

No 21 of 1860.  
Secret Department.

3611

To  
From,  
Lieut. Col. Felix Jones R.M.A. &  
Political Resident Persian Gulf.  
H. S. Anderson Esquire,  
Acting Chief Secretary to  
Government.  
Bombay.

Residency in the Persian Gulf  
Bushire 16<sup>th</sup> July 1860.

Sir,

In conformity with the  
request contained in Para. 6 of  
one of the enclosed Despatches  
Nos 21 & 22 I have the honor to forward  
a copy of them for the information  
of Your Excellency the Governor in Council  
of Bombay together with my  
reply to H. B. Mr. Minister in  
Paris.

1/2/

3/

I have the honor to be,  
Signed Felix Jones  
Pol. Resid. Persian Gulf  
29/7

Shraw.

No. 21.

To,  
Sir,  
June 6<sup>th</sup> 1860.  
Captain Felix Jones, Bushire.  
The Sheikh of the Island  
of

of Bahrein has recently applied to  
the Prince Governor of Fars for certain  
Troops, Guns, and Ammunition of War.  
This application, the Prince Governor  
has transmitted to Tehran with  
a request for instructions, and  
the Shah's Government have today  
issued instructions to the effect  
that no military aid should  
for the present be afforded by Persia  
to the Sheikh of Bahrein under  
any pretence whatever.

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2. In communicating these  
circumstances, His Majesty's Ministers  
have given me explicit assurances  
that no further steps will be taken  
in regard to the relations between  
Persia and the Island of Bahrein,  
until the Shah shall be informed  
by the British Representative at  
this Court as to, 1<sup>st</sup>, whether  
England recognizes the claim  
of Persia to, Sovereignty over  
Bahrein, and, 2<sup>d</sup>, as to whether,  
in the event of England's re-  
cognizing this claim, it would  
be conformable with the policy  
of Her Majesty's Government  
that Persia should now assert it.  
But

The Shah's Government  
 are nevertheless anxious lest  
 intrigues on the part of the  
 Khans of Bahrein, or on the  
 part of other persons, should  
 lend any color to the suspicion  
 that Persia is preparing to assert  
 her claim by means of a military  
 or Naval demonstration, and  
 His Majesty's Government have  
 begged me, therefore, to use my  
 utmost endeavours so to arrange  
 as that, in the contingency  
 of any intrigues being set on  
 foot in the neighbourhood  
 of the Persian Gulf, the two  
 Governments should not be  
 committed unless after re-  
 ference made to, and expla-  
 nations received from Tehran.

Convinced that the  
 present

present desire of the Persian  
Government is to conform in  
all its policy to the policy of  
England - aware that any un-  
foreseen accident may tend to  
throw suspicion on its policy, as  
represented through the British  
Governor of Persia in relation to the  
Island of Bahrein - and above  
all most deeply sensible that  
while it is very easy for us to  
become embroiled with a power  
like Persia, hostilities with Empire  
can neither redound to the honor  
of our arms nor to the success of our  
Asiatic policy. I consider that even if  
there should be any semblance of a  
military occupation of Bahrein by  
Persian troops it would, under the  
friendly relations at present subsisting

between the Courts of Tehran and  
London be advisable that you  
should

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Copied by  
P. D. Souza

E. W. H. H. H. H. H.

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should forward intelligence of the fact by special Courier to this Mission, and then receive further instructions, before proceeding to repel the occupation by force of arms, or in any other way to commit the English Government to hostilities against that of Persia.

It is true that Sir Henry Rawlinson's letter to your address, N<sup>o</sup> 11 of May 11. 1860 states that "hostilities against Bahrein from any quarter are to be repelled by force of arms" but it will readily suggest itself to you that the case of "hostilities against Bahrein" is not analogous with that of Military aid granted to Bahrein at the free request of its chief. Under any circumstances, however, and bearing in mind that it will always be ultimately in the power of Her Majesty's Government to dispose of Bahrein as they may see fit, I think that, pending the receipt of the resolution of Her Majesty's Government on the subject, the scandal of renewed misunderstanding with Persia should on no account be incurred: and I would suggest your acting in conformity with this principle -  
The Shah's Government

are

are so anxious that the question of  
their relations with Bahrein should  
tend to disturb their present amicable  
relations with the English Government  
that they have requested me to  
communicate with you on the subject  
of Bahrein, by special Courier, and  
this, accordingly, I now do.

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6. I beg you will favour me  
by forwarding a copy of this letter  
to the Government of India.

7. The Persian Government  
assure me that they have today renewed  
their emphatic injunction to the Prince  
Governor of Fars to maintain by all  
possible means the friendliest relations  
with your Residency.

I have the honor to be  
/signed/ Lewis Pelly.

True Copy  
/signed/ W. E. Wood  
Officiating Assistant  
Political Resident  
Persian Gulf

Copy  
4722.

Captain Felix Jones  
&c. &c.

Dorsetshire

Sir,

The Persian Government

are

are under some apprehension lest <sup>3617</sup>  
 the altered political aspect of the  
 Island of Bahrein should induce  
 the neighbouring Arabs to imagine  
 it was now in their option to  
 attack the Island without fear of  
 repulsion by the British Authorities.  
 But Sir Henry Richardson's letter  
 of May 11<sup>th</sup> No 16 of 1860, cited in my  
 subsequent letter No 21 of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Instant, has already apprised you  
 that such an attack would be  
 opposed as heretofore on our part  
 by force of arms. For although for  
 special and exceptional reasons  
 it may be and in my opinion  
 is expedient that no active measures  
 should be taken in respect to  
 Persian proceedings in the Island  
 of Bahrein pending the arrival  
 of further instructions from Her  
 Majesty's Government, yet these  
 reasons do not apply to an  
 attack made by the Arab, and  
 I again beg therefore that unless  
 in the case of the Persians (as  
 before set forth in my letter above  
 quoted) you will consider the  
 standing orders of the Indian  
 Government as still being  
 in

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in force

I have the honor to be  
Camp near Siquid/Lewis Valley  
Marian June  
1860

True Copy  
Signed W. G. Wood  
Officialing Assistant  
Political Resident  
Persian Gulf



Resolution by the Warlike Board  
dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 1820

Resolved,

That Copies of these despatches be forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State by the next Overland Mail, and that the attention of Her Majesty's Government be solicited to the Complications which seem to be likely to arise with reference to Bahrein.

It appears to this Government that the tranquillity of the Gulf which has been so long preserved by the policy of the British Government demands that Bahrein should be regarded as subject neither to the sublimed Porte nor to Persia, but that its independence should be recognised while those engagements are maintained which in the interests of Commerce, humanity and public security it has concluded with the British Government in 1820 & 1824.

It appears the alternative suggested by <sup>the</sup> consideration of good policy in preference to recognition of the claims either of Turkey or Persia, claims the establishment of which would lead to no good result to Bahrein or to either of the contending persons, which is the best interest

of the maritime tribes of Oman, it would be  
disastrous.

The tenor of the Resident's despatches  
to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople  
may be appraised.

With respect to the situations  
which now surround the Bahrein question, the  
Honorable the Governor in Council has these plain  
instructions to impress on the Resident for his  
guidance until the pleasure of Her Majesty's  
Government has been ascertained. The dependence  
or independence of Bahrein is a subject for the  
consideration of Her Majesty's Government;  
and no exertion should be spared by the  
Resident to preserve tranquillity in the Gulf  
by diplomacy or if necessary by pacific  
demonstrations until the question has been  
determined. But whether the Sheikh of  
Bahrein display the ensigns of Persia or of  
Turkey he can never be permitted to make  
any attachments or tribes under the  
protection of the British Government. Any  
violation of this nature will probably be  
immediately rebuked by a peremptory expression  
the Resident will supported if necessary  
by a naval demonstration. But an actual

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resort to force which might be possible under  
 articles of the Treaty of 1820 for the coercion  
 of the Sheikh should if possible be  
 avoided as tending to engage the British  
 Government in hostilities not merely with  
 a petty Chief in the Gulf, but with one or  
 other of two powers at present in alliance  
 with England. On the other hand the  
 Resident should sternly control any attempt  
 of any neighbouring tribe or confederation of  
 tribes to assault the integrity of Bahrein.

5. The more difficult question  
 remains as to the manner in which attempts  
 to assert their claims on Bahrein either  
 by Persia or Turkey are to be met. Captain  
 Lewis Pelly writing without knowledge  
 that the Sheikh had displayed the  
 Turkish flag deprecates resistance  
 any attempt on the part of Persia to  
 Bahrein. It may be gathered from  
 his despatches and those of Sir H.  
 Rawlinson that such an attempt was  
 deemed very improbable. The indication

the Sheikh's allegiance to Turkey may however  
lead to some demonstration of the kind.

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The President should therefore be instructed,  
not to interfere with any occupation of  
Cahrain either by Persia or Turkey further  
than by protest, and by an intimation that  
the subject has been remitted for consideration  
by Her Majesty's Government, but that  
he should distinctly inform the Agents of  
either power, that no hostile attempt by  
Bahrein, or in the name of Bahrain on the  
neighbouring tribes will be permitted,  
and that any such attempt will be  
opposed by force. In giving these  
instructions, the object of this Government  
is to leave Her Majesty's Government  
without embarrassment in dealing with  
the question, while at the same  
time the tranquillity of the Gulf, the security  
of the tribes and the prestige of the  
British authority will be preserved.

The Commander in Chief of  
the

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The Indian Navy may be requested to state whether he can place the means of communicating with Ruzhik at the disposal of Government at an early period, it being of great importance that the views of Govt. should be intimated without delay to the Resident.

7 That copies of these despatches and of the proposed instructions be forwarded to the Government of India.

True Copy

Secretary

29-43

*[Faint handwritten signature]*