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'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries'

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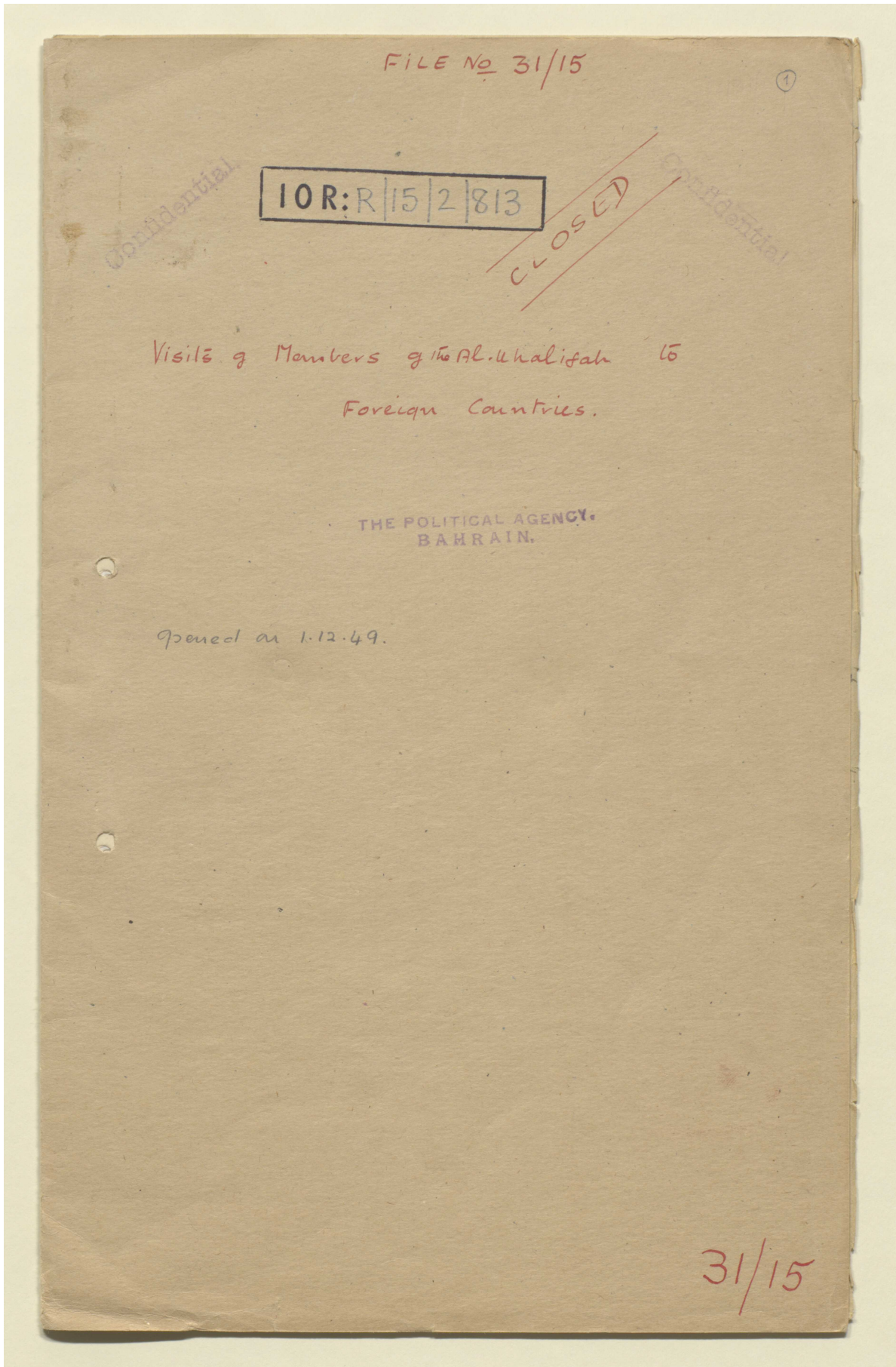


About this record

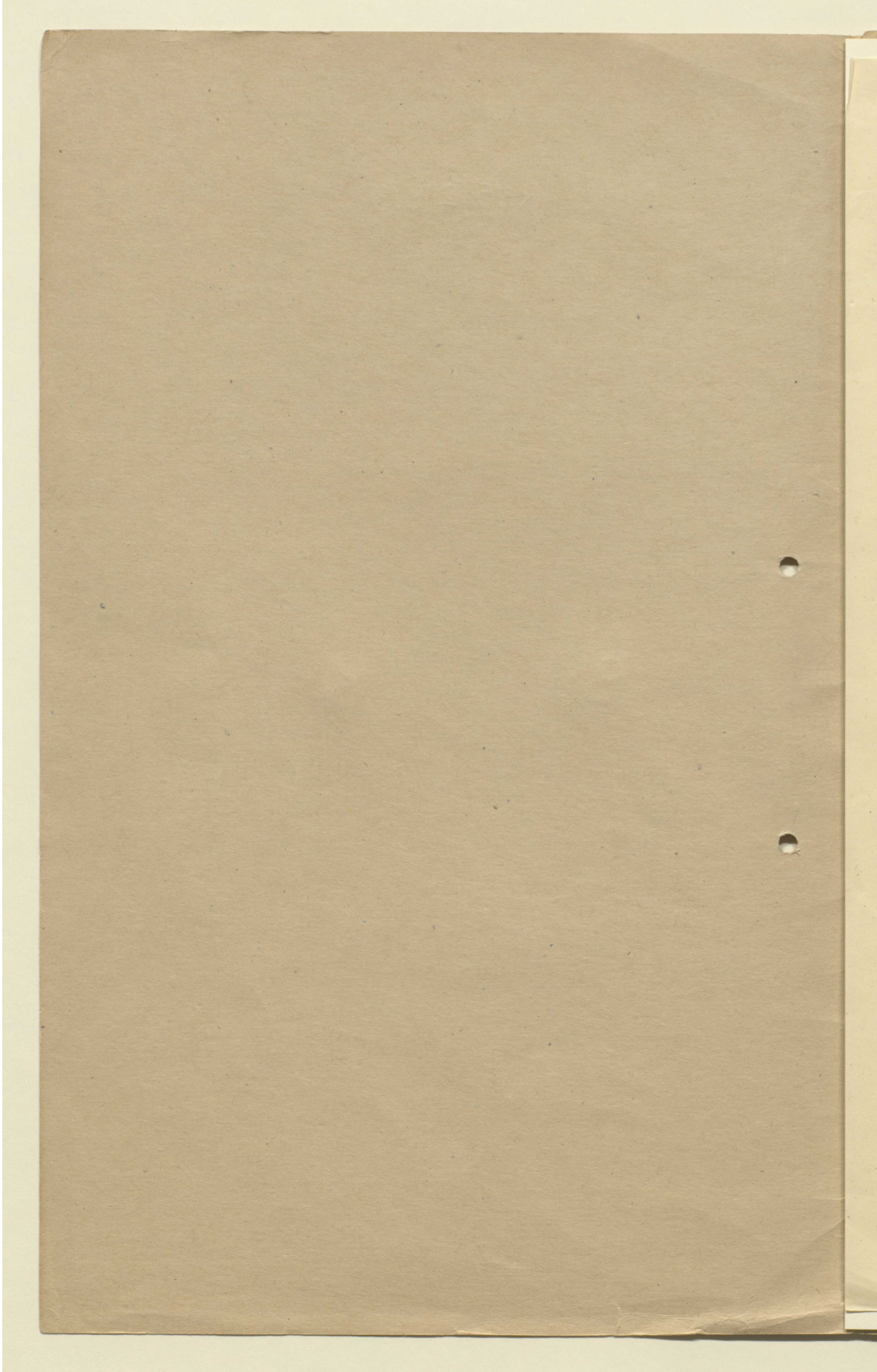
The file contains correspondence about the visits of members of the Al Khalifah to Amara in Iraq for hunting purposes. Discussion focuses on the difficulties created when requests for travel documents did not go through the proper channels.

Correspondents include: Cornelius James Pelly, Political Agent, Bahrain; Rupert Hay, Political Resident, Persian Gulf; Consul General, Basra.

'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [front]
(1/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [front-i]
(2/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [2r] (3/30)

PERSONAL

Bahrain,

Dated the 1st December, 1949.

Dear Neal,

Would you kindly see the enclosure. The "two sons" of the Shaikh were, I imagine, Shaikhs Kalifah and Salman bin Mohammed. They told me casually in the course of conversation that they were going to go 'Amarah for shooting and I asked them to give my salams to Barkeley who was Consul there but has apparently now left. So far as I remember I gave them nothing in writing. Have you any knowledge of the matter at the Agency and did any Agency officer give them a letter of recommendation?

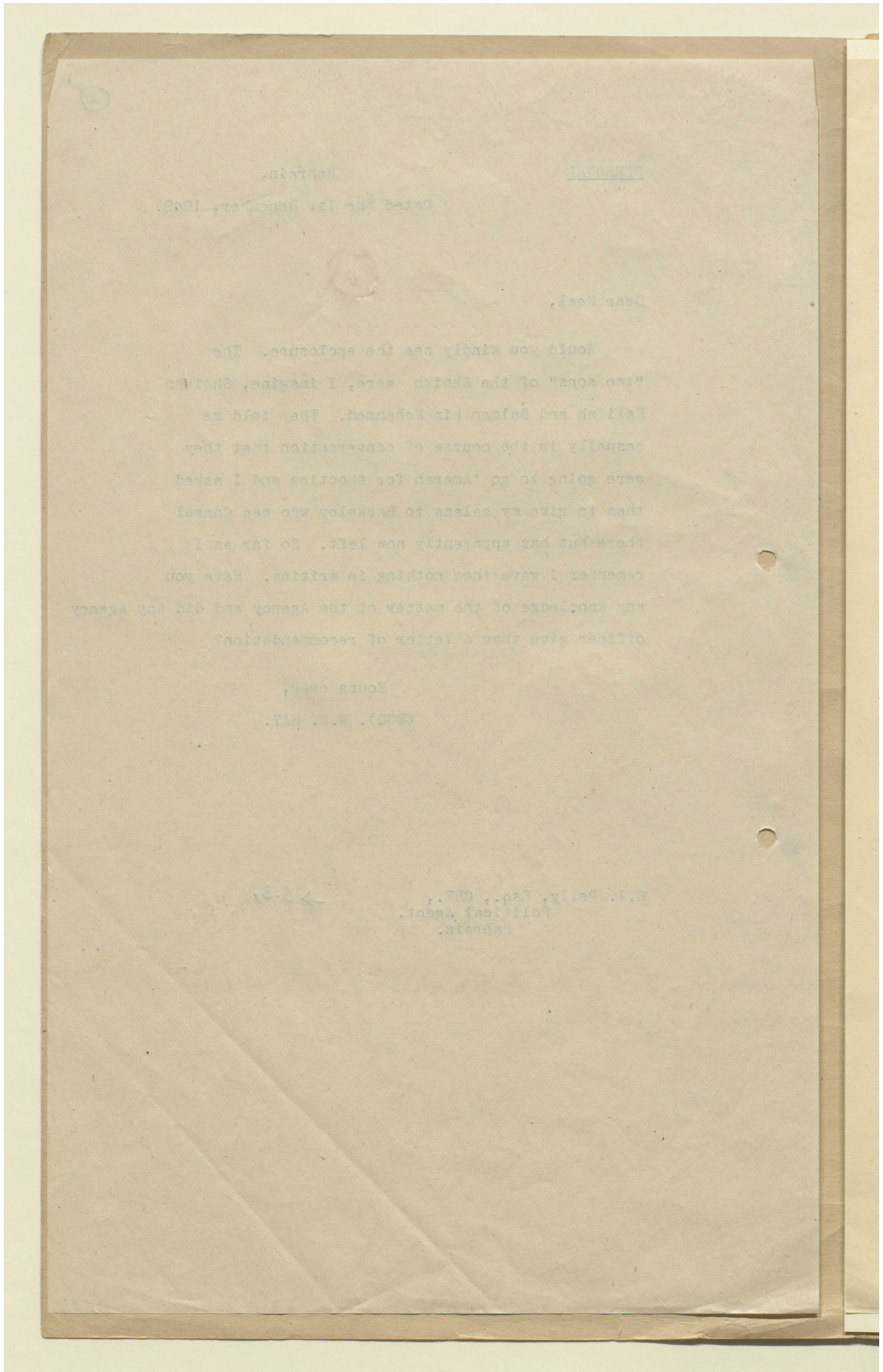
Yours ever,

(SGD). W.R. HAY.

C.J. Pelly, Esq., OBE.,
Political Agent,
Bahrain.

→ S.3,

'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [2v] (4/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [3r] (5/30)

3 2

RESTRICTED.
(832/19/49)

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BAGDAD.
24th November, 1949.

Dear Sir Rupert,

We had a slight contretemps here a few days ago over the arrival at Basrah of two sons of the Shaikh of Bahrain who came enroute for a shooting trip at Amara, bringing with them cars and guns and a considerable retinue which included, among others, the Bahrain Commandant of Police.

The party apparently arrived without warning, and had not, so far as is known, been invited by anyone in Iraq. Their only travel document, so we are told, was a letter of recommendation from yourself.

The Ministry of Interior were invoked and got on to us about the visit. We could only say that we had no prior knowledge of it, but naturally hoped that full facilities would be accorded. These were in fact given on orders from the Prime Minister without any further intervention on our part and the Shaikh's two sons have now gone on their way to Amara.

It would have been of considerable help to us, and also to Davis at Basrah, if we could have had some warning of the visit, and I hope that in the event of any further visits of this kind taking place we can be notified in advance so that we may inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

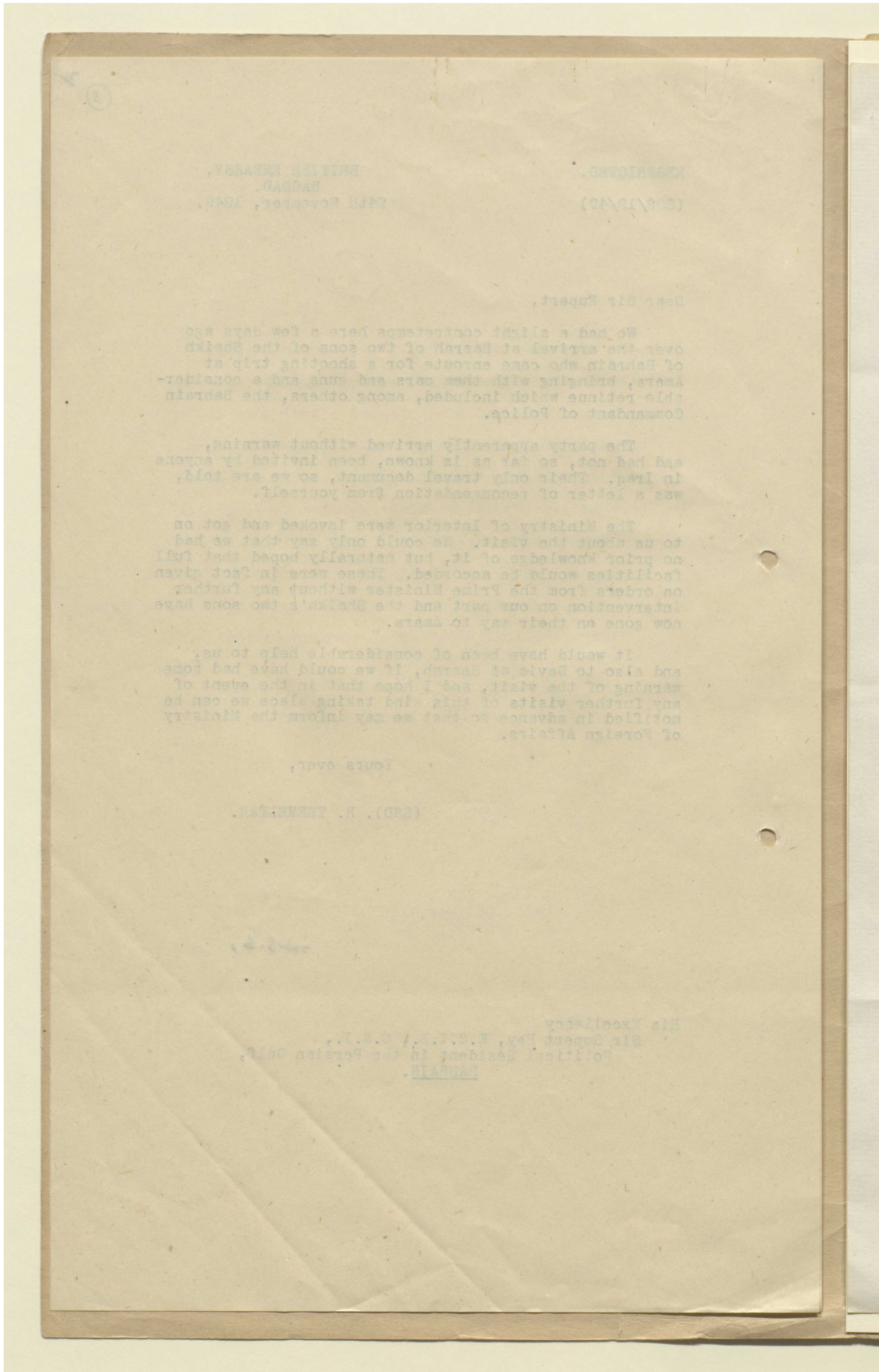
Yours ever,

(SGD). H. TREVELYAN.

→S.6,

His Excellency
Sir Rupert Hay, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
BAHRAIN.

'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [3v] (6/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [4r] (7/30)

RESTRICTED

British Consulate-General,
Basra,
November 23rd, 1949.

No. 1822
5/7/15-c

Dear Agency,

In the course of conversation with the Mutasarrif of Basra yesterday the Consul-General learned with some astonishment that two sons of the Shaikh of Bahrain (their names were given as SALMAN and MUHAMMAD AL KHALIFAH) had recently arrived at Basra by one of the British India boats, without visas for Iraq and without any prior notice to the Iraq Government or the local authorities here, with their own cars, sporting guns, and twenty servants ("slaves" was the word His Excellency used), for the purpose of doing a little shooting in Southern Iraq.

The Consul-General had to tell the Mutasarrif with some chagrin that he too was not in possession of any information regarding this visit.

Do you think you could manage to let us know in advance of any future visits of this sort?

In this particular instance no particular harm has been done as our Mutasarrif, who is exceptionally co-operative, immediately arranged with the local authorities to afford the distinguished visitors all possible facilities. The two visitors were thus allowed to land at Basra without passport formalities and were authorised to import their cars, guns etc. without any of the special permits that are normally required. They have now gone off to Amara.

It was obvious however that the Mutasarrif's sense of hospitality was outraged by the fact that owing to lack of notice he had not been able to arrange for the Shaikh's sons to be suitably welcomed at the Port when their ship docked and that nothing had been "laid on" for their entertainment and accommodation here or for their trip to Amara.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Bagdad Embassy for their information.

Yours ever,

Consulate-General.

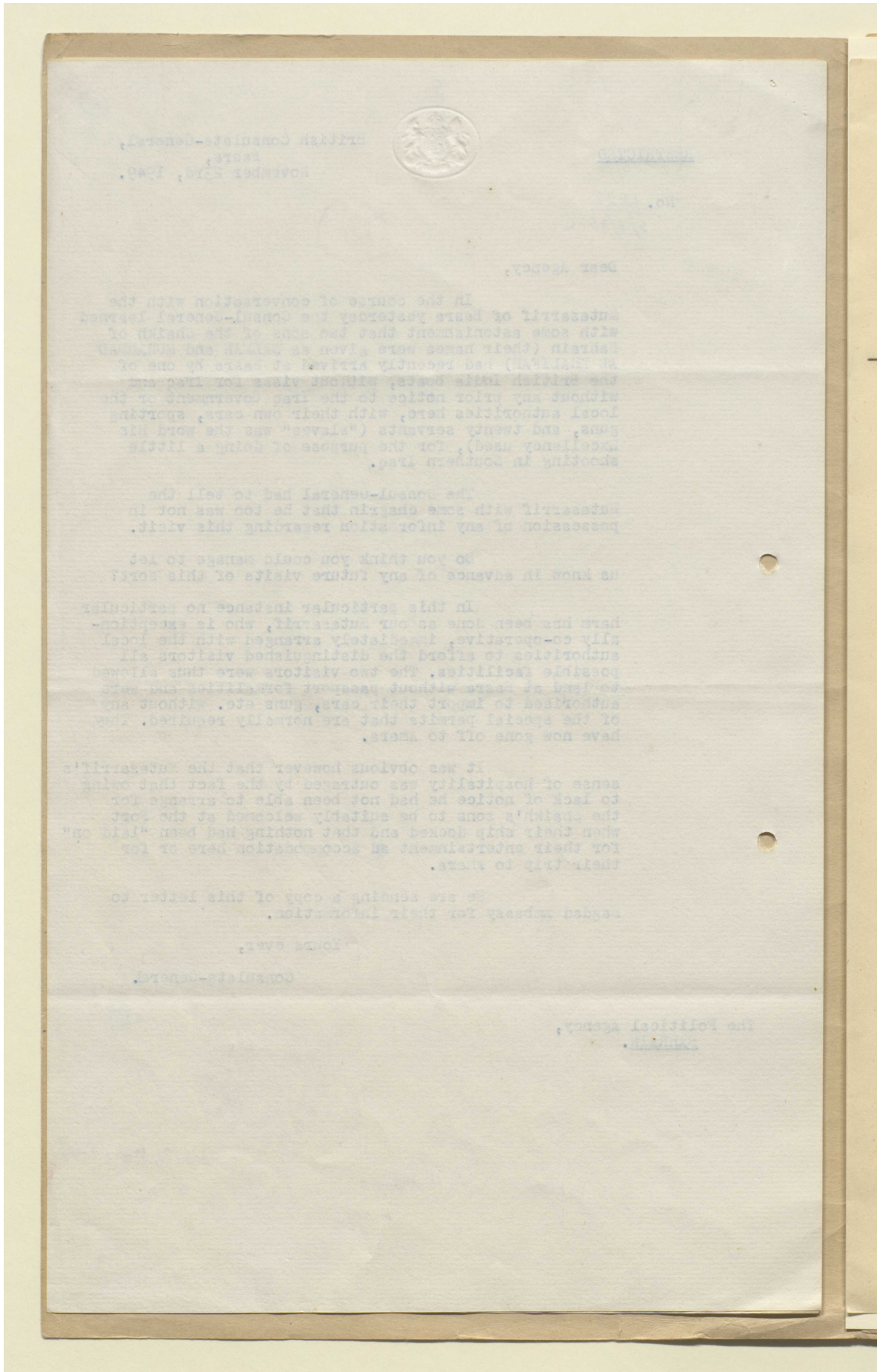
The Political Agency,
BAHRAIN.



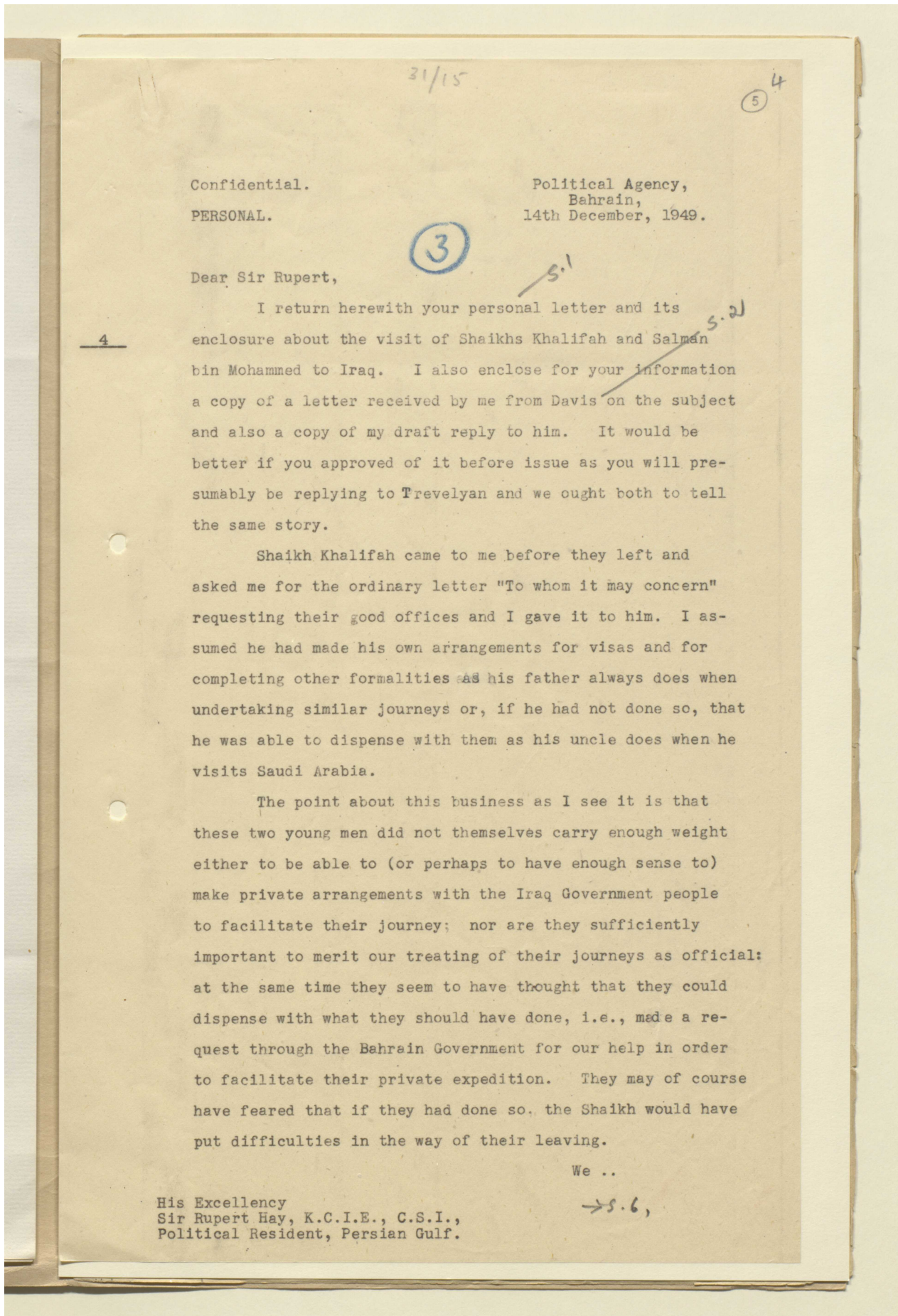
Confidential
BAHRAIN RECEIPT
No. A. 83 Date 14.12.49

→ S. 3, p. 6, 5. 6,
S. 7,

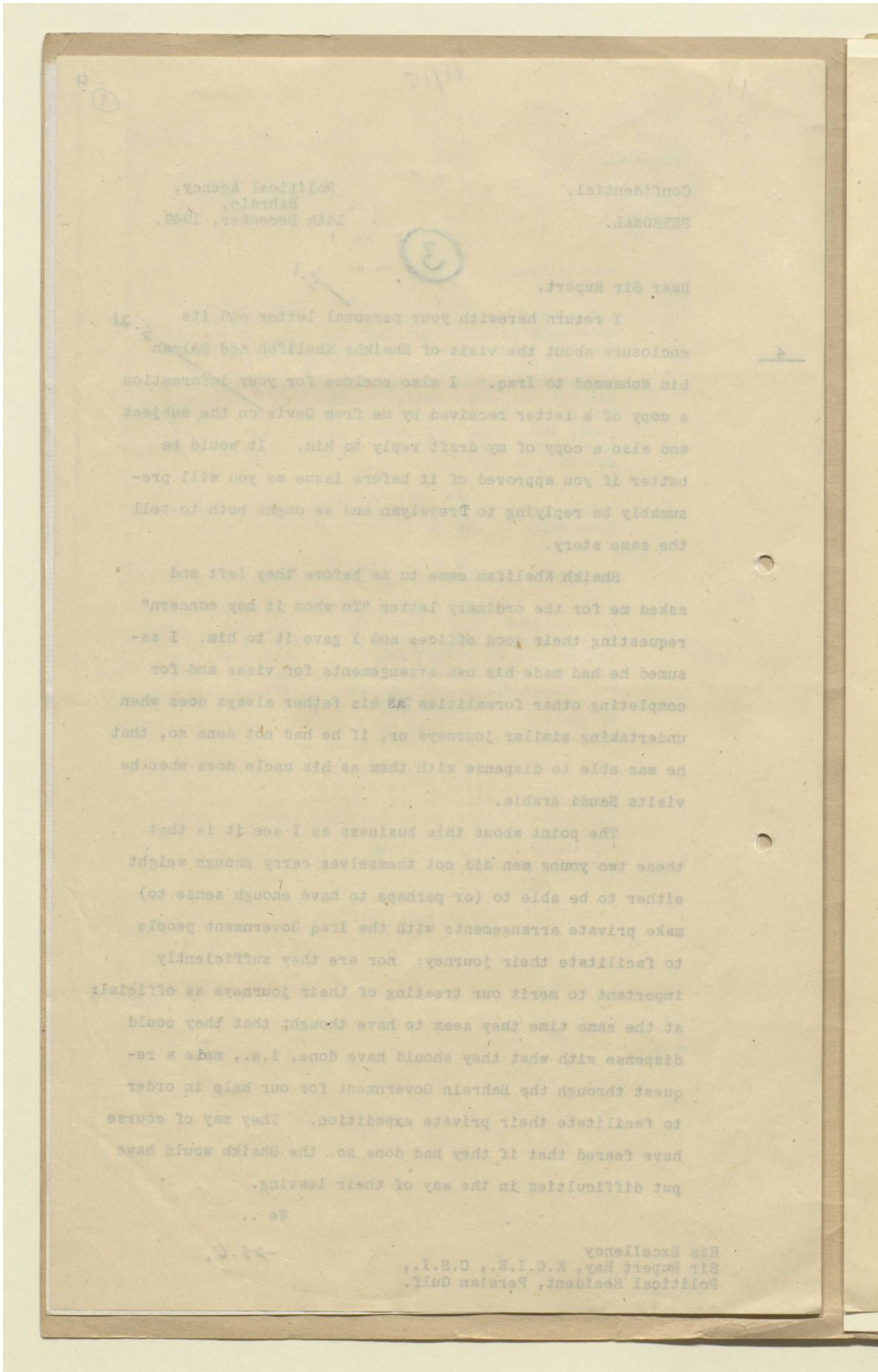
'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [4v] (8/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [5r] (9/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [5v] (10/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [6r] (11/30)

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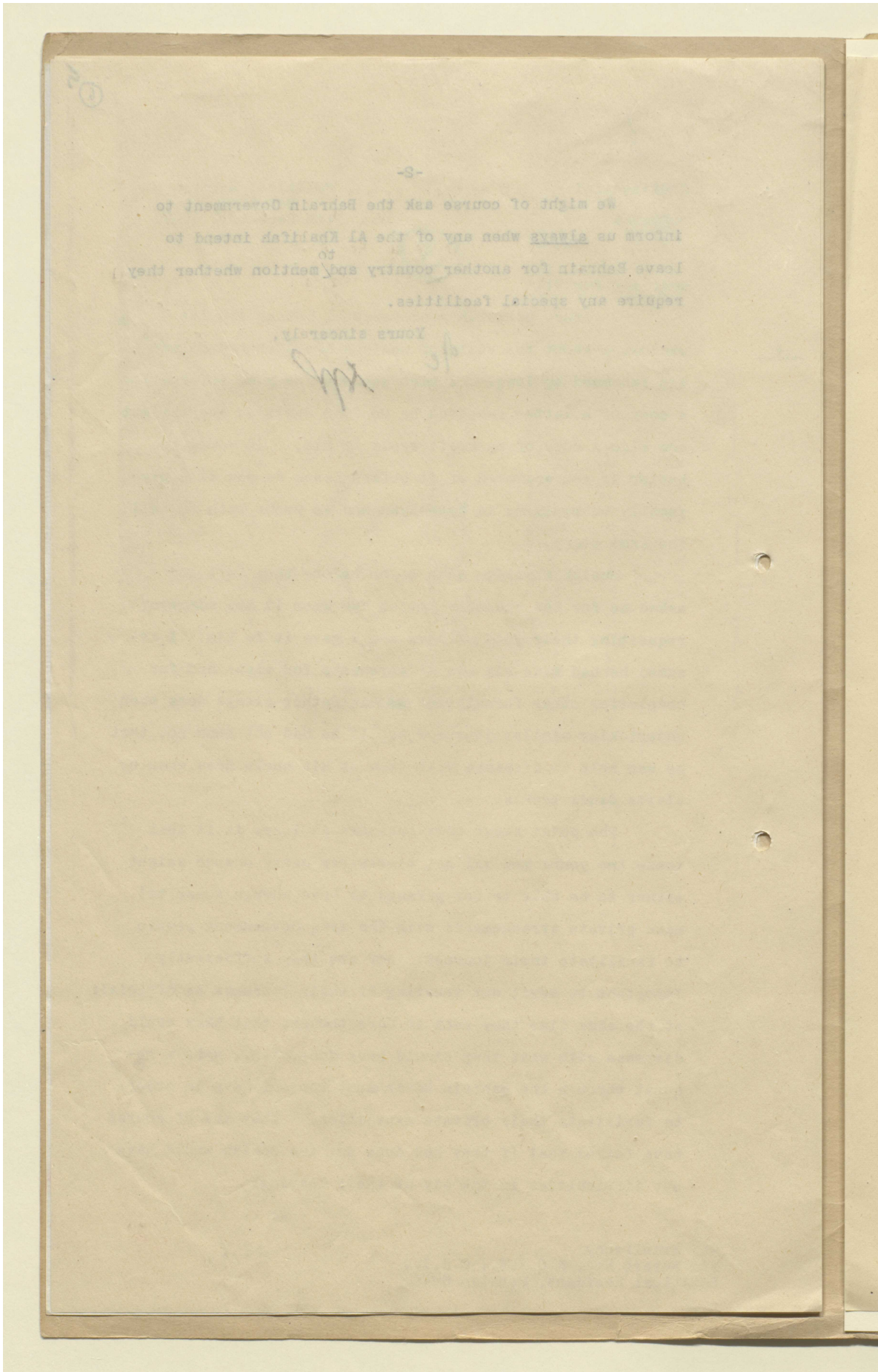
-2-

We might of course ask the Bahrain Government to
inform us always when any of the Al Khalifah intend to
leave Bahrain for another country and ^{to} mention whether they
require any special facilities.

Yours sincerely,

de
SM

'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [6v] (12/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [7r] (13/30)

⑦ 6

DRAFT.

Restricted.

To

The British Consulate-
General, Basrah.

Dear Consulate-General,

5.2
The two Arab gentlemen, mentioned
in your letter No.1822(5/7/15-C) of 23rd
November, 1949, were not "sons of the Shaikh
of Bahrain", but cousins of his, named
Khalifah bin Mohammed and Salman bin
Mohammed. They had with them one Alwan
Effendi, who is an instructor in the Police
here. The Political Agent asked them
about their trip when they returned yesterday.
They said that they went without visas because
they understood that this Agency no longer
grants them. (The fact is, as you are aware,
that recent regulations of the Iraqi Govern-
ment make it necessary for us to refer every
request for a visa for Iraq to them through
you). They "heard that visas for landing
in Iraq are granted by the Iraq Government
authorities on the ship after it has arrived
in port - this, they say, is the way in which
the large number of Shia pilgrims from this
part of the world get their visas at a charge
of 2 dinars a time. They did not exactly
say so, but we think we are right in saying
that, as might be expected, it was this charge
which really started the trouble. The Shaikhs
protested against paying it for themselves
and their large retinue and it was not ap-
parently until the Mutasarrif intervened that
they were permitted to land without visas.
About the cars, they say that Gray Mackenzies
made a mistake in shipping them as freight,
and if they had been shipped as part of their
personal luggage, there would have been no

→ s. 6, s. 8, trouble..

'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [7v] (14/30)

DRAFT

Restricted

To
The British Consulate-
General, Basrah.

Dear Consulate-General,

The two Arab gentlemen mentioned in your letter No. 1822 (E/15-C) of 23rd November, 1942, were not "sons of the Shaikh of Bahrain", but cousins of his, named Khalifah bin Mohammed and Salim bin Mohammed. They had with them one Alwan Elendi, who is an instructor in the Police. The Political Agent asked them about their trip when they returned yesterday. They said that they went without visas because they understood that this Agency no longer grants them. (The fact is, as you are aware, that recent regulations of the Iraqi Government make it necessary for us to refer every request for a visa for Iraq to them through you). They "heard" that visas for landing in Iraq are granted by the Iraqi Government authorities on the ship after it has arrived in port - this, they say, is the way in which the large number of Shiite pilgrims from this part of the world get their visas at a charge of 2 dinars a time. They did not exactly say so, but we think we are right in saying that, as might be expected, it was this charge which really started the trouble. The Shaikhs protested against paying it for themselves and their large retinue and it was not apparently until the Ambassador intervened that they were permitted to land without visas. About the cars, they say that Gray Mackenzie made a mistake in shipping them as freight, and if they had been shipped as part of their personal luggage, there would have been no trouble.

(8) 7
-2-

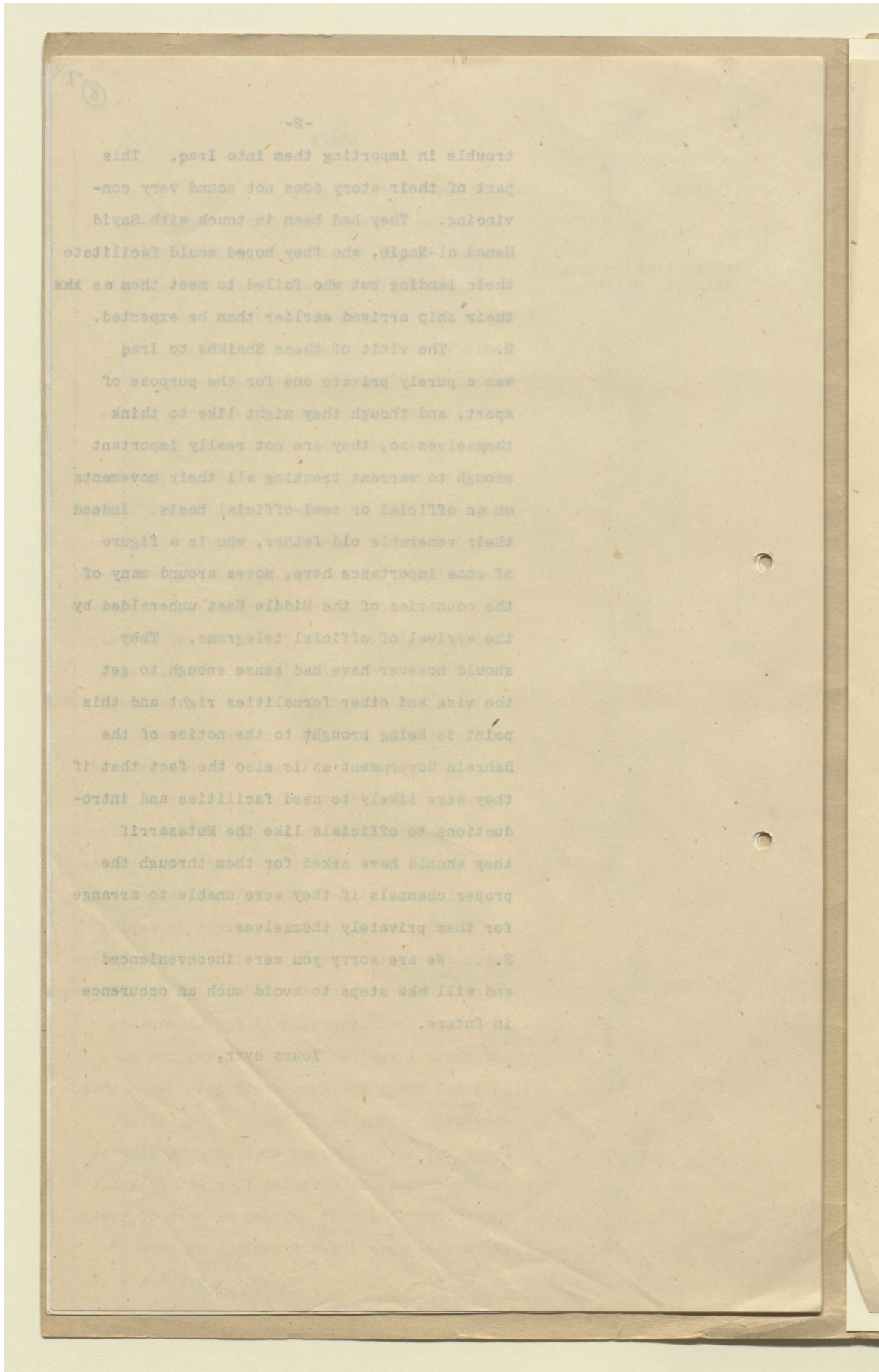
trouble in importing them into Iraq. This part of their story does not sound very convincing. They had been in touch with Sayid Hamad al-Naqib, who they hoped would facilitate their landing but who failed to meet them as ~~the~~ their ship arrived earlier than he expected.

2. The visit of these Shaikhs to Iraq was a purely private one for the purpose of sport, and though they might like to think themselves so, they are not really important enough to warrant treating all their movements on an official or semi-official basis. Indeed their venerable old father, who is a figure of some importance here, moves around many of the countries of the Middle East unheralded by the arrival of official telegrams. They should however have had sense enough to get the visa and other formalities right and this point is being brought to the notice of the Bahrain Government as is also the fact that if they were likely to need facilities and introductions to officials like the Mutasarrif they should have asked for them through the proper channels if they were unable to arrange for them privately themselves.

3. We are sorry you were inconvenienced and will take steps to avoid such an occurrence in future.

Yours ever,

'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [8v] (16/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [9r] (17/30)

98

Telegram GTC
From Political Agent, Bahrain.
To H.M's Consul-General, Basrah.
No. 82. (4)
Dated 22nd December, 1949.

Shaikhs Dhajj bin Hamad, Abdullah bin Hamad, and Ahmed bin Hamad, with 20 servants, 3 cars and 14 guns propose to leave here by "Dumra" on December 28th and arrive Basrah December 30th en route to Amarah for 15 days shooting. We are unable here to grant party visas for Iraq. We are informed by Baghdad that arrangements will be made for such travelers to get an emergency visa at places where they arrive in Iraq.

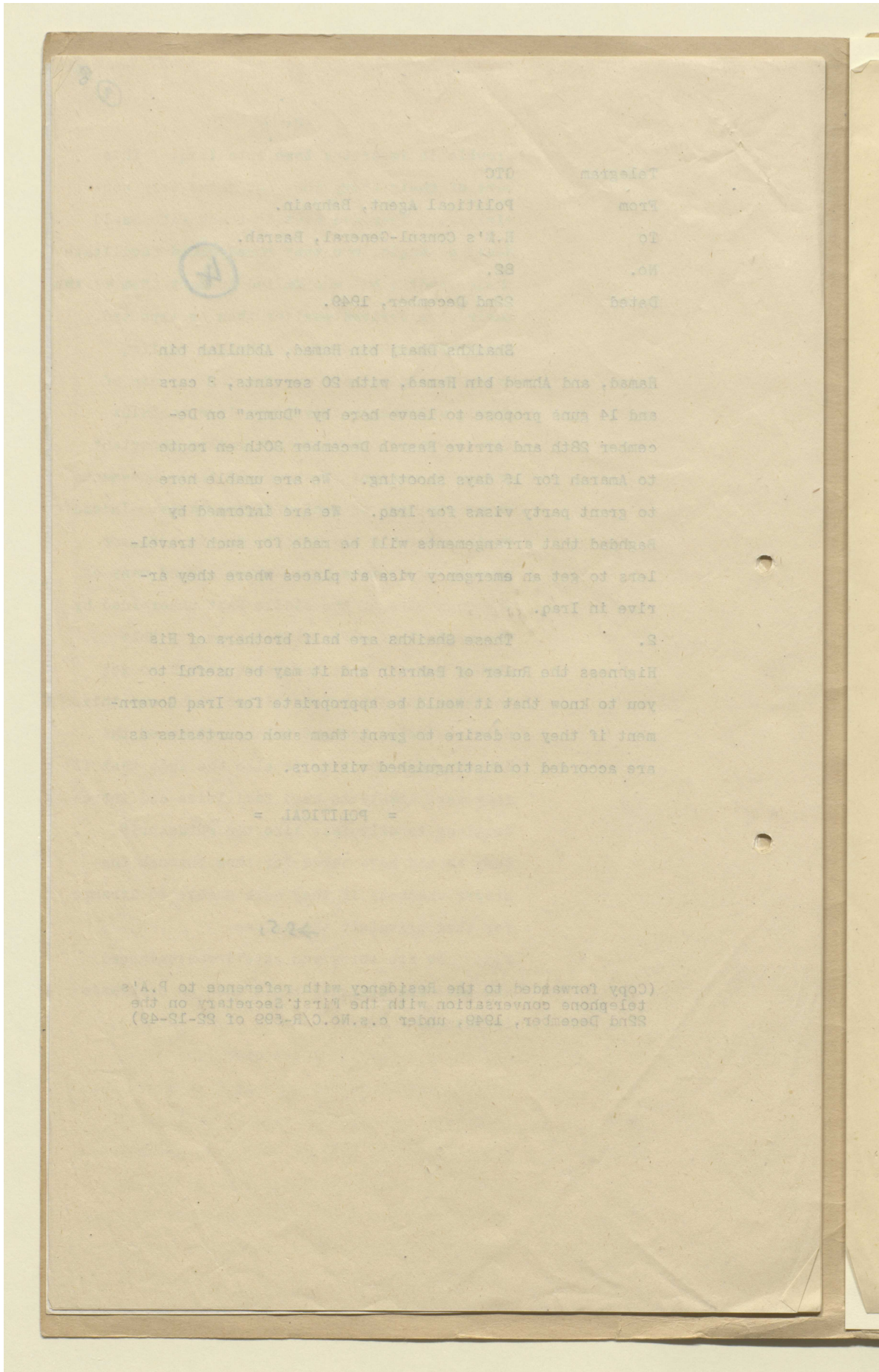
2. These Shaikhs are half brothers of His Highness the Ruler of Bahrain and it may be useful to you to know that it would be appropriate for Iraq Government if they so desire to grant them such courtesies as are accorded to distinguished visitors.

= POLITICAL =

→S.5,

(Copy forwarded to the Residency with reference to P.A's telephone conversation with the First Secretary on the 22nd December, 1949, under c.s.No.C/R-599 of 22-12-49)

'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [9v] (18/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [10r] (19/30)

31/15

5

10

9

Shaikhs Dhajj bin Hamad, Abdullah bin Hamad, and Ahmed bin Hamad, half brothers of His Highness the Ruler, with 20 servants and three cars intend to proceed to Basrah on the 28th December by the "Dumra" en route to Amarah for 15 days shooting. They are taking 14 guns with them. Their contact in Iraq is Mohd Saeed al Naqib who they say is a friend of theirs.

The first action necessary is to find out how they should get visas for entry into Iraq. If necessary, we should telegraph Consul-General, Basrah, on this point. As these Shaikhs are however the brothers of the Ruler we will probably have to say that it would be appropriate to grant them such courtesies as are extended to distinguished visitors.

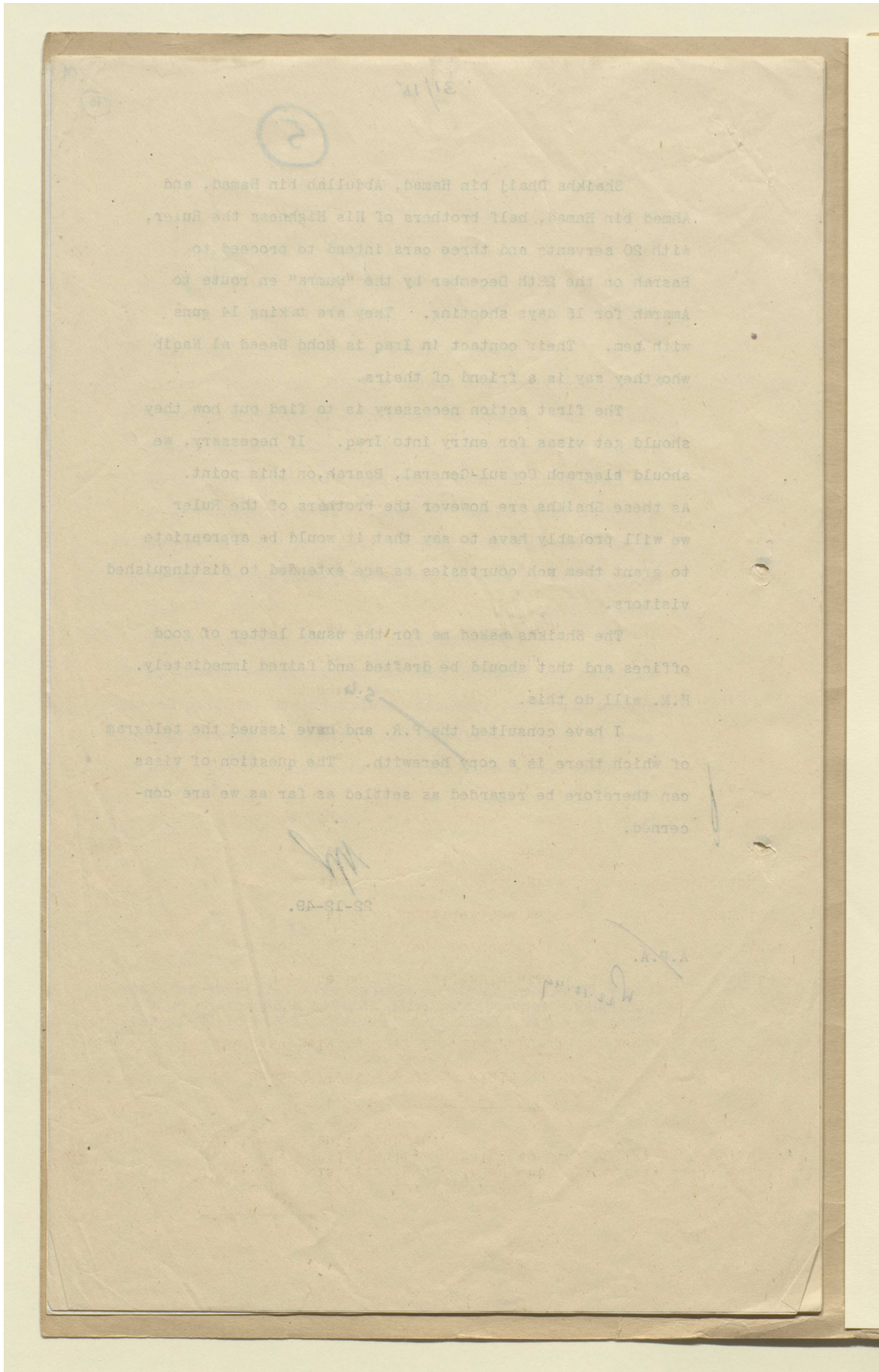
The Shaikhs asked me for the usual letter of good offices and that should be drafted and faired immediately. H.M. will do this.

I have consulted the P.R. and have issued the telegram of which there is a copy herewith. The question of visas can therefore be regarded as settled as far as we are concerned.

5.4
22-12-49.


A.P.A.
22.12.49

'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [10v] (20/30)



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [11r] (21/30)

31/15



PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY,
BAHRAIN.
17th December 1949.

CONFIDENTIAL.
(71/13/49)

Dear Pelly — p.6 (6) — s.3

I concur in the draft about the visit of Shaikhs Khalifah and Salman bin Mohammed to Iraq received with your personal letter of the 14th December, but would ask, if you see no objection, that a copy should be endorsed to H.M.'s Embassy, Baghdad to whom a copy of the Consul-General's letter was sent. — P.2

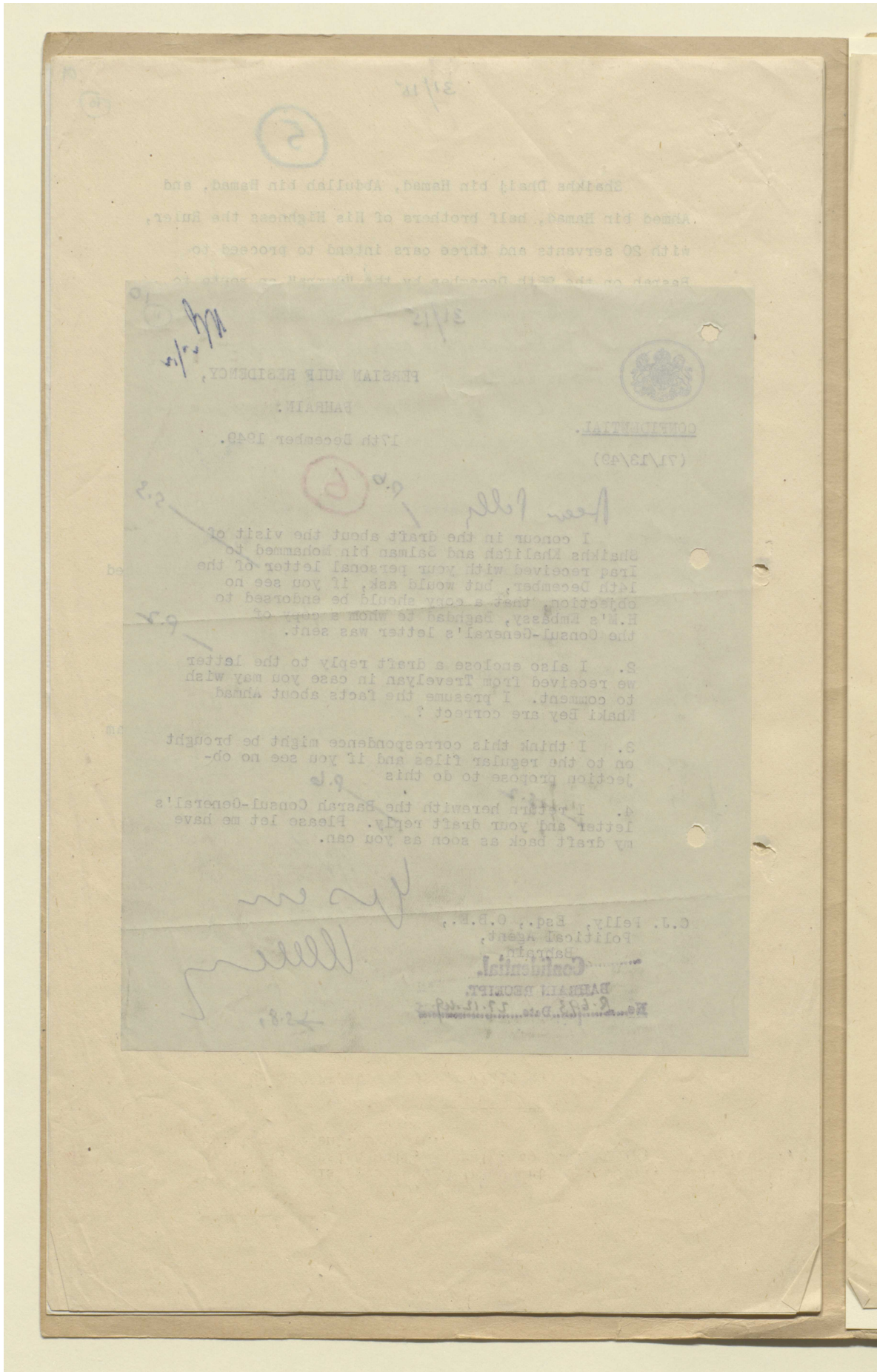
2. I also enclose a draft reply to the letter we received from Trevelyan in case you may wish to comment. I presume the facts about Ahmad Khaki Bey are correct ?

3. I think this correspondence might be brought on to the regular files and if you see no objection propose to do this p.6

4. I return herewith the Basrah Consul-General's letter and your draft reply. Please let me have my draft back as soon as you can. s.2

Yes in
Ullery
→ s.8,

C.J. Pelly, Esq., O.B.E.,
Political Agent,
Bahrain.
Confidential.
BAHRAIN RECEIPT.
No. R-693, Date 17.12.49



Confidential.

No.C/A-25.

Political Agency,
Bahrain,
27th December, 1949.

Dear Consulate-General,

5.2 (7)

The two Arab gentlemen, mentioned in your letter No.1822(5/7/15-C) of 23rd November, 1949, were not "sons of the Shaikh of Bahrain", but cousins of his, named Khalifah bin Mohammed and Salman bin Mohammed. They had with them one Alwan Effendi, who is an instructor in the Police here. The Political Agent asked them about their trip shortly after they returned. They said that they went without visas because they understood that this Agency no longer grants them. In this they were right because the arrangement by which we granted visas for 'Iraq to travellers from the Persian Gulf Shaikhdoms was terminated last June at the Iraqi Government's request. Baghdad then informed us that the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs had made arrangements for such travellers to be granted emergency visas at places where they arrive in Iraq. (This is the way in which the large number of Shia pilgrims from this part of the world get their visas at a charge of 2 dinars a time.) They did not exactly say so, but we think we are right in assuming that it was this charge which really started the trouble. The Shaikhs seem to have protested against paying it for themselves and their large retinue and it was not apparently until the Mutasarrif intervened that they were permitted to land without visas. About the cars, they say that Gray Mackenzies made a mistake in shipping them as freight, and that if they had been shipped as part of their personal luggage, there would have been no trouble in importing them into Iraq. This part of their story does not sound very convincing. They had been in touch with Sayid Hamad al-Naqib, who they hoped would facilitate their landing but who failed to meet them as their ship arrived earlier than he expected.

2. The visit of these Shaikhs to Iraq was a purely private one for the purpose of sport, and though they might like to think themselves so, they are not really important enough to warrant treating all their movements on an official or semi-official basis. Indeed their venerable old father, who is a figure of some importance here, moves around many of the countries of the Middle East unheralded by the arrival of official telegrams. They should however have complied with the visa and other formalities and this point is being brought to the notice of the Bahrain Government as is also the fact that, if they were likely to need facilities and introductions to officials like the Mutasarrif, they should have asked for them through the proper channels if they were unable to arrange for them privately themselves.

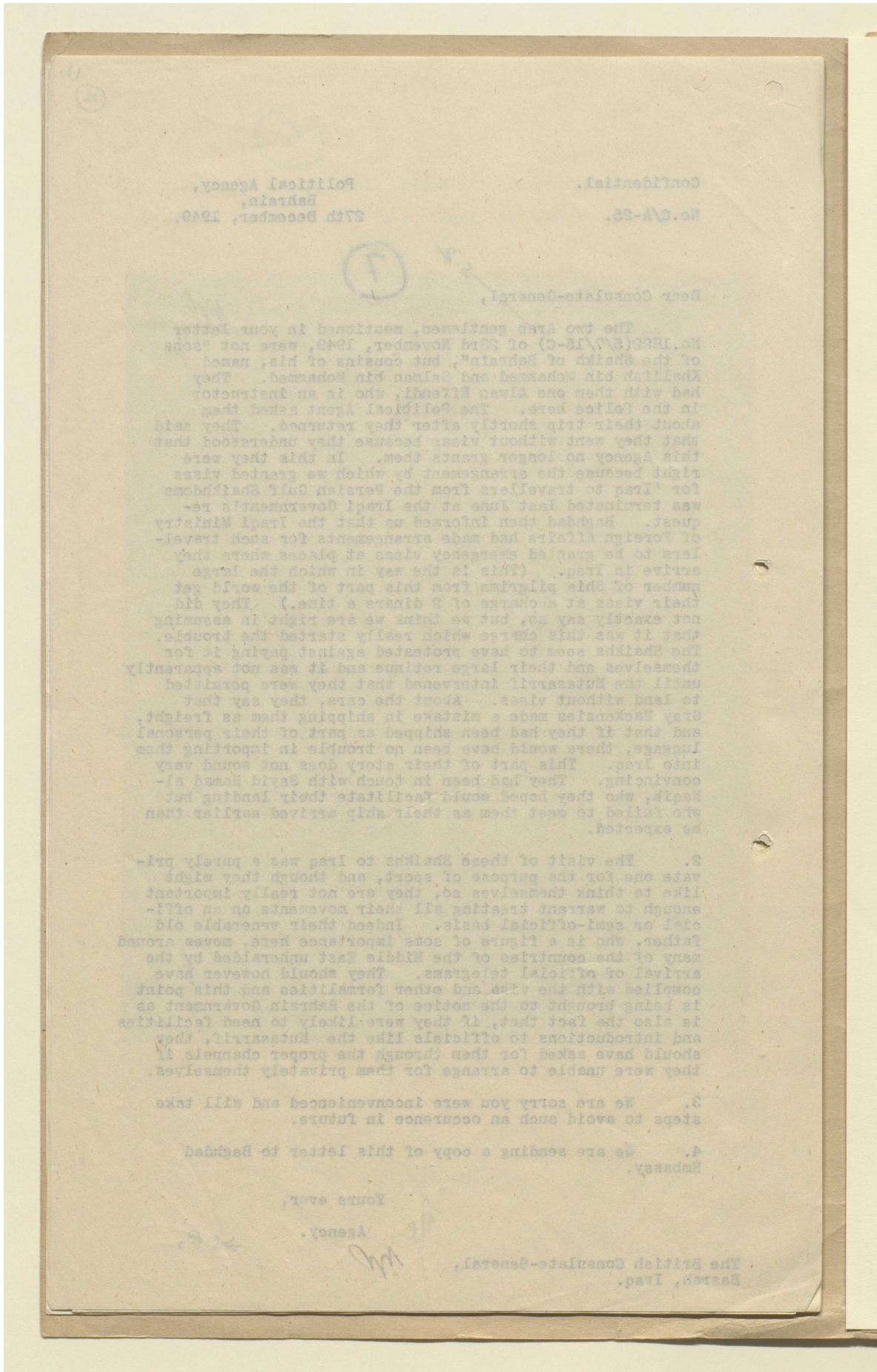
3. We are sorry you were inconvenienced and will take steps to avoid such an occurrence in future.

4. We are sending a copy of this letter to Baghdad Embassy.

Yours ever,

Agency.

The British Consulate-General,
Basrah, Iraq.



Confidential.
No.C/R-603.

Political Agency,
Bahrain,
27th December, 1949.

Dear Sir Rupert,

Please refer to your letter No.71/13/49 of 17th December, 1949, about the visit of Shaikhs Khalifah and Salman bin Mohammed to Iraq.

2. I have had to alter my letter to the Consulate-General as I made a mistake in quoting the visa regulations for Iraq in the first draft. I enclose a copy of the letter which I have now issued. I am sending another copy to H.M's Embassy, Baghdad.

3. In your draft reply to Trevelyan I think the words "mistakenly it is regretted" might be omitted. The facts quoted about Ahmad Khaki Bey are correct.

4. I agree that this correspondence might be brought on to the regular files.

5. Your draft reply to Trevelyan is returned herewith.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature

His Excellency
Sir Rupert Hay, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Political Resident, Persian Gulf,
Bahrain.

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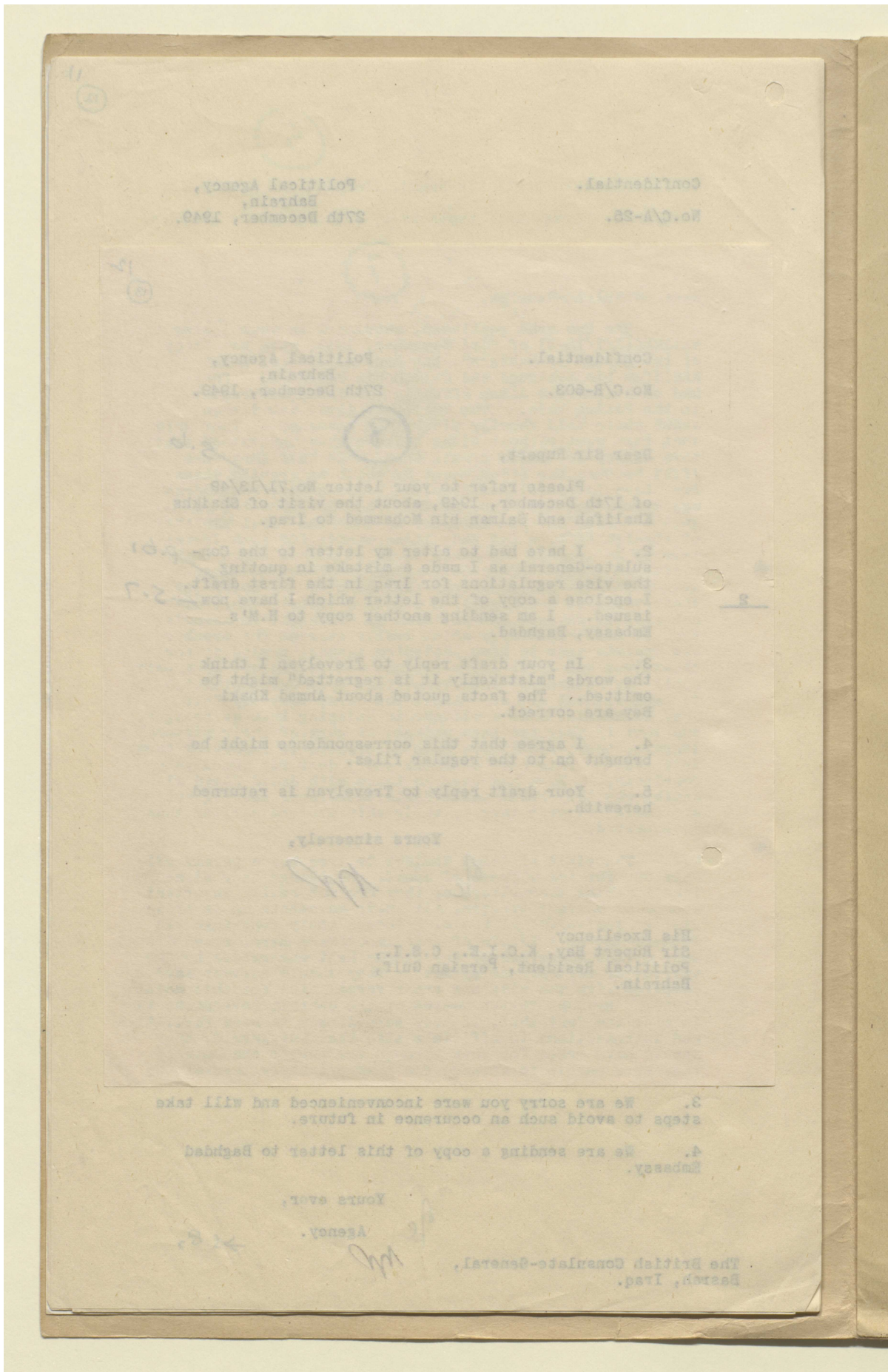
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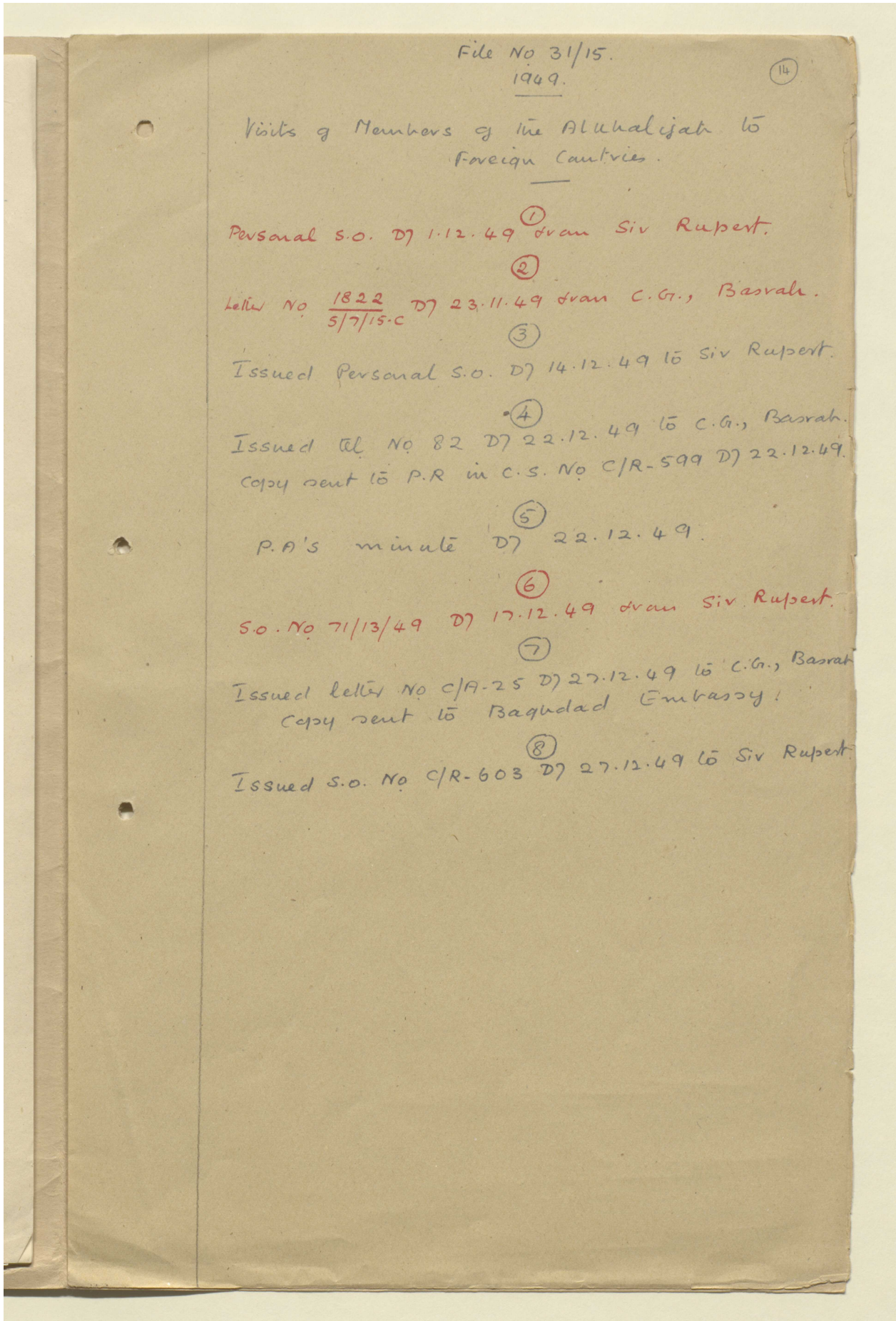
S.6

p.61

S.7

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File No 31/15.
1949.

(14)

Visits of Members of the Al Khalifah to
Foreign Countries.

Personal s.o. D/ 1.12.49 ⁽¹⁾ from Siv Rupert.

⁽²⁾
Letter No $\frac{1822}{5/7/15-C}$ D/ 23.11.49 from C.G., Basrah.

⁽³⁾
Issued Personal s.o. D/ 14.12.49 to Siv Rupert.

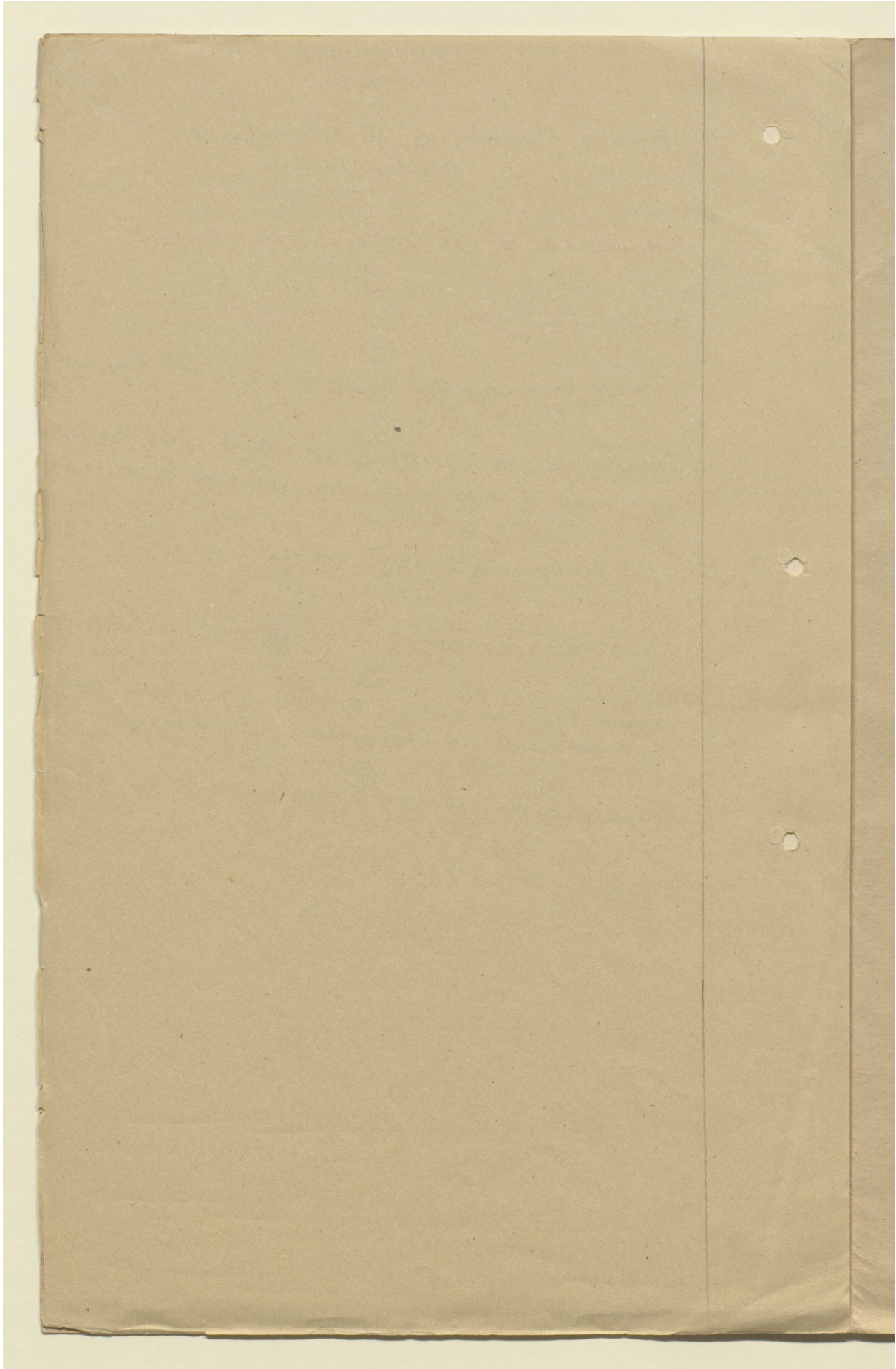
⁽⁴⁾
Issued tel. No 82 D/ 22.12.49 to C.G., Basrah.
Copy sent to P.R. in C.S. No C/R-599 D/ 22.12.49.

⁽⁵⁾
P.A's minute D/ 22.12.49.

⁽⁶⁾
S.O. No 71/13/49 D/ 17.12.49 from Siv Rupert.

⁽⁷⁾
Issued letter No C/A-25 D/ 27.12.49 to C.G., Basrah.
Copy sent to Baghdad Embassy.

⁽⁸⁾
Issued s.o. No C/R-603 D/ 27.12.49 to Siv Rupert.



'File 31/15 Visits of Members of Al Khalifah to Foreign Countries' [back-i]
(29/30)

