

No. 1452

786A.11/5-2354

Memorandum of Conversation, by the Officer in Charge of Arabian Peninsula-Iraq Affairs (Fritzlan)

SECRET

WASHINGTON, March 23, 1953. ¹

Subject: Call of Prince Faisal, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, on Secretary.

Participants: Prince Faisal
The Secretary
Sheikh Asad Al Faqih, Saudi Arabian Ambassador
Sheikh Ibrahim Suleiman, Prince Faisal's Chief of Cabinet
Sheikh Ali Alireza, Prince Faisal's Personal Assistant
Mr. A. David Fritzlan, NE

Prince Faisal called by prearrangement in order to say goodbye to the Secretary prior to his departure for Saudi Arabia and to leave some presents with him.

After appropriate complimentary remarks Prince Faisal informed the Secretary that a report of the conversation between General Smith and the Saudi Arabian Ambassador on March 16 ² had been made to him and he had immediately informed his father King Ibn Saud concerning it. He had now received word from the King and had been instructed to inform the Secretary as follows concerning the King's reactions:

1. His Majesty was very grateful for the reaffirmation made of the policy stated in President Truman's letter to him of October 31, 1950. ³

2. On the question of border disputes with the British, ⁴ the King was disappointed at our position and did not feel it to be consistent with the special status which the United States has in the past accorded to Saudi Arabia. He felt that the unusually close ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia called for active United States intervention in the Buraimi dispute in such a way as to protect and advance Saudi interests. Prince Faisal stated that, as was well known, his Government had only peaceful intentions toward

negotiations at that time implementation of a training program involving no equipment could be based on a much shorter agreement, a draft of which was also enclosed. Documentation on this topic is in Department of State file 786A.5 MSP.

¹ This memorandum of conversation was prepared on Mar. 24.

² For a memorandum of the conversation of Mar. 16, see Document 1506.

³ For text of President Truman's letter, see *Foreign Relations*, 1950, vol. v, p. 1190.

⁴ For documentation on U.S. interest in border disputes between the British and Saudi Arabians, in particular that of the Buraimi oasis, see Documents 1466 ff.