

peculiar conditions existing in each country. To illustrate his point, Prince Feisal referred to Egypt, which did not want any foreign soldiers on Egyptian soil, and to Great Britain, which had no objection to the stationing of American troops in the country.

Mr. Jones replied that the U.S. legislation controlling military grant aid required that certain provisions of a general nature be included in grant aid agreements. Nevertheless, there was a large degree of flexibility, particularly with respect to the substance of individual grant aid programs, since the type of aid would be worked out between the U.S. and the countries concerned and thus would reflect the needs of each particular country. Moreover, he hoped and believed that the mandatory provisions of the draft agreement, as it was modified by the Department as the result of Saudi objections, would not be unacceptable to the Saudi Government.

Prince Feisal said that the note, together with the views expressed by Mr. Jones regarding the procedures to be followed for the resumption of discussions, would be sent to the Royal Diwan for study. He also said that he would attempt to have an answer within the next several days. ³

³ The Saudi Arabian decision was transmitted to the Department of State in telegram 109 from Dhahran, Document 1461.

No. 1457

611.86A/10-1457: Telegram

The Chargé in Saudi Arabia (Jones) to the Department of State ¹

SECRET

JIDDA, October 14, 1953—8 p. m.

149. Foreign Office note dated October 13 ² refers my conversations with King's councillor, Khalid Gargoni during Taif visit October 6-8 ³ and sets forth position SAG with respect (1) Dhahran mail problem (Embassy telegram 141), ⁴ (2) *Time-Newsweek* ban (Embassy telegram 140), ⁵ and (3) three American prisoners.

¹ Repeated to Dhahran.

² An Embassy translation of the Oct. 13 note was transmitted to the Department of State as an enclosure to despatch 149, Oct. 18. (611.86A/10-1853)

³ Telegrams 128 from Jidda, Sept. 29 (786A.00/9-2953), and 136, Oct. 5 (611.86A/10-553), reported the Ambassador had an appointment to see Prince Faisal at Taif on Oct. 6 to discuss the matters under reference here. Telegram 140 from Jidda, Oct. 9, informed the Department that Prince Faisal had been ill and Gargoni had acted as his representative. It further stated that nothing definite had emerged from the conversations regarding the three American prisoners and the *Time-Newsweek* ban. (611.86A/10-853)

⁴ Dated Oct. 8, not printed. It reported that the Ambassador had set forth the U.S. position that inspection of mail was contrary to the Dhahran Airfield Agreement.

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