FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO: Department of State

FROM: JIMDA 219 Jan. 5, 1951

REF: Embtel 426, Jan. 4, 1951.

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO SAUDI ARABIA

The Embassy forwarded for the Department's information the enclosed translation of an article appearing January 1, 1951 in the Egyptian newspaper Al Anwar, reporting in some detail on proposed American military assistance to Saudi Arabia. The Egyptian Embassy has been informed that this newspaper is read regularly by a small but increasing number of Saudis. Its editors are apparently attempting to increase Nejazi circulation of the paper with articles of interest to its Saudi readers.

The owner and editor-in-chief, Fathy Aql, visited Saudi Arabia some six months ago. At that time the Saudi agent for his paper told an Arab employee of the Embassy that Aql had been successful in his mission and had obtained the promise of a subsidy from the Saudi Government in return for his support of that Government's policy. Aql has lived up to his part of the bargain. He is also known locally for his strong anti-American tone of his editorialized reporting of international news, although it is not immediately apparent why there should be anti-American bias in a publication subsidized by the Saudi Government.

The Washington date line of the article may be entirely fictitious, and it is possible that the report originated in another Egyptian publication or it may have been pirated from a foreign newspaper. It may even have been originated by a Saudi source familiar with the tenor of the current negotiations. In any case, the timeliness and relative accuracy of the article would appear to make its origin of more than passing interest to the Department.

For the Ambassador:

William D. Breuer
Third Secretary of Embassy

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Authority NNA1917336

By NARA, Date 7/1988

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Al-Ahwal, No. 13, 2062, January 1, 1951

American Help to Arabia to Mobilize But Requires Guarantee that
the Army Shall Not be Used against Israel.

Diplomatic Circles Expect Refusal of the Guarantee
as a Violation of the Collective Security Pact

We mentioned in our last issue's editorial that America
was trying to acquire strategic positions in the Saudi Arab
Kingdom, and we warned against such a mistake. The following
article reports another American attempt which resembles what
we wrote before:

Washington: The State Department has decided to assist the
Saudi Arab Kingdom in creating a modern, trained and fully
equipped army of twenty thousand men, which is next to
relieve King Abdul Aziz. Al Saud of the fear of threats ex-
pected from the two (Iraqi) states in the neighborhood. This
project is considered a part of the American policy toward
supporting the unity of the Arab countries militarily and
politically through the Arab League, to which may be added
continued efforts by the United States to find a satisfactory
settlement for the Anglo-Egyptian dispute.

It is expected that this new Arab army will take a large
share of the war that may be waged by the north, i.e., Russia.

The details of American military assistance are still
maintained with secrecy.

A responsible source, however, has declared that this
assistance would include planes, tanks, machine guns and
artillery. The responsible source added that it was expected
that an American military mission would include some
experts, would immediately start training the national Saudi
guards, since they consider militarily incompetent.

A short while ago, this American assistance had been taken
up for discussion by Mr. Rothke, Assistant Secretary of the
State Department; Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Minister of Saudi
Arabia; and Abdul Rahman Arman Fath during his visit to
America.

It is known that the new American Ambassador to Yemen
and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Raymond Marck, left Washington equipped
with the necessary instructions for the discussion of the final
details of the military assistance plan with His Highness Amir
Faisal and His Highness Amir Khamer.
All informed sources have been quoted as saying that the State Department had prepared an agreement which would satisfy its friends the Zionists and, at the same time, enable the Saudi Kingdom to receive military assistance.

As a condition for the carrying out of the mobilization project, the Ambassador, Mr. Hare, will ask, or he may have already asked, that His Majesty King Abdul Aziz Al Saud shall not use the arms in an aggression against Israel.

It is ridiculous for the Jews and their friends among the high ranking officials of the American Government, to think that such a Saudi army could be considered a threat to the sovereignty and security of Israel.

Nevertheless, it is doubtful that His Majesty King Abdul Aziz will agree to the disgraceful and undiplomatic guarantee that American military assistance will not be used against Israel. The State Department ought to realize that if there is any hostile act in the Near East it will be found in Tel Aviv itself.

On the other hand, the Three Powers declaration regarding the Middle East as well as the U.N. Charter are capable of eliminating the alleged Jewish fears.

It may also be noted that the American Government stipulation will find no justification from the geographical point of view, as the two states have no common frontier. Furthermore, the stipulation contradicts the pledge made by Saudi Arabia in the U.N. Collective Security Pact, the provisions of which, concerning defense, are capable of eliminating the wicked fears of the Americans and the Jews.