

FonOff further indicates that it is re-studying its position with respect to various boundary problems prior to preparing instructions for Pelham. In particular FonOff will wish consider carefully findings of Buckmaster, assistant political officer Trucial coast, who has recently made trip through Liwa area. FonOff also indicates that among new ideas it has in mind is suggestion that any boundary delineations agreed to between UK and SAG should not affect allegiance of inhabitants. FonOff thinks this suggestion might have some appeal to Ibn Saud, who insists he is more interested in individuals who acknowledge him than in lands involved.

GIFFORD

 No. 1475

641.86A/9-1852

*Memorandum of Conversation, by Robert Sturgill of the Office of
Near Eastern Affairs*

SECRET

WASHINGTON, September 18, 1952. ¹

Subject: UK Views Regarding Recent Events in Al-Buraimi.

Participants: Mr. Ronald Bailey, First Secretary, British Embassy
NE--Mr. Sturgill*Summary:*

Mr. Bailey came in at his own request to deliver a message from the Foreign Office regarding the recent activities of the Saudi Arabian Government in the oasis of Al-Buraimi. Mr. Bailey said the Foreign Office had learned that the Saudis had sent 80 people, 50 of whom were armed, to occupy the village of Hamasa, which is claimed by the Sultan of Muscat and Oman. The Foreign Office considered this to be a violation of the 1951 "standstill" agreement.

The British Embassy in Jidda, Mr. Bailey said, had sent a note to the Saudi Foreign Office requesting information as to why the Saudi movement into Al-Buraimi had taken place. The answer received was terse and unsatisfactory, he said, and the Foreign Office now had decided to protest to the Saudi Arabian Government on the grounds that the Saudis had violated the standstill agreement by traversing Abu Dhabi territory to get to Al-Buraimi, that the presence of armed Saudis in Al-Buraimi was also a violation of the agreement which permitted both sides to undertake only the usual administrative actions in disputed areas, and that the Sultan of Muscat had requested the British to protest on his behalf. It was

¹ This memorandum of conversation was prepared on Sept. 24.