

(e) They doubted feasibility estab new neutral zones in disputed areas since this wld merely postpone solution of issues involved and lead same complications with respect oil co's as Kuwait now faces.

Of possible ways out of present impasse, FonOff thought joint factfinding comm was unsatis in that mere presence of Saudi members wld intimidate people from whom facts were gathered. A better system, tho still far from ideal, wld be for independent investigating comm but even that shld not be tried until further efforts made in negots. While arbitration not excluded, they agreed better to continue try settle by negots.

We gained impression from discussions that Brit sincerely anxious for settlement but were somewhat stumped re course of action to take in view of what they continue consider Saudis' intransigent attitude. Our effort thruout conv was to continue to try to stimulate FonOff to come up with some new ideas. Results were disappointingly meager on boundary problem but we feel there may be greater understanding necessity for paying greater attn over-all relations. As indication, we understand FonOff has invited Abdullah Reisal [*Faisal*] to visit UK as official guest HMG enroute US and that invitation accepted.

GIFFORD

No. 1473

780.022/6-1452: Despatch

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

SECRET

JIDDA, May 14, 1952.

No. 333

Ref: Embtels 540 April 3,<sup>2</sup> 535 April 2<sup>3</sup> and 532 April 2.<sup>4</sup>

Subj: Saudi-British Dispute Over Buraimi

On March 31, 1952, the Ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Office by Tahir Bey Ridwan, Acting Chief of that Ministry. For the Ambassador's information, Tahir Bey reported that he had that morning, acting on instructions from the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ahaikh Yusuf Yassin, called in the British Amba-

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

<sup>2</sup> Not printed; it reported a message from Prince Faisal to the effect that the King was eager for stability in the area and friendly cooperation with the British, but difficulty was being caused in Buraimi by the British political officer in Sharja. (780.022/4-352)

<sup>3</sup> Not printed, but see footnote 3, Document 1471.

<sup>4</sup> Not printed. (780.022/4-252)