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TO : Department of State

FROM : JIDDA 210 Jan. 5, 1951

REF : Embtel 424, Jan. 4, 1951.

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

REC'D ACTION INFO DCR OLI E IE NEA S/ISA

The Embassy forwards for the Department's information the enclosed translation of an article appearing January 1, 1951 in the Egyptian newspaper, Al-Ahwal, reporting in some detail on proposed American military assistance to Saudi Arabia. The 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 Hejaz circulation of the paper with articles of interest to its Saudi readers.

The owner and editor-in-chief, Fahm Aql, visited Saudi Arabia some six months ago. At that time the Jidda 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 and its policies. Aql has lived up to his part of the bargain. He is also known locally for the 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.

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For the Ambassador:

*William D. Brewer*

William D. Brewer  
Third Secretary of Embassy

Goenfeld  
Emery  
Galbraith  
Silver  
Stevens

January 7, 1951

Enclosures:

Translation of article.

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JMB/ehb

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By [Signature] NARA. Date 3/98

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Al Ahsal, No. 13, dated January 1, 1951.

America Helps Arabia to Mobilize but Requires Guarantees 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 confirms 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 meant to relieve King Abdul Aziz Al Saud of the fears of threats expected from the two (Western) 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 concealed 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, which would include some experts, would immediately start training the national Saudi guards, whom they consider militarily inexperienced.

A short while ago, this meager assistance had been taken up for discussion by Mr. Nichols, Assistant Secretary of the State Department; Sheikh As'ad Al Faqih, Minister of Saudi Arabia; and Abdul Rahman Arzua Farha during his visit to America.

It is known that the new American Ambassador to Yemen and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Raymond Hare, 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 Mansoor.

His Majesty King Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States, will be in New York City on July 2nd and 3rd.

Well 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. Mare, 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 spirit in the Near East it will be found in Tel Aviv itself.

On the other hand, the Three Power 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 Arab Collective Security Pact, the provisions of which, concerning defense, are capable of eliminating the wicked fears of the Americans and the Jews.

Tr: SUA