

basis justice and equity (Yusef Yassin said this definitely the case) arbitration procedure would seem well designed meet situation.

Yusef Yassin replied SAG not closing door on arbitration but felt plebiscite should come first and he still hoped USG could help out in role of impartial observer. He recognized this might subject US certain embarrassment but SAG would wish to minimize by avoiding putting US in position of arbitrator if he could not bring me around to Saudi point of view in this regard, perhaps since Faisal could be more persuasive in Washington. Yusef Yassin also renewed argument for separating Buraimi question from boundaries of Persian Gulf sheikhdoms, which seemed to hinge on British recognition in principle at London conference of certain historic Saudi rights in latter area whereas no similar acknowledgement re Buraimi with result that plebiscite proposed in order establish.

Foregoing discussion was undertaken without actual request for our views re arbitration in accordance instructions but opportunity for our view seemed too good to lose since Yusef Yassin usually in more relaxed and reasonable mood when outside conspiratorial atmosphere of Riyadh. Also because gave opportunity get in plug for arbitration before Yusef Yassin discussed with British Ambassador.

HARE

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No. 1499

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

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON, December 26, 1952. <sup>1</sup>

Subject: The Al Buraimi Dispute

Participants: Mr. Ronald Bailey, First Secretary, British Embassy  
NE—Mr. Hart  
NE—Mr. Sturgill

*Summary:*

Mr. Bailey came in at his own request to discuss latest developments and to request an official answer to the note which he and Mr. Burrows had delivered on December 12 and had discussed with Mr. Jernegan on December 15. <sup>2</sup> He was pleased with the conversation between Ambassador Hare and Sheikh Yusuf Yassin, which

<sup>1</sup> This memorandum of conversation was prepared on Dec. 29.

<sup>2</sup> Neither the British note nor the memorandum of conversation is printed, but see telegram 377 to Jidda, Document 1496.