

sonable answer to conduct. He understood UN has felt in past that arbitration is fair course and that UN should not be involved in dispute. US advice to Saudis on these lines would be most valuable. In response further question as to whether HMG contemplated augmenting present military strength in area of approximately 400 levies and 12 armored cars, Strang said he did not know what plans military might have.

I leave it Department's discretion whether repeat this message Dhahran.

ALDRICH

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No. 1510

784.022/4-153

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

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] April 1, 1953.

Subject: Call of Saudi Arabian Ambassador on Under Secretary.

Participants: Under Secretary  
Saudi Arabian Ambassador  
Assistant Secretary Byroade  
Mr. Fritzlan

The Saudi Arabian Ambassador called on April 1 at his request in order to deliver a message from Prince Faisal who is about to return to his country.

The message dealt with two subjects which had been discussed between the Under Secretary and Prince Faisal on March 25.<sup>1</sup>

1. *Buraimi.*

The Prince instructed the Ambassador to inform the Under Secretary that King Ibn Saud was greatly perturbed over three new developments reflecting aggressive British intentions:

- a. The intent to establish a general blockade of the Buraimi area,
- b. Interference in the collection by Saudis of the *zakat* tax which has been collected for some time, and
- c. The establishment of a British post ten kilometers from Buraimi and the interference in communication between Buraimi and the coast and confiscation of food supplies.

It appears that these activities are causing Ibn Saud loss of sleep with detrimental effect upon his health. It is feared that if they

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<sup>1</sup> For a summary of the meeting, see telegram 559 to Jidda, Document 1507.