

Another meeting was held at the Pentagon on August 22, in connection with the proposed transfer of Dhahran Airfield from the command jurisdiction of the Military Air Transport Service (MATS) to that of the United States Air Forces, Europe (USAFE). The meeting was attended by representatives of the Department of State, including Ambassador Hare, and representatives of the Air Force, including Lieutenant General Smith, Commander, MATS. The conclusion of the conference was that representatives of the Department of State concurred in the proposed change of jurisdiction, provided that there would be no outward signs of the change, and that the Air Force retain the principle of selectivity in assigning personnel. A memorandum of understanding of the meeting was prepared in the Department of State on August 29. (711.56386A/8-2852)

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No. 1443

TMA.5 MSP/9-1952

*Memorandum of Conversation, by Robert Sturgill of the Office of  
Near Eastern Affairs*

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, September 19, 1952.

Subject: Grant Aid for Saudi Arabia

Participants: Mr. Raymond A. Hare, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia  
S/MSA--Mr. Martin  
Mr. Bryan  
NEA--Mr. Daspit  
NE--Mr. Sturgill

*Summary:*

Mr. Martin referred to developments regarding the Air Force base in Libya as . . . . It seemed to him, he said, that SA had plenty of money of its own and there was no ME defense program, so what reason was there to give SA grant aid?

Ambassador Hare replied by describing briefly some of the history relating to the signing of the Dhahran Airfield Agreement on June 18, 1950 [1951]. The cash-reimbursable military assistance agreement signed on the same date had been offered as a *quid pro quo* for DAF. The US had given the SAG nothing else, except a limited training program under the DAF Agreement. However, with authorization from Defense and State, he and General Day had discussed with the SAG the special position of SA vis-à-vis the US and the possibility of some grant aid becoming available in the form of 10% of the funds earmarked for Greece and Turkey. For a