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'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby'

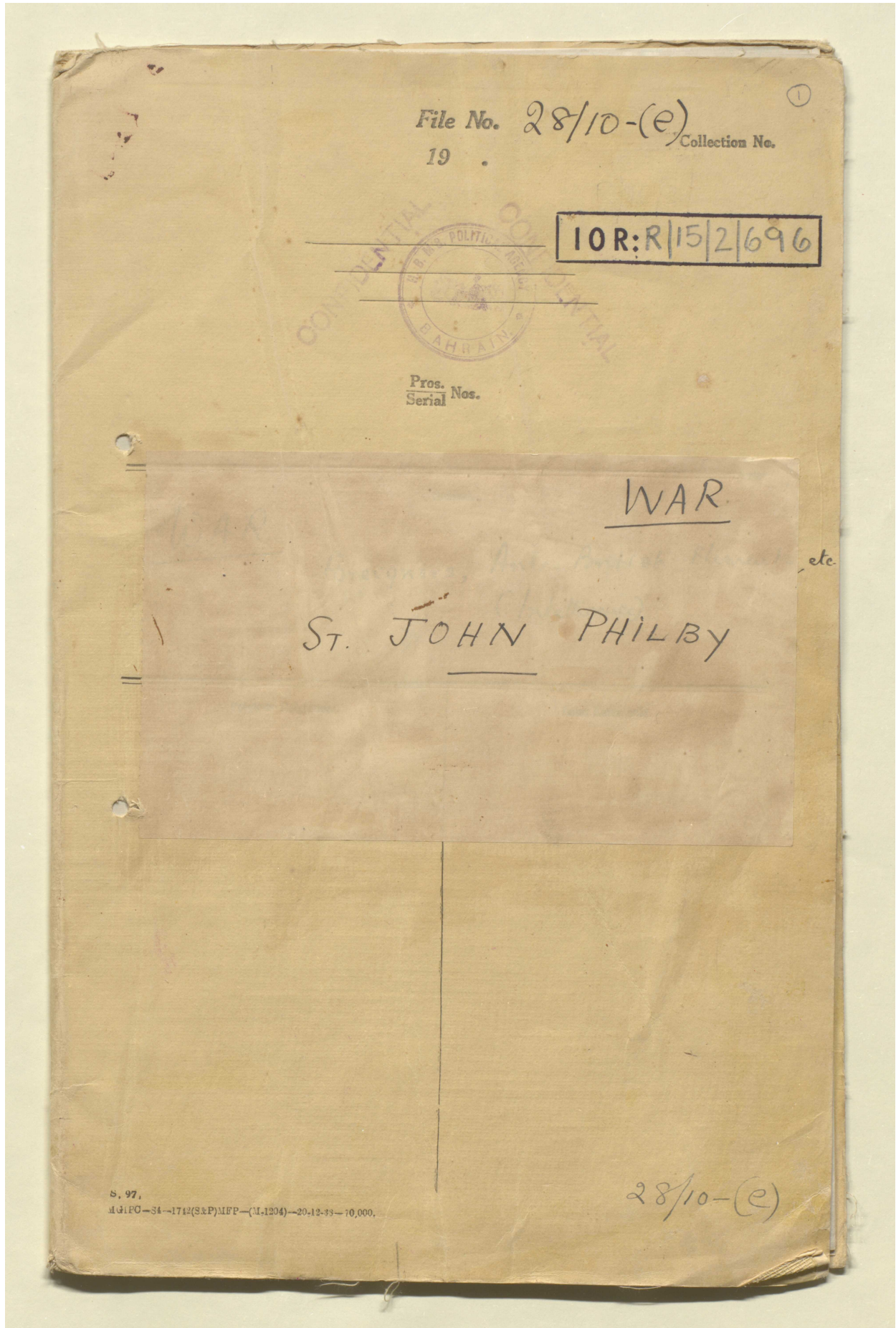
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/R/15/2/696
Date(s)	27 Jun 1940-27 Aug 1940 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (20 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



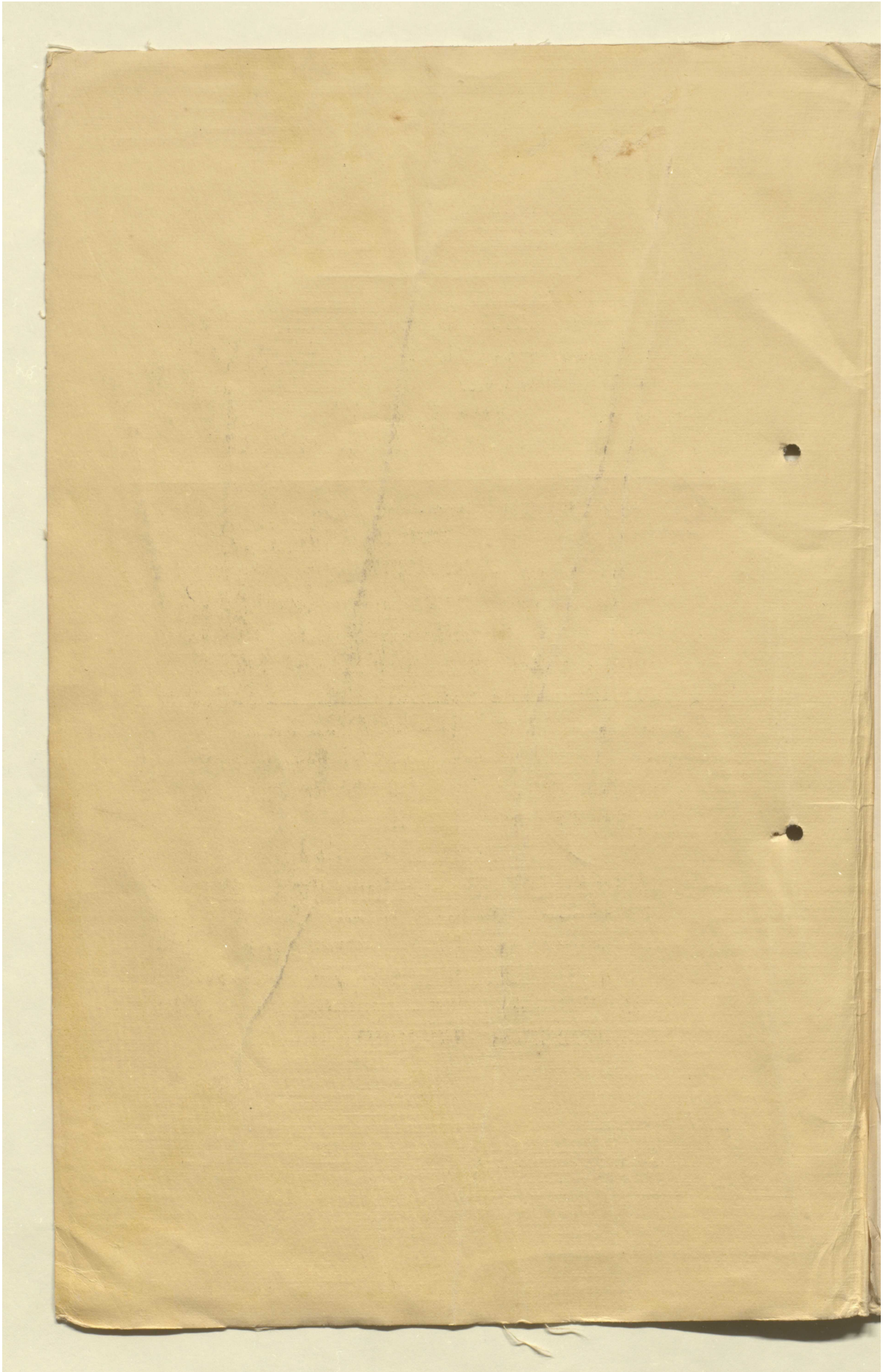
About this record

The file comprises correspondence exchanged between the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf (Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Geoffrey Prior), the Political Agent at Bahrain (Hugh Weightman), the British Government's representative at Jedda, and officials at the Government of India and India Office in London, in tracking a journey made by Harry St John Bridger Philby from Saudi Arabia, via Dhahran, Bahrain and Karachi, to Bombay. The correspondence focuses on when might be an appropriate moment to apprehend Philby, so that he may be deported back to Britain. Proposals to apprehend Philby, who is believed to be carrying letters and articles of an anti-British bent in his luggage, in Bahrain, are abandoned due to uncertainty over whether the Persian Gulf Defence Regulation contained sufficient legal power to enable the deportation (f 11). Correspondence from the Foreign Department of the Government of India reports Philby's detention upon his arrival at Karachi (f 16). Included in the file is a notice from J W Stafford, Chief Passport Officer in the Passport Office of the Foreign Office, dated 27 June 1940, which contains details of Philby's appearance, his background, and instruction to impound his passport (f 20).

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [front] (1/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [front-i] (2/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [2r] (3/44)

1. R. 556
18/7/40

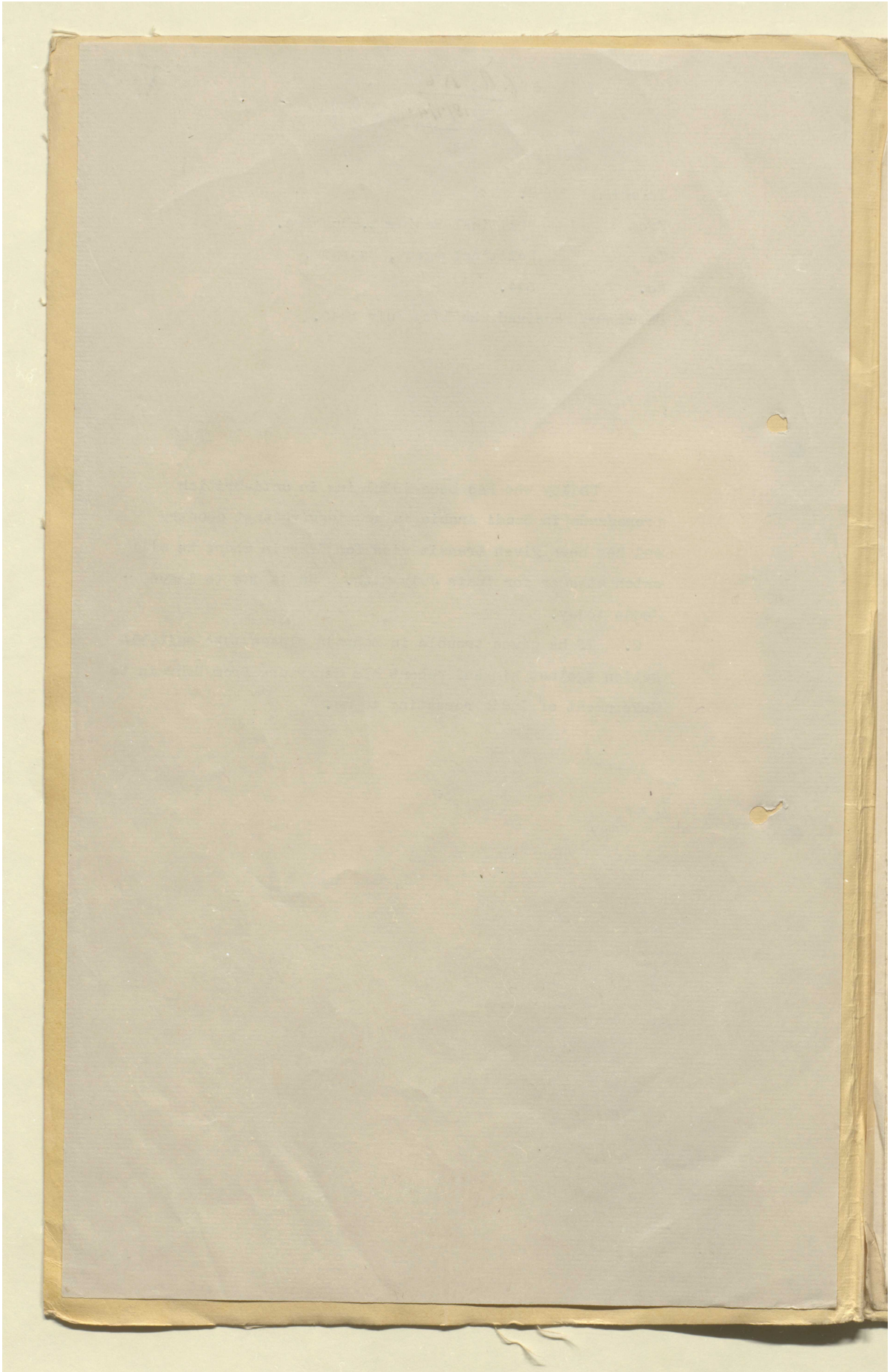
1 (2)

Telegram S.
From Political Resident, Bushire.
To Political Agent, Bahrain.
No. 544.
Dated and received the 17th July 1940.

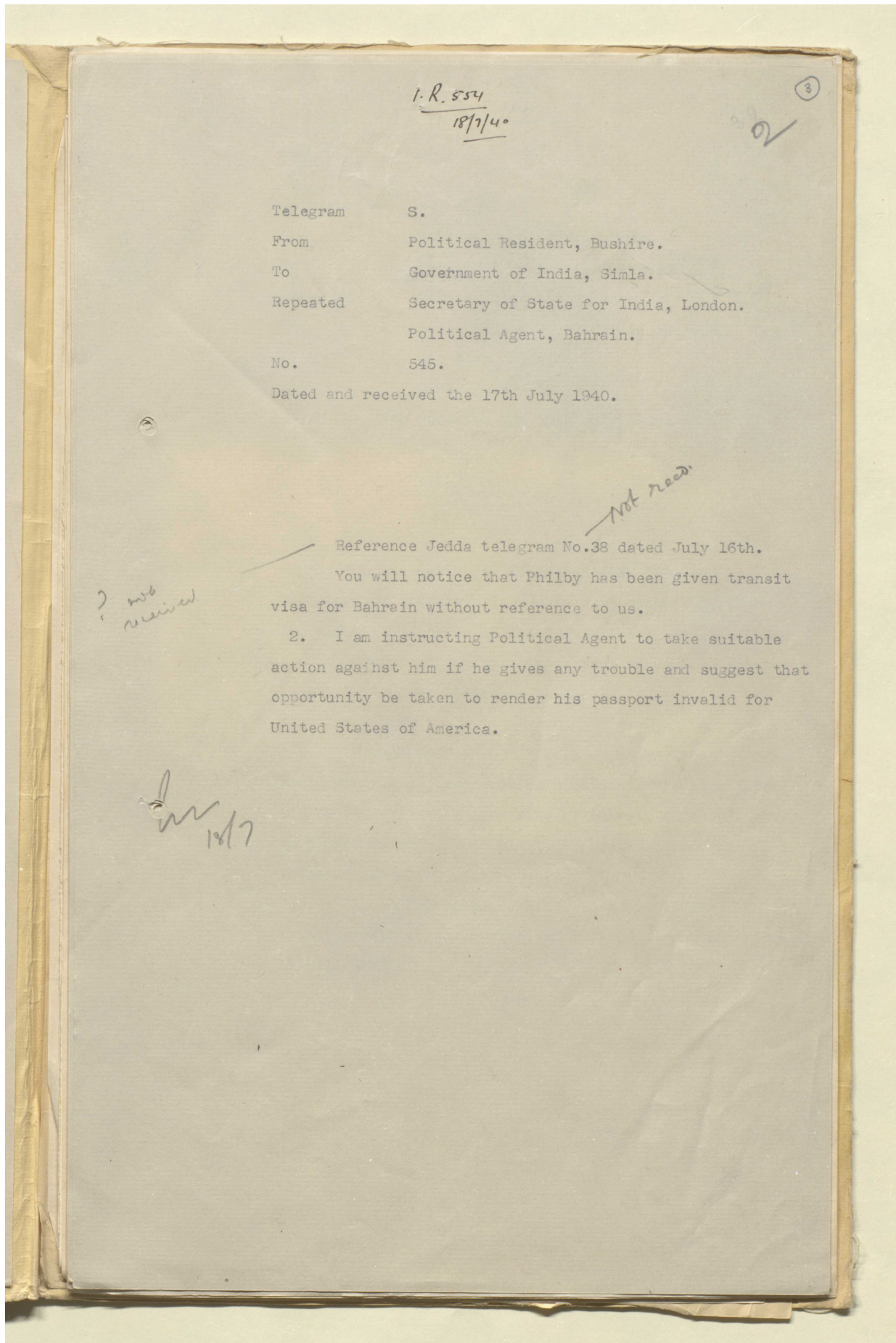
Philby who has been indulging in anti-British propaganda in Saudi Arabia is now leaving that country and has been given transit visa for Bahrain where he will catch steamer for India July 28th. He is due to leave Jedda today.

2. If he gives trouble in Bahrain please take suitable action against him and report his departure from Bahrain to Government of India repeating to me.

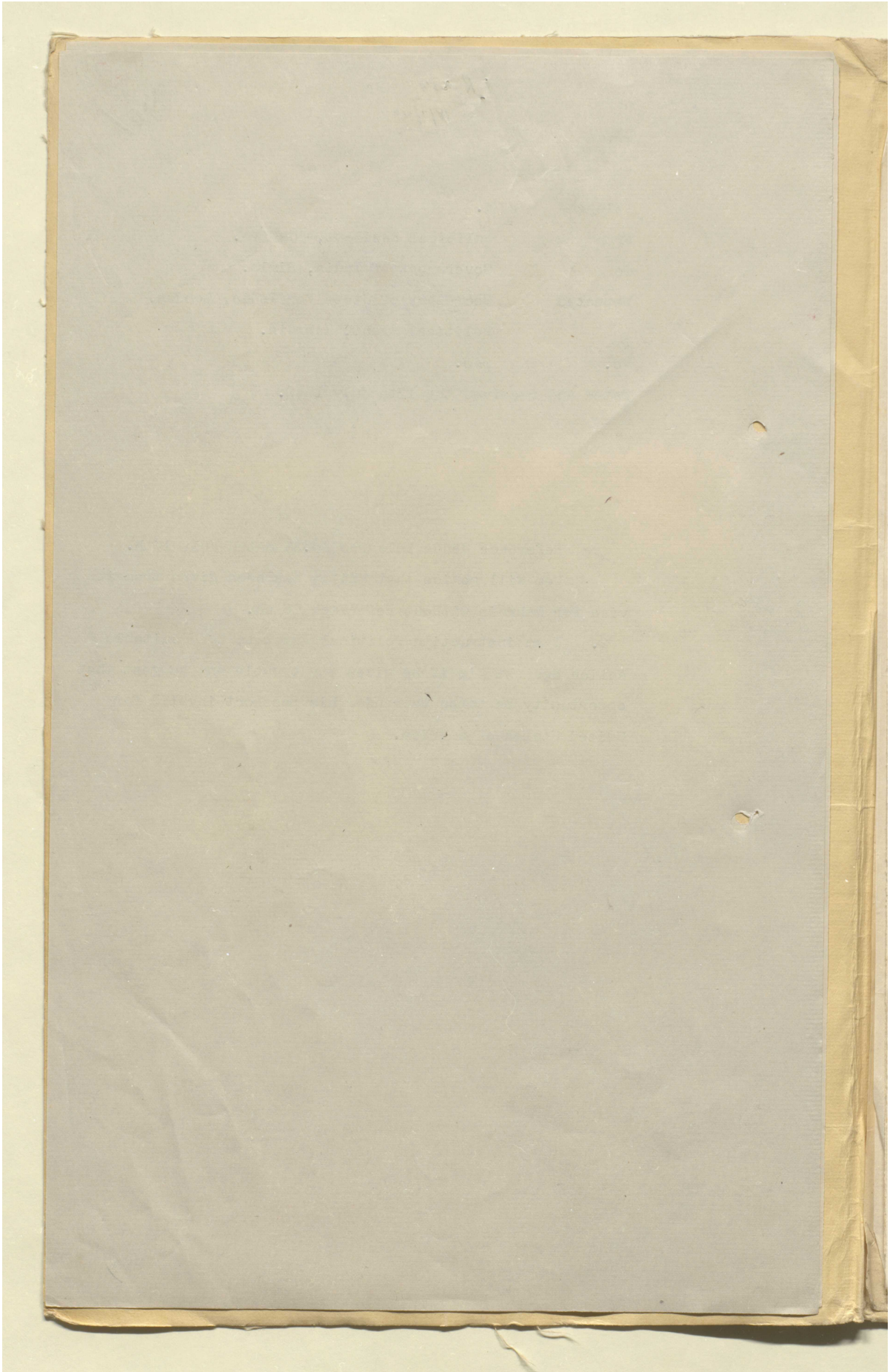
*Advice in forward
his 18/7*



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [3r] (5/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [3v] (6/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [4r] (7/44)

1.R. 558
18/7/40

④

3

Telegram S.
From Government of India, Simla.
To Political Resident, Bushire. *(group not inserted in telegram).*
Repeated Political Agent, Bahrain.
Secretary of State for India, and
Minister, Jeddah.
No. 2567.

Dated the 17th received the 18th July 1940.

*all these lcls:
not recd. here*

Your telegram No. 540 dated July 15th and
Secretary of State's telegram No. 3918 dated July 16th
and Jeddah telegram No. 15 dated July 16th.

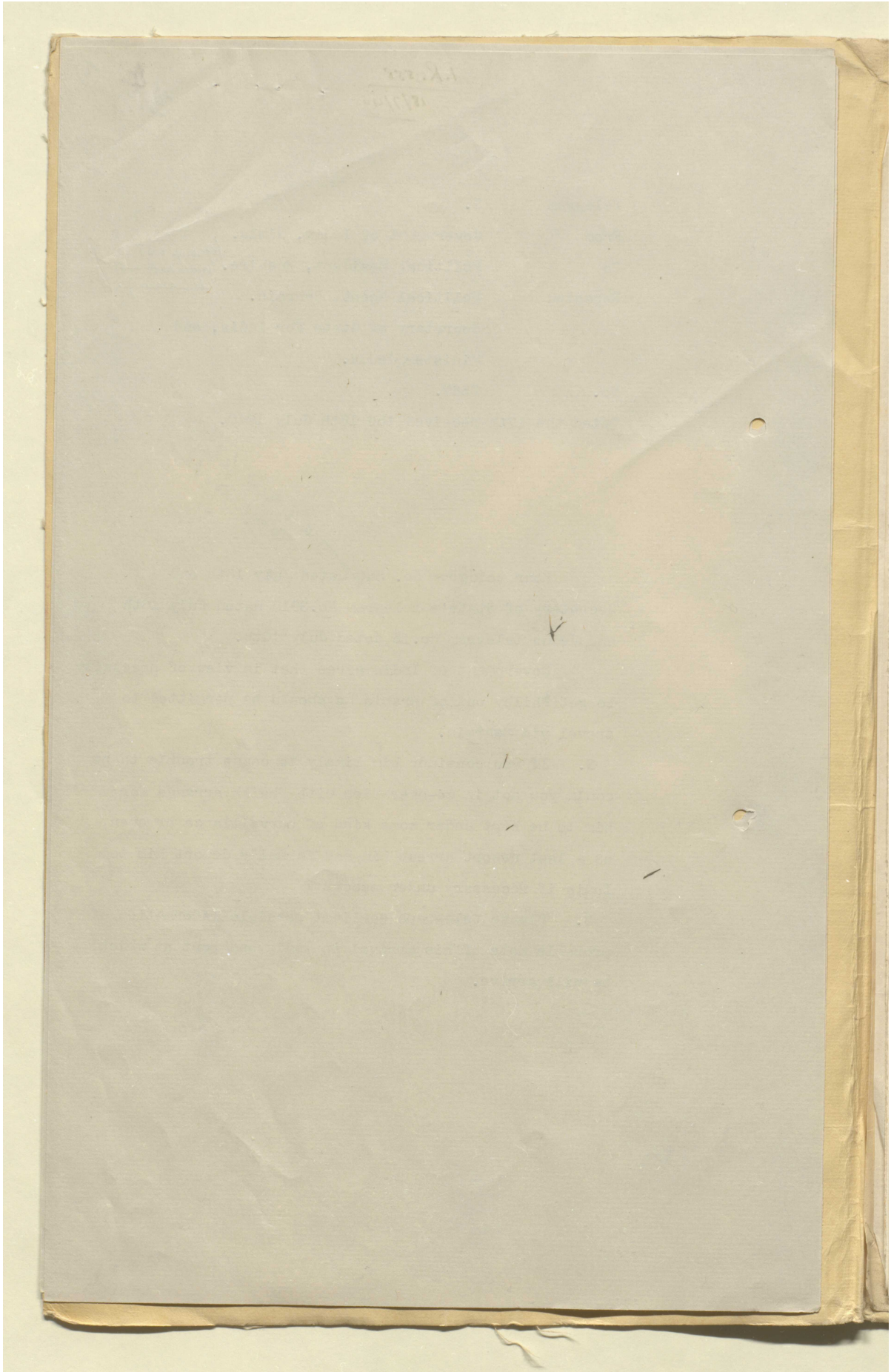
Government of India agree that in view of necessity
to get Philby out of Arabia he should be permitted to
travel via Bahrain.

2. If you consider him likely to cause trouble there
could you not in co-operation with Shaikh arrange for
him to be kept under some kind of surveillance or even
as a last resort arrest him and formally deport him to
India if necessary under escort ?

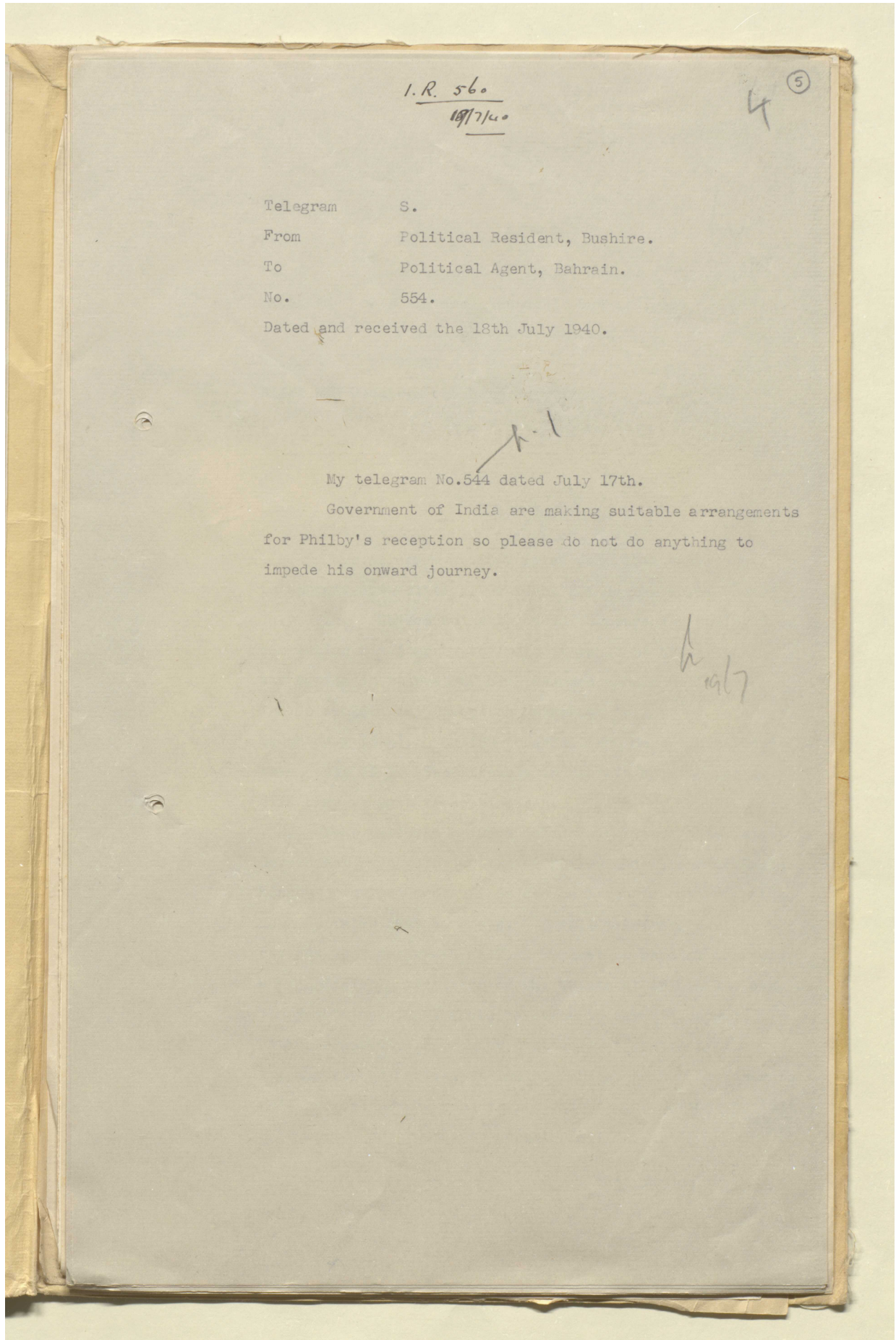
3. Please telegraph earliest possible information of
probable date of his arrival in India and port at which
he will arrive.

18/7

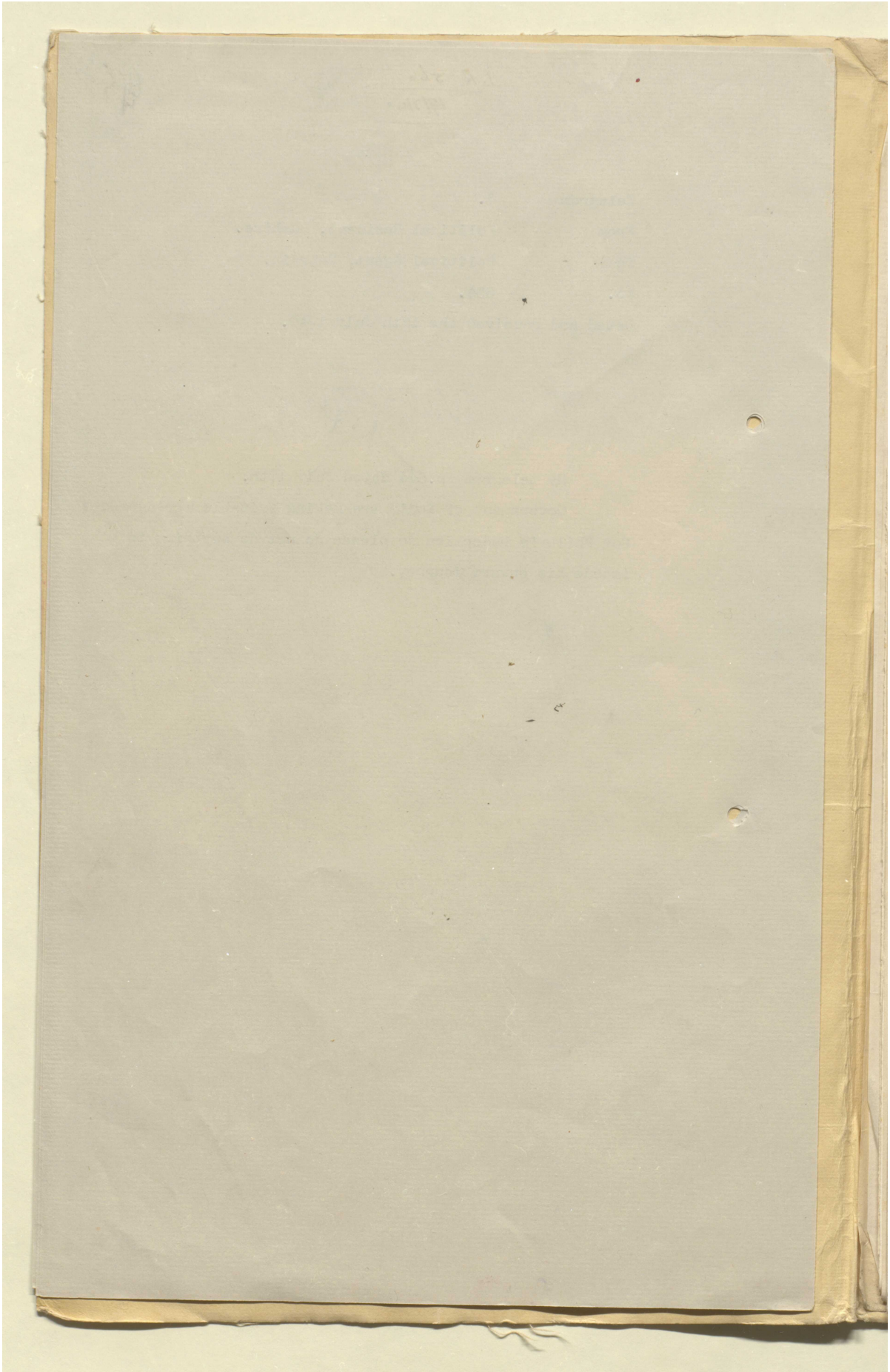
'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [4v] (8/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [5r] (9/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [5v] (10/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [6r] (11/44)

1. R. 562
2/7/40

15 (6)

Telegram S.
From India Office, London.
To : Government of India, Simla.
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire, and
Political Agent, Bahrain.
No. 4062.
Dated and received the 20th July 1940.

lu
2/7

Philby.

K.K.3

2. Your telegram No.2567 dated July 17th addressed to Bahrain and Political Resident's telegram No.545 dated July 17th. Object being to avoid discouraging Philby from completing his journey to India it would be better that any action in respect of his passport should be left to Indian authorities (despatch paragraph No.3 of my telegram dated July 16th). Action to arrest and deport him should be taken only if he gives trouble in Bahrain or attempts to slip away to another destination.

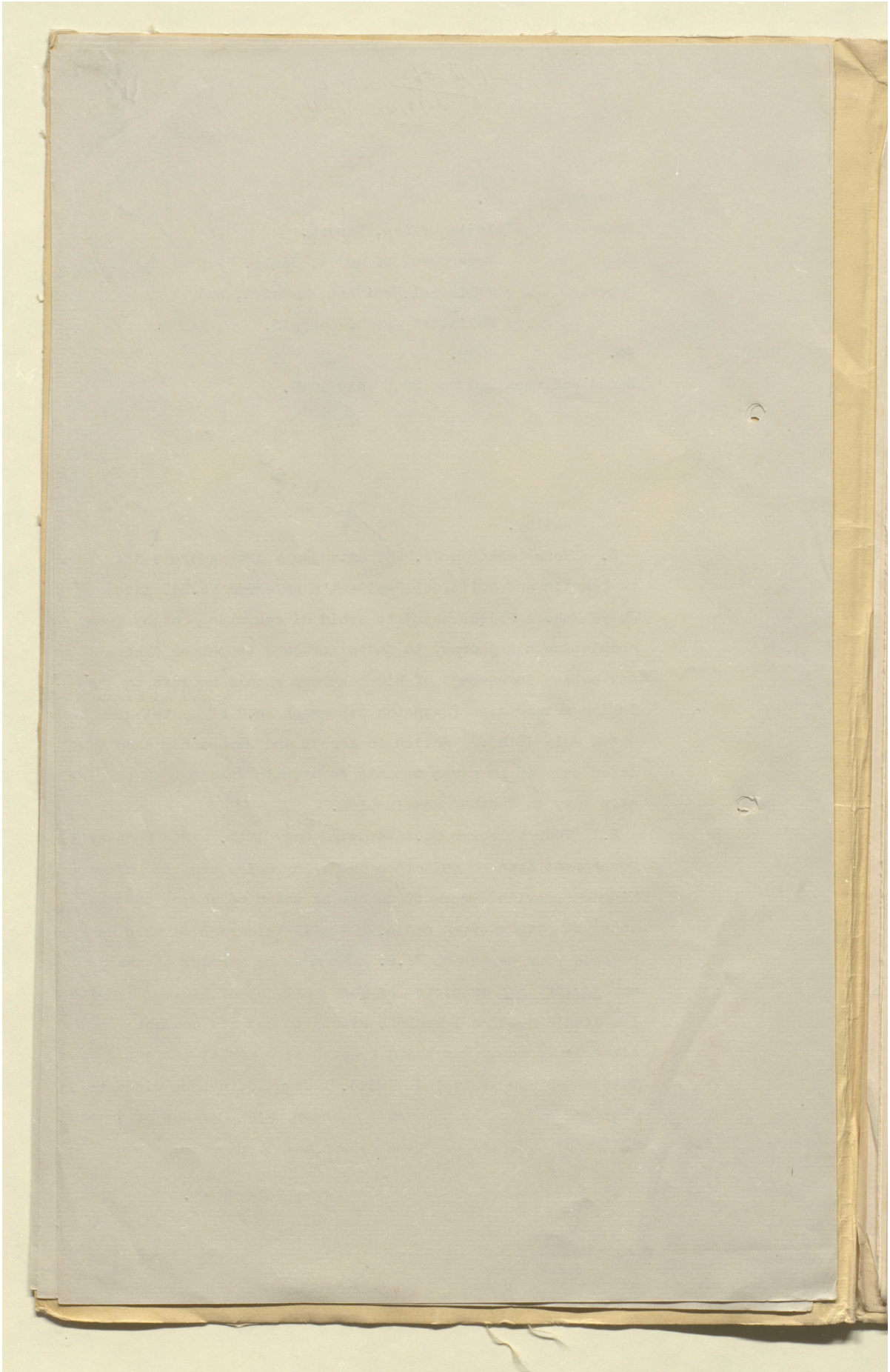
not res here

not recd

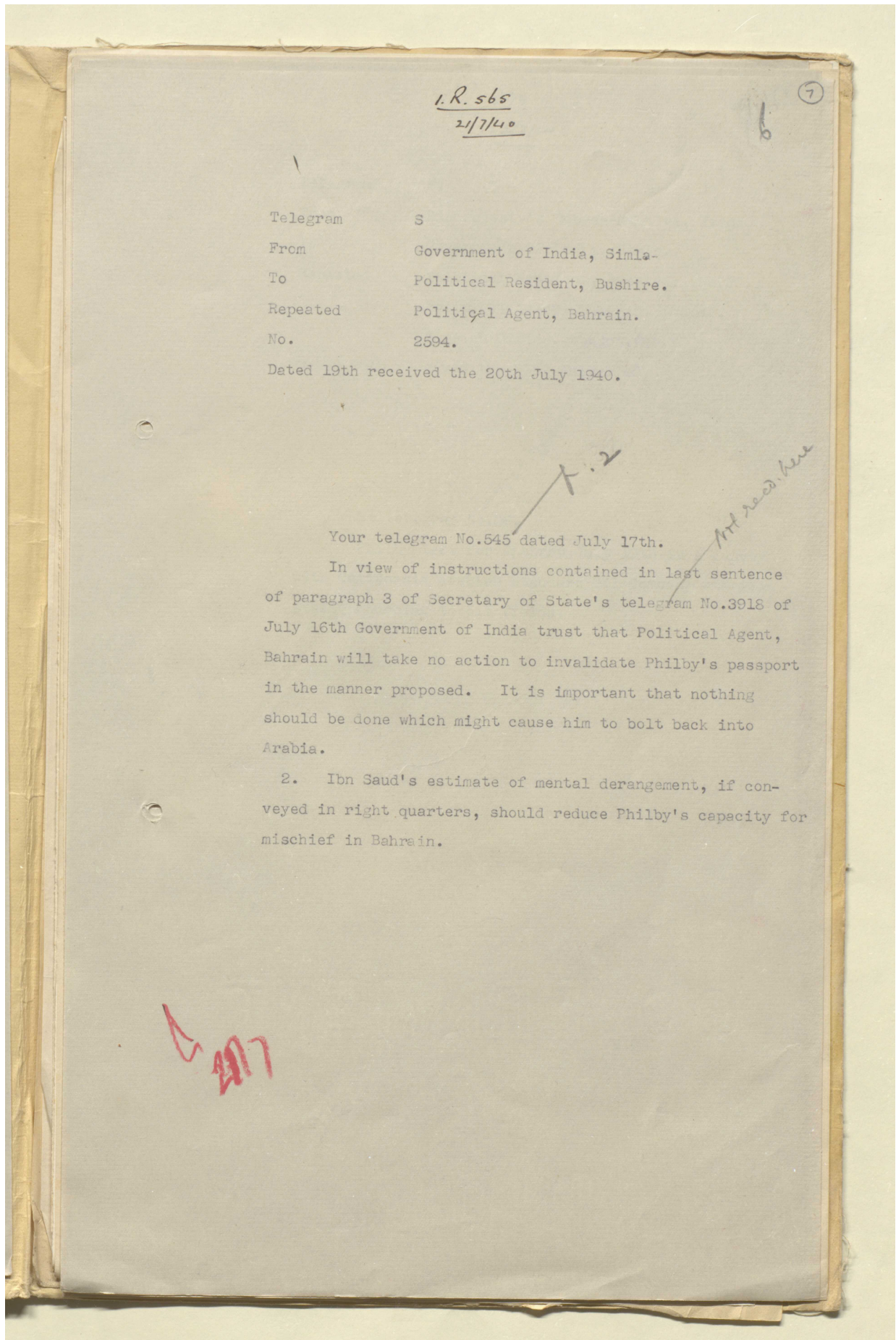
3. Your telegram No.2564 dated July 17th. His Majesty's Government have no objection to Philby being sent to United Kingdom provided precautions can be taken to ensure that he does not slip away en route. I will telegraph further as regards your paragraph No.2. We must be careful to avoid any justifiable criticism of the treatment of him and despite Ibn Saud's opinion I would hesitate to say his conduct hitherto warrants his being treated as a mental patient immediately on arrival in India. Might it not be wiser to wait and see how he behaves? Under which Defence of India Rule would you propose to arrest him?

Retaxandum.

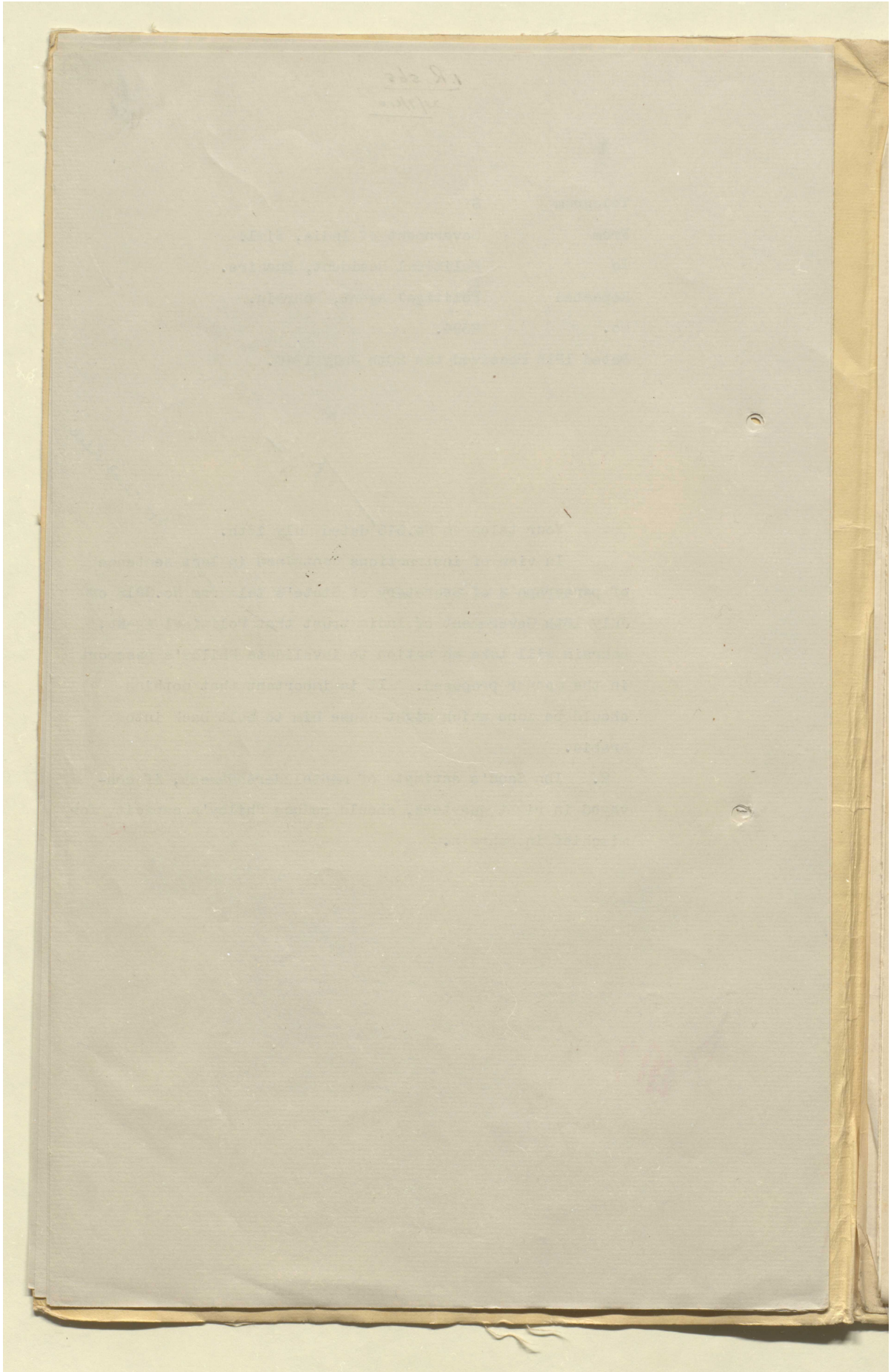
'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [6v] (12/44)



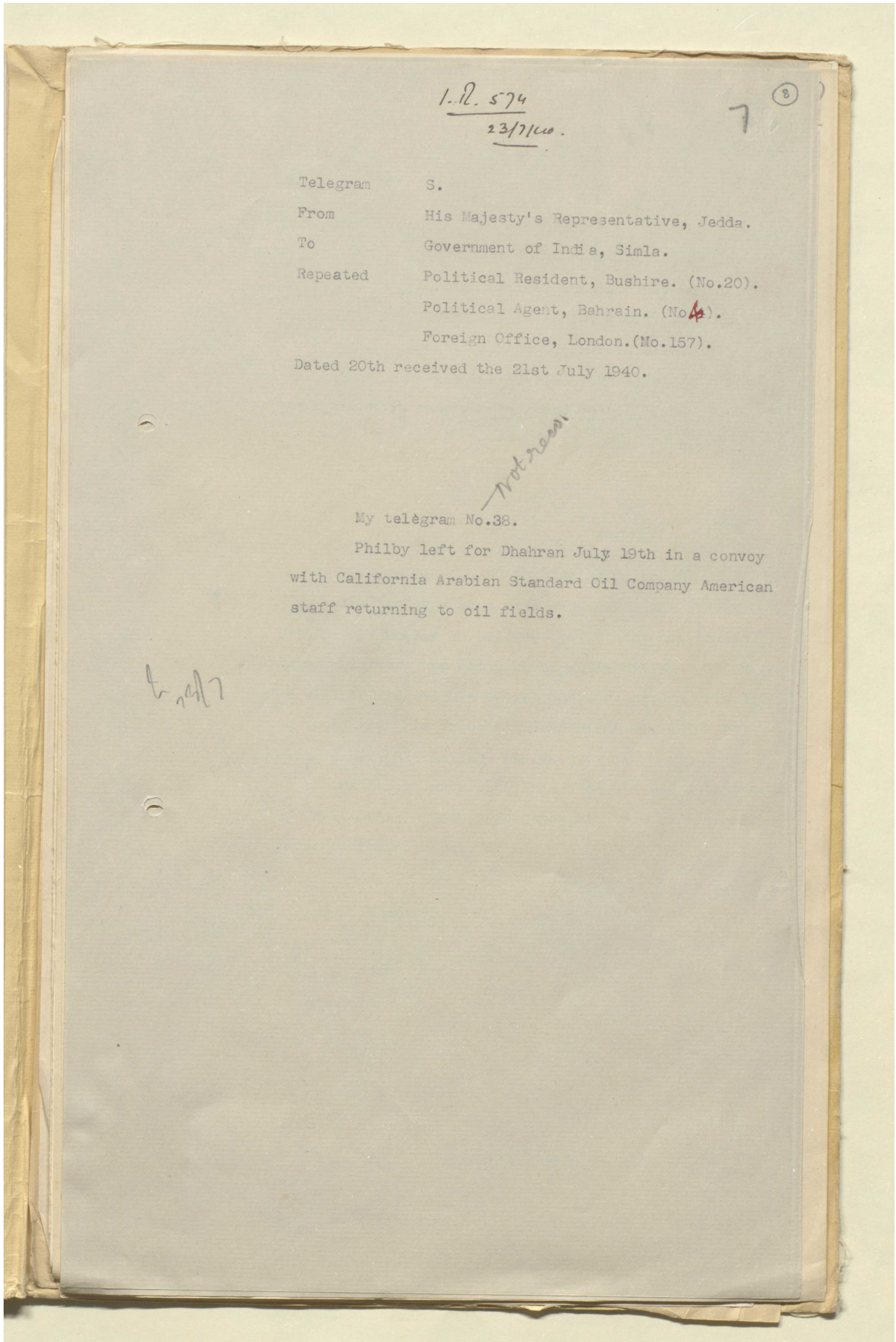
'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [7r] (13/44)



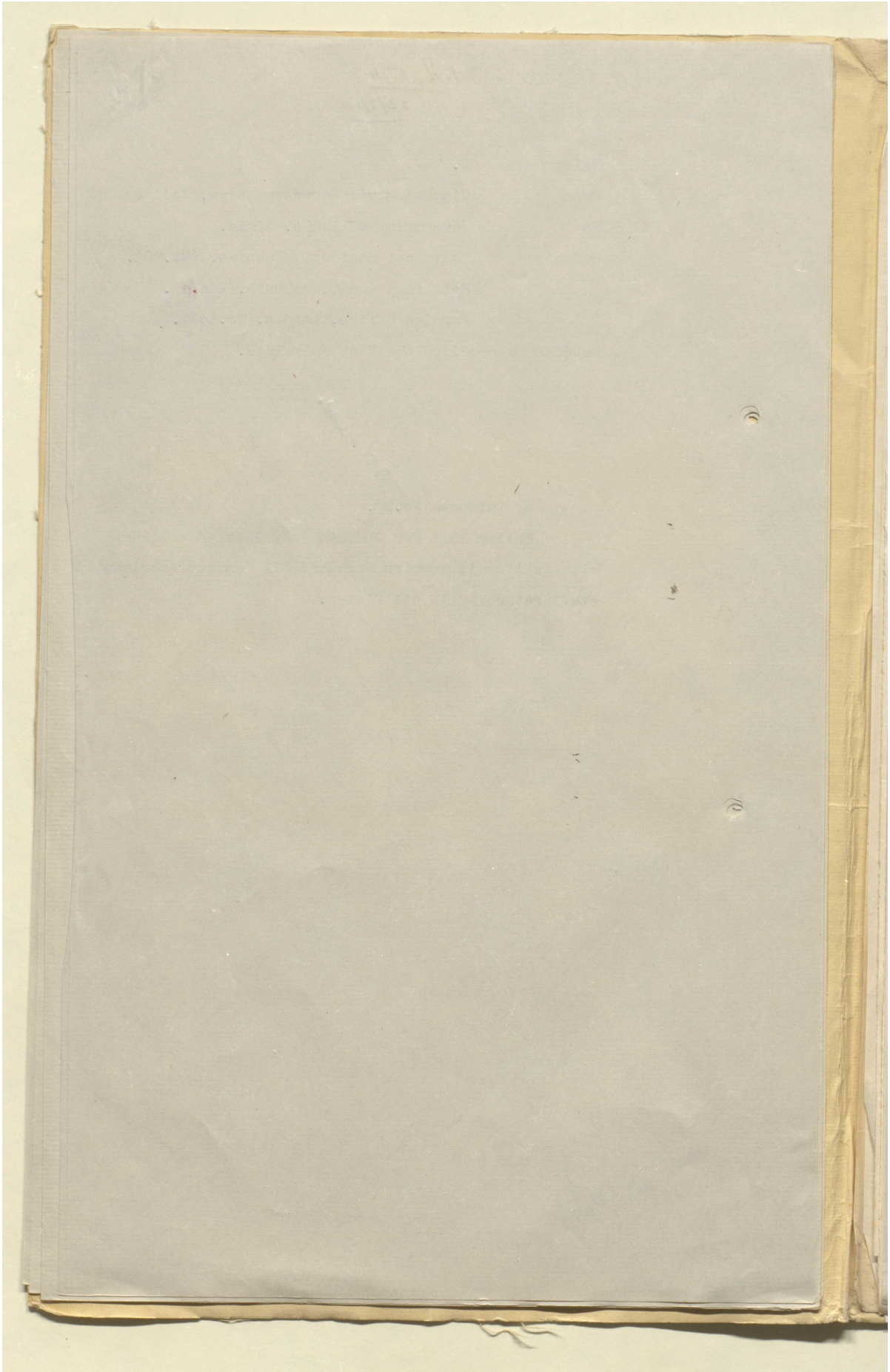
'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [7v] (14/44)



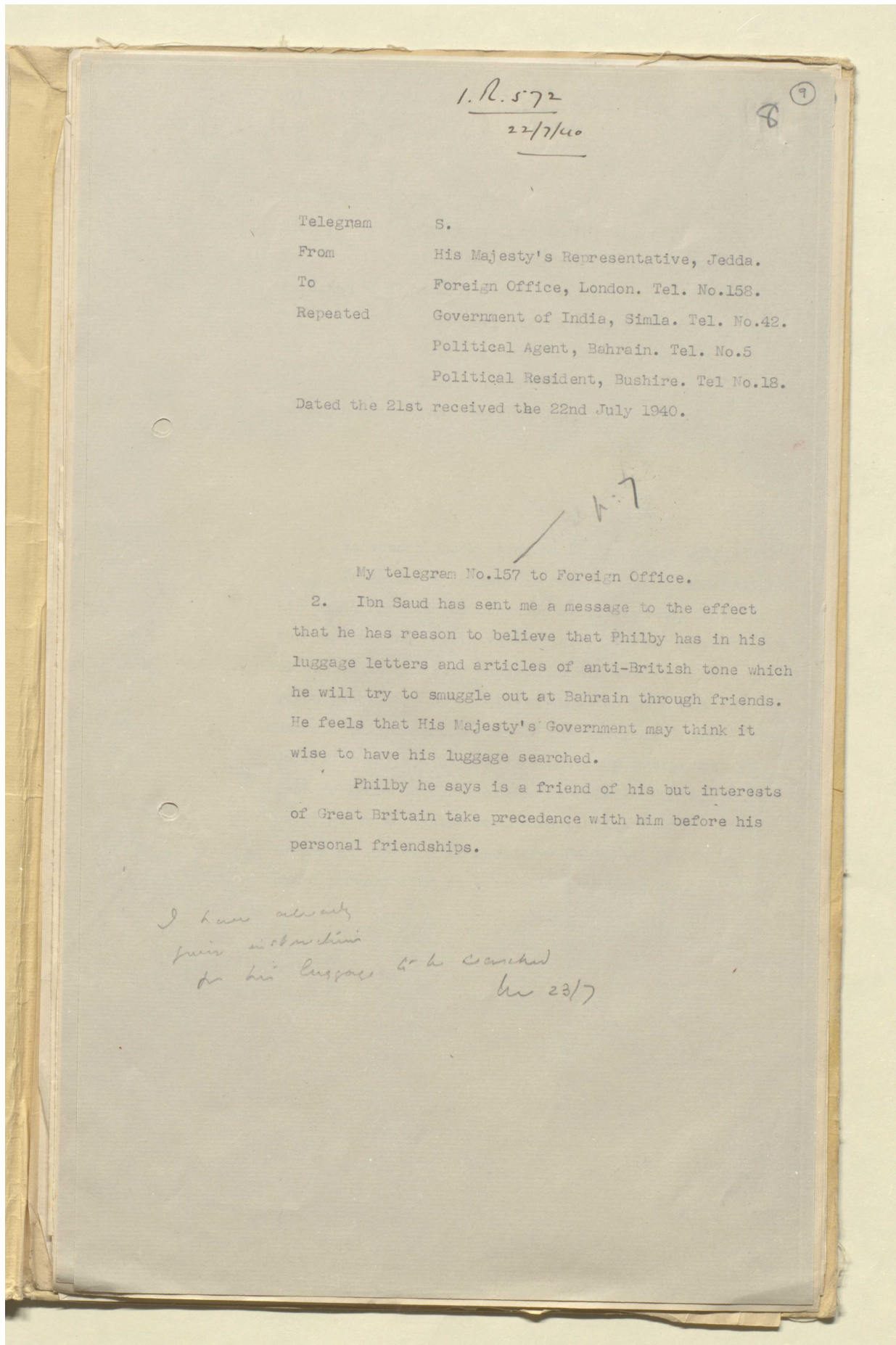
'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [8r] (15/44)



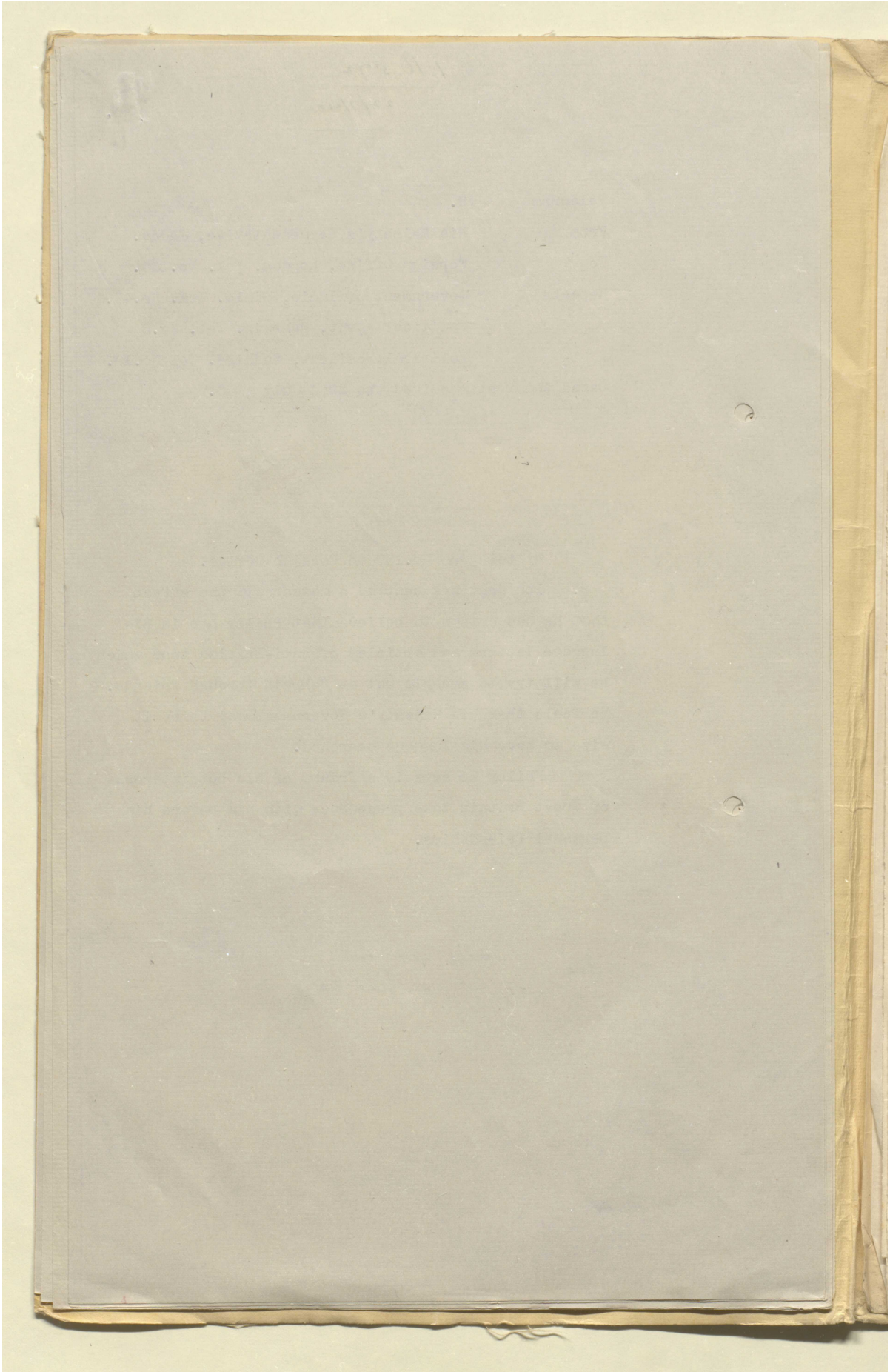
'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [8v] (16/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [9r] (17/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [9v] (18/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [10r] (19/44)

I.R. 587

26/7/40

(10)

9

Telegram S.
From Government of India, Simla.
To Secretary of State for India, London.
Repeated H.M. Minister, Jedda.
Political Resident, Bushire.
Political Agent, Bahrain.
No. 2681.
Dated 24th received the 25th July 1940.

Reference Jedda telegram No. 158 dated July 21st.

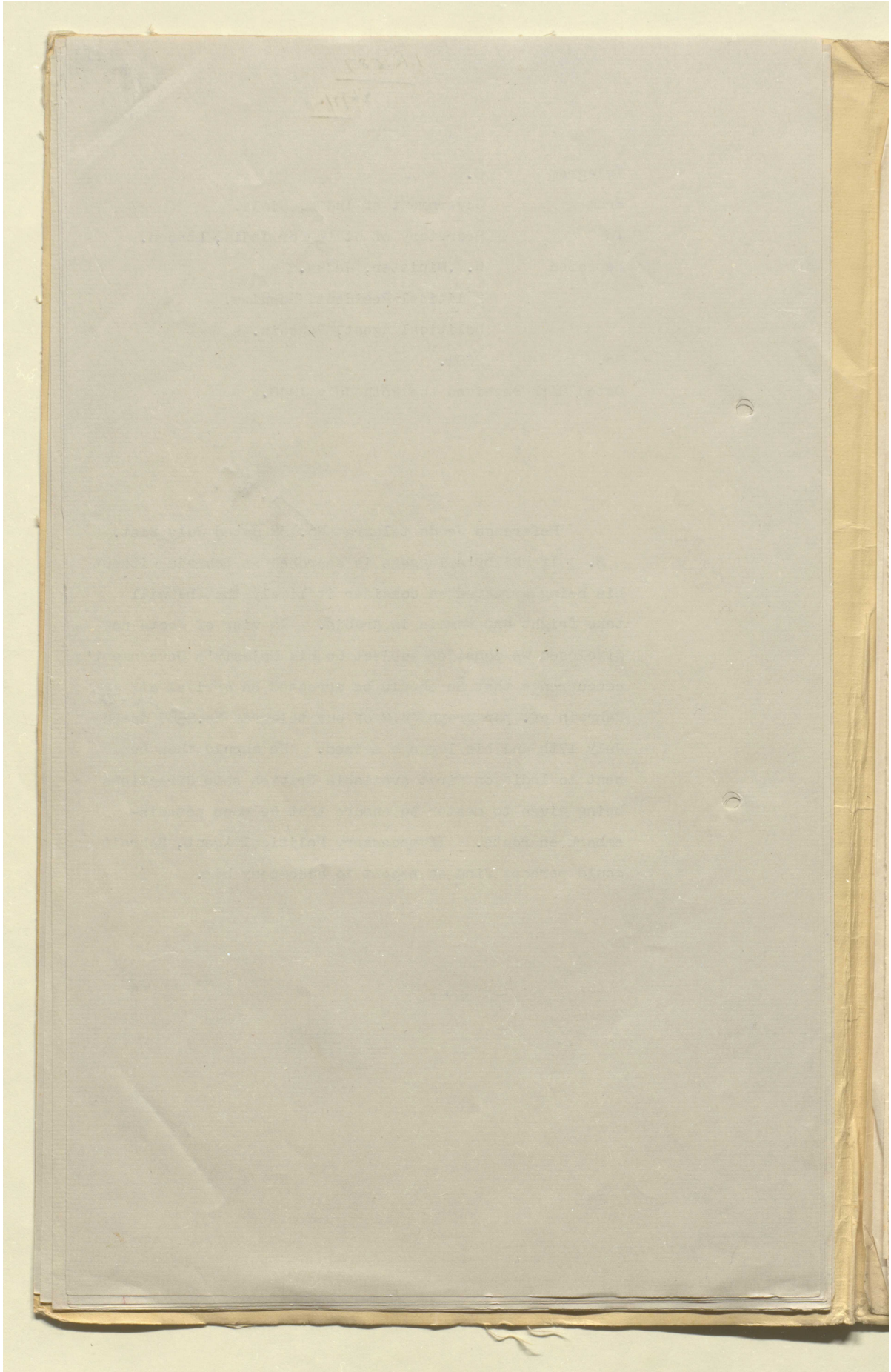
2. If Philby's luggage is searched at Bahrain without his being arrested we consider it likely that he will take fright and remain in Arabia. In view of facts now disclosed we consider subject to His Majesty's Government's concurrence that he should be arrested on arrival at Bahrain cf. paragraph No. 2 of our telegram No. 2567 dated July 17th and his luggage seized. He should then be sent to India on first available British ship directions being given to master to ensure that he does not disembark en route. If necessary Political Agent, Bahrain could perhaps find an escort to accompany him.

L 26/7/40

1.8

1.3

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [10v] (20/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [11r] (21/44)

1. R. 588
26/7/40

10

Telegram S.
From India Office, London.
To Political Resident, Bushire.
Repeated Political Agent, Bahrain and
Government of India, Simla.
No. 4206.
Dated 25th received 26th July 1940.

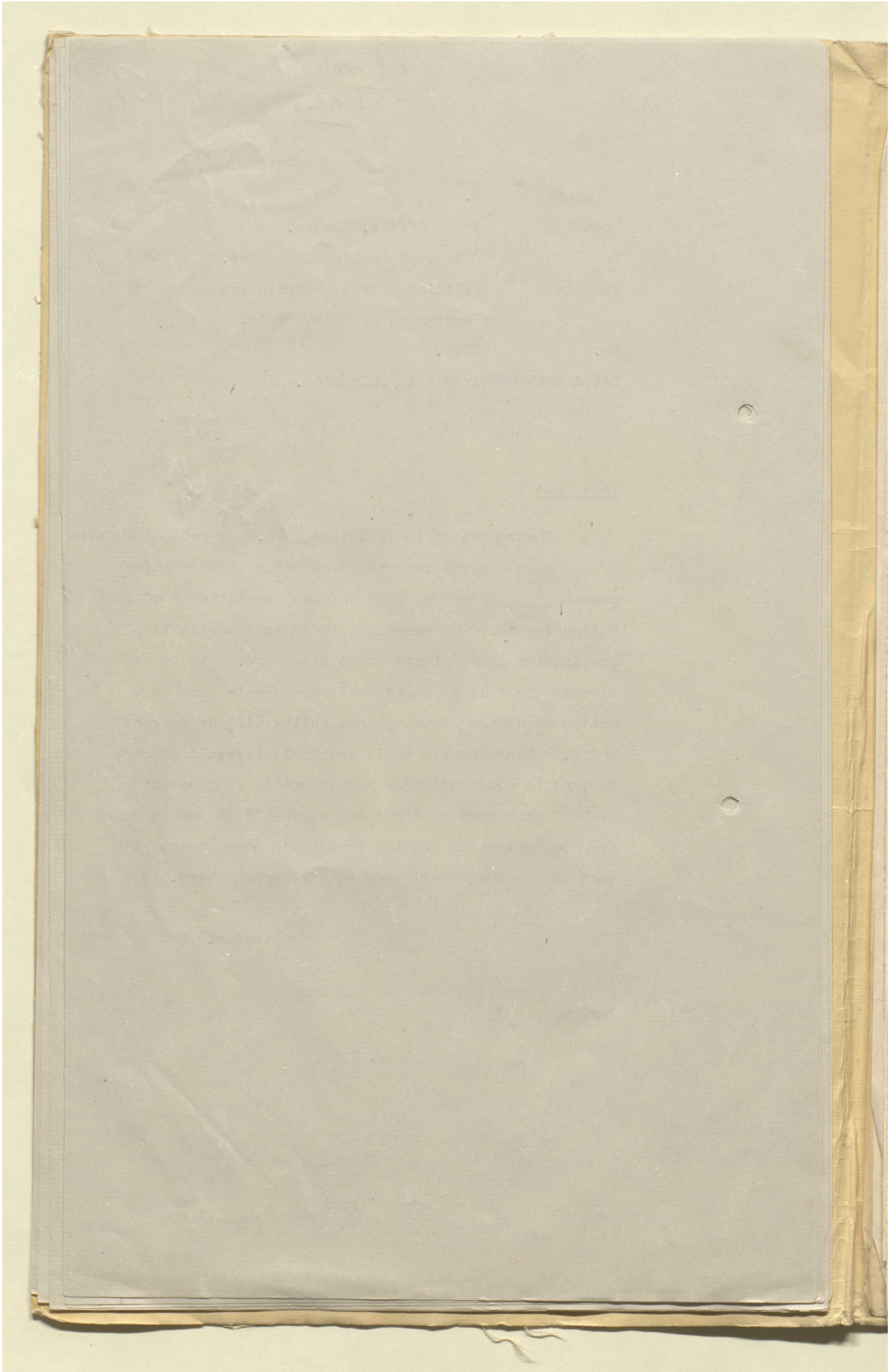
Immediate

X.9
Government of India telegram No. 2681 dated July 14th
I am advised that it is doubtful whether under
powers _____ Persian Gulf Defence Regulation 6 of 1939
a deportee could be compelled to go to a particular
destination if he elects to go elsewhere. In these
circumstances it is in any case preferable that no
action should be taken against Philby till he reaches
India. Consequently it is desirable to avoid any act
that might deter him from his intention of proceeding
of his own accord to India and we should therefore refrain
from searching his luggage in Bahrain even at the risk
that he may dispose of some of his papers there.

Retaxandum.

hu
26/7

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [11v] (22/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [12r] (23/44)

11 (12)

Telegram S.
From Political Agent, Bahrain.
To Government of India, Simla.
Repeated India Office, London and
Political Resident, Bushire.
No. 270.
Dated 30th July 1940.

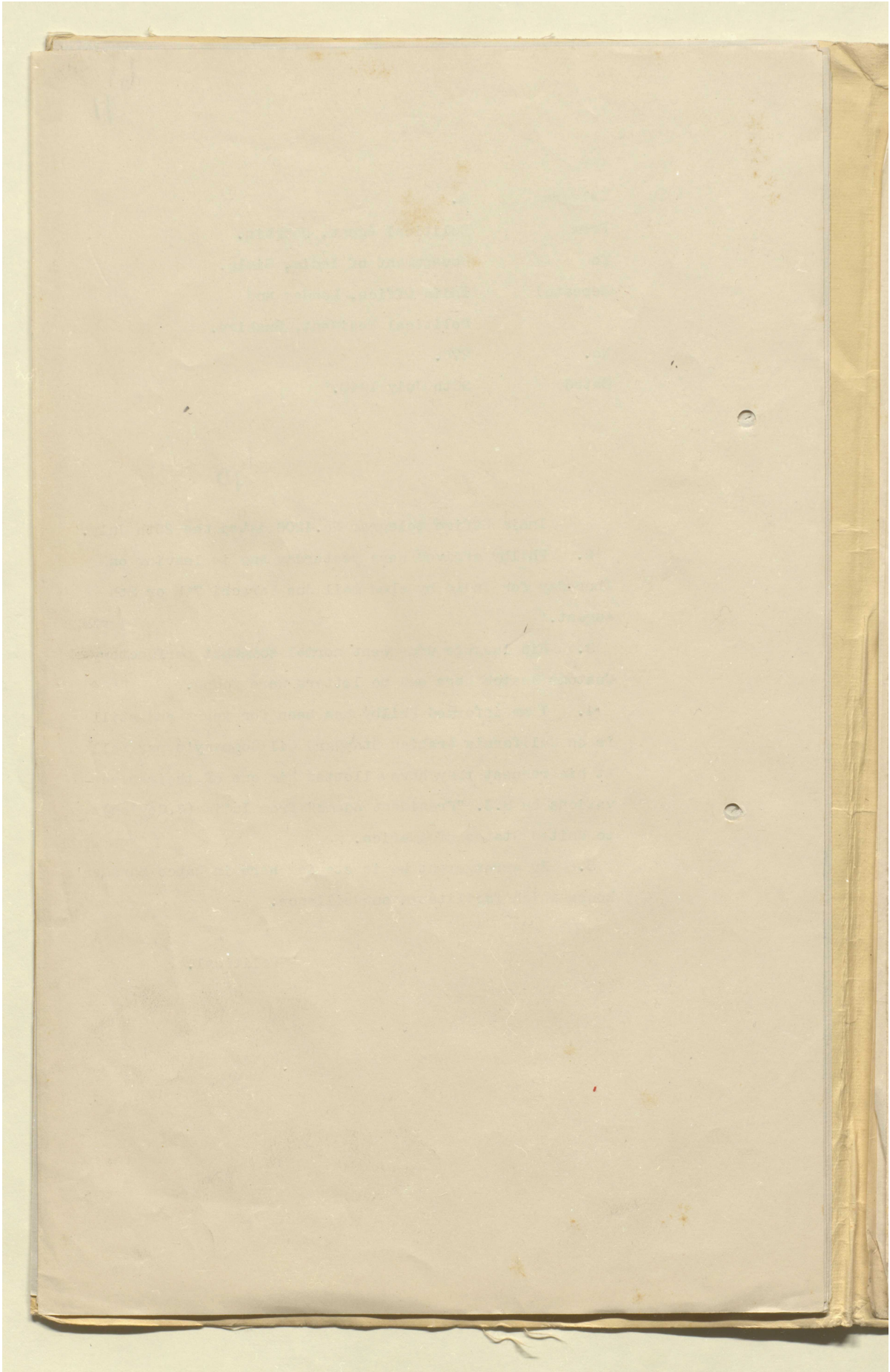
10

India Office telegram No.4206 dated the 25th July.

2. Philby arrived here yesterday and is leaving on Thursday for India by slow mail due Karachi 7th or 8th August.
3. His luggage underwent normal somewhat perfunctory Customs search here and no letters were found.
4. I am informed Philby has been for years and still is on California Arabian Standard Oil Company's pay roll. At his request they have allotted him one of their reservations by S.S. "President Adams" from India (? Ceylon) to United States of America.
5. By arrangement he is staying here in Bapco Manager's house which facilitates surveillance.

Political.

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [12v] (24/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [13r] (25/44)

28/10. 12 (13)

Telegram S.
From Political Agent, Bahrain.
To Government of India, Simla.
Repeated India Office, London.
Political Resident, Bushire.
No. 273.
Dated 3rd August, 1940.

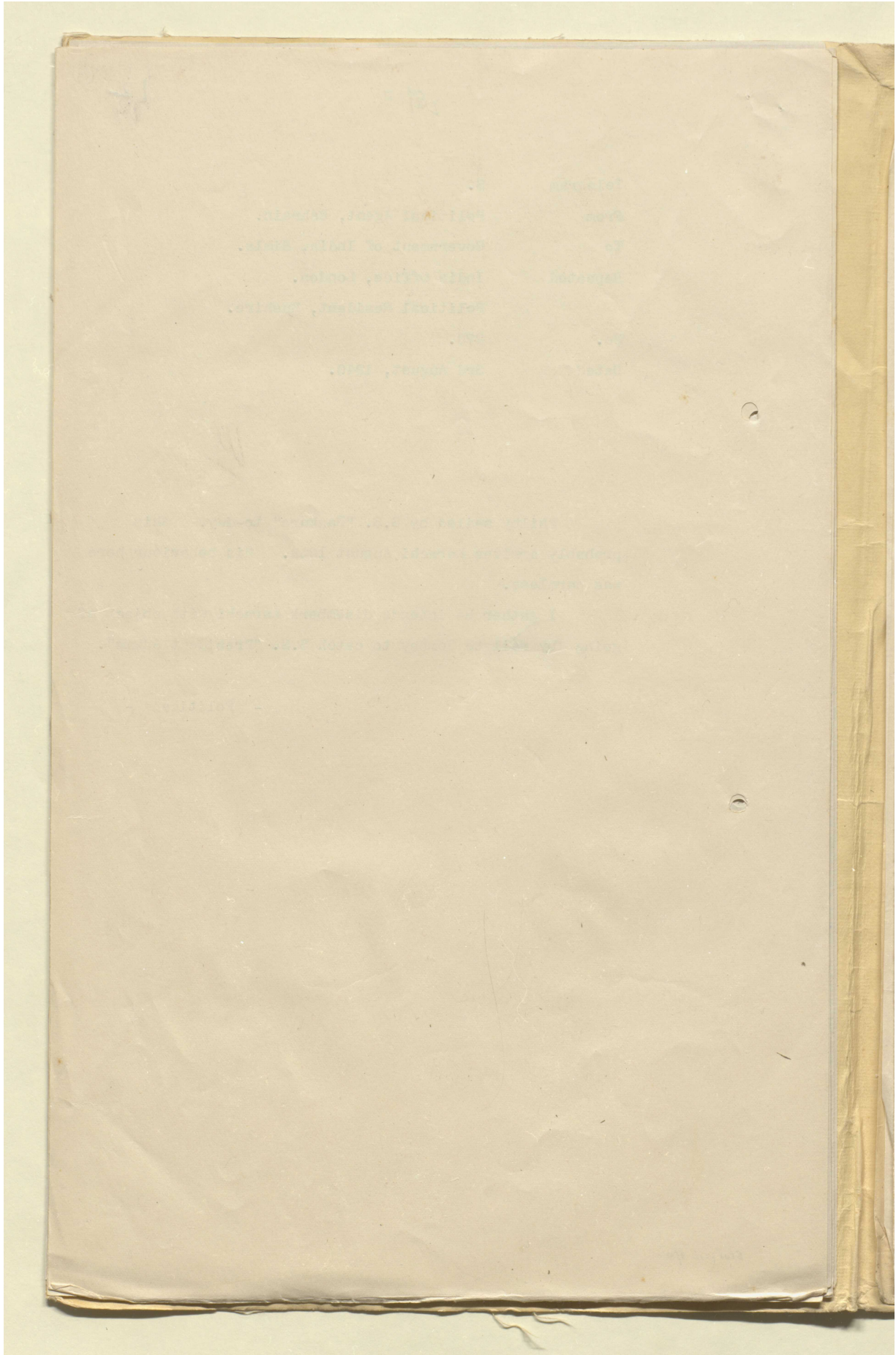
Philby sailed by S.S. "Bankura" to-day. Ship probably arrives Karachi August 10th. His behaviour here was harmless.

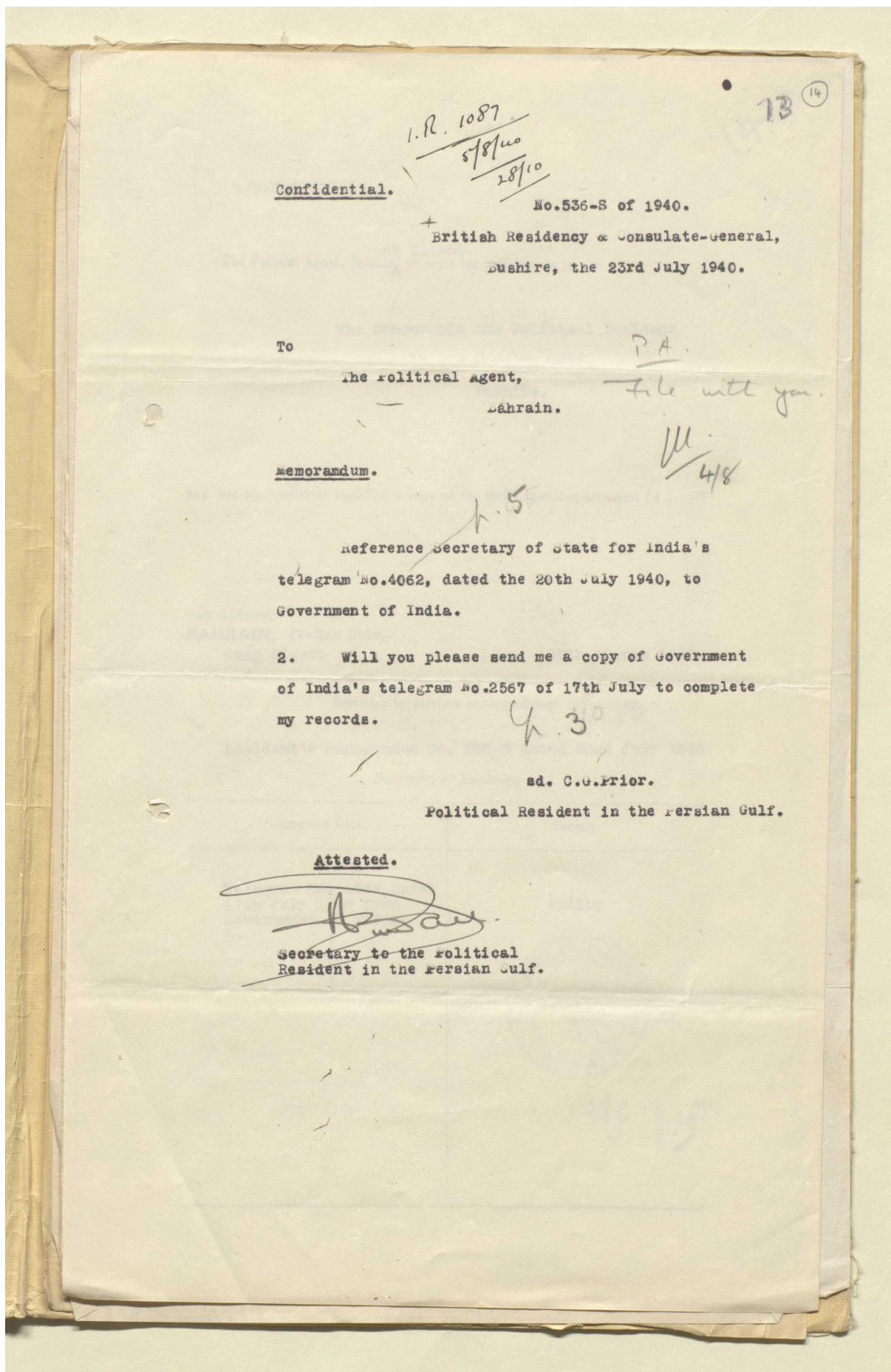
I gather he intends disembark Karachi with object of going by rail to Bombay to catch S.S. "President Adams".

- Political -

8101..... 1/4.

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [13v] (26/44)





Confidential.

1.R. 1087
5/8/40
28/10

13 (14)

No.536-S of 1940.

British Residency & Consulate-General,
Bahrain, the 23rd July 1940.

To

The Political Agent,
Bahrain.

P.A.
file with you.

Memorandum.

W.
4/8

reference to Secretary of State for India's
telegram No.4062, dated the 20th July 1940, to
Government of India.

2. Will you please send me a copy of Government
of India's telegram No.2567 of 17th July to complete
my records.

4.30

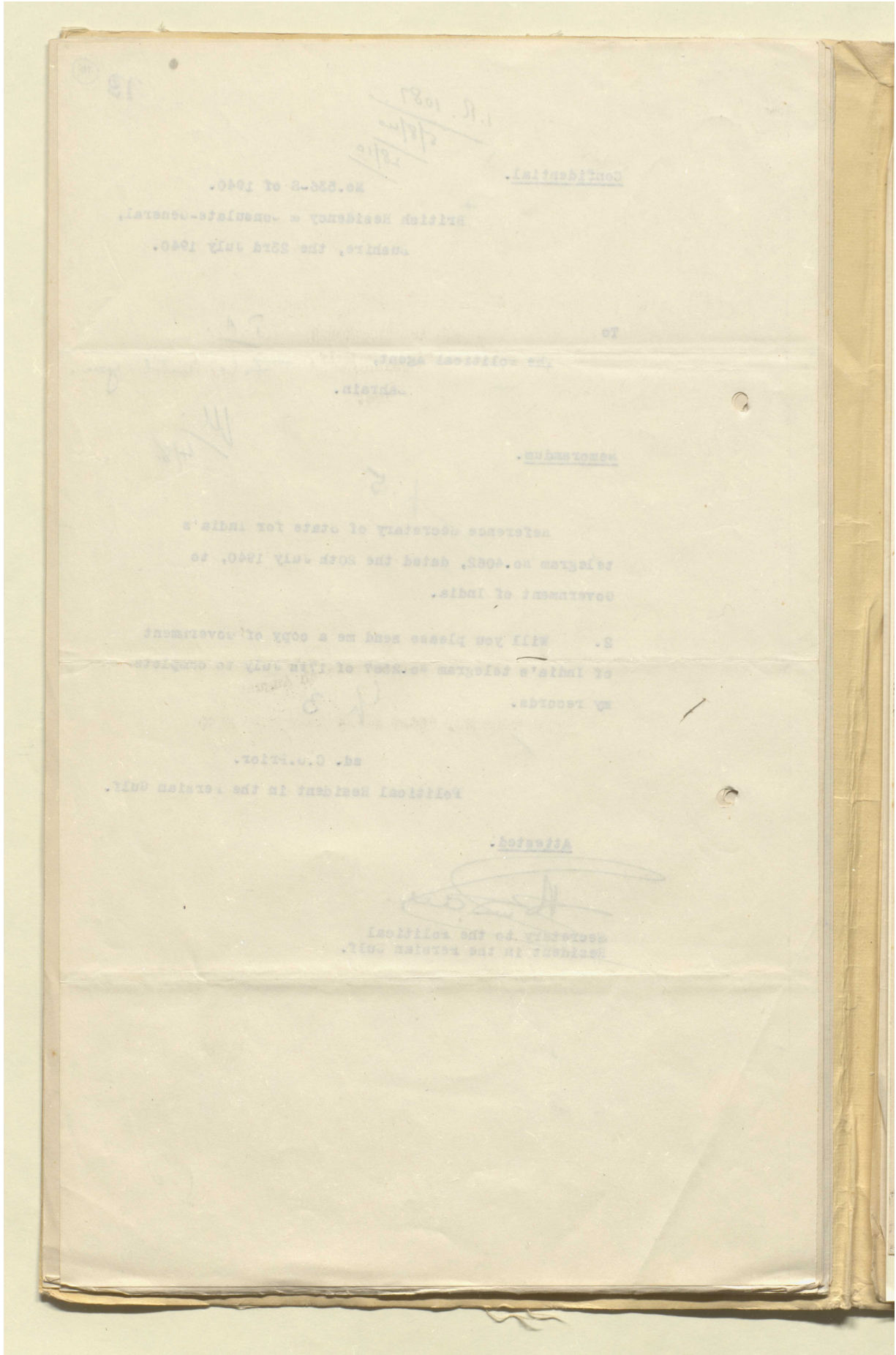
sd. C.G.Prior.

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Attested.

Secretary to the Political
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [14v] (28/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [15r] (29/44)

14 (15)

No. T/113-28/10

at Ziarat
The Political Agent, Bahrain, Presents his compliments to:-

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

and has the honour to send him a copy of the undermentioned document (s)


THE AGENCY,
BAHRAIN, PERSIAN GULF.
Camp Ziarat

Dated 20th August 1940

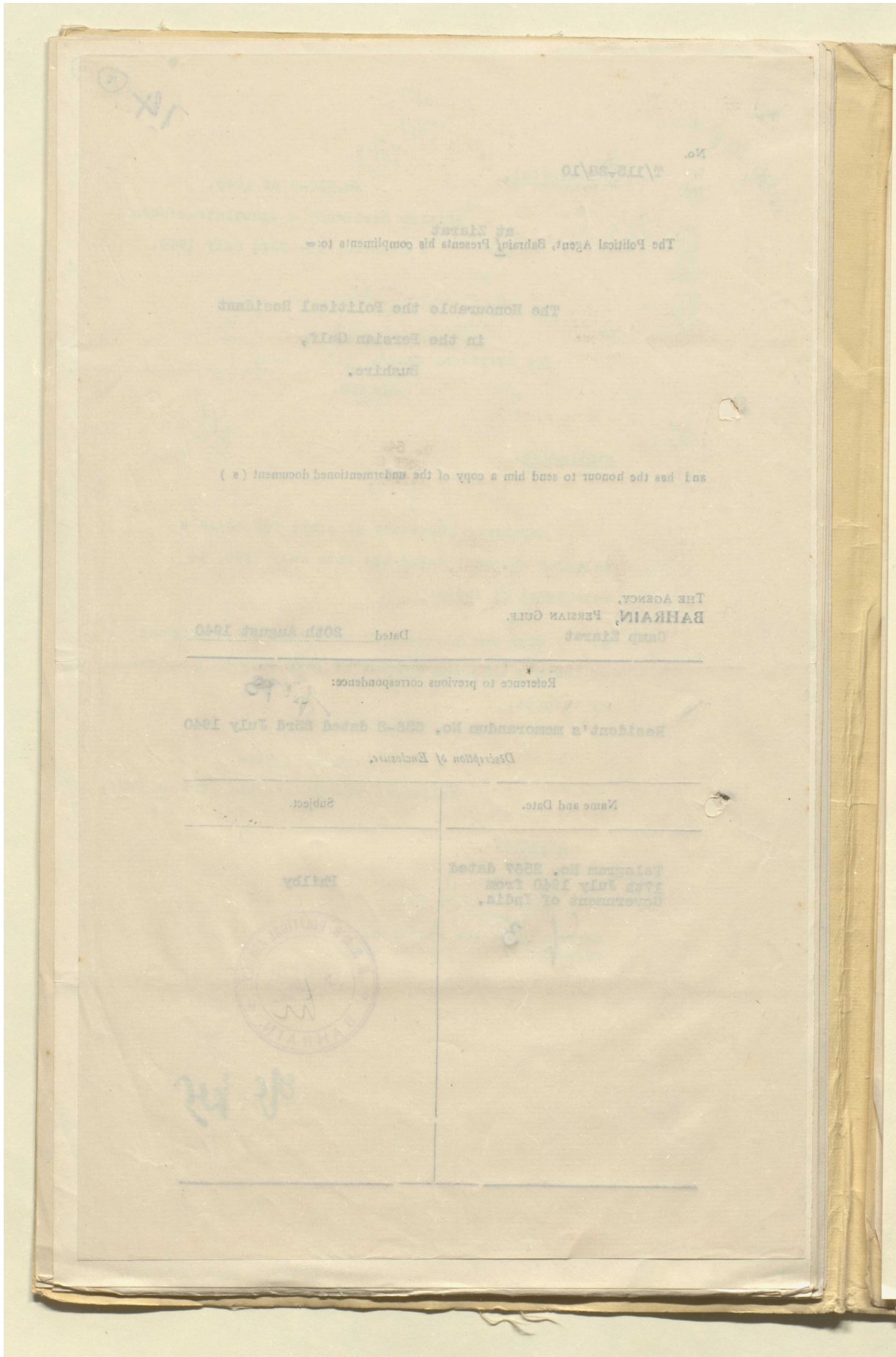
Reference to previous correspondence: 13

Resident's memorandum No. 536-S dated 23rd July 1940

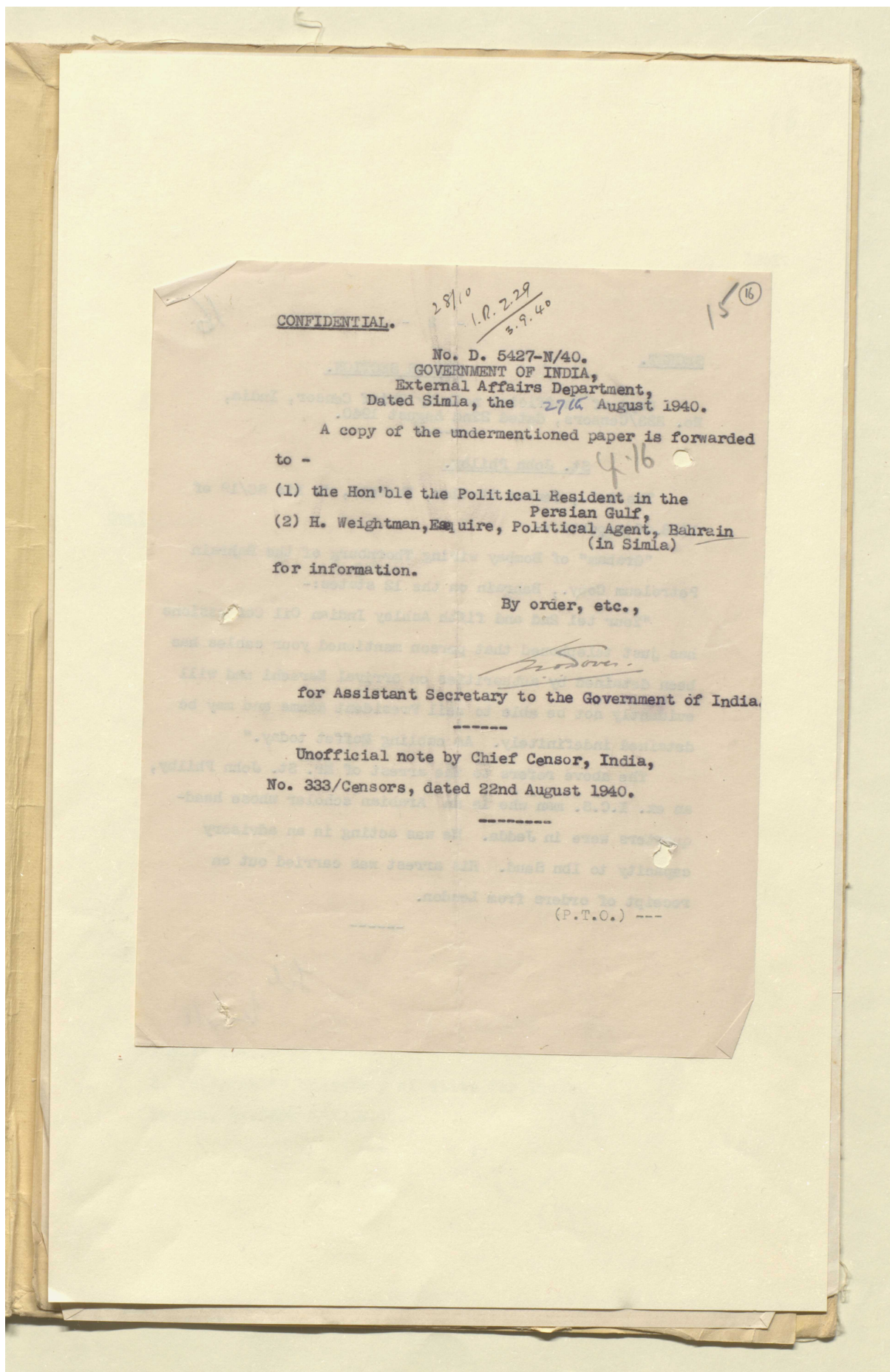
Description of Enclosure.

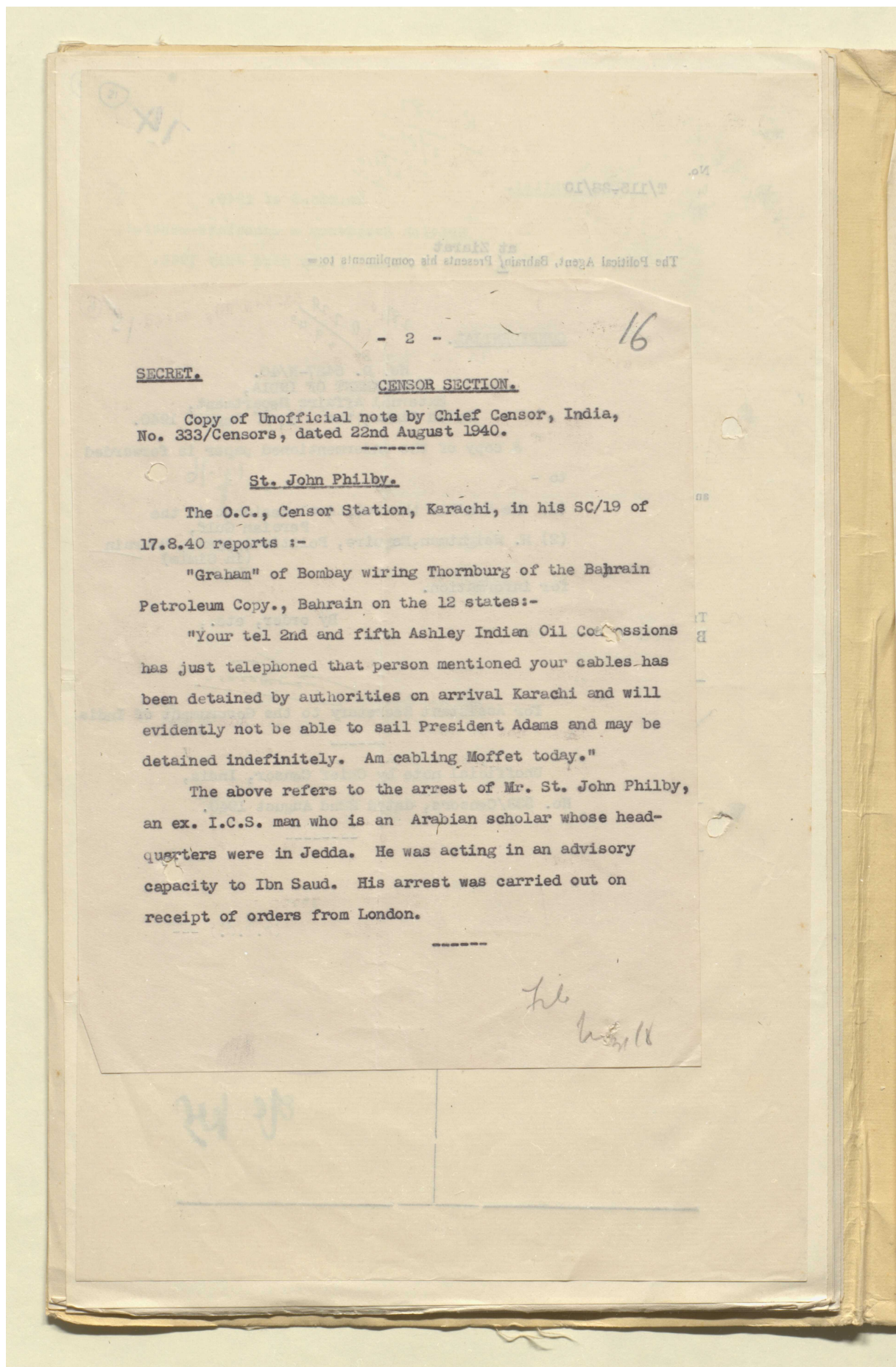
Name and Date.	Subject.
Telegram No. 2567 dated 17th July 1940 from Government of India. 4.3	Philby  etc kys

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [15v] (30/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [16r] (31/44)





'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [17r] (33/44)

Confidential.

No.F.248-N/40. 28/10

Government of India. I.R. 2.35
10.9.40 17 (17)

External Affairs Department,

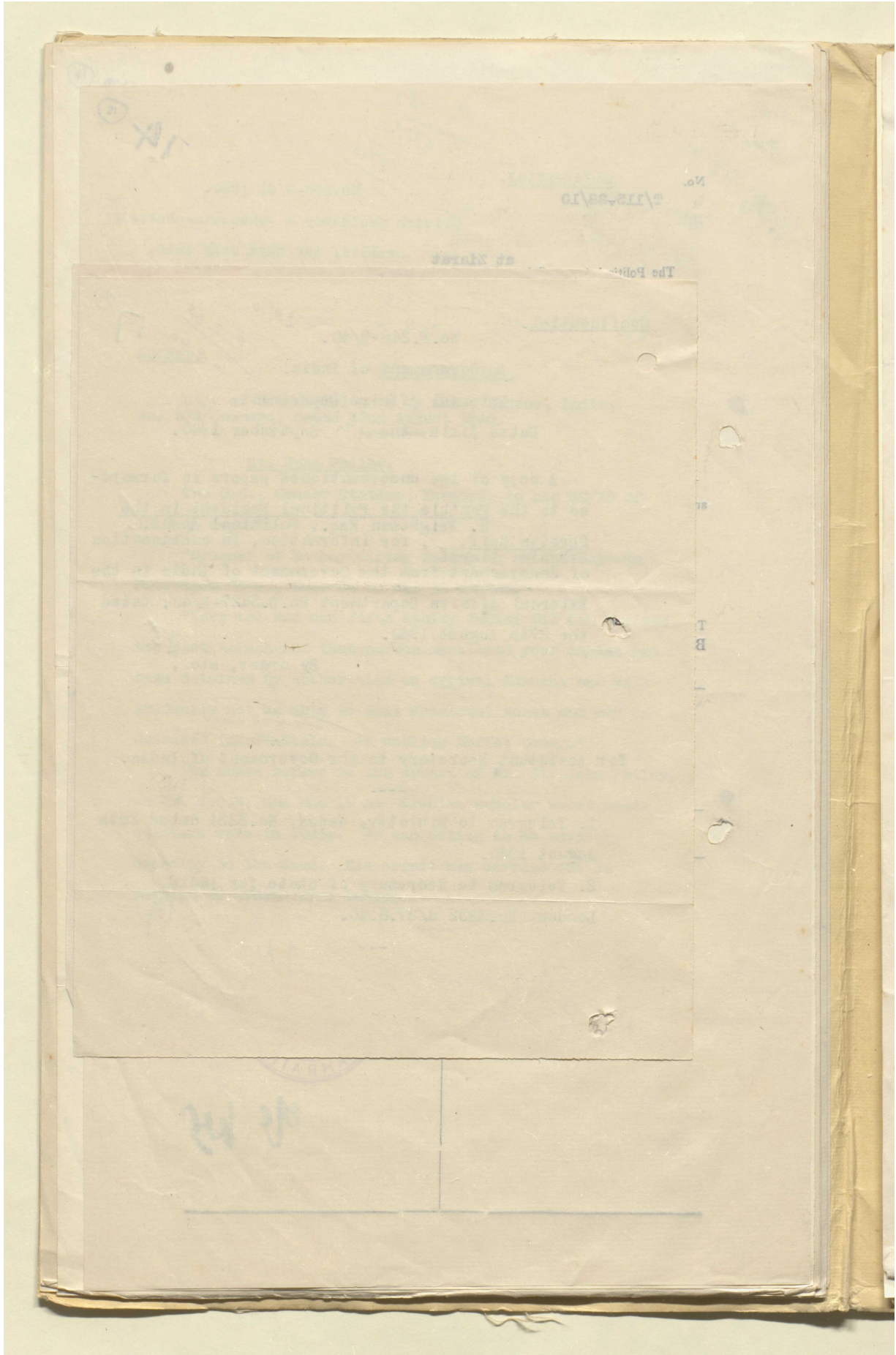
Dated Simla, the 4th September 1940.

A copy of the undermentioned papers is forward-
ed to the Hon'ble the Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf. H. Weightman Esq., Political Agent,
Bahrain, Ziarat, for information, in continuation
of endorsement from the Government of India in the
External Affairs Department No.D.5427-N/40, dated
the 27th August 1940.

By order, etc., 15

[Signature]
for Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

1. Telegram to Minister, Jeddah, No.3231 dated 25th August 1940. 18
2. Telegram to Secretary of State for India, London, No.3252 d/27.8.40. 19



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [18r] (35/44)

18 (18)
3231.

Telegram KM No. 3231 dated 25th August 1940.
From Foreign, Simla.
To Minister, Jeddah
(Repeated India Office, London)

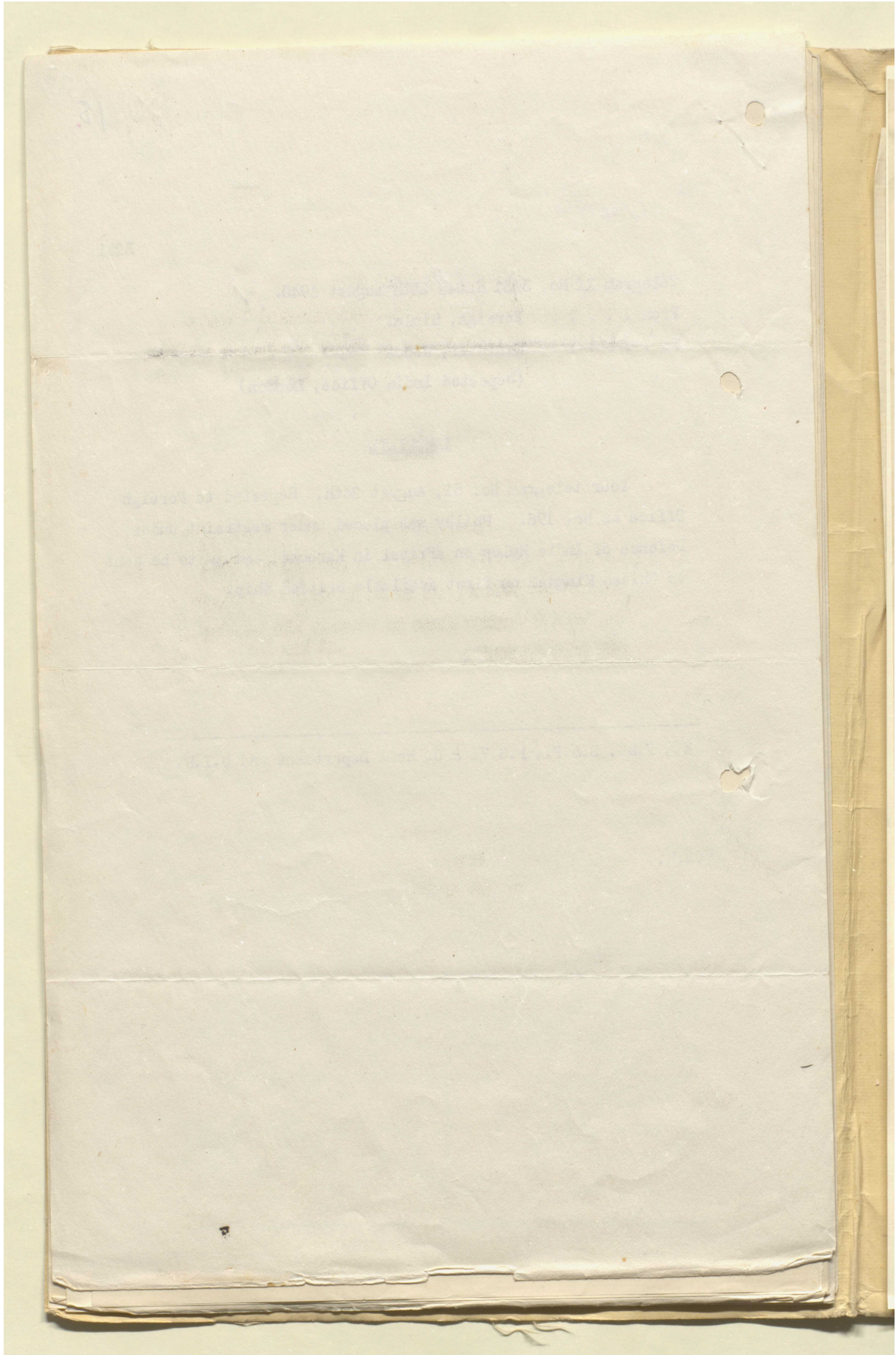
IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 51, August 24th. Repeated to Foreign Office as No. 196. Philby was placed under restraint under Defence of India Rules on arrival in Karachi, and is to be sent to United Kingdom on first available British ship. ✓

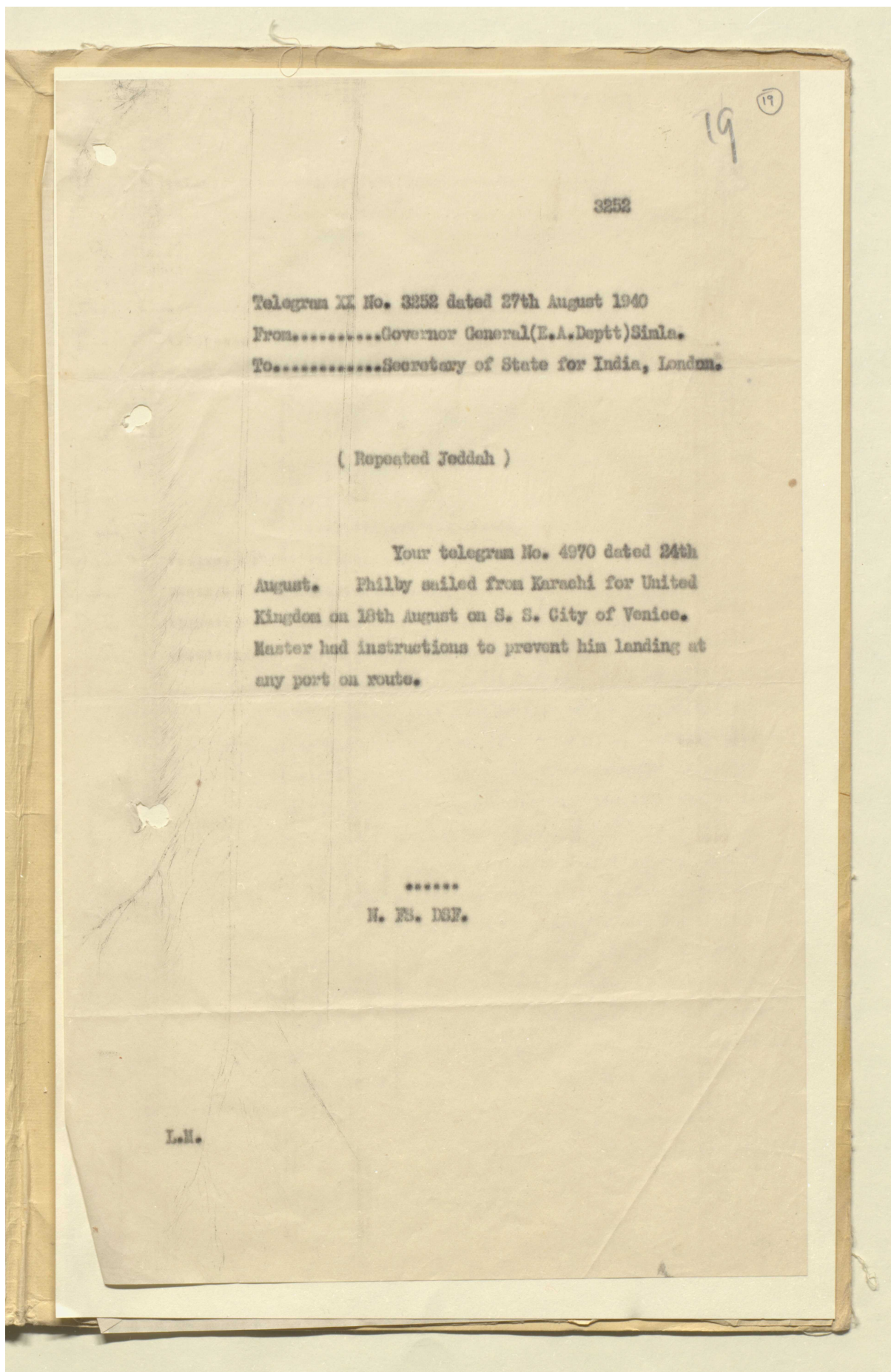
N., F.S., D.S.F., P.S.V. & O. Home Department and D.I.B.

W.S.H.

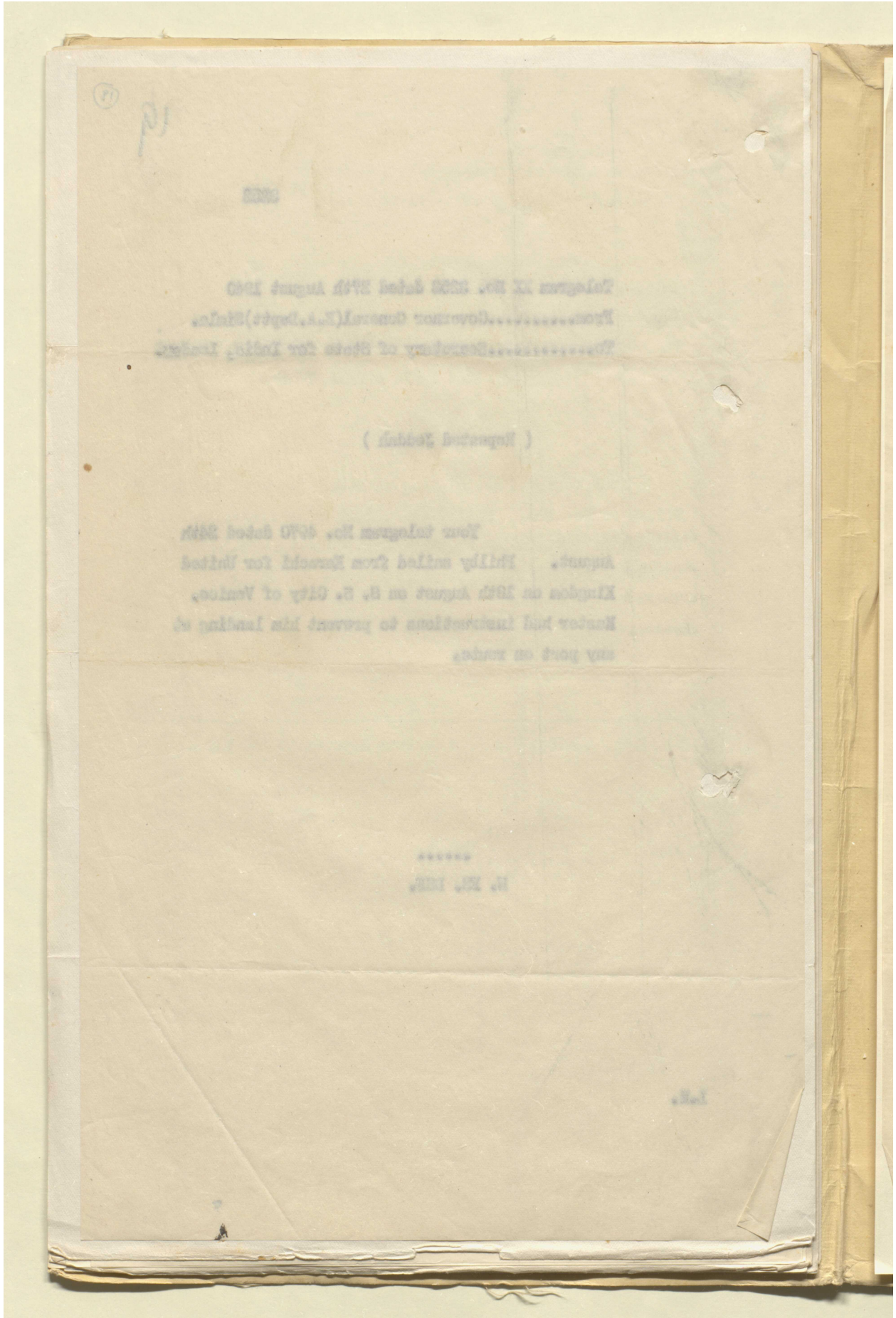
'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [18v] (36/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [19r] (37/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [19v] (38/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [20r] (39/44)

(No. M. 844)

*Copy given to
Passport Office*

Passport Office,
Foreign Office,
June 27th, 1940.

20

For official use only.

HARRY ST. JOHN BRIDGER PHILBY

Holds passport No.395768, issued at London on the
27th November 1937.

Born Ceylon, 3rd April, 1885

Height, 5 ft. 8 ins.

Colour of eyes, blue

Colour of hair, brown.

This man is now in Saudi Arabia. He was formerly
a member of the Indian Civil Service, from which he retired
in 1925. Since that time he has been a source of embarrass-
ment to His Majesty's Government owing to his anti-British
attitude. Since the outbreak of the present war this
has become more acute and a serious view is taken of his
disloyal and defeatist propaganda.

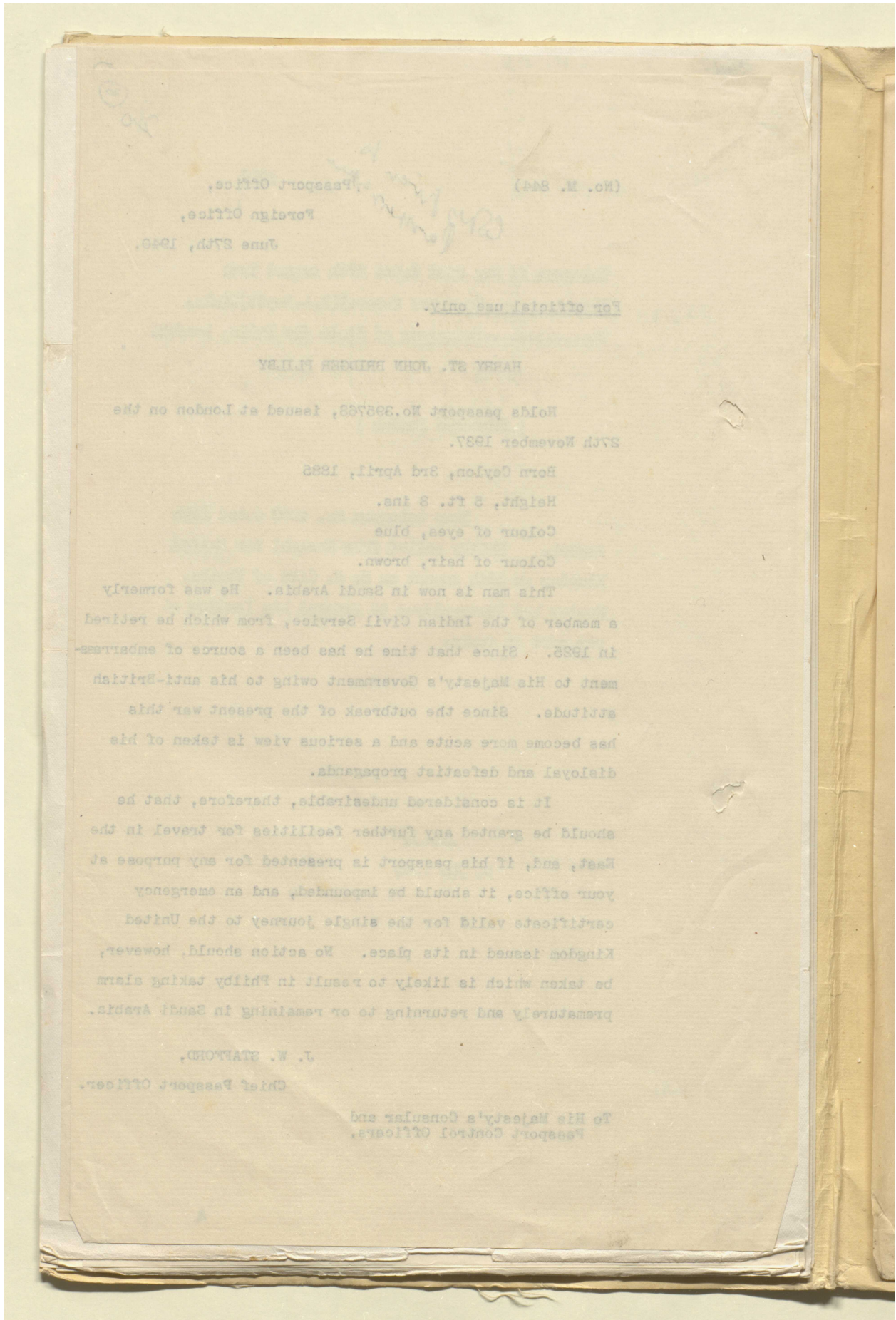
It is considered undesirable, therefore, that he
should be granted any further facilities for travel in the
East, and, if his passport is presented for any purpose at
your office, it should be impounded, and an emergency
certificate valid for the single journey to the United
Kingdom issued in its place. No action should, however,
be taken which is likely to result in Philby taking alarm
prematurely and returning to or remaining in Saudi Arabia.

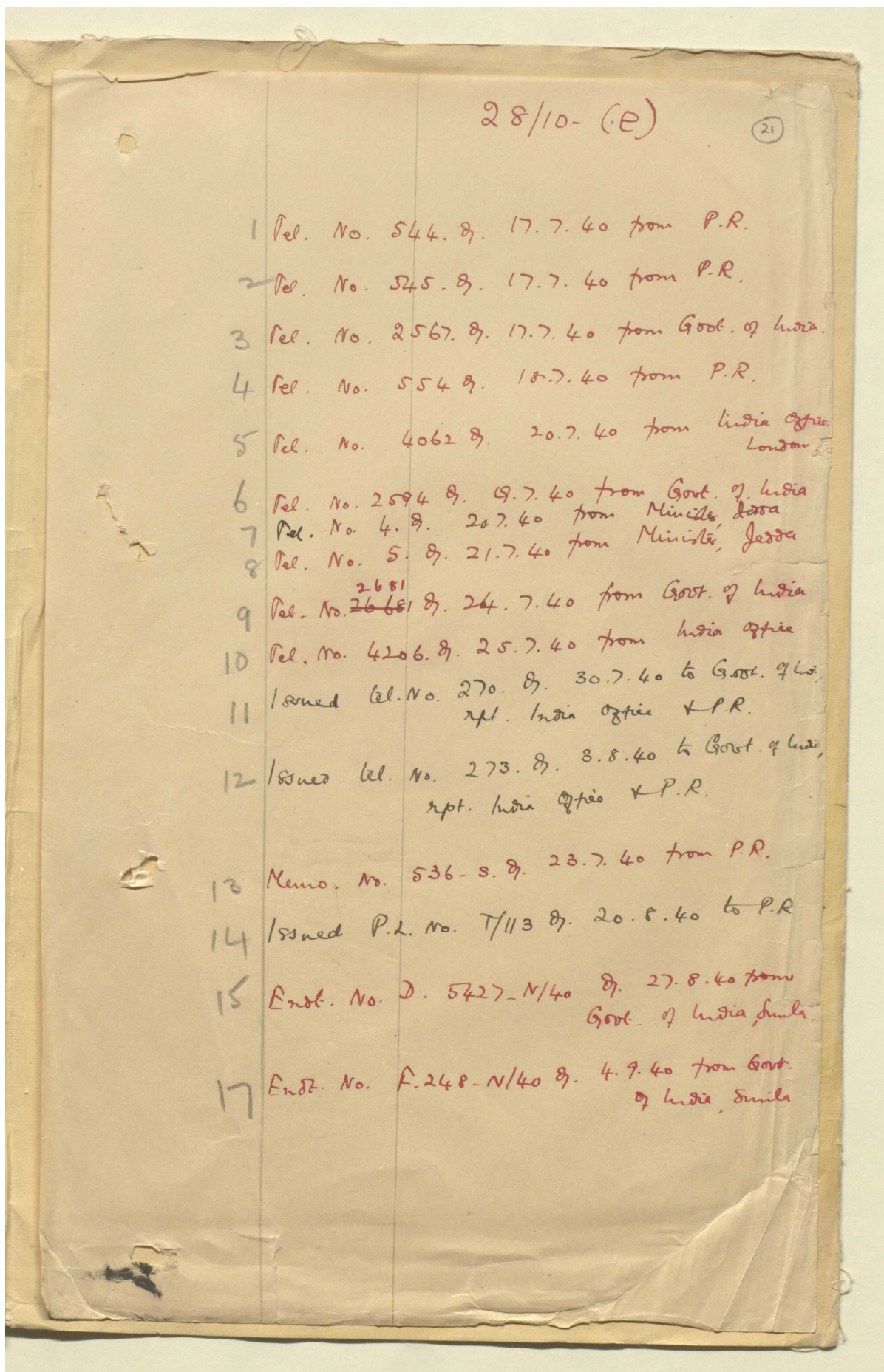
J. W. STAFFORD,

Chief Passport Officer.

To His Majesty's Consular and
Passport Control Officers.

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [20v] (40/44)



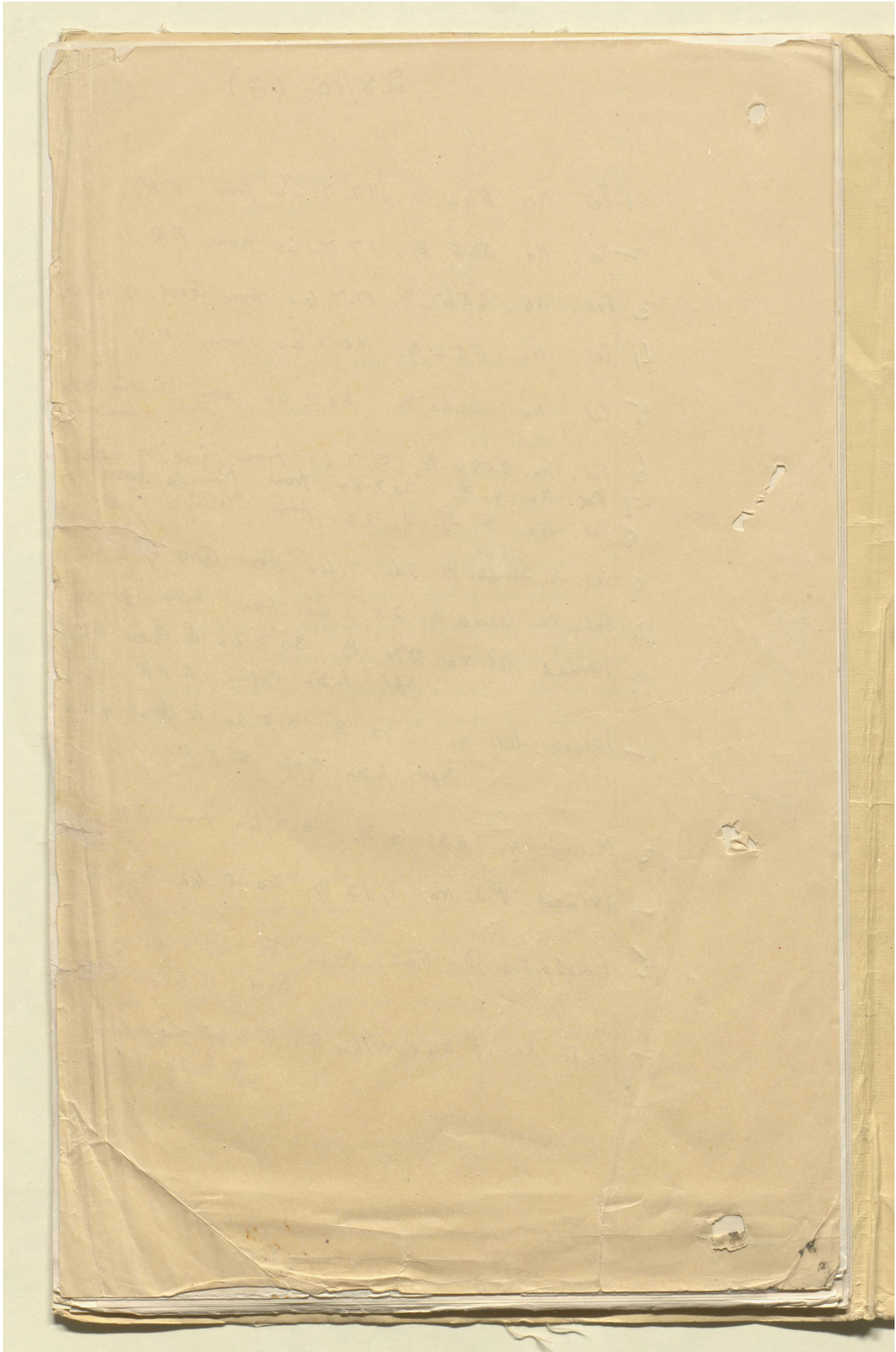


28/10-(e)

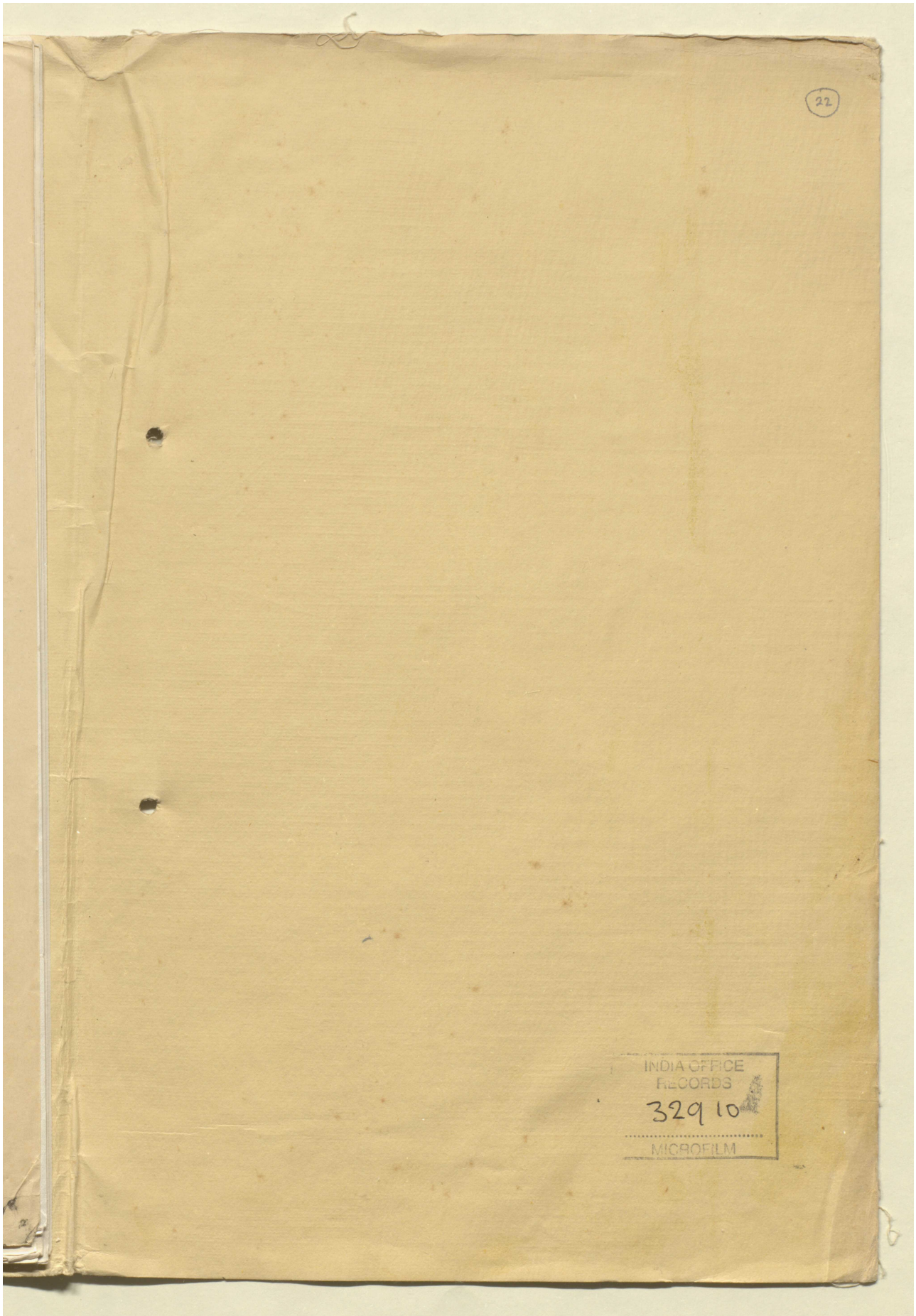
(21)

- 1 Tel. No. 544. 8. 17.7.40 from P.R.
- 2 Tel. No. 525. 8. 17.7.40 from P.R.
- 3 Tel. No. 2567. 8. 17.7.40 from Govt. of India.
- 4 Tel. No. 554. 8. 18.7.40 from P.R.
- 5 Tel. No. 4062. 8. 20.7.40 from India Office
London
- 6 Tel. No. 2594. 8. 19.7.40 from Govt. of India
- 7 Tel. No. 4. 8. 20.7.40 from Ministe, Jeddah
- 8 Tel. No. 5. 8. 21.7.40 from Ministe, Jeddah
- 9 Tel. No. ²⁶⁸¹~~26681~~. 8. 24.7.40 from Govt. of India
- 10 Tel. No. 4206. 8. 25.7.40 from India Office
- 11 Issued tel. No. 270. 8. 30.7.40 to Govt. of India
rpt. India Office & P.R.
- 12 Issued tel. No. 273. 8. 3.8.40 to Govt. of India
rpt. India Office & P.R.
- 13 Memo. No. 536-s. 8. 23.7.40 from P.R.
- 14 Issued P.L. No. T/113. 8. 20.8.40 to P.R.
- 15 Encl. No. D. 5427-N/40. 8. 27.8.40 from
Govt. of India, Simla.
- 17 Encl. No. F.248-N/40. 8. 4.9.40 from Govt.
of India, Simla

'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [21v] (42/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [back-i] (43/44)



'File 28/10-(e) War. St. John Philby' [back] (44/44)

