

No. 1463

611.86A/6-154: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Saudi Arabia (Wadsworth) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET NIACT

JIDDA, June 1, 1954—9 p. m.

493. Had some four hours with Prince Faisal at Taif today. He was exquisitely courteous throughout except for brief lapse into softly put sarcasm near end.

As I had requested appointment I opened by saying I had looked forward to opportunity talk to him of highlights Istanbul Ambassadors conference;<sup>2</sup> I had too one highly secret matter of which I wished speak with him alone; and I hoped he would wish speak as frankly with me re Saudi-American relations as in his view they had developed since I had seen King and him in Riyadh just one month ago (mytel 167, May 3 from Dhahran).<sup>3</sup> I had I added been disturbed at what I had heard on my return of growing anti-American feeling at Riyadh (mytels 489, May 29 re Buraimi<sup>4</sup> and 492, June 1 re Point IV).<sup>5</sup>

Department should know I had carefully considered just what I should say. I was seriously apprehensive he would—as in substance he did after two hours exposition on my part—tell me not only that US had failed Saudi Arabia as a friend in Buraimi dispute but also that Saudi Arabia no longer felt need of Point IV. Consequently in my exposition of strategic, Palestine and aid policies recommended to Department by Istanbul conference I interpolated full anticipatory rebuttal of reported Saudi criticism our positions on military and economic aid and on our support of Turk-Pakistan pact and military aid to Iraq. My over-all frame was tremendous struggle between our western world and Communist Russia.

Faisal followed me carefully; his few questions were well taken and I then answered and I listened with few interruptions for next hour. His frame was philosophic i.e., that nations like individuals must act in accord dictates their national or self-interest. He stressed that he did not question necessity our world policy of coop-

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to London and Dhahran.

<sup>2</sup> For documentation on the Chiefs of Mission Conference at Istanbul, May 11-14, see Documents 210-212 and 824.

<sup>3</sup> Not printed; it reported the King's complaint that the United States was following a policy of neglect toward Saudi Arabia, especially in the case of the Buraimi dispute. (780.022/5-354)

<sup>4</sup> Not printed. (780.022/5-2954)

<sup>5</sup> Not printed; it reported some Saudi Arabian disaffection with the size of the Point IV program. (786A.5 MSP/6-154)