

(3) Immediate setting up of watchdog commission composed of one Saudi, one British and one neutral member to be agreed between them which would proceed to Buraimi area and remain as long as situation requires.

Ambassador said he felt Foreign Office would be reluctant accept any plan which would permit Turki remain but that on other hand some such plan might have appeal if presented by third party.

At this writing I am unaware how Department's thinking on this matter may have developed but I would suggest that these ideas would merit consideration if we are prepared to go further than try to restimulate direct conversations. As seen from here I would recommend our proposing some such plan.

HARE

No. 1525

790.022/7-653: Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Aldrich) to the
Department of State*¹

SECRET

LONDON, July 6, 1953—7 p. m.

82. In compliance Deptel 98,² Embassy today approached Foreign Office regarding Department's conclusions re recent incidents among Beni Kaab, importance earliest possible implementation arbitration and desirability both sides consider sending neutral observer as advanced element arbitration body.

Foreign Office official, while acknowledging dived loyalty Beni Kaab, nevertheless thought there would be no further incidents of this kind if Ibn Saud would show firm hand in keeping Turki in line. Official expressed opinion that any neutral officials sent to area should be within context general settlement, i.e., agreement on the arbitration, withdrawal, etc. For that reason, UK would not favor sending neutral observer Buraimi at this time.

Foreign Office official reiterated hope that President might find it possible to suggest to Saudis mutual withdrawal coupled with tripartite supervisory commission. He noted in this connection Ibn Saud's latest letter to President suggesting tripartite investigating commission with US, UK and Saudi participation. Official thought this suggestion tied in closely with suggestion Makins had been instructed make to Under Secretary and was good augury for Saudi agreement.

¹ Repeated to Jidda and Dhahran.

² Printed as telegram 2 to Dhahran, Document 1522.