

## No. 1517

786A.11/6-1553

*President Eisenhower to King Ibn Saud*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

WASHINGTON, June 15, 1953.

YOUR MAJESTY: I was very pleased to receive your cordial letter of May nineteenth<sup>2</sup> delivered by Mr. John Foster Dulles upon his return to this country. Mr. Dulles has reported to me on his visit to you, and I am glad that he had the opportunity for an exchange of views on the relations between our two countries.

Your Majesty has justifiably established a reputation for being a loyal friend in times of adversity as well as in days of happiness and well being. Our countries have stood together in time of war and we are now making common cause against the evil and godless forces of communism which threaten the world. I have looked upon our friendship as one solidly based upon mutual confidence and respect, and almost immediately upon taking office I had the good fortune to receive a visit from your son, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal. I took advantage of his courteous call to express publicly my determination that the relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia and the other Arab countries should be improved and that I would strive toward that improvement. Furthermore, I confirmed the assurances made to Your Majesty by President Truman in his letter of October 31, 1950,<sup>3</sup> and you may be certain that the United States Government will continue to act in accordance with these assurances.

I was therefore greatly concerned to learn from Mr. Dulles that Your Majesty felt the United States Government had not adequately supported Saudi Arabia during the recent difficulties with the British Government over the matter of Buraimi.<sup>4</sup> I have in mind your statement to Mr. Dulles that, if Saudi Arabia and the United States are good friends, as they most certainly are, each should tell the other when he believes him to be wrong and each should support the other when he believes him to be right. I concur fully in this view.

<sup>1</sup> The source text was attached to a June 12 memorandum by the Secretary of State to the President, not printed; see the editorial note, *supra*. Telegram 681 to Jidda, June 18, not printed, transmitted a copy of the letter to the Embassy in Saudi Arabia for delivery to the King. (611.86A/6-1053)

<sup>2</sup> Not printed, but see the editorial note, *supra*.

<sup>3</sup> For the text of the letter, see *Foreign Relations*, 1950, vol. v, p. 1190.

<sup>4</sup> In telegram 231 from Dhahran, May 19, not printed. (Conference files, lot 59 D 95, CF 156)