

No. 1535

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*Memorandum of Conversation, Prepared in the Embassy in Saudi Arabia*¹

SECRET

JIDDA, October 6, 1953.

Participants: Prince Feisal, Saudi Foreign Minister
J. Jefferson Jones, III, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Clifford R. Nelson, Second Secretary
Mohammed Massoud, Embassy's Arab Consultant

Subject: Buraimi Dispute

In view of Prince Feisal's oblique reference to lack of support by Saudi Arabia's friends on the Buraimi issue, Mr. Jones attempted to reassure him with respect to the efforts of the United States to assist in bringing about a solution of the Buraimi dispute. Mr. Jones said that the United States Government was in constant touch with the British Government on the question and that one of the reasons for the delay in reaching a solution of the issue was the absence from London of British cabinet ministers.

Prince Feisal replied that absence of important cabinet ministers from London had not prevented the British Government from reaching decisions upon other important international questions.

Prince Feisal then launched into a long dissertation on the Buraimi issue, the most significant points of which were as follows:

(1) The lack of tangible results of United States efforts to help bring about a solution of the dispute was causing him to have "little doubts" about United States friendship with Saudi Arabia. Although he appreciated that the situation was a difficult one and that the United States was attempting to contribute to a mutually satisfactory solution, the Saudis still hoped for "deeds rather than words".

(2) The Saudi Government as well as Prince Feisal himself was beginning to be embarrassed by lack of United States assistance. The Saudi Arabian people were beginning to ask openly what advantages had accrued to Saudi Arabia from its friendship with the United States. In the light of these questions of the Saudi people, members of His Majesty's Government were asking Prince Feisal, who was one of the greatest proponents of Saudi-American friendship, what help had been given to Saudi Arabia by the United States during the recent years when a special relationship supposedly existed between the two countries. Prince Feisal said that he was "ashamed and abashed" when friends asked him what as-

¹ This memorandum of conversation was transmitted to the Department of State as an enclosure to despatch 138 from Jidda, Oct. 11, 1953. Presumably it was prepared by Jones, as he was listed as the reporter on the despatch. (780.022/10-1153)