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'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/R/15/1/556
Date(s)	5 Oct 1905-26 Dec 1907 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
Extent and Format	1 file (58 folios)
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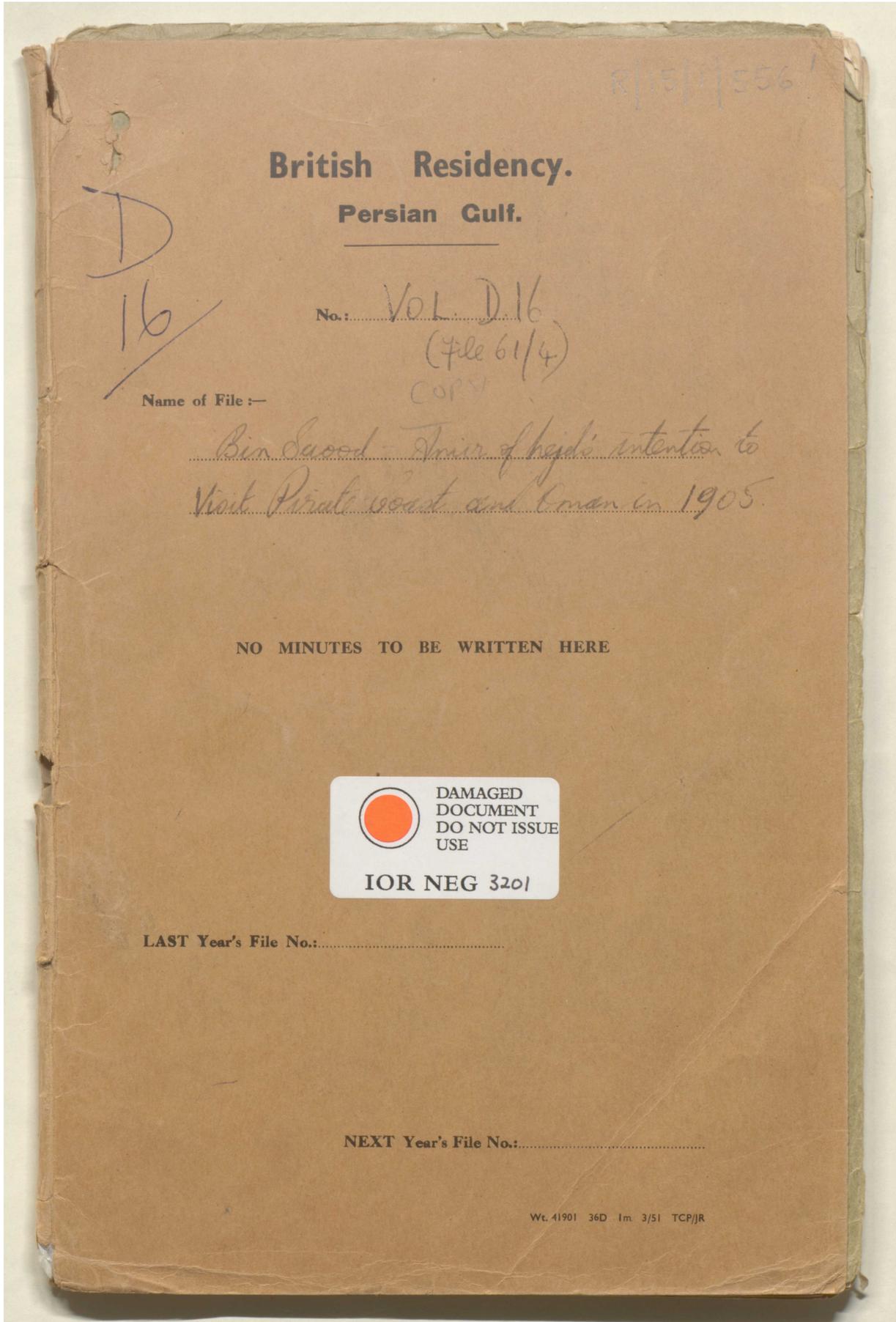


About this record

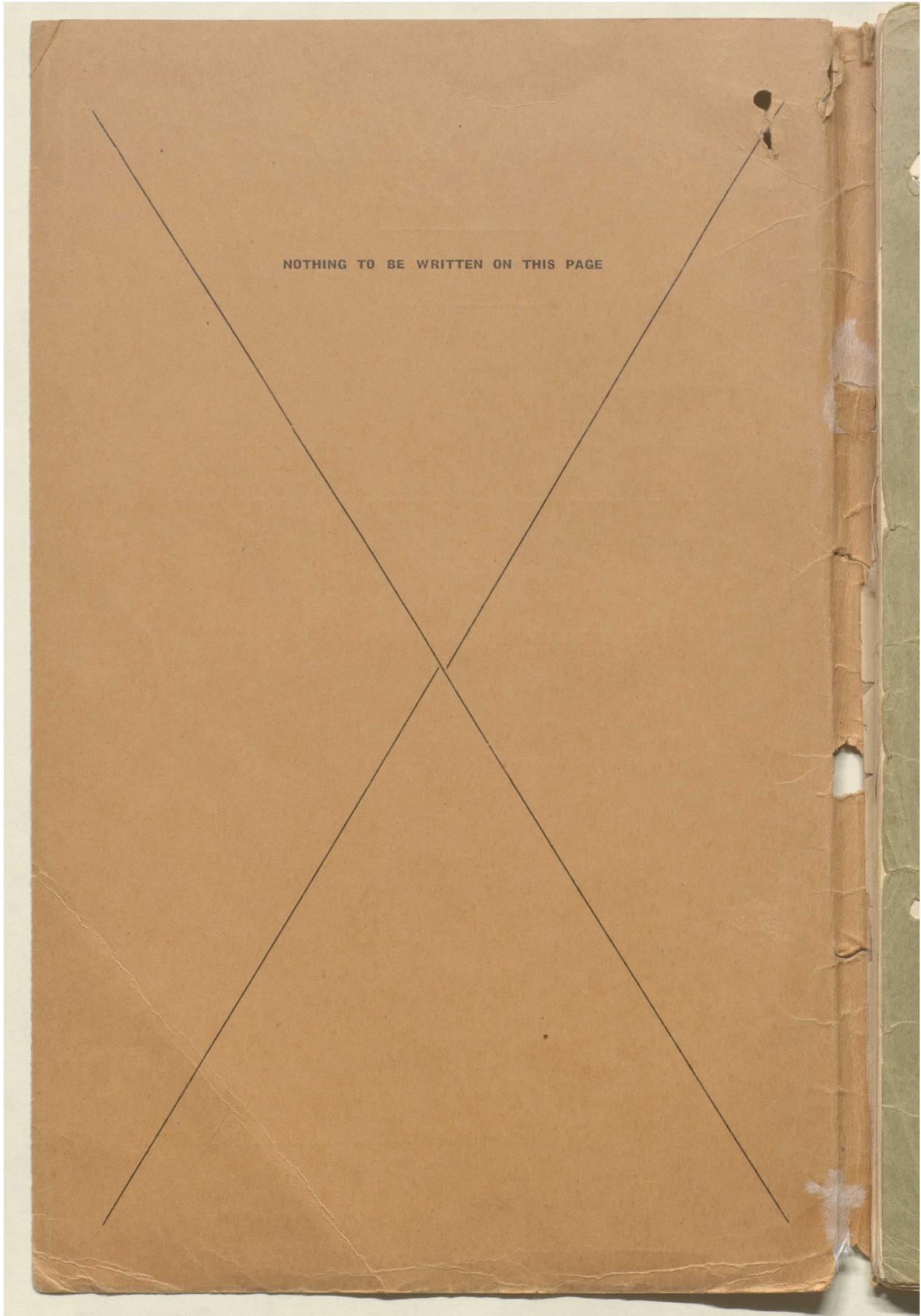
This file consists of letters (in English and Arabic), telegrams, handwritten notes, diary extracts, and drafts of the above concerning a rumoured visit by Ibn Sa'ud, ruler of Najd, to the Trucial Coast and Oman. The bulk of the file is correspondence between the Political Residency in Bushire, the Political Agents in Kuwait and Sharjah, the Foreign Department of the Government of India, the Secretary of State for India in Whitehall, the British Embassy in Constantinople, the various Trucial Sheikhs, Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait, and Ibn Sa'ud. Included within this are letters sent amongst the Arab rulers themselves that came into the possession of the British via the Agent at Sharjah.

The file begins with reports of Ibn Sa'ud's visit to al-Hasa in the summer of 1905 where he reconciled the quarrelling tribes of 'Ajman, al-Murrah, and Bani Hajar, and his talk of visiting the Trucial Coast and Oman. A discussion follows on how the British should deal with the consequential unrest and injury to trade in the Gulf should the visit occur, often seeking the advice of Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait due to his close connection to Ibn Sa'ud. Warnings are then given to the Trucial Sheikhs to refrain from contact with Ibn Sa'ud and measures of blocking the arms trade to Kuwait and more direct military action are put forward. The file ends (at the close of 1907, after a gap of a year) with reports from Sheikh Mubarak that complaints about the British and requests for contact with Ibn Sa'ud had come to him from several of the Trucial rulers.

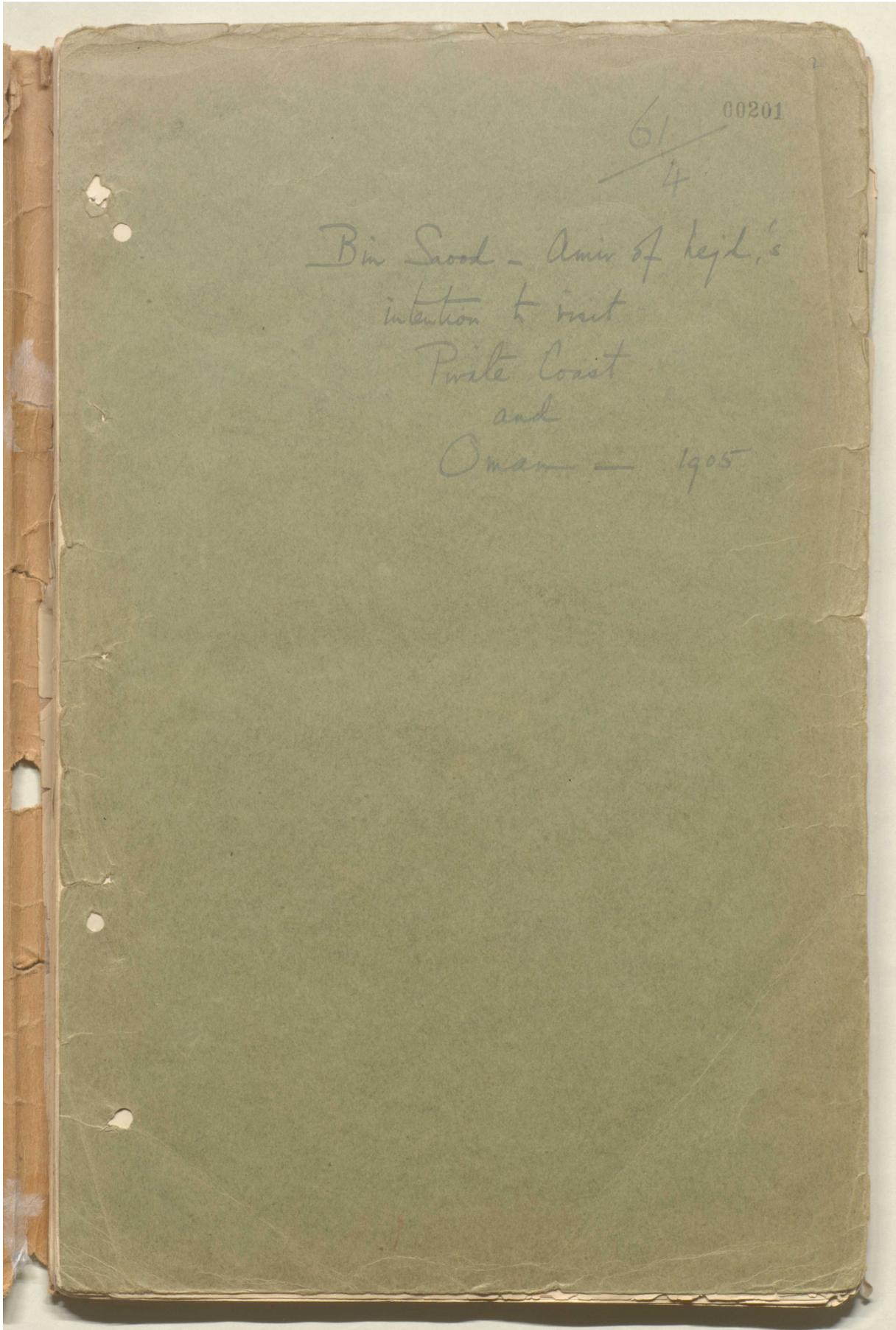
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [front] (1/118)



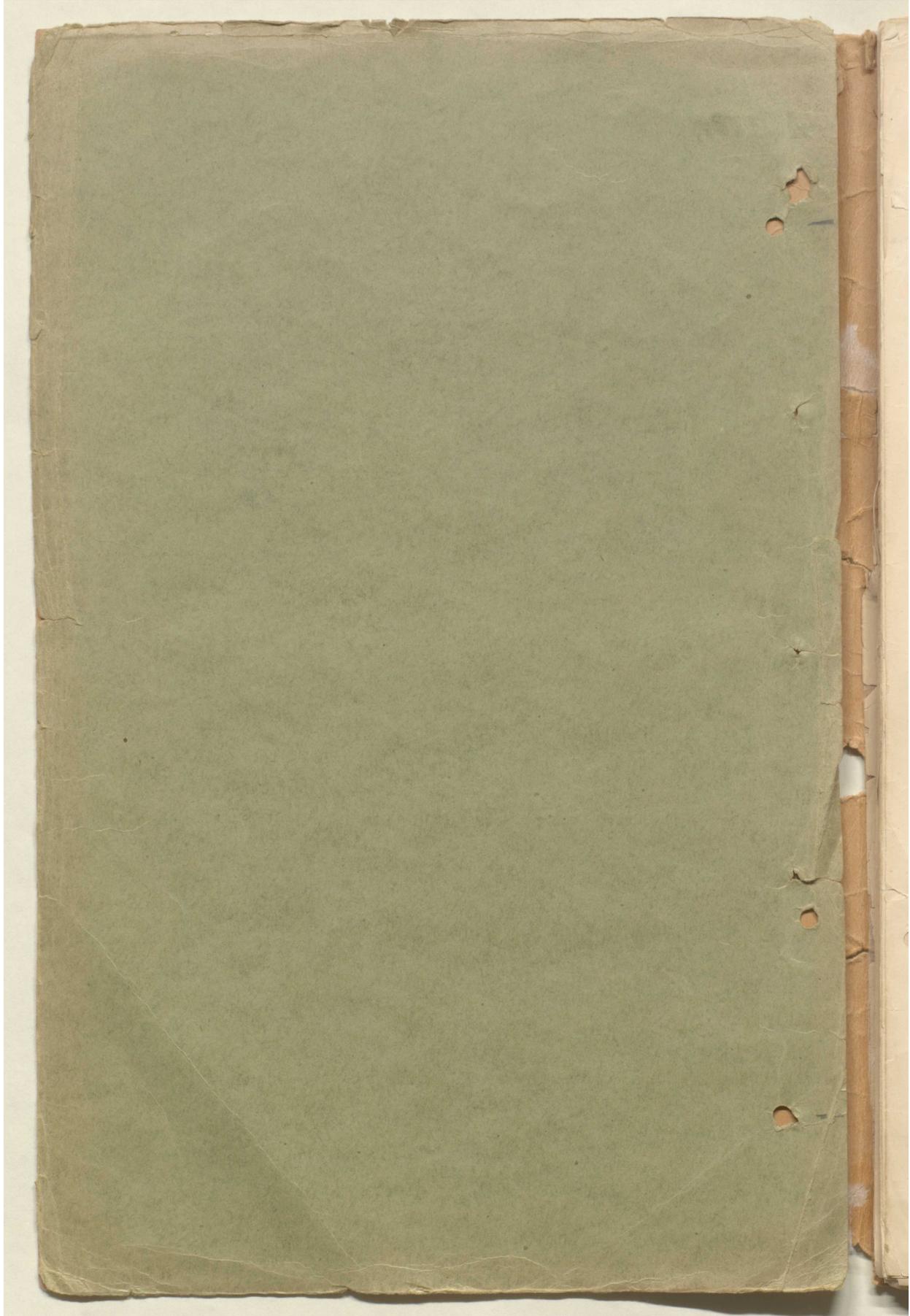
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [front-i] (2/118)



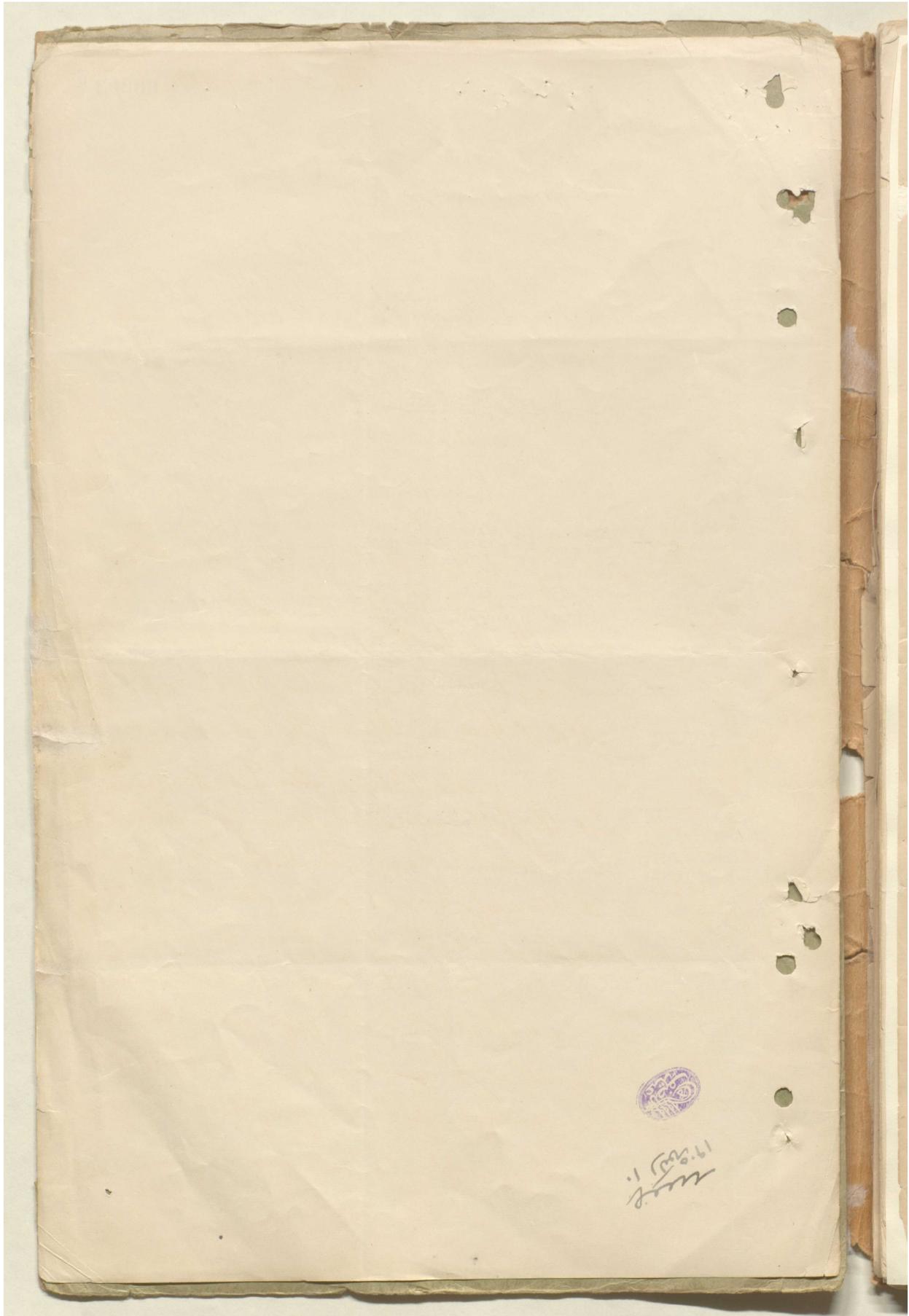
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [2r] (3/118)

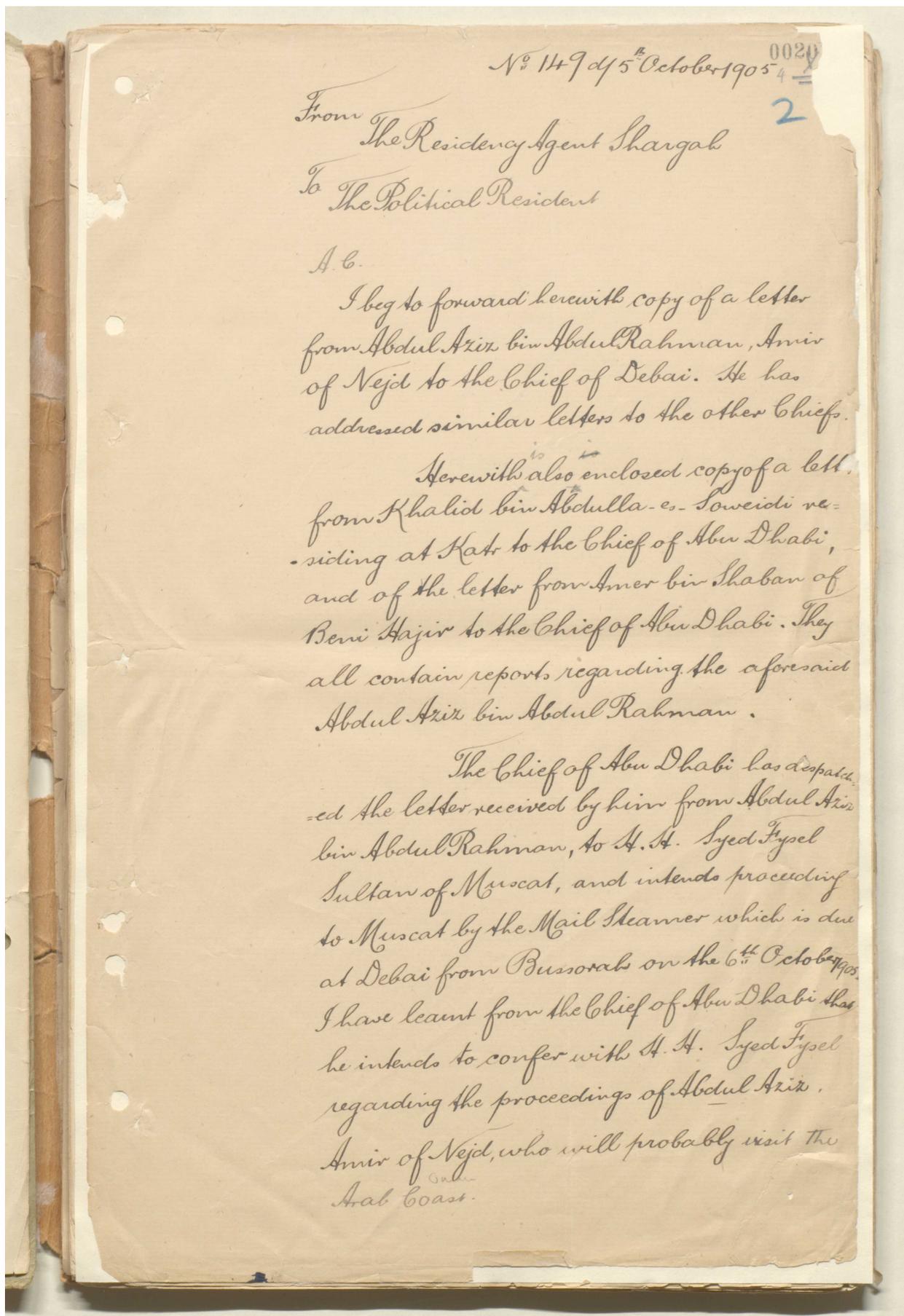


'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [2v] (4/118)

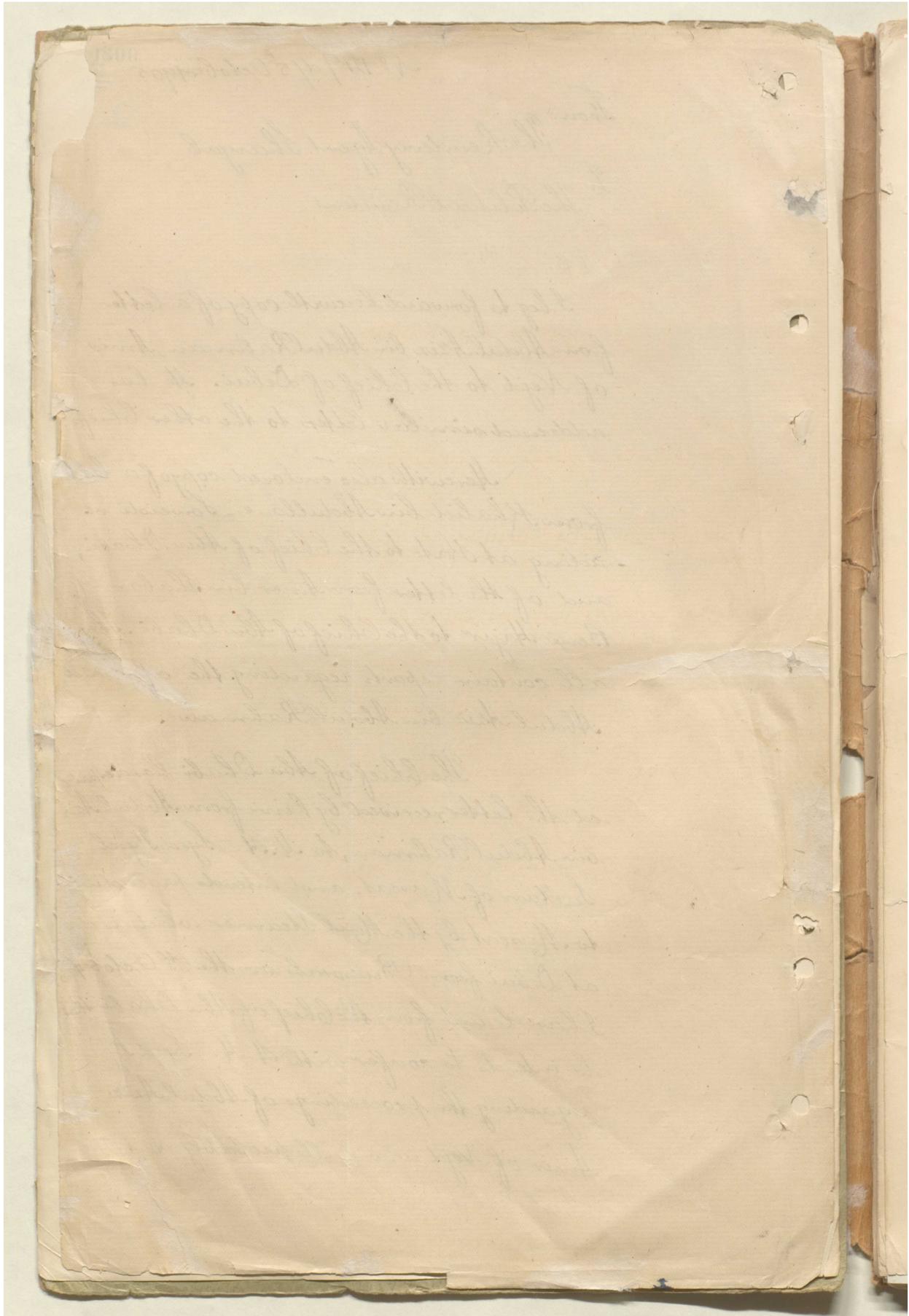


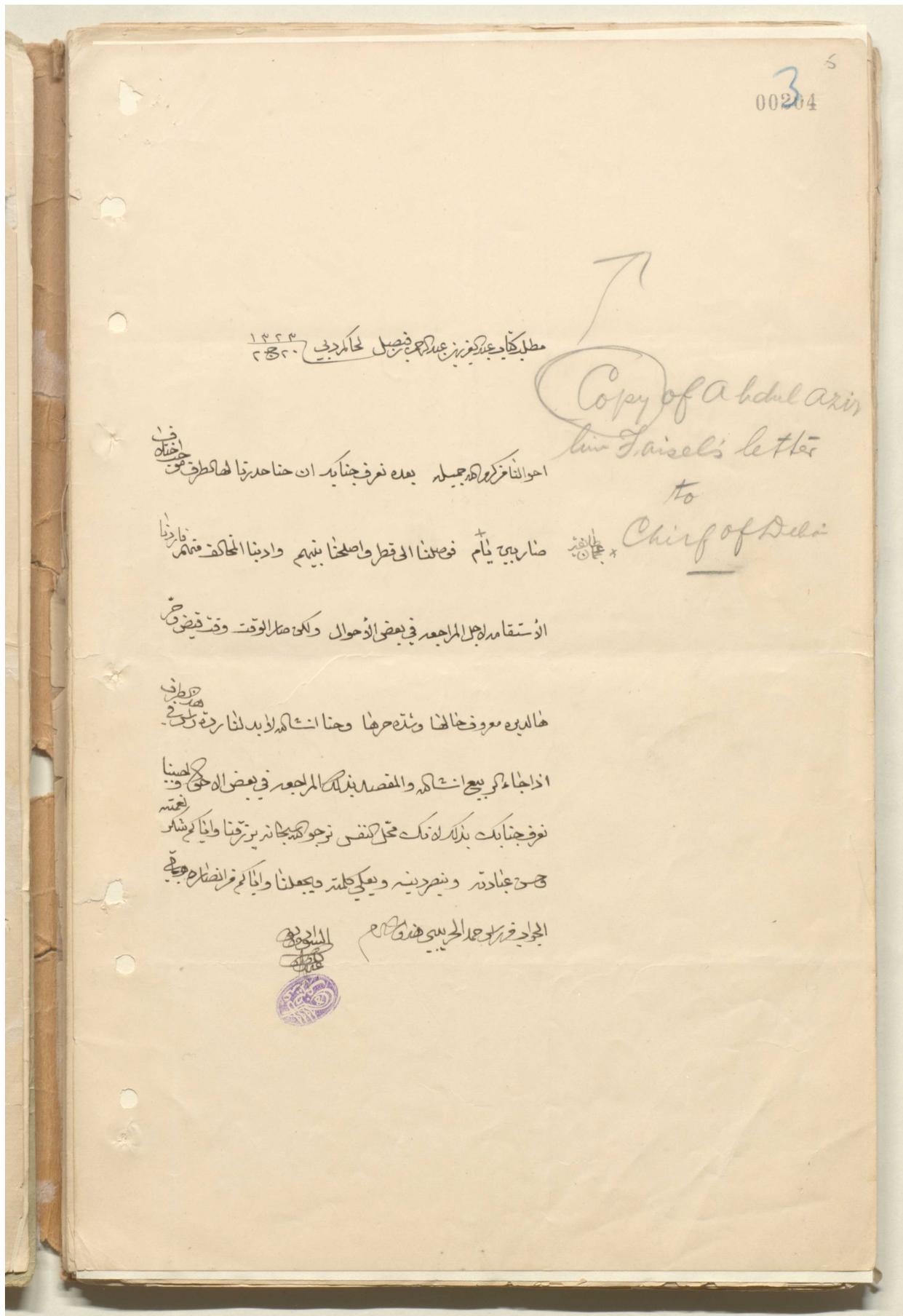
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [3v] (6/118)



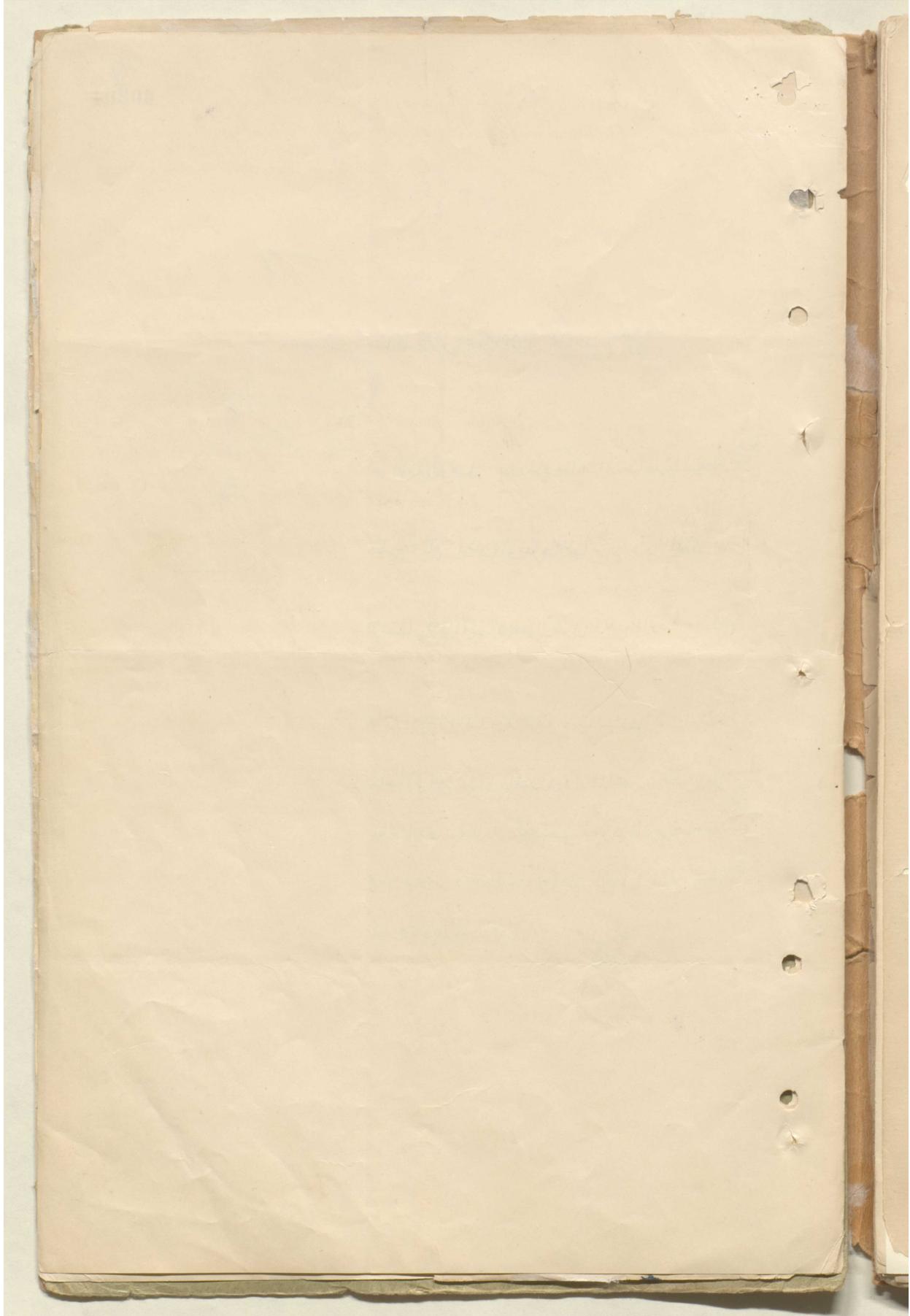


'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [4v] (8/118)

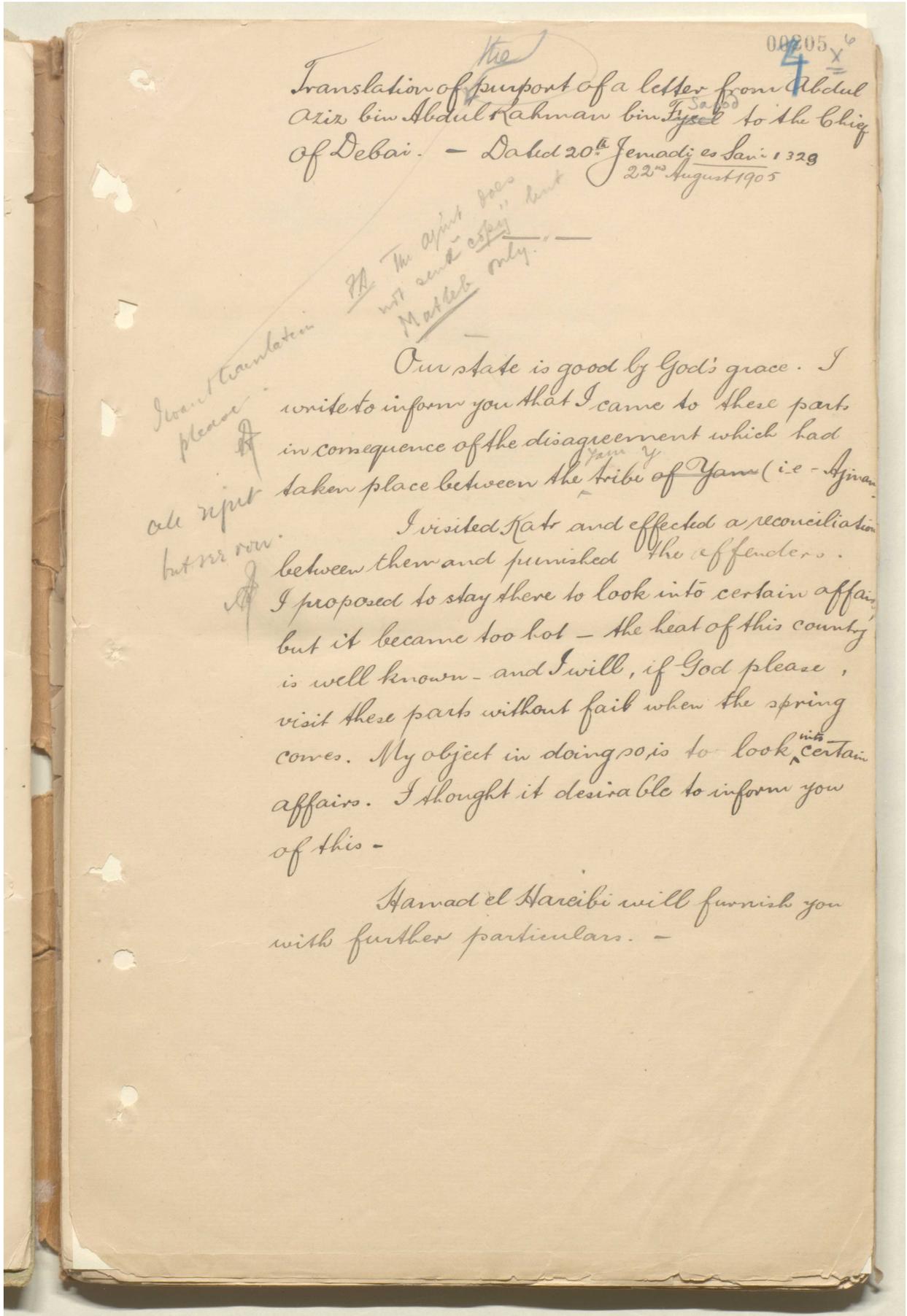




'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [5v] (10/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [6r] (11/118)



00205 X
4
the
Translation of purport of a letter from Abdul
Aziz bin Abdul Rahman bin Sa'ud to the Chief
of Debai. - Dated 20th Jumadi es Sani 1329
22nd August 1905

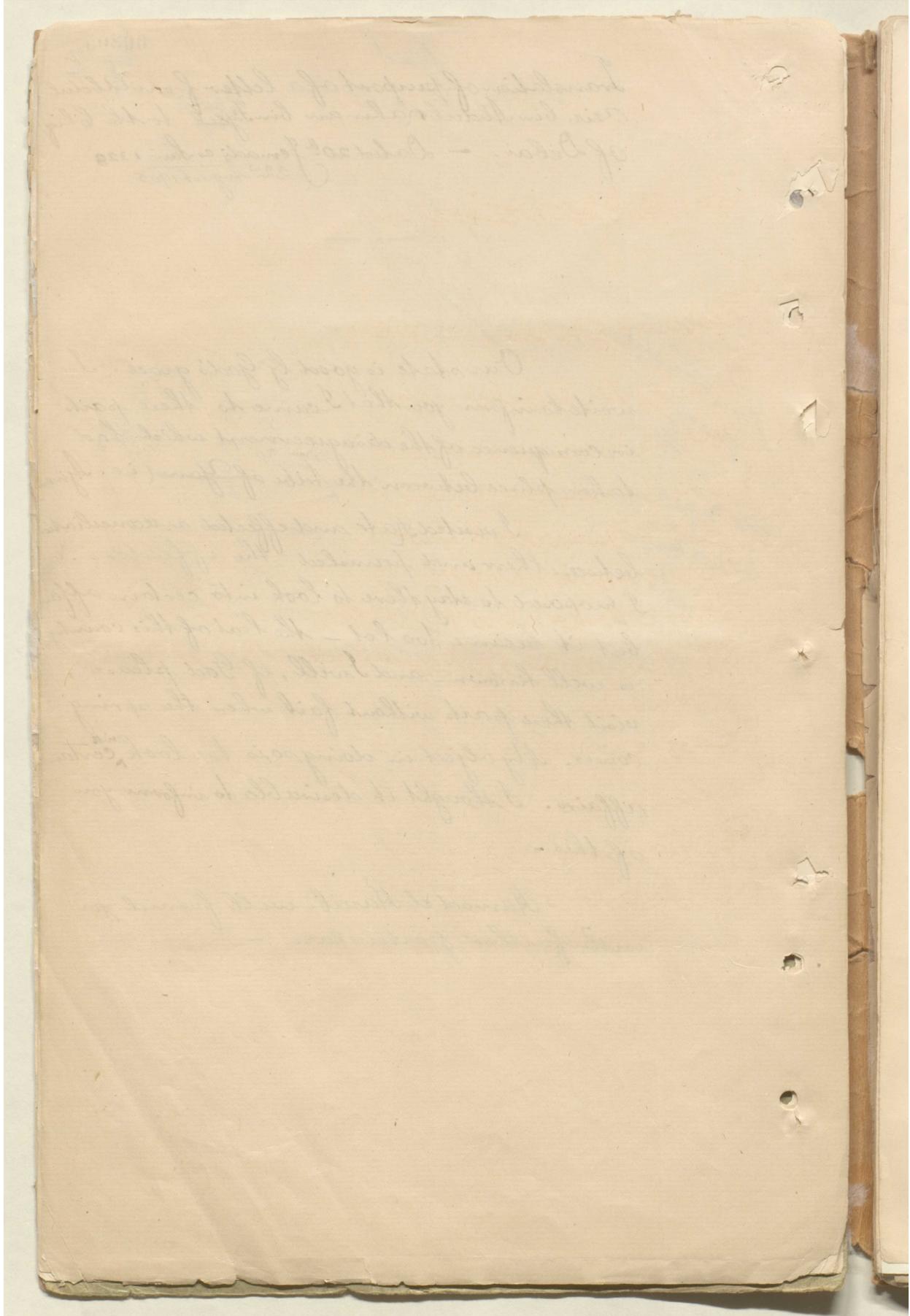
Don't translate
please
all right
but no more.
PA The spirit was
not sent copy but
Matter only.

Our state is good by God's grace. I
write to inform you that I came to these parts
in consequence of the disagreement which had
taken place between the tribe of Yam (ie - Ajman)

I visited Kato and effected a reconciliation
between them and punished the offenders.
I proposed to stay there to look into certain affairs
but it became too hot - the heat of this country
is well known - and I will, if God please,
visit these parts without fail when the spring
comes. My object in doing so is to look ^{into} certain
affairs. I thought it desirable to inform you
of this -

Hamad el Haribi will furnish you
with further particulars. -

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [6v] (12/118)



7
5
00206

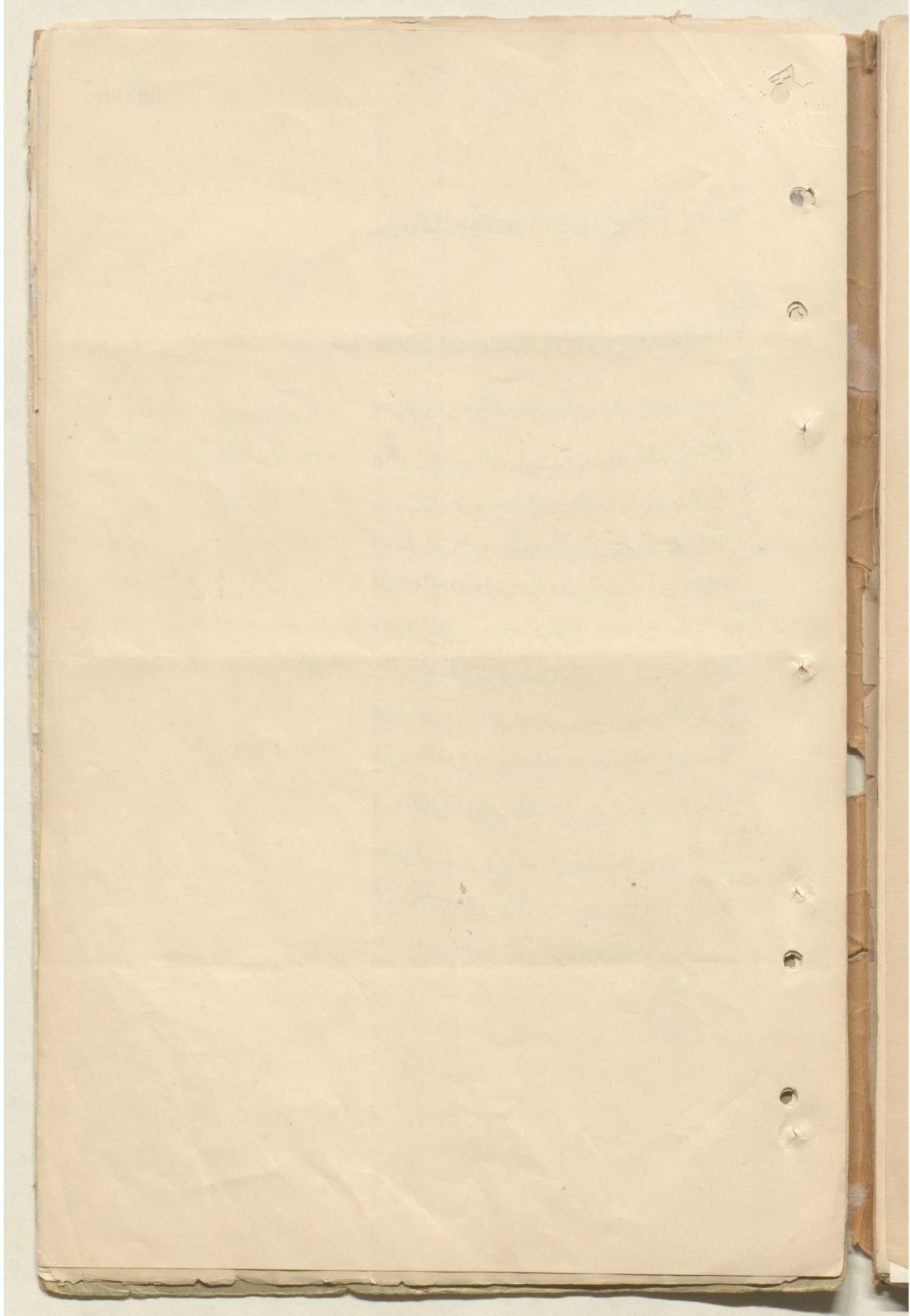
سواد كتاب الوصل الحياتي في رايه شيخ خليفه بن خالد بن عبد الله بن سعود
١٤٢٢
٢٧

كتاب الوصل الحياتي في رايه شيخ خليفه بن خالد بن عبد الله بن سعود
لنزل الخلدك غير ذلك نعرف جنابك اخبرنا عن عودتك وكيه وان
المساخذ ايام فيها اذا مولد بضيف جيد وقام بطلبه بركت عليه
ولا احد يقدر يرد هاد خط في الحان ثلاثة الشيوخ يشكروك بحسن
والعكر راضين بامره وصالج بيني كيد وان صلح على جميع تقصير
فين عود عليه وركبوا زيدا وانا ولد بشرتم المرمه وبنه هاجون
ومز الخيارات منصور بن غانم ونفوعليه وهو على عسيلة وصالج
بينهم وبينهم (يام) وغيرهم شهد ونزل ان رتوقه حاك كتابه في
علينا منصور بن غانم وهذا علمه وجاهلي خطه من سلام معرفه
ترتيب والمري من لول صلح سنا سعي على عبيد علي بن حبيب
في ذ الجافوره وبنه هاجون على اعرج لتعلم ذلك في طر على
طره لمانضار في بوشهر فلما وصله خبايره على خالته سنا
شقي والجيس في مسلك من سني وضار الجيس وانرا
هذا الذي صنا عندنا وكتبا علم هذا الجانم

Copy of Khali
bin Abdullah's letter
to
Chief of al-Bahrah

مواد مطبوعه

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [7v] (14/118)



Translation of ~~XXXXXXXX~~
Copy of a letter received by Sheikh Faed bin Khalifa
from Khalid bin Abululat es Soeodni.

D/27 Jemadi II 1323
27 August 1905.

I have received your esteemed letter and was glad to hear of your welfare. Sheikh Hamdan's letter has been received and gladdened me.

I write to furnish you with the news of Bin Saood and the Bedouins. After his arrival at ^{the} Hassa, he remained there for several days and he was given a grand entertainment. He summoned them (the inhabitants) and issued Bills on them. No one could reject the Bills. He has appointed three Sheikhs at ^{the} Hassa for hearing complaints and imprisoning people. The Askers (Turkish soldiers) were obedient to his orders. He made peace between the Bedouins. And ~~whosoever commits a robbery~~

Bin Saood will take action against ~~him~~ Whosoever found guilty of having committed robberies.

Maryad and Nawleh bin Sherim of Al-Murrah, Bin Shaban of Beni Hajar and Mansoor bin Ghanim of Kheyarin came to him and ^{were} reconciled with him. He made peace between them and Ajman and other tribes and proceeded to a watering place named Aramookel today.

Mansoor bin Ghanim came to me, gave me this news and brought me a complimentary letter from him informing me of this arrangement.

After the peace was made, the representative of Marid (Murrah) went to Baej and that of

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [8v] (16/118)

Beni Hajar proceeded to Araj.

As regards Ali bin Ahmed, ^(El Khatib of Bahraj) the Christians
summoned him to Bushir and told him either
to remain as before, that is to say, as a wicked man (Shaki ^{شقي})
or to undergo 5 years imprisonment at Muscat.
He preferred to undergo imprisonment and
proceeded to Muscat.

00208 9
7

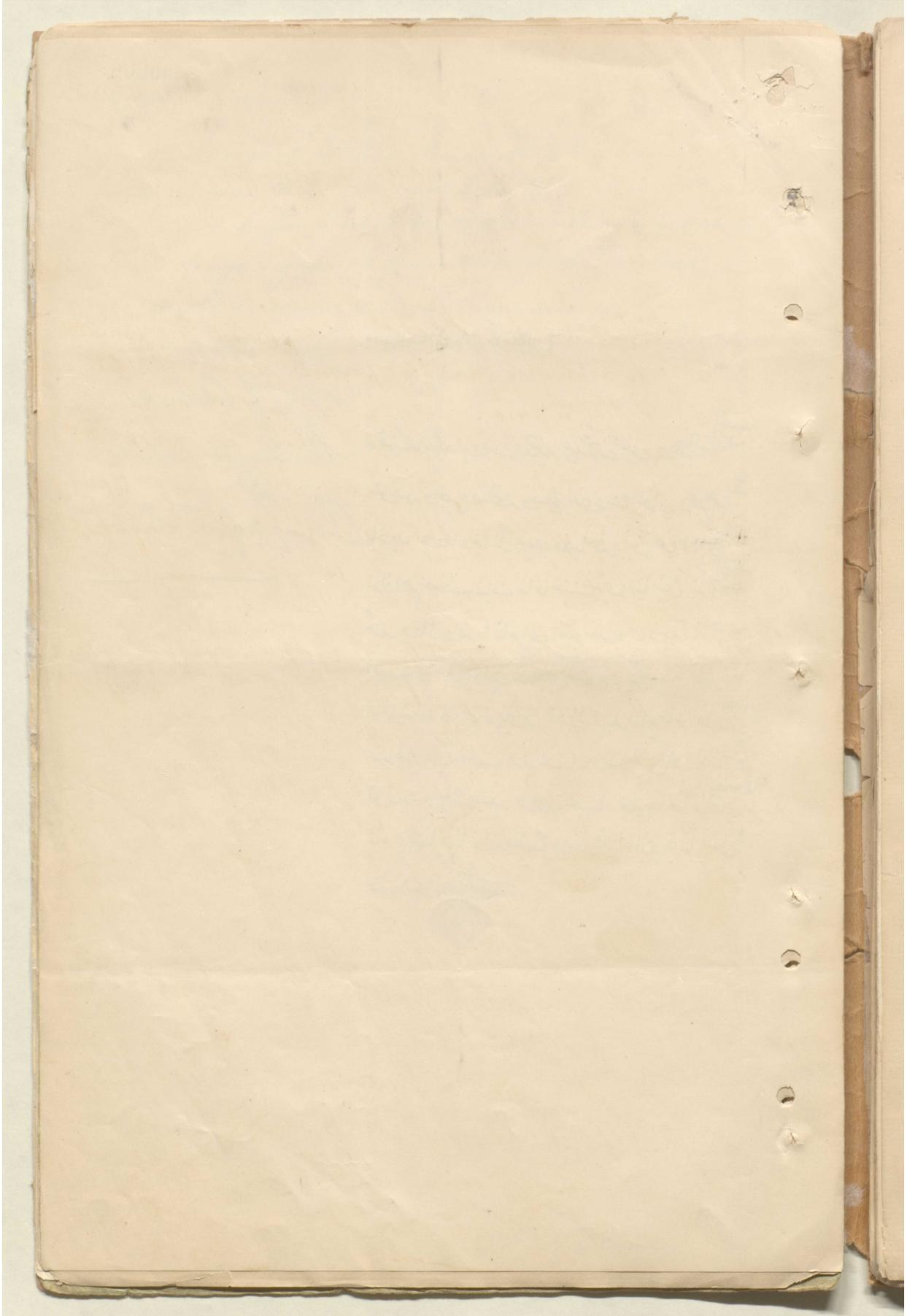
مطبعة دار غام شيباناه الحارثية ١٤٢٤

Copy of Amers bin
Shabanis letter
to
Chief of Abu Dhabi

غير ذلك اخرجوه في وقت عيد الغدير بموعد ورجوعه تاريخي
مثل هذه واخير وصالحته وصلاح بني ربي العمان وغيرهم والله
يازيد يا صيا ويح ارضيد وضيا ممر ويوتهم على سبع حتى
اذلهم اصطببوليات ما اخنت عيني منها شيء كذلك جاء
عليه وقال والله يا غام را في اتباع ملك ابوي وجدتي مكتب
المجملان او يا زائد ان عيني تشوف تمر عينه قلت له على
او على شيء قال على تديركم قلت له زائد امام عمان ولا موصل
عنداهم في كقطيف وفي الحجاز وهذا ليس منا و قال في
كل زينة ورجال سند وخط الحجاز يوم جاها والله ان
نأمر وننها فيها وافرمضنا واخذنحنا الذي فيها لتعلم ذلك

هذه نسخة من كتاب


'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [9v] (18/118)



800209 X

Translation of purport of a letter from Amer bin
Shaban to the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

(undated)

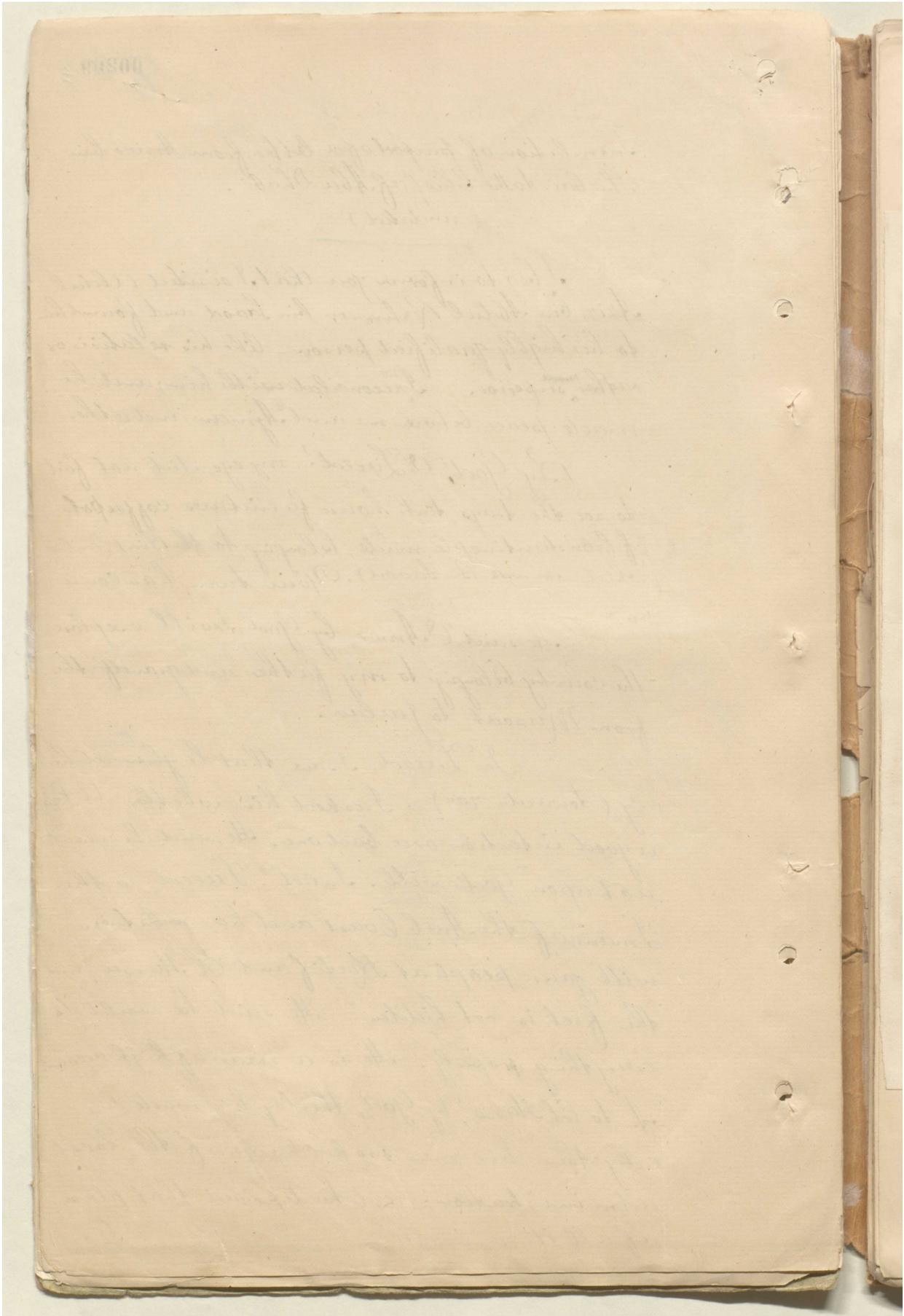
I beg to inform you that I visited Abdul
Aziz bin Abdul Rahman bin Saood and found him
to be highly-qualified person - like his relatives or
rather ^{was} superior. I reconciled ^{to} with him; and he
made peace between me and ^{the} Ajman and others.

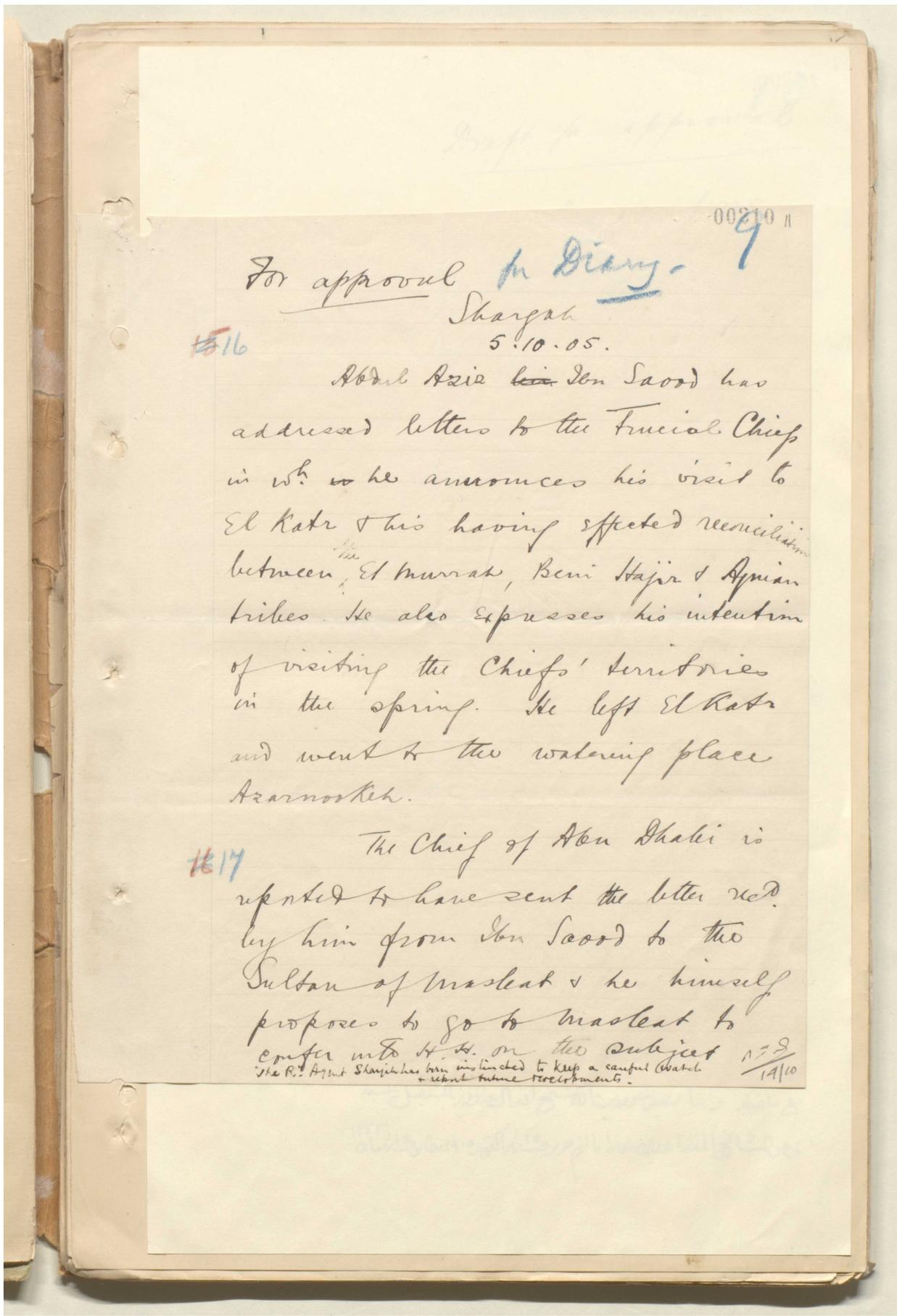
By God! O Laced! my eye did not fail
to see the trays, tents, house furniture, coffee pots
of Constantinople made, belonging to ~~the~~ ^{to} Bin Rashid
(which were with Bin Saood). Your turn has come
now. —

He said "O Amer, by God, I will explore
the country belonging to my father and grandfathers,
from Muscat to Jecalan.

In Laced, I saw that he ^{turned} glared his
eye (towards you). I asked him whether he had
a good intention or a bad one. He said he would
act upon God's will. I said "Laced is the
Imam of the Arab Coast and has relatives
with your people at Katif and El Massa, and
this fact is not hidden". He said he would do
everything properly. He is a man of high account.
As to El Massa, by God, the day he made his
entry there his men took charge of the local
administration; and he deprived that place
of all its valuables.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [10v] (20/118)





00210 11

For approval in Diary -
Sharjah

1516

5.10.05.

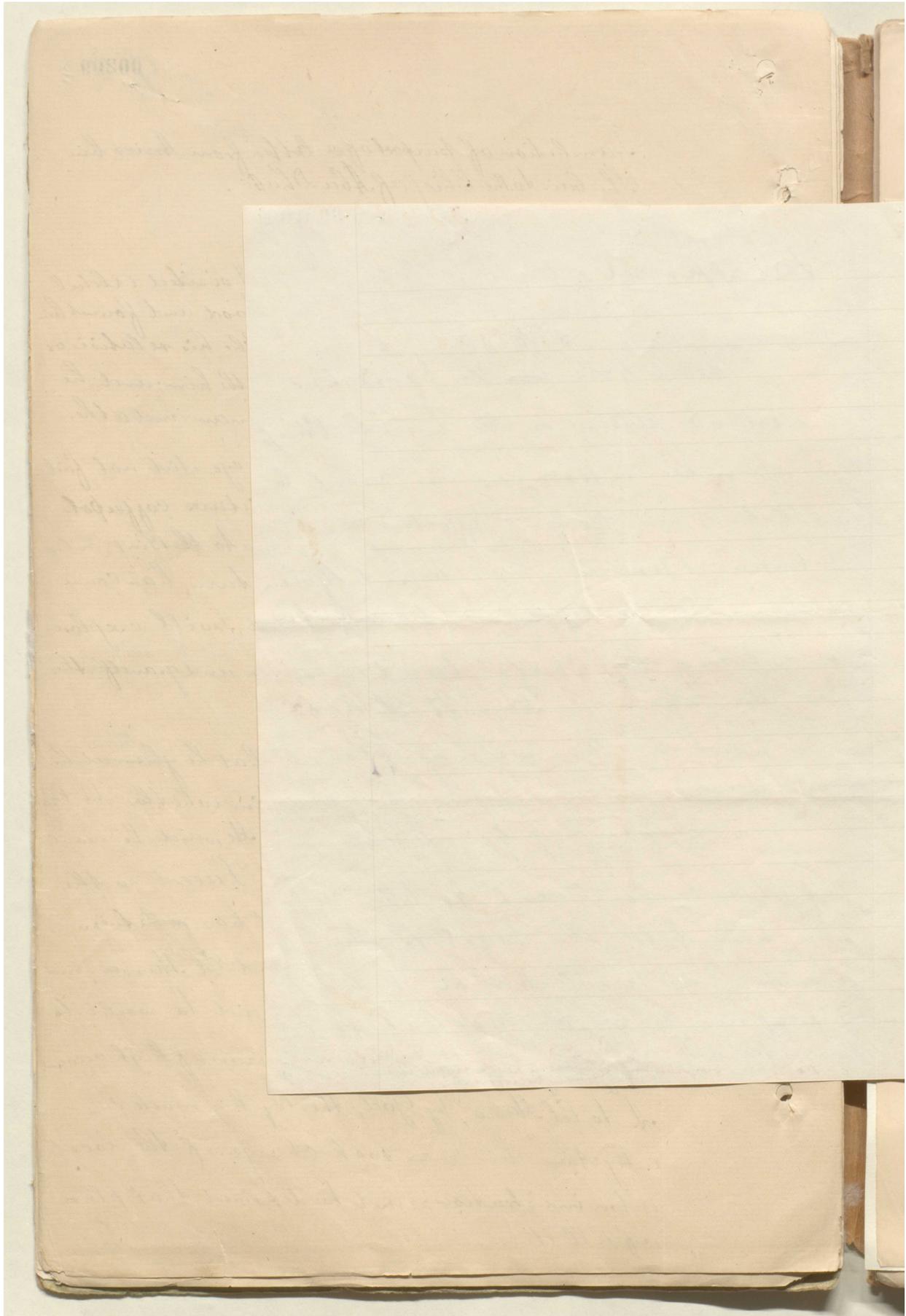
Abdul Aziz bin Saood has addressed letters to the Fiscal Chief in wh. he announces his visit to El Kahr & his having effected reconciliation between ^{the} El Murrah, Beni Hajir & Agriam tribes. He also expresses his intention of visiting the Chiefs' territories in the spring. He left El Kahr and went to the watering place Azarnokh.

1617

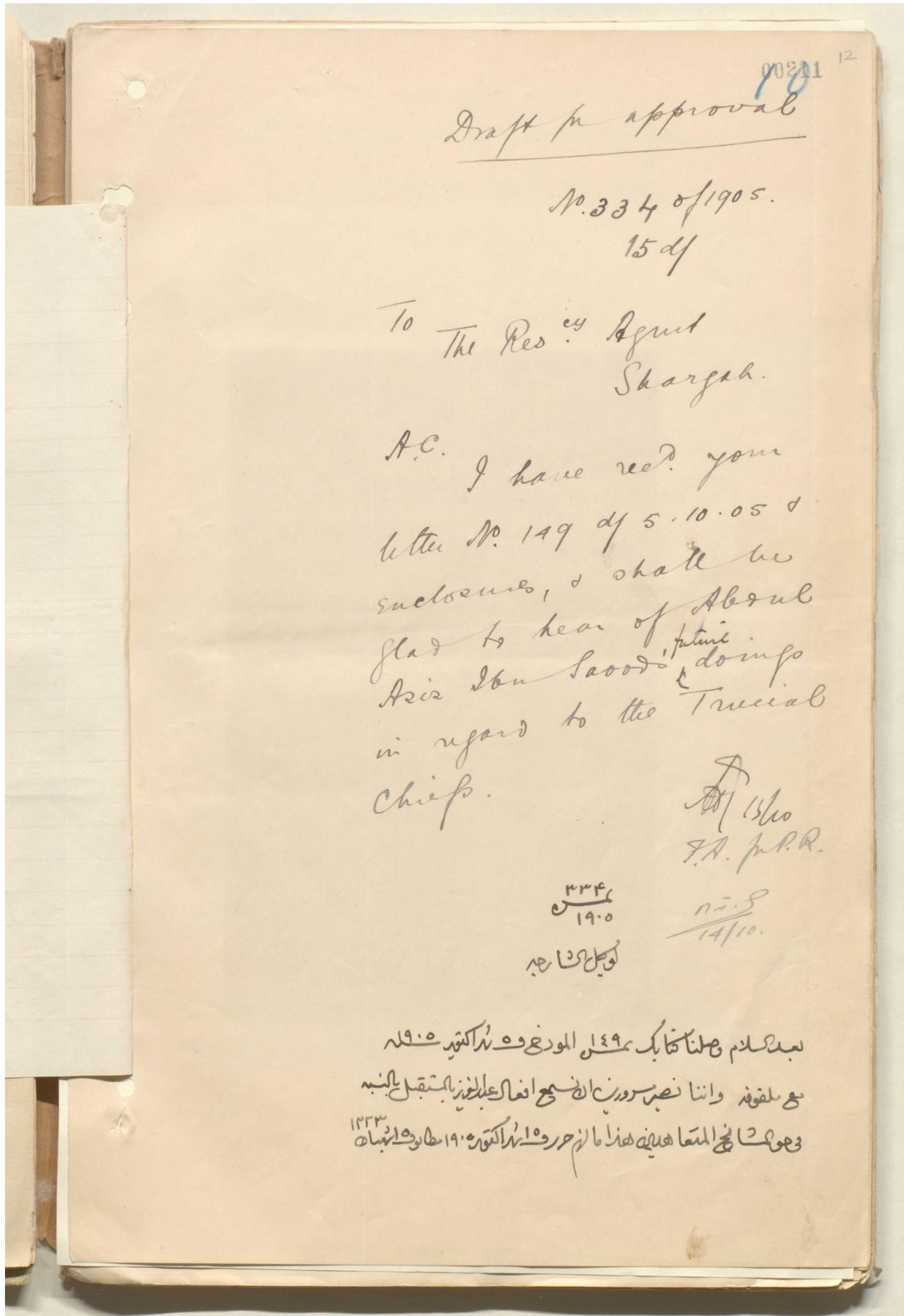
The Chief of Abu Dhabi is reported to have sent the letter recd. by him from Bin Saood to the Sultan of Mascat & he himself proposes to go to Mascat to confer with H. H. on the subject
The R. Agent Sharjah has been instructed to keep a careful watch on report future developments.

17/8
14/10

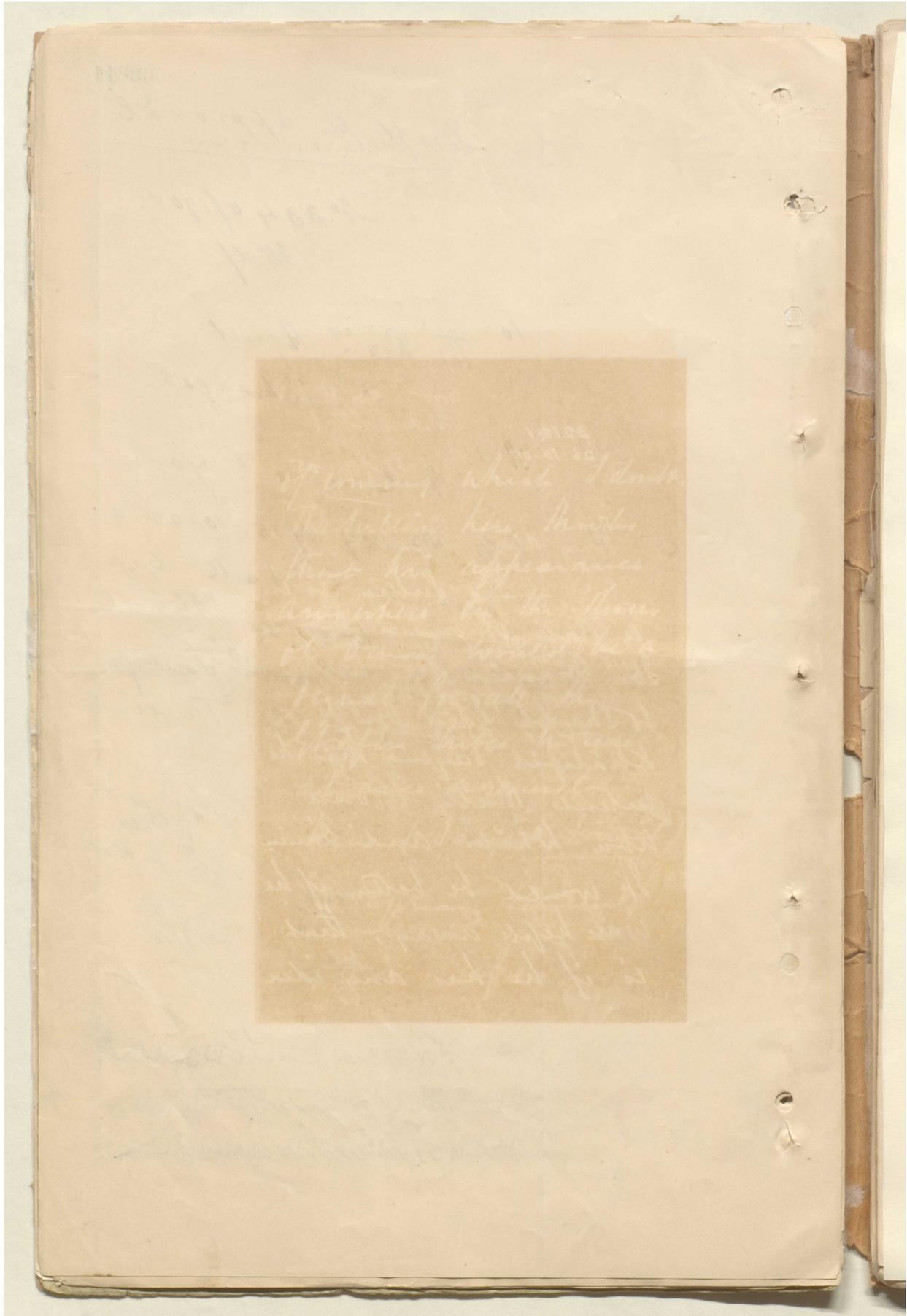
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [11v] (22/118)



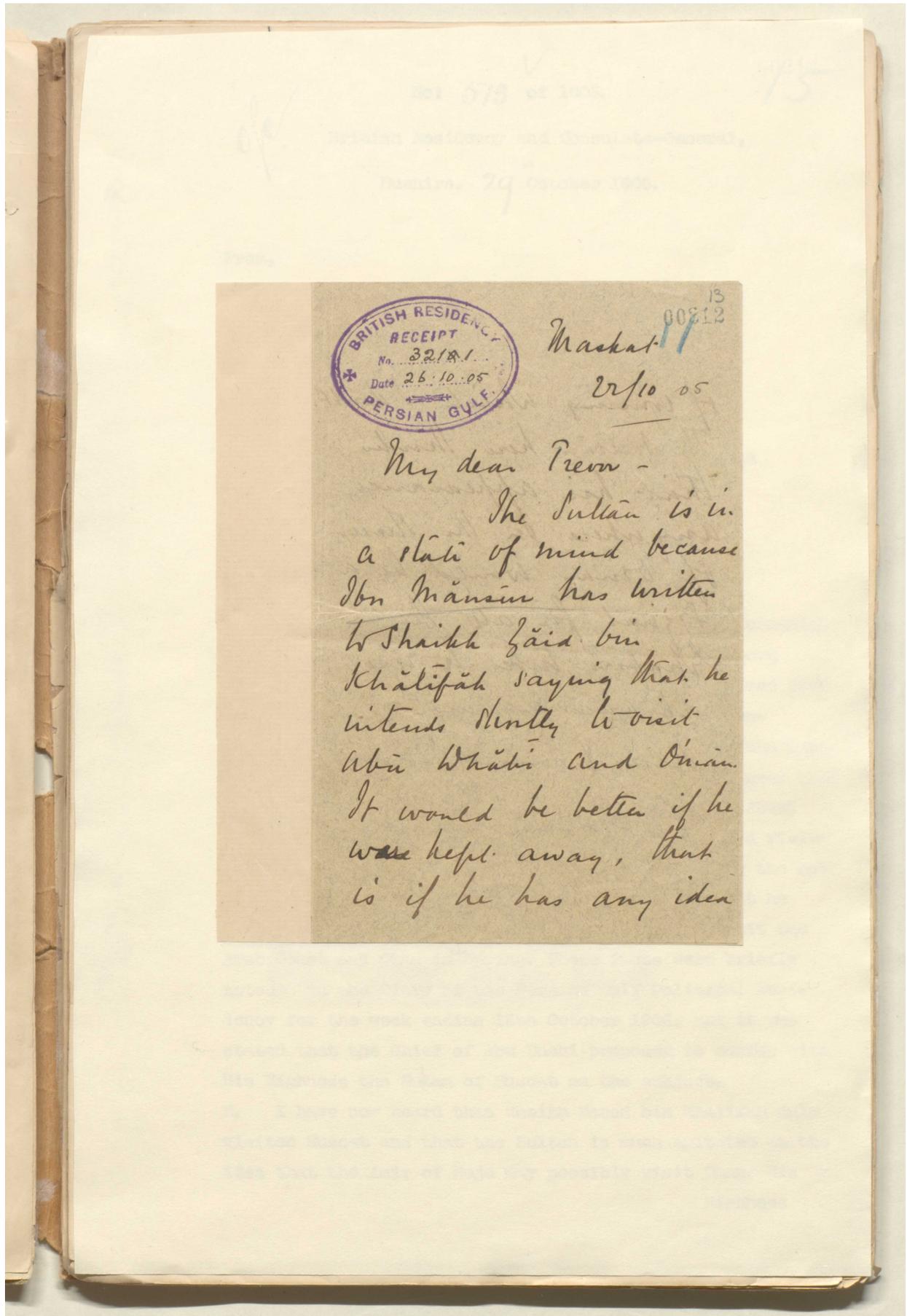
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [12r] (23/118)



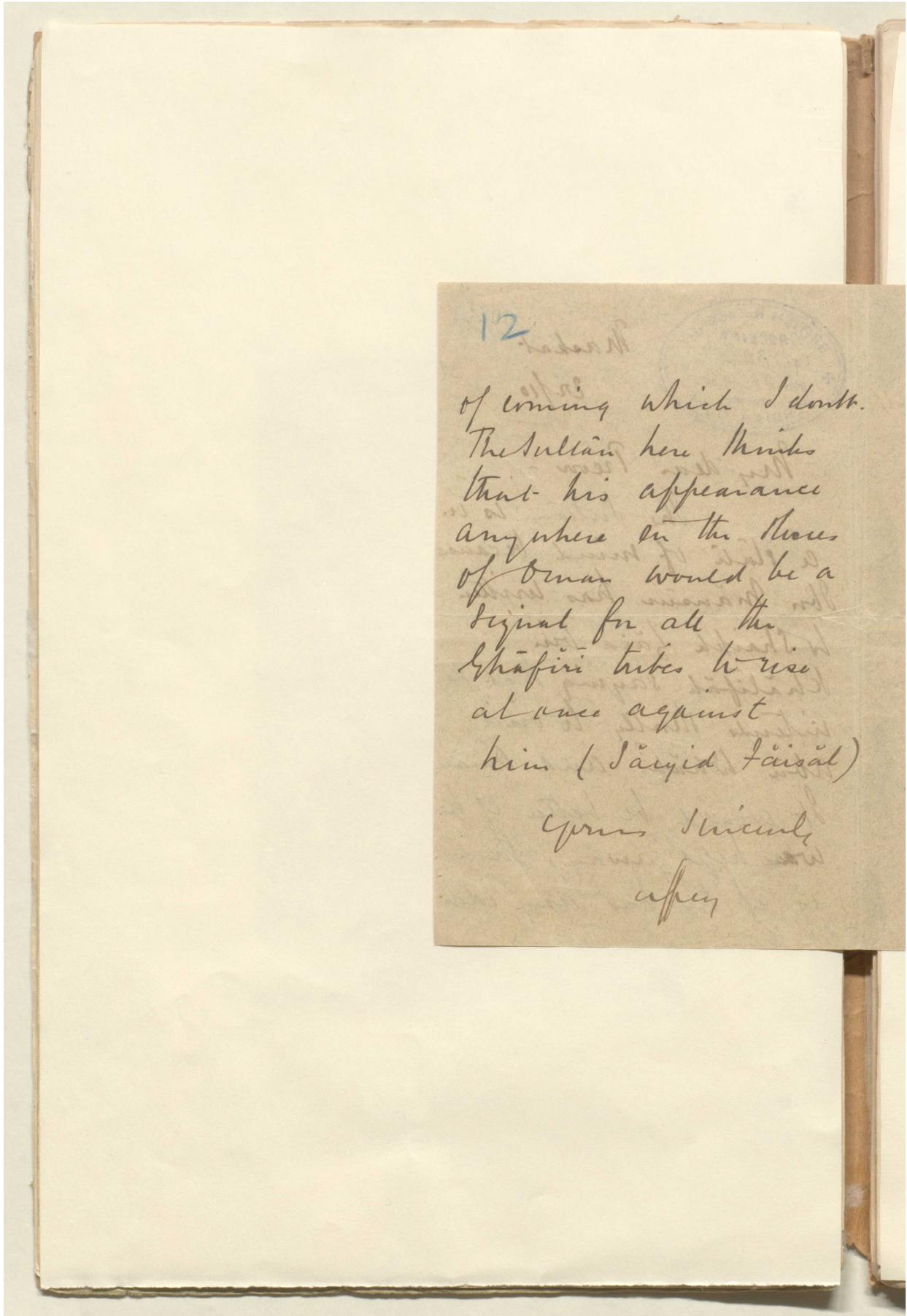
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [12v] (24/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [13r] (25/118)

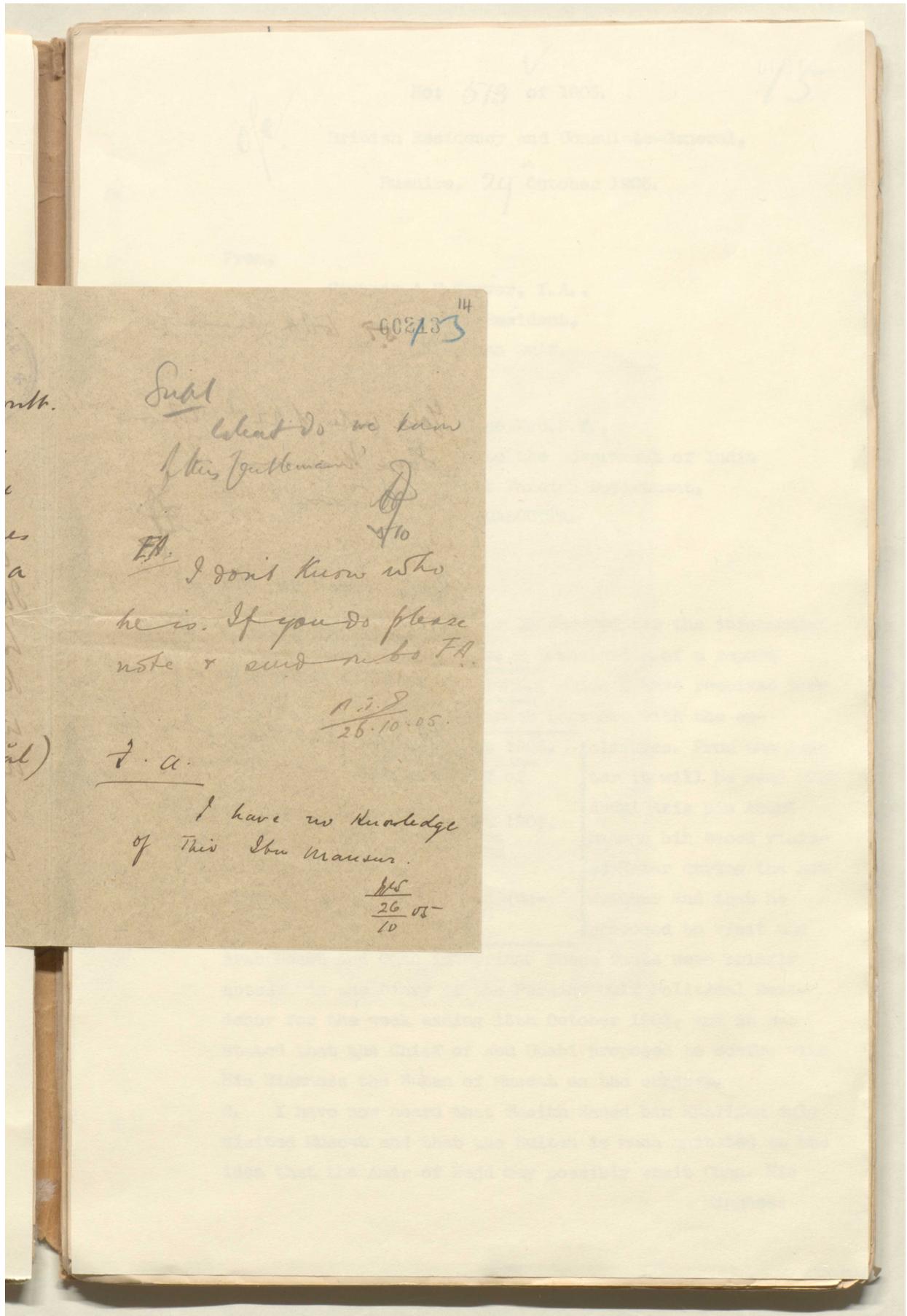


'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [13v] (26/118)



12
of coming which I doubt.
The Sultan here thinks
that his appearance
anywhere on the shores
of Oman would be a
signal for all the
Ghāfirī tribes to rise
at once against
him (Sāyid Fāisāl)
Yours sincerely
Afen

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [14r] (27/118)



60213¹⁴

Subal

What do we know
of this gentleman?

FA.

I don't know who
he is. If you do please
note & send me to FA.

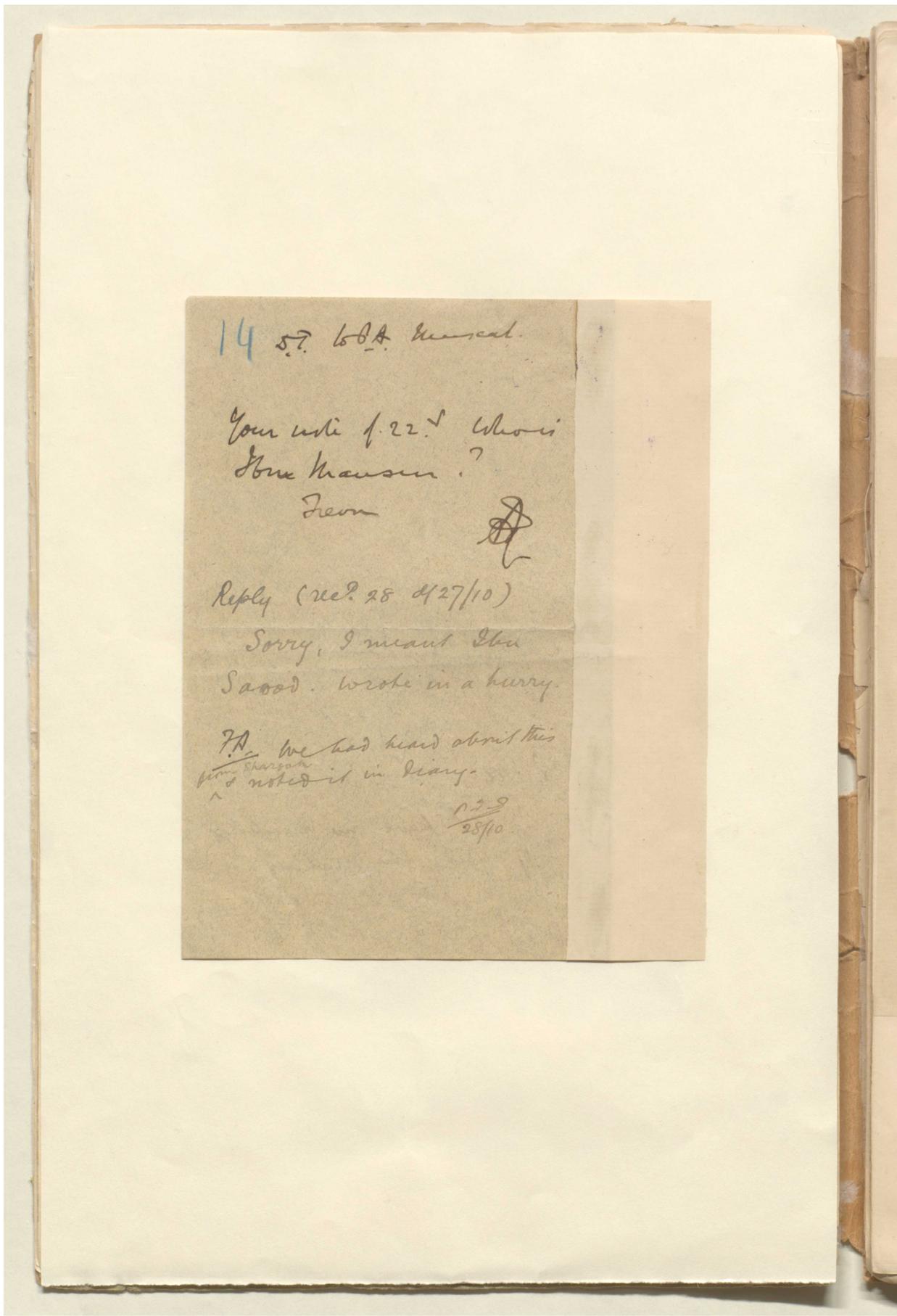
A.S.
26.10.05.

J.A.

I have no knowledge
of this Ibn Mansur.

A.S.
26.10.
10

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [14v] (28/118)



14 57 to B.A. Mansur.

Your note of 22nd who is
Bin Saood?

From

Reply (recd 28 d/27/10)

Sorry, I meant Bin
Saood. wrote in a hurry.

P.A. We had heard about this
Bin Saood & noted it in diary.

129
28/10

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [15r] (29/118)

No: 573 of 1905. ✓

00214
15

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 29th October 1905.

From,

Captain A.P. Trevor, I.A.,
Assistant Resident,
Persian Gulf.

To,

Sir Louis W. Dane K.C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
CALCUTTA.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, a translation of a report No:149 dated 5th October 1905, which I have received from the Residency Agent at Shargah, together with the en-

1. Letter dated 22nd August 1905, from Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman bin Saood to the Chief of Debai.

2. Letter dated 29th August 1905, from Khalid bin Abdullah es Sowedui to the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

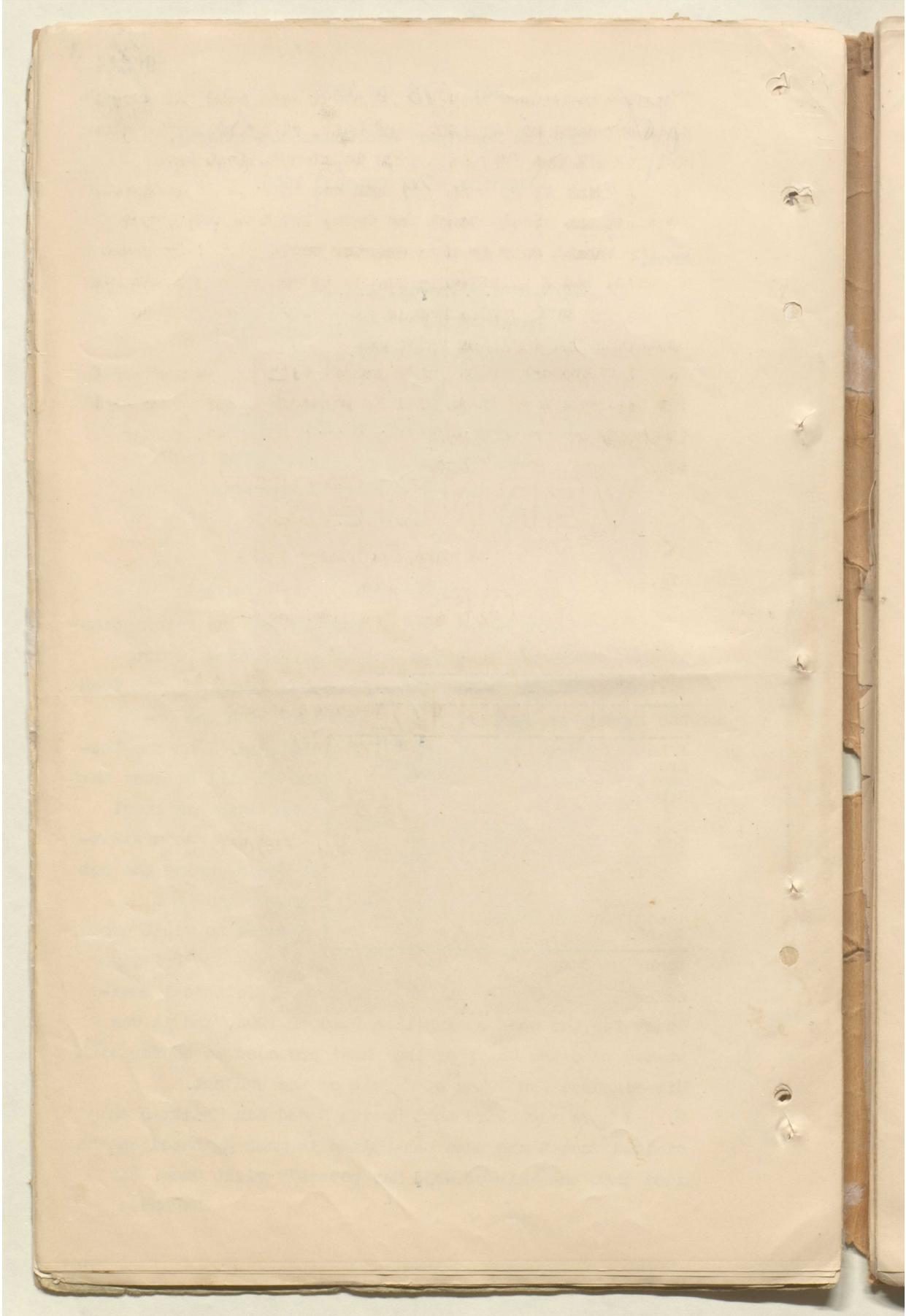
3. Letter from Amer bin Shaban (undated) to the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

closures. From the latter it will be seen that Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman bin Saood visited Katar during the hot weather and that he proposed to visit the Arab Coast and Oman in Spring. These facts were briefly noted in the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending 15th October 1905, and it was stated that the Chief of Abu Dhabi proposed to confer with His Highness the Sultan of Muscat on the subject.

2. I have now heard that Sheikh Zaeed bin Khalifah duly visited Muscat and that the Sultan is much agitated at the idea that the Amir of Nejd may possibly visit Oman. His

Highness

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [15v] (30/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [16r] (31/118)

00215 16

Highness considers that should Abdul Aziz make his appearance anywhere on the shores of Oman, it would be the signal for all the Ghaferi tribes to rise against him.

3. I think it is unlikely that Bin Saood will endeavour to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman, but the appearance of the Wahabi Amir in this quarter would certainly cause trouble, and I think ^{that} steps should be taken to prevent his making any such visit, should it appear later that he seriously contemplates doing so.

4. I therefore submit this report with the request that the Government of India will be pleased to favour me with instructions as to what action should be taken, should such a contingency arise.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/A. V. Trevor

Captain,

for Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

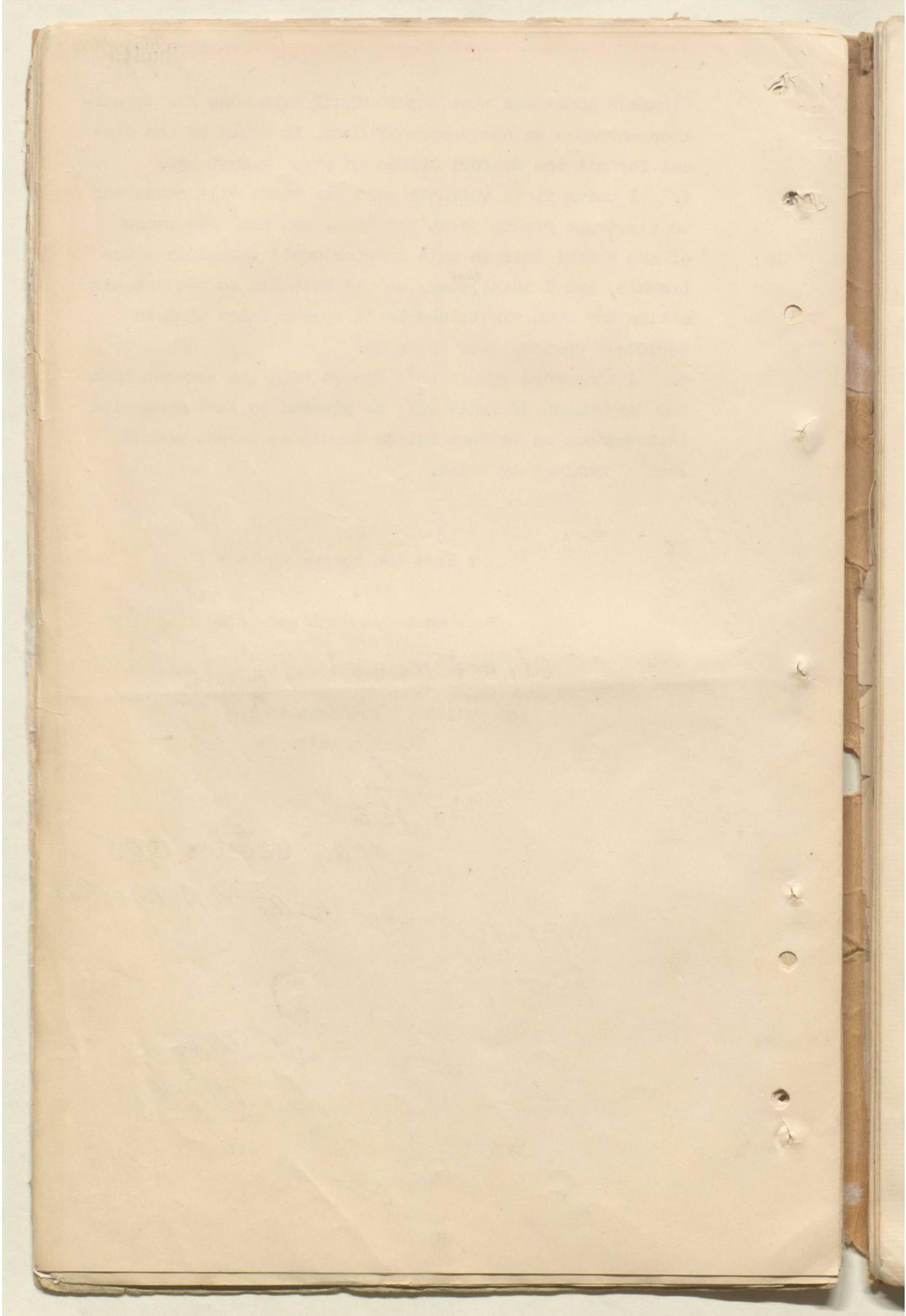
n. 163

of 29th October 1903

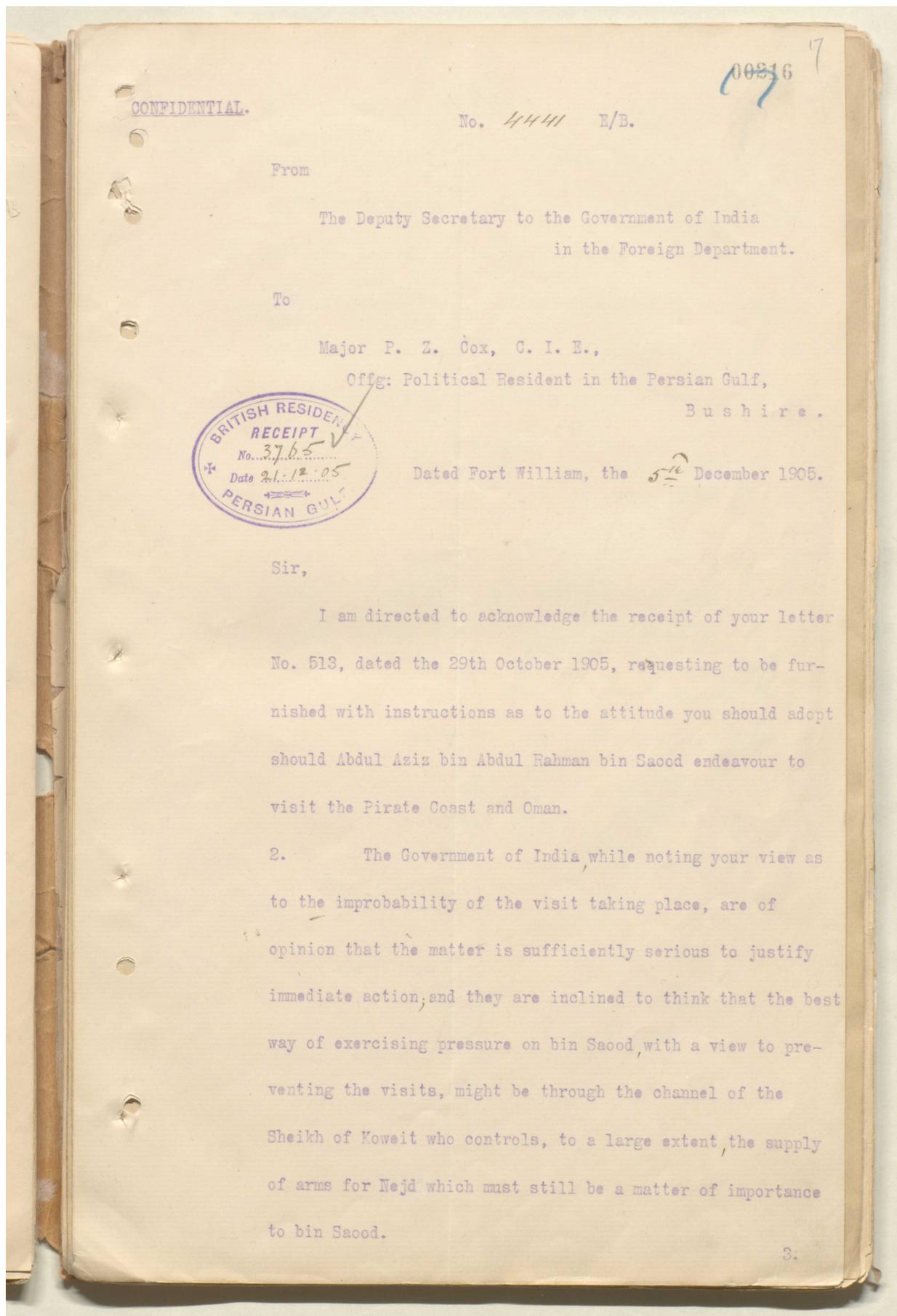
Copy forwarded to the P. A. Masakat
for information

J. A. R.
(mch)

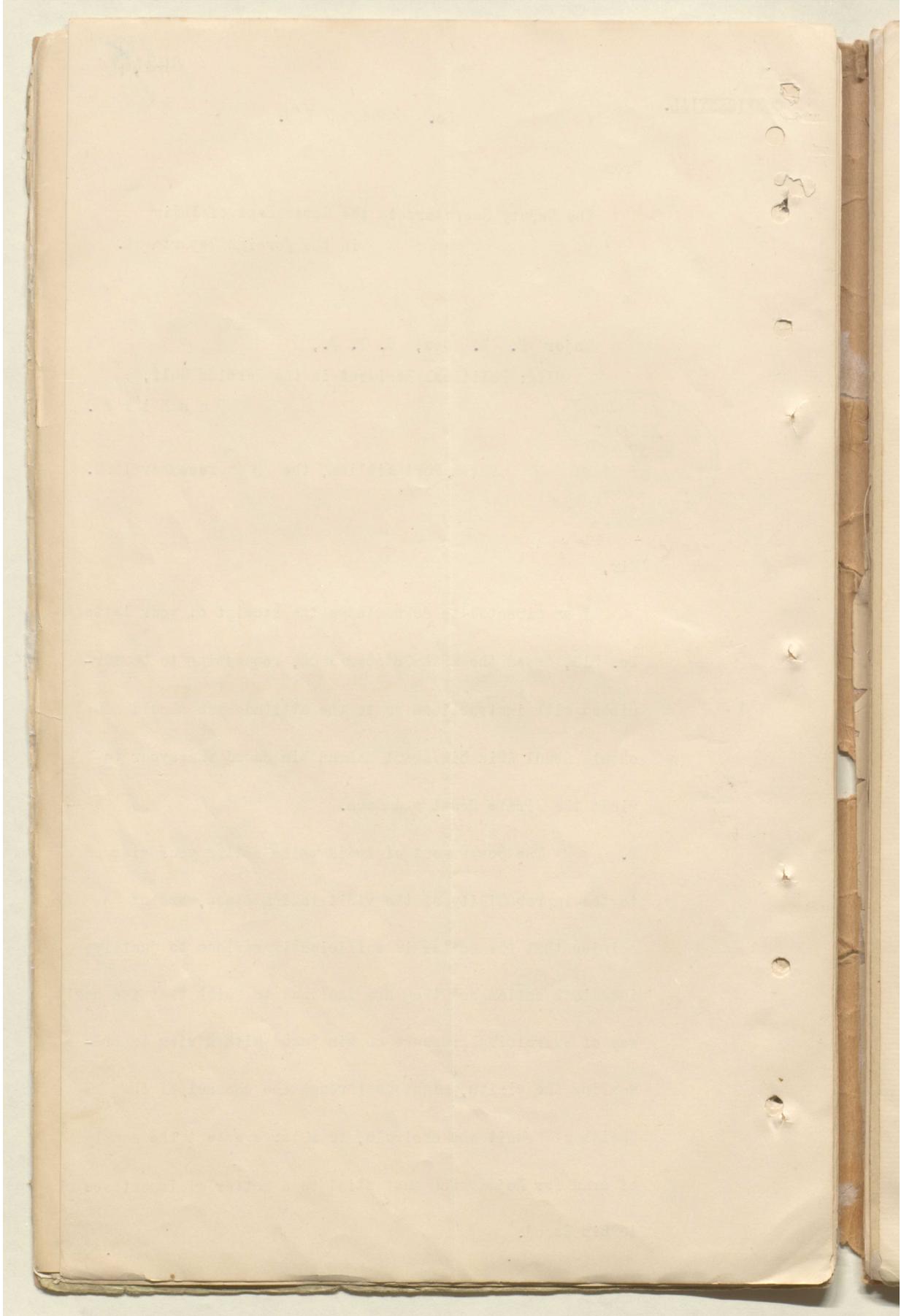
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [16v] (32/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [17r] (33/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [17v] (34/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [18r] (35/118)

18^{is}
00217

3, The Political Agent at Koweit is, therefore, authorised; unless you see any objection, to make enquiries of Sheikh Mubarak as to the facts. A report should in that case be sent of the results of the interview.

4. Since the present rumour appears to be somewhat indefinite, care should be taken at the present stage not to give too official a character to any communication that may be made to Sheikh Mubarak.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

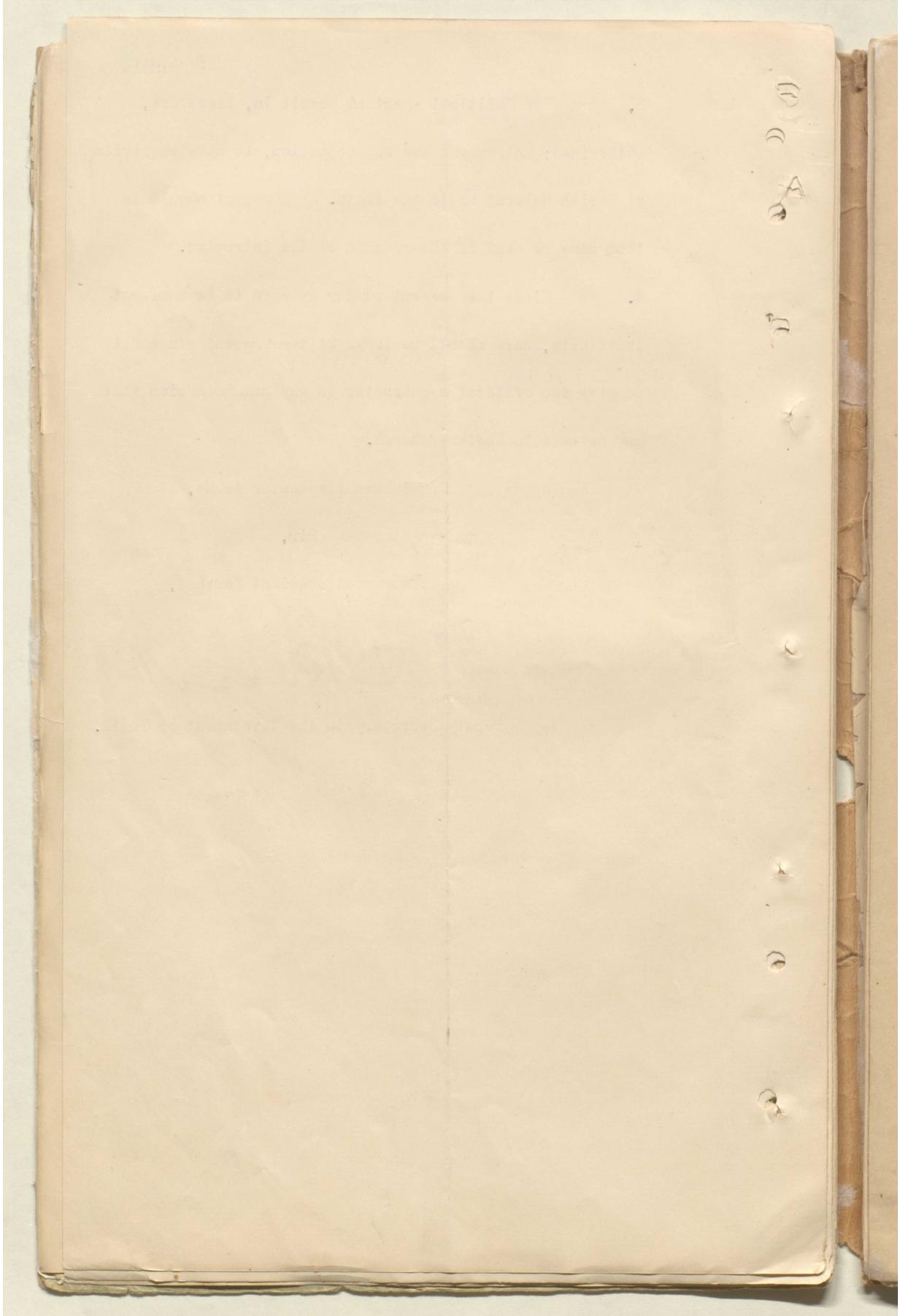
Your most obedient Servant,

L. Russell

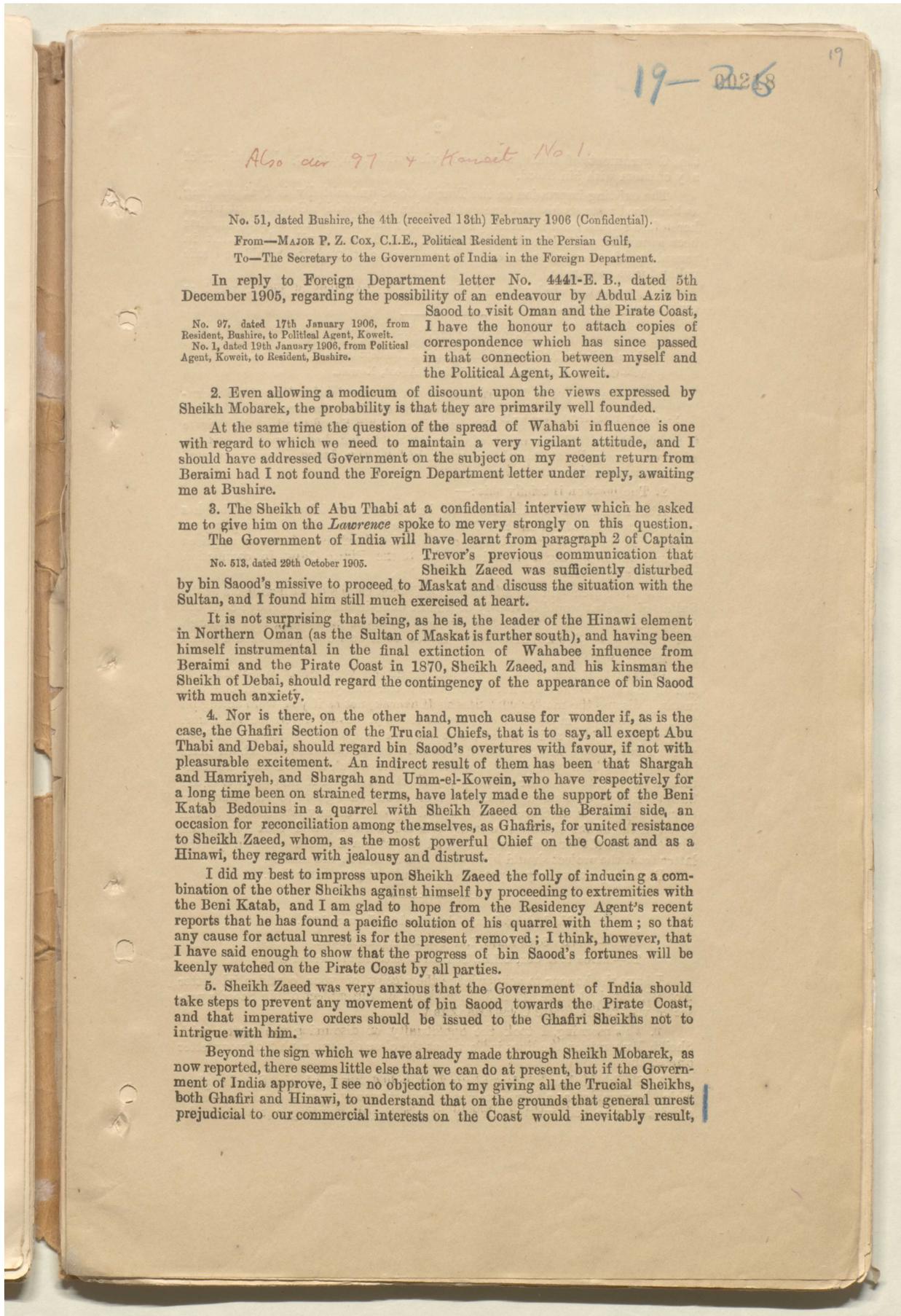
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

me

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [18v] (36/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [19r] (37/118)



No. 51, dated Bushire, the 4th (received 13th) February 1906 (Confidential).

From—MAJOR P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In reply to Foreign Department letter No. 4441-E. B., dated 5th December 1905, regarding the possibility of an endeavour by Abdul Aziz bin Saood to visit Oman and the Pirate Coast, I have the honour to attach copies of correspondence which has since passed in that connection between myself and the Political Agent, Koweit.

No. 97, dated 17th January 1906, from Resident, Bushire, to Political Agent, Koweit.
No. 1, dated 19th January 1906, from Political Agent, Koweit, to Resident, Bushire.

2. Even allowing a modicum of discount upon the views expressed by Sheikh Mobarek, the probability is that they are primarily well founded.

At the same time the question of the spread of Wahabi influence is one with regard to which we need to maintain a very vigilant attitude, and I should have addressed Government on the subject on my recent return from Beraimi had I not found the Foreign Department letter under reply, awaiting me at Bushire.

3. The Sheikh of Abu Thabi at a confidential interview which he asked me to give him on the *Lawrence* spoke to me very strongly on this question.

The Government of India will have learnt from paragraph 2 of Captain Trevor's previous communication that Sheikh Zaeed was sufficiently disturbed by bin Saood's missive to proceed to Maskat and discuss the situation with the Sultan, and I found him still much exercised at heart.

It is not surprising that being, as he is, the leader of the Hinawi element in Northern Oman (as the Sultan of Maskat is further south), and having been himself instrumental in the final extinction of Wahabee influence from Beraimi and the Pirate Coast in 1870, Sheikh Zaeed, and his kinsman the Sheikh of Debai, should regard the contingency of the appearance of bin Saood with much anxiety.

4. Nor is there, on the other hand, much cause for wonder if, as is the case, the Ghafiri Section of the Trucial Chiefs, that is to say, all except Abu Thabi and Debai, should regard bin Saood's overtures with favour, if not with pleasurable excitement. An indirect result of them has been that Shargah and Hamriyeh, and Shargah and Umm-el-Kowein, who have respectively for a long time been on strained terms, have lately made the support of the Beni Katab Bedouins in a quarrel with Sheikh Zaeed on the Beraimi side, an occasion for reconciliation among themselves, as Ghafiris, for united resistance to Sheikh Zaeed, whom, as the most powerful Chief on the Coast and as a Hinawi, they regard with jealousy and distrust.

I did my best to impress upon Sheikh Zaeed the folly of inducing a combination of the other Sheikhs against himself by proceeding to extremities with the Beni Katab, and I am glad to hope from the Residency Agent's recent reports that he has found a pacific solution of his quarrel with them; so that any cause for actual unrest is for the present removed; I think, however, that I have said enough to show that the progress of bin Saood's fortunes will be keenly watched on the Pirate Coast by all parties.

5. Sheikh Zaeed was very anxious that the Government of India should take steps to prevent any movement of bin Saood towards the Pirate Coast, and that imperative orders should be issued to the Ghafiri Sheikhs not to intrigue with him.

Beyond the sign which we have already made through Sheikh Mobarek, as now reported, there seems little else that we can do at present, but if the Government of India approve, I see no objection to my giving all the Trucial Sheikhs, both Ghafiri and Hinawi, to understand that on the grounds that general unrest prejudicial to our commercial interests on the Coast would inevitably result,

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [19v] (38/118)

2

the Government of India would not view with complacency the intrigues of any of them with bin Saood.

The existing impression on the Trucial Coast undoubtedly is that as long as bin Saood restricts his movements to the land, the British Government will as heretofore refrain from interfering in any way; but the political situation has been so much modified in the last 35 years, that I can hardly think that in regard to the present problem a strict adherence to tradition would be a safe policy for us to pursue.

I beg to be favoured with the views and instructions of Government as early as may be possible.

No. 97, dated 17th January 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit.

I have the honour to forward a copy of a communication from the Government of India, regarding the reported ambition of bin Saood to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman. This was one of the matters which I had hoped to discuss with you personally at Busrah last week, but as you know, I was prevented from proceeding there at the last minute.

2. The position is briefly this:—

Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman has shown by letters which he has addressed to some of the Trucial Chiefs that he has some idea of attempting to re-establish the old Wahabee influence which his forefathers formerly acquired in Oman and of paying a preliminary visit to the Pirate Coast in connection with that aspiration.

His interference in the affairs of the Trucial Chiefs or with subjects of the Sultan of Maskat would obviously be a most undesirable contingency; and the Government of India consider that our best means of preventing it is through the medium of Sheikh Mubarak. Hence their desire that you should sound him on the subject.

In order that it may not appear that we attach very great importance to the reports at present existing, it would be better that you should in the first instance discuss the matter with Sheikh Mubarak, not as if you were acting on the instructions from Government, but as if on a casual reference from me. You might tell him, as is the case, that during a tour on the Trucial Coast from which I have just returned, I heard from some of the Sheikhs that Abdul Aziz bin Saood had been writing to them about a visit which he said that he contemplated paying to their country; and then ask him if he thinks that bin Saood seriously contemplates such a thing. You could go on to say that you cannot suppose that Government would approve of any interference by bin Saood in the affairs of Chiefs in treaty relation with us, and that you would advise Sheikh Mubarak as our friend and that of bin Saood to discourage the latter from the project should bin Saood consult him in the matter.

Please report as early as possible the results of your interview.

No. 1, dated Camp Jahra, the 19th January 1906.

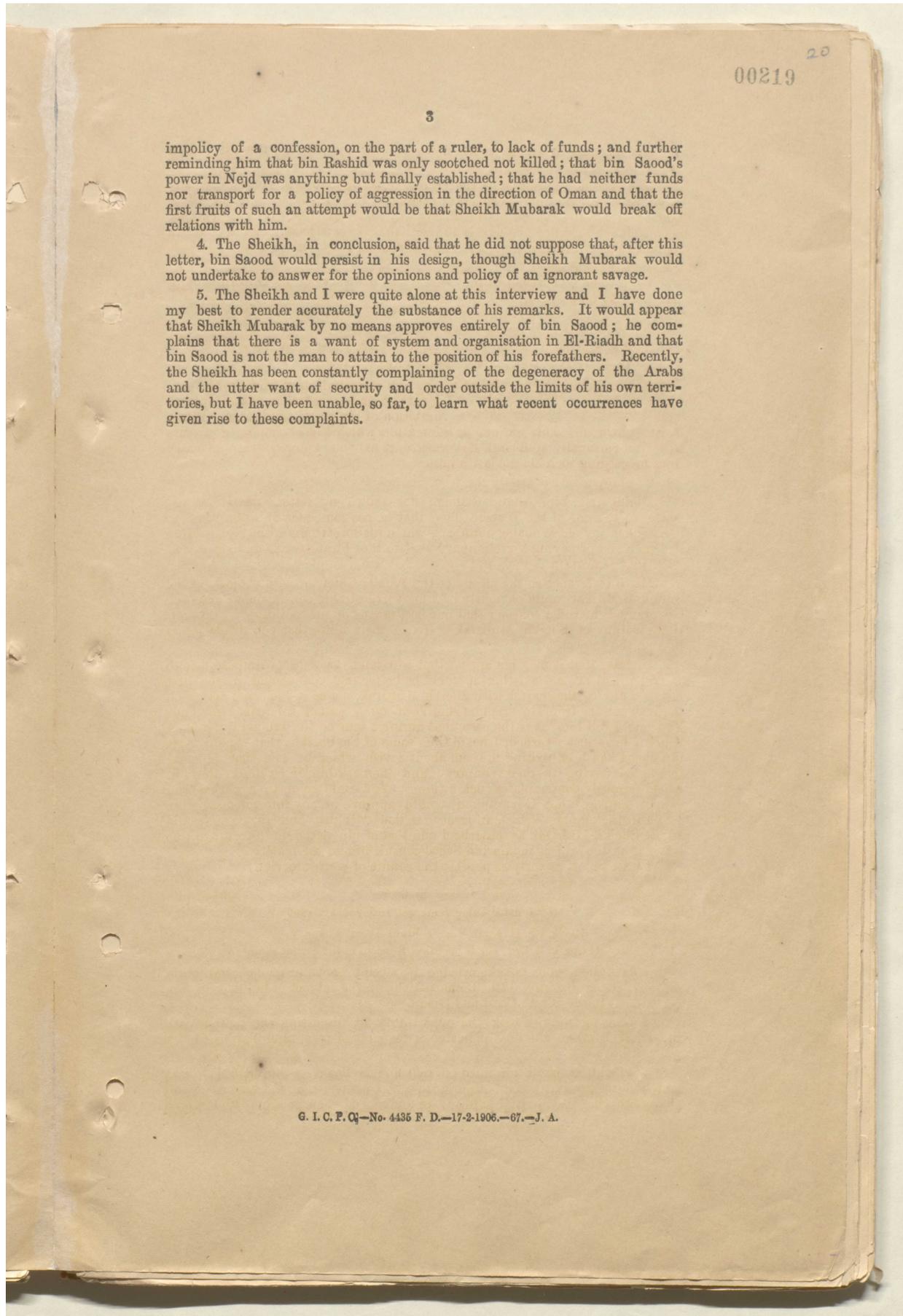
From—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential letter No. 97, dated Bushire, 17th January 1906, on the subject of bin Saood's projected visit to the Pirate Coast and Oman.

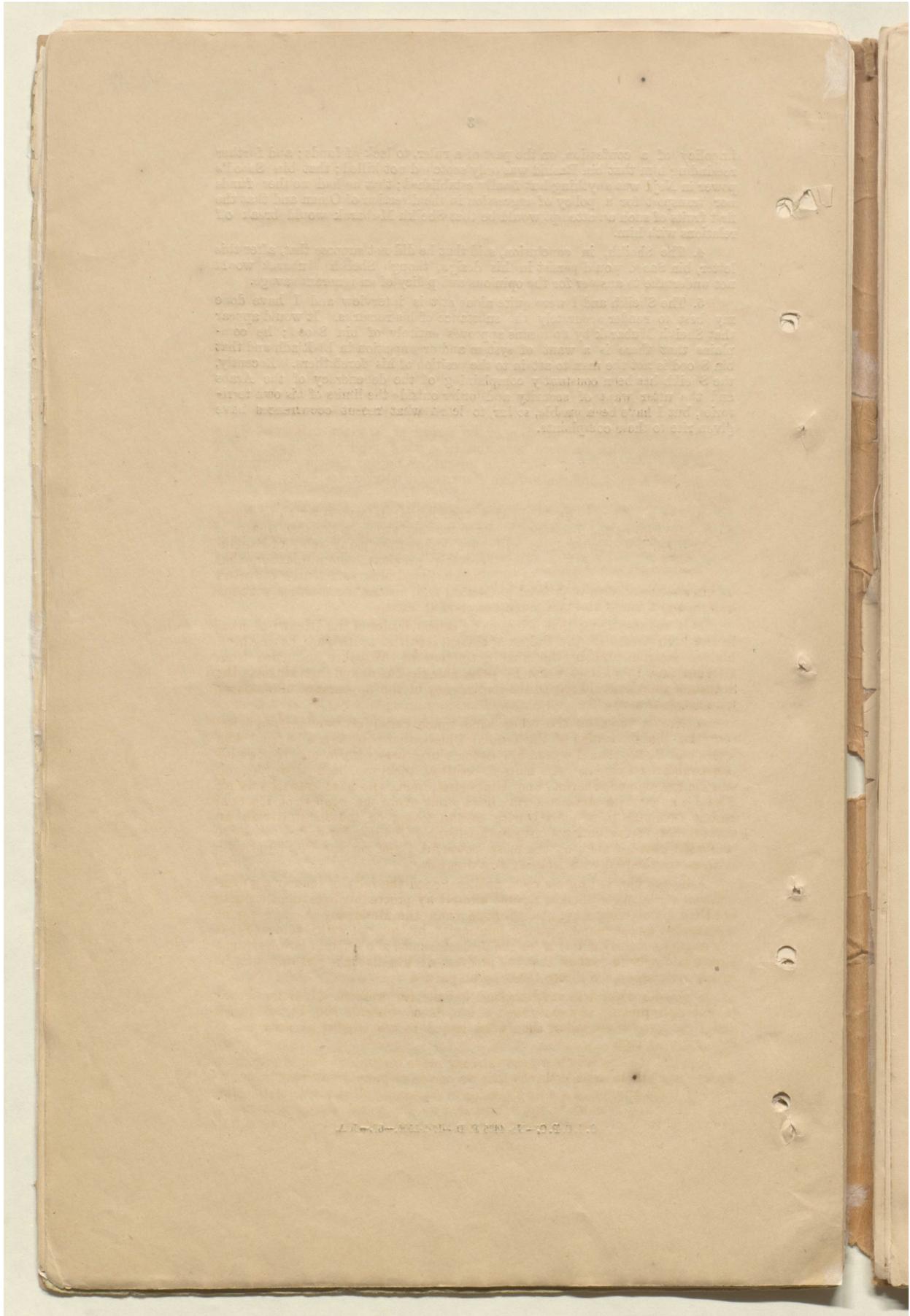
2. This morning, I took the opportunity of discussing the matter with Sheikh Mubarak on the lines indicated at the close of paragraph 2 of your letter quoted above.

3. Sheikh Mubarak informed me that he had heard of bin Saood's plans which he regarded as a mere attempt to extort money from the various coastal chiefs; that he had written already to bin Saood, pointing out to him the

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [20r] (39/118)



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[Confidential.]

No. 63, dated Bushire, the 23rd February (received 6th March) 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to submit a further report from Captain S. G. Knox, Political Agent, Koweit, on the subject of Ibn Saood's alleged intention to visit Northern Oman, in continuation of my letter No. 51 of the 4th instant.

2. Sheikh Mubarak's suggestion that Ibn Saood's overtures to the Sheikhs of the Trucial Coast are merely a plan for obtaining financial support (or blackmail) from them, is probably well founded, as from another communication in connection with Nejd affairs which I am addressing by this mail to Government, it will be apparent that his position in Nejd is so unsettled at present as to make it improbable that Ibn Saood would be in a position to turn his serious attention to the Trucial Coast. At the same time I see no objection to the issue of the admonition recommended in paragraph 5 of my last communication above quoted.

3. In regard to Sheikh Mubarak's attitude, it seems possible that his temporary disapproval of Ibn Saood is due to the fact that while his own relations with the Turks are getting more friendly, Ibn Saood's are becoming decidedly strained, and this means no doubt that the latter is less inclined than before to be guided by the Sheikh of Koweit's advice in his relations with the Porte.

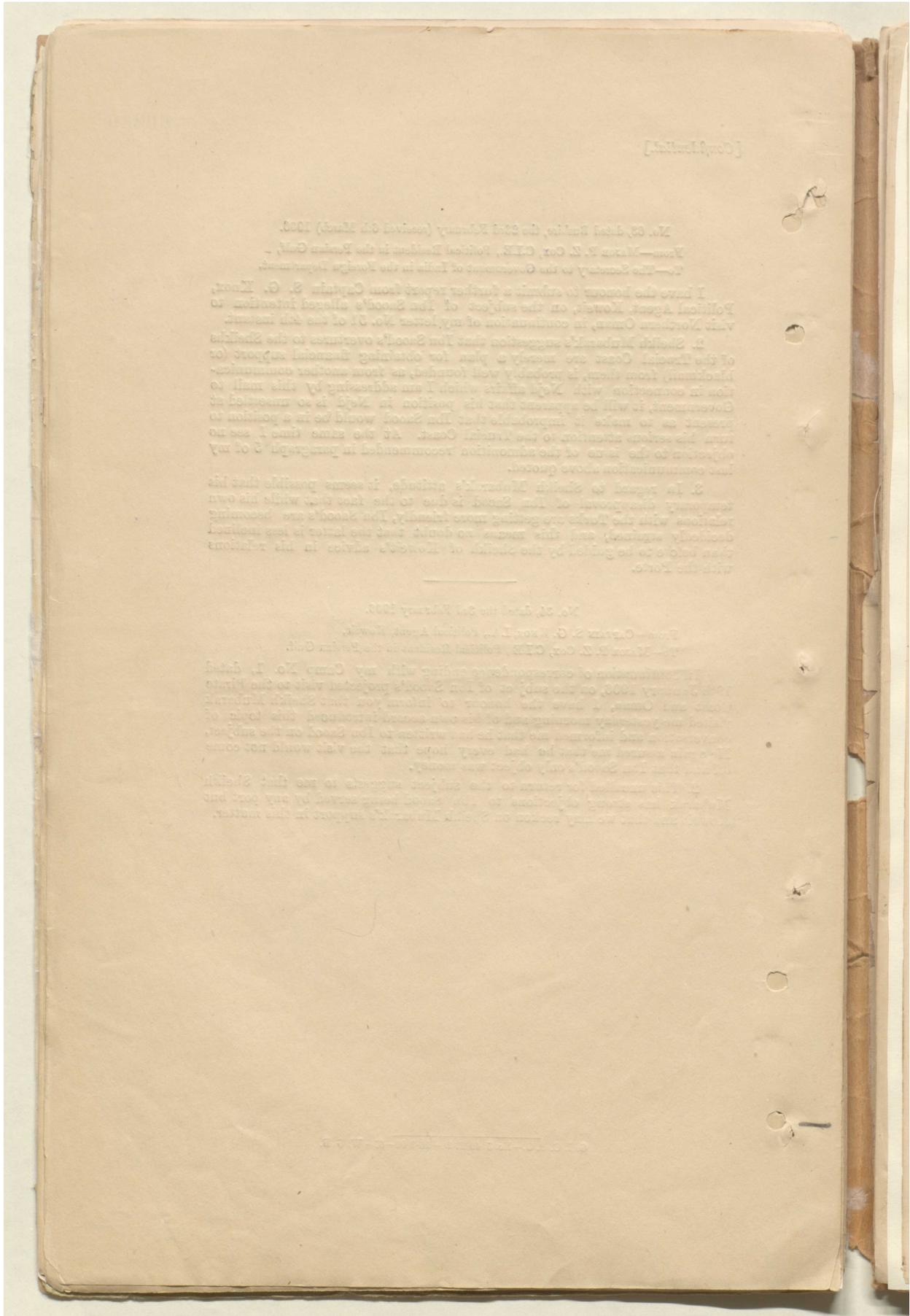
No. 34, dated the 3rd February 1906.

From—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

In continuation of correspondence ending with my Camp No. 1, dated 19th January 1906, on the subject of Ibn Saood's projected visit to the Pirate Coast and Oman, I have the honour to inform you that Sheikh Mubarak visited me yesterday morning and of his own accord introduced this topic of conversation and informed me that he had written to Ibn Saood on the subject. He again assured me that he had every hope that the visit would not come off and that Ibn Saood's only object was money.

2. This uncalled for return to the subject suggests to me that Sheikh Mubarak has strong objections to Ibn Saood being served by any port but Koweit and that we may reckon on Sheikh Mubarak's support in this matter.

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'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [22r] (43/118)

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Telegram.
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FROM Foreign, Calcutta.
=====

No: 1182 E.D. dated 15-3-06.
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(P). With reference to the question of Ibn Saood Nejd, I have the honour to refer you to the Foreign Secretary's weekly letter dated Feb: 22nd with which was forwarded Major Cox's letter No: 51 dated Feb: 4th.

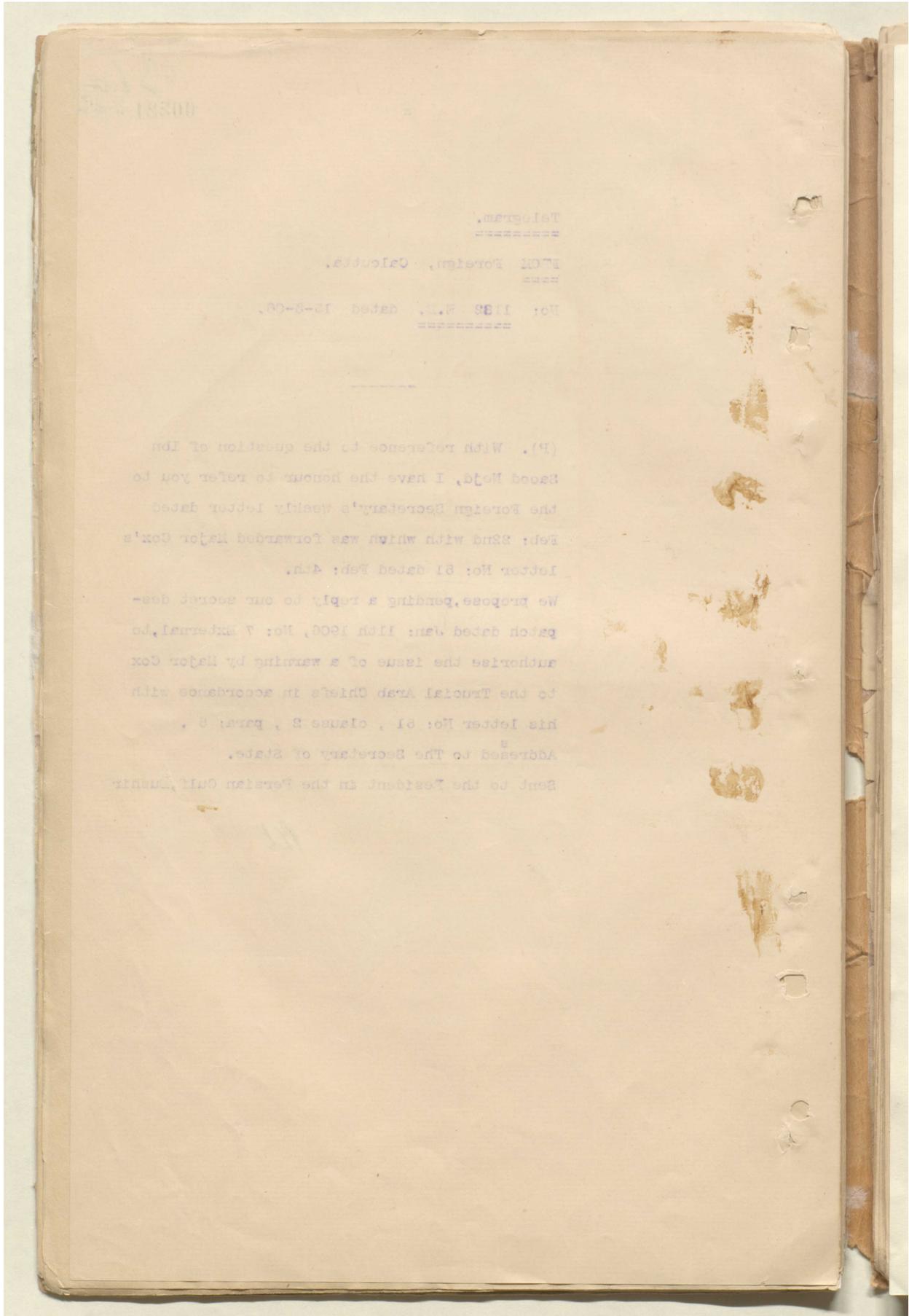
h24
We propose, pending a reply to our secret despatch dated Jan: 11th 1906, No: 7 External, to authorise the issue of a warning by Major Cox to the Trucial Arab Chiefs in accordance with his letter No: 51, clause 2, para: 5.

^S
Addressed to The Secretary of State.

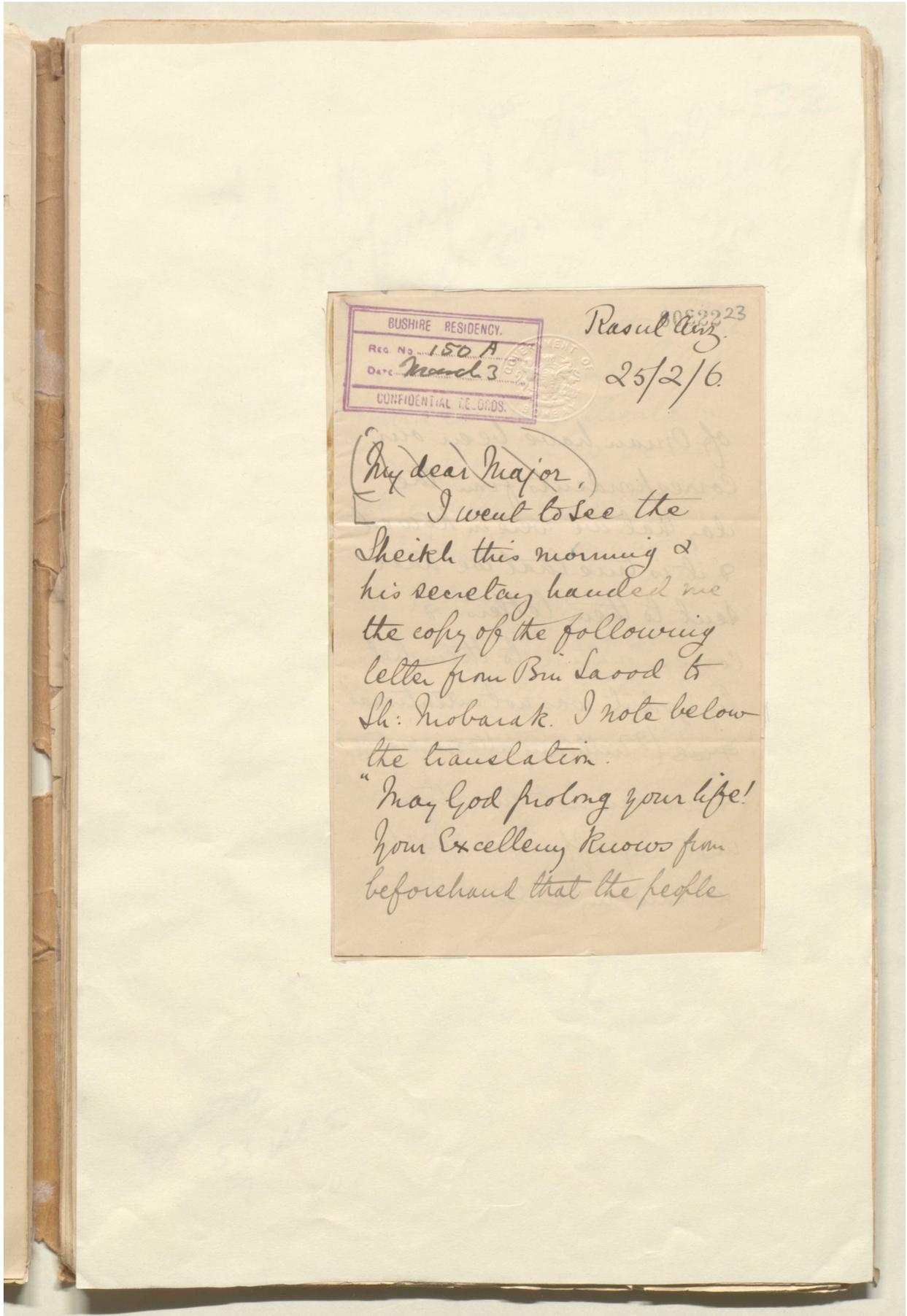
Sent to the Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushir

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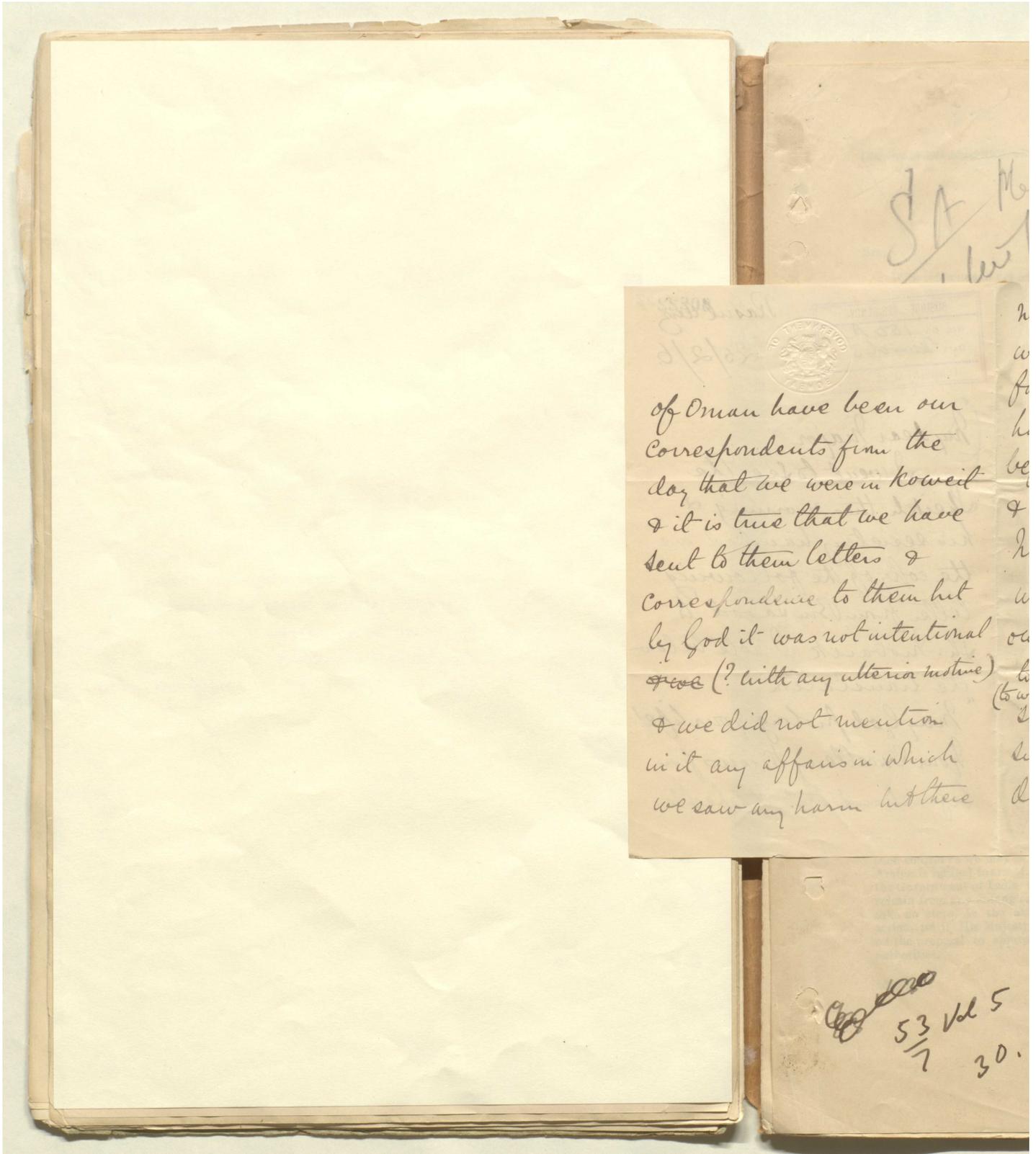
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [22v] (44/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [23r] (45/118)



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Coast and Oman in 1905' [23v] (46/118)



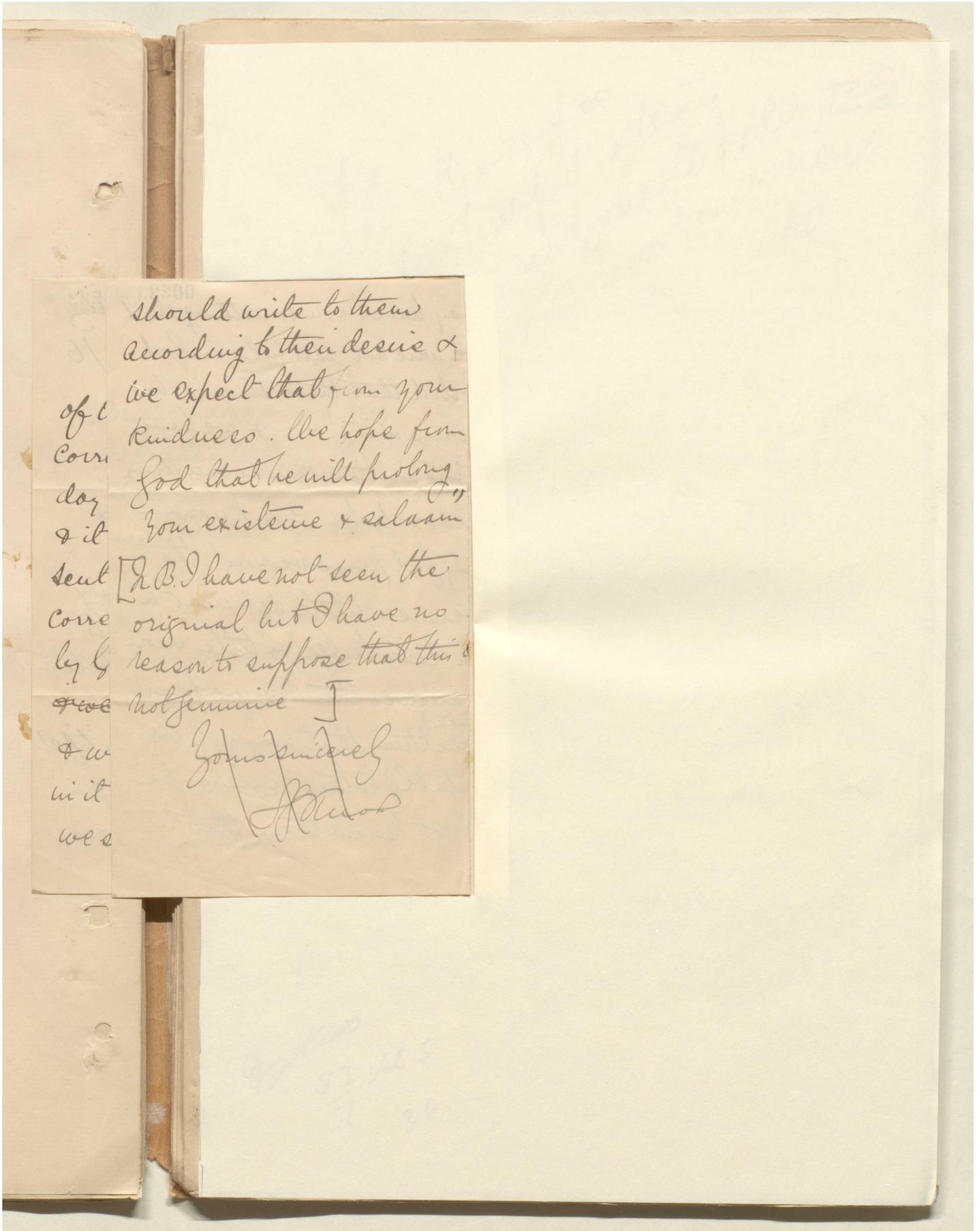
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [24r] (47/118)

24A
Messages
we purposed often
we come to find 132
or camp now
Obe

0022324
may have been something which
we were not careful over - God
forbid that there should be
harm in it! — & we have
before written to your Excellency
& Absooshahr, you know —
May God preserve you! that
we are a little deficient in
our knowledge of titles & how
to answer them & we fear
(to write)
something that may not be
suitable to their rules. We
do not know them that we

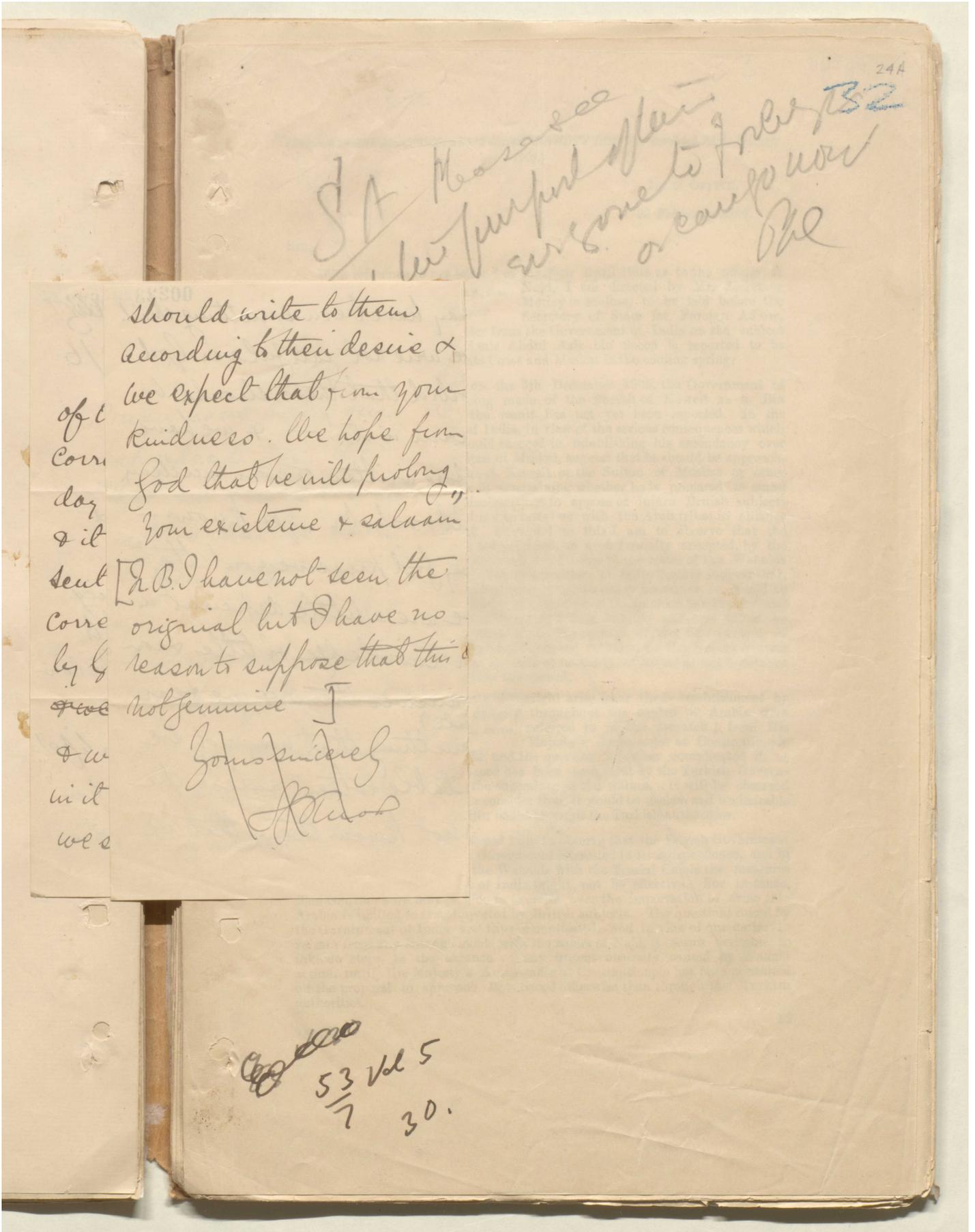
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30.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [24v] (48/118)



Should write to them
according to their desire &
we expect that from your
kindness. We hope from
God that he will prolong
your existence & salvation
[A.B. I have not seen the
original but I have no
reason to suppose that this
is not genuine.]
Yours sincerely
Bin Saood

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [24ar] (49/118)

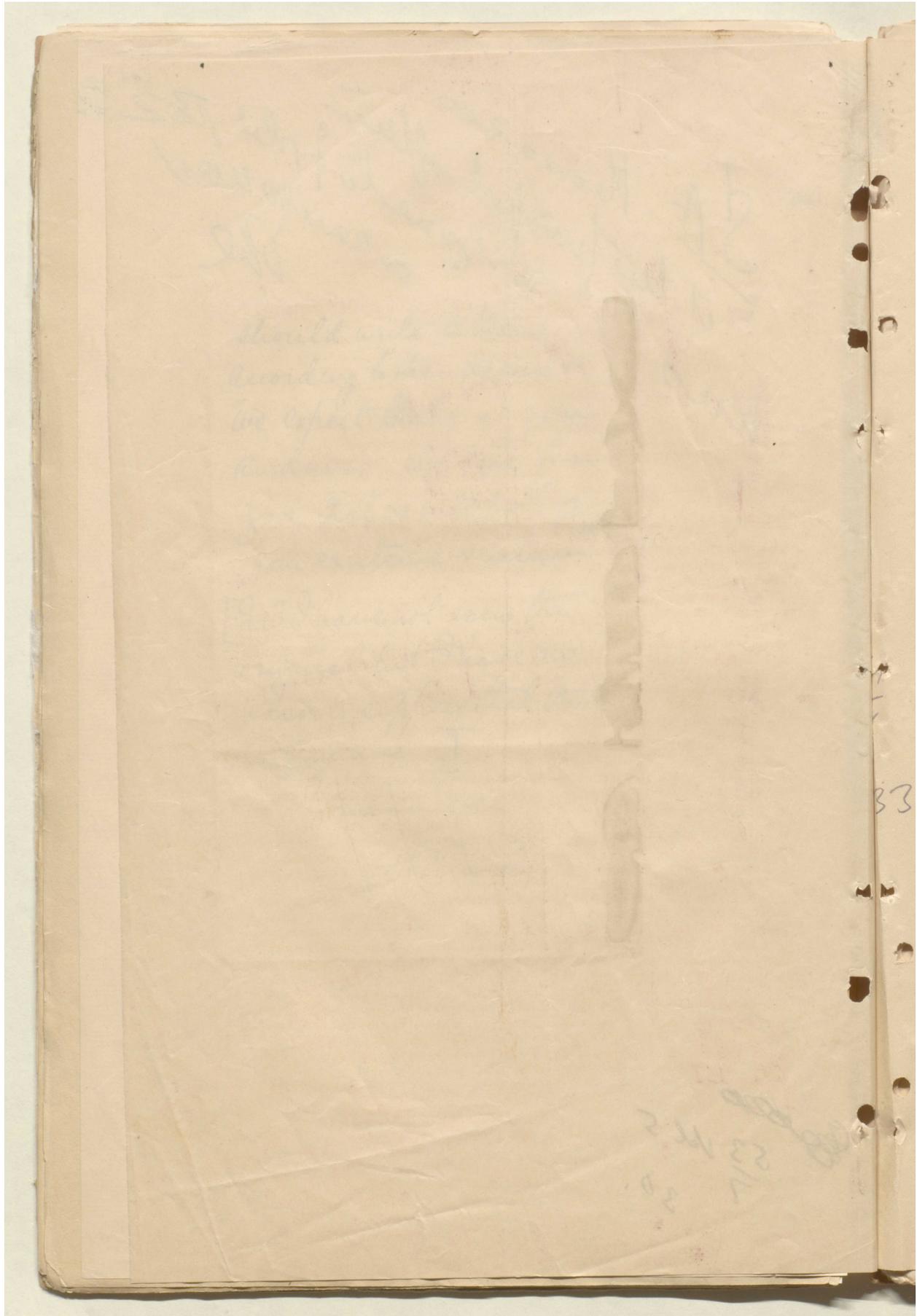


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SA Measee
we purposeful offer
come to Arabia
a camp near the
the

Should write to them
according to their desire &
we expect that from your
kindness. We hope from
God that he will prolong
your existence & salaam
[A.B. I have not seen the
original but I have no
reason to suppose that this
is not genuine.]
Yours sincerely
Bin Saood

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7 30.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [24av] (50/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [25r] (51/118)

33 00224 25

see X X X

(Received on 19th March 1906, with Political Secretary's letter No. 8, dated 23rd February 1906.)

INDIA OFFICE,
22 February 1906.

SIR,

With reference to my letter * of the 29th April 1904 as to the affairs of Nejd, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to enclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a further Secret † letter from the Government of India on the subject of a visit which the Wahabi Amir Abdul Aziz bin Saood is reported to be intending to make to the Pirate Coast and Maskat in the coming spring.

* Enclosure 5 to Pro. No. 218 in Secret E., June 1904, Nos. 207-218.
† No. 7 (External), dated 11th January 1906.

It will be observed that on the 5th December 1905, the Government of India authorised enquiries being made of the Sheikh of Koweit as to Bin Saood's intentions, but that the result has not yet been reported. In the meanwhile the Government of India, in view of the serious consequences which would ensue if Bin Saood should succeed in establishing his ascendancy over the Trucial Chiefs or the Sultan of Maskat, suggest that he should be approached either through the Sheikh of Koweit or the Sultan of Maskat or other suitable channel, with a view to ascertaining whether he is prepared to stand by the declaration of his predecessor not to oppose or injure British subjects residing in his territories, and not to interfere with the Arab tribes in alliance with the British Government. In regard to this I am to observe that the declaration made in 1866 was not proposed, or even formally accepted, by the British Government, and it contained a reference to the claim of the Wahabis upon the Customs of Maskat. The Government of India further suggest that, in the event of Bin Saood's failing to give the necessary assurance, he should be warned that any attempt on his part to interfere in Oman or on the Pirate Coast would be regarded as an unfriendly act and that suitable measures would be taken to frustrate it. These measures, in the opinion of the Government of India, might consist either of a more stringent embargo on the import of arms at Koweit and elsewhere, or, in the case of necessity, of actual armed assistance from British ships to the Sheikhs threatened.

The serious consequences which might arise from the re-establishment by Bin Saood of the Wahabi dynasty throughout the centre of Arabia were referred to in the despatch ‡ from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the 16th May 1904, No. 373, and the question is further complicated if, as appears to be the case, Bin Saood has been recognised by the Turkish Government and has acknowledged the suzerainty of the Sultan. It will be observed that the Government of India consider that it would be useless and undesirable to bring pressure to bear on Bin Saood through the Turkish authorities.

So far as Maskat is concerned I am to observe that the French Government is conjointly with the British Government interested in its independence, and in the event of interference by the Wahabis with the Trucial Chiefs the measures proposed by the Government of India might not be effective. For instance, such control as we may be able to exercise over the importation of arms into Arabia is limited to arms imported by British subjects. The questions raised by the Government of India are thus complicated, and in view of our desire to refrain from any entanglements with the rulers of Nejd, it seems desirable to take no steps, in the absence of any urgent necessity caused by Wahabi action, until His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been consulted on the proposal to approach Bin Saood otherwise than through the Turkish authorities.

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'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [25v] (52/118)

The suggestion of the Government of India that in the event of Bin Saood's failing to give satisfactory assurances a more stringent embargo should be placed upon the traffic in arms appears to raise a further difficulty by conveying the implication that in the contrary event the Government of India would be prepared to acquiesce in the import of arms by the Sheikh of Koweit. Mr. Morley is aware that in June 1904 it was* decided to defer measures which were then under consideration for preventing the import of arms into Koweit. He would, however, be reluctant to approve any permanent departure from the established policy of His Majesty's Government of maintaining an effective control over the arms traffic in these waters.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. GODLEY.

Extract from the "Englishman," dated the 10th March 1906.

The home papers give the story of a futile attempt on the part of Turkey to impress a sense of its temporal authority on Arabia. An expedition was despatched from Baghdad to Kassim in the centre of the Nezd district. The expedition reached this town without having struck a blow but through extraordinary laxity, the Turkish Government after its arrival ignored its existence. The soldiers tired of neglect began making their way back in groups to Koweit. Of the original 2,000 soldiers only about 150 remain at Kassim, and the effort of the Turkish Government to show its authority has only earned derision. This humiliating fiasco has done great harm of Turkish prestige in Arabia, and it makes a striking illustration of the childish inefficiency that reigns at Constantinople.

Telegram No. 1182-E.B., dated the 15th March 1906.

From—His Excellency the Viceroy, Calcutta,

To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

Please see letter from Major Cox, No. 51, dated 4th February, regarding Ibn Saood, Nejd, which was sent with the Foreign Secretary's weekly letter dated 22nd February. Pending the receipt of a reply to our Secret Despatch No. 7 (External), dated 11th January 1906, we propose authorising Major Cox to issue the warning to Trucial Arab Chiefs which is proposed in the second clause, paragraph b of his letter quoted above.

Repeated to Major Cox.

MEMORANDUM.

Persian Gulf.

Movements of Ibn Saood.

(1) Letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 63, dated 23rd February 1906, and enclosure.

(2) Letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 64, dated 23rd February 1906, and enclosure.

15th March 1906.

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The papers specified in the margin were transmitted to the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, London, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter, No. 11-M., dated the

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [26r] (53/118)

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(Received with Political Secretary's No. 11, dated the 16th (received 31st) March 1906.)

ARABIA.

[March 1.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 1, 1906.

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd February relative to the proposed visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and Maskat.

I am to inform you that a copy of your letter has been sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople for his observations, and that a further communication will be addressed to you on receipt of his reply.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) E. GORST.

Telegram, dated the 9th (received 10th) April 1906.

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,

To—His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla.

Ibn Saood. Please see your telegram of 15th March. His Majesty's Government approve your proposal as to the warning to be given to the Trucial Chiefs.

Telegram No. 1522-E.B., dated the 14th April 1906.

From—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla,

To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C. I. E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Ibn Saood. Please refer to your letter No. 51, dated the 4th February 1906. His Majesty's Government approve of a warning being given to the Trucial Chiefs, as recommended in paragraph 5, second clause, of your letter cited above. Please take necessary steps.

Extract from the "Times of India", dated 30th March 1906.

With regard to Koweit Mr. Leland Buxton says there is no doubt that

The Persian Gulf Imbroglie.

the Sheikh of that place is playing a double game and is intriguing with the Turks. The Sheikh is now allied with Ibn Saood (one of the two most important Emirs of Central Arabia) who has just become a protege of Turkey, and there now exists a sort of Triple Alliance between this Emir, the Sheikh of Koweit, and the Turks, an alliance directed chiefly against Ibn Rashid (the second most powerful Emir of the region). As a result of this understanding the Turks have now been enabled to establish garrisons at Nejd. Mr. Buxton says the treaty recently entered into between Lord Curzon and the Sheikh will prevent Koweit ever becoming a foreign naval station; but it should not be forgotten that there is also another possible harbour which would serve as the terminus of the Baghdad Railway, situated between Koweit and the mouth of the Shat-el-Arab river. This harbour is called Khor Abdullah; and soon

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'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [26v] (54/118)

after the secret arrangement entered into between the Viceroy of India and the Koweit Sheikh the Turks occupied the shore of this harbour, and it still remains in Turkish occupation. While in Baghdad Mr. Leland Buxton made special inquiries as to what extent British commerce was being affected by German competition, but found that the former was still holding its own. "At the Persian Ports on the Gulf I was informed that the arrangement by which the Customs were placed in the hands of Belgian officials was most unpopular among the Arabs and the Persians, and that as a result of this measure the tariffs were much higher than under the old Persian régime. It appeared to be generally understood that the Belgians were carrying out this work in the interests of Russia. As the result of inquiries made in many quarters as to what extent Russian influence had been affected by the results of the late war I found that the Russian position was practically as strong as ever."

Extract from a letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 620, dated Bushire, the 18th (received 27th) March 1906.

Having spent three days at Koweit during last week, I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, a few observations regarding the present aspect of affairs there.

I met Sheikh Mubarak on three occasions, and on 7th instant had a lengthy interview with him at the Agency, for the details of which I beg reference to the attached memorandum drawn up for me by Captain Knox who was likewise present.

It will be seen that during it several topics were touched upon, some of which are subjects of separate correspondence.

2. The trend of our conversation regarding the affairs of Central Arabia, which was started by Sheikh Mubarak, is of some significance. The possibility of the Ruler of Koweit smoking the calumet of peace with Bin Rashid, and Mubarak's own vision of a three-cornered compact between himself, Bin Rashid and Bin Saood, which would in practice probably be found to amount to a defensive alliance for resistance to Turkish expansion in Nejd and Hassa, is an interesting, if somewhat utopian, prospect to contemplate.

It is to be feared however that Sheikh Mubarak's own ambitions, as indicated in the second of the conditions suggested by him to Bin Rashid, are likely to form the chief obstacle to such a development.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that in the course of the strife of the last few years both Bin Saood and Bin Rashid must have been brought to realise what a strong position the Ruler of Koweit, territorially situated as he is, occupies both strategically and politically in relation to them, and they evidently see the advantage of maintaining friendly relations with him.

In connection with Bin Saood's doings I may remark it is possible that his recent telegram to the Porte was sent to disarm suspicion preparatory to some further move, as recent reports from Bahrein show that the Turks are now having trouble at Hofuf, in which it seems possible, if not probable, that Bin Saood has had an indirect hand.

Extract from a note of a conversation between the Resident in the Persian Gulf and Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit, dated 7th March 1906.

The Sheikh informed the Resident that he thought he would be interested to hear that he had lately, on 24th February (29th Zi-ul-Haj), received a letter

(1) The prospects of peace in the interior.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [27r] (55/118)

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from Bin Rashid couched in friendly language and proposing that Sheikh Mobarak should be on the same terms of friendship with him as the Rulers of Koweit had been with his uncle and grandfather before him. The Sheikh said that he had replied to Bin Rashid that he, Mubarak, was a man who loved peace and quietness and would welcome friendly relations with him, provided that Bin Rashid would keep within his own boundaries and not harass his neighbours, and was really sincere in his desire for peace.

The Resident, in the way of friendly interest, asked how peace could be arranged between the two; whether a personal meeting would be necessary or whether trusted messengers would be sent.

The Sheikh replied that it would be done by correspondence and that a meeting would be unnecessary. He proceeded to sketch the terms on which, in his opinion, a reconciliation between him and Bin Rashid could be considered practicable.

These were:—

- (i) That Bin Rashid should have Chhaffa (Kaffa) and Hail, and the Bedouins of Jebel Shammar.
- (ii) That he, Bin Sabah, should have Koweit, Aneyza, Poreyda, Sedeyr, and Washm and should control the tribes occupying them.
- (iii) That Bin Saood should have Nejd and the Wadi Dowasir.

The Resident asked if Sheikh Mobarak thought that he would be able to keep the parties to their agreement with himself and with one another; and the Sheikh replied that he could.

The Resident then asked whether under such circumstances Bin Rashid would have sufficient income to enable him to live without harriving his neighbours, and Sheikh Mobarak replied that he would have Hail and Chhaffa, the Zakat of Shammar and the produce of forays on the Harb and Aneyza tribes between Hail and Medina.

Asked what view the Turks would, in his opinion, take of this triple alliance, Sheikh Mobarak replied that they would undoubtedly regard it with disfavour.

The Resident then asked whether the relations between Sheikh Mobarak and Bin Saood continued the same as formerly; to which Sheikh Mobarak replied that they did, and that Bin Saood still listened to his advice. Major Cox then thanked the Sheikh for his co-operation in ascertaining the truth regarding Bin Saood's alleged intention to visit Oman.

Mobarak rejoined that Sayyid Feisal of Maskat had also written to him and that he had told His Highness that there was no cause for apprehension, and that Bin Saood had quite enough to do where he was for some time to come.

A reference was then made to the long telegram sent from Bushire to Constantinople through Jasim Bin Thani on behalf of Bin Saood. Sheikh Mobarak was asked what inference he drew from the fact that Bin Saood had not consulted him before, and regarding its despatch. The Sheikh said that he had received full details from Bin Saood's messenger, Mussad Bin Suweilim, who sent the telegram, but admitted that he had heard nothing on the subject direct from the Bin Saood family or from Abd-ur-Rahman. He thought this was because the telegram had been inspired by Sheikh Jasim Bin Thani, of whom he spoke in no very favourable terms.

No. 773, dated Bushire, the 5th April 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—SIR LOUIS DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

In continuation of my letter No. 63, dated 23rd February 1906, I have the honour to attach copy of a note addressed by Captain Knox to me from Camp

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'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [27v] (56/118)

on the 25th February 1906, in which he gives the purport of the reply said to have been addressed to Sheikh Mobarak by Bin Saood in connection with the latter's reported desire to visit Oman.

Note dated 25th February 1906 at Camp Rasool Arz, from S. G. Knox, I. A., Political Agent, Koweit.

I went to see the Sheikh this morning and his Secretary handed me the copy of the following letter from Bin Saood to Sheikh Mubarak, I note below the translation.

"May God prolong your life! Your Excellency knows from beforehand that the people of Oman have been our correspondents from the day that we were in Koweit and it is true that we have sent to them letters and correspondence to them but by God it was not intentional (? with any ulterior motive) and we did not mention in it any affairs in which we saw any harm but there may have been something which we were not careful over. God forbid that there should be harm in it! and we have before written to Your Excellency and Abooshahr, you know—May God preserve you! that we are a little deficient in our knowledge of titles and how to answer them and we fear (to write) something that may not be suitable to their rules. We do not know them that we should write to them according to their desire and we expect that from your kindness. We hope from God that He will prolong your existence and salaam."

N. B.—I have not seen the original but I have no reason to suppose that this is not genuine.)

*Extract from the "Civil and Military Gazette," dated 17th April 1906.
Persian Gulf Notes.*

INTER-TRIBAL FIGHTING.

Trustworthy reports from the interior received at Koweit tend to show that the rival Chiefs, Bin Saood and Ibn Rashid, Emir of Nejd, have settled their differences and that fighting has ceased, at least for the present. Whether the settlement will prove final is open to doubt. It is stated that pacific overtures first came from Ibn Rashid. If such is the case it is probable that Bin Saood, knowing his strength, will attack again when a favourable opportunity offers.

Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending 18th February (received 27th February) 1906.

BUSHIRE.

180. Three Nejdi Arabs arrived in Bushire from Bharein on the 12th, believed to be emissaries from Ibn Saood. Their proceedings are being watched.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [28r] (57/118)

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00227

Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending 18th (received 27th) March 1906.

SHARGAH.

(21st February 1906.)

260. (a) Sheikh Rashid, Chief of Umm-el-Kowein, recently visited Sheikh Zaeed, Chief of Abu Thabi, with a view to removing the ill-feeling which he suspected the latter was inwardly bearing towards him on account of his dealings with the Beni Kutb (*vide* entry No. 2 in diary for the week ending 22nd October 1905). It is reported that he has renewed the agreement of friendship which previously subsisted between his late father, Sheikh Ahmed, and Sheikh Zaeed.

(b) As regards the Beni Kutb, the Chief of Umm-el-Kowein, agreed to use his best endeavours to induce their elders to visit the Chief of Abu Thabi and conclude an agreement with him: but if his efforts proved unsuccessful, he undertook not to support them against Sheikh Zaeed. In connection with this Sheikh Zaeed has gone out to Sumeih with his troops and is said to be awaiting the result of Sheikh Rashid's endeavours.

Extract from the "Times of India", dated the 9th April 1906.

Fighting is reported at Ras al Khaima, between the inhabitants of that town under Sheikh Zaid and the powerful Beni Kittab Bedouin. Operations so far amount to one or two skirmishes, some desultory sniping by the Beni Kittab, and occasional looting of camels and cattle by both sides.

Sheikh Zaid is preparing to take the field shortly with a large body of townsmen drawn from Umm Al Katwan, Al Ajman, and Ras Haninya in addition to his own immediate followers, the idea being to put a final stop to the Bedouin raids on the coast towns.

The new hospital in connection with the Residency at Bahrein is rapidly approaching completion. The Arabs seem to be gradually overcoming their prejudices against these institutions, and the Mason Hospital at Bahrein built and equipped by the American Arabian Mission generally has a fair number of beds occupied.

Building operations are well forward on the new Mission school and chapel, and it is hoped that the dwelling house to replace the present unsuitable and insanitary residence, will be completed before the end of the year.

MEMORANDUM.

The papers specified in the margin were transmitted to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter No. 17-M., dated the 26th April 1906.

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'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [28v] (58/118)

(Received on 16th April 1906, with Political Secretary's letter No. 13, dated 30th March 1906.)

INDIA OFFICE,
24th March 1906.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of the 22nd February last on the subject of the reported intention of the Wahabi Emir to visit the Pirate Coast, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to request that you will draw the attention of Secretary Sir E. Grey to the telegram from the Viceroy on the subject of the 15th March and to the letter from Major Cox to the Government of India, No. 51 of the 4th February last.

Subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence Mr. Morley proposes to authorise the Government of India to instruct Major Cox to warn the Trucial Chiefs that, in view of the general unrest, prejudicial to our commercial interests on the coast, which would result from intrigues between them and the Emir Abdul Aziz bin Saood, the Government of India would not view such proceedings with indifference.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd.) A. GODLEY.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

(Received on 30th April 1906, with Political Secretary's letter No. 15, dated 13th April 1906.)

ARABIA.

[March 13.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office—(Received March 13.)

In continuation of this Office letter of the 22nd ultimo, and with reference to Foreign Office letter of the 1st instant, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 22nd ultimo, relative to the proposed visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and Oman.

India Office, March 13, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Not printed).

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [29r] (59/118)

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00228

India Office, London,
18th April 1906.

Secret,
No. 15.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor General
of India in Council.

MY LORD,

I have received the letter of Your Excellency's Government in the Foreign Department, No. 7 (Secret), dated 11th January last, informing me of the reported intention of the Wahabi Amir Abdul Aziz bin Saood to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman, and of his threatened interference with the affairs of those districts.

2. In view of the serious consequences which would follow such action by the Amir, you recommend that, in the event of his not giving satisfactory assurances as to his intentions, a warning should be addressed to him that any attempt on his part to interfere in Oman or along the Arab Coast either with the Chiefs or with their subjects will be regarded as an unfriendly act, and that suitable measures will be taken to frustrate it.

3. I forward herewith, for the information and guidance of Your Excellency's Government, a copy of correspondence* with the Foreign Office on the subject.

* To Foreign Office, dated 22nd February 1906.
From ditto, dated 1st March 1906.
From ditto, dated 31st March 1906, with enclosure.

4. His Majesty's Government accept the view that a warning to the Amir would be necessary if he were to carry out his reported intention. They consider, however, that it would be better that such warning should be conveyed to him only in the event of his appearing upon the coast; and that it should then be conveyed to him directly, as proposed by Sir N. O'Connor.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) JOHN MORLEY.

ENCLOSURES.

Enclosure No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.

(Not printed).

Enclosure No. 2.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Not printed.)

Enclosure No. 3.

Foreign Office to India Office.

No. 10,403.

Foreign Office,

Sir,

31st March 1906.

With reference to the letter from this Office of the 1st instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith copy of a

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'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [29v] (60/118)

despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople regarding the projected visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and Maskat.

It will be observed that Sir N. O'Connor is of opinion that any warning given to the Amir respecting his relations with the Trucial Chiefs and Maskat will be more effective if conveyed to him directly rather than through the Sheikh of Koweit or the Sultan of Maskat, and I am to inform you that Sir E. Grey concurs in this view.

I am, &c.,

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

E. GORST.

Annex.

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir E. Grey.

No. 189. Confidential.

Constantinople,

Sir,

20th March 1906.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Despatch No. 92, of the 1st instant, in which you were so good as to ask for my observations on a letter from the India Office enclosing correspondence relative to the projected visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and to Maskat in the spring.

While I quite concur in the view of the Secretary of State for India that serious complications would ensue should the Ameer succeed in establishing his ascendancy over the Trucial Chiefs and Maskat, and that it would be well to convey to him a warning that his action in those parts must be limited by respect for our engagement with the tribes with which we have treaties, I am disposed to think that such warning will be more effective if conveyed directly rather than through the Sheikh of Koweit or the Sultan of Maskat.

As regards Mubarak, it seems fairly certain that, in view of the more friendly relations which have recently been established between him and the local Turkish Authorities of Basra, the Porte would at once get news of our communication to Abdul Aziz, and would in all probability take steps to neutralize its effect. I would therefore suggest, for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, that our warning would be more effective if it could be arranged that a vessel of war should meet Abdul Aziz at one of the places along the coast which he proposes to visit, and he were given clearly to understand that no tampering with the engagements and Conventions of the Trucial Chiefs will be allowed.

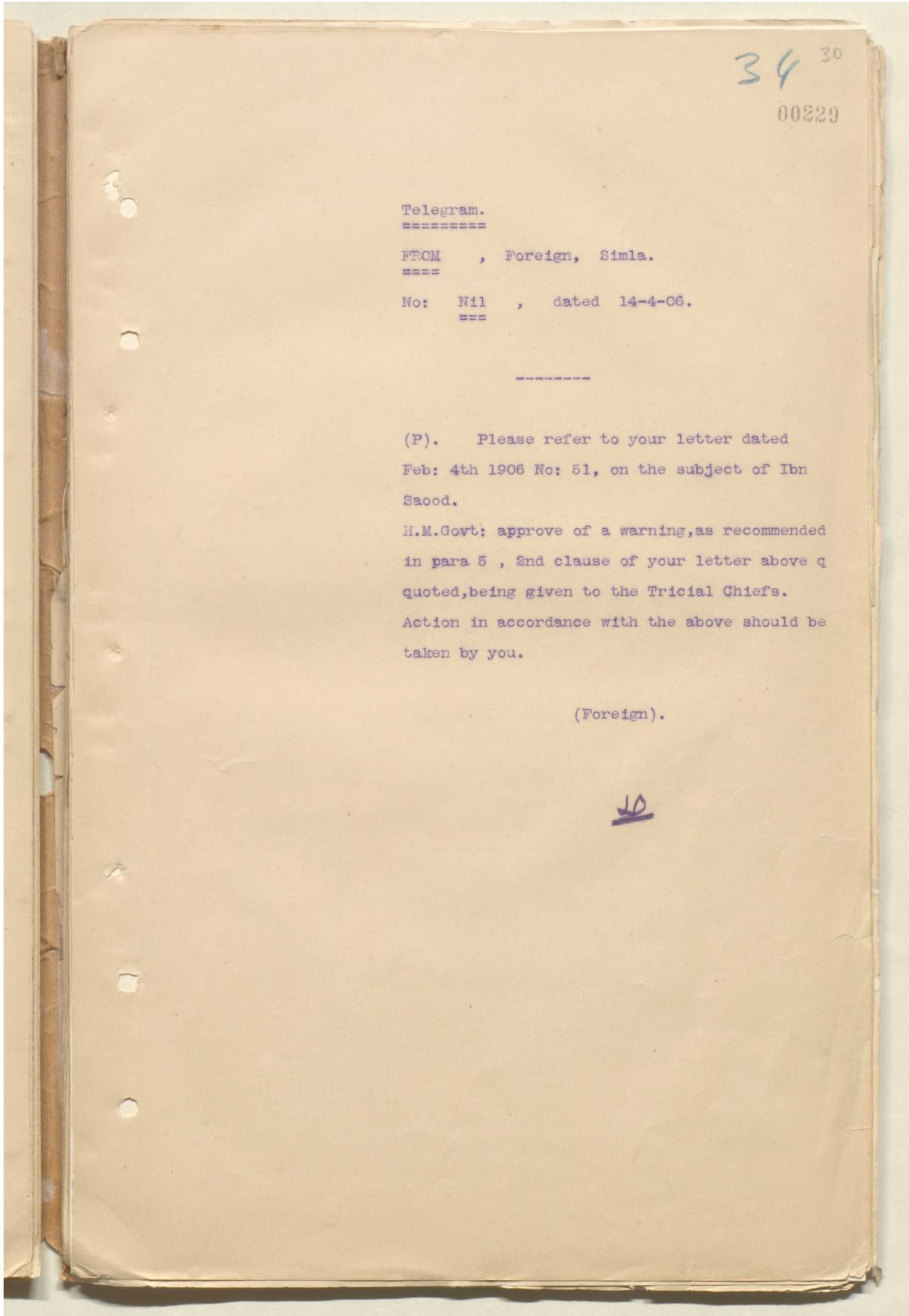
I have, &c.,

Sir Edward Grey Bart., M.P.,

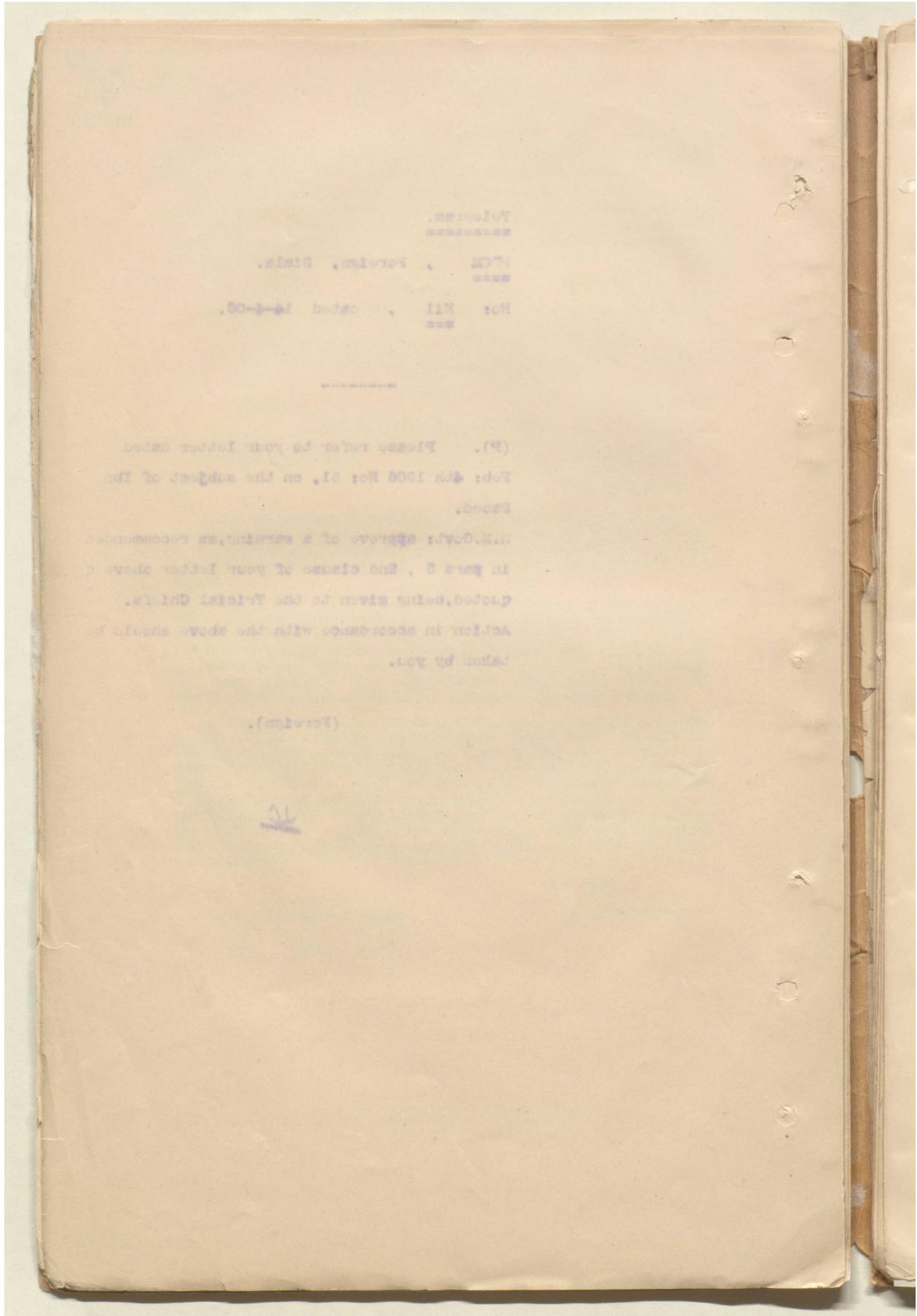
N. R. O'CONNOR.

&c., &c., &c.

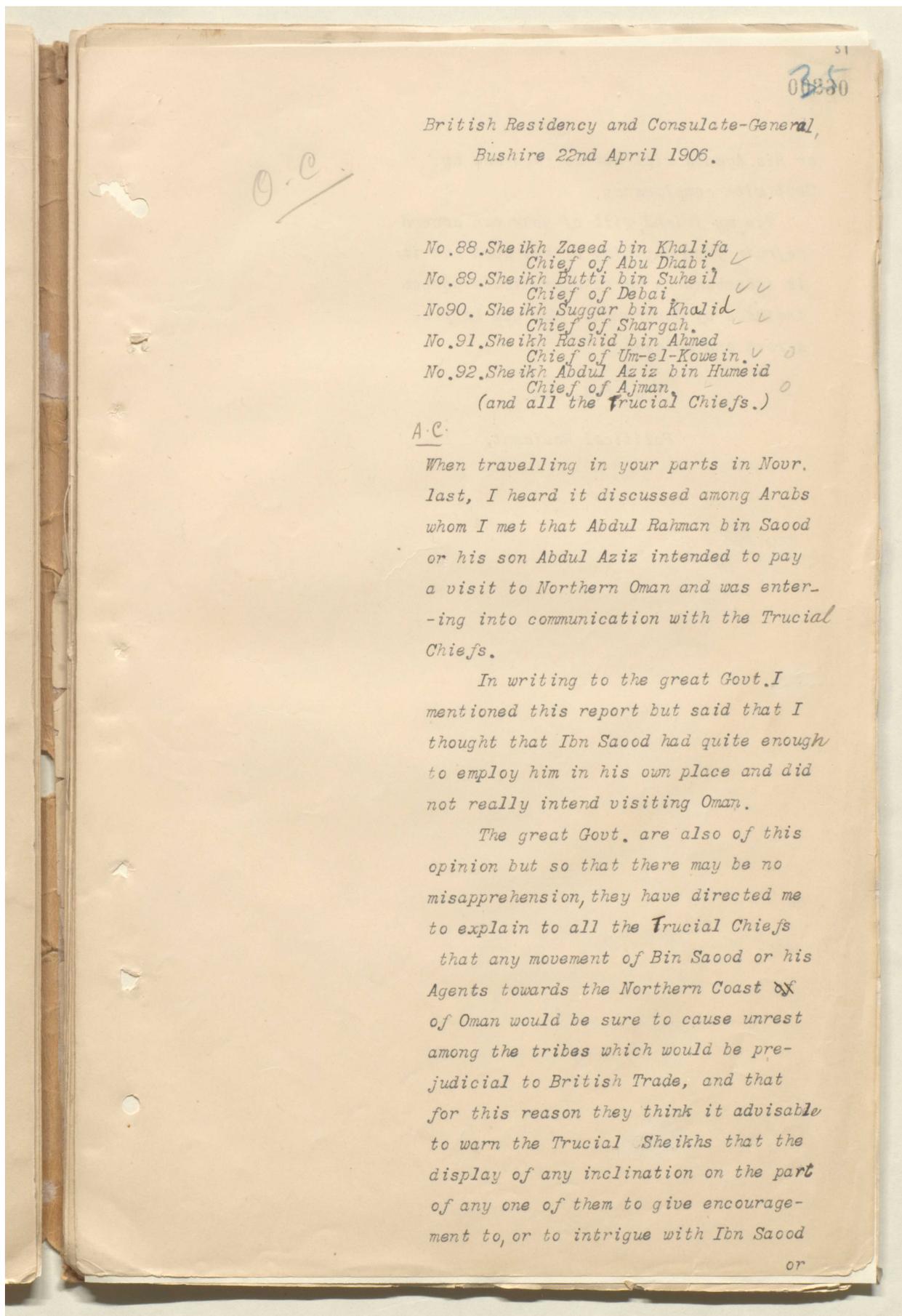
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [30r] (61/118)



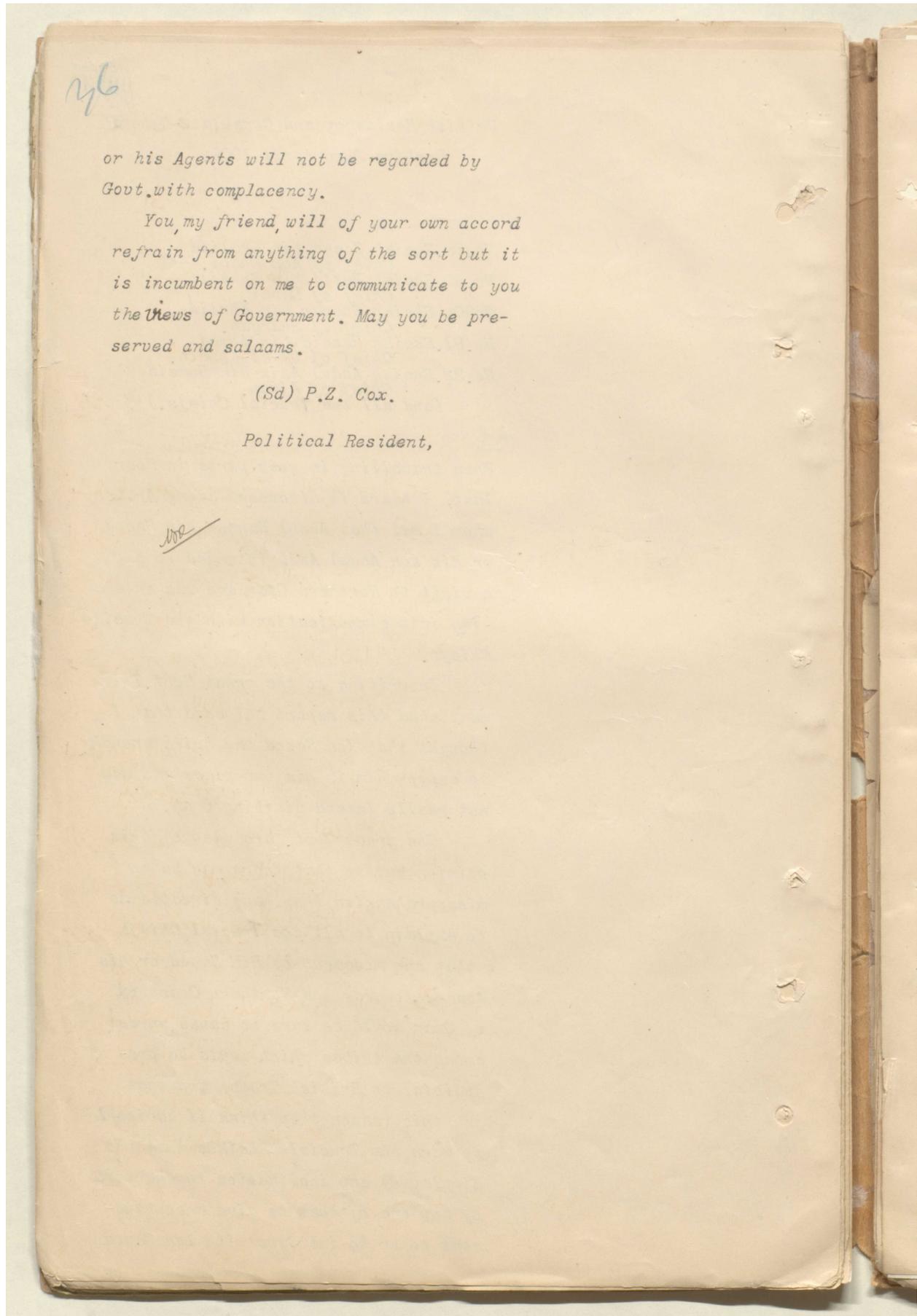
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [30v] (62/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [31r] (63/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [31v] (64/118)



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or his Agents will not be regarded by
Govt. with complacency.

You, my friend, will of your own accord
refrain from anything of the sort but it
is incumbent on me to communicate to you
the views of Government. May you be pre-
served and salaams.

(Sd) P.Z. Cox.

Political Resident,

use

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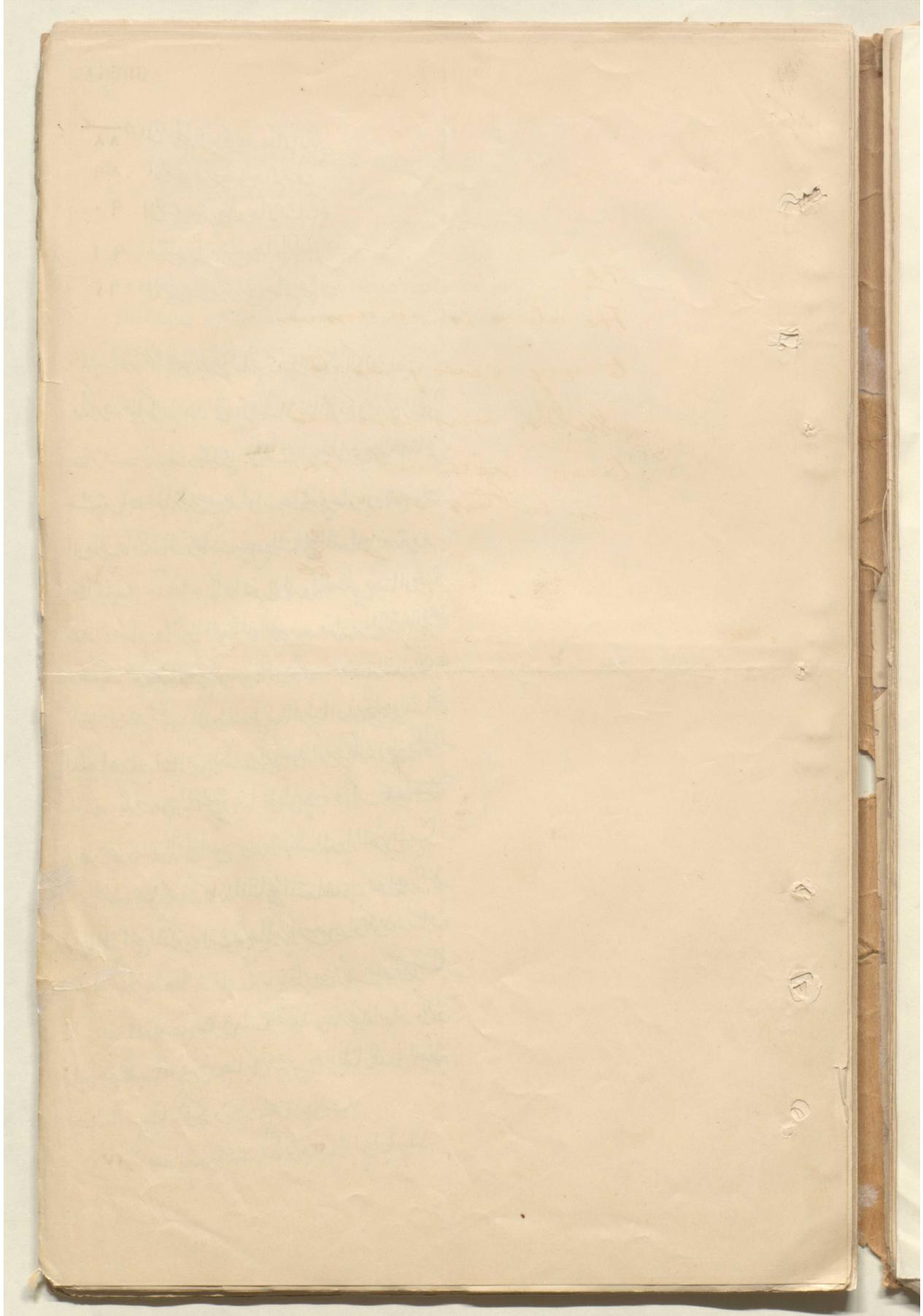
- ٨٨ الى الفخري ابيد خليفه حاكم ابوظبي
- ٨٩ الى الفخري حبيب حاكم دبي
- ٩٠ الى الفخري خالد حاكم مسقط
- ٩١ الى الفخري احمد حاكم القباوي
- ٩٢ الى الفخري عبد العزيز حاكم عمان

*translation of
foregoing letter.*

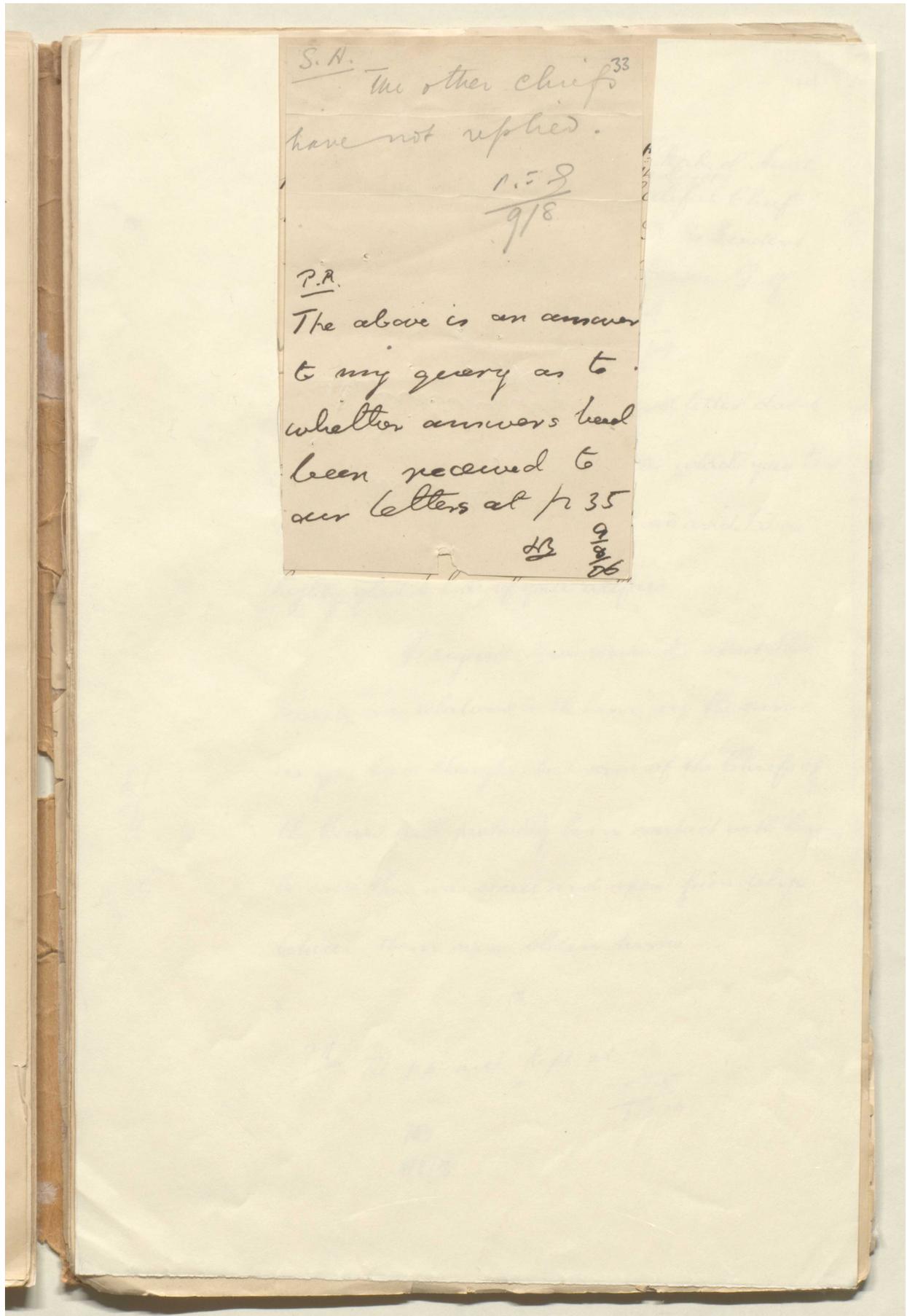
الموسى بن الحارث هو ابا الفخري حاكم ابوظبي
 ثم عرف جنابكم الشريف في حين سافرتنا لظنكم في انتم ببلادكم
 مطرف في رمضان ١٢٢٤ في السنة التي فيها خرجنا من بلادنا
 مشركين بانه عبد العزيز حاكم ابوظبي او ابنه عبد العزيز حاكم ابوظبي الوصول
 الى طرف عمان كعادتنا وكان بينهم وبيننا في المعاهدات تتردد
 مكاتيبنا نحن انما حينما كنا نخرج الى الدولة العظمى ضمنا ادراجنا
 هذا الخبر وانظرنا اليها انما بوجه حرمه فترادفنا عليه في اخبارنا
 وحقيقة الواقع ما لم نعلمه لوصلنا الى عمان انصار الدولة كذبت
 لكننا لم نرفع اليهم الدولة العظمى لئلا امرنا ان نخرج جميعنا الى
 المعاهدات ان كل حركة تصدر من ابوابنا او وكلائنا في طرف عمان
 بلا شك يكون موجبا لثبوتنا بما بيننا وبينكم وذلك كما هو
 الكفر بامانة الدولة العظمى ولهذا تجدون في الدولة العظمى الهرب
 نرى الصلح هو ان نخذر كانه المشايخ المتعاهدون فيجب ان يصير السيل
 من احد المشايخ المذكورين لتوثيق عبد العزيز حاكم ابوظبي او تكونه
 بينه وبيننا او وكلائنا فالدولة ما ينظرون ذلك بعين حق
 فيا صدقنا نحن فصدقنا جنابكم طبعنا بجدنا من هذا ما نرى ولكن
 من الواجب علينا ان نعرف جنابكم الشريف انظرنا الدولة العظمى
 هذا ما لا ينبغي ان نجهل في ذلك ولتم بحسن حالكم
 حرره في ١٢٢٤ من رمضان ١٢٢٤ مطابقا لـ ١٩٠٦

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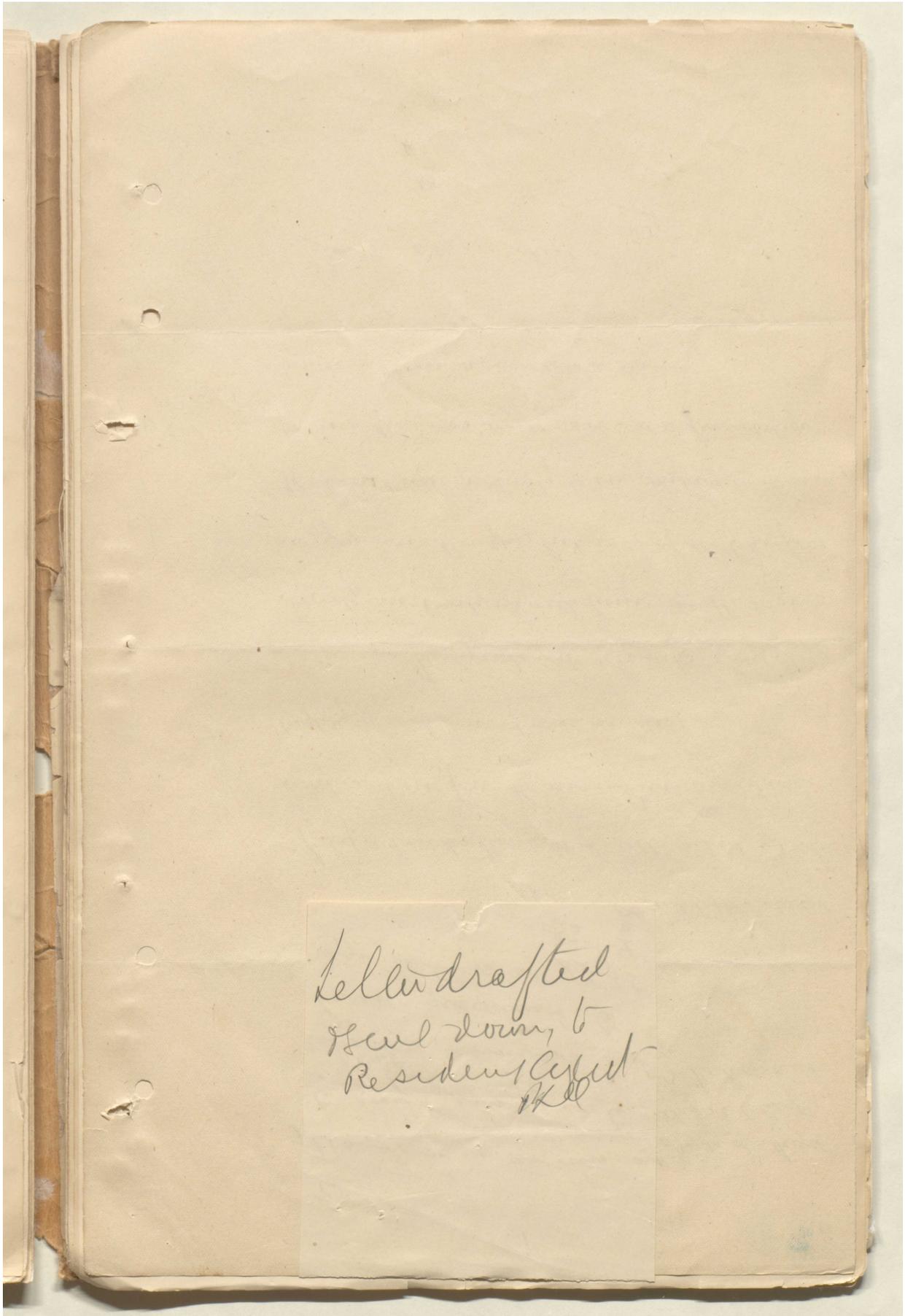
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [32v] (66/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [33r] (67/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [33v] (68/118)



Letter drafted
sent down to
Resident Agent
Kell

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [34r] (69/118)

00232

34

Extract from a letter dated 19th Rabi ul Awwal
1324 from Sheikh Saood bin Khalifah Chief
of Abu Dhabi to Major Cox, A. B. His Resident
and Consul General in the Persian Gulf.

مغمد بن سعود في 14
114

I have received your esteemed letter dated
27th Safar last together with the letter which you had
addressed me from the man-o-war and I was
highly glad to hear of your welfare.

As regards your remarks about Ibn
Saood's ^{visit} our relations with him are the same
as you have thought; but some of the Chiefs of
the Coast will probably be in contact with him,
because there was secret and open friendship
between them since older times

x

x

x

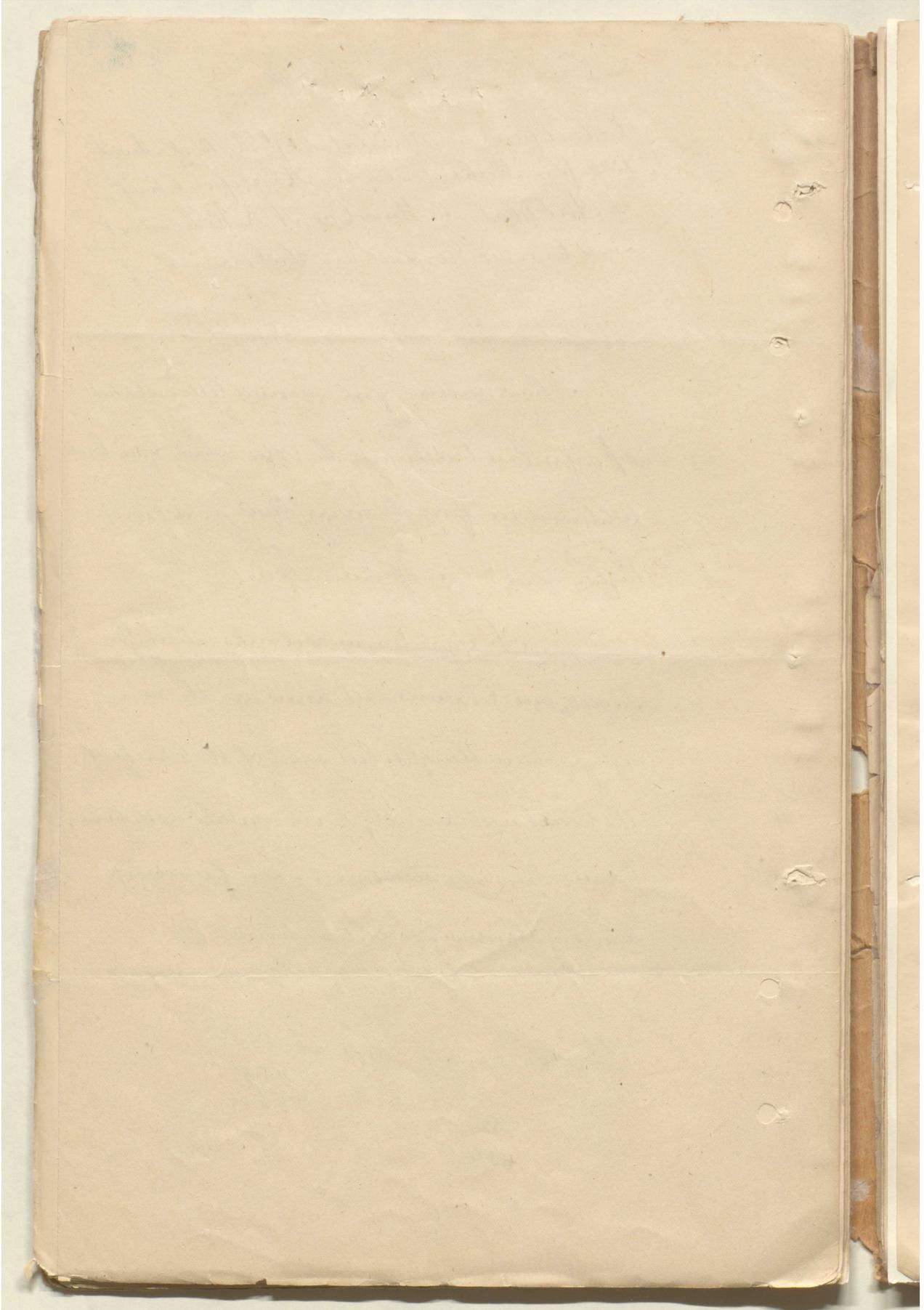
PA The pp are kept at B2.

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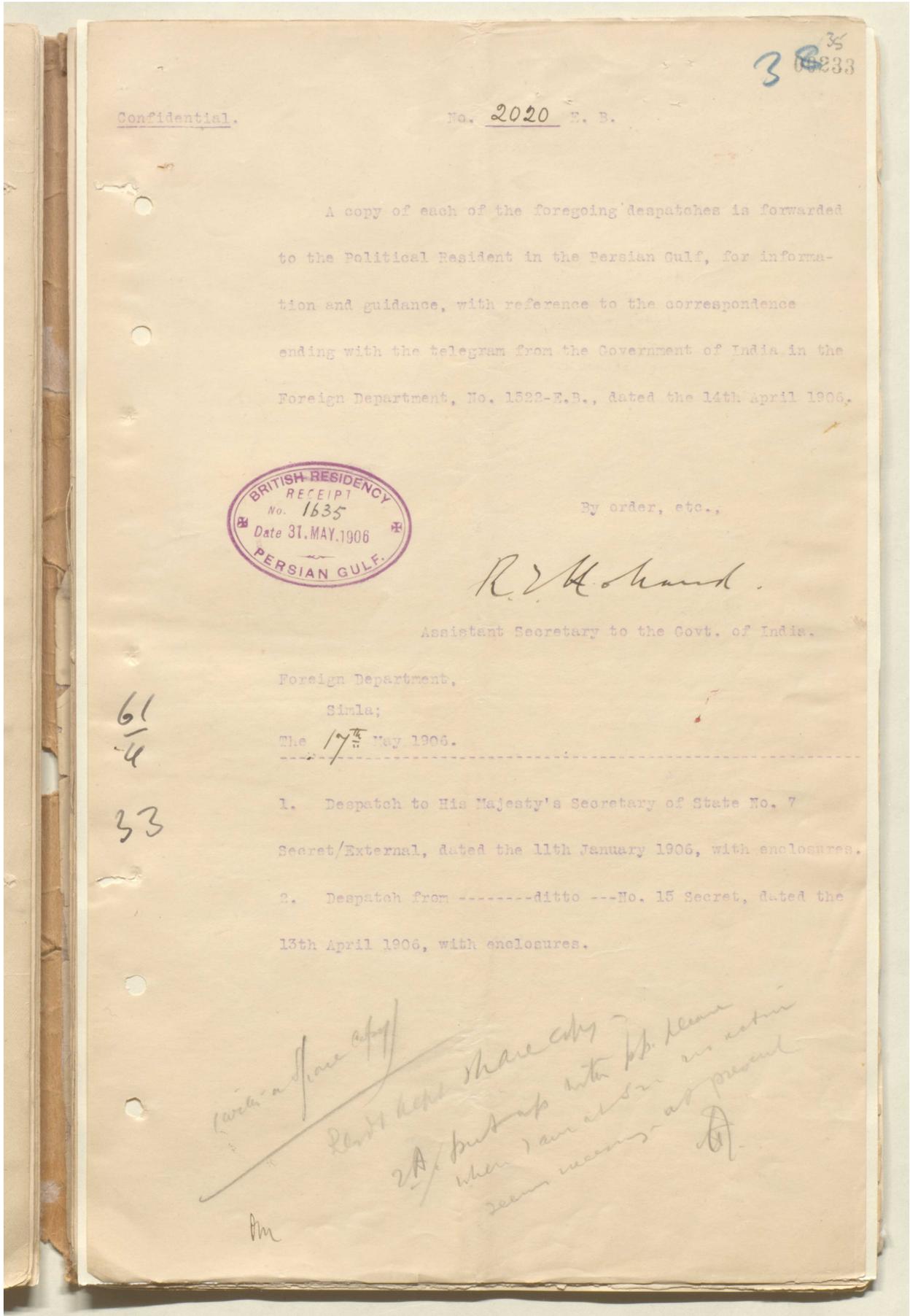
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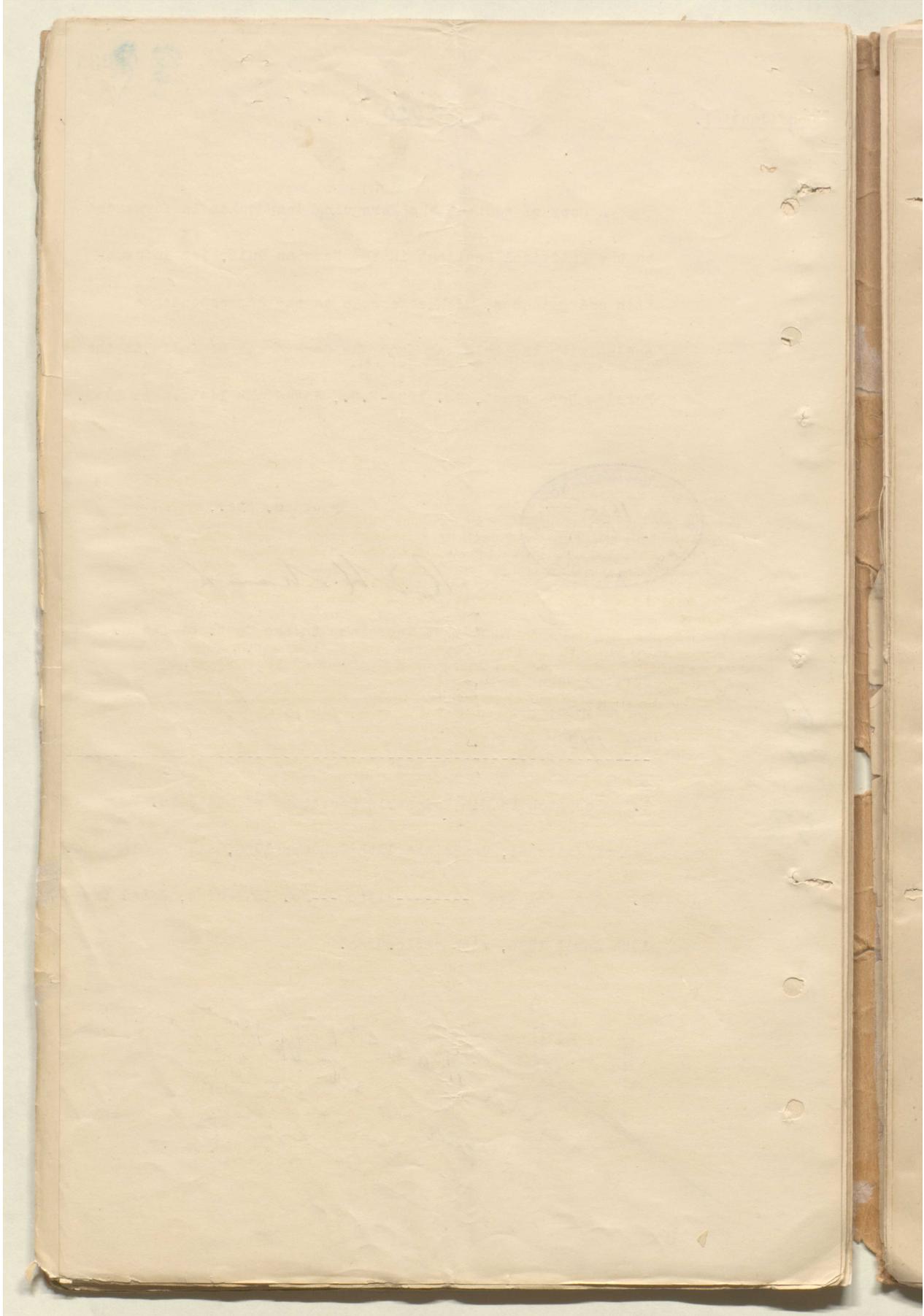
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [34v] (70/118)



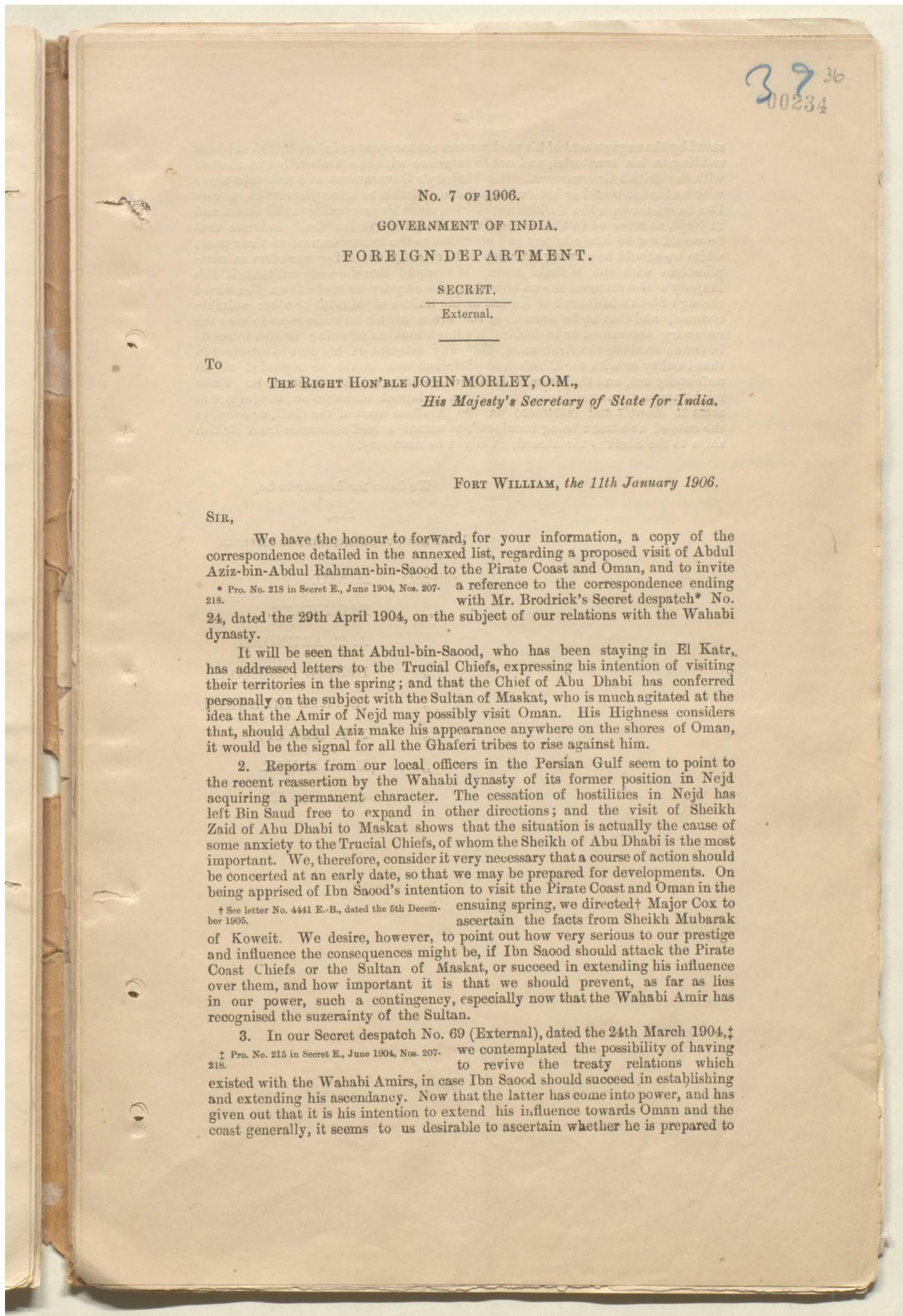
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [35r] (71/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [35v] (72/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [36r] (73/118)



No. 7 of 1906.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

SECRET.

External.

To

THE RIGHT HON'BLE JOHN MORLEY, O.M.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

FORT WILLIAM, the 11th January 1906.

SIR,

We have the honour to forward, for your information, a copy of the correspondence detailed in the annexed list, regarding a proposed visit of Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-bin-Saood to the Pirate Coast and Oman, and to invite
* Pro. No. 218 in Secret E., June 1904, Nos. 207-218. a reference to the correspondence ending with Mr. Brodrick's Secret despatch* No. 24, dated the 29th April 1904, on the subject of our relations with the Wahabi dynasty.

It will be seen that Abdul-bin-Saood, who has been staying in El Katr, has addressed letters to the Trucial Chiefs, expressing his intention of visiting their territories in the spring; and that the Chief of Abu Dhabi has conferred personally on the subject with the Sultan of Maskat, who is much agitated at the idea that the Amir of Nejd may possibly visit Oman. His Highness considers that, should Abdul Aziz make his appearance anywhere on the shores of Oman, it would be the signal for all the Ghaferi tribes to rise against him.

2. Reports from our local officers in the Persian Gulf seem to point to the recent reassertion by the Wahabi dynasty of its former position in Nejd acquiring a permanent character. The cessation of hostilities in Nejd has left Bin Saud free to expand in other directions; and the visit of Sheikh Zaid of Abu Dhabi to Maskat shows that the situation is actually the cause of some anxiety to the Trucial Chiefs, of whom the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi is the most important. We, therefore, consider it very necessary that a course of action should be concerted at an early date, so that we may be prepared for developments. On being apprised of Ibn Saood's intention to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman in the

ensuing spring, we directed† Major Cox to ascertain the facts from Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit. We desire, however, to point out how very serious to our prestige and influence the consequences might be, if Ibn Saood should attack the Pirate Coast Chiefs or the Sultan of Maskat, or succeed in extending his influence over them, and how important it is that we should prevent, as far as lies in our power, such a contingency, especially now that the Wahabi Amir has recognised the suzerainty of the Sultan.

3. In our Secret despatch No. 69 (External), dated the 24th March 1904,‡
† Pro. No. 215 in Secret E., June 1904, Nos. 207-218. we contemplated the possibility of having to revive the treaty relations which existed with the Wahabi Amirs, in case Ibn Saood should succeed in establishing and extending his ascendancy. Now that the latter has come into power, and has given out that it is his intention to extend his influence towards Oman and the coast generally, it seems to us desirable to ascertain whether he is prepared to

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [36v] (74/118)

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stand by the engagement of his predecessors not to oppose or injure British subjects residing in his territories, and not to interfere with the Arab tribes in alliance with the British Government. His Majesty's Government will no doubt agree with us that it would be both useless and undesirable to bring pressure to bear on Ibn Saood through the Turkish authorities, since his proceedings at El Hassa and in Nejd, as reported in the recent diaries from the Persian Gulf, indicate that he would not be likely to pay any attention to the remonstrances on their part; while we should be serving Turkish interests by involving ourselves in complications with the Wahabi Amir. We would therefore suggest that, if His Majesty's Government see no objection, this enquiry be made from Ibn Saood through Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit or the Sultan of Maskat or other suitable channel, and that he be warned, in the event of his unwillingness to give the necessary assurances or to declare his intentions as affecting British interests in Oman or along the Arab coast, that any attempt on his part to interfere in that locality or with the Chiefs and their subjects would be regarded as an unfriendly act, and that suitable measures would be taken to frustrate it. These might amount, in our opinion, to a more stringent embargo on the import of arms at Koweit and elsewhere on the Arabian coast of the Gulf, or even, in the case of an attack being imminent, to actual armed assistance from British ships to the Sheikhs threatened, as might be necessary.

We have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) MINTO.

„ KITCHENER.

„ A. T. ARUNDEL.

„ DENZIL IBBETSON.

„ H. ERLE RICHARDS.

„ J. P. HEWETT.

„ E. N. BAKER.

„ C. H. SCOTT.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [37r] (75/118)

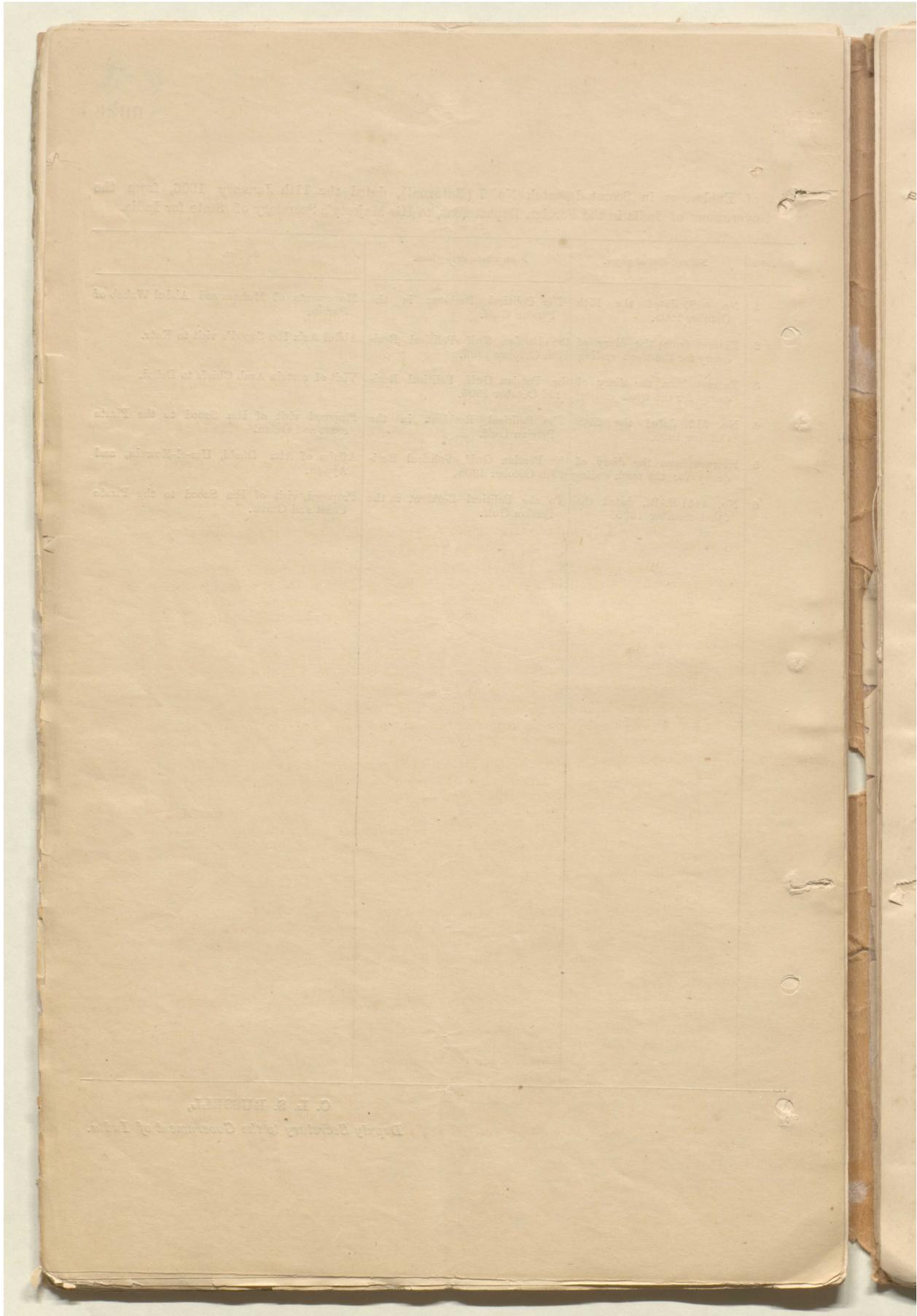
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List of Enclosures in Secret despatch No. 7 (External), dated the 11th January 1906, from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Serial No.	No. and date of paper.	From whom, or to whom.	Subject.
1	No. 498, dated the 15th October 1905.	The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.	Movements of Muhammad Abdul Wahab of Dairein.
2	Extract from the diary of dency for the week ending	the Persian Gulf Political Resi- 15th October 1905.	Abdul Aziz Ibn Saood's visit to Katr.
3	Extract from the diary of dency for the week ending	the Persian Gulf Political Resi- 22nd October 1905.	Visit of certain Arab Chiefs to Debai.
4	No. 513, dated the 29th October 1905.	The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.	Proposed visit of Ibn Saood to the Pirate coast and Oman.
5	Extract from the diary of dency for the week ending	the Persian Gulf Political Resi- 29th October 1905.	Affairs of Abu Dhabi, Um-el-Kowein, and Ajman.
6	No. 4441 E.-B., dated the 5th December 1905.	To the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.	Proposed visit of Ibn Saood to the Pirate Coast and Oman.

C. L. S. RUSSELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [37v] (76/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [38r] (77/118)

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No. 498, dated Bushire, the 15th (received 23rd) October 1905.
From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I.A., Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf,
To—S. M. FRASER, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, translation of the marginally noted news-letter * which I have received from the Residency Agent, Shargah, reporting, *inter alia*, the movements of the notorious Mohamed Abdul Wahab of Darein in Katif district.

Translation of a news letter No. 137, dated 15th September 1905, from the Residency Agent, Shargah, to Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

On the 11th Jamadi Thani 1323 (13th August 1905) the Chief of Debai proceeded to the village of Hatta for the purpose of repairing a spring for irrigation of date trees, etc. He returned to Debai on the 23rd Jamadi Thani (25th August 1905) and it appears that he has appointed one of his men, named Abdullah bin Bauker who belongs to the Lariyeh Ajam tribe to look after the spring.

On the 14th Jamadi-Thani (16th August 1905) Mohamed bin Abdul Wahab arrived at Debai by the mail steamer from Bombay.

When he landed at Debai from the mail steamer the Chief of Debai's *locum tenens* fired a salute of 2 guns and hoisted his flag on the Government House. This Mohamed bin Abdul Wahab is a merchant and deals in pearls but he is a resident of Darein in the District of Katif, and a Turkish subject. He visits Bahrein, Katr and Bombay.

It appears that Mohamed bin Abdul Wahab is the bearer of presents sent to all the Chiefs of the (Pirate) Coast from Abu Dhabi to Um-el-Kowein, by a Bania named Nakandas Jowerjin residing at Bombay.

Every Sheikh has been sent a silver tray, weighing 130 miskals and one pair of Binoculars and one Brocade Shawl with a letter. I beg to forward herewith a copy of one of the letters for your information.

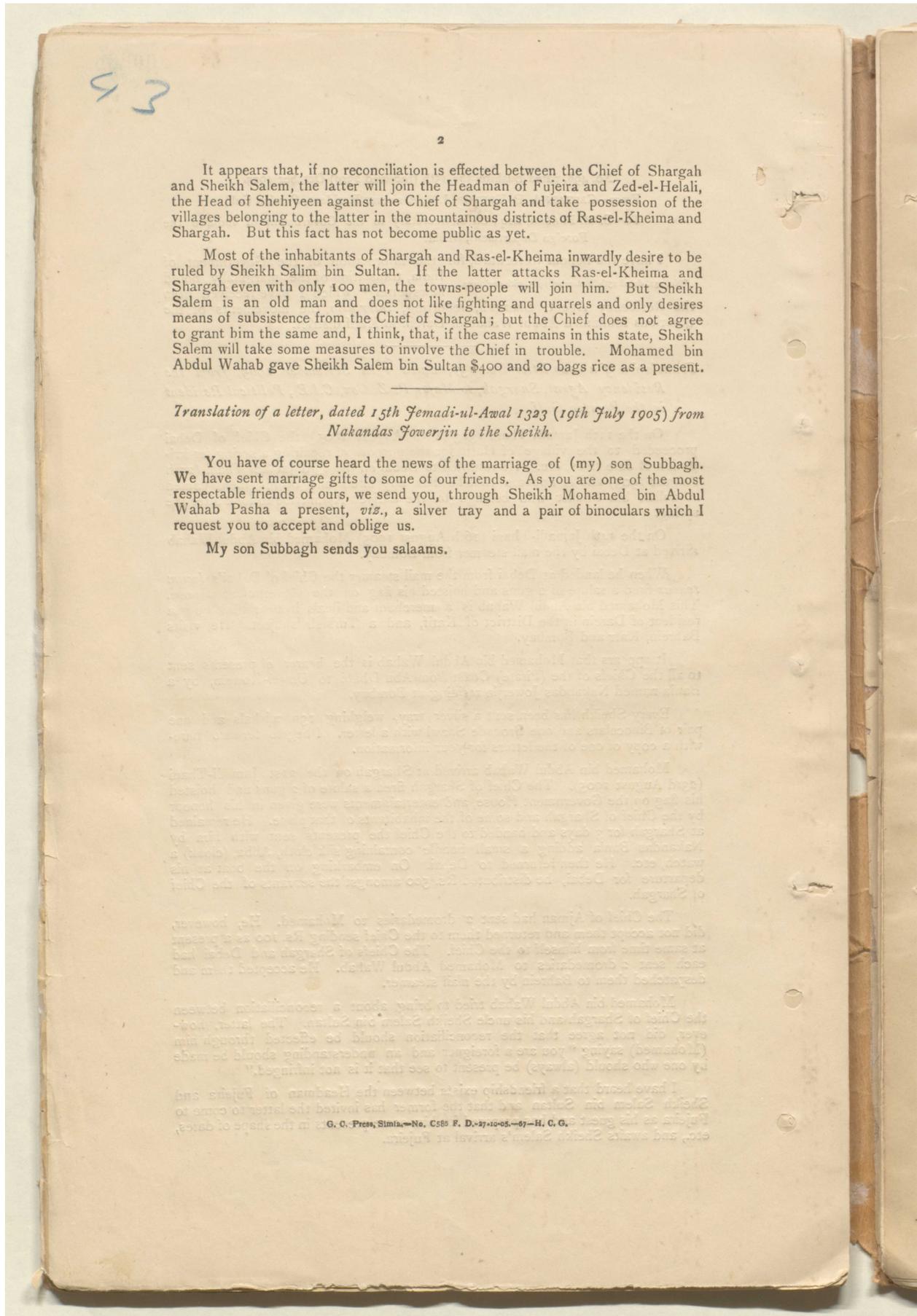
Mohamed bin Abdul Wahab arrived at Shargah on the 21st Jamadi-Thani (23rd August 1905). The Chief of Shargah fired a salute of 2 guns and hoisted his flag on the Government House, and entertainments were given in his honour by the Chief of Shargah and some of the inhabitants of that place. He remained at Shargah for 3 days and handed to the Chief the presents sent with him by Nakandas Bania adding a small bundle containing silk cloth, Abba, (cloak) a watch, etc. He then returned to Debai. On embarking on the boat at his departure for Debai, he distributed Rs. 500 amongst the servants of the Chief of Shargah.

The Chief of Ajman had sent 2 dromedaries to Mohamed. He, however, did not accept them and returned them to the Chief sending Rs. 100 as a present at same time from himself to the Chief. The Chiefs of Shargah and Debai had each sent 2 dromedaries to Mohamed Abdul Wahab. He accepted them and despatched them to Bahrein by the mail steamer.

Mohamed bin Abdul Wahab tried to bring about a reconciliation between the Chief of Shargah and his uncle Sheikh Salem bin Sultan. The latter, however, did not agree that the reconciliation should be effected through him (Mohamed) saying "you are a foreigner and an understanding should be made by one who should (always) be present to see that it is not infringed."

I have heard that a friendship exists between the Headman of Fujeira and Sheikh Salem bin Sultan and that the former has invited the latter to come to Fujeira as his guest and has prepared for him some presents in the shape of dates, etc., and awaits Sheikh Salem's arrival at Fujeira.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [38v] (78/118)



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It appears that, if no reconciliation is effected between the Chief of Shargah and Sheikh Salem, the latter will join the Headman of Fujeira and Zed-el-Helali, the Head of Shehiyeen against the Chief of Shargah and take possession of the villages belonging to the latter in the mountainous districts of Ras-el-Kheima and Shargah. But this fact has not become public as yet.

Most of the inhabitants of Shargah and Ras-el-Kheima inwardly desire to be ruled by Sheikh Salim bin Sultan. If the latter attacks Ras-el-Kheima and Shargah even with only 100 men, the towns-people will join him. But Sheikh Salem is an old man and does not like fighting and quarrels and only desires means of subsistence from the Chief of Shargah; but the Chief does not agree to grant him the same and, I think, that, if the case remains in this state, Sheikh Salem will take some measures to involve the Chief in trouble. Mohamed bin Abdul Wahab gave Sheikh Salem bin Sultan \$400 and 20 bags rice as a present.

Translation of a letter, dated 15th Jumadi-ul-Awal 1323 (19th July 1905) from Nakandas Fowerjin to the Sheikh.

You have of course heard the news of the marriage of (my) son Subbagh. We have sent marriage gifts to some of our friends. As you are one of the most respectable friends of ours, we send you, through Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdul Wahab Pasha a present, *vis.*, a silver tray and a pair of binoculars which I request you to accept and oblige us.

My son Subbagh sends you salaams.

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Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending 15th (received 23rd) October 1905.

SHARGAH.

13. 5th October 1905.—Abdul Aziz Ibn Saood has addressed letters to the Trucial Chiefs in which he announces his visit to El Katr and his having effected reconciliation between the El Murrah, Beni Hajir and Ajman tribes. He also expresses his intention of visiting the Chief's territories in the spring. He left El Katr and went to the watering place Azarookkeh.

14. Chief of Abu Dhabi is reported to have sent the letter received by him from Ibn Saood to the Sultan of Maskat and he himself proposes to go to Maskat to confer with His Highness on the subject. The Residency Agent, Shargah, has been instructed to keep a careful watch and report future developments.

Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending the 22nd October 1905.

SHARGAH.

1. 27th September 1905.—Sheikh Zaeed-bin-Khalifa, Chief of Abu Dhabi, came to Debai on 23rd September with a view to endeavouring to effect a reconciliation with his wife, who recently left him and went to live at Debai with her father. The latter is Sultan bin Naser Sweidi whom Sheikh Zaeed has been trying to settle at Zoara (a disputed peninsula between ~~Shargah and Ajman~~). Sheikh Zaeed's mother was a relative of Sultan bin Naser.

2. The Chiefs of Shargah, Ajman and Um-el-Kowein came to Debai to see Sheikh Zaeed, and matters about which there were disagreements between them, were discussed. Sheikh Zaeed asked the Chief of Um-el-Kowein to refrain from entering into any relations with the Bedouins, assuring him that if he was afraid of them, he would support him, against them. The Chief of Um-el-Kowein, though he inwardly wishes to maintain his relations with the Bedouins, especially the Beni Kutb, has accepted Sheikh Zaeed's advice. The Chiefs then returned to their territories where they were visited by Sheikh Zaeed later on.

between Ajman
Hawwiyeh

No. 513, dated Bushire, the 29th October 1905.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I.A., Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf.

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of

India, a translation of a report* which I have received from the Residency Agent at Shargah, together with the enclosures.† From the latter it will be seen that Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman bin Saood visited Katr during the hot weather and that he proposes to visit the Arab Coast and Oman in the spring. These facts were briefly noted in the

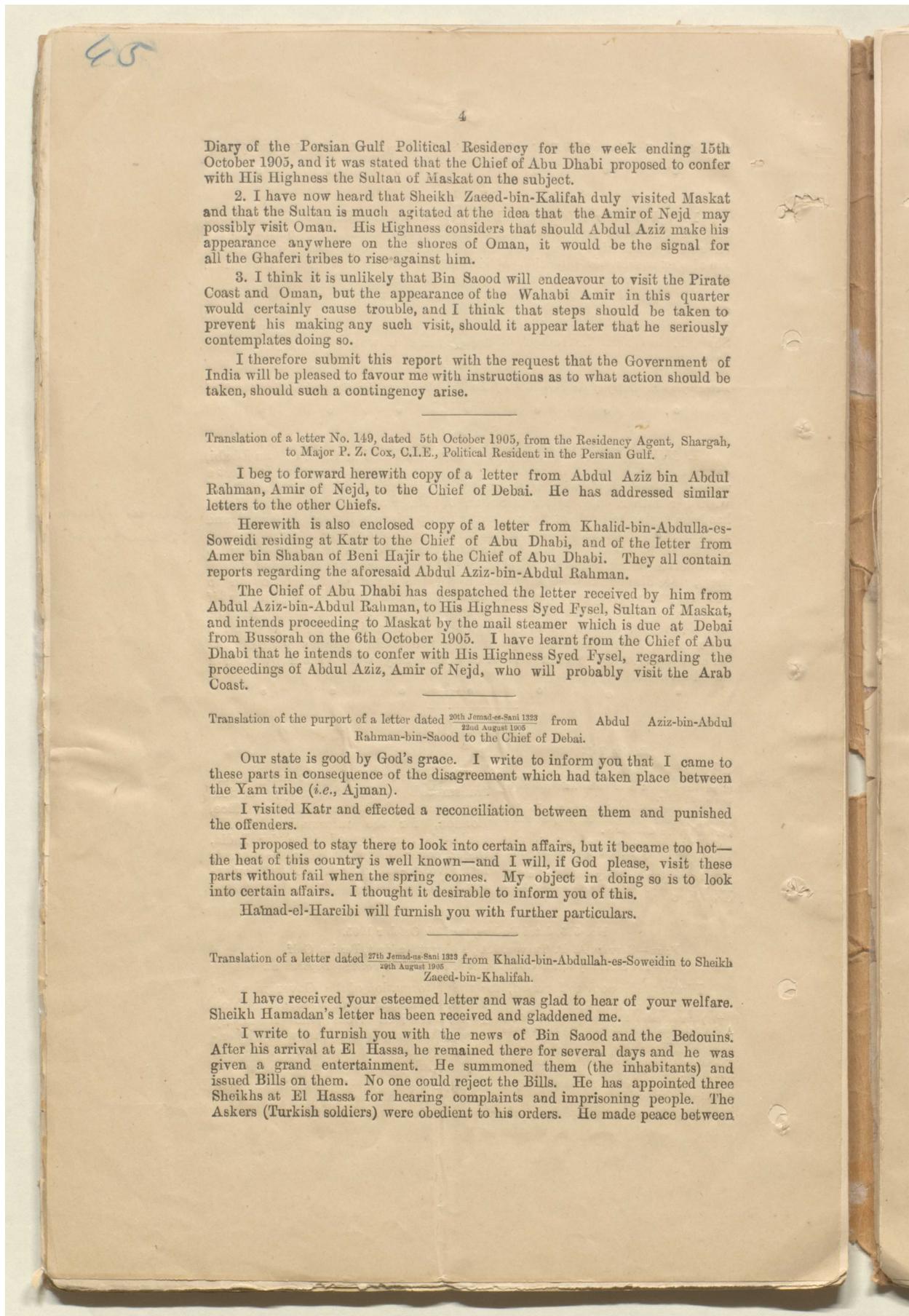
* No. 149, dated 5th October 1905.

† (1) Letter dated 22nd August 1905, from Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman bin Saood to the Chief of Debai.

(2) Letter dated 29th August 1905, from Khalid bin Abdullah es Sowedai to the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

(3) Letter from Amer bin Shaban (undated) to the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [39v] (80/118)



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Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending 15th October 1905, and it was stated that the Chief of Abu Dhabi proposed to confer with His Highness the Sultan of Maskat on the subject.

2. I have now heard that Sheikh Zaeed-bin-Kalifah duly visited Maskat and that the Sultan is much agitated at the idea that the Amir of Nejd may possibly visit Oman. His Highness considers that should Abdul Aziz make his appearance anywhere on the shores of Oman, it would be the signal for all the Ghaferi tribes to rise against him.

3. I think it is unlikely that Bin Saood will endeavour to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman, but the appearance of the Wahabi Amir in this quarter would certainly cause trouble, and I think that steps should be taken to prevent his making any such visit, should it appear later that he seriously contemplates doing so.

I therefore submit this report with the request that the Government of India will be pleased to favour me with instructions as to what action should be taken, should such a contingency arise.

Translation of a letter No. 149, dated 5th October 1905, from the Residency Agent, Shargah, to Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I beg to forward herewith copy of a letter from Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman, Amir of Nejd, to the Chief of Debai. He has addressed similar letters to the other Chiefs.

Herewith is also enclosed copy of a letter from Khalid-bin-Abdulla-es-Soweidi residing at Katr to the Chief of Abu Dhabi, and of the letter from Amer bin Shaban of Beni Hajir to the Chief of Abu Dhabi. They all contain reports regarding the aforesaid Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman.

The Chief of Abu Dhabi has despatched the letter received by him from Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman, to His Highness Syed Fysel, Sultan of Maskat, and intends proceeding to Maskat by the mail steamer which is due at Debai from Bussorah on the 6th October 1905. I have learnt from the Chief of Abu Dhabi that he intends to confer with His Highness Syed Fysel, regarding the proceedings of Abdul Aziz, Amir of Nejd, who will probably visit the Arab Coast.

Translation of the purport of a letter dated ^{20th Jemad-es-Sani 1323} _{22nd August 1905} from Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-bin-Saood to the Chief of Debai.

Our state is good by God's grace. I write to inform you that I came to these parts in consequence of the disagreement which had taken place between the Yam tribe (*i.e.*, Ajman).

I visited Katr and effected a reconciliation between them and punished the offenders.

I proposed to stay there to look into certain affairs, but it became too hot—the heat of this country is well known—and I will, if God please, visit these parts without fail when the spring comes. My object in doing so is to look into certain affairs. I thought it desirable to inform you of this.

Hamad-el-Hareibi will furnish you with further particulars.

Translation of a letter dated ^{27th Jemad-es-Sani 1323} _{29th August 1905} from Khalid-bin-Abdullah-es-Soweidin to Sheikh Zaeed-bin-Khalifah.

I have received your esteemed letter and was glad to hear of your welfare. Sheikh Hamadan's letter has been received and gladdened me.

I write to furnish you with the news of Bin Saood and the Bedouins. After his arrival at El Hassa, he remained there for several days and he was given a grand entertainment. He summoned them (the inhabitants) and issued Bills on them. No one could reject the Bills. He has appointed three Sheikhs at El Hassa for hearing complaints and imprisoning people. The Askers (Turkish soldiers) were obedient to his orders. He made peace between

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the Bedouins. And Bin Saood will take action against whomsoever found guilty of having committed robberies.

Mazyad and Nawleh-bin-Sherim of Al Murreh, Bin Shaban of Beni Hajir and Mansoor-bin-Ghanim of Kheyarin came to him and were reconciled with him. He made peace between them and Ajman and other tribes and proceeded to a watering place named Azarnookeh to-day.

Mansoor-bin-Ghanim came to me, gave me this news and brought me a complimentary letter from him informing me of this arrangement.

After the peace was made the representative of Mari (Al Murreh) went to Baej and that of Beni Hajir proceeded to Araj.

As regards Ali-bin-Ahmed (El Khalifah of Bahrein), the Christians summoned him to Bushire and told him either to remain as before, that is to say, as a wicked man (Shaki) or to undergo five years' imprisonment at Maskat. He preferred to undergo imprisonment and proceeded to Maskat.

Translation of the purport of a letter (undated) from Amer-bin-Shaban to the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

I beg to inform you that I visited Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-bin-Saood and found him to be a highly qualified person like his relatives or rather superior. I was reconciled to him; and he made peace between me and the Ajmans and others.

By God! Oh Zaeed! my eyes did not fail to see the trays, tents, house furniture, coffee pots of Constantinople make, belonging to Bin Rashid (which were with Bin Saood). Your turn has come now.

He said "Oh Amer, by God, I will explore the country belonging to my father and grandfather, from Maskat to Jealan."

Oh! Zaeed, I saw that he turned his eyes (towards you). I asked him whether he had a good intention or a bad one. He said he would act upon God's will. I said "Zaeed is the Imam of the Arab Coast and has relations with your people at Katif and El Hassa, and this fact is not hidden." He said he would do everything properly. He is a man of high account. As to El Hassa by God, the day he made his entry there, his men took charge of the local administration; and he deprived that place of all its valuables.

Excerpts from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending 29th October (received 7th November) 1905.

MASKAT.

* * * * *

20. Sheikh Zaeed-bin-Khalifa, the Chief of Abu Dhabi, arrived at Maskat on 18th by S. S. *Madura*, accompanied by his son and Sultan-bin-Dhiyab; His Highness the Sultan, with Saiyid Muhammad-bin-Turki, met him on the steamer.

* * * * *

SHARGAH.

25. It appears that, in spite of the advice of the Chief of Abu Dhabi to the contrary (*vide* last week's Diary entry No. 1), the Chief of Um-el-Kowein took with him Abdulla-bin-Ali and Khalifah-bin-Abdalla, head men of the Beni Kutb, to Ajman, and reconciled them to the Chief of that place. They then came to Shargah and entered into an offensive and defensive alliance, which, it is believed, is aimed at the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

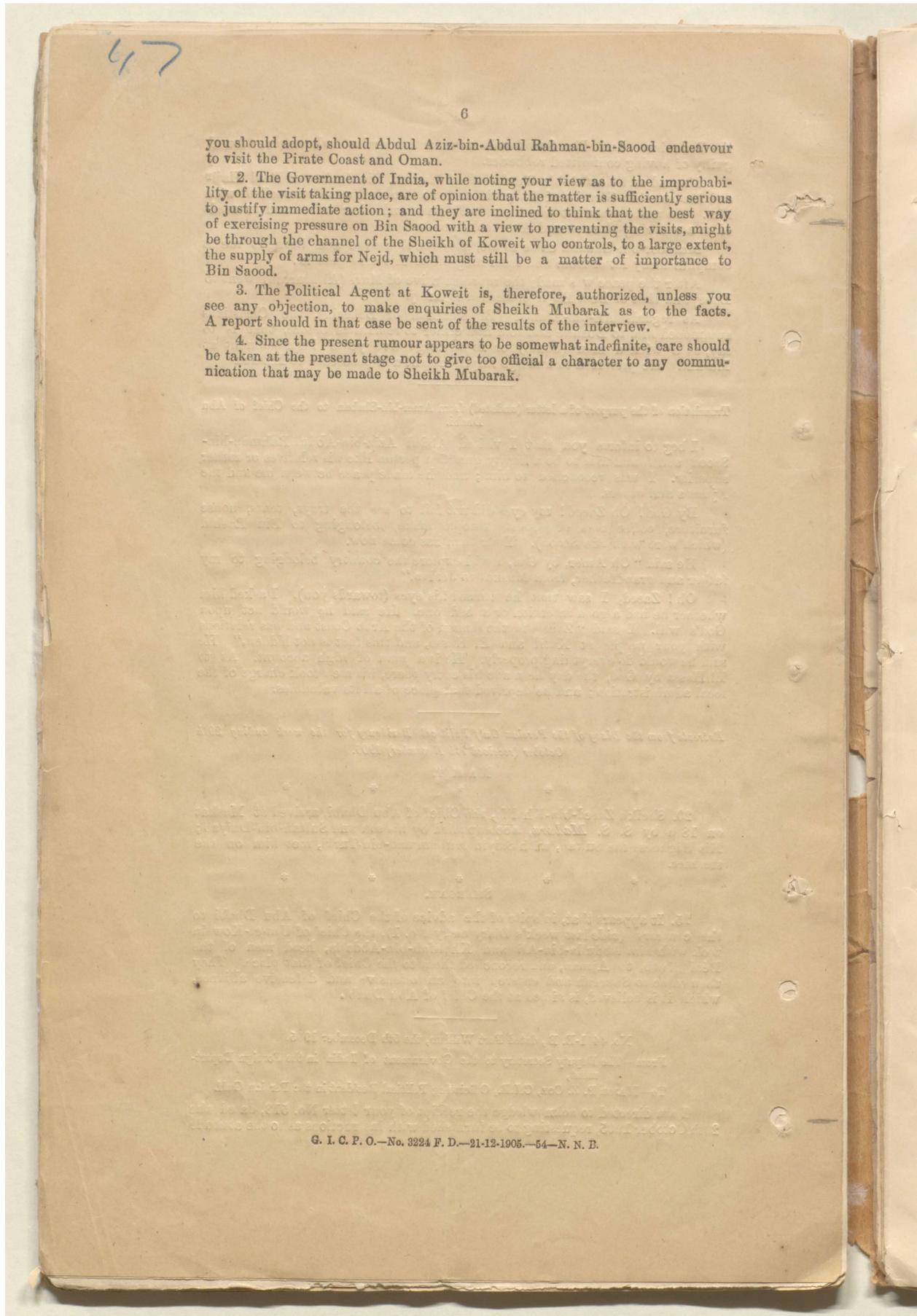
No. 4441-E. B., dated Fort William, the 5th December 1905.

From—The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department,

To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 513, dated the 29th October 1905, requesting to be furnished with instructions as to the attitude

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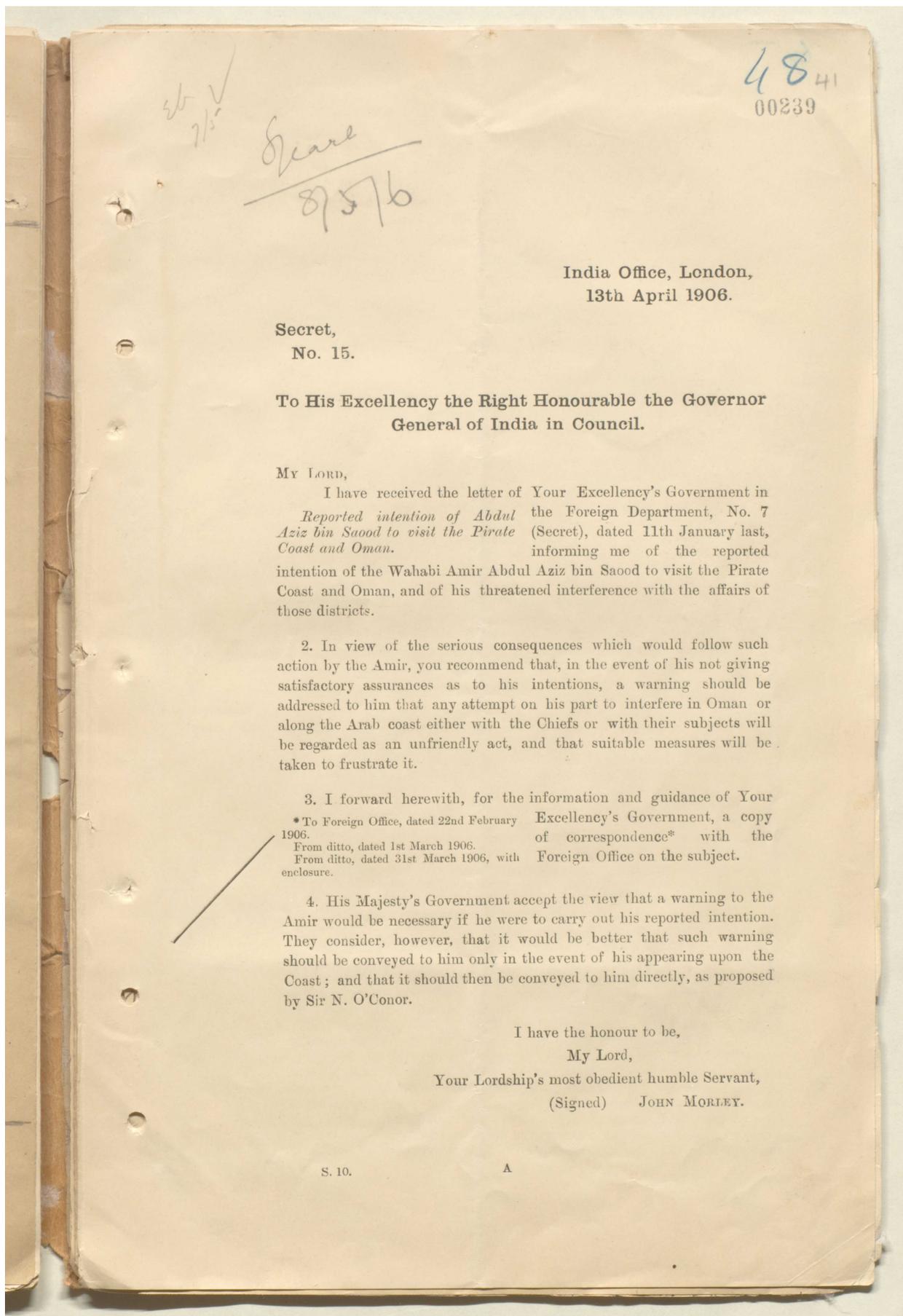
you should adopt, should Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-bin-Saood endeavour to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman.

2. The Government of India, while noting your view as to the improbability of the visit taking place, are of opinion that the matter is sufficiently serious to justify immediate action; and they are inclined to think that the best way of exercising pressure on Bin Saood with a view to preventing the visits, might be through the channel of the Sheikh of Koweit who controls, to a large extent, the supply of arms for Nejd, which must still be a matter of importance to Bin Saood.

3. The Political Agent at Koweit is, therefore, authorized, unless you see any objection, to make enquiries of Sheikh Mubarak as to the facts. A report should in that case be sent of the results of the interview.

4. Since the present rumour appears to be somewhat indefinite, care should be taken at the present stage not to give too official a character to any communication that may be made to Sheikh Mubarak.

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India Office, London,
13th April 1906.

Secret,
No. 15.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor
General of India in Council.

My Lord,

I have received the letter of Your Excellency's Government in the Foreign Department, No. 7 *Reported intention of Abdul Aziz bin Saood to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman.* (Secret), dated 11th January last, informing me of the reported intention of the Wahabi Amir Abdul Aziz bin Saood to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman, and of his threatened interference with the affairs of those districts.

2. In view of the serious consequences which would follow such action by the Amir, you recommend that, in the event of his not giving satisfactory assurances as to his intentions, a warning should be addressed to him that any attempt on his part to interfere in Oman or along the Arab coast either with the Chiefs or with their subjects will be regarded as an unfriendly act, and that suitable measures will be taken to frustrate it.

3. I forward herewith, for the information and guidance of Your Excellency's Government, a copy of correspondence* with the Foreign Office on the subject.
* To Foreign Office, dated 22nd February 1906.
From ditto, dated 1st March 1906.
From ditto, dated 31st March 1906, with enclosure.

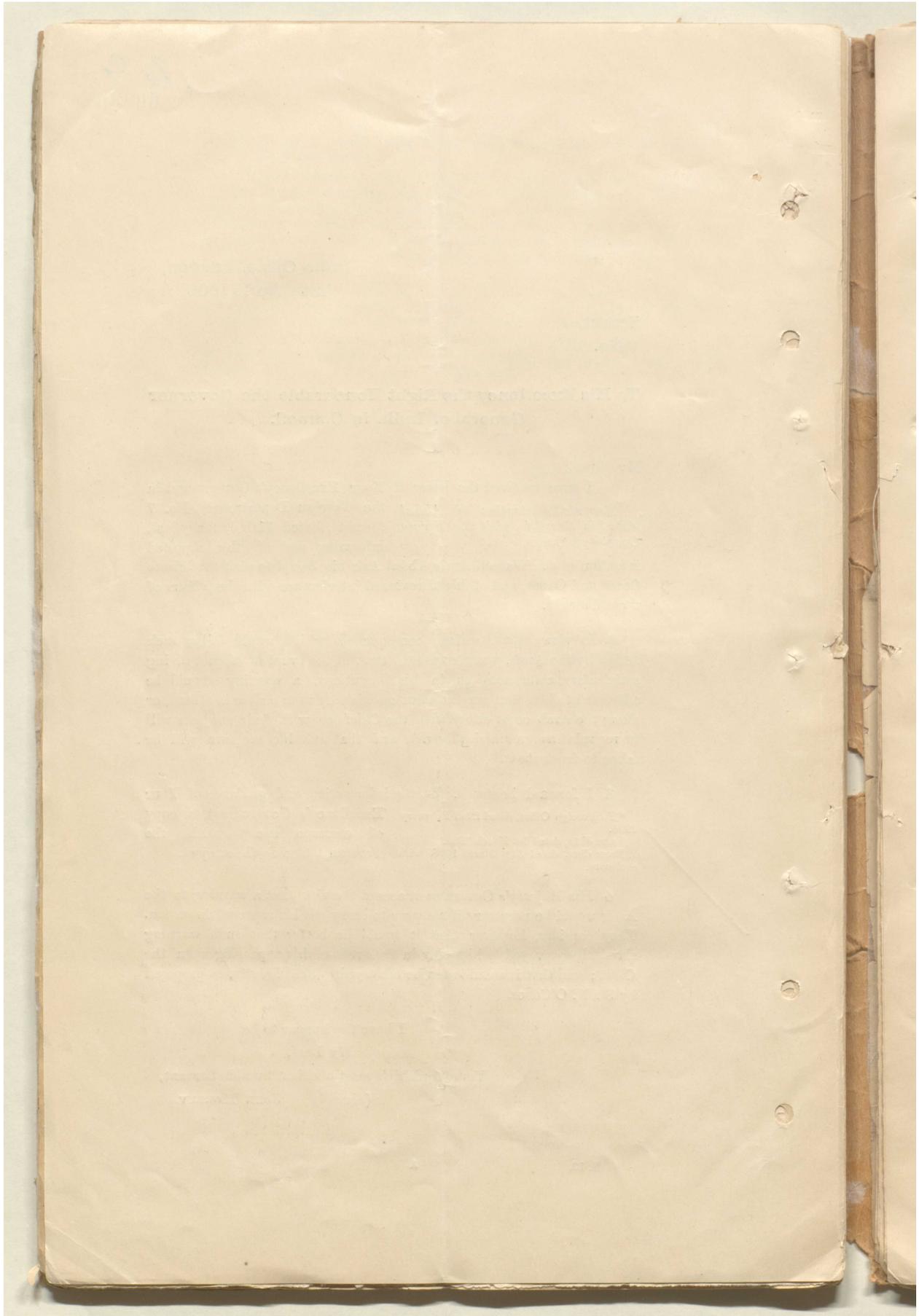
4. His Majesty's Government accept the view that a warning to the Amir would be necessary if he were to carry out his reported intention. They consider, however, that it would be better that such warning should be conveyed to him only in the event of his appearing upon the Coast; and that it should then be conveyed to him directly, as proposed by Sir N. O'Connor.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) JOHN MORLEY.

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Coast and Oman in 1905' [41v] (84/118)



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ENCLOSURES.

Enclosure No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.

India Office,

22nd February 1906.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 29th April 1904 as to the affairs of Nejd, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to enclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a further Secret Letter* from the

* No. 7, Secret, dated 11th January 1906, Government of India on the subject of a visit which the Wahabi and enclosures.

Amir Abdul Aziz bin Saood is reported to be intending to make to the Pirate Coast and Muscat in the coming spring.

It will be observed that, on the 5th December 1905, the Government of India authorised enquiries being made of the Sheikh of Koweit as to Bin Saood's intentions, but that the result has not yet been reported. In the meanwhile the Government of India, in view of the serious consequences which would ensue if Bin Saood should succeed in establishing his ascendancy over the Trucial Chiefs or the Sultan of Muscat, suggest that he should be approached either through the Sheikh of Koweit or the Sultan of Muscat or other suitable channel, with a view to ascertaining whether he is prepared to stand by the Declaration†

of his predecessor not to oppose or injure British subjects residing in his territories, and not to interfere with the Arab tribes in alliance

with the British Government. In regard to this I am to observe that the declaration made in 1866 was not proposed, or even formally accepted, by the British Government, and it contained a reference to the claim of the Wahabis upon the customs of Muscat. The Government of India further suggest that, in the event of Bin Saood's failing to give the necessary assurance, he should be warned that any attempt on his part to interfere in Oman or on the Pirate Coast would be regarded as an unfriendly act, and that suitable measures would be taken to frustrate it. These measures in the opinion of the Government of India might consist either of a more stringent embargo on the import of arms at Koweit and elsewhere, or, in the case of necessity, of actual armed assistance from British ships to the Sheikhs threatened.

The serious consequences which might arise from the re-establishment by Bin Saood of the Wahabi dynasty throughout the centre of Arabia were referred to in the Despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the 16th May 1904, No. 373, and the question is further complicated if, as appears to be the case, Bin Saood has been recognised by the Turkish Government and has acknowledged the suzerainty of the Sultan. It will be observed that the Government of India consider that it would be useless and undesirable to bring pressure to bear on Bin Saood through the Turkish authorities.

So far as Muscat is concerned I am to observe that the French Government is conjointly with the British Government interested in its independence, and, in the event of interference by the Wahabis with the Trucial Chiefs, the measures proposed by the Government of India might not be effective. For instance, such control as we may be able to exercise over the importation of arms into Arabia is limited to arms imported by British subjects. The questions raised by the Government

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of India are thus complicated, and in view of our desire to refrain from any entanglements with the rulers of Nejd, it seems desirable to take no steps, in the absence of any urgent necessity caused by Wahabi action, until His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been consulted on the proposal to approach Bin Saood otherwise than through the Turkish authorities.

The suggestion of the Government of India that, in the event of Bin Saood's failing to give satisfactory assurances, a more stringent embargo should be placed upon the traffic in arms, appears to raise a further difficulty by conveying the implication that in the contrary event the Government of India would be prepared to acquiesce in the import of arms by the Sheikh of Koweit.

* See Sir T. Sanderson's letter, dated 21st June 1904. Mr. Morley is aware that in June 1904* it was decided to defer measures which were then under consideration for preventing the import of arms into Koweit. He would, however, be reluctant to approve any permanent departure from the established policy of His Majesty's Government of maintaining an effective control over the arms traffic in these waters.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

I have, &c.,
A. GODLEY.

Enclosure No. 2.

Foreign Office to India Office.

No. 6632.

Sir,

Foreign Office,
1st March 1906.

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the proposed visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and Muscat.

I am to inform you that a copy of your letter has been sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople for his observations, and that a further communication will be addressed to you on receipt of his reply.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

I am, &c.,
E. GORST.

Enclosure No. 3.

Foreign Office to India Office.

No. 10,403.

Sir,

Foreign Office,
31st March 1906.

With reference to the letter from this Office of the 1st instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith copy of a Despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople regarding the projected visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and Muscat.

It will be observed that Sir N. O'Connor is of opinion that any warning given to the Amir respecting his relations with the Trucial Chiefs and Muscat will be more effective if conveyed to him directly rather than through the Sheikh of Koweit or the Sultan of Muscat, and I am to inform you that Sir E. Grey concurs in this view.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

I am, &c.,
E. GORST.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [43r] (87/118)

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Annex.

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir E. Grey.

No. 189. Confidential. Constantinople,
Sir, 20th March 1906.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Despatch No. 92, of the 1st instant, in which you were so good as to ask for my observations on a letter from the India Office enclosing correspondence relative to the projected visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and to Muscat in the spring.

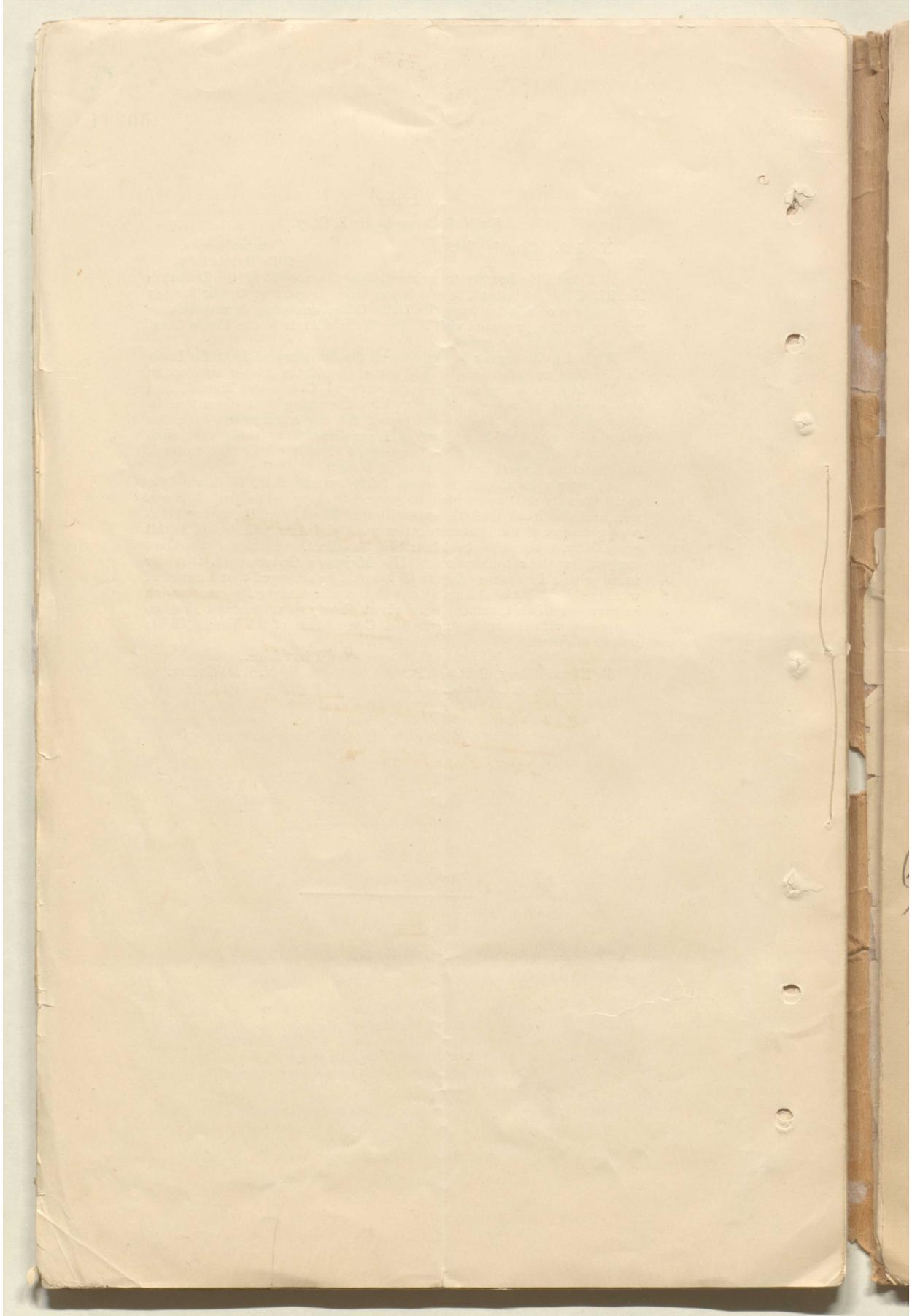
While I quite concur in the view of the Secretary of State for India that serious complications would ensue should the Ameer succeed in establishing his ascendancy over the Trucial Chiefs and Muscat, and that it would be well to convey to him a warning that his action in those parts must be limited by respect for our engagement with the tribes with which we have treaties, I am disposed to think that such warning will be more effective if conveyed directly rather than through the Sheikh of Koweit or the Sultan of Muscat.

As regards Moubarek, it seems fairly certain that, in view of the more friendly relations which have recently been established between him and the local Turkish Authorities of Basra, the Porte would at once get news of our communication to Abdul Aziz, and would in all probability take steps to neutralize its effect. I would therefore suggest, for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, that our warning would be more effective if it could be arranged that a vessel of war should meet Abdul Aziz at one of the places along the coast which he proposes to visit, and he were given clearly to understand that no tampering with the engagements and Conventions of the Trucial Chiefs will be allowed.

Sir Edward Grey, Bart., M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

I have, &c.,
N. R. O'CONNOR.

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Draft for approval

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Confidential of 10. 6. 1906
No. 1309 P. A. Bahrein
1308 do. Koweit.

H.C. Bahrein is
being written to
about this.

11.5.9
12/6

Sir, I h. the h. to inform
you that ~~the draft~~ having
heard that Abdul Aziz
bin Saood ^{has expressed his intention of} ~~intended~~ to visiting
^{H.M.s port}
the Arab Coast, have decided
that if (when) he appears ^{anywhere} on the coast,
to send a man of war, or
is to be despatched to
his appearance on the Coast,
to warn him not to go to
the Trucial Coast
or Oman.

6/4

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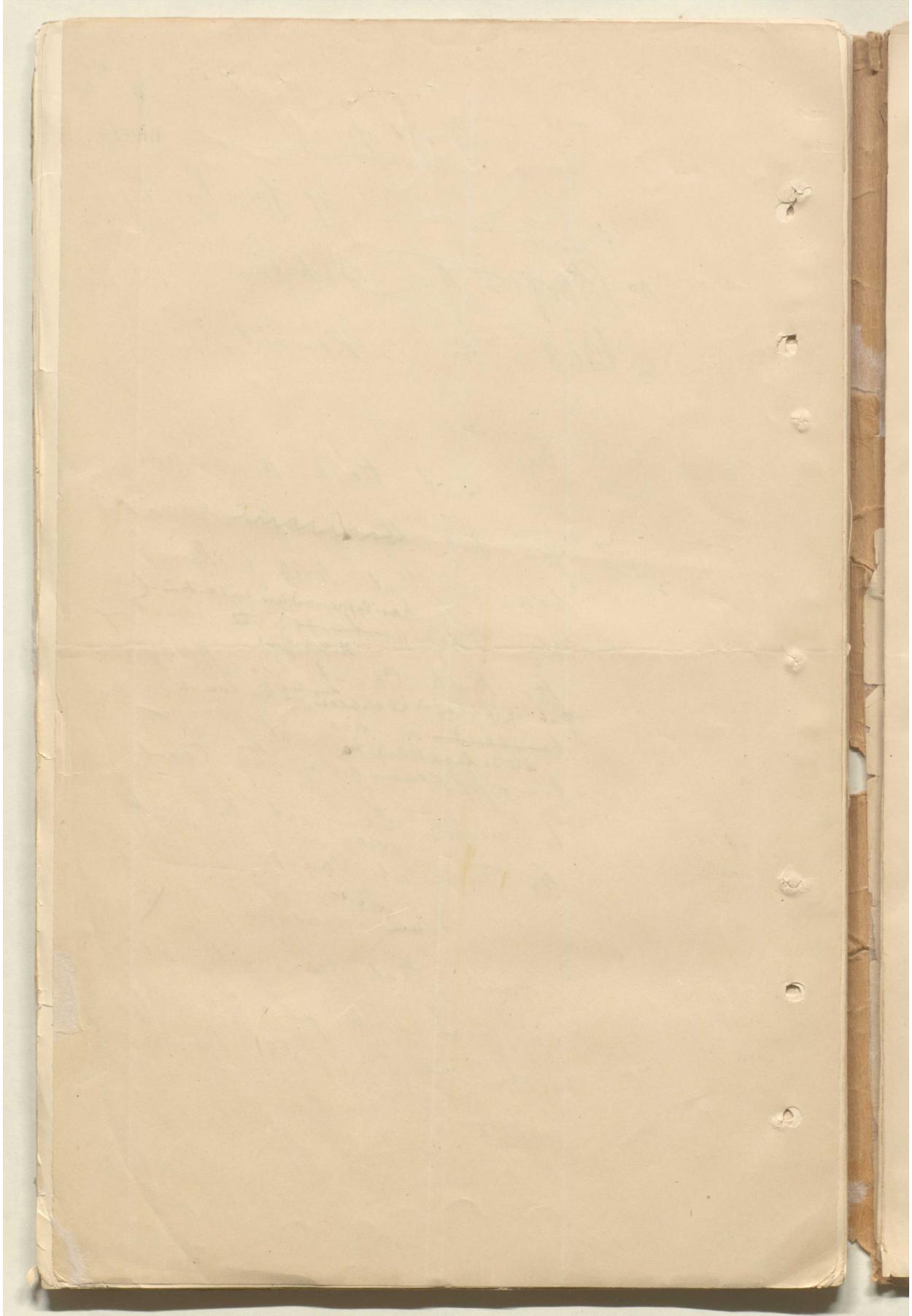
I am accordingly to
request that you will be
so good as to give me early
intimation of bin Saood's
approach.

I have
Yours

J.A.R.

11.8
9/6.

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No. 140 of 1906.
13 June 06.

To
The Res^y Agent
Sharjah.

A.C.

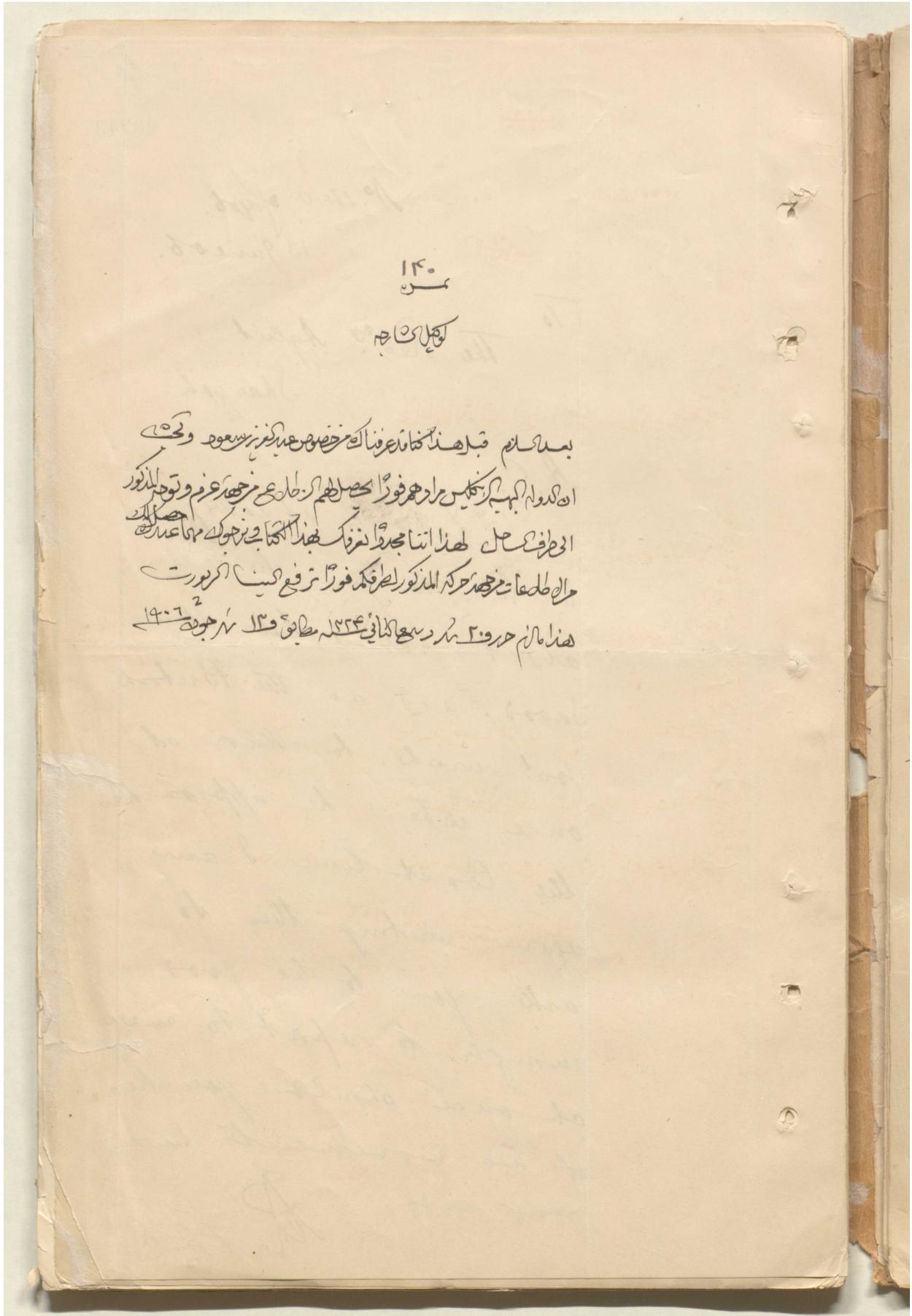
I have already written to you before about Abdul Aziz Ibn Saood, and as the British Govt wish to know at once when he approaches the Coast line, I am again writing this to ask you to be good enough to report to me at once should you hear of his movements towards your side.

A. F. A. R.

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Coast and Oman in 1905' [45v] (92/118)

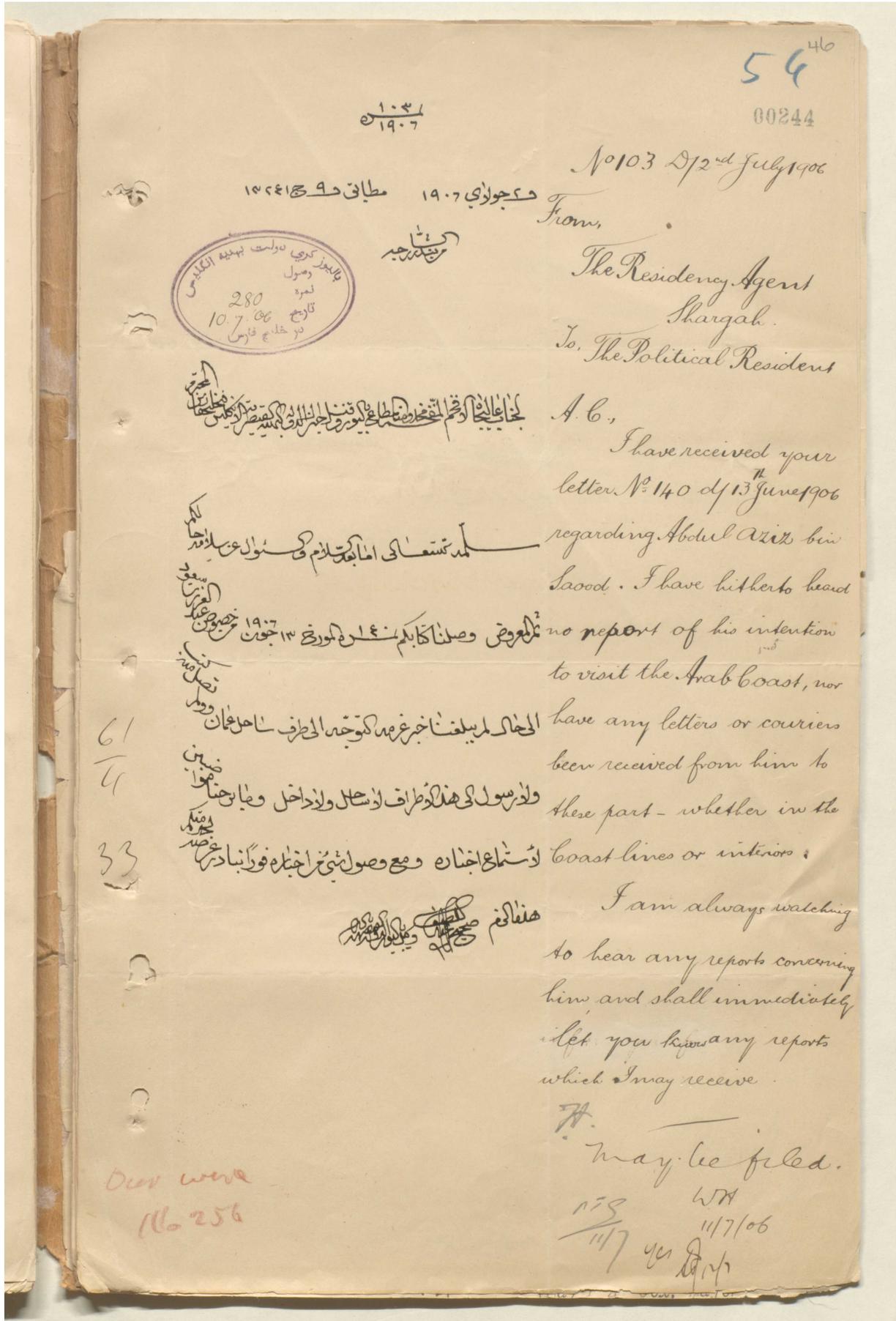


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كهلان

بمداييم قبل هذا كما نعرفناك من حضور عبد العزيز بن سعود وحيته
ان كدوله لم يسهل ان يخرج من ارضه فوراً كما حصل لهم ان طارح من حيدر عزم وتوجه المذكور
الى طرفه من اجل لهذا اتنا بجزء من هذا الكتاب في جزوه كما هو اعادته
والا طلعنا من حيدر حركه المذكور لانه قد فوراً ان رفع كسب ان يرت
هذا ما لم حروفه من ربيع الثاني ١٣٢٤هـ بطاوعه و١٣٠٦هـ

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [46r] (93/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [46v] (94/118)



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No. 226, dated 14/8/06

To

Residency Agent,

Shargah.

A/C,

On 22nd April last I addressed
27th Safar

warnings to the Trucial Sheikhs (No 88-
to 92) against intriguing with Ibn
Saood.

I have not received any written
acknowledgments of those letters ex-
cept from Sheikh Zaid.

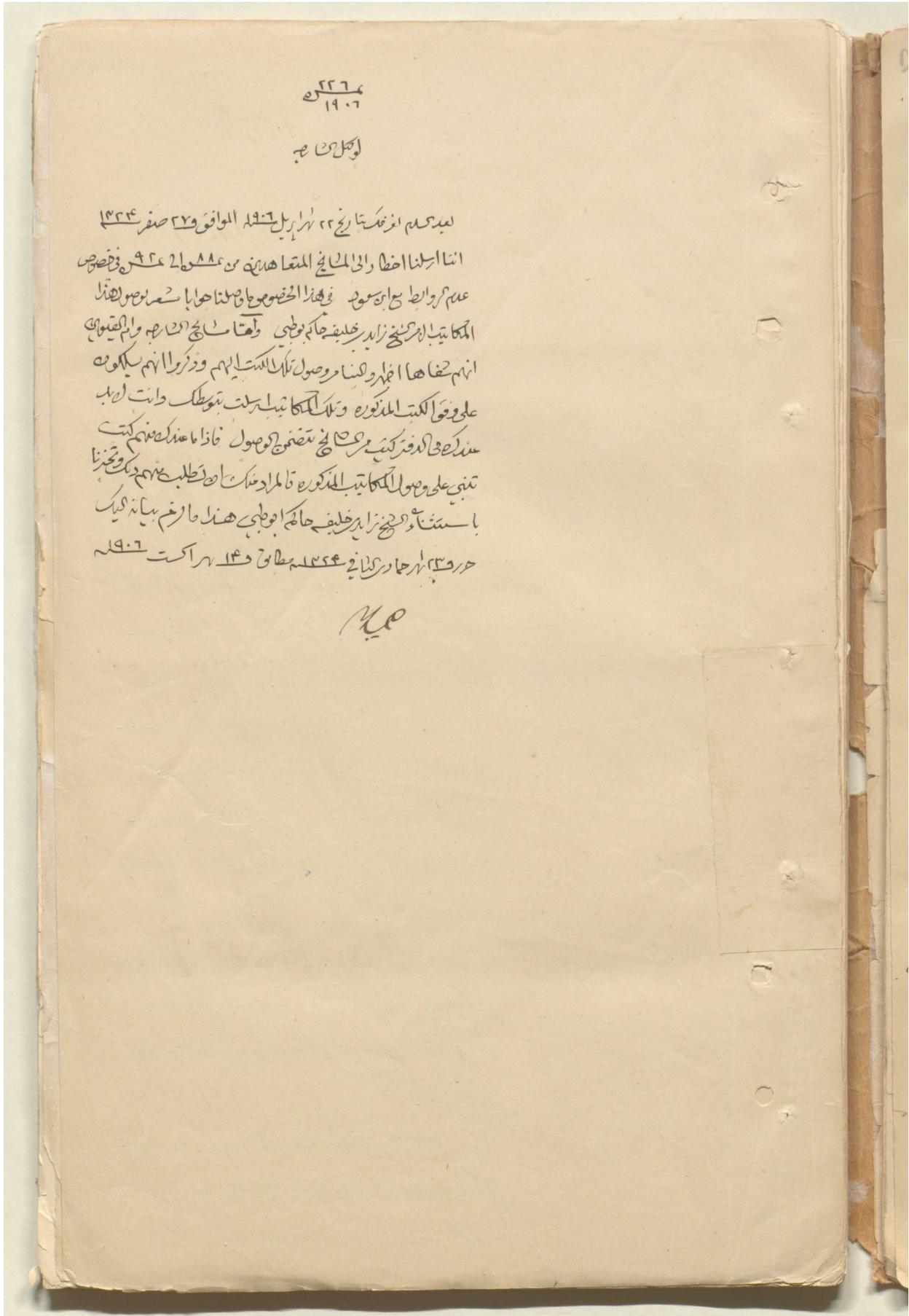
The Sheikh of Shargah and Um-el-
Kowein, however, acknowledged receipt
of the letter to me verbally and ex-
pressed their readiness to be guided
accordingly.

They were sent through you and I
presume you have on record all the
Sheikhs' acknowledgments of their due
receipt.

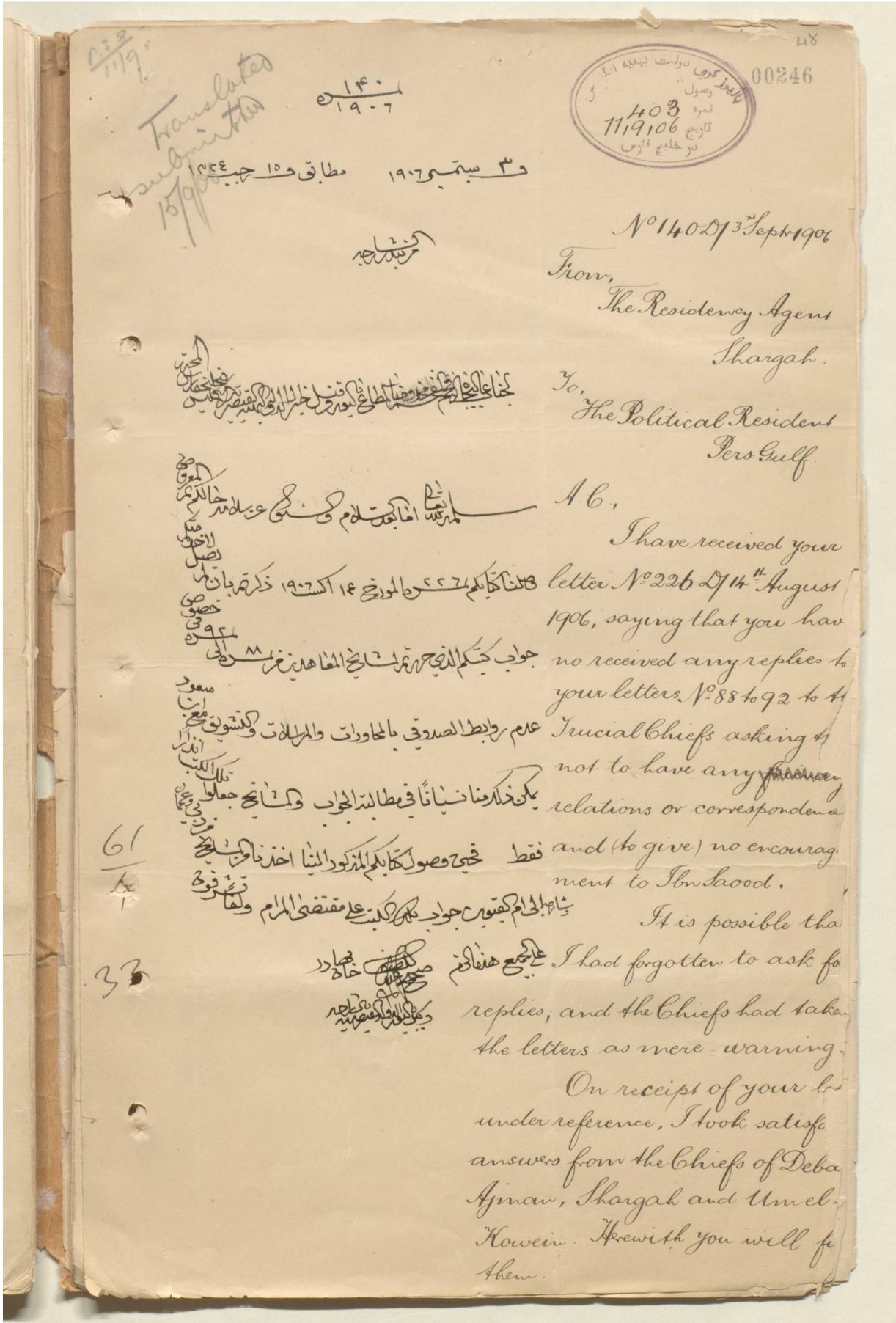
If you have not got such acknow-
ledgments please get them (except from
Sheikh Zaid) and inform me.

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33
PZ

(Sd) P. Z. Cox, Major

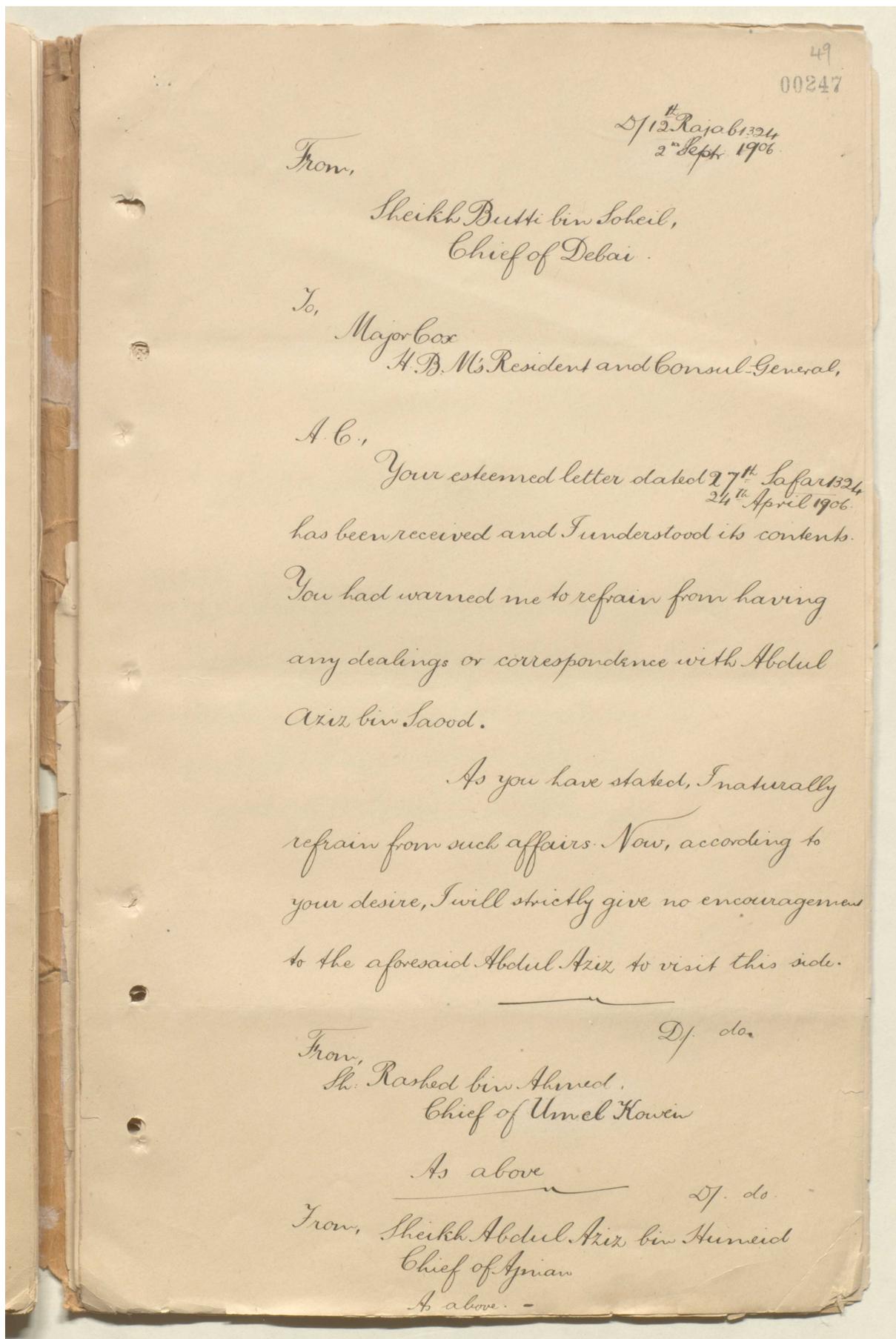


'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [48r] (97/118)

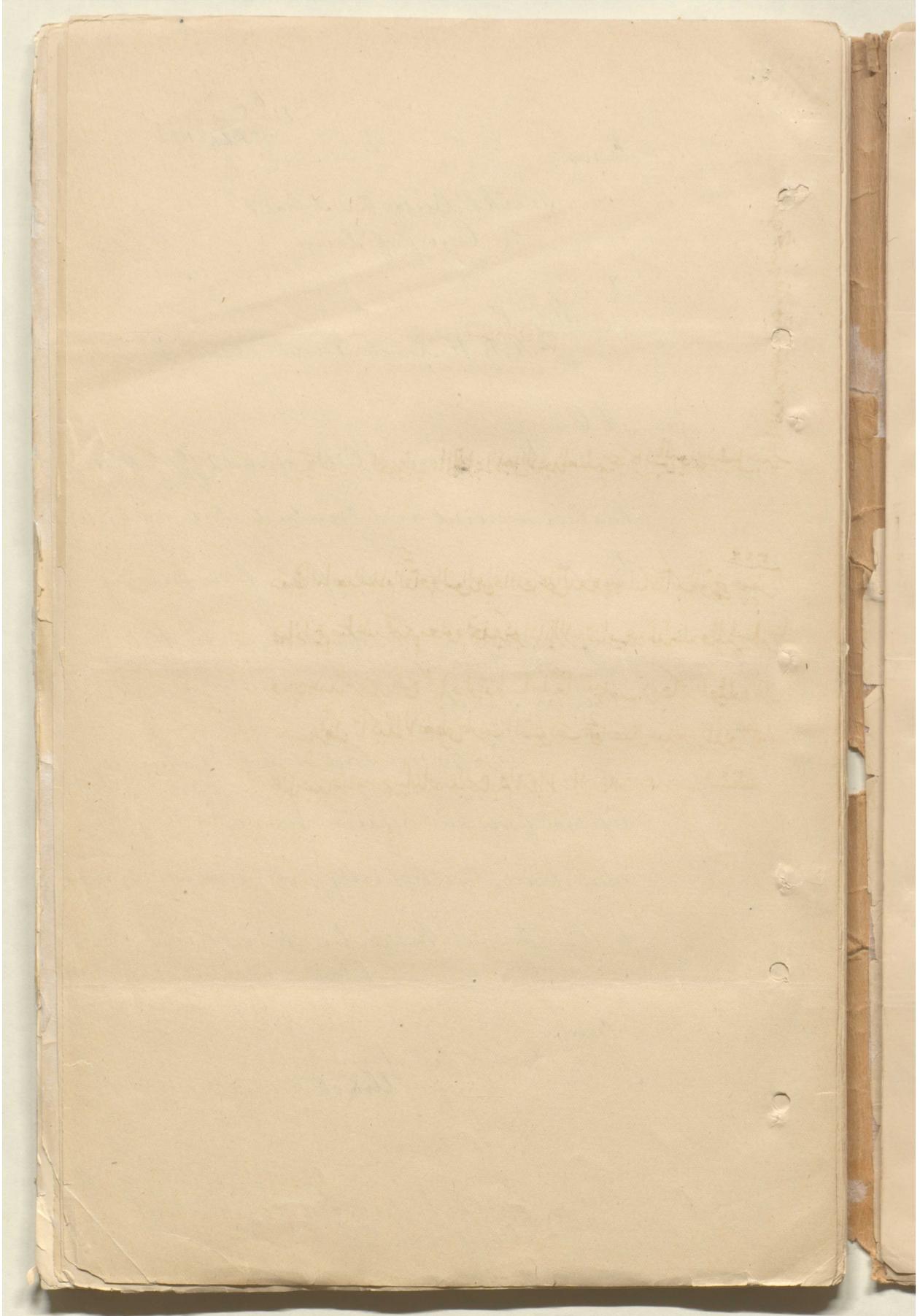


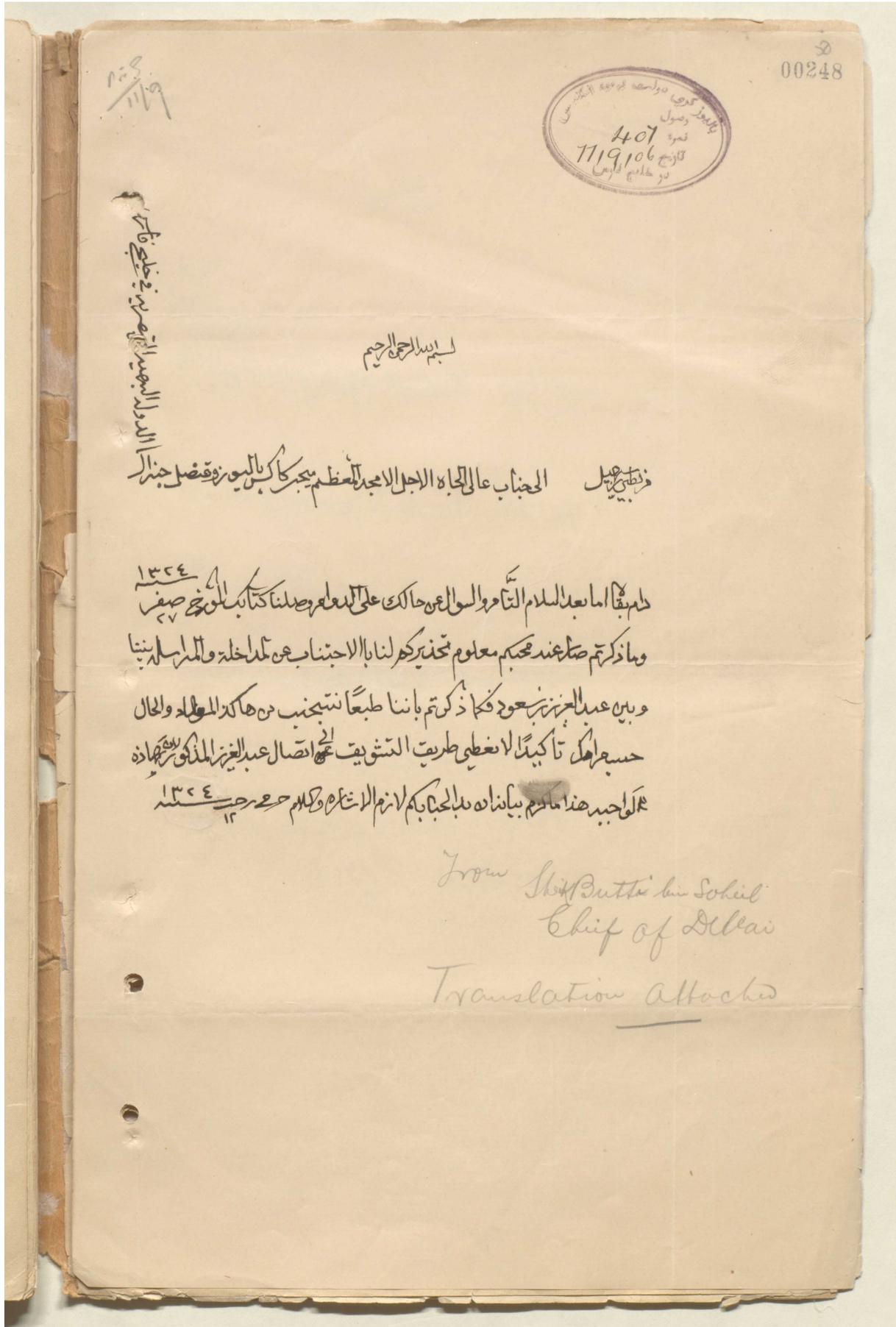
'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [48v] (98/118)



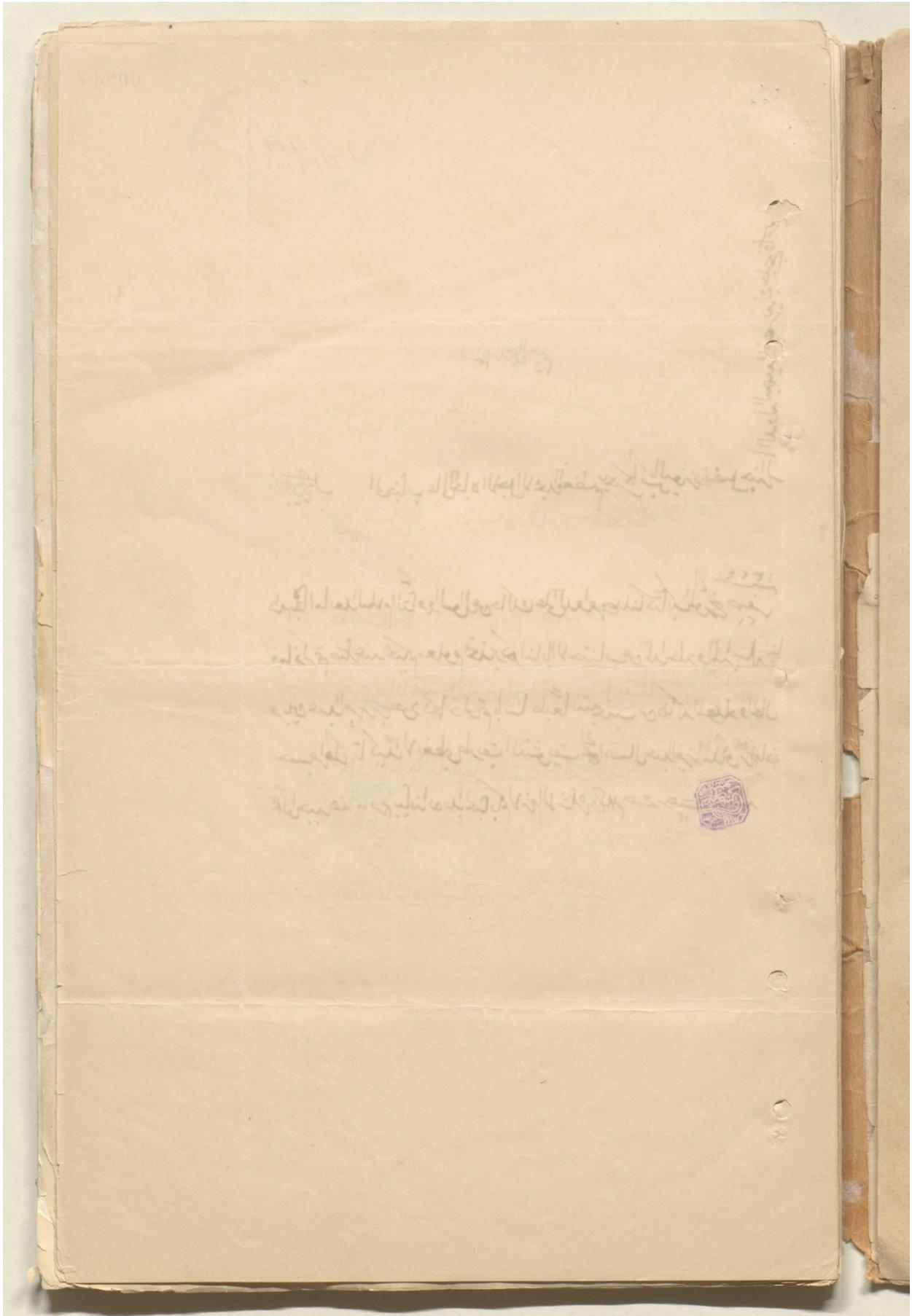


'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [49v] (100/118)





'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [50v] (102/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [51v] (104/118)

2/12 Rajab 1324
2. 9. '06

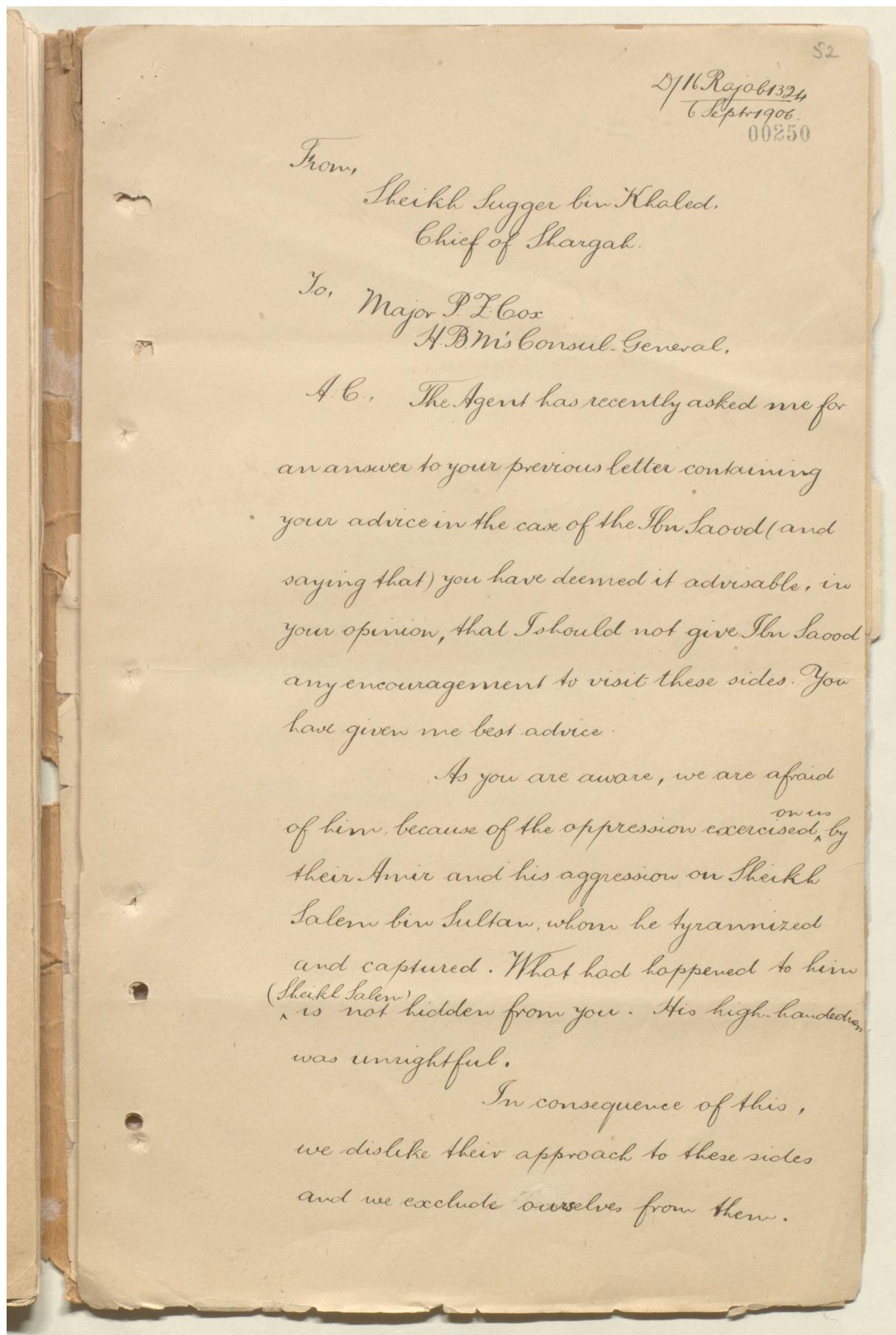
From,
Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Humaid
Chief of Ajman

To,
Major P. L. Cox
A. B. M's Political Resident and
Consul-General.

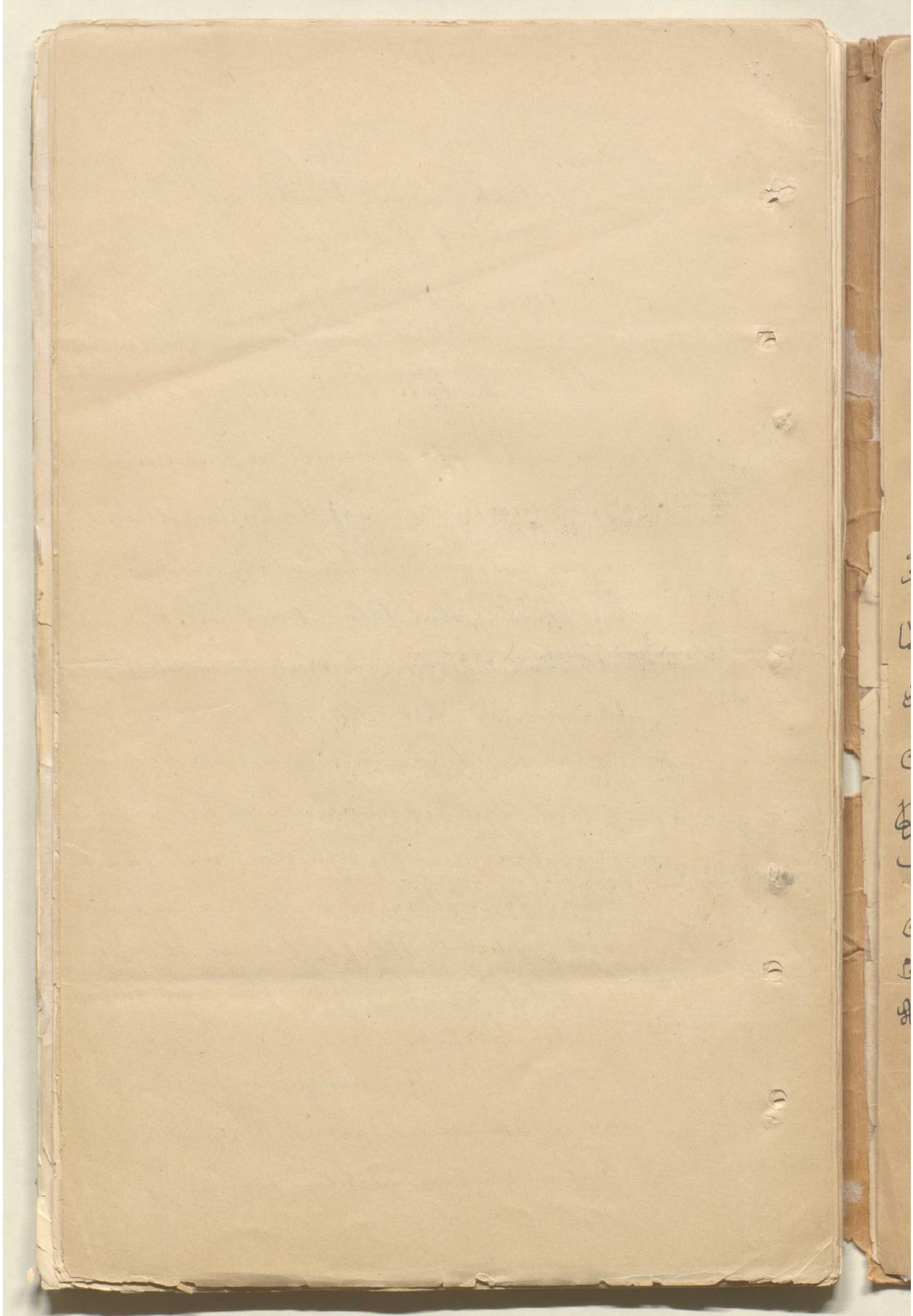
A. C.

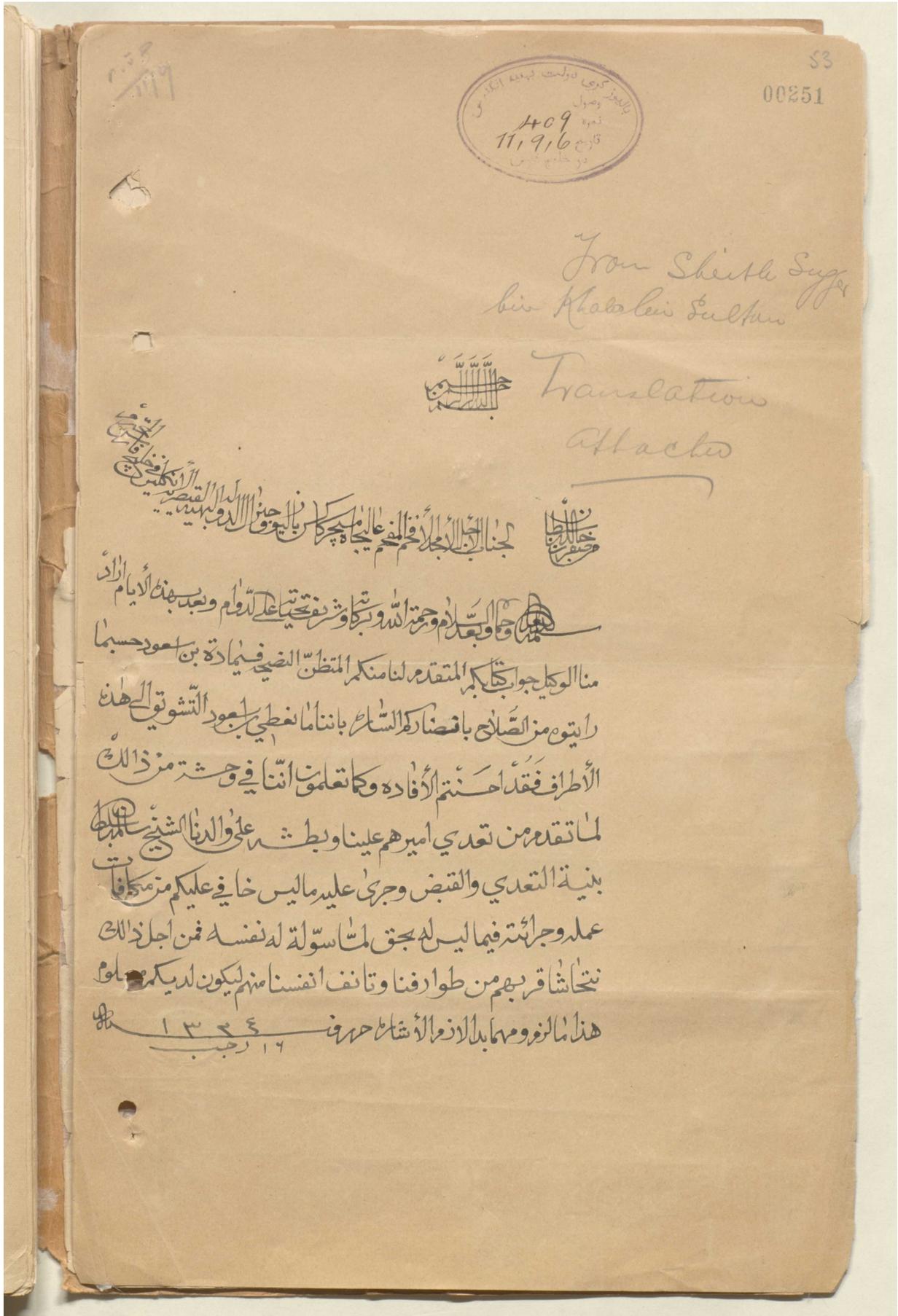
Your esteemed letter dated 27th Safar 1324
(24th Aug. 1906)
has been received and I understood its contents. -
You had warned me to refrain from having any
dealings or correspondence with Abdul Aziz bin
Saood.

As you have stated, I naturally refrain
from such affairs. Now, according to your
desire, I will strictly give no encouragement
to the aforesaid Abdul Aziz to visit this side.

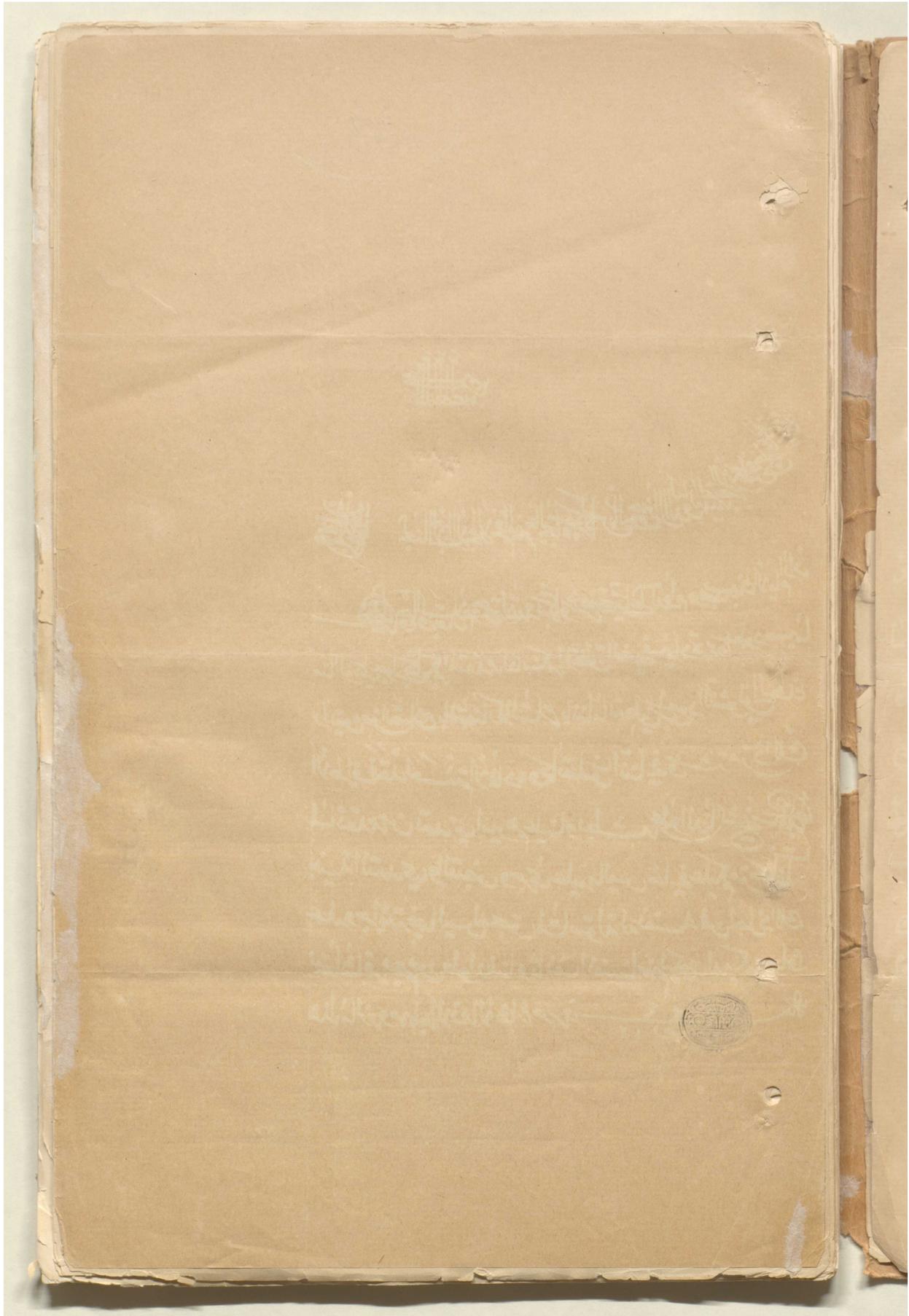


'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [52v] (106/118)

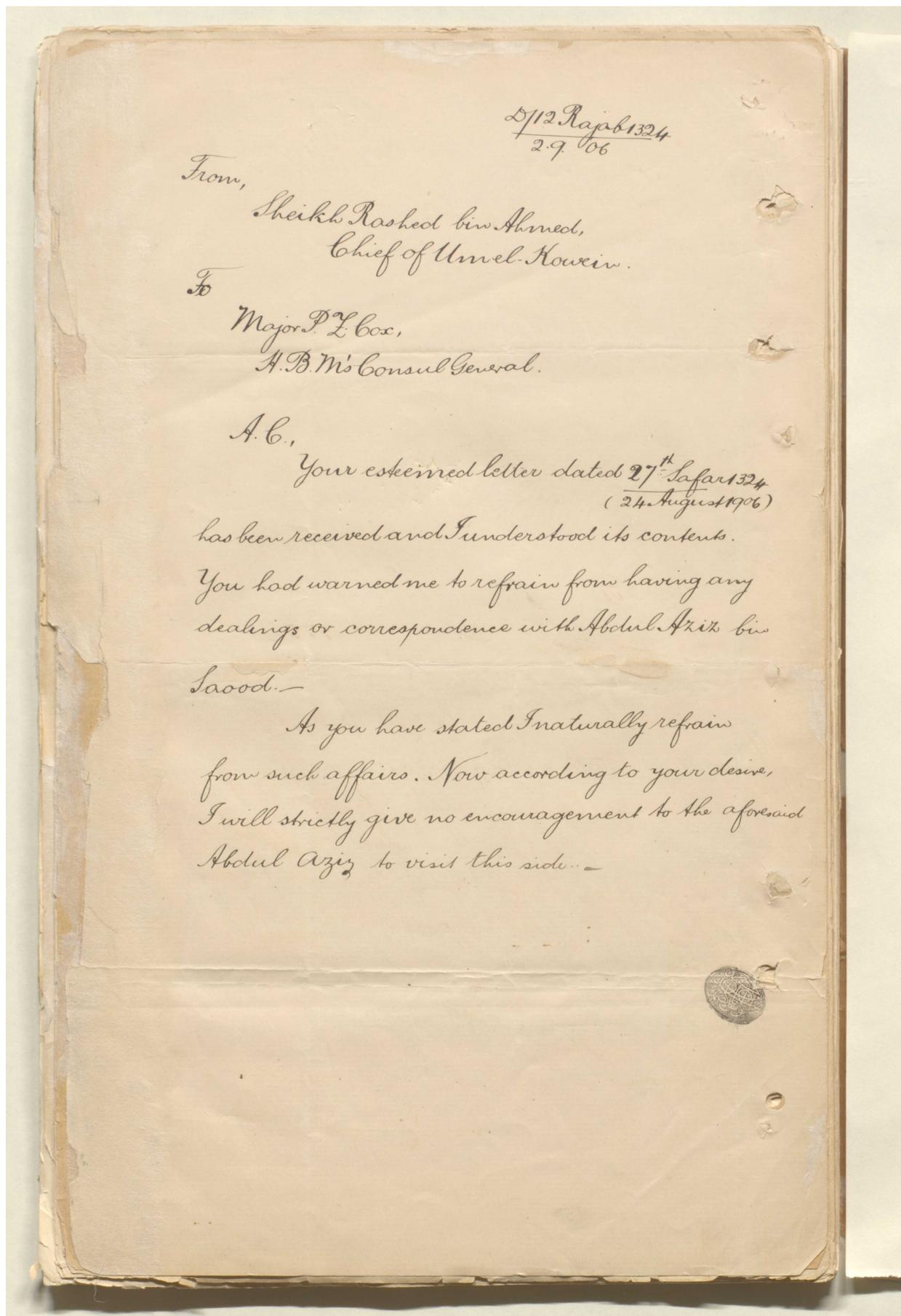


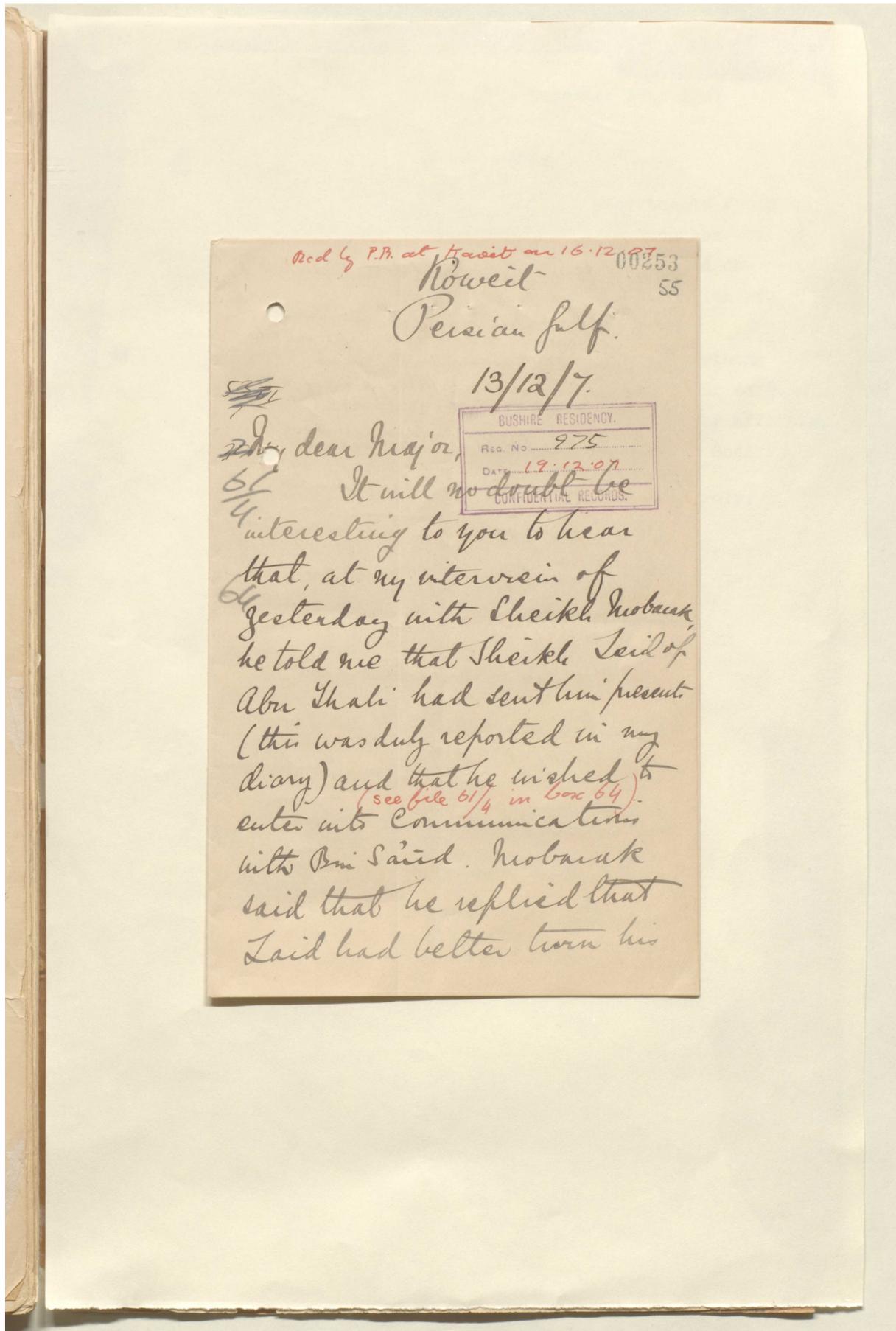


'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [53v] (108/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [54v] (110/118)





thoughts away from Bin Saoud
and appeal instead to the
British government, that Bin
Saoud was in his (Inobarski's)
hands and could do nothing
for the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi
who was fortunate in enjoying
the protection of a beneficent
government etc

He also mentioned that
he had received letters from
the Sheikh of Debrai complaining
of the establishment of the
B. I. Agent there who actually
insisted on flying a flag!! He
wanted Inobarski's help to get

rid of steamers generally. ¹⁰²⁵⁵⁶
Moobarak represented himself
as writing another fatherly
letter to him pointing out the
manifest advantages of mails
and steamers.

Bin Rasheed has been
sending messengers to
Sheikh Moobarak & the
latter tells me that the Hail
man's message is to the
effect that both the Chutain
& the people of Boraida have
deserted him & that he is in
Moobarak's hands. Moobarak

says that he replied saying
that he had given advice which
was not taken & did not
intend to interfere in hejd
politics again. I did not
smile!

Yours sincerely

J. O. Wood

P.S. I don't suppose the Ornaide
people have really split business
with Bin Rashid. The message
seems to me fabricated to please
Inobarak & is the result of his
peremptory message to make
peace with Bin Sa'ud.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [57r] (115/118)

December 26th 1907. 57

My dear Knox,

Many thanks for your news letter of 13th December telling me of Abu Thabi's expressed desire to enter into communication with Bin Saood etc.,

Please let me hear anything further that may reach your ears, on this subject or any other affecting the bearing of the Trucial Sheikhs.

Yours Sincerely,

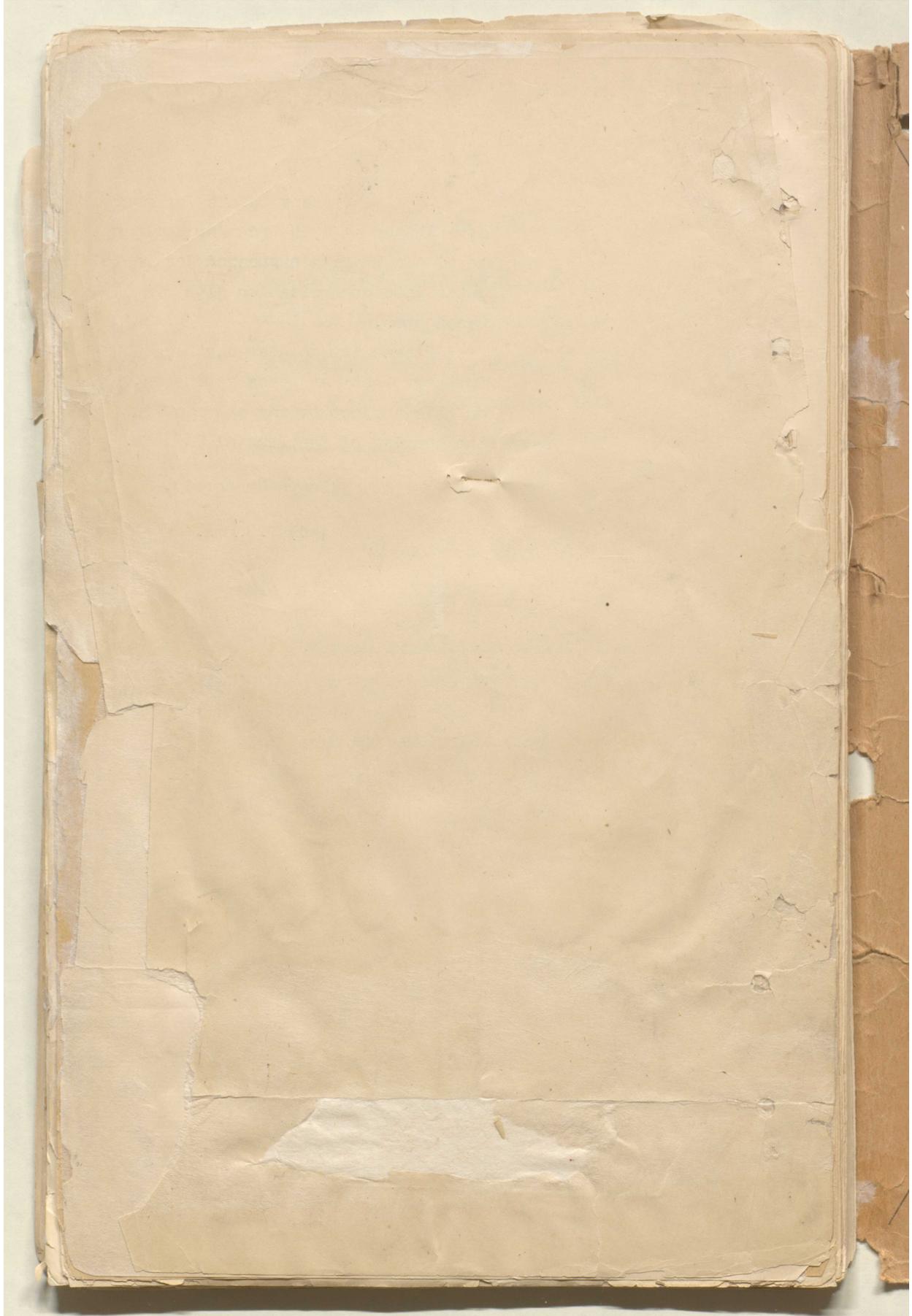
(sd) P. Z. Cox,



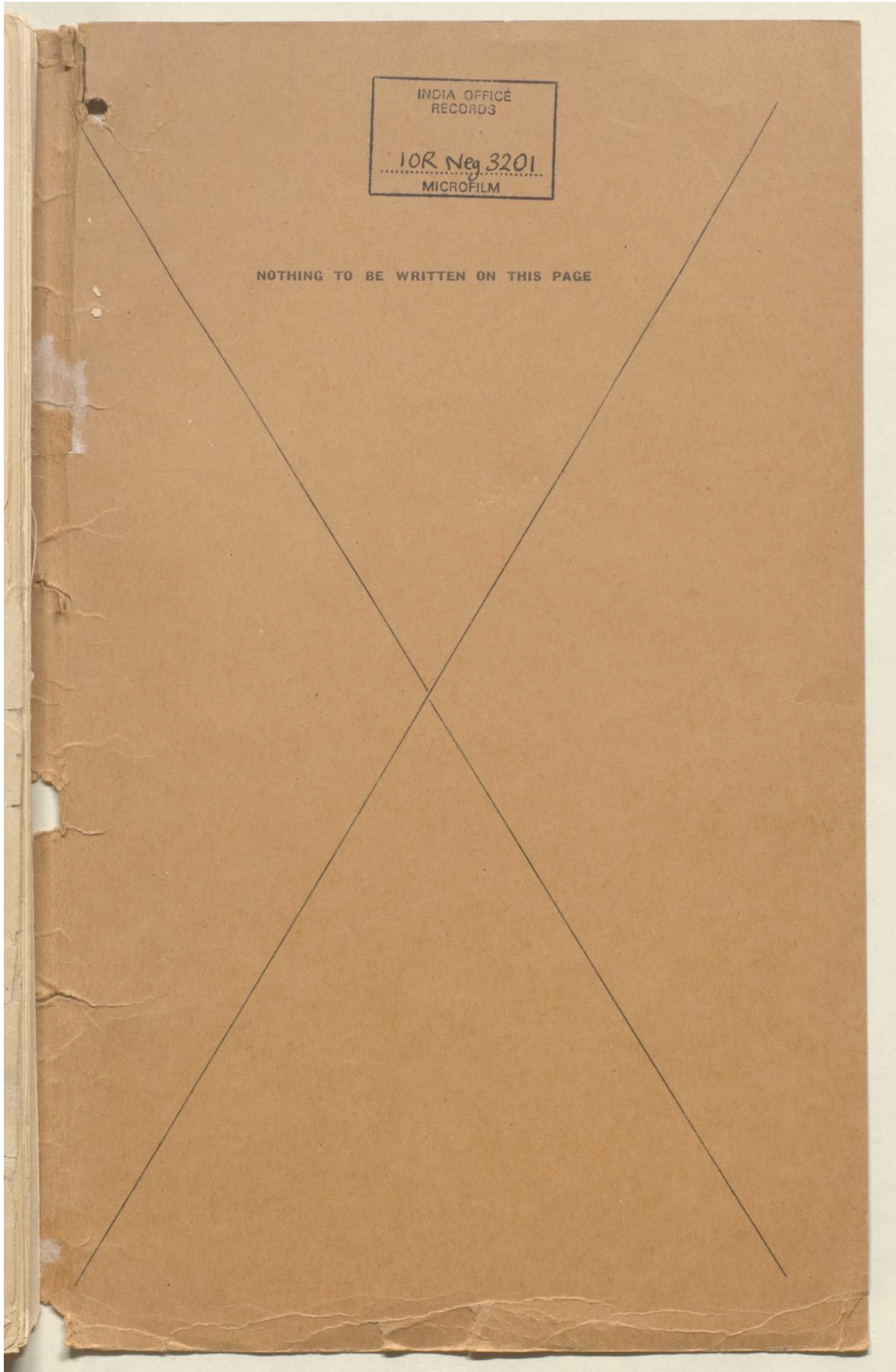
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64.

'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate
Coast and Oman in 1905' [57v] (116/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [back-i] (117/118)



'Vol. D.16 (File 61/4) Bin Saood - Amir of Nejd's intention to visit Pirate Coast and Oman in 1905' [back] (118/118)

