

Now Saudis asking us change and bear down on Brit. That wld be serious decision in any circumstances but especially difficult now since King desired keep approach to us secret while at same time there wld not seem to have been any outstanding recent developments in situation to serve as basis our approach Brit with degree seriousness King desired. Faisal confirmed unable authorize reference to this approach without resubmitting to King, which wld be difficult, and he suggested that as alternative we might take up as matter of our own observation of Saudi concern. Re facts they not so important as Brit motivating attitude and important to change this attitude before facts become major concern. King wants take time by forelock and prevent degeneration situation to detriment not only SA and Brit but area as whole. Faisal then renewed appeal for our intervention and said instructed remain here until cld return Riyadh with our reply.

I said wld of course consider King's request but felt matter as presented did not afford much to get one's teeth into. Faisal replied that exactly the point; what King wanted was arrest present ominous drift events before it became overt dispute. Indicated, however, that particularly troubling King at present is indications Brit seeking promote unification Kuwait with Iraq. This King cld not countenance.

Comment and recommendations in fol tel. ² Request all offices to which rptd treat as confidential and that London not mention FonOff at this time.

HARE

² Presumably this reference is to telegram 477 from Jidda, Mar. 11, *infra*.

No. 1468

641.86A/8-1152: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Saudi Arabia (Hare) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

JIDDA, March 11, 1952—10 p. m.

477. King's message (Embtel 474, March 10²) puts us difficult position. Hitherto we have firmly maintained Brit and Saudi's shld iron out differences and our role shld be confined acting honest broker. In consequence, aside reporting King's frequent representations this subject to Dept and London, I have always kept Brit Amb

¹ Repeated to London, Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, and Damascus.

² *Supra*.