

No. 1513

780.022/4-353

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

SECRET

WASHINGTON, April 3, 1953.

Subject: Saudi Arabian Boundary Disputes

Participants: Mr. John E. Jernegan, NEA
Mr. James Terry Duce, Aramco
Mr. Philip Kidd, Aramco
Mr. Richard Young, Legal Consultant to SAG
Mr. Stephen P. Dorsey, NE
Mr. A. David Fritzlan, NE

Mr. Duce opened the conversation by stating that at the request of King Ibn Saud Mr. Ohliger had gone to Riyadh to confer on Buraimi. The Saudis had asked for Aramco assistance in bringing into the country a number of United States newspaper men who could effectively present the Saudi case on Buraimi in the United States press. It was felt such action was necessary in view of the mounting British "propaganda and misrepresentations." Aramco did not think this a good idea but had suggested that the Saudis obtain the services of a competent publicity agent. Before submitting names, Aramco wanted to clear the matter with the State Department.

Mr. Jernegan stated that while the Department hoped anything which might blow up the dispute would be avoided, it could not object to such a proposal which might be in the interest of the Saudi Government. Similar action, Mr. Jernegan noted, had been taken by a number of other Near Eastern Governments.

The discussion then centered around the recent history of the Buraimi dispute, and Mr. Young indicated that he was returning to Riyadh in the near future in order to be of service to the King in a legal capacity. He recalled the highly emotional view taken by the King of Buraimi, He stated flatly that Aramco had no present intentions to seek oil in Buraimi, or any other disputed area, and that the company had informed King Ibn Saud that if at any time it would alleviate his boundary problems the company would renounce its concessionary rights in disputed territories. He

ty had arisen out of unclear situation involving conflicting claims. In circumstances, wished advise most strongly that Saudis not assume or assert application presidential letter in respect Buraimi. Subsequently, reply was received from Crown Prince expressing general disappointment with attitude of American Government in this matter but saying reserving decision regarding British move until our reaction ascertained. Added that, in light my observations, would not now raise matter presidential letter." (780.022/4-753)