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AUG 9 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Urgent Request to You from King Ibn Saud for the Services of General Graham.

The Saudi Arabian Charge d'Affaires called urgently at the Department yesterday and communicated the disturbing news that King Ibn Saud is experiencing "severe pains and convulsions in the lower abdomen." Consequently, the King would appreciate it greatly, if you would make General Graham available to lead a party of American specialists to Saudi Arabia to examine the King. You permitted General Graham to make such a visit in April of last year. The Saudi Charge stressed the urgency of the King's need for medical attention under the supervision of General Graham, in whom the King reposes unique confidence. The Charge also stated that the political situation in the Near East is such that secrecy regarding the King's health is desirable.

Ibn Saud is the best friend the United States has in the Middle East. He frequently refers to you as "my brother" and the alacrity with which you made General Graham available upon the previous occasion was not only a deeply appreciated personal gesture but also a diplomatic stroke which paved the way for the recent signature of an extremely favorable United States - Saudi Arabia agreement for the use of the Dhahran Airfield.

I strongly recommend that you permit General Graham to make this trip. The General need not stay very long, but getting him there quickly to examine the King will be an important contribution to our relations with Saudi Arabia.

DEAN ACHESON

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