

The Secretary thanked the Ambassador for his remarks which would be closely studied. There was only a desire on our part to have strong and friendly relations with Saudi Arabia. We had been disturbed over strains and tensions which had appeared in recent months. Some of the things the Ambassador had mentioned had been new to the Secretary. The Secretary could assure the Ambassador that the alleged "remarks of a U.S. official" had no standing with the President or himself. The U.S. Government did not inspire press articles and it was probably best for all concerned if very little attention were paid to press speculation. The Secretary could understand the King's feelings as to the complicated nature of aid agreements with the United States. The Secretary had made efforts to get these agreements simplified, but it appeared that legislative requirements prevented such simplification.

The Secretary expressed the hope that this exchange of views with the Ambassador would mark a turning point in improved U.S.-Saudi Arab relations.

No. 1465

611.86A/10-154: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Saudi Arabia (Wadsworth) to the Department
of State*

SECRET

JIDDA, October 1, 1954—5 p. m.

138. 1. King Saud invited me for private audience yesterday prior to my presenting General O'Hara who is on MAAG inspection tour. Highlights follow:

Asked after his health; he had just returned from ten-day post-pilgrimage visit to Medina. He replied he was physically fatigued but spiritually refreshed and happy over royal welcome.

. He said he wished speak secretly with me on two subjects. First was his apprehension lest Jewish or British influences endeavor undermine Saudi-American friendly relations. Second was Communist leaflet distributed in Hasa few weeks ago (see Dhahran ConGen despatch 12, August 25).¹ (I had earlier told him USG would be interested [garble] this subject.)

On first subject he said he wished only offer word of caution. It was obvious Israelis and their supporters in US were opposing SAG plans for strengthening its armed forces. They might even endeavor

¹ Not printed. (786A.00/8-2554)