

other tanker. He added, Pacific Western has never chartered tankers, and does not expect to.

Getty said Onassis approached him about ten days ago regarding chartering *Saud*. He had replied that while he would be prepared, everything else being equal, to give preference to Saudi flag tankers, as outlined in Getty's letter to SAG of last February, his company does not charter any tankers. Getty told Embassy in this connection, that he had carefully examined his concession from SAG, and had concluded there was nothing therein to require him to comply with Onassis tanker agreement with SAG. Onassis then asked Getty if Tidewater could charter *Saud*. He had referred inquiry to Tidewater, but received no reply. Getty expressed doubt Tidewater could use super tanker in view fact company's berthing facilities San Francisco and Philadelphia inadequate and fact Tidewater has long term charter other tankers.

Foreign Office informed. Despatch follows.²

BUTTERWORTH

port oil from the Kuwait Neutral Zone. Telegram 3355 to London, Dec. 23, suggested the Embassy contact Getty, as the Pacific Western representative in New York did not have the information. (886D.2553/12-2254)

² Despatch 1838 from London, Dec. 28, not printed. (886D.2553/12-2854)

No. 380

886A.2553/12-2734: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Saudi Arabia*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, December 27, 1954—3:39 p. m.

280. For your information Duce Aramco told Department today that Board Directors met New York December 22 and decided as compromise measure to deal with Onassis problem it may offer place some Aramco tankers under Saudi flag provided that (1) SAG enacts suitable shipping laws and (2) Article 4 of Onassis Agreement concerning preferences be eliminated. Aramco querying field for comment. Duce emphasized decision not final and that some Directors still have considerable misgivings this undertaking.

DULLES

¹ Drafted by Boardman and cleared by NE in draft.