

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

File NE-7114 DC/R

~~SECRET~~

TO : NE - Mr. Fred A. Awalt  
THRU : IBD - George Q. Herrick  
FROM : IBD - W. J. Porter

MAIL ROOM CENTER  
DATE February 19, 1951  
File NE-7114  
1951 JUN 21 AM 8 56

SUBJECT: Telegram No. 4487, February 16, from London, Regarding Kuwait.

511.86 cl 4/2-1651

You will have noted from the subject telegram that the British have rejected at Ministerial level our plan for a VOA relay base in Kuwait. IBD had previously been encouraged by the BBC to believe that there would be no serious objection to this project. While it is generally acknowledged that the British have a special position in Kuwait, it might be argued whether that provides them with the right to veto such matters as the establishment of a VOA relay base in the Shaikhdom. However, that is a matter for NE to determine.

yes of course

From the IBD viewpoint, this British rejection will have a very serious effect on our ability to implement the Ring Plan approved by Congress and the National Security Council. As you know, we had originally aimed at Bahrein and were forced to give up consideration of that Island for political reasons. At one time, also, we had hopes of covering the Middle East from Cyprus, but the British vetoed that as well. It will therefore be evident that while they have been cooperative in other fields of telecommunication in the Middle East, they have resolutely and consistently opposed any attempt to establish VOA relay bases in their territory or, as in the case of Kuwait, in territory under their control. Our intention to use medium waves probably increases their opposition because of the known effectiveness of medium wave broadcasts in that region.

511.86D4/2-1951

It would be interesting to determine, if you think it advisable, whether the British have had in mind the effect of these rejections on Congress. Within the next few weeks, hearings will be held by the Appropriations Sub-committee on VOA programs and finances. If it should become evident that lack of progress in a very critical area has been due to British opposition, this may have a most unfortunate effect.

good

Scrivener's suggestion that IBD might consider using Dhahran, seems a rather blunt expression of the "go-somewhere-else-and-don't bother-us" attitude. In any case, the U. S. has too many eggs already in the Saudi Arabian basket and Kuwait is definitely better suited to our purposes than would be a Saudi Arabian location.

There will probably be more to say on this subject when the written statement promised in the telegram mentioned has been received. In the meantime, if you have occasion to talk with appropriate members

British Embassy

DC/R  
Anal. 35  
Rev.  
Cat.

X 038827

~~SECRET~~

JUN 16 1951

RECEIVED

511.86 cl 4/2-1951  
~~SECRET FILE~~

~~SECRET~~

-2-

British Embassy, you might wish to make some of the points mentioned in this memorandum. For the reasons outlined, IBD feels that the Department should react strongly with a view to reversing the British position.

cc: Mr Kohler  
Mr Kretzmann  
Mr Thompson  
Mr O. C. Anderson (OII/D)

~~SECRET~~