

NEA

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : NEA - Mr. Berry

FROM : NE - Mr. Kopper *AKOK*

SUBJECT: Mr. Nolting's Misgivings re Visit by Prince Misha'al.

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DECLASSIFIED
 DATE: August 22, 1951
 Authority *AWD 832922*
 By *AT* NARA, Date *2-27-98*

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I urge that Mr. Nolting be asked to reconsider his views against inviting Prince Misha'al to visit the United States this fall. Although an important consideration in planning Mansour's visit to this country was, as Mr. Nolting points out, to assist our negotiations in Saudi Arabia for a new DAF agreement, other considerations also existed which apply with equal validity to Prince Misha'al.

1. The basic purpose of an invitation of this kind is to create good will. There are elements in Saudi Arabian high places which are not friendly disposed toward the United States and their counsel is ~~not~~ apt to be effective if we miss obvious opportunities to demonstrate a cordial disposition toward the SAG.

2. Such an opportunity existed in respect to Mansour and presently to Misha'al. The former informally indicated his desire to visit this country two years ago. It would have been awkward to have invited him then before there was legal authority for assisting Saudi Arabia militarily as that country desired. When we were prepared to do so, death intervened and Misha'al succeeded. He has now similarly indicated a great interest in receiving an invitation to visit this country. Such suggestions have been made to our military survey group presently in Saudi Arabia, to the Arabian American Oil Company and to the Saudi Arabian Ambassador, who has just returned from his country. Failure on our part to follow through would be incomprehensible to a people whose own sense of courtesy and hospitality is so highly developed and by the same token sensitive. Lack of appropriate response on our part would very likely be taken as a snub.

3. Direct US defense interest in Saudi Arabia is very high. Several important Defense officials from this country have visited and been royally entertained in Saudi Arabia in the recent past. Among them are Secretary Finletter, Undersecretary McCone, Admiral Conolly, Admiral Carney and General Collins. In addition, we have a Navy Hydrographic group and a unit of COMIDEASTFOR operating in Saudi Arabian waters; we have had two military survey missions in the country; we have a large and very important airbase there; we have had one military training mission in Saudi Arabia and are preparing to send a second; and we are prepared to extend military assistance of a substantial character to that country. In view of this imposing evidence of our military interest in Saudi Arabia, it would be awkward, indeed, not to respond to overtures in Saudi Arabia for their Minister of Defense to visit this country.

4. No adult

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4. No adult Saudi Arabian Prince has visited this country since 1947. The Crown Prince was here in January of that year upon our invitation. Prince Feisal, Chief Saudi Arabian delegate to the UN, left the United States in November of that year with great bitterness toward this country following the Palestine vote in the General Assembly. In Saudi Arabian minds it is time another Prince had the opportunity of paying us a visit.

5. Prince Misha'al has already been invited to ~~be~~^{visit} in France in October of this year. He is an untraveled, inexperienced, and impressionable young man. His reception in France could be most effective in directing his sympathy and friendship toward that country. Although we have no objection toward his friendliness to that country, we want very much to retain a large measure of this good will for ourselves also. It is, accordingly, believed that he should follow his visit to France with a visit to this country as well.

The Arabian American Oil Company has expressed its willingness to share in the entertainment of Misha'al in the United States to any extent the Defense authorities consider appropriate.

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