

No. 1494

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by Edwin Plitt, Adviser, United States Delegation to the General Assembly*

SECRET

NEW YORK, December 4, 1952.

Subject: Al Buraimi Controversy

Participants: H.R.H. Prince Faisal Al-Saud, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia

H.E. Shaikh Ali A. Alireza, Minister, Saudi Arabian Delegation

Mr. Edwin A. Plitt, U.S. Delegation

Following a telephone call from Shaikh Alireza yesterday afternoon, and a follow-up request from Prince Faisal conveyed to me by Alireza at the Syrian reception last evening to see His Royal Highness tonight, Alireza telephoned to me again this morning saying that his Foreign Minister wished to speak with me as soon as possible and preferably this morning. I accordingly called on him at his suite in the Hotel Waldorf. He seemed somewhat agitated which is unusual for an Arab, and more so for anyone of his background and in the high position he occupies. This was further demonstrated after he had invited me to sit next to him and he produced a package of cigarettes with the remark: "I never smoke in public and rarely in the presence of visitors, but I should like to consider you this morning as a member of my family circle and have you join me in smoking for which I feel the need."

Shaikh Alireza, interpreting, said that His Royal Highness had just received another instruction from His Majesty urging upon him to procure our help in reaching an immediate amelioration of the situation which has developed as a result of the Al Buraimi *dispute* (they avoid the use of that expression) with the UK and which, according to His Royal Highness, is becoming serious. He added: "H.R.H. wants to speak very frankly with you."

He referred to his call on the Secretary (See memo of conversation of December 2<sup>1</sup>) several days ago and asked if the Secretary had come to any decision. When I pointed out in general the extent of the problems with which the Secretary had to cope and the great demands made upon his time, he expressed the hope that the Secretary would nevertheless be able to give his attention to the request His Royal Highness had made of him, and asked me to find an opportunity to remind him of the urgency with which His Maj-

<sup>1</sup> *Supra.*