

before". While formal notification his decision would be transmitted US by Foreign Office, he wished inform me personally at this time. I expressed appreciation his action and said felt certain he and Ambassador Wadsworth would be able reach mutually satisfactory solution this problem.

King then said he wished cooperate fully US and not place any hindrances in its way. At same time he was determined maintain Saudi sovereignty and while he fully realized US not imperialistic state, hoped US would always keep this attitude in mind its dealings SAG officials. I commented was certain US wished take no action which would infringe upon Saudi sovereignty.

King closed conversation with statement that if Embassy encountered difficulties in its negotiations various questions with Saudi officials it should not hesitate come to him direct.

HACKLER

No. 1461

786A.5 MSP/1-1954: Telegram

*The Consul at Dhahran (Hackler) to the Department of State*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

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109. From Ambassador Wadsworth. Regarding draft military grant aid agreement,² Acting Foreign Minister Yusuf Yassin, acting under King's instructions, informed me January 15, that after thoroughly studying draft, His Majesty decided he cannot accept it "because of new obligations Saudi Arabia would have to assume". These "could not be put on shoulders of new regime; they would reflect badly on Saudi Arabian standing in all Arab States". King had added, however, that Saudi Arabia would be grateful all aid and assistance possible within framework existing agreements.

According Shaikh Yusuf, King also said US would receive "every cooperation, every friendship, whether or not US helped Saudi Arabia" and "regretted necessity informing me his inability sign agreement".

As I had already in earlier discussion argued that all really important commitments in proposed agreement were already included in existing agreements and that it was furthest from our thoughts suggest any relationship infringing Saudi sovereignty, I asked Shaikh Yusuf explain real reason King did not wish sign. His answer was: "Because it would mean anything we have, both

¹ Repeated to Jidda.

² Regarding the grant aid agreement, see Documents 1455 and 1456.