

ment might prove helpful, agreement to arbitrate dispute should be fully maintained pending their upshot; and he seemed pleased Burrows had been named British negotiator and instructed proceed on that basis. He will consult with Burrows on Bahrain next week. He does not know whether King has appointed Saudi negotiator.

Pelham also again insisted he had given Saudis no encouragement whatsoever in reply Shaikh Yusuf's last summer's *démarches* re "arranging" that Aramco renounce concessionary rights in disputed areas; it was only thereafter that Saudi Ambassador Wahbe apparently on orders sent him by Shaikh Yusuf had made suggestion to Foreign Office which had led it to inject oil issue into February 14 proposals.

WADSWORTH

No. 1559

780 022/4-2354: Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Aldrich) to the
Department of State*¹

SECRET

LONDON, April 23, 1954—6 p. m.

4695. In discussion Buraimi question at Foreign Office today, Embassy officer was asked whether Department's suggestions to British Embassy (Dept:el 5407²) meant that USG was requesting HMG both (a) modify wording paragraph c in light Aramco's unwillingness surrender concessionary rights, and (b) suspend operations of British oil companies in disputed area. Foreign Office official pointed out USG had taken position British proposals on whole represented step forward and it would therefore be surprising if having done so, we should now ask British suspend oil operations when their continuance, as Foreign Office had repeatedly made clear, was essential part British proposals. Official confirmed statements made by British Embassy representatives to Department during April 13 conversation to effect continuation oil operations essential for political as well as commercial reasons. With reference to statement made during Hart's April 14 call at Foreign Office to effect force would be used if necessary prevent Aramco entering territory, official explained this based on assumption any Aramco party would be accompanied by Saudi guards. He stressed entry of latter into area would be resisted as HMG must regard it as Abu Dhabi territory in absence some determination to contrary.

¹ Repeated to Jidda and Dhahran.² Printed as telegram 288 to Jidda, Document 1557.