

tion as to which boundary disputes covered in Brit arbitration proposal, and ur evaluation strength our position re support arbitration either in Wash or SA. Dept strongly inclined support arbitration.

Bruce

No. 1497

196.022/12-1852: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL

JIDDA, December 18, 1952—7 p. m.

476. Have now had full discussions with Brit Amb re Buraimi, etc, following his study recent Saudi communications (Embtel 453, Dec 11 rptd info London 28, Dhahran 159²), of which he furnished copies being sent Dept by pouch.

Amb disturbed re developing situation which he interprets caused by Saudi impression Brit weak with result tribes' gravitation towards SAG. In circumstances, Amb, while admitting Saudis may have claim to part of Buraimi oasis, now feels Turki should have been ejected at outset, forcibly if necessary, but that, having failed to [do?] so, Brit should now stiffen position, even to extent of risking war, in order re-establish prestige. In retrospect Amb also feels USG holds a primary responsibility for situation since he suggests our "passivity" interpreted as tacit support by Saudis and has encouraged Saudi excesses. Therefore, if situation is to be prevented from deteriorating to degree he foresees, Amb maintains USG and Brit should make common front in insisting Saudis accept arbitration. He expressed hope I would make strong recommendation this effect in anticipation matter would be taken up forcefully in Washington and here. Amb apologized for frankness but said wished to be clear. I replied understood and no point in pulling punches between friends. However, I did not believe observation justified that what Brit regard as Saudi intransigence should be laid at our door. Quite to contrary I had always endeavored exert restraining influence. I might have added, but did not do so, that counter-argument might be advanced regarding alleged aspirations of Shaiks who in fact appear have little voice in framing claims espoused in their behalf by Brit.

¹ Repeated to London, Dhahran, and the Arab capitals.

² Not printed, but see footnote 4, *supra*.