

Small files: Tibet 1959-1961, West Irian (Dutch New Guinea) 1958-1961, Yeme...

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Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

L 179:134

Yemen 1956-59

(as put together by D.H.)

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4232
23 October 1959

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1959 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on October 15 by the Permanent Representative of Yemen in which he made certain allegations of infringement of the frontier between Yemen and the Aden Protectorate.

The letter of the Permanent Representative of Yemen alleged that a British aircraft flew over the town of al-Baidha on October 4. Full investigations have shown that only four military aircraft were in the air over the Aden Protectorate on October 4, and that none of these could have been within fifty miles of al-Baidha. Of the two civilian aircraft in the area, one landed at Mukeiras on a daily service, making a normal approach in clear weather, and the other flew from Aden to Beihan. All pilots are fully aware of the position of the frontier, and examination of the two pilots concerned confirms that neither of these aircraft crossed the frontier. Her Majesty's Government have therefore unreservedly rejected the protest made to them in this connexion by the Government of the Yemen.

The Permanent Representative of Yemen also alleged in his letter that British armed forces attacked al-Baidha on October 5. Investigation has shown that no British troops fired shots in the area of al-Baidha on that day; the only shots by British troops in this general region on October 5 were fired in the camp at Mukeiras as a routine signal for a practice drill.

As to the general allegations made by the Permanent Representative of Yemen of violations of Yemeni air space during September and October of this year, I can state that strict instructions are in force to ensure that there are no infringements of Yemeni air space by military or civil aircraft. Her Majesty's Government have already informed the Government of the Yemen that investigations

have failed to establish the truth of an earlier allegation by the Government of Yemen that British military aircraft circled over Taiz on September 12. Her Majesty's Government have stated that, while they were unable to accept the protest made by the Yemeni Government in this connexion, they intended to continue to abide, as heretofore, by the spirit and text of the agreements concluded between the two countries.

Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are perturbed at the wide dissemination of these unsubstantiated allegations at a time when the frontier between the Yemen and the Aden Protectorate has been calm, and there appeared reason to hope for a steady improvement in Anglo-Yemeni relations.

I am communicating the foregoing to Your Excellency for the information of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) H. Beeley
Deputy Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4229
16 October 1959

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1959 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
YEMEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to draw the attention of the Security Council to new provocative and aggressive British actions against Yemen.

British aircraft have violated Yemeni air space. On 4 October 1959 a British plane flew in a provocative manner over the Yemeni town of Al-Baidha. This was not the first time that such British provocation took place within the recent weeks. Similar British violations of Yemeni air space took place during last September and this month of October. The Yemeni cities of Al-Baidha, Katabah and Taiz, the Capital, were subject to these violations.

In addition, British armed forces waged an unprovoked attack on 5 October 1959 against Al-Baidha. This attack lasted for four hours causing loss of life and destruction of property of the inhabitants of Al-Baidha.

There is no justification for these British violations of the Yemeni air space and unprovoked attack against Yemeni territories. Similar actions, which threaten peace and security in the area, could be avoided if Britain would observe her obligations under the United Nations Charter and would respect the sovereignty of Member States.

I shall be grateful if this letter would be circulated to Member States as an official document.

I avail myself, etc.

(Signed) M. Kamil Abdul Rahim
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4096
12 September 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that on the 6th of September a supply convoy to Mertaal from Kukeiras in the territory of the Aden Protectorate was attacked by fire from Yemeni heavy machine guns located on a ridge behind Am Sauma in Yemeni territory and in two small forts in the village itself. Exercising the right of self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter, British forces took measures in self-defence to silence these machine guns by counter-battery action from the air. Later in the same day the same convoy was fired on by a heavy machine gun located in an open position outside Am Sauma. This gun also was silenced in self-defence by counter-battery action from the air.

I am communicating the foregoing to Your Excellency for the information of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Pierson Dixon



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4058
21 July 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 JULY 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to draw the attention of the Security Council to the new wave of British acts of aggression against Yemen which, on 8 July 1958, culminated in an unprovoked attack by the British Royal Air Force against life and property of the inhabitants of Harib within Yemen territory. On that day British Royal Air Force aircraft, both fighters and bombers, violated Yemen air space and bombed the Yemeni town of Harib. Consequently, Yemeni defense anti-aircraft guns fired on the aircraft and one was hit and crashed in Yemen territory. An hour later the British Royal Air Force once more violated Yemeni air space, flew over thirty miles inside the territory of Yemen and once again bombed the town of Harib using rockets and other destructive weapons. This attack caused much destruction in property and human suffering.

2. For months now there have been continued aggressive activities by the United Kingdom's forces in that area directed against Yemen, which has resulted in much loss of life and destruction of property. The most recent of these acts of aggression, in addition to the one mentioned above and to those stated in my last letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 2 May 1958 (document S/4001), are the following:

May 6 through May 8, 1958 marked three days of bombing, ground and artillery attacks against the small southeast Yemen town of Qataba in the Vice-Royalty of Ibb. Qataba is well within the provisional boundary of Yemen. The bombing hit and completely destroyed al-Fat'h an-Nasiriya South Yemen Tribal School. The capacity of the school is 600 students, and there were 400 boarding students in the school up to the date of the attack, 200 having left earlier out of

fear of eventual British occupation of the Qataba area. This same bombing caused the destruction of a customs house near the school, and many other neighbouring houses. Twenty soldiers were killed and approximately sixty were wounded in their quarters in the Customs Khan barracks while they were asleep after all night duty on the front lines. The barracks were unfortified and undefended except by individual rifle fire of surviving soldiers. Four pictures showing the damage caused by these attacks are enclosed herewith. The said bombing caused a number of deaths and casualties and illness from exposure and shock, particularly among women and children. Many students were exposed to shock with a least two thought to be permanently affected mentally.

3. The letter of Sir Pierson Dixon, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, sent to the Secretary-General on 9 July 1958 (document S/4044) regarding the latest attack of 8 July 1958, is itself a clear expression of contradictory statements attempting to cover up British planned aggression. While the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom claims, in the said letter, that certain places in the Aden Protectorate "were fired on across the frontier from Yemen by heavy machine guns located near the town of Harib", he did not explain why British aircraft had to violate Yemeni air space and fly over thirty miles beyond the place of shooting. The United Kingdom failed to show a justifiable reason for sending aircraft to Harib which is over twenty-two miles away from what Britain calls the "de facto frontier" and 100 miles from Sana'a, the capital of Yemen.

Britain cannot claim that the firing across the border came from Harib, because the British Permanent Representative will certainly find by checking the British Directorate of Colonial Surveys Map, Second Edition, 1956, which is herewith attached, that Harib is at least twenty-two miles away from the so-called "de facto frontier" and, this being the case, neither Yemen, nor any other country, has so far been able to acquire machine guns which fire across the border from a distance of twenty-two miles.

4. This latest armed attack, of 8 July 1958, for which there would be, and there could be, no justification if Britain was more respectful to the sovereignty of Member States, and to her obligations under the United Nations Charter, was provoked by Britain in an effort to achieve her objectives by intimidation and violence.

/...

I shall be very grateful if Your Excellency would make the necessary arrangements to ensure that these facts are communicated to all Members of the United Nations as a matter of urgency.

I avail myself etc.

(Signed)

Kamil A. RAHIM
Permanent Representative
of Yemen
to the United Nations

/...

Burned-out petrol drums and truck, which caused large fire in Customs Khan during bombing. RAF bomber personnel alleged that ammunition stores had been blown up.



Courtyard view of South Yemen's al Fat'h an-Nasiriya School, showing thin roof construction incapable of being used for gun emplacements.



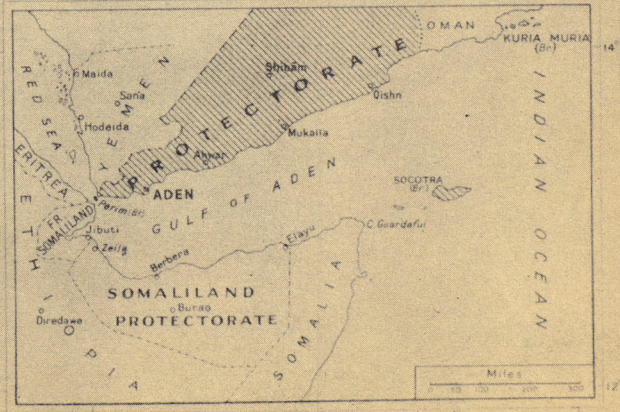
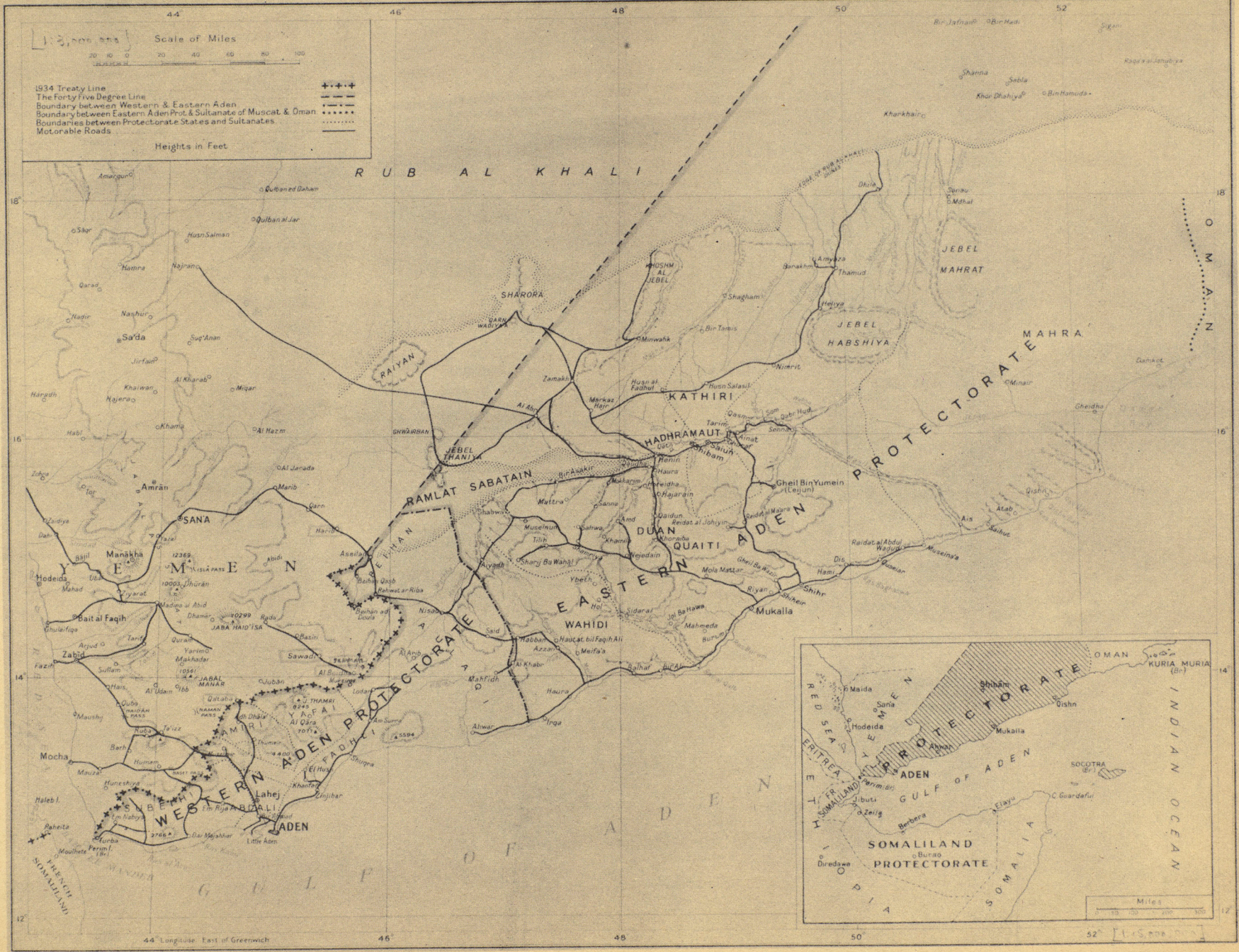
In fortified cliff behind Qataba town, Yemen defenses survived 3 days of RAF bombing. Civilians fleeing Qataba to the safety of the height were strafed.

Attack's toll: 5 dead; 60 men, 40 children, and 25 women wounded.



The undefended town of Qataba, just across the provisional border in Yemen from the British-occupied state of Dhala north of Aden. In right background is a corner of the School and Customs compounds bombed in a 3-day attack May 6-8 1958. The border runs at the foot of the mountains in the distance.







UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
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S/4044
9 July 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 JULY 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In continuation of my letter of 7 May, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that on 8 July a platoon of Aden Protectorate levies who were camped around Tamra Fort in the State of Beihan in the Aden Protectorate were fired on across the frontier from Yemen by heavy machine guns located near the town of Harib. Exercising the right of self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter, British forces took measures in self-defence to silence these machine guns by counter-battery action from the air. In the course of this action the aircraft were fired on by anti-aircraft guns located on rooftops in the town of Harib and one aircraft was hit and crashed in Yemeni territory near the position of the machine guns which it was counter-attacking. As the machine guns were continuing to fire across the frontier on Aden Protectorate forces, further counter action was taken against them from the air. The aircraft were again fired on by guns located in Harib and one gun located on the roof of a building was therefore destroyed by precision attack by aircraft using rockets.

I am communicating the foregoing to Your Excellency for the information of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Pierson Dixon

58-13862
KIRSCH/ds

Translated from Arabic

TELEGRAM

Date: 10 June 1958

From: Mohamed Ali Al-Jawri, President of the Association of Southerners,
Taiz, Yemen

To: The Secretary-General

Britain is endeavouring to impose a detested colonial status on occupied South Yemen and to give its puppets illegal power to exploit the people in this way. I have sent the following telegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and I hope that you will take note of it and circulate it to all representatives. It reads as follows:

"On behalf of the people of the South I wish to inform you of the following. Secret conversations are proceeding between you and a number of leaders whom you have assembled in London in order to give your plans and aims in the South legal form. I warn you against this and state that these persons represent nobody but themselves and that the people do not and will never accept them. Any agreements you have already concluded with them and any you may hereafter conclude are legally worth only the paper on which they are written. You will never succeed in imposing on the people a status of which they do not approve. The Arab people of the South condemn your acts and the acts of your agents. They do not have the legal means of thwarting your schemes, which are aimed not at their interests but at your interests as a Colonial State and the interests of your traitorous puppets. The acts of aggression committed by your forces against us, who represent the people in all areas, will not enable you to gain your objective. Right is on our side and right will always prevail over oppressive might".

INFO COPY

JUN 13 1958

FILE NO.

ACTION

TO

PRITCH



YEMEN REPRESENTATIVE FEARS COLD WAR
COULD SPREAD TO ARABIAN PENINSULA

New York, February 27 --(AIC)-- Ambassador Kamil Abdul Rahim, Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations, expressed concern today over recent British attacks upon Yemen which might turn his nation into "a new and explosive ground for cold war" between the Western and Eastern blocs.

At 9:30 A.M. this morning Ambassador Rahim presented a formal Yemeni complaint against British aggression to Arkady A. Sobolev, President of the Security Council, and at 12:00 noon the Ambassador conferred with United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold about the gravity of the situation. In his discussions Ambassador Rahim said he had asked for action to halt British attacks upon areas and positions which lie far within the recognized territory of Yemen.

"I am afraid that if these aggressive actions are not stopped, all the southern part of the Arabian peninsula will become a new and explosive ground for cold war," he explained, "and a new liberation war, similar to that of Algeria, may flare up in the area with dire consequences to peace and security."

In its complaint to the Security Council, Yemen listed numerous acts of British aggression committed between January 21, 1958 and February 20, 1958, resulting in severe casualties and destruction of Yemeni property.

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YEMEN MAY ASK SECURITY COUNCIL
TO CONSIDER BRITISH AGGRESSION

New York, February 27 --(AIC)-- Charging British military forces with a "planned and persistent" campaign against its borders, the Kingdom of Yemen warned today that it would place a complaint against the United Kingdom before the Security Council unless "effective and immediate measures" were taken to end British acts of aggression.

A letter submitted by Ambassador Kamil Abdul Rahim, Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations, to Arkady A. Sobolev, President of the Security Council, cited numerous British attacks upon Yemeni territory from January 21, 1958 through February 20, 1958 -- attacks which "resulted in severe casualties and extensive damage to property."

These attacks included the bombardment of Sawma'a, January 21; the incendiary bombing of regions of Quataba, January 30; the ground artillery attack upon Al-Baida, February 15; aggression against centers of Harib on February 8, 9, 16, 18, 19 and 20; the destruction of Al-Abu-Tuhaif on February 9, 18 and 19; the bombing of Shukair on February 16, 18, 19 and 20; the bombardment of Al-Sawda, February 19; heavy artillery attacks upon the Gahash area on February 8 and 16, and the artillery attack upon Mahallat El Sharaf on February 16.

Declaring that continuing British aggression against Yemen since October 1956 constituted a "grave threat to peace and security," Ambassador Rahim stated in his letter: "If effective and immediate measures are not taken to end these acts of aggression, which are bound to have untold repercussions in the area, my Government shall be obliged to invite the Security Council to consider the matter and take necessary measures."

He requested that his letter be circulated among the members of the Security Council.

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UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4004
7 May 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 MAY 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

While reserving the right to comment on the letter addressed to Your Excellency by the Representative of Yemen on the 2nd of May (S/4001) and in continuation of Mr. Crosthwait's letter of the 17th of April (S/3989), I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that on the 6th of May British troops in the Aden Protectorate were fired upon by Yemeni heavy machine-guns from posts established illegally in the Aden Protectorate. British aircraft flying over the Protectorate to reply to these attacks were fired upon from the Yemen by heavy machine-guns in and near the fortified Yemeni barracks near the town of Qataba. Acting in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter, British forces took measures in self-defence to silence these machine-guns by aerial attack.

I am communicating the foregoing to Your Excellency for the information of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Pierson Dixon

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4001
2 May 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to the letters from the United Kingdom to you dated 6 March 1958 (S/3977), and 17 April 1958 (S/3989), accusing Yemen of aggression, I have the honour to inform you that on no occasion has Yemen carried out any aggression against British forces.

Both the above-mentioned British letters are groundless and aim at distorting the facts in order to divert world public opinion from acts of aggression committed by the British within Yemen territory and the continuous suppression of the liberation movement in the so-called British Protectorates. In this connexion my Government would like to bring to Your Excellency's attention the following:

1. Yemenite forces have never tried to cross the provisional borders with the so-called British Protectorates. On the other hand, villages in the Harib region - located far inside Yemen territory - were a target for British jet planes and tanks on 11 and 12 April 1958, resulting in loss of lives and destruction of property. Two representatives of the British Labour Party, Mr. Sorthorn and Mr. John Dock Doll, witnessed the destruction inflicted during this British aggression.
2. Contrary to allegations in the British letter of 17 April, no Yemenite helicopter flew over the disputed areas. Actually, a Yemenite helicopter flew in a straight line from Sana'a to Harib over Yemenite territory carrying the two above-mentioned British Labour Party representatives. The Yemen Government, through the British legation in Taiz, made a point of informing the Aden authorities three days in advance about this flight.
3. By far the most disquieting act of aggression by the British, is the occupation of the Sultanate of Lahej about 19 April by more than four thousand British troops armed with artillery and tanks, and concentrated on the provisional frontiers between Yemen and Lahej causing a real and grave threat to the security of Yemen.

It is to be noted that the treaty between the Sultan of Lahej and the British Government (which was imposed on Lahej by the British) does not give the British

any right to occupy the Lahej territory with military forces. During the occupation of Lahej by these troops, all sorts of atrocities, including killing of innocent people and theft of their property, are being committed by the British, and many of the residents of Lahej have fled to Yemen, requesting the Yemen Government to bring their case to the attention of the United Nations Security Council. The grave events taking place in Lahej, in Dhala, and in Mukairiss are examples of what is actually taking place in all the so-called British Protectorates in the area where people are clamoring for their liberation.

4. The Yemen Government raises a strong protest against the continued British aggression on her territory, the concentration of British troops, and their suppression of the freedom of the people of the area - thus causing a grave threat to peace.

5. The Yemen Government would welcome the appointment of a neutral commission to survey the situation and investigate on the spot the destruction caused by the British forces within the Yemeni territory.

6. I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated to all Members of the United Nations.

Please accept, Your Excellency, etc.

(Signed) M. Kamil A. Rahim
Permanent Representative of Yemen
to the United Nations

Return to S.G.

44 LONDON 363 24 1215Z

OMNIPRESS NY

UNLON 180

CORDIER FOOTE STOP IN ANSWER COMMONS QUESTIONS YESTERDAY
ON ADEN YEMEN BORDER SITUATION FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID UNATIONS
COMMISSION UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT QUOTE WHETHER TIME IS RIPE
AND WHETHER PROCEDURES OF UNATIONS ARE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING
WITH THIS MATTER ARE SUBJECTS WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED

P2

UNQUOTE STOP IN ANOTHER ANSWER LLOYD INDICATED THAT POSSIBILITY
OF STATIONING UNATIONS OBSERVERS ON THIS FRONTIER NOT RULED
OUT STOP PARA QUESTIONED ABOUT SETTING UP MIDDLE EAST DEVELOP-
MENT BOARD FINANCED AT LEAST PARTLY FROM OIL REVENUES LLOYD
SAID HE COULD SEE NO SIGN OF ANY SUCH AGREEMENT AS YET FOR

P3

PLAN COVERING MIDDLE EAST AS WHOLE BUT IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER
QUESTION SAME SUBJECT ADDED QUOTE AT MOMENT MOST HELPFUL APPROACH
IS THAT SECRETARIAT OF UNATIONS AND STAFF OF INTERNATIONAL BANK
ARE STUDYING TECHNICAL ASPECTS THIS PROBLEM AND I VERY
MUCH HOPE SOMETHING WILL COME OUT OF THAT STUDY UNQUOTE STOP

P4

PARA DAILY TELEGRAPH TODAY PUBLISHES FINAL EXTRACT FROM POSTS-
SCRIPT VOLUME TO SIR WINSTON CHURCHILLS WAR MEMOIR STOP ON UNATIONS

P4

PARA DAILY TELEGRAPH TODAY PUBLISHES FINAL EXTRACT FROM POSTS-
SCRIPT VOLUME TO SIR WINSTON CHURCHILLS WAR MEMOIR STOP ON UNATIONS
SIR WINSTON SAYS QUOTE MY IDEA AS END OF WAR APPROACHED WAS
THAT GREATEST MINDS AND GREATEST THOUGHTS POSSESSED BY MEN
SHOULD GOVERN WORLD STOP THIS ENTAILED IF ALL COUNTRIES GREAT

P5

AND SMALL WERE TO BE REPRESENTED THAT THEY MUST BE GRADED STOP
THE SPECTACLE PRESENTED BY UNATIONS IS NO MORE THAN A VAIN
ASSERTION OF EQUALITY OF INFLUENCE AND POWER WHICH HAS NO
RELATION TO ACTUAL FACTS STOP RESULT IS THAT PROCESS OF
~~RELATION TO ACTUAL FACTS STOP~~ STOP

INGENIOUS LOBBYING HAS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE

P6

POSSESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WORLD STOP I SAY ATTEMPTED
BECAUSE VOTE OF A COUNTRY OF A MILLION OR TWO INHABITANTS
CANNOT DECIDE OR EVEN SWAY ACTIONS OF POWERFUL STATES STOP
UNATIONS IN ITS PRESENT FORM HAS TO CRINGE TO DICTATORSHIPS
AND BULLY THE WEAK STOP SMALL STATES HAVE

P7

NO RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR WHOLE OF MANKIND STOP THEY MUST ACCEPT
AND THEY WOULD ACCEPT A MORE INTIMATE BUT LOWER RANK STOP
THE WORLD SHOULD BE RULED BY LEADING MEN OF GROUPS OF COUNTRIES
FORMED GEOGRAPHICALLY STOP THE MERE PROCESS OF LETTING THE
GROUPS SHAPE THEMSELVES AND NOT JUDGING

P8

BY THEIR POWER OR THEIR NUMBERS WOULD TELL ITS OWN TALE UNQUOTE

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1950 APR 26 AM 8:18
TELEGRAPH UNIT
UNITED NATIONS

SECRET

17 April 1958

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Yemen

London agree that it will be appropriate for you to mention the failure of the Yemenis to answer the positive proposals in the last British letter, if they give you an opening to do so.

Franklin



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3989
17 April 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 APRIL 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to the letter from Sir Pierson Dixon of 6 March (S/3977) I have the honour to inform you of two further attacks made by Yemeni forces against the Aden Protectorate.

On 11 April a patrol of the Aden Protectorate levies in the Salil area in Beihan territory, which is part of the Aden Protectorate, came under heavy artillery fire from guns in Harib Fort situated about 800 yards from the town of that name in Yemeni territory. Acting in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, British forces took measures in self defence to silence the guns by aerial attack.

On 13 April a Yemeni helicopter flew over Husn Amoud Fort in Beihan territory. Simultaneously a heavy mortar attack was opened on the Fort by Yemeni forces. A few minutes later a similar attack was reported on the Fort at Tamara. On this occasion also British forces took measures necessary in self defence, in accordance with Article 51.

I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated as a document of the Security Council for the information of members of the Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) P.M. Crosthwaite
Acting Permanent Representative



UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3977
7 March 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the allegations of aggression brought against the United Kingdom by the representative of Yemen in his letter to you and to the President of the Security Council dated the 27th of February (S/3969).

2. I am instructed by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to inform you that at no time have British forces committed aggressive action against any place within Yemeni territory. The specific allegations made in the Yemeni representative's letter of the 27th February have been investigated and the results of these investigations are set out in Part A of the attached memorandum. It will be seen that the incidents alleged by the representative of Yemen either did not occur at all or originated in attacks made by the Yemeni forces themselves. During the same period as that covered by the Yemeni allegations the Yemeni forces were themselves responsible for the numerous additional actions against the Aden Protectorate set forth in Part B of the attached memorandum.

3. I note the statement in the letter of the Yemeni representative that the areas allegedly attacked lie "within the recognised borders of Yemen". Her Majesty's Government are themselves in no doubt about the location of the de facto Aden-Yemen border, in respect of which the Government of Yemen undertook the following obligation in the Anglo-Yemeni treaty of 1934:

"Both high contracting parties undertake that they will prevent, by all means at their disposal, any violation by their forces of the above-mentioned frontier, and any interference by their subjects, or from their side of that frontier, with the affairs of the people inhabiting the other side of the said frontier."

4. In case, however, the Government of Yemen should remain in doubt on this matter, Her Majesty's Government reaffirm the invitations which they have repeatedly extended, for instance at the Anglo-Yemeni conference in London in November 1957, to the Government of Yemen to implement the undertaking given in an Exchange of Notes between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Yemen dated the 20th of January 1951. In this Exchange of Notes the two Governments agreed to set up a joint commission to demarcate in disputed areas the frontier as it existed in 1934. Furthermore, Her Majesty's Government reaffirm their proposal made in November 1957 that joint conciliation commissions should be established on the frontier to settle disputes locally. The Yemeni Government have hitherto unfortunately felt unable to accept any proposals aimed at the restoration of peaceful conditions. They have not only proclaimed unceasingly their ambition to absorb the territory of the Aden Protectorate, but have been exclusively responsible for starting all disturbances on the border and have furthermore been carrying out in recent months an intensified programme of subversion among the tribes of the Aden Protectorate. Her Majesty's Government consider it unnecessary in these circumstances to comment further on the question of which Government is conducting, in the words of the Yemeni representative, "a planned and persistent campaign against the integrity and territory" of the other.

5. I shall be grateful if this letter and memorandum is, like the letter to which it refers, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be etc.

(Signed) Pierson Dixon

/...

MEMORANDUM

A. (The allegations of the Representative of Yemen are reproduced in quotation marks).

1. "Sawma'a was bombarded with machine guns and tanks on January 21, 1958".

The only incident in the area on January 21 was caused by Yemenis in Sawma'a who fired on a convoy of Aden Protectorate levies which was proceeding to Martaa in the Aden Protectorate.

2. "The regions of Quataba underwent a savage attack of incendiary bombs and rockets on January 30".

On January 30 Yemeni forces opened fire on British frontier patrols near Sanah with three guns.

3. "The city of Al-Baida and the barracks of the Yemenite soldiers were attacked by ground artillery on February 15".

On February 15 Audhali tribesmen fired on Al-Baida and its environs in exasperation at Yemeni attacks on their lands.

4. "The centres of Harib have undergone British aerial reconnaissance and various severe acts of aggression by British forces on February 8, 9, 16, 18, 19 and 20".

In view of Yemeni attacks in the Beihan frontier area of the Aden Protectorate, British forces have carried out aerial reconnaissance from time to time, but on no occasion have British aircraft crossed the Yemeni frontier.

5. "Al-Abu-Tuhaif was attacked on February 9, 18 and 19 and destroyed, leaving its inhabitants homeless".

No attacks have been made on Al-Abu-Tuhaif.

6. "Shukair was raided by waves of British bombers on February, 16, 18, 19 and 20, preceded by a ground attack on February 15".

Yemeni forces were recently observed to have returned to the Dhahat-Shukair massif inside the territory of the Aden Protectorate from which they had been ejected last autumn and to be building Sangars stone-built shelters on the massif. They were accordingly attacked from the air.

7. "Al-Sawda was heavily bombarded by planes and attacked by artillery and machine guns on February 19".

No attacks have been made on Al-Sawda.

/...

8. "The Gahash area was subjected to a four-hour heavy artillery attack on February 8 and February 16".

It is probable that this allegation refers to incidents which occurred on February 9 and February 14. On these dates, as on other occasions, Yemeni forces infiltrated into the territory of the Aden Protectorate near Tamra to fire on that village. They brought up mortars to Gahash which lies on the de facto frontier and used them against the village.

9. "Hamallat El Sharaf underwent an artillery attack on February 16".

El Sharaf was not shelled by artillery on February 16 or on any other occasion.

During the incidents referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 8 above, it was necessary in self-defence to return the fire of the Yemeni forces.

- B. Since January 21 the following Yemeni attacks have taken place in the area of the frontier.

1. In the Beihan Area

Yemenis fired on Najd Maizar on January 21, 22, 25, 27, 30 and February 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, and 27. Yemenis fired on Ghaniya on January 26, 28, 31, February 7, 9, 11, 13, 21, 23 and 27.

Yemenis fired on Tamra on January 28, 29 (with mortars), 31 (with mortars), February 6, 8, 9 (with mortars), 11, 14, 18, 23, 25 (with mortars) and 28.

Yemenis fired on Husan-Amud on February 1, 9, 13, 14, 19, 23, 24, 25 and 26.

Yemenis fired on Najd Marqad on February 3, 8, 11. Yemenis operating within the territory of the Aden Protectorate on Jebel Shukair fired on aircraft on January 21.

2. In the area of Mukairas

Yemenis fired on Amshaba on January 22, 24, on Martaa on January 28, 29, February 5, 12, 13, 17 and 25 and on Shirjan on February 4.

A Yemeni raiding party was intercepted near Martaa on February 19.

Yemenis damaged crops near Shirjan on February 7.

3. In the area of Dhala

Yemenis fired on Sanah on February 8, 9 and 13.

4. During the whole of this period, Yemeni authorities have continued their attempts to subvert tribes in the Aden Protectorate with gifts of arms and ammunition.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND
SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL.

4 March 1958.

NOTE ON

YEMEN'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS

NOTE ON YEMEN'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS

1. Behind the complaints of Yemen regarding British attacks against Yemeni territory is Yemen's claim to territories under British control: the Aden Colony, the Eastern and Western Aden Protectorates, and the Kamran Island.^{1/}

2. The port of Aden was annexed to British India in 1839, after a military action following the looting of an Indian vessel near the coast. The colony was extended by the occupation of the island of Perim in 1857 and by the purchase between 1868 and 1888 of Little Aden and the coastal strip between Aden and Little Aden from the local chiefs. Britain also established, by agreements concluded between 1839 and 1918, protectorates over the eighteen principalities comprising the Western Aden Protectorate and the seven principalities in the Eastern Aden Protectorate. The island of Kamran was occupied from the Ottoman Empire in 1915, and has been administered as part of Aden since 1949.

3. British acquisitions on the mainland were recognized by the Ottoman Empire by a convention of 1905, which determined the boundary from the Red Sea coast into the desert, and by a convention of 1914, which prolonged the boundary to a point on the shores of the Persian Gulf.

^{1/} The Aden Colony, directly administered by Britain, includes a coastal strip as well as the island of Perim (5 square miles) in the Straits of Bab el Mandeb and the five Kuria Muria Islands off the coast of Oman. It has a total area of 80 square miles and a population of about 140,000.

The Aden Protectorate is divided into two parts - the Western Aden Protectorate and the Eastern Aden Protectorate. The Western Aden Protectorate has an area of about 45,000 square miles and a population of about 400,000. The Eastern Aden Protectorate, which includes the island of Socotra (about 1,400 square miles in area and a population of 12,000), has an area of about 75,000 square miles and a population of about 350,000.

The Kamran Island, off the coast of Yemen in the Red Sea, has an area of 22 square miles. A quarantine station for pilgrims to Mecca from the East is maintained on the island. Yemen claims that the island is within her territorial waters.

The territory claimed by Yemen comprises an area of over 120,000 square miles, with a population of about 900,000. Yemen, at present, has an area of 75,000 square miles and a population of nearly five million.

4. However, Yemen, which regained its full independence after the Mudros armistice in November 1918, refused to recognize the validity of the Anglo-Turkish agreements. Yemen's contention is that the area was part of Yemen, that the local sheikhs and sultans had no right to conclude protectorate agreements with Britain, that the Ottoman Empire had no authority to dispose of Yemeni territory, and that Britain had acquired the territory by aggression, bribery, deceit and fraud.

5. The dispute as regards the validity of the Ottoman agreements arises from opposite contentions concerning Yemen's international position in the last century. During that time, the Ottoman Empire had occupied Yemeni territory and imposed agreements by which Yemen accepted Ottoman suzerainty. The Imams of Yemen, however, repeatedly led revolts against the Ottoman forces, with the result that suzerainty was not fully and continuously effective except in the coastal area. Yemen now claims that it had never recognized Ottoman rule although the Ottoman forces had succeeded in occupying some key towns; that Yemen was unable to fight against British encroachments precisely because of the struggle for freedom against the Ottomans; and that the Ottoman Government had in any case no title or right in any part of Yemen. Britain, on the other hand, bases its position on the international recognition of Ottoman suzerainty over Yemen and its effectiveness, even if partial.

6. Following the defeat of Turkey in the First World War, Yemeni forces advanced into the protectorate territory. This led to a series of incidents which culminated in the British air bombardment in 1928 which forced the partial retreat of the Yemeni forces. After prolonged negotiations, the two countries signed a 40-year treaty in Sana'a in February 1934, whereby they agreed to "maintain the situation

in regard to the frontier" until the settlement of the frontier question.^{2/}

7. This treaty led to a relative pacification of the situation on the frontier for nearly two decades except in the Shabwa area, where a dispute developed as to the exact location of the status quo frontier. In 1938, when Yemen sent a military contingent to the village of Shabwa which Yemen claimed as within her territory, the British authorities sent planes and troops to expel the Yemeni contingent. Another serious incident took place in the same area in September 1949, when the R.A.F. went into action on the allegation that Yemen had erected a fort in British territory. The latter incident led, after negotiation, to an agreement on 20 January 1951 which provided for the establishment of a joint commission to demarcate the boundary. But this commission failed to meet, and there have been numerous incidents in the area since 1954.

8. The 1934 treaty, moreover, has been the subject of a dispute as to interpretation. The United Kingdom interpreted its status quo provision as applying merely to the boundary line; but Yemen claimed that her records

^{2/} Article III of the treaty read:

"The settlement of the question of the southern frontier of the Yemen is deferred pending the conclusion, in whatever way may be agreed upon by both High Contracting Parties in a spirit of friendship and complete concord, free from any dispute or difference, of the negotiations which shall take place between them before the expiry of the period of the present treaty.

"Pending the conclusion of the negotiations referred to in the preceding paragraph, the High Contracting Parties agree to maintain the situation existing in regard to the frontier on the date of the signature of this treaty, and both High Contracting Parties undertake that they will prevent, by all means at their disposal any violation by their forces of the above-mentioned frontier, and any interference by their subjects, or from their side of that frontier, with the affairs of the people inhabiting the other side of the said frontier."

showed that the parties agreed to the maintenance of the status quo over the entire disputed area. Thus, when Britain established Aden as a Crown Colony in 1937 and began to institute more administrative control over the rulers in the Protectorate, Yemen charged a violation of the agreement. Yemen vehemently objected to the transfer in 1949 of Kamran island to Aden's jurisdiction, to the conclusion in 1952 of new protectorate treaties binding each of the local rulers to "cooperate fully and at all times with the Governor of Aden and to accept his advice on all questions relating to the welfare and progress of his territory", and to the promotion in 1954 of a federal scheme in the two protectorates.^{3/}

9. Tension between Yemen and the United Kingdom increased particularly in 1954 in connexion with the federal scheme. An effort at mediation by Dr. Jamali, then Iraqi Premier, failed when Britain, while agreeing to direct negotiations, insisted that Aden protectorate matters, including the federal scheme, were the concern exclusively of Her Majesty's Government and the protectorate rulers. Direct negotiations between the Crown Prince of Yemen and the U.K. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, held in London last November, ended without even a communique when both sides held to their positions.

^{3/} Proposals for federations in the two protectorate areas were explained by the Governor of Aden at a meeting of the Sheikhs in January 1954 and were accepted in principle. No progress has since been made, however, partly because of the reluctance of the Sheikhs to forego their existing rights and privileges. British officials have advocated the federal scheme as essential for the economic and social development of the area.

10. Yemen's fear that the United Kingdom sought to negate her territorial claims by uniting the protectorates and establishing more direct administration is one of the main underlying reasons for the series of incidents which began in 1954 and took a particularly serious turn in Christmas 1956.

11. Meanwhile, Yemen has obtained support for her position from the Arab League, the Bandung Conference and the Communist Powers. On 19 January and 31 March 1954, and 4 September 1957, the Arab League Council adopted resolutions supporting Yemen's position and calling upon the Chiefs in the Aden Protectorate not to become involved in any agreement or system which contradicts their Arab national feeling and separates them from their Arab brothers, especially from Yemen.^{4/} The Bandung Conference communique of 24 April 1955 declared:

"The Asian-African Conference supported the position of Yemen in the case of Aden and the Southern parts of Yemen known as the Protectorates and urged the parties concerned to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the dispute."

12. Communist Powers have expressed support for Yemen's claims in joint statements signed during the tour of the Crown Prince of Yemen to Communist countries between November 1957 and January 1958.

13. In view of this support and the recent decline of British power in the area, as well as the rise of a nationalist movement in Aden, Yemen appears to be confident of fulfilling her ambitions. In the meantime, incidents on the frontier, so long as they do not get beyond control, might serve Yemen's purposes by preventing the consolidation of British administrative control.

^{4/} Particularly significant is the fact that Saudi Arabia, which borders on the Eastern Aden Protectorate, has repeatedly supported Yemen's claims.

It is, therefore, not yet certain whether Yemen would formally request United Nations consideration of the matter as she has indicated several times during recent years.

14. The United Kingdom, on the other hand, might favour any measures designed solely to pacify the frontier and prevent infiltration. The century-old interest of the United Kingdom, which was based on the role of Aden as a fuelling station on the sea route to the east, as an entrepot for the local trade of Arabia and East Africa and as a base for controlling the southern entrance to the Red Sea, may have declined. But the construction of a \$110 million refinery by the British Petroleum Company in Aden, the prospect of petroleum resources in the protectorate, and the significance of the territory in relation to the oil-rich sheikhdoms in eastern Arabia appear to have led her to adopt a firm policy towards Yemen.

3 March 1958

SECRET - PERSONAL

Secretary-General

Yemen and Aden Protectorate

1. Since I was dining with Dixon last night, only senior members of the Delegation being present, I took the opportunity to probe on the Yemen-Aden question. The Delegation's thinking on this question was clearly limited purely to short-term considerations. Their line was that the Yemenis ^{were} ~~are~~ not regarded seriously by the other delegations, that an airing of the affair in the Security Council might not be a bad thing, that the Yemenis' accusations rarely correspond^{ed} to the facts, which, on this occasion, were being checked by the Government of Aden, and that no 'settlement' was possible except by giving up Aden to the Yemenis, which was, of course, out of the question. Any suggestion of intervention by the Secretary-General would be most unwelcome in London. I said that there was no question at all of any intervention by you. Dixon said that he would be very glad to talk to you about the question at any time.

2. We discussed briefly the situation on the ground. They agreed that when the Yemenis concentrated men and materials for raids into the Protectorate, at points behind the border, the most practical way of dealing with them would be for the RAF to attack those points, or at least to reconnoitre them, but they said that the RAF had the strictest instructions not to go over the border, and they thought that reconnaissance could now be adequately done by high-level oblique photography.

3. I suggested that, though the situation was perhaps not very dangerous at present, it might well become dangerous as soon as the Arab Union had consolidated their position and Nasser considered that it was the right time to turn the heat on in the Aden area by virtue of his new status in relation to the Yemen. At that stage it would be impossible to prevent the affair being aggravated and becoming a dangerous political issue. It might be worth while, therefore, H.M.G.'s considering whether there was no way of taking the heat out of the question at this stage, without giving up any of their rights or responsibilities in the Protectorate. I made no suggestion how this might be done.

4. You may like to consider saying, as your personal opinion, to Dixon that this is the kind of situation which is likely to become much more difficult and dangerous as time goes on, and suggesting that H.M.G. should consider whether there is nothing that can be done to forestall such a development. H.M.G. have, of course, tried on several occasions in recent years to negotiate with Yemen on the border question. They have not succeeded, and, with the recent expulsion of the British Chargé d'Affaires and the new agreement between Yemen and the United Arab Republic, bi-lateral negotiations on British initiative are at the moment highly unlikely. There are obviously other possibilities, but they need not be gone into at this stage.

Humphrey Sumner

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3969
27 February 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

TEXT OF IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1958 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN

In pursuance of the complaints presented on October 15, 1956, January 14, August 12, August 16, and September 17, 1957, regarding aggressive action conducted by the forces of the United Kingdom in the territory of the Kingdom of Yemen, I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to bring to your attention the most recent acts of aggression committed by these forces during the period from January 21, 1958, through February 20, 1958.

These attacks have resulted in severe casualties and extensive damage to property, the extent of which is in the process of assessment.

The following are some of the areas attacked, which indisputably lie within the recognized borders of Yemen:

1. Sawma'a was bombarded with machine guns and tanks on January 21, 1958.
2. The regions of Quataba underwent a savage attack of incendiary bombs and rockets on January 30th.
3. The city of Al-Baida and the barracks of the Yemenite soldiers were attacked by ground artillery on February 15th.
4. The centres of Harib have undergone British aerial reconnaissance and various severe acts of aggression by British forces on February 8th, 9th, 16th, 18th, 19th and 20th.
5. Al-Abu-Tuhaif was attacked on February 9th, 18th and 19th and destroyed, leaving its inhabitants homeless.
6. Shukair was raided by waves of British bombers on February 16th, 18th, 19th and 20th, preceded by a ground attack on the 15th of February.
7. Al-Sawda was heavily bombarded by planes and attacked by artillery and machine guns on February 19th.
8. The Gahash area was subjected to a four-hour heavy artillery attack on February 8th and February 16th.
9. Mahallat El Sharaf underwent an artillery attack on February 16.

These and previous acts of aggression prove that there is a planned and persistent campaign against the integrity and the territory of Yemen by the forces of the United Kingdom, constituting a grave threat to peace and security, despite the continuing efforts of my Government to find a peaceful solution. If effective and immediate measures are not taken to end these acts of aggression, which are bound to have untold repercussions in the area, my Government shall be obliged to invite the Security Council to consider the matter and take necessary measures.

In the meantime, may I request that this letter be circulated among the Members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Sir, etc. ...

(Signed) M. Kamil A. Rahim
Permanent Representative of
Yemen to the United Nations

YEMEN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
120 EAST 56TH STREET NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK

MURRAY HILL 8-5580

January 23, 1958

Excellency:

I have the honour to submit herewith a memorandum on the recent British aggression on Yemen, as received from the government of His Majesty Al-Iman Ahmad, The King of Yemen.

I feel it my duty to bring to the attention of your Excellency that this sudden resumption of hostilities after a period of quietness is completely unwarranted.

I request that this memorandum be circulated to all members of the United Nations.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Prince Saif Al Islam Al-Hassan
Chairman of the Delegation

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

MEMORANDUM

On Monday the ninth of Jumada Ath-thani 1367 corresponding to the 30th of December 1957, the British forces in the Protectorate of Aden launched a massive attack on the outskirts of Baidha in the south eastern borders of Yemen, using in their attack several tanks and field artillery supported by airplanes. The forces pounded the positions in the area with a great number of bombs in a battle which continued for about 16 hours. This act of outright aggression has caused several casualties, and wounded many others. Many positions were destroyed by the firing of mortars and heavy bombs. The courageous defenders remained in their positions until they were covered by the fallen wood and rubbles of the devastated positions. All these atrocities took place for no obvious reason whatsoever, except, perhaps to make up for the previous frustration of the British forces in their failure to subdue the gallant garrison of these positions.

17 May 1957

Excellency,

I have the honour to present to Your Excellency a memorandum concerning the recent British hostilities in the South of Yemen, as received from the Government of His Majesty Al-Imam Ahmad, the King of the Mutawakelite Kingdom of Yemen.

I feel it my duty to bring to the attention of Your Excellency the present situation as described in this memorandum, and request that copies of the memorandum be circulated to all members of the United Nations.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Prince Saif Al Islam Al-Hassan
Chairman of the Delegation

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

MEMORANDUM

1. The British forces are continuously firing on the position of Nati' in the eastern part of Yemen near Harib. Artillery, machine guns and rifles are being used in these assaults.
2. Britain is amassing more forces and great amounts of armaments and amunitions in Kumran, a fact which is creating great anxiety and doubts about Britain's intentions.
3. In the last few days British planes have been hovering over as well as circling the territorial waters of Yemen continuously.
4. In a recent statement, the British Minister of Colonial Affairs declared that he is very much concerned with the constitutional developments in Aden and the Protectorates and claimed that Yemen is carrying out a propaganda campaign to undermine these developments. It is obvious that the Minister's allegations have no foundation but is using them to cover the British imperialistic intentions and continued acts of aggression which threaten the sovereignty and independence of Yemen.

The Government of His Majesty Al-Imam Ahmad, the King of the Mutawakelite Kingdom of Yemen protests strongly to all these acts of aggression and rejects completely the accusations of the British Minister of Colonial Affairs.

17 May 1957



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3788
15 February 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1957 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

In continuation of my letter of 21 January 1957 (circulated as Security
Council document S/3777 of 22 January), I have the honour to send you herewith a
further memorandum on recent events in the neighbourhood of the Yemen/Aden frontier
I request that this memorandum should be circulated to all members of the United
Nations.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Pierson Dixon

MEMORANDUM

Since the incidents on the Aden/Yemen frontier described in the memorandum of 21 January, many fresh assaults have been made inside the Aden Protectorate by Yemeni troops and tribesmen. The defensive action taken by the Security Forces of the Protectorate has been confined to the Protectorate.

2. The most serious of the recent incidents began in the Dhala area of the Aden Protectorate on 25 January, when a Yemeni force which included regular troops occupied a ridge at Sanah, in the Protectorate near Dhala. During the following two days the intruders engaged British and Aden forces with small arms, automatic weapons and, for the first time, light artillery. The defending forces pursued these raiders back towards the frontier and engaged them on Protectorate territory. On 28 January Her Majesty's Government made a strong protest about this aggression to the Yemeni Chargé d'Affaires in London.

3. A number of press correspondents from different countries were present in Qataba (the Yemeni border town about a mile north of Sanah) while this Yemeni attack was being repulsed. It seems evident that the visit was arranged to coincide with the attack, in the hope of misrepresenting it as an aggression by the Aden Security Forces. There has, however, been no suggestion that the Aden forces crossed the frontier or that aircraft of the Royal Air Force attacked targets inside the Yemen. In fact, the press correspondents saw only some machine-gun fire and three mortar shells (which caused no damage) land on the Yemeni side of the frontier; it appears that the Yemeni raiders continued firing (as has occurred in previous incidents) after they had retreated across the frontier, and that this fire was returned by the Aden forces. A Court of Enquiry is investigating the report that three Royal Air Force aircraft flew at high level over Qataba. As is well known, it is very difficult for observers on the ground to assess the precise location of high-flying aircraft.

4. At least one of the correspondents (representing the "Times" of London) investigated Yemeni allegations of recent damage in Qataba, to the effect that the town had been razed and that all its inhabitants had been killed or wounded. This correspondent stated that one house had been damaged, some huts a mile to the west of the town showed traces of small arms fire, and that one straw hut had been

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burned out; this damage had apparently occurred on 25 December 1956. He had been unable to obtain evidence of any other recent damage.

5. Her Majesty's Government are pursuing their efforts to arrange direct talks with representatives of the Yemeni Government in order to restore peaceful conditions in the frontier areas. Earlier exchange to this end were described in the memorandum of 21 January. On 22 January the Yemeni Chargé d'Affaires in London informed the Foreign Office that his Government did not object to "reconsidering a meeting between officers from both parties" if the purpose of this meeting was "the cease-fire in both free Yemen and occupied Yemen and as a preliminary step resulting in negotiations resolving the whole problem". The phrase "occupied Yemen" is of course completely unacceptable to my Government and appears to have been used purely for propaganda purposes. It is interesting to note in this connexion a statement of the Imam of the Yemen, made at a press conference on 30 January at Sunknhe, in the Yemen, that the Yemen did not recognize any boundary between herself and the Aden Protectorate, and that all the Protectorate areas belonged to the Yemen. It will be recalled that under Article 3 of the Anglo/Yemeni Treaty of Friendship of 1934, the British and Yemeni Governments recognized the existence of the de facto frontier and undertook "to prevent... any violation by their forces of the frontier and any interference by their subjects, or from their side of the frontier, with the affairs of the people inhabiting the other side of the frontier".

6. On 23 January the Yemeni Minister for Foreign Affairs suggested to H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Taiz that before the proposed meeting took place "aggressive activities and hostile air raids should cease". The Yemeni Chargé d'Affaires in London was informed on the following day that since no such activities or air raids by British forces were taking place there appeared to be no further obstacle to the meeting except the continued occupation of parts of the Beihan (in the Aden Protectorate) by Yemenis. On 26 January H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Taiz was instructed to make further representations to the Yemeni Government to withdraw from the Beihan and name a date for the frontier meeting at Sanah. The Foreign Office was informed on 30 January that the Yemeni Government would not object to talks at Mukeiras (in the Aden Protectorate opposite Beidha) between the Sherif of Beihan and the Governor of Beidha. It is, however, obvious, in the view of Her Majesty's Government, that peaceful conditions cannot be restored along the whole

frontier unless the interests of all the Rulers concerned are safeguarded and until the conditions laid down by the Sherif of Beihan are met, namely that the Yemenis should withdraw from the positions including the village of Sawianiyah, which they had occupied within his territory, and should restore the customary water supplies to Nejd Marqad, in the Aden Protectorate.

7. At the request of the Sherif of Beihan the Aden Security Forces, supported by aircraft, began on 1 February an operation to clear Yemeni troops and tribesmen from the two villages of Hadhiya and Sawdaniyah, 20 miles inside the Beihan. This operation was undertaken after repeated demands had been made to the Yemeni intruders to withdraw and after the Sherif had ensured that no Beihanis remained in the villages. Beihan tribesmen re-occupied Hadhiya on 3 February.

8. The United Kingdom Government made a further approach to the Yemeni Chargé d'Affaires in London on 12 February in a note urging the Yemeni Government to agree to talks between representatives of the Yemeni and Aden Governments (at which the Aden Rules concerned would be present) at Mukeiras or Sanah on 23 February or any other early date proposed by the Yemen.

9. While Her Majesty's Government hope to receive an early reply to this latest invitation to direct talks, they cannot but be perturbed at the firm evidence which is available of arms and military assistance being supplied to the Yemen by countries of the Soviet Bloc and Egypt. It is known for instance that the Soviet freighter "Shmela" arrived in Salif in October 1956 with a consignment of arms, ammunition and military equipment from Czechoslovakia. It is possible that this consignment is the one referred to recently by Yemeni sources in Cairo, which announced that \$8.5 million worth of Czechoslovak arms had already arrived in the Yemen. Training centres staffed by Egyptian instructors have been established near Sana and Hodeida in order to teach the Yemeni regular army the use of these weapons. Moreover, the press correspondents referred to in paragraph 3 above have observed and reported that modern Soviet rifles were among the arms carried by the Yemeni forces in Qataba.



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3777
22 January 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1957 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose a memorandum on recent events in the
neighbourhood of the Aden/Yemeni frontier to which the Chairman of the Yemeni
Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations referred in his letter
to you of January 14 - S/3773.

I request that this memorandum should be circulated to all members of the
United Nations.

I have the honour to be, etc...

(Signed) Pierson Dixon

MEMORANDUM

On January 14 the Head of the Yemeni Delegation to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council a letter containing allegations
about certain incidents which took place near the Aden/Yemeni frontier on
January 8 and 9. These incidents have now been investigated and the following
facts established.

Just before midnight on January 8 guard posts of the Government of the
Aden Protectorate at Sufra and Jalila, near Dhala, were fired on by rebels
inspired by the Government of Yemen. Security forces of the Aden Protectorate
pursued the rebels to the frontier post at Sanah in the Aden Protectorate, and
continued to return their fire as they retreated to Qataba.

No British aircraft or ground forces have been in action at Assoma. It is
also untrue that British aircraft flew over Harib airfield. When Yemeni forces
attacked Sudaqiya, which is in the Aden Protectorate, the defenders were supported
by British aircraft which did not, however, cross the frontier at any point.

57-02778

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Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom take this opportunity to point out that over a long period the Government of Yemen has encouraged its tribespeople to violate the frontier of the Aden Protectorate, has subverted and armed the subjects of the Rulers of the small Arab states under British protection and has put up a smokescreen of protests and propaganda about alleged British intrusions into the Yemen, all of which have on investigation been proved to be consistently and patently untrue.

Her Majesty's Government nevertheless hope that it may be possible to settle outstanding frontier problems in direct talks with representatives of Yemeni Government. On December 4, 1956, the Yemeni Government proposed that representatives of the Aden and Yemeni Governments should meet near the Aden/Yemeni frontier. Her Majesty's Government consulted the Rulers of the Aden Protectorate on this proposal. The Rulers agreed that such a meeting should take place. One of them, the Sherif of Beihan, gave his approval subject to the condition that Yemeni forces should first withdraw from posts which they had recently occupied in his territory, and that they should restore the customary use of the water source at Husn Fagih from which Nejd Marquad, in the Aden Protectorate, is supplied. On January 14 Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Taiz was instructed to offer the Yemeni Government talks on these conditions. So far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, no reply has yet been received from the Yemeni Government.

It is the hope of Her Majesty's Government that this frontier meeting will take place and that following it the Yemeni Government will agree to form a joint Anglo-Yemeni commission to demarcate the disputed areas of the de facto frontier, as provided for in the Exchange of Notes between Her Majesty's Government and the Yemeni Government dated January 20, 1951.

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UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3773
15 January 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 JANUARY 1957 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the pleasure to bring to your attention that on January the 11th, 1957, I received a cable from His Majesty the King of Yemen to the effect that the British forces in Aden renewed their aggression against the territory of Yemen.

On the eve of Wednesday, January the 8th, a convoy of lorries, loaded with British troops came to Sanah, a town near Ka'ataba. These troops were equipped with heavy artillery and arms. They bombarded Ka'ataba and all the Government centers. As a result of the bombardment several Government buildings, army barracks and the guest-house were destroyed.

On the morning of Wednesday, January the 9th, several warplanes, belonging to the British Air Force attacked Saum'a, in the district of Al Baida, with bombs. At the same time the ground force attacked the same place with machine gun and rifle fire. This attack lasted about twelve hours. In Hareeb, two British military planes flew over the airfield of Hareeb for a long while.

I wish to call Your Excellency's attention to these acts of aggression against the sovereignty and the independence of Yemen on the part of the British Authorities in Aden and I reserve the right of the Government of Yemen to invite the Security Council to take this complaint into consideration.

Accept, Excellency, etc....

(Signed) Prince Saif Al Islam Al Hassan
Chairman, Yemen Delegation
to the XIth Session of the
General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3773
15 January 1957

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I have the pleasure to bring to your attention that on January the 11th, 1957, I received a cable from His Majesty the King of Yemen to the effect that the British forces in Aden renewed their aggression against the territory of Yemen.

On the eve of Wednesday, January the 8th, a convoy of lorries, loaded with British troops came to Sanah, a town near Ka'ataba. These troops were equipped with heavy artillery and arms. They bombarded Ka'ataba and all the Government centers. As a result of the bombardment several Government buildings, army barracks and the guest-house were destroyed.

On the morning of Wednesday, January the 9th, several warplanes, belonging to the British Air Force attacked Saum'a, in the district of Al Baida, with bombs. At the same time the ground force attacked the same place with machine gun and rifle fire. This attack lasted about twelve hours. In Hareeb, two British military planes flew over the airfield of Hareeb for a long while.

I wish to call Your Excellency's attention to these acts of aggression against the sovereignty and the independence of Yemen on the part of the British Authorities in Aden and I reserve the right of the Government of Yemen to invite the Security Council to take this complaint into consideration.

Accept, Excellency, etc....

(Signed) Prince Saif Al Islam Al Hassan
Chairman, Yemen Delegation
to the XIth Session of the
General Assembly

YEMEN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
449 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK

January 3, 1957

His Excellency, The Secretary General of the United Nations.

I have the pleasure to present to Your Excellency my best wishes, and in reference to my conversation with Your Excellency on the 3rd of January, 1957, concerning the recent aggression on Yemen from the British Forces in Aden. As I have explained to you, on the 25th of December, 1956, the British forces attacked the village of Madhroubat 'Amer and used in its attack hand grenades and incendiary bombs. Fires continued in the village for eight hours. On the next day, that is the 26th of December, 1956, the artillery of the British forces attacked the city of Ka'taba and destroyed many houses as well as inflicted several injuries to the people.

In addition to this, I have received from His Majesty, the King of Yemen, a telegram informing me that on the 31st of December, 1956, military planes of the British Air Force attacked the city of Hareeb and its suburbs and bombed them very heavily, destroying several houses in the area. The British aggression and bombing continues up to now in that area, as I explained to Your Excellency in my conversation.

This aggression is intolerable and inexcusable. It is a criminal aggression on the sovereignty of an independent state, planned to frighten the population and to create disorder in the area. It is a clear violation of all international agreements as well as the Charter of the United Nations, to which Yemen is an active party.

Therefore, I reaffirm what I have already requested from Your Excellency concerning your intervention to stop this aggression on Yemen. In order to improve the tense situation in the area, the Government of His Majesty requests that the problem should be referred to the observing officers in the area.

Waiting for your answer, I repeat my best regards,


Sayful Islam Al-Hassan

Chairman of the Yemen Delegation
to the United Nations

Shuf. Dr. Al-Bawitah

TT

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SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

UN BLDG NYK JAN 1957

YOUR EXCELLENCY I RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING CABLE FROM MY GOVERNMENT ON DECEMBER 30 QUOTES:

BRITISH FORCES LAUNCHED A LARGE SCALE ATTACK ON SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE KINGDOM OF YEMEN. ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 25TH THE BRITISH FORCES ATTACKED THE VILLAGE OF MADHROBAT AAMIR. SOME OF THE INHABITANCE WERE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED HANDGRENADES AND INCENDIARY BOMBS WERE USED IN THIS ATTACK. FIRES WHICH BROKE OUT AS A RESULT LASTED 8 HOURS. ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26TH THE BRITISH ARTILLERY BOMBARDED THE TOWN OF QADABAH AND SUBURBS MANY HOUSES WERE DEMOLISHED AND MANY PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED. THESE ARE OPEN ACTS OF AGGRESSION AND BRITISH SHOOTING STILL GOING ON UNQUOTE WE WISH THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY USE YOUR OWN GOOD OFFICES TO PUT AN END TO THIS AGGRESSION AND PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS MRH SAIF AL-ISLAM AL-HASSAM CHAIRMAN MISSION OF YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

1225PME EST.

RCD WUCDS JA 1224EST SKN

YEMEN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
120 EAST 56TH STREET NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK

MURRAY HILL 8-5580

December 11, 1956

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I have received from my Government the following information:

The British authorities in Aden attacked the territory of Al-Hasha tribe, which has never been subjected in the past to any act of aggression. They sent a force under British officers who ordered the bombardment of that territory. This is a new act of aggression which has been repeatedly committed by the British authorities in several areas of that region. This act violates the International Laws and contradicts the spirit of the Yemen-British treaty.

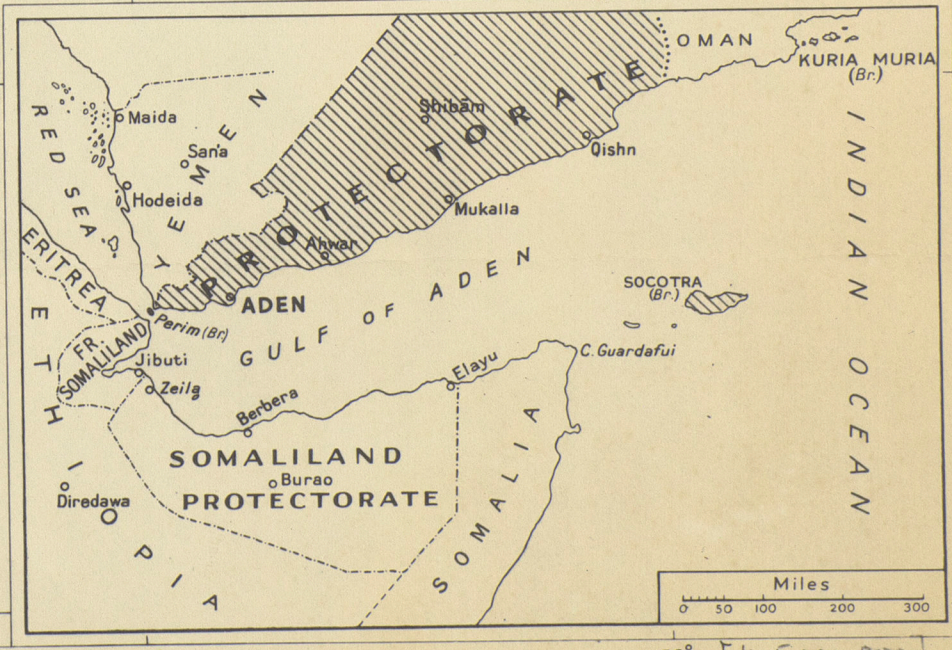
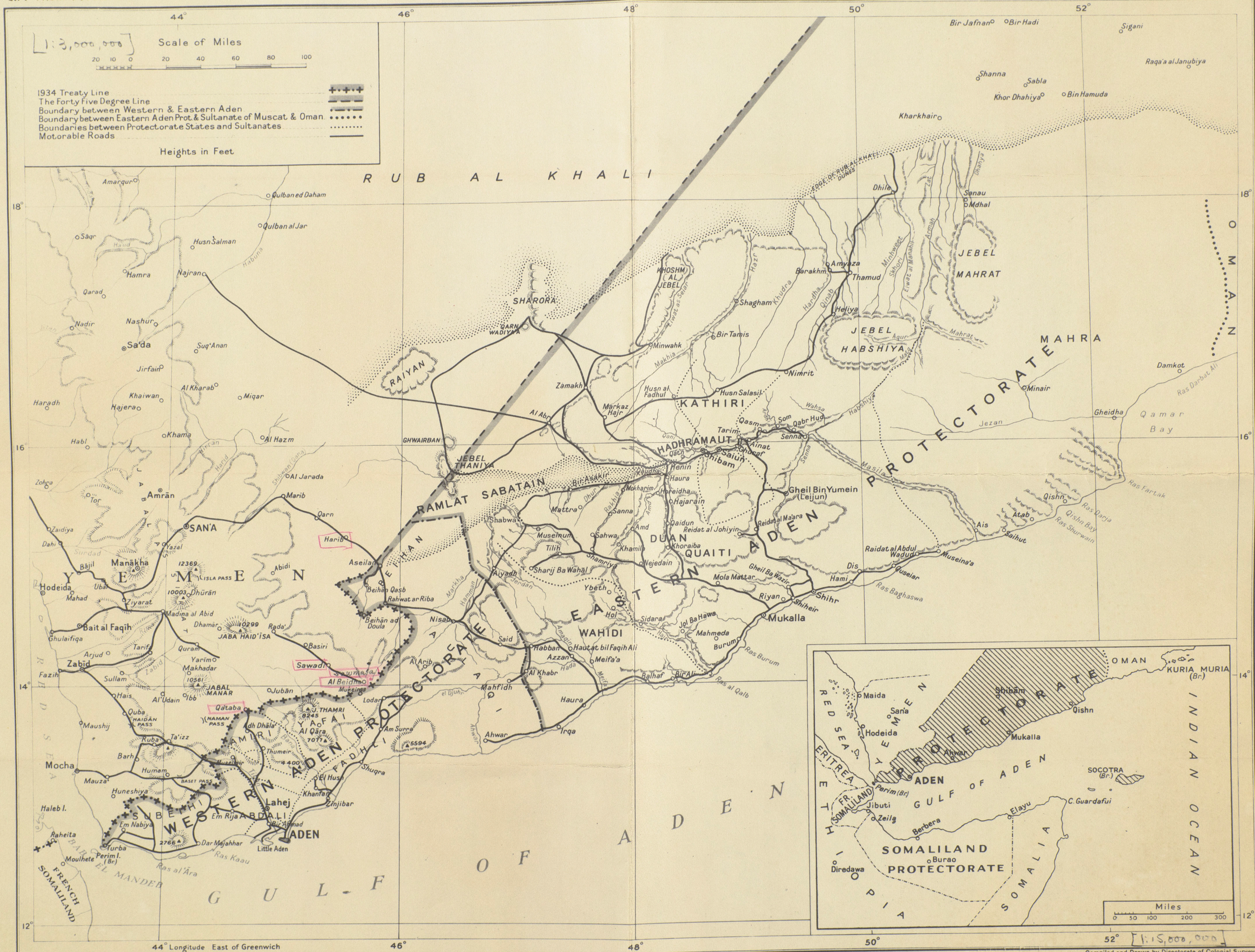
I shall be grateful to you if you will circulate this information among the members of the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Prince Saif Al-Islam Al-Hassan
Chairman of the Delegation of
Yemen to the 11th Session of the
General Assembly.

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

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