

that it would be desirable to let the Saudi Arabian Government know that we were discussing this question with the British but was not sure in his own mind as to the manner in which we should convey this information. It would certainly not be helpful for the Saudis to imagine that no further effort on their part was necessary. Mr. Spurlock expressed full agreement.

Messrs. Spurlock and Noble stressed the importance of early settlement of this matter and hoped the Department would emphasize this in any talks held with the British. Mr. Jernegan assured them that the Department had always wished to see this dispute settled as early as possible and we would certainly emphasize this aspect to the British.

Mr. Jernegan stated that, subject to approval by the Secretary, the Department would make early representations to the British and would prepare an appropriate communication to the Saudi Arabian Government. He could not of course give any assurance regarding the British reaction to such representations.

No. 1556

780.022/4-654: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

JIDDA, April 6, 1954—2 p. m.

423. Regarding mytel 420, April 4.²

(1) Aramco General Counsel Ray handed me yesterday letter enclosing copies of five letters and one memorandum dated April 3 addressed by Board Chairman Davies respectively to Secretary Dulles, Assistant Secretary Byroade, King Saud, petroleum development (Trucial Coast) Ltd., Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and British Foreign Office.

All set forth *inter alia* Aramco's basic position that it is not prepared surrender any rights under its concession, that all activities by oil companies in disputed areas should be immediately discontinued and that all boundaries should be speedily determined.

Ray wished me have copies in case Department might desire refer thereto in instructions to me. He expects first two letters will be delivered at Department tomorrow together with original of memorandum (which Department is requested deliver to Foreign Office) and copies three other letters. Letter to King Saud will be

¹ Repeated to London and Dhahran.

² Not printed. (780.022/4-454)