

No. 1503

Secretary's Memoranda of Conversation, lot 64 D 159. "Secretary's Memoranda of Conversation, January-April 1953"

Memorandum of Conversation, by the Officer in Charge of Arabian Peninsula-Iraq Affairs (Fritzlan)

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] March 2, 1953. ¹

Subject: Call of Prince Faisal, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, on Secretary.

Participants: Prince Faisal

The Secretary

Sheikh Asad Al Faqih, Saudi Arabian Ambassador

Sheikh Ibrahim Sulejman, Prince Faisal's Chief of Cabinet

Sheikh Ali Alireza, Prince Faisal's Personal Assistant

Mr. John F. Simmons, Chief of Protocol

Mr. A. David Fritzlan, NE

Prince Faisal called on the Secretary on March 2 in order to return the call he had made on him in New York last December. ²

After complimentary exchanges regarding the Prince's health (he recently had a checkup at the Mayo Clinic), the Secretary expressed his great satisfaction over the fact that it had been arranged for the Prince to visit the President today, and that this visit was in keeping with the great interest the United States had in the Arab World and of our desire that the spirit of cordiality between ourselves and the Arab nations be restored.

The Prince expressed appreciation of these sentiments and stated that Saudi Arabia had always been friendly toward the United States and he hoped that this friendship would grow under the new administration. He emphasized Saudi Arabia's need for United States aid and protection.

The Secretary read a proposed White House press release which, subject to the agreement of Prince Faisal and the President, would be released after his call on the President. Prince Faisal expressed complete satisfaction with it.

Prince Faisal stated that he had a number of problems under three headings to discuss with the Secretary, or his associates, as opportunity might present. These were:

¹ This memorandum of conversation was prepared on Mar. 3.

² For the memorandum of conversation between Prince Faisal and Secretary Acheson, Dec. 2, 1952, see Document 1493.