

Comment: Embassy believes British reaction to alternative machinery which Department is presently considering in connection Buraimi dispute is likely be governed primarily by whether neutral observer and supervisory personnel would (1) be superimposed on present *status quo*, or (2) involve British withdrawal to point of equalizing their forces with Saudis. As reported previous telegrams, British feel strongly that onus for present situation lies with Turki because of his incursion into Hamasa. British therefore strongly oppose any solution which would result in Turki remaining Buraimi and British withdrawing even part of their forces. They maintain their agreement to such course of action would have highly unfavorable effect on Muscat, British protected Sheikdoms and local tribes. Additionally, of course, they are concerned about Turki continuing his alleged suborning of local tribes.

While Department's suggested formula should serve to minimize Turki's activities, Embassy believes it doubtful that British would consider it met their concern re local reactions if coupled with equalization of forces. Embassy believes, however, British would consider formula if machinery were superimposed on maintenance *status quo*, although they will undoubtedly make further efforts to obtain our support for their preferred solution of mutual withdrawal to which they say they believe Saudis might agree.

Embassy unclear as to just how British would exercise supervision over Turki's activities and Saudis over British. In Embassy's opinion, there would be less prospect of friction and more prospect of constructive supervision if responsibility were vested in tripartite commission composed of UK, Saudi and neutral official.

ALDRICH

 No. 1526

780.022/7-753

*Memorandum by the Secretary of State to the President*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, July 7, 1953.

Subject: Alleged British Attack Against Saudi Subjects

I refer to my memorandum of June 30² transmitting a message from King Ibn Saud concerning an alleged attack by British bomb-

¹ This memorandum was drafted by Fritzman; BNA, EUR, and S/S also concurred with NEA. A handwritten notation in the margin stated that it was delivered to the White House on July 7. Attached to the source text was a memorandum by Byroade to the Secretary, dated July 6, not printed, recommending that he sign the memorandum for the President. (780.022/6-2953)

² Not printed, but see footnote 1, Document 1519.