

agreement was being interpreted in some quarters as another "scuttle". As unfair as these characterizations might be, they were symptomatic of a frame of mind. Under these circumstances, he was extremely doubtful that the present government, in any event, would, in the foreseeable future, be willing or even find it possible to make large-scale concessions to the Saudis in the Persian Gulf.

No. 1515

780.022/4-155: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Saudi Arabia*¹

SECRET
PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, April 20, 1953—5:17 p. m.

595. Saudi Arabian Ambassador called on Byroade April 17 under instructions his Government (Embtel 794²). Following subjects discussed:

*1. Secretary's Near Eastern Tour*³

Ambassador made strong plea for Secretary remain Riyadh at least until two p. m. May 19 thus making possible official luncheon his honor which Crown Prince might offer. Byroade stated Department will carefully consider this suggestion and if schedule as whole permits will try arrange accordingly.

2. Buraimi Problem

Ambassador expressed his Government's growing concern British blockade activities Buraimi which causing severe hardship to inhabitants. He stated such activities in contravention traditional right inhabitants of peninsula travel and trade where they pleased regardless of political boundaries. He indicated King very upset and that relaxation British activities would improve atmosphere for talks between King and British Ambassador.

Byroade expressed Department's great satisfaction over recent exchange cordial messages between Churchill and King and said we hoped nothing would be done prejudice success these talks. He stated we had said this to British and we felt same applied to Saudis. He referred in this connection to report received from

¹ Drafted by Fritzman and cleared by NE. Repeated to Damascus, London, and Dhahran.

² Dated Apr. 14, not printed. It reported the Saudi Arabian Ambassador had been instructed to seek U.S. views on developments in Buraimi. (780.022/4-1453)

³ For documentation on the trip of Secretary of State Dulles and Mutual Security Administrator Stassen to the Near and Middle East in May 1953, see Documents 1 ff.