

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

.....

(3) Ibn Saud, as regards arms begs for one quick-firing, one Siege modern gun with personnel and also for more rifles. In both cases I have informed him that in this direction I

Pro.No.282 in S.W. DEC 19 cannot hold out any hope.
Nos. 191- 317. Nevertheless I venture

to press for acceptance of my former proposal* regarding rifles of any smaller number, say 3,000 or 2,000 considered sufficient. Much depends as regards guns as whether actual opening of campaign creates desire in Government to press matter vigorously. If it does a couple of guns or better still couple of bombing planes would make all difference in the world. As experiment I venture to recommend latter. Otherwise leave matter to your sympathetic consideration view of Fakhri's Generous offer. If guns sent they should be sent at once with officer and personnel. Ibn Saud will transport.

(4) In all future operations Ibn Saud has conceded
* Pro. No. 305 in permission for me to
S.W.DEC.19 Nos 191- 317 accompany him. His previous
refusal* probably due not so much to Akhwan objections as to nervousness of how they would shape in the field. He is now a full of confidence. Ends.

*Pro. No. 31.

My comments* will follow later

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

....

Pro. No. 28.

Telegram P., No.8629, 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 to Secretary of State; repeated to Cairo).

On September 26th, Philby writes: Begins.

Please refer to clause 3 of message communicated in

*Enclosure No.3,
Pro. No.283 in
S.W. Dec.19,
Nos.191-317.

+See enclosures
Nos.1-and 2,
Pro. No.283 Ibid.

accordance with orders contained
in your 6802* of August 19th, by
me to Ibn Saud on behalf of His
Majesty's Government. What was
the authority for the statement+
that the Sheriff was writing

friendly letters to Ibn Saud ? No letters have arrived
though over five weeks have passed. Messenger carrying
@Not traceable. letter to Sheriff (vide my M.159@
of August 14th) returned yesterday
with letter unopened. Sheriff had refused to accept it.
Sheriff, making some disparaging remarks about Ibn Saud,
ordered messenger to quit Mecca without delay on pain of
being put to death if found there next day. He was detained
six days by Shakir on return. I beg to submit that Sheriff's
treatment of this advance constitute habitual and deliberate
insult and it is idle to pretend that he desires friendly
relations with Iban Saud. Letter intact with seal is in my

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

....

Pro. No 29 .

Telegram P., No. 8632, dated the 11th (received 12th)
October 1918.

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

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

(Addressed to Secretary of State.)

Purport of your telegram** of the 18th September was

**Pro. No. 224 in
S.W. DEC 19, Nos.
191- 317.

repeated to Koweit for Philby
but could not reach latter
before October 1st, As I hope

for reconsideration and did not wish to disturb his equanimi
of renouncing all claims of Ibn Saud unnecessarily, I did not
however, inform Philby of refusal to replace 1,000 rifles.

*Pro. No. 23.

This refers to your telegram*
of the 9th October received

October 11th.

Pro. No. 30 .

Telegram P., No. 8643, dated the 12th (received 13th)
October 1918.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the

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

.....

Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Secretary of State for India.)

Jewish community entertained@ to dinner on October 10th,

@Vide Pro. No. 7.

several members of American
Relief Mission French Consul,

United States Consul and several officers of civil administration.

After dinner recitations and songs were given by Jewish school children. They were exceedingly well done and several speeches in Arabic and English highly flattering to the present regime, were delivered. As an earnest of their feeling the speeches were followed by an auction of some jewellery presented by a Jewish lady, simply for charitable purposes; the auction realised some Rs. 30,000. Further officers of jewellery were made by Jewish ladies present spontaneously.

It was announced at the close of the evening that proceeds would, with the permission of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, be devoted to relief of the poor in Mosul without distinction of creed whenever that place was accessible either before or after end of war.

Above entertainment was found to be very instructive by my American friends.

Pro. No.31

Telegram P., No. 8665, dated the 12th (received 13th)

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

.....

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, London; repeated Cairo.)

I am unable to recommend despatch of guns aeroplanes. When he launched his force against Hail it was not known to Ibn Saud that Damascus was about to fall. He also no reason to think that His Majesty's Government did not wish him to press his attacks home. I submit this being the case, that our present and future interests will be served best by a message of congratulation to Ibn Saud from His

@ Pro. 294 in, S.W.
DEC 19, Nos. 191- 317.

Majesty's Government of the
success of his efforts and by
releasing 1,000 rifles@ now

at Kowiet to his Agent. The withholding of these cannot fail to constitute a source of embarrassment to British officers concerned and a grievance to Ibn Saud.

* Pro. No. 27.

This refers to my telegram*
of 11th October, 8620.

Pro. No. 32 .

Telegram P., No. 1520, dated the 15th (received 16
th) October 1918. 861

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

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

.....

To: The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Simla.
(Addressed Foreign Office, London; repeat Baghdad.)

King Hussain will be asked for explanation of letter incident, and if (as appears) he has publicly flouted Ibn Saud's overtures it will be represented to him strongly that such action runs counter to his earlier declarations.

The fact of the matter is the Grand Sheriff distrusts Ibn Saud altogether and is fearful of the political effects of the Akhwan activity. The situation will not be eased for long by his recent reverse in the Khurma neighbourhood (the Baghdad reports has still to be confirmed from this side) as the King is now pretty sure to withdraw tribal levies from Medina and regulars from northern Arab armies, ostensibly to restore confidence at Mecca and Taif. We must apparently accept the regrettable situation as one which cannot be relieved by discussion and make it perfectly clear that if there is to be a straight fight between Bin Saud and King we shall not withdraw our support from the King. Further I should propose to warn the King that the favourable consideration of his claims and Arab Claims at the General Peace Conference might be gravely prejudiced by the outbreak of civil war in Arabia, Allied and Arab victories in Syria should preclude possibility of Bin Saud obtaining Turkish aid and dispose him to avoid open hostilities against the King. The latter's power is obviously much increased by the Arab occupation of Damascus and Beyrout and the rally

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

.....

Of Syrians to his standard.

*Pro. No. 28.

This refers to Baghdad telegram* of 11th to Secretary of State for India.

Pro. No. 33

Telegram P., No. 8769, dated the 16th (received 17th 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 from Qaraa. October 12th; Begair

*Pro. No. 294 in,
S.W.DEC.19, NOS. 1919- 317.

In issuing the orders contained in Secretary of State's telegram..

telegram* September 14th, His Majesty's Government presumably considered and deliberately accepted risk of Ibn Saud breaking off relations. But while it is not for me to criticise orders of superior authority it is my duty to report that these orders followed by stoppage of arms have produced profound sensation, and no secret is made by Ibn Saud of his resentment at the treatment he has received and of his

.....

unwillingness to accept situation.

(2) The telegram containing these orders crossed the telegram in which I reported, (a) the actual opening of the campaign against Ibn Rashid; (b) the third Sheriffian attacks on Khurma resulting in the defeat and flight of Shakir's force with loss of two guns and two machine guns, according to the official report since received; (c) the Sheriff's contemptuous refusal to accept the delivery of the letter from Ibn Saud; (d) Farhri's offer to assist Ibn Saud with arms, &c. in campaign against Sheriff.

It must be realised finally that the coincidence of the change of policy and Sir P. Cox's transfer gives ground for suspicion in Ibn Saud's mind that Government has changed its policy towards him.

(3) I should therefore have exercised my discretion as to withholding communication of the orders to Ibn Saud pending further reference from you but for the fact that his Koweit Agent had reported stoppage of rifles. My hands were thus forced and I had no alternative but to explain Government's orders.

(4) Ibn Saud has all along regarded Government's original refusal to support him with arms, &c. for the Hail campaign as due to the Sheriff's machination. In the latest orders he sees a second triumph for the Sheriff. He declares that unless His Majesty's Government guarantee him immunity of attack by Ibn Rashid, It is impossible for him now

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

.....

to withdraw from Hail campaign, and he points out finally that the criticism of his own subjects that the British alliance is contrary to true interests of Wahabi cause is fully justified by the present orders. His Comment and criticisms are full of bitterness. "who will trust you after this?" he asks.

(5) On above basis he formulates the following ultimatum:-

(1) The reaffirmation of the present active alliance against the enemy and its vigorous prosecution by us in the way of the provision of arms, &c. or

(2) if he is desired by British Government to remain inactive, he is perfectly willing to fall in with their wishes on condition that they guarantee him from all aggression by Ajman, Shammur friendlies of Ibn Rashid, and Sheriff absolutely.

This would involve cessation of attack on Khurma pending a decision regarding the boundary and he adds somewhat sarcastically that he expects the guarantee to be more effective than those of past.

(6) His wish was to reduce this ultimatum to writing prefaced by a statement of his grievances. I persuaded him however to leave the matter to further representation and negotiation. After much discussion it was agreed that he should allow part of his forces one month's leave without

865

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

.....

giving reasons and that I should go to Koweit and Baghdad to represent his case. But he made it quite clear that he would consider himself free to act for the protection of his own interests and would not expect me to return failing the substantial acceptance of one of the alternatives.

(7) Hence I am on my way to Koweit and expect to arrive in day or two after this. I request permission to come to Baghdad and the provision of the quickest possible means of conveyance from Basrah. Time is important. I need not say more at present, except that Ibn Saud will certainly devote his first effort to getting even with the Sheriff failing satisfactory arrangement. His resentment against us will probably drive him into Fakhri's arms to secure arrangement and funds. So serious is situation that I recommend that if you think there is a reasonably negotiable case, orders may be issued for immediate removal of embargo of arms and payment of funds arranged for first Muharram as already reported. This is sent ahead to enable you to communicate with Government before I arrive at Koweit, probably on the 17th.

I had hoped to intercept messenger with later batch of letters, but as he has apparently gone another route.
Ends.

My comment follows.

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

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Pro. No. 34.

Telegram P., No. 8789, dated (and received) the 16th
October 1918.

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

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

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

Now that the parting of the ways has come, it seems
imperative that Ibn Saud should be made clearly to under-
stand that he must come into line and comply with His
Majesty's Government's orders or take the consequence.

He has acquired like other Arabian Chiefs an exagger-
ated sense of his own importance from the events of the last
four years, and the present moment seems as favourable to
bring him to his bearings as any that is likely to occur
later. Philby's position is now scarcely tenable and I
recommend that he should come to Baghdad forthwith for
consultation and that Lieutenant-Colonel Leachman who
is available immediately should be deputed in his place
with the temporary rank of Brigadier-General to proceed
without delay to Ibn Saud to explain to him-

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

.....

(1) that it is impossible for His Majesty's Government at present to give him more arms;

(2) that in view of the fall of Danascus His Majesty's Government see no reason to modify their previous orders that further hostilities against Bin.Saud.Ibn Rashid are not called for;

(3) that they are prepared nevertheless to continue the present monthly subsidy of £ 10,000 till the end of the war, on the specific understanding that Ibn Saud strictly complies with His Majesty's Government's orders;

(4) that any failure to do so will involve prompt stoppage of his subsidy and will compel His Majesty's Government to reconsider their policy towards him.

In all probability a message on these lines delivered by Leachman whose virile handling of Arab tribes has been of such value to this force, would bring Ibn Saud to his bearings and save much future trouble.

I would ask His Majesty's Government at the same time

*Pro. No. 241 in
S.W.DEC.19, Nos. 191-317.

to consider the
possibility of making
a declaration on the

lines of Paragraph N. 1 of my telegram* No. 6491 of the 7th
August.

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

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Pro.No.35.

Telegram R.No.8770, dated the 16th (received 17th)
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 India Office; repeated Cairo.)

Serial No.33. My immediately preceding telegram.

In view of attitude adopted by Bin Saud and Mr.
Philby I think that I ought to explain I did not communicate
* Pro.No.297 in to the latter officially or
S.W.Dec.19, privately substance of my
Nos.191-317. telegram* of September 15th
in which I foreshadowed probable results of the refusal to
Bin Saud have the 1,000 rifles.

I communicated copy by post which awaits him at
Koweit.

Pro.No.36.

Telegram R.No.8771, dated the 16th (received 17th)Oct.1918.

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

(Addressed His Majesty's Secretary of state; repeated to

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

....

My immediately preceding telegrams.

My. Philby is due at Koweit to-morrow. I concur with his official communication regarding the situation as serious. During his absence which may be prolonged there is grave risk that Bin Saud may yield to pressure of his subjects and precipitate conflagration which His Majesty's Government desire to avoid. Faced by alternatives of risking such an outbreak, which would be particularly regrettable at the present juncture or of taking action in anticipation of a reconsideration by His Majesty's Government of clause ~~of~~ orders, I have decided on the latter course. In so doing I have been actuated primarily by fact that circumstances have materially changed since His Majesty's Government last passed orders on case whilst from tenour of previous correspondence it is clear that a reversal of those orders will involve reference to General Officer Commanding, Egyptian Force, and inter-departmental correspondence and consequent delay.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Philby to send thousand rifles to Bin Saud at once. He will explain stoppage was due to a misunderstanding. (Neither he nor Bin Saud have hitherto been aware that it was deliberate decision of His Majesty's Government.)

This step will relieve tension temporarily and will enable His Majesty's Government to consider at leisure the other issues involved.

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

.....

I request early confirmation of my action. I have directed Mr. Philby to remain at Koweit until the orders of His Majesty's Government of this and previous telegram have been received.

Pro. No. 37 .

Telegram P, No. 8820, dated (and received) the 17th
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.)

Clear the line. Following from Philby, October 17th, Koweit
Begains.

*Pro. No. 36.

On my receiving your
telegram* 8771, a
messenger was sent to

Ibn Saud to inform him of withdrawal of embargo. Despatch
of arms as the first fruit of my arrival will have a
pacifying effect, which in the circumstances, is very necess-
-ary indeed.

Thus pacified, he will have sense enough to accept the
explanation and to sit tight pending further developments.

The events in Syria and Europe have entirely altered
situation regarding Hail offensive. I am writing Ibn Saud
a detailed account. Ends.

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

....

Steamer happens to be at Koweit and I have authorised Philby to proceed to Basrah as such convenient opportunity is not likely to recur during the next ten days, or so.

Pro. No. 38

Telegram R, No. 1527, dated the 17th (received 18th)
October 1918.

From- The British High Commissioner, Egypt, Bacos Ramleh,
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign
and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Foreign Office, London repeated Baghdad.)

King of Hedjaz informs me that Fakhri Pasha has sent verbal message asking for three days' armistice to consider surrender of Medina. Request was not believed sincere and therefore refused. Emir Abdulla is undertaking more vigorous prosecution of siege. Sheriffs appear to realise importance of capture of town and are showing increased energy.

Pro. No. 39.

Telegram P, dated the 17th (received 19th) October 1918.
From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department), Simla (repeated Baghdad).

Wilson's view that an expedition against Hail has actually materialised best plan is to recognise fait accompli

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

.....

and congratulate Bin Saud on results achieved, are accepted by His Majesty's Government. Wilson should be instructed to convey message accordingly in suitable terms, accompanied by explanation that as whole situation has been transformed by recent British Successed and collapse of Turks we do not ask Bin Saud to put himself to trouble and expense of further military operations in any directions, His Majesty's Government in all circumstances withdraw their objection to supply of 1,000 rifles. They may be released forthwith the inferior rifles already supplied being returned. They approve proposed gift of tents. They entirely agree with Wilson as regards guns and aeroplanes.

This refers to your telegram* of the 14th instant and

Regarding tents for
Bin Saud.*Pro.No.
31.

Baghdad telegram* 8665,
of October 12th and earlier
communications.

Pro.No. 40.

No. 1398-W., dated ~~Shila~~, the 21st October 1918.

(Confidential).

Endorsed by Foreign and Political Department.

A copy of the undermentioned paper is forwarded to the Army Department, for information:-

Telegram from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad, No.8643, dated the 12th October 1918. (Pro. No. 30).

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

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Pro. No 41 .

Telegram R, No. 1548, dated the 21st (received 22nd)

October 1918.

From- The High Commissioner, Cairo, Bacos Ramleh,

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

(Addressed Foreign Office, London; repeated to Baghdad.)

@ Pro. No. 34.

Baghdad telegram @ 8789,

October 16th, to Secretary
of State.

From my point of view these proposals are entirely
satisfactory. But as regards suggestion in final sentence
I think that-

(1) We should insist that Hedjaz boundary question
is a subject for direct negotiations between Ibn Saud and
King of Hedjaz. His Majesty's Government as a third party
will be ready to assist both principals to reach a just
settlement and if required to arbitrate ~~between~~ them.

(2) It should be made perfectly clear that we will
not, in view of proximity of Khurma and of Ikhwan activity
there, restrain the King from representing his authority
over feclacitrant Emir Khild: but that we will require the
King not to adopt an aggressive policy eastwards of Khurma.

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

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Pro. No. 42 .

Telegram P, No. 8992, dated the 22nd (received 23rd)
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.)

I do not see eye to eye with Sir. R. Wingate, I'm
afraid.

As regards his first point, we have seen the result
of attempt at direct,
negotiations. It is not
such as to call for fur-
ther endeavour on those
lines. We must, in my opinion, accept Philby's view
that the questions at issue are not susceptible of a peace-
ful settlement except by arbitration supported by our
authority.

It seems to me that to adopt High Commissioner's
suggestion as regard the second point would be tantamount
to announcing in advance opinion of Government on (the matter
in?) dispute (and ?) the probable trend of the decision of
arbitrators, were we to nominate such.

+Pro. No. 41.

This refers to Cairo telegram
+ of October 21st.

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

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Pro. No. 43 .

Telegram P, No. 1560, dated the 24th (received 25th)
October 1918.

From- The High Commissioner, Egypt, Bacos Ramleh,
To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign
and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Foreign Office, London; repeated Baghdad.)

(1) I fear arbitration supported by His Majesty's
Government authority would entail direct responsibility
for internal peace for Arabia being assured by us. We

*Pro. No. 278 in
S.W. DEC 19, Nos
191- 317.

should, I think, avoid
this as long as possible
more especially as I

doubt success of our arbitration, for reasons given in my
telegram* 1308, September 4th. King and Bin Saud are both
aware of His Majesty's Government's desires to see a peaceful
settlement of their differences and are more likely I think
to work for a satisfactory modus vivendi if made to under-
stand that we regard issue as directly between them, and
left to themselves.

(2) Though I believe King's claim regarding Khurma
to be justifiable, I have always advocated that we should
endorse his action on grounds of immediate expediency and
without prejudice to merits of disputes. I understand this
view of matter was accepted by His Majesty's Government and
I hoped it had already been communicated to Bin Saud.

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

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@ Pro. No. 42.

This refers to Baghdad tele-
gram@ 8992, to secretary of
State for India.

Pro. No. 44.

Telegram P, No. 9111, dated the 26th (received 28th)
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 for India; repeated Cairo.)

Following translation received by post from Philby
of letter from Fakhri Pasha of Medina to Ibn Saud:- Begins
Happy news of defeat of rebel Hussain's troops by the Akhwan
Resident in Wadi Khurma and of your Excellency's arrival
at Burida to open way to Mecca to Islam and to perform
the duties of pilgrimage has been received. From the bottom
of my heart and in the name of Islam I congratulate you on
this brilliant exploit against rebel Hussain.

If you honour is prepared to receive our assistance
in the matter of arms and ammunition, guns machine guns
and necessary funds, I beg to inform you that we are ready
to oblige. Ends.

Original is in Philby's possession.

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

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Pro. No. 45 .

Telegram P, Dated the 28th (received 30th) October 1918
From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,
To- His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Depart-
ment), Simla.

(Addressed Baghdad.)

Baghdad Jews. I propose to hold the matter over for
the present. It is reported by Foreign Office that Weixman
is not available and that they cannot suggest a substitute.

* Pro. No. 6

This refers to your telegram*
of the 4th October 8344.

Pro. No. 46 .

Telegram P, dated the 28th (received 31st) October 1918.
From- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,
To- His Excellency Viceroy (Foreign and Political Departmen
Simla (repeated to Baghdad).

His Majesty's Government approve proposal that Leachma

*Pro. No. 34.

should proceed at once to
Bin Saud and deliver mess
ge on lines of Baghdad telegram* No. 8789. It is not
considered necessary to grant him rank of Brigadier- General.
Authority is being given Wingate to convey to King Hussain

@Pro. No. 32.

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warning proposed in his
telegram@ No. 1520, Octobe
15th, and to remind the

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

....

~~S. Pro. No.~~

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

King at same time of our
treaty relations with Bin
Saud and of our obligation
to protect his just rights

also to enquire about non-despatch of promised friendly lette

@ Pro. No. 252 in
S.W.DEC19, Nos
191- 317

(vide Cairo's telegram@
No. 1209, August 12th

+ Pro No. 241 in
Ibid

It is not thought advi
sable to make declarat
tion in terms of Baghd

* Secret- War, June
1917, Nos. 60- 145,
Enclosure no. 1 of
Pro. No. 116 .

telegram+ No.6491, Aug
st 7th. Leachman may
assure Bin Saud, howev
in general terms of

our adherence to Treaty * of our determination to give effect

*
** Pro. No. 41 43 and
'
42.

to its provisions when
circumstances admit.

Points discussed in

Cairo telegrams*† #548 and 1560 and Baghdad telegram, 8992,

@@.Pro..No..33,..35,..36
.34.and.37.

do not appear to arise in these
Circumstances.

@@ Pro. No. 33,35,36
34 and 37.

This refers to Baghdad
telegram@@ Nos. 8769, 8771
8789, and 8820.

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

.....

Pro. No. 47.

Telegram P, No. 9262, dated the 30th October (received 1st
November) 1918.

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

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

(Addressed to Secretary of State for India.)

Weizman. I concur.

££ Pro. No. 45.

This refers to your
telegram ££ of the
28th October.

Fr

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

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Pro. No. 48.

No. 20921-9-29, dated Baghdad, the 2nd 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.

In continuation of my letter*No 18559, dated the 6th

*Transferred to General
Staff Branch.

September 1918, I
have the honour to
enclose, for the
information of the

Government of India, five copies of Mr. Philby's sketch map
referred to therein compiled by D.D.Surveys, M. F. F. It has
not yet been adjusted to his other work not compiled with other
work nor compiled with other available material.

Pro. No. 49.

Telegram P, No 6613, dated the 4th (received 6th) November
1918.

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

(Addressed to the Foreign Office; repeated to Baghdad.)

FS

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

....

Emir Abdullah has sent King of Hedjaz report that Bin Rashid has acknowledged King's sovereignty and begs facilities to obtain grain from Mesopotamia. King in reply said he should make public his submission by sending deputation of tribal chiefs(? in order to discuss terms of peace.) To testify Sheriffial willingness presumably to treat, however, he has sent or is sending about 1,200 bags of rice to Rahid.

Pro. No. 50.

Telegram P, No. 9646, dated the 9th (received 10th)
November 1918.

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 Cairo; repeated to Secretary of State.)

Receipt of deputation from Bin Rashid, establishment of friendly relations and return to Riyadh, are reported in letters from Bin Saud. Bin Saud also reports that Shakir is within a day's journey of Khurma and contemplating another attack. Have authorised withdrawal of blockade restrictions so far as Koweit is concerned.

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

.....

Pro. No. 51.

Telegram P., A.B.- 255, dated the 3rd (received 4th)
September 1918.

From- The Arab Bureau, Cairo,

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

Reference Koweit's 1033, July 17th, Philby's M.-91. King
Hussain asks for list of Harb who have trafficking in ammunition.
Can Philby supply.

Telegram P., No. 7311, dated the 4th September 1918

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad

To- Mr. PHILBY, c/o Political Agent, Koweit,

Arbur wires, September 3rd:- Begins. "Philby's M., 91 ****
supply." Ends.

Telegram R., No. 8497, dated the 8th October 1918

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad

To- His Majesty's secretary of State for India, London

(repeated to the Secretary to the Government of
India in the Foreign and Political Department,
Simla, and the British High Commissioner,
Egypt, Cairo).

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

Traffic in arms and ammunition from Hedjaz is carried on
on far larger scale than. I imagined from information

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

.....

received at Riyadh. British short service rifles imported from Hedjaz sell here for 40 to 50 dollars each and ammunition at 15 to 20 rounds per dollar. Ibn Saud purchases of latter to date greatly exceed 300,000 rounds and I estimate ~~the~~ equal quantity is held privately while it is ~~commonly~~ commonly reported that the Harb Manzils are choc abloc with unbroken cases of ammunitions. Sources of supply according to my enquiries is two fold, namely, firstly, Nejd Mercenaries now or formerly in service of Sheriff to whom whole cases are served out without check or method. Secondly, responsible officials or middlemen who traffic on large scale with munitions and provisions entrusted to their care for distribution. Owing to wholesale nature of traffic regret it is quite impossible to furnish list of pirveyos whose activities can only be checked by the adoption of sounder methods by Sheriffian officials. So long as existing methods of distribution continue Nejd will continue to be flooded with munitions.

.....

Telegram P., No. 8498, dated the 8th October 1918.

From- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad

To- Arab Bureau, Cairo.

Your A.B.-255, September 3rd.

Please see my immediately preceding telegram to address of High Commissioner which is philby's reply thereto.

.....

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Telegram P., No. 942-M., dated the 10th (received 11th)

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

.....

October 1918.

From- The British High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo.

To- The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad

Your telegram 8497. Certain amount of leakage is, I fear, unavoidable under existing conditions. I am instituting enquiry on this and earlier reports both of which have been transmitted to King Hussain.

.....

Pro.. No.

Amount of arms and ammunition recently reported as shipped from Koweit to Persian Gulf ports.

(Statement furnished by Deputy Political Resident, Bush re.)

Date.	Amount.	Authority.
July 1917	7rifles 36,000 rounds...	Intelligence Offi
August 1917	7 " 20,000 "	Ditto.
December 1917	40 " 50,000 "	Ditto
19thDecember 1917	8" 12,000 "
17thDecember 1917	18" 22,000 " and (perhaps another version of the same report).	Agha Khalit.
17January 1918	..14rifles 38,000 rounds	Ditto
10June 1918 50, 000rounds	Customs Director.
23rdJune 1918	... 50rifles 80,000 rounds	88.5 Ditto
3rdJune 1918	... "Two boats containing rifles and cartridges "	Ditto

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

.....

144 rifles, 308,000 rounds
(and two boat- loads.)

.....

No. 22039-9-36, dated Baghdad, the 12th October 1918.

Endorsed by Officiating Civil Commissioner.

Copies forwarded with compliments for the information of
the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and
Political Department, Simla.

.....

Pro. No. 52.

Telegram R, No. 9759, dated the 12th (received 13th)
November 1918.

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

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

Announcement of armistice with Turkey has been occasion
for remarkable demonstration of enthusiasm all over Iraq,
notably at Nejaf where Political Officer received congratulator
visit from some 200 tribal Sheikhs and landowers accompanied
by their followers some 2,000 in all.

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

.....

Religious dignitaries and notables of town participate

.....

Pro. No. 53

Telegram R, No. 1669, dated the 12th (received 13th)

November 1918.

From- The British High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo,

To- The Secretary to the Government of India in the

Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Foreign Office, London; sent to Baghdad.)

Emir Abdullah reports to King of Hedjaz that a deputation with 200 riding camels and six horses arrived from Ibn Rashid conveying letters of submission and recognition of Arab Government.

After a short rest at Abdulla's camp deputation will proceed to Mecca.

.....

Pro. No. 54 .

Telegram P, No 9854, dated the 15th (received 16th)

November 1918.

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; repeated Cairo.)

Leachman is so fully occupied on important work in Mosul

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

....

Vilayet, that I cannot withdraw him without detriment to important interests, and I do not think despatch of any offer to Ibn Saud necessary at present in the altered circumstances. It appears that Ibn Bashid has made his peace with both parties and we may leave the situation to develop naturally. Ibn Saud will meanwhile continue to receive his regular subsidy of £3,000. I am informing him of the final defeat of our common enemies, expressing the pious hope that Arabian problem will reach a mutually

* In Mesopotamin Administration satisfactory soultic
file.

A copy of the
declaration* of
November 8th is also

being sent him.

The latter he cannot fail to interpret as re-affirming resolution of Allies to allow Arab Communities, Nejd element included, to determine their own destinies. I fully recognise the far greater difficulties compared with our local problem in the Persian Gulf, Nejd, Mesopotamia and Khurdistan confronting His Majesty's Government in Hedjaz and Palestine and Syria, but I feel that the Sheriff's persistence in the matter of Khurma may not only precipitate actual hostilities but shake Ibn Saud's faith in honesty of our intentions.

Hence matter calls for careful consideration in relation to our general Arab policy. I propose deputing Philby who has written a full report of Nejd Mission's

CAF

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

....

work of past year, to visit Cairo almost immediately to discuss matters with High Commissioner on my behalf. He will thence proceed home on leave. He will have copies of report with him for you and Cairo and copies will be posted to Delhi.

*Pro.No.46.

This refers to your telegram*
of the 28th October.

.....

Pro.No.55.

Telegram P.No.9870, dated the 15th (received 16th) Nov.1918.

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

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

Following from French Consul at Basrah, November 15th :- Begins. My Government has instructed me to undertake a charitable Mission to distribute relief in cash in order to relieve immediate need of poor in Mosul. Will you very kindly ask military authorities to give me the necessary facilities to accomplish this Mission. Ends. Following is my reply sent with the approval of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief :- Begins. Poor relief is at present a representation in Mosul and it is not considered necessary or desirable that matter should be dealt with by more than one agency
End.s

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

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Pro.No.56.

Telegram P., dated the 20th (received 21st) November 1918.
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 to the Secretary of State; repeated Cairo).

His Demand to proceed to Mosul is again pressed
by French Consul. I have maintained refusal.

*Pro.No.55.

This refers to my telegram* of
of 15th November.

.....

Pro~~p~~No.56a.

No.244-w.c., dated Delhi, the 26th November 1918 (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, Hon' ble the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf and Officiating Civil Commissioner in
Mesopotamia, Baghdad, Director, Central Intelligence, and
Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General in the

F90

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

...

*
Pro.No.316, in
S.W.Dec.19,
Nbs.191-317.

North-West Frontier Provinces, in
continuation of the endorsement*

()Omit to Army
and Home Depart
-ment.

by the Government of India in the)
Foreign and Political Department,

Nb.235-W.C., dated 22nd October 1918.

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

Arabia Series, Part IX.

Pro.No.1 to 47.

.....

Pro.No.56b.

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 the Foreign Secretary's letter No.
86-M, dated the 29th November 1918 :-

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current.

Pro.No.1 - 47.

.....

Pro No.57

Nb.22678-9-2, dated Baghdad, the 17th October
(received 8th November) 1918.

From-BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A.T. WILSON, C.M.G., C.I.E.

D.S.O., Officiating Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

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

...

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

I have the honour to enclose a copy of amemorandum
No.M-180, August 19th, 1918. with translation of enclosures from
Mr.H.St.J.Philby, C.I.E., on special
duty in Central Arabia, together
with a translation of my reply to Ibn Saud.

Copies ~~of~~ have been sent to the India Office
and Cairo.

(COPY)

Memo., No.M-180, dated Buraida, the 29th August 1918.
From-H.St.J.PHILBY, Esq., C.I.E., in charge of Nejd
Mission,
To- The Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

Reference my telegram No.178 of date, I forward
herewith for your information:-

- (1) a copy of Arabic version of His Majesty's
Government's message to Ibn Saud, trans-
lated from text contained in your telegram
No.6802 of 19th August 1918; and
- (2) a copy of Ibn Saud's reply to me in answer
to above message.

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

...

I should be glad to have copies of the translation of the latter for record.

I also forward in the same ~~cover~~ a letter from Ibn Saud to yourself welcoming you back from your long absence. I suggest that he would greatly appreciate a letter in return in which you might briefly review the events of the last few months and give him such advice as you may consider necessary.

(Translation)

Dated the 22nd Dai Qeda 1336 (30th August 1918).

From-SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN ABDUL RAHMAN EL FAISAL EL SAUD, Ruler of Nejef, Ahsa, Qatif and its dependencies.

To-The HON'BLE MAJOR GENERAL SIR PERCY COX, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Chief Commissioner, Iraq.

With best compliments and deep respect, we beg to enquiry after your honour's glorious and virtuous personality and take the opportunity of informing your honour that there is all well here by His Grace.

I have received the news of your safe arrival at your G.Q. and your capital for which I thank God. I really felt very sorry for your long absence, as your presence is, by His Grace, the source of great blessing.

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

.....

Though your officers did their best in their respective duties yet your information and interest is the greater source of our pleasure at this occasion. We are very anxious to have the honour of seeing your honour as there is much good therein. Firstly, for the sake of seeing your goodself, and secondly, to talk over my matters concerning the general welfare; but as I am here and am busy in doing what concerns the general welfare I therefore pay more heed to the most important task.

I further beg to state that I am doing my level best in maintaining peace, security and affording facilities of all kinds and, by His Grace, shall attain the object. Because after your departure there appeared something which I was afraid could give rise to some unpleasant circumstances but I exerted my utmost in exterminating the mischiefs. By the Grace of God and the assistance of the British Government the matters would stand as desired. I thought it enough to reply to Mr. Philby. Really he did the full justice to the duty. I am very thankful to him as in your absence I was quite satisfied with what I saw in him of his interest in the British Government and his familiarity with the circumstances of the Arabs. So it has been the source of my gratitude to him and reliance upon him after God. Certainly it will end most admirably if through his stay with us the fire of mischiefs is extinguished and the public welfare is secured. I should like to state

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

....

here the question of these sicked mischievous Ajman and Shammar about whom you must have heard enough and Mr. Philby might have reported to your honour about their transgressions and intrigues. At present Abdul Rahman bin Mamar, my deputy, is at Zubair in your service and shall report to your honour all what would happen. It is necessary that through their intrigues our interior matters may suffer by some mischiefs, the end of which may prove unpleasant. So I beg to invite your special attention towards this. You may either root it out by stopping them from oppression in future and punishing them for the past or allow us please so that we and our tribes may pay them in their own coin or give us help, as we have asked Mr. Philby with a strong and sufficient forces, which may check their transgressions and actions against our tribes and put an end to their intrigues which effect our interior affairs. So I hope that your honour would take up the matter soon and arrange for speedy remedy.

In the end I congratulate your honour at this auspicious return and trust you would not stop giving us necessary information and letting us know of your welfare and the victories of the British Government and its allies. For other news I content with the information of my friend as I have stated above. That is what to be laid before your honour. May you long live.

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

....

(Translation)

In the name of God, merciful and compassionate.

Dated the 22nd Dhi Qeda 1336 (30th August 1918).

From-SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN ABDUL RAHMAN EL PAISAL AL SAUD,

Ruler of Nejef, Ahse, Qatif and their dependencies,

To-H.St.J. PHILBY, Esq., C.I.E., in charge of Nejed Mission.

After compliments. - I have already explained to yourself regarding the written problems which I submitted to you before this at Rejaz and you forwarded to the same to His Britannic Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, telegraphically through the Baghdad Government and have been you kind enough to state to us that you had been entrusted by the Government to put before us the following six problems instead of those which had already been laid before:-

(1) Readiness of the British Government to prevent the transgressions on our frontier but after consideration and discussion as we agreed upon it in our agreement dated December 1915.

Surely we know it for certain that the British Government out of her justice and our sincerity with her, does not like the least transgression (upon us) and we strongly trust upon God and afterwards upon this; but the matter, owing to the movements which are well known to you and which are affecting our internal affairs, is grave and serious. By His Grace we have not left to stop them or to take to the means of stopping them for any weakness (in us) or want of means. It is rather for the regard of

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

....

of the interests of the British Government, otherwise by His Power and strength their stoppage is the easiest possible thing for us and that is what we covet for, had there not been the regard of the British Government and the difficulties in this way as I have already informed yourself which it is needless to repeat again.

(2) The second problem is that King Hussain, Sheriff of Mecca, has given to you the strongest possible securities that his action against the hostile Sheikh Khalid Bin Lowi Ameer of Khazma is a local one and his attack is not at all directed against us who have got not the least fear of transgression on the boundaries. So I request you that this point is extremely difficult as I have already told you of the matter of Khalid Bin Lowi and his country and the oppression of the Sheriff against him who has not got the least reason against him either religious or geographical and that is why you might have gathered from my verbal answer to you and from the letters of Ibn-i-Lowi and from the letter of Prince Abdulla, the son of the Sheriff. So if the matter is not settled in favour of the safety of the said Khalid and the security of his country and that there would not be the least transgression upon him, then the matter is that, firstly, I would never agree with it at all and, secondly, if by force, I like to agree, all the Arabs would stand against for the preservation of their religion and their worldly interests

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

....

interests and they would not care even if I and you both join against them and thus there will be troubles and disturbances which can never pass in your mind and cannot be imagined. Moreover, I have concluded some coldness from these words or the fact is that some of the Government officers have not understood the meaning of the Sheriff, ~~wants to serve with this his own personal interests~~ and his claim that it is a "voice of truth" while he, the Sheriff wants to serve, with this, his own personal interests. So if any transgression, from the Sheriffs, will take place upon the people of Khazma, after their being given securities by us and by yourself then I will not be responsible for anything that may happen.

(3) The third problem is that the Sheriff Hussain, out of his good wishes for the welfare, is determined to send a letter to me and the British Government considers it good and that the Sheriff has informed you that His Majesty are ready to come to see me for discussing ~~about~~ the settlement of the affairs. So as regards the welfare and the exertion for this it is well known to your honour that at all times I have been doing my level best and exerting my whole energies for this end and this is my aim and desire and I am full prepared upon having all the matters between me and the Sheriff of Mecca and the Arab Sheikhs amicably settled and I shall do my best as long as it does not interfere with my religion and dignity.

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

...

As regards His Majesty the Sheriff's readiness to come to see me, I am grateful and much obliged to His Majesty' for this, but His Majesty's coming out would require preparations and there will be certain difficulties therein and at the same time there will be trouble as I am afraid His Majesty in reality would not be able to move among the people of Khazma and others with liberty and will meet with difficulties which will be experienced as before. But if His Majesty' comes out in peace and safety and in the Company of the Government officers who are well acquainted with the circumstances and are just and do understand the situation very well so I shall be ready to be present in any place they may appoint in the parts of Nejed.

(4)As regards the fourth problem, the question of the Government and her being prepared not to let any contention take place between the parties and for the removal of the difficulties between us and she considers the matter a difficult one during this war and it is essential for all the Arab Sheikhs to join together against their common enemy patiently and calmly and should exert their utmost in this way so I take it as one of the greatest duties. No doubt some of the Arab Sheikhs, owing to their personal doubts and their knowledge that no consideration or discussion can entitle them to have right to ~~xxxxxx~~ certain objects which they want to achieve, they, in order to get at some objects when the Government is engaged, put in some difficulties and do some intrigues. But I have,

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FORE.POLI.DEPTT. SECRET. E. JUNE 1920, Nos1-152.contd.

.....

by His Grace, great trust in your previous and latter treaties. The first Treaty was made by Mr. Bailey with my grandfather Sheikh Faisal, and the second one was made by Sir Percy Cox, the Political Officer, with me. All that what belonged to my father and forefathers in the past has been inherited to me. I do not want anything more, than that and by the Will of God and that of yourself I am quite ready for discussion if you want. Most of my testimonies and evidences are based upon your sketches and maps which are in your hands. If the matter is to be postponed till the end of the war, then, I am prepared to stop myself and my tribes from the transgression on the condition that you would prohibit all the transgressors among your allies and your subjects from all sorts of transgressions on my boundaries and on my subjects and you would prohibit all the transgressors among your allies and your subjects from all sort of transgressions on my boundaries and on my subjects and you would give perfect securities.

At the end of the war after consideration and discussion if they have got more of my lands under them you would hand it over to me and if I have got theirs you may give it to them and we shall give up all disputes at once and you may give it to them and we shall give up all disputes at once and you are sureties upon this.

900

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

.....

As regards the 5th problem regarding the blockade arrangements, you know it for certain that it is my duty to explain to you the difficulty which may fall in your way from my side and therefore I must tell you the way which may afford you comfort and facility and cut off the interests of the enemy. So if you would take them up and do as I asked you to do, then, I am ready to help you and if you would not accept then, I have already explained to you what was essential and it is for you to think over it.

As regards the 6th problem that the Government gives perfect securities that no material loss will be sustained by me in connection with my undertakings, I undertake for facilitating your military interests, I have already explained to you all the difficulties. Moreover the policy which I used with the people of Shimir and Hail was to the end of prevailing upon them easily and by and by; but as I heard your discourse and saw your earnest desire to stand against the common enemy I gave up my policies and my interests for your sake and now I am, by His Grace, prepare to fight against the enemy; and the complete preparations, which I hope, by the help of God and yourself I will be able to make, will be more than you stated. You know it will that all my internal and external losses and expenses are mostly incurred in your interests as I told you verbally. You know it well that had it not been for the verification of what I said and for the interests of both the parties neither I myself

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

...

myself nor my forces and nor my sons would have been in this place. I have already told you what needs not any repetition.

(Translation)

Dated the 7th Dhi Qada 1336 (15th August 1918).

From-SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ EL SAUD, Ruler of the Nejed,
Ahsa, Qatif and its dependencies and their
tribes.

To-HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF HEDJAZ, HUSSAIN BIN ALI,
Sheriff of Mecca.

I offer my best compliments and perpetual prayers and inquiring after your Majesty's dignified disposition (May Your Majesty be always in the best enjoyment of health and -happiness) I beg to inform your Majesty of our welfare. I have had the honour of the receipt of your much esteemed letter and understood its contents. Though there were some words which were written by Your Majesty did not suit well yet for the present common interest we accept all that comes from Your Majesty. In these days we have received news from the Ministers of the Great Government informed us that they are doing their level best for our welfare as the contention is harmful to all both the subjects, enemies and allies. Your Majesty must be doubting as to my having

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

...

having hand in the matter of the people of Khazma and that am inducing them but by Ibrahim and Mohammed, I am with the public and with Your Majesty, against them. Whenever they come to me they complain about their religious problem; but I tell them this is not the proper occasion for such talk. When the Sabi received the note from your son, Abdulla, who stated to them in his letter, which is now with me, that you had left the path of Mustafa (Aprophet) and had followed the sect of Abdul Wahab, they and all the people of Nejed became sure that Your Majesty were going to mislead them from their religion. When they read the letters tome, I told them that they had nothing to do with this. Religion is of God, and it is neither ours nor Sheriff's. I checked them as far as I could till your detechments ran over them twice and happened what happened. Your Majesty ! (May Your Majesty live long) I have humbled myself and have explained what is good for me and Your Majesty in particular and for our subjects and the allies. There is no idea of the mischiefs being useful to your Majesty's and the present mischiefs are sure to give rise to some hidden evils which may cause great trouble both from the subjects and the enemies. Now I wish to express to Your Majesty an idea. As regards myself, please trust God the trouble will be removed if I have power to check it and I like what is liked by Your Majesty'. As regards the Khazma people, I think Your Majesty may write a letter to Khalid and all the people of the Wadi stating therein -

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

....

"that the matters have stood against what it was thought about them and I and you and Ibn Saud are all one against the enemy and now everyone should look to his religion without any interference. The mischief is spreading between you and our tribes. As regards the tribes of Hedjaz, I, the Sheriff, am responsible for them and as regards the Nejed tribes, Ibn Saud is their guarantee till the end of war. When the war is over the truth and Sharia will be spread among the allies and the matters shall be forgotten. I promise you, God is my witness, I shall do my best to help you in extinguishing the whole mischief, harming your internal and external administration and political interests. Let the mischiefs be extinguished, the enemy be disappointed. If there is any dispute or discussion among us through the previous or latter strangeness so it is between us, you and the gracious Government and nobody else knows it."

So owing to our friendship with Your Majesty and desire for peace annihilation of the enemies, I have written this letter and have left all the previous regards. I doubt not that Your Majesty's sagacity and policy would lead to welfare and friendship as it is becoming of Your Majesty. That is what had to be explained to Your Majesty and hope you would convey my best compliments to your noble sons from me and my sons. May Your Majesty live long.

904

....

(Translation)

As regards the question of the written treaties which I have already submitted to your honour at Riyaz and laid the same before His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor telegraphically through the Baghdad Government I have the honour to state to your honour that the Government has entrusted me to submit to you the following writtentreaties instead of the previous ones:-

(1) The Government is prepared to exert her whole energy in putting an end to all the transgressions on the boundaries of Ibn Saud, however it considers it impossible to decide finally every problem separately as it ought to be till the boundary lines of his dominions are fixed after discussion; as we agreed upon in our agreement of the month of December 1915.

(2) The King Hussain has givenus the strongest security that his attack on the Sheikh (hostile), Khalid Bin Lowi, Ameer of Khazma, is a local one, and he has no mind to attack Ibn Saud who has not got the least idea of his running over his boundaries.

(3) The King Hussain is determined to send a friendly letter to Ibn Saud and he seems to be exerting for the welfare of both the parties and the British Government considers it in the good of the parties and all the Arabs and the King Hussain has informed us that he is willing to come to see Ibn Saud to discuss with him on the settlement of affairs.

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

....

(4) The British Government is prepared to accord its best help to the parties for the settlement of their affairs and to remove the difficulties in their ways in the best manner. However the Government considers it impracticable in these war times which are full of troubles to have the intricate claims be finally settled satisfactorily to both the parties - say determination of boundaries and the like. During these times it is necessary for all the Arab Chiefs to join against their common enemy calmly and patiently and should exert their energies to diminish the troubles which fall in their way.

(5) We are prepared to arrange for the blockade in a way which may satisfy Ibn Saud and if we are unable to perform the task, Ibn Saud would not be responsible for any export made to the enemy.

(6) The British Government gives every satisfaction and security that no materials loss will be sustained by him if he would join them to afford facilities in the advancement of their military interests.

26th Dhi Qeda 1336, X
X
(28th August 1816) X

H. St.J. PHILEY, C.I.E.,
Nejed Mission.

.....

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

...

(Copy)

Dated Baghdad, the 14th October 1918,

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

To-ABDUL AZIZ IBN ABDUR RAHMAN AL FAISAL AL SAUD,
K.C.I.E., Hakeem of Nejed and dependencies.

After compliments. - It was with very great pleasure that I received your friendly letter of the 22nd Dhi Qeda to the address of Major-General the Hon'ble Sir P.Z. Cox, whose deputy I am.

He unfortunately had left Baghdad for Tehran before your agent Abdur Rahman ibn Muammar arrived, and it is my pleasant duty and honour to take the opportunity presented by the latter's approaching return to your capital to transmit to you my reply.

I have first of all to congratulate you upon the success which has attended your advance against our common enemy in the direction of Hail and to express my thanks for the valuable co-operation afforded thereby to the Allied cause.

When you advanced the news of the fall of Damascus and the capture of over 50,000 Turkish troops and innumerable guns and stores had not reached you or me. Since the

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

...

the fall of Damascus the progress of events has been rapid, but it is unnecessary for me to write in detail on the subject as Mr. Philby has doubtless kept you fully informed. The enemy has been forced to sue for peace - and will be required to accept our terms; what those terms are remains to be seen.

Enver and Talat Pasha have resigned, and Turkey, having lost all, is seeking too late to find a means of escape from the fetters of the German alliance.

As regards the Nizam, Abdur Rahman has represented the matter in full detail, and I was greatly impressed with the matter on hearing his account of it. I appreciate and sympathize with Your Excellency's feelings and apprehensions. After meeting Abdur Rahman I telegraphed in much detail to Mr. Philby explaining what action I have taken in other matters affecting Your Excellency's interests. My Philby is the best exponent of the aims and objects of His Majesty's Government and of my own action in compliance with the orders I received from London. At the same time no one could have represented Your Excellency's needs and sentiment more eloquently than he has done and, if in some matters, less has been done than Your Excellency has desired it has been due to the exigencies of the time and not to any failure on the part of Mr. Philby to represent matters.

In conclusion, I would ask you to believe that although Sir Percy Cox is temporarily absent at Tehran, Your Excellency

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

....

Excellency may rest assured that your interests will be considered with no less sympathy and will be represented no less carefully to the High Government than before.

This is what had to be said: May you be preserved !

.....

Copy to H.St.J.Philby Esq., C.I.E., for information.

....

Pro.Nb.58

Telegram P.No.1765, dated the 26th (received 27th) Nov. 1918
From-The British High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo.
To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign
& Political Department, Delhi.

Addressed to the Foreign Office; sent to India and Baghdad,
1765.

Khurma- In Hedjaz reports of aggressive intention of Bin Saud are reviving and fear is expressed that Wahabite proselytism will increase among them as soon as Sheriffial payments to Beduin are curtailed.

It is now reported by the Sheriffial commandant Shaker that Khurma has been reinforced by Bin Saud with some 450 mounted men under Bin Muhaya and Ibn Rebayen who are described as Ateiba "Ikhwan" from Mejd. He also reports to the King that after a skirmish with these reinforcements he drew

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

.....

drew off his men to avoid bloodshed in accordance with latter's orders. Doubtless owing to former Sheriffial military failures Ibn Saud's ascendancy at Khurma would seem to be increasing there and the King is evidently very nervous of the consequences. Colonel Wilson reports however that he is now reconciled to passivity.

.....

Pro. No.59

Telegram P., No.10455, dated the 29th (received 30th)
November 1918.

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

(Addressed Secretary of State; repeated ciaro.)

On the 29th November Philby left Basrah for Suez.

Pro.No.54. This refers to my telegram No.9854,
dated the 15th November 1918.

.....

Pro. No.60.

Telegram P.No.10483, dated the 29th (received 30th)
November 1918.

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

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

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

...

Comments by Philby from Basrah are as follows: Begins.

Firstly. Complaints of Ibn Saud regarding Sheriff's persistent aggression against Khurma have remained unheeded. Sympathy of all Badawan element has been steadily alienated by Sheriff's policy. It is inevitable, in the circumstances, that Ibn Saud will receive great accession of strength Sheriff ceasing to pay Badawan mercenaries.

Secondly. Matters will not improve by Shakir's admission of fourth unsuccessful attack on Khurma.

Thirdly. With reference to alleged orders of Sheriff to Shakir to avoid bloodshed. Literal translation of Sheriff's letter to Shakir, dated about September 1st, and apparently captured with booty at third defeat has been posted by me. In letter, Sheriff boasts of having returned Ibn Saud's letter unopened and of having threatened latter's messenger. He adds "If you capture Khurma do not go beyond it until fully consolidated and be very careful of guns." Anxiety to avoid bloodshed is not suggested by tone of letter.

Fourthly. If Sheriff pursues present policy and His Majesty's Government decline to intervene, I regard, as you know, eventual conflict inevitable. While consequences of Ibn Saud's success would be far-reaching, personally I regard the issue doubtful.

Fifthly. Only possible chance of averting disaster seems to me either that His Majesty's Government or Sheriff's should accord definite recognition of Ibn Saud suzerainty

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

...

Comments by Philby from Basrah are as follows: Begin:

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gll

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

,.....

and the prevention of communications by Ateiba to those places, should be addressed by His Majesty's Government to Bin Saud. He most disclaim all further responsibility if His Majesty's Government is unable to support him in this way and will have no alternative but to withdraw (i.e., abdicate). On the above Colonel Wilson comments that the Ikhwan activity is undoubtedly on the increase and that the

Pro. No. 58 sending of reinforcements, mentioned in my telegram 1765, is only one of several indications that Bin Saud is behind it. He refers to the opinion expressed in his memorandum enclosed with my despatch to you, No. 39, May 7th, and submits that the time has come for the adoption by His Majesty's Government, in favour of King Hussein, of "suzerainty policy", and for the despatch of an immediate injunction to Bin Saud to withdraw from the neighbourhood of Khurma all Ikhwan troops. He considers that there are good grounds for the King's fear of the spread of insidious Wahabite influence in Hedjaz and thinks that it is probable that Abdulla and his troops will after surrender of Medina, proceed to Khurma. In his view the danger to King's prestige and the peace of Hedjaz justify military opposition to Ikhwan penetration.

Tension between Sheriffial and Wahabite is evidently increasing and collision appears imminent. No attempt at arbitration is likely to succeed and I consider that we must on grounds of political expediency, support King Hussein.

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

...

suzerainty over Khurma or that His Majesty's Government pending arbitration of boundary commission, should intervene prohibiting sheriff from further aggression. Ibn Saud would be fully satisfied by either course. Ibn Saud cannot long maintain patience if Shakir remains manoeuvring round Khurma. Ends.

* Pro.No.58.

The above refers to High Commission Cairo's telegram* 1765, November 26th to Foreign Office.

.....

Pro.No.61

Telegram P., dated the 6th (received 7th) December 1919 From His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner, Cairo To His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department), Delhi.

(Addressed Foreign Office, London; sent to Baghdad).

It is reported by the King of Hedjaz that Shakir's main supply base at Dhadjah, about 45 miles north of Taif, has been attacked by the Ikhwan, who have captured 400 sack of food and other booty. He states that this aggression so close to his capital will precipitate a crisis which can only be prevented by urgent representations to Bin Saud. He suggests that an ultimatum requiring dispersal of various Ikhwan concentrations - particularly those at Ghutghut Artawich Hentny and Farthian - within a period of 35 days



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

....

If, at this juncture, it were possible to inform Bin Saud that with prejudice to territorial rights of other Arab chiefs, King's claim to priority had the diplomatic support of His Majesty's Government, Bin Saud might be disposed to avoid taking the field in persons: and it would be a strong inducement to the King to exercise patience if he knew that such an announcement had been made to his rival.

*Pro.No.60.

This has reference to Baghdad telegram* 10483, November 29th, to Secretary of State for India.

.....

Pro.No.62.

Telegram P.No.10861, dated the 8th (received 9th)
December 1918.

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

(Addressed Secretary of State; repeated Cairo).

Through Bahrein Bin Saud has intimated that he has granted leave to his troops in accordance with the instructions received from His Majesty's Government.

.....

Call

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

...

Pro.No.63.

Memo.No.26085-9-2, dated Baghdad, the 21st November (received 9th December)1918.

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

To-The HONBLE SIR HAMILTON GRANT, K.C.I.E, C.I.E., C
Foreign Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi

Copies of the undermentioned telegrams are forwarded
with compliments for information :-

Telegram from the Political Resident, Aden, to the High
Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo (repeated Baghdad), No.281-B.P.,
dated the 18th (received 19th) November 1918.

Telegram from the Civil Commissioner, Bagdad, to the
Political Resident, Aden (repeated Wingate, Cairo) No.10041
dated the 20th November 1918.

Telegram from the High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo, to
the Civil Commissioner, Baghdad (repeated Aden), No.1097-M,
dated the 20th (received 21st) November 1918.

.....

Enclosure No.1.

Telegram P., No.281-A.P., dated the 18th (received 19th
November 1918.

915

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

...

The following wire from Liaison Officer with Idrisi, viz., Captain Clayton E- Begins.

According to Idrisi, Ibn Saud's supporters are collecting themselves to the east of Qahtan.

Idrisi asks if British relations with Ibn are still in a position to enable him to feel safe from any aggression supported by latter. He threatens to take an opportunity of asking for help.

In my opinion Idrisi is not likely to look for unnecessary trouble at present and the real reason for asking the question may be precautionary. Ends.

I should like any information enabling me to answer the above.

.....

Enclosure No.2.

Telegram P., No.10041, dated the 20th November 1918.

From-The Civil Commissioner, Baghdad,

To-The Political Resident, Aden (repeated Wingate, Cai

In reply to your 281-A.P.* 18th November Philby's views
*Enclosure No.1. are as follows. It is evident that Ibn
Saud is perfectly aware of possibility
of increasing his influence towards Yaman and Asir. The visit
of Chiefs of Rashid and Fahhad sections of Yam tribes to Ibn
in June, Asir Chief's letter supported by Turkish Commandant
in August and regular correspondence of Mudir of Qahtan

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

...

asking Ibn Saud's attention in that direction both point to disruptive attitude of tribes themselves and also Ibn's sympathetic interest. It is hard to say whether or not he has gone so far as to think of taking active measures. However, seeing how badly he is off for money they are not likely to come to anything in any case. Idrisi in my opinion need not fear any action on Ibn Saud's part in the near future but if any assurances are given they should be put in vague terms unless His Majesty's Government are prepared to take an active part in Central Arabian affairs.

.....

Enclosure No.3.

Telegram, P.No.1097-M, dated the 20th (received 21st) November 1918.

From-The High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo,
To-The Civil Commissioner, Baghdad (repeated Aden).

Reference Aden's No.281-A.P.,* Latest reports from
*Enclosure No.1. Hedjaz show fear of Ibn Saud's
in fact they suggest that Fakhri
is intending to surrender Medina
to him.

Danger of present situation has been represented strongly by me to King Hussein who is being urged by Wilson as well as to adopt passive attitude with regards to Khurma.

917

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

....

What is the last information you have of Ibn Saud's disposition and desired effect of same.

.....

Pro.No.64.

Telegram P., No.1857, dated the 10th (received 11th)
December 1918.

From-The British High Commissioner, Egypt,

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

(Addressed to the Foreign Office; sent Baghdad.)

Colonel Wilson is informed by the King of Hedjaz that the Ikhwan force, under leadership of Sultan Bin Bijad who, according to King, is Bin Saud's principal agent with militant Wahabites is advancing towards Mecca. Situation is considered by Wilson to be very serious and he urges necessity of putting all possible pressure on Bin Saud to enforce withdrawal of Ikhwan from Khurma and west.

After Dghadjah affair there seems ~~still~~ no longer a doubt that Ikhwan and Khurma have assumed offensive and constitute

*Pro.No.62.

menace to security of Mecca. In Baghdad telegram* No.10861 to Secretary of State for India the intimation referred to may indicate that Bin Saud foresaw this development and will try to disclaim any further responsibility. Dates of this

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

....

may have synchronised.

Risk of Sectarian warfare in neighbourhood of Moslem holy cities and Wahabites irruption into Hedjaz we cannot tolerate. In view of these dangers and of recent transgression of Ikhwan westward of Khurma. I strongly recommend immediate despatch of peremptory instructions to Bin Saud by His Majesty's Government to withdraw all militant Ikhwan from neighbourhood, making it clear to him that failure or delay in compliance will entail reprisals (suspension of subsidy or closing of markets) by His Majesty's Government. Firm action with Bin Saud, without prejudice to future settlement of boundary questions, is demanded by necessity of protecting orthodox Sunnis shrines and for prevention of widespread conflagration.

.....

Pro. No. 64a.

No. 253-W.C., dated Delhi, the 7th December 1918

(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, Honorable the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and officiating Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia, Baghdad, Director, Central Intelligence, and Chief Commissioner

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

....

() Omit to Army and Home Department. Province, in continuation of the endorsement by the (Government of India in the) Foreign and Political Department, No. 244-W.C., dated the 26th November 1918.

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

Arabia Series, Part IX. Current
Pro. Nos. 48-56.

.....

~~is~~ Pro. No. 64b.

M E M O R A N D U M

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. 90-M, dated the 13th December 1918.

Arabia Series, Part IX, current.
Pro. Nos. 48-56.

.....

Pro. No. 65.

Telegram P., dated the 13th (received 14th) December
From-His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London
To-His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political

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

.....

Clear the Line. To safeguard Ibn Saud's interests and to avoid prejudging territorial disputes between him and King Hussein His Majesty's Government have all along been anxious. But if it is the case as Wingate reports, that Ibn Saud or his followers are conducting offensive operations into Hedjaz territory we shall have no alternative but to reconsider our whole attitude. We proposed warning ~~xxxx~~ Ibn Saud plainly that his subsidy will be stopped and we shall consider ourselves free to take such further measures as we may deem desirable for the maintenance of peace in Central Arabia, if he does not at once abandon and cause his followers to abandon all aggressive action against Hedjaz, and to withdraw all militant Ikhwan now sent west of Khurma. In the present circumstances he can hardly fail to realise that it is to his interest to follow our advice. If personally delivered by Colonel Wilson from Jeddah this message may make more impression and it would be an advantage if Colonel Wilson could see Ibn Saud and form first hand opinion on the situation. Therefore, if after discussion with Philby he considers it desirable Wingate is being asked to arrange discussion with Philby he considers it desirable Wingate is being asked to arrange accordingly. But present moment does not seem opportune for raising the question of King Hussein's suzerainty in view of latest developments.

This is with reference to the telegram* No. 1857, dated
*pro. No. 64. the 10th December, from Cairo and
connected correspondence respecting

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

...

Pro. No.66.

Telegram R., No.1881, dated the 14th (received 15th)
December 1918.

From-His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner in
Egypt, Cairo,

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

(Addressed Foreign Office, London; repeated Baghdad)

*Pro. No.64.

My telegram* 1857.

Native reports at Jeddah say the
Ikhwan from Dhadjah are at Seilel Saghir - twenty miles
north-east of Taif - other Ikhwan are advancing from
Seif (see Philby's map in Arab Bulletin 80). King Hussein
sent Sheriff Abdalla Pasha bin Mahomet to interview Ikhwan
leaders and prevent spread of hostilities.

Harb are reported to be mobilizing and 500 of these
tribesmen with two machine guns are on their way to reinforce
Shakir. Abdalla is believed to have started from Mecca on
December 6th and with 500 Camelmen in direction of Turaba.

Above reports are from reliable sources but require
confirmation.

....

Pro. No.67.

922

Telegram P., dated the 18th (received 19th) December 1918

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

...

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

The Foreign Office have telegraphed to Cairo, No. 151 dated the 13th December as follows :-

"French Government, when Feisal arrived in France, addressed him as His Royal Highness and referred to his father as His Majesty without previous consultation with us. Same course being followed here and henceforth is, in these circumstances, approved by His Majesty the King."

.....

Pro. No. 68.

Telegram P., No. 1909, dated the 19th (received 20th) December 1918.

From-The British High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo,
To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed to Foreign Office; sent to Baghdad).

Philby agrees that in present circumstances it is very undesirable that Colonel Wilson should proceed to Nejd.

This refers to my telegram No. 1894.

.....

Pro. No. 69

Telegram No. 1066-13, dated the 13th (received 14th)

923

FOPE.POLIL.DEPTT. SECRET.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, Delhi.

Your telegram* July 17th, 803-S, Request Koweit be

*Pro.No.217 in S.W.
Dec.19, Nos.191-317.

now put on same footing as
Persian Gulf ports as regards
exports from India, etc. Un-

derstand master certificates now required from Koweit only.

....

Pro.No.70.

Telegram P., dated the 22nd (received 23rd) December 1918

From-The British High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo.

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

(repeated to Baghdad, with reference to their

11379 of December 21st).

Urgent. My telegram to Foreign Office, No.1894, dated

*Pro.No.67.

the 17th December, which was referred

to in my telegram* No.1909, dated the

19th December 1918, read as follows:-

"On his arrival I will consult Mr.Philby. I have no
doubt Colonel Wilson would cheerfully undertake mission but
having regard to religious excitement amongst Wahabites and
to animosity between Bin Saud and ..."

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

.....

being sent at present to Nejd. I am very strongly of opinion that a warning should be conveyed in a letter signed and transmitted by Chief Political Officer, Baghdad who is official through whom all communications from His Majesty's Government have hitherto been conveyed to him, to Bin Saud.

"This refers to your telegram No.1524."

....

Pro.No.71.

Telegram, P., dated the 23rd (received 24th) Dec. 1919
From His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner,
Egypt, Cairo.

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

(Addressed Foreign Office, 1926; repeated Constantinople)

Fakhri still refuses to surrender Medina after interview with Envoy from Constantinople. He contends that latter portion of clause 16 of the Armistice Conditions, which provides for the retention of sufficient troops to maintain order, applies equally to Hedjaz as to Cilicia. If you still consider Turkish Government is acting in good faith I suggest despatch of letter from Sultan of Turkey to Fakhri stating that latter portion of clause 16 does not apply to Hedjaz and ordering him to surrender without further

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

...

further discussion. Bearer of letter might be Turkish officer of high rank and should carry written authority to supersede Fakhri in all his appointments if such a course be necessary. High Commissioner, Constantinople will presumably check terms of this letter before despatch and bearer should be sent in a fast man-of-war direct to Yenbo.

Meanwhile a state of war again exists in Hedjaz as the time stated in ultimatum has expired.

This refers to my telegram, 1892.

.....

Pro. No. 72.

Telegram P., dated the 24th (received 26th) December From His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London To His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department), Delhi.

(Addressed Baghdad).

His Majesty's Government accept the view that message proposed in my telegram, * dated the 13th December should be conveyed in writing from Baghdad to Ibn Saud.

*Pro. No. 65. With as little delay as possible please arrange accordingly

This refers to the telegrams from the High Commission

*Pro. No. 70,
**Serial No. 68.

Egypt, Cairo, Nos. 1894,* and 1909,**
dated the 17th and 19th December,

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

...

Pro. No. 73.

Nb. 26723-127-44, dated Baghdad, the 27th Novr., 1918

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

To The HONBLE SIR HAMILTON GRANT, K.C.I.E, C.S.I.,
Foreign Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

I have the honour to enclose, for the information of

*Placed at end of
Proceedings.

the Government of India, 100 copies
of a reports* by Mr. H. St. J. Philby
C.I.E., I.C.S., on his Mission to

Abdul Aziz ibn Abdul Rahman ibn Saud, Ruler of Nejd.

2. It is not too much to say that no previous
British Mission in Central Arabia has yielded such valuable
results, both political and geographical.

3. Politically, the results are at first sight
of a negative nature, compared to the violent movements
which have been excited elsewhere in Arabia; the fact,
however that we have first hand information from a compe-
tent source, of the real feelings of the Ruler of Nejd
and his people during this crisis of their affairs is of
the greatest permanent value.

927

4. Geographically, the positive results gained

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

....

for the first time by a European under conditions which enabled him to take notes and make enquiries with full acquaintance of the work of previous travellers.

5. Mr. Philby is now on his way to Egypt at my request to confer with the High Commissioner, preparatory to proceeding on leave which he has so well-earned and I am glad to have the opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the ability and devotion to duty which he has displayed in the conduct of this Mission.

6. I have sent a copy of this letter with 100 copies of the report to the Secretary of State for India and High Commissioner, Cairo.

.....

Pro. No. 74.

Telegram P., No. 1958, dated the 27th (Received 28th) Dec
From-His Majesty's High Commissioner, Egypt, Cairo,
To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the
Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Foreign Office; sent Baghdad). 928

Excellent report on Nejd Mission by Mr. Philby is with me and I discussed with him Khurma question. An account of lengthy discussions in November on same subject between King Hussein and Colonel Wilson is also with me. Publication in "Arab Bulletin" of particulars of these discussions is being

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

....

The following are my general conclusions. Between Bin Saud and King Hussein the dispute is one of principle: aims of two are incompatible. Bin Saud relies on his treaty with us to assist him to dominate Central Arabia and is working to recover territory of former (? Wahabite) Empire; King Hussein is seeking His Majesty's Government's support - diplomatic and other - to gain nominal hegemony over a loose system of autonomous Arab States, thus securing Sunni pre-eminence. Both parties hope to receive enlightenment from our decision in regard to Khurma dispute as they are uncertain of the policy of His Majesty's Government.

I am of opinion that, according to European Standards the balance of evidence favours King Hussein's claim and which has never been disputed by us. On the other hand, a forcible assertion of King's claim is liable to precipitate a general conflagration as Bin Saud, through the Ikhwan is now in possession of Khurma, and sectarian sentiment is much inflamed.

Concentration of Sheriffial levies to carry out operations against Ikhwan about Khurma have had to be postponed owing to Fakhri's refusal* to surrender Medina and consequent rupture of armistice: but King affirms prolongation of status quo will facilitate spread of (? Ikhwan) influences in Hedjaz to a point when his position will become untenable. We might have to send Moslem regular troops to garrison

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

....

if Sunni possession of Mecca was endangered.

I will try to induce King to accept as a purely provisional boundary the line of Shaib-Sahaba which runs approximately from Quraha to (? Marran) (both places remaining under Sheriffial control) and passes ten miles west of Khurma. If

*Not received.

as I infer from your telegram*

No. 1524, His Majesty's Government

have decided that they cannot compel Bin Saud to withdraw Ikhwan from Khurma, there is I fear little chance that he will accept this boundary and that he will interpret proposal as an intimation of His Majesty's Government's refusal to entertain his political projects and will abdicate immediately is Colonel Wilson's belief.

This refers to my telegram No. 1927.

.....

Pro. No. 75.

Telegram R. No. 11694, dated the 27th (received 28th)

December 1918.

From-The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bagdad

To-The Secretary to the Government of India in the

Foreign and Political Department, Delhi.

(Addressed Secretary of State for India; repeated Cairo)

* Pro. No. 72.

Your telegram* December 24th,

received December 26th.