

that they had therefore exercised that right and made their choice. It is true that there are no Saudi amirs in Buraimi but the Saudi Government considers Buraimi under Saudi tutelage.

The history of Buraimi as known to the Embassy is very complicated and can hardly provide anyone with a clear title. Shaikh Yusuf finally agreed that the matter merited further study before action could be taken.

GLENN A. ABBEY

No. 1474

786A.00/9-1252: Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Gifford) to the  
Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

LONDON, September 12, 1952—6 p. m.

1458. FonOff informs us Saudi movements into Buraimi somewhat less extensive than first reports had indicated, approximately 80 armed Saudis being involved.<sup>2</sup> However FonOff has now decided protest to SAG on grounds:

(1) Saudis traversed territory subject standstill agreement in order reach their destination;

(2) Presence armed Saudis in Buraimi also violation agreement which merely permitted both sides undertake normal administrative actions in disputed areas; and

(3) Sultan Muscat has requested British protest his behalf as well.

FonOff also states that it has recently talked to Pelham and that it is now planned that he will indicate to King upon his return to Jidda in mid-October that UK prepared resume negotiations through him (Pelham). FonOff hopes negotiations will be conducted on Saudi side by Feisal and that they will get underway end of November.

Embassy off expressed doubts SAG would agree this procedure in view importance it has attached in past to participation Sheikhs. FonOff however, expressed confidence Saudis would be willing negotiation through diplomatic channels, . . . .

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Jidda.

<sup>2</sup> Telegram 1254 from London, Sept. 3, advised the Department of State the Shaikh of Abu Dhabi had sent a message to the British Foreign Office informing it that Saudi Arabian troops had occupied several villages at Buraimi claimed by the Sultan of Muscat. The Foreign Office feared the Saudis might intend to move into all of Buraimi. (786A.00/9-352)