

. Requested see Crown Prince Feisal express condolences but was informed he ill and, in fact, had left his bed in order accompany father's remains to Riyadh. Consequently did not press for interview.

Embassy informed by Foreign Office chiefs several other diplomatic missions Jidda requested permission visit Taif express condolences to King but were refused.

JONES

No. 1459

711.56386A/12-1653 Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

JIDDA, December 16, 1953—6 p. m.

275. Deptels 180, December 14² and 182, December 15.³ Discussed question inspection mail and cargo for base with Prince Feisal today. Shaikh Yusuf Yassin who recently returned Jidda from Europe present at conversation.

After expressing appreciation consideration given question Prince Feisal other high Saudi officials stated Gargoni formula⁴ not acceptable giving as explanation various points contained Deptel 180. Also referred personal parcel post packages now impounded and asked these packages as well as official cargo shipments now impounded be released without inspection pending further discussion question after arrival Ambassador Wadsworth.

Prince Feisal replied SAG not willing renounce sovereign right of inspection but had no intention hindering operation base at Dhahran. He still thought simplest solution was have American official

¹ Repeated to Dhahran.

² Not printed; it informed the Ambassador that the failure of the Saudi Arabian Government to accept without question official documents describing the contents of official parcel post received at Dhahran Airfield could only be regarded as questioning the good faith of the U.S. Government. No such question had arisen in any other country, and the U.S. Government could not acquiesce. (711.56386A/12-1353)

³ Not printed; it advised the Ambassador to inform Prince Feisal that if personal packages for Dhahran were still impounded a serious problem of morale would arise at Christmas time. (711.56386A/11-1953)

⁴ The so-called Gargoni formula refers to a proposal by Khalid Bey Gargoni, reported to the Department of State in telegram 265 from Jidda, Dec. 7. Gargoni implied that the Saudis did not intend to inspect official parcel post mail for Dhahran Airfield, but reserved the right to do so. He said the Saudi Arabian Government intended to be tolerant and not make a general inspection, but would inspect any package about which there was any doubt. Before inspecting a package, the Government would inform American authorities to send an observer to be present during the inspection; but if the observer were delayed the Government would carry out the inspection by itself. (711.56386A/12-753)