

had never claimed before and denied clear and explicit right of SAG.

7. [sic] SAG fears for first time in Brit note that Sultan of Muscat claims that part of Buraimi territory lies within his jurisdiction.

SAG regrets exceedingly the Brit attitude when SAG was and still is ready to solve boundary problems by friendly means. SAG also regrets Mr. Riches verbally requested an immed satis reply and that if Turki bin Ataishan is not withdrawn the Brit Govt will be obliged "to take steps which it deems essential to protect its position." Such statement is contrary to existing friendship with Brit and against the UN charter. SAG had never anticipated Brit wld make such a threat.

Copies of English version paraphrase and of Brit note being pouched. King instructed FonOff to inform Department that the wishes to express his great thanks for the attitude displayed by the US and its concern in solving this problem, he hopes US attitude will continue and become even stronger in view of the Brit threat; and the King hopes for an early reply.

ABBEY

No. 1478

780.022/9-2852: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

JIDDA, September 28, 1952—2 p. m.

179. In reply Deptel 153, Sept 25,² believe that we shld not refuse SAG request mediate. It wld be one thing for us to intervene gratuitously but quite another to turn down plea mediate and I feel

¹ Repeated to London and Dhahran.

² Not printed. It said the Department of State was considering accepting Saudi Arabia's request for mediation and asked for the Embassy's comments on its plan. The Department was also considering a proposal for a standstill arrangement and withdrawal of both parties from Buraimi, followed by a proposal for the resumption of the boundary conference. If these were not accepted the Department would consider proposing arbitration. (780.022/9-2552)

The reference telegram had also been sent as telegram 2175 to London. In its reply, telegram 1767, Sept. 26, the Embassy in London said it realized that vital U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia were in a sensitive status but, since our whole policy in the area had been based on cooperative efforts with the British, mediation between the United Kingdom and a country in the area would threaten the entire basis of our fundamental policy. It recommended discussing the matter with the British before coming to a decision. (780.022/9-2652)