

No. 1552

Editorial Note

Telegram 401 from Jidda, March 18, not printed, reported that the Embassy had received a copy of the Saudi Arabian reply to the British memorandum on Buraimi, which had been handed to Pelham the previous evening. Telegram 402, March 18, not printed, transmitted the full text of the Saudi Arabian note to the British. (780.022/3-1854)

No. 1553

780.022/3-1954: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

JIDDA, March 19, 1954—4 p. m.

404. Regarding last paragraph my telegram 403, March 18, 11 p.m.² Following are high-lights Duce Ohliger Ray comment as put in letter addressed to me and wired verbatim Davies for discussion with Department:

1. Aramco favors prompt determination boundaries by sovereigns; and willing cooperate every proper way;

2. Any implication Aramco contribute to solution by agreeing to alternative concession arrangements highly improper and should be strongly opposed by USG;

3. Aramco will not surrender any concession rights and thinks to do so both unpatriotic and bad business judgment;

4. Aramco did not "suggest, collaborate in the preparation of, or approve" British proposal; it had no knowledge thereof until informed by Saudis; it will file statement with State Department clarify records this respect;

5. Aramco has right, in its discretion, explore and develop any areas covered by concession agreement; that it has refrained from doing so in disputed areas to expedite settlements by sovereigns; but that it may find it necessary proceed with exploration and development in area which British proposal concedes may be con-

¹ Repeated to London and Dhahran.

² Not printed; it reported that Duce, Ohliger, and Ray were preparing their comment on the Saudi Arabian Government reply to the British proposals. They informed the Ambassador they considered the best solution from the viewpoint of U.S. interests was for the British Government to withdraw the proposal it had made in paragraph c. (780.022/3-1854)