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Persons

Dixon, Sir Pierson J.

Dorman, John

Greene, Joseph N., Jr.

Lloyd, Sir John Selwyn Brooke

Rountree, William M.

Saud Ibn Abd al Aziz al-Faisal al Saud

Abbreviations & Terms

MC

UNGA

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1955–1957

VOLUME XXVII, WESTERN EUROPE AND CANADA, DOCUMENT 329

329. Memorandum of a Conversation, Department of State, Washington, October 25, 1957, 10:30 a.m.¹

Washington, October 25, 1957, 10:30 a.m.

MTW MC–15

SUBJECT

Arabian Peninsula

[Here follows the same list of participants as [Document 324](#).]

The Secretary said that the US and UK were faced by two large problems: Israel and the UK relationship with Saudi Arabia. The situation in the Yemen seemed to be improving and the West was apparently gaining in influence in that country. However, the Buraimi question, giving rise to the UK-Saudi dispute, still bothered us.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd agreed that the situation in the Yemen was improving. As the Secretary was doubtless aware, there was a possibility of a visit to London by the Crown Prince. At the Imam's request, the British Foreign Office had sent an official to the Yemen to make the arrangements for the visit. The Imam, Mr. Lloyd said, was frightened by the Russians, wished to assure his succession by the Crown Prince, and did not know exactly how he stood with King Saud.

Turning to the Buraimi question, Mr. Lloyd said that the Sultan of Muscat would visit London in November. It would greatly relieve the situation if King Saud would recognize the present boundaries of Muscat. However, King Saud could not be nice to the Sultan since the Sultan had not been nice to the Imam.

Mr. Lloyd said that King Saud had taken the initiative in approaching the UK through Charles Malik. King Saud had recommended that conversations be held with Ambassador Khayyal, who was number two on the Saudi Arabian Delegation to the UNGA and Malik was now arranging an appointment for Sir Roger [*Pierson*] Dixon to see Ambassador Khayyal. Mr. Lloyd said he would have preferred to talk with Azzam Pasha, whom Mr. Lloyd knew well.

Mr. Rountree observed that Ambassador Khayyal was a good man. However, there was a certain demarcation between the responsibilities of Ambassador Khayyal and Azzam Pasha, and it was probable that the Ambassador would want Azzam Pasha to sit in on any conversations which he might have with the British. Mr. Rountree thought it might be wise to have Shukairy² out of the talks.

¹ Source: Department of State, Conference Files: Lot 62 D 181, CF 926. Secret. Drafted by Dorman, approved by Dulles and Greene, and circulated to appropriate U.S. officials on October 25.

² Ahmad Assad Shukairy, Syrian Ambassador in Egypt and member of the Syrian Delegation to the United Nations.