

We particularly stressed importance we attached to suggestion re Churchill msg. FonOff reps said they wld wish consider this and other suggestions we had made and talk to us again next week. They asked for *aide-mémoire* which we are furnishing and added that they had been considering possibility suggesting conf with us on SA in order discuss, among other things, Aramco's "marginal interests". We said we wld welcome frank exchange including any views which UK might have. Our only purpose was to try to bring about improvement relations in view importance we attach Brit position in NE.

GIFFORD

No. 1472

641.86A/5-1852: Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Gifford) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

LONDON, May 13, 1952—7 p. m.

5167. Yesterday we resumed discussions with FonOff on Saudi Arabian boundary problems and gen ques UK-Saudi relations (Embtel 5099 May 8²). FonOff furnished us *aide-mémoire* which replied to points contained our *aide-mémoire* Apr 7 (Embtel 4449 Apr 4³). Copy being pouched.⁴

1. On Anglo-Saudi relations FonOff stated Brit policy of close friendship with SAG and Ibn Saud remained unchanged. On specific points mentioned our *aide-mémoire* FonOff pointed out UK had no connection tribal incidents on Iraq-Saudi frontier or Iraq Govt's Fertile Crescent plans and UK had never acknowledged Saudi sovereignty or claim to Buraimi, part of which belonged to Abu Dhabi and part to Muscat. Explained had been natural improvement in relations between Iraq and Persian Gulf states resulting from expansion in wealth and development there but closer relations in no

¹ Repeated to Jidda.

² Not printed; it advised the Department of State that a message from Anthony Eden, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, was being presented to King Ibn Saud. The message was intended to reassure the King of friendly British feelings toward him and his government and emphasize the value of the United Kingdom placed on his friendship. (641.86A/5-852) A copy of Eden's message was transmitted to the Department as enclosure 3 to despatch 5481 from London, May 16, not printed. (641.86A/5-1652)

³ *Supra*. A copy of this *aide-mémoire* was transmitted to the Department as enclosure 1 to despatch 5481. (641.86A/5-1652)

⁴ A copy of the British *aide-mémoire* was transmitted to the Department as enclosure 2 to despatch 5481. (641.86A/5-1652)