

No. 1479

641.86A/9-2552

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

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] September 29, 1952. ¹

Subject: The UK-SAG Dispute at Al-Buraimi.

Participants: Sheikh Asad Al-Faqih, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

NEA—Mr. Byroade

NE—Mr. Hart

NE--Mr. Sturgill

Summary:

The Saudi Arabian Ambassador came in at his own request to discuss events which had taken place at Al-Buraimi since his visit to the Department on September 17. He said he had learned just a few minutes earlier that the King had sent another cablegram ² to the Saudi Ambassador in London regarding the detention by the British of a Saudi car and its personnel, who had been sent from Al-Buraimi to Dubai for food. The cable, Sheikh Asad said, instructed the Saudi Ambassador in London to inform Mr. Eden that not only had the car been stopped outside Dubai and then taken to Sharja but also the people in the car had then been sent to Abu Dhabi and placed in jail there. The Ambassador was instructed to inform Mr. Eden that the SAG already had requested the release of its people and was awaiting a reply and that the SAG was willing to sit down and talk about the Al-Buraimi dispute.

Mr. Byroade said he was very glad to hear that the Saudis were willing to talk to the British about the dispute and had taken the matter to Mr. Eden.

He then asked Sheikh Asad to clarify for him whether the King had requested the US to mediate formally or whether the King wanted the US to work informally to bring about agreement between the UK and Saudi Arabia. He pointed out that formal mediation would be public and that if that was what the King wanted, the decision as to whether or not the USG could accept the request

¹ This memorandum of conversation was prepared on Oct. 1.

² The Saudi Arabian Embassy had received a cablegram from the King on Sept. 25 which stated that British forces had camped within 5 kilometers of Amir Turki's forces, and two British planes were flying at a low altitude in the area. The Embassy next received a copy of a Sept. 26 cablegram sent by the King to the Saudi Ambassador in London for transmittal to the Foreign Office. It told of an incident in which British armed vehicles stopped a Saudi car and took it to Sharja. (Memoranda of telephone conversations between Muhtasib and Sturgill, Sept. 25 and Sept. 27. (641.86A/9-2552 and 641.86A/9-2752, respectively).)