

Middle East conflict - Middle East Development Funds: Middle East conflict ...

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Letter to DH from Selwyn Lloyd

L 179: 103c

PERSONAL

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary-General,
United Nations Organisation,
NEW YORK.

Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

February 5, 1958

Personal

My dear Dag

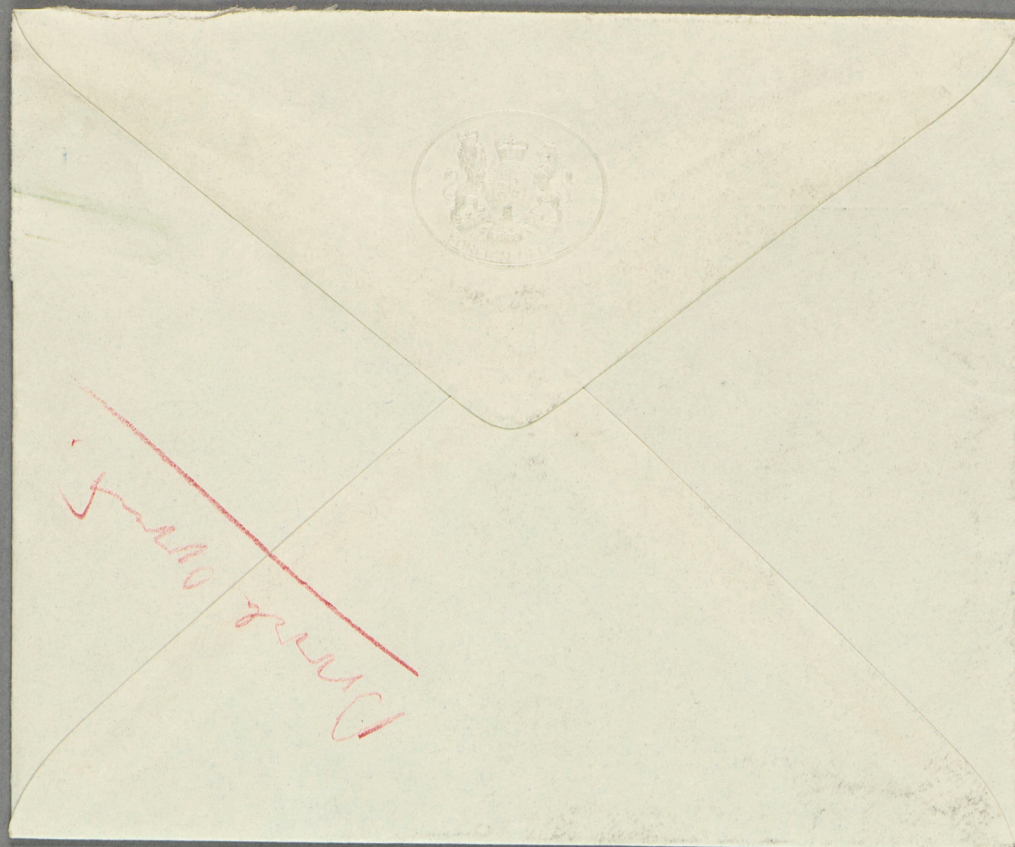
Thank you so much for your letter of January 27. I was delighted to have you with us at Chequers and greatly enjoyed your stay.

When we discussed your ideas about the Middle East, I told you that we would of course welcome any plan for economic development and, particularly, any step towards a solution of the refugee problem. I did not, however, conceal from you that I thought there were very serious practical difficulties. I had an opportunity to discuss the matter with Dulles while we were both in Ankara and I think that he very much shares my own view.

We also agreed at Chequers that I might say something to Nuri in confidence about your thinking. I explained your views to him in general terms but

/his

His Excellency Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld



his reaction was very far from enthusiastic. He said in fact that this closely resembled a plan put forward a year or two ago by Emil Bustani which Iraq had firmly rejected. Nuri said that Iraq could not consider any plan which might involve a contribution from her oil revenues, since all these were required for the development programme in Iraq itself. He was also convinced that Saudi Arabia would take the same view as regards her oil revenues. Nuri took the line that if any of the Arab countries wanted aid for economic development, they ought to apply individually to the International Bank or other agency concerned; he saw no need for any central organisation.

/Since

B. R.

Since I spoke to Nuri there has been the union between Egypt and Syria. I think that this is bound to make the Iraqi Government even more doubtful about the establishment of any regional organisation in the Middle East. I have sought to avoid putting any one against your ideas. On the other hand, you should know that there will be Ministerial opposition.

I look forward to seeing you in London at the end of March when we can have another talk about all this.

Y. M. K.
Delors