

(5) Feel you shld not ask USG make choice until you have talked things over with UK. However, if SAG and UK decide USG is to be culprit this matter, suppose we cannot avoid our responsibilities.

SA Amb made fol comments:

(1) When King learned what Brit Amb had to say at Riyadh (Oct 23), he proposed tripartite comm. Do not believe King will abandon comm now and return direct talks.

(2) King proposed comm because wanted do away with Brit pressure in Buraimi area. Situation critical and while talks underway something may happen. King very anxious for comm to conduct plebiscite Buraimi after which talks cld be started.

(3) Can understand Brit may not want US participate comm because they might believe US has special interest in doing so in view own oil interests.

(4) Heart whole matter is both UK and US have strategic and other vital relations NE area and believe USG shld do something insure peace since so concerned with it.

(5) As understand USG position, you feel direct talks best way. Will try explain further to King.

BRUCE

No. 1492

780.022/12-152: Telegram

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

SECRET

DHAHRAN, December 1, 1952—4 p. m.

136. Re Jidda's 405 to Dept, rptd info London 26, Dhahran 144.² On Nov 8-9 Vice Consul Noel and I visited Ajman and Dubai and on Nov 23-24 Qatar. During these visits noted indications of restiveness on part local leaders, as yet difficult to define, which seems confirm Amb's point that boundaries only part of more basic problem eventual status Gulf Shaikhdoms and Brit position there.

Brit were most hospitable and went out of their way to be helpful. . . . The polit agents Sharja and Qatar accompanied on all official calls and made every effort control conversation, although at Ajman and Qatar they were not entirely successful. Rulers were all extremely friendly and unusually profuse in expressions friendship and respect for US. . . .

Through all visits there were frequent expressions friendship and personal regard for King Ibn Saud and Amir Saud Bin Jelewi

¹ Repeated to Jidda.

² Not printed. (780.022/11-2552)