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Saudi Arabia

12 March 60 - 28 June 61

Azzam Pasha (Ambassador, Saudi Arabia)

- 8 letters from D.H. + encl.

(32)

12 March 1960

~~Dear~~ Transmitted to  
Faisal by Ayman.

Dear Azzam Pasha,

.....  
.....  
Enclosed please find a letter which I would like you  
to transmit to Amir Faysal. I attach a copy for yourself  
and if you have any observations on the letter, you might  
get in touch with me before forwarding it.

With kind regards,

Dag Hammarskjöld.

H.E. Azzam Pasha,  
Plaza Hotel, Room 934,  
59th Street and Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

12 March 1960

Your Royal Highness,

Permit me to send you a line concerning our talks here about Bureimi. I have no news to give you over and above what I am sure you have heard through Azzam Pasha, but I wish to tell you how pleased I am, thanks to your confidence and the confidence of the British Government, to be associated actively with this important effort to find a way to translate into action the friendship which traditionally has linked the two countries and which I strongly feel is a fact also today.

To me the discussions which we have conducted have been most instructive, and I believe that they have been highly useful in preparation of further steps. Although it naturally is too early to forecast the outcome, I feel encouraged both by the atmosphere and by the trend of the talks. I wish to assure you that I, for my part, will continue tirelessly to assist in the efforts to find a mutually satisfactory way forward, convinced as I am that no one of the underlying difficulties is such that it cannot be overcome with goodwill and some ingenuity, and feeling as I do that the present juncture is as favorable to our efforts as any time is likely to be.

As you see, Your Highness, this is not a substantive report on progress made, but only a message to re-affirm my firm will to continue to do what I can, and my sincere hope that with the dedication of the parties to the common aim, we should be able to reach satisfactory results.

I take this opportunity to send Your Highness my respectful and friendly regards, and to ask you to transmit my respectful greetings to His Majesty the King.

Dag Hammarskjöld

His Royal Highness  
the Amir Faysal,  
Prime Minister and Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, etc., etc.,  
Kharijia Jeddah,  
Saudi Arabia.

26 April 1960

Dear Azzam Pasha,

You will remember that when we met last Wednesday I said that it was my intention to try to formulate some questions regarding the arrangement we had in mind for the refugees so as to assist you in clarifying the attitude of Saudi Arabia. On his side, Sir Pierson Dixon would approach London in order to get closer to a definite formula. It was my intention to formulate my questions in the light of a prior clarification of the various points which had been made by Sir Pierson Dixon in the course of our meeting.

I sent you later a message by telephone to the effect that I had not got any text from Sir Pierson Dixon and that, therefore, I had to postpone the formulation of my questions. Today I saw Sir Pierson Dixon and he still was not in a position to give me the necessary background. I pointed out to him that I felt increasingly concerned about the way in which time was passing and he promised me that on my return from Europe early next week he would come and see me so that I could proceed. You will appreciate that the long delays which we have had to register are explained by the difficulties which our British friends obviously have experienced in contacting the Rulers.

I send you these lines just before taking the plane to Geneva, in order to explain to you why I have not asked you for a talk and why you have not got anything from me in writing. Hoping that this time the British time-table will hold, it is my intention to ask to see you as early as possible next week. I hope that at that stage we may register some definite progress. Were that not to be the case, it would be my intention when I go to London the week after next to take the matter up directly with Selwyn Lloyd and those responsible in the Foreign Office.

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Azzam Pasha,  
Room 934, Hotel Plaza,  
Fifth Avenue and 59th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

(37)

4 May 1960

Never used by Azzam  
in relation to Farouk.  
Instead I talked with  
him personally  
with Selwyn Lloyd and  
Roger Stammers, early May  
in London.

Dear Azzam Pasha,

....

Enclosed please find a letter which, in the light of previous discussions, is self-explanatory. However, I would not like you to regard the text as definite, if there would be anything in it which you feel might require elaboration or clarification, or if it would run counter to your own interpretation of the situation. Thus, if you would like to talk it over with a view to any amendments, I would be happy to see you at your convenience.

Dag Hammarskjöld.

His Excellency  
Azzam Pasha,  
Room 934, Hotel Plaza,  
Fifth Avenue and 59th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

4 May 1960

Dear Azzam Pasha,

After our last meeting I have given further thought to the question of a neutral personage or representative to be appointed by the Secretary-General at the request of the Governments of Saudi Arabia and of the United Kingdom. In the light of these considerations I would wish you to transmit to your Government a few comments and questions intended to provide the Saudi Arabian Government with an opportunity to clarify its position so as to narrow down the field of discussion and to approach as quickly as possible the point where we can see clearly what agreement might be attainable regarding the suggested arrangement. Before formulating these questions and observations I would like to recapitulate briefly their background.

You will remember that I addressed on 15 December 1959 letters to H.R.H. the Amir Faysal and to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, setting out proposals providing the background for further discussions between the two parties with a view to a solution of outstanding problems. I received later the reactions of the two Governments to these suggestions. It then became clear, that while the suggestions, as far as they went, were considered acceptable by both parties — although on some points, maybe, in need of clarification — the Government of Saudi Arabia found it necessary to proceed one step further than envisaged as regards the question of the refugees. This led me to submit to you and to Mr. Harold Beeley a tentative suggestion for a more far-reaching and positive approach to the refugee question, avoiding, however, any proposals touching upon the questions of substance or prejudging the problems of rights which would be taken up in the forthcoming discussions.

I suggested that the right of return of the refugees should be mutually recognised in positive terms already at the initial stage. However, it was considered by us all that such a right could not be established without some arrangement being made in order to keep under control such difficulties as might arise in case of a return. This led us to the conclusion that a recognition of the right of return would have to be combined with the appointment of a neutral personage by the Secretary-General at the request of the parties. What remained an open question was the basis for the activities

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H.E. Azzam Pasha,  
Room 934, Hotel Plaza,  
Fifth Avenue and 59th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

of such a personage and the terms of his mandate. The following observations refer to these specific points and, thus, do not re-open any question regarding the tentative conclusions on other matters set out in my letter of 15 December.

We know that, in order to give the neutral personage the possibility to fulfill his tasks and to make the contribution which we desire, it would be necessary to enlist the approval of the arrangement by the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi and the Sultan of Muskat and Oman, as, naturally, his work would require the cooperation of these two Rulers. This renders it necessary to present to the Rulers the precise terms under which he would have to function.

The neutral personage would be appointed by the Secretary-General and would be responsible to him. This I understand to be agreed in the course of our discussions. However, it seems obvious that the assignment should be made by the Secretary-General in consultation with all the parties so as to ascertain that he would enjoy their confidence.

The first task of the representative would be to make an assessment of the refugee problem for presentation to the Secretary-General. In my view, this assessment would have to be made in consultation with the Saudi Arabian Government, the British Government, the Sultan of Muskat and Oman and the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi. I consider that before such an assessment is presented, it would have to be accepted by all the parties so as to reflect an agreement on the facts of the situation. I hope that this would be agreeable to your Government.

It would be my suggestion that, subject to acceptance of the assessment by all concerned, the representative would then proceed to make appropriate recommendations having regard to traditional patterns of movement between the territories concerned. These recommendations, when approved, would obviously be intended to serve as guidance for the personage.

A question will necessarily arise regarding the application of these traditional patterns to individuals. It cannot be expected that the general rules would be accepted by the Rulers unless they could rest assured that persons which they consider undesirable would not be forced upon them. Without prejudging the question of sovereignty or, by implication, recognising jurisdiction for the Rulers in relation to the refugees, an agreement must therefore be reached that exception from the general rules should be made by the neutral personage in individual cases regarding which the

*de facto*

Rulers raise objections; thus, although the formal decision also in those cases would rest with the neutral personage, it would be recognised that the permission to return de facto would be left to whichever of the two Rulers was concerned in each case. I fully realise the delicacy of this issue, but hope that your Government would see the realism of my approach and find it possible to accept this qualification of the authority of the representative.

As the whole arrangement is to be considered as being of a practical and procedural nature, it is understood that it would not in any way prejudice legal claims or rights in any direction. In this context I wish to mention that this obviously should apply also to the de facto control of the disputed area by the Rulers, which means that, while further discussions are going on under a kind of protection by the suggested practical arrangement, the provisional territorial line of 1955 would be respected de facto.

Dag Hammarskjöld.

(38)

10 May 1960

Dear Azzam Pasha,

Thank you for sending me Hammond Innes' book in which I read with interest the pages about his visit to Bureimi.

As I said yesterday, I hope to get in touch with you on my return from London early next week.

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Azzam Pasha,  
Room 934, Hotel Plaza,  
Fifth Avenue and 59th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

17 Sept '60 SG

H.E. Aszam Pasha,  
c/o Saudi Arabian Embassy,  
Cairo, Egypt

(no distribution)

also send 401-

H.E. Aszam Pasha,  
c/o Prime Minister Prince Faisal,  
RIYADH, Saudi Arabia.

After further discussions with other party, I submit to you and them the following draft for notification to Security Council, which I hope will meet with approval.

Text of draft follows: QUOTE (...as attached...) UNQUOTE

Grateful for reactions by cable.

Dag Hammarskjöld

(67)

29 December 1960

Dear Azzam Pasha,

I am pleased to submit to you four copies of Ambassador de Ribbing's report on the Bahraini Question. I would appreciate it if you could forward the copies to the Saudi Arabian Government.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for all the assistance given to Ambassador de Ribbing and his colleagues during their assignment. Thanks to this it was possible to complete their assignment without delay.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld

His Excellency  
Azzam Pasha  
Hotel Plaza  
Room 934  
New York, New York

5 January 1961

Dear Azzam Faabs,

It will be recalled that the costs of the Mission of Ambassador de Ribbing will be shared by the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom.

Both Governments have provided facilities and services. In addition expenses have been incurred directly by the United Nations covering mainly travel to and from the "mission area" by the three members, and related allowances and honorarium for Ambassador de Ribbing.

It would be appreciated if the Governments would assume the cost of services and facilities rendered by them to the mission and would not present any bills to the United Nations therefor. The expenses incurred directly by the United Nations amount to \$ 15,285.49; half of this amount payable by each Government.

I would be grateful if you could request your Treasury to transfer the amount of \$7,642.75 to the Chemical Bank New York Trust Company, United Nations Office, New York 17, New York, for credit to the United Nations in its No. 1 Account.

Yours sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*

(90)

28 June 1961

As I have already informed you, Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, after the necessary consideration of Ambassador Ribbing's report, have confirmed that the conclusions in paragraphs 104, 105, 107 and 112 of the report are broadly acceptable. They propose accordingly that discussions should now begin with a view of setting on foot Stage II of the activities, namely a detailed study of the refugee situation (paragraph 107 of the report).

I have also informed you that in order to lay a firm basis for the continued work, I have, in the light of this reply from Her Majesty's Government, initiated discussions with its representatives. After these discussions, I am pleased to let you know that the British Government are ready to proceed to Stage II (as previously agreed, without any commitment on Stage III), and that as regards Khor al Gdaid I am satisfied that there is no change in the United Kingdom position and that the British Government do not exclude - though equally they do not commit themselves to accept - discussions regarding the matter as described in a letter which I have received from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, copy of which I shall be pleased to keep at your disposal for your information.

I shall be pleased to receive the comments of your Government and will, in case they are favourable, make the necessary arrangements with Ambassador Ribbing.

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Aszam Pasha  
Hotel Plaza  
New York, N.Y.

SG

(45 B)

23 July 1960

Azzam Pasha called: he gave me following message for you, as he realises how busy you are.

"The Saudi Arabian Government agrees to the person proposed by you." Azzam would like to know when you suggest a meeting with this person after your return. He will go to Washington tomorrow but we can reach him there. He added his cordial respects.

M

16 September 1960

*Draft*  
To all Members of the Security Council

Sir,

In the course of 1959 I was approached by the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom with the suggestion that I assist them in discussions regarding the so-called Bureimi issue and related matters, with a view to furthering a settlement.

I accepted the suggestion and thereafter discussions between the parties have been going on, in my presence, on an informal basis during part of the fall of 1959 and the past months of 1960.

Agreement has been reached between the two parties that in order to provide a proper basis for further discussions and for an attempt to arrive at a satisfactory solution the situation in certain respects should be clarified by personal contacts in the area by a neutral personage. The parties have wished the Secretary-General to nominate such a personage who would, within a few weeks' time, report personally to me in order that discussions between the parties, in my presence, could thereafter be resumed in order to see what further steps might usefully be taken.

I have acceded to this request from the two Governments and have, with the approval of the two parties, requested Ambassador H. Ribbing, Sweden, to undertake the suggested study.

In acceding to the request that I arrange for the study indicated above, I have been guided by the fact that the efforts in question aim

at constructive measures within the terms of and for purposes established in the Charter. I wish, however, to inform the Members of the Security Council about this arrangement. The costs will be borne by the parties. I shall continue to assist in the same capacity as before, if so requested by the parties.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary-General

16 September 1960

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Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary-General