

reminded of historical friendship US and Sultan and of US knowledge since 1949 of Sultan's claims to part of Buraimi.)

Bruce informed Amb there appeared to be fol alternatives for settlement (1) Direct negot (2) mediation (3) arbitration, all to be preceded by one of two prelim steps, either mutual simultaneous withdrawal or standstill, both without prejudice claims either side. Said in view info provided by Amb Dept wld consider and talk him again perhaps with an answer early next week.

Dept has stated fol to Brit: (1) US for all practical purposes has recd request for formal mediation. (2) Dept wld like avoid mediation if at all poss. (3) Dept also wld like avoid reference Buraimi dispute to SC. (4) Therefore Dept suggests UK may wish propose immed to SAG that dispute be submitted to arbitration. (5) Dept wld appreciate ans soonest. ³

ACHESON

³ Telegram 2130 from London, Oct. 11, reported the British Foreign office had instructed Riches to agree to a standstill at Buraimi, provided it would not prejudice the claims of either party. Neither side would provide reinforcements, although the British could only make guarantees for themselves and not for the Sultan of Muscat. The Foreign Office added that it would agree to resume negotiations with Saudi Arabia, and if the negotiations did not show agreement was possible, the British would suggest arbitration. (780.022/10-1152) Despatch 105 from Jidda, Oct. 20, transmitted copies of two British notes delivered by Riches to the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Oct. 12, and a reply by the Saudi Arabian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs which was understood to have been delivered the following day. (641.86A/10-2052)

No. 1485

780.022/10-1452: Telegram

The Consul General at Dhahran (Bishop) to the Department of State ¹

SECRET

DHAHRAN, October 14, 1952—11 a. m.

101. From Amb at Dhahran. Left Riyadh last night and proceeding Jidda tomorrow.

On Oct 12 Saudis recd two messages from Riches. ² First referred to Saudi proposals of Oct 10 which Brit summarized as "a complete standstill without prejudice to claims by any party" and stated Brit agreeable in principle. Added Eden understood this to mean no reinforcements to be sent to oasis by either party and added, whereas Eden able ensure Trucial levies would observe this, he could not

¹ Repeated to London and Jidda.

² See footnote 3, *supra*.