

aware no one was detained out of doors but a group of 30 or 40 people coming from south of Buraimi were prohibited from entering Hamasa and visiting Amir Turki. This in keeping with blockade. They do allow people who live in village to go out and buy food but they are not allowing anyone visit Turki. British political agent at Sharja has, however, been requested comment on charge that Arabs were "detained in the sun". Saudis have protested incident to British Government and reply will be made as soon as political agent reports.

BISHOP

 No. 1522

780.022/7-253: Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Consulate General at Dhahran ¹

SECRET
PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1953—1:37 p. m.

2. For Ambassador at Riyadh. British Embassy July 2 gave Department summary of statement ² regarding Nuwai incident which substantially agrees with report contained Consulate General's telegram 254. It was recalled by Embassy representative that Obaid bin Juma had previously caused trouble on Buraimi-Sharjah road by attempting take British control point on behalf of Saudis. Chronology of events as provided Department follows:

1. June 23 Obaid set up post near Mahadha and opened fire on Trucial Levy patrol proceeding El Ain. Fire not returned.
2. June 26 Obaid interfered further with movement on road and Buckmaster and Trucial Levy officer turned back after 10 shots fired at them. Obaid was informed British forces would take necessary action unless he ceased interference.
3. June 27 Levies sent to Shirm and were fired at from Nuwai. Fire exchanged for about one hour during which three killed and three wounded among Obaid's men. Obaid given 24 hour ultimatum and proceeded reinforce his check point to 100 men.
4. June 28 ultimatum expired.
5. June 29 operations undertaken at dawn and check point captured at 8:30. At no time were aircraft and armored cars employed. Head man of Nuwai and Abdullah Salim have sworn mutual pact and guaranteed keep road open. Levies now control check point and principal Mahadha wells and remainder withdrawn to Shirm.

¹ Drafted by Fritzman on July 3 and cleared by EUR, BNA, and NEA. Repeated to London and Jidda.

² A paper, dated July 2, not printed, entitled "Incidents in the Mahadha Area," contains the information set forth in this telegram. Presumably it is the paper under reference here. (780.022/7-253)