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

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] March 3, 1953. ¹

Subject: Call of Prince Faisal, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, on the Under Secretary on March 3, 1953.

Participants: Prince Faisal

The Under Secretary

Sheikh Asad Al Faqih, Saudi Arabian Ambassador

Sheikh Ibrahim Suleiman, Prince Faisal's Chief of Cabinet

Sheikh Ali Alireza, Prince Faisal's Personal Assistant

Mr. A. David Fritzlan, NE

Prince Faisal called with his entourage on General Smith on March 3 ostensibly to become better acquainted with the Under Secretary. Actually his call lasted almost two hours and various items of business were raised.

After the usual complimentary exchanges, during which General Smith recalled his meeting with Prince Faisal in North Africa during World War II, the Prince referred to his reception by the President and his call on the Secretary the previous day. He requested General Smith's permission to go into details concerning certain of the matters discussed with the Secretary. Questions covered were:

1) *President Truman's letter to King Ibn Saud of October 31, 1950.* The Prince expressed the hope that the terms of this letter would be reaffirmed and, if possible, strengthened by the new administration.

2) *Economic and Military Aid to Saudi Arabia.* Such aid had been promised Saudi Arabia but had not yet materialized. It was hard for Saudi Arabia to understand such action from such a close friend as the United States.

3) *Border Disputes with the British in the Persian Gulf Area.* Prince Faisal went into the question of King Ibn Saud's relations with the Sultanate of Muscat and the Persian Gulf Sheikdoms (the latter being under British protection) at great length. He mentioned that relations between the King and the Sultan and the Sheikhs had been very friendly and no disputes on boundaries had arisen until 1935 shortly after the discovery of oil in the area. Procedures had been put into effect to resolve these boundary differ-

¹ This memorandum of conversation was prepared on Mar. 4.