

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

....

2. General Officer Commanding, Cairo's telegram No. 869, referred to in Pro. No. 142, has not been received. We have enough information on the subject and need not perhaps ask for a repetition of it.

3. The incident now reported appears to be the usual periodical conflict between the Akhwan and Sheriffian forces

4. For information, Usual routine action will be taken.

F.S.H.- 29-5-29 .

Pro. No. 143 .

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN EGYPT, No. 868, DATED THE 28TH (RECEIVED 29TH) MAY 1919.

Gives the gist of Bin Saud letter to Abdulla. Bin Saud throws the responsibility of peace of war on the King, and reasserts his claim to Khurma.

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

.....

Pro. No. 144 .

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN EGYPT, NO

869, DATED THE 28TH (RECEIVED 29TH) MAY 1919.

Message from Ali to King stating that Bin Saud has ordered

Wahanis to crush Khurma and is urging them on.

Pro. No. 145 .

TELEGRAM FROM THE POLITICAL RESIDENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF,

No. 6026, DATED THE 29TH (RECEIVED 30) MAY 1919.

Says that he fears it is too late for orders to reach Bin

Saud in time to be effective. Stoppage of Bin Saud's

Subsidy.

Three further receipts added to file.

2. The trouble began in May 1918. King Hussain formed

S.W. OCT. 18, No. 1919-170 No. 165. a Sheriffial

post at Wady Khuram, as necessary to check transgression

807

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

....

against Ateiba and other tribesmen properly subject to Sheriffial influence, on the part of Bin Saud. An attempt by Emir of Khurma to exact "Zakat" is alleged to have decided King to form this outpost against Wahabi aggression.

On 20th Ramzan 1918, Second surprise attack was made by S.W. DEC 19 1918 Pro. No. 220- 234 and 254 large Sheriffian force under son of Sheriff Zid Ibn Fawwaz on Khurma. Sheriff's army was routed with loss of Zid's son and 115 killed; and three guns, three machine guns, 200 dhaluls and other booty captured. Loss of Akhwan was 10 men killed including Sheriff Mushin Ibn Turki of Khurma.

In October 1918, Ibn Shulaiwikh, clan Mughtta, section *Arbha Series Part IX Pro. No. 25 current of Areiba under Sheriff, Attacked * Khurma. The Ateiba after initial successes were attacked by Akhwan and defeated losing Ibn shulaiwikh himself and nephew killed.

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

.....

In November 1918, Sheriffial Commandant Shaker reported
the † Ibid Pro. No. 58. that Khurama
had been reinforced. After a skirmish with these reinforce-
ments he drew off his men to avoid bloodshed.

In December 1918, King of Hedjaz † reported that Shakir'

+ Ibid Pro. No. 61,
+

@ Ibid, Enclosure of Pro. No. 78, page 99 main supply
of correspondence.

base at

@ Ibid Pro. No. 132.

Dghadjah,

about 45 miles north of Taif, had been attacked by the
Ikhwan, who captured 400 sacks of food and other booty, and
retired @ after suffering a heavy loss. King Hussain sent
@ Sheriff Abdulla Pasha Bin Mahomet to interview Ikhwan
leaders and prevent spread of hostilities.

On 5th May 1919, Ibn Saud stated @ that a Sheriffian
force @ Ibid Pro. No. 132. force had

attacked, Nejd tribesmen, capturing 200 camels and 14 men.

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

....

According to a report, received through Sheikh of Koweit, Sheriff's force has surrounded Ikhwan party in Ashrira, and Bin Saud had proceeded to their rescue.

3. For information. Usual routine action will be taken.

F. S. H., - 30- 5- 19.

Submitted for information. His Excellency may like to know of this outbreak of hostilities between King Hussain and Bin Saud. It is very unfortunate from the point of view of the Haj but there is nothing for us to do. It is interesting to note that in a recent Indian Office Letter there is a print, dated February, in which Prince Faisal prophesied that if nothing were done to restrain Bin Saud he will take Taif and Mecca and dethrone King Hussain within Six months.

A.N.L.CATER, - 31-5-19

It is very bad business indeed. As I pointed out in my note at page 19, nothing could be more disastrous than an overrunning of the Hedjaz by the loathed Wahabis as a seeming

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

.....

direct result of our Arab Policy.

2. Let me have a copy of the papers and notes on Monday and I shall speak to His Excellency. But events are moving rapidly and there seems nothing we ourselves can say or do.

DENYS BRAY.31.5

19.

I discussed this case with His Excellency to-day.

We can only look on.

DENYS BRAY.2.6. 19.

Pro. No. 146 ,

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, EGYPT, CAIRO,

No. 880, DATED THE 29TH (RECEIVED 30TH) MAY 1919 .

Report attack on Turabah.

For information. Usual routine action will be taken.

811

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

.....

J. R. L. - 31 - 5 - 19.

A. N. L. CATER, 2.6.19.

Pro. No. 147

TELEGRAM FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,

DATED THE 30TH (RECEIVED 31ST) MAY 1919.

Further message from His Majesty's SECRETARY OF STATE FOR

INDIA, DATED THE 30TH (RECEIVED 31ST) MAY 1919.

Further message from His Majesty's Government for Bin Saud

regarding the Khurra incident.

Pro. No. 148 .

TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, EGYPT, CAIRO,

No. 889, DATED THE 31ST MAY (RECEIVED 1ST JUNE) 1919.

Regarding the fight between Bin Saud and the Sheriff's

force.

812

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

.....

Pro. No. 149

TELEGRAM FROM THE POLITICAL RESIDENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF,

No. 6126, DATED THE 31ST MAY (RECEIVED 1 ST JUNE)

1919.

Says that he has complied with the instruction of the Secretary of State and sent the message for Bin Saud via Bahrein. Suggests that a similar communication be made from Jeddah.

For information. Usual routine action will be taken.

F. S.H.- 2.6. 19.

A.N.L.CATER. 3.6.19

DENYS PRAY. 3.6.19.

Pro. No. 150

TELEGRAM FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE COMMANDING, EGYPT, CAIRO,

No. 892, DATED THE 1st (RECEIVED 2ND) JUNE. 1919.

Reports on the recent fight between the Sheriff's and Bin Saud's force.

For information. Usual routine action will be taken

F.S.H.- 4. 6. 19.

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

....

A. L. N. CATER, - 5- 6- 19.

DENYS PRAY. 5- 6- 19.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE

FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, JUNE 1920 .

Arbia Series, Part IX.

(Pro. No. 1

Administration of Arbia. Situation in Arbia, Affairs
of Bin Saud, King Hussain and Bin Rashid. Supply
of arms to Bin Saud. Surrender of Medina. Ikhwan
movement, Situation in (Khurma. Withdrawal of
Koweit blockade.

ARBIA SERIES, PART IX .

ADMINISTRATION OF ARBIA SITUATION IN ARBIA. AFFAIRS
OF BIN SAUD, KING HUSSAIN AND BIN RASHID. SUPPLY
OF ARMS TO BIN SAUD, SURRENDER OF MEDINA. IKHWAN
MOVEMENT. SITUATION IN KHURMA. WITHDRAWAL OF
KOWEIT BLOCKADE .

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

....

Pro. No. 151 .

ENDORSEMENT TO THE ARMY DEPARTMENT AND OTHERS, No. 155.W. C

DATED THE ~~17~~ 17TH JUNE 1919.

Forwards Pro. No. 131- 150 .

Pro. No. 152 .

MEMORANDUM OF PAPERS FORWARDED TO THE INDIA OFFICE WITH

FOREIGN SECRETARY'S LETTER No. 48- M, DATED THE

19TH JUNE ~~19~~ 1919 .

F/16

.....

ARABIA SERIES.

PART IX.

Pro. No. 1

Telegram P., dated the 1st (received 2nd) October 191

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

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

I approve proposal that Philby should be permitted
to go on leave. As suggested Wingate will be asked to
recommend successor from Egypt, on the understanding that

Pro. No. 298.S.W.DEC-19, Nos 191- 317 the letter
will continue to act in subordination to Baghdad, vide
Baghdad telegram* of September 15th.

The arrangements to postpone the meeting between
Ibn Saud and King Hussain or their representatives has

+ Pro. No. 310 in Ibid,

His Majesty's

Government's approval. In this connection see Cairo

telegram + of September 23rd, No. 1405.

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

.....

Pro. No. 2 .

Telegram P., dated the 1st (received 2nd) october
1918.

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

(Addressed to Baghdad.)

Do you think that there is any foundation for the
following suggestion which has been made, viz, that the
Turks have worked up the Ikhwan movement among the subjects
of Bin Saud for their own purposes ?

Pro. No. 3 .

Telegram P., dated the 2nd (received 3rd) october
1918.

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

Rifles to Bin Saud. The promise conveyed in my

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

....

‡ Pro. No. 294 S.W. DEC.19. Nos.191- 317 telegram ‡

of the 13th September, that Bin Saud's requirements will be borne in mind and may be met to some extent at later date is adhered to His Majesty's Government .

Military authorities here, however, for the present maintain their objections to replacement of 1,000 rifles.

It is pointed out by them that rifles already supplied ~~were~~ reported serviceable by Ordnance and are identical with those issue to other Chiefs in the Gulf, &c. (vide Baghdad

Pro. No. 256 in Ibid telegram @ 6769,

August 17th). The civil Commissioner's recommendation is not affected by the recent developments in Palestine but His Majesty's Government are of opinion that an entirely new situation in Arabia has been created by Turkish debacle .

From Bin Saud we no longer require active military Co-operation, Now that the common enemy has disappeared from the scene, arguments against supplying him with arms which could only be used against fellow Arabs, have been greatly strengthened.

819

....

In the altered circumstances, will it not suffice to let matter rest with promise above cited.

*Pro. No. 297, 301, 311 in S.W. DEC19
Nos. 191- 317.

This refers
to Baghdad

telegrams, * 7710, 7752 and 8060, September 15th September
16th, September 26th.

Pro. No. 4

Telegram P., No. 8314, dated the 3rd (received 4th
October 1918 .

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 Secretary of State for India.)

We have no evidence to this effect and because Turks
are regarded By Wahabis as infidels, I doubt it.

Present Ikhwan movement appears to me as the local
expression of the political unrest which pervades whole
of Arabian Continent, Central Arabin having always been

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

....

been a focus of Muhammadan fanaticism .

+ Pro. No. 2.

This refers to your telegram

+ of October 1st.

Pro. No. 5

Telegram P., dated the 2nd (received 3rd) October 1918

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

To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political

Department), Simla (repeated to Political Resident

Baghdad).

Bin Saud . With reference to report that orders for
despatch of expedition to collect taxes from Bin Humaid have
been issued by Shakir, Cairo on September 30th, was instructed
by Foreign Office to take, in orders to restrain all further
aggressive proceedings of this nature by King Hussain, such
action as thought desirable.

+ Pro. No. 289 in S.W. DEC 19, Nos 317

This refers

to Baghdad telegram, + No. 8560, dated the 10th September.

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

....

Pro. No. 6

Telegram P, No. 8344, dated the 4th (received 5th)

October 1918.

From-The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghda

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the

Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Secretary of State for India, London and rep
ated to His Majesty's High Commissioner, Egypt.)

For some months past feeling in Baghdad has been
improving and is I think, markedly pro-British now. Active
support of Jewish commercial community, I have always
regarded as a potential asset of great political value
and have done my best to demonstrate to them that the
fruit of our intentions in this country to them, more so
perhaps than to any other class, will be palatable and
beneficial. The encouragement of trade with Persia and
the relaxation by the military authorities of various
restrictive measures, recent changes in civil administration
of Baghda and the development of our educational
arrangements have contributed towards their conversation

822

....

and a visit by Doctor Weizmann to Baghdad would now be beneficial to incline to think.

Double purpose of bringing the important Jewish community into line with their compatriots in Palestine and elsewhere and of making known through the medium of Doctor Weizmann to community, and if need be to the world at large, the political sentiments and local ambitions of this important and progressive community would be served by the visit.

For some generations past the Jews of Baghdad have served as a link between the Muhammadans of Iraq and the Christian communities of Europe and it seems probable that in the near future they will serve this purpose even more.

Pro. No. 7

Telegram P. No. 8348, dated the 4th (received 5th

October 1918.

From The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and
823
officiating Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia,

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

....

Baghdad,

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

(Addressed Secretary of State; reported Cairo.)

Recent victories have naturally received special prominence here. Telegram of congratulation have been received from all over Iraq and deputation of notables in every town have called on local Political Officer to express their satisfaction. Many local notables have paid calls or written by way of congratulation. Jewish community contemplates giving an Official banquet in honour of the occasion shortly. United states and American Relief Commission have called to express satisfaction. Text of telegram sent to Najaf in reply to telegram of congratulation from the inhabitants of the town is being telegraphed by me en clair.

Pro. No. 8

Telegram P, No 8364, dated the 4th (received 5th)

October 1916.

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

...

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 for India)

Jewish commercial community.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief concurs. This refers

Serial No. 6. to my telegram of the 4th October,
8344.

Pro. No. 9.

Telegram R, No. 7741, dated the 16th September 1918.

From- Political, Baghdad,

To- High Commissioner, Cairo.

Philby writes M. 185: Begins.

" Reference Arbur, Cairo, telegram, † A.B. 149, August 21

† wide enclosure No. 13, my 7301, August 23rd, st and

to Foreign. High

† Pro. No. 259 S. W. DEC. 19 Nos. 191-317

Pro. No. 295 Ibid,

Commissioner's telegram, † 1254, August 22nd. Greatly

appreciate action by High Commissioner and trust message

to King will have desired result. At same time must point

825

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

....

(1) That from Ibn Saud's point of view Sheriff cannot disclaim responsibility for actions of his lieutenants, especially as Abdulla has taken prominent part from beginning in Khurma affairs, vide his reply early letters to Subai leaders.

(2) That High Commissioner's telegram, #1254 of August 22nd, discloses remarkable geographical misconception which it is desirable to correct. Page 17 of my Route Report (Arab Bulletin of print) shows that Shudhu is one of half dozen groups of wells extending down Wadi Subai east of Khurma. Like the oasis itself they belong to Subai tribe and any action involving Khurma must naturally involve all these wells and as pointed out in memorandum No. 1-158 * of August 12th, the country eastward to Wadi Naim Arbitrary division of Subai territory between King and Ibn Saud can produce nothing but perpetual friction. In my view if Sheriff justified in presuming action against Khurma, it is immaterial whether he uses Shudhu as base or Turabat. My mention of Shudhu as being east of Khurma was correct, but accidental. I merely intended deprecate action against Khurma.

+ Pro. No. 259 in S.W.
Dec. 19, Nos. 19-1-317.

* Sent to India under my
19092, @ Sember 12th.

@ Pro. No. 109, S.W. Dec. 19,
No. 191-317.

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FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECRIT. E. JUNE. 1920. Nbs. 1-152. Contd.

.....

Nb. 19419 - 9- 2, dated Baghdad, the 16th September (received 4th October) 1918. Endorsed by Officiating Civil Commissioner.

Copy forwarded with compliments to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Simla, in continuation of the above-quoted correspondence.

Pro. No. 10 .

Nb. 19403- 9- 32, dated Baghdad, the 16th September (received 4th October) 1918.

From- BREVEY LIEUTENANT- COLONEL A.T.WILSON, C.M.G, C.I.E.
D.S.O, Officiating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad,
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

I have the honour to enclose, for the information of the Government of India, copies of correspondence which has passed regarding the desire of Bin Saud to be represented at Zubair by an agent.

I have sent a copy to the Director, Arab Bureau, Cairo.

Enclosure No. 1.

827

Telegram P, Nb. 1358, dated (and received) the 4th

September 1918 (Confidential)

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

.....

From- Political, Koweit,

To- Political, Baghdad (repeated Political, Basrah).

Following from Philby, Wusbaiqir, M- 164, August 18th:

Begains.

Mutair Chiefs including Al Duwish have been in recently to Ibn Saud to press for action against Ajman but on my assurance that Government is considering matters he is sending Abdul Rahman Ibn Muemmar, a trusted official, to tour district involved and collect full details of recent raids. He will assure Mutair and Shubai that Ibn Saud is taking up matter with British and will then visit Koweit and Basrah to present bill and endeavour effect settlement. He will have letters from me. This will prevent independent counter-raids by tribes concerned.

Enclosure No. 2.

Telegram, No. 1371, dated (and received) the 7th September 1918 (Confidential).

From- Political, Koweit,

To- Political, Baghdad (repeated Basrah).

Following from Philby, Bruaida, M- 179, August 29th: Begai

828

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

....

Reference my M- 164.* Ibn had proposed that Abdul Rahman

*Enclosure No. 1. Muammar should eventually remain permanently at Zubir as his official representative to keep Basrah and Zubair authorities informed of matters affecting Ibn Saud's interests. Personally think proposal should be welcomed and hope you will take same view. If so, trust special effort will be made to provide accommodation, &c. Ibn Saud has given him most explicit orders to report nothing but bare truth and think he should prove very useful.

Addressed Baghdad; repeated Basrah. Ends.

Enclosure No. 3.

Telegram, No. 7475, dated the 8th September 1918.

From- Political Baghdad,

To- Political, Basrah.

+ Enclosure No. 2. Koweit, 1371 + What are your Views?

Enclosure No. 4.

Telegram No. 5084, dated (and received) the 8th September 1918.

From- Political, Basrah,

To- Political, Baghdad.

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

.....

Reference Koweit, 1371. * Sheikh Ibrahim has been in here
*Enclosure No.2. to-day and has given some
interesting information. He had already heard of this proposal
of Ibn Saud's and had mentioned it to Lieutenant Roberts. I
therefore had no scruple in discussing it with him without,
however, disclosing Philby's message. Ibrahim is strongly
opposed to proposal. He says Ibn Saud's sole object is to
get a finger in Zubair tribal fire. Once he had done so his
agent will either have to be master in Zubair or if his
advice be disregarded he will cause constant irritation by
his compliants. Ibrahim ascribes whole move to an intrigue
against himself on part of Fait Mandil. Abdul Wahab has
been spending some time at his Zubair house recently.

Suggests that we might reply to Philby's proposal that
not worth Ibn Saud's while keep agent Zubair where important
political question are not decided, that Ibn Saud already
has agent Basrah whom if he chooses to replace by another
man we have no objection. Basrah and Zubair being now
connected by rail are practically one place and Basrah in
all respects more convenient. Ibn Saud might be left
raise for himself question of appointing representative at
Baghdad if he so desires.

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

...

Ibrahim further discussed hostage question. According to him demand will never be accepted by Ajman or Shammar and was only put forward by Ibn Saud to make us drive them into Ibn Rashid's arms and so give him an excuse for not attacking latter.

Ibrahim's latest news from Hail is that supplies there are very short and there is a growing movement to urge Ibn Rashid's to come to terms with us.

Rashid Ibn Laila still in Damascus where Turks will not let him start.

Lively correspondence now going on between Ibn Rashid and Ibn Saud by hand of Ibn Rimal of Sinjar Shammar.

Enclosure No. 5.

Telegram, No. 5104, dated (and received) the 9th September 1918.

From- Political, Basrah,

To- Political, Baghdad.

* Enclosure No. 3,))
‡ Enclosure No. 4.))

Your 7475, † seemy 5084*.

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

.....

Enclosure No. 6.

Telegram R., No. 7511, dated the 9th September 1918.

From- Political, Baghdad,

To- PHILEY, C/o Political, Koweit (repeated Basrah,)

Your M- 179 @ I am unable to concur in proposed permanent

@ Enclosure No. 2. residence at Zubair of an

agent of Ibn Saud. It will constitute an additional complication of an already difficult situation and be an additional source of irritation. Suggest you inform Bin Saud it is not worth his while to have an agent at Zubair where important political questions are not decided. That he already has agent at Basrah whom he can replace if he likes. Basrah and Zubair are connected by rail and former in all respects more convenient.

Enclosure No. 7.

Telegram No. 5183, dated the 13th September 1918.

From- Political, Basrah,

To- Political, Baghdad.

* * * * *

Bin Saud's representative is at Koweit and reply to state claims.

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

.....

Enclosure No. 8.

Telegram No. 5204, dated (and received) the 14th September,
- ber, 1918.

From- Political Basrah,
To- Political Baghdad.

Bin Saud's representative Abdur Rahman Ibn Muammar is at Koweit. Suggest he be summoned here to state his case. Question arises before whom? Assistant, Political Officer, Zubair, obviously too junior and new Political Officer, Basrah knows nothing of case. Could Leachman be asked undertake enquiry or have meeting with all concerned at Samawah or elsewhere.

Enclosure No. 9.

Telegram, No. 7720, dated the 15th September 1918.
From- Political, Baghdad,
To- Political Basrah.

5204. See my 7511, * 9th. I am not prepared to discuss

*Enclosure No. 6. matters locally with Bin Saud's agent at present and he should remain at Koweit at present.

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

.....

Pro. No. 11 .

Memo., No. 19471-9-2, dated Baghdad, the 17th September
(received 4th October) 1918.

From-BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONEL, A.T. WILSON, C.M.G.,
C.I.E., D.S.O., Officiating Civil Commissioner
Baghdad,

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

+ Telegram from Political
Baghdad, to Arubr, Cairo, No.
7755, dated the 16th September
1918.

Copy + forwarded with
Compliments.

Telegram X., No 7755, dated the 16th September 1918.

From- Political, Baghdad,

To- Arubr, Cairo.

Philby writes about September 1st: - Begains.

+ Pro. No. 252 in S.W.
Dec. 19, Nos. 191-317.

Reference High Commiss-
ioner 1209 +, August 12th.

(1) With due deference venture express opinion hostility
Ibn Saud and King though doubtless traceable historically
to ancient antipathy of Mecca.

Mecca and Wahabis is immediately due, firstly, to

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

.....

King's undisguised pretensions to Arabian overlordship and, Secondly, to Ibn Saud's feeling that King by his opposition has prejudicially affected his material interests, e.g., in matter of armament and funds for Hail offensive. Subject to above, Ibn Saud specifically limits his ambitions to absolute integrity of his own territories under himself as absolutely independent ruler. Limits of these territories to be decided by his Majesty's Government in accordance agreement at time convenient to them but not to be prejudiced by forward action of King in matter of frontier districts and tribes.

(2) I concur in paragraph 2 and would add danger becomes enhanced if fanaticism of such sect raised by hostile foreign action capable of being construed as attack on religion. So far Ibn Saud is master of situation but danger from our point of view is that if he acquiesces in hostile action against religion he will lose influence and command and anarchy will result.

(3) Reference paragraph 3 down to "other Arabian Chiefs". Confess do not quite understand reference to "British interest and propaganda" or "priority of King Hussain". Provided, however, no kind of encroachment on integrity of Ibn Saud's territories and his independent status is contemplated am personally fully convinced that menace though potential, e.g., in the event of encroachment is largely imaginary and can

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

....

be effectively controlled as long as His Majesty's Government retain confidence of Ibn Saud. He claims to dominate Central Arabia politics and no more than that. If we deny him that menace becomes real.

(4) Reference remainder paragraph 3. Do not understand reference to my "ready acquiescence", & c. On re-reading my telegrams cannot find anything to justify this sentence as vis-a-vis Ibn Saud has always maintained attitude, firstly that His Majesty's Government will not permit any encroachment on Ibn Saud's territory by Sheriff or any one else and, secondly, that jurisdiction over Khurma is open question for decision by His Majesty's Government. This seems to me quite clear from my reports and perhaps High Commissioner's remark is due to some misinterpretation but as he has used epithet "ill-advised" in this connection I request matter may be cleared up and action complained of more precisely specified. While, however carefully refraining from admitting Ibn Saud's assertion regarding a gressive nature of king's action pending decision by Government am personally of opinion that the assertion is justified by facts. The fons et origo male was despatch last summer by Sheriff to Khurma of orthdox Qadhi to supplant Wahabi priest who held post in uninterrupteed succession from his father who was appointed by Faisal fifty years ago. This action constituted direct challenge to Wahabism with the results already reported

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On other hand High Commissioner readily accepts Sheriff's statement that he appointed Khalif to post of Amir and openly refers to him as rebel. As my task here is prevent active ebullition of Wahabi fanaticism against Sheriff must respectfully submit that acceptance of this view without full formal investigation promised by Treaty constitutes grave threat to peace. As already reported Ibn Saud has taken decided exception to clause 2 of His Majesty's Government's message which closely follows text proposed by High Commissioner.

(5) reference paragraph 4 and remainder of telegram .
No, remarks necessary. Ends.

Pro. No. 12.

Telegram, No. 8362, dated the 4th (received 5th) October
1918.

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

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

Following telegram sent to Political Office Najaf.
Convey thanks of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief to the
Ulema, Notables, Merchants, and the Persian Consul for their
congratulations. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief desires

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you to remind them it is well-known to all that Great Britain entered into war with Germany in order to maintain the inviolability of international treaties and the freedom of smaller nations whose welfare depended on the observance of those treaties. The instant result of the victories gained by the arms of the Allies the Near East is to set at liberty the nationalities which have suffered under the oppression of the Central European Powers and their Allies. Bulgaria has used for peace and her defeat entails the evacuation of Serbia and Albania where the Bulgarian armies have for close on three years spread desolation. With a true regard for the rights of nationalities those regions of Bulgaria which are inhabited by Greeks will be handed over to the custody of Greece, while those which are inhabited by Serbians will be placed in charge of Serbia.

The same solicitude for the rights of nations governs the policy of the Allies towards the Arabs. Just as the Serbians have participated the request of their native land so the Arabs have fought side by side with the Allies for the liberation of an Arab province.

Bro. No. 13 .

Telegram P., No. 8430, dated the 6th (received 7th)

October 1918.

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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 Secretary of State; repeated Arab Bureau,
Cairo).

Contents of my next telegram is an extract from fort
nightly report now under issue to Secretary of State. Ministry
of Information may be able to use it.

Pro. No. 14

Telegram, No, 8431, dated the 6th (received 8th)
October 1918.

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

Darbar of Shaikhs held by the General Officer Commanding
-in-Chief was one of the most remarkable functions which have
been witnessed in Baghdad for many a year. In 1911 Nasim
Pasha attempted a similar gathering in order to exhibit to the
Chiefs of the Iraq the results of the military reorganization
on which he was engaged but neither the assemblage nor the

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military displays were successful and such Shaikhs as came to Baghdad returned to their districts with highly unfavourable reports of the Central Government. As will be seen from the list of Chief given the leading tribesmen from Sam to Kibin were present on September 17th. To those conversant with the History of Iraq during the past 20 years the composition of the Darbar was rich in significance. Leaders of tribes who were little accustomed to meet together in unity such as the Beni Hassan and the Fatlah shared on this occasion the hospitality of the British Government, men like the Khazril Chief who for three generations have suffered from the jealous hostility of the weak but revengeful administration of the Ottoman obeyed the summons to Baghdad without fear or hesitation when it came from ourselves. A notable feature of the gathering was the presence of representatives of the great land owning Saiyids of the middle Euphrates who owing to the enmity which existed between the Shiaks and the Turks have in general been a factor in our favour since the occupation of Baghdad. It should be pointed out in connection with paragraph one that two of the great tribes of the old Basrah Vilayet ever before the distinction between the Vilayets was abolished chose to attend the Darbar at Baghdad which they regard as the capital of the whole of the Iraq. Among those present were Kurdish Begs and Pashas from Iifri and Khaniker who have till recently been separated by almost impossible and invariable insecure

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.....

provinces from the Shaikhs of Samawah or from those of Dagharah or Shamiyah. To have brought those men together in pursuance of a common aim is the first step towards encouraging that sense of solidarity and co-operation with each other and with the administration which every reasonable Government must wish to establish in the Iraq. Reports from the provinces show that the account of the proceedings given by the Shaikhs upon their return excited great interest at Samarra, it could scarcely be credited that the delegates had actually shaken hands with the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. The Shaikhs themselves expressed their satisfaction that the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief had stood up to receive his guests the habit of Turkish Walis having been to remain seated. They argued that this alone showed how differently the English regarded tribal Chiefs. The Darbar has been a living and visible piece of prop-aganda, the only form of prop-agands which among illiterate people has any real value. Sent to Secretary of State; Arthur, Cairo.

Pro. No. 15 .

Telegram, No. 8474, dated the 8th (received 9th) October 1918.

From- The Officiating Civil Commissioner, Bagdad,

To- The Foreign Secretary to the Government

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

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of India in the Foreign and Political Department,
Simla.

Please draw attention of Publicity Board to description
of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief's At Home at Baghdad
Vilyat. It may be useful for publicity purposes.

Pro. No. 16 .

Telegram R., No. 921-M., dated the 5th (received 7th)
October 1918.

From- His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner, Egypt,
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political
Department), Simla.

Reference communique 78-A.K., from London, October 6th,
consisting of 99 words.

Following alterations made here:-

For "Medja troops" read "Sheriffial troops". Excise
whole of last sentence referring to "Eirs of Mail and
Riyadh.

Pro. No. 17.

Telegram P., No. 8417, dated (and received) the

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October 1918.

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

From Anainah, Philby writes on September 24th, "I am leaving
to join Ibn Saud at Qusaiba".

Pro No. 18.

Telegram R., No 6097, dated the 8th (received 9th)

October 1918.

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).

Following from Philby, September 22nd, M- 192:-

Traffic in arms and ammunition from Hedjaz is carried
on an larger scale than I imagined from information received
at Riyadh. British short service rifles, imported from
Indian frontier, disguised sell here for 40 to 50 dollars
each and ammunition at 15 to 20 rounds per dollar. Bin

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....

Saud's purchases of latter to date greatly exceeds 300 thousands rounds and I estimate equal quantity is held privately while it is commonly reported Harb Manzils are choc-a-bloc with unbroken cases of ammunition. Source of supply according to my enquiries is two-fold, namely, first, Nejd mercenaries now or formerly in service of Sheriff to whom whole cases are served out without check or method; secondly, responsible natives (?) or middlemen who traffic who traffic on large scale with munitions of war and provisions entrusted to their care for distribution. Owing to wholesale nature of traffic regret it is quite impossible to furnish list of purveyors whose activities can only be checked by adoption of sounder methods by Sheriffian activities. So long as existing methods of distribution continue Nejd will continue to be flooded with munitions of war.

Pro. No. 18 a

Telegram, No. 8603, dated the 10th (received 11th)

October 1918.

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

To- The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India in

the Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

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My telegram dated October 8th, 8474.* Description in

*See Serial No. 15.

question is contained in

"Baghdad Times" of 21st September.

Pro. No. 19 .

Telegram P., No. 8532, dated the 10th (received 11th)
October 1918.

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.)

Philby sends following M- 195, October 5th:-

(1) Ibn Rashid ignorant of Ibn Saud's plans with about 500 men left Hail about 7th on raid against Harb whom he attacked about the 11th at Humailiya near Jalehan capturing 30 camels and losing 10 men killed. We got wind of Ibn Saud's movements and then hastened back to Sabean where his baggage had been left.

(2) Ibn Saud meanwhile was salved at Tarāfiya three days owing to non-appearance of Ghazhat contingent and

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....

and arrived about 13th at Qusaib whence he marched next day to Ajafar wells one day east of Hail.

(3) Shammar at Al- Sidr wells one day ~~east~~ north-east of Hail had decamped and patrol reported Ibn Rashid for Id festival was at Sabaan on 16th. On 17th Ibn Saud marched to Al- Sidr whence he sent out on the 18th two parties under Fahad Bin Muammar and Faisal Bin Hasra himself. Main force followed.

(4) Fahad reported that Ibn Rashid had returned hastily to Hail and left Bin Shuraim with baggage in Qasrs of Sabann and Faisal reported that line of Dhaba- Akkass- Sufalla last named being about a mile east of Hail was occupied by Beni Yagraf section of Shammar with great herds of camels and sheep. Ibn Rashid with retainers meanwhile has thrown themselves in stronghold of Maaiwij Fataa, about three hours north- east of Hail in hills, leaving garrison to defend Hail.

(5) Keeping strong reserve for emergency Ibn Saud launched Akhwan on Sufalla. They killed thirty of Beni Yagraf there, lost two men and three horses killed and captured the whole herd of camels said to number 3,000 and countless sheep themselves. Number of camels exaggerated doubtless but it is very large certainly. Cavalry challenging sorties rode round walls of Hail and were not fired upon by artillery but were with rifles.

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.....

(6) Attempt to attack Maaiwij stronghold was negivated by Council of War and Ibn Saud with booty retired to Alsidr.

(7) During retirement rear patrol of three men captured convoy of five camels on the way from Hail with ammunition to Ibn Rashid . Total amount 10, 000 rounds.

(8) Ibn Saud on the morning of 22nd reaching Affar began retirement towards Qusaiba with patrol out watching Ibn Rashid. Ibn Saud will probably return to Tarafiya if Ibn Rashid remains where he is. I hope to rejoin him on the 25th at Tarafiya.

(9) Summary. Owing to dilatory tactics providential opportunity of catching Ibn Rashid in open has been badly missed. Materially in of camels, sheep and ammunition is nevertheless considerable and most important factor is moral effect of opening of campaign and penetration of arms of Ibn Saud to the gets of Hail and inability of Ibn Rashid to accept challenge. This is first time I believe since independence of Hail that Ibn Saud invader has looked on capital. In above there is ground for both satisfaction and redoubled caution as Ibn Rashid is bound in honour to take up challenge and will spare no effort to collectt forcés from Shammar now receiving allowances from us. Campaign has opened with excellent prospects and trust the most strenuous efforts will be made to keep in their places the subsidisedsections. Ends.

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Pro. No. 20

Telegram P., No. 8585, dated the 10th (received 11th)
October 1918.

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 Secretary of State: repeated to Cairo.)

On September 26th, Philby wrote as follows:- "Messenger just arrived from Fakhri Pasha with two letters, one expressing delight and congratulations on victory of Akhwan of Khurma over the rebel Hussain" and ending as follows, "if your honour is prepared to accept help from us in the matter of arms and ammunition and guns and machine guns and necessary funds we are ready to oblige" and the other merely reporting death of Sultan and accession of Wahid- ud- din.

Pro. No. 21.

Telegram P., No. 8586, dated the 10th (received 11th)
October 1918.

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

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Force actually encamped here numbers 6,000, of which 5,000 are Akhwan. Cavalry numbers 900. Rest are mounted on camels. Ibn Saud in excellent spirits. Ends.

† Pro. No. 17.

This refers to my

telegram * of 6th October, 8417.

Pro. No. 23 .

Telegram P., Dated the 9th (received 11th) October 1918.

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

(Addressed Baghdad.)

Ibn Saud. It is presumed that Philby has been informed by you of His Majesty's Government's decision not to encourage -at present juncture expedition against the

*Pro. No 294 in S.W. Dec 19
Pro. No. 191- 317,

Haikalazi. (see my
telegram * of the 13th

September).

@Pro. No. 17.

This refers to you telegr

* of the 6th October, 8417.

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Pro. No. 24 .

Telegram P., dated the 10th (received 11th)
October 1918.

From- His Majesty's High Commissioner, Egypt, Bacos
Ramleh,

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

+ Pro. No. 18.

Your telegram, + 6097.

Under existing conditions, I fear that certain amount of leakage is unavoidable. Enquiry is being instituted me on this and earlier reports both of which have been transmitted to King Hussain.

Pro. No. 25.

Telegram P., No 8604, dated the 11th (received 12)
October 1918.

From- The Political Resident in the persian Gulf, Baghdad

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

(Addressed to Secretary of State; repeated to Cairo.)

Following from Philby by letter, M- 196, October 5th:-
Begains.

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....

According to report, received Ibn Shulaiwikh clan Mughatta section of Ateiba, under Sheriff has recently attacked Khurma. The Ateiba after initial successes were attacked by Akhwan and defeated losing Ibn Shulaiwikh himself and nephew killed.. All of previously taken camels were recovered. Though attack was by orders of Sheriff, I was anticipated no difficulty in smoothing it over with Ibn Saud as it was not under Sheriff's official auspices. Nevertheless I beg that some sort of decision be early arrived at and that Khurma bogey be temporarily laid. At Hufaiyaira in neighbourhood of Harret Qishab final fight took place, That Sheriff Shakir has moved from Bahann and has set out from latter place for unknown destination it is also reported. Trust that it is not Khurma. Ends.

Pro. No. 26.

Telegram P., No. 8605, dated the 11th (received 12th) October 1918.

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)

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Philby writes, September 26th:- Begains. Reference My

† Pro. No. 25.

M- 196 † = From Shakir's
force fugitive Agail have
arrived reporting as
follows:-

Shakir received from Sheriff peremptory orders either to move against Khurma without delay or hand over command to another Sheriff not named by informants. Sheriff forbade him, in event of his accepting latter alternative, from awaiting instructions from Mecca. Accordingly Shakir as before reported marched and although pressed by Agail element for force to abandon enterprise arrived at Hurru wells which it should be noted lie about 16 miles east of Khurma. Judging from the reports force was large but consisted partially entirely of Bedawin who were engaged in perpetual wrangling and thieving among themselves. Large cloud of dust were observed approaching from west shortly after arrival. Four horsemen were sent to reconnoitre of whom only one returned reporting "they were on you". That was enough for Agail who mounting their Dhaluls made tracks for Qasir. Looking back they saw enveloped in dust of a furious conflict Shakir's camp. Latest arrivals report capture of Shakir and annihilation of force but official details are not yet available. Amongst Akhwan tremendous enthusiasm prevails at news. Ends.

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Pro. No. 27

Telegram P., No. 8620, dated the 11th (received 12th) October 1918.

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

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

(Addressed to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India
repeated to Cairo.)

On September 26th, Philby wrote as follows:- Regains.

This morning I had a long interview with Ibn Saud.

*Pro. No. 290 in
S.W. DEC 19 Nos 191- 317.

The arrival last night
of your telegram*
sanctioning issue by
Political Agent of stores

asked for by me and authorising me to draw on Koweit up to
£ 10, 000 per mensem was most opportune.

Other favourable factors were Ibn Saud's high elation
at his own recent successes and the fourth victory of the
Akhwan of Khurma. It is of utmost importance that Ibn
Saud has actually begun his campaign and cannot withdraw
from it even if he wants to, while the proved ability of
Khurma to resist attacks of Sherriff has temporarily

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obviated necessity of active intervention from Ibn Saud's point of view.

Following is a summary of interview:-

(1) Ibn Saud points out with justice, as regards Khurma that hitherto he has guaranteed inactivity of people of Khurma as far as offensive by them is concerned on condition that further attacks are not made by Sheriff. Sheriff has now deliberately for activity of Khurma people and their allies and formally withdraws his guarantee. He, at the same time, has given me his pledge that provided we help him in his present campaign and Sheriff refrains from hostile actions against him excluding (?) Khurma he will in no way intervene in Khurma affair or assist them in any offensive they may undertake. He will not at the same time prevent Nejd people going to their help. It should be remembered that in giving this pledge he is largely influenced by confidence that Khurma large forces for the is capable of looking after itself while, by enabling Ibn Saud to concentrate large forces for the Nejd operations we can lessen numbers of Nejdies available to join Khurma. Continuance of Sheriffian attacks will result in violent hostilities and embitterment of relations with Nejd people. For the time being, however and while Nejd operations continue, I venture to add my own guarantee that Ibn Saud will not, without fully warning Government of his intention,

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attacks Sheriff. I still press for temporary fixing of boundary line as suggested and discontinuance of futile attacks prejudicial alike to dignity of Sheriff and prospect, now and hereafter, of Arabian peace.

(2) Ibn Saud has, as regards Hail operations, now sent out orders for full muster of whole military force of Central Njd which should exceed 20,000 men which is probably in excess of available modern rifles. To keep these continually in the field he asked for guarantee of regular funds and after my some discussion I agreed, so long as he continued his activities to my satisfaction, to paying him £10,000 per month. Unless instructions to the contrary are received from me the money to be paid at Koweit in dollars at current rate of seven per pound, i.e., dollars 70,000 on the first of Muharram and each succeeding Musalman month to Abdullah Nafisi should be obliged if you would kindly confirm this arrangement by issue of orders to Political Agent who will kindly note this matter fully. In anticipation you sanction I have further agreed to supply of provision for ~~two~~ months at a time on scale already sanctioned for one issue. Next issue to be on first day of Rabi-ul-Awwal, namely, 200 bags sugar, 3,000 of rice and 200 coffee. To enable Political Agent to reserve necessary quantity from stocks held by him kindly sanction.

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