

No. 1569

Editorial Note

Despatch 432 from Jidda, June 30, not printed, transmitted a copy of the text of the British proposals on Buraimi which Ambassador Pelham submitted to the Saudi Arabian Foreign Office on June 28. In their proposal, the British defined the "Buraimi zone" as an area within a radius of 20 kilometers from the village of Buraimi, and "disputed areas" as the Buraimi zone and all other land claimed by Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi between the Saudi Arabian claim of 1949 and the claim put forward at the Dammam Conference in 1952 on behalf of the ruler of Abu Dhabi. The section regarding oil operations in the disputed zone proposed that for the purpose of oil operations only, and without prejudicing the rights of either side to the disputed territory, the region lying between the 1949 claim of Saudi Arabia and the 1952 claim of Abu Dhabi would be divided along a line called the Fuad Hamza line. (780.022/6-3054)

According to telegram 6 from Jidda, July 4, not printed, the Fuad Hamza line was a vaguely described line dating back to 1935. (780.022/7-454)

No. 1570

780.022/7-3154: Telegram

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

SECRET

JIDDA, July 31, 1954—3 p. m.

45. Buraimi arbitration agreement signed yesterday by British Ambassador Pelham and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal.² British

¹ Repeated to London and Dhahran.

² Despatch 521 from London, Aug. 20, not printed, transmitted a copy of the July 30 "Arbitration Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom (acting on behalf of the Ruler of Abu Dhabi and His Highness Sultan Said bin Taimur) and the Government of Saudi Arabia." The Arbitration Tribunal was asked to locate a common frontier between Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi within a line claimed by Saudi Arabia in 1949 and one claimed by Abu Dhabi in 1952; and to decide on the sovereignty in an area within a circle, the center of which would be in the village of Buraimi, and whose circumference passed through the point of junction of latitude 24°25' North and longitude 55°36' East. Attached to the treaty was an exchange of notes between Ambassador Pelham and Foreign Minister Faisal, dated July 30. The British note stated that there would be no oil operations in the Buraimi zone during the period of arbitration; but an area outside the Buraimi zone was indicated in

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