were attached. Mr. Gerrity said this statement by Cotopadis and the photostats of the documents had been purchased by Mr. Stavros Niarchos from Cotopadis. In addition to the copy which Mr. Gerrity had with him, a second copy was in the hands of CIA in Washington and a third in possession of Mr. Maheu who was in Beirut. Mr. Gerrity's set, however, was the most complete.

Mr. Gerrity said that his firm considered that these papers should be gotten into the hands of King Saud and that this should be done quickly before there was any publicity about bribery in connection with the Onassis agreement, since such publicity would embarrass the King and make future relations more difficult. He thought the best channel would be Mr. Karl Twitchell, who was in

¹ No documentation has been found in Department of State files. There is, however, a document from The Hague, dated July 30, not printed, on information about the Onassis-Saudi Arabian Agreement, which was received from an associate of Cotopadis by Aramco officials. (886A.2553/7-3054)