

ers and armored cars against tribesmen in the Buraimi area who are stated to be Saudi subjects.

A report has now been received from the British and according to it the trouble started on June 23 when certain pro-Saudi elements of the Beni Kaab tribe fired on a patrol of British-controlled forces proceeding from Buraimi along the road to Sharjah (a Sheikdom under British protection). On June 26 these pro-Saudi tribesmen established a road block to prevent movement of British forces. In the meantime pro-Muscat elements of the Beni Kaab tribe, fearing an attack by pro-Saudi members of the tribe, requested assistance and a group of British-controlled forces were sent into the area. Shots were exchanged between the hostile elements within the tribe and three pro-Saudi tribesmen were killed and four wounded. In the meantime the road block was forcibly removed and pro-Muscat tribal elements have undertaken to police the road. In the process one pro-Saudi tribesman was killed and one wounded. The British state that no aircraft or armored cars were used in this operation.

The demarcation line in the area is a vague one but we do know that, while certain elements of the Beni Kaab have a clear attachment to Ibn Saud, the Sultan of Muscat claims the whole of the territory within which the incidents took place.

This incident, involving factional strife within a tribe living in the neighborhood of the disputed area of Buraimi, emphasizes the importance of the British and Saudis proceeding with arbitration to which both sides are committed in principle, and I intend to press this view upon them.

The Department has communicated with our Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, in order that he may convey our views to the King.

JOHN FOSTER DULLES

No. 1527

Presidential Correspondence, lot 66 D 204. "King Saud/Eisenhower": Telegram

*The Ambassador in Saudi Arabia (Hare) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

JIDDA, July 7, 1953—1 p. m.

6. There follows summary of another message from King delivered by Foreign Office with request it be transmitted to President. Complete text being pouched.²

¹ Repeated to London and Dhahran.

² Despatch 23, July 11, not printed. (780.022/7-1153)