

towards meeting Saudi demands whole tenor my remarks was crystal clear that question British desire obtain concession was only "hope". Shaikh Yusuf, I added, should have clearly understood we did not now "support" any British pretension to oil concession in disputed area.

4. Following this discussion, I gave Ohliger letter in foregoing sense and he gave me memorandum briefing Aramco position. My immediately following telegram gives text.

I quote them in full because Ohliger understands Aramco President Davies and General Counsel Ray (who left Dhahran March 7 and is due New York today) will make early call at Department for full discussion company's interests.

I have read to Ohliger final paragraph Deptel 253 February 26⁶ and suggest Department consider with Davies advisability its making formal statement same sense to British Government.

As Ohliger is reiterating Aramco position at Riyadh tomorrow and will if it seems desirable show King my letter, I see no need for further action by me here pending Department's full consideration matter.

WADSWORTH

⁶ Not printed, but see footnote 2, *supra*.

No. 1547

TMA.00/3-954: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

JIDDA, March 9, 1954—8 p. m.

385. Reference: Embassy telegram 384, March 9, paragraph 4.²

1. Following is text my letter to Ohliger:

"With reference to our conversation of this afternoon it occurs to me that you may wish in your meeting with Shaikh Yusuf tomorrow to say that I assured you that in my conversation with Shaikh Yusuf in Riyadh on February 19 I was quite clear in saying that in my government's view the new British proposals for Buraimi arbitration seemed to go far towards meeting Saudi demands in the matter.

"At the same time the whole tenor of my discussion with Shaikh Yusuf should I feel sure have made it equally clear to him that we

¹ Repeated to Dhahran.

² *Supra*.