

British-controlled forces might be withdrawn to Bahrein but to no point in Trucial Oman, Qatar or Muscat.

Without prior consultation with Governments concerned Embassies London and Jidda requested comment foregoing suggested proposals.

SMITH

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*The Chargé in Saudi Arabia (Jones) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

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45. Embassy believes proposals contained Deptel 30, August 7<sup>2</sup> would not be acceptable to Saudis. As Department is aware, salient points Saudi position are as follows:

(1) That Turki remain Buraimi, presumably until arbitration proceedings concluded;

(2) That arbitration commission be appointed immediately with responsibility observe developments Buraimi area or, as alternative, immediate establishment neutral observation commission and of arbitration commission when terms of reference agreed by two parties;

(3) That equality forces Buraimi area be established before arbitration proceedings initiated.

Department's proposals Deptel 30 fail satisfy first two foregoing points, on both of which Saudis have clearly shown they feel strongly. While it is realized that Department's proposals regarding mutual withdrawal were drafted with intent overcoming previously expressed Saudi objections thereto, Embassy doubts that this aspect of proposal would be sufficient in Saudi opinion to provide equality of position they desire. It is likely that Saudis would consider that number of British and British controlled forces in Trucial coast area prior August 20, 1952, with their easier access Buraimi area, would have result of giving superior position to British.

Even if King saw no alternative but to accept proposals, which Embassy considers doubtful, there would still remain problems of substance. For example, who would make determination that withdrawal of British and Muscat personnel in accordance proposals has been carried out? Saudis would be unwilling accept unilateral assurance British this complicated question. Moreover, if Saudis

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to London and Dhahran.

<sup>2</sup> Printed as telegram 682 to London, *supra*.