

(1) Expression appreciation President's message Deptel 2, July 1.³

(2) Statement that British have replied Saudi protest denying bombing but admitting "most of acts" attributed British officials and claiming they were taken in retaliation aggression against British forces.

(3) Request that President send representative who, together with Saudi and British representative, would go to Buraimi area to make investigation.

(4) Contradiction between British statement that it has instructed its forces Buraimi area maintain peace and report from Turki that British forces intensifying siege against Hamasah, Turki's headquarters.

(5) Claim that on July 3 British forces fired guns and rockets at Hamasah in order frighten people.

(6) Expression of hope President's mediation will end aggression and result in investigation incidents Buraimi area.

(7) Reiteration willingness accept arbitration provided there is equality of forces in area.

(8) Repetition of thanks for President's interest in question and reassurance Saudi desire settle dispute and have friendly relations with Britain.

In conversation with acting head Foreign Office after receipt foregoing, I remarked that question of sending American observer to Buraimi was, of course, an old story which had been thoroughly discussed in past and that Department had always taken position that American participation was not desirable. I said that while I was not in position reply in negative to King's suggestion, I thought negative reply was probable and it is my recommendation to Department that we do not change our position on this point.

HARR

³ Not printed; it transmitted the President's answer to King Ibn Saud's message of June 28, transmitted in telegram 249 from Dhahran. It informed him that the President was concerned over the report of the bombing attack, and the matter was being taken up with the British Government. (780.022/6-2953)

No. 1528

780.022/7-1153

Memorandum of Conversation, by the Officer in Charge of Arabian Peninsula-Iraq Affairs (Fritzlan)

SECRET

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1953.

Subject: Discussion of Buraimi Problem at Bilateral Talks with Lord Salisbury and his Group, at 4:00 p. m., July 11, 1953