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'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya'

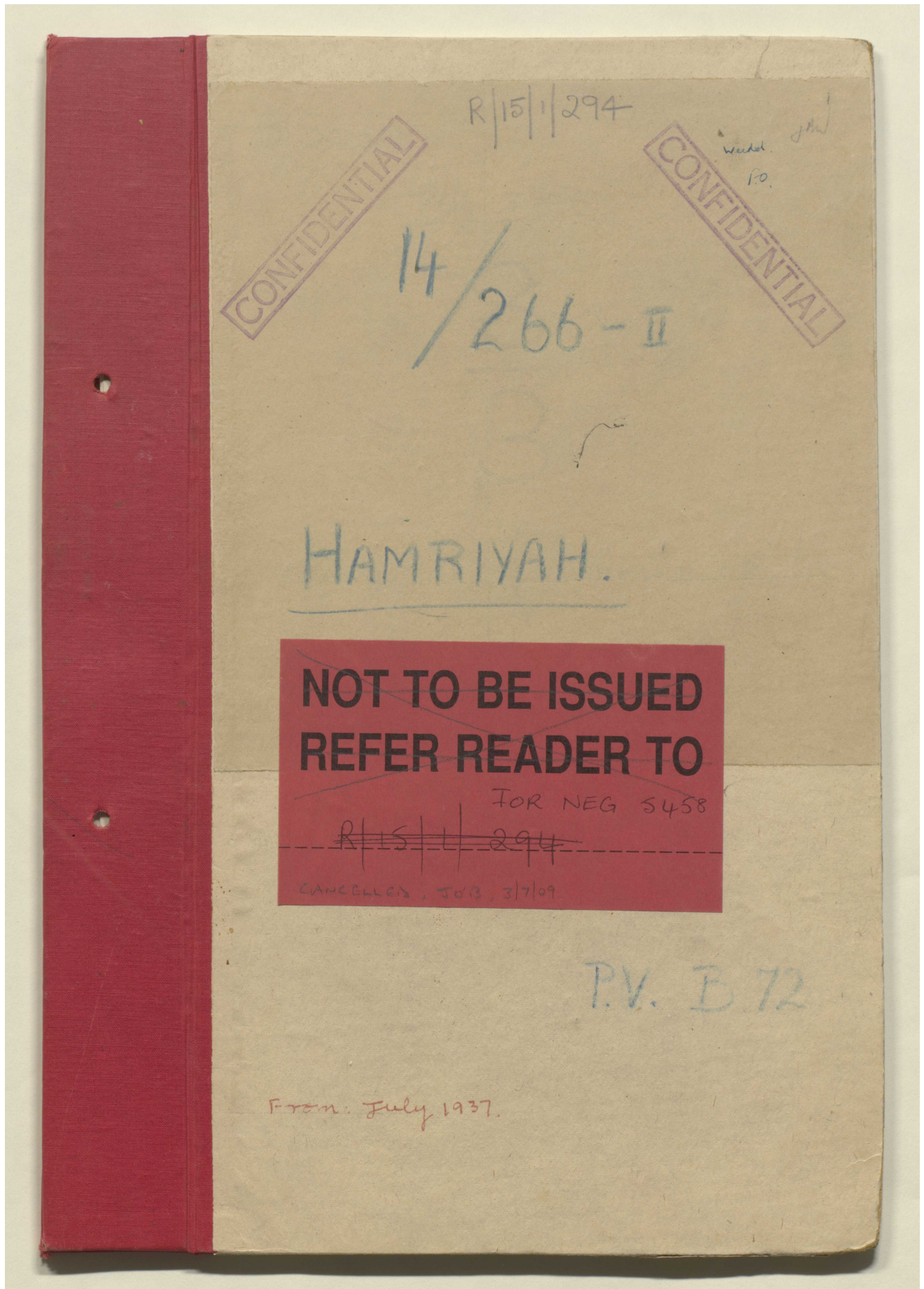
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/R/15/1/294
Date(s)	5 Jul 1937-14 Jun 1948 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 volume (20 folios)
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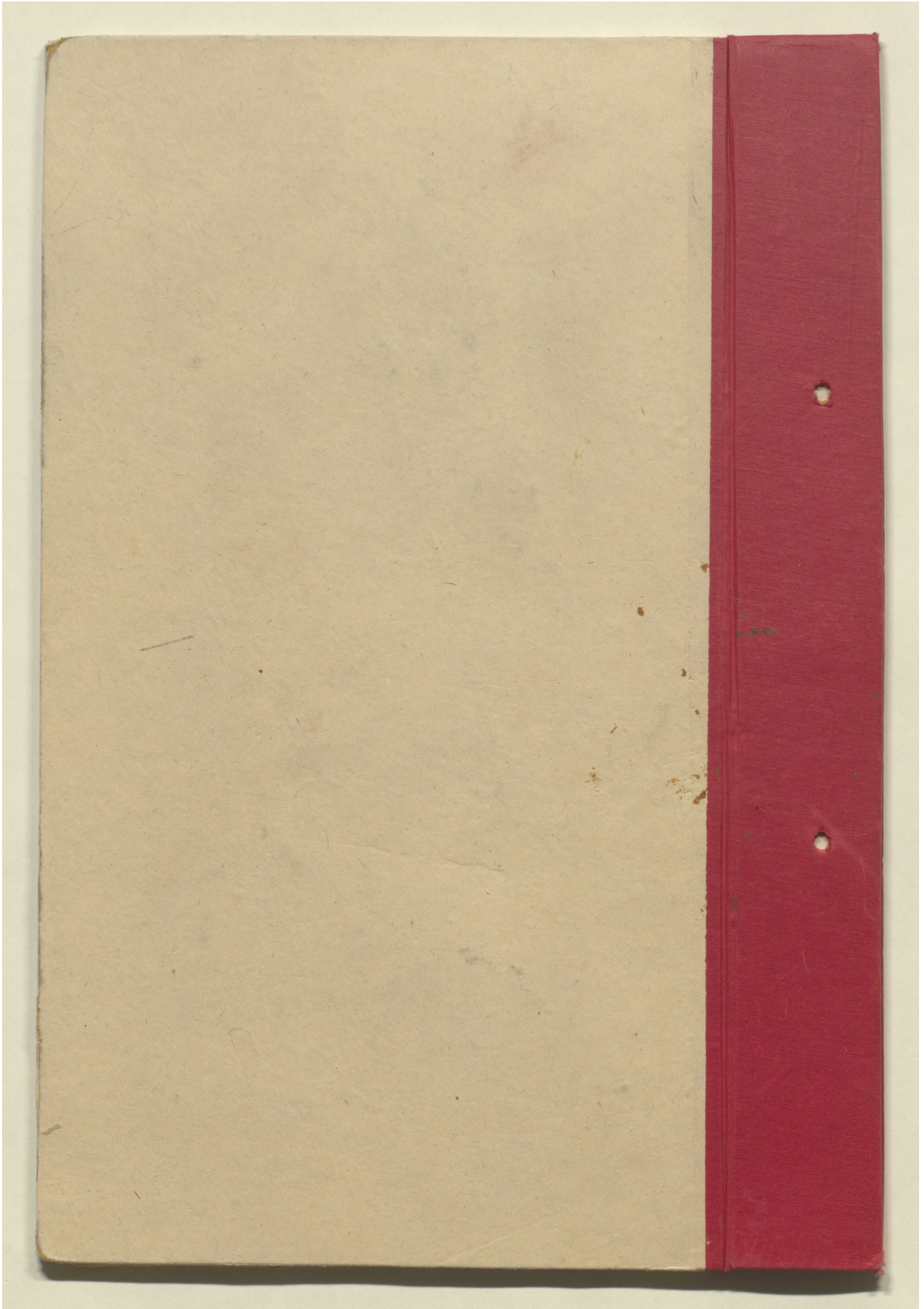
About this record

Correspondence concerning the status of Hamriyah and whether it was a fiefdom of Sharjah, particularly as this impacted on the development of oil concessions. Correspondents include Captain Tom Hickenbotham, Political Agent, Bahrain; and the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

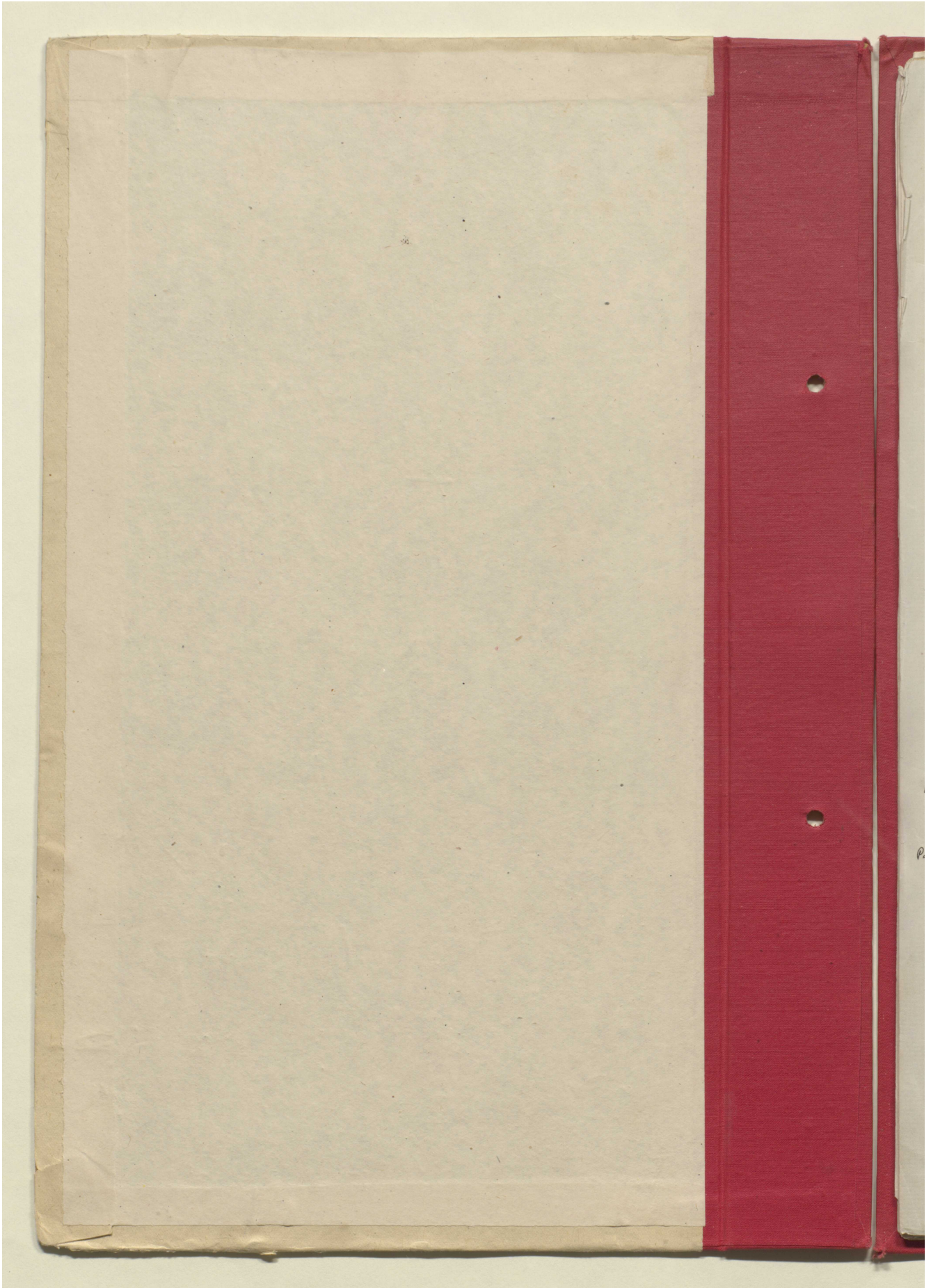
'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [front] (1/40)



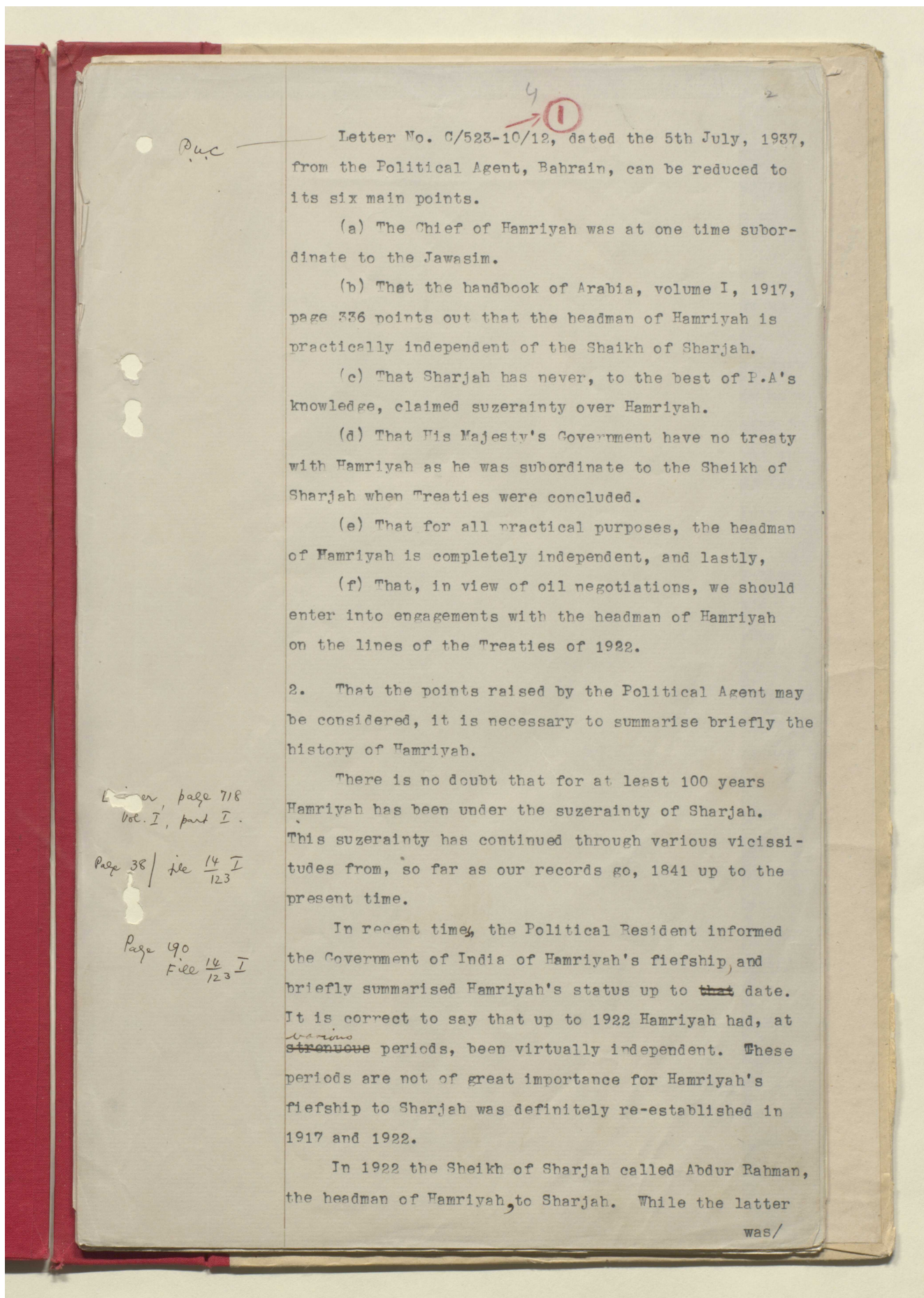
'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [back] (2/40)

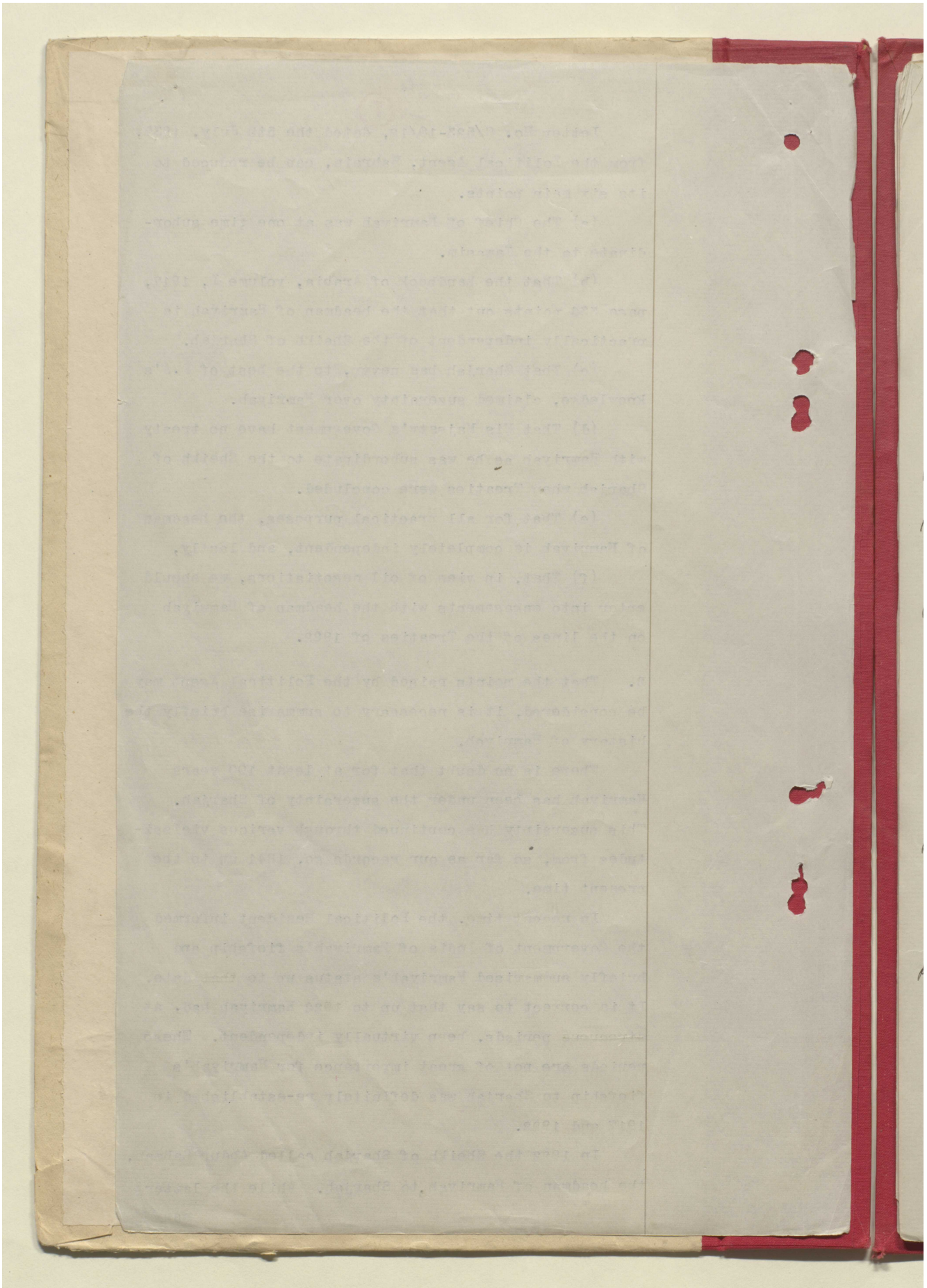


'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [front-i] (3/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [2r] (4/40)





'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [3r] (6/40)

-2-

was away his son, Humaid, for the second time, usurped his father's place and declared his independence of Sharjah as Headman of that place.

The British and the Sheikh of Sharjah combined forces, drove out Humaid, and Abdur Rahman was set up again at Hamriyah as a fief of Sharjah.

By May of 1922 Humaid had again usurped, had again been turned out of Hamriyah and Abdur Rahman once more set up as a dependent of Sharjah. The P.R.'s action in supporting Abdur Rahman as Headman of Hamriyah, as an appanage of Sharjah was approved by Government of India.

In 1916 also we had defended Sharjah suzerainty over Hamriyah by force of arms.

In 1925 Humaid again made an attempt to oust his father from Hamriyah, but he was captured and made prisoner, this time by the Sheikh of Umm-al-Qawain. Abdur Rahman continued as Headman.

Much of the unrest of the past was due to intrigue, a prime mover in which was the Sheikh of Umm-al-Qawain. It is doubtless due to intrigue that a volte-face was perpetrated in 1923. After all our efforts on behalf of the Sheikh of Sharjah (Khalid bin Ahmad) to keep his fief, Abdur Rahman, in power at Hamriyah those two persons, behind the P.R.'s back, and with the connivance of the Residency Agent, (in fact he was a witness), came to an understanding and signed a document whereby Abdur Rahman and Hamriyah became independent of Sharjah. The above did not come to light until 1929.

Abdur Rahman has since been murdered and Khalid turned out of Sharjah, so the question now seems to turn on whether the Khalid - Abdur Rahman document is binding on Sheikh Sultan bin Saqar and Humaid, the present ~~rules~~ ^{Headman}. There seems to be no conclusive proof that Sultan bin Saqar has agreed to the independence of Hamriyah though so much was concluded by the late

for summary of the
actions, see page 215
File 14/123 I.

Page 301, file 14/123 I

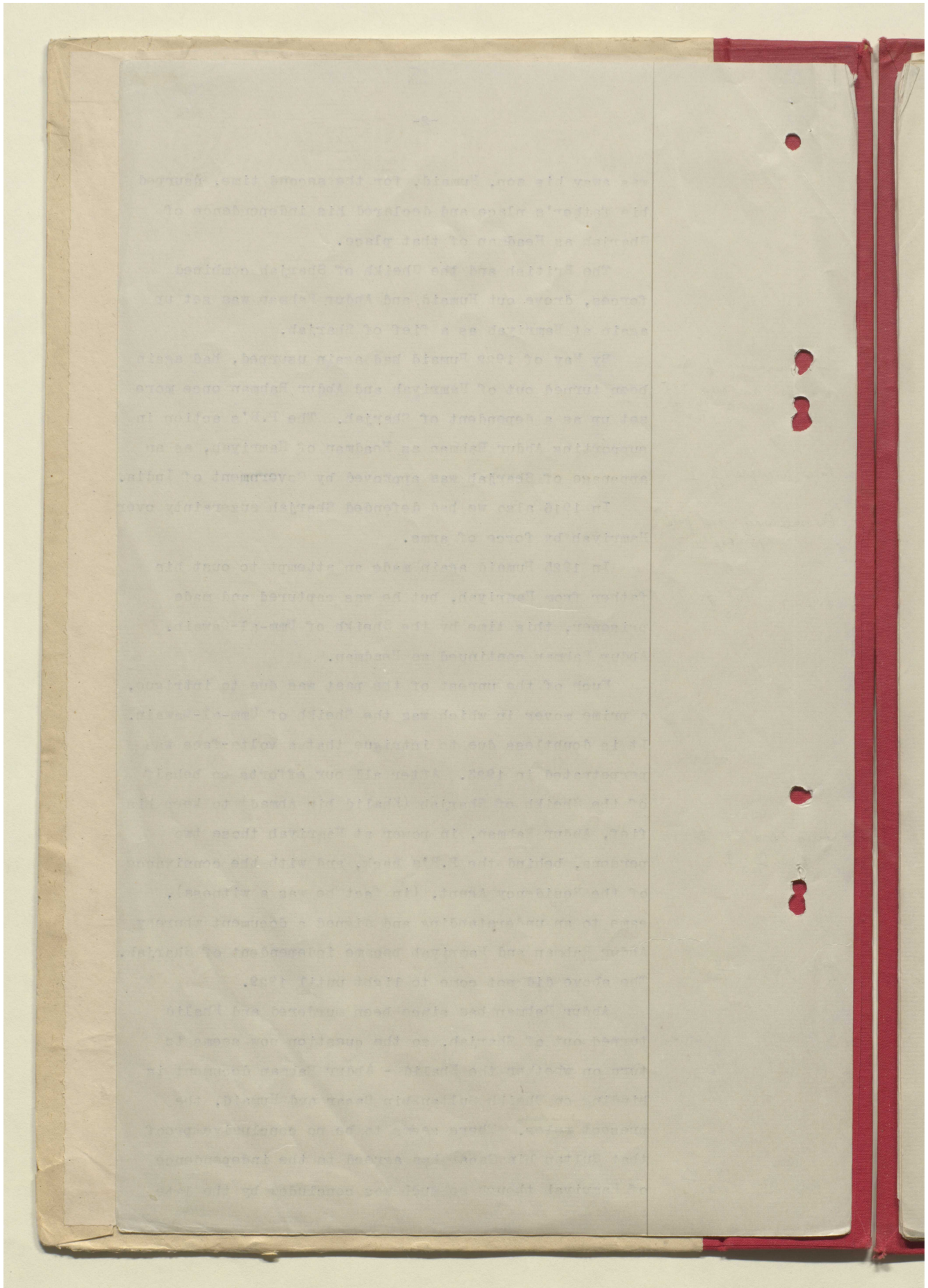
For summary see page
190, file 14/123 I.

page 27. 14/123 II

pages 36 & 37 of
file 14/123 II

page 35. 14/123 II

page 31. 14/123 II



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [4r] (8/40)

6 4
-3-

late Residency Agent. The late Residency Agent wrote that Abdur Rahman was present at a meeting when Khalid seceded his rights over Sharjah to Sultan bin Saqar and entered into a verbal covenant with the latter, whereby he remained independent, as in the days of Khalid's sheikhship. At the meeting Sultan bin Saqar could not very well take any other action. He must have known of the troubles that Hamriyah had caused in the past and considering that the tribute had dropped from one-third of the revenue, in 1841, to 20 ^(a nominal tribute of half) ~~nominal~~ bags of rice (he may well have thought it best to let well alone. Hamriyah's independence was certainly tactically supported by ^{some} ~~name~~ of the Trucial Coast Sheikhs and the Residency Agent. We do not know that Sultan bin Saqar to this day is aware of the Khalid-Abdur Rahman document.

Page 31, file $\frac{14}{123}$ 17

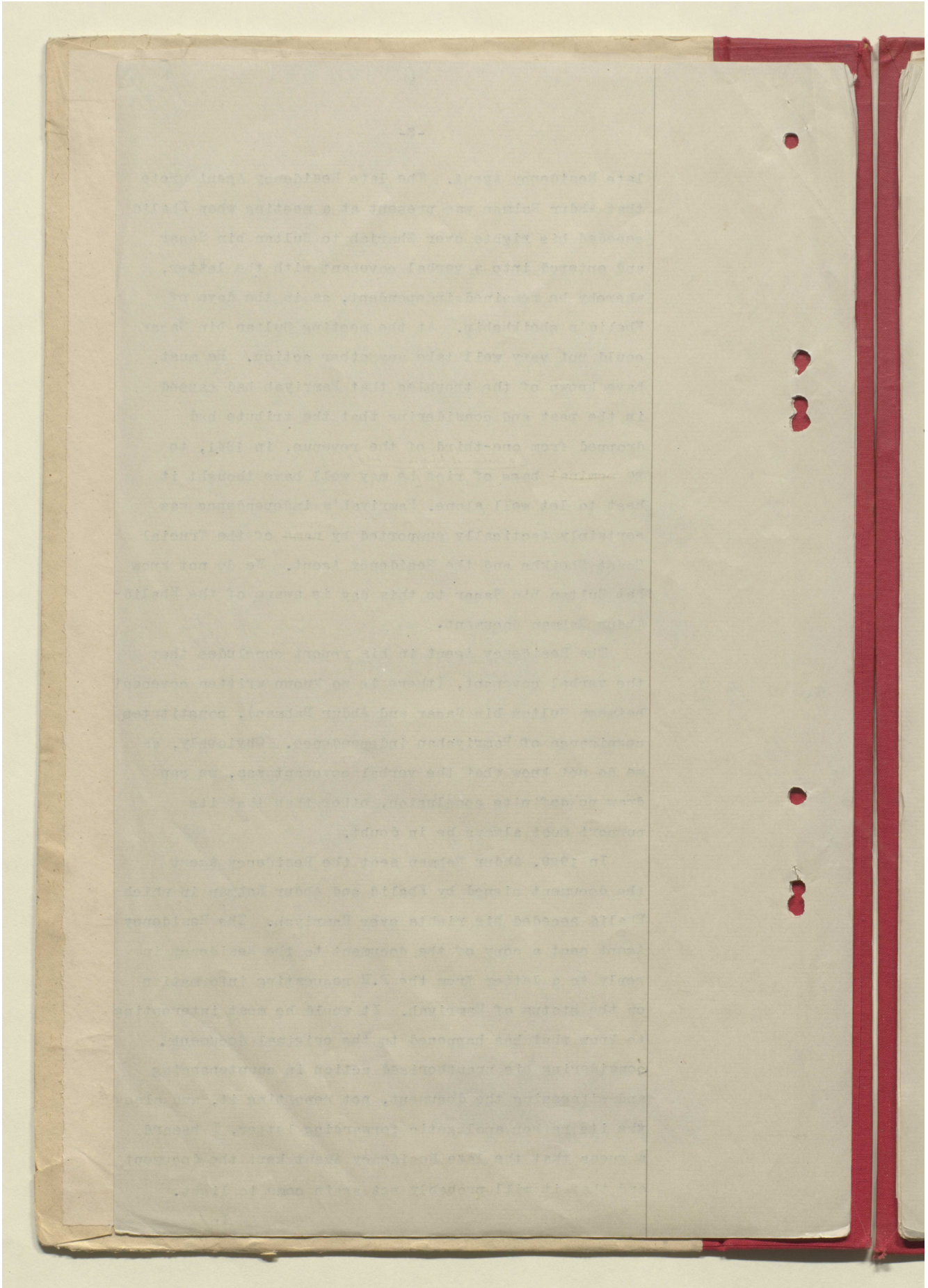
The Residency Agent in his report concludes that the verbal covenant, (there is no known written covenant between Sultan bin Saqar and Abdur Rahman), constitutes cognisance of Hamriyah's independence. Obviously, as we do not know what the verbal covenant was, we can draw no definite conclusion, other than that its purport must always be in doubt.

Page 35. $\frac{14}{123}$ 17

In 1929, Abdur Rahman sent the Residency Agent the document signed by Khalid and Abdur Rahman in which Khalid seceded his rights over Hamriyah. The Residency Agent sent a copy of the document to the Residency in reply to a letter from the P.R requesting information on the status of Hamriyah. It would be most interesting to know what has happened to the original document. Considering his unauthorised action in countenancing and witnessing the document, not reporting it, and also ~~the~~ its rather apologetic forwarding letter, I hazard a guess that the late Residency Agent kept the document, and that it will probably not again come to light.

In/

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [4v] (9/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [5r] (10/40)

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-4-

In 1931, old Headman Abdur Rahman was murdered, (not by Humaid), and after a short period of unrest Humaid, the same Humaid who had caused most of the trouble of the past 20 years, and who had previously set himself up as independent of Sharjah, established himself as Headman. It was at this time that the Political Resident wrote to the Government of India stating that Hamriyah was a fief of Sharjah (thereby over-ruling Col. Barrett's noting) and suggesting that Hamriyah could perhaps be considered independent, but that in view of the recent murders he considered matters should be left as they were for the present, and that if the situation changed the matter could be considered afresh.

Page 40 ibis
note no 25

In 1932 a plot, hatched by three men of Hamriyah to murder Humaid was frustrated by the latter, Humaid is still Headman of Hamriyah.

Page 47 ibis

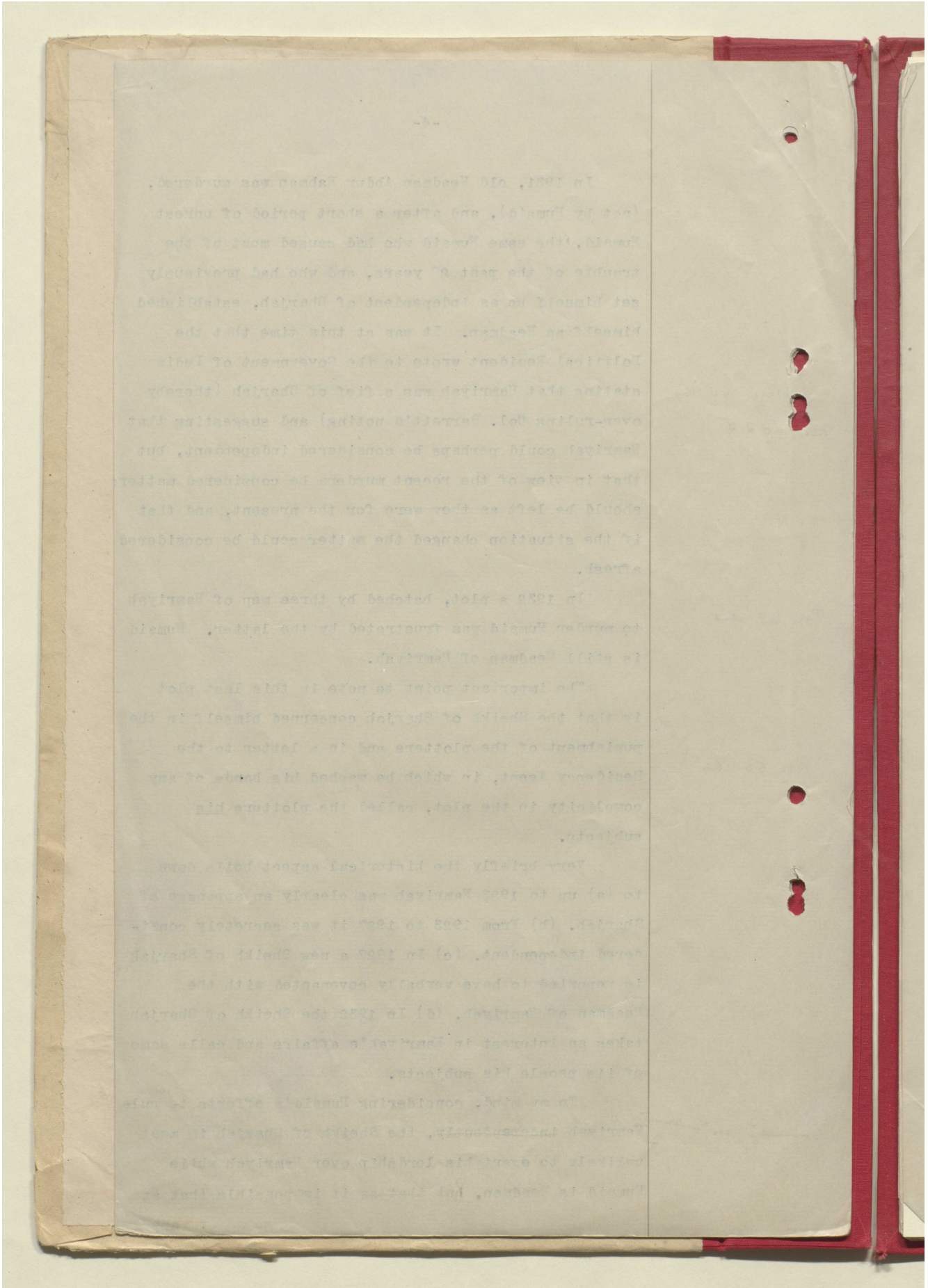
The important point to note in this last plot is that the Sheikh of Sharjah concerned himself in the punishment of the plotters and in a letter to the Residency Agent, in which he washed his hands of any complicity in the plot, called the plotters his subjects.

Page 50 ibis

Very briefly the historical aspect boils down to (a) up to 1923 Hamriyah was clearly an appanage of Sharjah. (b) From 1923 to 1927 it was secretly considered independent. (c) In 1927 a new Sheikh of Sharjah is reported to have verbally covenanted with the Headman of Hamriyah. (d) In 1932 the Sheikh of Sharjah takes an interest in Hamriyah's affairs and calls some of its people his subjects.

To my mind, considering Humaid's efforts ^{in making} ~~to rule~~ Hamriyah ~~independently~~, the Sheikh of Sharjah is most unlikely to exert his lordship over Hamriyah while Humaid is Headman. ~~But that~~ as it is possible that at any/

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [5v] (11/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [6r] (12/40)

8
-5-
6

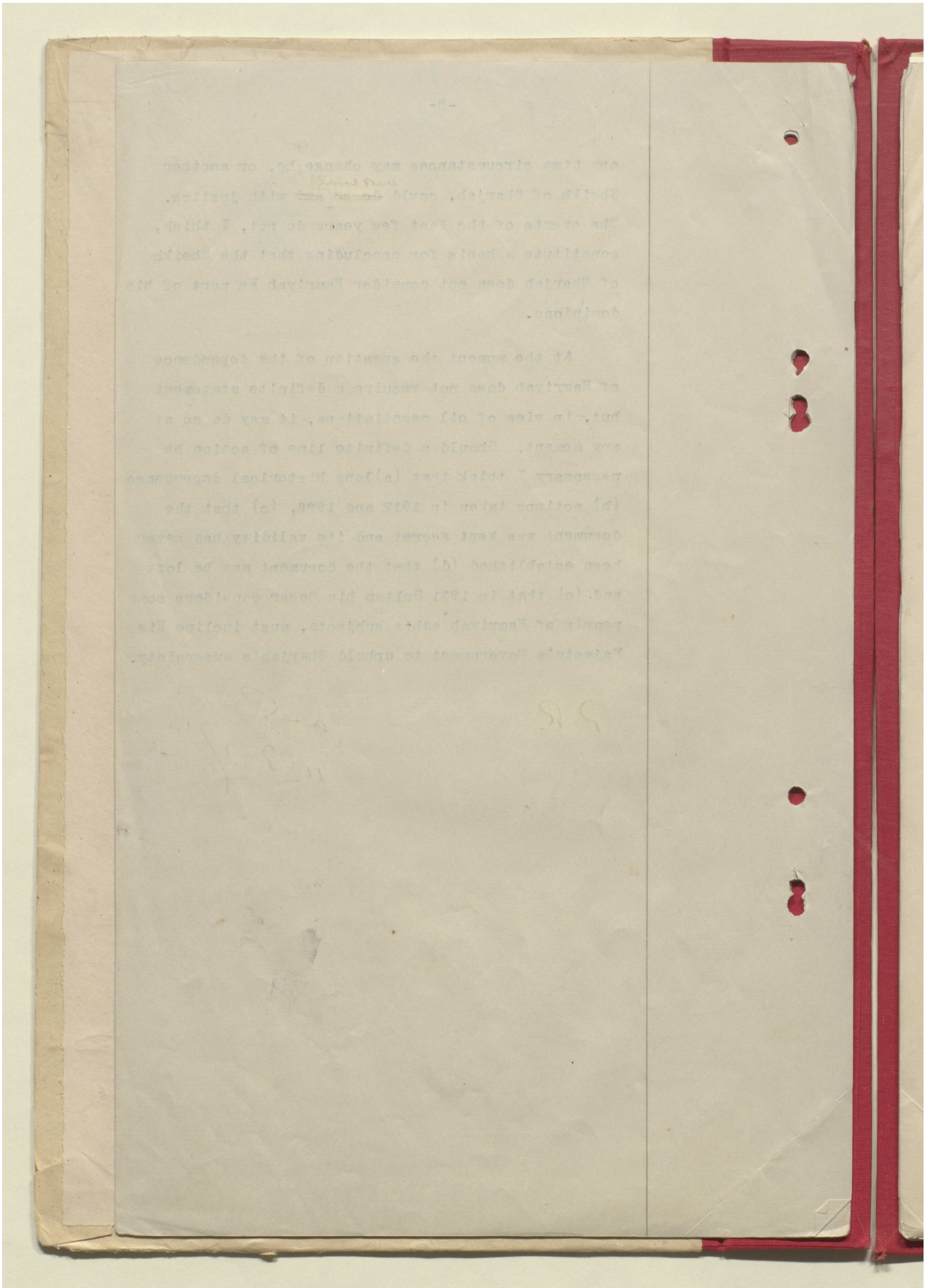
any time circumstances may change ^a he, or another
Sheikh of Sharjah, could ~~do so~~ ^{exercise authority} with justice.
The events of the last few years do not, I think,
constitute a basis for concluding that the Sheikh
of Sharjah does not consider Hamriyah as part of his
dominions.

At the moment the question of the dependence
of Hamriyah does not require a definite statement
but, in view of oil negotiations, it may do so at
any moment. Should a definite line of action be
necessary I think that (a) long historical dependence
(b) actions taken in 1917 and 1922, (c) that the
document was kept secret and its validity has never
been established (d) that the document may be lost
and (e) that in 1931 Sultan bin Sa'ad considers some
people of Hamriyah as his subjects, must incline His
Majesty's Government to uphold Sharjah's suzerainty.

P. R.

and
11. 2. 37

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [6v] (13/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [7r] (14/40)

9 7
Note.

Mr. Caroe.

The question of Hamriyeh in connection with Oil may possibly come to a head while I am on leave. You will see from the file a very useful note by Captain Galloway which gives the whole situation.

2. Up to now the question of whether Hamriyeh is independent of Sharjah has not been of much importance. With the development of Petroleum Concession Limited's activities, however, the case is altered. If we were to acknowledge Hamriyeh as independent of Sharjah, it would mean that the Company would have to get another expensive oil concession when they have been given to understand by us, that provided they get concessions from the Shaikhs with whom we have Treaties, this would put them in complete possession of the Trucial Coast. This is a point which Captain Hickenbotham does not seem to have envisaged in his letter No.C-523-10/12 of the 5th July 1937.

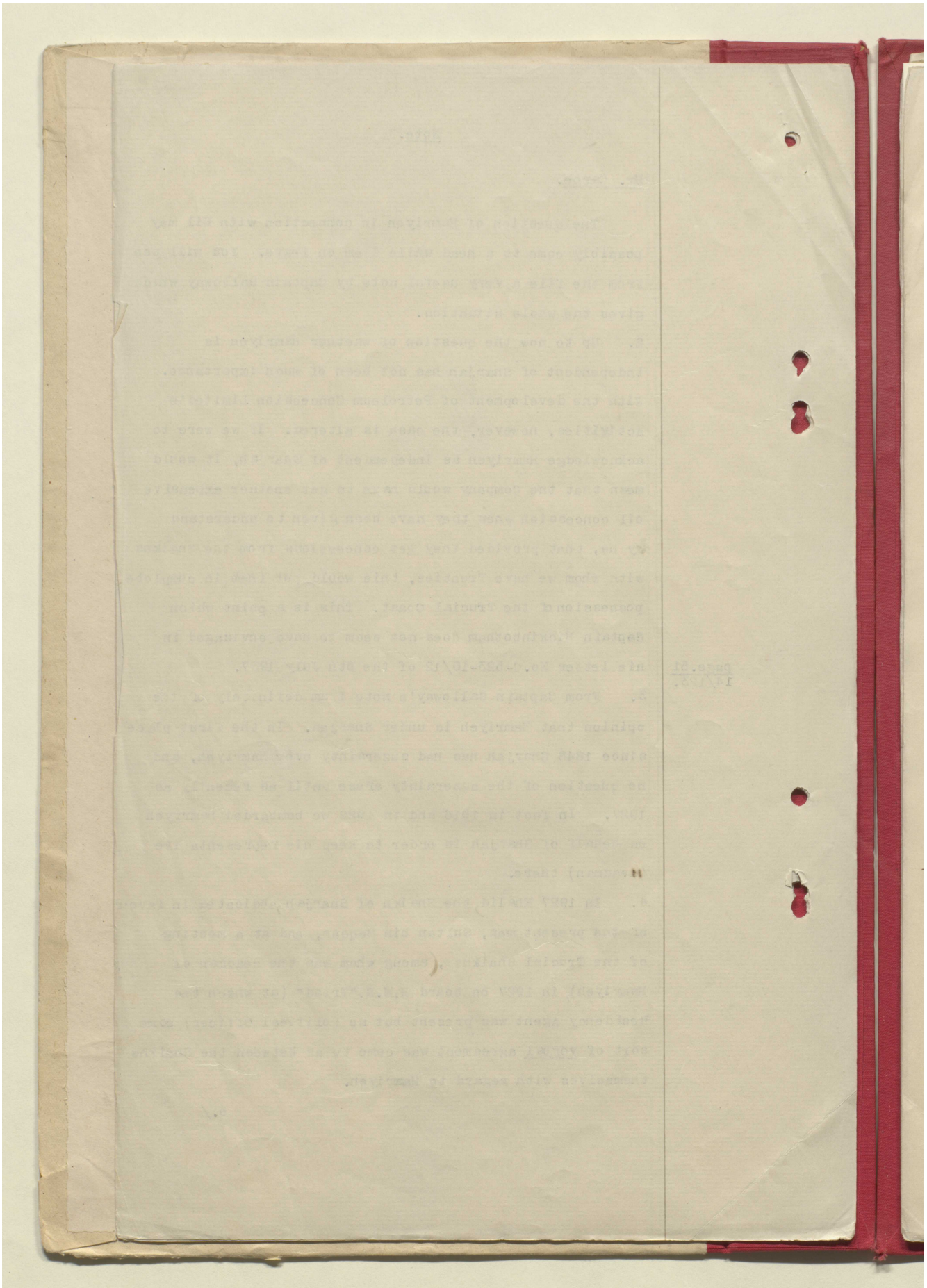
page.51
14/123.

3. From Captain Galloway's note I am definitely of the opinion that Hamriyeh is under Sharjah. In the first place since 1848 Sharjah has had suzerainty over Hamriyeh, and no question of the suzerainty arose until as recently as 1927. In fact in 1916 and in 1922 we bombarded Hamriyeh on behalf of Sharjah in order to keep his representative (Headman) there.

4. In 1927 Khalid, the Shaikh of Sharjah, abdicated in favour of the present man, Sultan bin Saqqar, and at a meeting of the Trucial Shaikhs, (among whom was the Headman of Hamriyeh), in 1927 on board H.M.S. "Triad" (at which the Residency Agent was present but no Political Officer) some sort of verbal agreement was come to as between the Shaikhs themselves with regard to Hamriyeh.

5./

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [7v] (15/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [8r] (16/40)

10

8

-2-

5. In 1929 a document came to light signed in 1923 by which Khalid gave to Abdul Rahman the then Headman of Hamriyeh (afterwards murdered) independence for himself and the town. This document was witnessed by the then Residency Agent who has since died. This document has some weight in itself but it was for ⁶ years kept secret and we were not informed about it and the Residency Agent had no authority to witness it. He ought, of course, to have reported it. It is significant that at the meeting on TRIAD in 1927 this document was not produced and in my opinion does not bind His Majesty's Government in any way.

p.40.

6. In his letter of 29th May No. 1109 Sir Hugh Biscoe reported the matter to the Government of and in his last paragraph, as you will see, expressed the opinion that Hamriyeh "was a fief of Sharjah". It does not seem to me therefore that the document in question is in any way binding on His Majesty's Government.

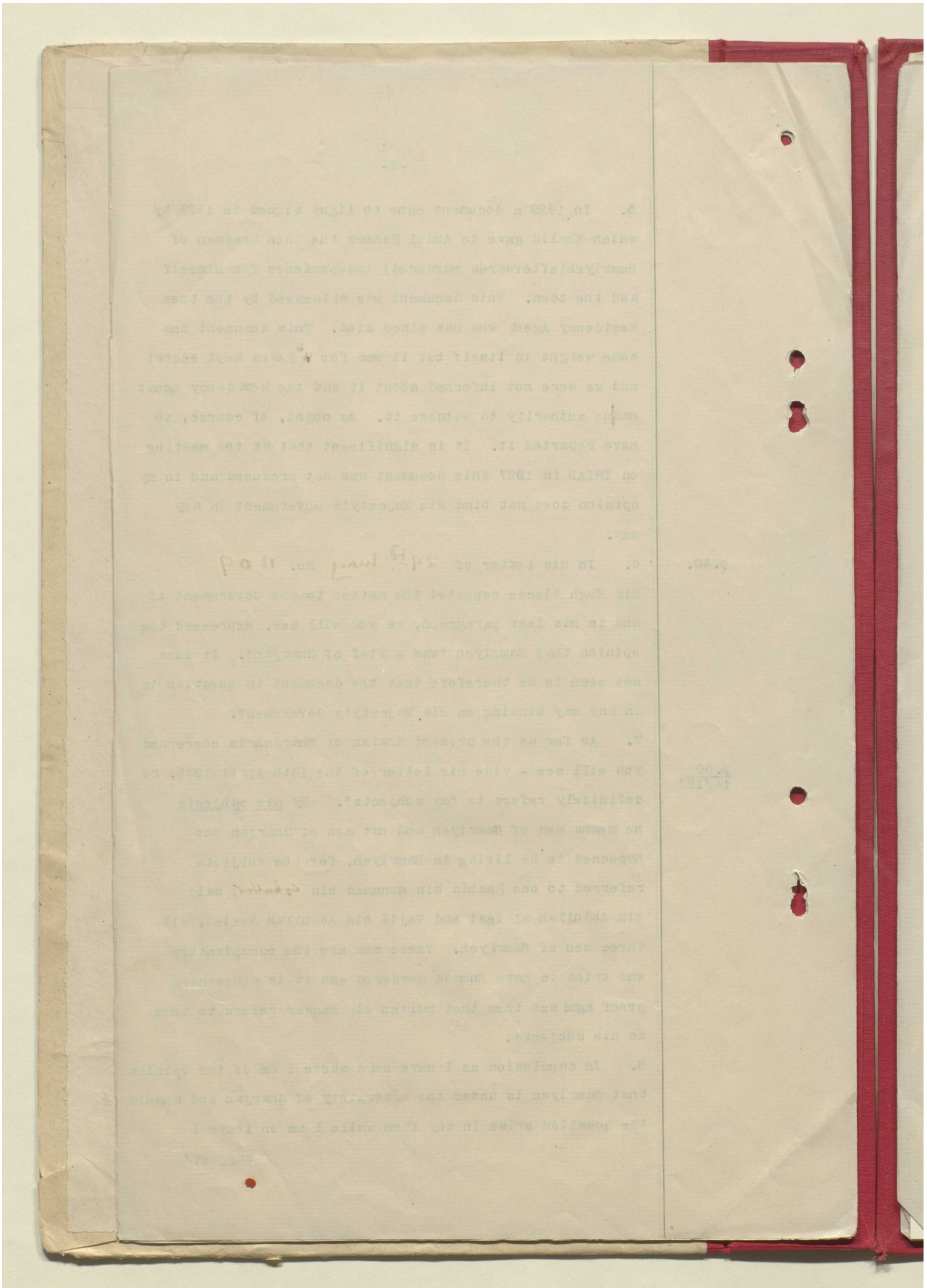
p.50
14/123

7. As far as the present Shaikh of Sharjah is concerned you will see - vide his letter of the 13th April 1932, he definitely refers to "my subjects". By his subjects he means men of Hamriyeh and not men of Sharjah who happened to be living in Hamriyeh, for the subjects referred to one Rashid bin Muhamad bin *Chulker*, Said bin Abdullah al Yasi and Wajid bin Abdullah Awaizi, all three men of Hamriyeh. These men are the conspirators who tried to have Hamaid murdered and it is concerning proof against them that Sultan bin Saqqar refers to them as his subjects.

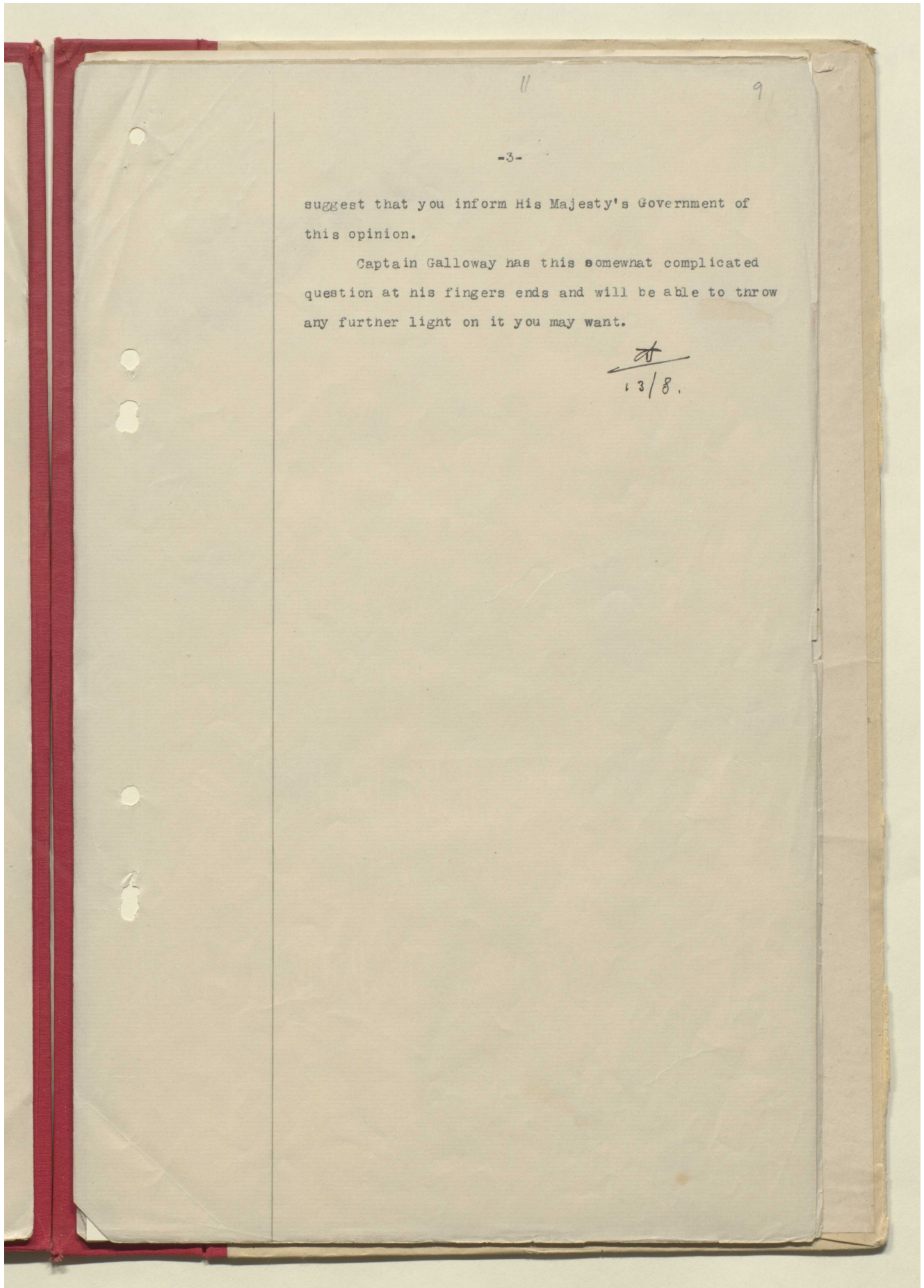
8. In conclusion as I have said above I am of the opinion that Hamriyeh is under the suzerainty of Sharjah and should the question arise in any form while I am on leave I

suggest/

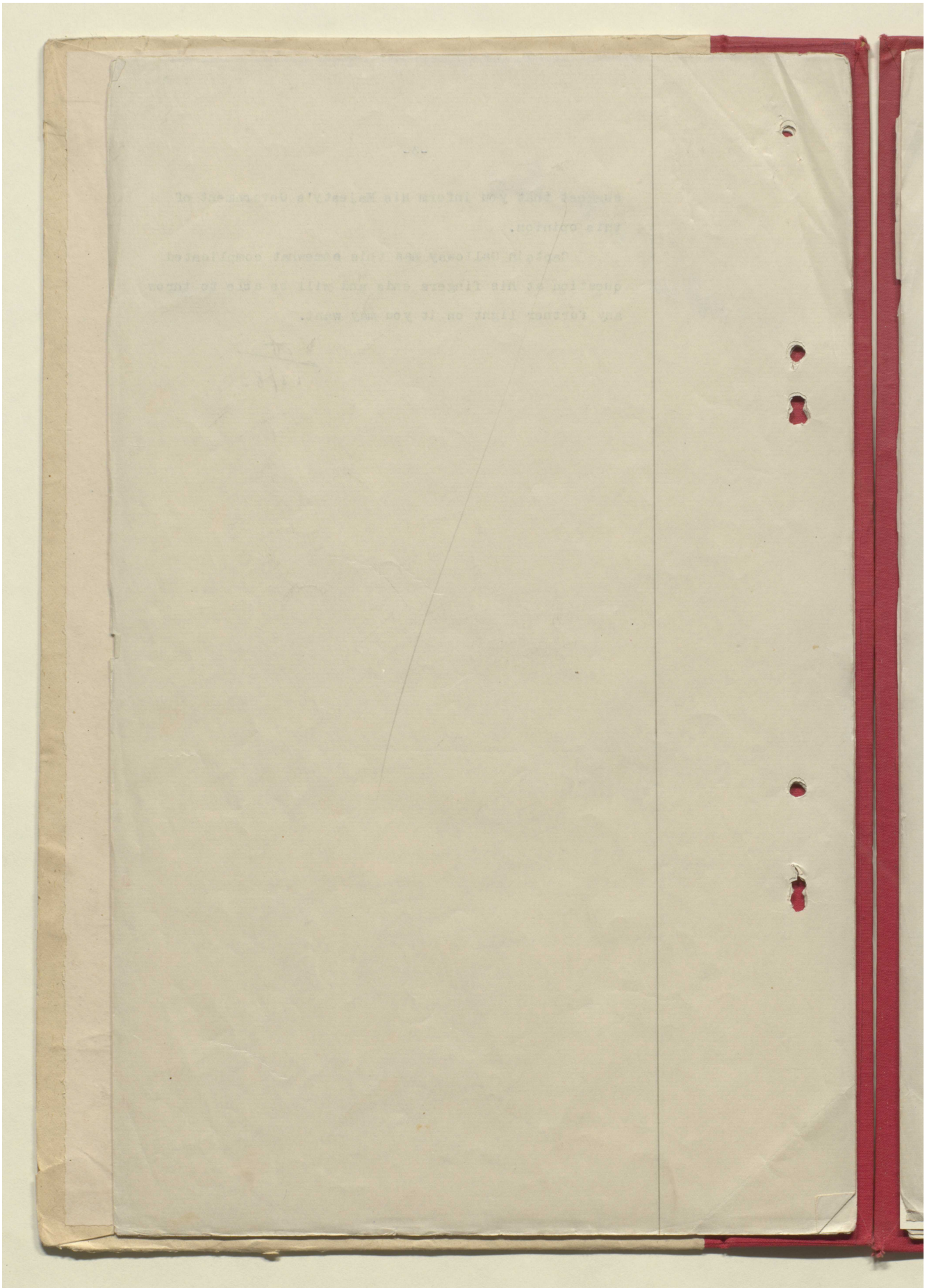
'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [8v] (17/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [9r] (18/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [9v] (19/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [10r] (20/40)

p6-7 3

D.O. No. C/667 dt 18.9.37 from P.A. Bahrain.

A.R.

[Signature]
15/10

S. *[Signature]*
15/10

P.L. mine draft

Telegram below.

ad?

p8

Telegram No. 976 dt 15.10.37 issued to P.A. Bahrain.

p9 4

Telegram No. 261 dt 16.10.37 from P.A. Bahrain.

A.R.

[Signature]
15/10

S. *[Signature]*
18/10

P.R. has not yet

seen pages 6 of file 14/237.

The "old gentleman" is
the old villain who instigated
an attempt to murder the late
R.A., & was banished to Aden
for 4 years as punishment.

He was allowed to
return to the V.P. after two
years on Sultan bin Saqar's
guarantee of good behaviour.

To keep him quiet, I suppose,
about Rahman, the villain,
he gave ~~him~~ Hira.

The facts of the
disintegration of the Shaqab
kingdom are now becoming quite
clear for we can easily see the
picture as regards, Hamriyah,
Hira, Dhaid & Kalba.

The meaning of the last
sentence is not clear to me & I will
speak to Capt. H.

It may be true that

2. 10

Fallon in Lagos has not been
to Dhaid for 17 years but he has
been Sheikh of Sharjah for some 12
years and of those 12 years he only
professed to have sway over Dhaid
for two years; for in 1927 he
gave it to Khalid, ex-Sheikh of
Sharjah. He would therefore not be
willing to visit the place & ~~take his~~ risk
putting his neck into a noose.

P. R.

27.11.27

I wonder what the effect of Khalid's
regency in Kalba will be, both particularly
in Hamriyah, and generally in the Sharjah
State

2. I doubt whether the disintegration of Sharjah
will have much bearing on oil, or vice versa.
P.C. seem to have very little hope of finding

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [11v] (23/40)

14/266
25(110)
it on the coast anywhere, or even as far north
inland as Dhaid. However this is guess-work.

See

File

on

27 ¹⁰/₃₇

28.10.7

(5)

X.L. No. C/R 13 dt. 5.5.48 from P.A. Dalain.

1. Please Capt (now Colonel) Galloway's exhaustive note
at pp 5(a) to 5(d) and the late Sir Trenchard Fowle's
minute at pp 5e). Vol: I of Mo file 14/123 has been destroyed.

2. Para 6 of Sir Trenchard's letter of 17/2/36 (p 177 of B-35)
in connection with Trucial Coast concessions is interesting in that it
shows that Hamriyah was not considered a separate Shaikhdom when
the terms were negotiated & obtained.

lt.
12/5/48

P.A.

3. I am grateful to A.S. for the trouble he has
taken over this case. I have discussed it on the
telephone with P.A. ^{B.} who is aware of Colonel Galloway's
and Sir Trenchard Fowle's notes. I understand that
the P.O.T.C. has seen the Shaikh of Hamriyah and we
shall hear further about the case.

4. I have told P.A.B. that if the Shaikh continues
to interfere with traffic on the road we shall have
to take drastic action against him.

lt.
12/5/48

(6)
Memo No. C/R. 64 dt. 14.6.48 from P.A. Dalain.

For M.R. File ?

lt.
16/6 15.6/48

Noted

P.A.

lt.
17/6

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [12r] (24/40)

Confidential.

No. C/523-10/12

Political Agency,
Bahrain, the 5th July 1937.

From

Captain T. Hickinbotham, I.A.,
Political Agent, Bahrain.

To

The Honourable the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Subject:- Himriyah.

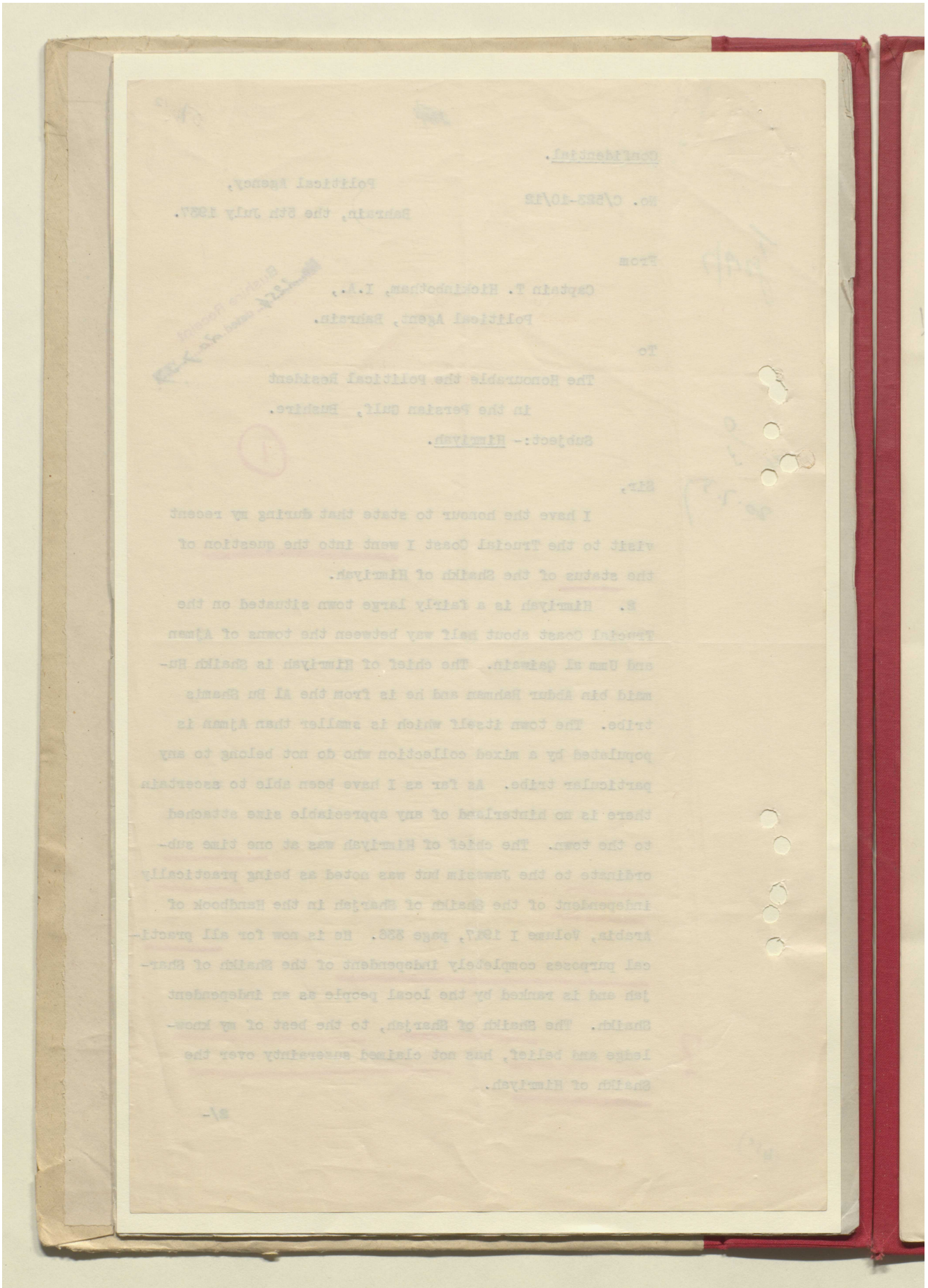
Sir,

I have the honour to state that during my recent visit to the Trucial Coast I went into the question of the status of the Shaikh of Himriyah.

2. Himriyah is a fairly large town situated on the Trucial Coast about half way between the towns of Ajman and Umm al Qaiwain. The chief of Himriyah is Shaikh Humaid bin Abdur Rahman and he is from the Al Bu Shamis tribe. The town itself which is smaller than Ajman is populated by a mixed collection who do not belong to any particular tribe. As far as I have been able to ascertain there is no hinterland of any appreciable size attached to the town. The chief of Himriyah was at one time subordinate to the Jawasim but was noted as being practically independent of the Shaikh of Sharjah in the Handbook of Arabia, Volume I 1917, page 336. He is now for all practical purposes completely independent of the Shaikh of Sharjah and is ranked by the local people as an independent Shaikh. The Shaikh of Sharjah, to the best of my knowledge and belief, has not claimed suzerainty over the Shaikh of Himriyah.

2/-

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [12v] (25/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [13r] (26/40)

-2-

9/13

3. We have no treaty with the Shaikh of Himriyah as at the time at which our treaties were made he was rightly considered to be subordinate to the Jawasim Shaikh of Sharjah. In view of the present competition for oil concessions I think we should enter into engagements with the Shaikh of Himriyah in particular on the lines of our agreements regarding Oil signed in 1922 with the remaining Trucial Shaikhs.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

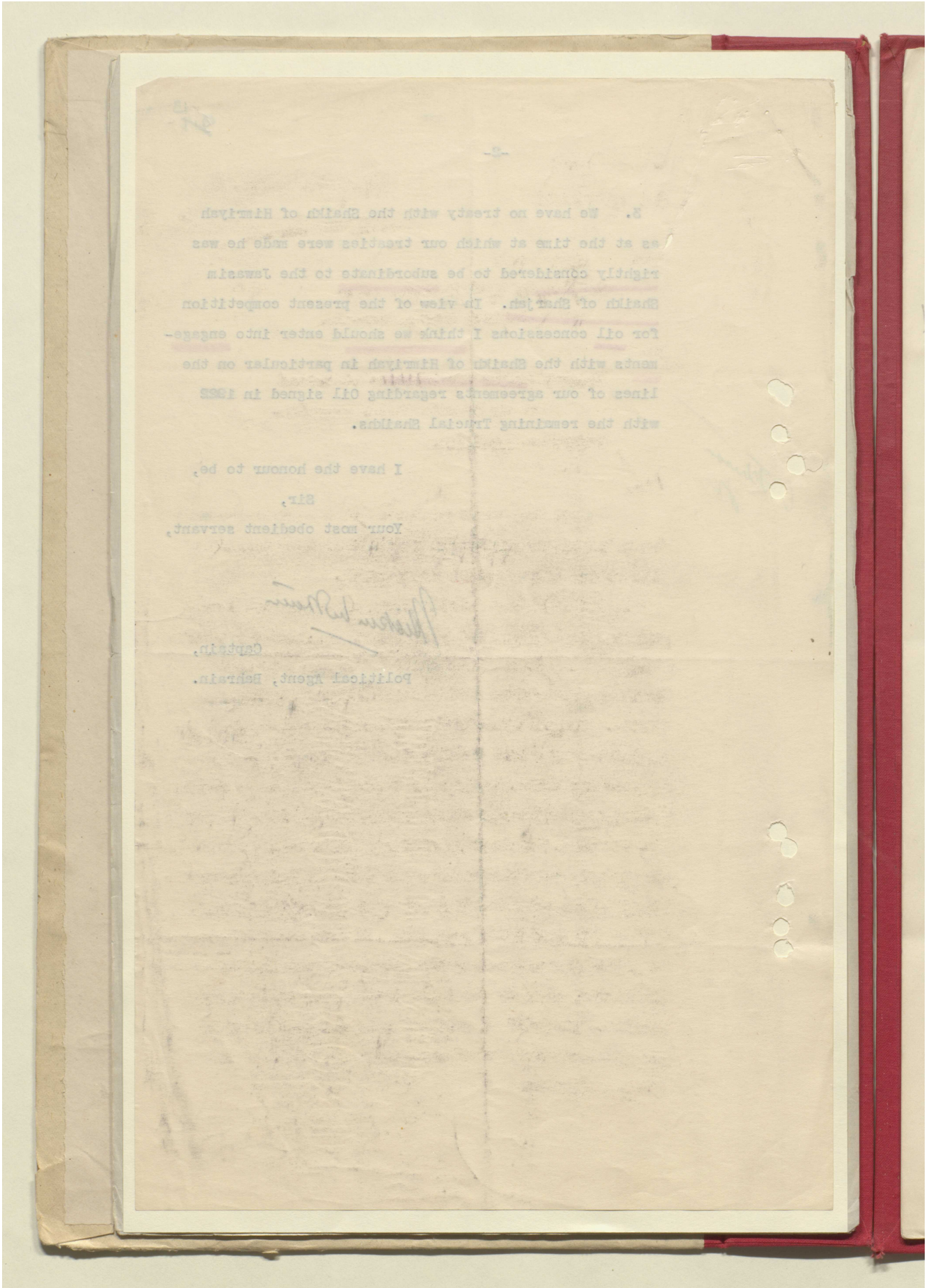
Your most obedient servant,

Mickin W. Mear

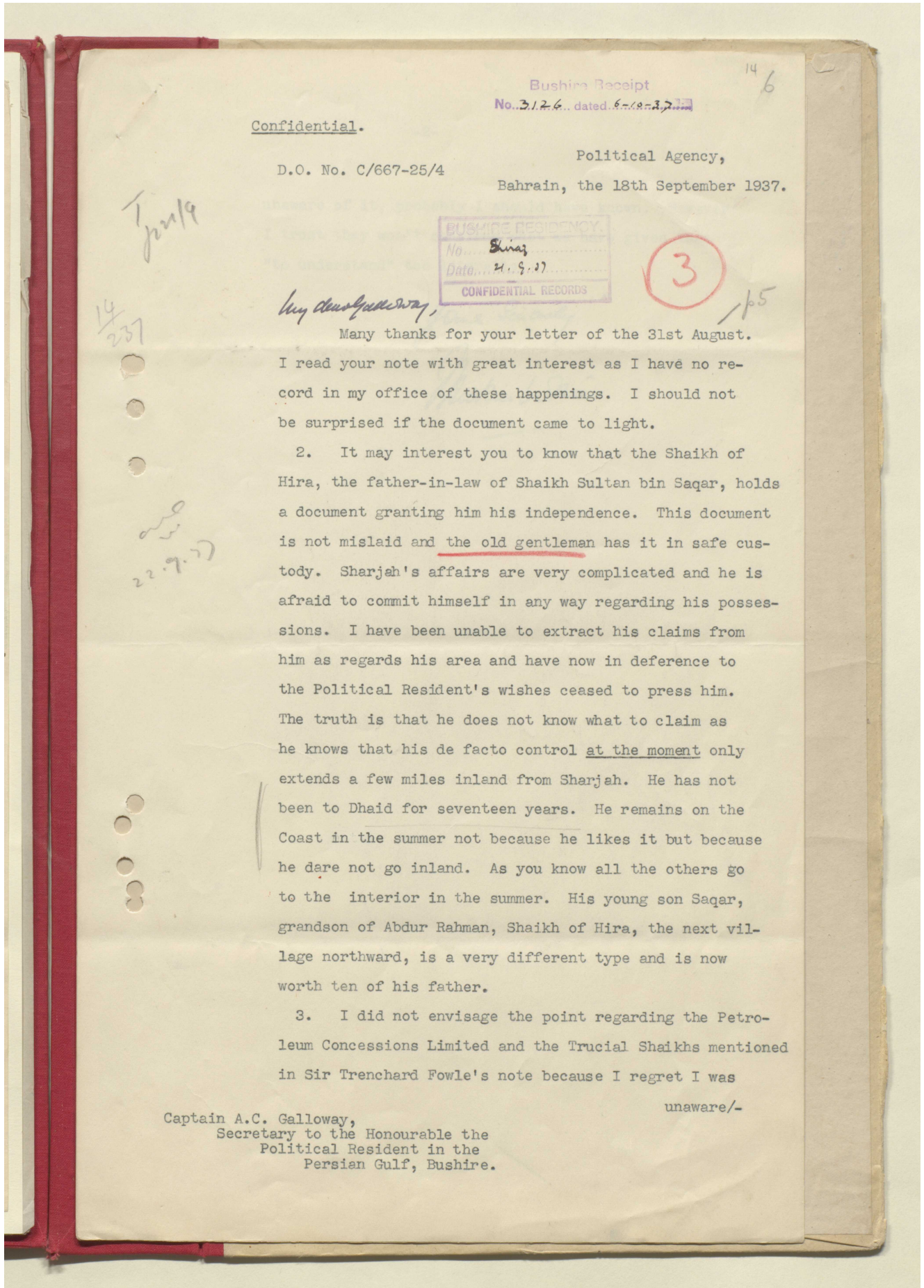
Captain,

Political Agent, Bahrain.

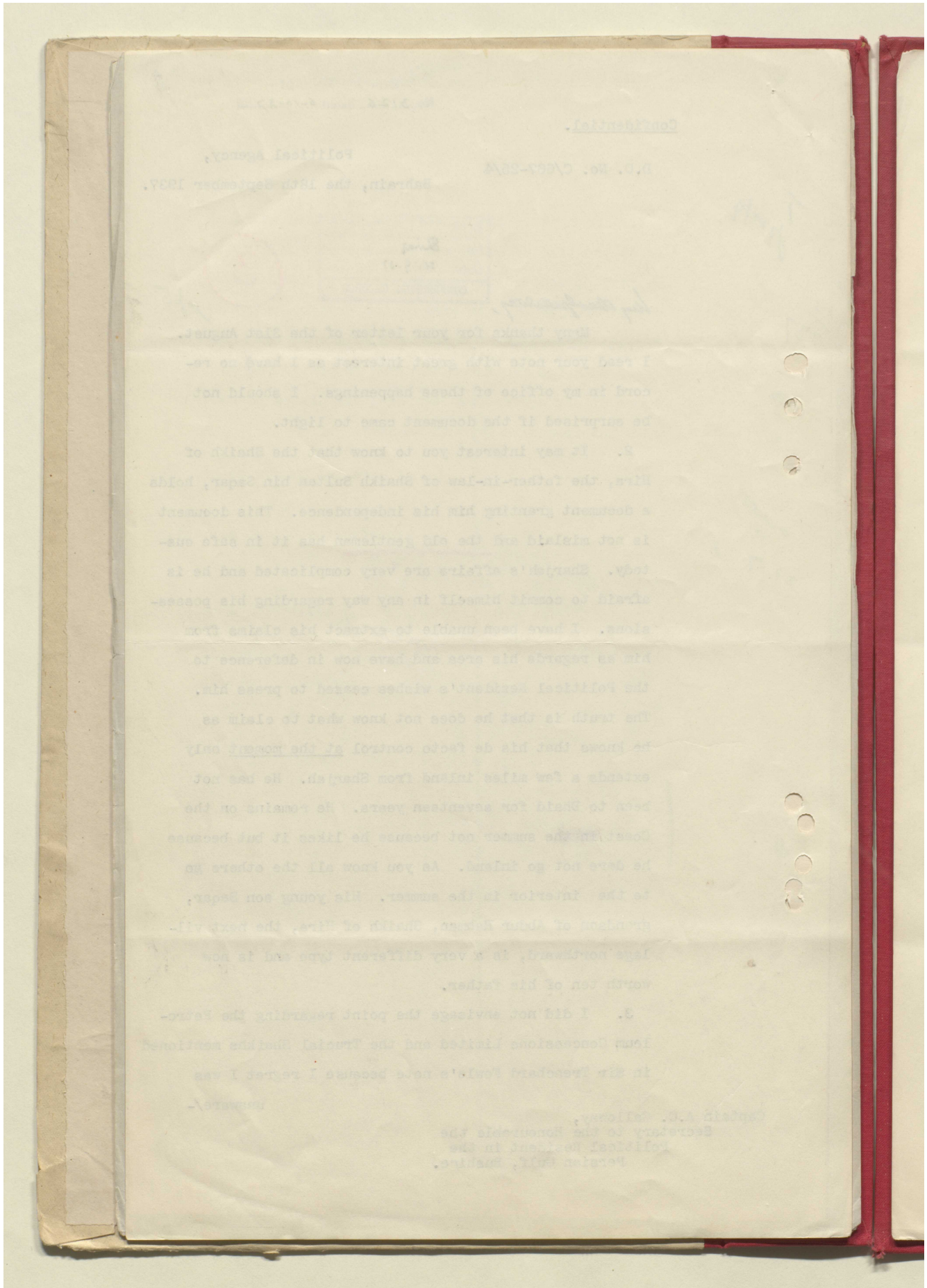
'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [13v] (27/40)



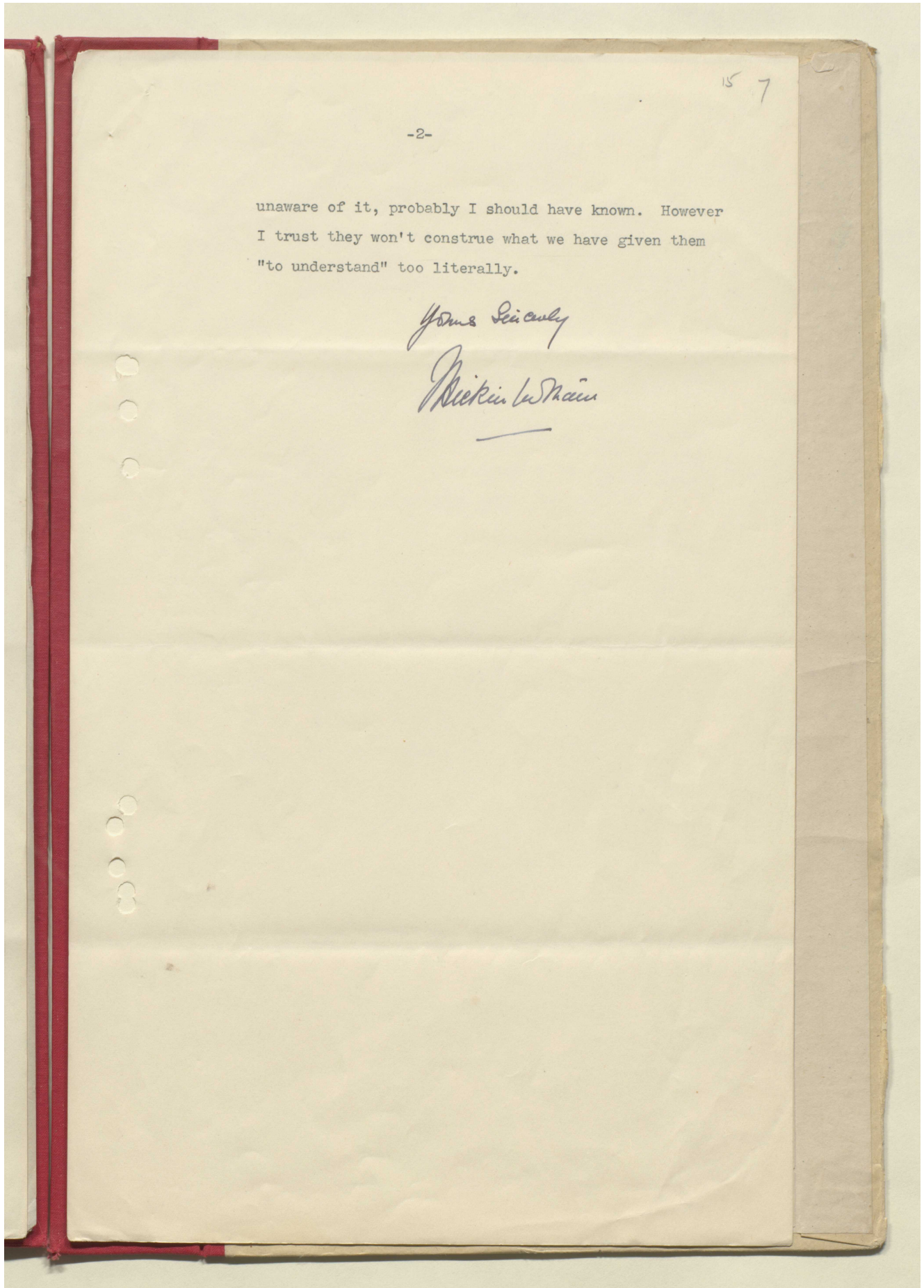
'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [14r] (28/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [14v] (29/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [15r] (30/40)



-2-

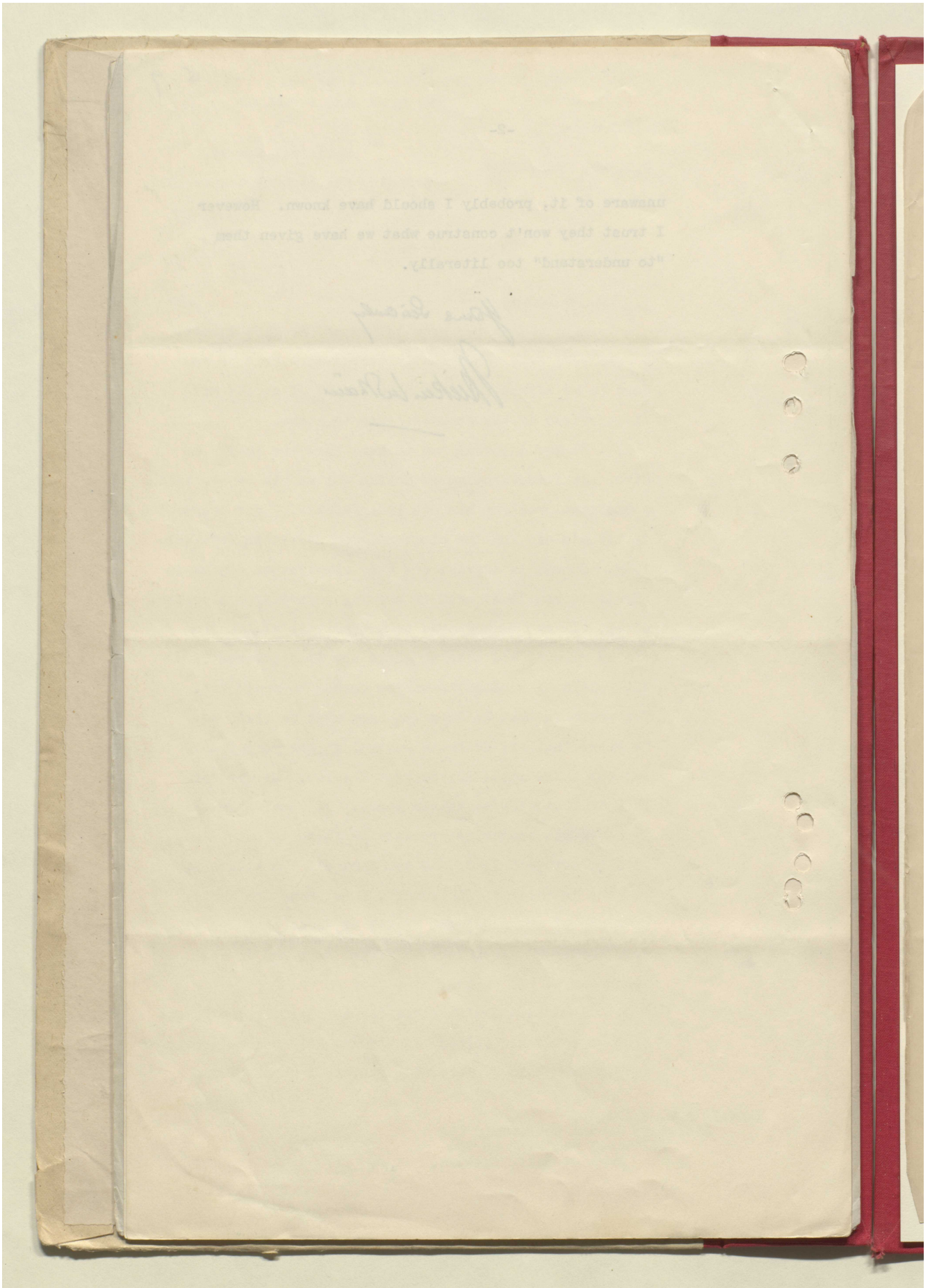
15 7

unaware of it, probably I should have known. However
I trust they won't construe what we have given them
"to understand" too literally.

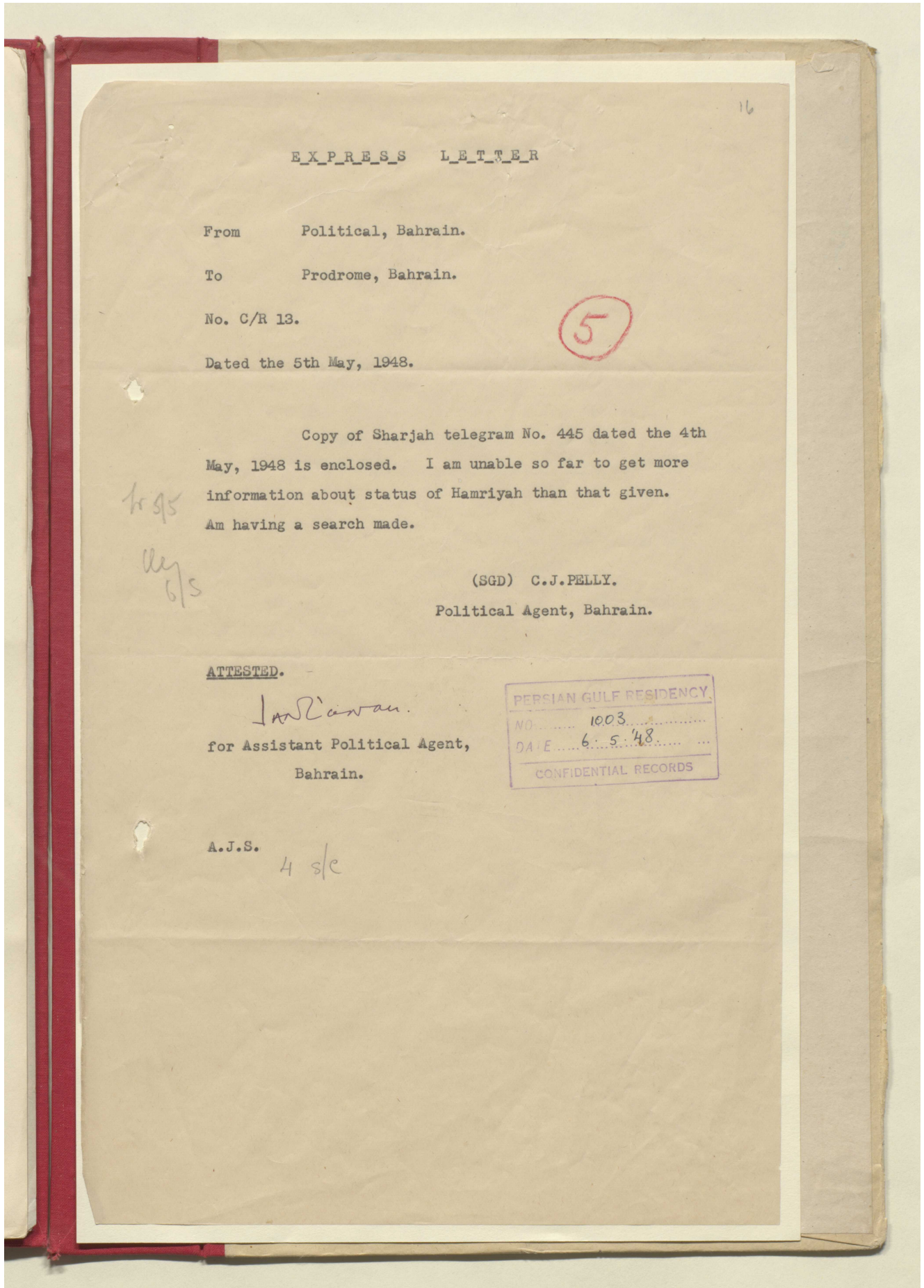
Yours Sincerely

Nickie W. Main

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [15v] (31/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [16r] (32/40)



EXPRESS LETTER

From Political, Bahrain.

To Prodrome, Bahrain.

No. C/R 13.

Dated the 5th May, 1948.

Copy of Sharjah telegram No. 445 dated the 4th
May, 1948 is enclosed. I am unable so far to get more
information about status of Hamriyah than that given.
Am having a search made.

(SGD) C.J. PELLY.

Political Agent, Bahrain.

ATTESTED.

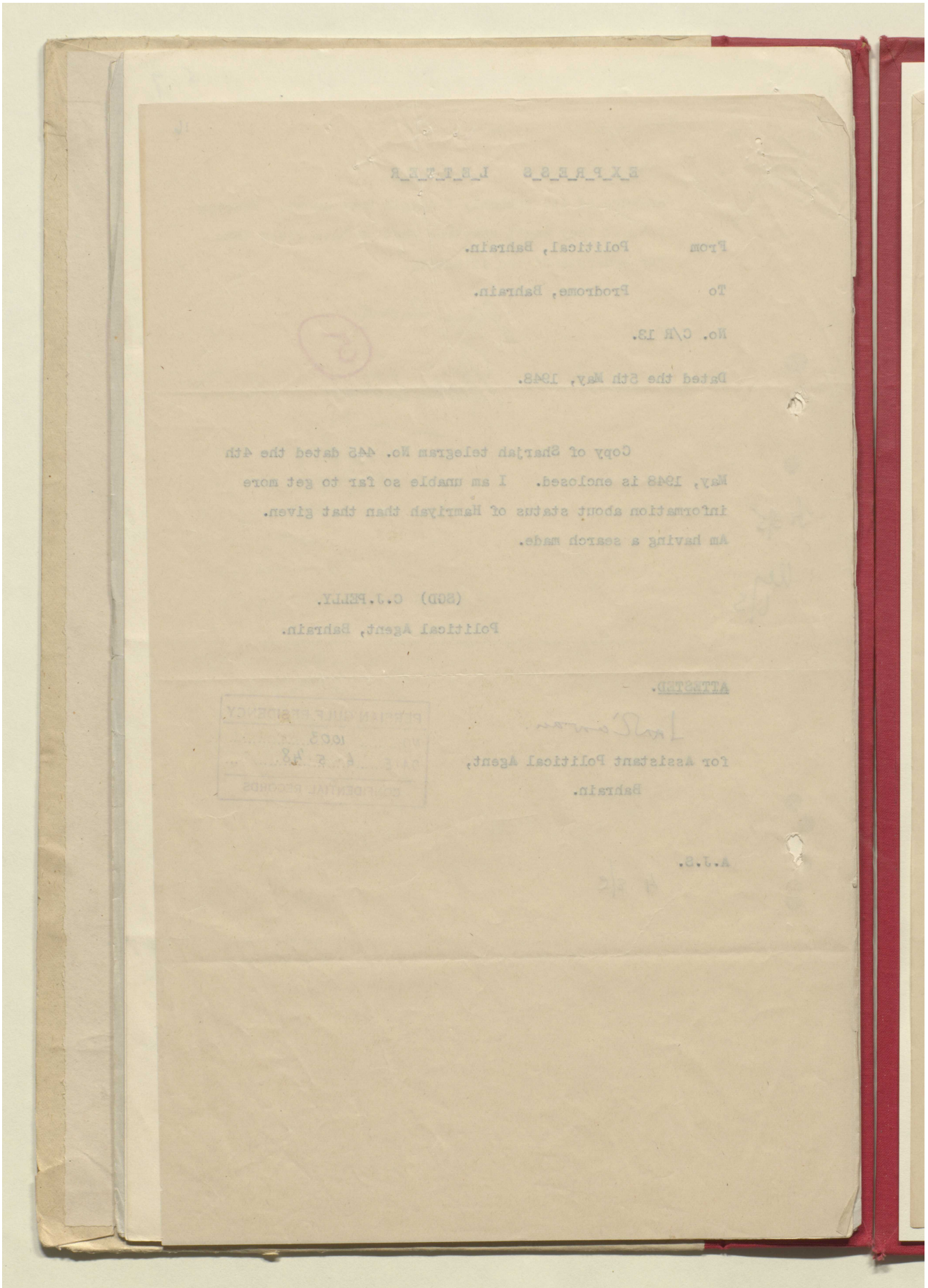
Jawid
for Assistant Political Agent,
Bahrain.

PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY	
NO. 1003
DATE 6.5.48
CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS	

A.J.S.

4 s/c

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [16v] (33/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [17r] (34/40)

17

Copy of Political Officer, Trucial Coast's telegram No. 445
dated the 4th May, 1948 to Political Agent, Bahrain.

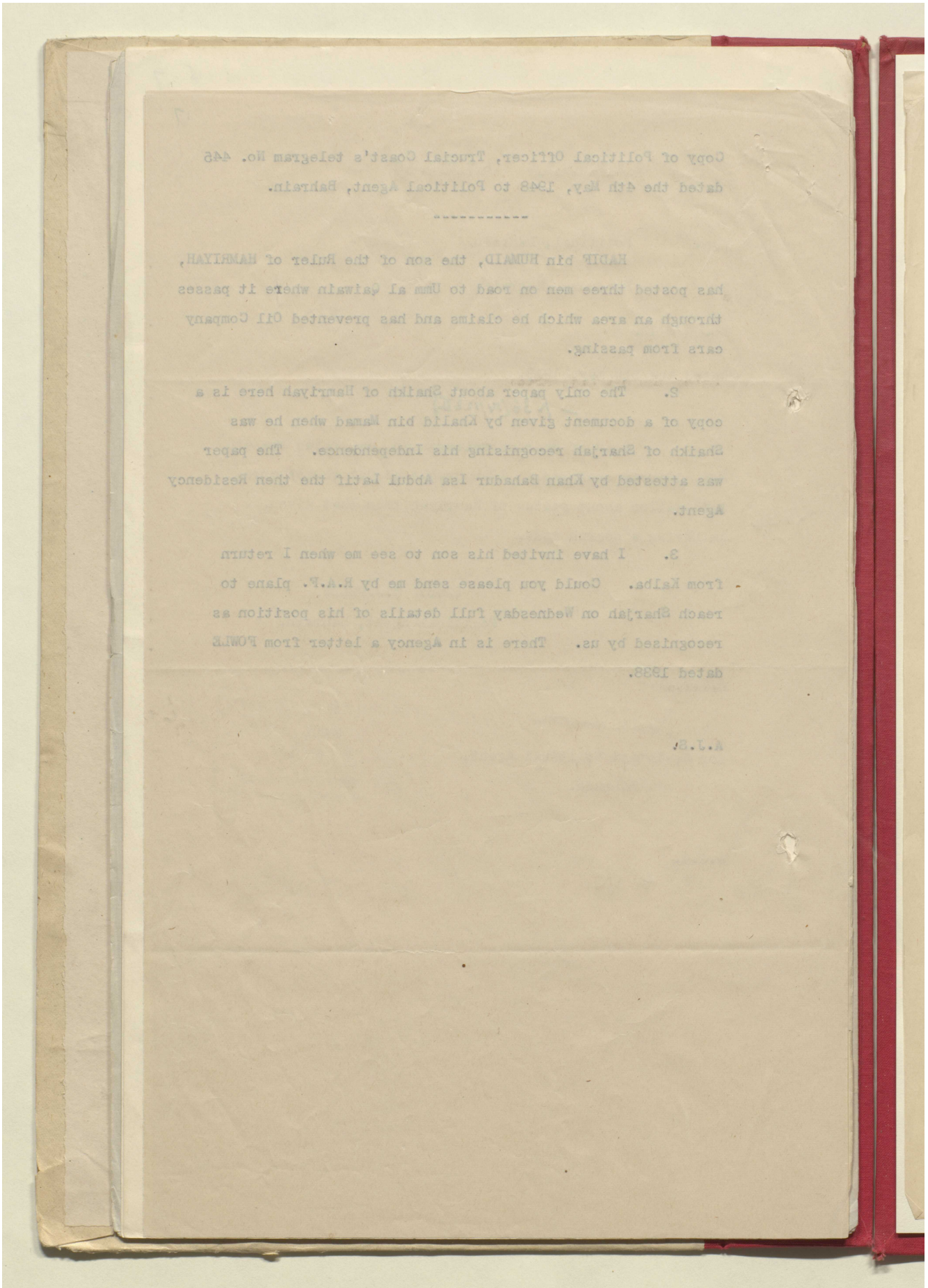
HADIF bin HUMAID, the son of the Ruler of HAMRIYAH,
has posted three men on road to Umm al Qaiwain where it passes
through an area which he claims and has prevented Oil Company
cars from passing.

2. The only paper about Shaikh of Hamriyah here is a
copy of a document given by Khalid bin Mamad when he was
Shaikh of Sharjah recognising his Independence. The paper
was attested by Khan Bahadur Isa Abdul Latif the then Residency
Agent.

3. I have invited his son to see me when I return
from Kalba. Could you please send me by R.A.F. plane to
reach Sharjah on Wednesday full details of his position as
recognised by us. There is in Agency a letter from FOWLE
dated 1938.

A.J.S.

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [17v] (35/40)



Copy of Political Officer, Trucial Coast's telegram No. 445
dated the 4th May, 1948 to Political Agent, Bahrain.

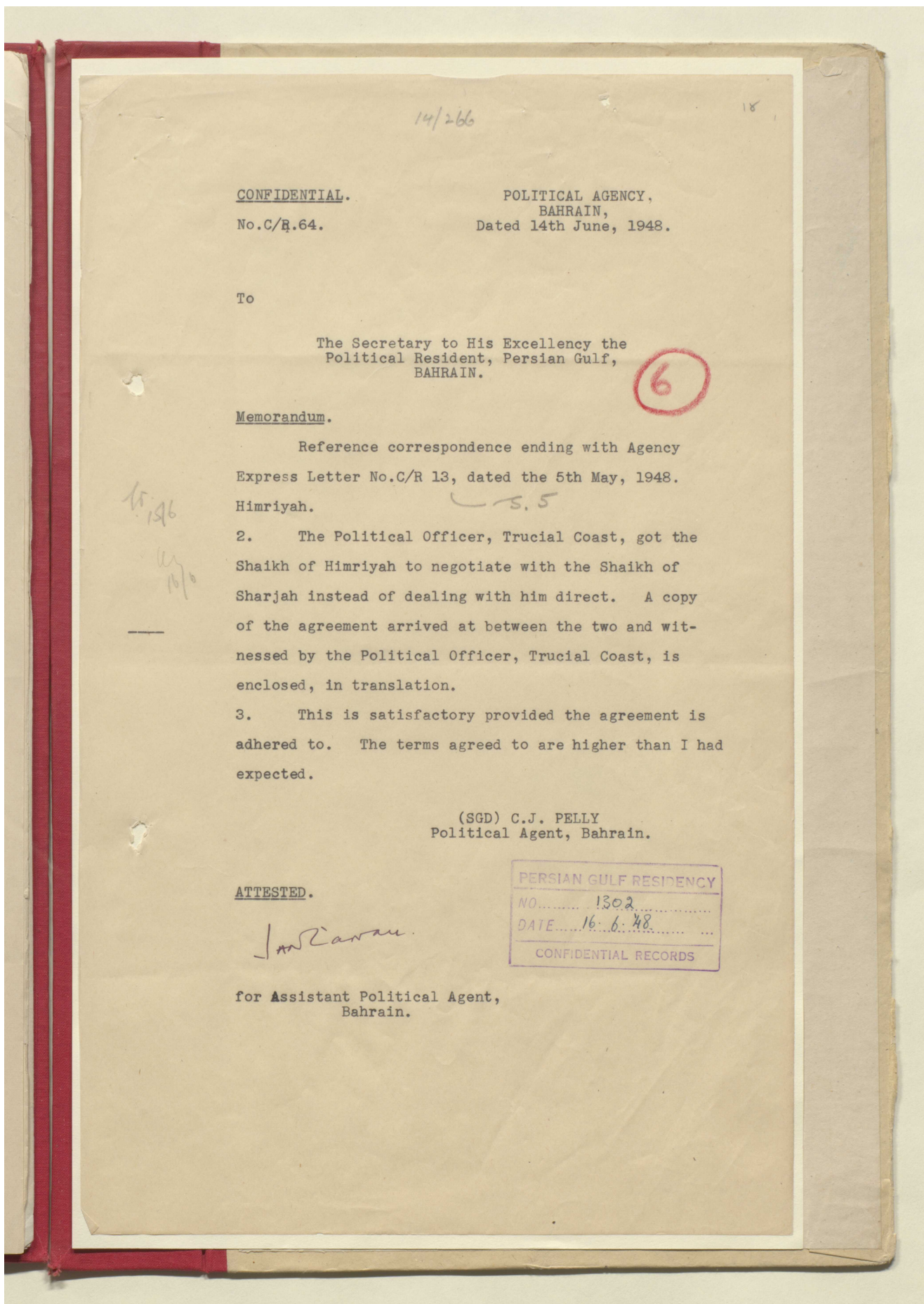
HADIR bin HUMAID, the son of the Ruler of HAMRIYA,
has posted three men on road to Umm al Qaiwain where it passes
through an area which he claims and has prevented Oil Company
cars from passing.

The only paper about Shaikh of Hamriyah here is a
copy of a document given by Khalid bin Ahmad when he was
Shaikh of Sharjah recognizing his independence. The paper
was attested by Khan Bahadur Isa Abdul Latif the then Residency
Agent.

I have invited his son to see me when I return
from Kalba. Could you please send me by R.A.F. plane to
reach Sharjah on Wednesday full details of his position as
recognized by us. There is in Agency a letter from FOWLS
dated 1938.

A.L.S.

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [18r] (36/40)



CONFIDENTIAL.

No.C/R.64.

POLITICAL AGENCY,
BAHRAIN,
Dated 14th June, 1948.

To

The Secretary to His Excellency the
Political Resident, Persian Gulf,
BAHRAIN.

6

Memorandum.

Reference correspondence ending with Agency
Express Letter No.C/R 13, dated the 5th May, 1948.
Himriyah.

15.126

— S. 5

19/6

2. The Political Officer, Trucial Coast, got the Shaikh of Himriyah to negotiate with the Shaikh of Sharjah instead of dealing with him direct. A copy of the agreement arrived at between the two and witnessed by the Political Officer, Trucial Coast, is enclosed, in translation.
3. This is satisfactory provided the agreement is adhered to. The terms agreed to are higher than I had expected.

(SGD) C.J. PELLY
Political Agent, Bahrain.

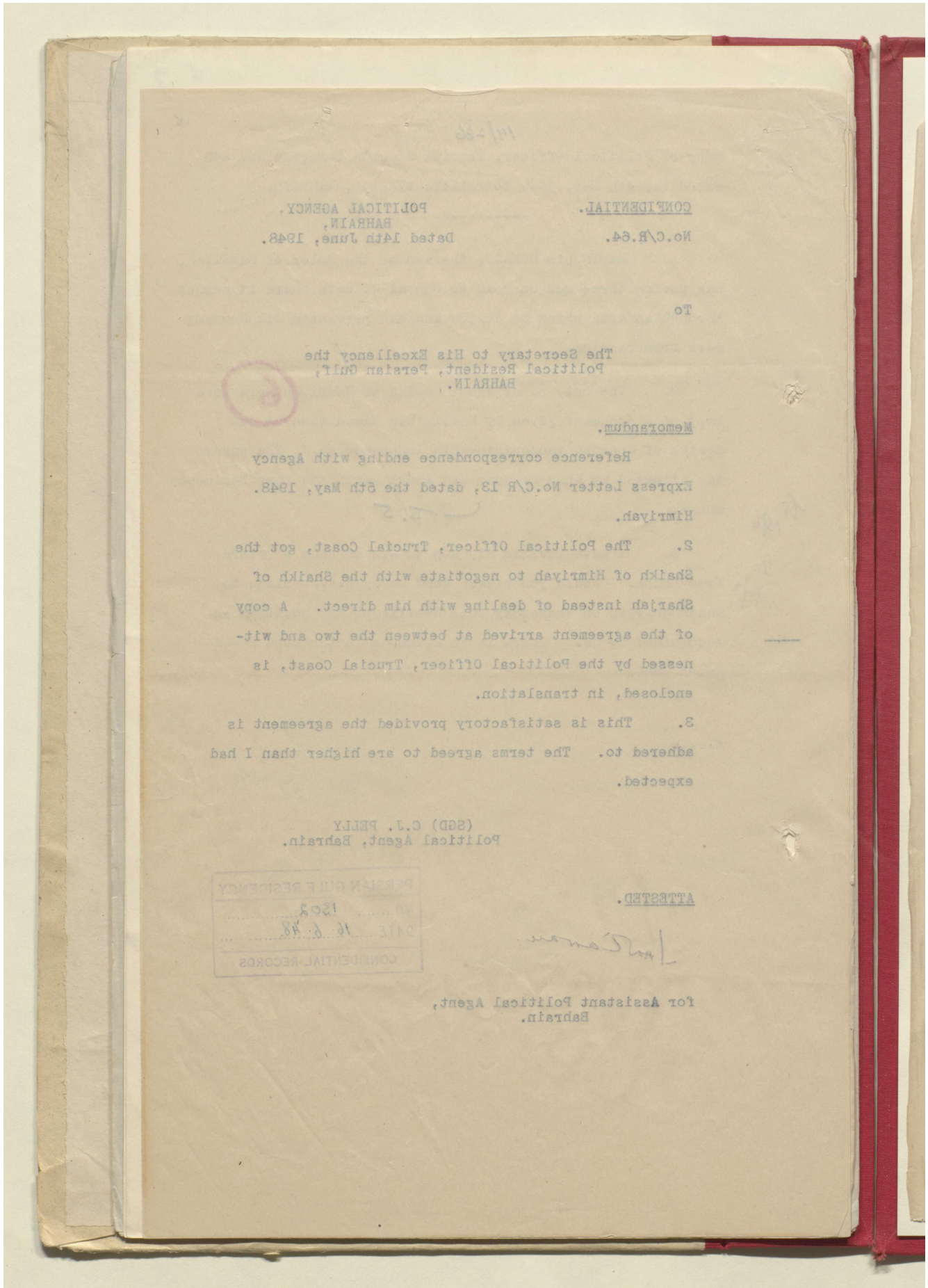
ATTESTED.

J. Anwar

for Assistant Political Agent,
Bahrain.

PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY	
NO.....	1302
DATE.....	16.6.48
CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS	

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [18v] (37/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [19r] (38/40)

19
TRANSLATION.

I, Humaid bin Abdur Rahman, Shaikh of Himiriyah, undertake on behalf of myself and my successors not to obstruct the Oil Company in any way, nor to prevent them from passing or working in my territory if necessary and to afford them all facilities and help. In return for this, Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr, Ruler of Sharjah, has agreed to pay me Rs.6,000/- now and a sum of Rs.4,000/- every year after this date. Should I go against this undertaking I shall be responsible to Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr. If oil is found in my territory, I shall be entitled to one fourth of the income after expenses.

Dated 1st Sha'aban 1367 equivalent to 8th June, 1948.

Agreed for myself and on behalf of anyone who may succeed me in the Shaikhship:

Signed & Sealed:
Sultan bin Saqr
Ruler of Sharjah

Agreed for myself and on behalf of my successors:

Signed and Sealed:
Humaid bin Abdur Rahman
Ruler of Himriyah.

British Agency, Sharjah,
Dated 8th June, 1948.

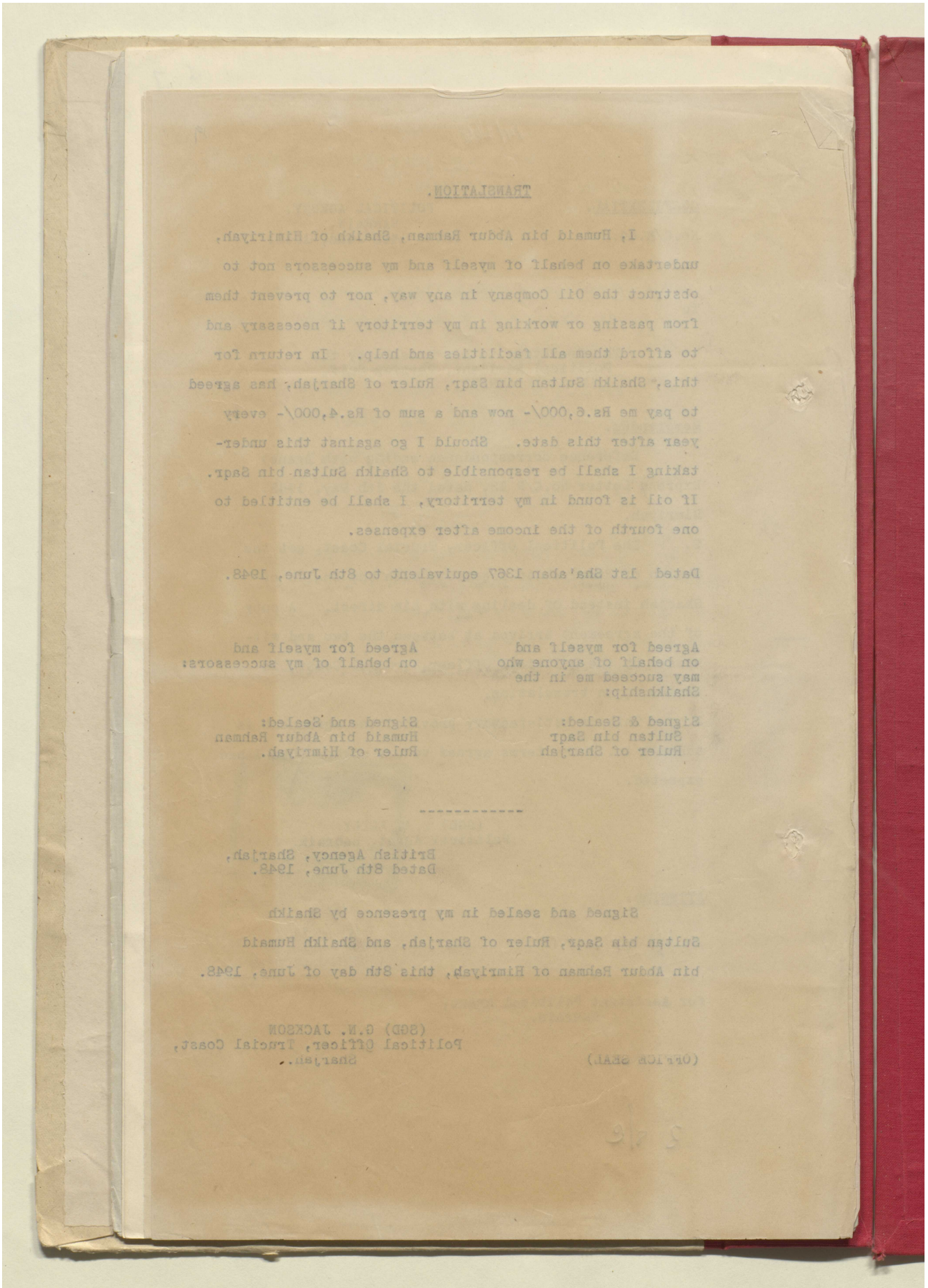
Signed and sealed in my presence by Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr, Ruler of Sharjah, and Shaikh Humaid bin Abdur Rahman of Himriyah, this 8th day of June, 1948.

(OFFICE SEAL)

(SGD) G.N. JACKSON
Political Officer, Trucial Coast,
Sharjah.

3/e

'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [19v] (39/40)



'File 14/266 II Status of Hamriya' [back-i] (40/40)

