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20 Feb 60 - 14 Feb 61

Beeley, Harold (Perm. Represent. of the U.K.
to the U.N.)

- 3 letters to D.H.
- 1 encl.
- 1 letter from D.H.

SECRET

(30)



UNITED KINGDOM MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

1054/22/60

February 20, 1960

Dear Dag,

I have had the following comments from London on the Arabic text of Prince Feisal's letter to you of January 27.

The opening phrase of the second sentence of paragraph B (III) is the Arabic equivalent of an ablative absolute, i.e. it should be read "it being understood" or "this is all on the assumption that".

In the same sentence the word translated as "implies" could be construed to mean "aims at".

A very literal translation of the opening of the penultimate paragraph is as follows: "She (the Saudi Government) is confident that the measures mentioned will at that time make a restoration of diplomatic relations (desired by both sides) a good instrument which will help towards the final solution . . ."

I hope this is of some help in elucidating the meaning, of which I continue to take a gloomier view than I think you do.

Yours ever,

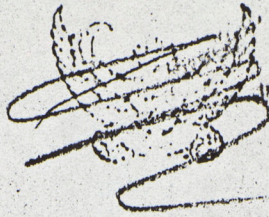
Harold

(H. Beeley)

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York.

SECRET

(51)



August 26, 1960

I forgot to bring with me this afternoon the two enclosed texts, which you and de Ribbing may like to see. The first is the form of words which I agreed with Andy Cordier in your absence as an eventual press release. The second is what the London TIMES printed on August 11 as a result of a Foreign Office statement which did not however mention Ambassador de Ribbing by name.

(H. Beeley)

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York.

"With the assent of the Saudi Arabian Government and ourselves, Mr. de Ribbing has accepted an invitation by Mr. Hammarakjold to make contact with the parties concerned in the Buraimi dispute for the purpose of obtaining first-hand information about conditions in the area."

Extract from THE TIMES of Thursday, August 11, 1960: -

NEUTRAL OBSERVER
FOR BURAIMI

BRITAIN AND SAUDI
ARABIA AGREE

From Our Diplomatic Correspondent

A spokesman at the Foreign Office said yesterday that Britain and Saudi Arabia had agreed that a neutral observer, whom Mr. Hammarskjold, the United Nations Secretary-General, was reported to be intending to appoint soon, should go to Buraimi on a fact-finding mission with special reference to the refugee shaikhs.

The spokesman added that the observer would be in contact with the Government of Saudi Arabia, the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and the Sultan of Muscat, all of whom lay claim to all or part of the Buraimi Oasis. The refugee shaikhs, about 12 in number, who said that their allegiance was owed to Saudi Arabia, fled in 1956 when the Trucial Oman Scouts ejected a party of Saudi soldiers from Buraimi.

Britain has had no diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia since the Saudi Government broke them off in 1956. The Secretary-General's decision to appoint an observer was taken as the result of informal talks which Mr. Beeley, deputy head of the British delegation to the United Nations, and Azzam Pasha, of Saudi Arabia, have held in New York since September, 1959.



1054/43/61

UNITED KINGDOM MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

February 14, 1961

On December 29 last year you sent me copies of Ambassador de Ribbing's report on the Buraimi question. I forwarded these immediately to the United Kingdom Government. They are studying the report and hope to send you their official comments. This may however take time in view of the need to consult the Sultan of Muscat and Oman and the Ruler of Abu Dhabi. In the meantime however you may like to know, informally, that from the United Kingdom viewpoint the conclusions in paragraphs 104, 105, 107 and 112 seem broadly acceptable, though in respect of paragraph 111 we have certain reservations both as regards its relevance to the Mission's terms of reference and as regards the views expressed.

(H. Beeley)

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary-General of the
United Nations,
New York.

29 December 1960

I am pleased to submit to you five copies of Ambassador de Ribbing's report on the Buraimi Question. I would appreciate it if you could forward the copies to the United Kingdom Government.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for all the assistance given to Ambassador de Ribbing and his colleagues during their assignment. This has facilitated their work considerably.

I hope that the report will enable the United Kingdom Government to cooperate in finding a solution to the problems facing both Governments.

I hope to be available for further consultation on this matter in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammaraskjold

Mr. Harold Beeley, C.M.G., C.B.E.
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United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations
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