

Mr. Bailey said it was routine for such an officer to visit Buraimi, that one had been doing so for years. Mr. Hart agreed, saying he had personal knowledge of such visits having been made in the past. He pointed out, however, that an incident at Liwa could have a deleterious effect on the present situation at Buraimi and expressed the hope that neither the UK nor the SAG would precipitate any unnecessary activities in the area. Mr. Bailey did not comment but left the impression, given previously, that the Foreign Office might take action if the SAG attempted to do anything in the area.

Mr. Bailey then asked explicitly for an answer to the UK request made by him and Mr. Burrows on December 15 that the US support arbitration in talks with the Crown Prince in Saudi Arabia and with Prince Feisal in New York. Mr. Hart said there would be some difficulty about getting in touch in the proper manner with Prince Feisal. He remarked that the Prince was coming to Washington on January 6 for a luncheon at Blair House and that this would present a better opportunity for a discussion. Mr. Bailey thought action should be taken sooner than this and expressed the hope that it would be. Mr. Hart said he would discuss it with Mr. Jernegan and get in touch Monday with Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey again expressed thanks for Ambassador Hare's action in Jidda and said all that remained to be done now was a sort of follow-up approach to Prince Feisal.

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*Editorial Note*

Telegram 401 to Jidda, December 31, reported that Prince Faisal was coming to Washington from New York within the next few days and was scheduled to see the Secretary of State on January 6. At their meeting the Secretary was to give strong support to the principle of arbitration and give a firm rebuttal to the expected plea for United States participation in a tripartite commission. (780.022/12-2052) Telegram 408 to Jidda, January 5, reported the Saudi Arabian Embassy had cancelled Faisal's appointment with the Secretary the following day, without explanation. The telegram speculated that Faisal might have realized the Department of State intended to support arbitration and wanted to preclude a policy pronouncement by the outgoing Administration that might complicate an approach to the new Administration. It had been agreed in the Department of State that the Under Secretary would call in the Saudi Arabian Ambassador in the next few days and make the