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'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi'

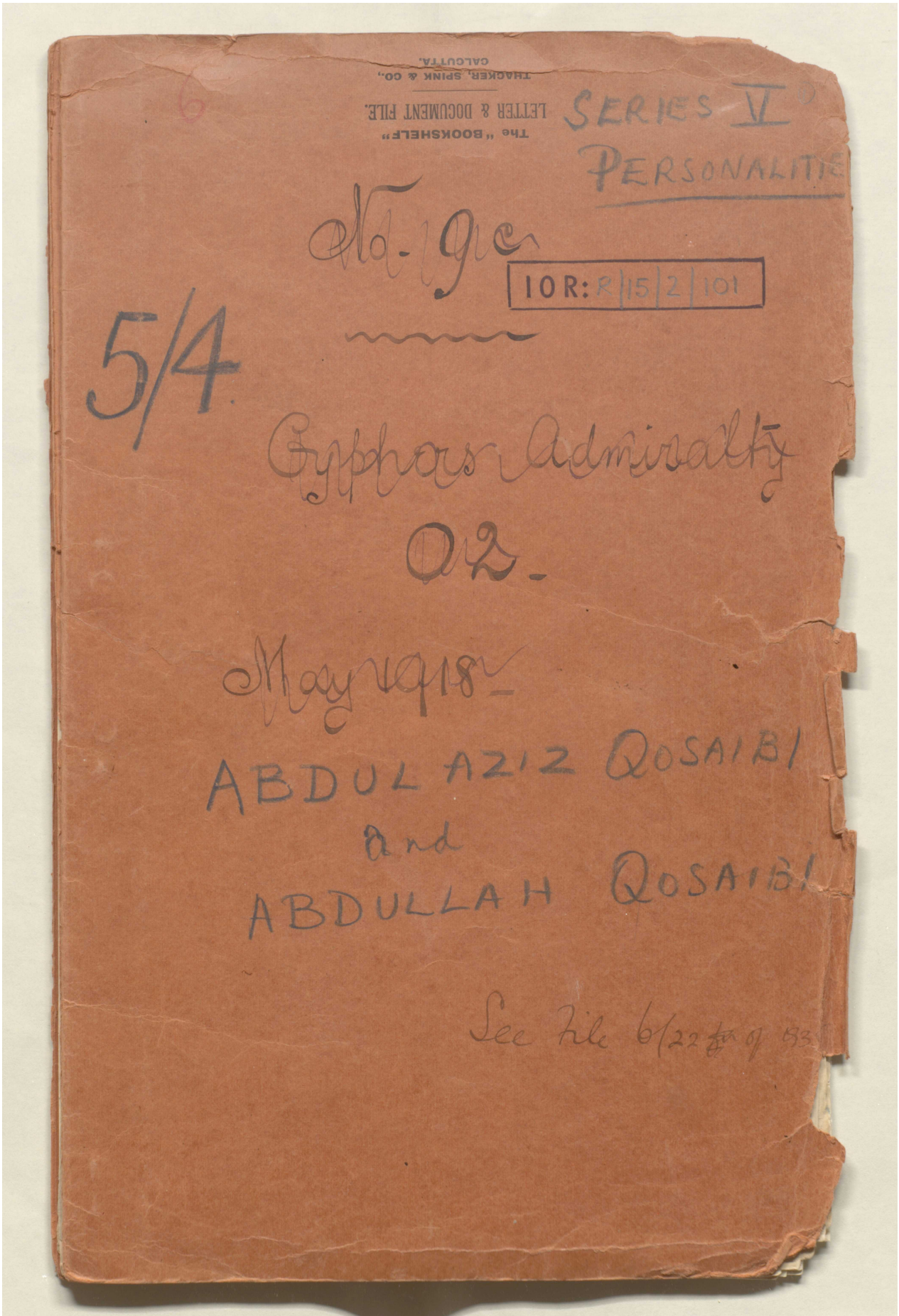
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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Written in	English and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
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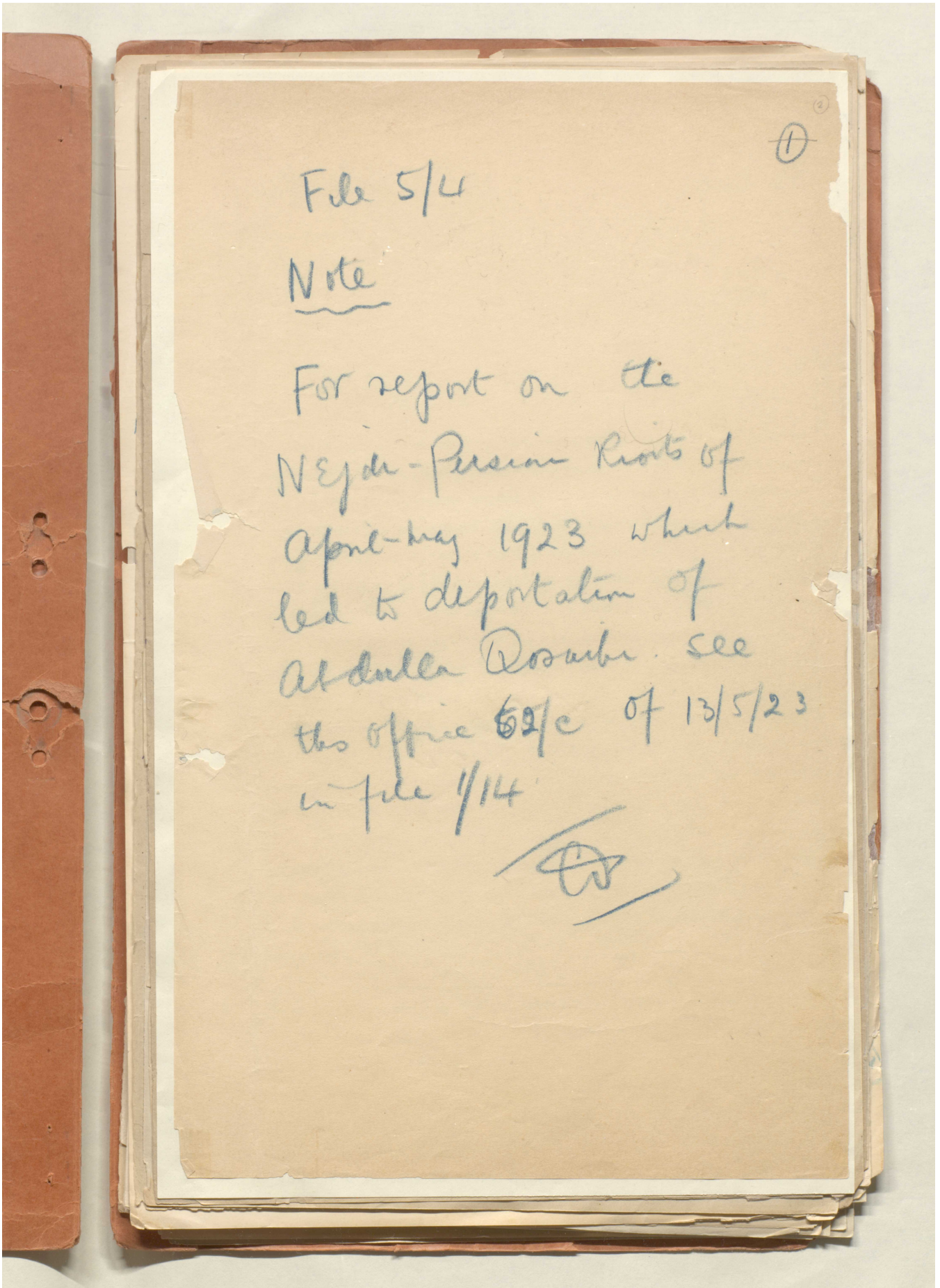
About this record

This file contains correspondence between the British Political Agent at Bahrain, the British Political Resident in the Persian Gulf at Bushire and Charles Dalrymple Belgrave, Advisor to the Bahrain Government. In addition, there are copies of correspondence between the British Political Resident and Ibn Sa'ūd, Victor Cavendish, 9th Duke of Devonshire, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Andrew Ryan, British Legation, Jiddah.

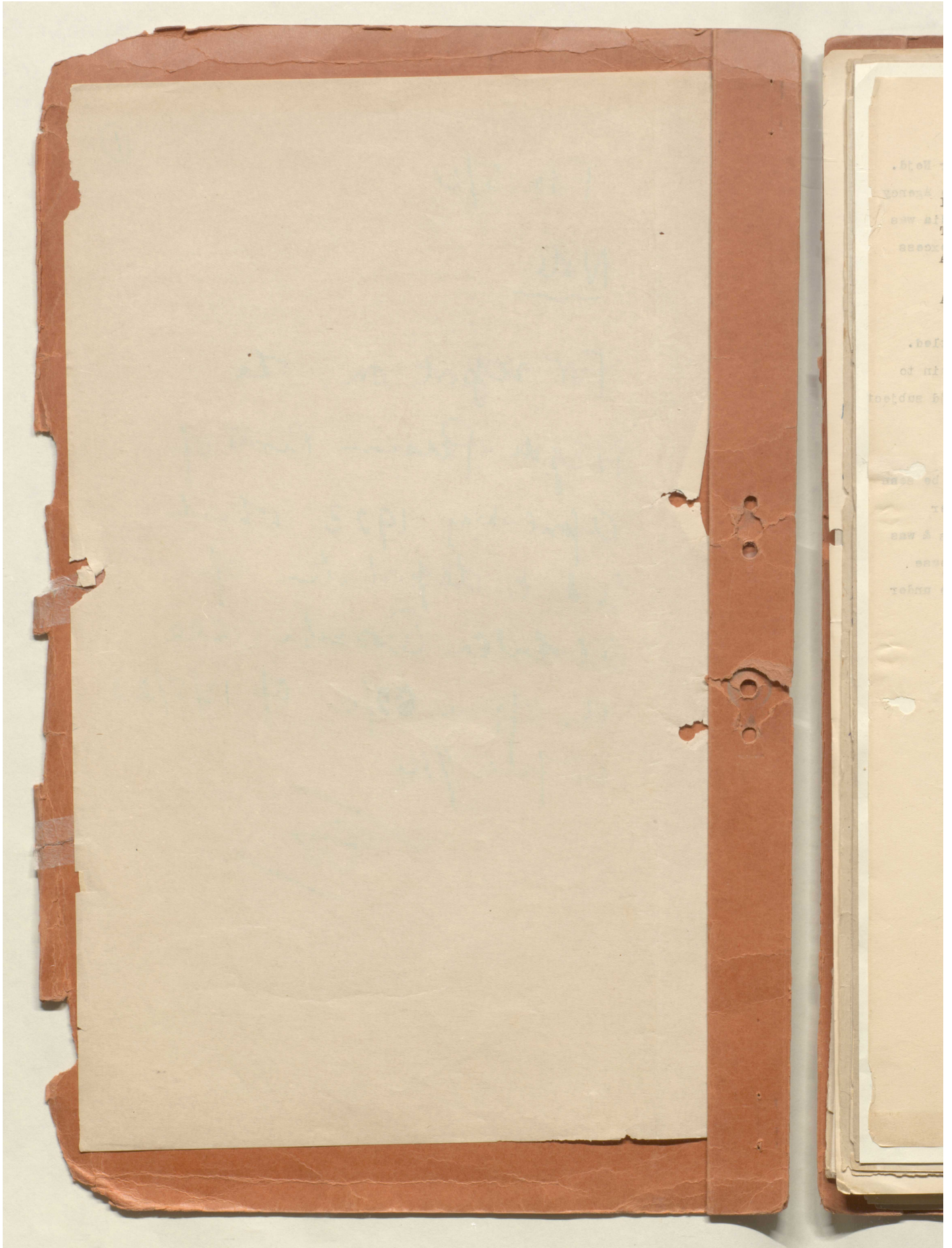
This correspondence concerns the personalities of the brothers 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Quṣaybī and 'Abdullāh al-Quṣaybī, Najdi merchants and agents of Ibn Sa'ūd at Bahrain. Within the correspondence are details of the 1923 riots at Manamah Bazaar between Najdis and Persians and the subsequently expulsion of 'Abdullāh al-Qusaybi from Bahrain, and general information about the al-Quṣaybī family, their business interests and relationship with Ibn Sa'ūd.

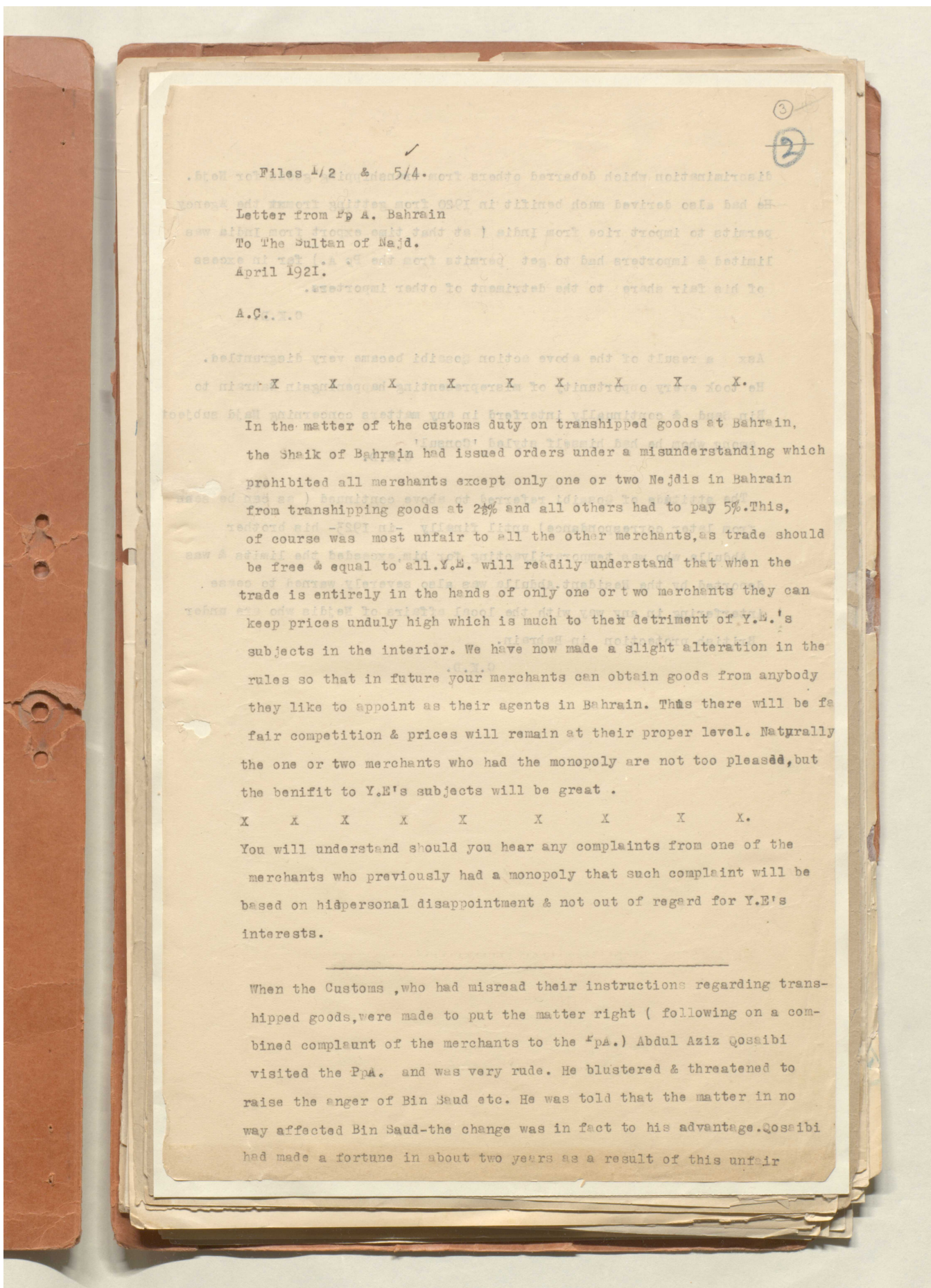






'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [2v] (4/144)





Files 4/2 & 5/4
Letter from Pp A. Bahrain
To The Sultan of Najd.
April 1921.
A.C. T.O

In the matter of the customs duty on transhipped goods at Bahrain, the Shaik of Bahrain had issued orders under a misunderstanding which prohibited all merchants except only one or two Nejdies in Bahrain from transhipping goods at 2% and all others had to pay 5%. This, of course was most unfair to all the other merchants, as trade should be free & equal to all. Y.E. will readily understand that when the trade is entirely in the hands of only one or two merchants they can keep prices unduly high which is much to their detriment of Y.E.'s subjects in the interior. We have now made a slight alteration in the rules so that in future your merchants can obtain goods from anybody they like to appoint as their agents in Bahrain. Thus there will be fair competition & prices will remain at their proper level. Naturally the one or two merchants who had the monopoly are not too pleased, but the benefit to Y.E.'s subjects will be great.

X X X X X X X X X

You will understand should you hear any complaints from one of the merchants who previously had a monopoly that such complaint will be based on his personal disappointment & not out of regard for Y.E.'s interests.

When the Customs, who had misread their instructions regarding transhipped goods, were made to put the matter right (following on a combined complaint of the merchants to the PpA.) Abdul Aziz Qosaibi visited the PpA. and was very rude. He blustered & threatened to raise the anger of Bin Saud etc. He was told that the matter in no way affected Bin Saud-the change was in fact to his advantage. Qosaibi had made a fortune in about two years as a result of this unfair

discrimination which debarred others from transshipping goods for Nejd. He had also derived much benefit in 1920 from getting from the Agency permits to import rice from India (at that time export from India was limited & importers had to get permits from the P. A.) far in excess of his fair share to the detriment of other importers.

C.K.D.

As a result of the above action Qosaibi became very disgruntled. He took every opportunity of misrepresenting happenings in Bahrain to Bin Saud & continually interfered in any matters concerning Najd subject among whom he had himself styled 'Consul'

C.K.D.

The attitude of Qosaibi referred to above continued (as can be seen from later correspondence) until finally - in 1923 - his brother Abdulla who was temporarily acting for him, exceeded the limits & was deported by the Resident. Abdulla was also severely warned to cease interfering in any way with the local affairs of Nejd who are under British protection in Bahrain.

C.K.D.

P.A. Bahmani. (4)

In regard to this question of the return of members of the Qosaibi family, I understand that the present member is of no great importance in the firm & cannot be regarded, in any sense, as B.S. agent.

But I also understand that D.S.'s agent, for whom the Qosaibi who was recently packed off to Riyadh was acting, returns very shortly & the position will have to be made clear to him immediately he arrives.

Please therefore send for him, explain what has taken place during his absence & that, until matters have been arranged between the Sultan of Hejd & H. his job, we are quite unable to recognise him as Bin Saud's agent & that, if he proceeds to discharge any consular functions or interferes in any way with the local administration, you have orders to send him away to Riyadh just as his brother was sent away with orders not to return. If, on the other hand, he sits down quietly like any other merchant, we shall not take any steps against him but cannot possibly recognise his right to act in any way.

B. P.'s behalf. The one except on
is that, in order not to inconvenience
his master, you will stretch a point
so far as to pay him the £20,000 which
you are authorized to pay to Bin-Saud
on condition that he gives you a good
quittance & on the understanding
that this payment in no way implies
any recognition of him as his master's
agent - a matter which still has to be
regulated between the Sultan & his
Govt.

25/1/23.

J. M. Cook.

Con
No 5

The Agency,

Confidential

Bahrain, Persian Gulf.

No 551C.

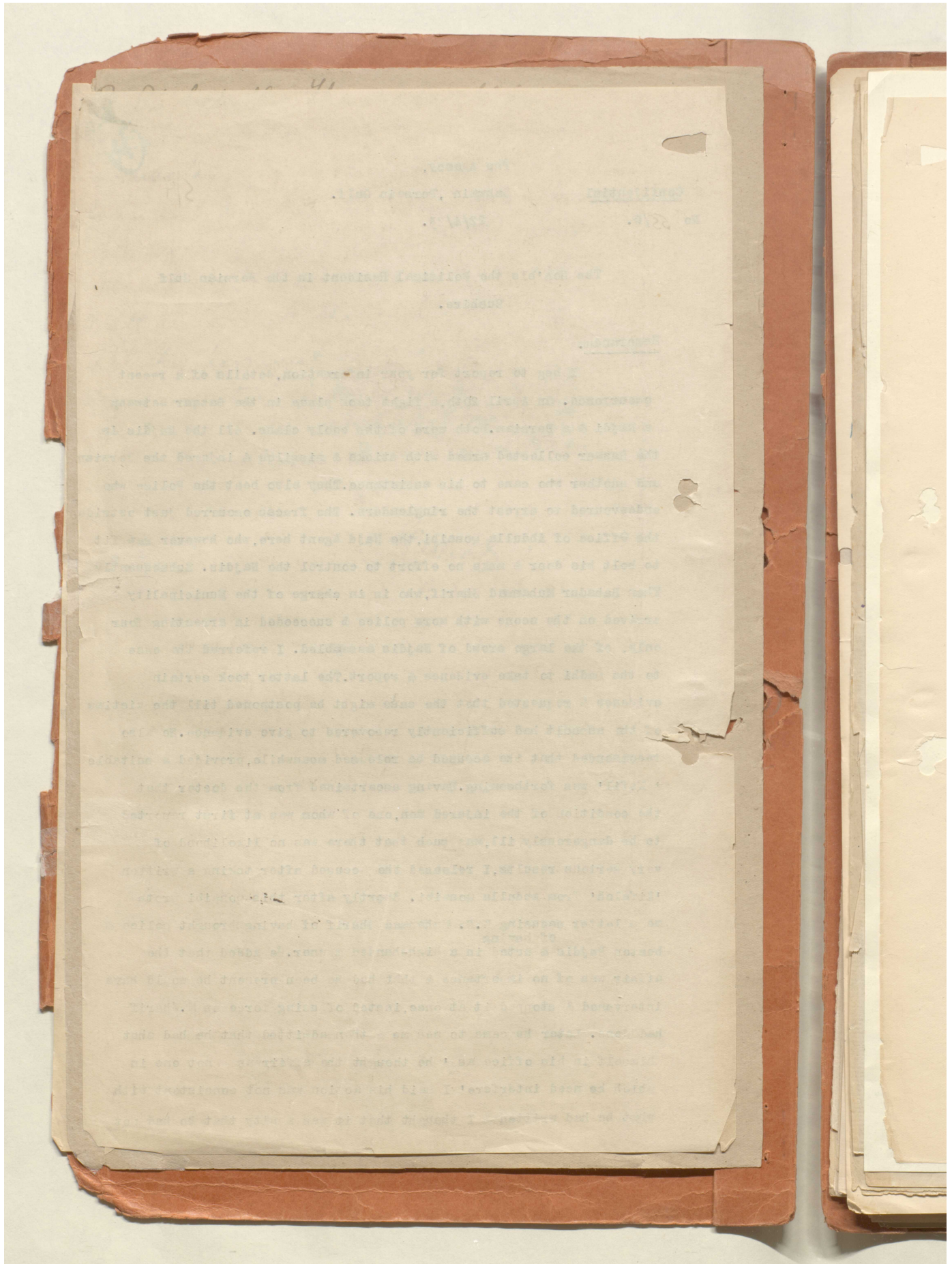
22/4/23.

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf
Bushire.

Memorandum

I beg to report for your information, details of a recent occurrence. On April 20th, a fight took place in the Bazaar between a Najdi & a Persian. Both were of the cooly class. All the Najdis in the Bazaar collected armed with sticks & missiles & injured the Persian and another who came to his assistance. They also beat the Police who endeavoured to arrest the ringleaders. The fracas occurred just outside the Office of Abdulla Qosaibi, the Najd Agent here, who however saw fit to bolt his door & make no effort to control the Najdis. Subsequently Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sharif, who is in charge of the Municipality arrived on the scene with more police & succeeded in arresting four only, of the large crowd of Najdis assembled. I referred the case to the Qadhi to take evidence & report. The latter took certain evidence & requested that the case might be postponed till the victims of the assault had sufficiently recovered to give evidence. He also recommended that the accused be released meanwhile, provided a suitable 'Kafil' was forthcoming. Having ascertained from the doctor that the condition of the injured men, one of whom was at first reported to be dangerously ill, was such that there was no likelihood of very serious results, I released the accused after taking a written 'Kifaleh' from Abdulla Qosaibi. Shortly after this Qosaibi wrote me a letter accusing K.B. Muhammad Sharif of having brought police & of having beaten Najdis & acted in a high-handed manner. He added that the affair was of no importance & that had he been present he would have intervened & stopped it at once, instead of using force as M. Sharif had done. Later he came to see me & then admitted that he had shut himself in his office as 'he thought the affair was not one in which he need interfere' I said his action was not consistent with what he had written & I thought that it was a pity that he had not

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [5v] (10/144)



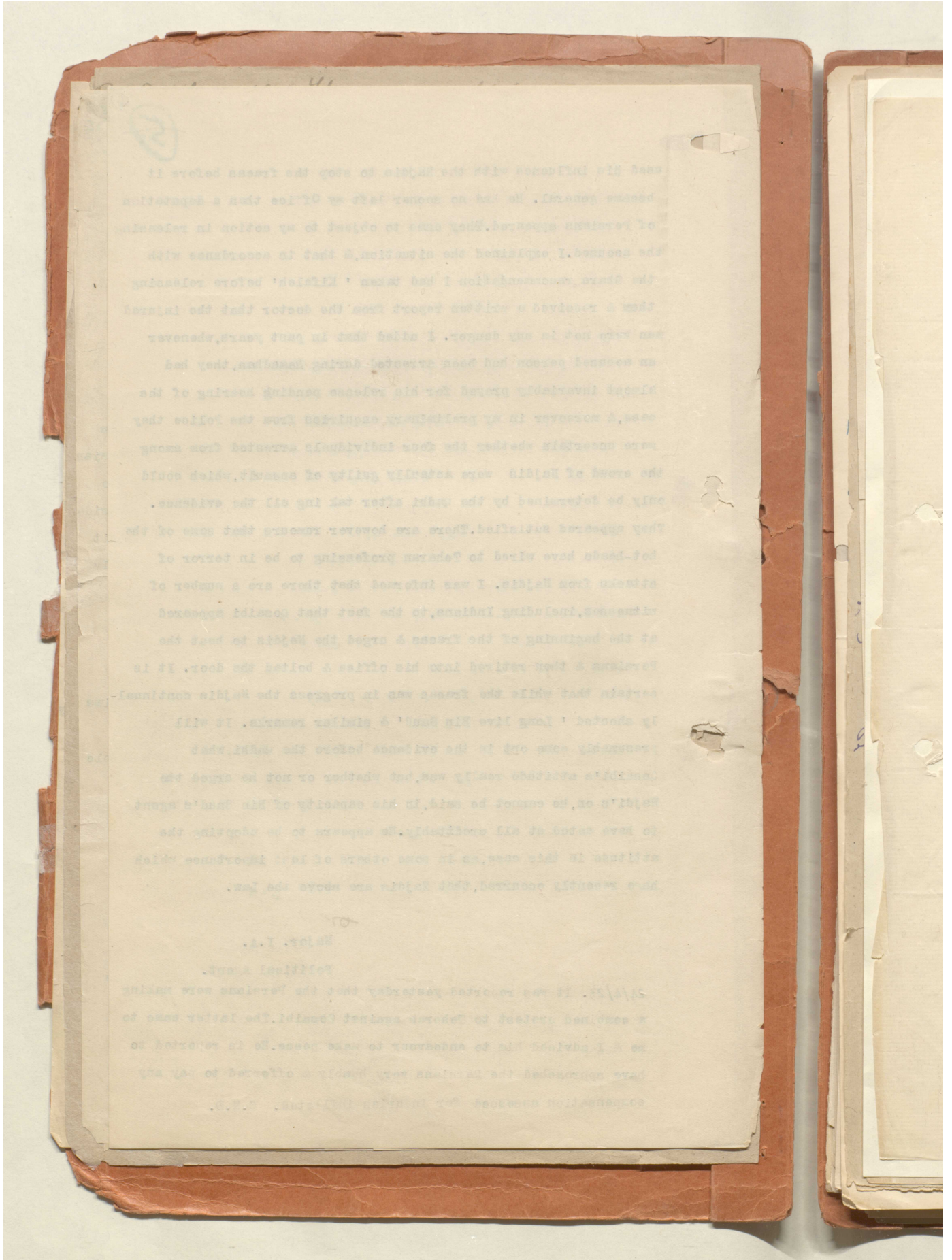
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used his influence with the Najdis to stop the fracas before it became general. He had no sooner left my Office than a deputation of Persians appeared. They came to object to my action in releasing the accused. I explained the situation, & that in accordance with the Shara recommendation I had taken 'Kifaleh' before releasing them & received a written report from the doctor that the injured men were not in any danger. I added that in past years, whenever an accused person had been arrested during Ramadhan, they had almost invariably prayed for his release pending hearing of the case, & moreover in my preliminary enquiries from the Police they were uncertain whether the four individuals arrested from among the crowd of Najdis were actually guilty of assault, which could only be determined by the Qadhi after taking all the evidence. They appeared satisfied. There are however rumours that some of the hot-heads have wired to Teheran professing to be in terror of attacks from Najdis. I was informed that there are a number of witnesses, including Indians, to the fact that Qosaibi appeared at the beginning of the fracas & urged the Najdis to beat the Persians & then retired into his office & bolted the door. It is certain that while the fracas was in progress the Najdis continually shouted 'Long live Bin Saud' & similar remarks. It will presumably come out in the evidence before the Qadhi, what Qosaibi's attitude really was, but whether or not he urged the Najdis on, he cannot be said, in his capacity of Bin Saud's agent to have acted at all creditably. He appears to be adopting the attitude in this case, as in some others of less importance which have recently occurred, that Najdis are above the Law.

Major. I.A.

Political Agent.

24/4/23. It was reported yesterday that the Persians were making a combined protest to Teheran against Qosaibi. The latter came to me & I advised him to endeavour to make peace. He is reported to have approached the Persians very humbly & offered to pay any compensation assessed for injuries inflicted. C.K.D.



Telegram P.

From Resident, Bushire.

To Foreign, Simla, No.398.

Repeated to Tehran, No.94; and Baghdad No.398.

Dated 27th April 1923.

63/c ⑥
Sp4

I have received information from the Political Agent at Bahrain that on the 29th April a fracas took place in the Manama bazaar between a Persian and a Nejd, which developed into a riot between Nejd and Persians. No great harm was actually done and the police easily quelled the disturbance, but Persians are, Political understands, telegraphing protests to Tehran. Political reports that Bin Saud's Agent, Qasaibi, behaved very badly. He is believed to have incited the Nejd to the fray and locked himself in when mischief was well afoot. He was in the end apologetic and offering to pay compensation assessed for injuries inflicted.

Am I authorised to tell Bin Saud flatly that we will not tolerate the presence of Qasaibi or any other Nejd agent in Bahrain, and will deport him to Al Ahsa, unless he confines his activities to merely commercial ends and refrains from interfering with administrative official matters. The position in Bahrain is quite complicated enough without Nejd interference. Qasaibi has been arrogating to himself the position of Consul, and the present affair is merely the culminating point of a long series of petty complaints against him.

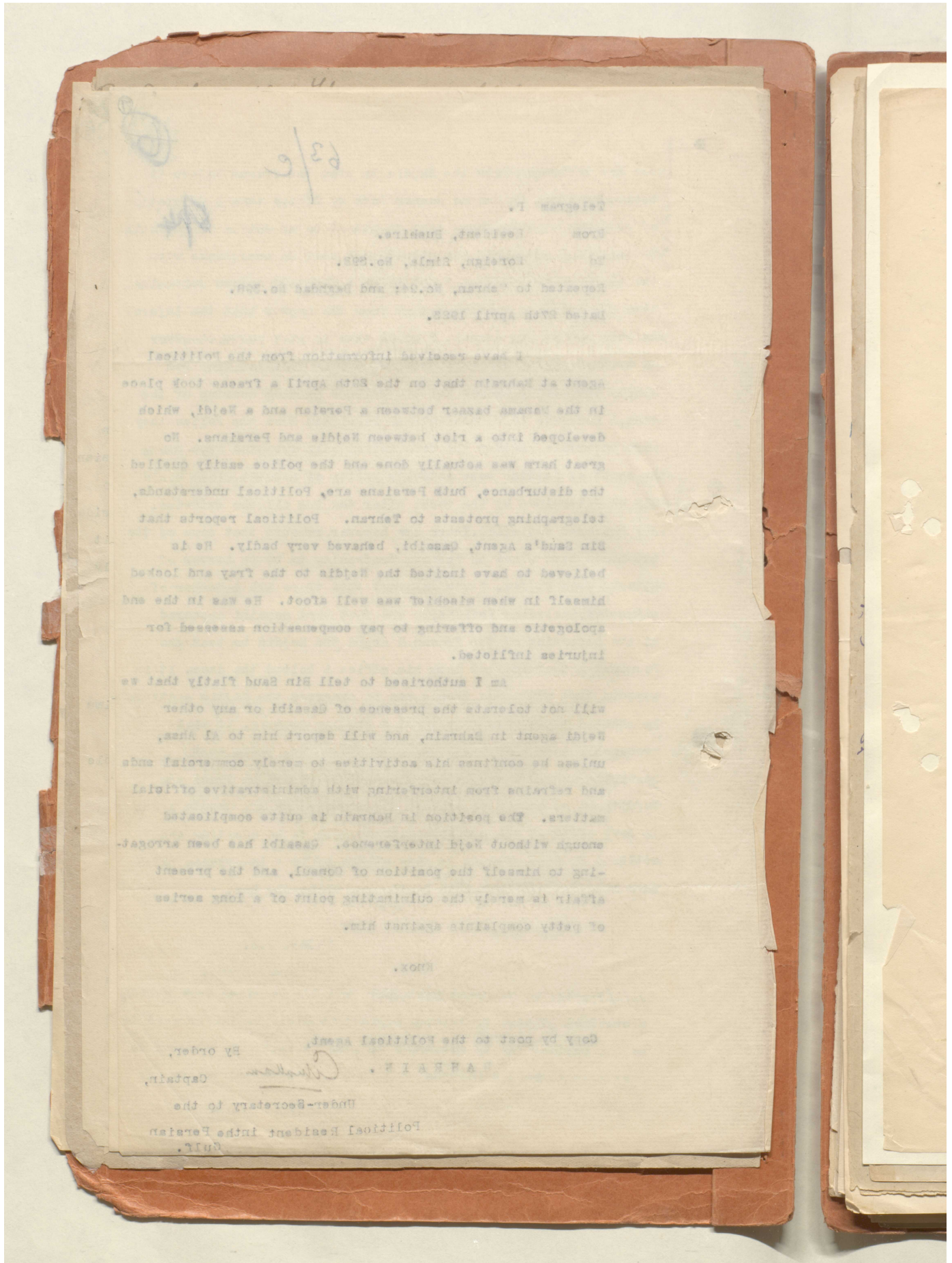
Enox.

Copy by post to the Political Agent,

BAHRAIN.

By order,
Chakram
Captain,

Under-Secretary to the
Political Resident in the Persian
Gulf.



5/4 (9)

Draft

From The Hon'ble The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To His Highness the Sultan of Nejd & Dependencies.

Dated Bahrián 18th May 1923 (2 Shawwāl).

After Compliments.

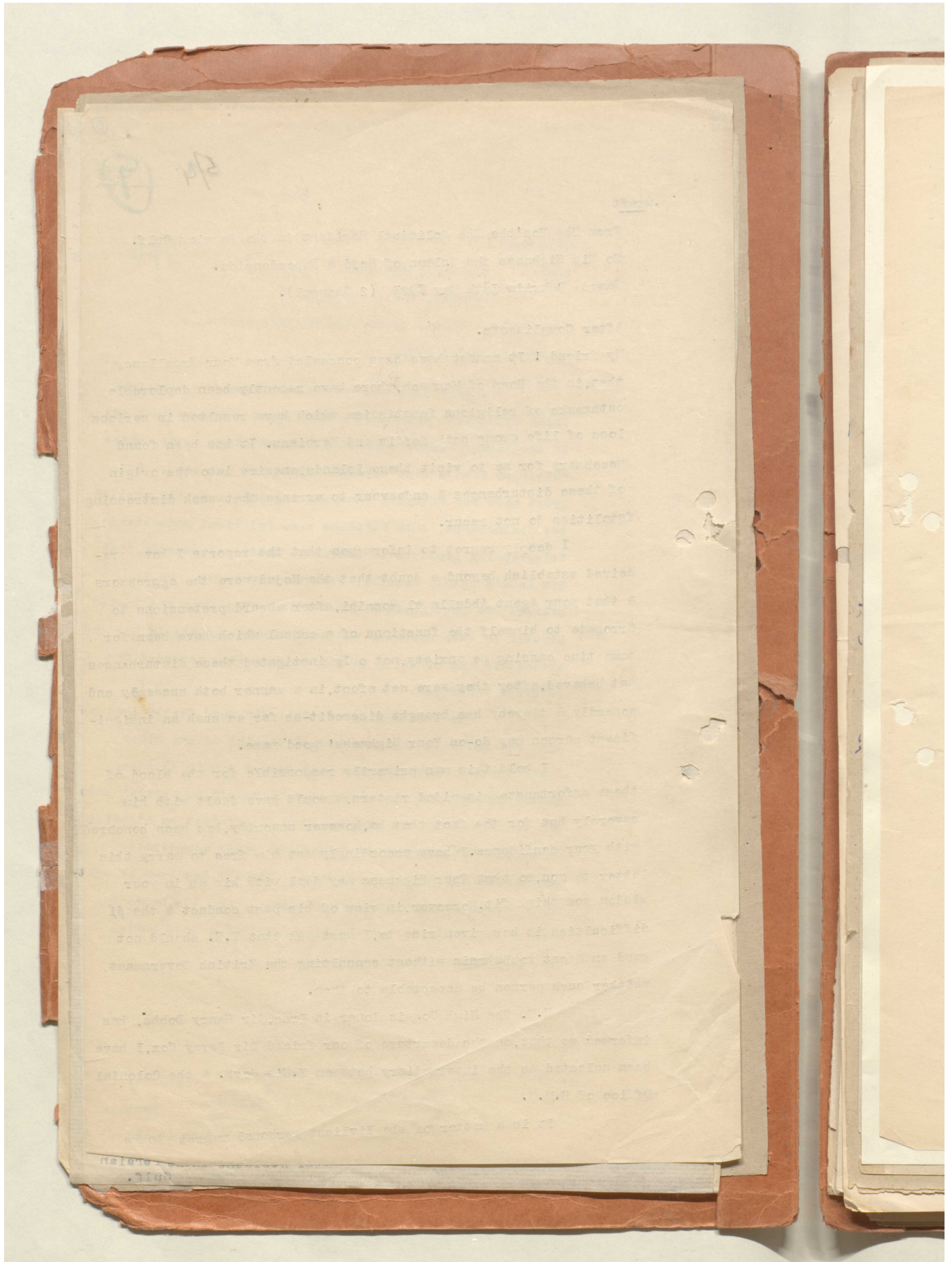
My friend ! It cannot have been concealed from Your Excellency that, in the Town of Manameh, there have recently been deplorable outbreaks of religious fanaticism which have resulted in serious loss of life among both Nejdīs and Persians. It has been found necessary for me to visit these Islands, enquire into the origin of these disturbances & endeavour to arrange that such distressing fatalities do not recur.

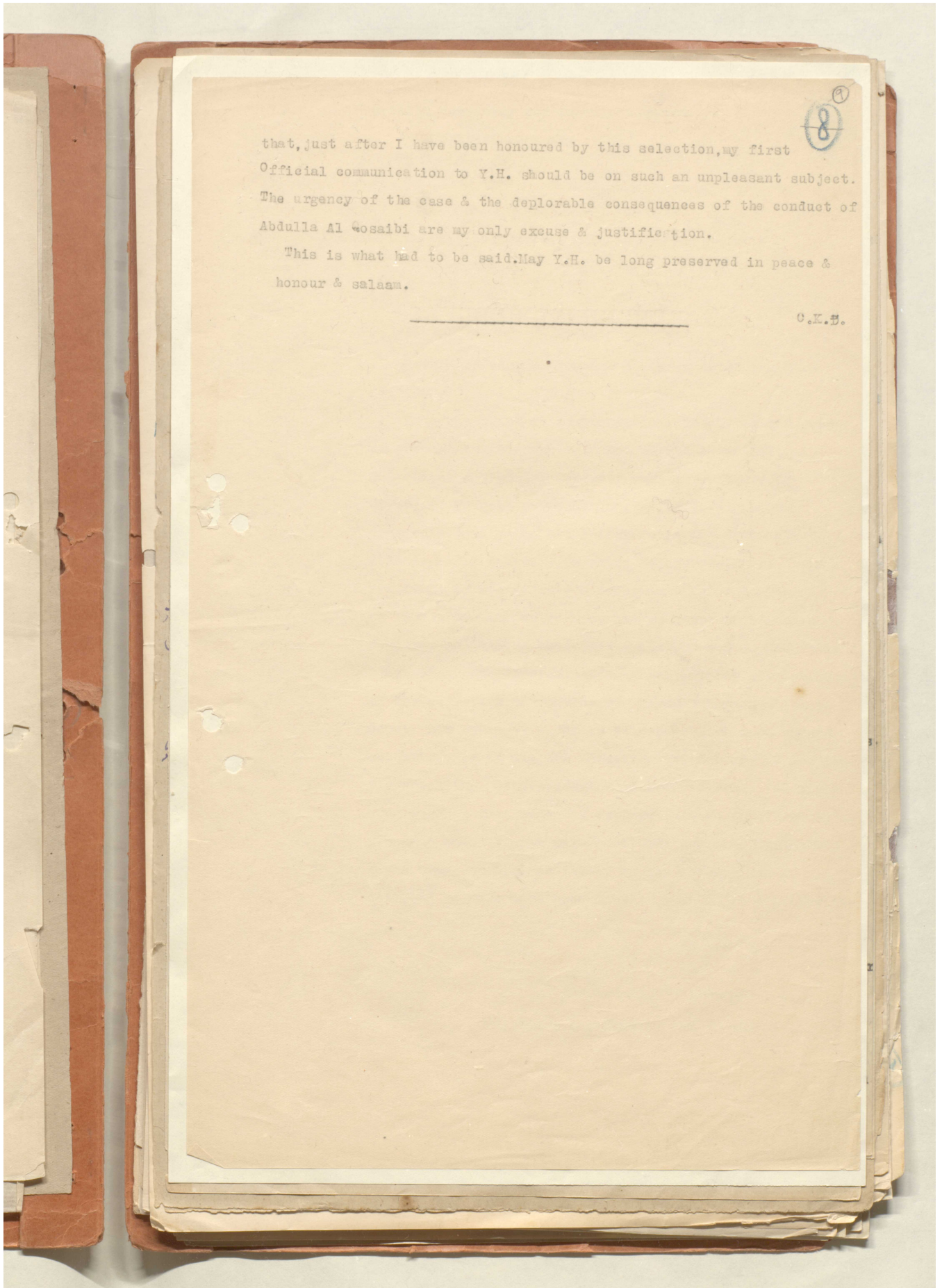
I deeply regret to inform you that the reports I have received establish beyond a doubt that the Nejad were the aggressors & that your Agent Abdulla Al Qosaibi, after absurd pretensions to arrogate to himself the functions of a consul which have been for some time causing me anxiety, not only instigated these disturbances but behaved, after they were set afoot, in a manner both unseemly and cowardly & thereby has brought discredit-as far as such an insignificant person may do-on Your Highness' good name.

I hold this man primarily responsible for the blood of these unfortunate misguided rioters, & would have dealt with him severely but for the fact that he, however unworthy, has been honoured with your confidence. I have accordingly set him free to carry this letter to you, so that Your Highness may deal with him as in your wisdom you think fit. Moreover, in view of his past conduct & the difficulties it has given rise to, I must ask that Y.H. should not send an Agent to Bahrain without consulting the British Government, whether such person be acceptable to them.

H.E. The High Commissioner in Iraq, Sir Henry Dobbs, has informed me that, on the departure of our friend Sir Percy Cox, I have been selected as the intermediary between Y.H's Govt. & the Colonial Office of H.M.C.

It is a matter of the liveliest personal regret to me



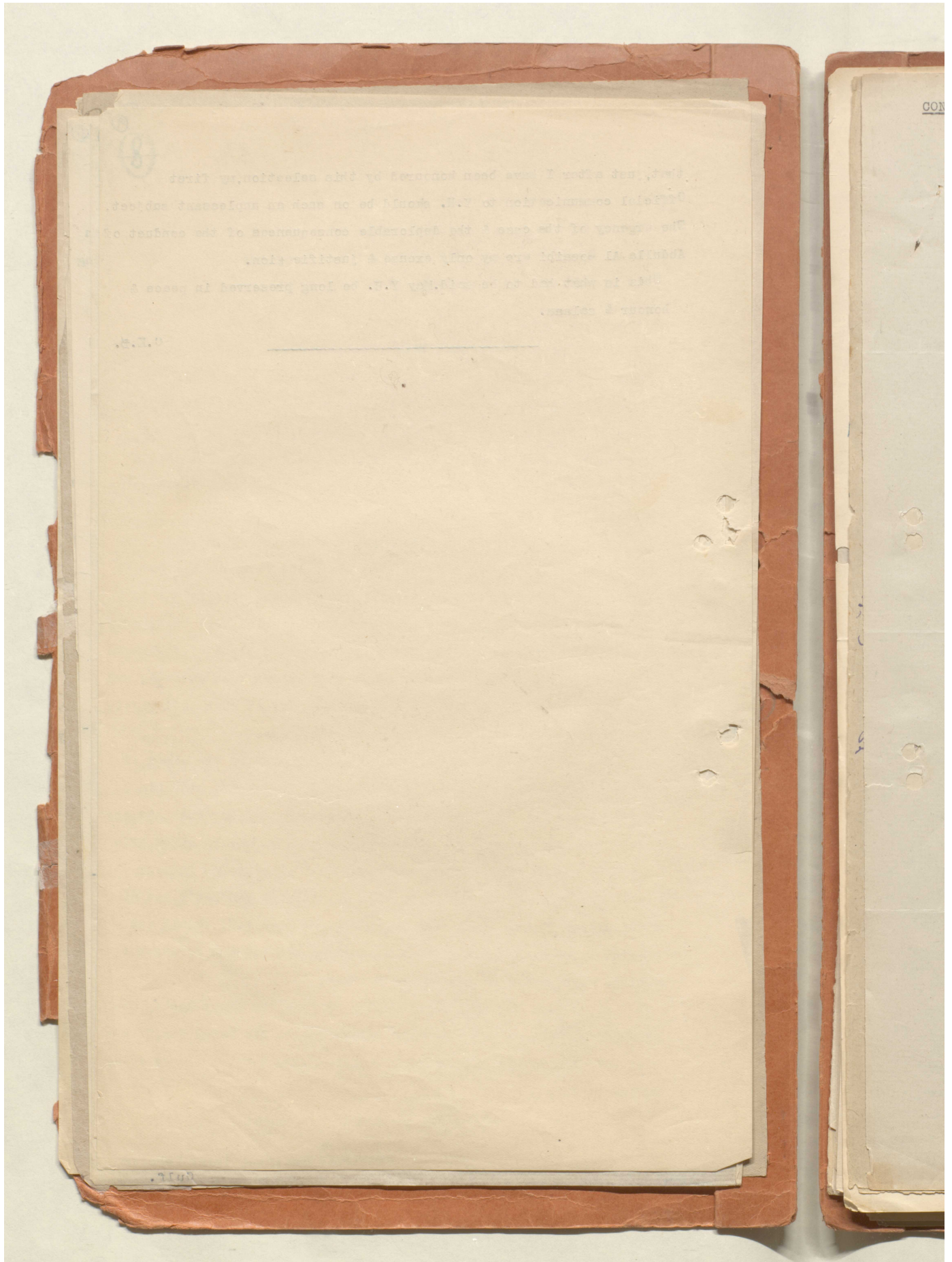


that, just after I have been honoured by this selection, my first
Official communication to Y.H. should be on such an unpleasant subject.
The urgency of the case & the deplorable consequences of the conduct of
Abdulla Al Qosaibi are my only excuse & justification.

This is what had to be said. May Y.H. be long preserved in peace &
honour & salaam.

O.K.F.

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [9v] (18/144)



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [10r] (19/144)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 386-S of 1922.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 27th May 1922.

194/09⁽¹⁰⁾
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5/4

To

The Political Agent,
Bahrain.

Memorandum.

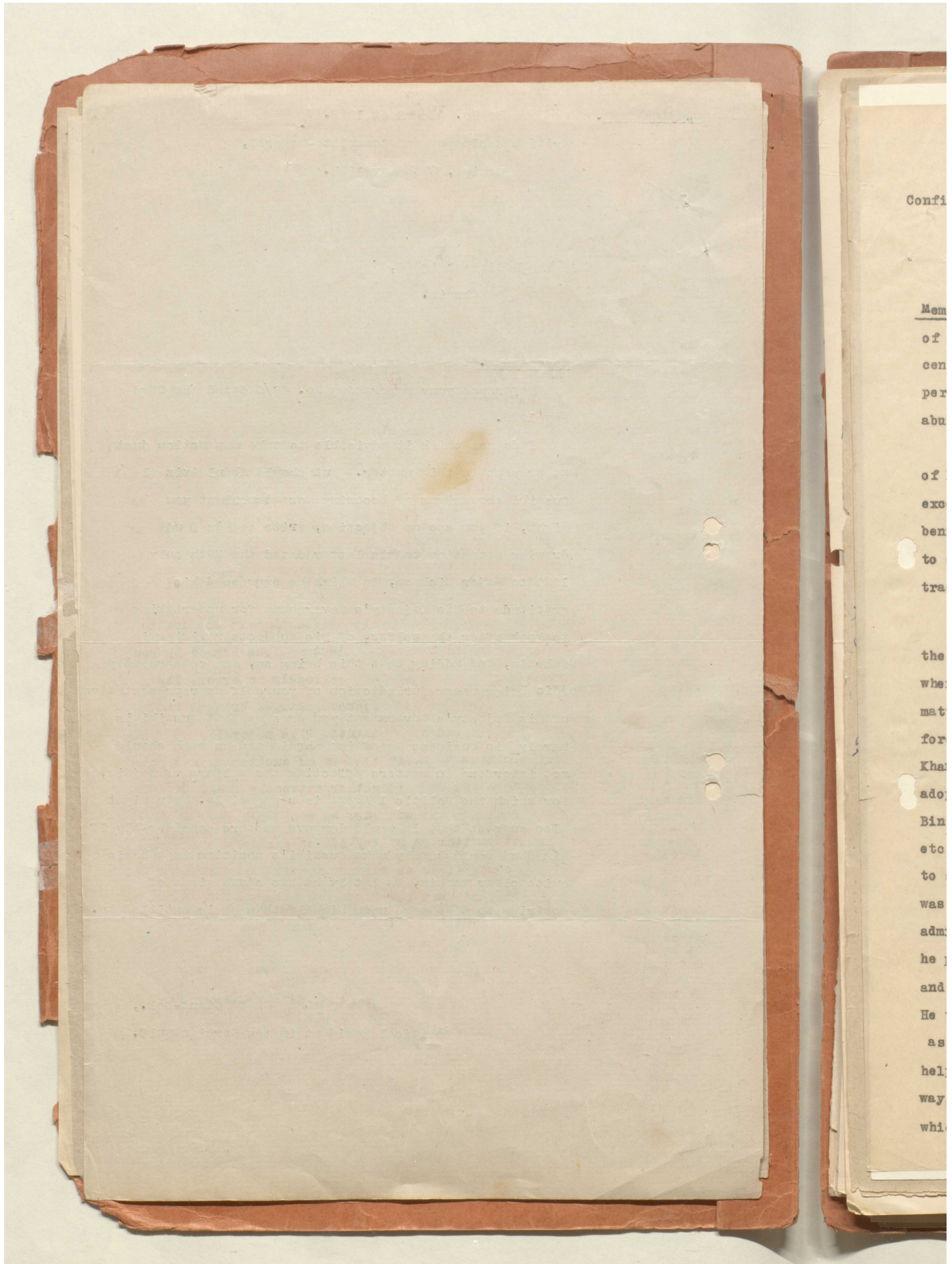
Reference your memorandum No. 88/C dated the 23rd
May 1922.

I do not think it advisable to take any action just
at present in this matter. But should Abdul Aziz al
Qusaibi show signs of becoming more truculent you
might, if you see no objection, write to Bin Saud
drawing attention to his letter dated the 29th July
1920 to Major Dickson, in which he expressed his
gratitude to His Majesty's Government for undertaking
to look after the welfare of his subjects residing in
Bahrain, and adding that this being so, and consequently
Najdis being under jurisdiction of yourself as representative
of His Majesty's Government, you presume that Qusaibi is
merely his business agent in Bahrain and as such should
not interfere in matters affecting the welfare of Najdis,
for which the Political Agent is responsible. You might
also suggest that it would improve matters considerably if
Bin Saud would kindly make Qusaibi's position in Bahrain
quite clear to him, as lately he has shown signs of
desiring to take more upon himself than he is entitled to.

Dickson Lieut-Col.,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [10v] (20/144)



The Agency Bahrain.

Confidential No 88 /C,

23/5/22.

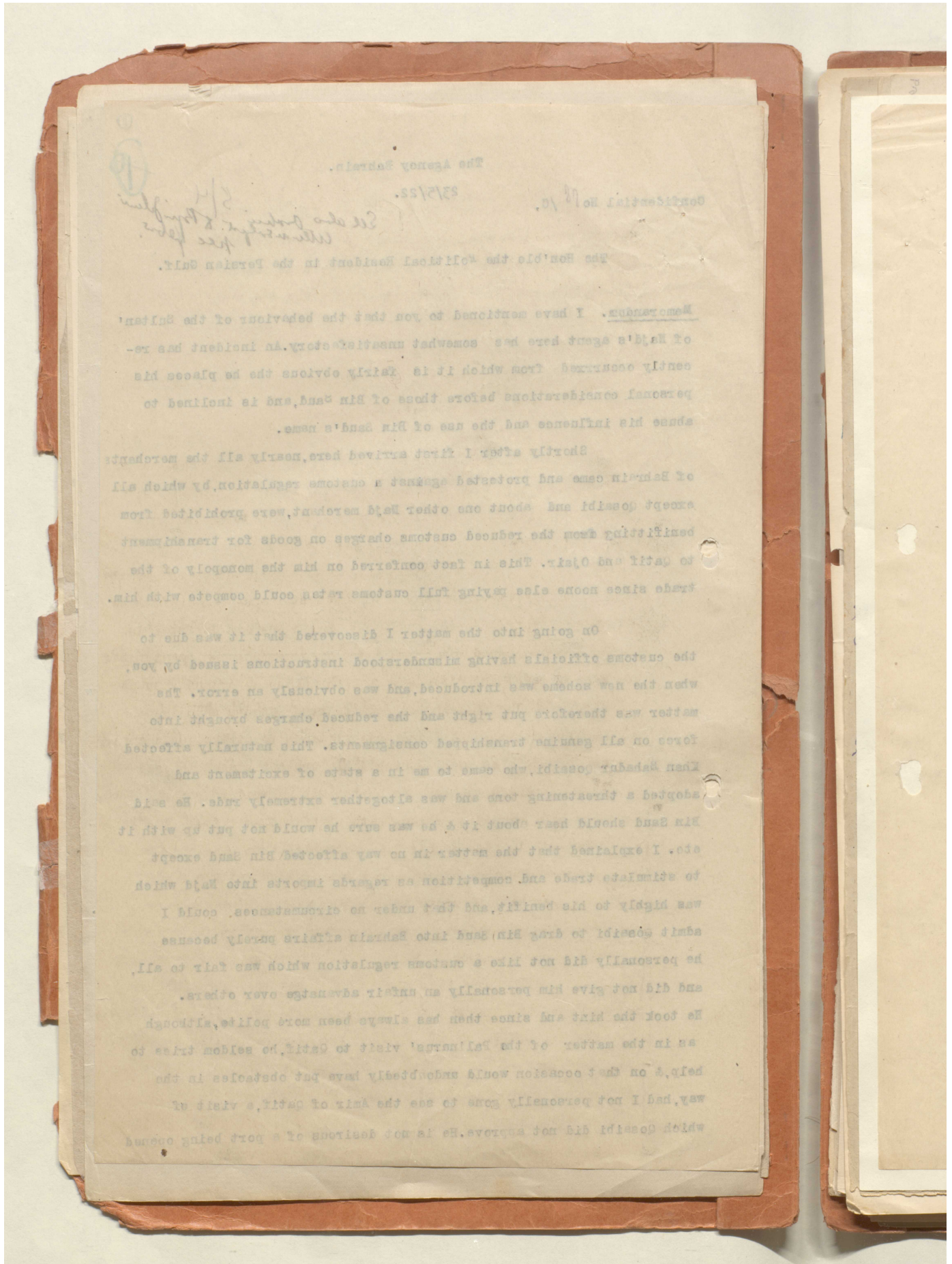
See also Arabic 5/4
with subject & Bin Jalawi
see below.

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Memorandum. I have mentioned to you that the behaviour of the Sultan of Najd's agent here has somewhat unsatisfactory. An incident has recently occurred from which it is fairly obvious that he places his personal considerations before those of Bin Saud, and is inclined to abuse his influence and the use of Bin Saud's name.

Shortly after I first arrived here, nearly all the merchants of Bahrain came and protested against a customs regulation, by which all except Qosaibi and about one other Najd merchant, were prohibited from benefitting from the reduced customs charges on goods for transshipment to Qatif and Qasir. This in fact conferred on him the monopoly of the trade since no one else paying full customs rates could compete with him.

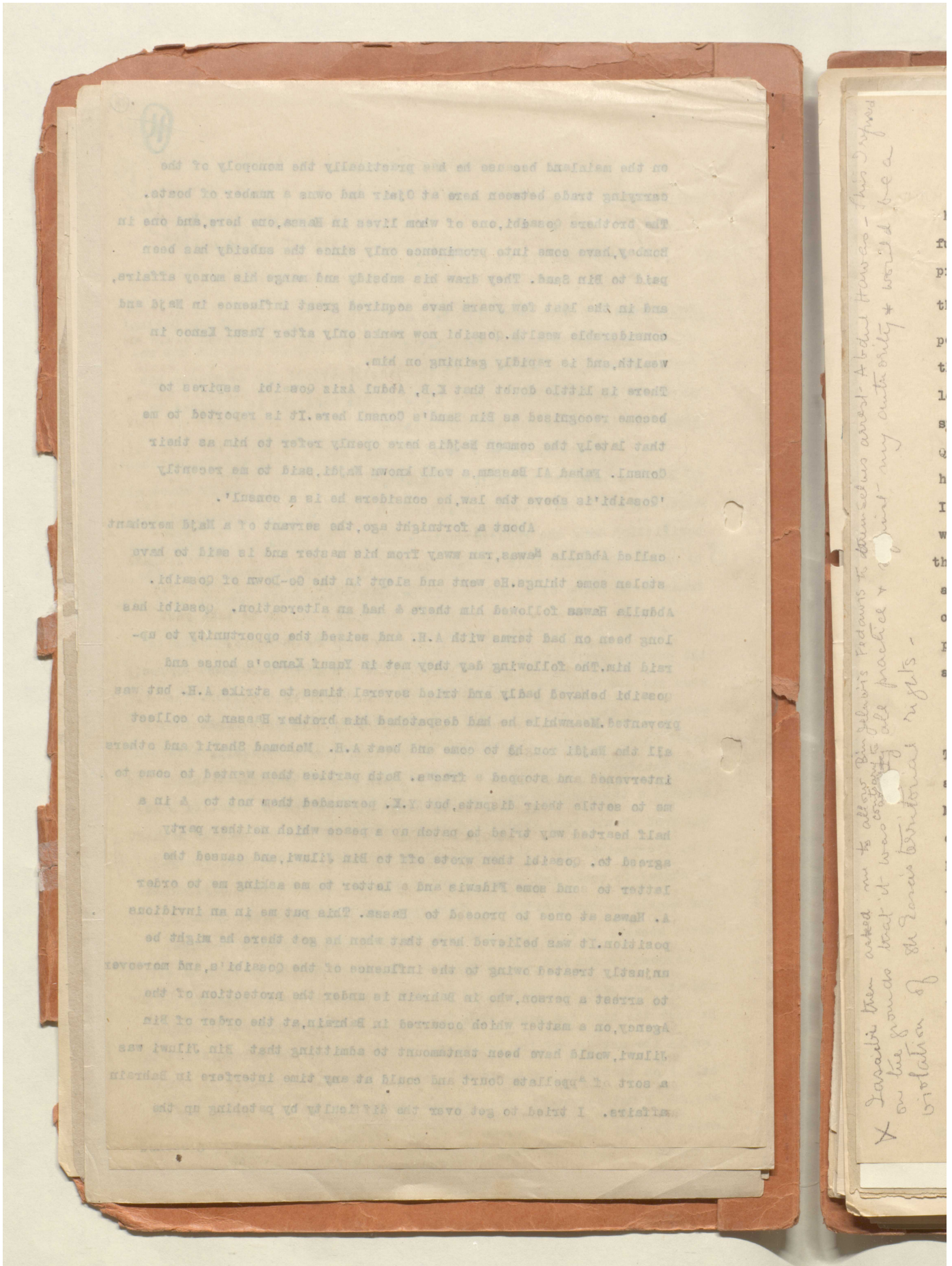
On going into the matter I discovered that it was due to the customs officials having misunderstood instructions issued by you, when the new scheme was introduced, and was obviously an error. The matter was therefore put right and the reduced charges brought into force on all genuine transhipped consignments. This naturally affected Khan Bahadur Qosaibi, who came to me in a state of excitement and adopted a threatening tone and was altogether extremely rude. He said Bin Saud should hear about it & he was sure he would not put up with it etc. I explained that the matter in no way affected Bin Saud except to stimulate trade and competition as regards imports into Najd which was highly to his benefit, and that under no circumstances could I admit Qosaibi to drag Bin Saud into Bahrain affairs purely because he personally did not like a customs regulation which was fair to all, and did not give him personally an unfair advantage over others. He took the hint and since then has always been more polite, although as in the matter of the Palinurus' visit to Qatif, he seldom tries to help, & on that occasion would undoubtedly have put obstacles in the way, had I not personally gone to see the Amir of Qatif, a visit of which Qosaibi did not approve. He is not desirous of a port being opened



on the mainland because he has practically the monopoly of the carrying trade between here at Ojair and owns a number of boats. The brothers Qosaibi, one of whom lives in Hassa, one here, and one in Bombay, have come into prominence only since the subsidy has been paid to Bin Saud. They draw his subsidy and manage his money affairs, and in the last few years have acquired great influence in Najd and considerable wealth. Qosaibi now ranks only after Yusuf Kanoo in wealth, and is rapidly gaining on him.

There is little doubt that K.B. Abdul Aziz Qosaibi aspires to become recognised as Bin Saud's Consul here. It is reported to me that lately the common Najdis here openly refer to him as their Consul. Fahad Al Bassam, a well known Najdi, said to me recently 'Qosaibi' is above the law, he considers he is a consul'.

About a fortnight ago, the servant of a Najd merchant called Abdulla Hawas, ran away from his master and is said to have stolen some things. He went and slept in the Go-Down of Qosaibi. Abdulla Hawas followed him there & had an altercation. Qosaibi has long been on bad terms with A.H. and seized the opportunity to up-raid him. The following day they met in Yusuf Kanoo's house and Qosaibi behaved badly and tried several times to strike A.H. but was prevented. Meanwhile he had despatched his brother Hassan to collect all the Najdi roughâ to come and beat A.H. Mohomad Sharif and others intervened and stopped a fracas. Both parties then wanted to come to me to settle their dispute, but Y.K. persuaded them not to & in a half hearted way tried to patch up a peace which neither party agreed to. Qosaibi then wrote off to Bin Jiluwi, and caused the latter to send some Fidawis and a letter to me asking me to order A. Hawas at once to proceed to Hassa. This put me in an invidious position. It was believed here that when he got there he might be unjustly treated owing to the influence of the Qosaibi's, and moreover to arrest a person, who in Bahrain is under the protection of the Agency, on a matter which occurred in Bahrain, at the order of Bin Jiluwi, would have been tantamount to admitting that Bin Jiluwi was a sort of Appellate Court and could at any time interfere in Bahrain affairs. I tried to get over the difficulty by patching up the



on the mainland because he has practically the monopoly of the
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The Brothers Qosaibi, one of whom lives in Hama, one here and one in
Hama, have come into prominence only since the emir has been
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wealth and is rapidly gaining on him.
There is little doubt that K. B. Abdul Aziz Qosaibi expects to
become recognized as Bin Saud's emir here. It is reported to me
that lately the common Hama have openly refer to him as their
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'Qosaibi above the law, he considers he is a emir.'
About a fortnight ago, the servant of a Hama merchant
called Abdulla Hama, ran away from his master and in order to have
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me to settle their dispute, but K. B. Qosaibi persuaded them not to do so in a
half hearted way, but to catch me a peace which neither party
agreed to. Qosaibi then wrote off to Bin Saud, and caused the
letter to reach some Hama and a letter to me asking me to order
A. Hama to proceed to Hama. This put me in an awkward
position. It was believed here that when he got there he might be
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a sort of appellate court and could at any time interfere in Bahrain
affairs. I tried to get over the difficulty by picking up the

X Qosaibi then asked me to allow Bin Saud's servants to detain him - this I refused
on the grounds that it was contrary to all practice & a joint - my authority & would be a
violation of the Law's territorial rights -

X Qosaibi then asked me to allow Bin Jiluwi's demands to Bin Hawas - this I refused
 on the grounds that it was contrary to all practice & a joint authority would be a
 violation of the Saudi's territorial rights -

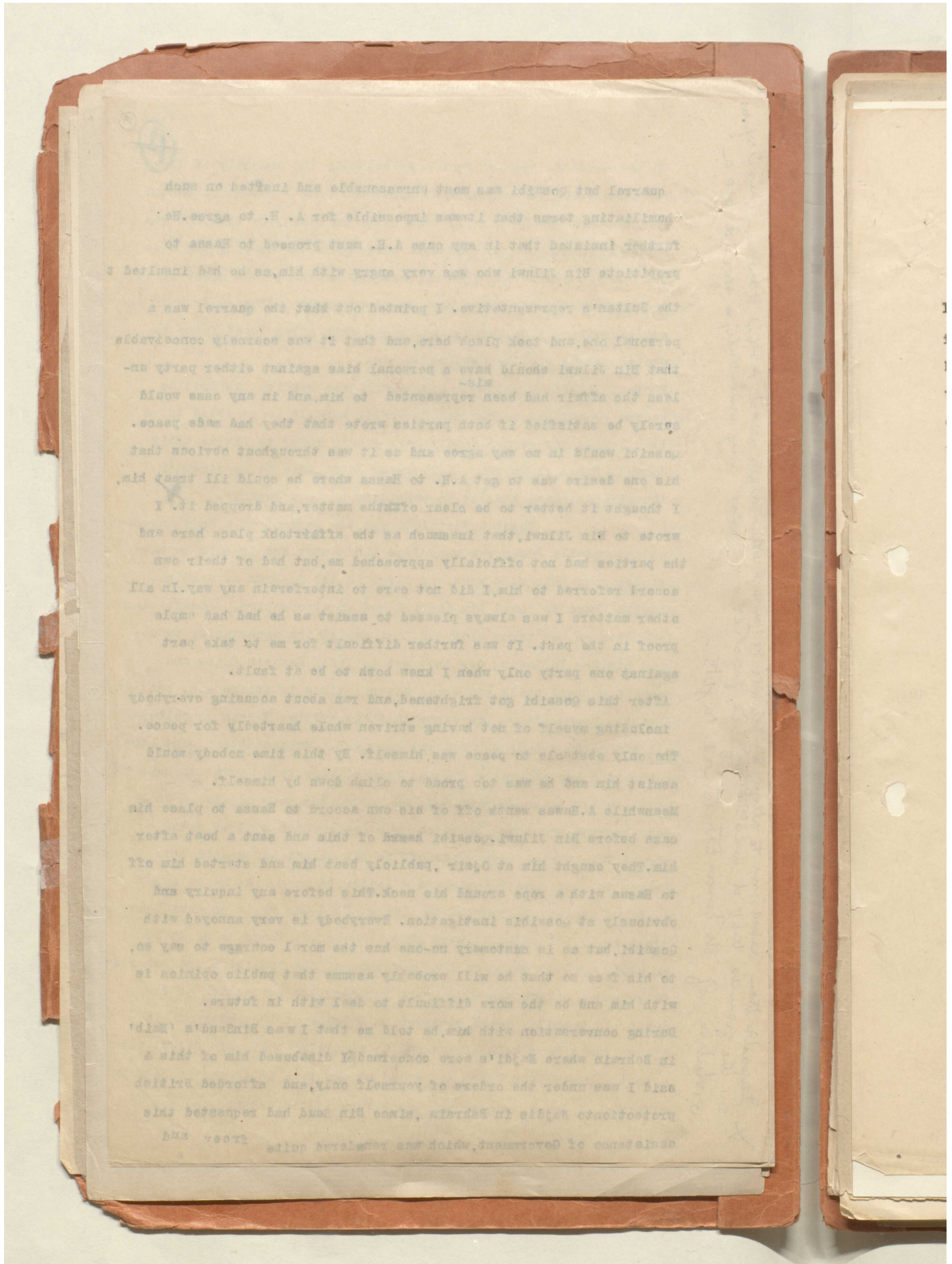
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quarrel but Qosaibi was most unreasonable and insisted on such humiliating terms that it was impossible for A. H. to agree. He further insisted that in any case A.H. must proceed to Hassa to propitiate Bin Jiluwi who was very angry with him, as he had insulted the Sultan's representative. I pointed out that the quarrel was a personal one, and took place here, and that it was scarcely conceivable that Bin Jiluwi should have a personal bias against either party unless the affair had been represented to him, and in any case would surely be satisfied if both parties wrote that they had made peace. Qosaibi would in no way agree and as it was throughout obvious that his one desire was to get A.H. to Hassa where he could ill treat him, I thought it better to be clear of the matter, and dropped it. I wrote to Bin Jiluwi, that inasmuch as the affair took place here and the parties had not officially approached me, but had of their own accord referred to him, I did not care to interfere in any way. In all other matters I was always pleased to assist as he had had ample proof in the past. It was further difficult for me to take part against one party only when I knew both to be at fault.

After this Qosaibi got frightened, and ran about accusing everybody including myself of not having striven whole heartedly for peace. The only obstacle to peace was himself. By this time nobody would assist him and he was too proud to climb down by himself.

Meanwhile A. Hawas went off of his own accord to Hassa to place his case before Bin Jiluwi. Qosaibi heard of this and sent a boat after him. They caught him at Ojair, publicly beat him and started him off to Hassa with a rope around his neck. This before any inquiry and obviously at Qosaibi's instigation. Everybody is very annoyed with Qosaibi, but as is customary no-one has the moral courage to say so, to his face so that he will probably assume that public opinion is with him and be the more difficult to deal with in future.

During conversation with him, he told me that I was Bin Sand's 'Naib' in Bahrain where Najdi's were concerned. I disabused him of this & said I was under the orders of yourself only, and afforded British protection to Najdis in Bahrain, since Bin Sand had requested this assistance of Government, which was rendered quite free and



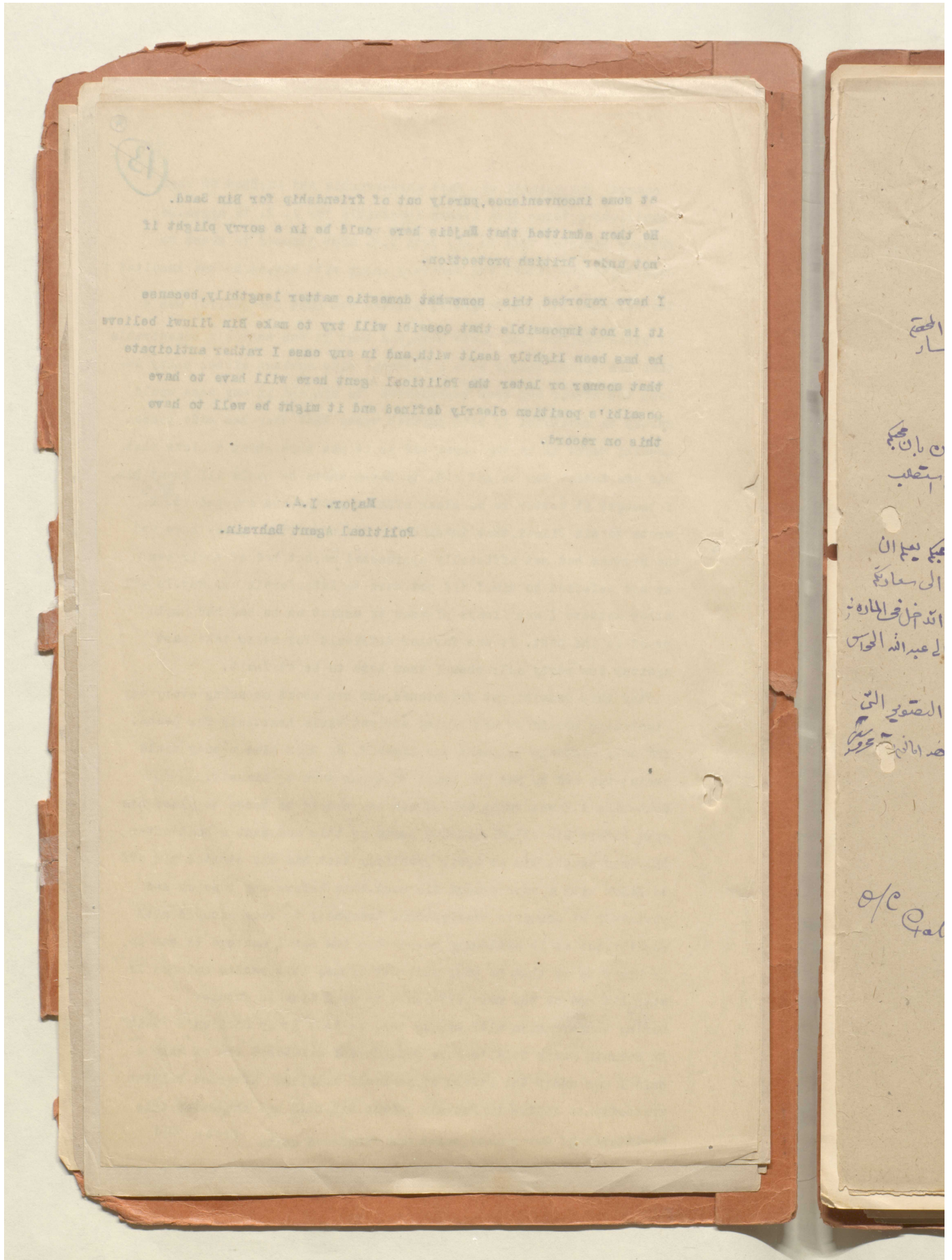
'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [14r] (27/144)

at some inconvenience, purely out of friendship for Bin Saud.

He then admitted that Majdis here would be in a sorry plight if not under British protection.

I have reported this somewhat domestic matter lengthily, because it is not impossible that Qosaibi will try to make Bin Jilawi believe he has been lightly dealt with, and in any case I rather anticipate that sooner or later the Political Agent here will have to have Qosaibi's position clearly defined and it might be well to have this on record.

Major. I.A.
Political Agent Bahrain.



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من يوسفي في ولي باليد في البرين

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الى جناب شيخ عبد الله بن جلوي ابو الواسع
الحق

ببركتهم على الرغم
قد وصلني كتاب سعادتكم وفيه خصصت بن حواس سعادتكم تقولون بان
وانما مع السور حاضر لاجل مساعدتكم في كل موارد ولاني استطلب
في سعادتكم ان تسمعون محبتكم في هذا الماده
وحيث المقدمه جعلت في خان بهادر القصبي في البرين كما محبتكم يعلم ان
الطرفين هم قاصرين وان الطرفين باختيار وعنتهم جعلوا الى سعادتكم
ولا هم متكئين رسميا الى بيت الدوله خافي ما اهتم ان اذ دخل في الماره
واني استغفم مع ذلك بان از سعادتكم متيقنا انما يطوبون الى عبد الله الحواس
وتامرونه الى طرفكم انه جدا حاضر وسيطع امكم
اني اتمدان سعادتكم في غايه العود وقد وصل محبتكم نقل التصوير التي
صفه صدقكم في العبير الذي نوسله لسعادتكم قريبا ضد المان
١٥٤٠
١٩٢٢ و ١٩ رمضان

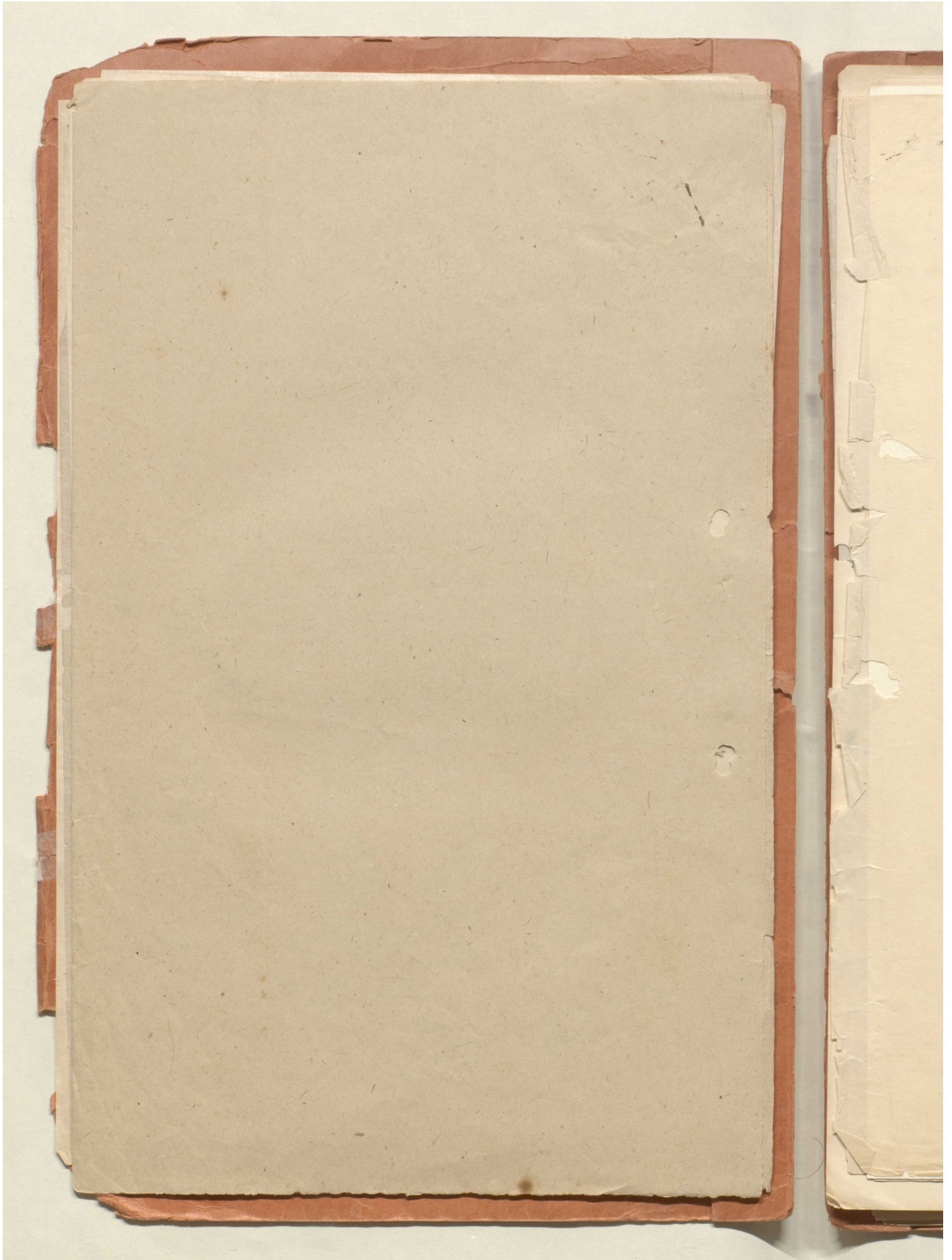
ofc Majid A
Cultural Agent Bahari

Letter of Ben Jilani


Re Case of Dawlati & Abdulla

Kanun

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [15v] (30/144)



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [16r] (31/144)

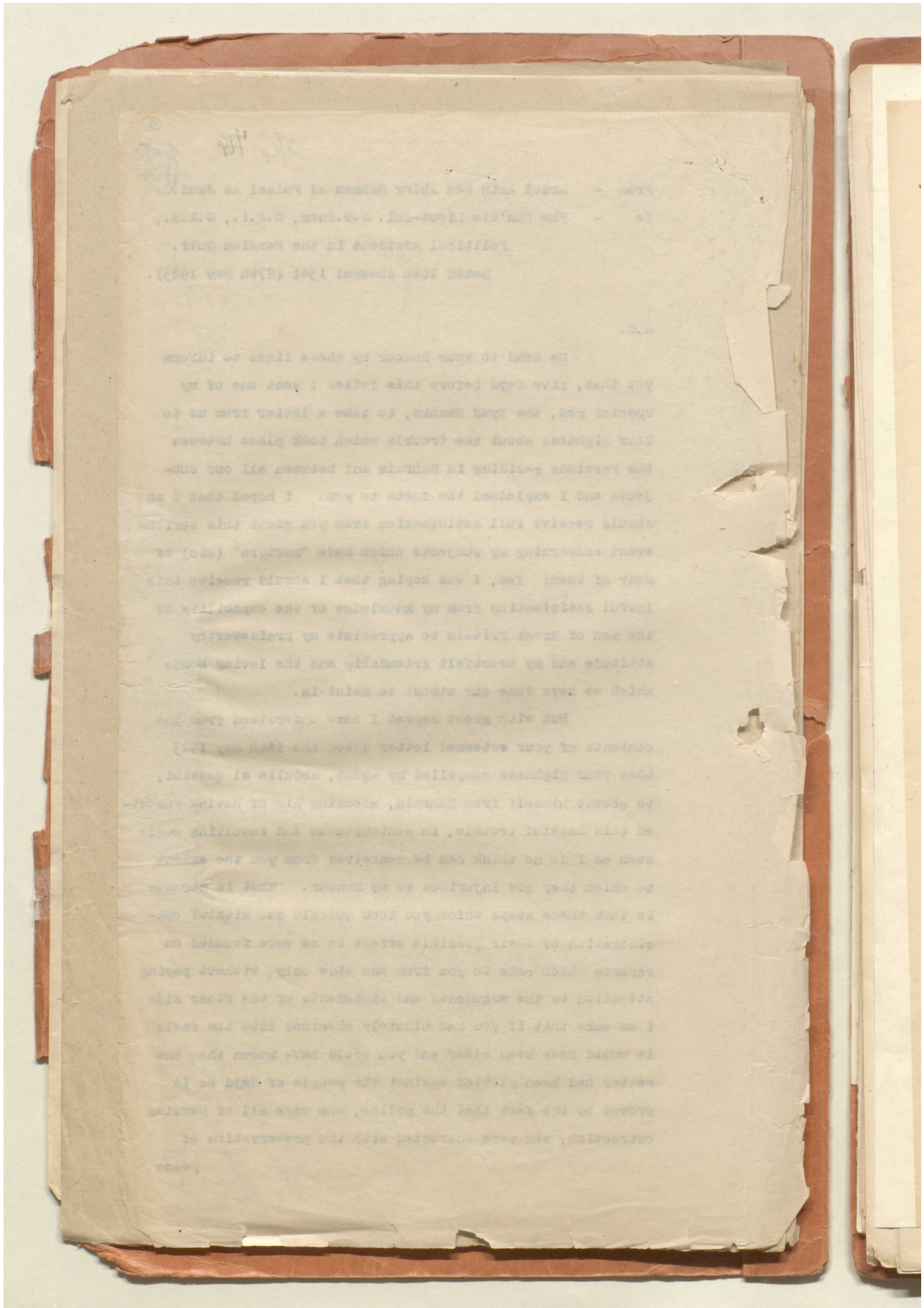
5/4 7/4 
From - Abdul Aziz ben Abdur Rahman Al Faisal as Saud.
To - The Hon'ble Lieut-Col. S.G.Knox, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.
Dated 10th Shawwal 1341 (27th May 1923).

A.C.

We send to Your Honour by these lines to inform you that, five days before this letter I sent one of my special men, the Syud Hashim, to take a letter from us to Your Highness about the trouble which took place between the Persians residing in Bahrain and between all our subjects and I explained the facts to you. I hoped that I should receive full satisfaction from you about this serious event concerning my subjects which made "martyrs" (sic) of many of them: Yes, I was hoping that I should receive this lawful satisfaction from my knowledge of the capability of the men of Great Britain to appreciate my praiseworthy attitude and my heartfelt friendship and the loving bonds which we have done our utmost to maintain.

But with great regret I have understood from the contents of your esteemed letter dated the 18th May 1923 that Your Highness compelled my agent, Abdulla al Qosaibi, to absent himself from Bahrain, accusing him of having fomented this hateful trouble, in contemptuous and insulting words such as I do not think can be conceived from you the extent to which they are injurious to my honour. What is strange is that these steps which you took quickly and without consideration of their possible effect on me were founded on reports which came to you from one side only, without paying attention to the arguments and statements of the other side. I am sure that if you had minutely examined into the facts it would have been clear and you would have known that the matter had been plotted against the people of Nejd as is proved by the fact that the police, who were all of Persian extraction, who were entrusted with the preservation of
peace

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [16v] (32/144)



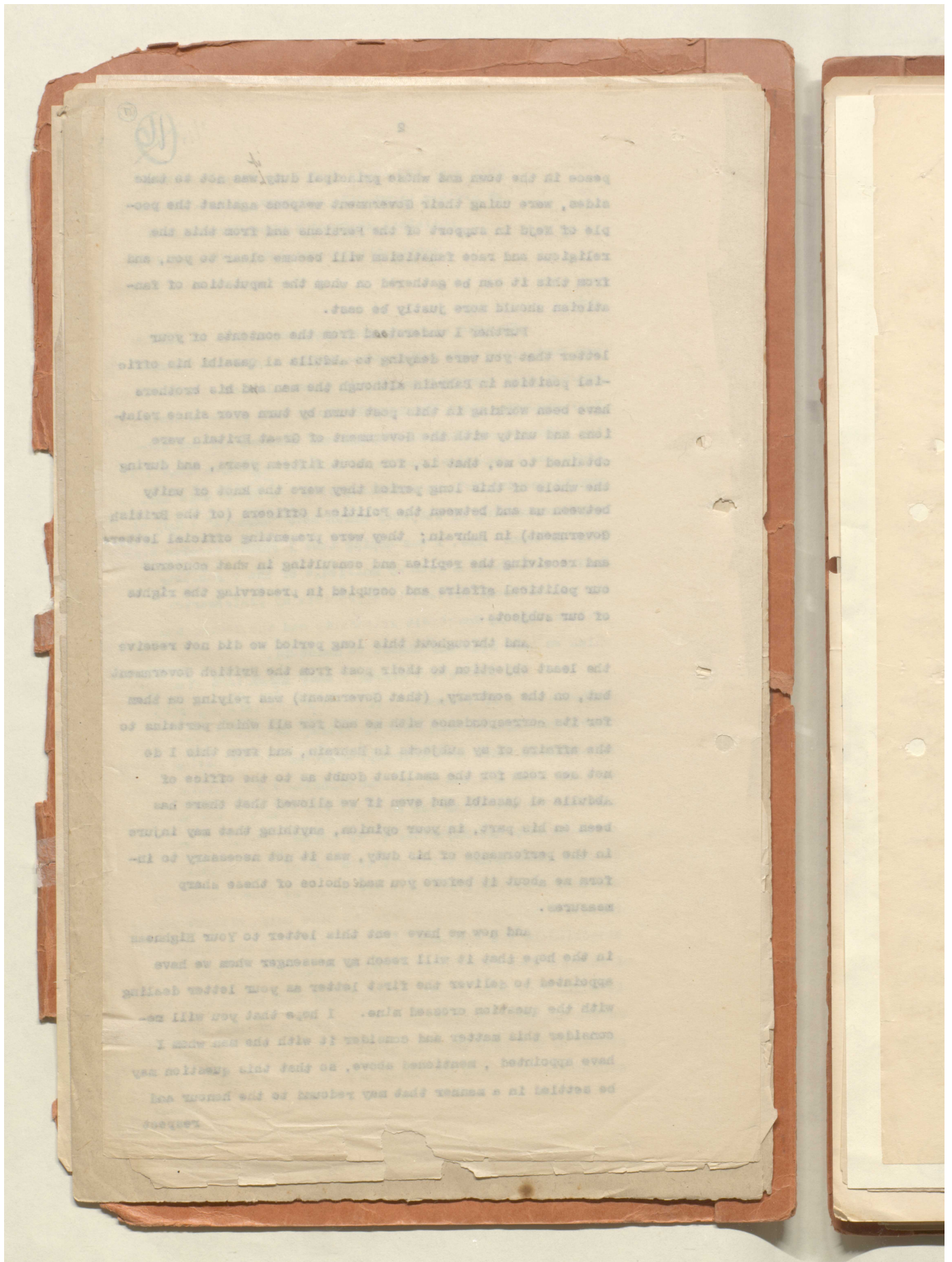
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peace in the town and whose principal duty^{if} was not to take sides, were using their Government weapons against the people of Nejd in support of the Persians and from this the religious and race fanaticism will become clear to you, and from this it can be gathered on whom the imputation of fanaticism should more justly be cast.

Further I understood from the contents of your letter that you were denying to Abdulla al Qasaibi his official position in Bahrain although the man and his brothers have been working in this post turn by turn ever since relations and unity with the Government of Great Britain were obtained to me, that is, for about fifteen years, and during the whole of this long period they were the knot of unity between us and between the Political Officers (of the British Government) in Bahrain; they were presenting official letters and receiving the replies and consulting in what concerns our political affairs and occupied in preserving the rights of our subjects.

And throughout this long period we did not receive the least objection to their post from the British Government but, on the contrary, (that Government) was relying on them for its correspondence with me and for all which pertains to the affairs of my subjects in Bahrain, and from this I do not see room for the smallest doubt as to the office of Abdulla al Qasaibi and even if we allowed that there has been on his part, in your opinion, anything that may injure in the performance of his duty, was it not necessary to inform me about it before you made choice of these sharp measures.

and now we have sent this letter to Your Highness in the hope that it will reach my messenger whom we have appointed to deliver the first letter as your letter dealing with the question crossed mine. I hope that you will reconsider this matter and consider it with the man whom I have appointed, mentioned above, so that this question may be settled in a manner that may redound to the honour and respect



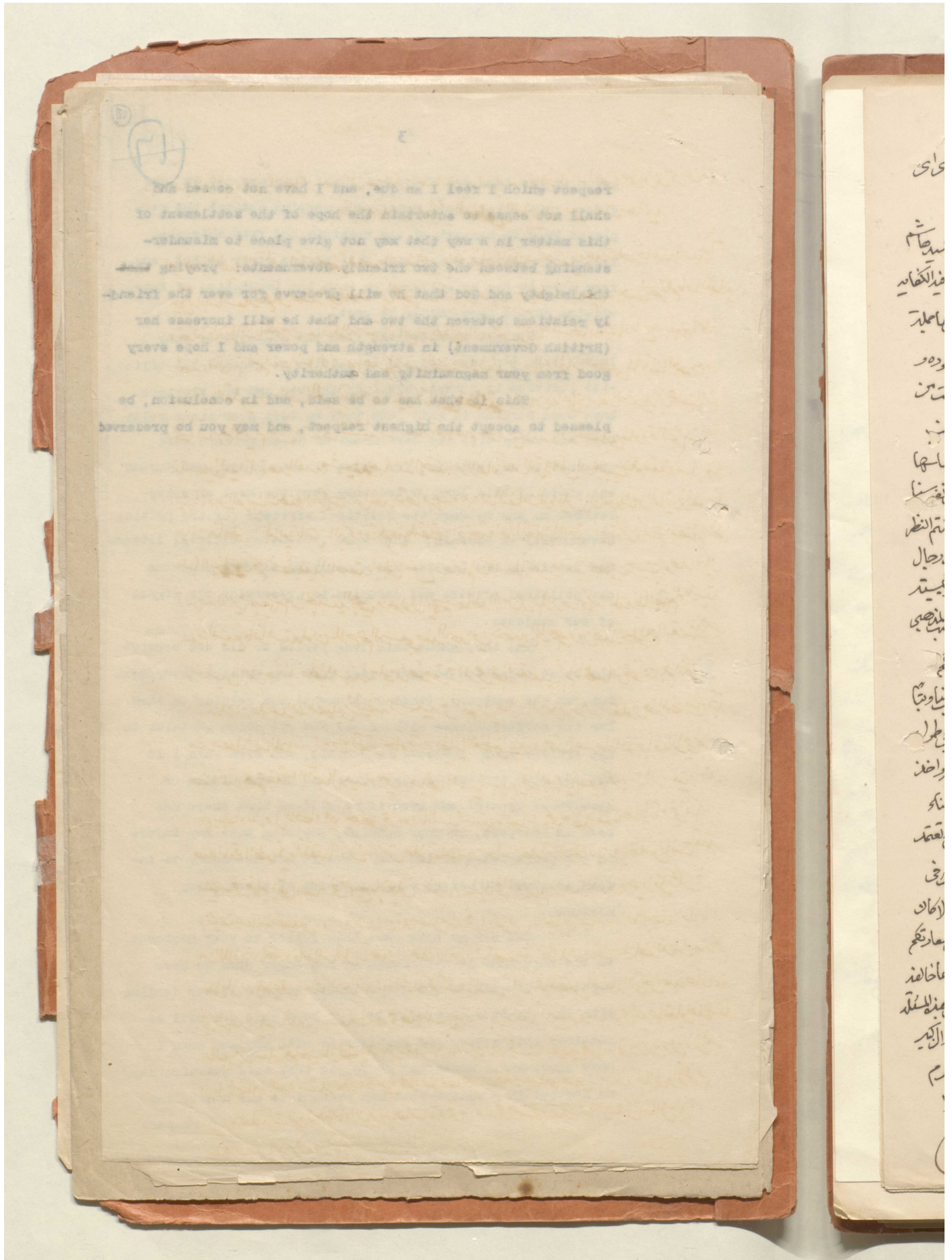
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respect which I feel I am due, and I have not ceased and shall not cease to entertain the hope of the settlement of this matter in a way that may not give place to misunderstanding between the two friendly Governments: praying that the Almighty and God that he will preserve for ever the friendly relations between the two and that he will increase her (British Government) in strength and power and I hope every good from your magnanimity and authority.

This is what has to be said, and in conclusion, be pleased to accept the highest respect, and may you be preserved

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [18v] (36/144)



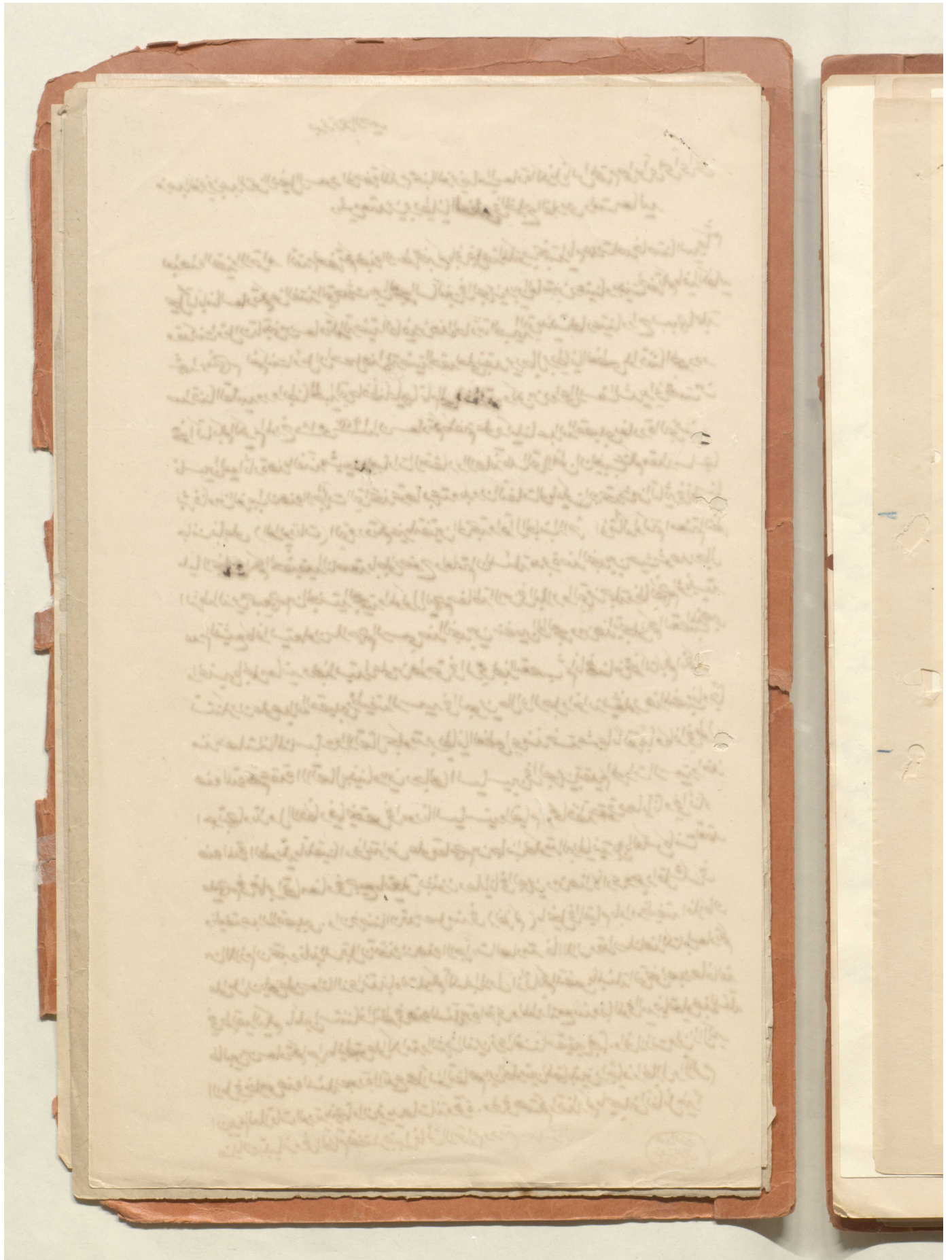
١٥٦
١٥

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

من عبد العزيز بن عبد الرحمن الفيصل آل سعود المحض للمكرم محمد العزيز صاحب العادة الكريمة أسلم محمد بن موسى بن أبي أيمن
وغيره من عمدة بريطانيا العظمى في الخليج الفارسي دامت معاليه

بعد هذه التحية والاحترام أقدم بحضرة محض هذه الاسطر مخبركم بانني قبل هذه المدة بوقت طويل من ايام عدت لحد خاصتنا السيد صاحب
مجلس كياننا السادة وكلم عن الفتنة التي حدثت بين العجم الكثر في البحرين وبيوت العاقبين وبعيننا وبعينتكم فكم ما فدا الكفاية
وقد كنت اول ان تاتي بين حاد وكذا الرضية كما هي من هذه الحادثة الجسيمة التي بدت بها دعيتنا وراح بسببها عملة
شهداء ونجحهم نعم كنت اول ان احصل هذه الرضية المحقة لعلمي بقدر رجال بريطانيا العظمى لمواقفنا المحجورة و
صداقتنا الطيبة وروابطنا الحبية التي حافظنا عليها تمام الى ان وقتنا وكثير من رواجي الاسفل الشديدي في حجت من
مخبرنا بكم الكرم المورخ د. امي شكرا ان سعادتكم كلفتم ظهور علينا عبد العزيز القصبيني مفادرة البحر
ناسبين له اثاره هذه الفتنة وشيخه بعبادات الاحقاد والاهانة تلك التي الاطن ان يغيب عنكم مقدر ساهما
بشرقا ومن الغرب ان هذه الاجراءات التي اتخذتموها بعينكم وبدون التفات او ما يمكن ان تحدث من التأثير في نفسنا
جاءت بنا على (الارواح) التي وردتكم غير ملتفتين الى حجة واول الجانب الاخر اذ في قائل لو كنتم امعتم النظر
مليا لا تتجهوا لكم الحضيقة الناصقة باطله صريح واعلم ان المسئلة مدبرة ضد التجريين حيث شوهد رجال
الشرط الذين جميعهم من الجندية العجمية والمكول اليهم حفاظة الاسن في البلاد والتي من جملة وظائفهم الرئيسية
عدم التسرع كما لو استعملون سلاحهم الرسمي ضد التجريين منضمين الى العجم ومن هذا يتجلى كبح العصبة المنصبي
والخشي بالجلد عانيد وهذا سيدل على من طرح في الرمي بهذا العصب ثم انما نحننا من محو كتابكم انكم
تستندون على عدالة القصبيني في قضاة الرمي في البحرين حال ان الرجل وانواره يشعرون هذا المضيقا وقتا
منذ حصلت لنا المناسبات والاتصال بحكامه بريطانيا العظمى اي منذ خمسة عشر عاما تقريبا وكانوا في كل
هذه المدة هم عمدة الاتصال بيننا وبين رجالها السياسيين في البحرين بتقديم الحريات الرسمية واخذ
اجرتهم واول الاعمار فيما يخص في امورنا السياسية والقانونية بحفاظة حقوقنا وعباياتنا وفي اننا
هذه المدق الطويلة ما تلقينا اذ في اعتراض على مقاصد من حاد الحكومة البريطانية بل بالعكس كانت تعقد
عليهم في تمام احوالهم في جميع ما يتعلق بشئون رعاياتنا في البحرين ومن هذا لا ادرى حردا اقل شكر في
وظيفة عبد الله القصبيني وان فرضنا ان قد حصل مند في (نظركم) ما نخل في القيام باداء وظيفة اطلاقا
من اللازم ان تتجه وان ذلك قبل ان تتخذ من هذه الاجراءات الصادقة فالان وقد ارسلنا هذا الكتاب بحضرة
على مل ان يلح على رولنا الذي اندناه لتلوكم الكتاب الاول اذ في انكم المنضمين بالمسئلة التي نحن نصددها خالفة
في طريقه اليكم ما ملين استنساخ النظر في هذه المسئلة بوجه اخرى وللملازمة مع مند في المومي الذي فيما يتعلق هذه المسئلة
طالبين من سعادتكم اجراء ما يطبق على الامانة والشرف الذين نرى انهمنا حقيقين فيما. وفي الاذلت من اننا الكبر
الامل في خلاص هذه المسئلة بصورة الاتد مع محلا للوفاء بين الحكومتين المتحابتين راجيا ذوالخلال والاکرم
ان يدوم العلاقات الودية بيننا وان فريدها متانة وقوة. وطرفي حمتكم واقتداركم ما يجعلني افاضل خيرا
هذا انتم تبيان في الختام تفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام ودمتم ١٠ اذار ١٣٢١

عبد العزيز
القصبيني
المنصبي

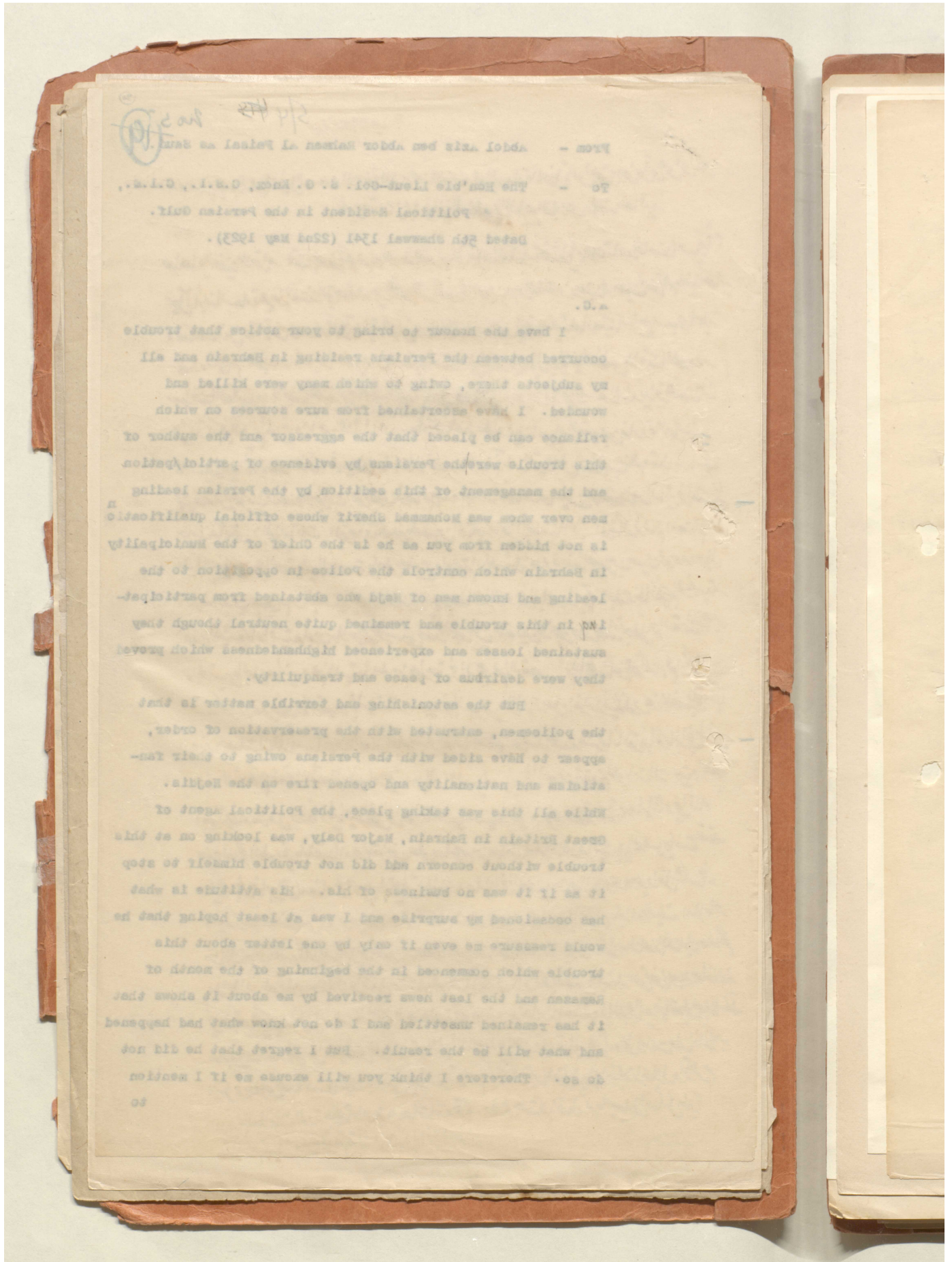


5/4 4/18 205
From - Abdul Aziz ben Abdor Rahman Al Faisal as Saud
To - The Hon'ble Lieut-Col. J. G. Knox, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.
Dated 5th Shawwal 1341 (22nd May 1923).

A.C.

I have the honour to bring to your notice that trouble occurred between the Persians residing in Bahrain and all my subjects there, owing to which many were killed and wounded. I have ascertained from sure sources on which reliance can be placed that the aggressor and the author of this trouble were the Persians by evidence of participation and the management of this sedition by the Persian leading men over whom was Mohammad Sherif whose official qualification is not hidden from you as he is the Chief of the Municipality in Bahrain which controls the Police in opposition to the leading and known men of Nejd who abstained from participating in this trouble and remained quite neutral though they sustained losses and experienced highhandedness which proved they were desirous of peace and tranquility.

But the astonishing and terrible matter is that the policemen, entrusted with the preservation of order, appear to have sided with the Persians owing to their fanaticism and nationality and opened fire on the Nejdis. While all this was taking place, the Political Agent of Great Britain in Bahrain, Major Daly, was looking on at this trouble without concern and did not trouble himself to stop it as if it was no business of his. His attitude is what has occasioned my surprise and I was at least hoping that he would reassure me even if only by one letter about this trouble which commenced in the beginning of the month of Ramazan and the last news received by me about it shows that it has remained unsettled and I do not know what had happened and what will be the result. But I regret that he did not do so. Therefore I think you will excuse me if I mention
to

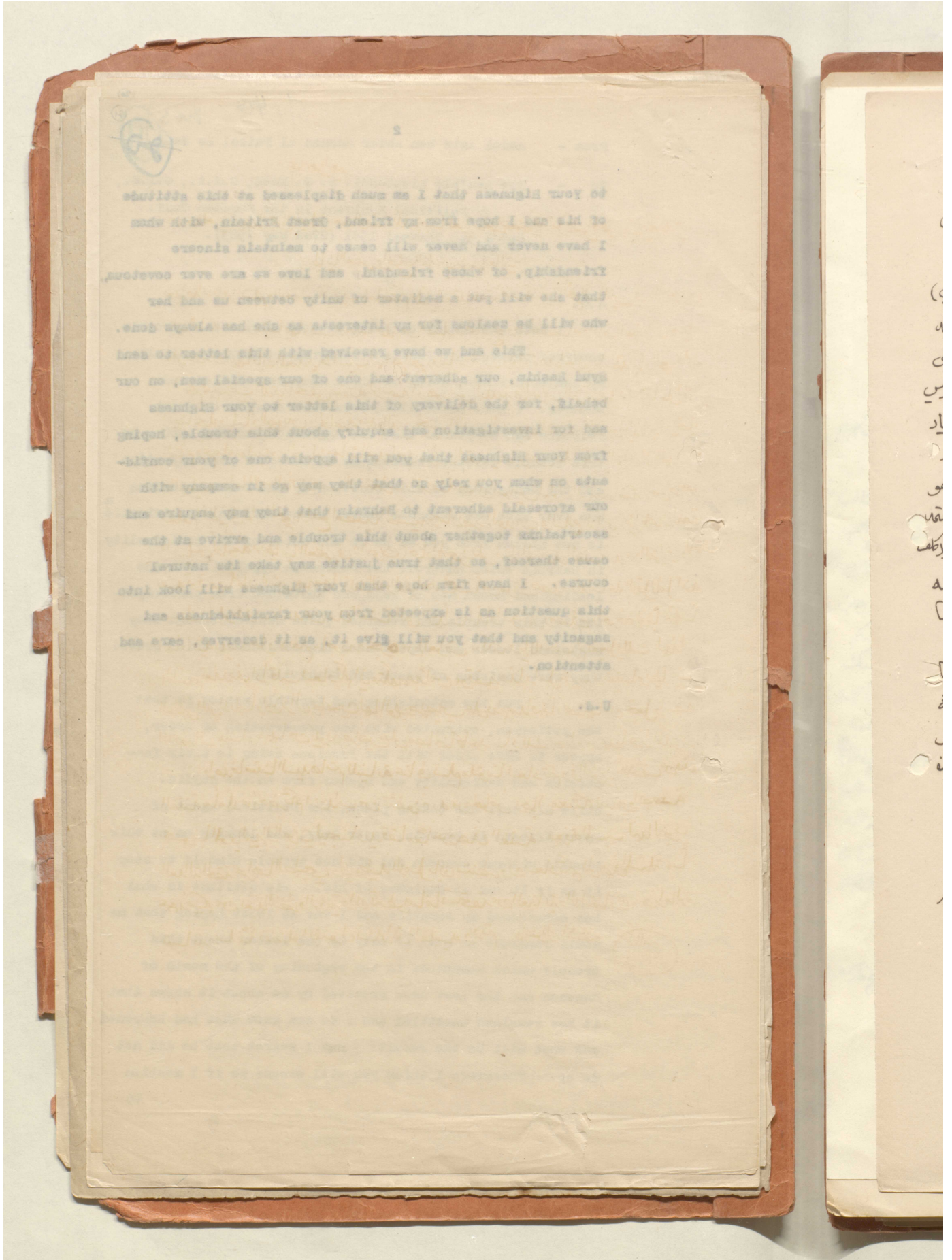


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to Your Highness that I am much displeas'd at this attitude of his and I hope from my friend, Great Britain, with whom I have never and never will cease to maintain sincere friendship, of whose friendship and love we are ever covetous, that she will put a mediator of unity between us and her who will be zealous for my interests as she has always done.

This and we have resolv'd with this letter to send Syud Hashim, our adherent and one of our special men, on our behalf, for the delivery of this letter to Your Highness and for investigation and enquiry about this trouble, hoping from Your Highness that you will appoint one of your confidants on whom you rely so that they may go in company with our afresaid adherent to Bahrain that they may enquire and ascertain together about this trouble and arrive at the cause thereof, so that true justice may take its natural course. I have firm hope that Your Highness will look into this question as is expected from your farsightedness and sagacity and that you will give it, as it deserves, care and attention.

U.S.

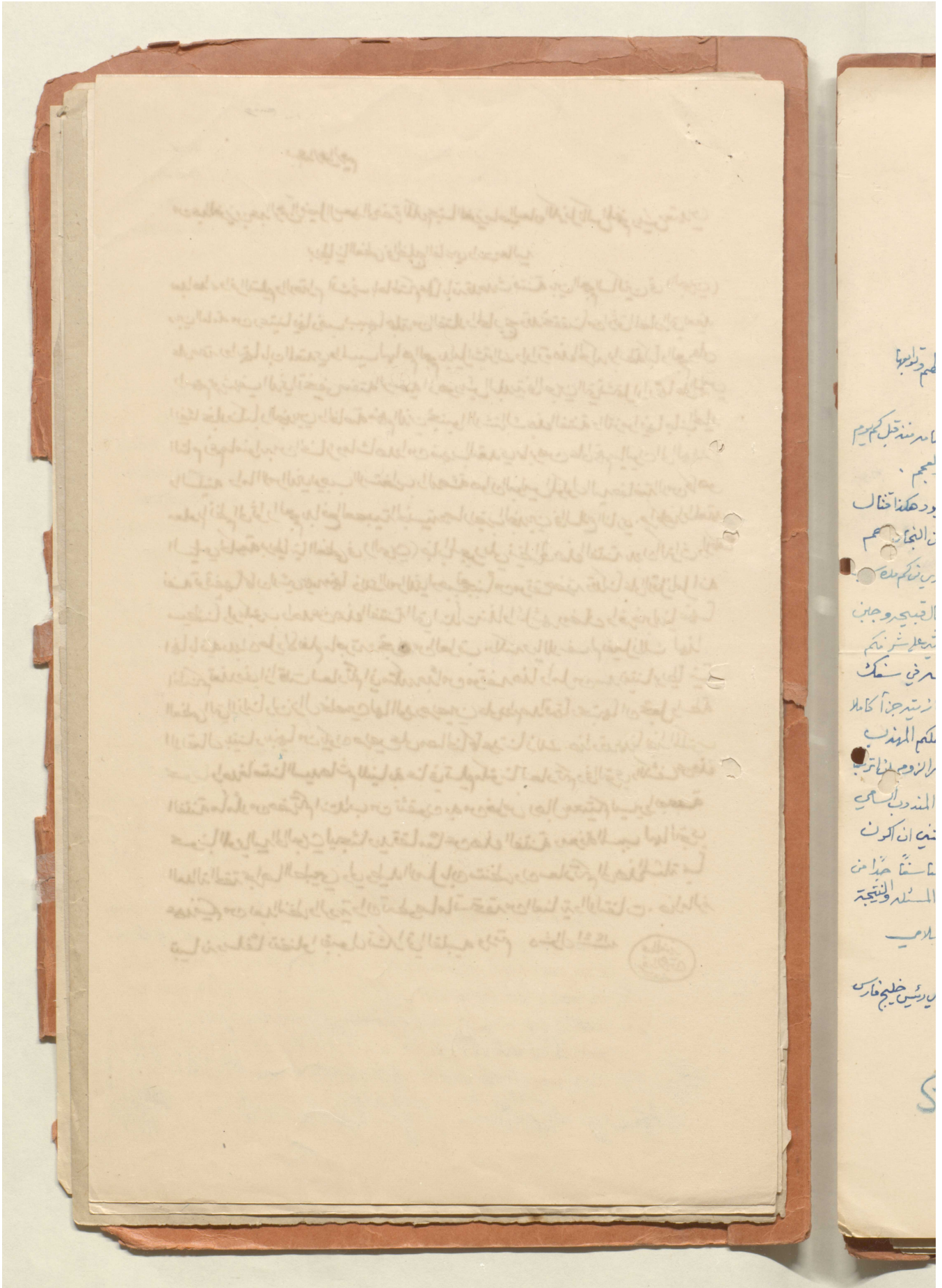


٢٢
٤٥٥

بسمه الرحمن الرحيم

من عبد العزيز بن عبد الرحمن الفيصل آل سعود المحضرة للكرم محبنا العزيز صاحب السعادة الكرنيل ناكس المخيم رئيس معتمدين
بريطانيا العظمى في الخليج الفارسي دامت معاليه
بعاداءه وافر التسليم والاحترام أشرف باحاطتكم علماً بأذنه قد حدث فتنة بين العجم السالكين في البحرين
وبين العامة من رعيتنا فيما ذهب بسببها حملة من القتل والمجازيح وقد تحققنا من وثوق المصادر التي لعينها
على صحة روايتها بان المعتدي والمسيب لهما هم العجم بدليل اشتراك وإدارة هذه الحركة بواسطة كبار العجم والى
رأسهم محمد شريف الذي لا تخفى صفته الرسمية اذ هو رئيس البلدية في البحرين التي تشمل ادارتها على الجوس
ايضا بخلاف كبار الخديين والخاصة منهم الذين تجنّبوا الاشتراك بهذه الفتنة والتزموا فيها جانب الحياد
التام رغم امنوا بوسن الحناز وما شاهدوا من ضرب المعتدي معايرهم على نعمهم ميايون الى الهارد
والسكنه واما الامر الذي يوجب الاستغراب والرهشة هو ان البوليس لم يول المية حفاظة الامن كما هو
معلوم انظم الى ثوار العجم بدافع العصبية الجنسية وصار يضرب الخديين في اللامح الناري. من كل هذا والمعتد
السيئي تخالفة بريطانيا العظمى في (البحرين) خبايا الميجر دلي في نظرنا الى هذه الفتنة يدرك الثرائ والاطف
نفسه توقفتها كان لا شيء يهدد منها ذلك الامر الذي اوجب علينا من موقف حضرة وقد كنا على الاقل نامل انه
سيظننا ولو بقلوب واحد من هذه الفتنة التي استلأت منذ اوائل شهر رمضان واخره ولربنا عنها
انها باقية يدرك حلا ولا تعلم ما جرت به تجر من العواقب ولكننا ربما للاسف لم يفعل ذلك لهذا
اطنتم تعادوني اذا قلت لعدائكم اني متأكد جدا من موقفه هذا وأمل من صدقتنا بريطانيا
العظمى التي لازلتنا ولن نزال نخلصين لها الورد رصين على دولهم صداقتهما ومحتبهما ان تجعل واسطة
الاتصال بيننا وبينها من يكون حريص على مصالحنا كما هو متنا ذلك. هذا وقد عمدنا بهذا المكتوب
محبونا واحدا خاصتنا السيد هاشم للنيا بة عنا في تسليم مكتوبنا لعدائكم وفي التوري والكشف عن هذه
الفتنة مأملاً من حضرتكم انتداب من تشقرون به من خواص رجال معيتكم لسيروا بصحبة
محبونا الموي اليه الى البحرين ليبحثا ويدق قماما عن هذه الفتنة ومعرفة المسبب لهما لتجري
العادلة الحقبة مجراها الطبيعي ولي وطيد الامل بان تنتظرون معاديتكم الى هذه المسئلة بما
عهدتكم من بعد النظر والروية وان تعطروها ما تسحقه من العناية والاتفات. هذا ما لرفه
تبياناً وسلفاً تفضلوا بقبول تشراتي القلبية ورتقم هـ شوال ١٤٢٥

عبد العزيز
قوسايب
مستوفى



22

من البحرين ١٨ من ١٩٢٢ الموافق ٢٠ شوال ١٣٤١

من الكرنل ناكس سيلاس آبي سي آبي رئيس خليج فارس

الى حضرة خياب آغا جلالخان والاصل الاكرم عمدة الاصحاب الشيخ عبدالعزيز بن عبد الرحمن آل خليل الخان نجل العظيم والربها
 وتمر شرفي الالام الثام عليكم ورحمة الرب وكما تد على الدوام بعه يا صديقي لا تخجل على سعادتكم ان في بلاد الناصرة منذ قبل كم هم
 حدثت مواكفاً تصيب زهبي محزنه للانسانية والذي صارت نتيجته سخطك الداء بين النجاة والجمع
 لهذا حازر دم كي ان امره واليهي لكي اتحقق عن اسباب هذه اكارته ولكن اجتهده واعلم ترتيبه لئلا يعود هكذا خيال
 خضع اليه تاساً هجلاً ان اخبر سعادتكم من الرديت التي وردتني قيت عندي بدون اذنا شبره ان النجاة هم
 المتجاذرين وكذا لك وكيكم عبدالله العقيب من ادعائه عتياً لينتقل لنفسه وضاف قضيته والذين فيكم منه
 امرت اب في انكاركم هو ليس فخره سبباً لهذه اكارته ولاكن من بعد ما ابته هذه احكمه انما بين هذه اعمال الجبر وجبن
 يعذبه والذي هو سبب قليل من في شرف سعادتكم ولو كان معلوماً ان هكذا اشخص حقيرة لا يؤثر كثره على شرفكم
 ولاكن ما فيه هو قليل سبب تاثير المسس في اسماكم المحترم . اما قدس الرجل هو مسئول لنا سيرة في سخطك
 دمار هو لآء المساكين المغويين فلا لا كان شرف انكاركم عليه وان لم يكن هو مستحقاً لذلك لكانت جازية جزاً كاملاً
 فلاجل شرف افتخاركم عليها رخصه ان يحمل عنك المكتوب لسعادتكم لكي سعادتكم نه اذراكم الكامل وتعلمكم الموند
 تجردن ما نوال الام عليه وعلاقة على ذلك نظر الحاخمة السابقة التي تولدت منها هذه المشكلات امر الزوم من الترتيب
 من سعادتكم ان لا تبعثون وكيل آخر الى البحرين الامن بعد ما وقع الدولة كتمت تمامه مقبول الام لا . المندوب السعي
 في العلق (سرهته) بلزم اخذ صديكم ان من حين سفر السريسي كركس الدولة البريه قد اتخبتين ان يكون
 الالاطه بين حكومة مخطمكم وحكومة جلالة الملك الاعمى طريق المستعرات في لندك . في شخصاً تاساً هجلاً من
 بعد ما شرفه بهذه الرخصة العالمية ابتداءً ببلينكم بهذه المارة الغير منشره ولاكن اعمته هذه المسئلة والنتيجة
 المحزنه المتولدة من اعمال عبدالله العقيب هي الحجة وعنده . هذا ما مضى من انتم اقبلوا قاتين سلام

من محبكم الكرنل ناكس سيلاس آبي رئيس خليج فارس

Residents letter to Bin
 Sansre Nya - person rights (see file 1/16)
 + deputatun of Qosaibi 5/4

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [23v] (46/144)



D.O.No. 295-S.

5/4

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The Residency,
Bushire, 19th June 1925.

My dear Daly,

Syed Hashim thinks that Bin Saud would be pleased if Abdulla al Qasaibi were allowed to return to Bahrain, of course not in any official capacity but merely to manage his own affairs as a private individual. On these conditions I see no objection whatever to his return and shall be glad if you can facilitate it.

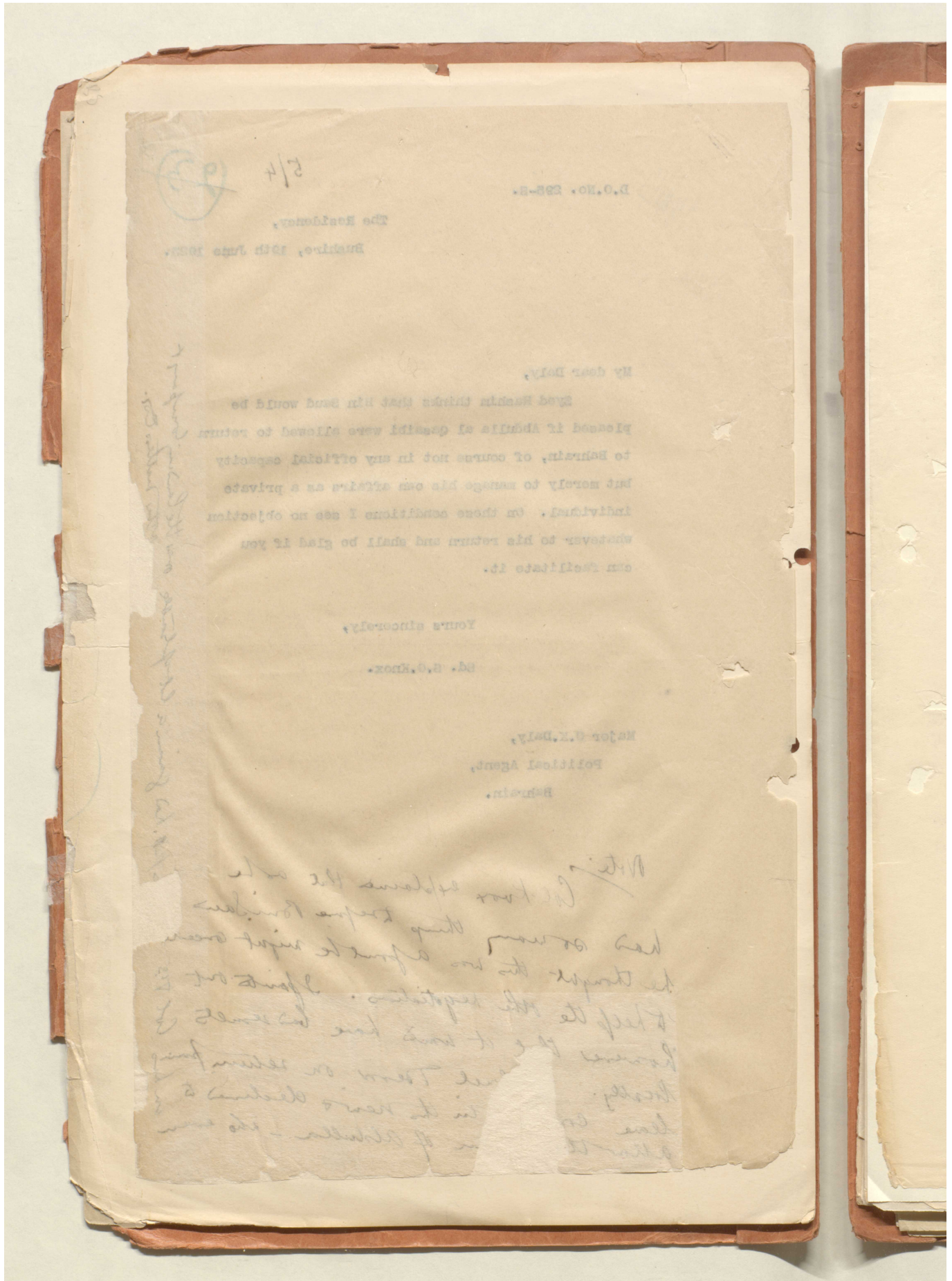
Yours sincerely,

Sd. S.C.Knox.

Major C.K.Daly,
Political Agent,
Bahrain.

Note
Col. Knox explained that as he had so many things to prepare Bin Saud he thought this was a point he might over to help the other negotiations. I pointed out however that it would have had results broadly. I pointed out that on return from leave Col. Knox in the news declared to allow the return of Abdulla - who even in his

S.P.D. had given a lot of trouble over the landing company & the matter D.S.



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [25r] (49/144)

D.C No. 297-S.

5/4 24 25
The Residency, Bushire,
20th June 1923.

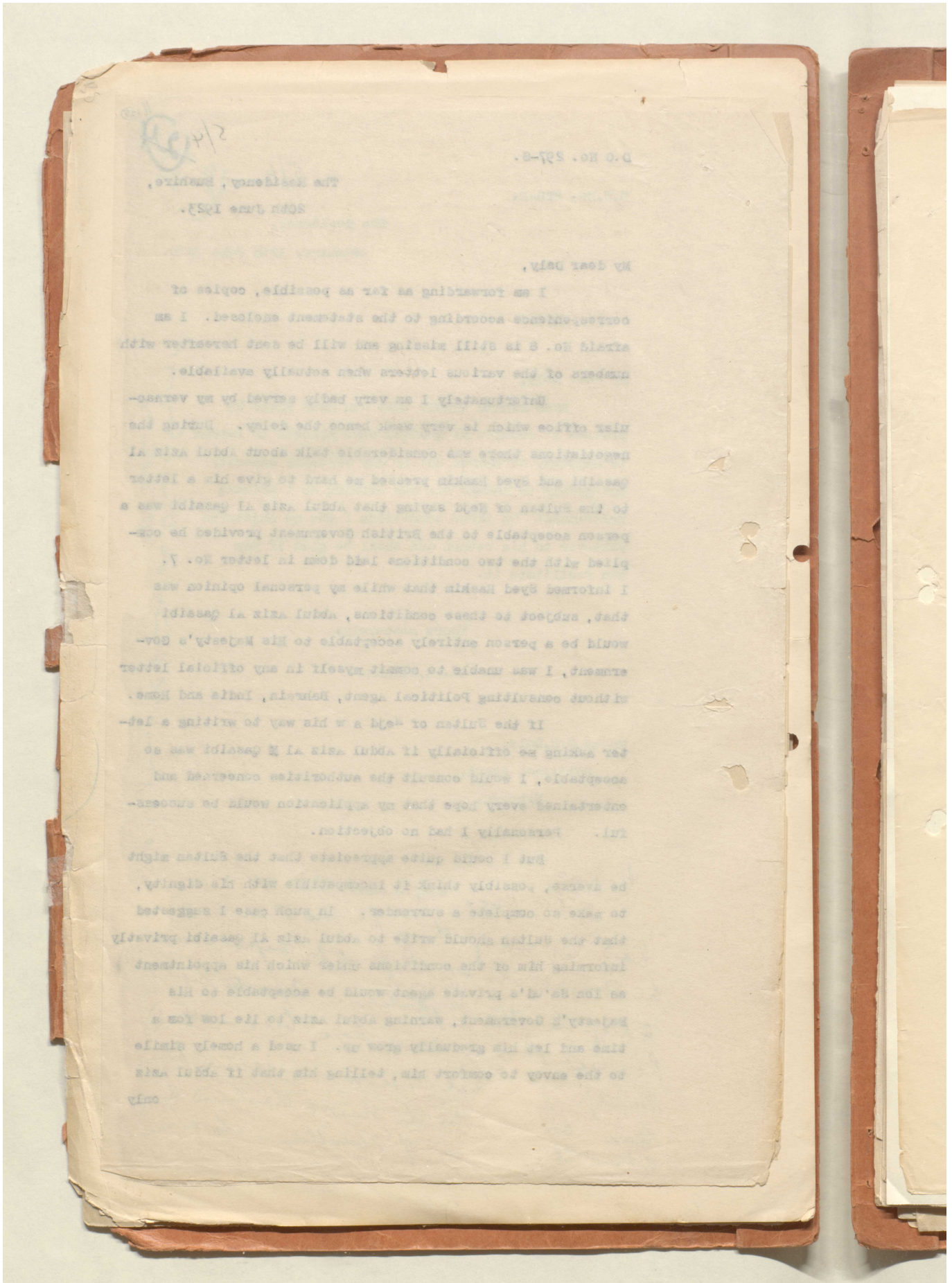
My dear Daly,

I am forwarding as far as possible, copies of correspondence according to the statement enclosed. I am afraid No. 8 is still missing and will be sent hereafter with numbers of the various letters when actually available.

Unfortunately I am very badly served by my vernacular office which is very weak hence the delay. During the negotiations there was considerable talk about Abdul Aziz Al Qasaibi and Syed Haskim pressed me hard to give him a letter to the Sultan of Nejd saying that Abdul Aziz Al Qasaibi was a person acceptable to the British Government provided he complied with the two conditions laid down in letter No. 7. I informed Syed Haskim that while my personal opinion was that, subject to these conditions, Abdul Aziz Al Qasaibi would be a person entirely acceptable to His Majesty's Government, I was unable to commit myself in any official letter without consulting Political Agent, Bahrain, India and Home.

If the Sultan of Nejd saw his way to writing a letter asking me officially if Abdul Aziz Al Qasaibi was so acceptable, I would consult the authorities concerned and entertained every hope that my application would be successful. Personally I had no objection.

But I could quite appreciate that the Sultan might be averse, possibly think it incompatible with his dignity, to make so complete a surrender. In such case I suggested that the Sultan should write to Abdul Aziz Al Qasaibi privately informing him of the conditions under which his appointment as Ibn Sa'ud's private agent would be acceptable to His Majesty's Government, warning Abdul Aziz to lie low for a time and let him gradually grow up. I used a homely simile to the envoy to comfort him, telling him that if Abdul Aziz
only



25 26
only followed out our advice and instructions, he would
speedily find out that he would be able to couch a camel
in the Political Agent's drawing room while Abdul, by the
former methods, would find it impossible to introduce a
mouse wrapped up in a napkin into a corner of the Political
agent's compound.

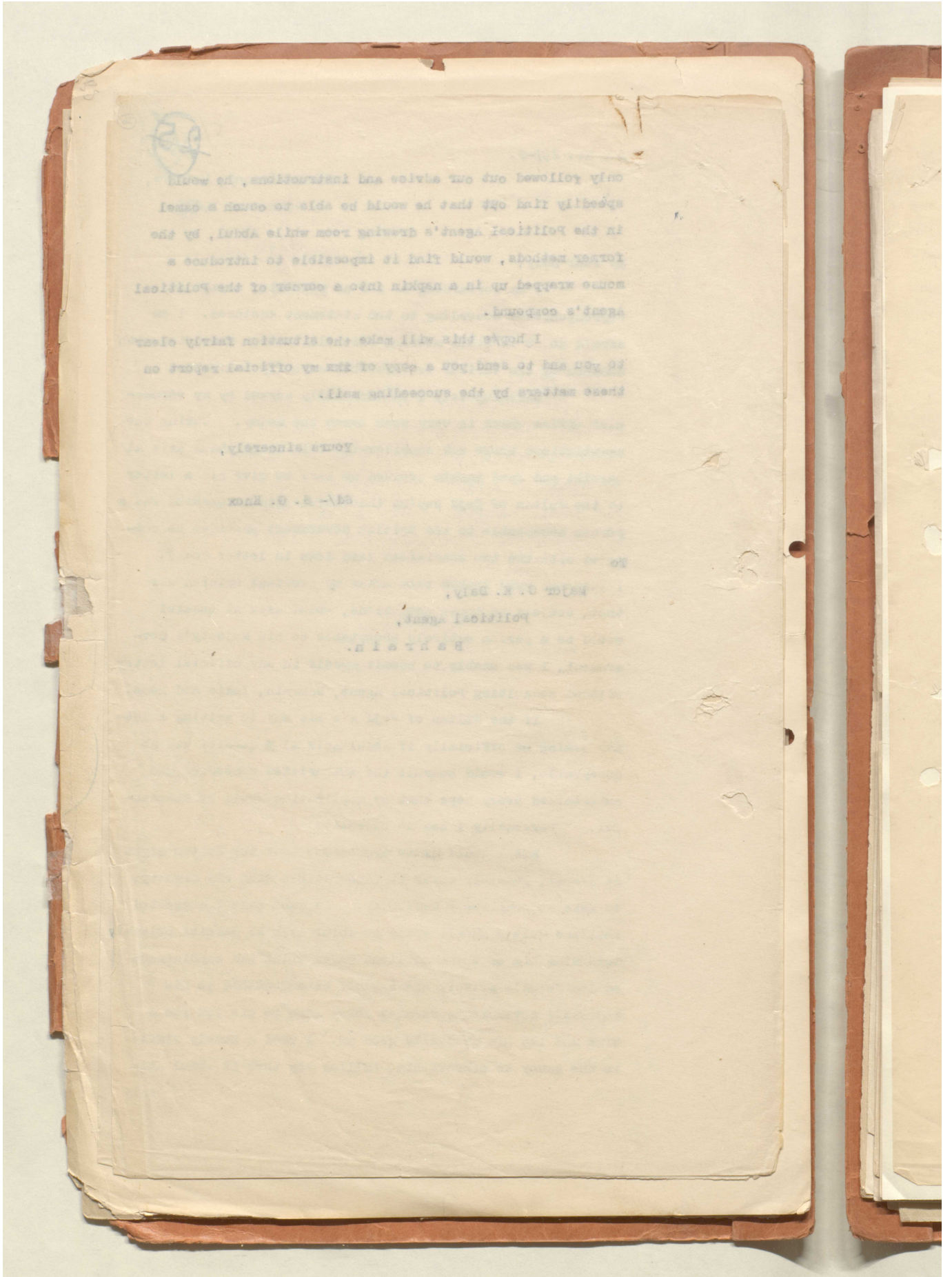
I hope this will make the situation fairly clear
to you and to send you a copy of ~~the~~ my official report on
these matters by the succeeding mail.

Yours sincerely,

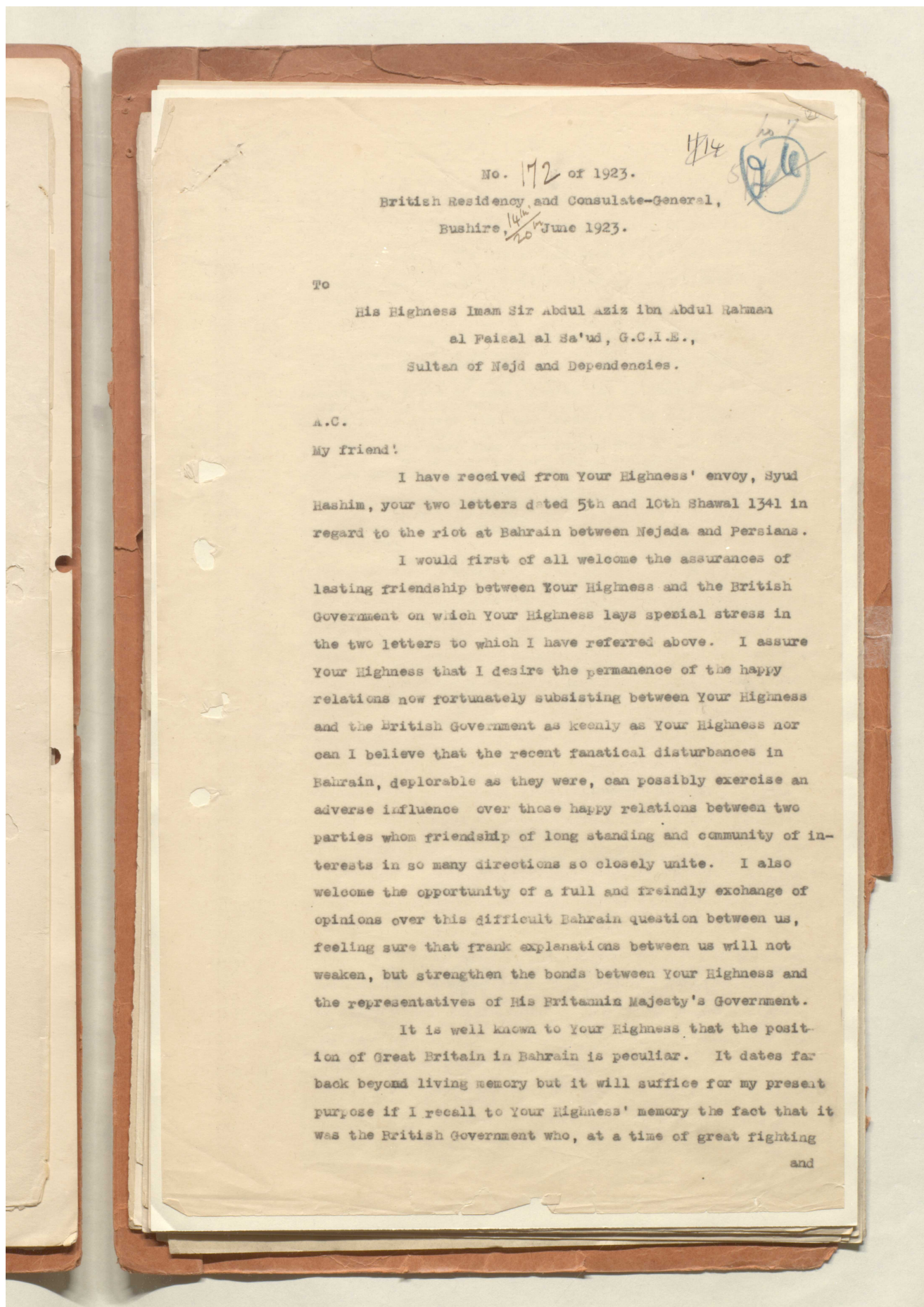
Sd/- S. G. Knox

To

Major C. K. Daly,
Political Agent,
B a h r a i n .



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [27r] (53/144)



No. 172 of 1923.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 14th/₂₀ June 1923.

To

His Highness Imam Sir Abdul Aziz ibn Abdul Rahman
al Faisal al Sa'ud, G.C.I.E.,
Sultan of Nejd and Dependencies.

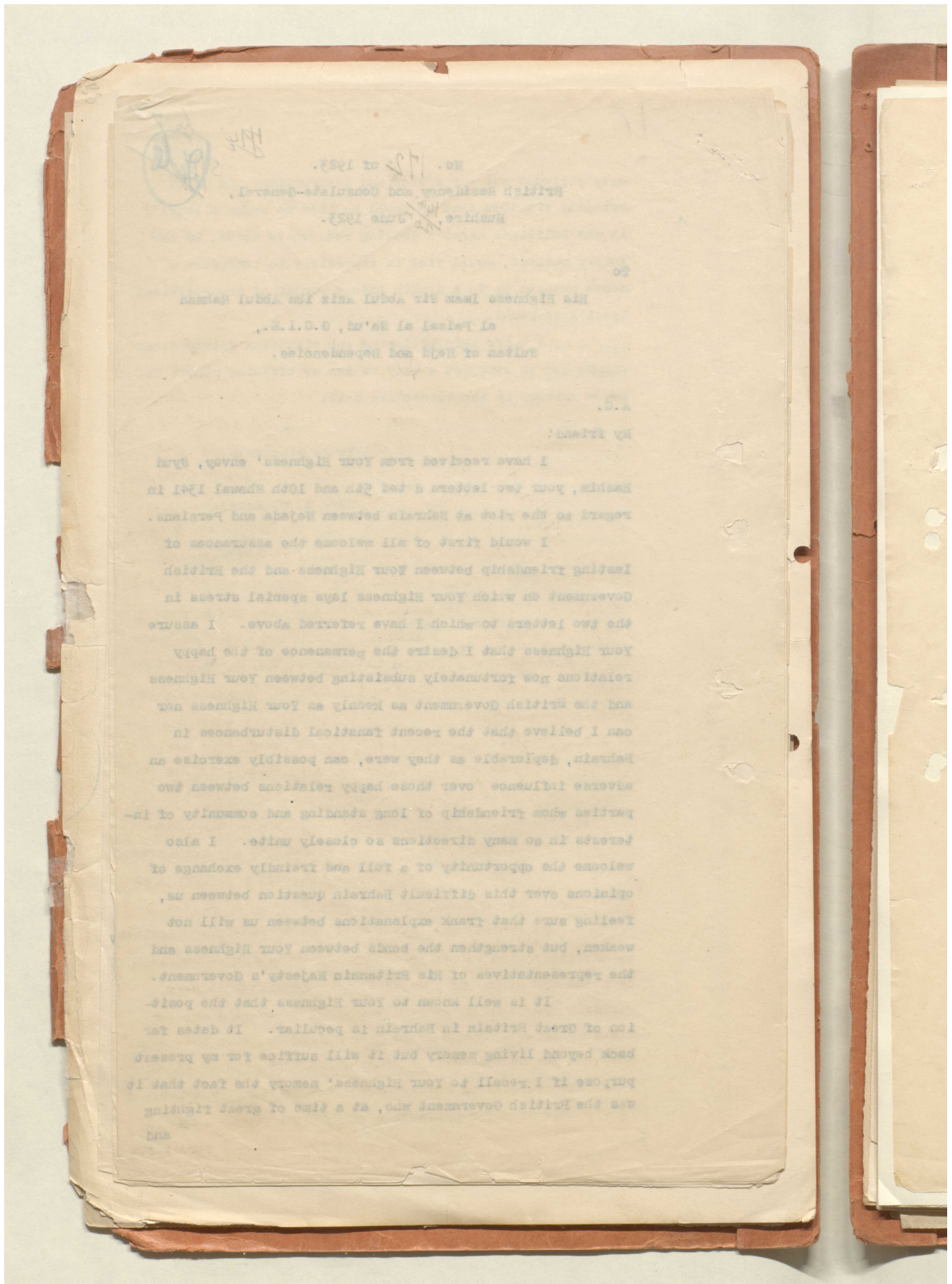
A.C.

My friend!

I have received from Your Highness' envoy, Syud Hashim, your two letters dated 5th and 10th Shawal 1341 in regard to the riot at Bahrain between Nejd and Persians.

I would first of all welcome the assurances of lasting friendship between Your Highness and the British Government on which Your Highness lays special stress in the two letters to which I have referred above. I assure Your Highness that I desire the permanence of the happy relations now fortunately subsisting between Your Highness and the British Government as keenly as Your Highness nor can I believe that the recent fanatical disturbances in Bahrain, deplorable as they were, can possibly exercise an adverse influence over those happy relations between two parties whose friendship of long standing and community of interests in so many directions so closely unite. I also welcome the opportunity of a full and friendly exchange of opinions over this difficult Bahrain question between us, feeling sure that frank explanations between us will not weaken, but strengthen the bonds between Your Highness and the representatives of His Britannic Majesty's Government.

It is well known to Your Highness that the position of Great Britain in Bahrain is peculiar. It dates far back beyond living memory but it will suffice for my present purpose if I recall to Your Highness' memory the fact that it was the British Government who, at a time of great fighting
and



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and disorder quelled disturbances and called Shaikh Isa al Khalifa, then a fugitive, to the Shaikhdom of Bahrain fifty five years ago. His father had been killed in that fighting which led to active intervention by His Majesty's Government.

During that long rule of fifty five years, it was the British Government who maintained, on more than one occasion by force of arms, Shaikh Isa as Shaikh of Bahrain and it is no secret that the protection of His Majesty's Government has more than once helped Shaikh Isa, not only against external aggression, but also against his own subjects the Baharinah who have long been seriously oppressed and thoroughly discontented.

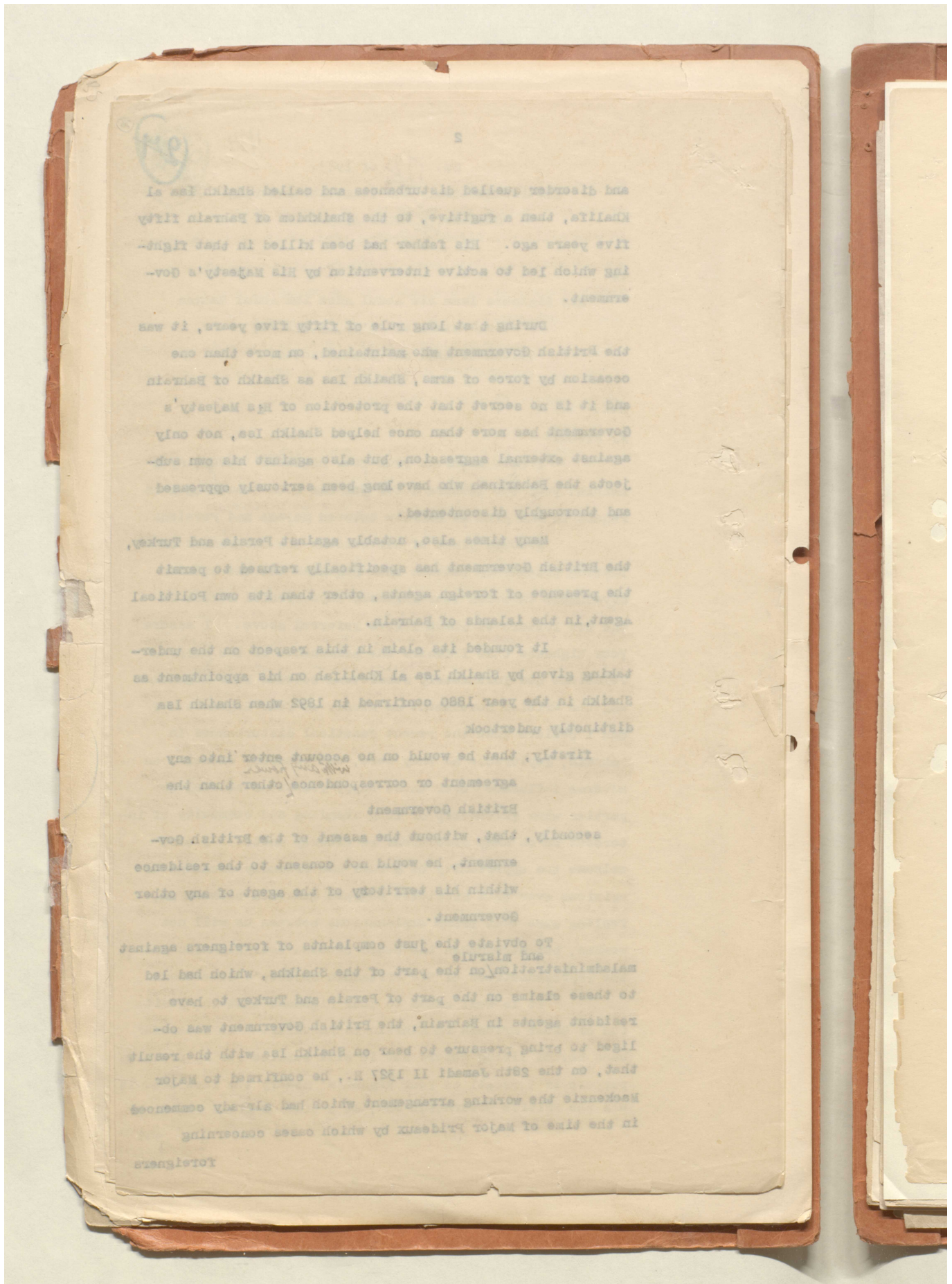
Many times also, notably against Persia and Turkey, the British Government has specifically refused to permit the presence of foreign agents, other than its own Political Agent, in the islands of Bahrain.

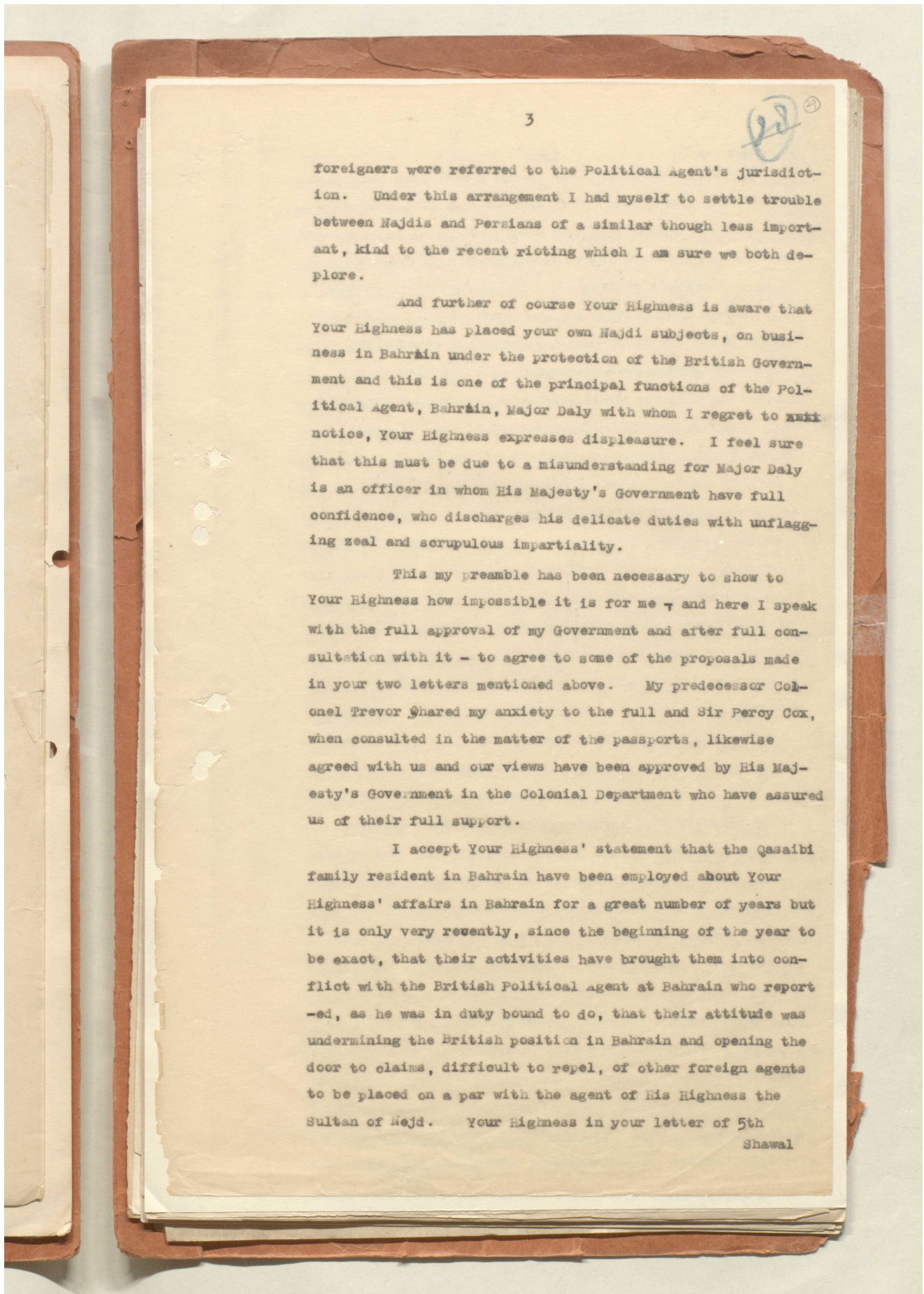
It founded its claim in this respect on the undertaking given by Shaikh Isa al Khalifah on his appointment as Shaikh in the year 1880 confirmed in 1892 when Shaikh Isa distinctly undertook

firstly, that he would on no account enter into any agreement or correspondence ^{with any power} other than the British Government

secondly, that, without the assent of the British Government, he would not consent to the residence within his territory of the agent of any other Government.

To obviate the just complaints of foreigners against and misrule maladministration on the part of the Shaikhs, which had led to these claims on the part of Persia and Turkey to have resident agents in Bahrain, the British Government was obliged to bring pressure to bear on Shaikh Isa with the result that, on the 28th Jamadi II 1327 H., he confirmed to Major Mackenzie the working arrangement which had already commenced in the time of Major Prideaux by which cases concerning foreigners





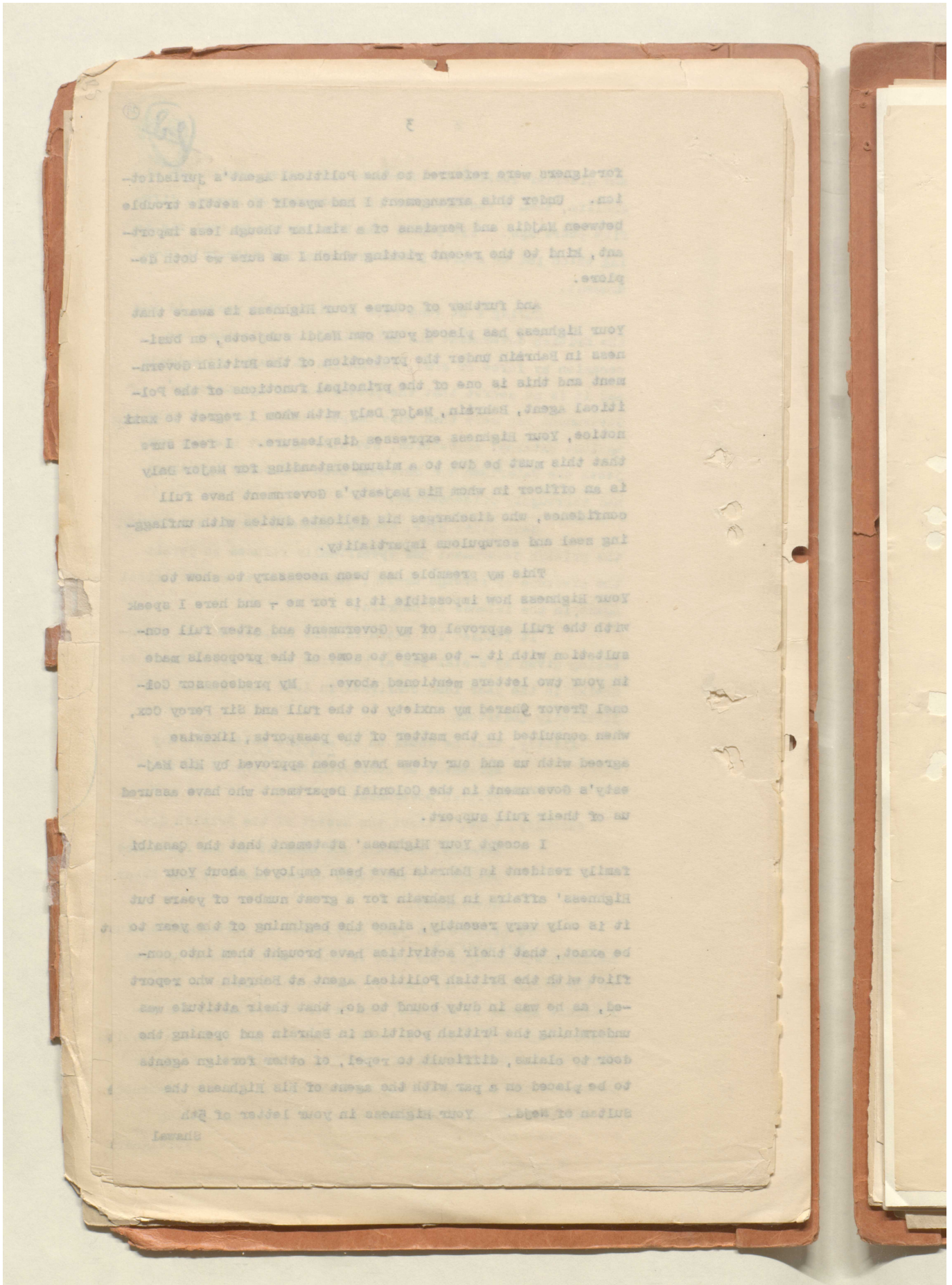
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foreigners were referred to the Political Agent's jurisdiction. Under this arrangement I had myself to settle trouble between Najdis and Persians of a similar though less important, kind to the recent rioting which I am sure we both deplore.

And further of course Your Highness is aware that Your Highness has placed your own Najdi subjects, on business in Bahrain under the protection of the British Government and this is one of the principal functions of the Political Agent, Bahrain, Major Daly with whom I regret to ~~omit~~ notice, Your Highness expresses displeasure. I feel sure that this must be due to a misunderstanding for Major Daly is an officer in whom His Majesty's Government have full confidence, who discharges his delicate duties with unflagging zeal and scrupulous impartiality.

This my preamble has been necessary to show to Your Highness how impossible it is for me ~~to~~ and here I speak with the full approval of my Government and after full consultation with it - to agree to some of the proposals made in your two letters mentioned above. My predecessor Colonel Trevor shared my anxiety to the full and Sir Percy Cox, when consulted in the matter of the passports, likewise agreed with us and our views have been approved by His Majesty's Government in the Colonial Department who have assured us of their full support.

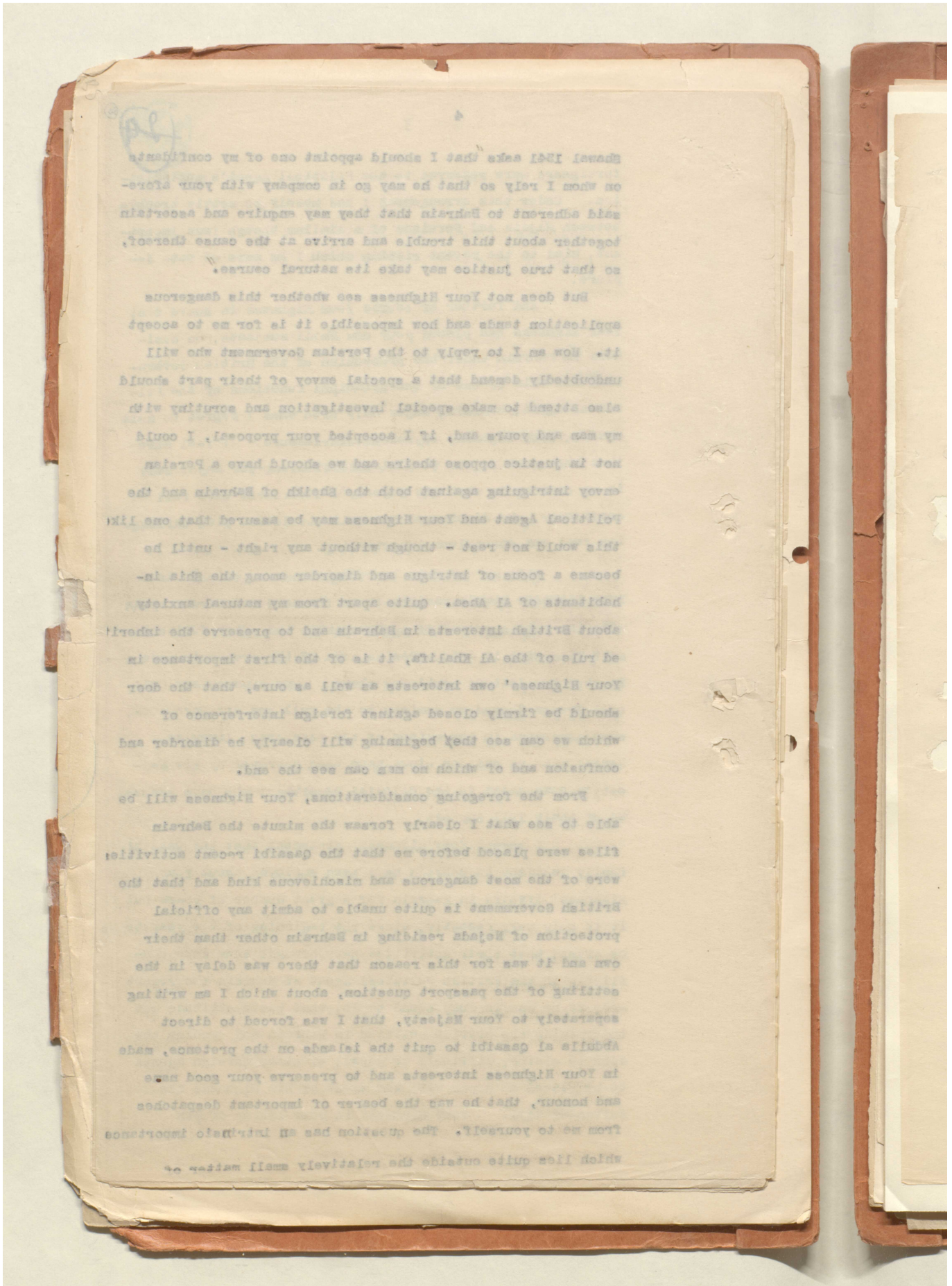
I accept Your Highness' statement that the Qosaibi family resident in Bahrain have been employed about Your Highness' affairs in Bahrain for a great number of years but it is only very recently, since the beginning of the year to be exact, that their activities have brought them into conflict with the British Political Agent at Bahrain who reported, as he was in duty bound to do, that their attitude was undermining the British position in Bahrain and opening the door to claims, difficult to repel, of other foreign agents to be placed on a par with the agent of His Highness the Sultan of Nejd. Your Highness in your letter of 5th
Shawal



Shawal 1341 asks "that I should appoint one of my confidants on whom I rely so that he may go in company with your afore-said adherent to Bahrain that they may enquire and ascertain together about this trouble and arrive at the cause thereof, so that true justice may take its natural course."

But does not Your Highness see whether this dangerous application tends and how impossible it is for me to accept it. How am I to reply to the Persian Government who will undoubtedly demand that a special envoy of their part should also attend to make special investigation and scrutiny with my man and yours and, if I accepted your proposal, I could not in justice oppose theirs and we should have a Persian envoy intriguing against both the Sheikh of Bahrain and the Political Agent and Your Highness may be assured that one like this would not rest - though without any right - until he became a focus of intrigue and disorder among the Shia inhabitants of Al Ahsa. Quite apart from my natural anxiety about British interests in Bahrain and to preserve the inherited rule of the Al Khalifa, it is of the first importance in Your Highness' own interests as well as ours, that the door should be firmly closed against foreign interference of which we can see the beginning will clearly be disorder and confusion and of which no man can see the end.

From the foregoing considerations, Your Highness will be able to see what I clearly foresaw the minute the Bahrain files were placed before me that the Qasaibi recent activities were of the most dangerous and mischievous kind and that the British Government is quite unable to admit any official protection of Nejada residing in Bahrain other than their own and it was for this reason that there was delay in the settling of the passport question, about which I am writing separately to Your Majesty, that I was forced to direct Abdulla al Qasaibi to quit the islands on the pretence, made in Your Highness interests and to preserve your good name and honour, that he was the bearer of important despatches from me to yourself. The question has an intrinsic importance which lies quite outside the relatively small matter of



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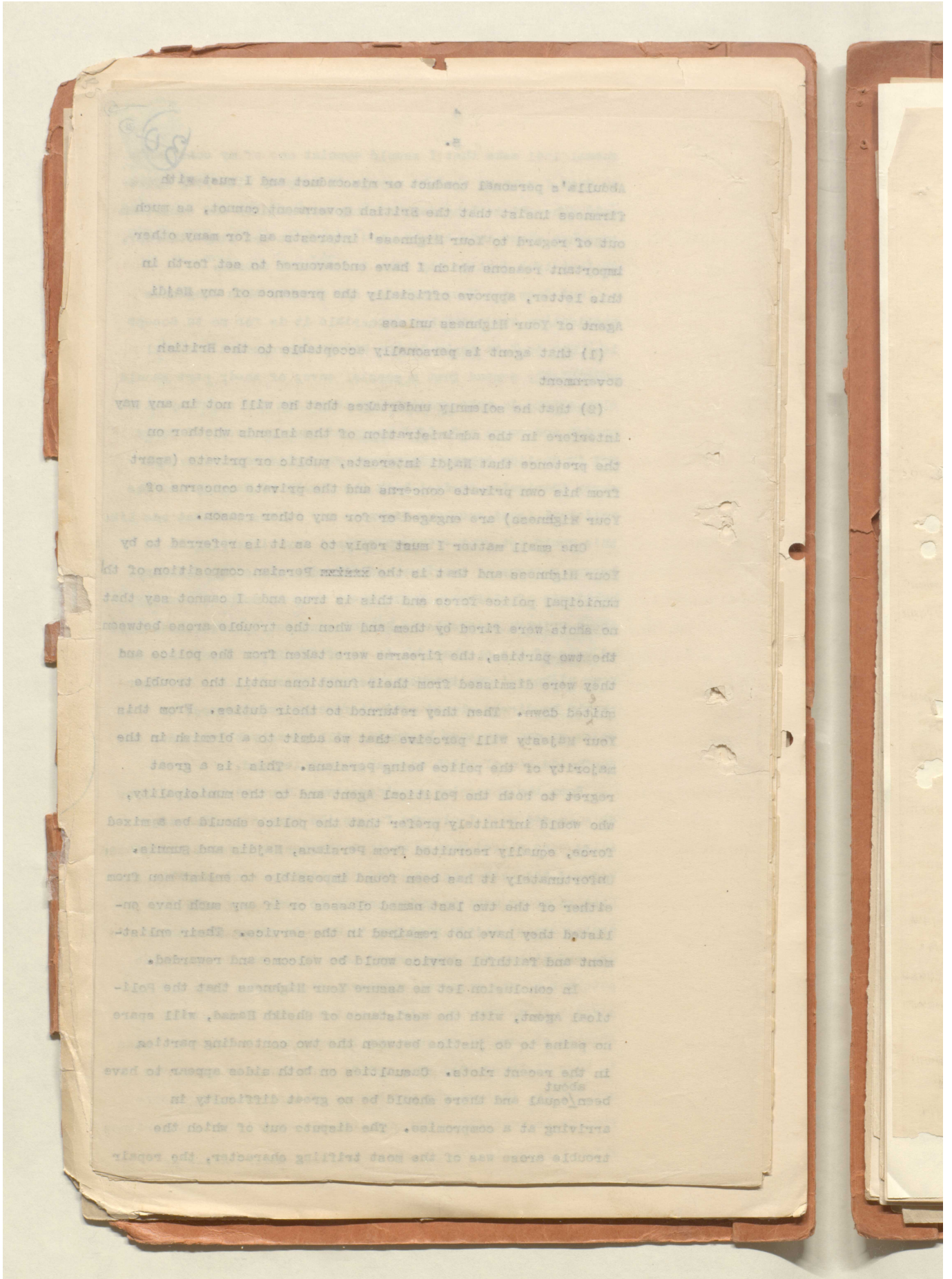
Abdulla's personal conduct or misconduct and I must with firmness insist that the British Government cannot, as much out of regard to Your Highness' interests as for many other important reasons which I have endeavoured to set forth in this letter, approve officially the presence of any Najdi Agent of Your Highness unless

(1) that agent is personally acceptable to the British Government

(2) that he solemnly undertakes that he will not in any way interfere in the administration of the islands whether on the pretence that Najdi interests, public or private (apart from his own private concerns and the private concerns of Your Highness) are engaged or for any other reason.

One small matter I must reply to as it is referred to by Your Highness and that is the ~~British~~ Persian composition of the municipal police force and this is true and I cannot say that no shots were fired by them and when the trouble arose between the two parties, the firearms were taken from the police and they were dismissed from their functions until the trouble quieted down. Then they returned to their duties. From this Your Majesty will perceive that we admit to a blemish in the majority of the police being Persians. This is a great regret to both the Political Agent and to the municipality, who would infinitely prefer that the police should be a mixed force, equally recruited from Persians, Najdis and Sunnis. Unfortunately it has been found impossible to enlist men from either of the two last named classes or if any such have enlisted they have not remained in the service. Their enlistment and faithful service would be welcome and rewarded.

In conclusion let me assure Your Highness that the Political Agent, with the assistance of Sheikh Hamad, will spare no pains to do justice between the two contending parties in the recent riots. Casualties on both sides appear to have been ^{about} equal and there should be no great difficulty in arriving at a compromise. The dispute out of which the trouble arose was of the most trifling character, the repair

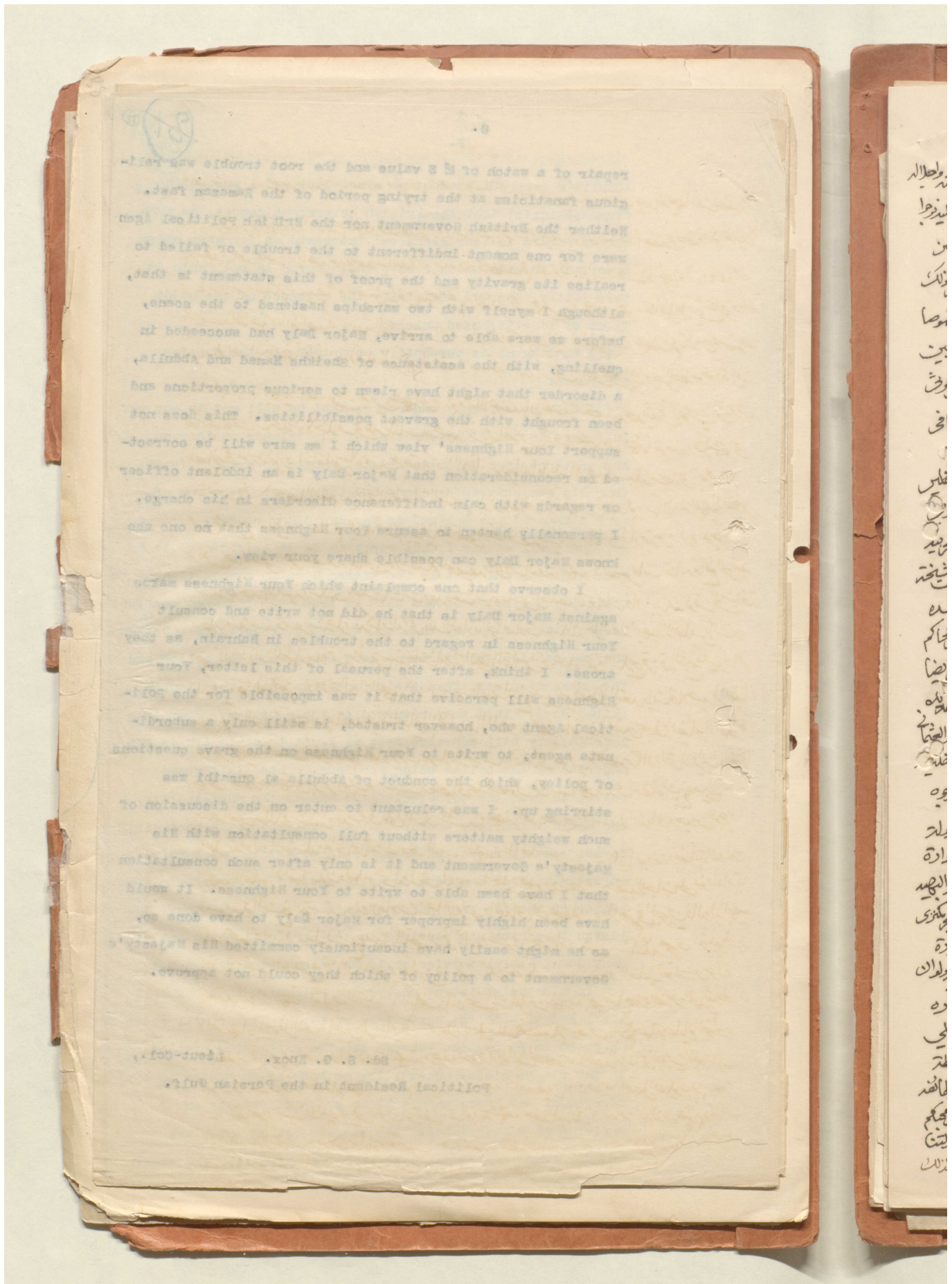


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repair of a watch of £ 3 value and the root trouble was religious fanaticism at the trying period of the Ramazan fast. Neither the British Government nor the British Political Agent were for one moment indifferent to the trouble or failed to realise its gravity and the proof of this statement is that, although I myself with two warships hastened to the scene, before we were able to arrive, Major Daly had succeeded in quelling, with the assistance of sheikhs Hamad and Abdulla, a disorder that might have risen to serious proportions and been fraught with the gravest possibilities. This does not support Your Highness' view which I am sure will be corrected on reconsideration that Major Daly is an indolent officer or regards with calm indifference disorders in his charge. I personally hasten to assure Your Highness that no one who knows Major Daly can possibly share your view.

I observe that one complaint which Your Highness makes against Major Daly is that he did not write and consult Your Highness in regard to the troubles in Bahrain, as they arose. I think, after the perusal of this letter, Your Highness will perceive that it was impossible for the Political Agent who, however trusted, is still only a subordinate agent, to write to Your Highness on the grave questions of policy, which the conduct of Abdulla al Qosaibi was stirring up. I was reluctant to enter on the discussion of such weighty matters without full consultation with His Majesty's Government and it is only after such consultation that I have been able to write to Your Highness. It would have been highly improper for Major Daly to have done so, as he might easily have incautiously committed His Majesty's Government to a policy of which they could not approve.

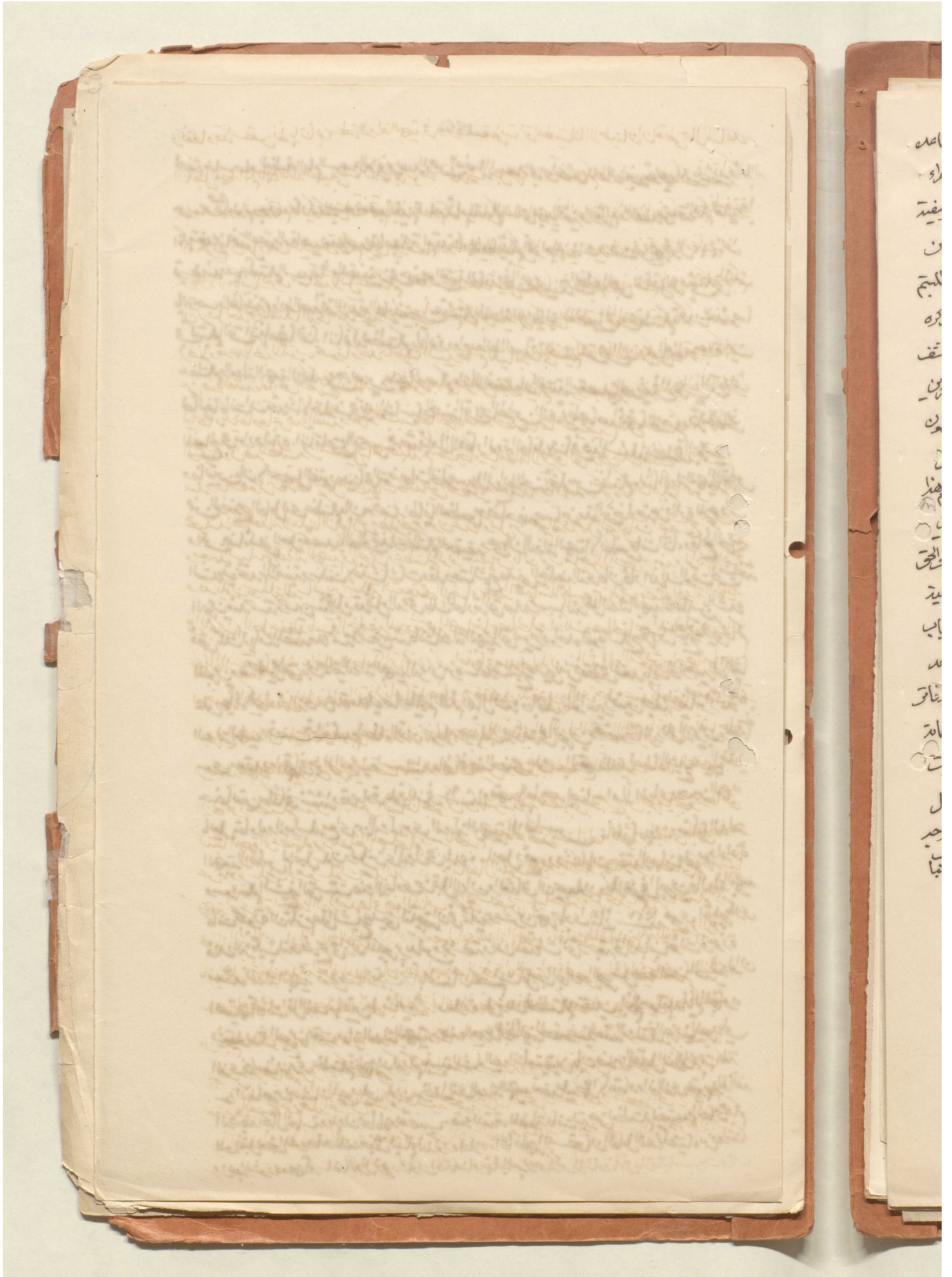
Sd. S. G. Knox. Lieut-Col.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.



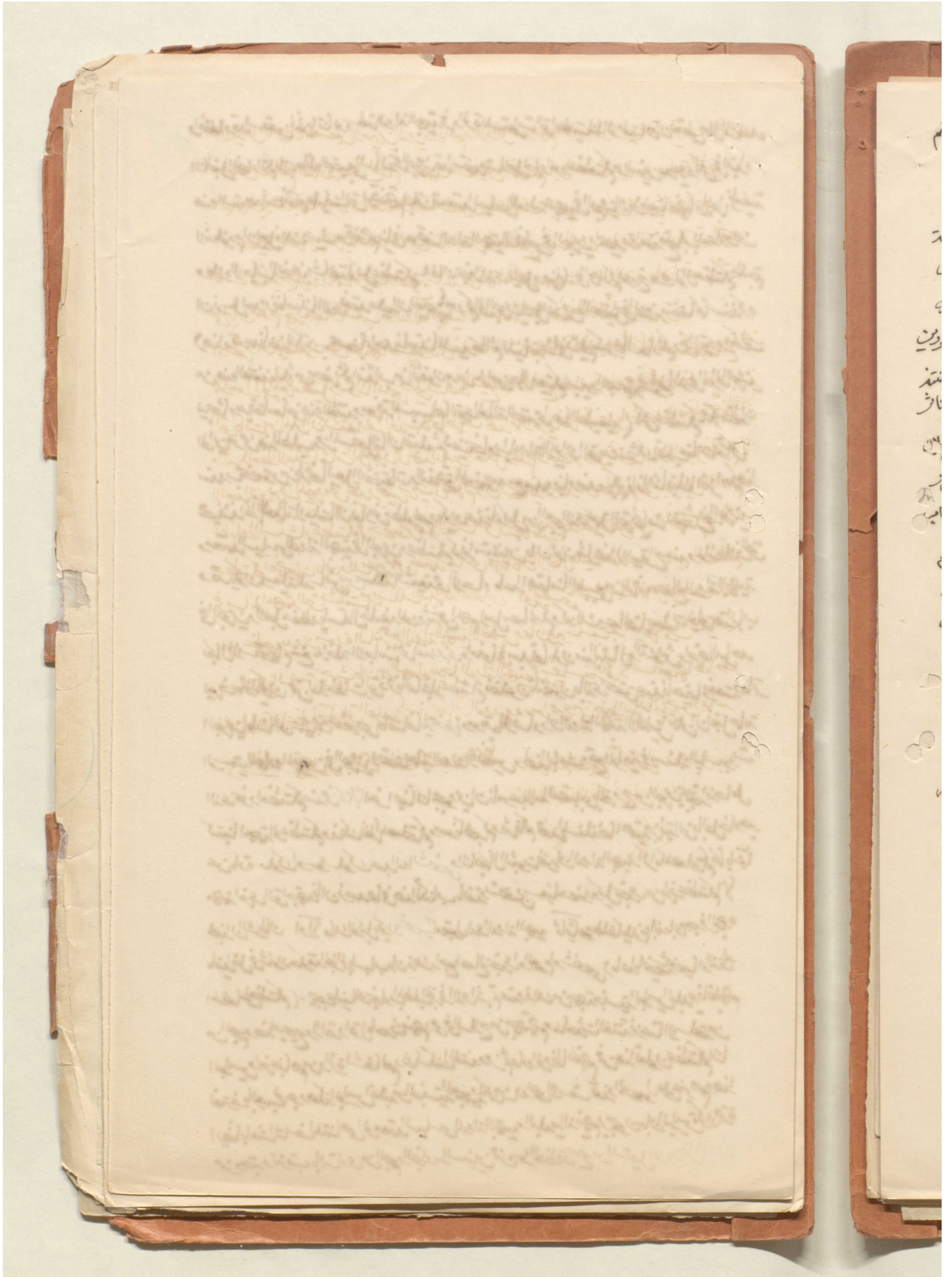
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لحظة خبا صاحب العظمة الامام السعيد العزيز بن عبد الرحمن الفضل السعود حبيبي أي سلطان نجد ولهاها دلت غصته ولعلاله
 حرمته معلوم وجوده وانما ذكره بعد تقديم السلام الامام لمقامكم السامي بزيد التحية والاحرام والتفقد عن حضور دلتكم العليزي
 انكم بعد من بعد الصحة والرفاهية بعد باصدقنا ميد الاحرام قد بنا ولنا فكاكيتكم الكرام المرزقات وهذا من شهر ثوال ١٤٤١ من
 قسطنا وبعظمتكم السيداتم للصنفين في حضور الفتنة الحادثة في البحرين بين النجاشي والنجاشي اننا قبل كل شيء نلتحق ذلك
 بالتحجب والطمانينة وروابط الصداقة الابدية الكائنة بين عظمةكم ولادة البرطانية العظمى التي عظمتكم تالون من خصوصاً
 في كسيتكم التي انشأنا فيها اننا اول لعظمةكم باننا فودوم روابط الصداقة المحسة التي هي الان ونحن المخطوطة موجودة بين
 عظمةكم والدولة البهية الاطلسي حريصين عليها كحماكم واننا لا نعتقد بان الفتنة العصبية المحدثة في البحرين التي وفت
 لها كذا كانت تحت اشراف الاختلاف في تلك المناسبات المحنة التي بين الطرفين التي ربطت بينهما صلتهما المزمرة وشركتهما في
 المصالح في موارد كثيرة اننا نتلحق بالتحجب في صفة تبادل الاطار الودية الهاملة بيننا في هذه المسئلة المتشكلة في البحرين
 وبنافعين بان لا يحصل الضور بيننا في التوضيحات الخلو صيد للروابط المحنة بين عظمةكم وانما الدولة البهية الاطلس
 من الوضوح الحامل لدى عظمةكم بان موقف بريطانيا العظمى موقفاً حريصاً من مده التي خاضت عن ذكرة الموجود
 وكو أيضاً كفي لاجل مقصدنا الحالي فبذرة عظمةكم المحققة وهي بان الدولة البهية الاطلس كانت اثناء وقائع الحرب
 الشدنية تتحلم الامنية وسكنت الاخذت اشانت وقد دعيت الشيخ عيسى الخليفة الذي كان فاداً بذلك الوقت في المشيخة
 البحرين منذ خمسة وخمسين سنة قبل وقد قتل والده في تلك المحاربة التي صادت سبباً لتدخل الدولة البهية الاطلس في الشدة
 ففي تلك الديات المطول مدة خمسة وخمسين سنة كانت الدولة البهية التي ليس مروه واحده لقبوا سلاح قردت الشيخ عيسى حاكم
 للبحرين وهذا السر يخفي باحتمال الدولة البهية كره من مروه ساعدت الشيخ عيسى ليس فقط في التعدي باتت الخراجيد بل ايضا
 على ديكاها العبادات الذي من مده مديله صاد عليه الظلم في حال الشدة وبالطريق كافر غير راضين بحكمه ايضا كره اعدائه
 الدولة البهية رفضت قطعاً عدم اعطاء الازن للوطاء الاجانب للاقامة في البحرين ومخصوصاً الذين لا يرون والبعث
 سوى معتقدون لها في جزائر البحرين واستاداعها في هذا الخصوص على حسب التوجه الذي اعطاه الشيخ عيسى الخليفة
 حينما عين حاكماً في سنة ١٢٩٤ وقد صادق على ذلك في سنة ١٢٩٤ وتهدد بالحل احد جهداً - اولاً انما يابى وجيد من العوجه
 ما لعل تقاولوا لمراسلة مع أي من الدول سوى الدولة البهية الاطلس - ثانياً بدون رضاية الدولة
 البهية الاطلس لم يقبل كون كرس من أي الدول في بلده - لاجل دفع وردت كبايات حقيقة الاجانب على مودادته
 وسوء حكم الشيخ التي تبت هذه العادى من قبل الازن والعماني ان يجعله لا يظفر في البحرين فالدولة البهية
 كانت موجودة ان تلمز على الشيخ عيسى التبع ان في ثمانية وعشرين شهر جمادى الثاني ١٢٩٧ م حرمي اقر الميرزا
 ذلك الترتيب الذي شرع في ان الميرزا يركس وبلطمة ذلك المقدمات التي راجعة الى الاجانب نحو لست الموحدة
 معقد الدولة البهية فعلى هذا الترتيب اننا باهنا اننا تحت المثل كل بين النجاشي والنجاشي مثل هذه الفتنة المحدثة ولان
 اصحابها كانت اقل الذي نافع من كل مناوريش وعلاوة على ذلك فحظتكم مستعدين بان تقع حيلة دعائكم النجاشي
 يشغلون في البحرين تحت حماية الدولة البهية وهذه احد الظواهر الحصرية لعقد الدولة في البحرين الميرزا يابى
 الذي فاسخان مري عظمتكم تظهر كونكم بنسبة المشايد واثمنا متعدين بان هذا من المحتمل ان يكون لم يظفر
 سوء النفاهم من حيث ان الميرزا يابى يكون موظف الذي الدولة البهية لعقد عليه بحال الاعتماد وان الذي تقوم وظائفه
 الرقيقة بحال الحاسة ويرون محاباة وتوصف - هذه المقرة المطولة كانت لير من لعظمةكم كصفتكم لكانت حكامكم
 ان يقبل بعض المشروبات المذرة وبعثي كسيتكم للذكورة اعلاه وانما نظهر الاستحسان اهل الذي تكفيته من مودتكم
 موهب المشورة معها وسلفنا الكثر في رشاكن اهتمامنا وخبابا ليرسوس كرس لماش وانه في مائة الباس بروت كذلك



٥١
وافقوا وقد استعن نظرنا بتاثير لجنة الدولة البعيدة في دائرة المستعرت التي اعطينا للاطمينان ان تعطى مجال المساعدة
اننا نقبل المهارة انكم بان عائلة القصبي الساكنة في البحرين قد استخدمت اجل الجراء ووردت عنكم من سنين عديدة ولكن في ابتداء
هذه السنين حدثت فيكم علميات التي اوقفتم بها لادارة معمد السياسي للدولة البعيدة في البحرين الذي اجبرنا عنها من اجراء القضية
لانهم زعم ان اجراء ذلك حيث وقعتم في موقف الدولة البعيدة الاكلس في البحرين وسجدت منذ فتح باب الدعوى من
وكلاء الاحزاب الخرى مشاهيركم لادارة عظمةكم المطان نجد الذي يدخل وصفها في كتابكم المورخ وهو نوال عظمةكم طلبتم
ان نرسل احد من خاصتنا الذي يعتمد عليه ان يصحح اموركم في البحرين الاجل الكنف والحقوق في الفتنة متفقا كما سنذكره
هذه وقد عدنا هذا للكتاب محونا واحد خاصتنا السيد هاشم الدنيا بقضايا تسليمكم فنيا لعمارةكم وفي الخرى الكنف
عن هذه الفتنة ما لا من حضر بكم انداب من تفوق من خاص جلال معتمكم لسيروا بصحة محونا الذي في البحرين
ليبحثا ودية قاعا عن هذه الفتنة ومعرفه المسبب لها لتجمل العدالة الحق فيها الطبعية) لكن عظمةكم ما لا خطون
الخاص من في هذه المطلب والمستحيل اننا ان قبله ثم كيف نجاء دولة الامران القديرون شك تطالبنا ان نرسل
مندوب مخصوص من طرفنا ليعمل التحقيقات والتدقيق المخصوص مع مندوبنا ومندوبكم فاذا اتفقتنا اقتراكم هذا
محينذ نظر العدالة لا يمكن ان نعارض مطلوبكم ويكون عندنا وكيل من العجم الذي يعمل التوقيعات فبعد شيخ البحرين
ومعمد السياسي للدولة البعيدة في البحرين وعظمةكم كوفوا متيقنين بان كون مثل هذا الاقتراح مندوبنا خلاف الحق
وقد يكون وسيلة للرسائل بين سلكة الشيعة في الاحياء ما عدا اهتمامنا الطبيعي من طرف مصالح الدولة البعيدة
في البحرين والاجل حفظ دياره آل خليفة الموروثه في المهم الاجل صالحكم وكذلك مصالحنا جميعا في نواحي هذا الباب
بكل الاستحكام لمنع مداخله الاجانب التي تفرد في واصفا في سببها كيرن مندوبنا والتشويش واخرها لعل احد
يعرف ما ذكرنا من الملاحظات التي ذكرناها قبل عظمةكم فتكونون تلتفتون بالذي تحقق عندنا حينما حضرت ونافق
البحرين اما ان علميات القصبي كانت فحانة مخطرة وموبته للاضاد وان الدولة البعيدة الاكلس لا تقبل ان تقبل حادثة
الرسالة للخارجة المقهين في البحرين الاتحت حماية الدولة الاكلس ولهذا الباعث وقع لنا في سلة البلاسورث
الذي نورد عظمةكم عند في كتابنا اخر ايضا كما يجوز ان نامر عبد الله القصبي بالخروج من البحرين بحجة ان حامل
كتبتنا البعيدة التي عظمةكم وذلك نظر المصلحتكم وصونا للحد كبره فكم هذا المسئلة لها اهمية جزئية التي بالكل خارجة
عن مادة سلوك او سلوك عبد الله اشخى واننا نكف الالبوت فقولان الدولة البعيدة اكراما للمصلحتكم كما باننا
مهمة اخرى التي اجتمعت ان فرصدنا في هذا الكتاب ما قد نتخون سببا حذره وكيلا تجدي من طرف عظمةكم الا
لهذا ان الشيطان اولاً ذلك الذي يكون شخصيا مقبول لدى الدولة البعيدة فائيا هو مطلقا يلزم باننا ما يجره
ما قد دخل في شؤون حكومة البحرين بسباب بان ذلك اصبح صالح تجدي للعموم او شخصي (ما عدا ما يخصه شخصيا الذي
اخصا لعملةكم) - يجب علينا ان نجاول المطلب في الذي نشرتم عند ذلك من جهة جنسية البوس في البلد فاعلمهم
من العجم وهذا صريح والاقدر اقول ما حدثت منهم في السلاح من جهتهم ملاحقت الفتنة فزعمنا الاستعانة
البوس واخرها صريح من دائرة اشغالهم ونما سكت الفتنة ورتبتم عادو الروظا ففهم من هذا تعلمون عظمةكم اننا
نعتبر في البعيد لوجود هكذا البوس اعلم من الجنسية العجمية ولكن من دواعي الاسف فقد الحصول على غير صريح هذا
ايضا باعث التاسف المتناهي لو معمد السياسي للدولة البعيدة والبلد الذي هم يرجحون بان البوس تكون حرة
من حرة وتزوب بايتاوى من العجم والخارجة والسنيين فمن سوء الحظ قد صرح من المستحيل ان يدخل الناس



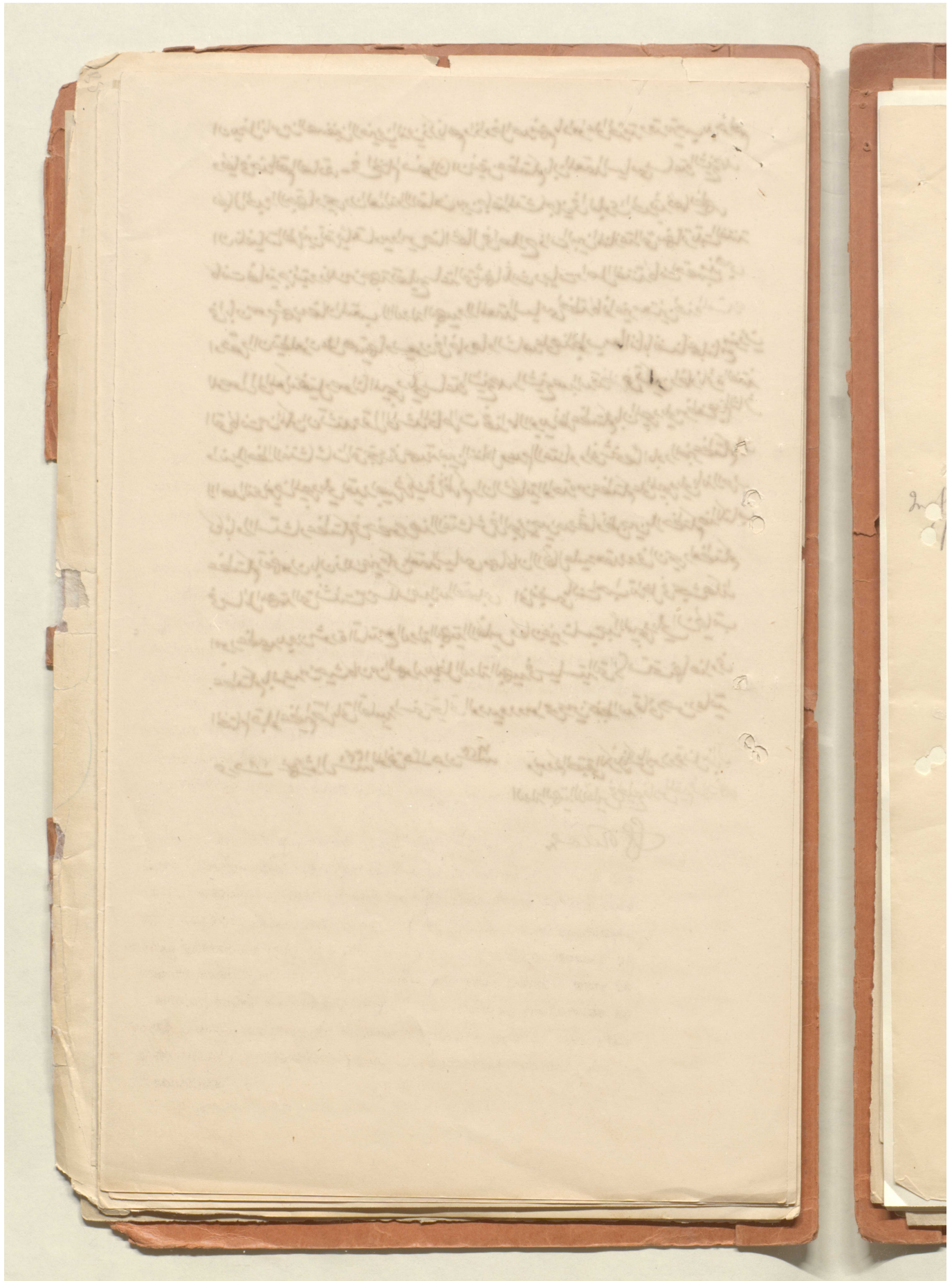
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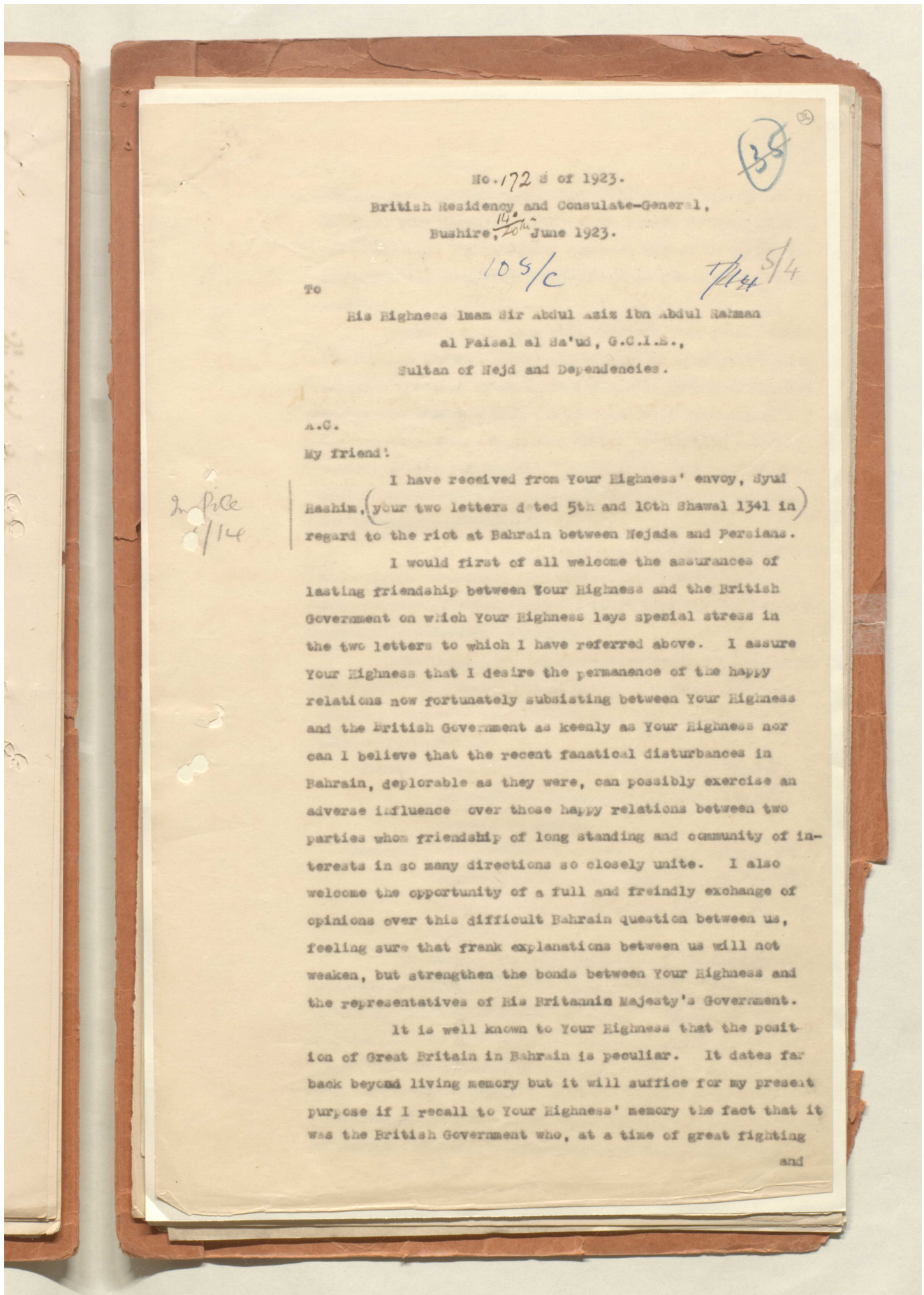
ان يدخل ناس من الصنفين الاخيرين الذين ذكرناهم واذا دخل احد منهم ما داموا على الحزبية وقد تيرحيب بدخولهم
ويكافئ خدمتهم الصادقة في الختام اقول ان نيقن عظمتكم بان المعتمد السياسي ساعد الشيخ محمد
في مجال الجهد والاجتهاد في ربح العادلة والا تصاف بين جماعة الملتحقين في البلوى التي قد فيها نظرهم
ان تفضيات الطرفين تقر بما عاينوه وليس هذا اشغال في اصلاح ذات البين المنزلة التي منها انزلت الفتنة
كانت نهاية جزئية وذلك من جهة تصليح ساعة التي فيها اذلت ديبات واصل الفتنة كانت تعصب مني صبي
في ايام صوم شهر رمضان المتعب الالولة الجهد والالمعتمد السياسي لخطه كانا غير معتين لهذه الفتنة
او قصر وان يتطلعون على صحتها ويؤمنون في اضرارها وان شاهدوا على هذا الخطب معا اننا بانفسنا مجملنا مع منورين
للوصول الى المعرفة تفصيل وصولنا الميحي في سعة الشيخ محمد والشيخ عبد الله قد نظر في قلوبهم واظهار نائرة الفتنة
التي كانت من الممكن ان تشدد وقل الخاش الخاطرات فهذا مما لا يريد نظر عظمكم بان الميحي يولي من ترفع عيون الناس
وانه لا حظ الاغتشاشات التي تجري في محبة بين المتعاطل وعدم الاعتناء وفي شيخنا ابادر العجز عظمكم ان
الاصل الذي عرف الميحي بعد ربيصه في نظركم وان الشكاية الواحدة من عظمكم على الميحي يولي بان لا يحرر
كتابا ولا الاستشارة عظمكم في حضور هذا الاغتشاش في الميحي حين جدها ونظر حين ملاحظتكم ضد الكتاب
عظمتكم تفهمون بان ذلك غير ممكن للمعتمد السياسي مهما كان الاصل علمية ومحدد وفي ان يحيد لعظمتكم
في مسائل المهمة التي نشدت من سلك عبد الله القصيدي اني نفسي ما كنت احب تدخل في بحث هكذا
امور عظيمه بدون مشورة الدائمة مع الولة البهية الاكفلس وكان غير مناسب جدا للميحي يولي ان لم يات
عظمتكم بالسوء من حيث كان من المهم ان يدخل الولة البهية في سياسة التي لا تتحها هذا وفي
الختام اقبلوا عظيم احتراماتي الصليدية اسئني تخياتي الوردية ودموع من يخط الله تعالى حسن وعافية

حرفه ٢٤ شهر شوال سنة ١٢٤١ الموافق ١٢ جون ١٩٢٤
منه ودم الحقيقة الكريمة بالسرور ووديل خيال
الولة البهية الاكفلس في خليج فارس المقدم في ربه

S. Qosaibi



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [36r] (71/144)



No. 172 S of 1923.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, ^{14th}/_{20th} June 1923.

To

His Highness Imam Sir Abdul Aziz ibn Abdul Rahman
al Faisal al Sa'ud, G.C.I.B.,
Sultan of Hejd and Dependencies.

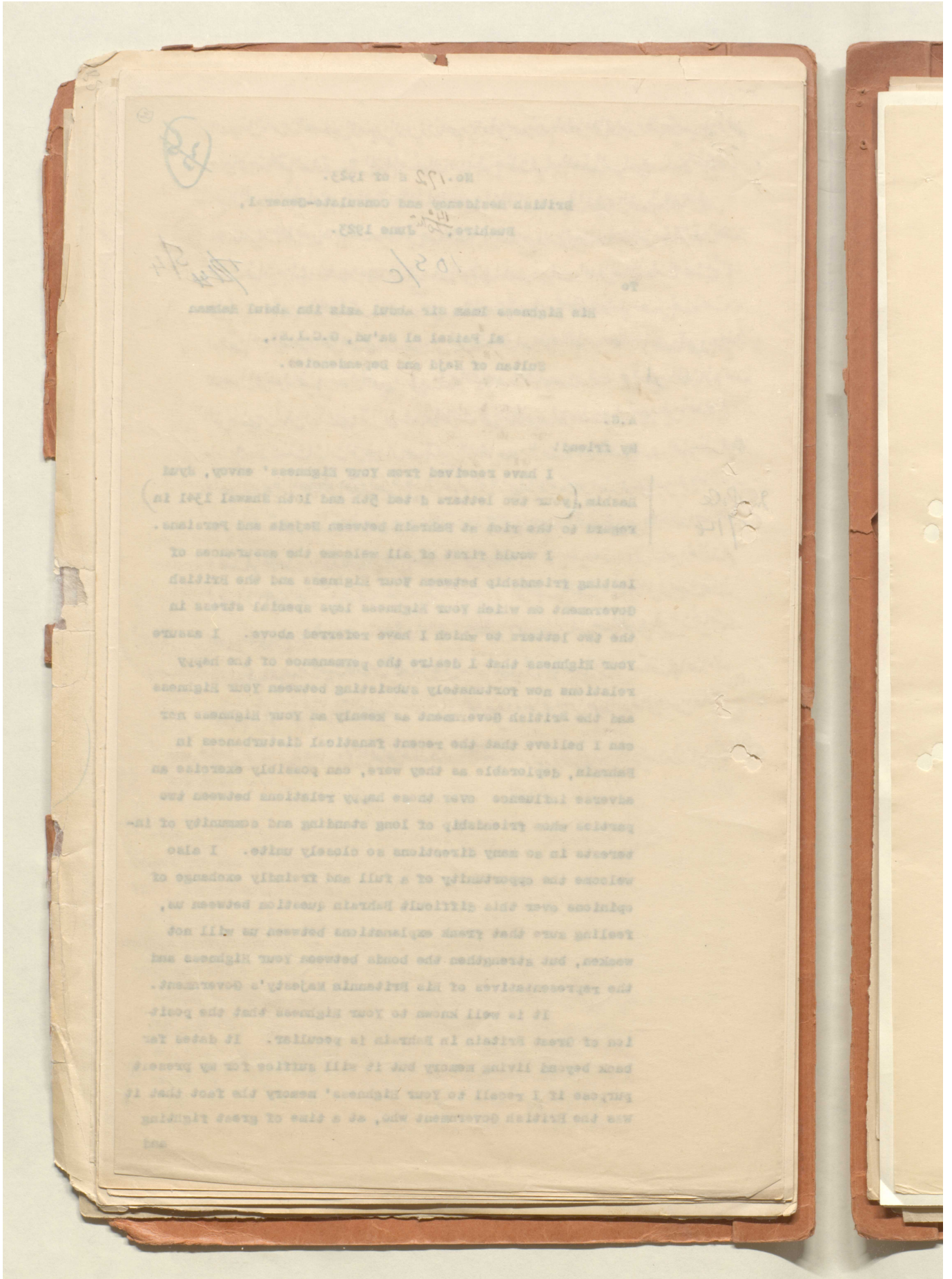
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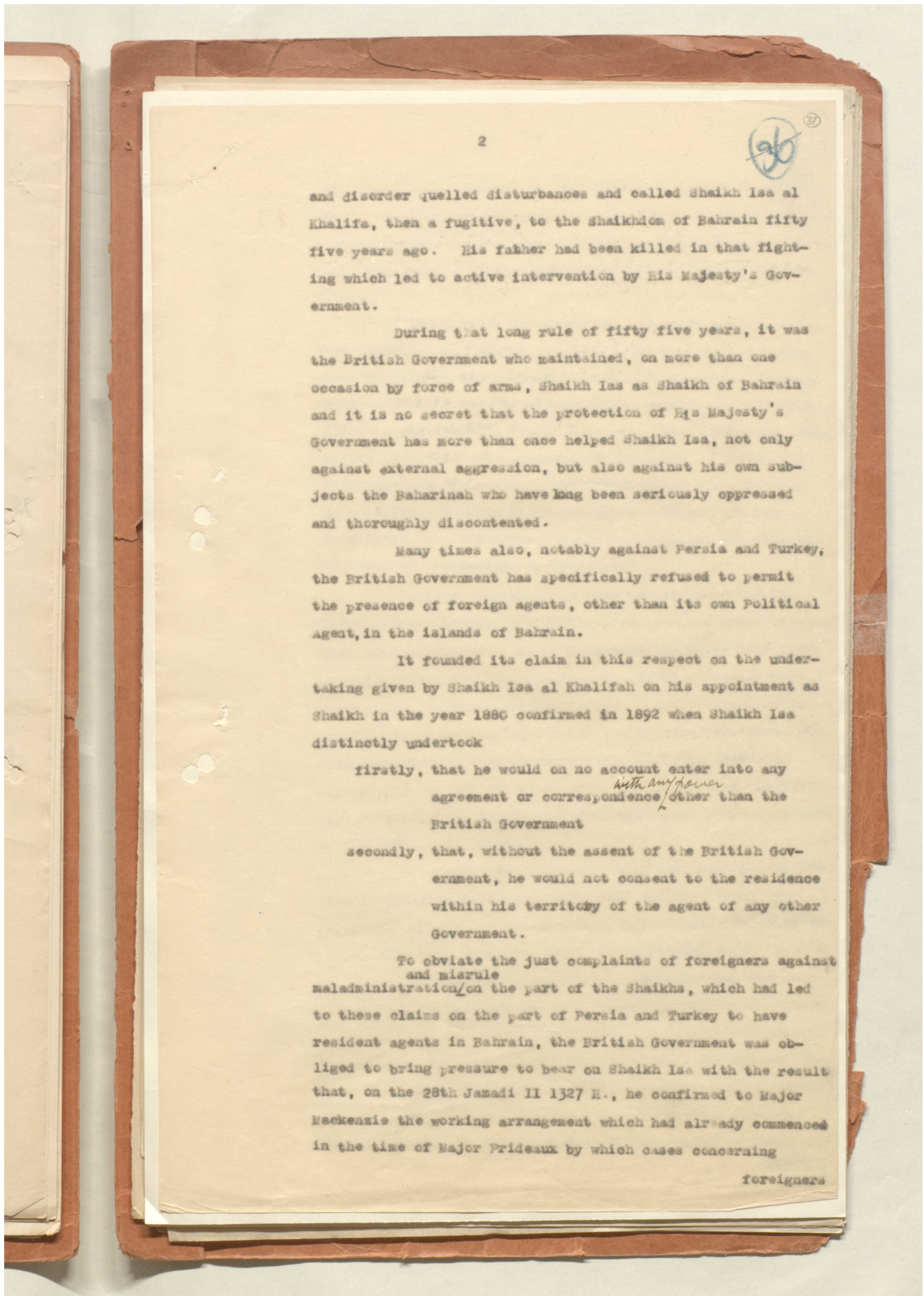
My friend:

I have received from Your Highness' envoy, Syul
Hashim, (your two letters dated 5th and 10th Shawal 1341 in
regard to the riot at Bahrain between Hejada and Persians.

I would first of all welcome the assurances of
lasting friendship between Your Highness and the British
Government on which Your Highness lays special stress in
the two letters to which I have referred above. I assure
Your Highness that I desire the permanence of the happy
relations now fortunately subsisting between Your Highness
and the British Government as keenly as Your Highness nor
can I believe that the recent fanatical disturbances in
Bahrain, deplorable as they were, can possibly exercise an
adverse influence over those happy relations between two
parties whose friendship of long standing and community of in-
terests in so many directions so closely unite. I also
welcome the opportunity of a full and friendly exchange of
opinions over this difficult Bahrain question between us,
feeling sure that frank explanations between us will not
weaken, but strengthen the bonds between Your Highness and
the representatives of His Britannic Majesty's Government.

It is well known to Your Highness that the posit-
ion of Great Britain in Bahrain is peculiar. It dates far
back beyond living memory but it will suffice for my present
purpose if I recall to Your Highness' memory the fact that it
was the British Government who, at a time of great fighting
and





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and disorder quelled disturbances and called Shaikh Isa al Khalifa, then a fugitive, to the Shaikhdom of Bahrain fifty five years ago. His father had been killed in that fighting which led to active intervention by His Majesty's Government.

During that long rule of fifty five years, it was the British Government who maintained, on more than one occasion by force of arms, Shaikh Isa as Shaikh of Bahrain and it is no secret that the protection of His Majesty's Government has more than once helped Shaikh Isa, not only against external aggression, but also against his own subjects the Baharinah who have long been seriously oppressed and thoroughly discontented.

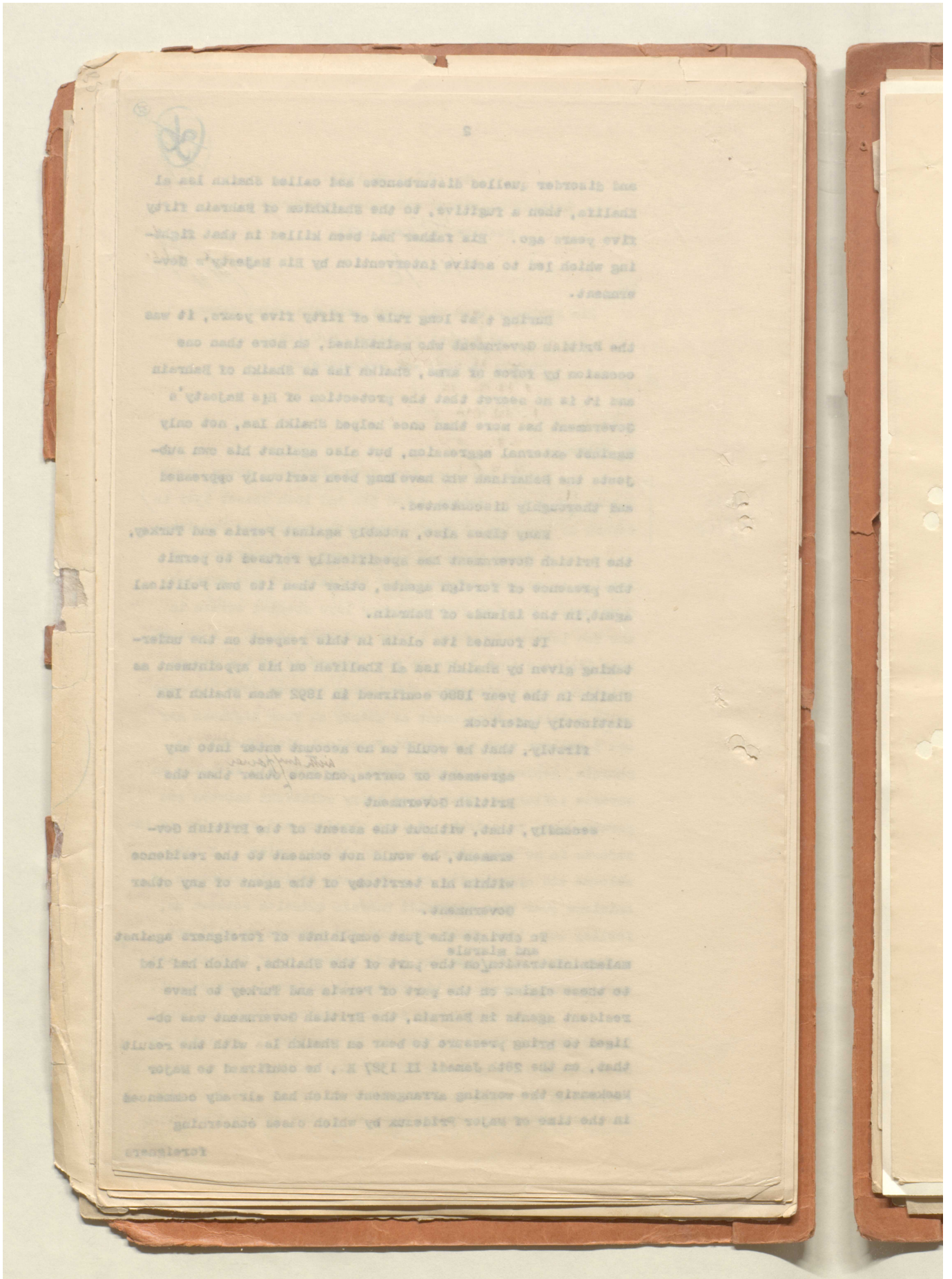
Many times also, notably against Persia and Turkey, the British Government has specifically refused to permit the presence of foreign agents, other than its own Political Agent, in the islands of Bahrain.

It founded its claim in this respect on the undertaking given by Shaikh Isa al Khalifah on his appointment as Shaikh in the year 1890 confirmed in 1892 when Shaikh Isa distinctly undertook

firstly, that he would on no account enter into any agreement or correspondence ^{with any power} other than the British Government

secondly, that, without the assent of the British Government, he would not consent to the residence within his territory of the agent of any other Government.

To obviate the just complaints of foreigners against and misrule maladministration/ on the part of the Shaikhs, which had led to these claims on the part of Persia and Turkey to have resident agents in Bahrain, the British Government was obliged to bring pressure to bear on Shaikh Isa with the result that, on the 28th Jamadi II 1327 H., he confirmed to Major Mackenzie the working arrangement which had already commenced in the time of Major Prideaux by which cases concerning foreigners



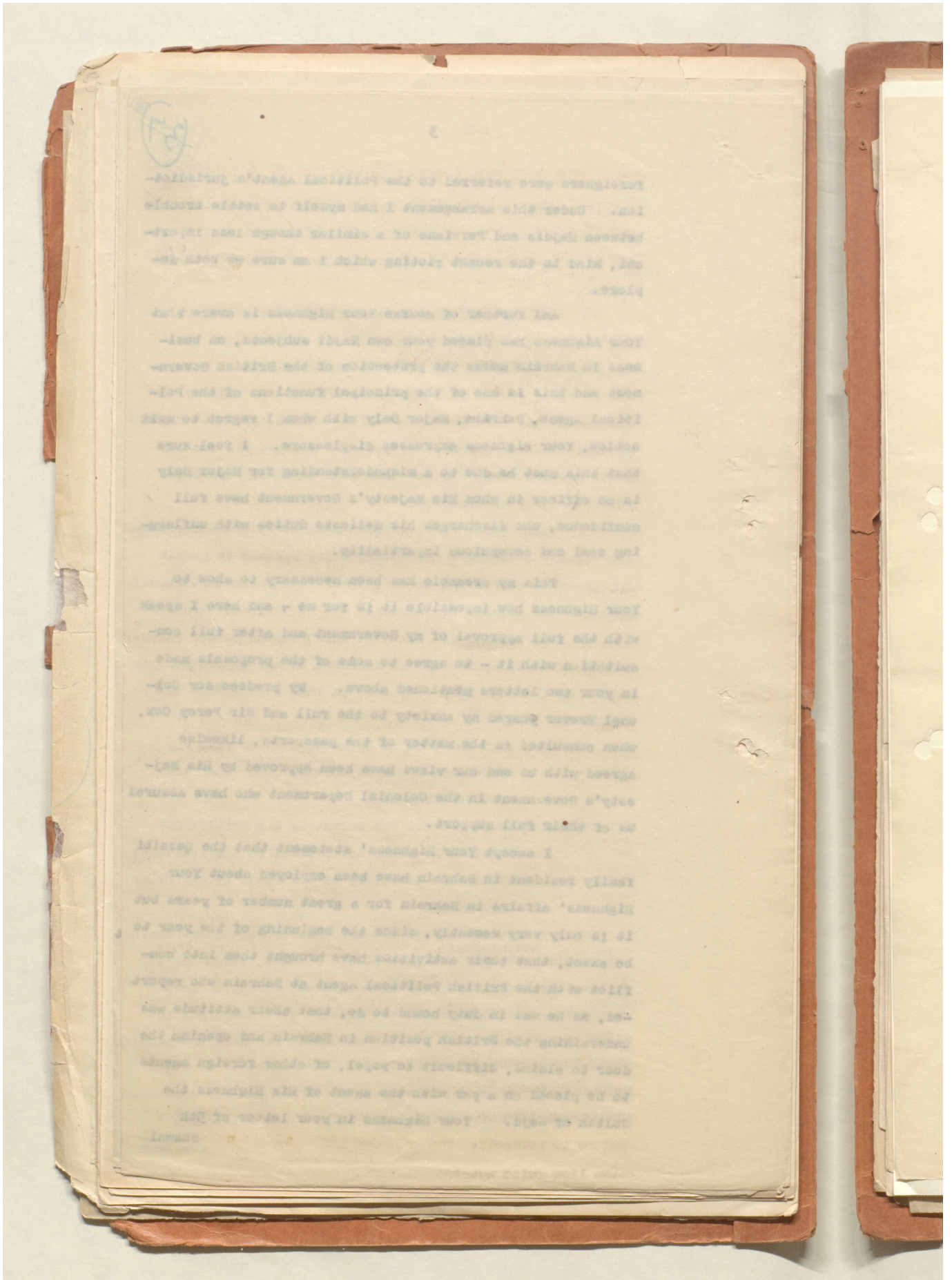
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foreigners were referred to the Political Agent's jurisdiction. Under this arrangement I had myself to settle trouble between Hajdis and Persians of a similar though less important, kind to the recent rioting which I am sure we both deplore.

and further of course Your Highness is aware that Your Highness has placed your own Hajdi subjects, on business in Bahrain under the protection of the British Government and this is one of the principal functions of the Political Agent, Bahrain, Major Daly with whom I regret to ask notice, Your Highness expresses displeasure. I feel sure that this must be due to a misunderstanding for Major Daly is an officer in whom His Majesty's Government have full confidence, who discharges his delicate duties with unflinching zeal and scrupulous impartiality.

This my preamble has been necessary to show to Your Highness how impossible it is for me - and here I speak with the full approval of my Government and after full consultation with it - to agree to some of the proposals made in your two letters mentioned above. My predecessor Colonel Trevor shared my anxiety to the full and Sir Percy Cox, when consulted in the matter of the passports, likewise agreed with us and our views have been approved by His Majesty's Government in the Colonial Department who have assured us of their full support.

I accept Your Highness' statement that the Qosaibi family resident in Bahrain have been employed about Your Highness' affairs in Bahrain for a great number of years but it is only very recently, since the beginning of the year to be exact, that their activities have brought them into conflict with the British Political Agent at Bahrain who reported, as he was in duty bound to do, that their attitude was undermining the British position in Bahrain and opening the door to claims, difficult to repel, of other foreign agents to be placed on a par with the agent of His Highness the Sultan of Nejd. Your Highness in your letter of 5th Shawal

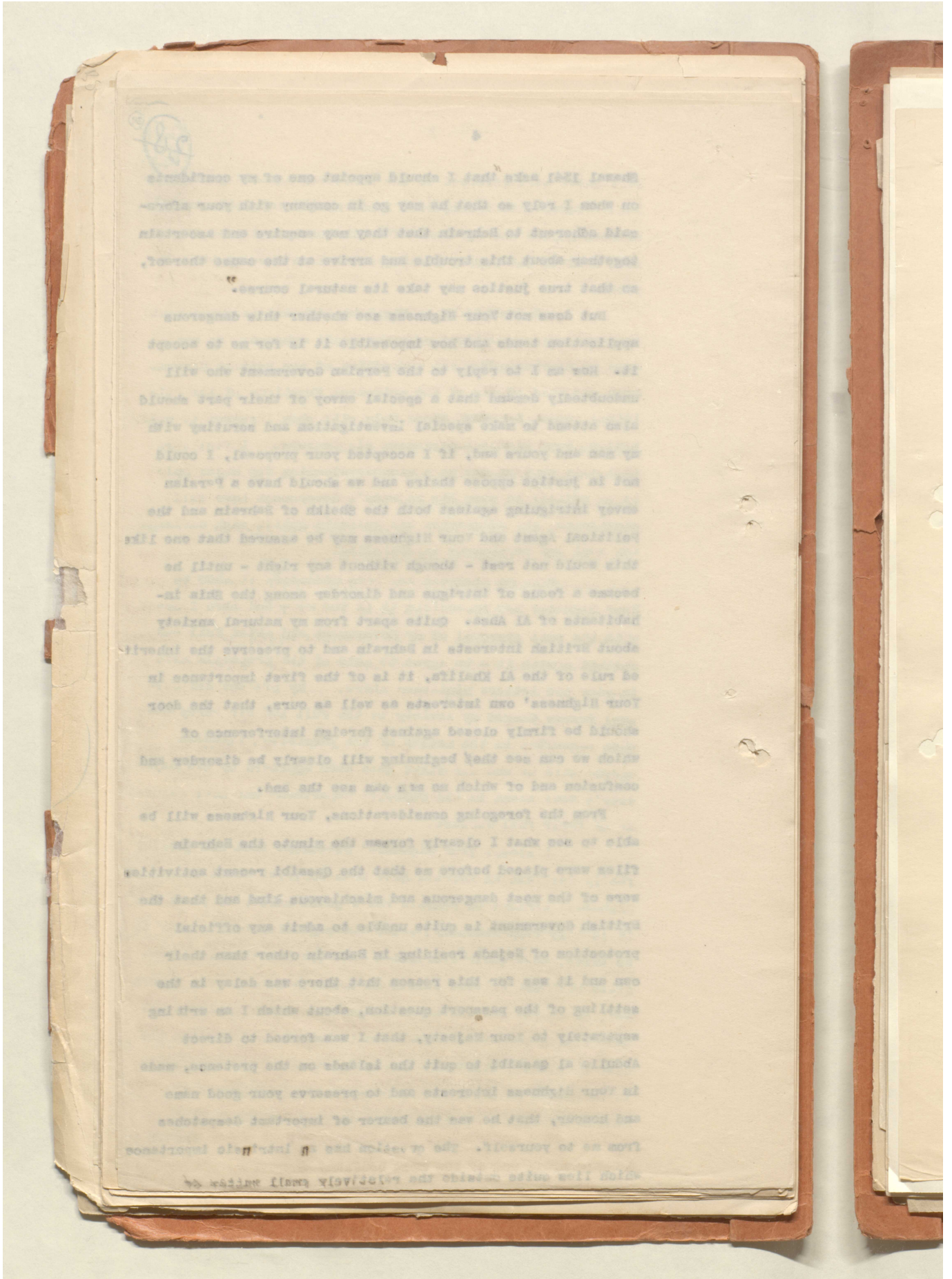


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Shawal 1341 asks "that I should appoint one of my confidants on whom I rely so that he may go in company with your afore-said adherent to Bahrain that they may enquire and ascertain together about this trouble and arrive at the cause thereof, so that true justice may take its natural course."

But does not Your Highness see whether this dangerous application tends and how impossible it is for me to accept it. How am I to reply to the Persian Government who will undoubtedly demand that a special envoy of their part should also attend to make special investigation and scrutiny with my man and yours and, if I accepted your proposal, I could not in justice oppose theirs and we should have a Persian envoy intriguing against both the Sheikh of Bahrain and the Political Agent and Your Highness may be assured that one like this would not rest - though without any right - until he became a focus of intrigue and disorder among the Shia inhabitants of Al Ahsa. Quite apart from my natural anxiety about British interests in Bahrain and to preserve the inherited rule of the Al Khalifa, it is of the first importance in Your Highness' own interests as well as ours, that the door should be firmly closed against foreign interference of which we can see the beginning will clearly be disorder and confusion and of which no man can see the end.

From the foregoing considerations, Your Highness will be able to see what I clearly foresaw the minute the Bahrain files were placed before me that the Qasaibi recent activities were of the most dangerous and mischievous kind and that the British Government is quite unable to admit any official protection of Nejada residing in Bahrain other than their own and it was for this reason that there was delay in the settling of the passport question, about which I am writing separately to Your Majesty, that I was forced to direct Abdulla al Qasaibi to quit the islands on the pretence, made in Your Highness interests and to preserve your good name and honour, that he was the bearer of important despatches from me to yourself. The question has an intrinsic importance which lies quite outside the relatively small matter of



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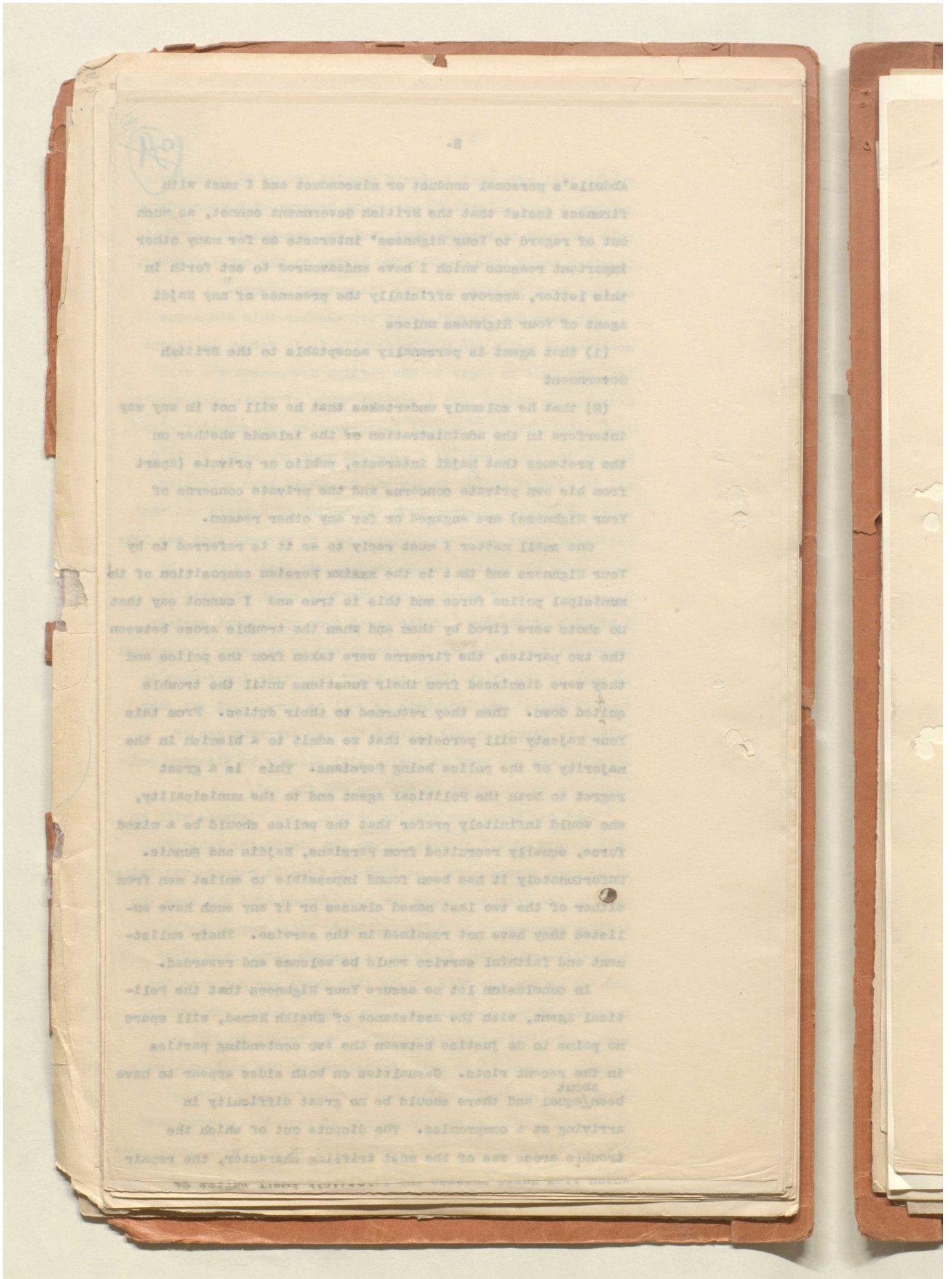
Abdulla's personal conduct or misconduct and I must with firmness insist that the British Government cannot, as much out of regard to Your Highness' interests as for many other important reasons which I have endeavoured to set forth in this letter, approve officially the presence of any Najdi Agent of Your Highness unless

(1) that agent is personally acceptable to the British Government

(2) that he solemnly undertakes that he will not in any way interfere in the administration of the islands whether on the pretence that Najdi interests, public or private (apart from his own private concerns and the private concerns of Your Highness) are engaged or for any other reason.

One small matter I must reply to as it is referred to by Your Highness and that is the ~~xxxxxx~~ Persian composition of the municipal police force and this is true and I cannot say that no shots were fired by them and when the trouble arose between the two parties, the firearms were taken from the police and they were dismissed from their functions until the trouble quitted down. Then they returned to their duties. From this Your Majesty will perceive that we admit to a blemish in the majority of the police being Persians. This is a great regret to both the Political Agent and to the municipality, who would infinitely prefer that the police should be a mixed force, equally recruited from Persians, Najdis and Sunnis. Unfortunately it has been found impossible to enlist men from either of the two last named classes or if any such have enlisted they have not remained in the service. Their enlistment and faithful service would be welcome and rewarded.

In conclusion let me assure Your Highness that the Political Agent, with the assistance of Sheikh Hamad, will spare no pains to do justice between the two contending parties in the recent riots. Casualties on both sides appear to have been ^{about} equal and there should be no great difficulty in arriving at a compromise. The dispute out of which the trouble arose was of the most trifling character, the repair

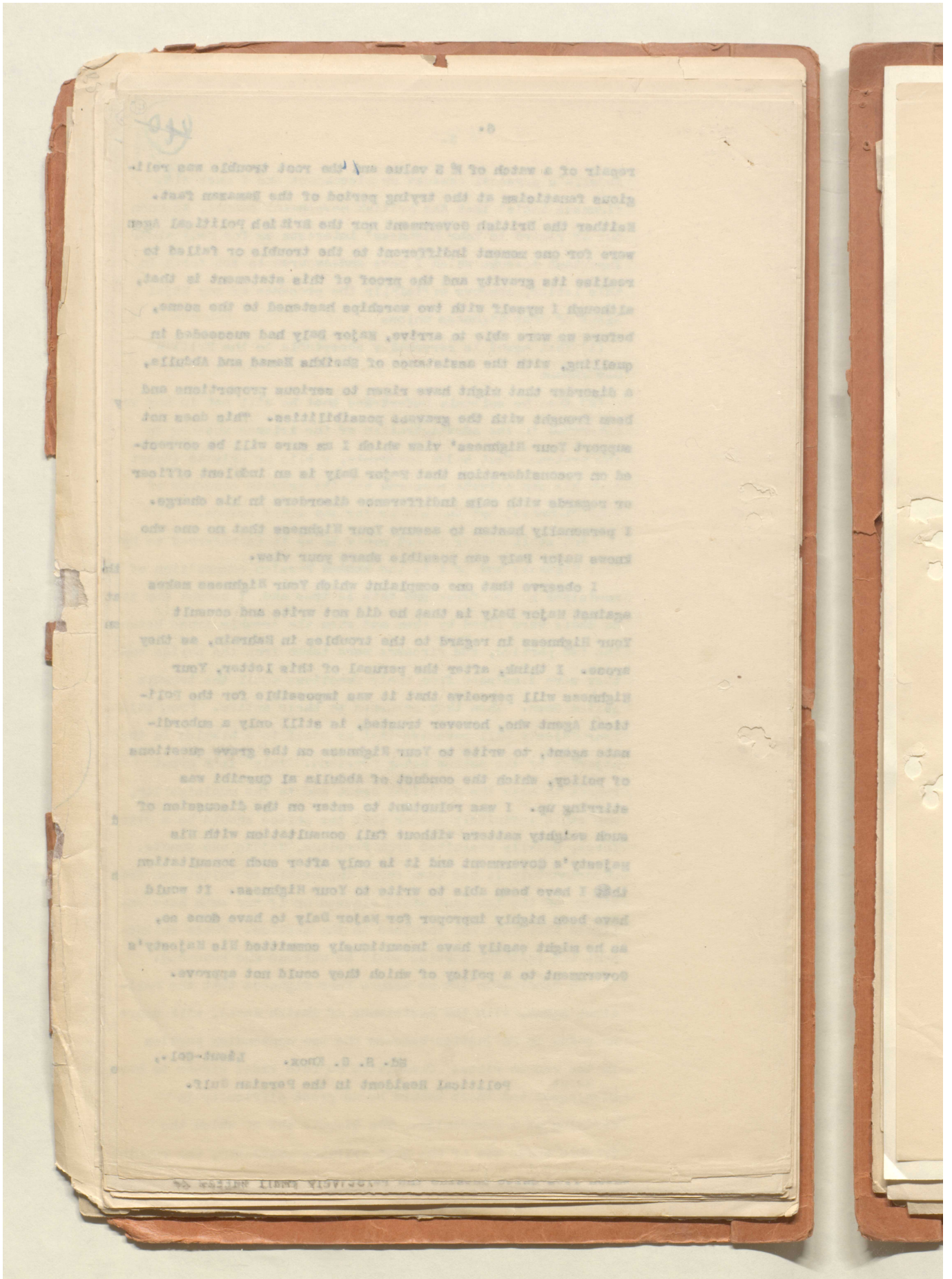


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repair of a watch of £ 3 value and the root trouble was religious fanaticism at the trying period of the Ramazan fast. Neither the British Government nor the British Political Agent were for one moment indifferent to the trouble or failed to realise its gravity and the proof of this statement is that, although I myself with two warships hastened to the scene, before we were able to arrive, Major Daly had succeeded in quelling, with the assistance of Sheikhs Hamad and Abdulla, a disorder that might have risen to serious proportions and been fraught with the gravest possibilities. This does not support Your Highness' view which I am sure will be corrected on reconsideration that Major Daly is an indolent officer or regards with calm indifference disorders in his charge. I personally hasten to assure Your Highness that no one who knows Major Daly can possibly share your view.

I observe that one complaint which Your Highness makes against Major Daly is that he did not write and consult Your Highness in regard to the troubles in Bahrain, as they arose. I think, after the perusal of this letter, Your Highness will perceive that it was impossible for the Political Agent who, however trusted, is still only a subordinate agent, to write to Your Highness on the grave questions of policy, which the conduct of Abdulla al Qosaibi was stirring up. I was reluctant to enter on the discussion of such weighty matters without full consultation with His Majesty's Government and it is only after such consultation that I have been able to write to Your Highness. It would have been highly improper for Major Daly to have done so, as he might easily have incautiously committed His Majesty's Government to a policy of which they could not approve.

Sd. S. G. Knox. Lieut-Col.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.



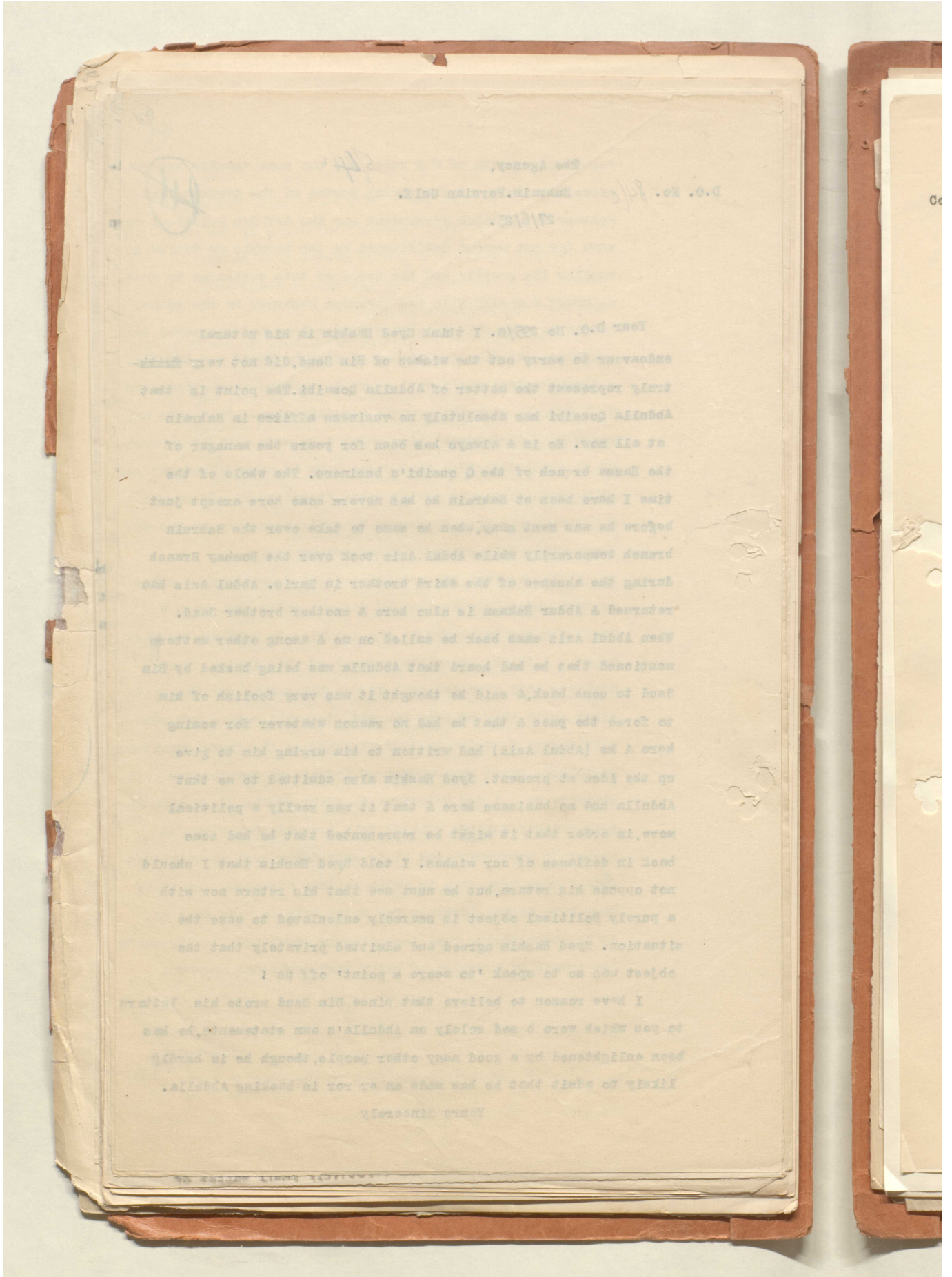
'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [42r] (83/144)

The Agency, 54
D.O. No. 84/c Bahrain.Persian Gulf. (H)
27/6/23.

Your D.O. No 295/S. I think Syed Hashim in his natural endeavour to carry out the wishes of Bin Saud, did not very faithfully represent the matter of Abdulla Qosaibi. The point is that Abdulla Qosaibi has absolutely no business affairs in Bahrain at all now. He is & always has been for years the manager of the Hassa branch of the Q qsaibi's business. The whole of the time I have been at Bahrain he has never come here except just before he was sent away, when he came to take over the Bahrain branch temporarily while Abdul Aziz took over the Bombay Branch during the absence of the third brother in Paris. Abdul Aziz has returned & Abdur Rahman is also here & another brother Saad. When Abdul Aziz came back he called on me & among other matters mentioned that he had heard that Abdulla was being backed by Bin Saud to come back, & said he thought it was very foolish of him to force the pace & that he had no reason whatever for coming here & he (Abdul Aziz) had written to him urging him to give up the idea at present. Syed Hashim also admitted to me that Abdulla had no business here & that it was really a political move, in order that it might be represented that he had come back in defiance of our wishes. I told Syed Hashim that I should not oppose his return, but he must see that his return now with a purely Political object is scarcely calculated to ease the situation. Syed Hashim agreed and admitted privately that the object was so to speak 'to score a point' off us!

I have reason to believe that since Bin Saud wrote his letters to you which were based solely on Abdulla's own statements, he has been enlightened by a good many other people, though he is hardly likely to admit that he has made an error in backing Abdulla.

Yours Sincerely



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [43r] (85/144)

Confidential

No 851 C

The Agency
Bahrain, Persian Gulf.

26/6/23.

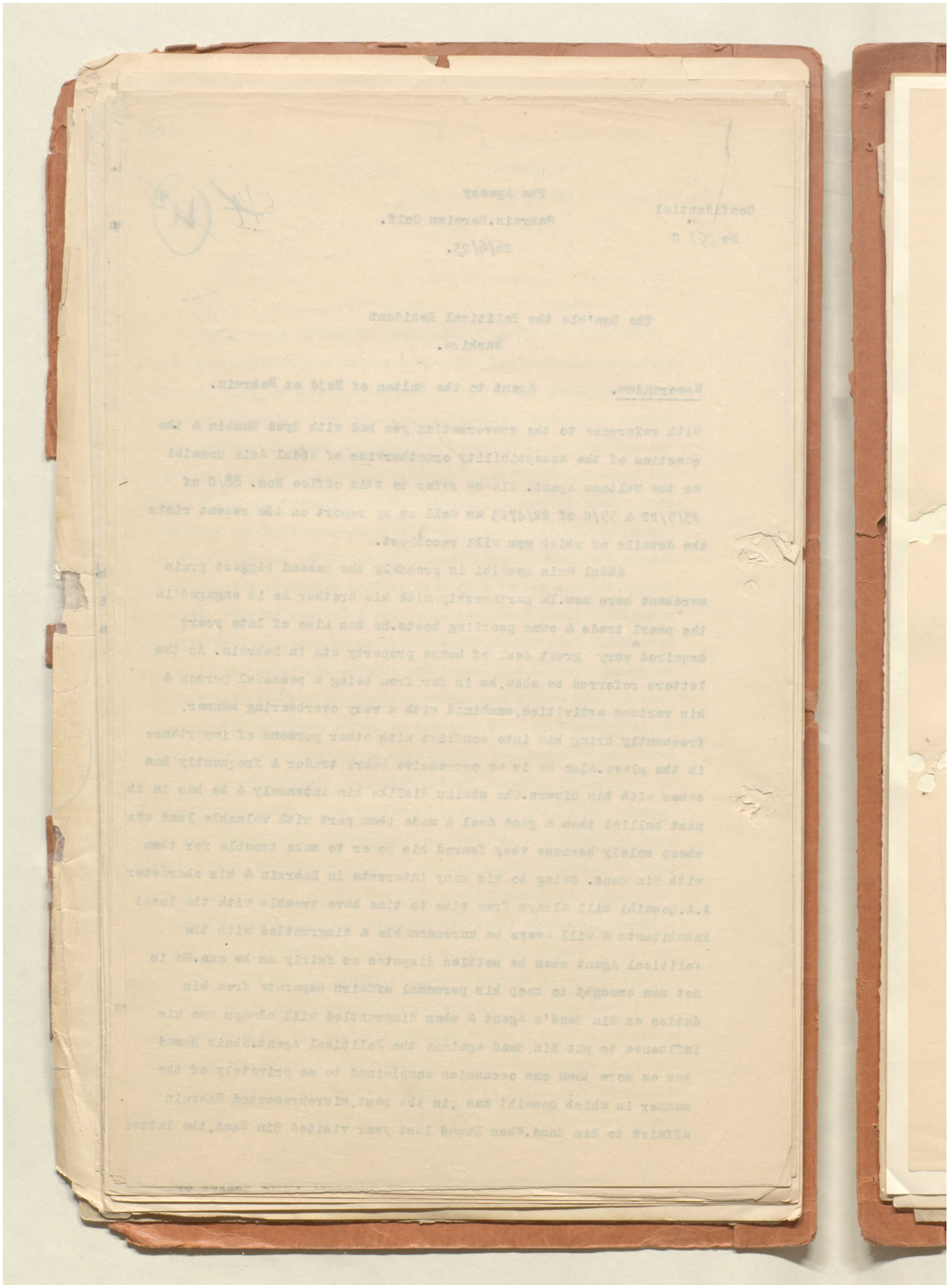
The Hon'ble the Political Resident
Bushire.

Memorandum. Agent to the Sultan of Nejd at Bahrain.

With reference to the conversation you had with Syed Hashim & the question of the acceptability or otherwise of Abdul Aziz Qosaibi as the Sultan's Agent. Please refer to this office Nos. 88/C of 23/5/22 & 55/C of 22/4/23 as well as my report on the recent riots the details of which you will recollect.

Abdul Aziz Qosaibi is probably the second biggest grain merchant here now. In partnership with his brother he is engaged in the pearl trade & owns pearling boats. He has also of late years acquired very great deal of house property etc in Bahrain. As the letters referred to show, he is far from being a peaceful person & his various activities, combined with a very overbearing manner, frequently bring him into conflict with other persons of importance in the place. Also he is an oppressive pearl trader & frequently has cases with his divers. The shaihs dislike him intensely & he has in the past bullied them a good deal & made them part with valuable land etc cheap solely because they feared his power to make trouble for them with Bin Saud. Owing to his many interests in Bahrain & his character A.A. Qosaibi will always from time to time have trouble with the local inhabitants & will always be unreasonable & disgruntled with the Political Agent when he settles disputes as fairly as he can. He is not man enough to keep his personal affairs separate from his duties as Bin Saud's Agent & when disgruntled will always use his influence to put Bin Saud against the Political Agent. Shaik Hamad has on more than one occasion complained to me privately of the manner in which Qosaibi has, in the past, misrepresented Bahrain affairs to Bin Saud. When Hamad last year visited Bin Saud, the latter

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [43v] (86/144)

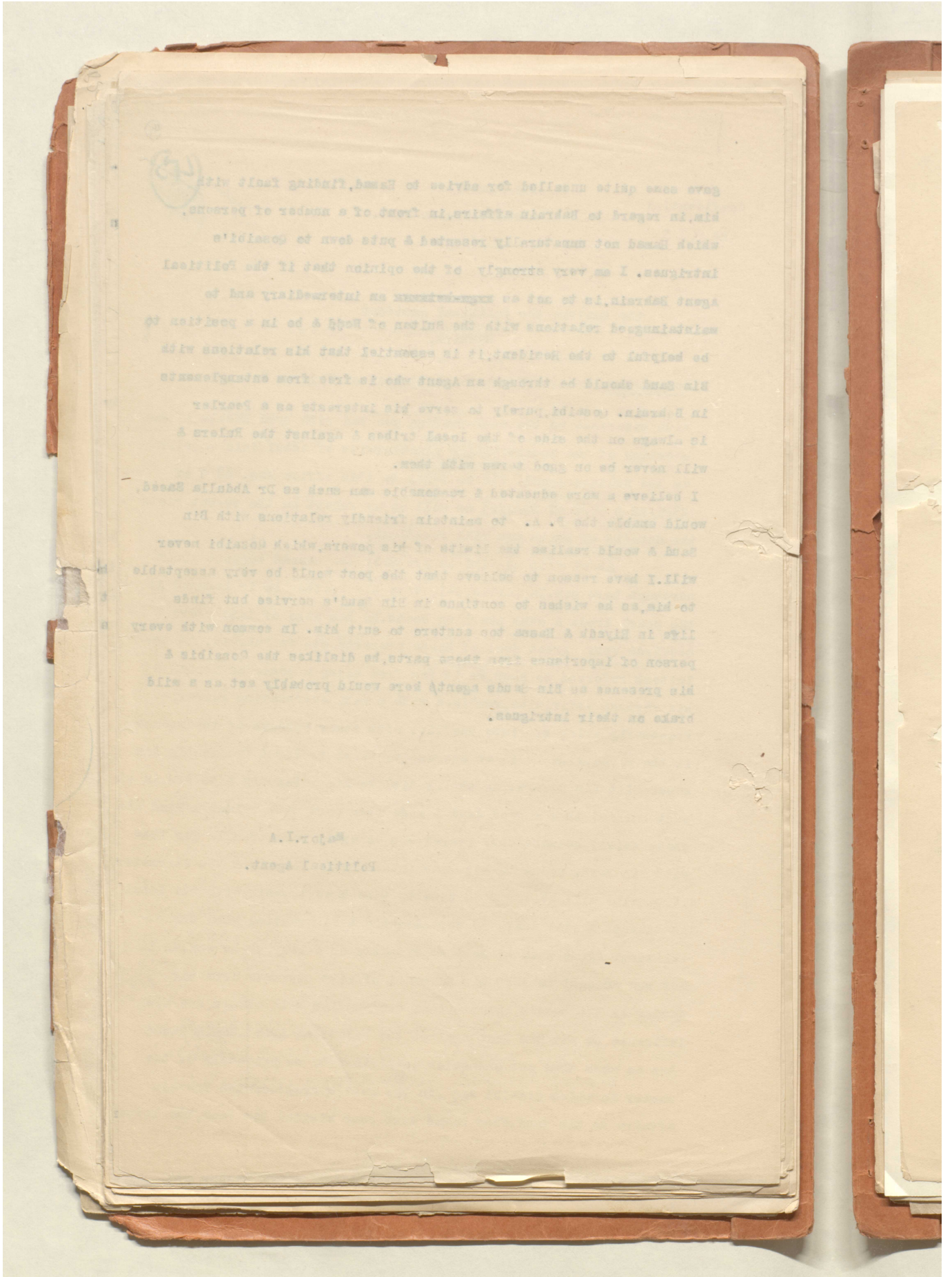


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gave some quite uncalled for advice to Hamad, finding fault with him, in regard to Bahrain affairs, in front of a number of persons, which Hamad not unnaturally resented & puts down to Qosaibi's intrigues. I am very strongly of the opinion that if the Political Agent Bahrain, is to act as ~~an intermediary~~ an intermediary and to maintain good relations with the Sultan of Nejd & be in a position to be helpful to the Resident, it is essential that his relations with Bin Saud should be through an Agent who is free from entanglements in Bahrain. Qosaibi, purely to serve his interests as a Pearler is always on the side of the local tribes & against the Rulers & will never be on good terms with them.

I believe a more educated & reasonable man such as Dr Abdulla Saeed, would enable the P. A. to maintain friendly relations with Bin Saud & would realise the limits of his powers, which Qosaibi never will. I have reason to believe that the post would be very acceptable to him, as he wishes to continue in Bin Saud's service but finds life in Riyadh & Hassa too austere to suit him. In common with every person of importance from these parts, he dislikes the Qosaibi & his presence as Bin Saud's agent here would probably set as a mild brake on their intrigues.

Major. I.A
Political Agent.



Confidential

The Agency.

Bahrain.

17/10/23

No. 143/5/24

Office copy (circled)

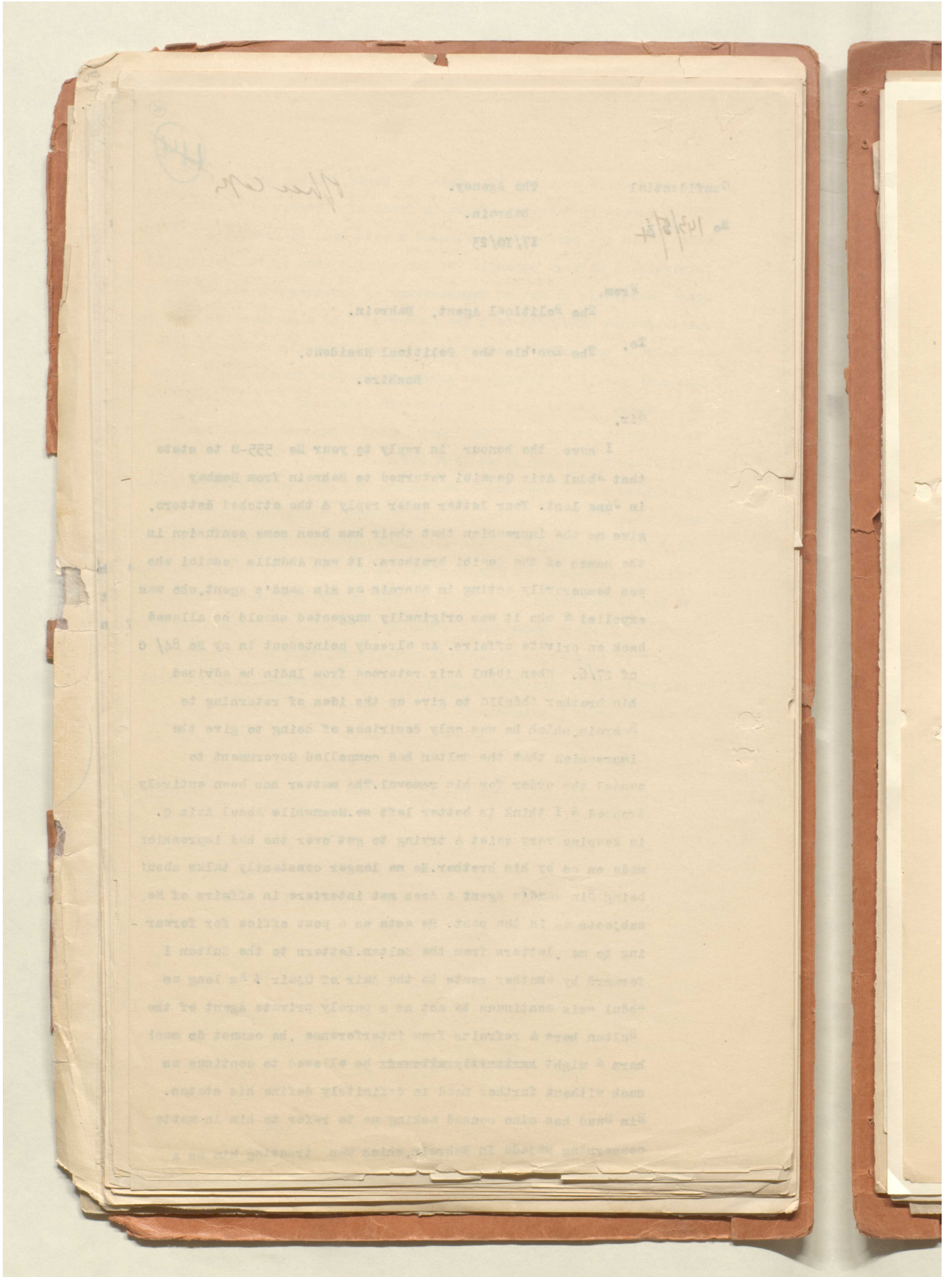
From,
The Political Agent, Bahrain.

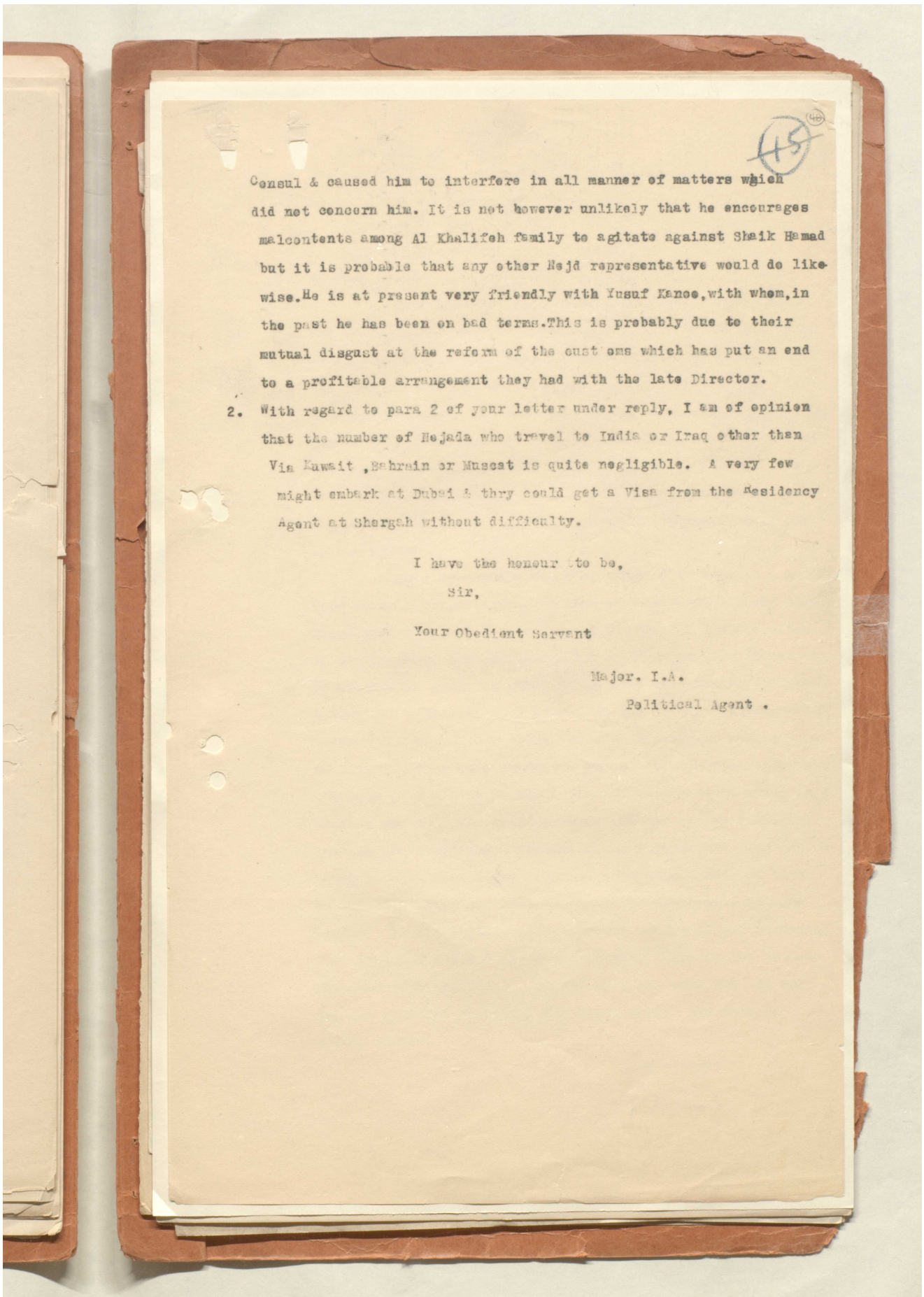
To, The Hon'ble the Political Resident,
Bushire.

Sir,

I have the honour in reply to your No 555-S to state that Abdul Aziz Qosaibi returned to Bahrain from Bombay in June last. Your letter under reply & the attached letters, give me the impression that there has been some confusion in the names of the Qosaibi brothers. It was Abdullah Qosaibi who was temporarily acting in Bahrain as Bin Saud's Agent, who was expelled & who it was originally suggested should be allowed back on private affairs. As already pointed out in my No 84/ C of 27/6. When Abdul Aziz returned from India he advised his brother Abdullah to give up the idea of returning to Bahrain, which he was only desirous of doing to give the impression that the Sultan had compelled Government to cancel the order for his removal. The matter has been entirely dropped & I think is better left so. Meanwhile Abdul Aziz Q. is keeping very quiet & trying to get over the bad impression made on us by his brother. He no longer constantly talks about being Bin Saud's Agent & does not interfere in affairs of Ne. subjects as in the past. He acts as a post office for forwarding to me, letters from the Sultan. Letters to the Sultan I forward by another route to the Amir of Oujair. As long as Abdul Aziz continues to act as a purely private agent of the Sultan here & refrains from interference, he cannot do much harm & might ~~indefinitely~~ be allowed to continue as such without further need to definitely define his status. Bin Saud has also ceased asking us to refer to him in matters concerning Najada in Bahrain, which was treating him as a

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [45v] (90/144)





Consul & caused him to interfere in all manner of matters which did not concern him. It is not however unlikely that he encourages malcontents among Al Khalifeh family to agitate against Shaik Hamad but it is probable that any other Hejd representative would do likewise. He is at present very friendly with Yusuf Kano, with whom, in the past he has been on bad terms. This is probably due to their mutual disgust at the reform of the customs which has put an end to a profitable arrangement they had with the late Director.

2. With regard to para 2 of your letter under reply, I am of opinion that the number of Hejada who travel to India or Iraq other than via Kuwait, Bahrain or Muscat is quite negligible. A very few might embark at Dubai & they could get a Visa from the Residency Agent at Shergah without difficulty.

I have the honour to be,

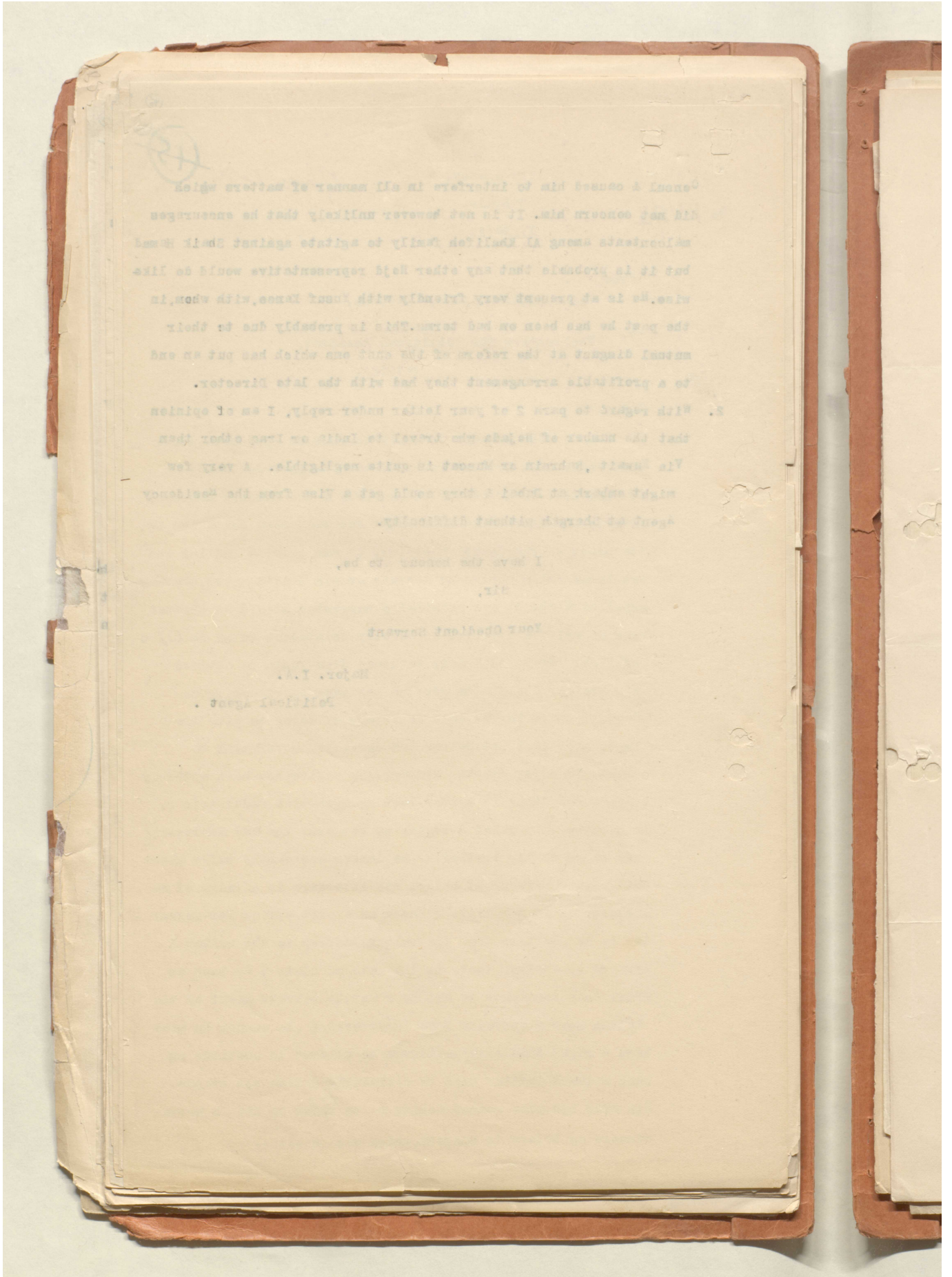
Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Major. I.A.

Political Agent .

'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [46v] (92/144)



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [47r] (93/144)

Confidential

D. C. No. 328 -S

118/c

(47)

(46)

British Residency,

Bushire, 30th June 1923

5/4

My dear Daly,

Your D/C. No. 84-C dated 26th June. Syed Hashim was fairly clear that he desired the return of Abdulla as an indication to Bin Saud that his time with me at Bushire had not been entirely wasted from the point of view of His Highness the Sultan. I think that we may well afford to give way in this little matter, and if Abdulla's return will save the face of the great Abdul Aziz Bin Sa'ud, I find it difficult to resist so cheap a bargain. If he is obstreperous we can get him removed again by formally complaining of him to the Sultan.

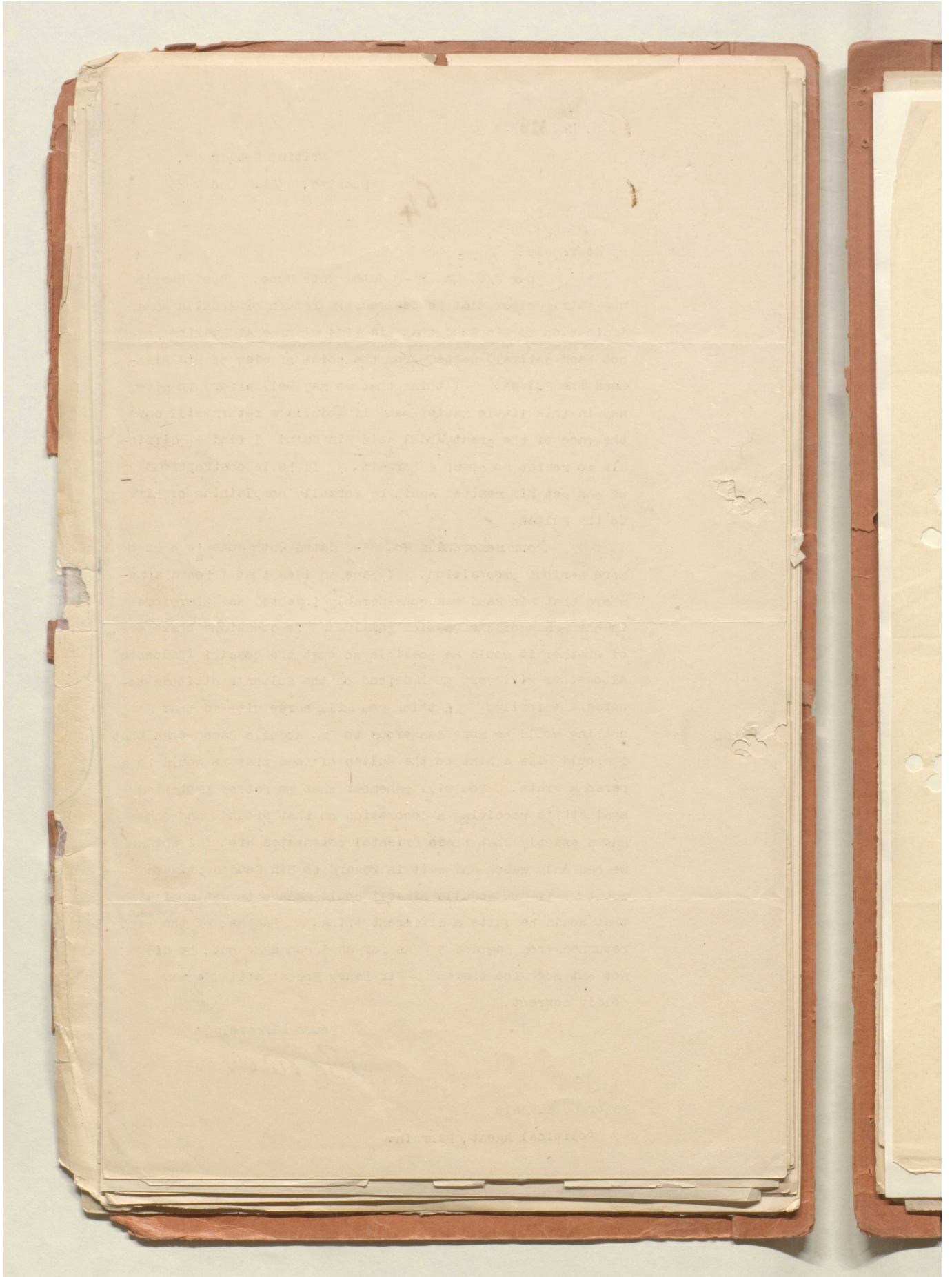
Your memorandum No. 85-C dated 26th June is a much more serious proposition. I have an idea that I heard somewhere that Bin Saud was considerably indebted and therefore in the hands of the Qosaibi family. The question, therefore, of whether it would be possible to oust the Qosaibi influence altogether will very much depend on the Sultan's attitude towards the family. I think you will agree with me that nothing would be more dangerous to Dr. Abdulla Saeed than that I should give a hint to the Sultan of Nejd that he would be a *persona grata*. You will remember that we rather protested against his receiving a decoration on that ground, and one knows exactly what these Oriental potentates are. I think we can only watch and wait in regard to Bin Saud's private agent. If Dr. Abdulla himself could manage to get nominated that would be quite a different thing. Has he, by the way, returned from Baghdad? As far as I can make out, he did not cut much ice there. Sir Henry Dobbs' attitude was coldly correct.

Yours sincerely,

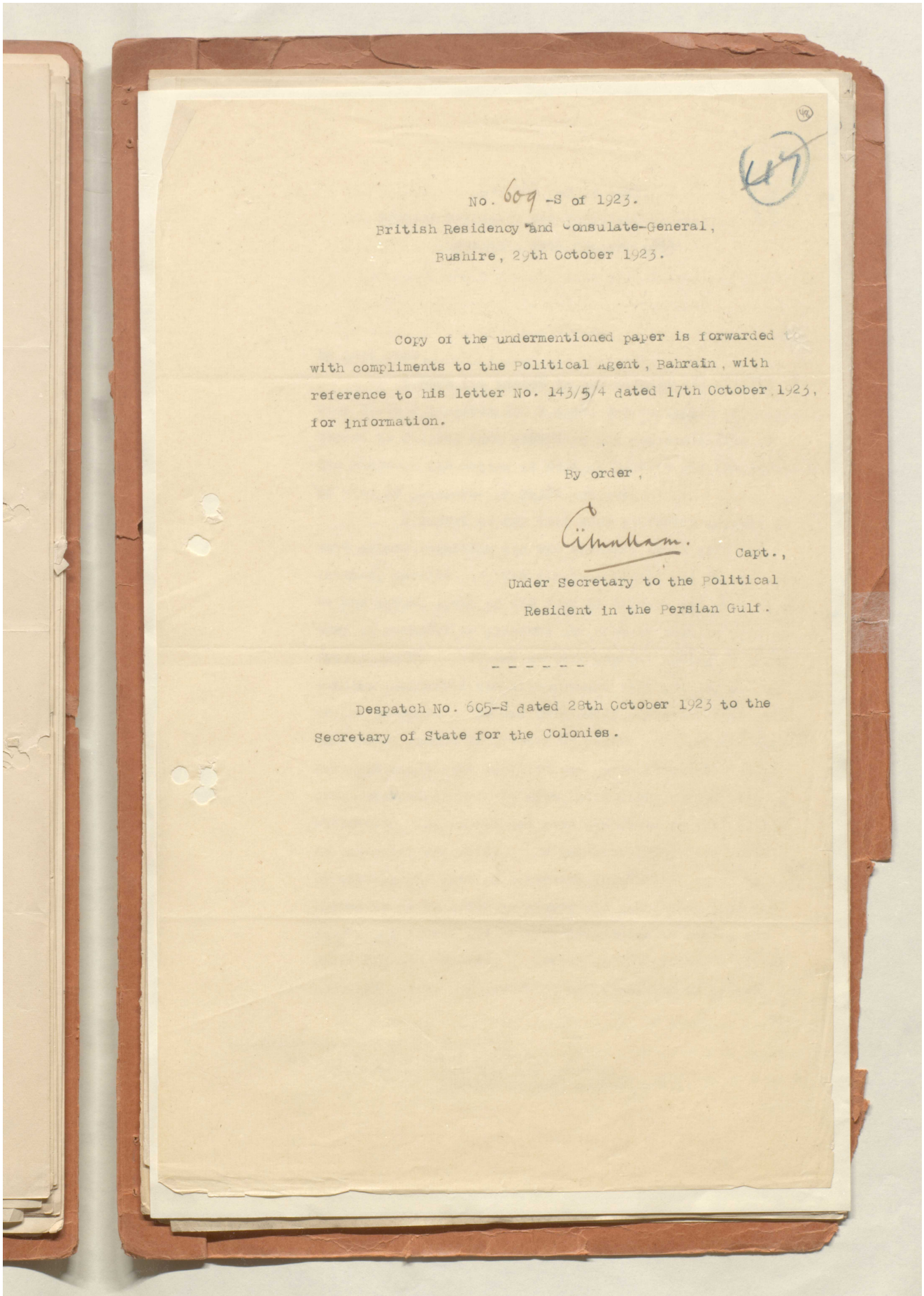
S. P. Max

Major C. K. Daly,

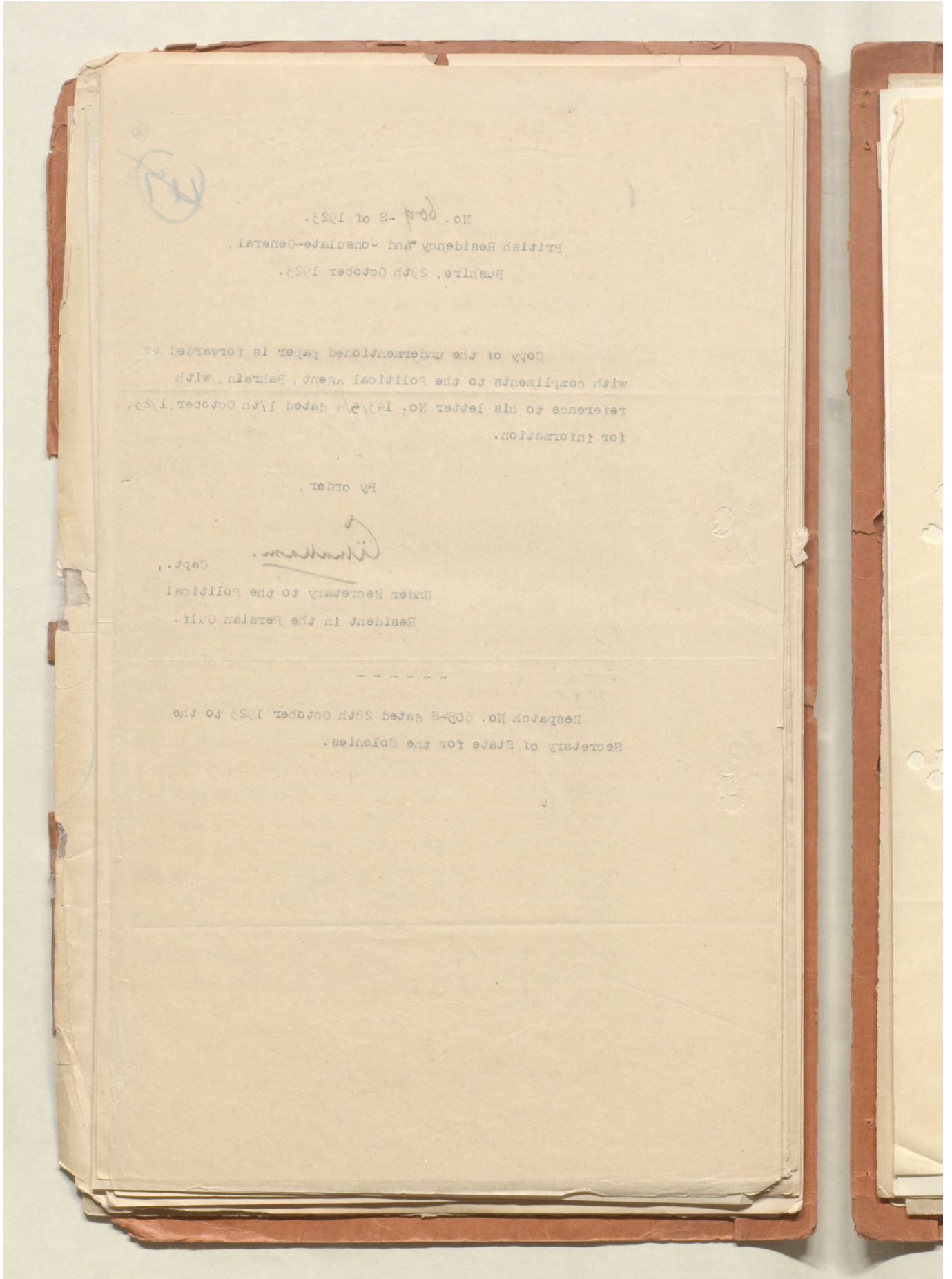
Political Agent, Bahrain.



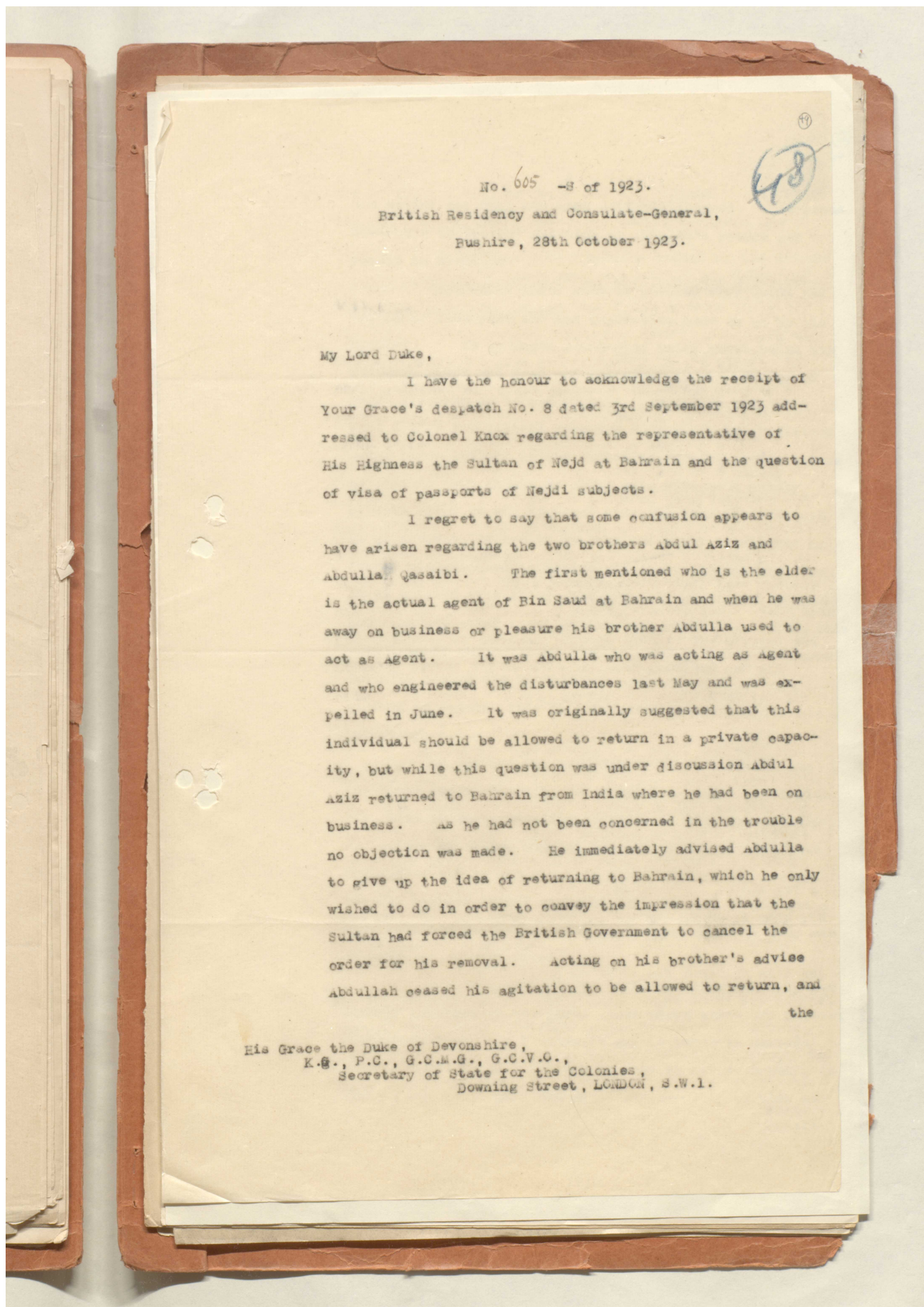
'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [48r] (95/144)



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [48v] (96/144)



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [49r] (97/144)



No. 605 -S of 1923.

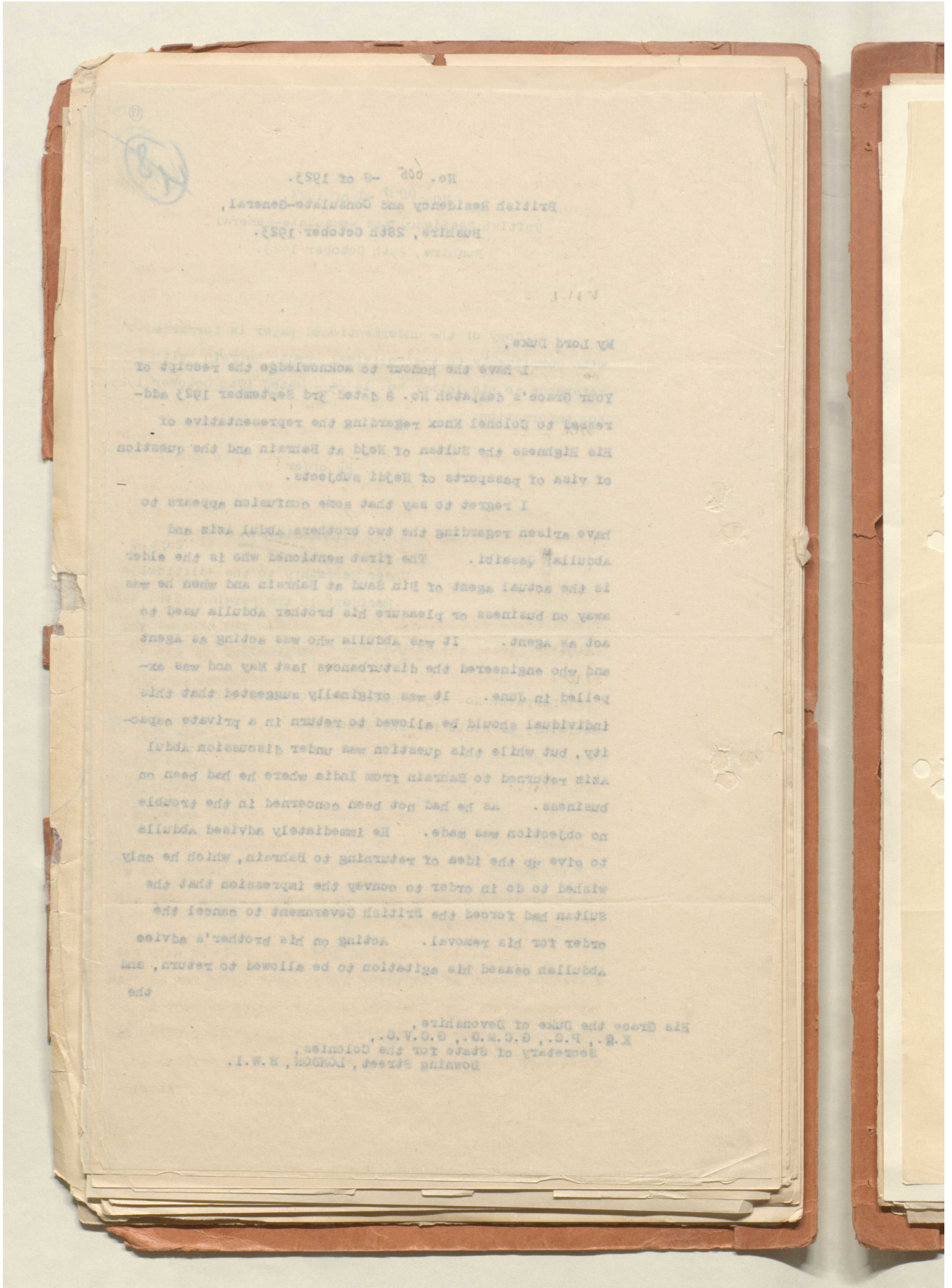
British Residency and Consulate-General,
Rushire, 28th October 1923.

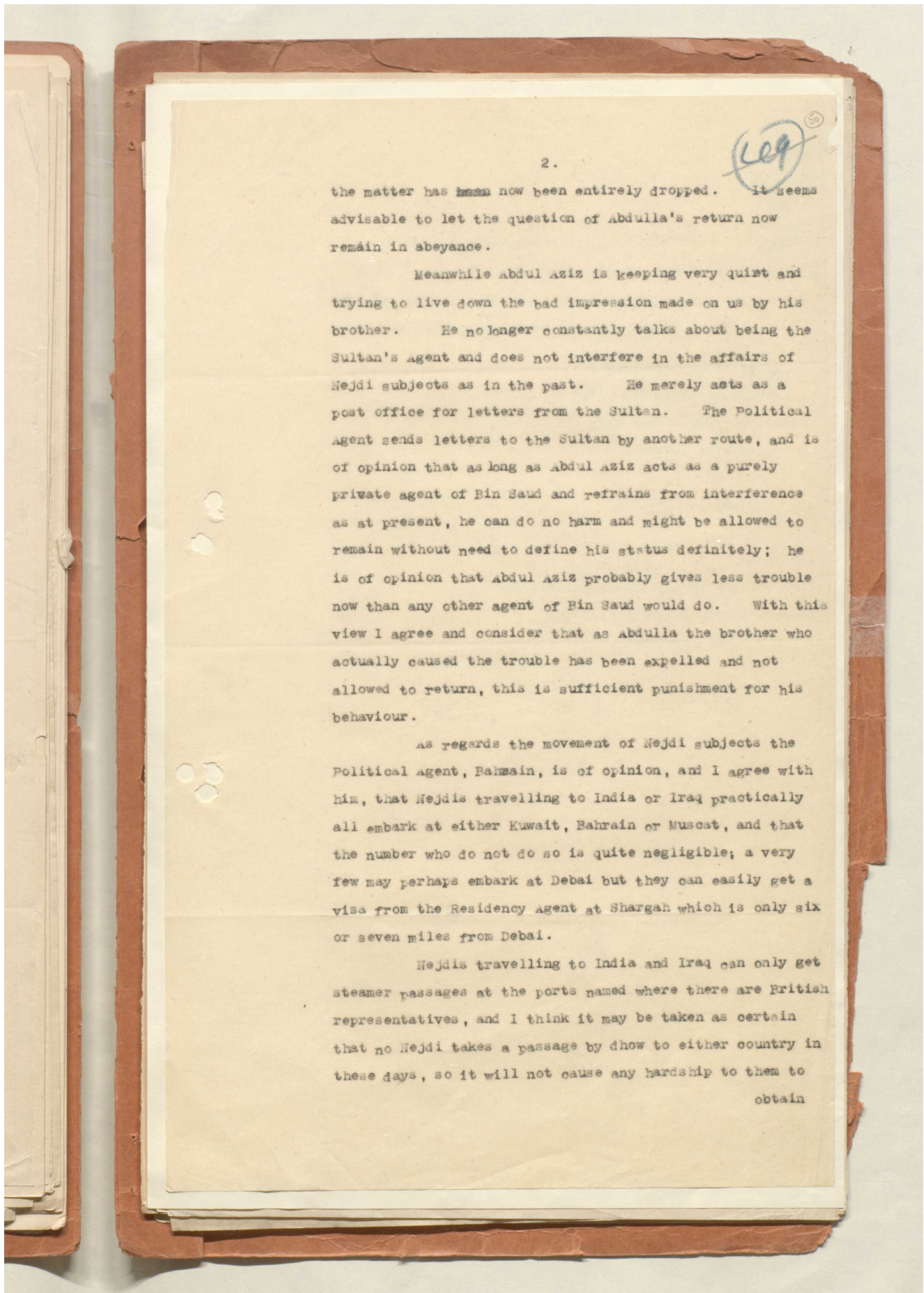
My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Grace's despatch No. 8 dated 3rd September 1923 addressed to Colonel Knox regarding the representative of His Highness the Sultan of Nejd at Bahrain and the question of visa of passports of Nejd subjects.

I regret to say that some confusion appears to have arisen regarding the two brothers Abdul Aziz and Abdullah Qosaibi. The first mentioned who is the elder is the actual agent of Bin Saud at Bahrain and when he was away on business or pleasure his brother Abdulla used to act as Agent. It was Abdulla who was acting as Agent and who engineered the disturbances last May and was expelled in June. It was originally suggested that this individual should be allowed to return in a private capacity, but while this question was under discussion Abdul Aziz returned to Bahrain from India where he had been on business. As he had not been concerned in the trouble no objection was made. He immediately advised Abdulla to give up the idea of returning to Bahrain, which he only wished to do in order to convey the impression that the Sultan had forced the British Government to cancel the order for his removal. Acting on his brother's advice Abdullah ceased his agitation to be allowed to return, and
the

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire,
K.G., P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street, LONDON, S.W.1.





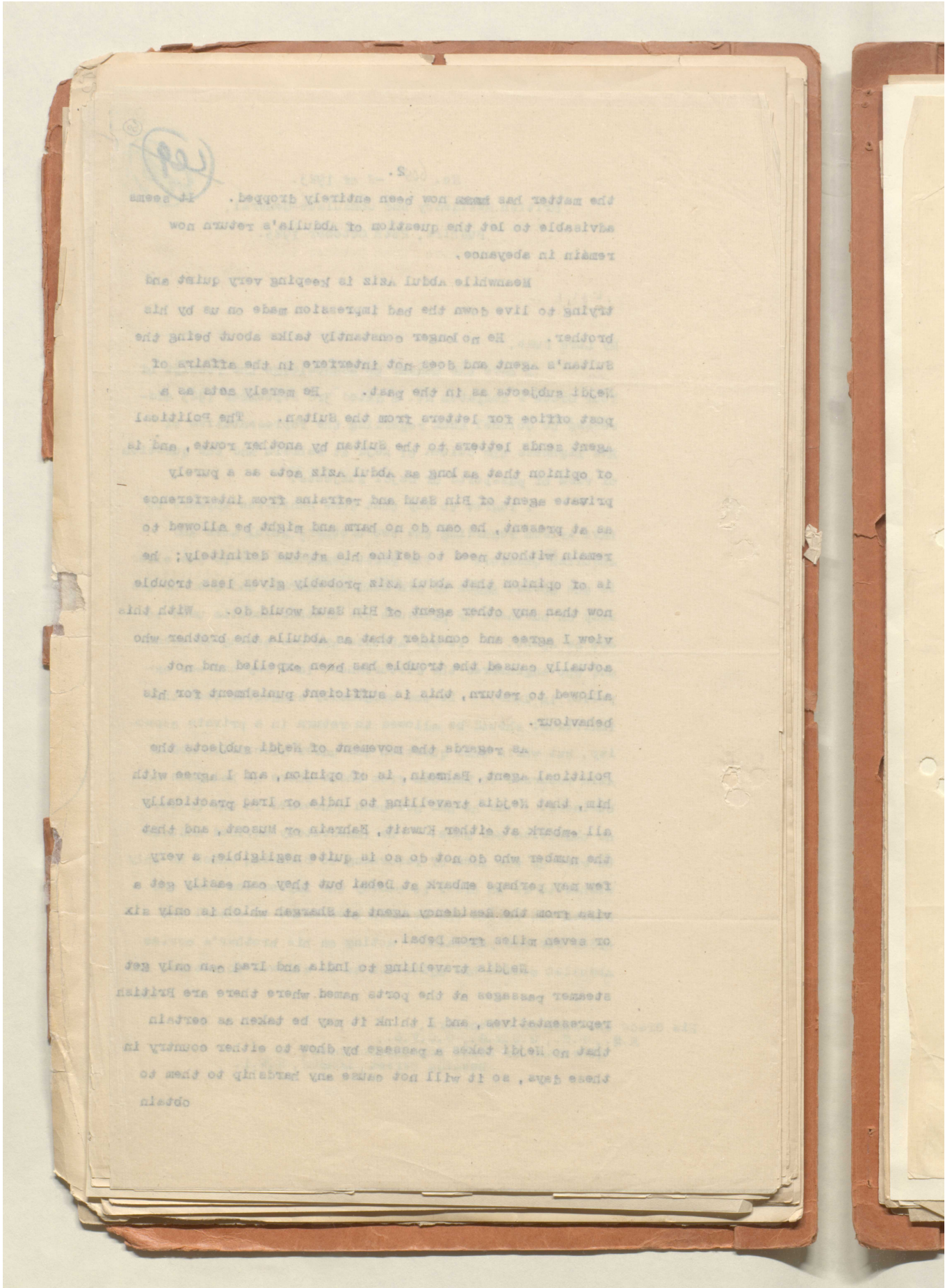
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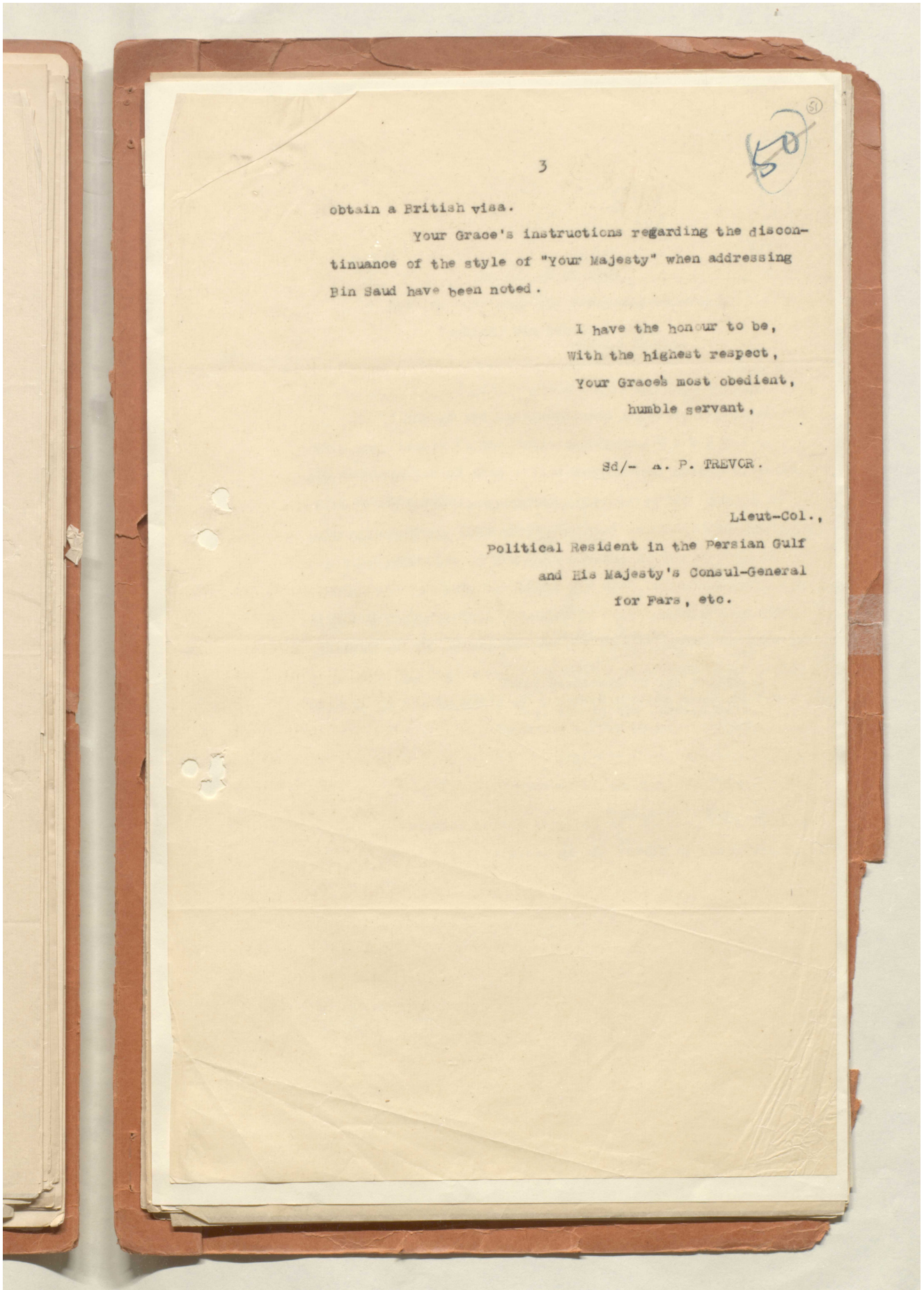
the matter has ~~been~~ now been entirely dropped. It seems advisable to let the question of Abdulla's return now remain in abeyance.

Meanwhile Abdul Aziz is keeping very quiet and trying to live down the bad impression made on us by his brother. He no longer constantly talks about being the Sultan's agent and does not interfere in the affairs of Nejd subjects as in the past. He merely acts as a post office for letters from the Sultan. The Political Agent sends letters to the Sultan by another route, and is of opinion that as long as Abdul Aziz acts as a purely private agent of Bin Saud and refrains from interference as at present, he can do no harm and might be allowed to remain without need to define his status definitely; he is of opinion that Abdul Aziz probably gives less trouble now than any other agent of Bin Saud would do. With this view I agree and consider that as Abdulla the brother who actually caused the trouble has been expelled and not allowed to return, this is sufficient punishment for his behaviour.

As regards the movement of Nejd subjects the Political Agent, Bahrain, is of opinion, and I agree with him, that Nejd subjects travelling to India or Iraq practically all embark at either Kuwait, Bahrain or Muscat, and that the number who do not do so is quite negligible; a very few may perhaps embark at Debai but they can easily get a visa from the Residency Agent at Shargah which is only six or seven miles from Debai.

Nejd subjects travelling to India and Iraq can only get steamer passages at the ports named where there are British representatives, and I think it may be taken as certain that no Nejd subject takes a passage by dhow to either country in these days, so it will not cause any hardship to them to obtain





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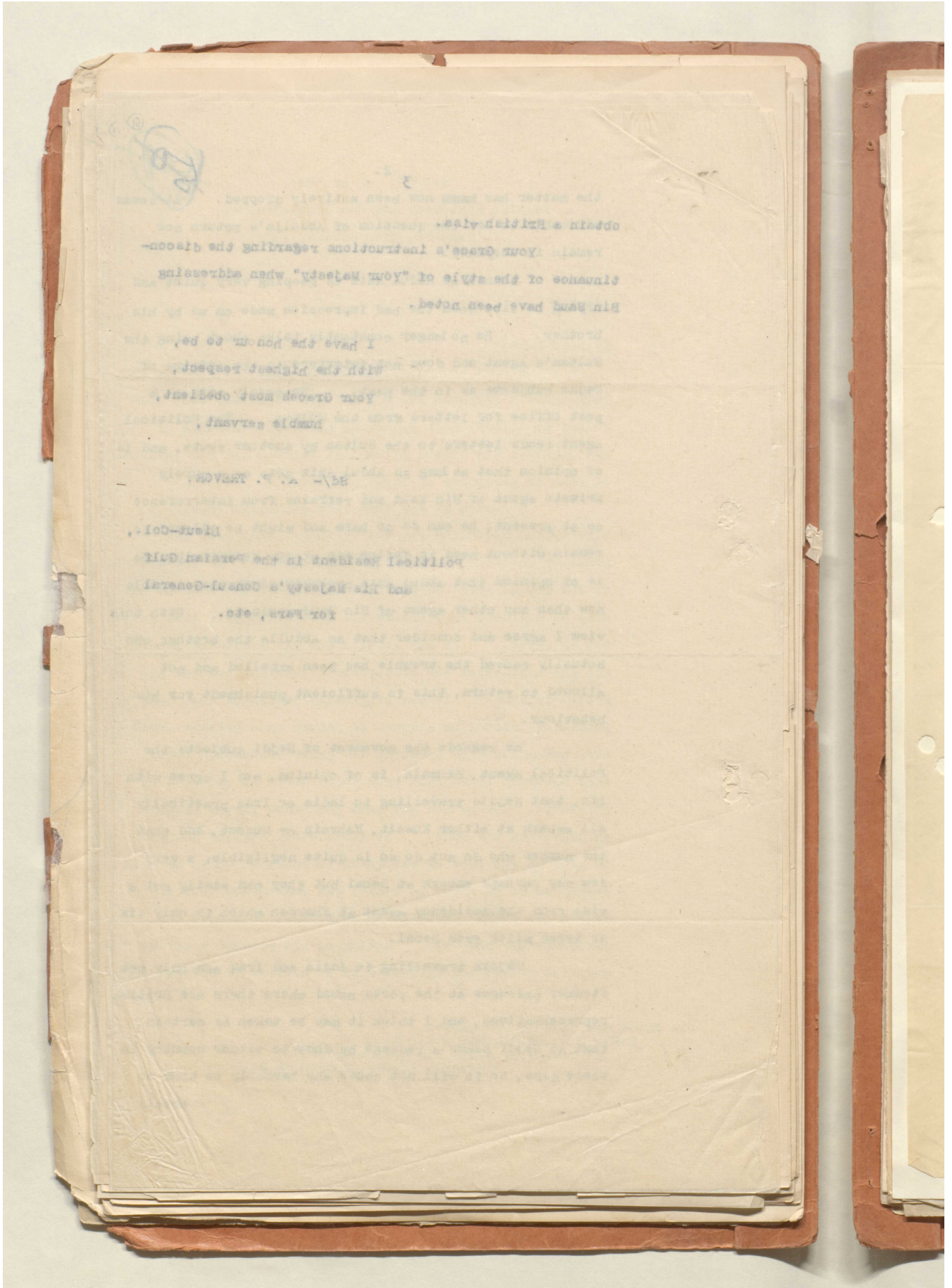
obtain a British visa.

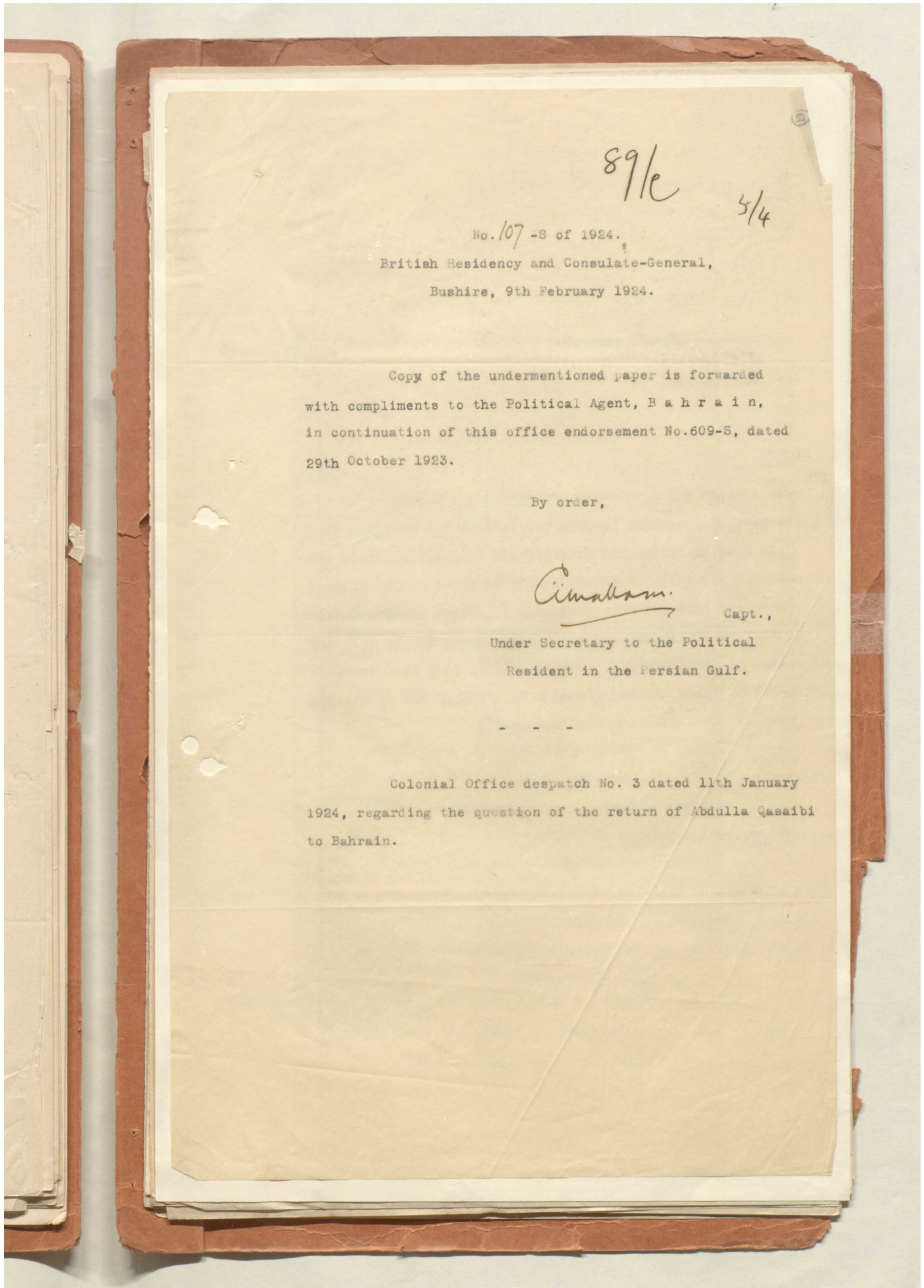
Your Grace's instructions regarding the discontinuance of the style of "Your Majesty" when addressing Bin Saud have been noted.

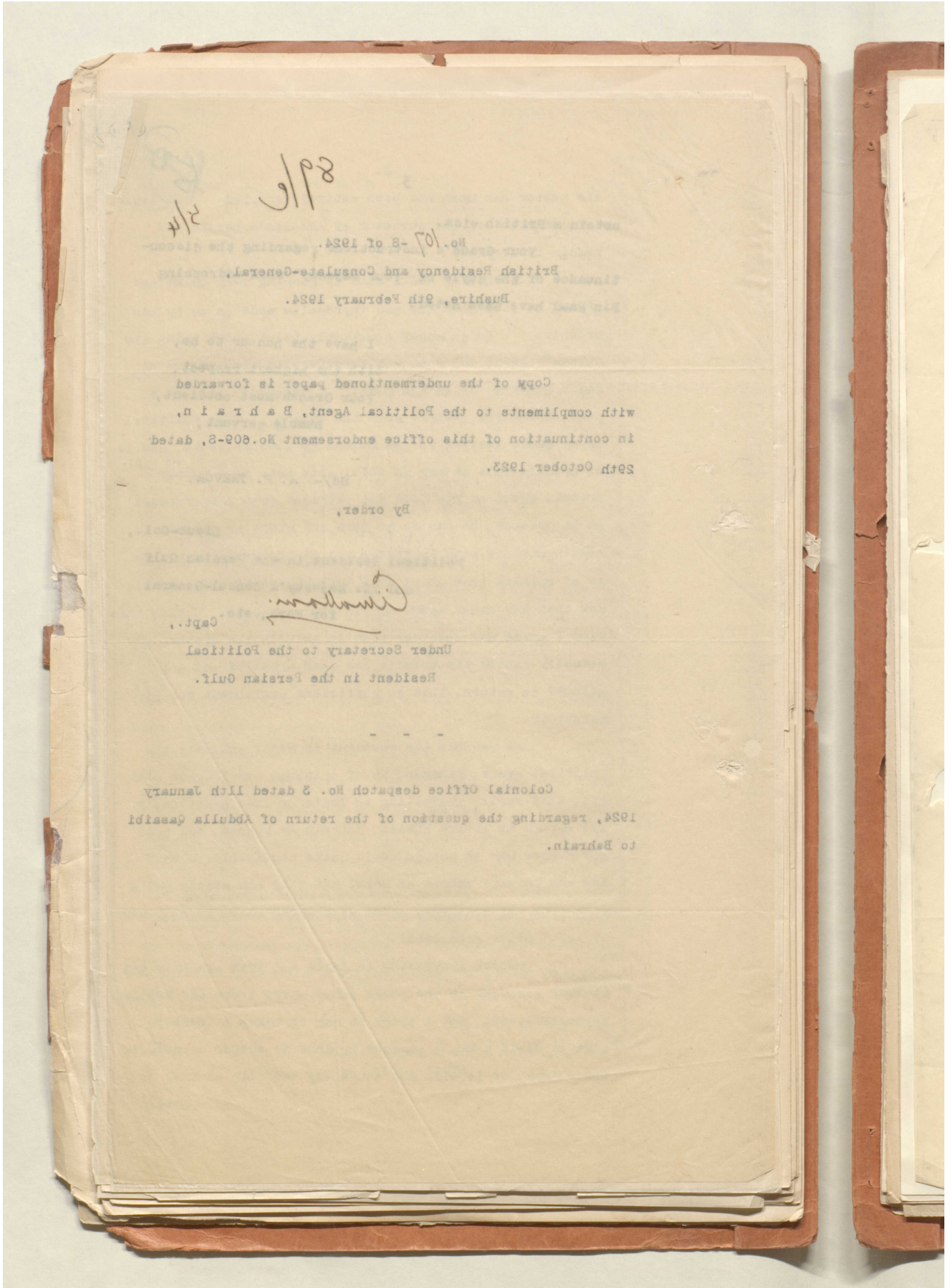
I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
Your Grace's most obedient,
humble servant,

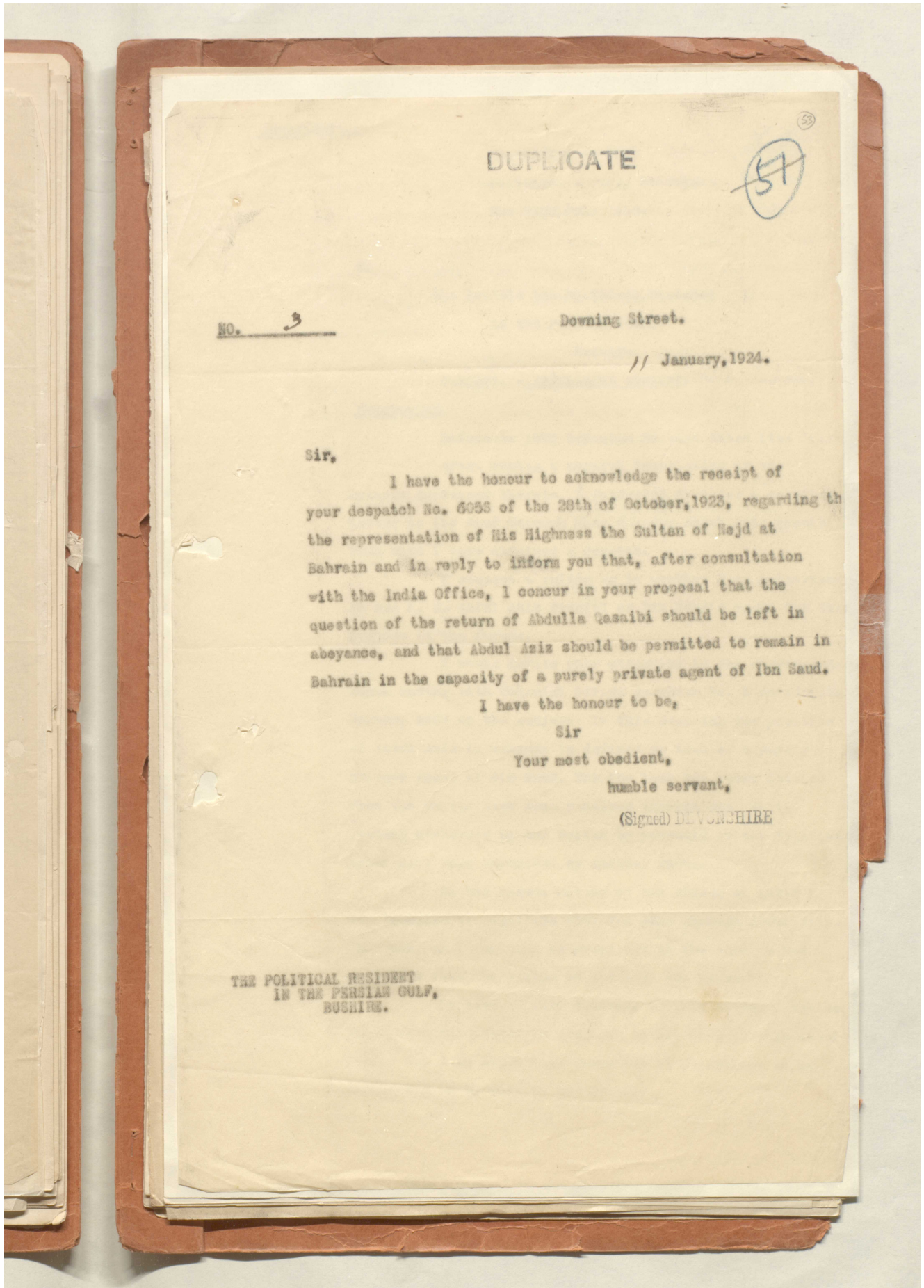
Sd/- A. P. TREVOR.

Lieut-Col.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf
and His Majesty's Consul-General
for Fars, etc.









DUPLICATE

57

NO. 3

Downing Street.

// January, 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 6058 of the 28th of October, 1923, regarding the representation of His Highness the Sultan of Nejd at Bahrain and in reply to inform you that, after consultation with the India Office, I concur in your proposal that the question of the return of Abdulla Qasaibi should be left in abeyance, and that Abdul Aziz should be permitted to remain in Bahrain in the capacity of a purely private agent of Ibn Saud.

I have the honour to be,

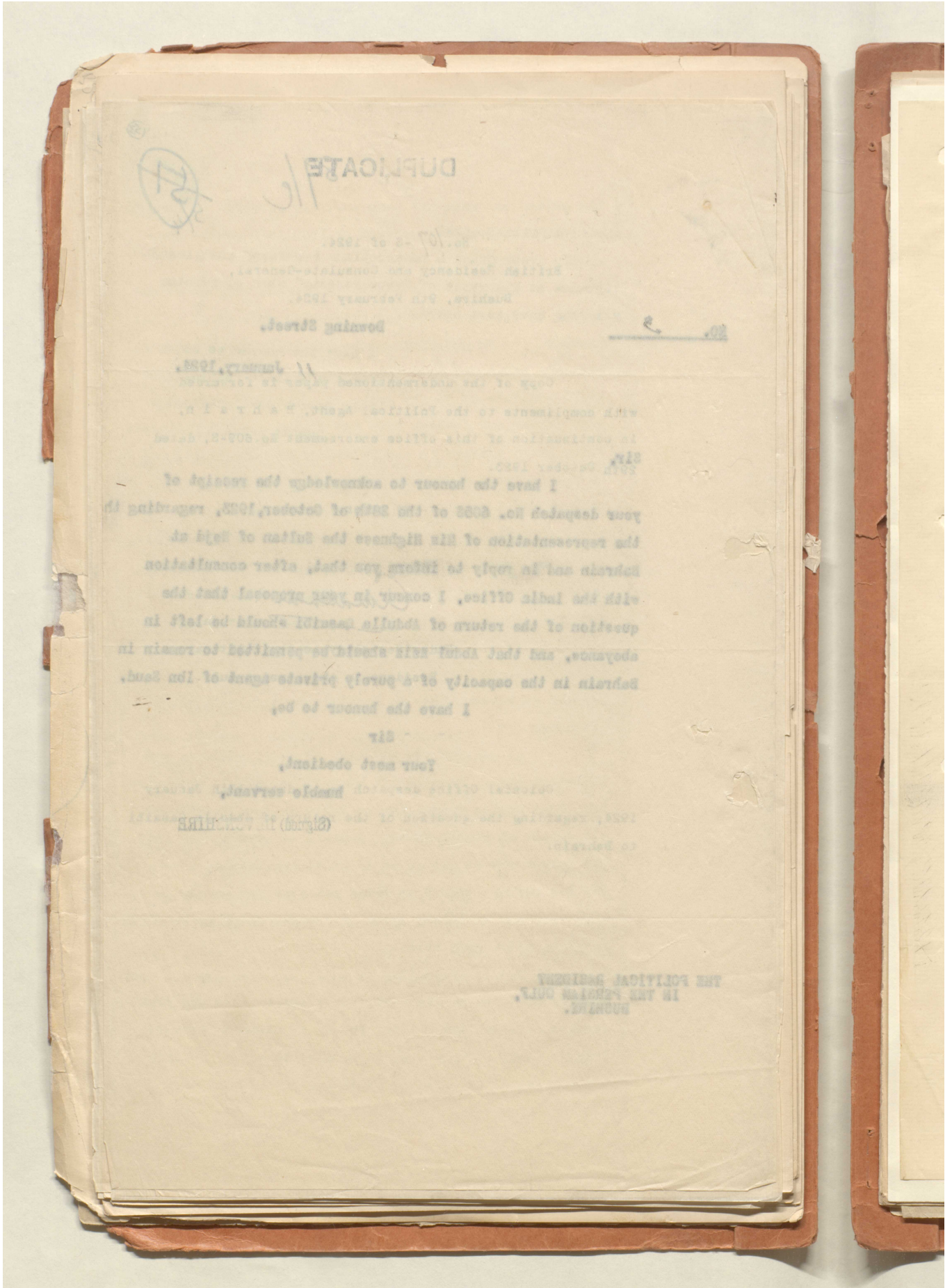
Sir

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) DEVONSHIRE

THE POLITICAL RESIDENT
IN THE PERSIAN GULF,
BUSHIRE.



CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 67/5/4 of 1925

Political Agency, Bahrain.

The 26th July 1925.

To

The Hon'ble the Political Resident

in the Persian Gulf,

Bushire.

Subject. - ABDUL AZIZ QOSAIBI. *Khan Bahadur.*

Memorandum.

Reference your telegram No. 444 dated 16th July.

After making a careful translation of the message contained therein, I forwarded it under a covering letter to Ibn Saud through Khan Bahadur Abdul Aziz Qosaibi, from whom I have obtained a receipt.

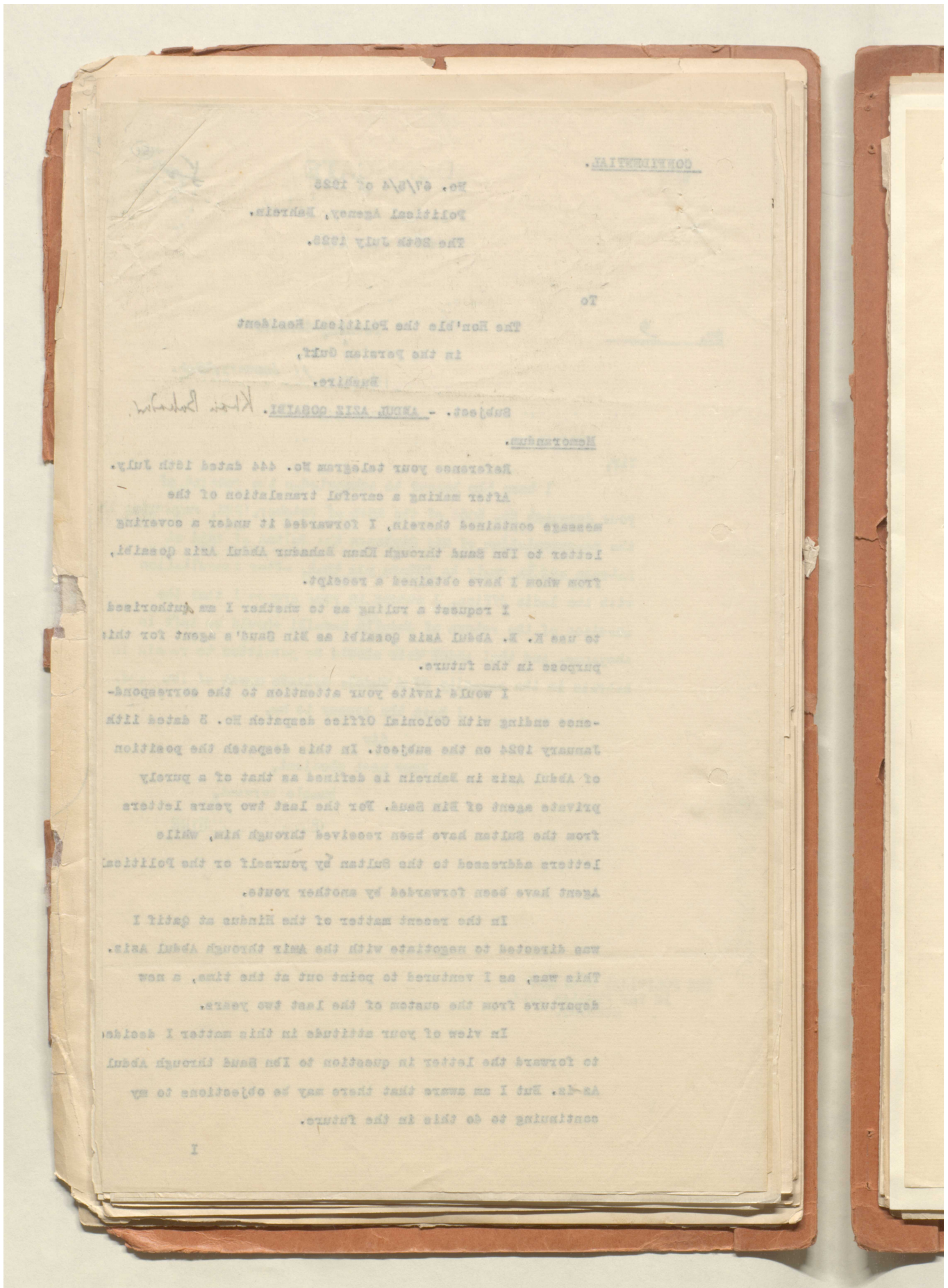
I request a ruling as to whether I am authorised to use K. B. Abdul Aziz Qosaibi as Bin Saud's agent for this purpose in the future.

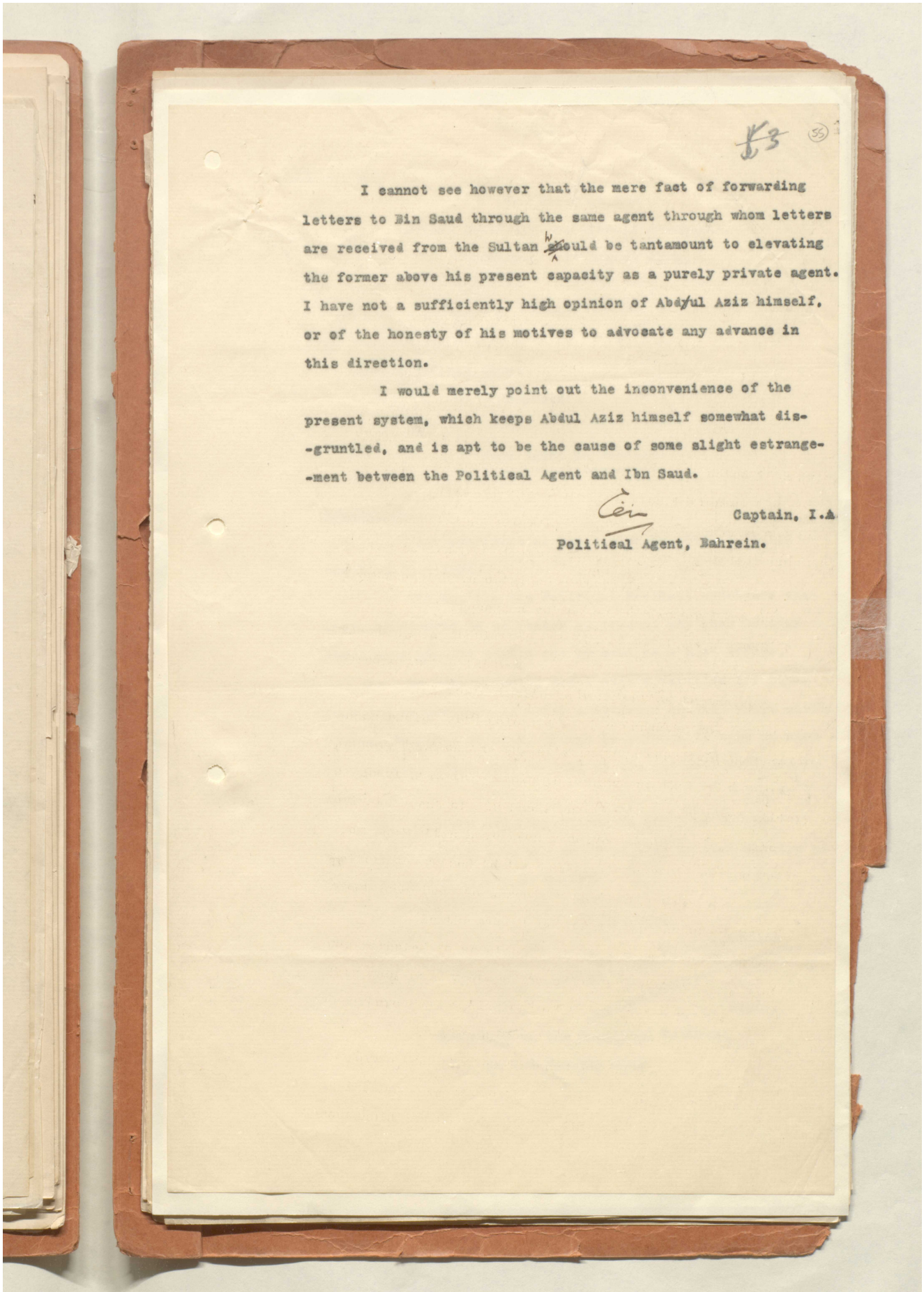
I would invite your attention to the correspondence ending with Colonial Office despatch No. 3 dated 11th January 1924 on the subject. In this despatch the position of Abdul Aziz in Bahrain is defined as that of a purely private agent of Bin Saud. For the last two years letters from the Sultan have been received through him, while letters addressed to the Sultan by yourself or the Political Agent have been forwarded by another route.

In the recent matter of the Hindus at Qatif I was directed to negotiate with the Amir through Abdul Aziz. This was, as I ventured to point out at the time, a new departure from the custom of the last two years.

In view of your attitude in this matter I decided to forward the letter in question to Ibn Saud through Abdul Aziz. But I am aware that there may be objections to my continuing to do this in the future.

I

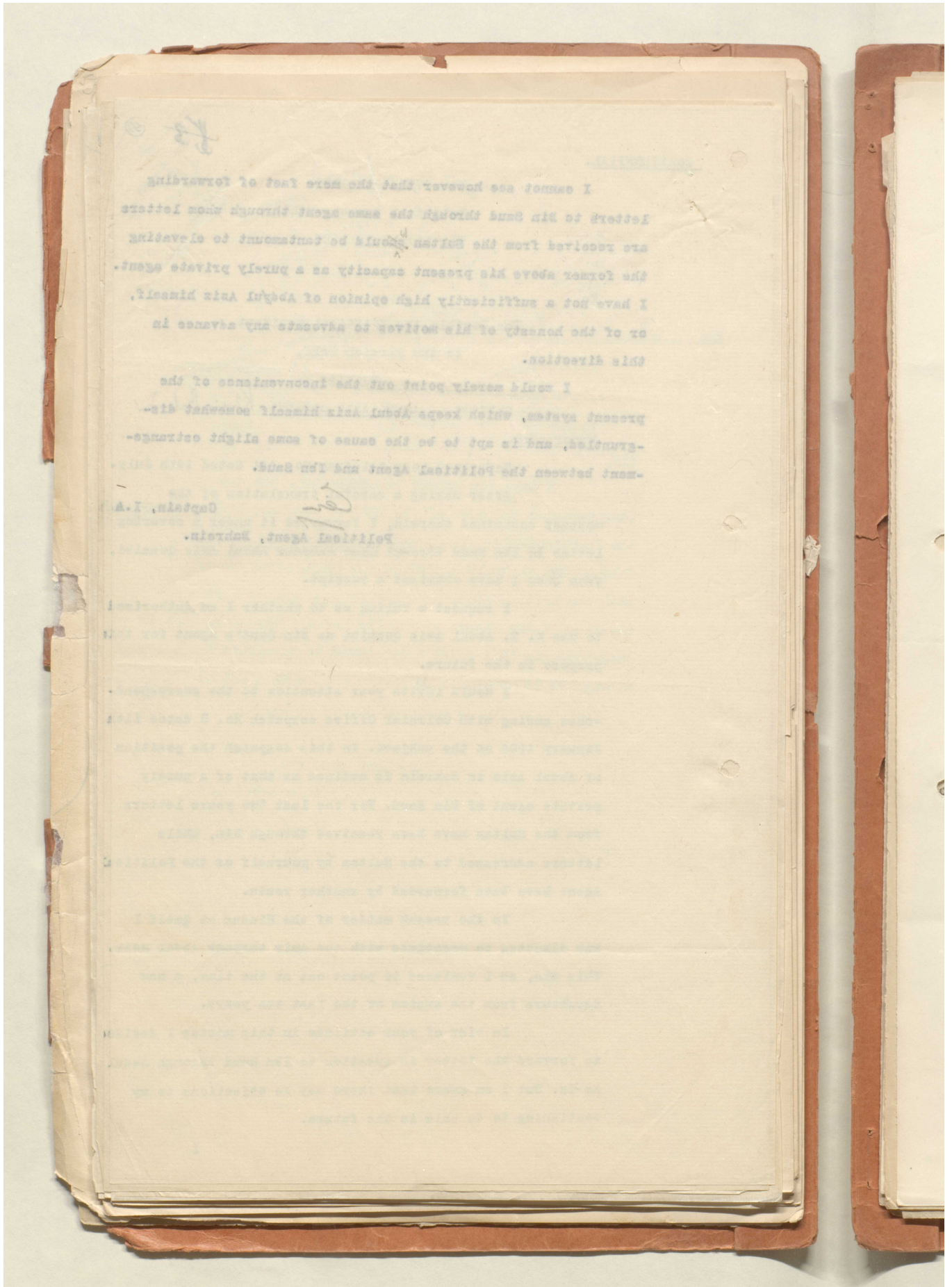




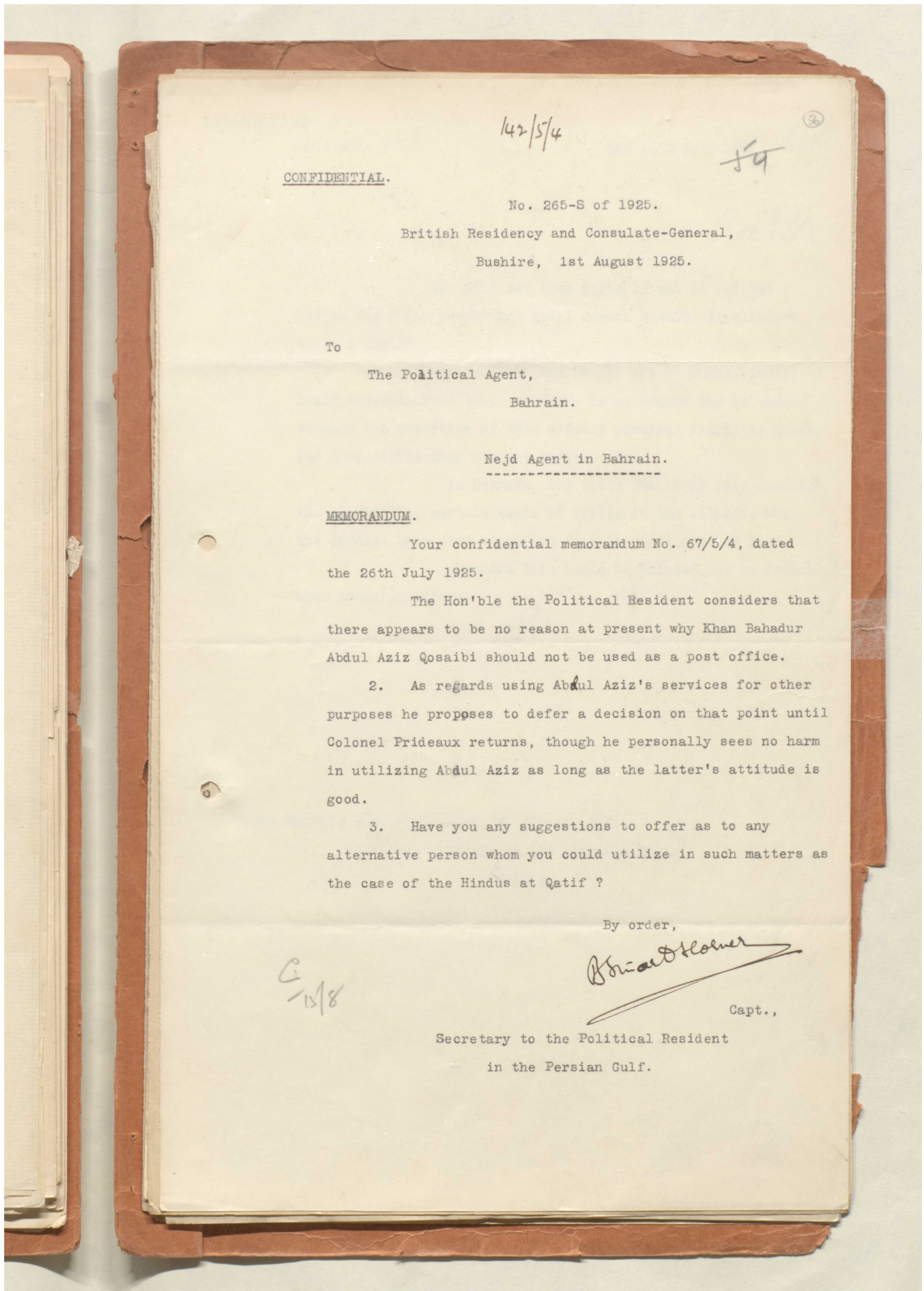
I cannot see however that the mere fact of forwarding letters to Bin Saud through the same agent through whom letters are received from the Sultan ^h~~should~~_A be tantamount to elevating the former above his present capacity as a purely private agent. I have not a sufficiently high opinion of ~~Abdul~~ Aziz himself, or of the honesty of his motives to advocate any advance in this direction.

I would merely point out the inconvenience of the present system, which keeps Abdul Aziz himself somewhat disgruntled, and is apt to be the cause of some slight estrangement between the Political Agent and Ibn Saud.

Cei
Captain, I.A.
Political Agent, Bahrain.



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [56r] (111/144)



142/5/4

56

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 265-S of 1925.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 1st August 1925.

To

The Political Agent,
Bahrain.

Nejd Agent in Bahrain.

MEMORANDUM.

Your confidential memorandum No. 67/5/4, dated
the 26th July 1925.

The Hon'ble the Political Resident considers that
there appears to be no reason at present why Khan Bahadur
Abdul Aziz Qosaibi should not be used as a post office.

2. As regards using Abdul Aziz's services for other
purposes he proposes to defer a decision on that point until
Colonel Prideaux returns, though he personally sees no harm
in utilizing Abdul Aziz as long as the latter's attitude is
good.

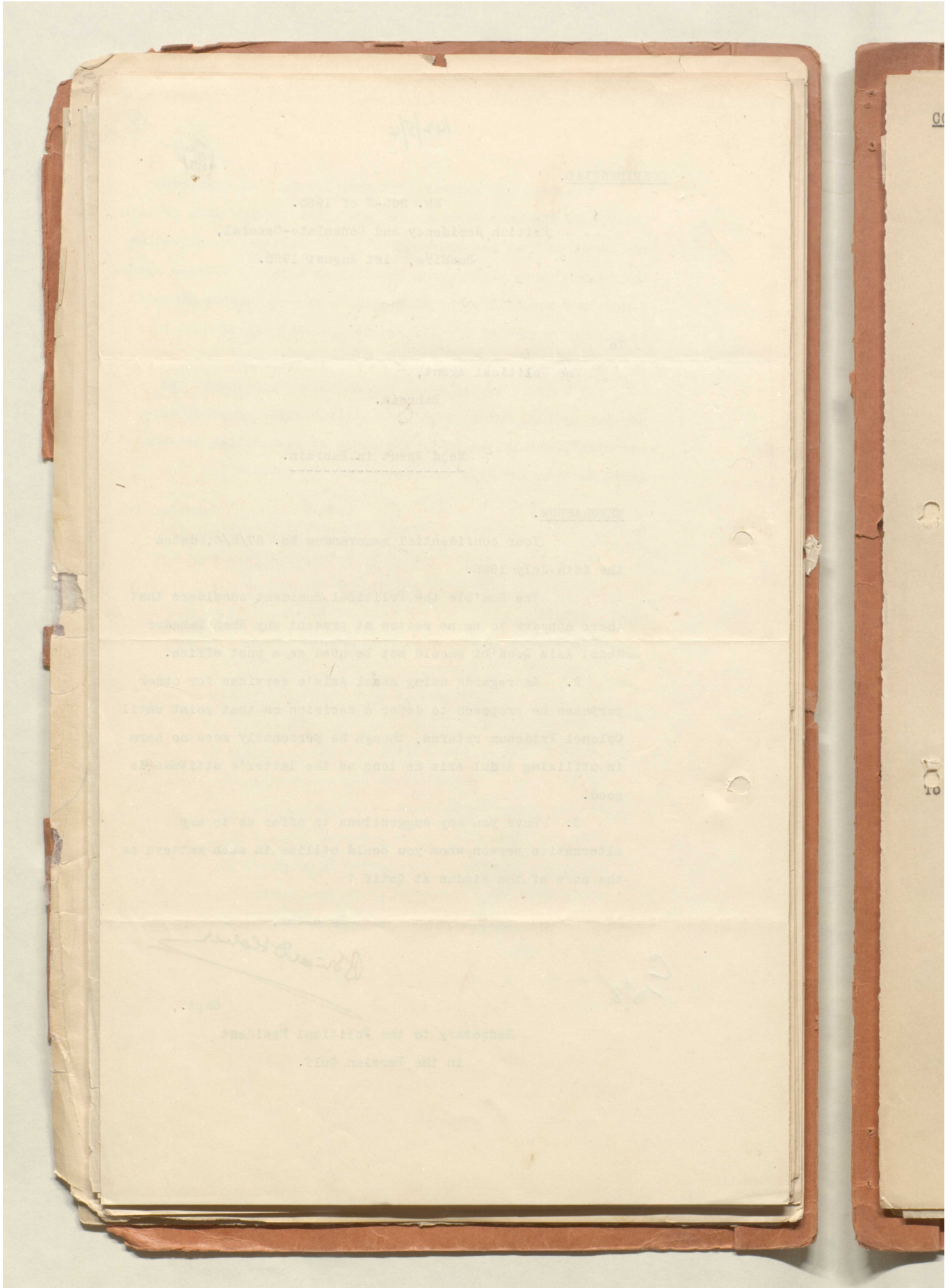
3. Have you any suggestions to offer as to any
alternative person whom you could utilize in such matters as
the case of the Hindus at Qatif ?

By order,

[Signature]
Capt.,

Secretary to the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf.

C
15/8



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [57r] (113/144)

CONFIDENTIAL.

D.O.NO. 148

The 16th July 1930

574
55

See P. 57

You will see from paras 16 and 21 of the Hedjaz Diary for March that Abdul Rahman Qusaibi is alluded to as a Shaikh.

As you know, the family are merchants and of lowly extraction at that and there is no reason why we should enhance the prestige of this already powerful family by handing them titles they are not entitled to.

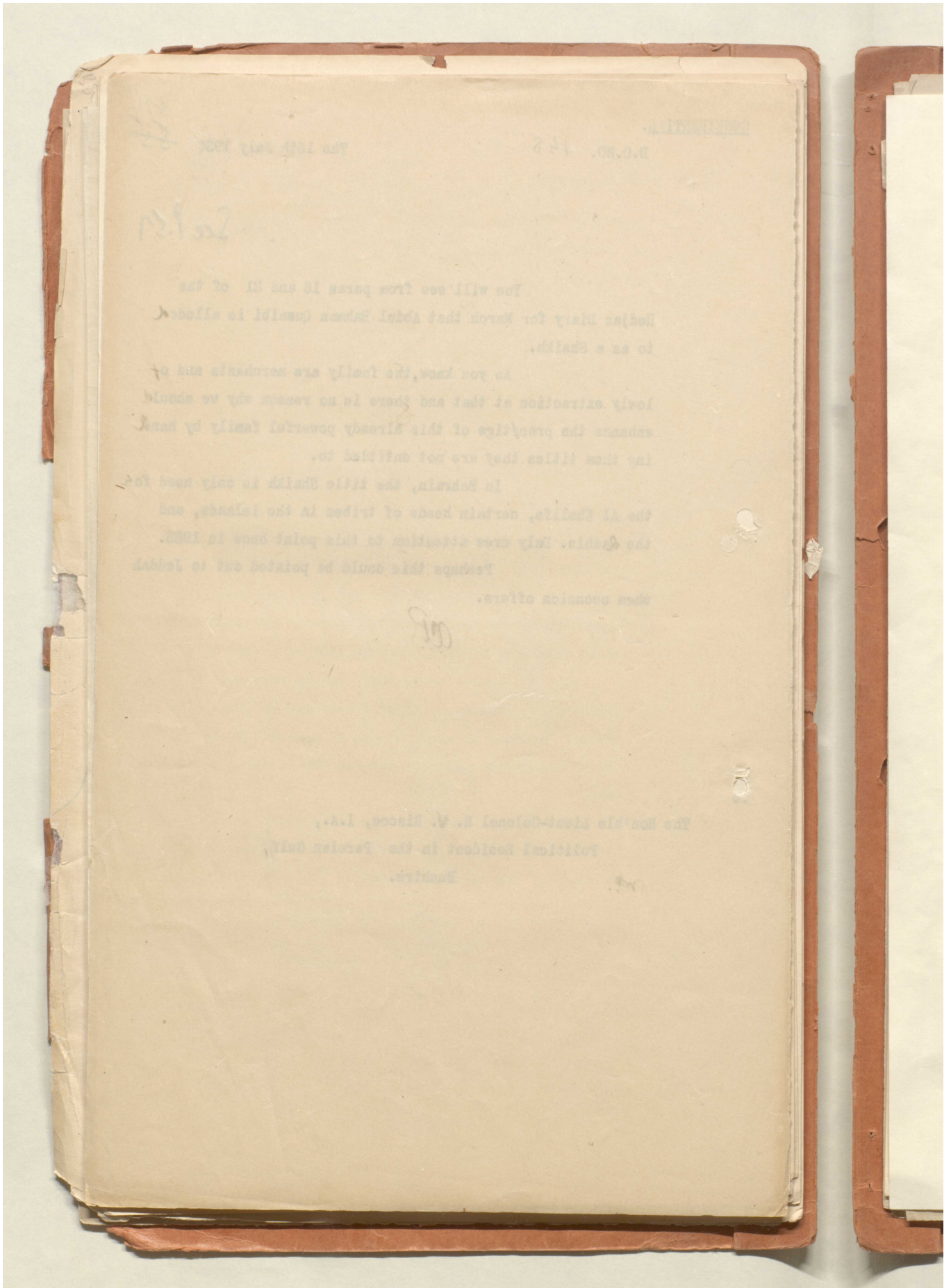
In Bahrain, the title Shaikh is only used for the Al Khalifa, certain heads of tribes in the islands, and the Qadhis. Daly drew attention to this point once in 1926.

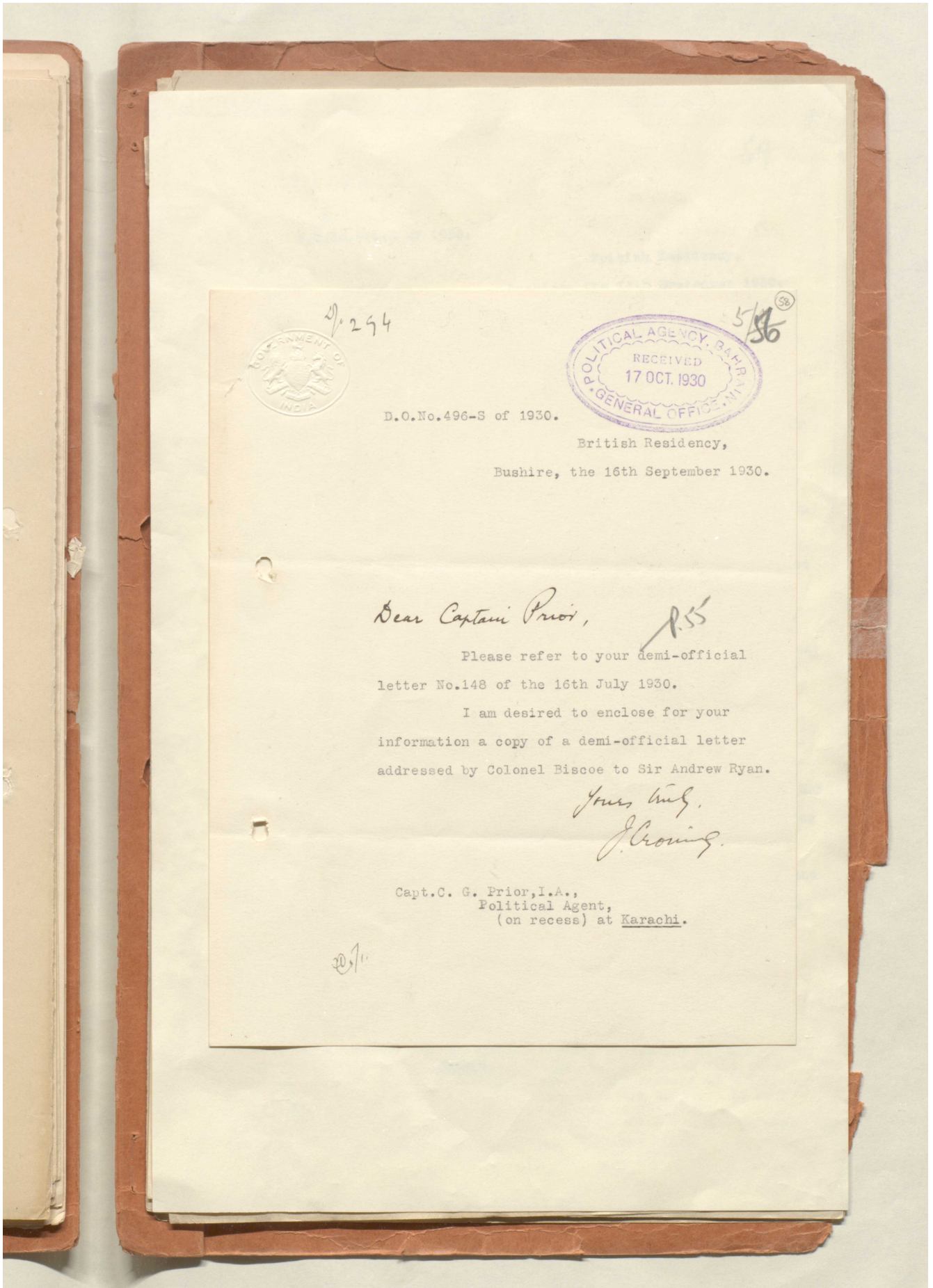
Perhaps this could be pointed out to Jeddah when occasion offers.

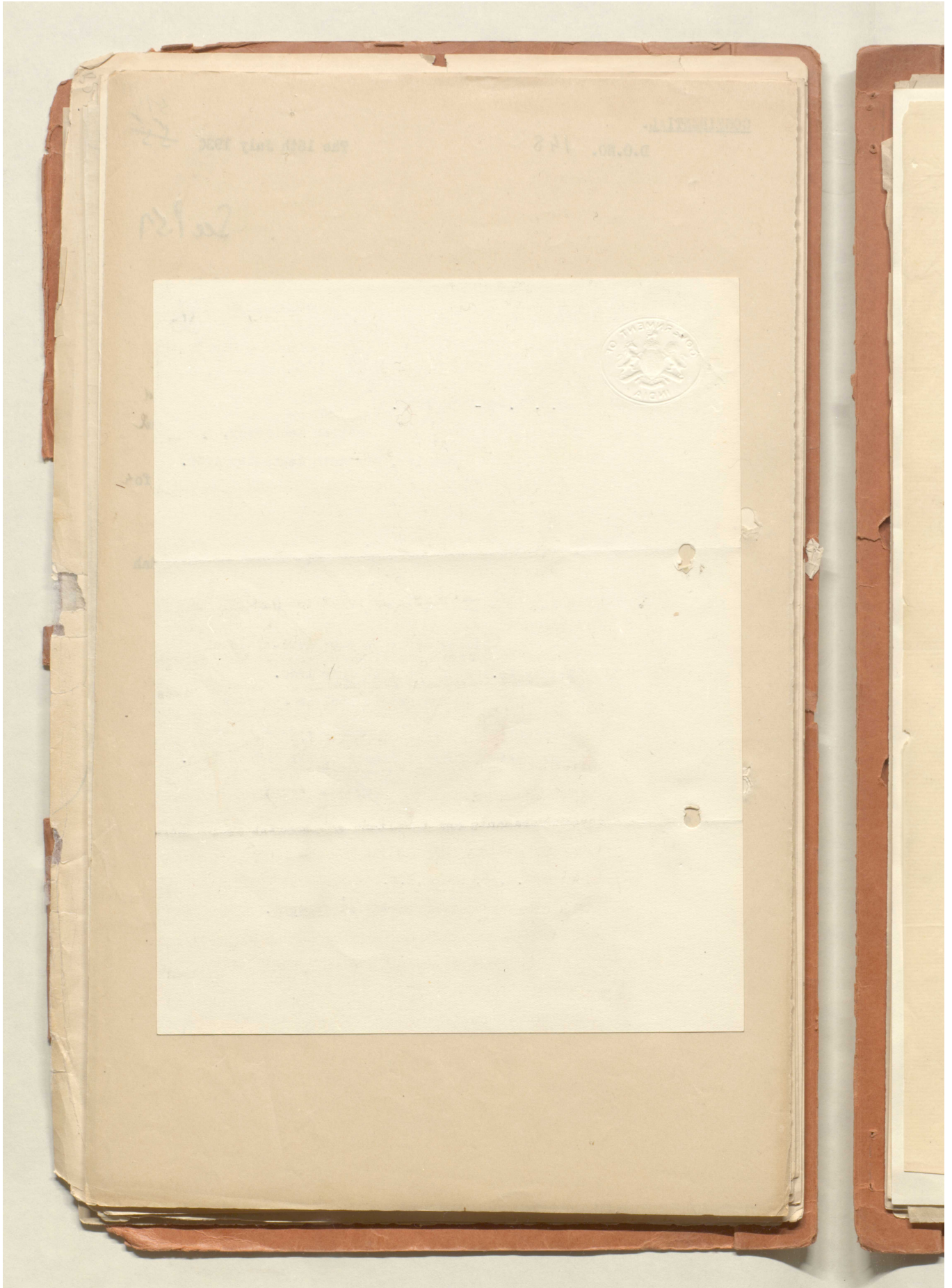
CP

100

The Hon'ble Lieut-Colonel H. V. Biscoe, I.A.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
Bushire.







59

D.O.No.491-S of 1930.

British Residency,
Bushire, the 16th September 1930.

Dear Ryan

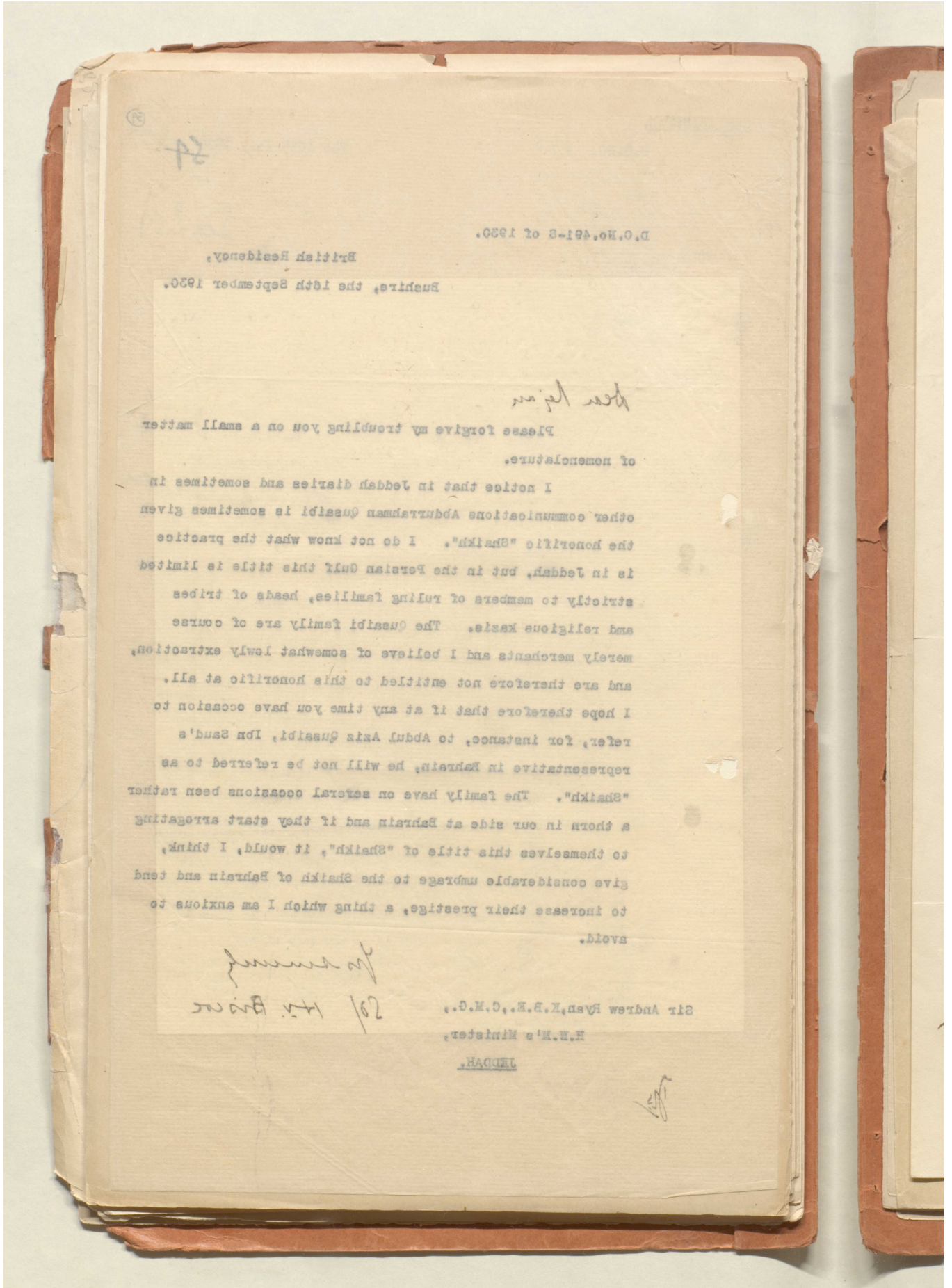
Please forgive my troubling you on a small matter of nomenclature.

I notice that in Jeddah diaries and sometimes in other communications Abdurrahman Qusaibi is sometimes given the honorific "Shaikh". I do not know what the practice is in Jeddah, but in the Persian Gulf this title is limited strictly to members of ruling families, heads of tribes and religious kazis. The Qusaibi family are of course merely merchants and I believe of somewhat lowly extraction, and are therefore not entitled to this honorific at all. I hope therefore that if at any time you have occasion to refer, for instance, to Abdul Aziz Qusaibi, Ibn Saud's representative in Bahrain, he will not be referred to as "Shaikh". The family have on several occasions been rather a thorn in our side at Bahrain and if they start arrogating to themselves this title of "Shaikh", it would, I think, give considerable umbrage to the Shaikh of Bahrain and tend to increase their prestige, a thing which I am anxious to avoid.

Sir Andrew Ryan, K.B.E., C.M.G.,
H.N.M.'s Minister,
JEDDAH.

Yours sincerely
Sd/ H.V. Biscoe

[Handwritten initials]



24

D.O. No. 481-8 of 1930.
British Residency,
Bahaira, the 18th September 1930.

Please forgive my troubling you on a small matter of nomenclature.

I notice that in Jeddah diaries and sometimes in other communications Abdurrahman Qosaibi is sometimes given the honorific "Shaikh". I do not know what the practice is in Jeddah, but in the Persian Gulf this title is limited strictly to members of ruling families, heads of tribes and religious leaders. The Qosaibi family are of course merely merchants and I believe of somewhat Jewish extraction and are therefore not entitled to this honorific at all. I hope therefore that if at any time you have occasion to refer, for instance, to Abdul Aziz Qosaibi, Ibn Saud's representative in Bahrain, he will not be referred to as "Shaikh". The family have on several occasions been rather a thorn in our side at Bahrain and if they start addressing to themselves this title of "Shaikh", it would, I think, give considerable impetus to the Shaikh of Bahrain and tend to increase their prestige, a thing which I am anxious to avoid.

20/ Mr. Binu

Sir Andrew Ryan, K.C.B., C.M.G.,
H.M.'s Minister,
JEDDAH.

CONFIDENTIAL.

BAHRAIN.

295

15th October 1930.

To. H.B.M's Political Agent.

Bahrain.

From. The Adviser.

Bahrain Government.

MEMORANDUM.

Two matters have occurred recently which I think may be of interest to you and which are indications of the present attitude of the Kozaibis in Bahrain.

Mohamed Yatim, a Bahrain merchant, recently ran over a Negdi in his car on the edge of Manana. He was summoned at once by the Kozaibis and severely reprimanded for having injured a subject of King Ibn Saoud. The action caused considerable comment in Bahrain as it was said that the Kozaibis assumed, in this case, the attitude of being the official protectors and representatives of Negdi subjects in Bahrain.

Mohamed Yatim was afterwards prosecuted by the Police and his driving licence was suspended for 12 months on this charge and on a second charge of driving without a licence while the case was being examined by the Police. He had been ordered not to drive until the matter was settled.

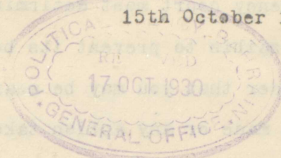
Today Shaikh Rashid bin Mohamed bin Isa al Khalifa called on me with a message from his father Shaikh Mohamed asking me to listen to his complaint and assist him.

Shaikh Rashid lives in Rafaa. A few days ago he was out hunting and in his absence one of his house servants went to the public well to draw water. A servant from the Kozaibi house was at the well and the two men had a slight argument. Later on Shaikh Rashid's man visited the well again to get water. Four men came from the house of the Kozaibis, one of them armed with a rifle a revolver and a dagger. They took Shaikh Rashid's man, by force, tied him with a rope and put a rope round his neck and pulled him off to their house. There were a number of people present and many of them remonstrated with Kozaibis servants, but the four men said they had orders to do this. The Rafaa Arabs were very angry, most of them being followers of the Khalifa, and they wished to go and rescue the man by force but the Imam of the mosque and his sons managed to calm them. The Rafaa Arabs took the matter as being a deliberate insult to the Khalifa. The man was confined in Kozaibis house till night time and then released by orders of Abdel Aziz Kozaibi.

Shaikh Rashid returned. He went at once to his father and complained. Shaikh Mohamed sent him to Shaikh Hamed asking that the Kozaibis should be made to apologise at once. Shaikh Hamed said that he would ask Shaikh Sulman to deal with the matter. Shaikh Sulman sent for Hassan Kozaibi and apparently told him very decidedly what he thought about it, and then told him to go to Shaikh Rashid and apologise. Since then the Kozaibis have taken no action. Shaikh Rashid and his father after waiting several days for some move by the Kozaibis have determined to take action and asked me to give orders to the Police to investigate. This I have done this morning. Both parties are foreign subjects, the servant of Shaikh Rashid is a Hassawi and the Kozaibis' servants are Negdis. It is likely that the Police will find it necessary to apply for a warrant if so I should be obliged if you would issue one and perhaps postpone the case till the return of the Political Agent.

*wa
osh*

*Please see our letter N: 217-c
of 26-10-30 to P.R. in file 1/2*



*Qosaibi file
574*

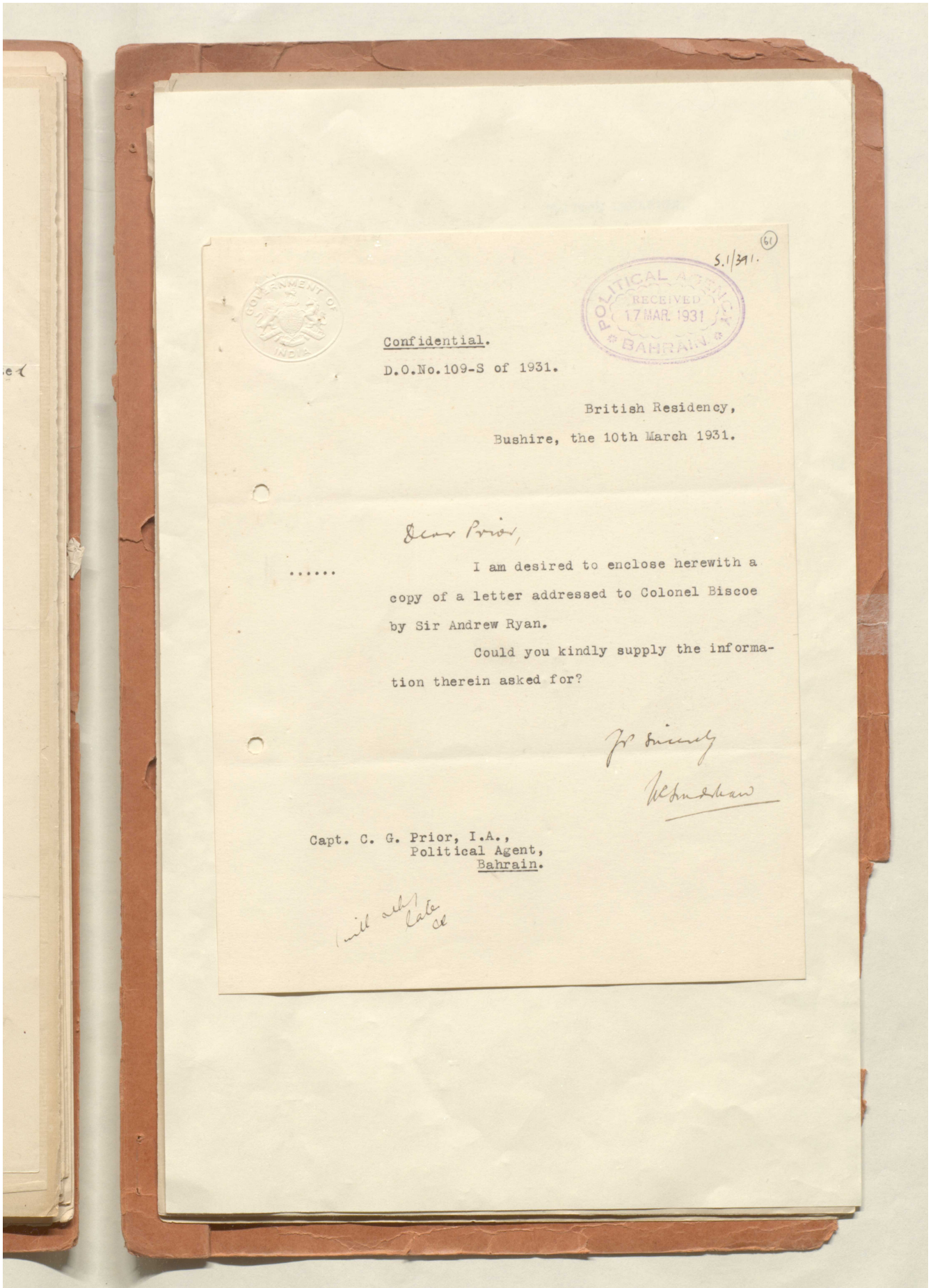
I think it is likely that even if a warrant is issued by the Agency court most determined efforts will be made by the Kezaibis to prevent its being enforced. I am writing to you in order that you may be aware of the circumstances before any case is made or any action taken or asked from you.

A man recently molested a servant of Shaikh Isa near Muharrak, by Shaikh Hamed's orders he was immediately arrested and kept in custody until tried. Shaikh Rashid reminded me of this and suggested that the cases were in a way similar.

C. Dabrympu Belgare

Adviser.

Bahrain Government.



S.1/31. 61

Confidential.

D.O.No.109-S of 1931.

British Residency,
Bushire, the 10th March 1931.

Dear Prior,

.....

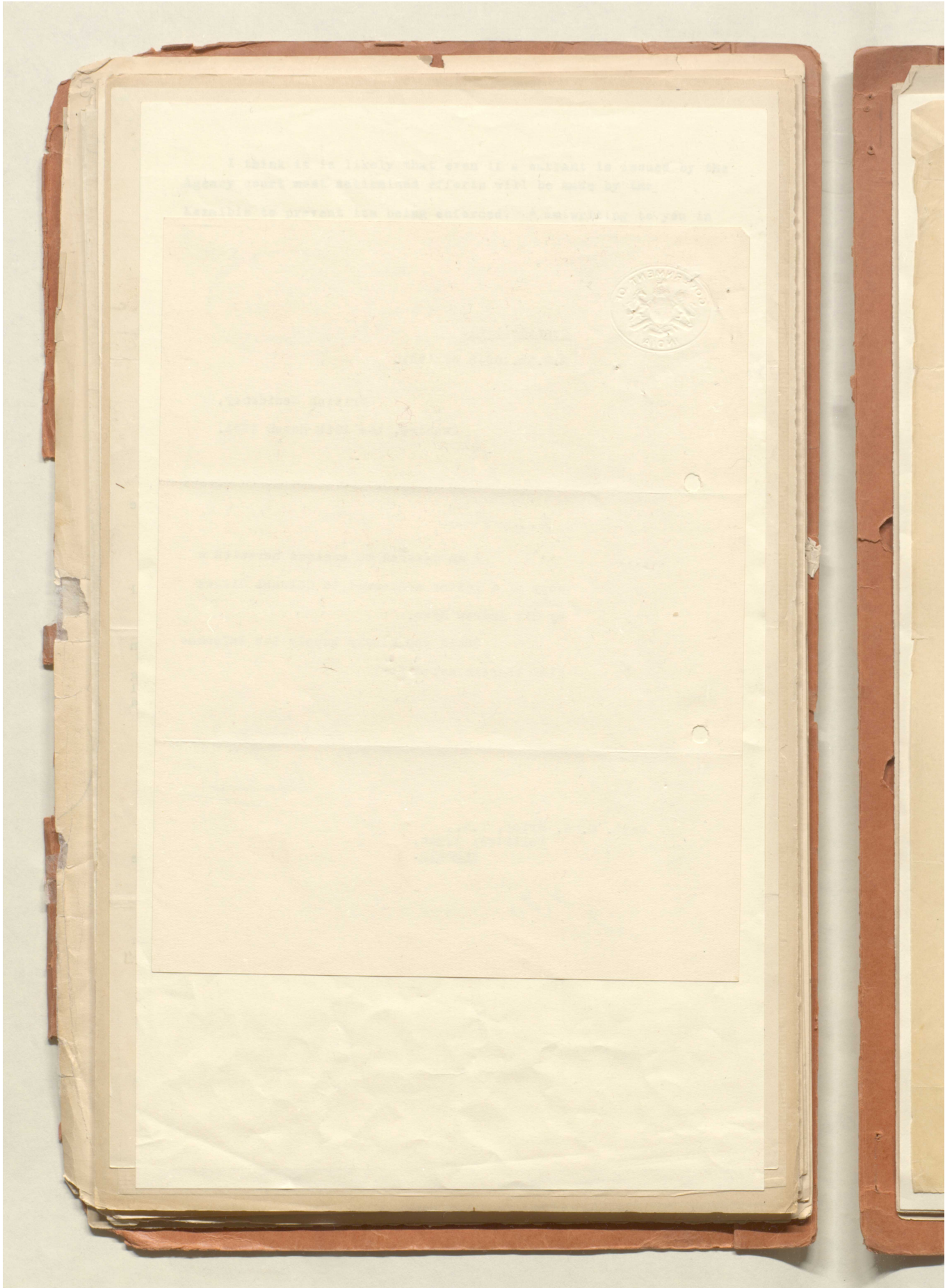
I am desired to enclose herewith a copy of a letter addressed to Colonel Biscoe by Sir Andrew Ryan.

Could you kindly supply the information therein asked for?

Yours sincerely
W. D. Shaw

Capt. C. G. Prior, I.A.,
Political Agent,
Bahrain.

(will reply later)
ce



BRITISH LEGATION,
Jedda,
February 13th, 1931.

My dear Biscoe,

It would be useful to me to have a note about the principal members of the Qusaibi family, their relationships, residence and character. Could you supply this without too much trouble?

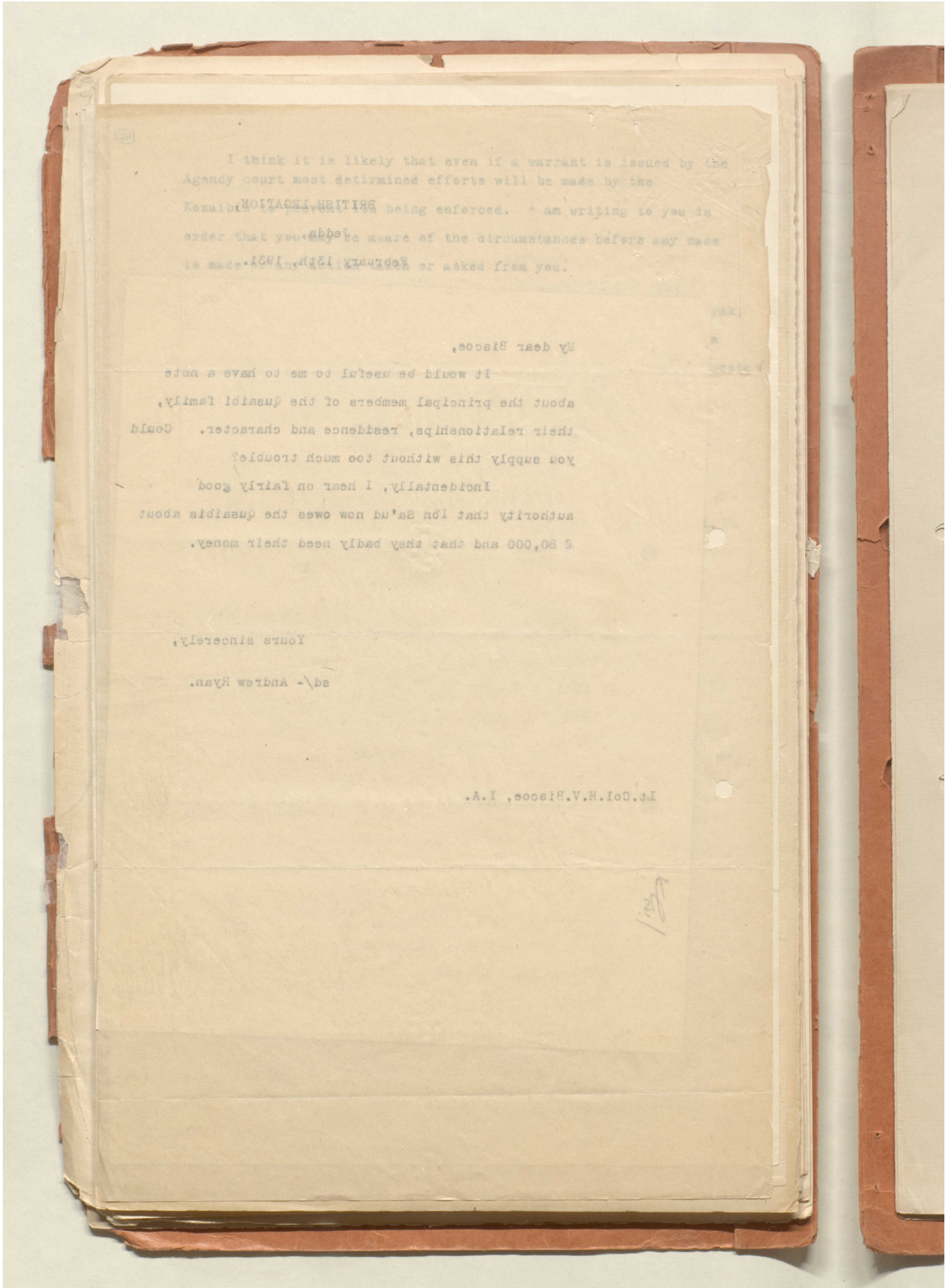
Incidentally, I hear on fairly good authority that Ibn Sa'ud now owes the Qusaibis about £ 80,000 and that they badly need their money.

Yours sincerely,

sd/- Andrew Ryan.

Lt.Col.H.V.Biscoe, I.A.

ms.



I think it is likely that even if a warrant is issued by the
Agency court most determined efforts will be made by the
British Legation, Beirut, being enforced. * am writing to you in
order that you be aware of the circumstances before any case
is made. I hope you will be asked for your help.

My dear Sir,
It would be useful to me to have a note
about the principal members of the Qosaibi family,
their relationships, residence and character. Could
you supply this without too much trouble?
Incidentally, I hear on fairly good
authority that Ibn Sa'ud now owes the Qosaibi about
£ 80,000 and that they badly need their money.

Yours sincerely,
Edw. Andrew Ryan.

Edw. Andrew Ryan, I.A.

12/27

(63)

Confidential.

D.O.No:0/67.

Political Agency,
Bahrain, the 2nd June 1931.
4

Dear Bradshaw,

Please refer to your D.O.No:109-3 dated the 10th March 1931.

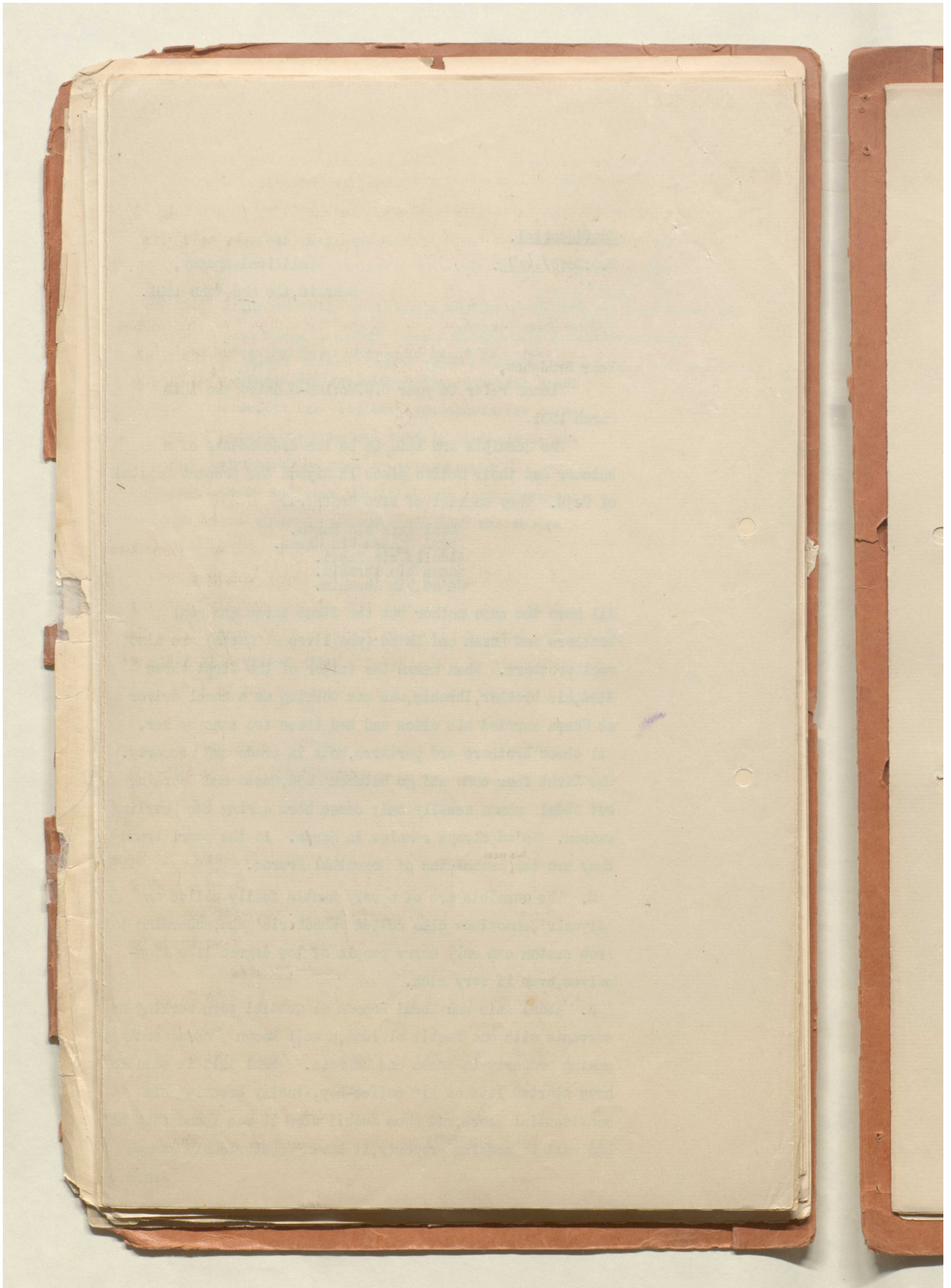
The Qusaibis are said to be the descendents of a butcher and their native place is Riyadh the present capital of Nejd. They consist of five brothers:

Abdul Aziz bin Hasan.
Abdul Rahman bin Hasan.
Abdulla bin Hasan.
Hasan bin Ibrahim.
Sa'ad bin Ibrahim.

All have the same mother but the first three are real brothers and Hasan and Sa'ad (who lives at Hasfa) are also real brothers. When Hasan the father of the first three died, his brother, Ibrahim, who was working as a camel driver at Hasfa married his widow and had these two sons by her. All these brothers are partners, both in trade and property. The first four come and go between Nejd, Hasfa and Bahrain, but Abdul Rahman usually only comes here during the pearling season. Sa'ad always remains in Hasfa. In the pearl trade they are the ^{business} associates of Rosenthal Brothers.

2. The Qusaibis are of a very humble family called as 'Biyasir', sometimes also called 'Khadhiris' who, according to Arab custom can only marry people of low degree like themselves, even if very rich.

3. Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rahman al Qusaibi were working as servants with one Muqbil al Idan, a well known Hasfa merchant owning property in Hasfa and Bahrain. Abdul Aziz is said to have started life as his coffee-boy, finally becoming his confidential clerk, and when Muqbil died it was found that he had next to nothing property, it having mysteriously passed into



64

2.

into the hands of Abdul Aziz, the Qosaibi's present big office and the house near the Bank to the west, ^{formerly} belonging to him.

4. When Ibn Sa'ud occupied Basra, Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rahman came to Bahrain and opened an office for themselves. In the year 1335 A.H (1916/1917) they became bankrupt but Bin Sa'ud backed them and promised to pay their creditors if they failed to do so.

(a). ABDUL AZIZ is a simple and wise man and is the main stay of the firm. He passes as being pious. He seldom interferes in things that do not concern him and he is liked and respected by Bin Sa'ud.

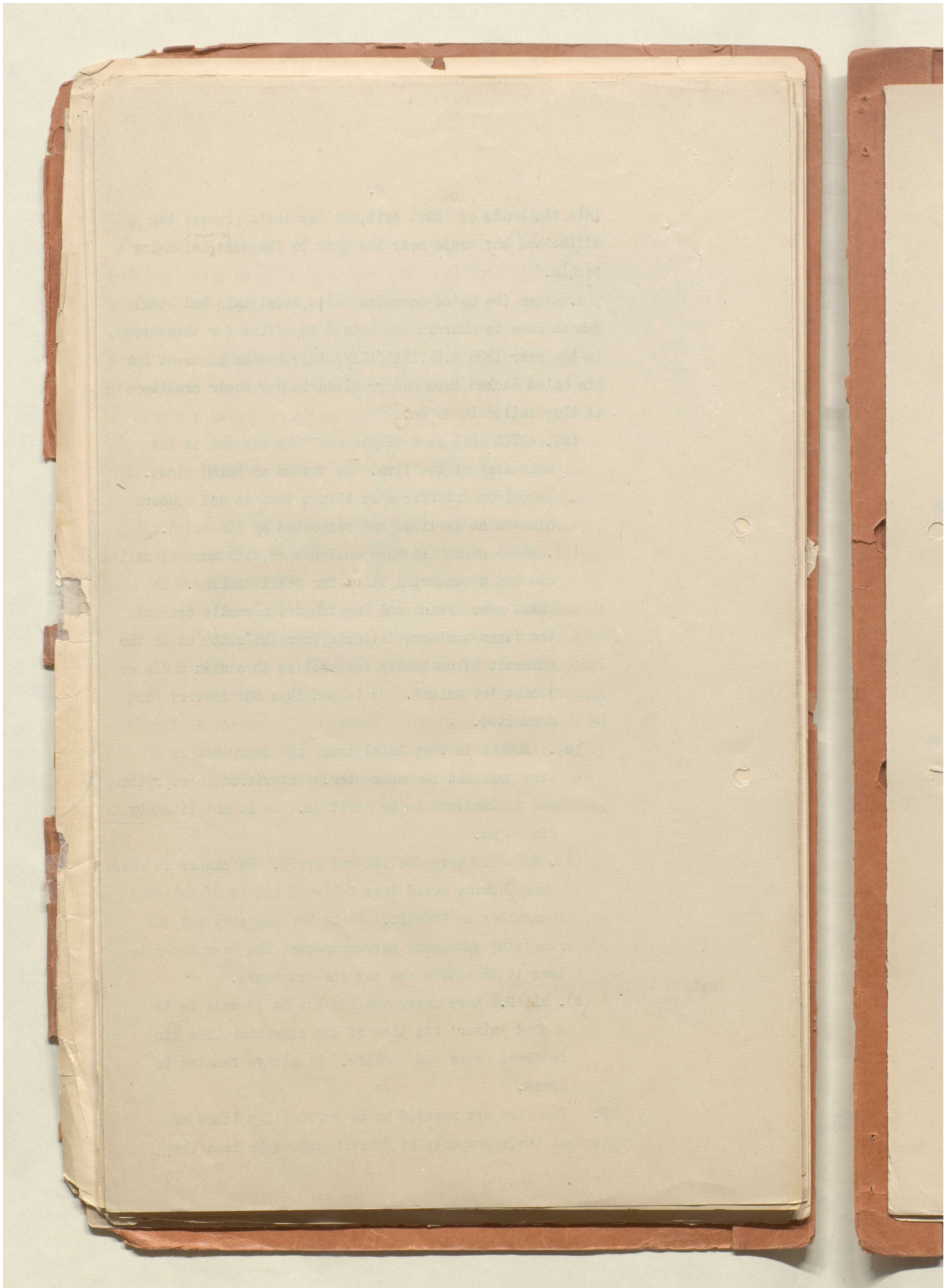
(b). ABDUL RAHMAN is more enlightened, with more education and has a wonderful flair for pearl dealing. He knows some French and English and normally conducts the firm's business in Paris, where he casts aside the garments of orthodoxy and sallies abroad in a dinner jacket 'et melon'. He is sensible but is very conceited.

(c). ABDULLA is very intelligent and sharp but is a very mean and low character. Interferes in everything and is inclined to be boastful. He is not liked by Bin Sa'ud.

(d). HASAN is very foolish and gruff. He dashes in where ^{the} others would fear to tread and is of as low a character as Abdulla. He is hot tempered and on receiving unwelcome correspondence has been known to tear it to pieces and eat the fragments.

(e). SA'AD, I have never met him but he is said to be a good 'mixer' but also of low character like his brothers Hasan and Abdulla. He always remains in Basra.

5. The firm are reputed to be worth fifty lakhs of rupees and their property at Bahrain cannot be less than



65

3.

14-15 lakhs at normal prices. Their influence is very great and growing as they hold the majority of Hajdis at Bahrain in the hollow of their hands, partly owing to their position as Bin Sa'ud's agents and partly because the greater number are indebted to them.

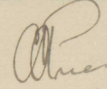
6. The newly appointed revenue officials on the Mainland have reduced their easements as regards Customs dues to some extent but the other important merchants are in the same boat.

7. They are on bad terms with Bin Suwailim, the Amir of Qatif, and, of course, on extremely bad terms with the new revenue officials, particularly Muhammad al Tawwil. Abdul Aziz once observed that the last time he saw Muhammad al Tawwil he was on the end of a chain and he appeared to regret his having been released from that position.

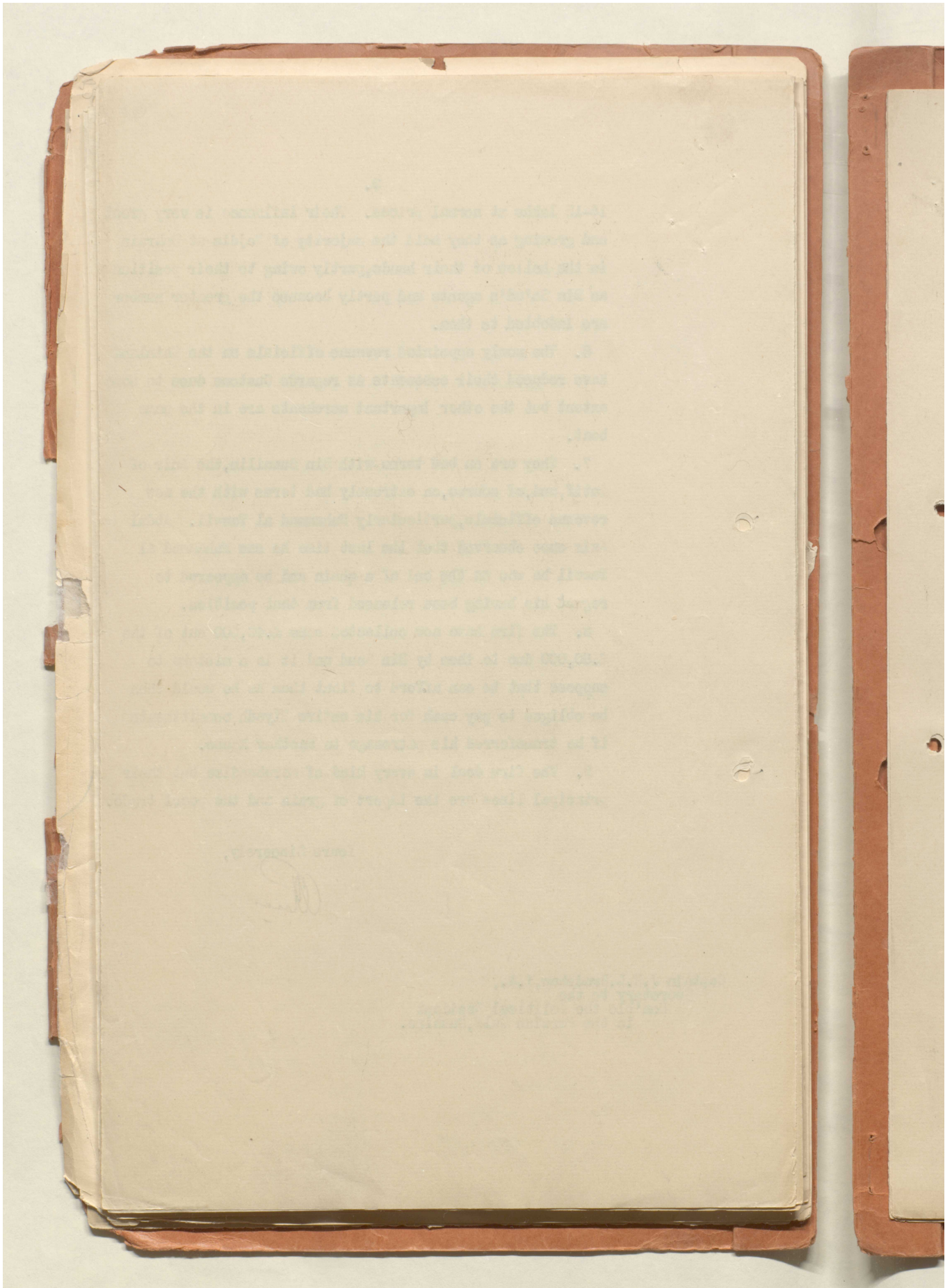
8. The firm have now collected some £.40,000 out of the £.80,000 due to them by Bin Saud and it is a mistake to suppose that he can afford to flout them as he would then be obliged to pay cash for his entire Riyadh commitments if he transferred his patronage to another house.

9. The firm deal in every kind of merchandise but their principal lines are the import of grain and the pearl trade.

Yours Sincerely,



Captain J.R.L. Bradshaw, I.A.,
Secretary to the
Hon'ble the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.



66

Confidential.

D.O.No:C/95.

Political Agency,
Bahrain, the 27th October 1931.

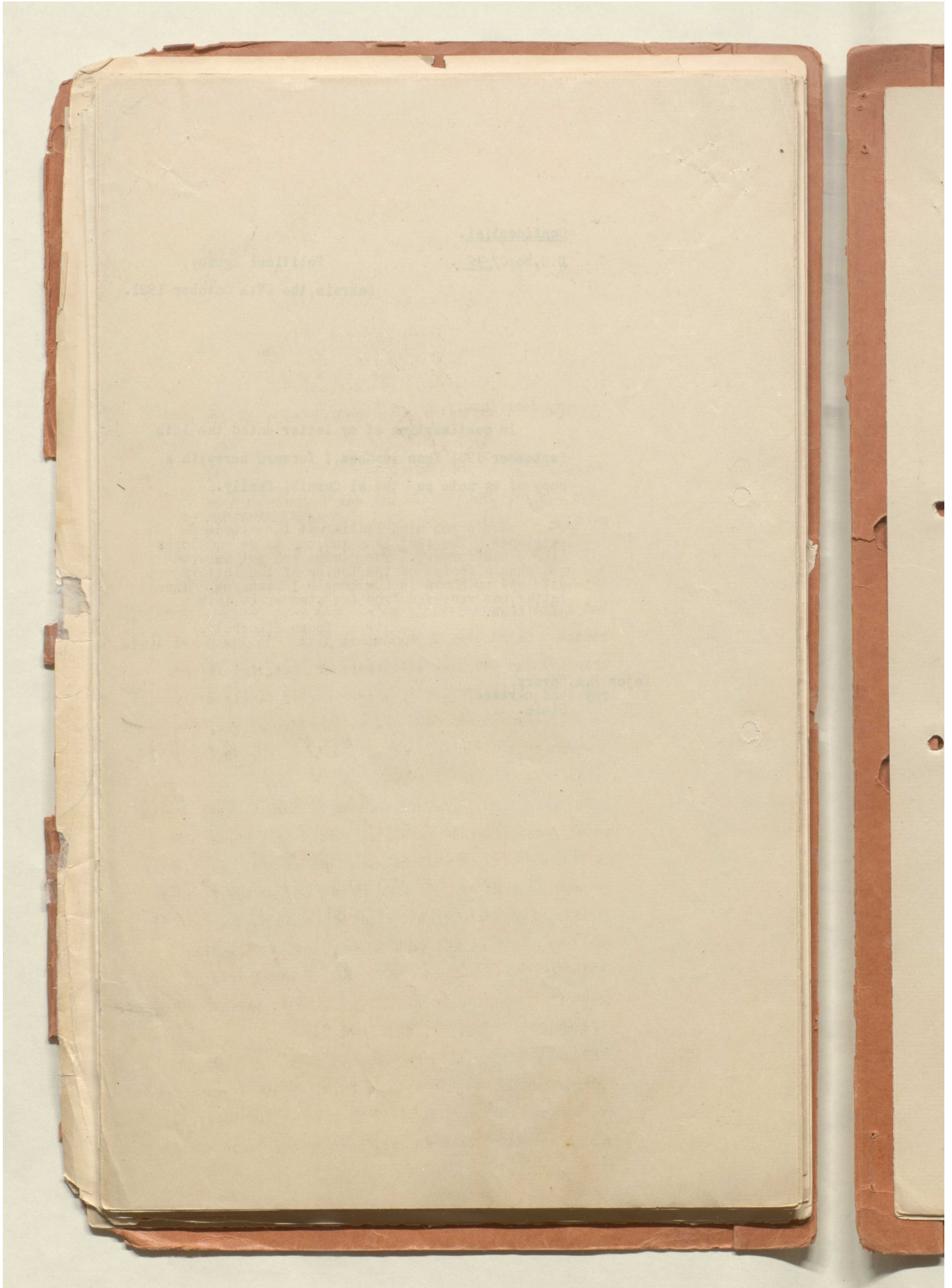
My dear Savory,

In continuation of my letter dated the 12th
September 1931 from Ispahan, I forward herewith a
copy of my note on the al Qusaibi family.

~~Yours Sincerely,~~
Would you mind looking at the attached
envelopes. The seal is a new one to me and looks
like a bad forgery. The clamps are put on wrong
and should fasten on the inside of the letters
envelope as shown in the sample I send you. The
letter was received from the steamer in this
condition.

Yours Sincerely,

Major R.A.Savory,
Army Headquarters,
Simla.



NOTE.

The Qusaibis are said to be the descendents of a butcher and their native place is Riyadh, the present capital of Nejd. They consist of five brothers:

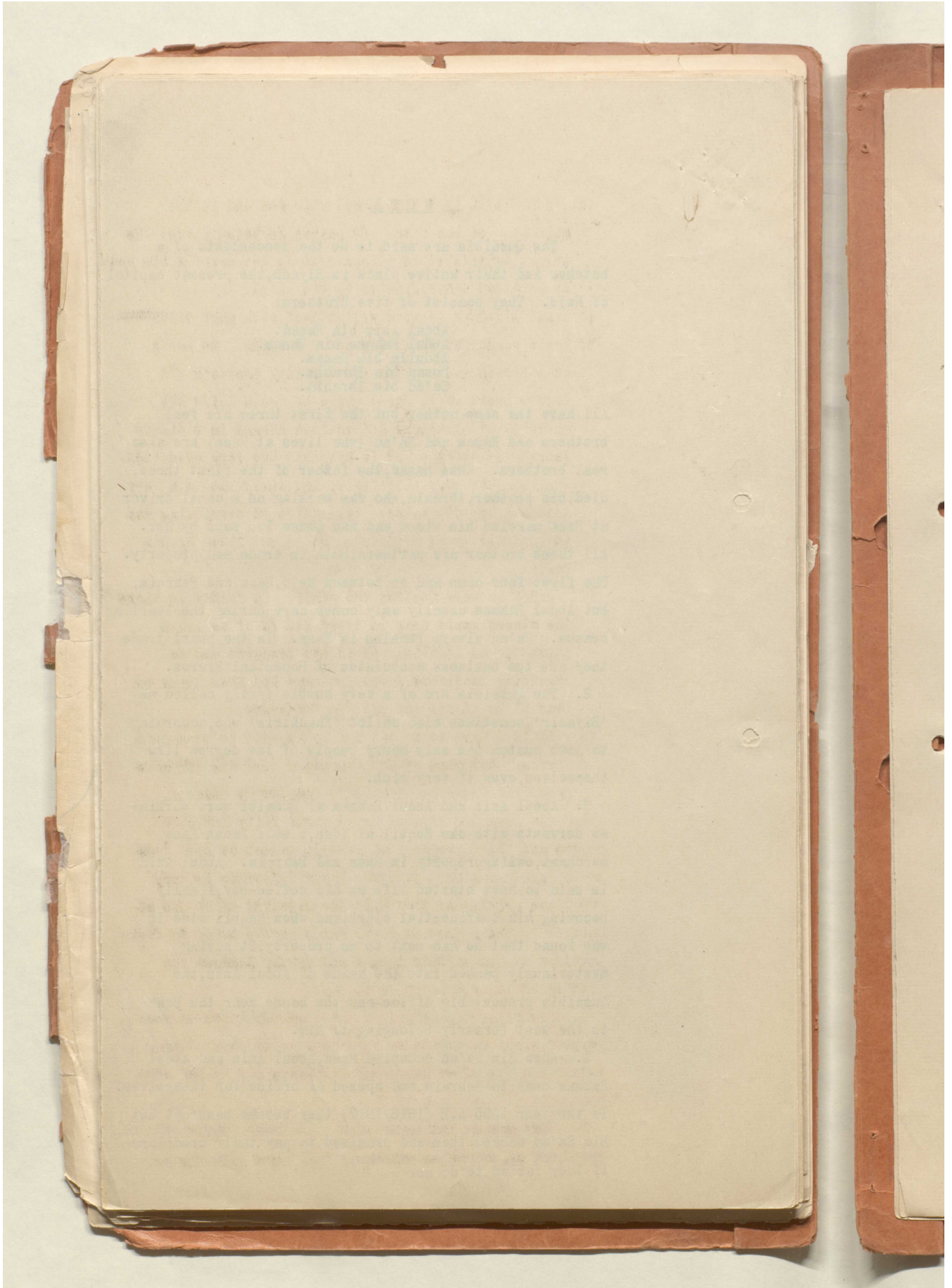
Abdul Aziz bin Hasan.
Abdul Rahman bin Hasan.
Abdulla bin Hasan.
Hasan bin Ibrahim.
Sa'ad bin Ibrahim.

All have the same mother but the first three are real brothers and Hasan and Sa'ad (who lives at Hasa) are also real brothers. When Hasan, the father of the first three, died, his brother, Ibrahim, who was working as a camel driver at Hasa married his widow and had these two sons by her. All these brother are partners, both in trade and property. The first four come and go between Nejd, Hasa and Bahrain, but Abdul Rahman usually only comes here during the Pearling season. Sa'ad always remains in Hasa. In the pearl trade they are the business associates of Rosenthal Freres.

2. The Qusaibis are of a very humble family called as 'Biyasir', sometimes also called 'Khadhiris' who, according to Arab custom can only marry people of low degree like themselves, even if very rich.

3. Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rahman al Qusaibi were working as servants with one Muqbil al Idan, a well known Hasa merchant, owning property in Hasa and Bahrain. Abdul Aziz is said to have started life as his coffee-boy, finally becoming his confidential clerk, and when Muqbil died it was found that he had next to no property, it having mysteriously passed into the hands of Abdul Aziz, the Qusaibis present big office and the house near the Bank to the west formerly belonging to him.

3. When Bin Sa'ad occupied Hasa, Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rahman came to Bahrain and opened an office for themselves. In the year 1335 A.H (1916/1917) they became bankrupt but Bin Sa'ud backed them and promised to pay their creditors if they failed to do so.



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2.

(a). ABDUL AZIZ is a simple and wise man and is the main stay of the firm. He passes as being pious. He seldom interferes in things that do not concern him and he is liked and respected by Bin Sa'ud.

(b). ABDUL RAHMAN is more enlightened, with more education and has a wonderful flair for pearl dealing. He knows some French and English and normally conducts the firm's business in Paris, where he casts aside the garments of orthodoxy and sallies abroad in a dinner jacket 'et melon'. He is sensible but very conceited.

(c). ABDULLA is very intelligent and sharp but is a very mean and low character. Interferes in everything and is inclined to be boastful. He is not liked by Bin Sa'ud.

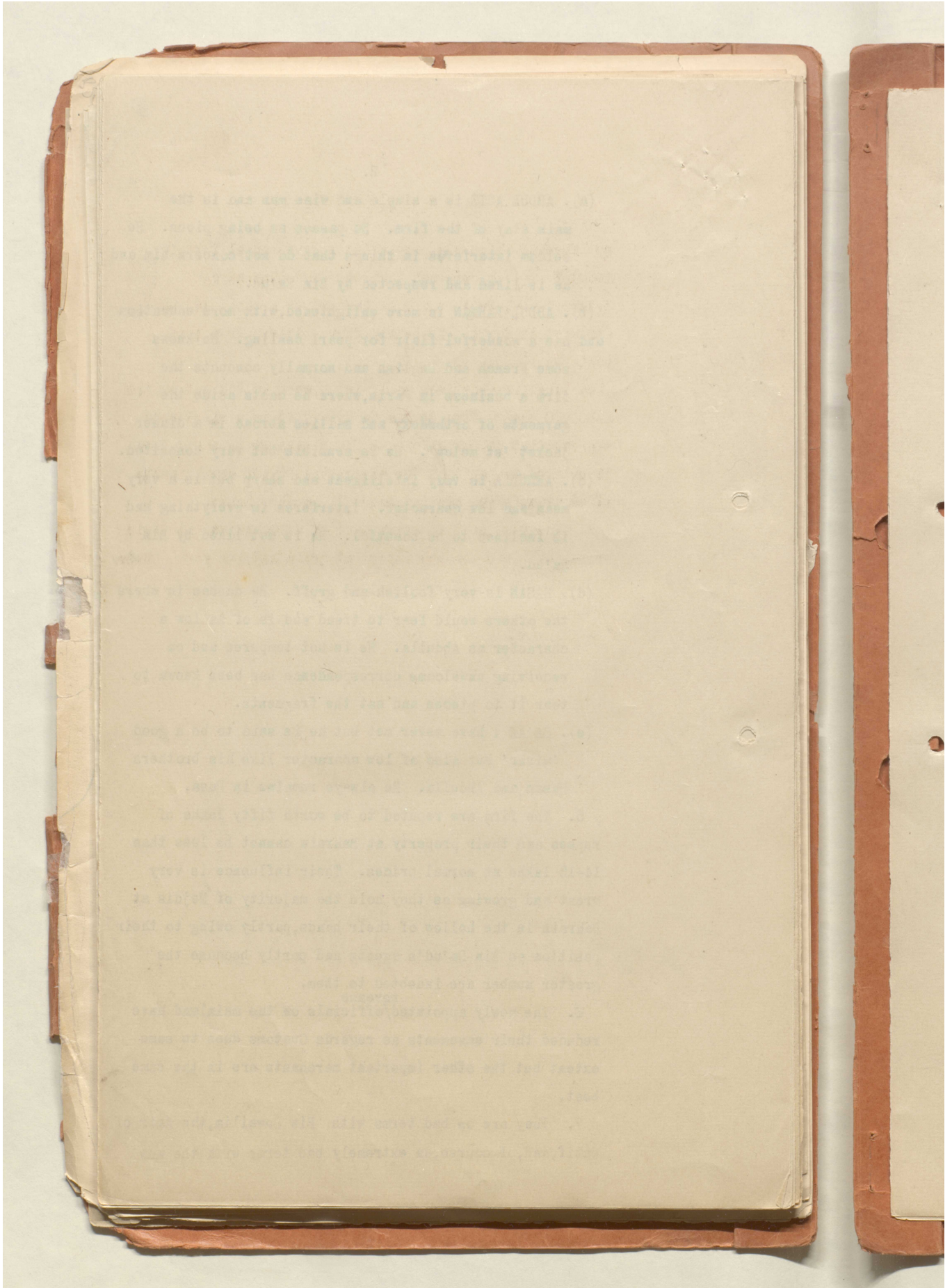
(d). HASAN is very foolish and gruff. He dashes in where the others would fear to tread and is of as low a character as Abdulla. He is hot tempered and on receiving unwelcome correspondence has been known to tear it to pieces and eat the fragments.

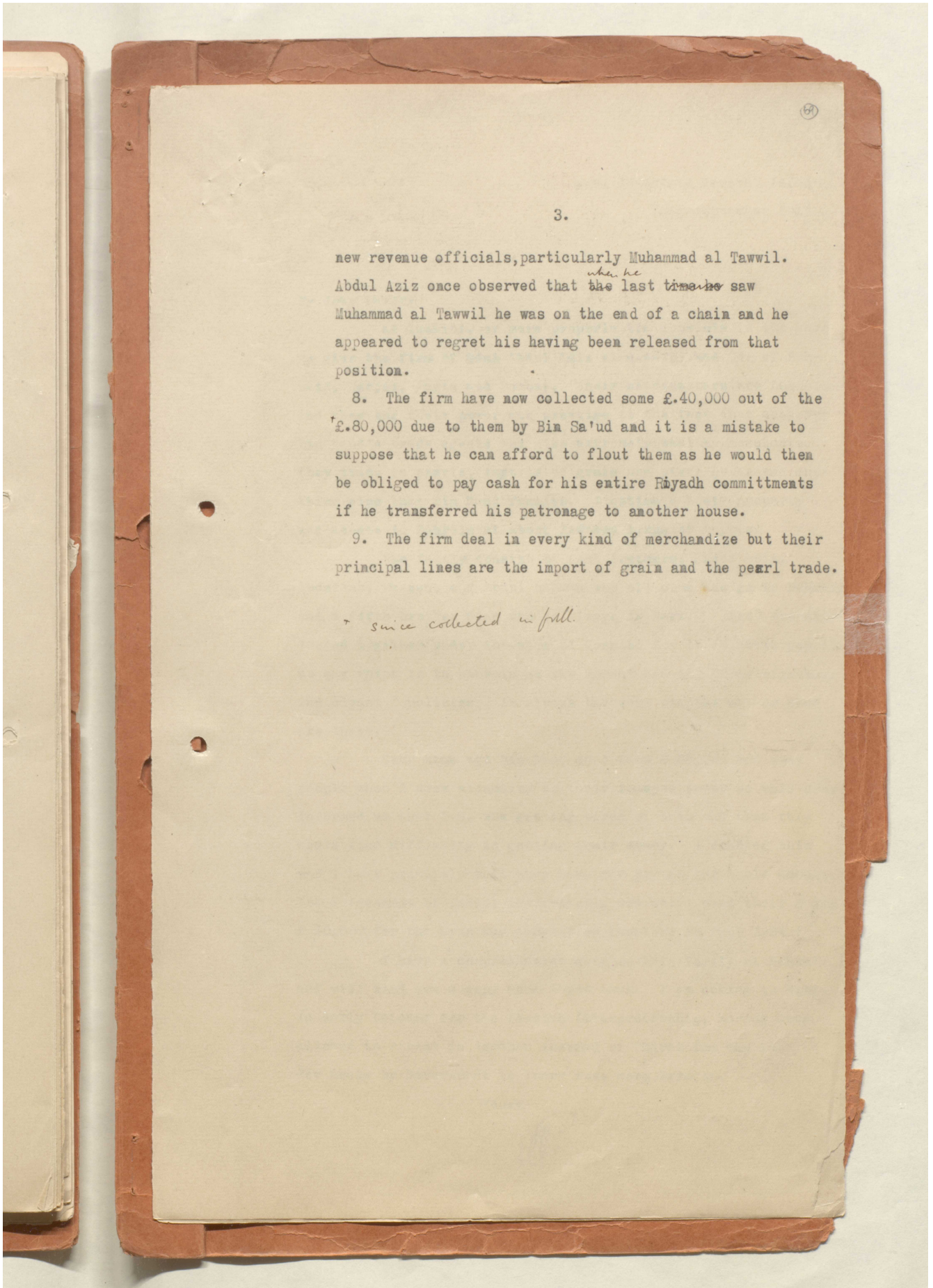
(e). SA'AD I have never met but he is said to be a good 'mixer' but also of low character like his brothers Hasan and Abdulla. He always remains in Hasa.

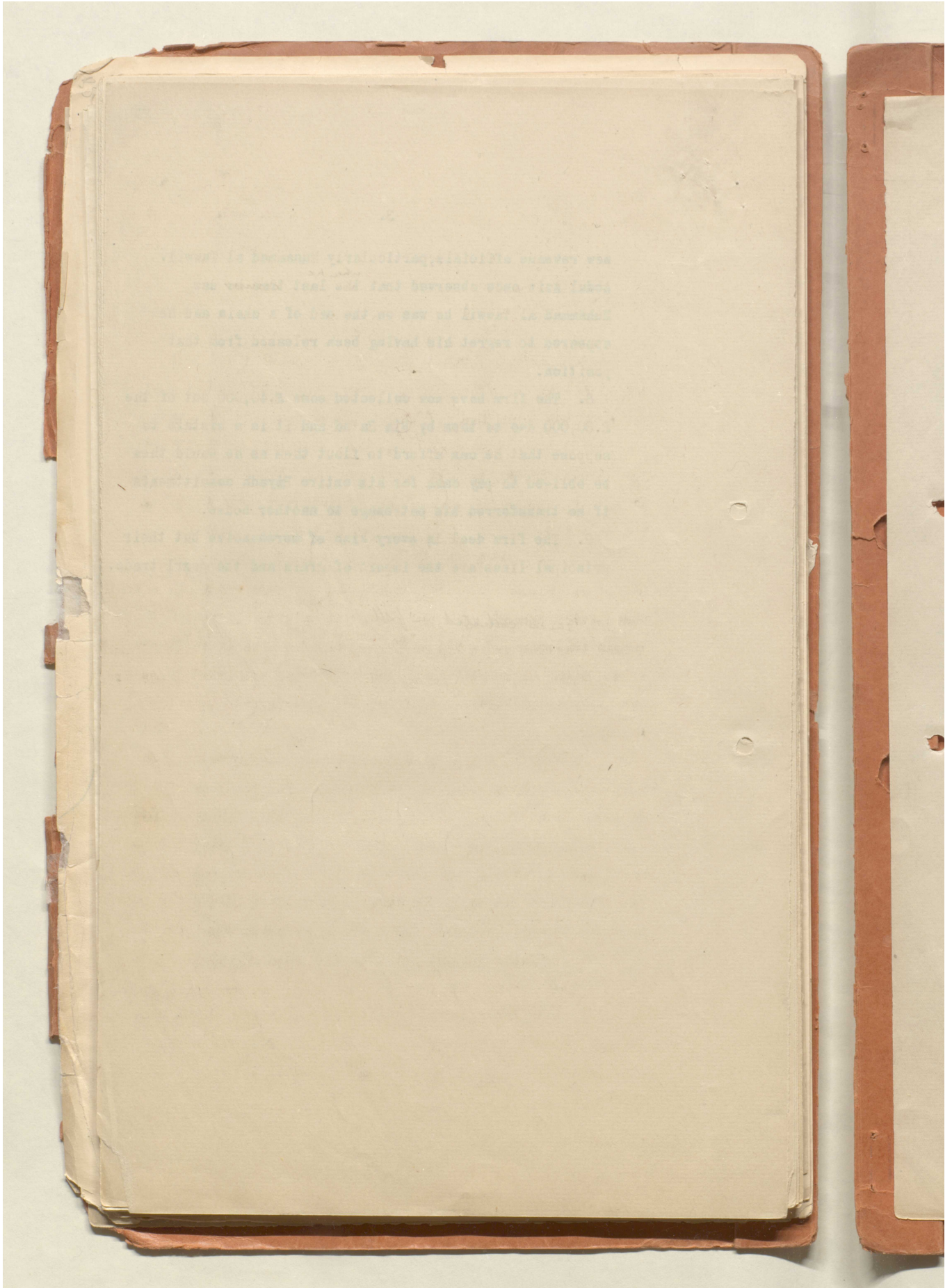
5. The firm are reputed to be worth fifty lakhs of rupees and their property at Bahrain cannot be less than 14-15 lakhs at normal prices. Their influence is very great and growing as they hold the majority of Nejd's at Bahrain in the hollow of their hands, partly owing to their position as Bin Sa'ud's agents and partly because the greater number are indebted to them.

6. The newly appointed ^{revenue} officials on the mainland have reduced their easements as regards Customs dues to some extent but the other important merchants are in the same boat.

7. They are on bad terms with Bin Suwallim, the Amir of Qatif, and, of course, on extremely bad terms with the new







Card attached.

T/15 (no. not sent)

care Consulate General Isfahan.

12th September 1931.

My dear Savory

al Qusaibi, or more properly the Qusaibis is the name we give the firm of ~~shah~~ Abdul Aziz al Qusaibi and Co. of Bahrain, Hedjaz, Paris and Bombay. Their headquarters are Bahrain and they owe their power and prestige to the fact that they are Bin Saud's trade agents and also extremely wealthy merchants. They trade in pearls, imports of grain and piece goods and anything else that Bin Saud fancies. I estimate their property and assets in Bahrain at about fifteen lakhs of rupees.

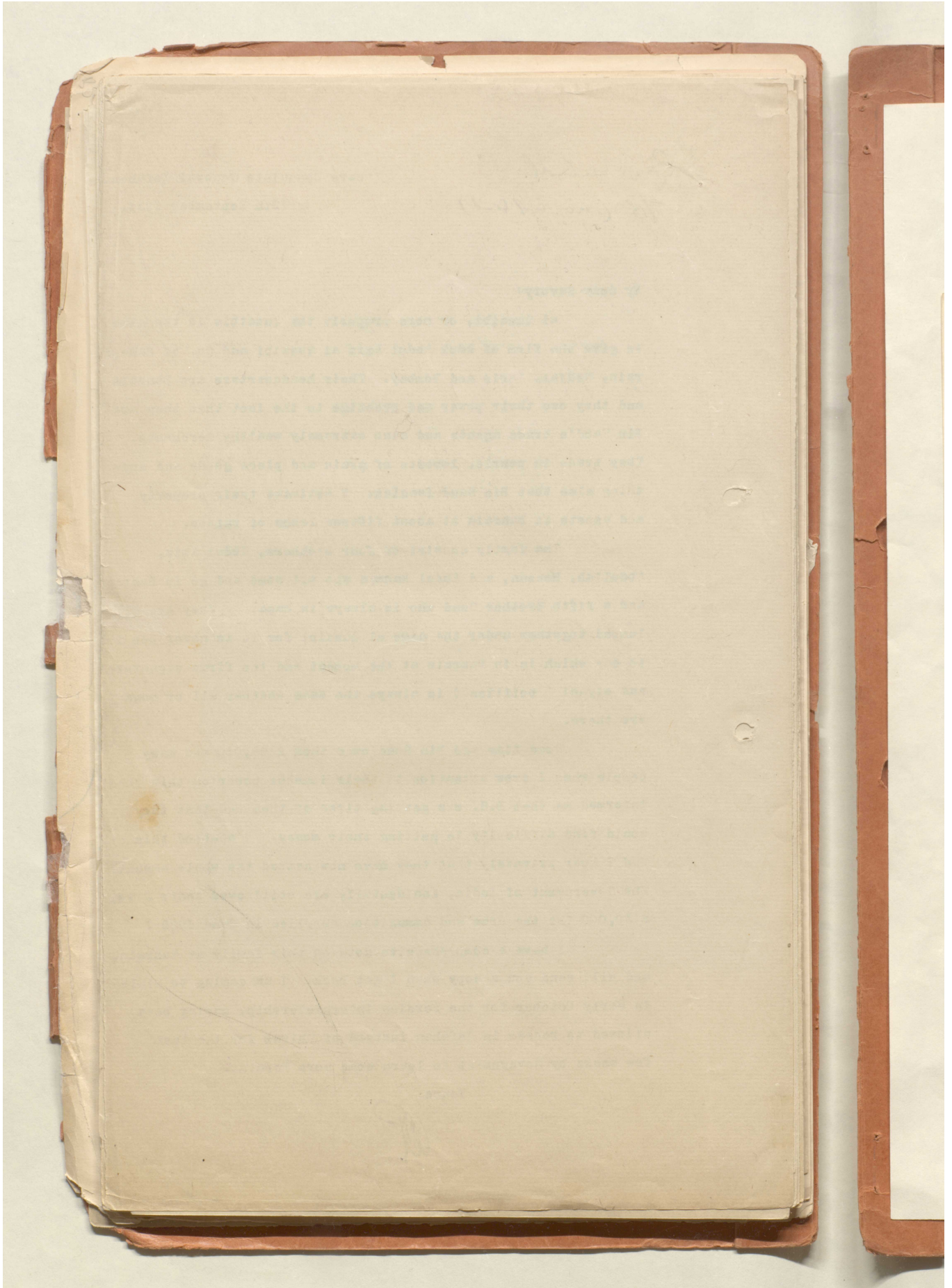
The family consist of four brothers, Abdul Aziz, Abdullah, Hassan, and Abdul Rahman who all come and go in Bahrain and a fifth brother Saad who is always in Hasa. They are all lumped together under the name al Qusaibi for it is never possible to say which is in Bahrain at the moment and the firms signature and siyasi (politics) is always the same whether all or none are there.

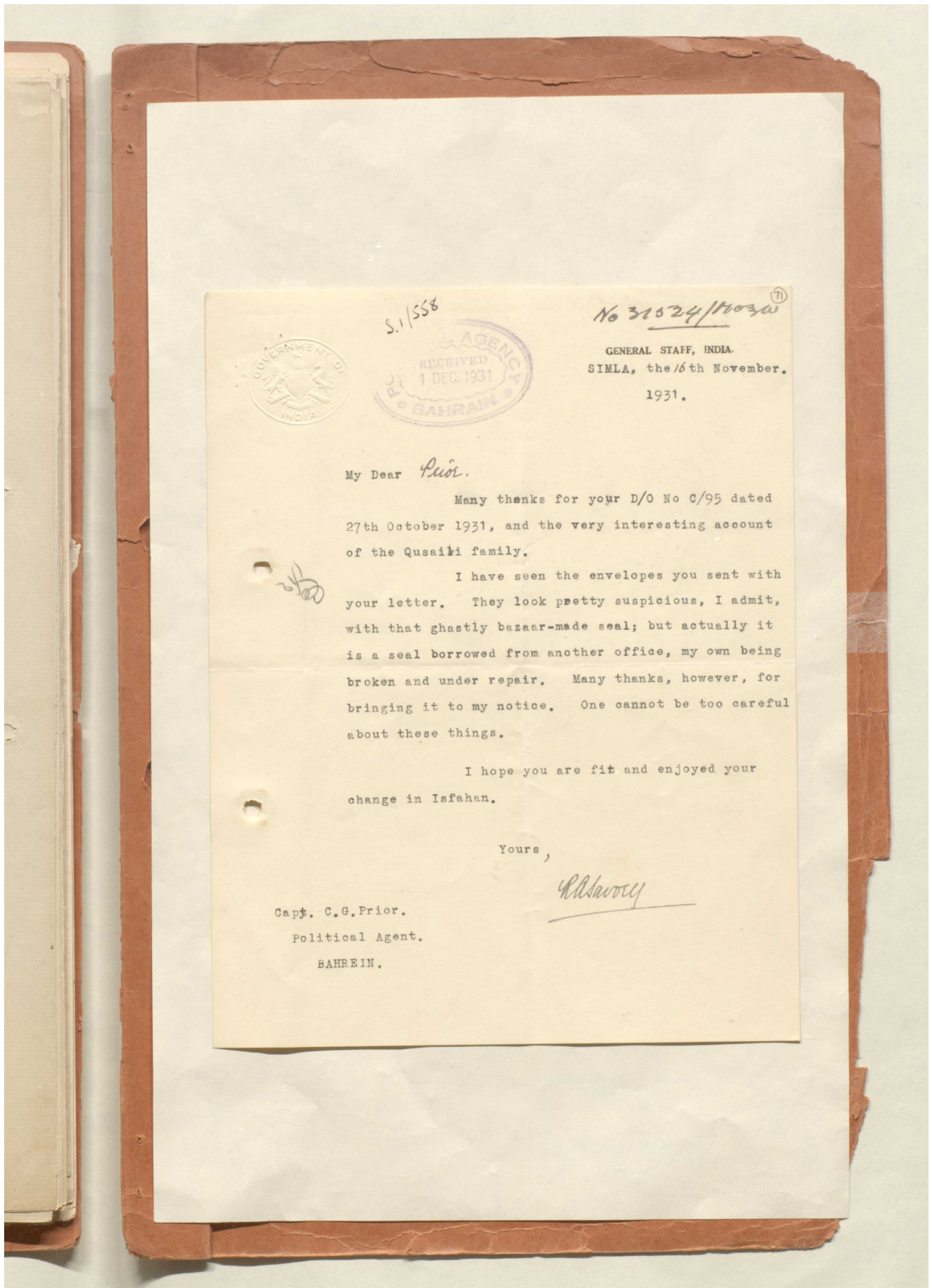
Some time ago Bin Saud owed them £ 86,000 and many people when I drew attention to their immense power on this coast informed me that B.S. was getting tired of them and that they would find difficulty in getting their money. I doubted this and I hear privately that they have now netted the whole amount. The Government of India, incidentally are still owed their £ ~~xxx~~ £ 30,000 for the arms and ammunition supplied in June 1924!

I have a comprehensive note on this family at Bahrain, and will send you a copy when I get back. I am coming to Simla in early October for the Persian Interpretership, having been allowed to recess in Isfahan instead of Shiraz for the last few weeks by Government to learn some more Persian.

Yours







S.1/558

No 31524/110310⁽⁷¹⁾



GENERAL STAFF, INDIA.
SIMLA, the 16th November.
1931.

My Dear *Prior*.

Many thanks for your D/O No C/95 dated 27th October 1931, and the very interesting account of the Qosaibi family.

I have seen the envelopes you sent with your letter. They look pretty suspicious, I admit, with that ghastly bazaar-made seal; but actually it is a seal borrowed from another office, my own being broken and under repair. Many thanks, however, for bringing it to my notice. One cannot be too careful about these things.

I hope you are fit and enjoyed your change in Isfahan.

Yours,

[Signature]

Capt. C.G. Prior.
Political Agent.
BAHRAIN.



'File 5/4 Abdul Aziz Qosaibi and Abdullah Qosaibi' [back-i] (143/144)

