

such use of the facilities if found to be suitable, since that would advance the time for starting our military training operations which would otherwise have to await considerable new construction at El Kharj. It was explained that it was politically desirable to implement our training commitment to Saudi Arabia as soon as possible. It was stressed, however, that initiation of training operations at Taif should have prior Defense approval.

In response to a question from Col. Davis regarding progress on the MAAG agreement, it was stated that an exchange of notes has not yet been effected in Jidda, but that a draft had been sent, upon which the Embassy commented, raising some points. None were major, although the Department's reply has been held up pending final agreement with Defense on a termination clause desired by the latter.

Col. Liebe expressed his interest in the Mission and said he considered it a challenging assignment. He was somewhat apprehensive regarding language difficulties, but it was pointed out that there were probably available a number of English-speaking Arabs who had had airport management training at Dhahran and in the US, as well as some who had had military training in this country. It was recommended to him that he make use of Saudi Arabs whenever possible in the training program.

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*Editorial Note*

In early February 1952, the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Washington requested the White House to send a medical mission to Saudi Arabia because of the illness of King Ibn Saud. Major General Wallace H. Graham, personal physician to President Truman, was in charge of the mission, which left Washington on February 15 and returned the end of February. Regarding previous medical missions to Saudi Arabia by General Graham, see telegram 208, April 8, 1950, and the memorandum by Frederick H. Awalt, April 30, 1950, *Foreign Relations*, 1950, volume V, pages 1157 and 1169; and the memorandum by Awalt, August 14, 1951, *ibid.*, 1951, volume V, page 1066. Documentation on the 1952 trip is in Department of State file 786A.11.