

903

- 370 -

FORE.POLL.DEP'T. SECRET.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1-152. contd.

....

Pro.No.112,

Telegram, P., No.2898, dated (and received)
the 13th March 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 (re-
peated to India Office, Bushire and Cairo.)

Have received following, dated 12th March, from
Political Agent, Bahrein:- "Abdulla, son of Sheikh Isa,
has expressed keen desire to visit England. This may I
suggest be permitted and invitation sent to Bin Saud
for one of his sons to accompany him. This may have
far-reaching results in allaying his dissatisfaction at
a t presence of Faisal in Paris voicing his opinion on
Arabian affairs in general and will provide us with a
hostage for events for some time to come."

I concur and if approved would propose to send a
qualified officer with party. On month's stay in England
would be sufficient.

Pro.No.113.

Telegram P.No.324-S, dated the 15th March 1919.

From-His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Poli-
tical Department), Delhi,

904

-371-

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

.....

We concur in proposal regarding visit of Abdulla
*Pro. No. 112. and son of Bin Saud to England
which was made in Baghdad tele-
gram*, No. 2898, March 13th.

Pro. No. 114.

Telegram- B., No. 2935, dated the 13th (received 1
March, 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.)

Political Agent, Bahrein, telegraphs, March 12th:-
Begins. I feel certain if King Hussain attempts to occupy
Khurma by force an outbreak of severe hostilities will
concur. If, however, he is bent on this, it should be done
by diplomatic means and Bin Saud compensated by being aske
to voice his opinion in reorganization of Arabian affairs.

Whole Ikhwan movement centres round Khurma and their
activity should be diverted not irritated.

If King will co-operate with officer visit Saud I
believe that former's position will be safeguarded

1002

905

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

....

conditions in Mecca he will do an act that will gain him popularity throughout Islam and take away of his own accord the main objection. Ends.

.....

Pro.No.115.

Telegram P., dated the 12th (received 21st) March 1919.

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

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

(Addressed Baghdad).

Ibn Saud. We have further carefully considered the matter in consultation with Wingate and Philby.

Orders conveyed in my telegram* of the 25th February

*Pro.No.107. were intended to tide over immediate difficulty with a view to

friendly arbitration between disputants at a more convenient season. But in deference to your view which has

strong support of Clayton and Wingate that desired object would not in fact be achieved by action proposed we are

disposed to think that more definite announcement may now safely be made of our intention to support King Hussain

against Wahabi aggression. At the same time we were reluctant to adopt so harsh a measure as immediate st

1023

906

FORE. POLLLDEPTT. SECT. E. JUNE 1920?, Nos. 1-152. contd.

....

of whole subsidy paid to Ibn Saud and we are anxious to convey our decision to latter in a form which will not render acquiescence with good grace impossible for him. You are accordingly authorised to send to Ibn Saud message in the following sense - Begins. Circumstances in which his subsidy was originally granted no longer exist. Situation has been entirely altered by termination of hostilities and His Majesty's Government are now in every direction curtailing heavy expenditure incurred during the war. In order to facilitate demobilisation they have continued his subsidy at full rate for some months but this having been accomplished they propose in any case to reduce subsidy forthwith by one half. They take the opportunity to express their concern at reports of impending hostilities between himself and King Hussain to whom as he is aware they are bound by closest ties. They cannot but regard Ibn Saud's attempt to extend his influence and authority to so remote a spot as Khurma as ill-advised. In their opinion the spread of militant Wahabi (M movement) in this region would constitute direct menace to Hedjaz security of which they are bound to safeguard against external aggression from any quarter. They advise him as a friend in these circumstances to modify his attitude and to dissuade his followers from opposing further the administrative measures taken by King Hussain at Khurma. His Majesty's Government feel sure that this friendly warning will be taken by Ibn Saud in good part and that he will realise that continuance of thei

1064

907

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

....

support must be dependent on his readiness to fall in with their wishes and advice. Ends.

This telegram is being repeated by Foreign Office to High Commissioner, Cairo, who will be instructed to communicate to king Hussain purport of message to Ibn Sud.

* Pro.No.109.

This is with reference to your telegram* of 2nd March, transmitted in Cairo telegram, No.327.

Pro.No.116.

Dated Cairo, the 5th (received 31st) March 1919.

From-CAPTAIN C.A.G. MACKINTOSH, Acting Director,
Arab Bureau,

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

Forwarded, for your information and favour of retention: - Note of meeting at Residency on the "Khurma question."

1005

908

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

....

KING HUSSAIN AND IBN SAUD.

The Khurma question.

A meeting was held at the Residency, Cairo, on 2nd March 1919 to discuss this question. The following were present :-

Sir M. Cheetham, K.C.M.G., Acting High Commissioner.

Commander D.G. Hogarth, C.M.G.

Brigadier General G.F. Clayton, C.B., C.M.G., Chief

Political Officer, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Lieutenant-Colonel A.T. Wilson, C.M.G.; Acting Chief

Civil Commissioner, Iraq and Mesopotamia.

Colonel C.E. Wilson, C.M.G., D.S.O., British Agent,
Jeddah.

Captain C.A.G. Mackintosh, Acting Director, Arab
Bureau.

A.K. Keown Boyd, Esq., Private Secretary to the High
Commissioner.

Sir M. Cheetham began by asking Colonel A.T. Wilson
to give his views on the present state of this question.

Colonel A.T. Wilson explained that he had only recently taken up the Khurma affair, that he had flown to Damascus and had had a discussion with Colonel Cornwallis and had since learnt the Cairo views at the Residency, combining these with his own opinions he was despatching a telegram to the India Office, a copy of which he communicated to the meeting for the information. Its main point was that the

1006

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

....

fight against the Turks, had ceased for some time and therefore he had recommended that this subsidy should be discontinued. He submitted also to His Majesty's Government that Ibn Saud be told that Akhwans activities were viewed with displeasure by His Majesty's Government, and further proposed that if King Hussein desired to re-occupy Khurma he be allowed by His Majesty's Government to do so.

Colonel C.E.Wilson pointed out that our immediate object was to make Ibn Saud evacuate Khurma and asked for an assurance that the cessation of his subsidy would have that effect.

Colonel A.T. Wilson replied that he considered Ibn Saud would certainly object strongly to the cessation of his subsidy and would ask that anyhow a portion of it should be paid to him. He would then be told that this might be done under certain conditions, which would include the evacuation of Khurma and abstention from any aggression against King Hussein.

Commander Hogarth pointed out that, if the condition about Khurma was made prior to the action now proposed by Colonel A.T.Wilson about the subsidy, we should be committed in the event of Ibn Saud complying to continue full payment. Better therefore, let it be a condition of reduced payment later.

91p

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

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Colonel A. T. Wilson said he was not satisfied with Foreign * Vide Pro. No.107. Foreign Office telegram

* 273 of 26th February,

to the High Commissioner, which he considered unlikely to produce any useful result. This view was endorsed by all present, it being held that, while it might goad King Hissein into precipitate hostilities with Ibn Saud, it would exercise no effect at all on Ibn Saud.

Sir M. Cheetham submitted that probably the proportion of Ibn Saud's subsidy to his total revenue was no large that a cessation of it (the subsidy) would curtail his powers very effectively.

Colonel A.T. Wilson confirmed this: he explained that the subsidy was originally £2,000 a month and then increased to £5,000. Mr. Phibly had increased it to £10,000 a month on his own initiative.

Asked about blockade of Ibn Saud's ports in Hasa, Colonel A.T. Wilson said it was impossible to make it absolute owing to the coral reefs in the Gulf and the ease with which native boats could thereby evade patrol ships.

Asked about control of arms traffic, Colonel A.T. Wilson admitted a certain amount of smuggling was inevitable and could not be stopped, but Ibn Saud did not possess a very large quantity of arms and ammunition and no big consignments would get through to him.

1008

911

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

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@ Secrett - War, June
1917, Nos. 60-145,
Pro. No. 143.

Colonel A.T. Wilson
then raised the questio
of Article 2of our
treaty@ with Ibn Saud.

Commander Hogarth called attention to the ambiguity
of the guarantee, therein given against "external aggressio
which, though probably intended to refer only to Turkish
or other Eurpoen aggression, could be construed to include
that of King Hussein.

Colonel A.T.Wilson reminded him of a telegram* sent

*Pro, No. 241 in
S.W. Dec 19 Nbs
191- 317.

to the Secretary of State
for India in August last in
which he (Colonel Wilson)
had proposed that this

clause be furhter defined so as explicitly to include
aggression on the part of King Hussein. Only if we had
made this clear should we have any locus standi in propo
sing and enforcing a Boundry Commission. He, however,
consider the idea of a Boundary Commission to fix the
spheres of King Hussain and Ibn Saud outside practical
politics; local conditions would render such a Commission
futile.

Colonel C.E.Wilson concurred in this.

General Clayton strongly deprecated our interfering
in Arbian internal affairs to this extent; it was useless

1009

912

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

.....

which we would not, and probably did not intend to insist.

Copies to-

Residency	4	Brigadier-General Clayton	1
Colonel E.C. Wilson	1	Lieutenant-Colonel A.T. Wilson	1
Civil Commissioner Baghdad	1	Foreign and Political Department, Simla	1
Colonel Cornwallis	1	Files	2

.....

Pro. No. 117

Telegram R, No. 462, dated the 31st March (received 1st April) 1919.

From- His Majesty's High Commissioner, Cairo,
To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Foreign Office, London.)

Following from Baghdad, No. 3519, March 28th:- Begais.

Not received. My telegram 3422. Before the message had left Bahrein, representative from Bin Saud

arrived with a letter asking for appointment Boundary Commission and profession complete devotion to Government's

@Pro. No. 115. interests. His Majesty's Government's message has therefore been delayed pending

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- 380 -

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

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Pro. No 118 .

Telegram R, No. 464, dated the 31st March (received 1st April) 1919.

From-His Majesty's High Commissioner, Cairo,
To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.
(Addressed Foreign Office, London; sent to Baghdad.)

Pro. No- 117. My immediately preceding telegram repeating Baghdad 3519.

I consider that as delivery of message is delayed, opportunity should be taken to urge His Majesty's Government to strengthen it on lines suggested by my 327@ and Clayton's 61. £

Approaching pilgrimage renders removal of any Wahabite threat against Hedjaz a matter of urgency.

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Pro. No. 119.

Telegram P, No. 3773, dated the 2nd (received 3rd) April 1919.

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

Following is repetition of Baghdad telegram, 3519:-

101

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FOREIGN POLICE DEPT. SECT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-152. Contd.

....

Boundary Commission professing complete devotion to Government's interest. His Majesty's Government's message has therefore been delayed pending reference to Wilson,

*Pro. No. 115.

My 3422 mentioned is verb
tim repetition of message
from His Majesty's Governmer

contained in their telegram* of March 12th, which was repeated to you. Deeply regret that my 3519 was through oversight not repeated for Government of India's information.

@Pro. No. 118.

This is with reference to
General Allenby's telegram@
464.

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Pro. No. 120

Telegram P, No 4056, dated the 9th (received 10)
April 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bagdad

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

(Addressed Secretary of State; repeated Egypt Force.)

Capture of a caravan belonging to Ajaimi consisting
of 150 camels and 30 followers has occurred at Khamisiyah.

@Pro. No. 87.

This is with reference to my
590.

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915

- 382 -

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

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Pro. No. #21.

Telegram P, No. 4086, dated the 9th (received 10)

April 1919.

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

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

(Addressed Secretary of State; repeated Cairo and Tehran.

Priority. Leave was given on February 20th to
Captain Roberts, Assistant Political Officer, Zohair, by
Political Officer, Basrah to make (?tour of) desert portion
which is included in his area. Through some misunder-
standing which has not yet been cleared up, he took this
to mean permission to visit Linah where he accordingly
went and there met Bin Rashid, who apparently believes
or professes to believe news locally distributed by Ajami
was under impression that Turks would return shortly to
Iraq. This view was dispelled by Captain Roberts but he
did not commit himself to any promise of any kind. As a
result of Captain Roberts unauthorised visit it is now
reported that Bin Rashid is approaching Basrah with a view
to tendering his submission.

Bin Rashid obviously in low water and think he should
be sent message to keep clear until his presence is requir-
red.

Roberts was transferred immediately on his return.

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

.....

regard with regard to him will be made. But with present shortage of Arabic-speaking officers it is difficult to dispense with anyone.

Sole fact of interest in conversation of Bin Rashid as reported by Roberts is that Bin Saud tried three times to make peace with him and admittedly succeeded on the third attempt.

Pro.No. 94. This is with reference to Wilson's 1317.

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Pro. No. 121 a

No. 60. W.C. dated Simla, the 15th 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, the Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia, Baghdad Director Central Intelligence, and the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor

@Pro.No 109-A
() Omit to
Army and Home
Departments.

-General in the North-West
Frontier Province in
Continuation of the
endorsement@ by the

(Government of India in the) Foreign and Political Department, No 53-W.C., dated the 3rd April 1919.

1049

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. 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.No. 110 to 121.

.....

Pro. No. 121 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 under cover of the Forien Secretary's letter No. 30-M, dated the 16th April 1919:-

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current.

Pro. No. 110 to 121

.....

Pro. No. 122.

Telegram R, No. 4293, dated the 14th (received 16th) April 1919.

From-The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad
To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the

Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed to Bahrein and repeated to Cairo in continuation of telegram 3579.)

My telegram* 3732. Wilson now telegram that message

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918

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

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* Addressed to Bahrein.

@ Pro. No. 115.

@ Pro. No. 119.

@ as finally ordered
His Majesty's Governm
should now be sent to
Ibn Saud. You should
add that request fo

a Boundary Commission has been placed personally by Colone

+ Pro. No. 119.

Wilson before His
Majesty's Government ha
been informed of the
satisfactory sentiment
expressed in Ibn Saud'
last letter * . † .

@Pro. No. 119

This is in continuat
n of my telegram@ 3773

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Pro. No. 123.

Telegram P, No 4487, dated the 17th(received :
April 1919.

From- The Political Residant in the Persian Gulf, Bag
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Siml
(Addressed to Secretaty of. State and repeated to Cairo
Tehran.)

It is reported that Ibn Rashid with only 100 men is
near Abu Ghar, tow days ' west of Khamisiyah. He is said
to be seeking to enter into friendly relations with Admin

1016

919

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

.....

stration of Iraq but at the same time has sent threatening message to certain mionr Shammar Shaikh such as Dhari of Aslam who during war deserted him and entered into nominal friendship with us. Messenger sent by Ibn Rashid now en route for Baghdad.

*Pro. No. 121. This is with reference to my 408

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Pro. No. 124.

Telegram P, No. 4893, dated the 29th (received 30) April 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghd
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the Fore and Political Depart,ent, Simla.

(Addressed Secretary of State for India; repeated Tehran and Egypt Force, Cairo.)

Ibrahim Ibn Masir al Humaidi, who is representative Ibn Rashid, has been interviewed. He has nothing new to say and as he has brought to letter from Ibn Rashid, he is being sent back to get one.

@ Pro. No. 123. This refers to my telegram @ 448

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Pro. No. 125.

Telegram P, No. 4919, dated (and received) 30th April 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghd
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the For

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920

1920

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

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(Addressed Secretary of State; repeated to Cairo in

Pro. No. 122. continuation of this Office No 4293, & also repeated to Egypt Force for information of Colonel Wilson.)

Letter from Ibn Saud, dated April 20th in following terms was received on 27th instant in the office of Political Agent, Bahrein: Begins. I beg to inform you that I reported previously to you about the preparation of Sheriff's sons for an expedition according to their movements and I received from you a communication of reply from Your Government that there was not in reality (Word undecypherables @) and that

@ Pro..No. Signalled

they were engaged in their internal affairs. I was wrong (group undecypherable) and your reply be

true as was proved by further information. In the meantime a letter was received by me from Abdulla giving us good news of the occupation of Medina and I sent him a good reply and also to Sheriff Hussain we hoped it would be a basis of a union between us and for tranquillity and reform of Arab affairs and in conformity with the wishes of my friend. His Majesty's Government. Afterwards I received news that Sheriff Abdulla had left Medina and was prepared for movement against tribes of Nejd. I left matter till it should have been ascertained and now it has been ascertained I wish to communicate it to you in order that, firstly I may not be

1018

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

.....

responsible, secondly that you may have the opportunity to see that movement against the wishes of your Government. As regards his departure from Medina he left with the remainder of Turkish troops together with men from neighbourhood of Medina and from different parts of Hedjaz. Abdullah has joined Sheriff Hussain who has left Mecca and is encamped. I understand that they are full equipped with field guns, machine guns and military preparations, I pray to God to help us against his hostile intentions and to help against oppressor. Certain intriguers and movement for which there is not room. When inhabitant of Nejd I heard they were (words undecypherable) on account of inferiority or fear but on contrary as precaution against their previous and recent deed, I am warning Nejd and matters have now reached their extremes. When the British Government was engaged in time of war we had left matters and given up many of our rights but now I cannot excuse British Government. If Sheriff is obedient to the orders of your Government and follows them then I am prepared to entrust to you settlement of the dispute between us under the necessary right which was a clear, as the sun. So I hope that you will settle between us with justice by arbitration. If he is aggressor you can stop him. If I am the aggressor you can stop me, and place responsibility on whoever acts (group undecypherable) and commit aggression after the settlement of the dispute and what had encouraged me to address you is two things, firstly God

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922

- 389 -

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

.....

willing I am guarding myself against aggression and fully believe in my rights which are known to every one before as now and the second thing is that trust in God, and then in you and your justice there will be no (group undecipherable) consequence according to what you promised Your Government. If it is that Sheriff is out of your hands and he was no willingness to follow advice and you give me your definite reply then I will defend my tribes and my rights and this responsibility will be on the disobedient. On seeing the excitement among the inhabitants of Nejd I was at once afraid lest breach may be committed and I went all round my towns to quiet inhabitants and to prevent aggressive temerity except if the Sheriff himself acts aggressive on the frontiers of Nejd we cannot help protecting our sacred rights and our homes thus according to my love for good and my hatred of trouble quickest way I have hastened this communication to which I hope to receive immediate reply. If the Sheriff is ready to comply with orders he should remain at his town and I shall do same and the matter should be submitted to you for your consideration and if he remains where he is then matter will undoubtedly be aggravated and lead to serious consequences. I hope that his hostile intentions will be prevented by God and the evil will be on whoever intended. Ends.

In absence of Political Agent, whose health has suddenly broken down, Head Clerk translated and cyphered the letter

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923

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

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informed quarters here that Ibn Saud, perhaps under pressure, has of late openly put himself at head of Akhwan movement.

This is with reference to your telegram* of the 10th

*Not received. April, regarding Ibn Saud.

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Pro.No. 126.

Telegram P, dated the 30th April (received 1st May) 1919
From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political
Department), Simla.

(Addressed Baghdad,)

Bin Rashid. If Emir or his messenger arrive at Iraq you should without committing His Majesty's Government receive him and hear what he has to say. You should report for orders any proposals he may make. Cairo should be kept informed.

@ Pro. No. 121 and 122.

This is with reference to your telegrams @ and 4086 and 4487, 9th and 17th April.

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Pro.No. 127.

Telegram P, No. 5230, dated the 8th (received 10th) May 1919.

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

(Addressed India Office.)

1021

924

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

.....

Early orders solicited. Recent development in Central Arabia make it very important that proposal should be put forward at once if at all.

Pro.No. 112. This is with reference to my telegram of the 13th March and Government of India telegram of March 15th, 321-S.

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Pro.No. 128.

Telegram P, No 6371, Dated the 10th (received 12th) May 1919.

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

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

(Addressed Secretary of State; repeated Cairo.)

It seems that the Ikhwan movement is spreading and causing some alarm in Bahrain, Koweit and on the borders of Mesopotamia.

In some quarters, Bin Rashid is regarded as the leader of those tribes opposed to Ikhwan and it is stated that had not the Sheriff been assured of help from Bin Rashid he would have been attacked by Ikhwan before this.

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Pro. No. 129.

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925

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

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Pro.No. 129.

Telegram P, No 5314, dated the 10th (received 12th) May 1919.

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

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

(Addressed Secretary of State; repeated Cairo and Jeddah)

On April 26th, Bin Saud writed that he is going to Western Frontier to prevent any frontier, disturbances between King Hussein and his frontier tribes, and adds th he has no fear but is anxious to gain satisfaction of His Majesty's Government.

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Pro.No, 130. a

Telegram P, dated the 12th (received 13th) May 1919

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

To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department), Simla. (repeated to Baghdad.

Visit of Abdulla and son Bin Saud approved. Approximate date of arrival should please be telegraphed.

@ Pro.No. 113. This refers to your telegram @ March 15th.

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

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Pro. No. 130 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 India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter No 44-M, dated the 4th June 1919:-

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current.

Pro. No. 122 to 130.

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Pro. No. 131.

Telegram P, No 5487, dated the 15th (received 16th) May 1919.

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

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

(Addressed Secretary of State and repeated Cairo and Jeddah.)

Telegram, dated May 14th, from Bahrein. Bin Saud reported to be confronted in neighbourhood of Khurma, by an armed force of King Hussain. It is said that Bin Saud has with him 12,000 men and a large number of Akhwan.

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T 394 -

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT. E? JUNE 2 1920. No- 1-152. Contd.

.....

Pro. No. 132 .

Telegram P, No 5549, dated the 16th (received 17
May 1919.

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

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Simla
(repeated to London, Cairo and Jeddah.)

In a letter dated May 15th, from Ibn Saud, received
from Bahrein 15th it is stated that Sheriffian force has
attacked Nejd tribesmen capturing 200 camels and also 4 men.
According to a report received through Sheikh of Koweit,
Sheriff's force have surrounded Ikhwan party in Ashaira dn
and Ibn Saud proceeded to rescue about 1st instant.

*Pro. No. 131.

This is in continuation of
my 5487.*

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Pro. No. 133 .

Telegram P, No. 15552, dated the 17th (received
18th) May 1919.

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

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Simla,
(Sent to Secretary of State for India; rep

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

....

A very non committal letter has been received from Ibn Rashid who is in camp at Shagrah stating that he is ready to comply with wishes of Government and to carry out any proposals made tending to mutual good and mentioning that he will return to Hail on conclusion of negotiations.

His representative who is in Baghdad has given detail of Turkish subsidies to Ibn Rashid totalling some £10,000 a month together with 7,000 rifles and large quantities of good and has explained that Ibn Rashid has already offered himself and his tribes to King Hussain as intermediary between himself and British Government but has not really made peace with Ibn Saud and it not likely to do so though he professes himself ready to abstain from undertake acceptance of a British Political Officer at Hail and to open road to Hedjaz for pilgrims.

It is difficult to recommend what reply should be given Ibn Saud. It is unlikely that he would be of special use to us on this side and apparently he is already on terms with Sheriff, he may however be of use as a bulwark against Ikhwan movement and I suggested better by High Commissioner, Cairo than by me but should not exceed (£2,500 a month). on condition that he keeps open the pilgrimage roads, remains actively loyal to King Hussain and agrees to a Political Officer being despatched to Hail should His Majesty's Government at any time see fit to send one there - further he should undertake to be guided generally by advice of His Majesty's Government as to his

1026

929

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

....

relations should be desires to (gr. undec.) his subsidy (?). It is for consideration whether further correspondence with him should be conducted under supervision of Baghdad or of Cairo. Ibn Rashid's representative is anxious that the relations of his master with British Government should be through Baghdad but His Majesty's Government may prefer that he should be dealt with under arrangements made by High Commissioner Cairo. ~~Early~~ Early instructions requested.

* Pro. No. 126 This refers to your telegram*
of April 30th.

.....

Pro. No. 134 .

Memo. No. S-199-9-5, dated Baghdad, the 29th April
1919.

From- The Officiating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad,
To-

His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London

The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

The Chief Political Officer, General Headquarters
Egyptforce, Cairo.

The High Commissioner, Constantinople.

The Chief of the General Staff, General Headqu
arters.

@ pro. No. 124.

@ Copies forwarded for informatic
in continuation of this Offi
telegram No. 48937 dated the

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.....

- ① (1) Bin Rashid's relations with Turks.
- (2) Bin Rashid's relations with Sheriff.
- (3) Bin Rashid's relations with Bin Saud.
- (4) Bin Rashid's relations with Shammar tribes, Aslam &c.
- (5) Bin Rashid's present location and what he wants for the future.

.....

ATTITUDE OF BIN RASHID.

(1) RELATIONS WITH TURKS.

Bin Rashid's "mufama" states as follows:-

When war broke out between Turkey and Great Britain Bin Rashid, as a loyal subject of the Turks, had to join them against the British. He was prompted to do so by motives of religion and near racial relationship.

Bin Rashid's tribes (Shammar, Harb, Mutaim and Anaizah) extend from al-iraq to about three days' run off Medina forming their pre-war time boundaries as follows:- North, from the desert outside Meshed, Nejad to about El-Jaf; South from the desert outside Zubair to the boundaries of Bin Saud and Hedjaa.

The friendly sections of Bin Rashid's tribes helped the Turks within their boundaries until end of Rajab (April 1918.)

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931

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

Bin Rashid's Allowance.

	£	
Bin Rashid	5,000	per mensem)
Bin Rashid's sons (Masheal and Muhammad.)	2,000	")
Bin Rashid's relatives	2,000	") Paid by
Presents to Hail and Shammar, &c.	1,000	") Turkish Governmer (from German monies.)
<hr/>		
/ Total..	10,000	")

Other pecuniary helps, etc.

From German in 1918.	200,000) This "Ikram" was most paid to Bin Rashid's Wakil in Damascus Bah.
From Germans in 1916.	50,000) Ibn Lailah (now in Constantinople). Part of the 250,000 was paid to Jalil-al-Dalshid, when Begahdad. The greater part of the \$250,000 was embezzled by Rashid Ibn Lailah.
	<hr/>	
	250,000	

War materials, etc.

Seven Years ago	7,000	mauzers with plenty ammunit n and plenty money.
Twelve years ago	2	mouuntain guns, now our of or order
In 1918...	...	(5 quick firing guns. (Did nto reach Bin Rashid, b remained in ordence at Damascus.) 5 mouuntain guns. 5,000 rifles.

1029

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

....

In the fourth year during war time. 10,000 Abbas and Zebouns, etc.

In 1917 ... 600 loads of sugar, cloth supplies, etc. About 400 loads reached Bin Rashid.

(2) BELATIONS WITH SHERIFF.

Prior to the war, Bin Rashid was on friendly terms with Sheriff of Mecca. Bin Rashid and his tribes used to conduct every year pilgrims from Mesopotamia and Persia to Mecca, one party leaving and under Bin Rashid's banner from Nejaf, and the other from Zobeir, making the rendezvous at Hail. The two parties united at Hail and proceeded to Mecca as one party.

Hostilities began when the Sheriff declared his independence. The Turks liaison officer was Abdul Hamid Beg El Masri (an Egyptian) Commander of the 4th Desert Army Hamid Corps. Bin Rashid's Agent was Rashid ibn Lailah.

Twenty nine months ago, when Bin Rashid wanted to attack Bin Saud, the Sheriff opened his first peace negotiations with Bin Rashid. The Sheriff sent to Bin Rashid as a peace present, £30,000. Besides he promised to send a big caravan of presents, but Bin Rashid refused to make peace with the Sheriff.

In Shaaban 1336 (May 1918) the Sheriff opened again peace negotiations with Bin Rashid. Seeing that the Germans were being defeated and the Turks expelled from the

933

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

....

Iraq, Bin Rashid came to an understanding with the Sheriff. The understanding was to the effect that Bin Rashid submit himself and his tribes to the British Government through the Sheriff and consider him as the intermediary between him (Bin Rashid) and the British Government.

This was done successfully.

(3) RELATIONS WITH BIN SAUD.

Emir Bin Rashid was always hostile with Bin Saud. It was only during 1328-1331 A.H. that Bin Rashid was on friendly terms with Bin Saud.

At the end of 1331. A.H. (six years ago) Bin Saud fought against Bin Rashid near Jerab, but the former was defeated. Since the Bin Rashid is on unfriendly relations with Bin Saud. However the wars against each other since 1318. A.H. are responsible for their enmity of each other.

Bin Rashid is not likely to be friendly himself with Bin Saud. He sympathises rather with the Sheriff Hussain of Mecca, who is not on friendly relations with Bin Saud.

(4) BIN SAUD'S RELATIONS WITH SHAMMAR, ASLAM, &c.

(a) The Shammar confederation is composed of-

(1) The Aslam.

(2) The Abdah.

(b) Relations with (2) were, and are very friendly.

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....

(c) The same applies to (1) Dhari Ibn Twala of the Alsar committed some outrages, but at last obtained his "Dakhala" through Sheikh Salem Ibn Sabah of Koweit, about two months ago. Friendly relations with both were maintained since then.

(d) The Ajmans are "darkheels" of Bin Rashid, that is to say, are under his protection.

(5) DESIRES OF BIN RASHID.

A. General Attitude towards Arabs.- Bin Rashid is friendly with nearly all Arabs except Bin Saud, but he is prepared to remain quiet and take active measures to improve friendly relations with Bin Saud.

B. Present and future locality- Bin Rashid, personally, is now encamping near Basaiyawat, close to Shagra, halfway between Zobeir and Khamisiyah. Bin Rashid's tribes extend from Kerwaidah to near Hedjaz.

As to his "future locality", Bin Rashid desires to remain within the boundaries recognised prior to the war, but he is prepared to have his future limits defined clearly by the British Government in conjunction with the Sheiff and Bin Saud so that no party may, in future complain of or suffer any prejudice.

C. Bin Rashid's undertakings.- If a suitable agreement with him is reached at immediately, Bin Rashid undertakes.-

(i) To accept a British Resident for purpose of negotiations with him and the British Government.

1532

935

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

....

(ii) To open the roads for pilgrims to Hedjaz.

.....

Pro. No. 135.

Telegram P, No. 5759, dated the 21st (received 23rd) May 1919.

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

(Addressed India Office; repeated to Cairo and Jeddah.)

Rashid, Sheriff of Mecca's representative, has come to Basrah to buy medicines, &c., for Mahomet Mughairaba, deputy Commander of Sheriff's Eastern Force.

Mahomet Mughairaba is at Shargra waiting for reply to further despatches brought by him from Sheriff to Bin Rashid. Sheriff is said to be arranging with Bin Sashid for an alliance against Bin Saud.

@ Pro. No. 133. This is with reference to my telegram of May 17th, 1919.

.....

Pro. No. 136.

Memo, No 13981, dated Baghdad, the 10th May 1919.
From- The Officiating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad,

(1) The Under-Secretary of State for India, London, S.W.1.

(2) The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

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936

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

.....

To- (3) The High Commissioner, Cairo.

(4) The Political Agent, Jeddah.

A copy of the undernoted correspondence is forwarded with compliments for information:-

Memorandum from the Military Governor and Political Officer, Basrah, to the Civil Commissioner, Baghdad, No 3914, dated the 3rd- 5th May 1919 (with enclosures.)

.....

Memo, No, 3914, dated Basrah, the 3rd-5th May 1919
(Confidential.)

From- The Military Governor and Political Officer, Basrah,
To- The Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

In continuation of my memorandum @ no 3545 of 20th April

@ Not received.

I forward copy of translation of a letter, dated 26th Rajab 1337 (28th April 1919) from Ibn

Rashid to the Assistant Political Officer, advising the Emir to refrain from entry into or action in his territory. The Emir adopts a proper tone in this Communication.

I send also copy of translation of letters, dated 20th Rajab and 22nd Rajab 1337, from Ibn Rashid to Sheikh Ibrahim of Zobeir.

.....

Copy to

Political Agent, Koweit.

1034

937

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

.....

Translation of a letter from Emir Saud bin Rashid to
Assistant Political Officer, Zobeir, dated Shagra
The 26th Rajab 1337 (28th April 1919.)

After compliments. - I have received your letter and
duly understood what you were kind enough to mention. You
have stated that the tribes have got frightened by my
arrival in these parts and you order that I should return
to Lina. It is incumbent upon me to obey the orders of
the Government of Great Britain. But your letter in which
you wrote the said orders did not reach me till after my
arrival in Shagra. Your letter went to Basiyeh but I had
already arrived in Shagra.

About the tribes, specially the Shammar, who are said
to be frightened, had they committed any crime and de-
served punishment, I have every right to punish them,
as they are my tribes, but as I am in your territory,
even if they commit very serious crimes, I would not
dare to punish them, for the sake of the greatness and
honour of the Government of Great Britain.

As regards my coming here. I came under the pro-
tection of the Government of Great Britain who called

me through their Deputy
*Pro. No. 121. Captain Roberts, * Assistant
Political Officer, Zobeir, who came to Lina and asked
me to come to these parts. This is the reason of my
coming. I have not come to do things against the deplo-
macy of the Government of Great Britain. Even when I
English Government if I did r

1035

938

- 405 -

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

....

not do anything against the interests of the British Government and now that I am a guest of the Government of Great Britain, you should never think that I will do anything that may displease it.

As regards your asking me to return to Lina, I may state that this action will show to the tribes from now that the Government is displeased with me and it will be a cast on our honour. We came here with a view to have our honour increased, in the service of the esteemed Government and not to degrade ourselves. We are waiting for the return of our messenger from Baghdad with the result of the deliberations and then we shall return to our country once for all. I have no other business. Greetings.

Translation of a letter from Emir Saud bin Rashid to Sheikh Ibrahim bin Abdullah, Sheikh of Zobeir, dated the 20th Rajab 1337 (22nd April 1919).

After compliments. - At an auspicious hour, has reached us your esteemed letter, and we thank God on hearing news of your welfare. By grace of God we are flourishing. We are really much obliged to you for our affectionate expressions and we trust and know perfectly well that you are far more good than what you express to be. We shall not forget this. I have heard that one of your brothers intends

1036

939

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

...

intends to proceed on pilgrimage, God willing he will only find here brothers to receive him and all his followers. He will not find anything that may displease him.

Our man Ibrahim has informed us that our encamping here is very difficult for the Government. But we have not come ignorantly or to give offence. We have come depending upon the request for negotiations made through our man Ibrahim and his friend the (Roberts) Consul. Our keeping ourselves away all this time was due to nothing but our faithfulness and strict loyalty to our former Government and we always treat our friends in this spirit. Now when agreement is arrived between ourselves and this Government it shall get from us the same faithfulness and loyalty. Lastly, please accept my gratefulness and high respects to your esteemed brothers, sons and Harid Salih, and from here Abdulla and Mustafa and send mine your salams.

NOTE. - There are many of my friends near you, who would be quite like. Not one of them or on behalf to do right anything wrong.

.....

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

...

Translation of a letter from Saud bin Rashid to Sheikh Ibrahim of Zoharit, dated the 22nd Rajab 1337.

After compliments, - I hope you have received the letter I sent with my man Abdulla at Eyd. My messenger Abdulla at Jabal has returned from Dhari bin Fawala after many negotiations. I wish to call the letter over to me but it appears he is rebelling against me. He is near you, had I not been in your territory I should not have sent him messengers, he should have been forced to come. But I did not like to create trouble in your territory, he is encamping near you, I do not know what is ⁱⁿ your heart, please let me know we wish to coerce as he has rebelled against us, no negotiations are required. Bin Fawala should go as his forefathers who used to come by force and not through negotiations.

Ar. No. 187

Telegram A. No. 280, Jabal (and received) the 26th May 1918.

From The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
Raghad.

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

(Addressed Secretary of State for India and Gibraltar Office).

941

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

....

Damascus reports, May 24th, Ajaimi has been taken by Shallah's people and is brought by order of Sheriff to Damascus.

I have replied quoting purport of my telegram mentioned below and suggest that he should be regarded as Political prisoner and be treated in the same way as Sa'iid Talib.

This is with reference to my
*Pro. No. 87. Telegram of 16th January.

Pro. No. 136.

Memo., No. 13905, dated Baghdad, the 6th May 1919.
From the Officiating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad,

(1) The Under-Secretary of State for India,
London, E. I. I.

(2) The Secretary to the Government of India

To - In the Foreign and Political Department,
Simla.

(3) The High Commissioner, Cairo.

(4) The Political Agent, Mosul.

A copy of the undernoted correspondence is forwarded with compliments for information.

Paragraph 7 (a) of Political Agent, Mosul, dated 21st May 1919.

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

.....

Extract from Diary No. 8 from Political Agent, Kuwait, for the fortnight ending April 20th, 1919, forwarded over Memorandum No. 419, dated the 3rd of May 1919.

17. Tribal affairs. - (a) The Ikhwan movement has been the subject of much discussion in Kuwait during the greater part of the past fortnight. At first wild rumours were floating about as for instance that the Ikhwan were gathering in tens of thousands in the Dohana with the intentions of marching on Kuwait and thence to Iraq to capture the Holy Cities thereof. On investigation it was found that, though these rumours were absurd, an unusual amount of excitement prevailed not alone in Kuwait but also in Umm al-Qaiwain in regard to Ikhwan activities.

Bin Saif appears to be on the verge of losing his control of the movement and has returned to Riyadh. Faisal al Dawish, chief sheikh of the Mutair tribe, has now become chief organizer and is vigorously taking up the movement with the intention, it is said by many, of gathering around him a sufficient force to establish himself on the throne of Ujaid. It is even hinted that his aspirations may not end there.

Recruiting for membership seems now to have passed the stage of mere conversion and "irishatfulness" appears to be the order of the day. This is borne out by the fact that a large body of Mutair, chiefly the Fraith' section, fled into Kuwait territory to escape from their persecutions.

943

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

...

the followers of Faisal. Representatives of Faisal interviewed the Sheikh of Kuwait and demanded their exclusion which was refused.

Large bodies of Bedouins now in Kuwait are seen to have adopted the white head-dress of the Wahab, but it has been ascertained that the changes of head-dress has been occasioned by fear rather than by any change in their religious ideas. Many of them profess that they are wearing this head-dress merely to protect themselves from attack by the Tikhar and their smoking a quiet cigarette seems proof of their words.

The Tikhar regard it as a disgrace for a Kuwaiti to wear the white head-dress of the Wahab and to be seen with the Dorn. It is believed that representatives of Faisal and David informed the Sheikh of Kuwait that so long as influential antagonists to their views were allowed in Kuwait to be re-armed they would not get their provisions from there. This presumably accounts for a disorderly removal of the arms which have been accumulated in Kuwait. The arrangement served the purpose of having a stronger one but it was sufficient to have news of it reach the Tikhar who on hearing of it were in a hurry to thank the Sheikh for the good work he had done and to express the hope that he would continue in his endeavours. It is well known that the present ruler of Kuwait is a man of a very high character and is a strongly objected to constitution and spirit. It is not surprising that he was ready to do what was asked of him and

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

....

down and the more so since he had his private interests to safeguard. It cannot therefore be assumed from his action in this matter that he has Ikhwan tendencies.

The Sheikhs of Massa and Natif in consequence of Ikhwan outrages in their territories, are said to have written to Sir Sa'ud asking him to prevent Ikhwan interference with their tribesmen.

At the close of the period under review it is to be remarked that the excitement here due to the Ikhwan, has almost died out and there is little to be heard of the campaign mentioned in the fifth paragraph above.

Pro. No. 139.

Memo, No. 14044-S-2, dated Baghdad, the 30th May 1919.

From The Officiating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

To- (a) The Under-Secretary of State for India, London, S. I.

(b) The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Cairo.

(c) The Civil Commissioner, Cairo.

(d) The Military Agent, Baghdad.

A copy of the unforwarded correspondence is forwarded for information.

965

FOREIGN DEPT. SECRET. B. JUNE 1920, Nos. 1-152. contd.

...

Copy to the Chief of the General Staff and General Headquarters.

NOTE ON THE ALMAN.

The Alman are reported to have made their appearance some 8 or 12 years ago when the Washi sect (a more or less modern) the latter is now according to the Tadua a thing of the past. Where the Alman movement actually started is not well known but it is supposed to have started in the vicinity of Dush. Like all newly-formed sects it is extremely fanatical and devoid of fanaticism and is for this year regarded with fear by the orthodox Shaihs near Dush. At the outset this movement was hostile to the Shaihs and for this reason it has been called the "Red Sect". After spending some time at Dush below attempted to establish itself in all but the Dush would not allow it to settle down in his territories, and he has since since followed the same policy, with the result that dispersing in one another's situation at his Dush place and the Alman movement among his tribes.

The Alman movement has made rapid progress and all the Dush tribes are tainted with it. The Mutays, the Dush of the Dush, some large numbers of elements, the Dush of the Dush much larger than the Dush. One of the Dush, Dush of the Mutays, is the leading spirit of the sect. The Dush of Dush is very gradually joining the movement and the Dush of Dush is now actually "Alman" in name. The Dush of Dush is now actually "Alman" in name.

FORE.POL..DEPT. SECT.E. JUNE 1920, Nos.1- #52. contd.

....

In Zobeir, Akhwans are appearing in gradulley increasing numbers to the alarm of Sheiskh Ibrahim although their ardour so far from the centre of the movement, is for the present rther tepid. Many a Badu whoan entering Zobeir to buy his supplies boasts that he has joined the new Sect.

The Akhwan although fostered at the start by Bin Saud have grown so much, that they have passed beyond his control and the general idea among the tribes is that Bin Saud will either disappear or else be forced to follow the movement even though it is directed against us.

It is reported that the Akhwan reproached Ibn Saud for his lack of religious fervour and especially for dealing with the British Government and the answer he is supposed to have given shows how weak his position is "I have been obliged, said he , to side with the British in order to stengthen my own postion, but later on should the British give you cause for rising against them,I will be with you".

Bin Rashid's messengers say, that had not the Sheriff assured himself of Bin Rashid's help he would have been attacked by now.

The Sheriff as a result of this alliance has been supplying food-stuffs to the Emir-and has lately asked him for 2,000 camels which are being supplied.

The Ajman believe that the first Akhwan attack will be directed against Iraq, others believe that the Sheriff will be the first objective.

947

FORE. OFF. DEPT. SEC. E. JUNE. 1920. No. 1-152. Contd.

.....

There has just been outburst of Akhwar fanaticism in amongst the Muteyr. Faisal, their chief with the Muteyr Akhwar, invited all non-Akhwar to join the sect on penalty of death and he actually killed four Muteyr tribes-men who refused his invitation. This created a stampede part of the Muteyr fleeing to Kuwait and Bahrain for safety, others going over to Ibn Rashid to claim his protection.

Thirteen-four Ahran raiders who found the Muteyr too strong for them were forced to surrender or their surrender was accepted by the Muteyr ("attahon waj'ahon"-they showed them their faces.) According to the rules of the game after handing over their rifles the Ahran should have been allowed to depart. However, they were treated with being had Muhammad Ali- "Waj'ahon" and with being friendly with the British; and were "handed out" to death.

The fear of the Akhwar is now in and in Adnan and Dhari bin Dhuha and the Khalif under Maroon al Kuwait are falling of uneasiness has spread to the Marbhas and Hajj. They were told to go that the Akhwar would rally a considerable number of soldiers if they had the chance.

Reith Thabit of whose news agencies ought to be taken at once to counteract this movement adding "Trouble is brewing and unless you Marshall if all your policy in central Arabia will be upset and the Akhwar will soon be before Iraq." He said that Ibn Rashid was the ally in spirit of those called out to be the Akhwar or at it

948

FORE. POLI. DEPTT. SECT. B. JUNE. 1920. No. 1- 152. Contd-

.....

and his tribes as buffers between Iraq and the Akhwans. One of the Akhwan in battle is worth five Persians, & he is prepared to give up his life for the "cause".

(3d)..... Captain,

Assistant Political Officer, Basrah

.....

Pro. No. 140 .

Basrah P. No. 5948, dated the 20th (received 27th) May 1919.

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

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

(Advise the Secretary of State for India: repeated Cairo and Basrah.)

Political Officer, Basrah, has received from their notice which Sir Bahadur has published in local press to the effect that reports of pilgrims from their to Mecca and back in safety will be undertaken by Sir Bahadur. I have authorized publication of notice which is calculated to have an excellent effect locally as a real grievance is constituted by shortage of shipping and consequent restriction on pilgrim trade.

Pro. No. 133. This refers to my telegram May 17th.

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1040

949

FORE. POLI. DEPT. COMM. E. JUNE. 1920. Nos. 1-150. Contd.

....

Pro. No. 141 .

Telegram P. and S, No. 857, Dated the 27th (received 28
th) May 1919.

From- The General Officer Commanding, Egypt, Cairo.

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

(Addressed to Foreign Office: sent to Teheran.)

List of report received from Teheran follows:-

1. It is said that Abdulla's guards could shoot
in full at Ashikah. Letter from King Hussein enclosed
letter to Abdulla from his son and says that
that-

(1) On 21 Abdulla arrived at Teheran after a long and
hard fighting.

(2) Arrived at Teheran in winter with his forces at El
Balkh, about 50 miles east of Thurna.

(3) Arrived at Teheran in winter with his forces
etc.

(4) One of the Sultan's soldiers was killed by a
bullet at Teheran.

(5) Abdulla will never leave Thurna after his
arrival there for his death.

King says that his presence has not allowed that
he and his son and family or others should be the cause
of bloodshed among the Arabs nor can he be party to further
enrolled contributions by Great Britain.

950

FORE. POLI. DEPT. SECT. B. TIME. 1920, Nos. 1-150. Contd.

. . . .

As quickest means of removing present difficulties I will be compelled publicly to declare his abdication in favour to all those who have given him their allegiance. He awaits an early reply and in the meantime he has written to Abdullah to remain as far as possible on defensive. King also reiterates that cause of present situation is the defensive policy imposed on him and that now when aim (expulsion of Turks) is achieved, it is futile for him to continue troubling His Majesty's Government of straining himself and hold in this matter. He is content to let God be his judge. King's letter is written by his private Secretary but following postscript is added in King's own handwriting:-

"My dear, the present situation needs it has my resignation but, my dear friend, I hesitate to tell you fearing this may take place in a manner contrary to wishes of Great Britain who is always anxious to avoid it." This

King's letter to King is dated May 11th, but do not give any date. It is not individual but throws on King responsibility for a or as per and it is really as letter's last letter. King King to trust him and assured he does not wish to be hostile unless extreme circumstances force him thereon. Good King's but unscrupulous or unprincipled persons shall not be in a or situation probably... of... have and unscrupulous for lay

951

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

....

of King to us, do not anticipate any hasty action on King's part. Ends.

Instant action is necessary to prevent a decisive battle between Abdulla and Bin Saud. If battle takes place and Bin Saud wins, his men will probably enter Mecca.

In my opinion moment has come when we must recognise claims of King Hussain and give him our definite support as against Bin Saud. I therefore recommend that immediate and peremptory orders be sent to Bin Saud to withdraw into Nejd proper with all his forces with a warning that if he fails to comply his subsidy will be immediately stopped, as agreed upon by ~~Cornwallis~~ and A.T. Wilson when last in Cairo in the event of hostile action by Bin Saud, and that His Majesty's Government will sever all relations with him. Message sent to Bin Saud's should at once be communicated to King Hussain.

Only alternative seems to me to be to let them fight in out with no intervention on our part, But I submit that a general conflagration in Arabia would probably be caused by such a policy.

*Pro.No. 132.

This is with reference to Baghdad telegram* 5549.

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Pro.No. 142 .

Telegram P, No 877, dated the 26th (received 29th)

May 1919.

10/1/19

952

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

....

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

(Addressed Foreign Office; sent to Baghdad.)

Clear the line. Urgent letter from Taif was received
by King this morning reporting that Abdulla was attacked
by Akhwan at Tarabah (probably two nights ago) and driven
out.

Abdulla is said to have got away with some 500
irregular mounted troops only to be now at Kelaikh, about
45 miles east of Taif, whence he will move to Okheidr. There
is no definite news as to Abdulla's regular force, whole of
which was with him at Tarabah including 20 machine guns and
12 guns.

*Not received.

This is with reference to
my telegram* no. 869.

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Pro. No. 143.

Telegram P, Abd R, No. 868, dated the 28th (received 29th)
May 1919.

From- His Majesty's High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo,
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Foreign Office; sent to Baghdad.)

Translation of Bin Saud's letter to Abdulla:- Begins.
In polite terms acknowledges receipt of letter from Abdulla.

1057

953

- 420 -

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

....

prosperity of Islam and Arbs, says that he is acting accordingly and has humiliated himself in many ways in order to arrive at agreement with King Hussain but all to no purpose. Complains that Abdulla regards him as a heretic and quotes Prophet as saying "Moslems will be divided amongst themselves in denominations". He challenges Abdulla to fight remaining (gr.und.) demoninations first and after converting these and obtaining their submission, then to turn his attention to Wahabism. Accuses Abdulla of turning guns and Moslem guns against Mosless. Asserts that his brothers and subjects war between Moslems and says "rely upon God and go to your country and when you get there all your father who is backing you. I swer that when the people of Nejd heard of your present move they all started with enthusiasm to oppose you, the women to the force: intervence if you will be guided and stop hostilities. I will restrain them all if you prefer other solution (war) I will act in accordance with words of Ansari, who said "I am a man of my nation should I have nothing more to say". Ends.

Colonel Bassett observès:- Date of letter is May 10th, no place given as in letter to King the whole responsibility of peace or war is thrown on Sheriffians; evidently it is claimed by writer that positions at present occupied by Abdulla's force are in Nejd territory thereby

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954

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

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reasserting his ~~an~~ impdent claim to Khurma and country west of it. Unless, as seems imorobable, Bin Saud has come out with idea of restraining Akhwan, serious conflict appears practically inevitable.

@ Pro.Nb. 141. This refers to my telegram@ Nb 85'

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Pro.No. 144.

Telegram R, Nb. 869, dated the 28th (received 29th) may 1919.

From- His Majesty's High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo.

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

(Addressed Foreign Office, 869; repeated to Bagdad.)

Following from Jedah: -Begins. Following sent yesterday by telegram from Ali (one gr. und.) Medins to King:- Begins. Informed from sare source to-day that Bin Sa'd has ordered Wahabis to (rush) Khurma and is urging them on. Also that he has arrived at Kueiah and sent five horses for Akhwan. The Wahabis have left for Khurma. King telegraphs is forwarding above:- "I finally beg you to tell in what manner the declatting off my abdication should be made if only for the sake of representing the opinion of His Majesty's Government on th is point as on all others. I do not ask or want to trouble His Majesty's Government to communicate with Bin Sa'd because my statements on subject hav been

1052

955

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

....

repeatedly explained. I anxiously await a reply."

King evidently much perturbed by situation which vindicated opinion that he has always expressed regarding Bin Saud's real intentions and seriousness of the Wahabi movement under his guidance. Bin Saud now said to be at Kueish which is said to be four days north-east of Sakkhan which is four days north-east of Khurma.

@Pro. No. 141. This is with reference to my telegram @ no 857.

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Pro. No. 145.

Telegram P, No. 6026, dated the 29th (received 30th) May 1919.

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

(Addressed India Office, repeated Cairo.)

It is, I fear too late for orders to reach Ibn Saud in time to be effective and I fear that Ibn Saud would not be obeyed by "khwan even if he acted on such orders.

Pending receipt of His Majesty's Government's instruction I have telegraphed to Bahrain to hold up further payment of subsidy to Ibn Saud.

@ Pro. No. 141. This is with reference to Cairo telegram, dated May 27th.

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956

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

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Pro. No. 146.

Telegram P, No. 880, dated the 29th (received 30)
May 1919.

From- The General Officer Commanding, Egypt Cairo,
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Goreing and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Foreign Office; sent to Baghdad.)

It is shown by later information from Jeddah that seven Baghdadi officers having arrived at Taif. Following report by an Officer. Information received on (? 25th) of imminence of enemy attack on Tarabah. On same afternoon Tarabah was approached by rabble about 200 strong, these were driven off after skirmish. Defence manned by Abdulla's force who were prepared to meet attack.

They were attacked in force at midnight under Khaled and informant believe defenders wiped out and all guns and machine guns captured. King says Taif is now threatened and assistance is needed urgently. Immediate despatch of aeroplanes and if possible tanks is asked for by him.

I am considering possibility of sending aeroplanes but can do nothing else. Wilson leaves June 1st for Jeddah

Pro. No. 142. This refers to my telegram 877.

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Pro. No. 147.

Telegram P, dated the 30th (received 31st)

May 1919.

1054

957

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

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From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political
Department) Simla.

(Addressed Baghdad.)

Clear the line. Khurma. It is considered by His
Majesty's Government that situation which has arisen is covered by
orders conveyed in my telegram

of the 12th March, under which Ibn Saud was clearly given
to understand-(1) that he was expected by us to acquiesce in
Sheriffian occupation of Khurma and (2) that he would
forfeit our favour by further opposition. He should now be
informed that His Majesty's Government have been astonished

* Vide Pro. No. 141 to receive reports* which appear
142 and 146. to indicate that he has disregarded their friendly advice and
that Akhwan have even advanced

to Tarabah in Hedjaz. They desire solemnly to warn him
that if he does not immediately withdraw his forces from
Hedjaz and Khurma areas they must regard him as having
adopted attitude of definite hostility towards themselves.

Rest of his subsidy will in that event be discontinued at

once and he will forfeit irrevocably
all advantage secured under treaty
of December 1915. Please cause
a message in above sense to be

Secret-war,
June 1917,
Nos. 60-155
(pr. No 143.)

Bo 55

958

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

....

expeditious means possible. This telegram is being repeated by Foreign Office to Cairo with instruction to inform King Hussain of its purport.

+ Pro. No. 141. This refers to Cairo telegram 857 of May 27th.

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Pro. No. 148.

Telegram P & R, No. 889, dated the 31st May (received 1st June) 1919.

From His Majesty's High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo.

To - The Secretary to the Government of India in the

Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Foreign Office; repeated Baghdad.)

Report from Abdulla now received at Jeddah says main attack of enemy was directed against his own head quarters camp at El Hathm and neighbouring posts which were open country. States Sheriff Sharaf who was posted at Kelaikh reports no part was taken by detachment there ins. a fighting during night of 25th- 27th for fear of firing into friendlies but they were attacked at dawn, 26th, and repulse enemy. Sharaf counter attacked at midday and at sunset decided to join Abdulla. It is not clear whether Sharaf actually joined hands with Abdulla as latter says he is at Okheidar awaiting King's orders.

1056

959

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

...

Fate of main force, guns, etc is not definitely stated but Abdulla says:- "My forces now consist of 400 camèlmen and 150 horsèmen. I hear on good authority that Bin Saud will arrive at Khurma tomorrow with rest of his force and it is expected that they will attack us."

El Hathm said to be about 15 miles north -north- west of Tarabah. King reports Bin Saud at Khurma and menacing Taif and requests that assistance*. a ready asked for may

* Vide Pro. No. 146. be given promptly.

@ Pro. No. 146. This refers to my telegram @ 880.

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Pro. No. 149.

Telegram P, No. 6225, Dated the 31st May (received 1st June) 1919.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the

Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Secretary of State.)

Have complied with instruction in your telegram* of the

*Pro. No. 147. 30th May, and sent message via Baherin. In view of apparent proximity of Ibn Saud to Mecca,

message might reach him from Jeddah more quickly it is should be considered desirable to send him from that side

960

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

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Pro. No. 150.

Telegram P, No 892, dated the 1st (received 2nd) June 1919.

From- The General Officer Commanding, Egypt, Cairo.
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Foreign Office, London.)

It is confirmed by King Hussain, morning May 31st, that

the whole of Abdulla's volunteer force (practically 70) (7 killed) and all guns and machine guns lost 24 men (gr. undec.) into Taif.

Shakir has arrived Mecca. Sharaf's detachment said to be still holding out but exact locality is not clear.

Have information which is absolutely reliable that Abdulla, having himself arrived Taif, has reported situation desperate. King has ordered him back to Okheidr. Royal family and families of Mecca notables, merchants, &c. who moved to Taif for Ramazan are returning to Baitam.

Kaisuni under orders start for Okheidr to-day with 200 of Mecca garrison.

Pro. No. 148. This refers to my 889.

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Pro. No. 151 .

No. 155-W.C., dated Simla, the 17th June 1919

(very Confidential.)

961

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

.....

A copy of the undermentioned papers is forwarded to the Army Department, Home Department, General Officer Commanding, Force, "D2", Baghdad, the Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and 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,

Pro. No. 130-a in continuation of the endorsement by the (Government of India in the) Foreign and Political Department, No. 131-W.C. dated the 30th May 1919.

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

Arabia Series, Part. IX. Current.

Pro. No. 131- 150.

.....

Pro. No- 152.

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

962

- 429 -

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

....

For India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter
No. 48-M., dated the 19th June 1919:-

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current
Pro. Nos. 131-150.

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1060

963

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

....

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE
NEJD MISSION

OCTOBER 29TH, 1917, TO NOVEMBER 1st, 1918.

....

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS.

PARA.

- 1. Introductory.
- 2. Previous Relations between Britain and Najd.
- 3. Personnel of the Mission.
- 4. Objects of the Mission.
- 5. Itinerary of the Mission.
- 6. Shaikhs of the Zubair Hinterland.
- 7. Other Shammar Elements.
- 8. Relations between Najd and Kuwait.
- 9. The Ajman Problem.
- 10. The Awszim Problem.
- 11. The Blockade.
- 12. The Saud's Operations against Hail.
- 13. The Sharif and Ibn Saud.
- 14. The Wahhabi Revival.
- 15. The Khurma Episode.
- 16. Ibn Saud and the Turks.
- 17. Arms in Najd.
- 18. Pilgrimage to the Shia Holy Places.
- 19. Location of Political Agent in Nadd.

1061

964

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

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To

Bt. Lt. Col. A. T. Wilson, C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Officiating Civil Commissioner for the
Occupied Territories in Iraq,
Baghdad,

No.M-218. Dated Baghdad, the 12th Nov., 1918.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit a report on the **operatio**
of the Mission, which I was privileged to conduct into
Central Arabia to treat with His Excellency the Imam,
Abdul Aziz ibn Abdul Rahman ibn Faisal at Saud, K.C.I.E.,
the ruler of Najd and its dependencies, of certain matters
of mutual import to himself and the British Government
in pursuance of the instructions of His Majesty's Govern-
ment communicated to Sir Percy Cox in a telegram, dated
the 20th October, 1917, from the Secretary of State for
India.

My reports cover a period of almost exactly one
calendar year, beginning with the Mission's departure
from Baghdad on the 29th October, 1917, and ending on the
1st November, 1918, when I arrived at Baghdad on my return
from Central Arabia on the closing down of the Mission's
operations.

1062

I have deemed it convenient to abandon any attempt
at a chronological narrative of the Mission's work in
favour of a full and separate discussion of the various

965

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

...

various problems which have called for consideration during the period under report. Furthermore considerations of space have deterred me from including in this review any detailed account of my journeyings in Arabia or of the geographical and other incidental results obtained in the course thereof except in so far as may be necessary to elucidate the matters with which the Mission was more directly concerned. I have already contributed brief accounts of some of my journeys for publication in the Arab Bulletin, and I look forward now to a period of leisure wherein to sort out and arrange in a form suitable for publication the copious notes which I have collected on a variety of interesting subjects during my long sojourn in Arabia.

2. Previous Relations between Britain and Nejd.

Prior to the outbreak of the Great War there had for obvious reasons been but little official intercourse between the British authorities and the rulers of Nejd. Apart from the fabled inhospitality and aloofness of the people themselves and long-standing friendship of Britain and Turkey precluded anything like political recognition by the former of the latter's rebellious and independent dependency.

Indeed the first occasion on which a British Officer visited Nejd in an official capacity was when 99 years ago Lt. Sadlier, deputed for the purpose by the India

1063

966

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

...

Indian Government, traversed the devastated territories of the Wahhabi Empire with the sole object of conveying to the destroyer the congratulations of Government on his handiwork and of urging him to take drastic precautions against a revival of the Wahhabi power. Fortunately Ibrahim Pasha and those for whom he acted were not men to take good advice, and if the purpose of Lt. Sadlier's mission ever became known in Arabia it had certainly been forgotten before the next British Mission visited Riyadh.

That was in 1865 when Colonel Lewis Pelly, who, as Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, had been called upon to deal with matters arising out of the piracy and slave trade still practised on the Arabian shore of the Persian Gulf, decided on his own initiative to visit the Wahhabi Monarch with a small informed Mission. His reception by Fasal Ibn Saud and his Wazir was not encouraging; and the British Mission returned to the coast being conscious that, though much had been learned, little had been accomplished in the direction of establishing permanent friendly relations with the Wahhabi Court.

There ensued a long break in official intercourse between Britain and Najd, whose fortunes during the interval were rudely shaken by the aggression of the newly risen Rashid Dynasty at Hail. Riyadh and all its provinces were occupied by Muhammad ibn Rashid and the Saud family

1064

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

..

family sought refuge at Kuwait and elsewhere on the coast where they remained in exile until 1902. The death of Muhammad ibn Rashid in 1898 and the recovery of Riyadh and its provinces four years later by their present ruler were followed by a period of consolidation during which the ambitions of Ibn Saud in the direction of Hasa and the difficulties in which he became involved with the Ruks disposed him to look with friendly eyes on the power which he had learned to know as the protector of Kuwait, and Captain W.H.C. Shakespear, I.A., Political Agent at Kuwait, had little difficulty in establishing friendly personal relations with the ruler of Najd by a series of visits to his territories culminating in his journey via Riyadh and the Qasim across Arabia to Suez in the early months of 1914. When the War broke out, therefore, the ground was already prepared for a resumption of official relations between the British authorities and Ibn Saud and Captain Shakespear was accredited to the Wahhabi Court. The history of his operations and the sequel thereto has, however, already been sketched in sufficient detail up to the close of the year 1916 in the "Precis regarding the relations of the British Government and Ibn Saud" forwarded to Government with Sir P. Cox' Memorandum No. 2, dated the 12th January, 1917, and it is necessary for me in this place to do more than add my personal testimony, regarding the great loss sustained by the British

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968

- 435-

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

.....

British Government in Captain Shakespear's death. His name is remembered and held in high honour in Arabia by all with whom he came into contact, and I make up no doubt that, had he lived, Hail would have fallen long since and Ibn Saud, assisted by us on a more levish scale than was in fashion during the early days of the War, would have taken a more prominent part in operations against the enemy than it has been possible or indeed necessary for him to do.

A reference to the Memorandum above quoted will show that the death of Captain Shakespear in January, 1915, on the battlefield of Jarrab, where the forces, of Ibn Saud were arrayed in our cause against those of Ibn Rashid who had declared for Turkey and where the day went ill for our ally, was followed by along period of military inactivity on the part of Ibn Saud. This interval had, however, been profitably spent in cementing our alliance with him and had resulted in a treaty highly satisfactory to both parties, in a meeting of rulers at Kuwait at which Sir P. Cox invested Ibn Saud with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire and finally in a visit by Ibn Saud to Basrah, during which he not only had every opportunity of seeing for himself the paraphernalia of modern warfare and the results of the British occupation of Basrah, but was himself provided with a welcome addi-

1066

969

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

...

subsidy to enable him to renew active operations against his and our enemy, Ibn Rashid.

The year 1917 thus dawned with bright hope for the future. The necessity of sending an Officer to represent him in Najd was already engaging Sir P.Cox's serious attention, but it was not until May, than an opportunity presented itself of giving effect to his plans in this direction. Mr. (Now Colonel) R.Storrs, C.M.G., had arrived at Baghdad on a visit on behalf of the High Commissioner for Egypt, and with the latter's ready consent it was decided that he should return to Egypt and with the latter's ready consent it was decided that he should return to Egypt across Arabia, visiting Ibn Saud in the Qasim en route in order to place Sir P.Cox in possession of such first hand information regarding Ibn Saud's strength and prospects as was necessary to enable him to decide on the course to be adopted with a view to making the operations, in Central Arabia a substantial contribution to the general activities of our Military forces in the Turkish theatre of War. Incidentally Mr. Storrs was to endeavour to effect such improvement as was possible in the relations of the King of the Hijaz and the Wahhabi ruler, whose mutual suspicions and distrust were growing increasingly apparent.

1067

970

- 437-

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

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The necessary preliminary preparations having been made. Mr. Storrs left Kuwait on the 9th June, 1918, with a zilfi caravan, but four days later he was back at Kuwait, having fallen a victim to the sun on the third day of his journey. It was out of the question for him to think of venturing again into the desert at such a season and he returned to Egypt by sea.

It was now obviously impracticable to renew the attempt to link up with Ibn Saud until the climate moderated and the hot weather dragged on with Ibn Saud making a somewhat half-hearted pretence of threatening Hail from the Qasim until Ramdhan, when he left Turki, his eldest son, in command of such forces as had not dispersed and returned to Riyadh too fast. Meanwhile the position in Central Arabia was becoming increasingly obscure, Medina showed no signs of falling to the forces of the Shariff, the Turks held on to the Hijaz railway repairing breaches therein as they occurred, while the relations of our two chief Arab allies, the Shariff and Ibn Saud, were rapidly becoming strained and difficult, the inactivity of the latter giving the former pretexts for accusing him of lukewarmness in our cause and even of tacit neutrality of a benevolent nature towards Ibn Rashid and

1068

971

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

....

and the Turks.

It was in these circumstances that at the end of September, 1917, Sir P. Cox renewed that the project of sending a mission to Ibn Saud and, as it was generally agreed that a serious effort should be made to eliminate or neutralise Ibn Rashid in order that the Sheriff's operations might be facilitated and the ground of the existing friction between him and Ibn Saud removed, His Majesty's Government sanctioned the despatch of a Mission of more ambitious proportions than had been considered feasible during the previous hot weather. In fact it was contemplated that the Mission should be sufficiently representative of all interests to be able to dispose of the Political differences and jealousies of our various Arab allies and that it should at the same time partake of a semi-military character in order that such proposals as it might make regarding the military assistance required by Ibn Saud should carry due weight and that it might in the event of action being decided upon and undertaken assume the role of adviser to the Wahhabi leaders.

The despatch of the Mission was sanctioned by His Majesty's Government in a telegram, dated the 20

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thOctober, 1917, and the Mission set forth from Baghdad, nine days later.

3. Personnel of the Mission.

The proposals originally made by Sir Percy Cox to His Majesty's Government contemplated a more ambitious and representative composition of the Mission than was eventually realised. It was hoped that the High Commissioner for Egypt and His Highness the King of the Hijaz would be able to send representatives to take part in its deliberations; it was contemplated that Lt.Colonel R.E.A.Hamilton, C.I.E., Political Agent at Kuwait, who was at the time on his way into Meid in another connection, would be able to serve on the Mission to represent the interests of Shaikh Slaim of Kuwait; Further it was hoped that a Medical Officer would be available; and finally, the object of the Mission being primarily of a military character, it was understood that a responsible military officer would be deputed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force to examine and report on the military situation in Central Arabia. Finally it was held to be essential, in order to assist and expedite the work of

1070

973

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

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the Mission, that a small Wireless Telegraph detachment should be attached to it if available.

This somewhat ambitious scheme of things was, as already noted, not realised. Lt.-Colonel F. Cunliffe Owen, C.M.G., R.F.A., was deputed to represent the Commander-in-Chief and accompanied me from Bagdad to Riyadh, where, during my somewhat prolonged absence at Jidda and Aciro, he remained in charge of the Mission's local work until February, 1918, when he returned to the coast and departed on short leave prior to resuming his military duties. Lt.-Colonel P.E.A. Hamilton, who was at Riyadh on the arrival of the Mission, was kind enough to remain for several days to give me the benefit of his views and advice before returning to his work at Kuwait.

With these two exceptions the personnel of the Nejd Mission throughout the period under report comprised only myself.

Looking back now over that period, I am inclined to think that the scale of personnel originally contemplated was too ambitious. Useful as a

1071

974

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

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wireless installation would have been the presence of a considerable number of British operators in this inhospitable and fanatical country would have been a constant source of anxiety. A doctor would certainly have been a most valuable asset in assisting to allay the fanatical attitude of the people towards all things foreign except food supplies, piece-goods, arms and medicine, and I recently suggested for your consideration for desirability of filling this undoubted gap. This question, though now of but academic interest so far as the Mission itself is concerned should certainly be taken seriously into consideration in the event of a permanent political representative being accredited to the Wahhabi court hereafter; in view, however of the fact that it was at one time contemplated that a medical representative of the American Mission in the Persian Gulf might be induced to fill up the gap, to say nothing of a certain unmistakable tendency in the direction of the extension of Missionary activity in Arabia on the part of the Mission authorities, I deem it necessary to warn Government that a medical officer drawn from that source would not be acceptable to Ibn Saud and his subject and that every effort should be made to discourage medical practice in his territories by the personnel of the American Mission. It is due

1072

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

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in fairness to Ibn Saud to explain that he extended a most cordial invitation to Dr. Harrison of that Mission to visit Riyadh for medical work in the summer of 1917, and that it was entirely his own fault that his work terminated abruptly. It can never be absolutely necessary to wrap up pills and powders in Christian tracts.

Finally in view of the Shāriff's attitude towards Ibn Saud, I do not think that any good purpose would have been served by the deputation of a Shariffian envoy to co-operate with the Mission, but no words can adequately express my regard that circumstances deprived me of the collaboration of a representative of the High Commissioner for Egypt - and more particularly of that of Mr. (now Colonel) R. Storrs, C.M.G., that whom no person could have been more acceptable to Ibn Saud in view of his projected visit to Nejd earlier in the year as the representative of Sir Percy Cox. To this point I attach great importance, and it must be realised that, from Ibn Saud's point of view, I went to Egypt as the advocate of his cause and came back defeated by the advocates of the Sharif. We should describe the position somewhat differently, but the result was the same to Ibn Saud and to us.

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4. Objects of the Mission.

Summing up the position as regards the affairs of Ibn Saud in his telegram No. 4035, dated the 23rd September, 1917. Sir P. Cox noted that it had been his "hope that the projected Mission of Mr. Storrs in the previous June and his passage to the Sharraf accompanied by an envoy from Ibn Saud would have the effect both of dispelling the atmosphere of distrust prevailing in Shariffian circles and of enabling us to decide if there were any means by which we could make Ibn Saud more actively useful."

At the end of the same telegram, while expressing his view that, if more military use were to be made of Ibn Saud, "We must really approach the subject seriously and lend him an Indian or Egyptian battery, Sir P. Cox questioned the value of such an experiment unless it was desired by the Egyptian authorities, but suggested that in any case a mixed Mission representing the Commander-in-Chief, the High Commissioner and himself should visit Najd to "make proposals in accordance with practical possibilities."

In communicating the news of the proposed Mission to the King of the Hijaz the High Commissioner for Egypt" purposely emphasised the military character

1074

977

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

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of the Mission and its role of advising Ibn Saud regarding measures to be taken against the Turks and Ibn Rashid." At the same time while nothing the "somewhat uncompromising state of mind" of King Hussain and deprecating any premature attempt to settle the larger political question at issue between him and Ibn Saud he expressed the hope that "time and the successful completion of the Mission, resulting, it is hoped, in active aggression, against the enemy on the part of Ibn Saud, would prove to the King the folly of his present policy of suspicion and the wisdom of effecting a reconciliation with his nearest powerful neighbour."

Finally, following upon exhaustive verbal discussions of the Arabian situation in relation to the proposed work of the Mission, Sir P. Cox summed up his instruction to me in a written memorandum, dated the 31st October, 1917, the gist of which is briefly as follows, namely:-

1. "The primary and principal object" of the Mission is to discuss fully with Ibn Saud and form an opinion as to whether any, and if so, what further action Ibn Saud can usefully take to further the common cause

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978

- 445 -

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

....

against the enemy;

2. "To endeavour to clear the atmosphere pervading Ibn Saud's relations with the Sheriff and the Shaikh of Kuwait";
3. "To find a permanent or temporary solution of the Ajman question";
4. "To discuss with Ibn Saud his recent application for permission to issue a copper coinage for Nejd"; and
5. "To discuss of the permanent appointment of a British Political Agent for Nejd."

In addition to the above matters Sir P. Cox asked me to discuss such matters as the restriction of trade owing to the exigencies of the war; the impossibility of granting shipping facilities for the Hasa ports during the war; and the restriction of pilgrim traffic.

Such were the letter and spirit of the instructions under which the Mission sailed to its task. For my part I never lost sight of the fact that its primary and principal object was to further the common cause against the enemy by successful action against Ibn Rashid.

1076