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‘File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah’

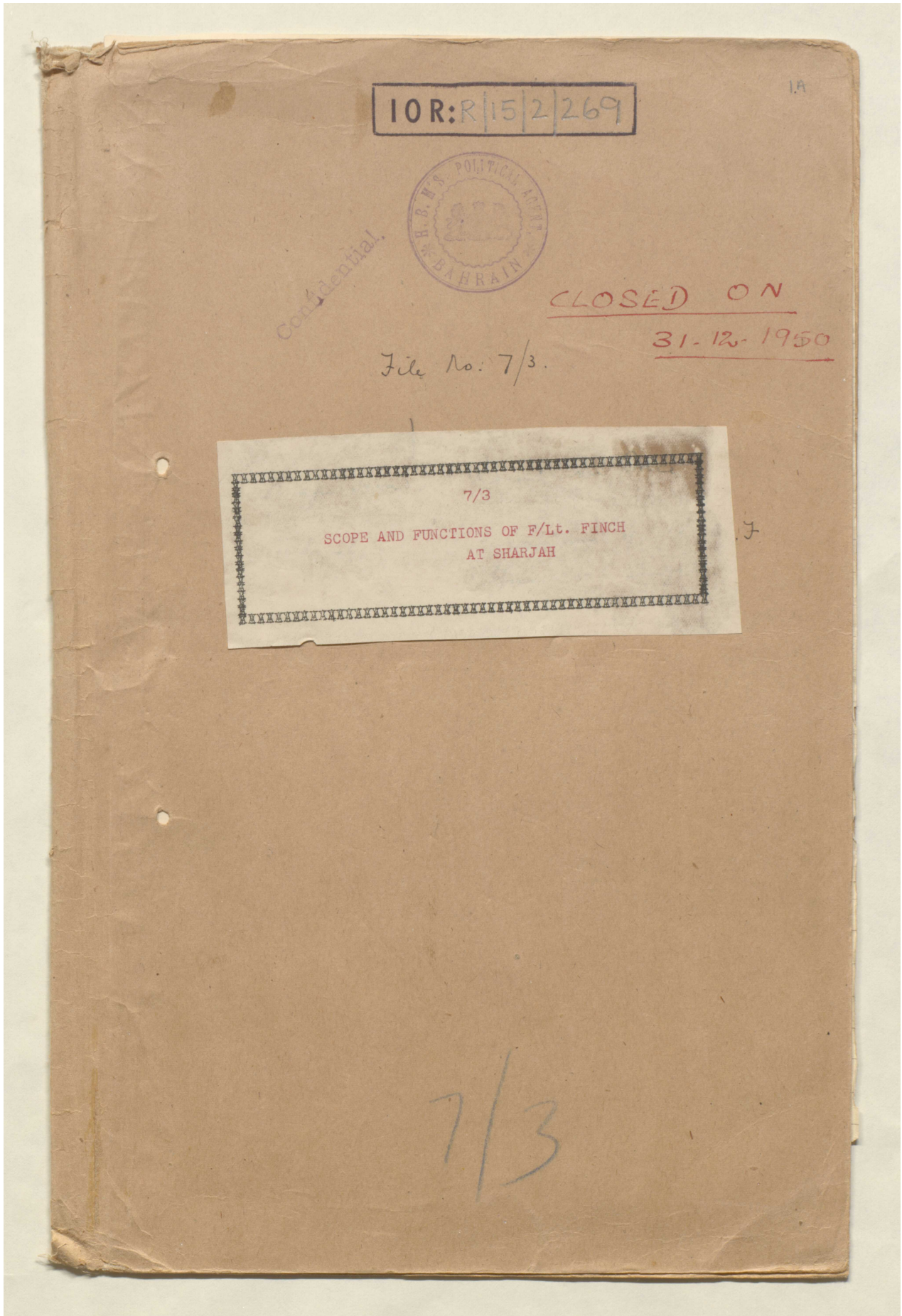
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/R/15/2/269
Date(s)	24 Nov 1932-13 Jun 1933 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
Extent and Format	1 file (7 folios)
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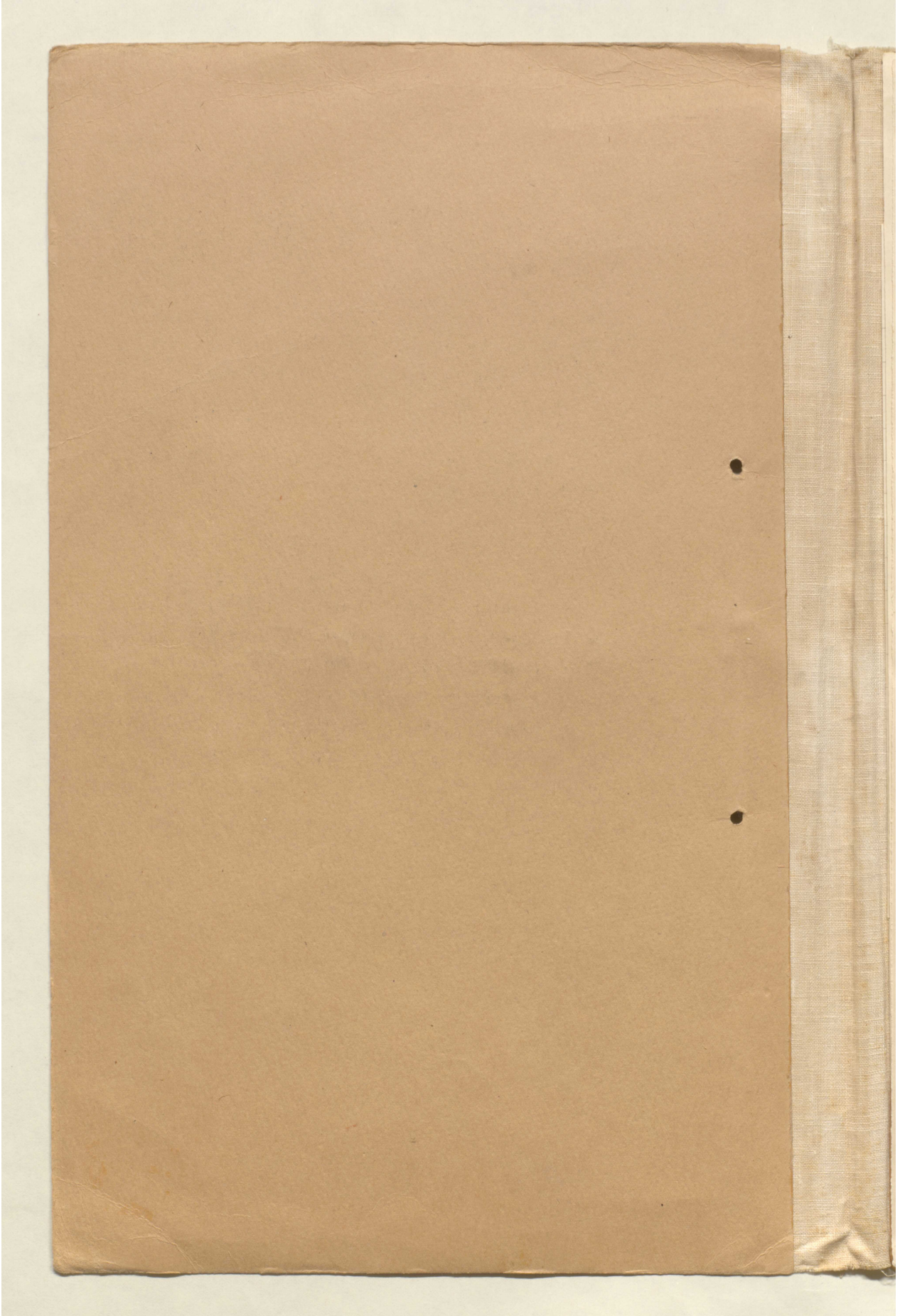


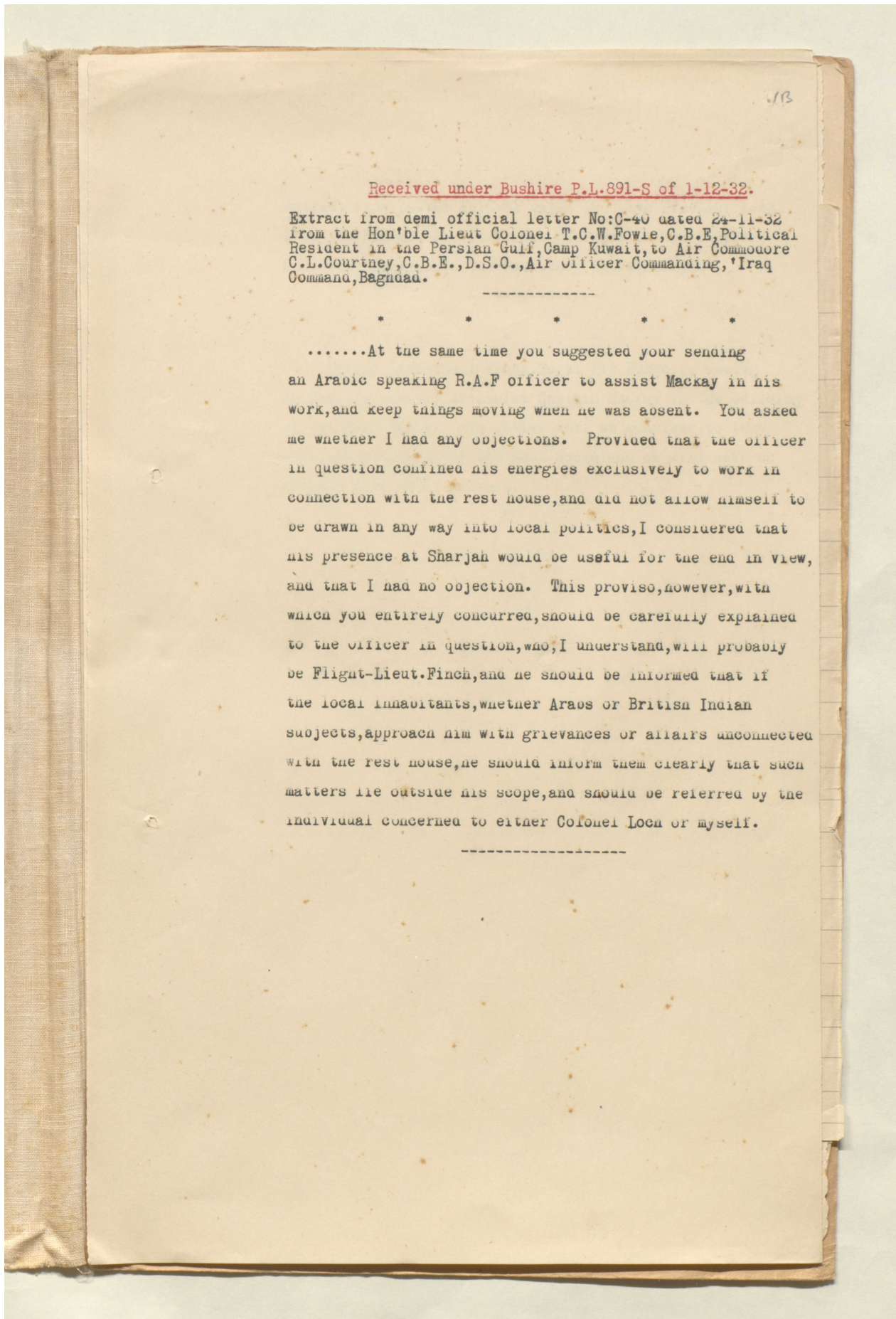
About this record

Correspondence in the file relates to the appointment of Flight Lieutenant Finch of the Royal Air Force to Sharjah, to assist in the construction of the rest house at the Sharjah aerodrome. Fluent in Arabic, Finch was warned by the Political Resident (Lieutenant-Colonel Trenchard Craven Fowle) not to involve himself in domestic politics (folio 1B), and by Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr of Sharjah to not travel into the interior (folios 3, 4). Office notes at the rear of the file suggest that the warning from Shaikh Sultan came after Finch had taken a truck into the interior. A note from Finch, dated 30 May 1933 states that illness has forced four men (presumably including himself) back to Basrah [Basra].

'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [front] (1/18)





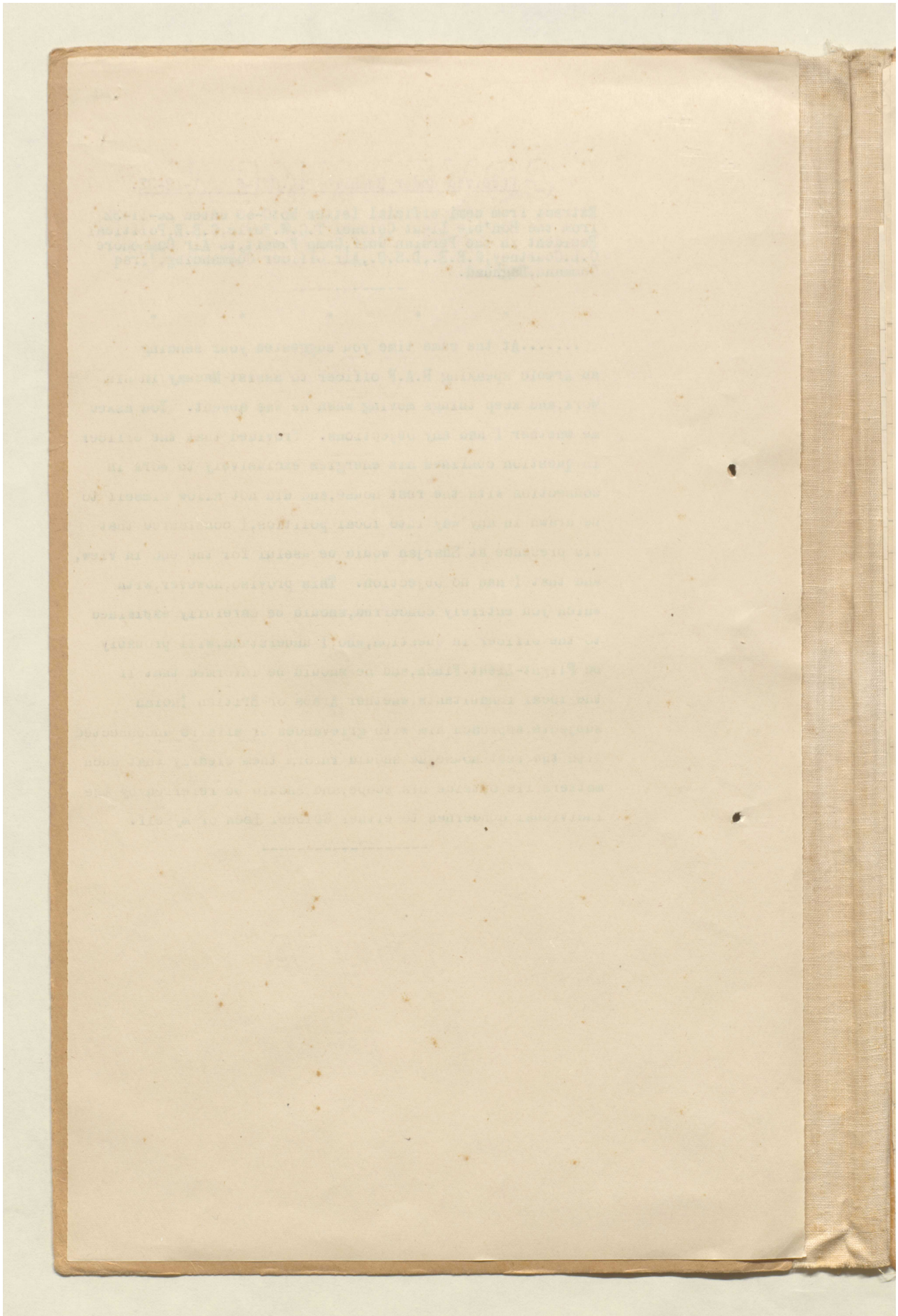


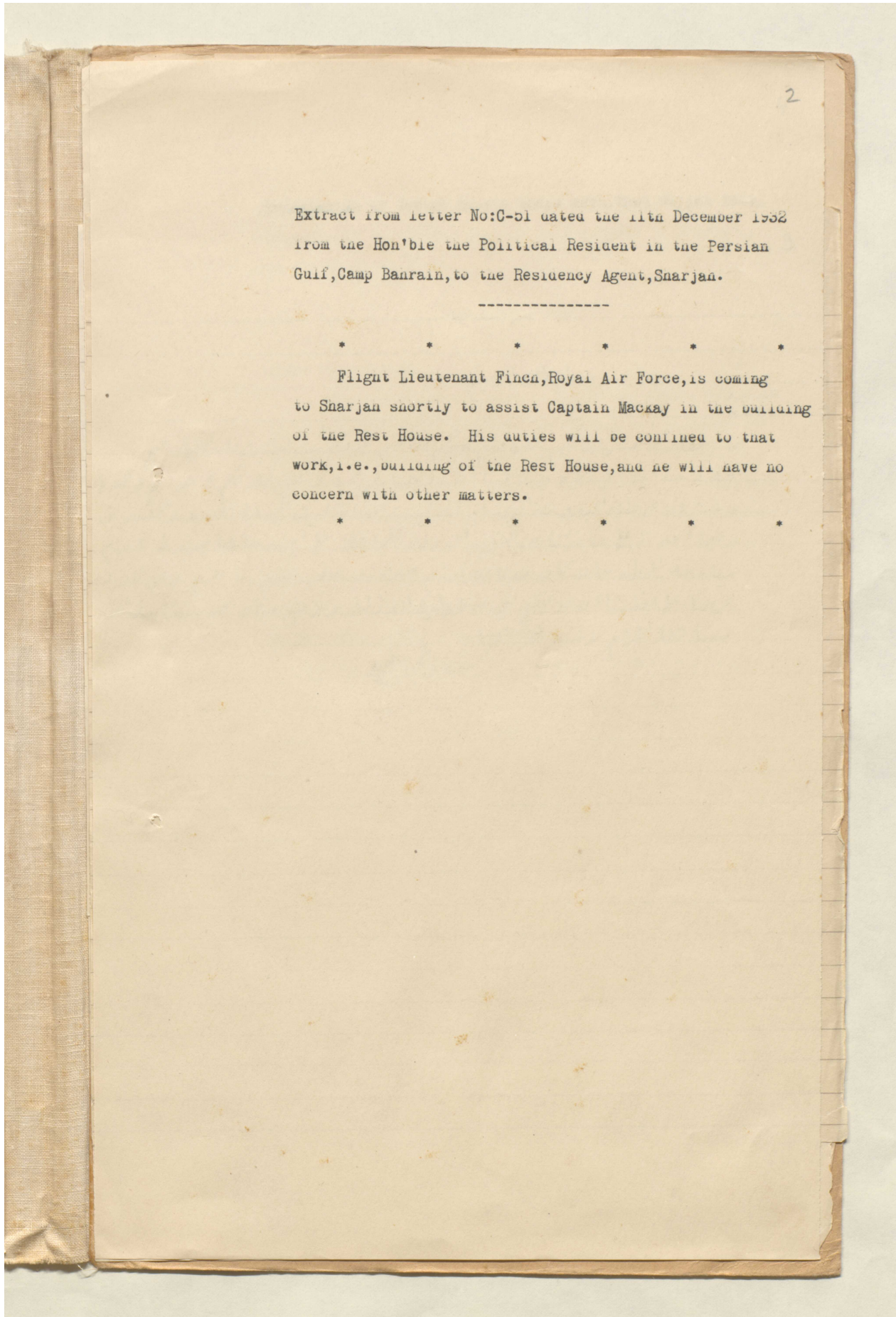
Received under Bushire P.L.891-S of 1-12-32.

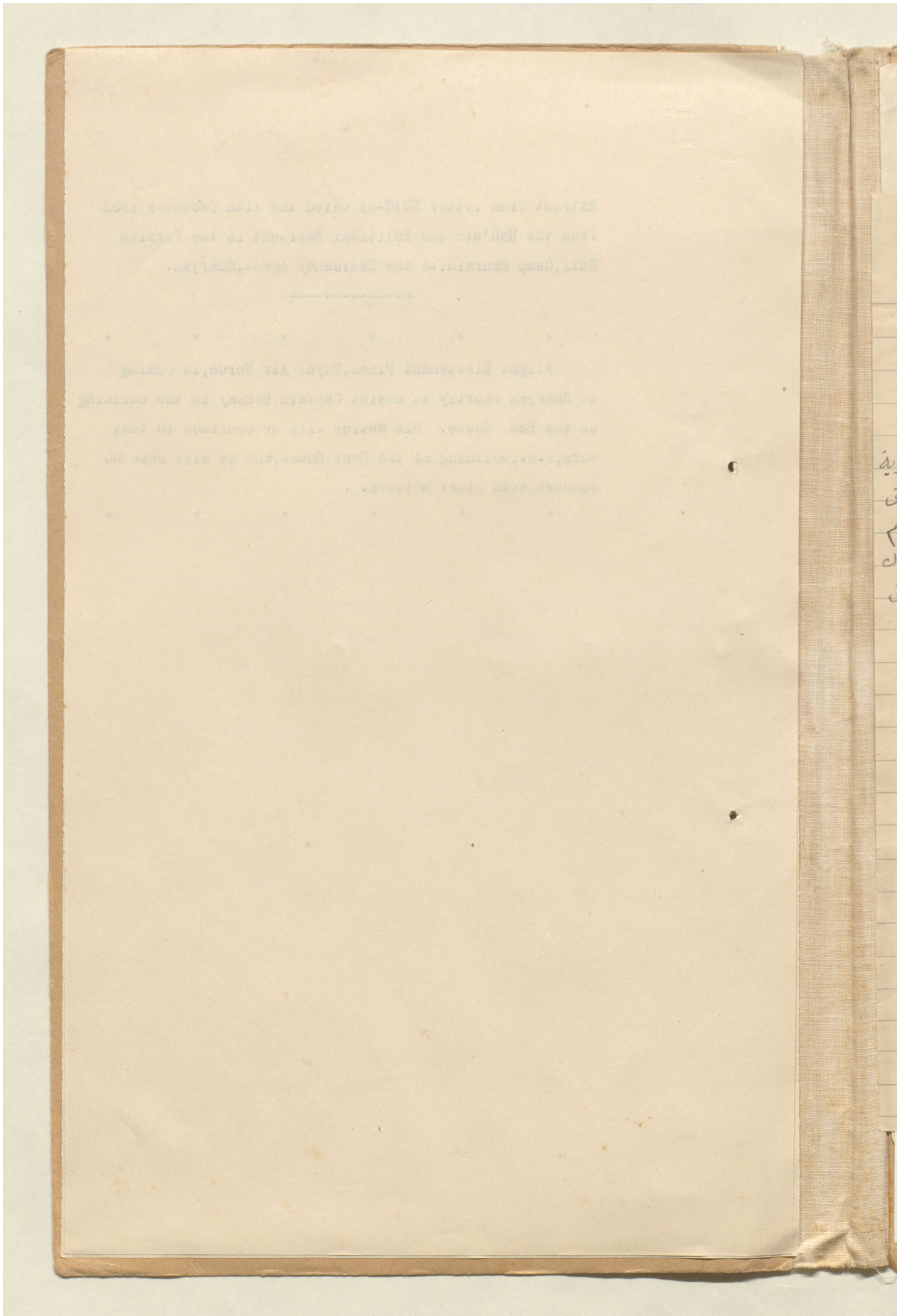
Extract from demi official letter No:C-40 dated 24-11-32 from the Hon'ble Lieut Colonel T.C.W.Powie,C.B.E,Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,Camp Kuwait, to Air Commodore C.L.Courtney,C.B.E.,D.S.O.,Air Officer Commanding, Iraq Command,Baghdad.

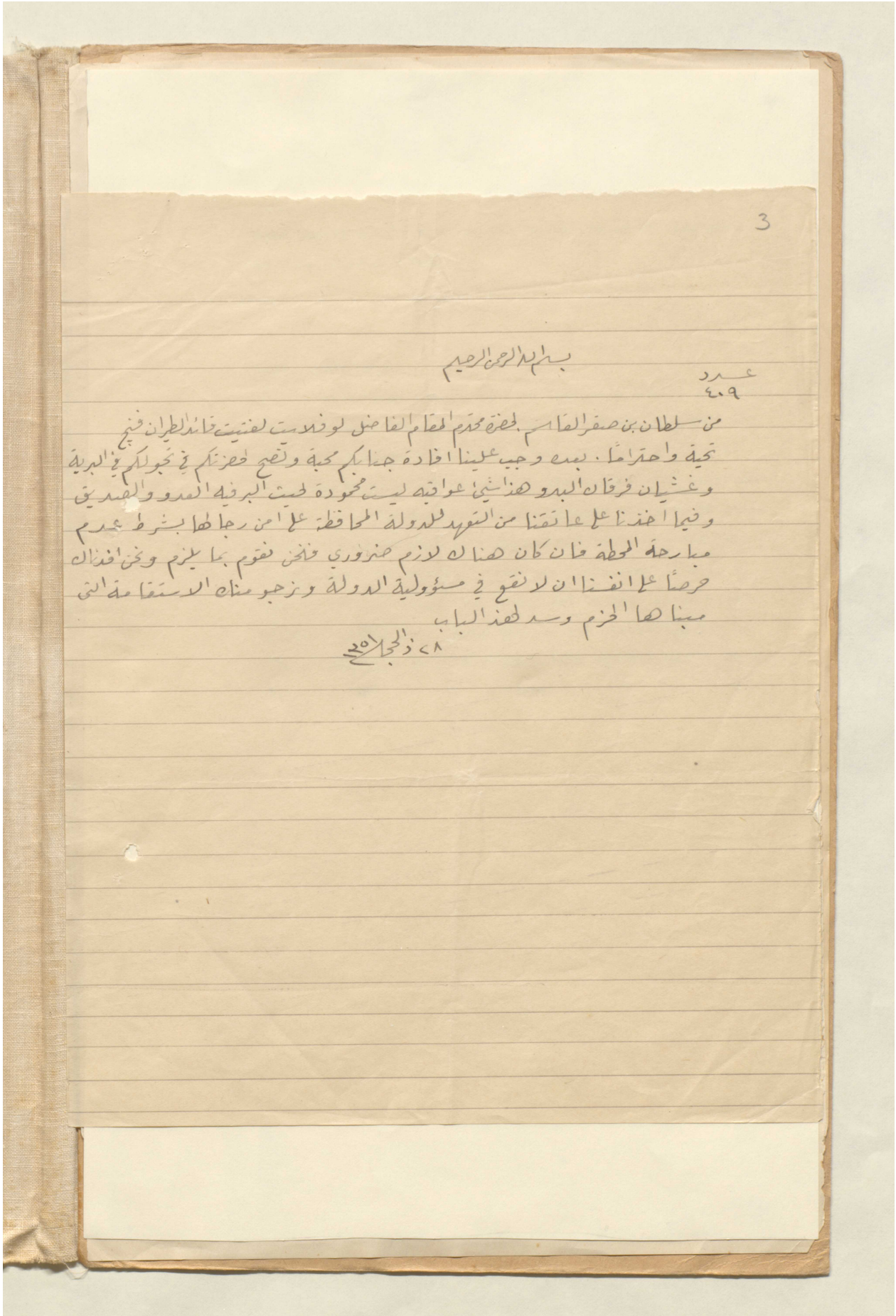
* * * * *
.....At the same time you suggested your sending an Arabic speaking R.A.F officer to assist Mackay in his work, and keep things moving when he was absent. You asked me whether I had any objections. Provided that the officer in question confined his energies exclusively to work in connection with the rest house, and did not allow himself to be drawn in any way into local politics, I considered that his presence at Sharjah would be useful for the end in view, and that I had no objection. This proviso, however, with which you entirely concurred, should be carefully explained to the officer in question, who, I understand, will probably be Flight-Lieut. Finch, and he should be informed that if the local inhabitants, whether Arabs or British Indian subjects, approach him with grievances or affairs unconnected with the rest house, he should inform them clearly that such matters lie outside his scope, and should be referred by the individual concerned to either Colonel Loch or myself.

'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [1bv] (4/18)









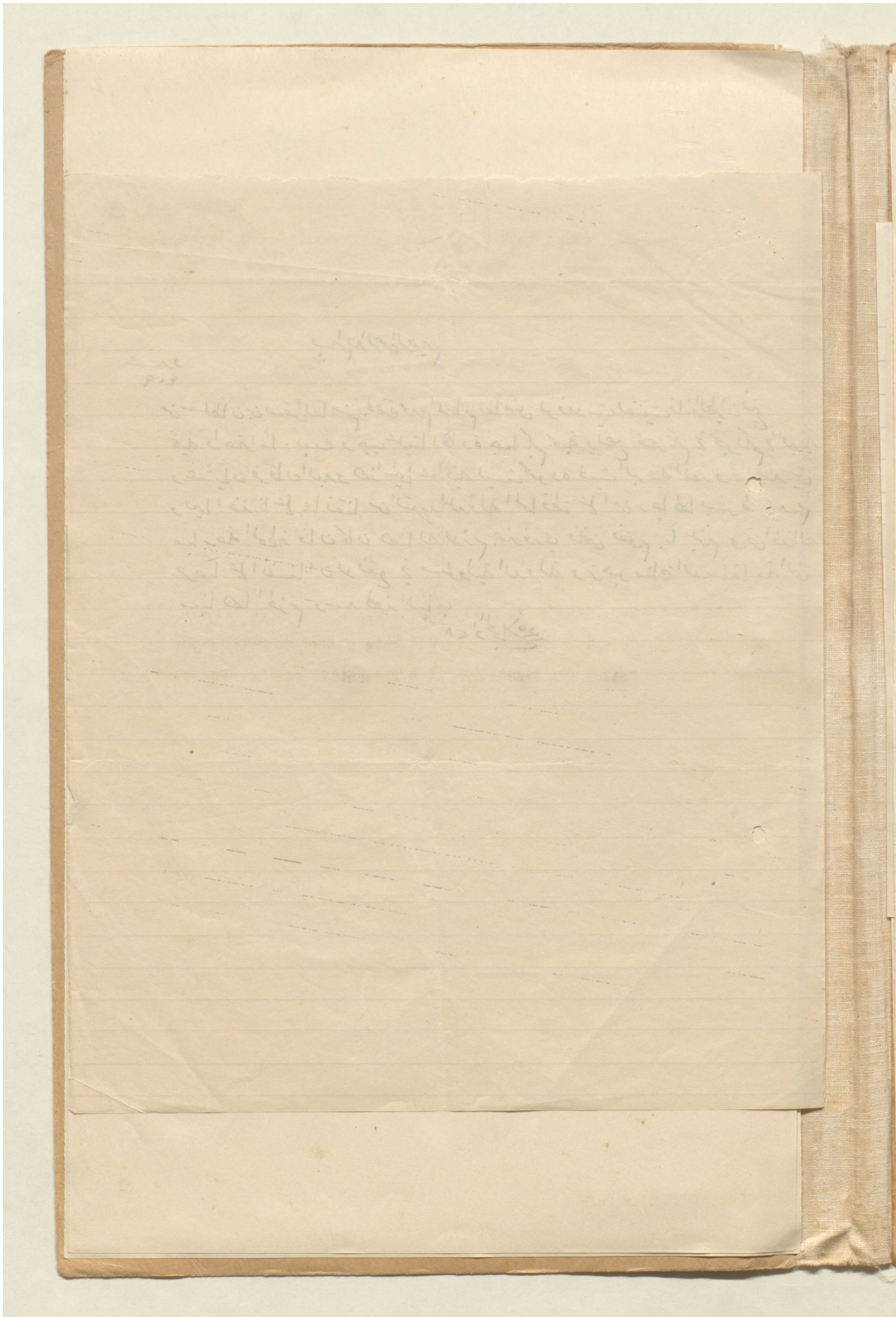
3

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

عدد
٤٩

من سلطان بن صقر لفا اسم لفضة محمد المقام الفاضل لوفديت لفتيت فلند الطران فني
تحية واحتراما . بعد وجب علينا افادة جنابكم محبة وتفتح لفضتكم في تحويلكم في البرية
وغشيان فرقان البدو هذاشي عواقبه ليست محمودة لحيث البرفيه المدو والهديق
وفيا اخذنا علا تقنا من التوهد للدولة المحافطة علا امن رجا لها بشرط عدم
مبارحة الموطاة فان كان هناك لازم ضروري فالحق نقوم بما يلزم ونحن افذالك
حرصاً علا انفسنا ان لا تقع في مسؤولية الدولة وزجهو مناك الاستقامة التي
مبنا لها الخزم وسد لهذا الباب

٨ ذ الح ١٩٥٥



4

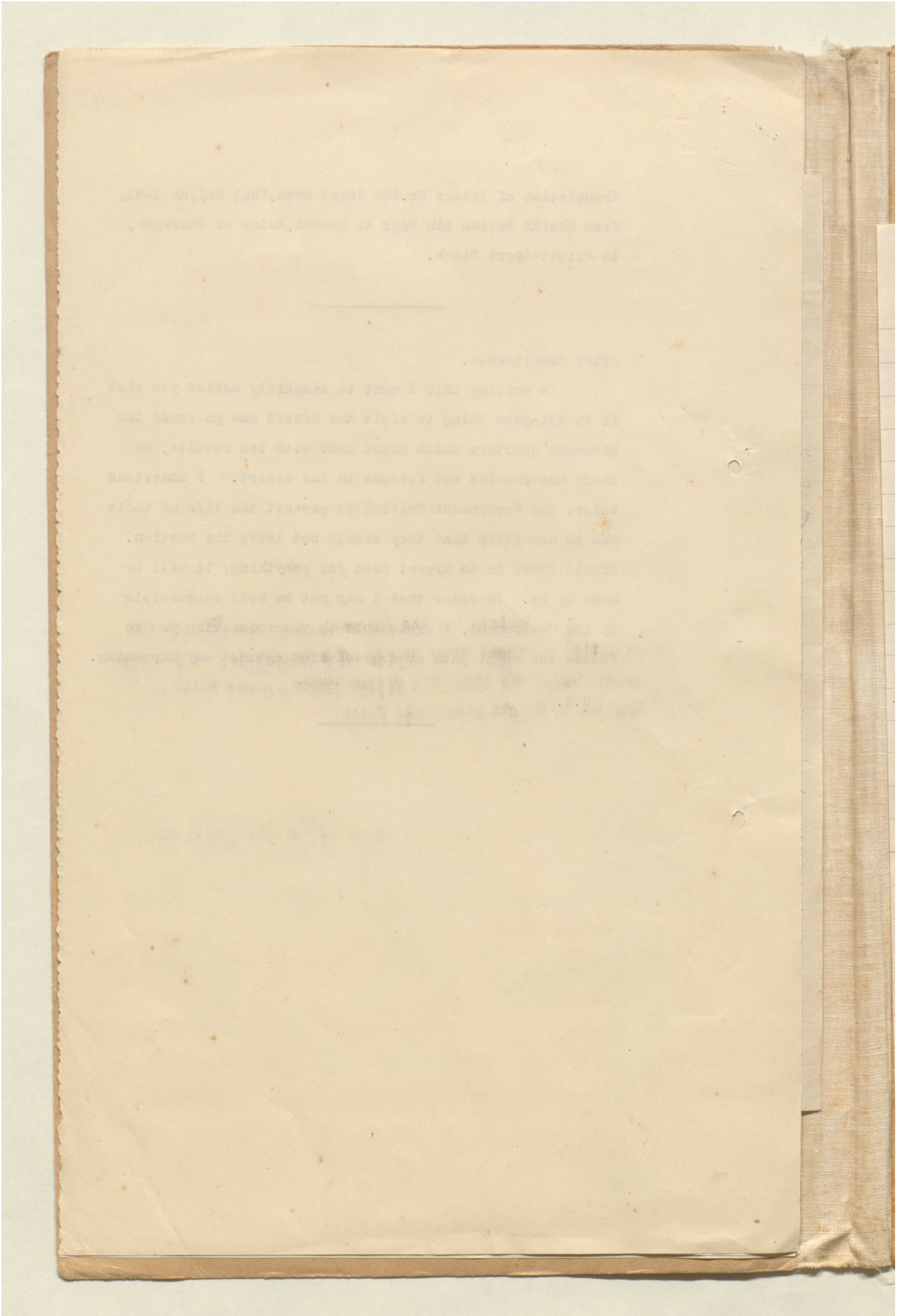
Translation of letter No.409 dated 28th, Thul Hijjah 1351,
from Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharagh,
to Flight-Lieut Finch.

After Compliments.

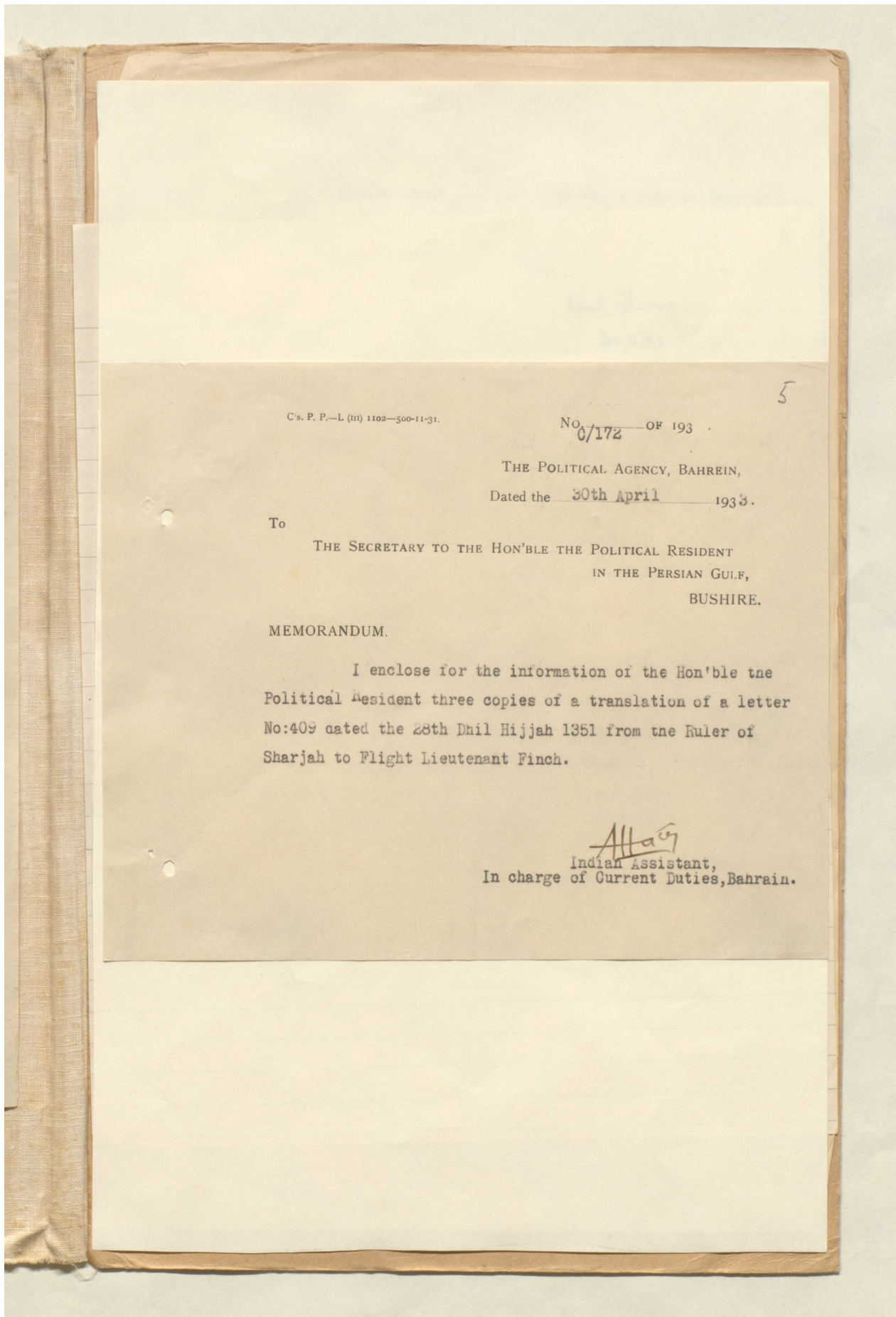
In writing this I want to, sincerely advise you that
it is not a good thing to visit the desert and go round the
bedouins' quarters which might come with bad results, as
there are enemies and friends in the desert. I undertook
before the Government (British) to protect the life of their
men on condition that they should not leave the Station.
Should there be an urgent need for anything, it will be
done by me. In order that I may not be held responsible
by the Government, I wrote this to you requesting you to
follow the right path as a precaution against any happening.

U.E.

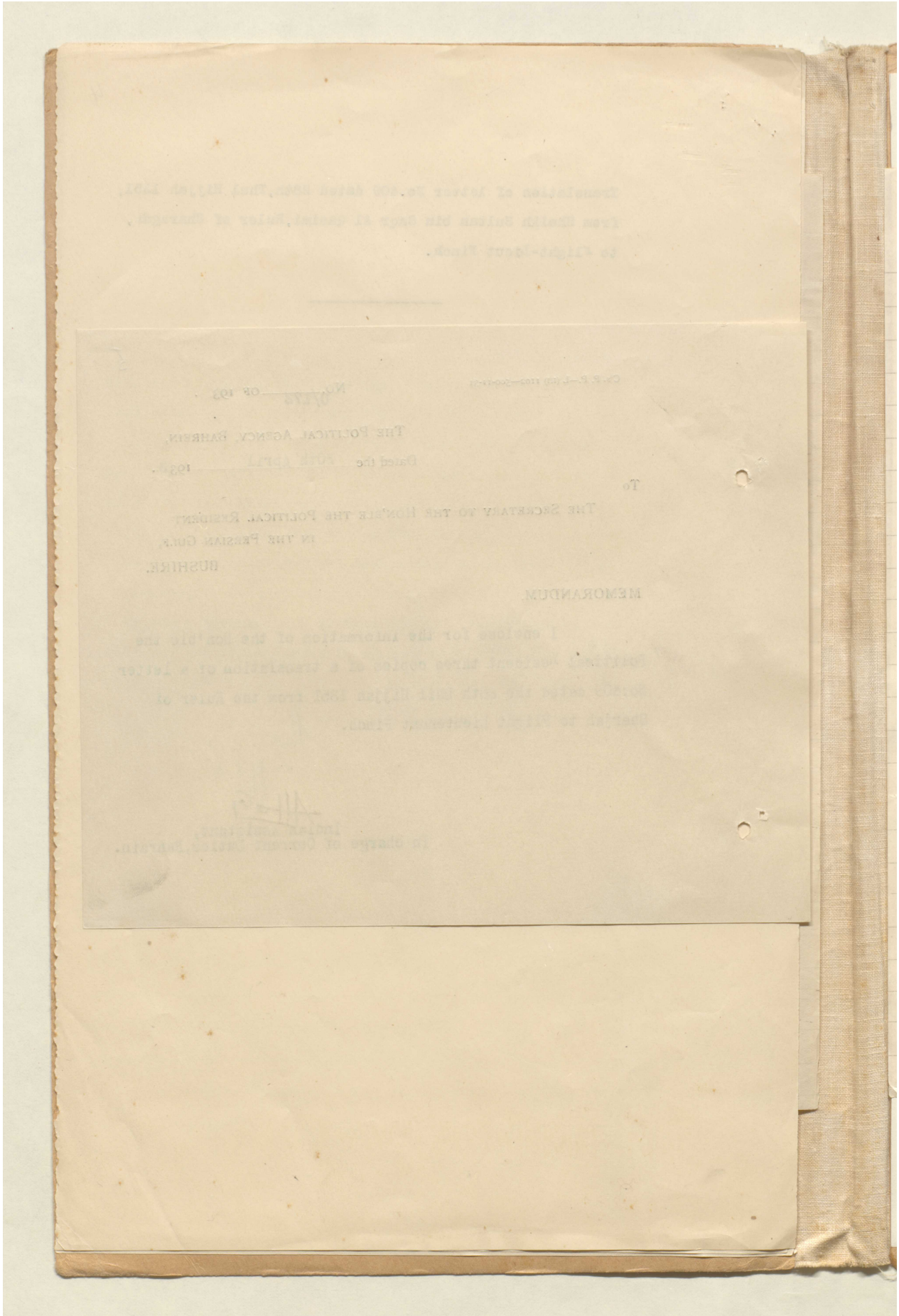
'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [4v] (10/18)

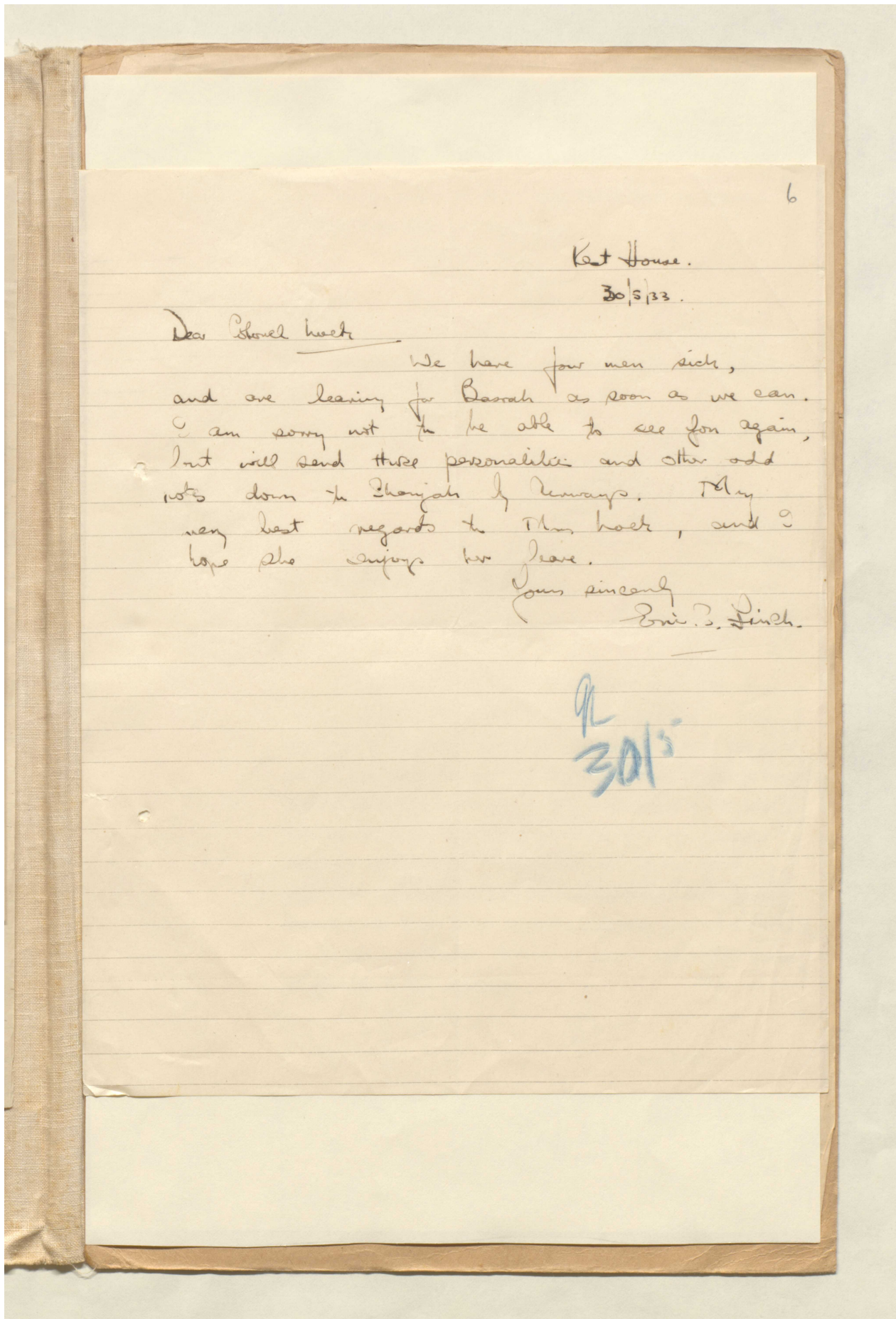


'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [5r] (11/18)

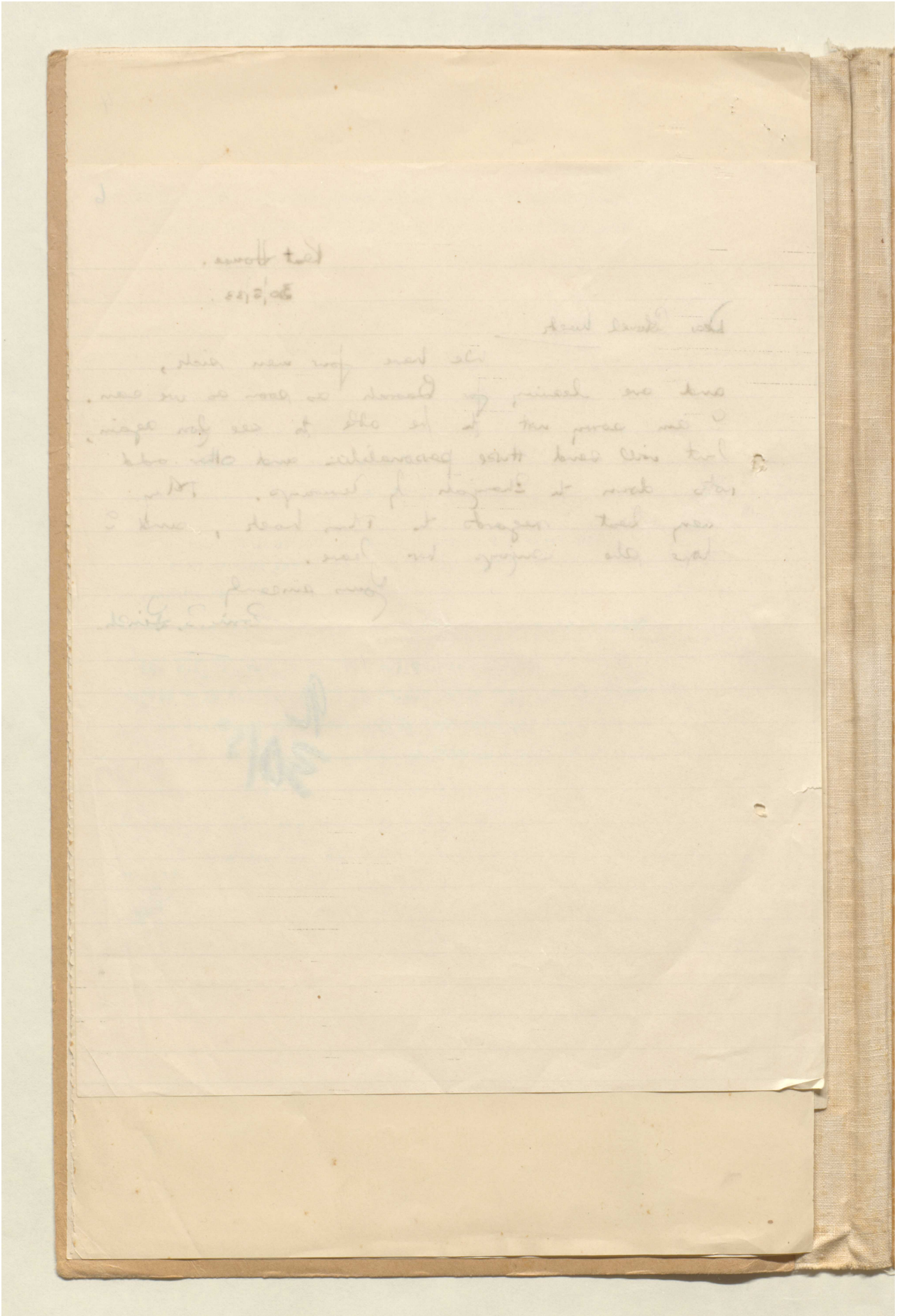


'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [5v] (12/18)

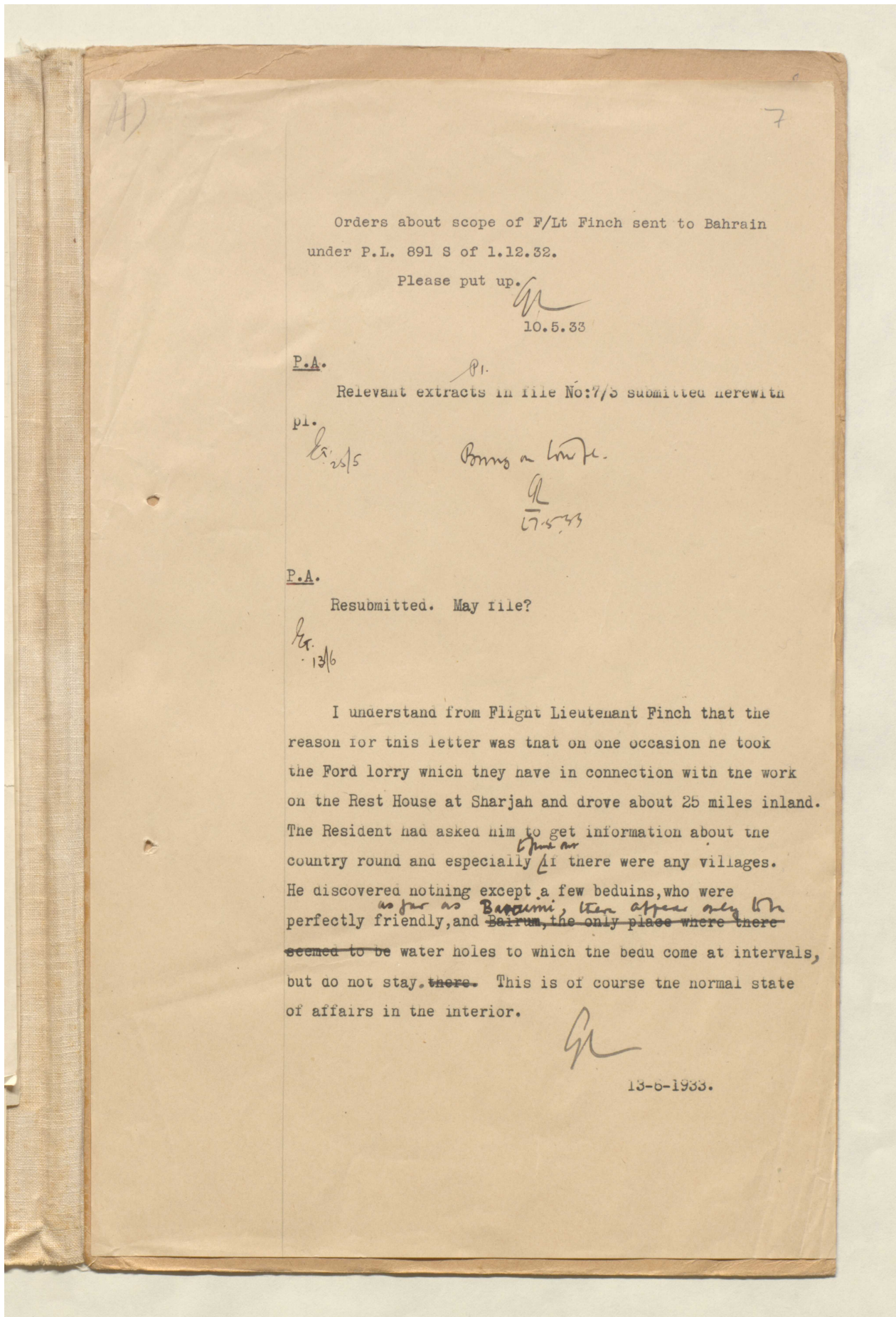




'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [6v] (14/18)



'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [7r] (15/18)



Orders about scope of F/Lt Finch sent to Bahrain
under P.L. 891 S of 1.12.32.

Please put up.

10.5.33

P.A.

Relevant extracts in file No:7/3 submitted herewith

P.L.

12/5

Points on lorry.

17.5.33

P.A.

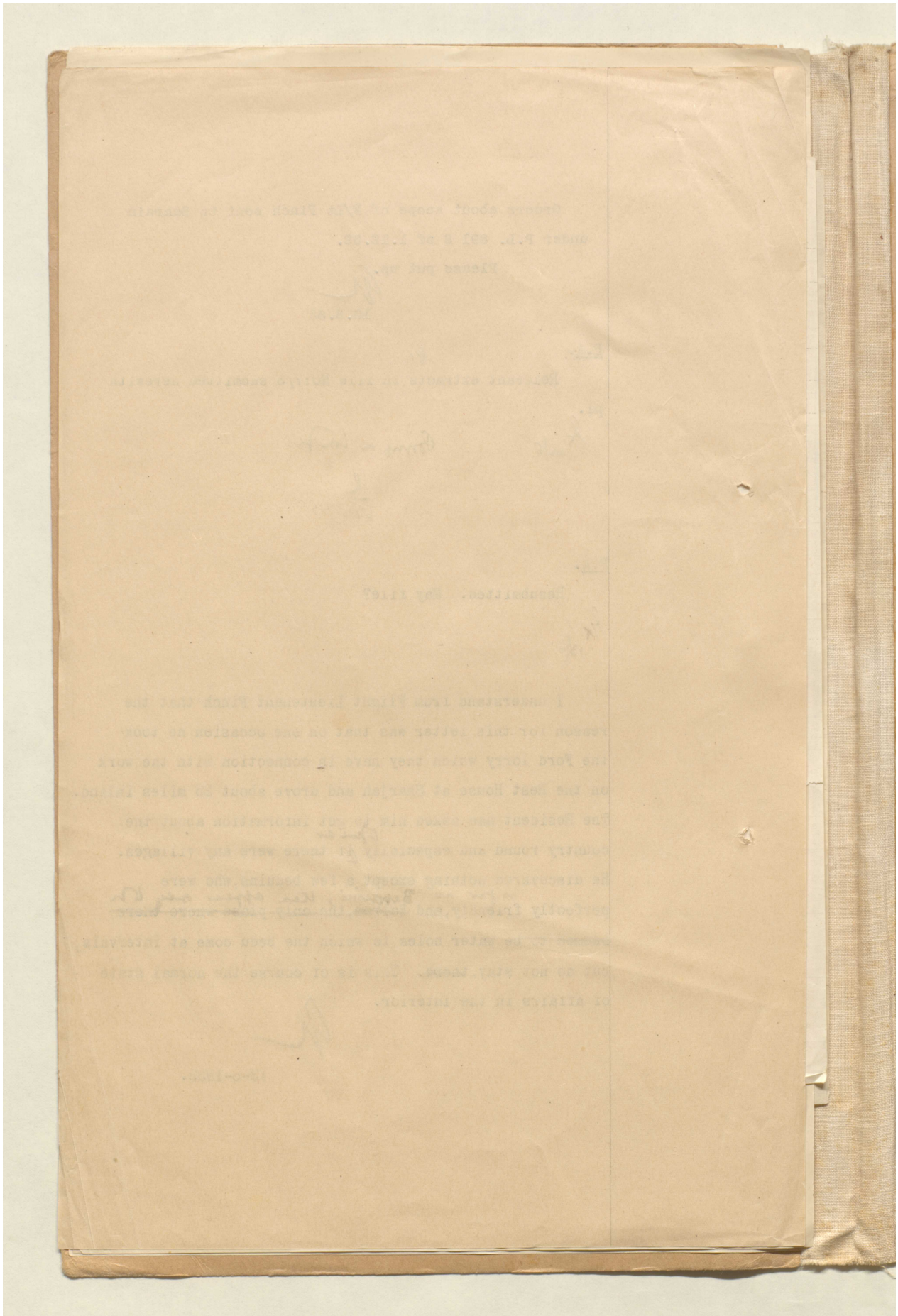
Resubmitted. May file?

13/6

I understand from Flight Lieutenant Finch that the reason for this letter was that on one occasion he took the Ford lorry which they have in connection with the work on the Rest House at Sharjah and drove about 25 miles inland. The Resident had asked him to get information about the country round and especially ^{if there are} if there were any villages. He discovered nothing except a few beduins, who were ^{as far as Bahami, then appear only in} perfectly friendly, and Baham, the only place where there ~~seemed to be~~ water holes to which the bedu come at intervals, but do not stay ~~there~~. This is of course the normal state of affairs in the interior.

13-6-1933.

'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [7v] (16/18)



'File 7/3 Scope and functions of F/Lt. Finch at Sharjah' [back-i] (17/18)

