

844

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E. JUNE. NOS. 1- 152. Contd.

.....

far from the doors of Mecca.

The safegurading of the common interests compels me
say that the matter is now in the hands of Great Britain,

Your most sincerely,

HUSSEIN.

29-2-37 (3rd December 1918.)

.....

* **NOTE.**- As the words "and prevent Ateiba from communicat
with the villages of Nejd in any way" appeared contradi
to King Hussein's recently expressed view that intercour
between Hedjaz and Nejd should be free and unhampered, I
for a further explanation of these words by telephone.
king replied through his private Secretary that he inten
to refer to the particular villages (Akhwan settlements)
mentioned in his recent Note on Administration of the Em
of Arabia (sent with my despatch No.20 of 24th November)

C. WILSON,

Colonel

.....

Pro. No. 79.

Telegram P, dated the 10th (received 11th) janua

1919.

From- The British High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (foreign and Polit:
Department) Delhi.

(Addressed Foreign Office; sent Baghdad, 48.)

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. NOS. 1- 152. Contd.

.....

The following information was volunteered to Colonel Bassett by Captain Zis, the Turkish Envoy to Medina:- Beg

Adjutant of Fakhri Pasha read to him whilst he was at Medina a letter received from Bin Saud about a fortnight congratulating Fakhri on his stubborn defence of the city and expressing friendly sentiments. Ends.

Colonel Bassett has been instructed by me to try and obtain letter in original.

@Cf. Pro. No. 77.

This refers to my telegram No. 23, dated 6th January

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Pro. No. 80.

(Copy.)

Telegram dated the 13th (received 14th) January From- The British High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo, To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department) Delhi.

(Addressed Foreign Office, No, 68; repeated India, Aden and Baghdad.)

Fakhri Pasha, Turkish Commandant of Medina, surrendered at Arab Headquarters at Bin Derwish on January 10th. The telegraph text of communication I propose to issue here soon as further information is available.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. NOS. 1- 152. Contd.

.....

Pro. No. 81 .

Telegram (en clair), dated the 14th (received 1
January 1919)

From- The British High Commissioner of Egypt, Cairo
To- His Excellency the Viceroy.

(Addressed Foreign Office; repeated India, Aden and B
No. 71.)

Holy City of Medina has capitulated to King Huss
under terms of armistice with Turkey.

Delay in bringing the garrison to comply with arm
terms has been due to its long isolation which necessitate
our permitting interchanges of special communications with
Constantinople. To give time for these period of armist
was prolonged locally. It should be observed that sacred
character of city, which contains tomb of prophet, rende
it incumbent on King Hussein to secure its capitulation
arrangement and not by assault. Siege operations had be
confined to comparatively distant investment and since the
Turks drew their inner lines close round great mosque and
used latter as their Chief ammunition depot not a single
could have been thrown into position without grave risk
the destruction of prophet's tomb,

Emir Abdulla representing King of Hedjaz made an o
l entry into Medina at 11 A.M. January 13th, and was ent
astically acclaimed by notables of town and civil popula

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

....

He immediately proceeded to tomb of prophet where he offered midday prayer.

.....

Pro. No. 82

Telegram P, No. 72, dated the 14th (received 15th) January 1919.

From- His Majesty's High Commissioner, Cairo,

To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department).

(Addressed Foreign Office; sent to Baghdad and Aden.)

In my immediately preceding enciphered telegram is

£ Pro. No. 81.

given the text of the

£ Pro. No. 80.

communique regarding

which will be issued

to-morrow morning.

£ Pro. No. 80.

This refers to my telegram

Nb 68.

.....

Pro. No. 83 .

Telegram P, dated the 14th (received 16th) January 1919.

945

From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London

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FOREIGN POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. No. 1-152. Contd.

....

To- His Excellency the Viceroy (foreign and Political
Department).

(Addressed Baghdad.)

Mark Sykes, Cairo, sends the following:-

"Mahomed-el-Osami is here. I am informed by him that he is the Ajami's agent and has been sent to ask the British whether Ajami can come to Iraq and make friends. Said that I have no concern with the question as it is on for the Mesopotamian authorities. I have been pressed by Mahomed to ask London to obtain reply by telegram from Mesopotamia. As the man is waiting here at some inconvenience I trust I may have some reply".

Your views should kindly be stated.

.....

Pro. No. 84.

Telegram P, No. 83, dated the 15th (received 16th
January 1919.

From- His Majesty's High Commissioner, Cairo.

To- His Excellency the Viceroy (foreign and Political
Department).

(Addressed Foreign Office, London; repeated Baghdad.)

We may expect King Hussein, as soon as Medina garrisons has been evacuated to reinforce Shaker and to instruct him

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd.

.....

fighting on an extensive scale in Central Arabia if Bin Saud makes this action a casus belli and encourages Ikhwan Khu To make Bin Saud understand that we do not oppose Sheriffs action at Khurma is, I think the best chance of avoiding and I submit that, as suggested in my telegram above quoted the formal injunction should be sent to him without further delay. The probability that Bin Saud has been intriguing with Fakrri is confirmed by the information given in my telegram No. 48, but he may now show himself compliant so his hopes of getting assistance from latter are dispelled.

This refers to my telegram No. 14.

.....

Pro. No. 84 a

No. 12-W-C, dated Delhi, the 15th January 1919 (very Confidential)*

Endorsed by Foreign and Political Department.

A copy of the undermentioned papers is forwarded to Army Department, Home Department, General Officer Commanding Force "D", Baghdad, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and Officiating Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia, and Director, Central Intelligence and the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General in the North West Frontier Province, for information in continuation of

947

() Sent to Army and

850

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Cont

.....

() Omit to Army
and Home
Departments.

the endorsement by the (Gov
ment of India In the) For
and Political Department
244-W.C., dated the 26th

ember 1918.

(2) it is requested that the papers forwarded may be
treated as extremely confidential.

Arabia Series, Part IX. Curr
PRO. No. 57 to 71.

Pro. No. 84 b

MEMORANDUM.

The papers specified below were transmitted to the
Secretary, Political Department, India Office, London, for
the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for In
under over the Foreign Secretary's letter No. 4-M, dated t
15th January 1919:-

Arabia Series, Part IX. Curr
Pro. No. 57- 71.

.....

Pro. No. 85 .

Telegram P, No. 574, dated the 16th (received 17

January 1919.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE.1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd

.....

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bag
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Secretary of State for India; repeated Cairo.)

Early orders as to the despatch to Ibn Saud of Captain
Bray's kindly requested .

Pro. No 75.

This refers to my telegram
11604, dated the 27th Decem
1918.

.....

Pro. No. 86.

Telegram P, dated the 16th (received 17th) Januar
1919.

From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, L
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (foreign and Political
Department) Delhi.

(Addressed Baghdad.)

In the light of recent developments and particul

*Pro. No. 80, of the surrender of Medina,
of which has just been rece

the whole question regarding Ibn Saud has been under f
careful consideration of His Majesty's Government . Th
conclusion is that, by further intervention in the dis
between Ibn Saud and King Hussein, nothing is to gained

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Cont

.....

† Pro No. 72. the present in the altered circumse
The instrucionis † in regard to the
ultimatum to the former are accord
cancelled. No action need, therefore be taken on my tele

" Pro. No. 65. dated the 13th" and 24th* December,

* Pro. No. 72. respectively. The whole position v
have to be reconsidered should it
at any time that Mecca or other dist

of Hedjaz proper are seriously threatened by Ibn Saud or
followers. In that event His Majesty's Government would
bound to take such steps to secure the maintenance of st
quo as might be practicable.

£ Pro. No. 75. This refers to your telegram, £
dated 27th December 1918, and conne
correspondance.

.....

Pro. No. 87.

Telegram P, No, 590 dated the 16th (received 1
January 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
dad,

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in th
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Secretary of State for India, London.)

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos- 1- 152. Contd

.....

As I should prefer to deal with these questions, if possible, through the permanent official channel, will you kindly inform me in what capacity Sir Mark Sykes is acting at Cairo, and whether his deputation will be prolonged.

A propos ** Ajajimi, I regard it out of the question

**pro. No. 83. it out of the question that should permit his return to To show favour to him now we

be an act of treachery to those who have been friendly to which never be forgiven, as he has been consistently hostile to the last. To Osaymi the same applies.

@Pro. No. 88. This refers to your telegram dated the 14th January.

.....

Pro. No. 88 .

Telegram P, dated the 16th (received 18th) Jan 1919.

From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London
To- His Excellency the viceroy (Foreign and Political Department) (Repeated to Baghdad)

Following is most confidential. Papers follow by Maj

From Constantiople secret intelligenc has been re-
to the effect that the establishment, throughout the A

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FOREIGN POLI. DEPT. SECT. 17 JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Cont

.....

with the object of closely uniting Moslem elements and ultimate re-establishment of Moslem rule is contemplated by the Shaikh ul-Islam. To select, for the purpose of carrying on successful propaganda men in position from the depends Arabies in the provinces will be to first duties of the Committees. To create such a position as will convince the Allies to leave the occupied provinces and cease exercising influence there, will be the object of union of the Moslems. A person who is well known in India and exercises considerable influence in Islam world and who is described as the son of the biggest and wealthiest Ulema in Turkish Arabia is among the workers to be selected by the Shaikh ul-Islam. To enable them to proceed to Baghdad this person is said to be trying to get a pass for himself and friends. From the same source a report indicates that a draft declaration has been prepared by the Turkish Grand Lodge of freemasons, for signature by Notables of Mesopotamia, demanding national autonomy, under Ottoman suzerainty, for Iraq.

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Pro. No. 89 .

Telegram P, dated the 20th (received 22nd) Jan 1919.

From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. C

.....

To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Polit:
Department, X Delhi.

(Addressed to Baghdad.)

My telegram@ of the same date has crossed yours#

@ Pro. No. 86.

regarding Ibn Saud. You
not despatch Bray.

* Pro. No. 85.

This refers to your t
am* No. 574, dated the 16
January.

.....

Pro. No. 90

Telegram P, Dated the 24th (received 26th) Janu
1919.

From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
London,

To- His Excellenc the Viceroy (Foreign and Polit
Department), Delhi.

(Addressed Baghdad.)

Following, dated January 21st, from Foreign Of
to Cairo:- Begins.

Letter in Turkish addressed to King and signed
Rashid a Nasir, who described himself as Chief of tr
of Bin Rashid, has been received through the Netherl

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE.1920. Nos. 1- 152.Contd

.....

Legation, Constantiople. Latter is dated 13 Tishrin San
1334 and it is stated therein the name of Bin Eashid the
Rashidi Emirate in Nejd desires permanent friendly rela
with His Majesty's Government and asks for aid and prot
Reference is also made to long friendly relations with
House of Hedjaz and it is pointed out that people of Emi
which extends from Baghdad to Mosul" all belong to the h
Shamar Khatan tribe and will always be prepared to hold
the balance of power amongst Arabian Emirs. Finally let
asks that "Government Officials" may be sent to facilita
and assure communication and means of intercourse. Ends
Your views as to the reply should please be telegr

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Pro. No. 91.

Telegram R, No 1083, dated (and received) the
January 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, B

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the

Foreign and Political Department, Delhi

(Addressed Secretary of State for India.)

*Pro.No. 90.

Your telegram of January* 24th

Firstly. I presume that letter in question is add
to King of Hedja.

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Cont

.....

Secondly. Communications from Ibn Rashid received through Constantinople should, in my opinion be ignored.

Thirdly, If it is desired to send a reply I suggest that this be done by High Commissioner, Cairo, that it is takes the form of an intimation to Rashid that His Majesty Government are not under present circumstances disposed to depute a British Official to wait on him and that we shall require practical proof of his friendly sentiments towards King of Hedjaz before taking any action towards entering any relations with him.

In this connection please see telegrams @ of November @Pro. No. 49, 53 November 12th and December and 76. from High Commissioner to foreign Office. On General grounds I deprecates return of places in Central Asia (Arak except on short visits as His Majesty's Government are liable to become involved thereby in internal disputes which are susceptible of settlement by external agency.

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152, Contd.

.....

Pro. No. 92 .

Telegram P, dated the 29th (received 30) January
1919.

From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
London,

To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political
Department), Delhi.

(Addressed Baghdad.)

Letter from Agent of Ibn Rashid was not addressed,
to King of Hedjaz but to His Imperial Majesty the King
Emperor. It is presumed that your recommendation is not
affected by this fact.

*Pro. No. 91.

This refers to your
telegram* No. 1083, dated
the 27th January 1919.

.....

Pro. No. 93.

No 391, dated Delhi, the 29th January 1919.

Office memorandum from the Assistance Private Secretary
to the Viceroy.

Transferred to the Secretary to the Government of
India in the Foreign and Political Department.

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Pro. No.

956

Dated Cairo Residency, the 8th January 1919.

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. No. 1-152. Contd.

.....

of India, with the compliments of the High Commissioner.

.....

The Residency,

Cairo;

8th January 1919.

No 9.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No 23 of January

@ Pro. No. 77. the 6th, I have the honour

to forward a copy of the

statement by Mohamed el Megheirbi el ~~Faaa~~ Fatayah.

I am also sending copies to India and ^B Baghdad.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble serve

- nt,

REGINALD WINGATE.

THE Right Honourable

Arthur James Balfour, O.M., M.P,

&c. &c. &c.

.....

On 13th December King Hussein informed me that he was sending Mohamed el Megheribi el Fatayah, Ibn Rashid's envoy, to Jeddah on the pretext of some private business

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FORE. POLL? DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152. Contd

.....

On 15th, 17th and 18th December 1918. I had long interviews with this man, who is the same person as visted Emir Abdullah recently and was interviewed by Captain Garland at Yanbo (see latter's letter (serial Pro. No 9 of 15th September 1918)

He is as described by Captain Garland, of keen intellignece and speaks a little English and French but is out of practice. Naturally. He is not a North - African but of Hedjaz extraction. His second name is as above, and not "El Maghrabi" as previously thought.

When he first came to Hail form Syria, Ibn Rashid was at El Hejr (Medain Saleh) and before the Emir returned to Hail himself, with two others, visted Emir Ali's campu at El Gafr incognito and sounded the Emir as to the Sheriffian felling towards Ibn Rashid. He had known Ibn Rashid as a boy in Medina, where their fathers had been friedns, and struck up a firm friendship with him. He also knew that Emir Abdullah and Ibn Rashid had formally been good friends and he wanted to find out how far the fact that the chance of war had found Ibn Rashid in the enemy camp would affect the possibility of a reapproachment between the latter and the Sheriffians. He found that Ali nursed no bitter feeling against Ibn Rashid and saw for himself the support the Sheriffian movement was receiving from the British Government.

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152, Contd

.....

He returned to Hail with the impression that it
Ibn Rashid could be brought to make advances to King
Hussein and his sons his advances could be brought
~~well~~ ~~make~~ ~~advan~~ ~~well~~ received. On arrival at Hail he
found Ibn Rashid had returned there from Medina Saleh
3 days previously. He learnt that the Emir was not
on the best of terms with the Turks but could not get
him at that time to divulge the extent of his difference
with them. Ibn Rashid was evidently wavering but incline
to sit on the fence until he knew definitely whether the
munitions and money which Rashid Ibn Leila had gone to
Constantinople to demand, were to be sent him or not.
In the meantime he (informant) explained to Ibn Rashid
the scope of the Sheriffian revolt, the backing it was
receiving from Great Britain, its real object, viz.,
liberation of the Arabs from Turkish oppression, &c.
He found Emir Ibn Rashid profoundly ignorant of the
extent of King Hussein's movement, of the British support
which was being given to it, and of the course of the
war generally. The Emir had only Turkish reports to go
by which were full of German and Turkish victories. Ibn
Rashid did not even know that British officers were
assisting the Sheriffian forces in their operations
against the Hedjaz railway. Abd el Hamid el Masri and
Rashid Ibn Leila had kept him well primed with the German
version of the progress of the war. (Mohammed confirms
Abd el Hamid

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FORE.POLL.DEPT. SECRET. E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152, contd.

....

that Abd el Hamid escaped when his party was attacked on the Medina-Hail road in July last, and reached Hail with two or three Arabs, eventually fleeing to Syria) 8 days later when he saw Ibn Rashi was wavering in his allegiance to the Turks. Ibn Rashid was glad to be rid of him and made no attempt to prevent his escape to Syria. He left Hail on the night of the same day as Mohamed himself had left in the afternoon for Emir Abdullah's camp on his first visit there. When Ibn Rashid saw clearly that Turkey was not going to give him any further strong support in return for his loyalty, and realised that King Hussein's movement was started and being prosecuted solely in the true interests of the Arabs and Islam, he decided to break definitely with the Turks and enter into negotiations with Emir Abdullah. Incidentally Mohamed el Megheirbi stated that when he first came to Hail from Syria he was astonished to find that Ibn Rashid had not made common cause with the Sheriffians. Ibn Rashid's own Arabs, too, could not understand why he maintained his allegiance to the Turkish Government when a movement was afoot to rid Arabs of Turkish rule. Mohamed ascribes Ibn Rashid's attitude to his fidelity to his word, once given. He was a Turkish subject in Turkish pay and when the Sheriff's revolt broke out he felt he could not break faith with the Government to which he owed allegiance.

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As soon as Ibn Rashid opened tentative negotiations with the Sheriffians Ibn Saud according to

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECRET. E. JUNE 1920, Nos. 1-152. contd.

....

to Mohamed, warned the Turks that these negotiations were in progress. It was after this that the Turks finally coast off Ibn Rashid.

Questioned as to the recent fighting between Ibn Saud and Ibn Rashid near Hail Mohamed said Ibn Saud's success amounted merely to the raiding of two "feriks" and capture of 100 camels. No sheep were captured from these feriks. A large quantity of sheep brought for supply purpose by the Akhwan force were slaughtered by the latter when they retreated to prevent them falling into the hands of the Shammar. The Akhwan forces lost 32 killed and Ibn Rashid's Arabs 4 and 1 wounded. Ibn Saud retired after the one encounter and immediately began to try and negotiate and understanding with Ibn Rashid. Mohamed emphatically denied the suggestion that Ibn Rashid had sent delegates offering friendly relations to Ibn Saud. The latter, he said on the other hand has three times since the recent fight sent messengers to Ibn Rashid endeavouring to persuade him to come to terms.

The last messengers arrived at Hail only a few days before Mohamed left with the deputation for Mecca. They brought a letter from Ibn Saud, which Mohamed himself saw, in which Ibn Saud urged Ibn Rashid to join forces with him against "the common enemy". Letter was unsigned but written in. with. him. against. the. common. ene usual Bedu style with "Form..... To" at head and 761 stated that bearers would give him all information. Ibn

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. No. 1- 152. Contd

.....

and asked in his letter for some definition of "the common enemy" and Ibn Saud's plans. Before sending back Ibn Saud's messengers Ibn Rashid carefully paraded before them the presents he had recently received from King Hussein. Mohamed said Ibn Saud's letter and a copy of Ibn Rashid's could be obtained from Hail if required. I have advised King Hussein to ask Ibn Rashid to send them.

Whilst at El Gafir (Emir Abdullah's Headquarters) on his way to Mecca, Mohamed received a letter, dated 31st October 1918, from Ibn Rashid in which letter said he had no doubt, Ibn Saud had it in mind to assist Fakhri at Medina, and that his real object in trying to cultivate good relations with him-self (Ibn Rashid) was to obtain his co-operation in this scheme, Ibn Rashid wrote that the Emirs Ali and Abdullah should close in round Medina and prevent Ibn Saud having any access to the town. I saw this letter.

Mohamed gave as his own view that Ibn Saud having done nothing throughout the war to assist the Allies against the Turk, wanted at the end to pose as the conqueror of Medina thereby ingratiating himself with His Majesty's Government and at the same time "wiping the eye" of the Sheriffians. This would be done in collusion with Fakhri, and Ibn Saud's ultimate object was to get into his possession a large part of the

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1- 152 Contd.

.....

number of the Turkish trained troops to remain with him, after garrison had surrendered.

Mohamed described Ibn Saud as an absolutely unreliable man whose word could never be trusted and said this was his reputation among, Arabs generally. On the other hand, Ibn Rashid is renowned among the tribe for his good faith and adherence to his given word.

Ibn Saud invariably follows that line which best promises personal gain, regardless of any compact he may entered into.

That he had been in regular communication with Fakhri at Medina was well known. Ibn Rashid's "Negab" (special messenger) had seen Ibn Saud's "Negab" in Medina during the last few months. When Mohamed was on his way to Emir Abdullah's camp in early September last (or last August) he met Ibn Rashid's "Negab" at Mustagi-dan on his way back to Hail from Medina. This was the last occasion Ibn Rashid sent a "Negab" to Medina. Fakhri had been pressing him to let Hail merchants send their goods down to Medina but Ibn Rashid demand back payment due to Hail for merchandise sent, and had not permitted any more caravans to leave. He sent his "Negab" on this journey to tell Fakhri definitely that nothing more would be sent to Medina from Hail. The "Negab" while in Medina was told by Fakhri that Ibn Saud informed him (Fakhri) of the negotiations going on between Ibn Rashid and Emir Abdullah. Fakhri, therefore, gave him a special

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. No. 1-152 Contd.

.....

come to terms with Ibn Saud with whom he (Fakhri) had an agreement. The "Negab" told Mohamed this, and on the latter's return to Hail from Emir Abdullah's camp, Ibn Rashid confirmed that the "Negab" had brought him this message from Fakhri.

Mohamed states that Ibn Saud's special "Negab" referred to was a man of the Beni Amr of the Harb and was definitely in Ibn Saud's employ? not Fakhri's.

At our third interview on 18th December 1918 Mohamed, at my request produced Ibn Rashid's special "Negab" referred to above. This man of the Harb is a good type of Arab and intelligent, and was quite ready to talk. His statement had the ring of truth.

I was anxious to get some firsthand details of his conversation with Fakhri on his last visit to Medina (mentioned above as reported to me by Mohamed at a previous interview.)

After some preliminary common places I questioned him about Fakhri and what passed between them at their last meeting. He said the Pasha asked him if it was true Ibn Rashid and Ibn Saud had come to terms and gone to Mecca. The "Negab" replied in the negative. Fakhri pressed the point saying it were better for the two Emirs to cultivate friendly relations. Mohamed said friendly relations between them were impossible; they were life-long enemies. Fakhri then said he had heard

Ibn Rashid was treating with the Sheriff

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos 1-152. Contd.

....

he might well have heard this as he himself (Hamed) had often said so to assist him in passing through the Sheriffian forces blocking Medina. On the same day that this conversation took place Ibn Saud's "Negab" arrived at Medina, and Fakhri actually interviewed him just after the conversation with Hamed. A little later on the same day Fakhri again saw Hamed and was angry and spoke to him in quite a new tone. He said he was now certain that Ibn Rashid was negotiating with the Sheriff and ordered Hamed out of Medina, at once. Hamed was taken out of the town, blindfolded, the same day and returned to Hail, ~~was~~ From Fakhri's changed attitude, Hamed made up his mind that Ibn Saud's "Negab" had brought word to Fakhri that there were negotiations in progress between Ibn Rashid and King Hussein. Fakhri did not actually tell him so nor did he have any opportunity of conversation on that occasion with Ibn Saud's "Negab". That was his last visit to Medina. He had been there several times on Ibn Rashid's business, and had some narrow escapes from Sheriffian patrols in the earlier days until he got canny and took to travelling by night and spreading the report that Ibn Rashid was really friendly to the Sheriffian Cause.

He knew Ibn Saud's "Negab" well and had, on previous visits to Medina, met him there several times and conversed with him, and knew he brought letters from

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920 No. 1- 152 Contd.

.....

Ibn Saud to Fakhri. He had never actually seen any such letter but he had no doubt about the fact that they passed because Ibn Saud's "Negab" told him so.

Questioned as to the supply situation in Medina and the means by which supplies there were replenished, Hamed said the troops were very short of rations, dates forming their staple food, and the prices of such food stuffs and luxuries (e.g., cigarettes, tobacco) as were procurable were prohibitive. He said latterly no caravan of any size could get into the town owing to the vigilance of the blockading Arabs. Small quantities of sheep, grain etc, were smuggled in from time to time at night chiefly by Muteir Arabs. Mohamed El Megheirbi here said that since the quite early days of the siege of Medina, it had been impossible to get caravans through from Hail as the road was too wellguarded. He knew Mohamed Bassam's Agent at Ambuzan had got through one or two small caravans of 60 camels or so from that town.

In the course of further general conversation Mohamed El Megheirbi told me that when Ibn Rashid fled from El Hejr to Hail he got away with all his men (about 500) and had a no fight on the road with any Sheriffian Arabs. Ahazeh followed him but never overtook him. He left Teima on his right hand passing to west and north of that place. The only food he and his followers could obtain on the journey from El Hejr to Hail was camel fresh

gbb

9/11

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920-No. 1- 152 Cont

....

I aksed Mohamedd if any British rifles had ever been sent to Hail by the Turks. He said all rifles sent to Ibn Rashid from Damascus were German- he had seen none of British pattern.

Asked wheth r any fifles for Ibn Saud had been sent down by the Turks Mohamed stated as a definite fact that one caravan of 250 came ~~as~~ carrying rifles only had passed through to Qasim for Ibn Saud whilst Ibn Rashid was at El Hejr (Medain Saleh), I.e during the present year. This caravan did not pass through Hail but took a route about 2 days to eastwards of that town branching off to Qasim at Rayyaniyah. If Ibn Rashid had been at Hail at the time it would never have got through as Shammar could easily have held it up a defile it had to pass through. Whilst Ibn Rashid was away on the railway, however there was little cohesion or organisation among the Shammar.

Wahabism and the Akhwan.- On this Subject, Mohamed was eloquent. He said to all now-wahabi elements in Northern and Central Arabi were alarmed at the movement which was spreading like wild fire and becoming a very serious meance to the peace of the country. Force alone can stem the tide. He put the Akhwan in Nejd at the present time at 100,000.

967
Ibn Saud's method is to buy over to the brotherhood Sheikhs whose adherents then follow suit. Ibn Saud's one fear is the Shammar-hence his

.....

to propitiate Ibn Rashid, and this is also the reason why Ibn Saud, since the recent fighting has given out that the Shammar are really good Moslems and that the Akhwan have no quarrel with them. On my pointing out that the Akhwan considered every Moslem not a Wahabi an infidel, Mohamed replied that ~~it~~ wasso but that Ibn Saud gave out the above because, by publicly proclaiming the good feelings of the Akhwan towards the Shammar he hoped to cultivate good relations and gradually be able to convert them to Wahabism and thus win them over to his cause.

The Shammar is the most unified tribe in Arabia. Whereas other great tribes, e.g., and ~~the~~ Neizah are much intermarried with other tribes and full of functions, solidarity is the keystone of Shammar power. If Ibn Rashid raises his standard in earnest Shammar will rally to it as one man. At the time of the recent fighting with Ibn Saud near Hail the Shammar were scattered far and wide on the various grazing grounds, but so soon as the news of the fight reached the outlying sections, messages came in from numerous Sheikhs to Ibn Rashid saying they had heard Ibn Saud had been driven back but if the Emir needed them they were at his service, each naming the quota of horsemen or camelry he could send. If in straits Ibn Rashid had only to send out a black flag (sign of tribulation) to the Shammar and they

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871

- 338 -

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920 Nos 1-152. Contd.

.....

compact with the Shammar, would also come to his assistance if urgently asked to and would never seize the opportunity, if Ibn Rashid was fighting Ibn Saud, of attacking Hail.

Hail is easy of defence and could never be taken by an Arab force so long as Shammar and Rulla hugg together.

Ibn Saud is ambitious and aims at a great Wahabi revival which will gain for himself the power once held by his grandfather, and it is common talk that Ibn Saud has declared he will not rest until his camel kneels in the same place at Mecca as his grandfather's did. Orthodox Muhammadans of Arabia will not permit this to take place unchallenged and would never accept the position should Ibn Saud take Mecca, but would combine and drive him out and smash the Akhwan. In the meantime, however the latter are pushing a very active propaganda campaign and gaining much ground and the temporary realisation of Ibn Saud's hopes is a possibility not to be ignored.

Practically the whole of Ateibah and Mutair tribes have embraced Wahabism and joined the ranks of the Akhwan. Force of arms - and that soon - is the only possible means of checking the spread of this fanatical teaching.

That the Akhwan are militant in every sense of the word is exemplified by one of the tenets of their creed as given by Mohamed El Megheibi, viz, that they must part with all flocks and herds to non-Wahabi

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872

- 339 -

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd

.....

buyers retaining only their horses and riding camels and very every man a spear, a sword and his rifle.

Killing of non-Wahabis is a sacred duty as the slain thereby admitted to some share of the divine benefit with which the killer is endowed. A Wahabi father will go to this length and even kill his own son should the latter hold aloof from the Wahabi faith, or a son his father.

In the course of the interviews I asked Mohammed where Ibn Saud got all his money from to bribe Sheikhs and their tribes to join the Akhwan etc. He replies that he (Ibn Saud) taxed wealthy merchants very heavily and received a large revenue from Hasa. He also made the interesting statement that everything was very cheap in Southern Nejd remarking that a dollar (Austrian and Turkish) in purchase value was equivalent to £4 Turkish. A camel bought for 7 or 8 dollars in Ibn Saud's country would fetch £T.25 to £T.30 at Hail and a skin of dates &c. in same proportion.

Mohamed is undoubtedly a keen partisan of Ibn Rashid and although his statements must thus be biased to a certain extent he was perfectly frank and straight forward and spoke with conviction. He gave both Lieutenant Colonel Bassett and myself the impression of being thoroughly reliable.

970

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JEDDAH:

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE.1920 Nos. 1.152Contd.

.....

No. 20.

(Copy)

Ibn Rashid.

Jeddah,

Sir,

21st December 1918.

I have the honour to forward herewith for Your Excellency's information a Note on conversations I have recently had with Mohamed el Megheirbi el Fatayah, the envoy sent to Mecca with a large deputation by Ibn Rashid

The man is educated and was four years at Beyrout College and gave frequent evidences of being well acquainted with Arabian politics generally.

His statement is well worth consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C.E.WILSON, Colonel.

His Excellency General Sir Reginald Wingate,

G.C.B., GC.V.O.G.B.E. &c, &c.

His Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt,

The Residency, Cairo.

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Pro. No. 94.

Telegram P, No. 1817, dated the 31st January (received 1st February) 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

971

874

FORE. POL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos 1- 152 Contd.

.....

To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi
(Addressed Secretary of State.)

Ibn Rashid. My recommendations are not affected
Pro. No. 92. by your telegram of the 29th
January.

.....

Pro. No. 95.

Telegram P, dated the 31 st January (received
1st February) 1919.

From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
London.

To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political
Department) Delhi.

(Addressed Baghdad.)

In recent communication to Foreign Office Sheriff
Feisul speaks of Ibn Saud receiving arms and money from
British representative at Baghdad. May I take it as
certain that no supplies of arms or ammunition have
reached Ibn Saud from Mesopotamis side since the 1,000
rifles which were sanctioned in my telegram of October

Pro. No. 39. 17th last.

.....

Pro. No. 96 .

972

Telegram P, No. 1394, dated (and received)

the 3rd February 1919.

972

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd.

.....

From- His Excellency His Majesty's The Political
Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad,

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in
the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Secretary of State.)

No supplies of arms or ammunition have been made to

*Pro. No. 39.

Ibn Saud since those

were sanctioned in your

telegram* of October 17

th nor will any such supplies be made without the previous
authority of His Majesty's Government.

* Pro. No. 95.

This refers to your
telegram of the 31st
January.

.....

* Pro No. 97.

Telegram P., No. 1448, dated the 3rd (received 4th)
February 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
Baghdad,

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Secretary of State for India; repeated Cairo)

Doctor Harrison of American Medical Mission, Bahrain,
who is visiting Riyadh at request of Ibn Saud writes as

876

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

Wilson- he hopes that he will intervene between England and Germany.

Ibn Saud is very anxious lest Germany's power should be too greatly curtailed.

He does not care a rap about Turkey. Ends.

.....

Pro. No. 97 a

No. 165-W., dated Delhi, the 6th February 1919 (confidential). Endorsed by Foreign and Political Department.

A copy of the undermentioned paper is forwarded to the Home Department for information.

Extract paragraph 4 from a letter from the Officiating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad, No. 26723-127-44, dated the 27th November 1918.

.....

pro No. 98

Telegram R, No. 177-M, dated the 12th (received 13th) February 1919.

From-The British High Commissioner, Cairo,

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

Can you inform me of probable date of arrival of Miss Gertrude Bell at suze and whether she intends to continue in same ship to Europe. In any case Commander Hogarth wishes to see her in passage of canal.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd

.....

Pro. No. 99

Telegram R., No. 164-s, dated the 14th February 1919
From- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

To- His Majesty's High Commissioner, Cairo.

Your 177-M., February 12 th, was presumably meant for
Pro. No. 98.

Baghdad, We have no
information here of Miss
Bell's plans.

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Pro. No. 100

Telegram P., No. 1956, dated the 14th (received 15th)
February 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bagd

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Secretary of State; repeated Cairo.)

Following is summary of letter addressed to me and
received fro Ibn Saud by Political Agent, Bahrain:-Begins.
Information has reached Tiyadh that troops are being mobil
sed by Sheriff under the directions of one of his sons with
the intention of attacking him.

In order to aviod future misunderstanding he brings
this to our notice and suggests that Sheriff be asked by
us to confirm the report of otherwise.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

His object in sending this letter is to ascertain policy of His Majesty's Government whose beneficent intentions towards Arab race he well knows.

He expresses the hope that the news is not true and asks that an early reply may be sent. Ends. It is surmised by Political Agent, Bahrain, that Ibn Saud is about to mobilise his forces but does not (? intend to) do so until he has received reply.

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Pro. No. 101

Memo. No. 3661-9-2, dated Baghdad the 1st (received 14 February 1919.

From- The Officating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad,
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

Copies of enclosed telegrams forwarded with compliments.

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Enclosure No. 1 of Pro. No. 101.

Telegram R., No. 16-c., dated the 29th (received 30th) January 1919.

From- The Political Agent, Bahrain,
To, The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad.

Urgent. Following from Harrisom, dated December 30th :-
Begins.

976

976

Ikswan raided the follow rs of Sheriff about 15days ago and captured large booty. This was not instigated by the

879

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

Saud. Further details will follow.

Had long conversation with Ibn Saud who was anxious to know all the news. He seemed greatly piqued at our strong support of the Sheriff and was anxious to know if our idea was to put Damascus and Syria under the Sheriff. I replied that I had no information and personally doubted it. Ibn Saud said he supposed that the British thought that if Sheriff was in charge of the Holy Towns he would be accepted by world of Islam as Caliph. I replied I presumed this was a matter that concerned Moslems alone and that I saw no reason to contradict. He said that he would certainly not be acceptable as such. He then asked whether Medina would be given to Sheriff. I replied that I had no information.

Sheriff is cordially disliked.

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Enclosure No. 2 of Pro. No 101.

Telegram R., No. 1293, dated the 30th January 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad,
Baghdad,

To- His Majesty's High Commissioner, Cairo.

Doctor Harrison of American Medical Mission, Bahrain, who is visiting Riyadh at request of Ibn Saud, reports as follows under date December 30th:- Begin.

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977

Ikhwan raided the followers of Sheriff about 15 days ago and captured large booty. This was not instigated by Ibn

880

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

Further details follow-

Had a long conversation with Ibn Sudd who was anxious to know * * * * cordially disliked. Ends.

.....

Pro. No. 102

Telegram P., No. 2093, dated the 19th (received 20th) February 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bagh

To- The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Secretary of State for India, London.)

Following has been received at * * * Aleppo from General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force:- Begins, It is considered by Commander-in-Chief to be of extreme importance that advantage be taken of your visit to hold a Conference with High Commissioner, Cairo and arrive at agreement on certain questions. This will entail your coming here and proceeding to Cairo but should not unduly prolong your visit. Subject of discussion is situation

* Pro. No. 100. between Bin Saud and kin Hussain, which has again become acute.* Ends.

My reply was as follow:- "Affairs at Baghdad necessitate that I should return there to-day and subject to concurrence of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Mesopotamian Expeditionary

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881

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nbs. 1-152. contd.

.....

be glad to go to Cairo for proposed Conference if Chief still considers Conference necessary. To save time I should prefer to go by air all the way and I will endeavour to arrange to

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Mesopotamia, concurs. Is proposed Conference approved by You? If so, I shall leave for Cairo on February 25th via Damascus, arriving Cairo 26th evening.

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Pro. No. 103

Telegram P., dated the 19th (received 21st) February 1919
From-His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department), Delhi.

(Addressed Baghdad.)

Bin Rashid. For the present His Majesty's Government propose to take no action in the matter.

This is with reference to your telegrams, + 1083 and 1311

+Pro. Nbs. 91 and 94. January 26th and
January 31st.

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Pro. No. 104

(Copy).

Memo., No. 144-4486, dated Baghdad, the 4th (received 21st) February 1919.

From- The Officiating Civil Commissioner. In charge Iraq

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FORE. BOLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE.1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

To- The Director, Arab Bureau, Cairo.

Letters (4) from Ibn Saud, December 1918: I forward here
for your inform
ion, a copy of t
paper noted in the
margin.

.....

Copy with complements to-

- (1) Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London, W.S.
- ((2) Foreign Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.
- (3) Political Secretary, India Office, London, W.S.
- (4) Chief of the General Staff, Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force,
- (5) Secretary to the Government of India, Army Department, Delhi.

.....

(Translation.)

Dated 17th Rabi-ul-Awal, 1337 (21st December 1918).

From- SHAIKH SIR ABDUL AZIZ-BIN ABDUL RAHMAN-AL- SAUD
K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Ruler of Nejd, Hasa, Qatif
and jubail and dependencies,

To- LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A.T. WILSON, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Officiating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad. 980

After compliments.- I have the honour to acknowledge the
receipt of your kind and esteemed friendly note.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

were kind enough to send through Abdul Tahman-al-Mamar and was pleased to read its contents and was specially obliged to know of the kind regards the friendly feelings towards this friend of yours. In reality it spoke of your high and virtuous nature and kind and noble manners. In reality it spoke of your high and virtuous nature and kind and noble manners. It pleased me much to receive the gladson intel-ligence of the victory of the British Government and her alliance and their ligenge of the victoru of the British Government and her alliance and their being now busy in the very important work of releasing the people who have been wronged from the yoke of slavery which has lain in the hands of the enemies of humanity and forcing the latter to accept the conditions and break from the alliance of the Germans. I feel highly grateful to you for the necessary steps you have taken in respect of Al-Ajman of whom Abdil Rahman- Al- Mamar gave you full information, and for the efforts you have made for our welfare, all of which speak of your nonle intention to preserve friendly relations between me and the British Government, Mr. Philby, the friend of all, is one of the best representatives to carry out the policy, scheme and orders of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor and the Imperial Government in London and I am highly grateful to him for the trouble he has taken to remove our difficulties and for placing our feelings and ideas before the benevolent British Government so very kindly, I am sure that the

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE 1929. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

obligation and engagement of the Government in more important matters and that it would never be through his negligence.

I also own thanks to you for your continuous efforts during the absence of the Hon'ble Major-General Sir Percy Cox as well as for following the same policy with me which he did pursue regarding the matters which concern us and for making no delay in referring them to the Government, all of which is no less than I expected from your high and virtuous personality. I hope you will continue your friendly correspondence with me and inform me at intervals of events as they occur.

.....

(Translation.)

Dated Rabi-ul-Awal 1337.

From-SHAIKH SIR ABDUL AZIZ-BIN ABDUL RAHMAN-AL-FAISAL-

AL SAUD, K.C.S., K.C.I.E., Ruler of Nejd, Hasa,

Qatif and Jwail and dependencies,

TO- J.B. ST. PHILBY, Esq., C.I.E.

After compliments.- We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind and esteemed favour of the 11th Safar 1337. It afforded us a very great pleasure especially when we heard of your coming to Basrah in sound and good health and learnt all your detailed information about our friend the Government and its Allies in every battle-field, and the character which have been experienced during this short space of time on all the fronts; the great victory of the British Government

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152-contd.

.....

the evacuation of the enemy from French and Belgian lands and forcing them to withdraw their armies from those places This is a proof of the spereiority of the armies ~~from~~ of the British Government andher Allies, as we told you orally. We have not the least doubt of the noble intention of the kind Government towards us. As regards the information you gave us touching the appreciation of the sincere services which we have rendered in order to satisfy the Government and for the welfare of both parties, we consider it to the generosity and kindness of the welfare of both parties, we consider it to the generosity and kindness of the Government and we are sure of the removal of our anxiety about the matters which we laid before you, of which you yourself were witness regarding these victories but at any rate we fully trust in your high-mindedness that you will take the first ipportunity to submit the case to the Government. As to your information regardign your correspondence between the Political Officer and your goodsel and the great Government to us for our operations against Ibn Rashid, a favourit of the Turks, on behalf of British interest and those of her Allies so we request you kindly tender our due thanks to the Government. AS you know we have been at~~te~~ Riyadh up to this date. After we pressed him hard at Hail and its sbubuns Ibn Rashid was compelled to sue for peace on conditions laid down by us which we agreed to. So now by His grace there is peace and tranquilised the armies. As regards your things

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd

.....

just as you have ordered, I hope you will always favour
ud with your kind letters, to strengthen the ties of
love and friendship which have been deeply rooted in us ar
yourself and as you know well we shall ever remain
faithful and true.

My esteemed father, brothers and sons send you their
Salssms and best respects, That is all that had to be
submitted to you.

.....

(Translation.)

Dated the 30th Safar 1337 (5th December 1918).

From- KHALID IBN MANSUR,

To- SHAIKH SIR ABDUL AZIZ BIN ABDUL RAHMAN - AL-FAISAL
AL SAUD, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.C.E. Ruler of Nejd, Hasa,
Qatif and Jubail and dependencies.

After compliments.- I send you to-day this my letter
hoping that it will find you in sound health. I have
already sent you letters of intelligence, which I suppose
contained sufficient reports.

But I have to inform your honour now that Shakir, all
the Shalaw, the Bukum, and the people of Hedjaz are preparin
for an attack against us. Ibn Thamir has already encamped
near our village. We engaged him for seven days. On the
serventh day we encountered them. God helped us against
them. We have, as a result, taken all their property as
booty, with the exception of their camels, which escaped and

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FORE. DOLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

of it we killed from them about 80 persons. These were the notables of Thirbah. We pursued them to a far distance. They fired on us from a far range and opened their guns on us but have not killed but four of us.

Later on, news came to the effect that another force, equipped with full rations and two guns, was coming out to engage us. We fought against them. Backed by God as we were, we defeated them and captured their two guns. They had 10 casualties while we suffered three only. We are presently at Khurma. People of Turbah are now negotiating with us and I hope before long that they will join us. This is due to your influence, for you (Amir Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud) know how to attract people. Were it not for your influence no Sheriff would have been known to the public. People often say "Ibn Saud did not send a punitive expedition against the people of Khurma". You, on the other hand, promised us saying that the British would back the Sheriff and help him. We wonder if you are telling us lies. Anyhow, your staff know the true state of affairs. You say that the Sheriff has not severely dealt with any poor and helpless man in Mecca, but, on the contrary, is spending all the monies of the British on the comforts of the public, and that this propaganda has so widely spread that he has been able to raise an army and has now become Lord of a nation, but we find that no one neither in Mecca, nor elsewhere, likes him.

If the Sheriff has no feelings of patriotism, he may at present send out one of his sons (against us) to demonstrate the power of his people.

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

strength. If you are a brave man you should protect your subjects. You are charged with their interests. So please do what may tend to your comfort and to the comfort of the Moslems. You know that it is the Sheriff who played havoc with us and with our modesty. But if you know this to be the contrary, please inform us accordingly. We hope in God that the Moslems will not be separated, We do not want to adopt an attitude which could be against your wishes and against the commandments set out in our religion. We have informed you all what you know. It is for you to give us the true news.

Please send back our messenger at an early date. The captured guns are kept here pending your orders.

Please offer my salutations to your respected father, the Imam, Our Shaikh saluted you, the Shaikh, and all the brethren.

.....

(Translation.)

Dated the 7th Rabi-ul-Awal 1337 (22nd December 1918.)

From- SHAIKH SIR ABDUL AZIZ BIN ABDUL RAHMAN-AL-FAISAL-AL SAUD, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. Ruler of Bejd, Hasa, Qatif and Jubail and Dependencies,

To- J.B. ST. PHILBY, Esq., C.I.E.

986

In the name of God all merciful and compassionate.

After best compliments and great respects and inquiries after your welfare and prayers for your perfect happiness

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE . 1920. Nos, 1-152. contd.

.....

by His grace, we beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed friendly note which was received here at the most auspicious moment and gave us great happiness by assuring us of your sound health and general welfare. As it is know to you, it has always been our firm belief that the British Government would certainly give ample reward for our actions and our sincerity towards her. There is not the least doubt of this as the British people have always been faithful and ~~true~~ true friends on all occasion and we also shall, by His grace, be ever true under all circumstances. We shall do our best in this respect as we always keep you as an example before our eyes under all circumstances and in all undertakings and never forget you. You are to us as the soul to the body and we have every trust in you after God. You are our sole agent and in no circumstances can we oppose you but we shall always adhere to the results you arrive at. You write to us that we do not know you as we should. No, not at all; may untruth and falsehood be far from us. As regards ourselves and those with us, they are, by His grace, well. It was only for about ten days towards the end of this month of Safar that fever spread in Nejd and lasted for about 20 days. By God's grace I am well. But my two sons, Turki and Fahad, passed away; nevertheless we have to welcome such events as ordained by God. All the men are well, only women, child and the like suffered. We have already informed you

987

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. contd.

.....

all Al-Bukum, Al-Shalawa and the people of Hedjaz. He stopped near Khurma where he and those with him stayed for about ten days, engaged in fighting, and after that the people of Khurma defeated them and took all their possessions and tents and property of Shakir with the exception of the camels. Shakir fled to Turbah. We hear that the people of Turbah joined hands with the people of Khurma and nothing happened afterwards but mere talk between them. As regards the people of Khurma the Sheriff was the cause of their being attacked by Shakir whom they repulsed for the safety of their tribe. The true report is given in the accompanying letter of Khalid which will you find with this letter to your kindness. There having been fever here which has weakened the people we intend to stay till the commencement of the month Rabi-ul-Akhar and shall leave this as usual. No news save that we have mentioned above. The delay in writing to you has been due to the epidemic. As regards other questions concerning the Government you know everything well and we fully trust in you after God. In these days we have received news that Ibn-al-Sabbah is trying to press the Ajman to be his subjects and now they and the subjects of Ibn Sabbah have united which is against the agreement between us and the Government. Because we, by His grace, as you know, would not allow Al-Ajman and Ibn-al-Sabbah to have their way. As regards the paper of Harb and Ateibah the propaganda against us did not succeed. As regards your things at Al-Qasim,

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. No 1- 152. Contd.

.....

that you will receive them soon, Inshallah. I trust you will inform us all news concerning the Government and other Powers and ourselves and I am sure our complete trust in you will result in perfect success. We have very great trust in God and the British Government and its officials. Salaams from my father and respect from my brothers and sons.

.....

Pro. No 105.

Telegram R, No 2296, dated (and received) the 24th February 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad,

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed India Office.)

@Pro. No. 90. Your telegram of January 24th

Full name of Signatory of letter in question is Rashid el Nasir el Laila who is Bin Bashid's agent in Constantiople.

.....

Pro. No. 105 a

No. 41, -W.C., dated Delhi, the 25th February 1919.

(Very Confidential).

989

Endorsed by Foreign and Political Department

A copy of the undermentioned papers is forwarded

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. EJ JUNE.1920. No. 1-152.Contd

....

Commanding, Force "D", Baghdad, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and Officiating Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia, Baghdad, Director, Central Intelligence, and the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General in the North-West Frontier Province

() Omit to Army and Home Departments.

in continuation of the endorsement by the (Government Of India in the) Foreign and Political Department, Nb.12-W.C, dat the 15th January 1919.

2. It is requested that the papers forwarded may be treated as extremely confidential.

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current

Pro. No. 72 to 91.

Pro. No. 105 b

MEMORANDUM.

These papers specified, below were transmitted to the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, London for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter No. 16-M, dated the 26th February 1919:-

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current

Pro. No. 72 to 91.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE.1920. No. 1-152,Contd.

.....

Pro. No. 106.

Telegram P, dated the 25th (received 26th)

February 1919.

From- The High Commissioner in Egypt, Cairo,
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political
Department) (Delhi).

I have telegraphed as follows to Foreign, Office,
277 Feb ~~Pro. No. 108.~~ ... 20th:-

*Pro. No. 108. "My telegram", No. 252.

"Wilson arrived yesterday. In his opinion if we do not compel Bin Saud to abandon Khurma, King will either immediately resign or attack Khurma. In first event succession of Ali ~~is~~ according to Wilson not a assured and serious, perhaps prolonged, trouble certain by which next piligrimage will probably be prevented. In second event very dobtful if king will succeed thou influenza has scattered Akhwan.

"It is now reported that Khurma is weakly held.

"It is pointed out by Hogarth that, that since if King successful same necessity will remain involving assertion of his right and restraining Bin Saud from counter attacking, it will be better to do so now befor tribes have become inflamed by active hostilitese pending receipt of you decision Wilson will not return of to Jeddah".

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E. JUN 1920. No. 1-152. Cont

....

Pro. No. 107.

Telegram P., dated the 26th (received 27th) February, 1919.

From-His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
London,

To-His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political
Department,)Delhi.

(Addressed Baghdad.)

Clear the line. - Bin Saud. After further careful consideration of whole subject in consultation with Wingate and Philby His Majesty's Government have decided to convey message to both Bin Saud and King Hussain in following sense :- Begins.

We are concerned at reports that hostilities are impending between two leading Arab Chieftains both of whom enjoy our friendship. We can see no justification for resorting to arms seeing that His Majesty's Government have always been prepared and still are prepared to adjudicate between disputants by appointing Boundary Commission to delimit the frontiers after war. We understand that Bin Saud is prepared to accept our adjudication but that similar readiness has not hitherto been expressed by King Hussain. We desire to make it plain that offer is still open subject to necessary condition that it must be agreed by both parties to accept as final Commission's decisions and in the meantime keep peace towards one another pending arbitration. It cannot hold that...

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FORE. POLL. DEPT. SECRET. E. JUNE 1920, Nos. 1-152. contd.

....

this offer. If they do so responsibility will be theirs and not ours but in that case it is desirable that both parties should clearly understand what our attitude will be. We should not think it necessary to interfere so long as fighting is confined to areas immediately in dispute but we desire to state in plainest possible terms that Bin Saud cannot be permitted in any circumstances to advance westwards of disputed areas into what is unquestionably Hedjaz territory. We should be prepared to render King Hussain all assistance in our power short of provision of troops in resisting any attempt of kind. Ends.

Message in above sense should please be conveyed to Bin Saud by appropriate channel. Telegram is being repeated by Foreign Office to High Commissioner, Cairo, who is being instructed to make similar communication to King Hussain. In the circumstances there would appear to be no necessity for discussion at Cairo as proposed in your telegram* No. 2093, February 19th.

This refers to your telegram of the 14th February, * Pro. No. 100 1956*, and Cairo telegrams, 262**, and **Pro. No. 108 277, *** February 17th and February ***Pro. No. 106. 20th.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. SECRET.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

...

Pro.No.108

Telegram P., dated the 25th (received 27th) Feb.191
From-His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner, Egypt
To-His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political
Department), Delhi.

I sent following as No.252 to Foreign Office on
February 17th: "(go undec.) telegrams from Wilson gist
of which is as follows:- Begins. Militant proselytism by
Ateibah, north-west of Khurma whose camels have been
taken on account of refusal to accept conversion. Its
chiefs have written to King that if not actively support-
ed, they cannot hold out much longer. It is feared by
King Hussain that all Ateibah has hurriedly returned to
Mecca. He states that 8 Wahabi missionaries have gone
to Nedasir and he fears defection of his best levies
especially of his household Bishah troops. He declares
his military defence against Akhwan costs £12000 monthly
and until their menace is removed he will protest against
any reduction of his subsidy. Unless Bin Saud is forced
to recall Ibn Bijad, evacuate Khurma and stop Akhwan
aggression he must abdicate. Ends.

"In Wilson's opinion his intention is serious and
Wilson comes here this week to represent critical situa-
tions.

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. SECRET.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

....

"Hogarth is decidedly of opinion that time has come, now Medina and Asir are both evacuated and no more danger of Bin Saud receiving rapid Turkish support, for compelling latter to check Akhwan move towards west. He thinks, that financial pressure will be most felt by him and suggests immediate notification to Bin Saud that his subsidy will be suspended until satisfactory evidence has reached us that Khurma which we regard as indominions of King, has returned to jurisdiction of latter and Akhwan aggression in and towards Hedjaz has ceased. Arrears of subsidy would be paid up if he complies. If he fails to comply further action with (gr.unde.) our treaty and blockade of Gulf ports could be threatened. (? Hogarth) thinks that it is necessary now to enhance prestige of King in inner Arabia and help him in present difficulty and (? points) out the absurdity of our paying Bin Saud's subsidy which he notoriously uses to threaten Hussain in region formerly under Turk and to (1 gr. undec.) to counteract which threat a proportion of Hussain's subsidy is being expended.

"He recognises some danger of Bin Saud, exasperated by receipt of our ultimatum, giving reins to Akhwan towards Taif and Mecca but he thinks that Hussain has sufficient force to stop the rush if forewarned. Meanwhile, of course no aggression must be undertaken by King.

"If Wilson arrives I will telegraph again."

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT.SECT.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

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Pro.No.109.

Telegram P., dated the 2nd (received 3rd) March 1919.

From-The High Commissioner, Cairo,

To-The Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Foreign Office, London, No.327, repeated Baghdad, Bahrein and Kuwait.)

Following sent by Lieutenant-Colonel A.T.Wilson to India Office :- Begins. I received general instructions from Government of India before leaving Baghdad that treasury sanctions to abnormal (gr.undec.) expenditure would lapse this month and could not, without special application in each case, be renewed. I do not feel justified in asking His Majesty's Government to sanction continuance

Pro.Nos,754, 767 and 774 of his present subsidy
in Secret War, March 1917, to Ibn Saud and I do not
Nos.734-819. propose to make him any
further payments.

I propose to inform him that for some months past the object for which subsidy was given, viz., the prosecution of war against Turks and their Allies in Central Asia has ceased to exist.

That His Majesty's Government have maintained his subsidy up to date in order to facilitate demobilisation

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. SECRET.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

....

and that as he has himself announced to* us that this
*Pro.No.62. has been accomplished no further
payments will be made.

I propose to add parenthetically that His Majesty's Government have been and still are somewhat anxious to relations between himself~~xxxx~~ and King of Hedjaz and consider it essential that he should do all in his power to check Ikhwan movement by which from such information as is available it seems likely that security of Mecca and of pilgrim routes may eventually be menaced.

His reply to this letter, will, I anticipate, be request for continuance of subsidy on a reduced scale to which His Majesty's Government may consider it desirable with certain stipulations to assent.

King Hussain will be informed by Colonel Wilson that Ibn Saud's subsidy has been stopped and that a warning regarding Ikhwan has been addressed to him. This should suffice to allay his fears for next few months. King Hssain should be allowed to occupy Khurma if he wishes to do so.

I would urge that permission be accorded to me to
*Pro.No.107. try this solution before despatching
letter ordered in Foreign Office tele-
gram* of February 26th which embodies
a decision in regard to which I have not previously been

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECRET. E. JUNE 1920, Nos. 1-152, contd.

...

been consulted and which I am confident will not achieve the results which His Majesty's Government desire.

I arrived at above views before reaching Cairo and after discussion with all concerned am confirmed in my belief that course proposed by me if sanctioned is more likely to serve our ends than proposals made in Foreign Office telegram* of February 26th.

*Ibid.

Pro.No.109a.

No.53-W.C., dated Simla, the 3rd April 1919

(Very confidential).

Endorsed by Foreign and Political Department.

A copy of the undermentioned papers is forwarded to the Army Department, Home Department, General Officer Commanding Force "D", Baghdad, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and Officiating Gulf Commissioner in Mesopotamia, Baghdad, Director, Central Intelligence, and the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General in the North West Frontier Provinces, in continuance

*Pro.No.105A.
() Omit to Army and Home Department.

of the endorsement* by the (Government of India in the) Foreign and Political Department, No.41-W.C., dated the 25th February 1919

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECRET. E. JUNE 1920, Nos. 1-152. contd.

...

2, It is requested that the papers forwarded may be treated as extremely confidential.

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current.

Pro. Nos. 92 to 109.

Pro. No. 109b.

MEMORANDUM

The papers specified below are transmitted to the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, London, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter No. 26-M, dated the 2nd April 1919:-

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current.

Pro. Nos. 92 to 109.

Pro. No. 110.

Telegram P, No. 2723, dated (and received) the 9th March 1919.

From-The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bagdad
To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign & Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Secretary of State and repeated to Cairo).

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FORE.POLL.DEPTT. SECRET.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. cont

....

Following telegram, dated 8th March, received from
Political Agent, Bahrein :-

"Ikhwan movement spreading widely and has reached
Hasa."

Pro. No.111

Telegram, No.2755, dated the 10th (received 11th)
March 1919.

From-The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and
Civil Commissioner, Baghdad,

To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Egyptforce: repeated, Delhi.)

Conference suggested by General Allenby has taken
place. Opportunity thus afforded me to meet officers res-
ponsible for conduct of political affairs in Middle East
has been of great use to me personally and has I hope con-
tributed materially to solution of problem immediately
under discussion. Will you be good enough to convey my
thanks to General Alleby for having suggested and arranged
conference. I hope that it may be followed at intervals
by others.

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