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## Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of –'

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/12/2129
<b>Date(s)</b>	Sep 1916-14 Dec 1934 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (59 folios)
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### About this record

This file concerns a request, made by the Army Headquarters, India, to the British Embassy at Baghdad, for a map of Arabia showing the national and provincial boundaries of Saudi Arabia. The correspondence discusses the difficulties associated with marking out the various boundaries, owing to the fact that many of them are 'the subject of actual or potential controversy'. Also discussed are recommended revisions to the boundaries of Arabia, as shown on a National Geographic Society map of Asia (map not included).

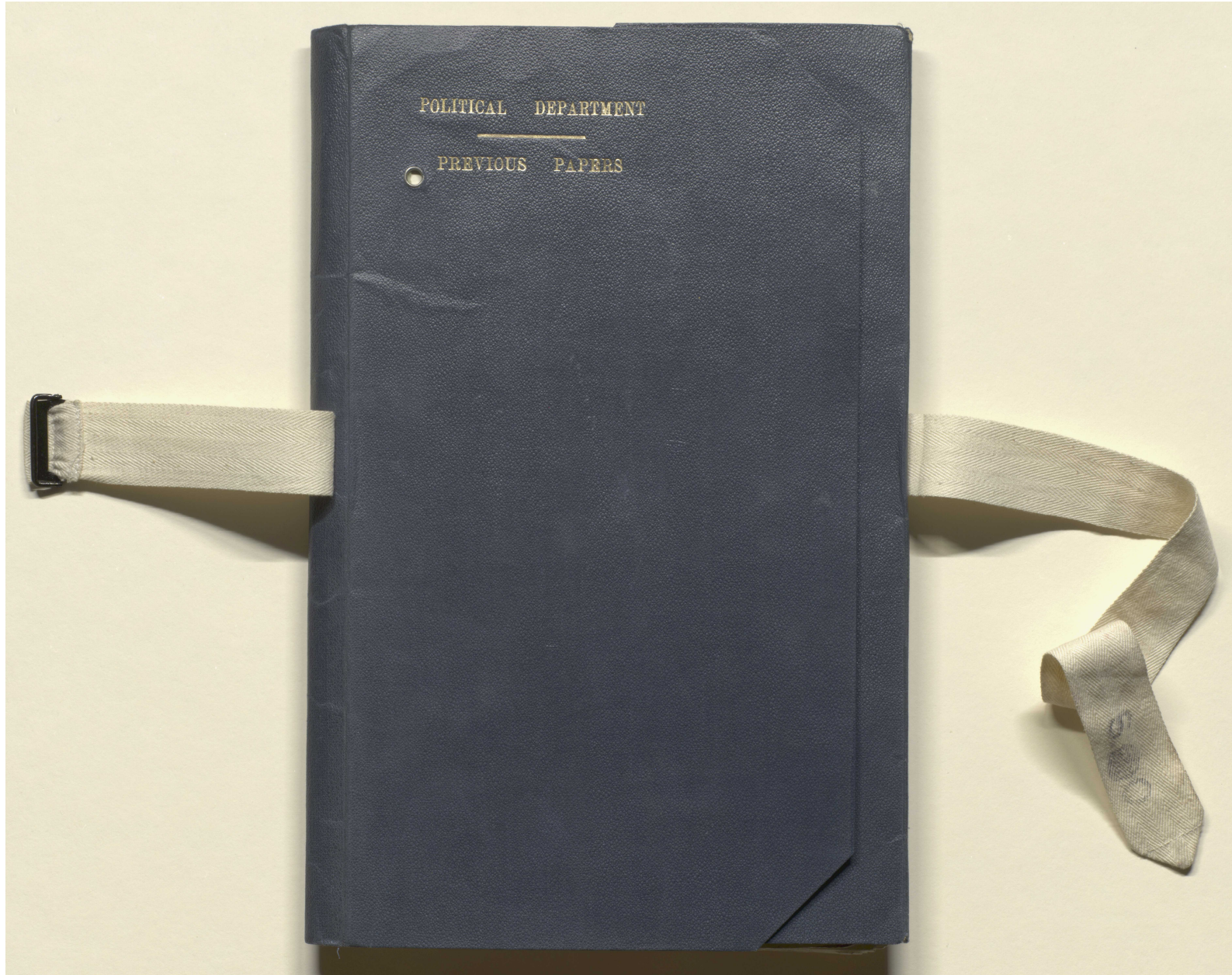
Notable correspondents include the following: His Majesty's Minister at Jeddah (Sir Andrew Ryan); officials of the Foreign Office, the India Office, the Persian Gulf Political Residency, the British Embassy in Baghdad, and the British Library of Information in New York.

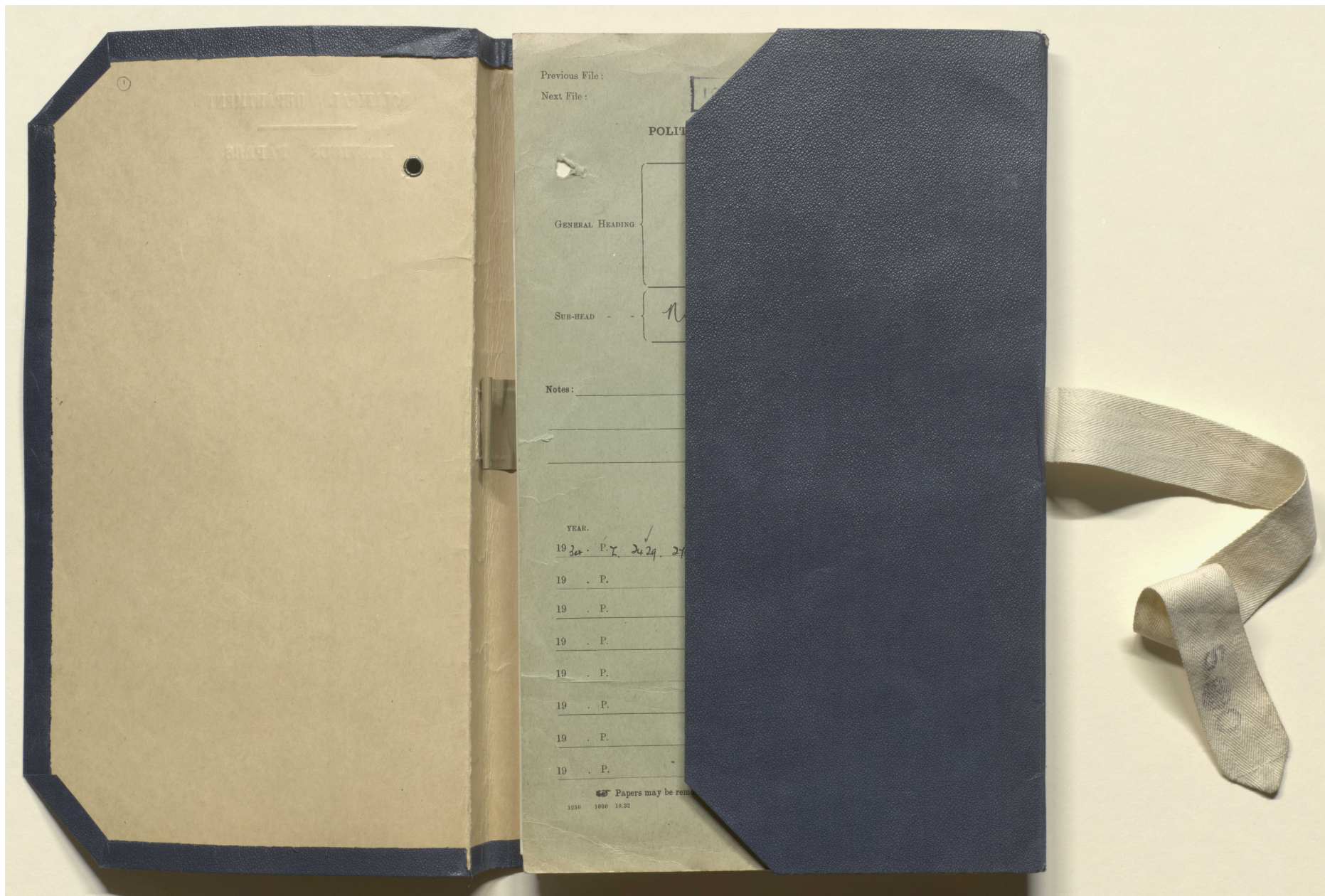
In addition to correspondence the file includes the following:

- A copy of a memorandum dated 18 April 1932, which recounts an interdepartmental conference held at the Colonial Office three days earlier, concerning the submission of the frontiers of the mandated territories (namely the Iraq-Transjordan frontier, the Iraq-Kuwait frontier, and the Palestine-Syria frontier) for approval to the Council of the League of Nations.
- Two maps: one depicting the Arabian Peninsula and the other showing the eastern portion of the Aden Protectorate.

Whilst the date range of the file is 1916-1934, only two items (including the aforementioned memorandum) date from earlier than 1934.

The file includes a divider which gives a list of correspondence references contained in the file by year. This is placed at the back of the correspondence (folio 2).





Previous File :  
Next File : ICR: L/P/S/12/2129

No. 6  
File 62

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.  
COLLECTION.

GENERAL HEADING { Arabia

SUB-HEAD { Saudi - Arabia  
National & provincial boundaries of -

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

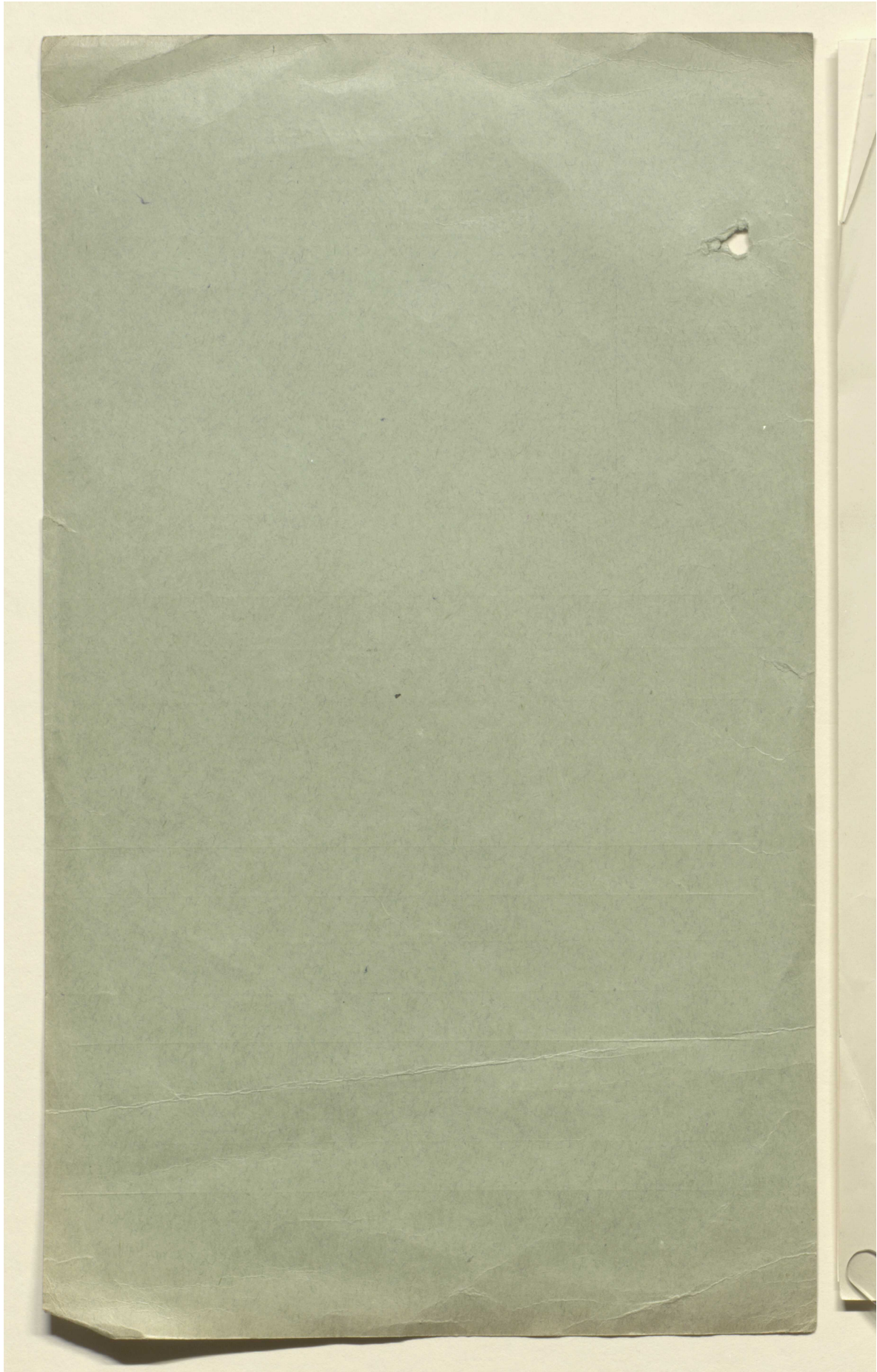
This File contains the following papers :—

YEAR.	
1924	P. 2429, 2707, 3478, 4305, 6041, 6157, 7360
19 . .	P. . . . .
19 . .	P. . . . .
19 . .	P. . . . .
19 . .	P. . . . .
19 . .	P. . . . .
19 . .	P. . . . .
19 . .	P. . . . .

68 Papers may be removed from or placed within this File only by the Political Registry.  
1250 1000 10.32

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6	REFER TO THE SPECIALIST CONCERNED		



Draft Paper.

P.Z. 7360/34  
Pol. Department.

P.A.  
14/12

Confidential

13 DEC 1934

The Hon'ble Mr. H.A.F. Metcalfe  
C.S.I., C.I.E., R.V.O.

My dear Metcalfe,

I enclose for the use of the F.O.P. Dept. another copy of the map of Arabia with frontiers etc. for which you asked in your D.O. No. F. 120-N/34 of 15<sup>th</sup> November.

We <sup>have noted</sup> shall bear in mind the Govt. of India's requirements when the printed map is ultimately produced.

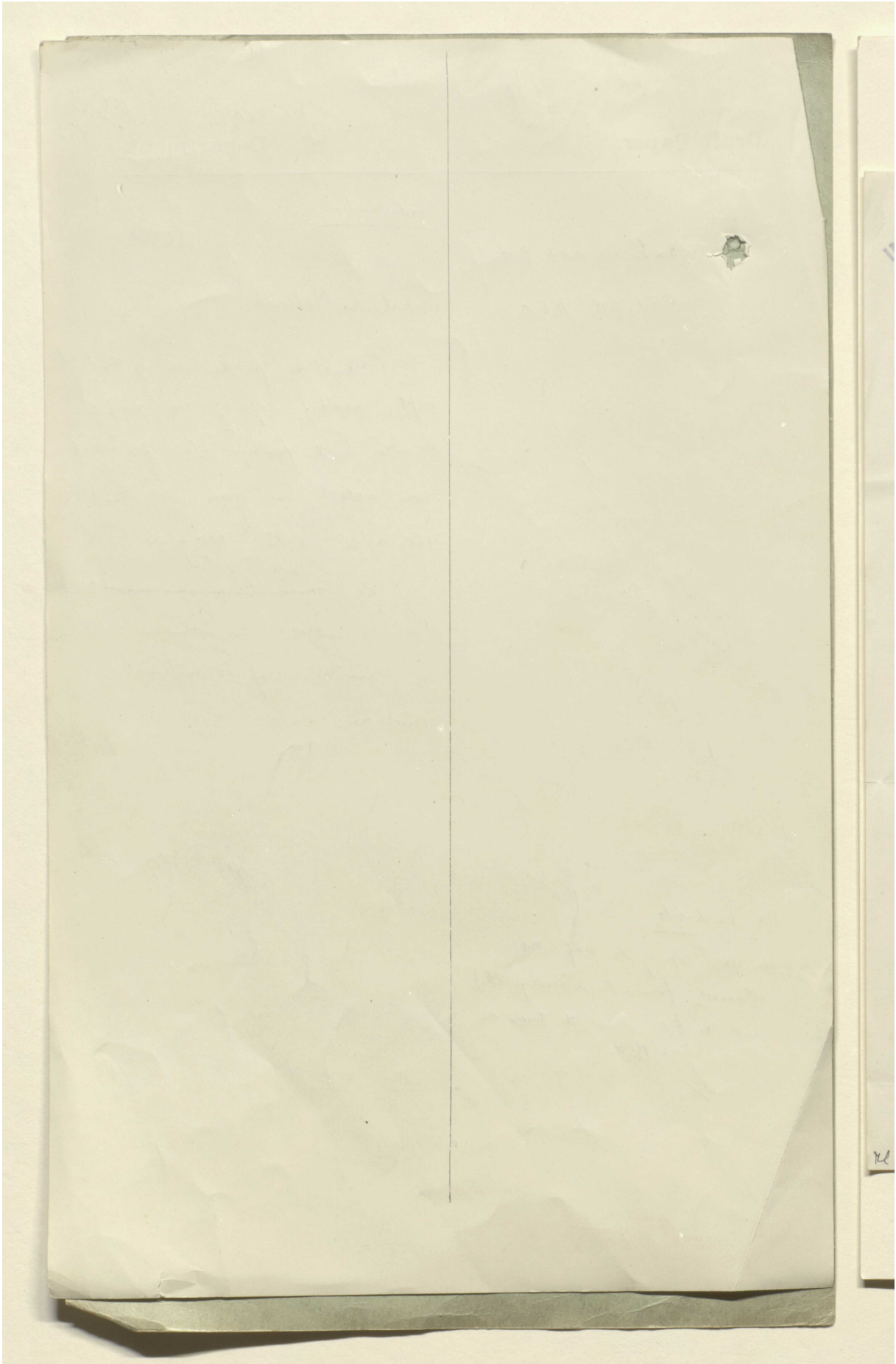
(Sd) J. G. WALTON

Copy to 20  
14 DEC 1934  
for 9/13 letter.

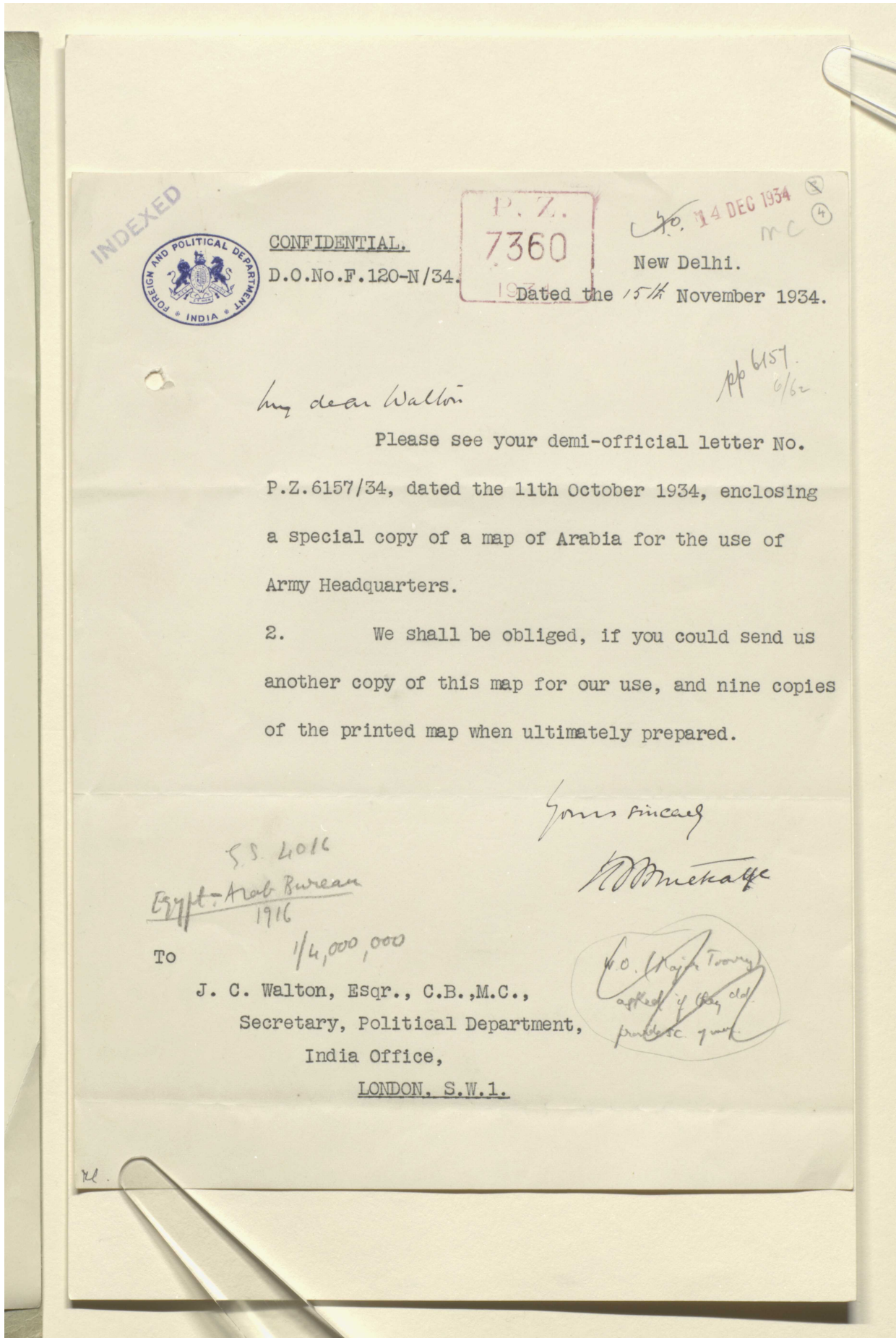
sent Mr W 13  
4.9.12

Mr. Laithwaite

The spare copy of the map was obtained from Major Toovey (W.O.) and the F.O. drew the lines on it. ? Sign (Mr. W.)  
13/12







INDEXED



CONFIDENTIAL.

D.O.No.F.120-N/34.

P. Z.  
7360  
1934

14 DEC 1934  
mc

New Delhi.

Dated the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1934.

My dear Walton

pp 6157.  
6/62

Please see your demi-official letter No.

P.Z.6157/34, dated the 11th October 1934, enclosing a special copy of a map of Arabia for the use of Army Headquarters.

2. We shall be obliged, if you could send us another copy of this map for our use, and nine copies of the printed map when ultimately prepared.

Yours sincerely

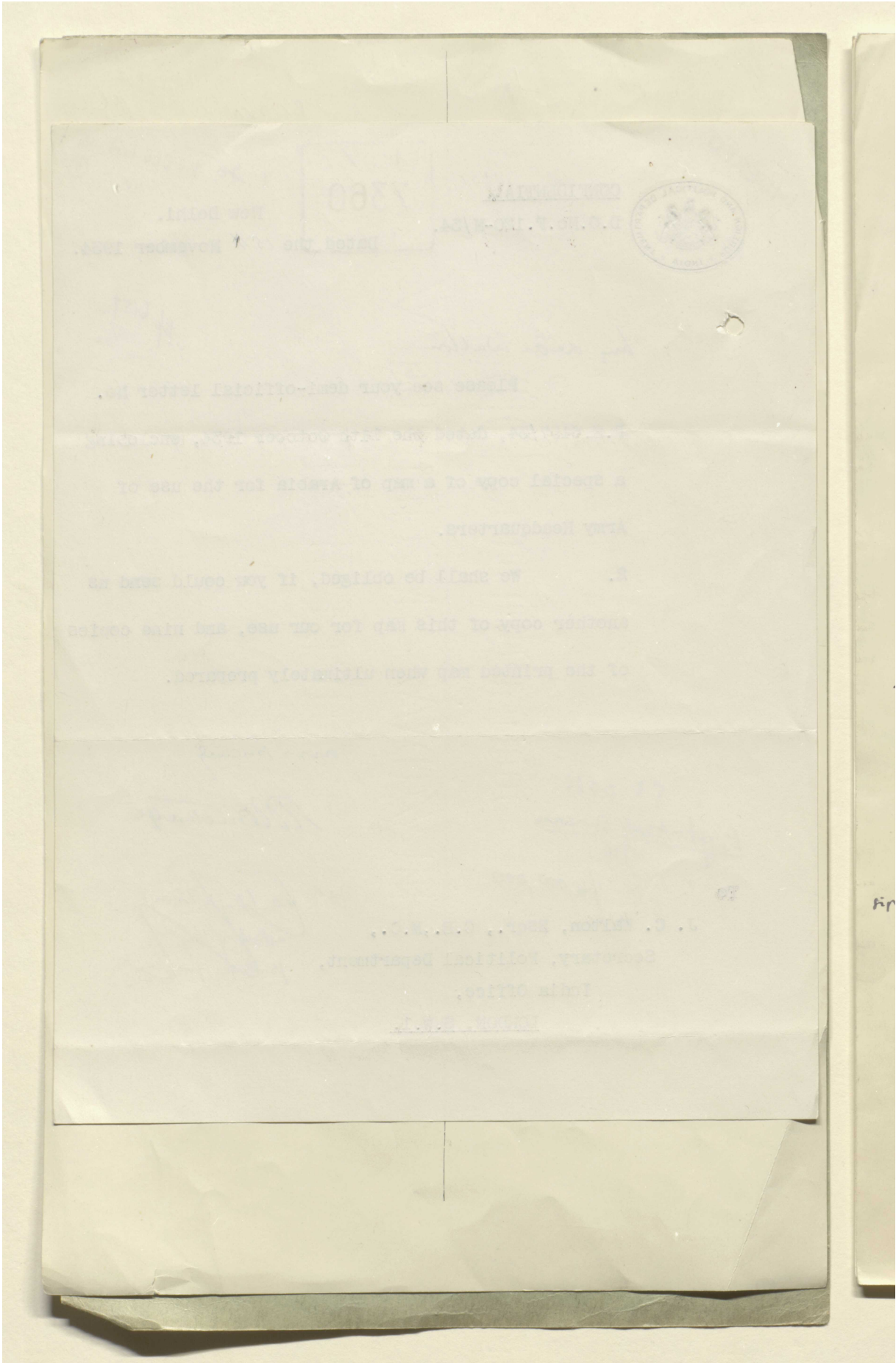
*W. O. Major Tommy*

5 S. 4016  
Egypt-Arab Bureau  
1916

To 1/4,000,000

J. C. Walton, Esqr., C.B., M.C.,  
Secretary, Political Department,  
India Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

W. O. Major Tommy  
asked if they did  
produce map



Draft Paper.

no. PZ 6157  
34

P.S.A. 10/10  
POLITICAL Department.

DRAFT LETTER.

11 OCT 1934

My dear Metcalfe.

The Hon'ble Mr. H.A.F. Metcalfe,  
CSI., CIE., MVO.

From F.O. 10th April 1934.  
" " 23rd April 1934.  
To " 30th April 1934,  
P.Z.2707/34.  
From " 23rd May.  
To " 26th May, P.Z.3478/34.

From F.O. to W.O. 29 Sept. PZ 6157/34.

and on its preparation compare  
F.O. letter of 29 Sept. to W.O. now  
enclosed & may be considerably  
delayed on the result of the  
proposed negotiations with  
the Saudis for the reason given in  
F.O. letter of 29 Sept. to the W.O. now  
enclosed

Seen M.W.

firm (M.W.)  
graised  
P.S.A. 6/10

11 OCT 1934

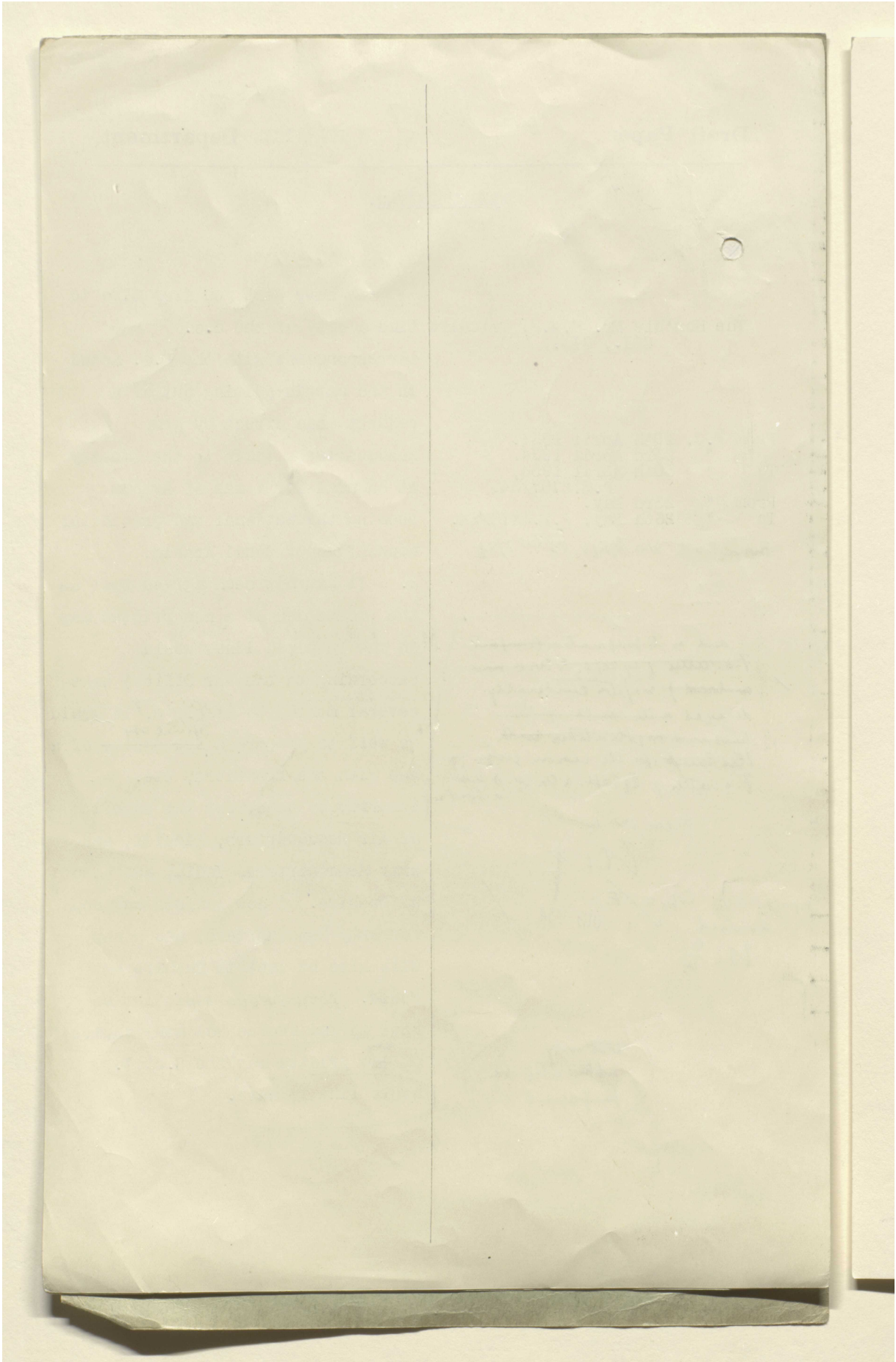
that may  
at this time be  
prepared

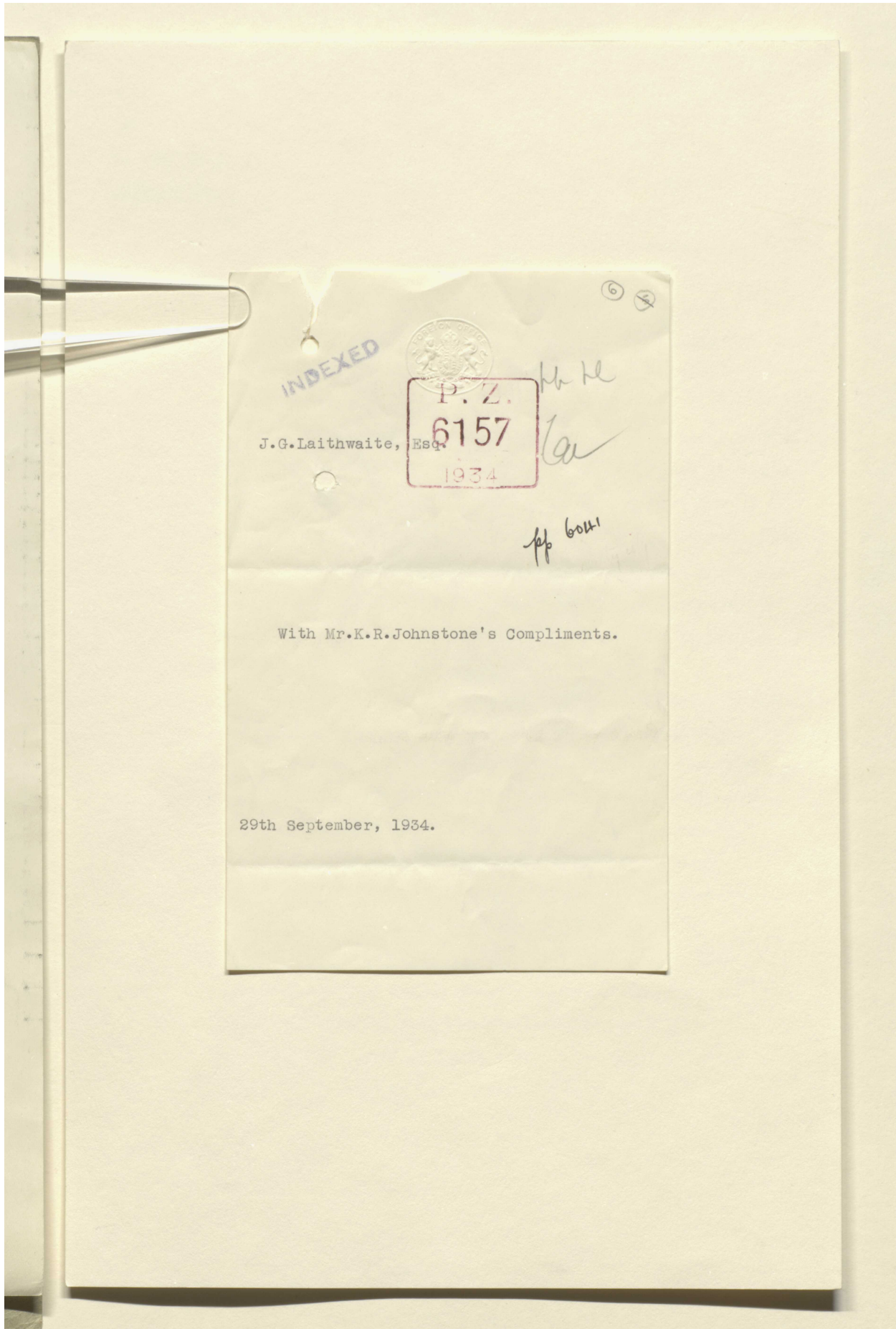
We have sent you from time to time a copy of the d.o. correspondence with the F.O. noted in the margin arising out of a request made direct by Army Headquarters, India to the Embassy at Baghdad for a map of Arabia shewing the national and provincial boundaries of Saudi Arabia.

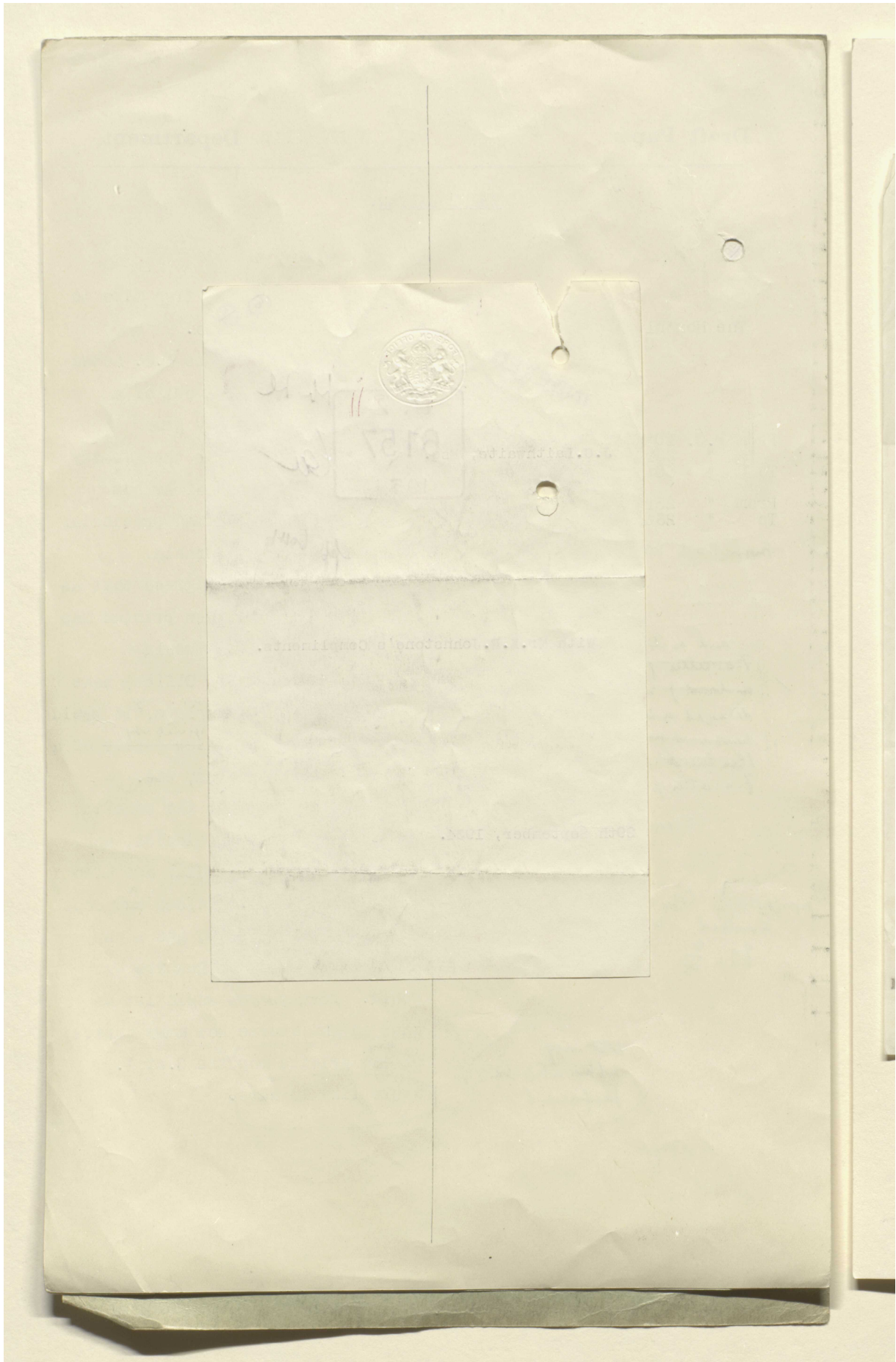
2. It has now been agreed that as the production of a new printed map on the required lines would (according to the War Office) take several months to complete, it would be well to prepare a few copies of a map with the frontiers, etc. inserted by hand, for the benefit of Air Headquarters, Hinaidi, and Army Headquarters, India, and also of Bushire. I now enclose <sup>a</sup> one copy for Army Headquarters, and a copy will also be sent to Bushire by Fowle. Perhaps you would let us know in due course how many copies of <sup>any</sup> the printed map the G. of I. would like to have.

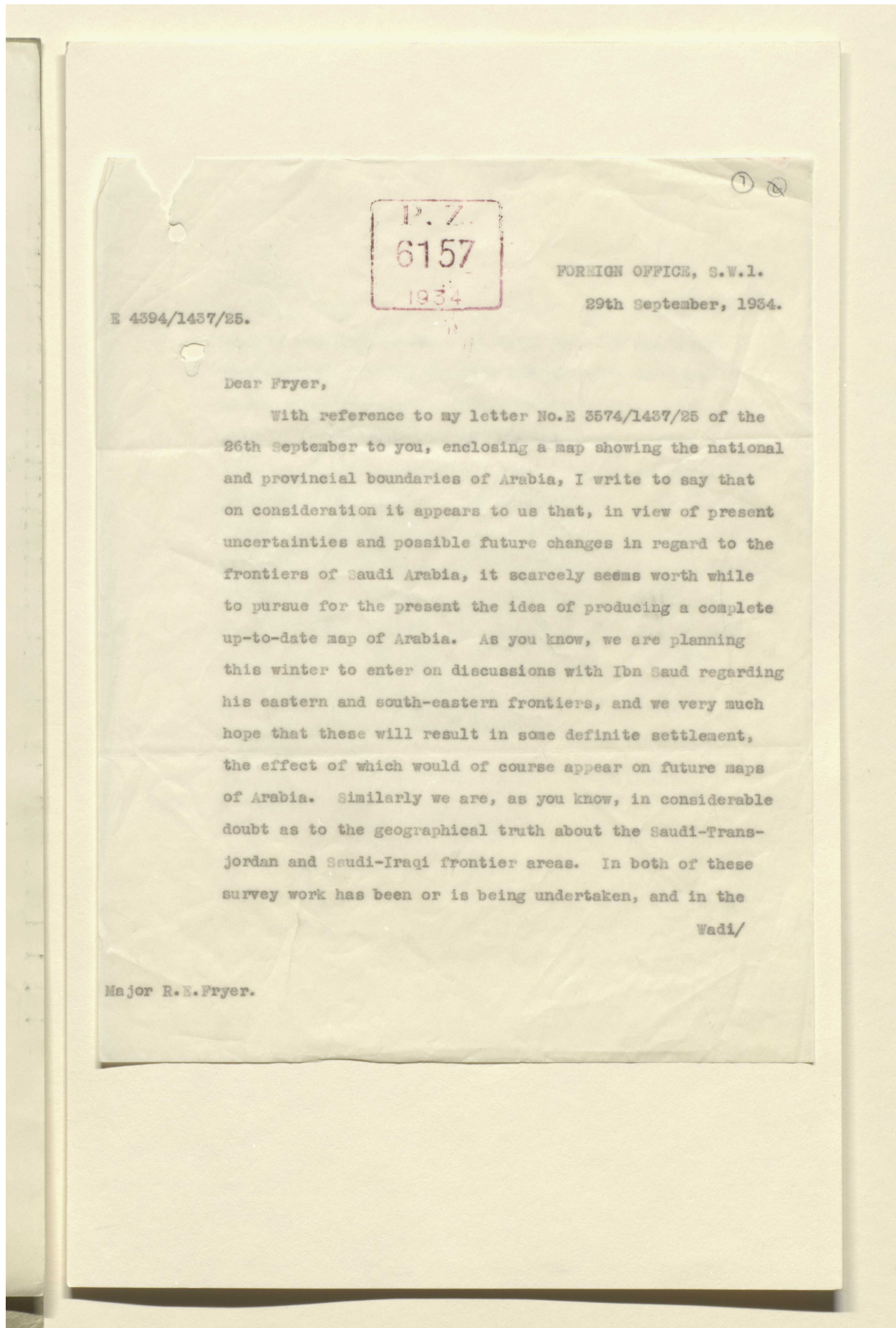
Yours sincerely,

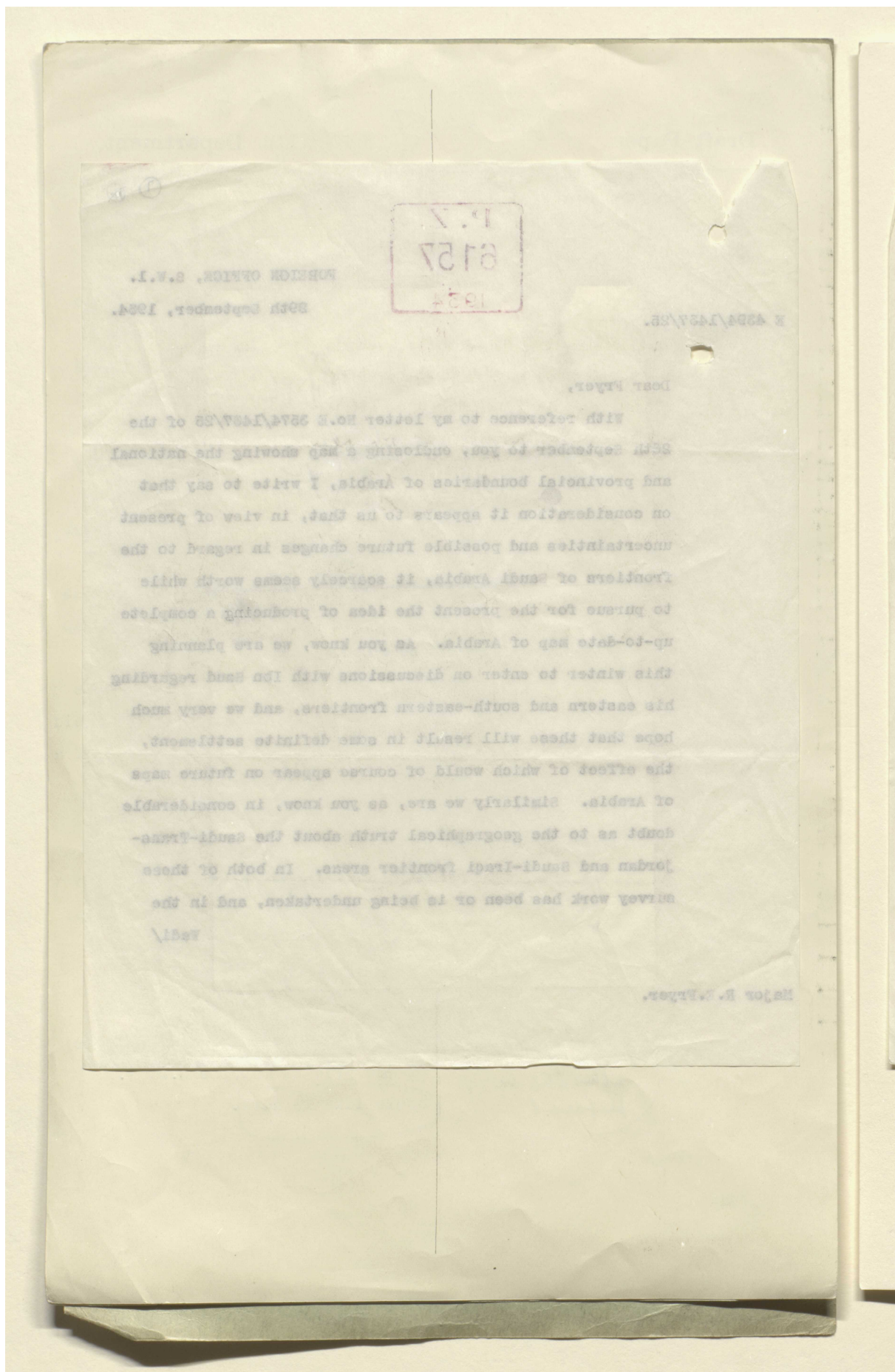
(Sd.) J. C. WALTON,













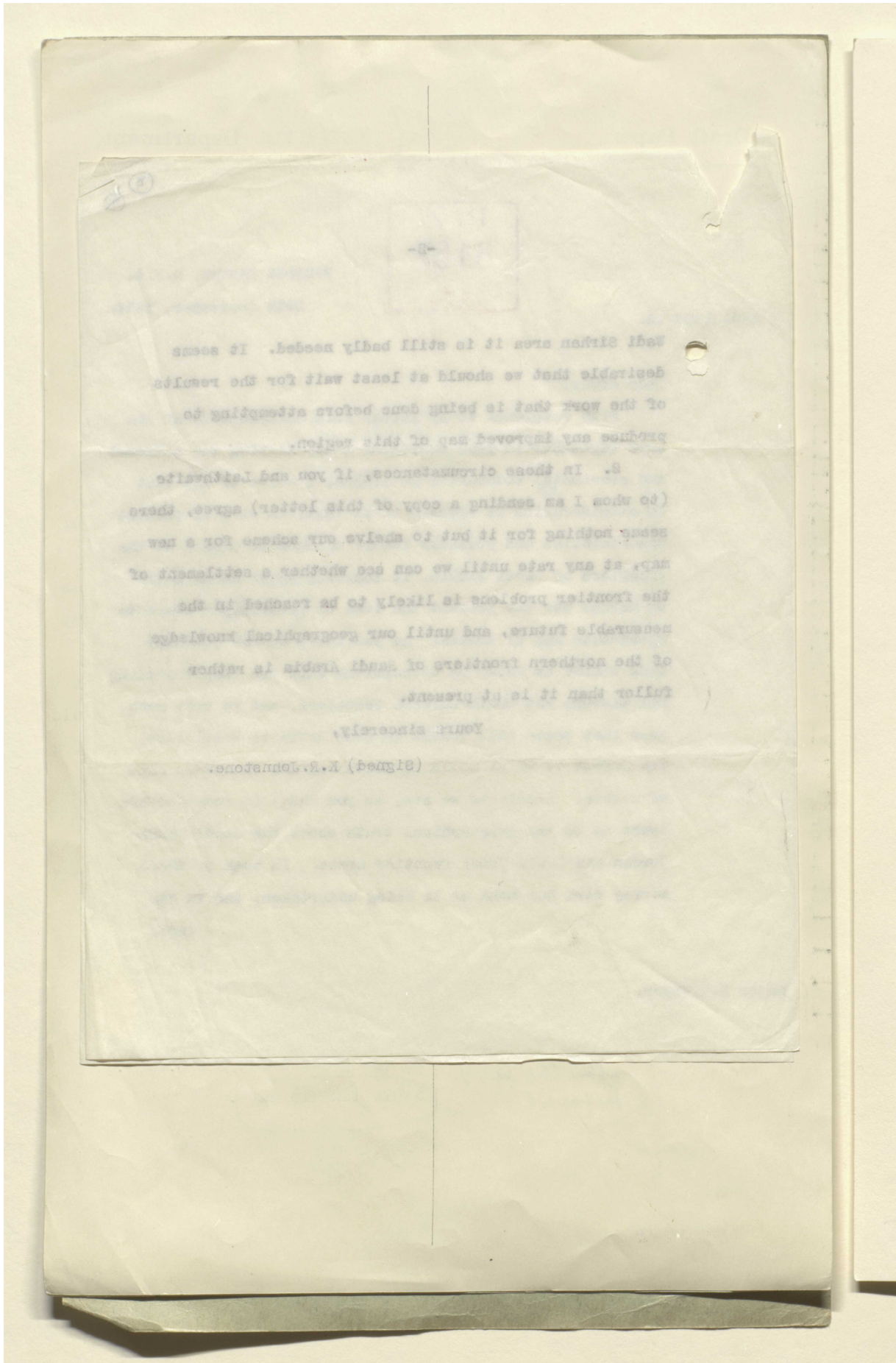
-2-

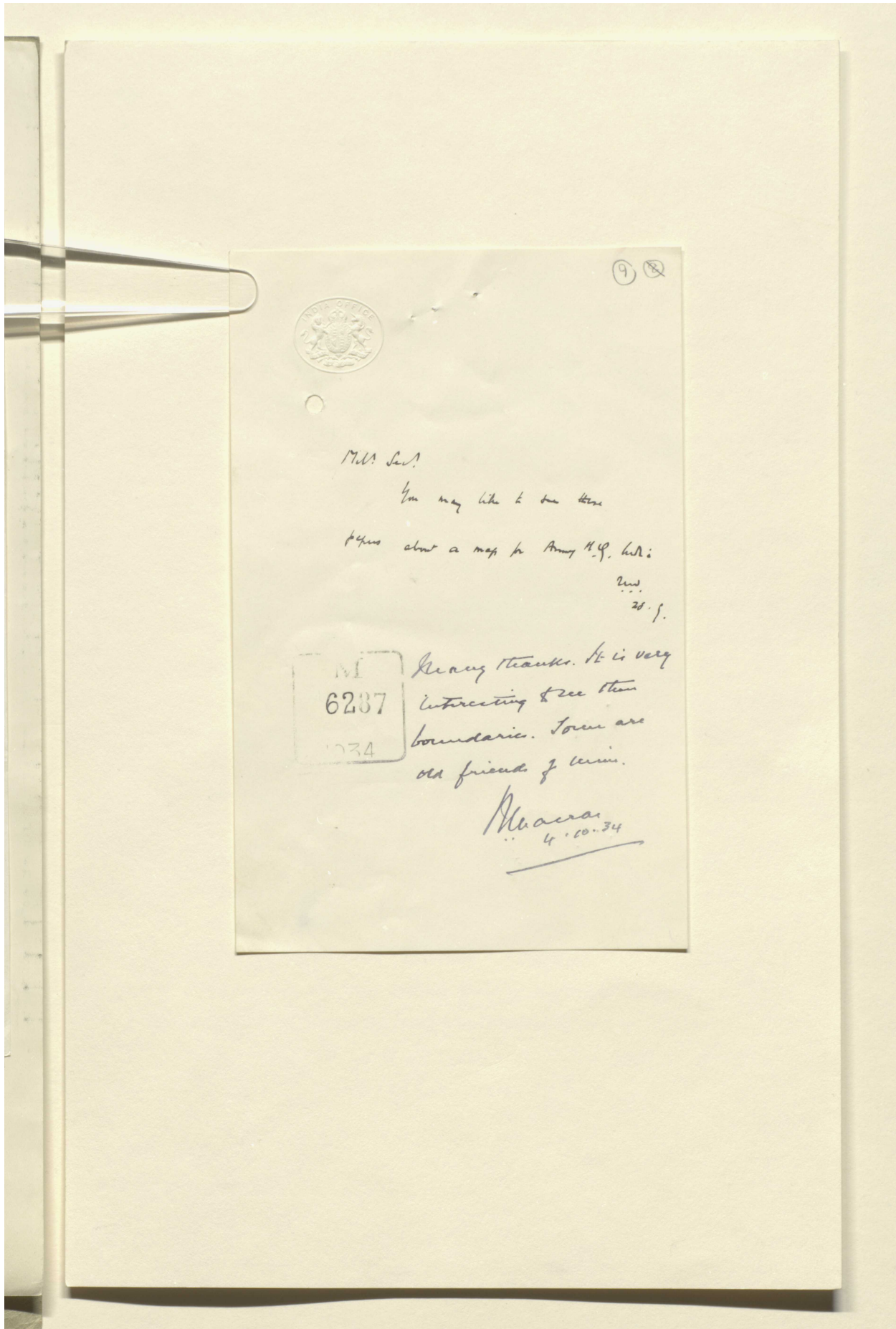
Wadi Sirhan area it is still badly needed. It seems desirable that we should at least wait for the results of the work that is being done before attempting to produce any improved map of this region.

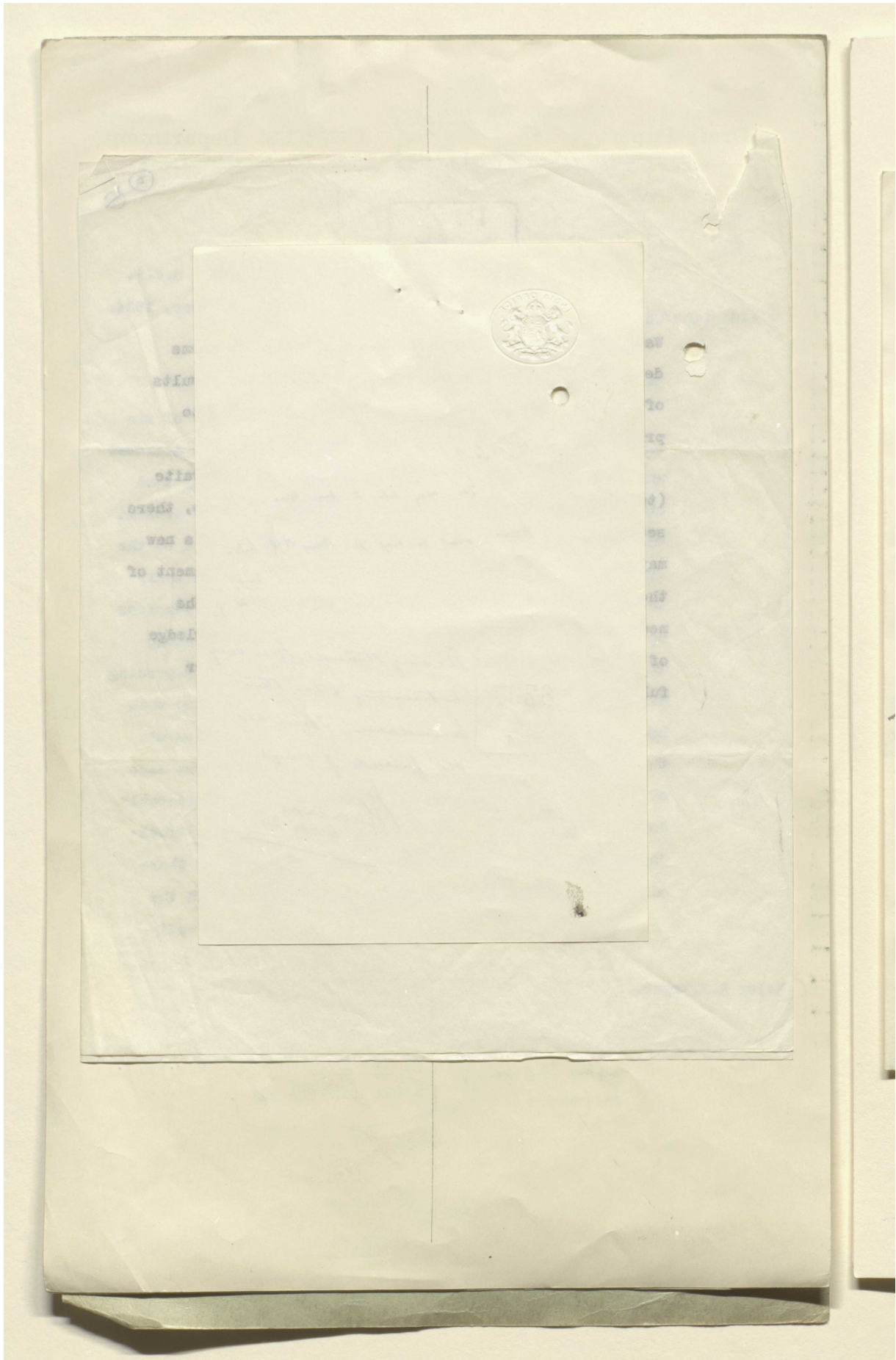
2. In these circumstances, if you and Laithwaite (to whom I am sending a copy of this letter) agree, there seems nothing for it but to shelve our scheme for a new map, at any rate until we can see whether a settlement of the frontier problems is likely to be reached in the measurable future, and until our geographical knowledge of the northern frontiers of Saudi Arabia is rather fuller than it is at present.

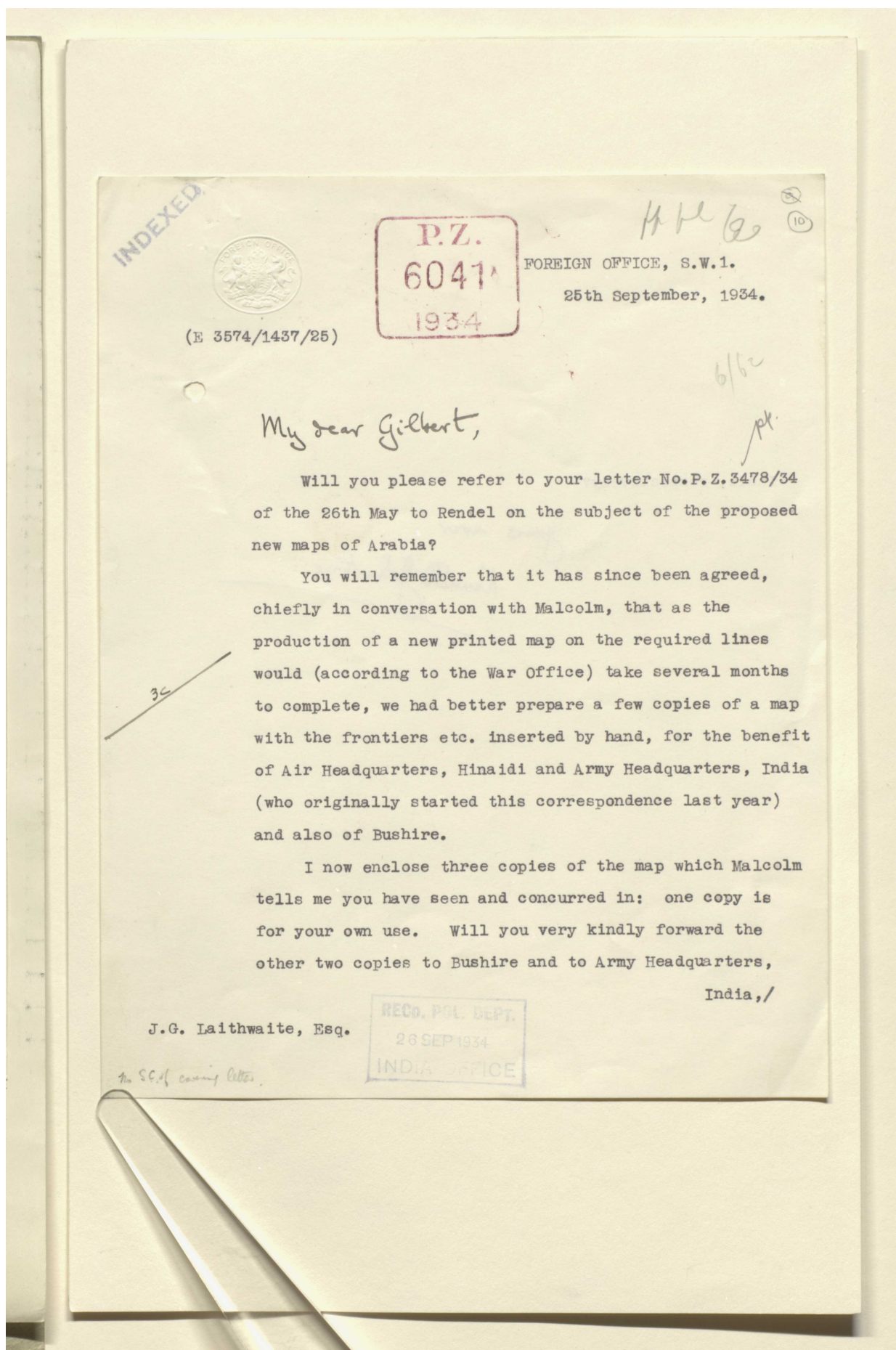
Yours sincerely,

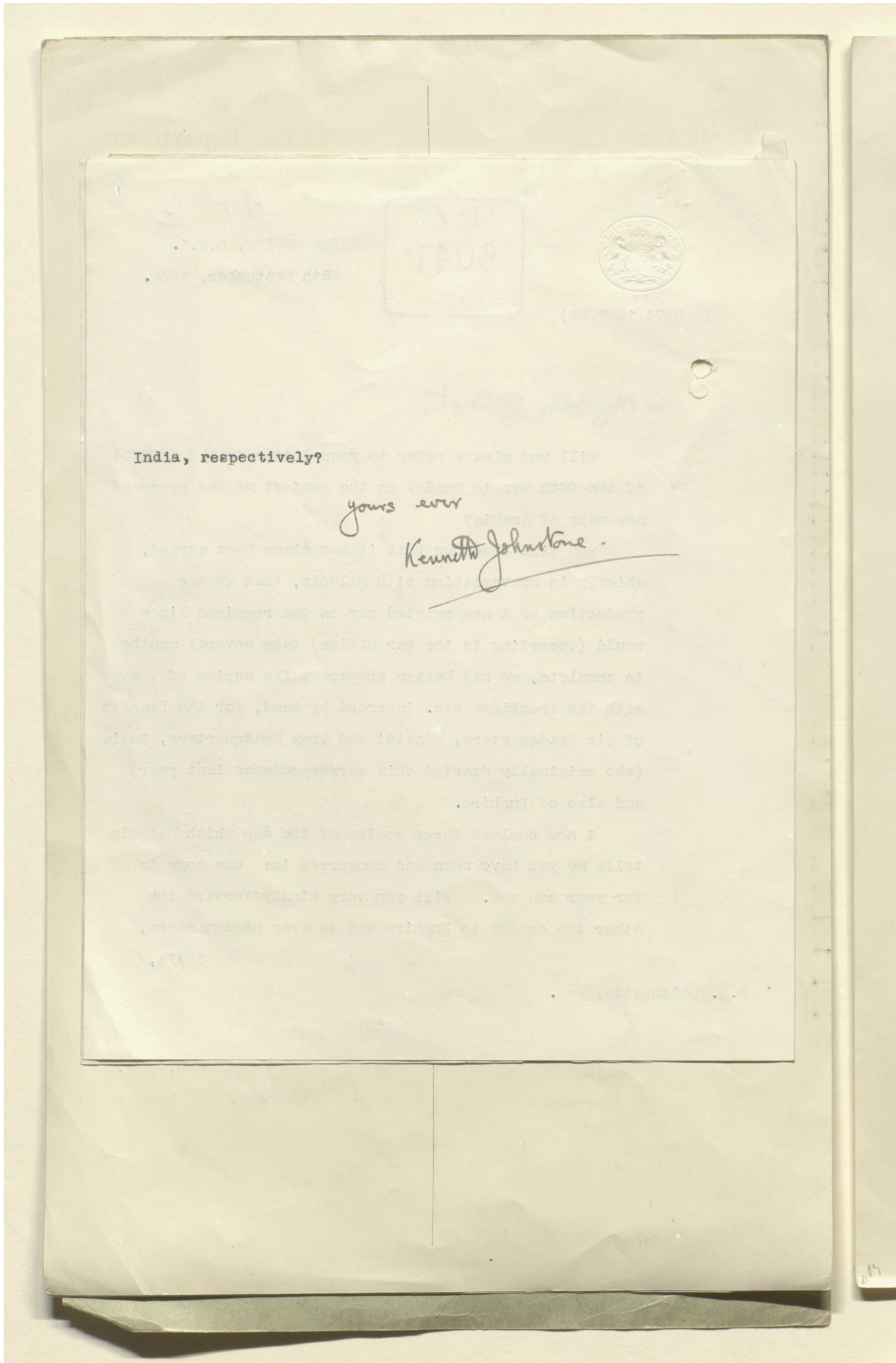
(Signed) K.R. Johnstone.

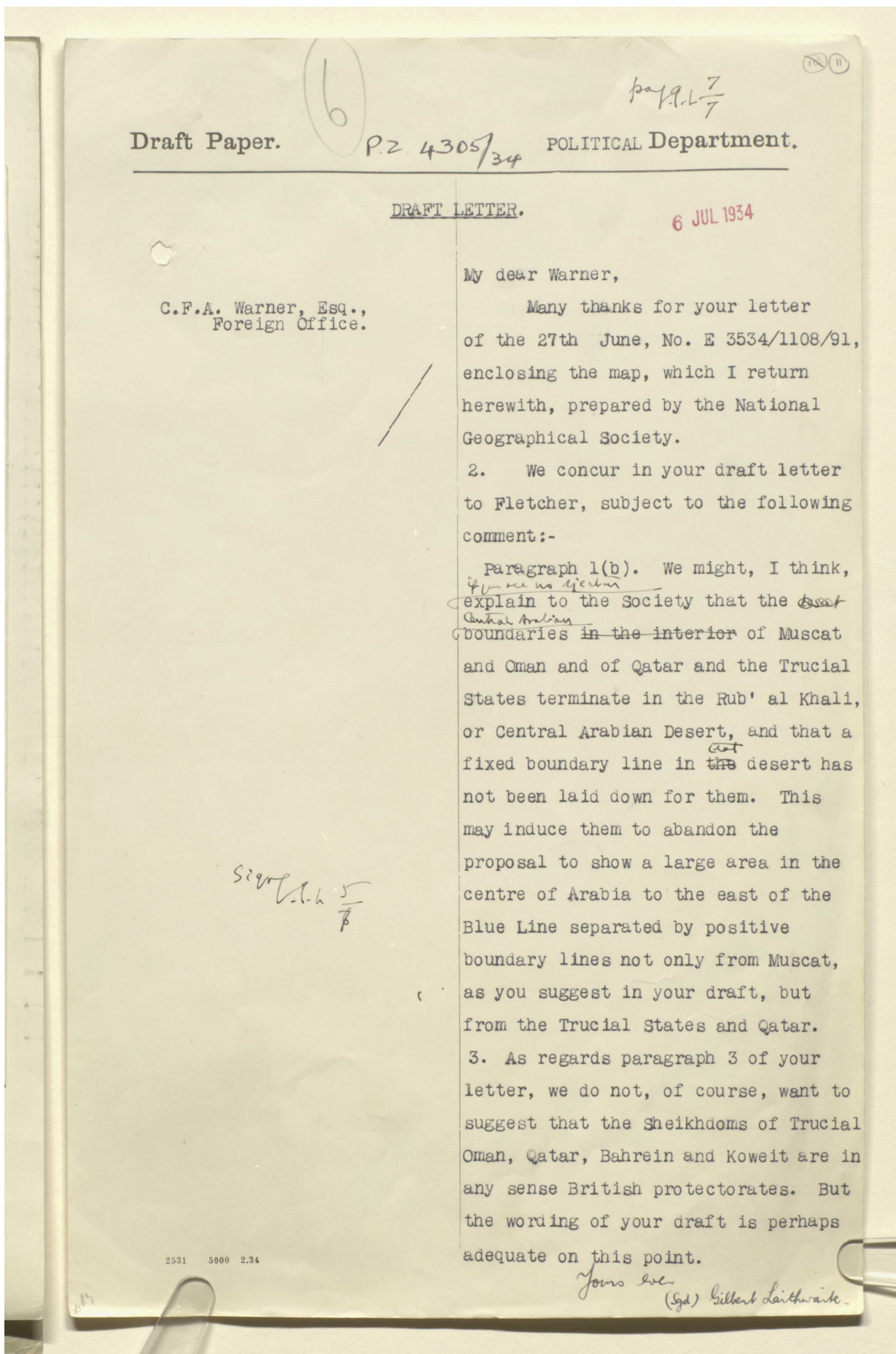












Draft Paper.

P.2 4305/34

POLITICAL Department.

DRAFT LETTER.

6 JUL 1934

C.F.A. Warner, Esq.,  
Foreign Office.

My dear Warner,

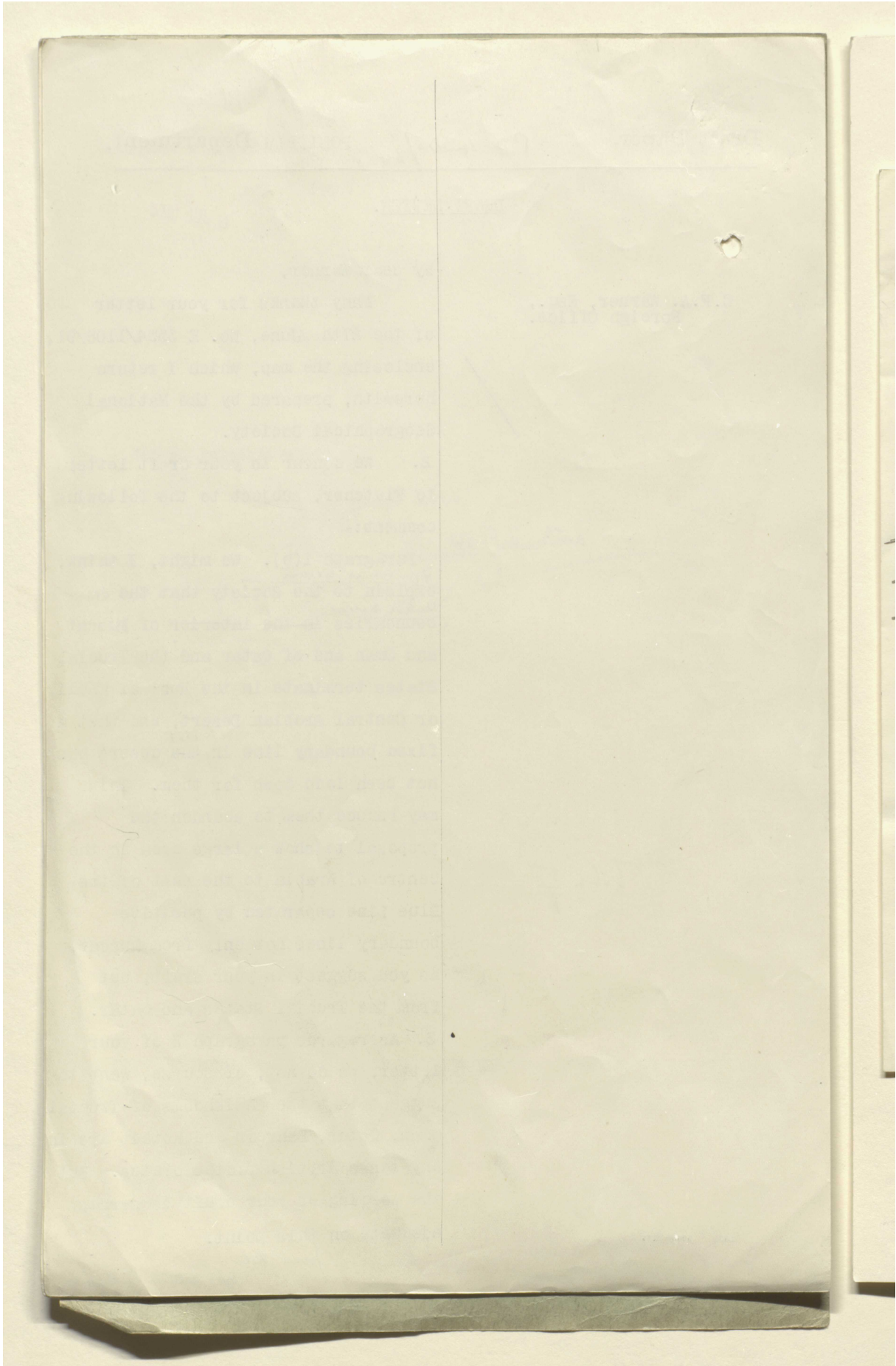
Many thanks for your letter of the 27th June, No. E 3534/1108/91, enclosing the map, which I return herewith, prepared by the National Geographical Society.

2. We concur in your draft letter to Fletcher, subject to the following comment:-

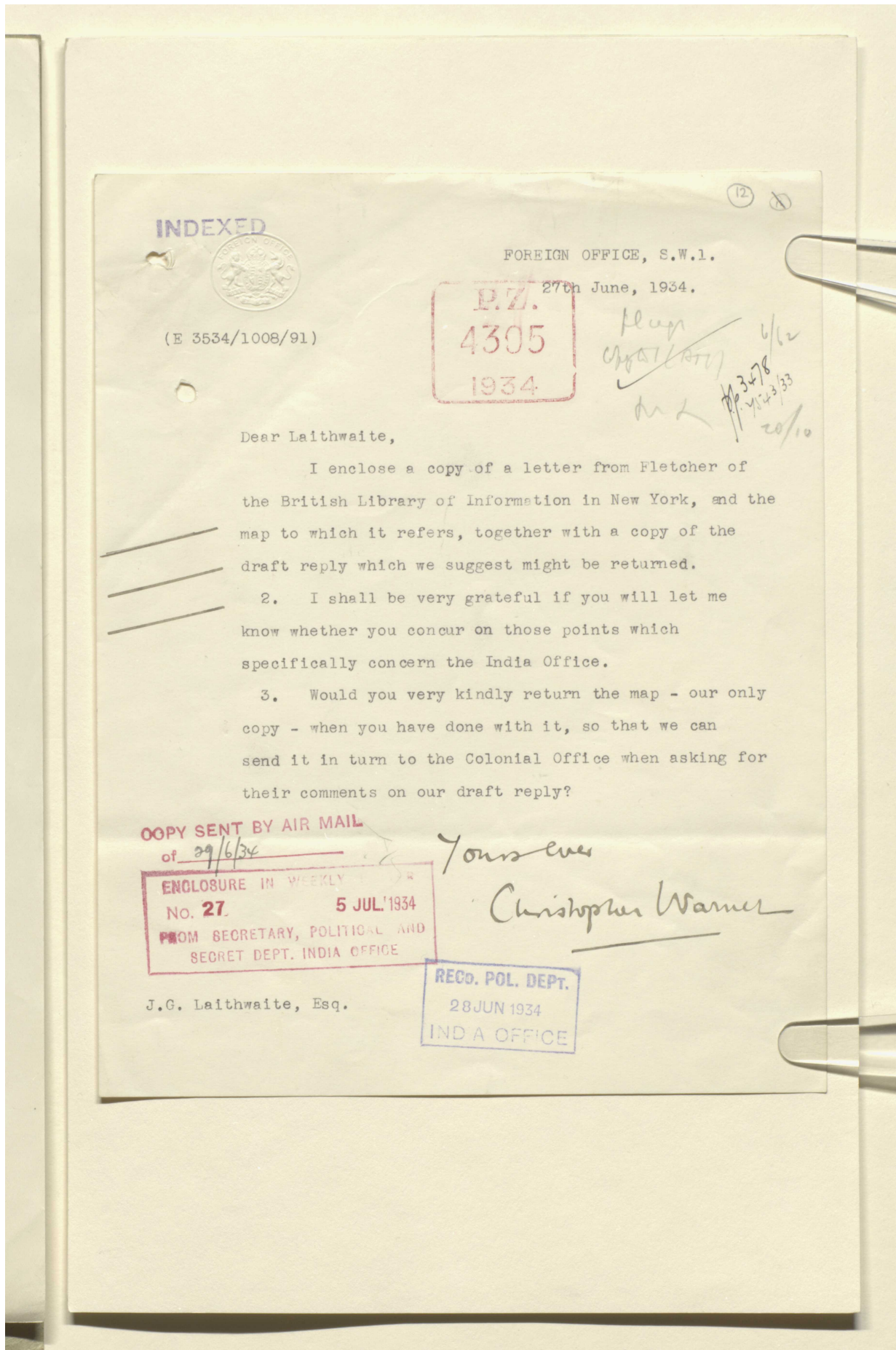
Paragraph 1(b). We might, I think, explain to the Society that the ~~East Central Arabian~~ boundaries in the interior of Muscat and Oman and of Qatar and the Trucial States terminate in the Rub' al Khali, or Central Arabian Desert, and that a fixed boundary line in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> desert has not been laid down for them. This may induce them to abandon the proposal to show a large area in the centre of Arabia to the east of the Blue Line separated by positive boundary lines not only from Muscat, as you suggest in your draft, but from the Trucial States and Qatar.

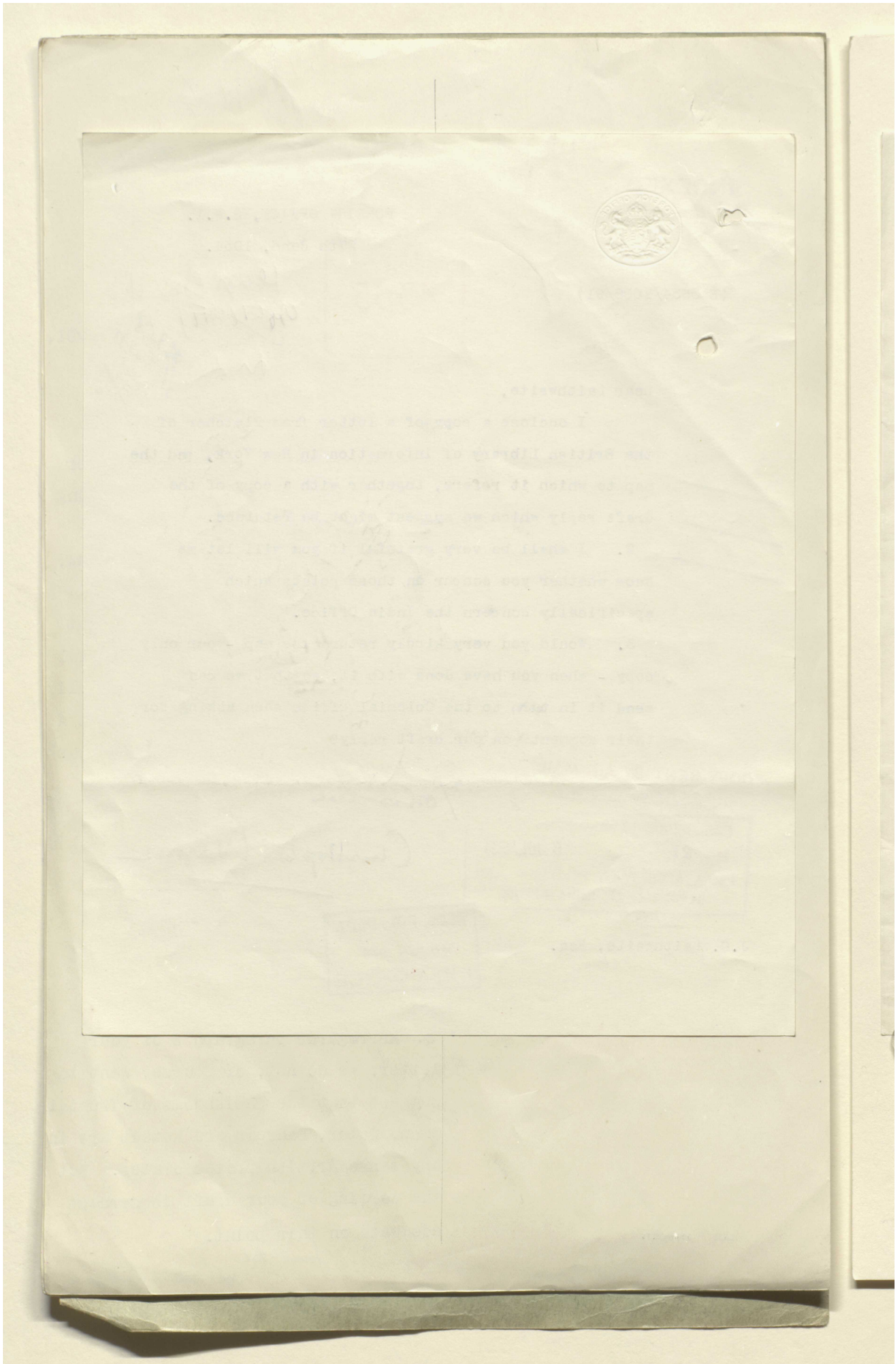
3. As regards paragraph 3 of your letter, we do not, of course, want to suggest that the Sheikdoms of Trucial Oman, Qatar, Bahrein and Koweit are in any sense British protectorates. But the wording of your draft is perhaps adequate on this point.

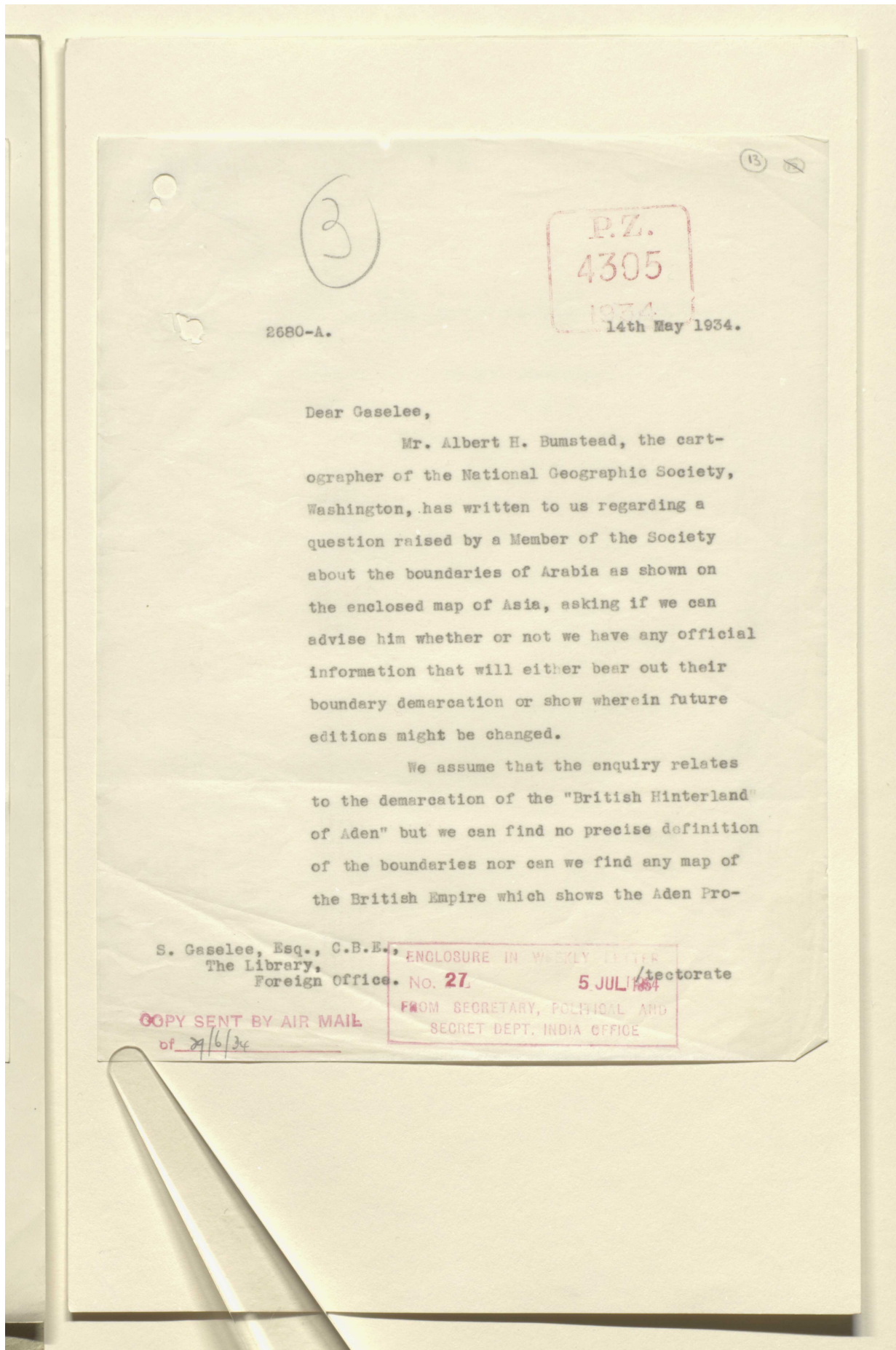
Yours etc  
(Sgd.) Gilbert Lathwaite











2680-A.

P.Z.  
4305  
1934  
14th May 1934.

Dear Gaselee,

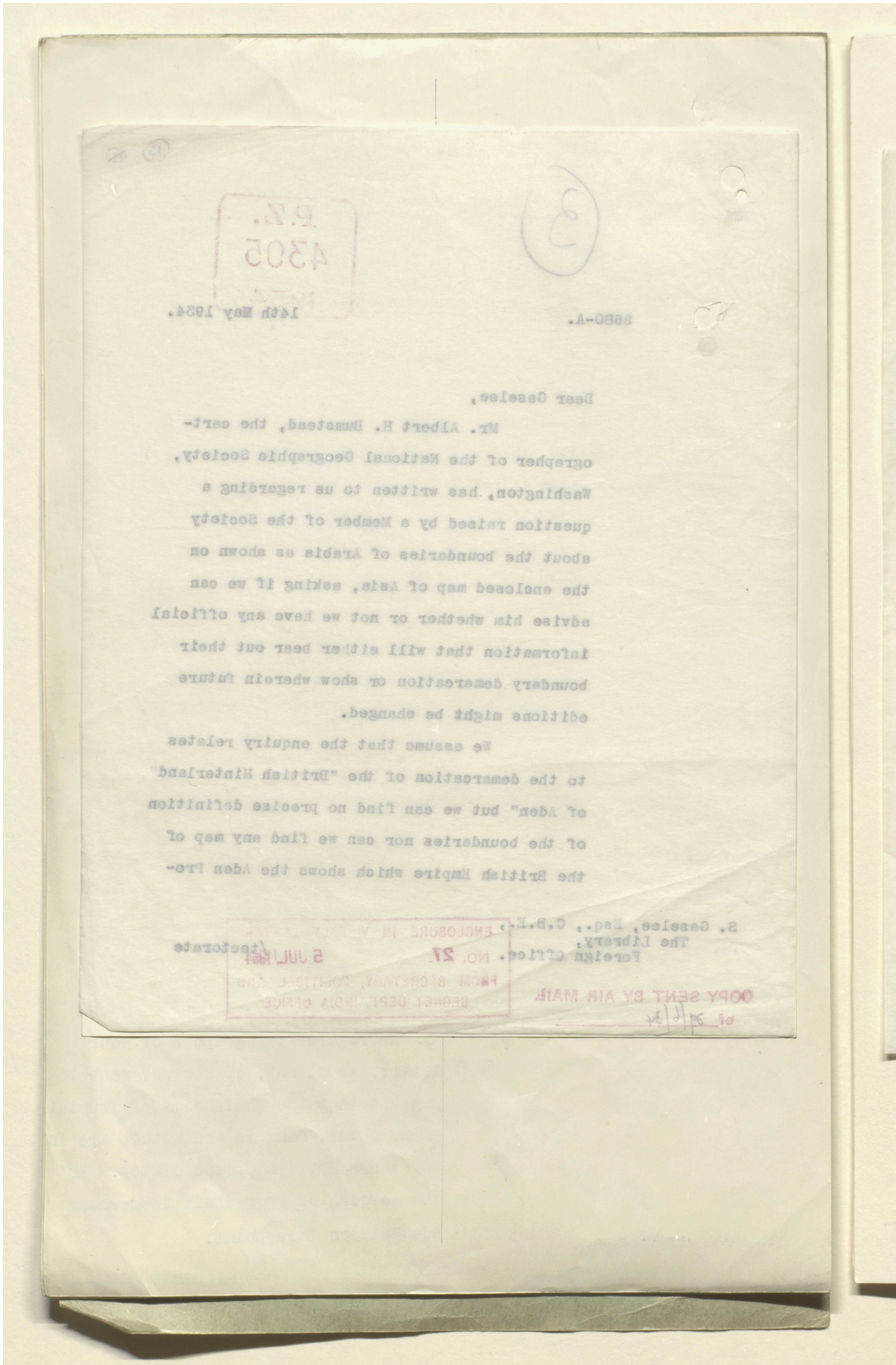
Mr. Albert H. Bumstead, the cartographer of the National Geographic Society, Washington, has written to us regarding a question raised by a Member of the Society about the boundaries of Arabia as shown on the enclosed map of Asia, asking if we can advise him whether or not we have any official information that will either bear out their boundary demarcation or show wherein future editions might be changed.

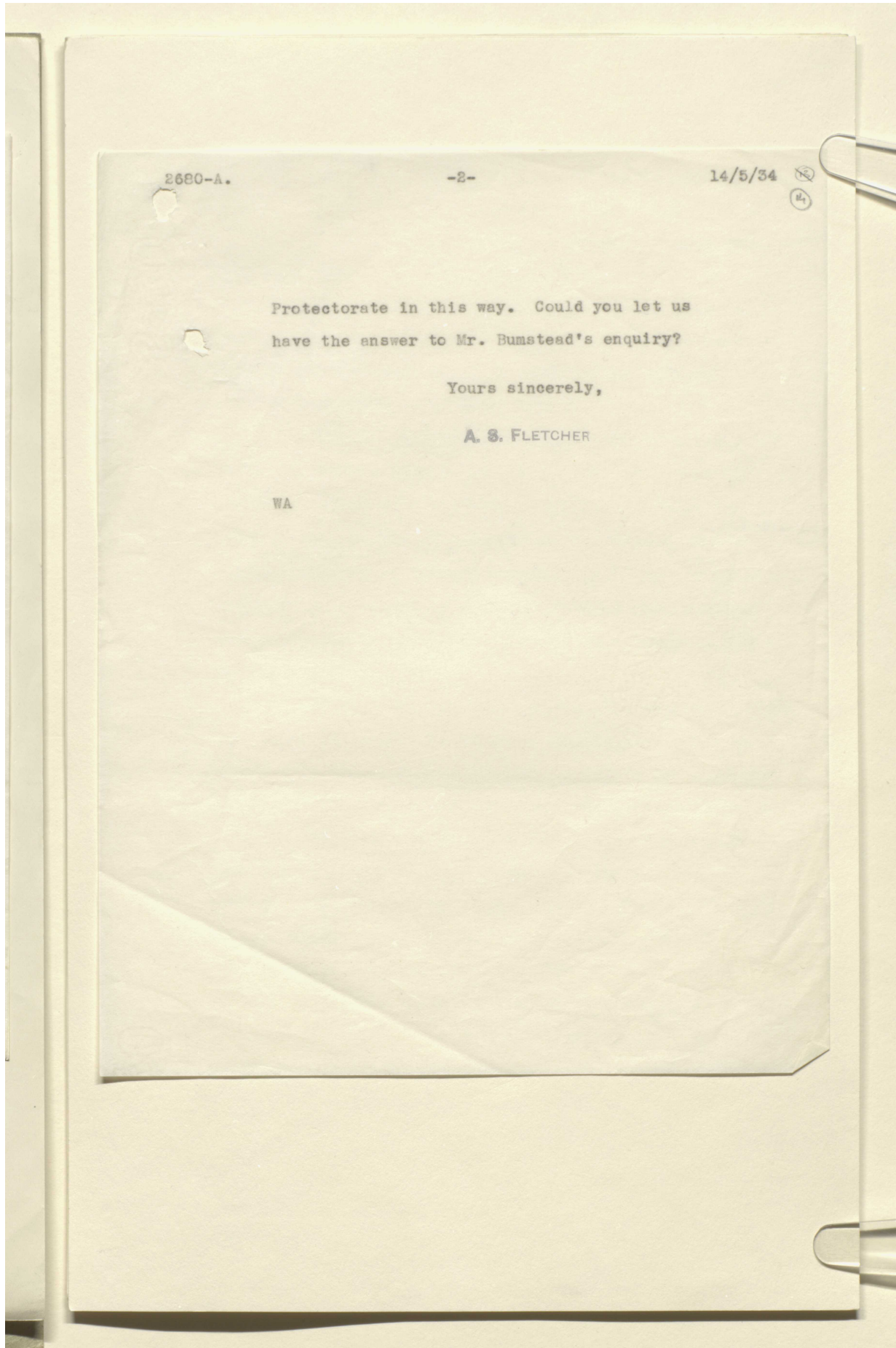
We assume that the enquiry relates to the demarcation of the "British Hinterland of Aden" but we can find no precise definition of the boundaries nor can we find any map of the British Empire which shows the Aden Pro-

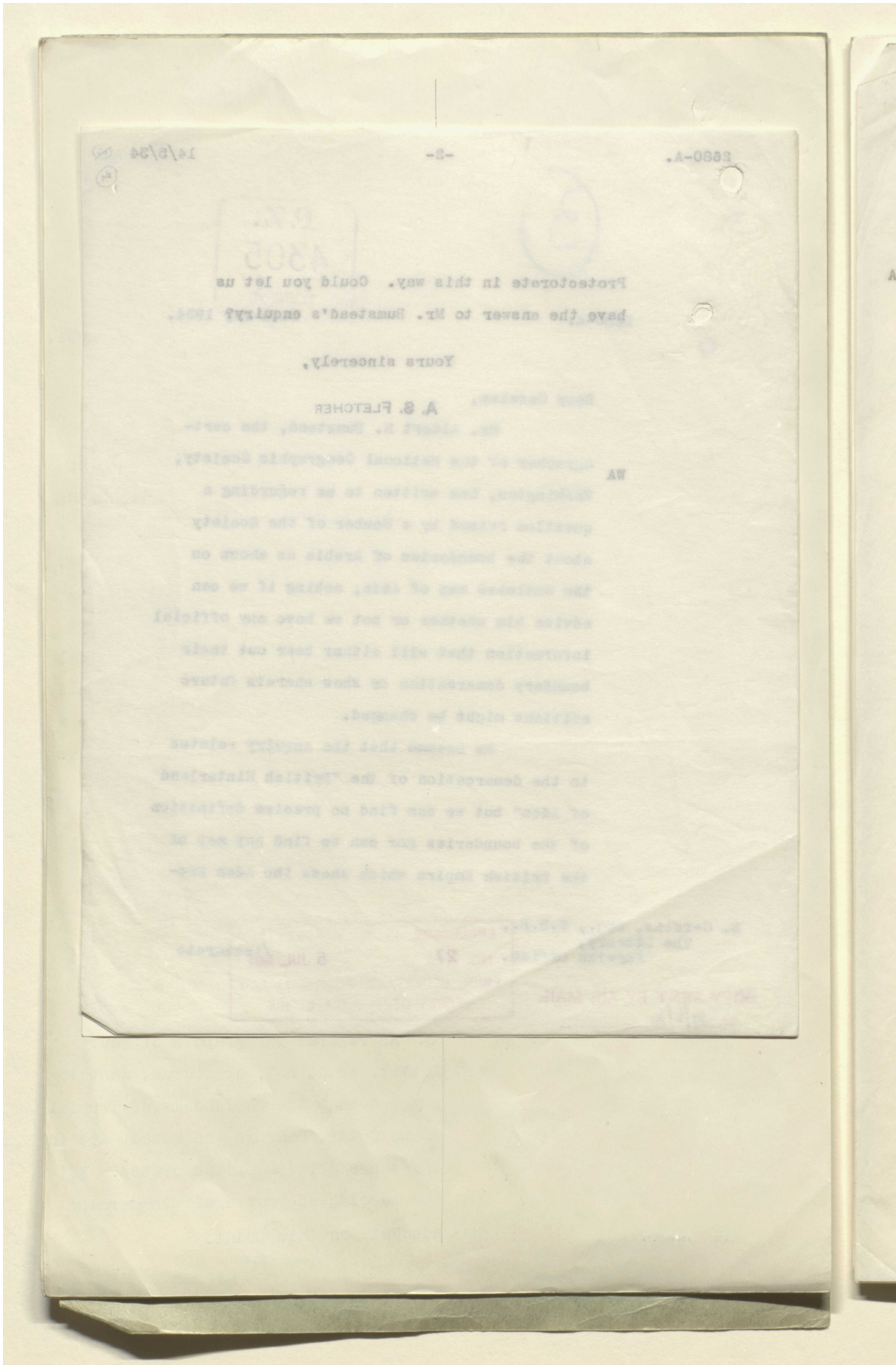
S. Gaselee, Esq., C.B.E.,  
The Library,  
Foreign Office.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER  
NO. 27 5 JUL 1934  
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND  
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL  
of 29/6/34







E 3534/1008/91

7/15

June 4

Dear Fletcher,  
Angus Fletcher, Esq., C.B.E  
British Library of  
Information,  
New York.

I am replying to your letter

No. 2680-A of the 14th May to Gaselee

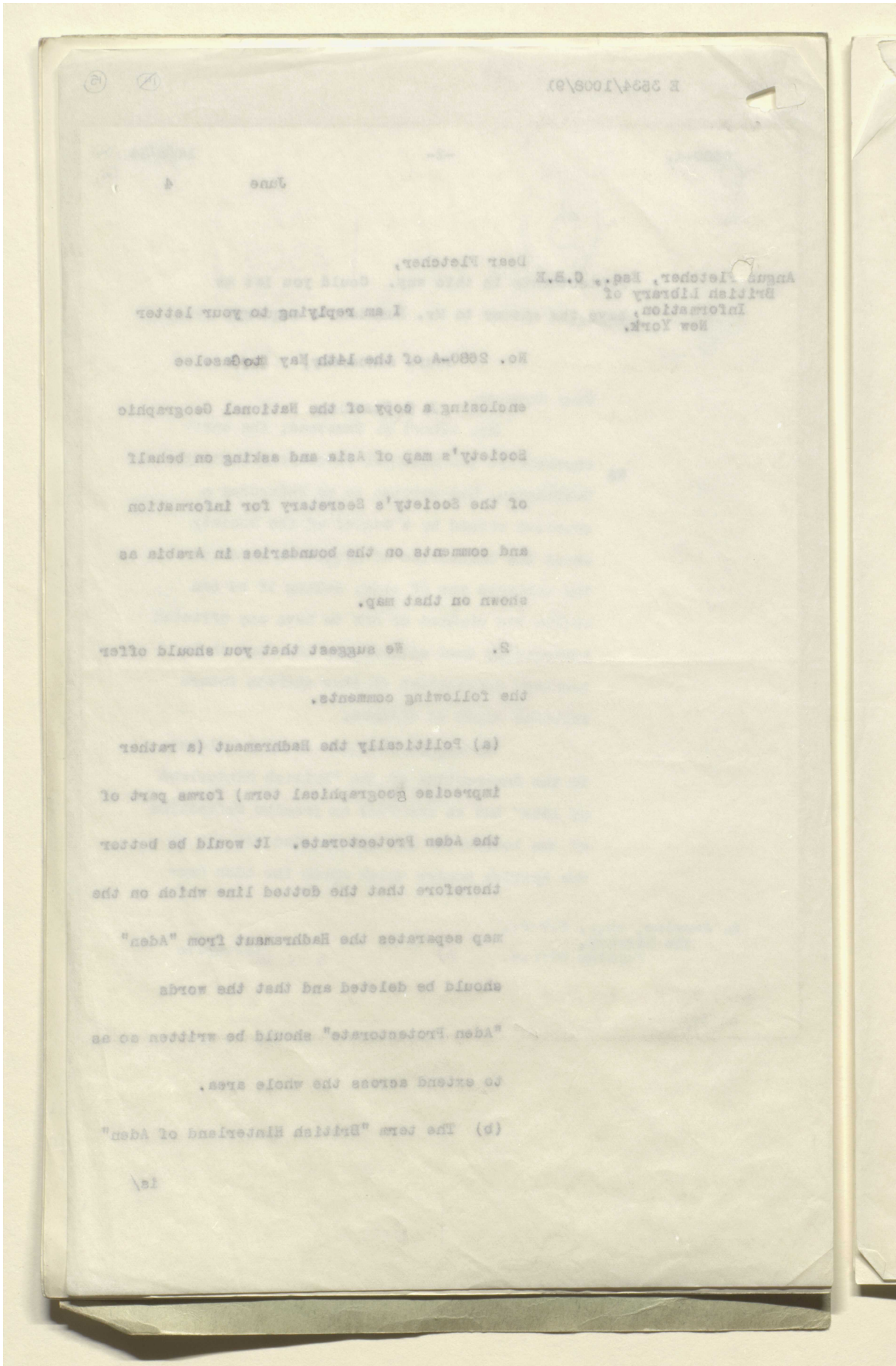
enclosing a copy of the National Geographic Society's map of Asia and asking on behalf of the Society's Secretary for information and comments on the boundaries in Arabia as shown on that map.

2. We suggest that you should offer the following comments.

(a) Politically the Hadhramaut (a rather imprecise geographical term) forms part of the Aden Protectorate. It would be better therefore that the dotted line which on the map separates the Hadhramaut from "Aden" should be deleted and that the words "Aden Protectorate" should be written so as to extend across the whole area.

(b) The term "British Hinterland of Aden"

is/





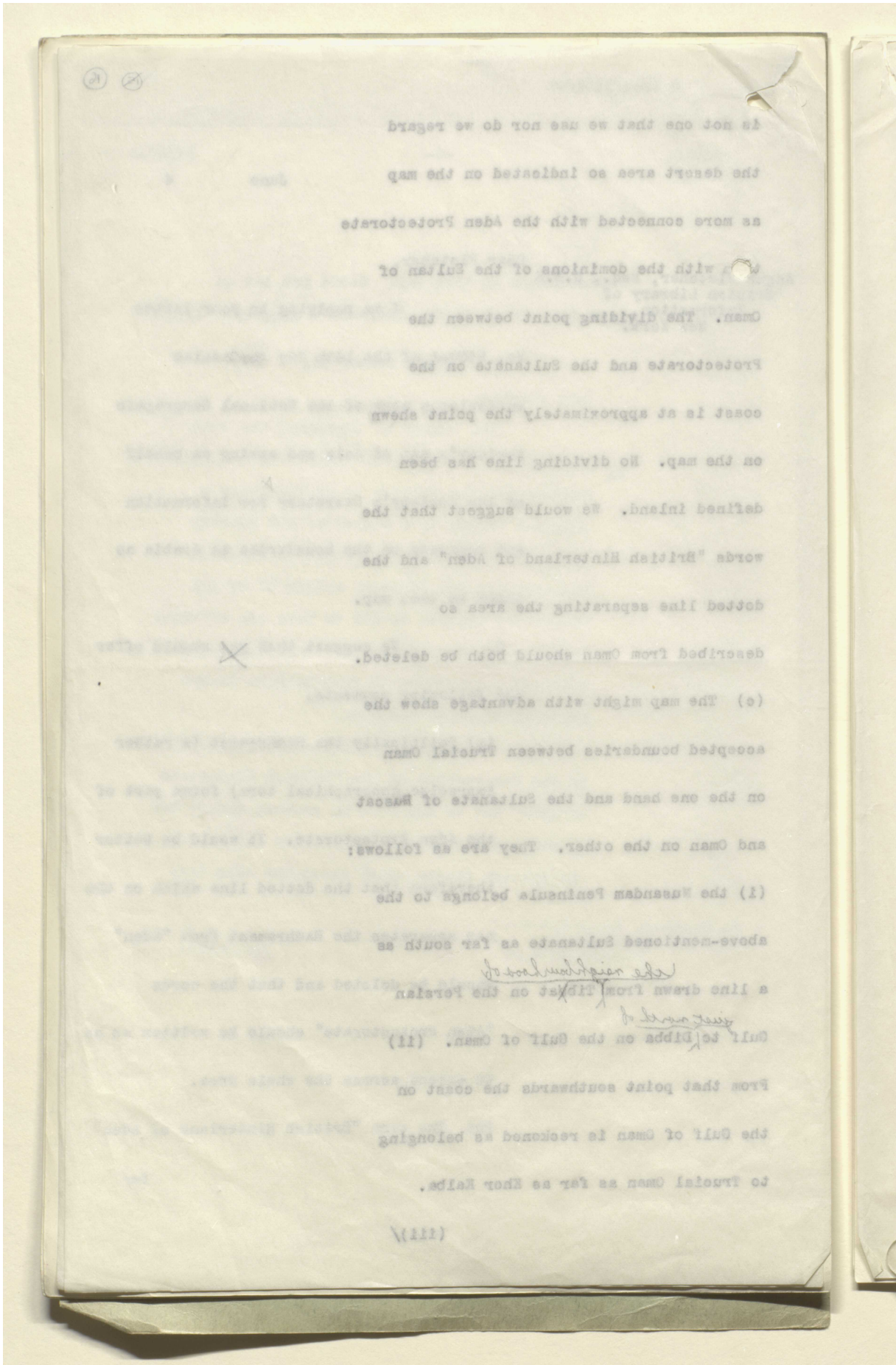
is not one that we use nor do we regard  
the desert area so indicated on the map  
as more connected with the Aden Protectorate  
than with the dominions of the Sultan of  
Oman. The dividing point between the  
Protectorate and the Sultanate on the  
coast is at approximately the point shown  
on the map. No dividing line has been  
defined inland. We would suggest that the  
words "British Hinterland of Aden" and the  
dotted line separating the area so  
described from Oman should both be deleted.

(e) The map might with advantage show the  
accepted boundaries between Trucial Oman  
on the one hand and the Sultanate of Muscat  
and Oman on the other. They are as follows:

(i) the Musandam Peninsula belongs to the  
above-mentioned Sultanate as far south as  
a line drawn from <sup>the neighbourhood of</sup> Tibbat on the Persian  
Gulf to <sup>just north of</sup> Dibba on the Gulf of Oman. (ii)

From that point southwards the coast on  
the Gulf of Oman is reckoned as belonging  
to Trucial Oman as far as Khor Kalba.

(111)/



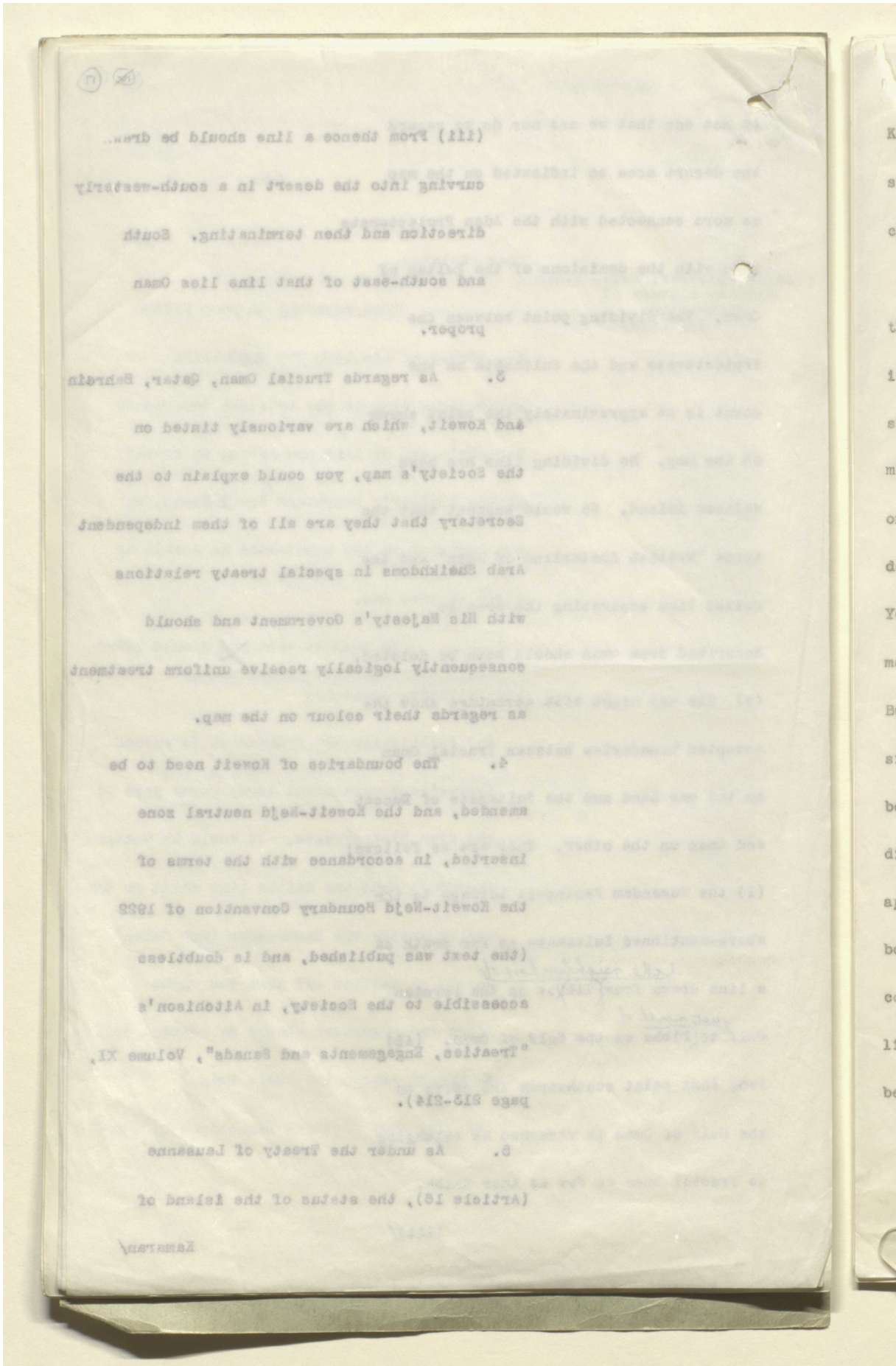
(iii) From thence a line should be drawn  
curving into the desert in a south-westerly  
direction and then terminating. South  
and south-east of that line lies Oman  
proper.

3. As regards Trucial Oman, Qatar, Bahrain  
and Koweit, which are variously tinted on  
the Society's map, you could explain to the  
Secretary that they are all of them independent  
Arab Sheikdoms in special treaty relations  
with His Majesty's Government and should  
consequently logically receive uniform treatment  
as regards their colour on the map.

4. The boundaries of Koweit need to be  
amended, and the Koweit-Nejd neutral zone  
inserted, in accordance with the terms of  
the Koweit-Nejd Boundary Convention of 1922  
(the text was published, and is doubtless  
accessible to the Society, in Aitchison's  
"Treaties, Engagements and Sanads", Volume XI,  
page 213-214).

5. As under the Treaty of Lausanne  
(Article 16), the status of the island of

Kamaran/

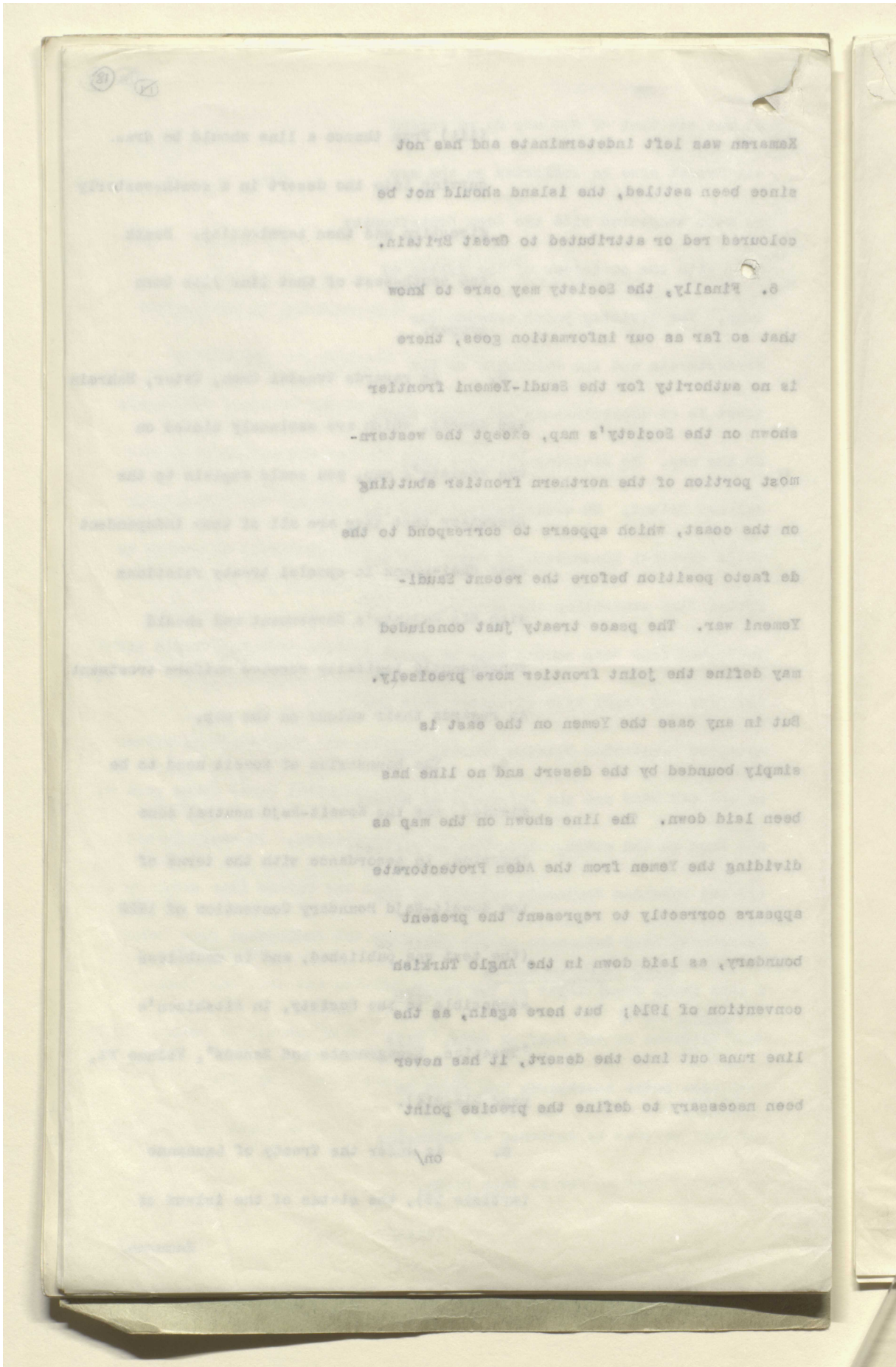


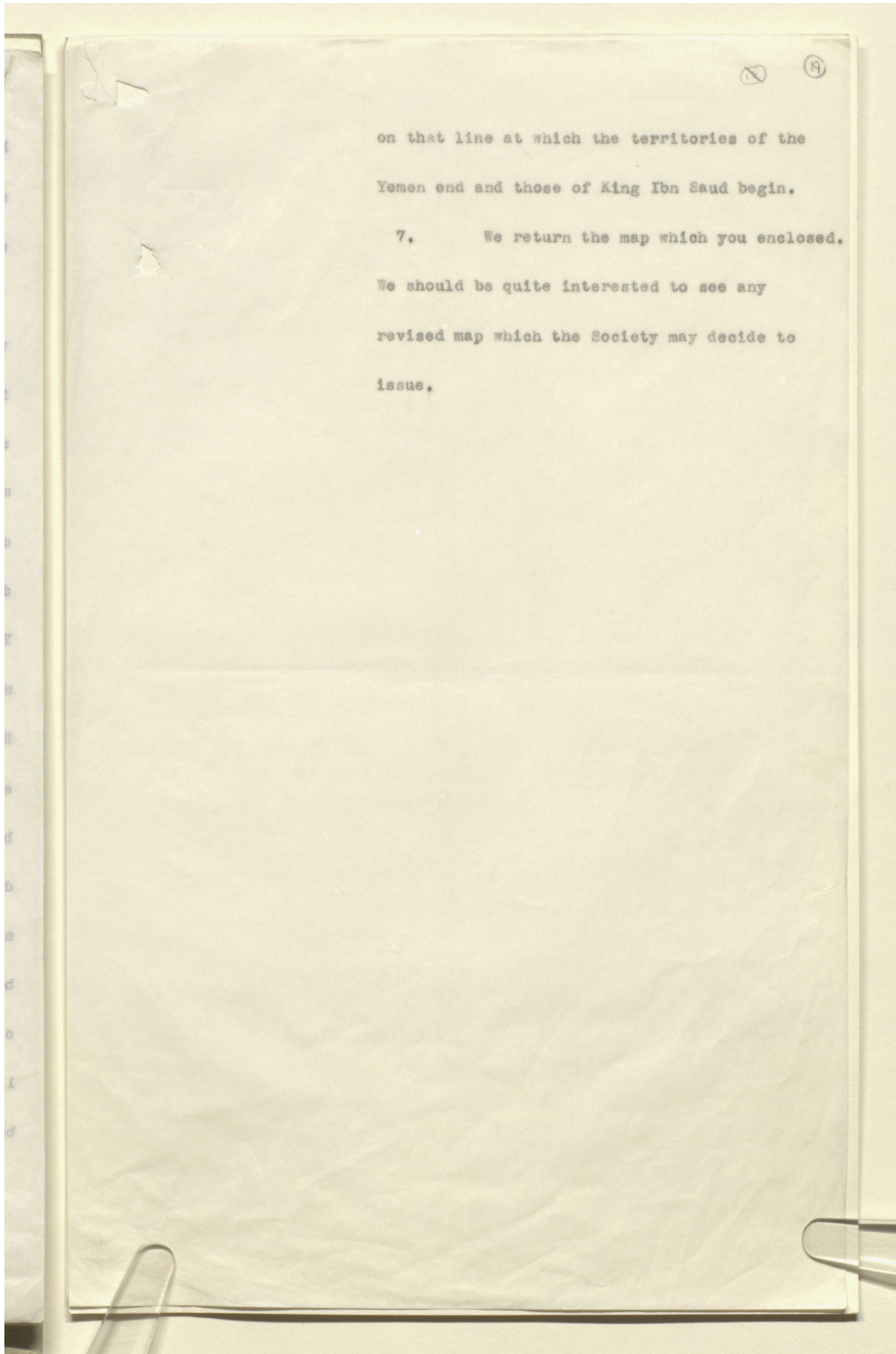
(17) (18)

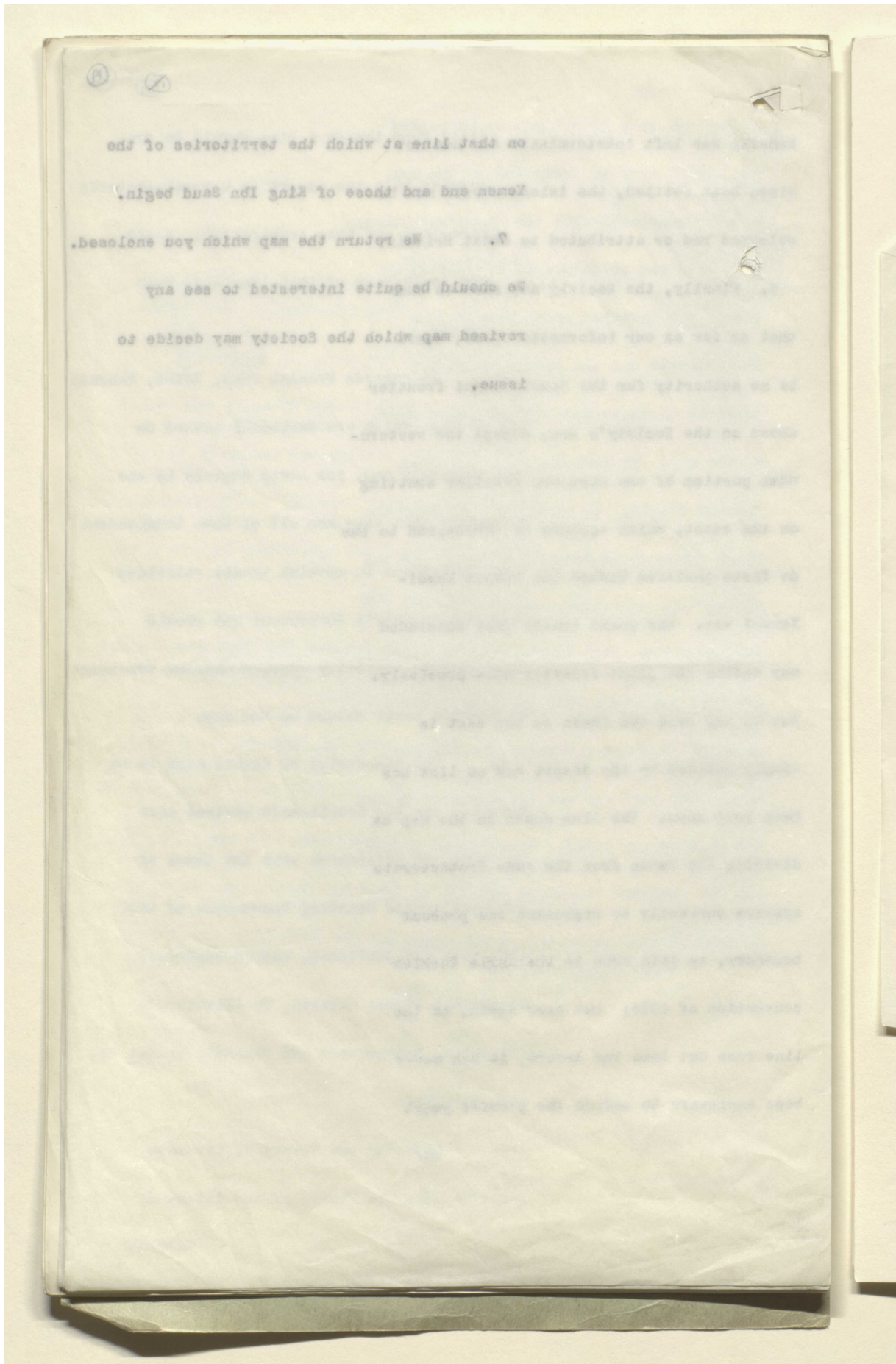
Kambaran was left indeterminate and has not since been settled, the island should not be coloured red or attributed to Great Britain.

6. Finally, the Society may care to know that so far as our information goes, there is no authority for the Saudi-Yemeni frontier shown on the Society's map, except the westernmost portion of the northern frontier abutting on the coast, which appears to correspond to the de facto position before the recent Saudi-Yemeni war. The peace treaty just concluded may define the joint frontier more precisely. But in any case the Yemen on the east is simply bounded by the desert and no line has been laid down. The line shown on the map as dividing the Yemen from the Aden Protectorate appears correctly to represent the present boundary, as laid down in the Anglo Turkish convention of 1914; but here again, as the line runs out into the desert, it has never been necessary to define the precise point

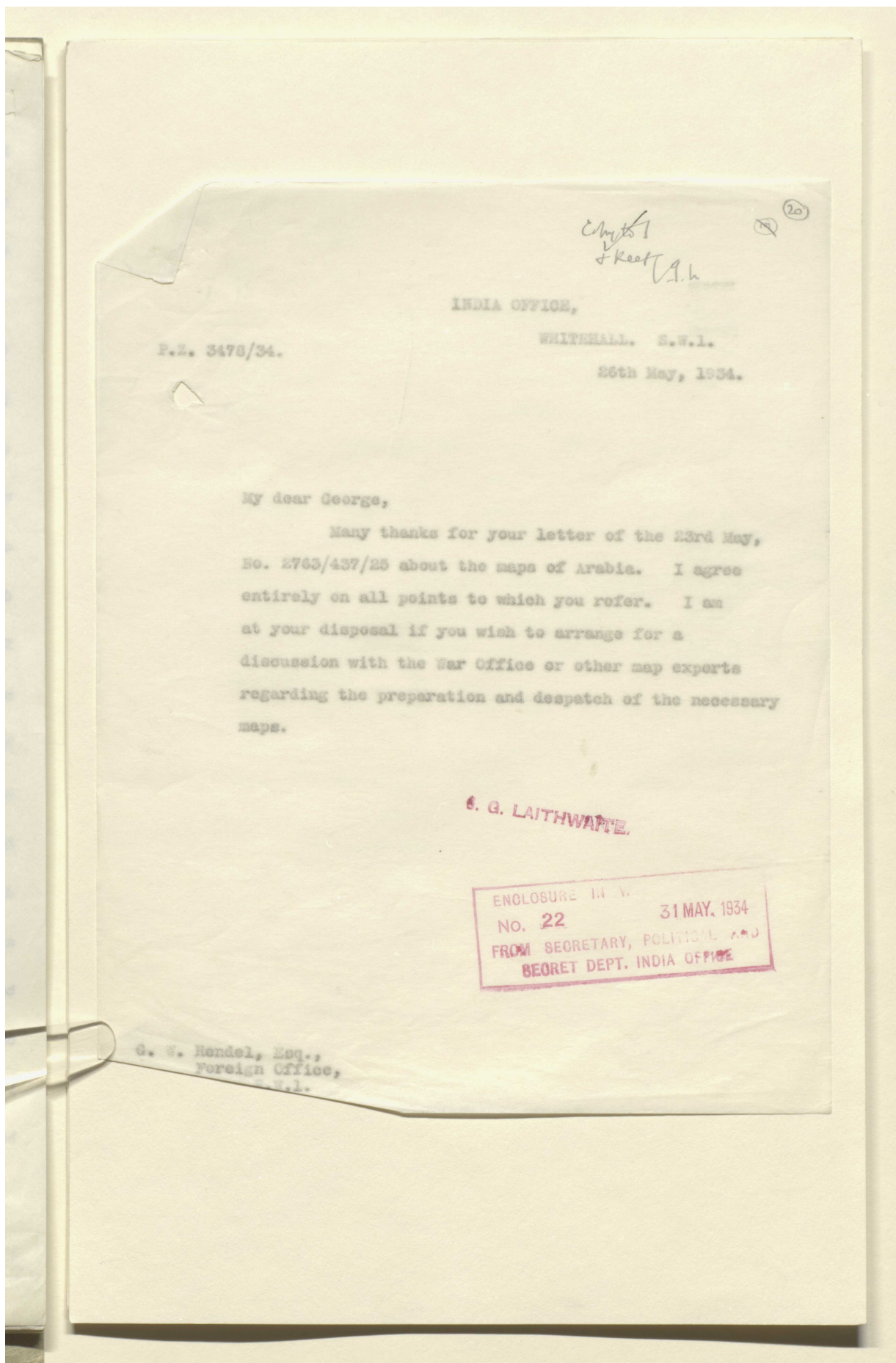
on/

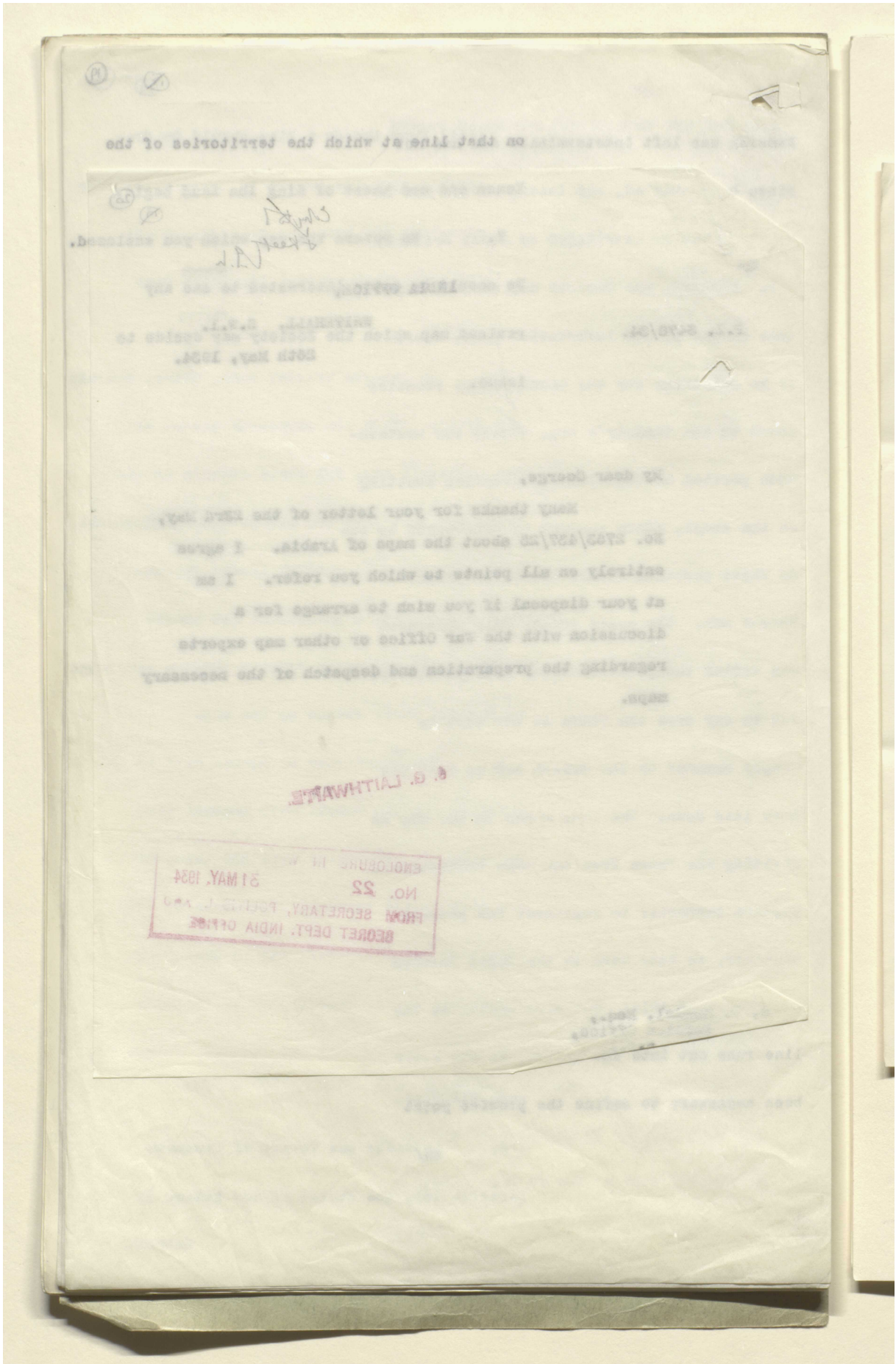


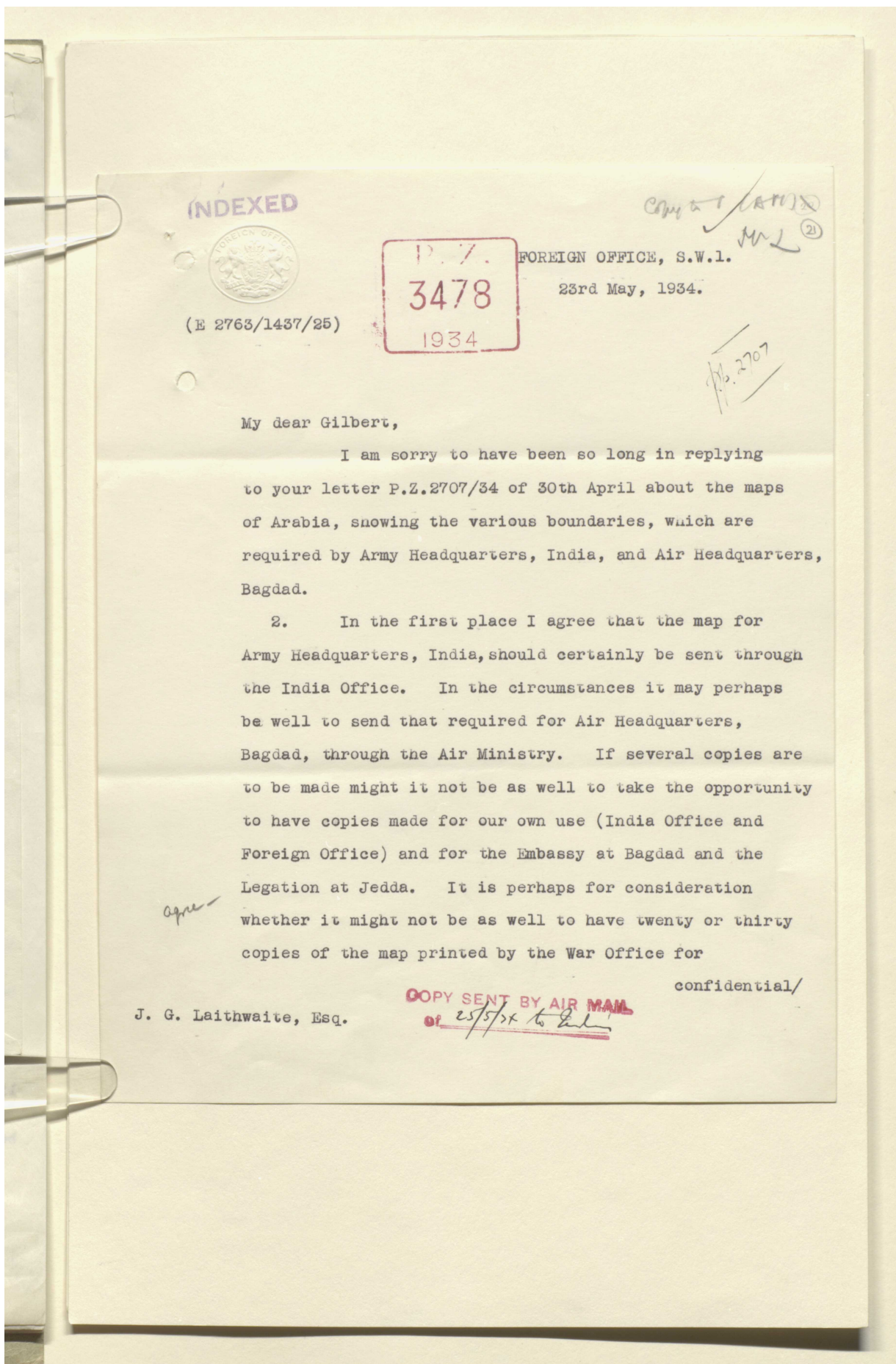












INDEXED



(E 2763/1437/25)

P. Z.  
3478  
1934

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

23rd May, 1934.

*Copy sent by Air Mail  
Mr L (2)*

*P. Z. 2707*

My dear Gilbert,

I am sorry to have been so long in replying to your letter P.Z.2707/34 of 30th April about the maps of Arabia, showing the various boundaries, which are required by Army Headquarters, India, and Air Headquarters, Bagdad.

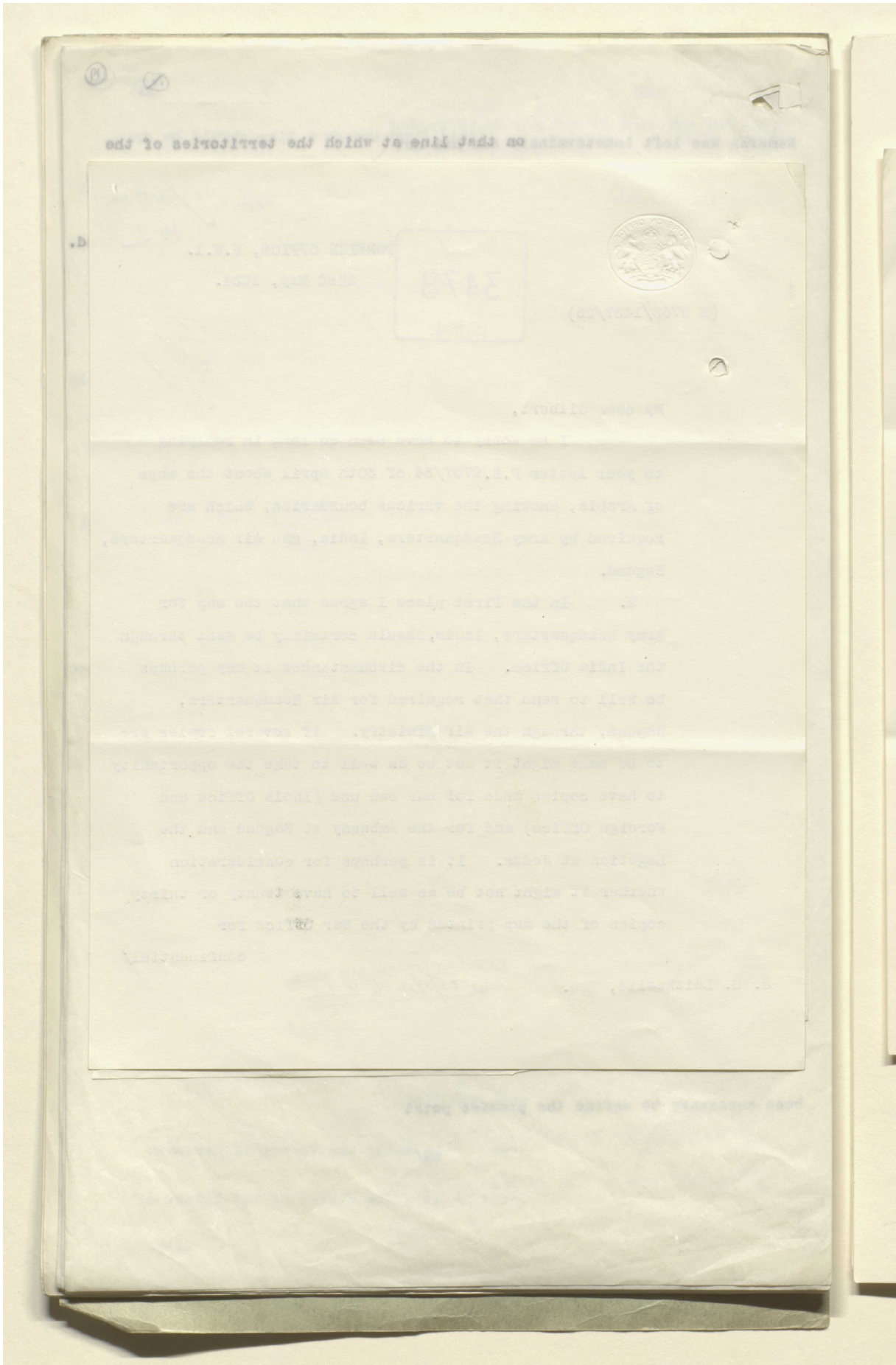
2. In the first place I agree that the map for Army Headquarters, India, should certainly be sent through the India Office. In the circumstances it may perhaps be well to send that required for Air Headquarters, Bagdad, through the Air Ministry. If several copies are to be made might it not be as well to take the opportunity to have copies made for our own use (India Office and Foreign Office) and for the Embassy at Bagdad and the Legation at Jedda. It is perhaps for consideration whether it might not be as well to have twenty or thirty copies of the map printed by the War Office for

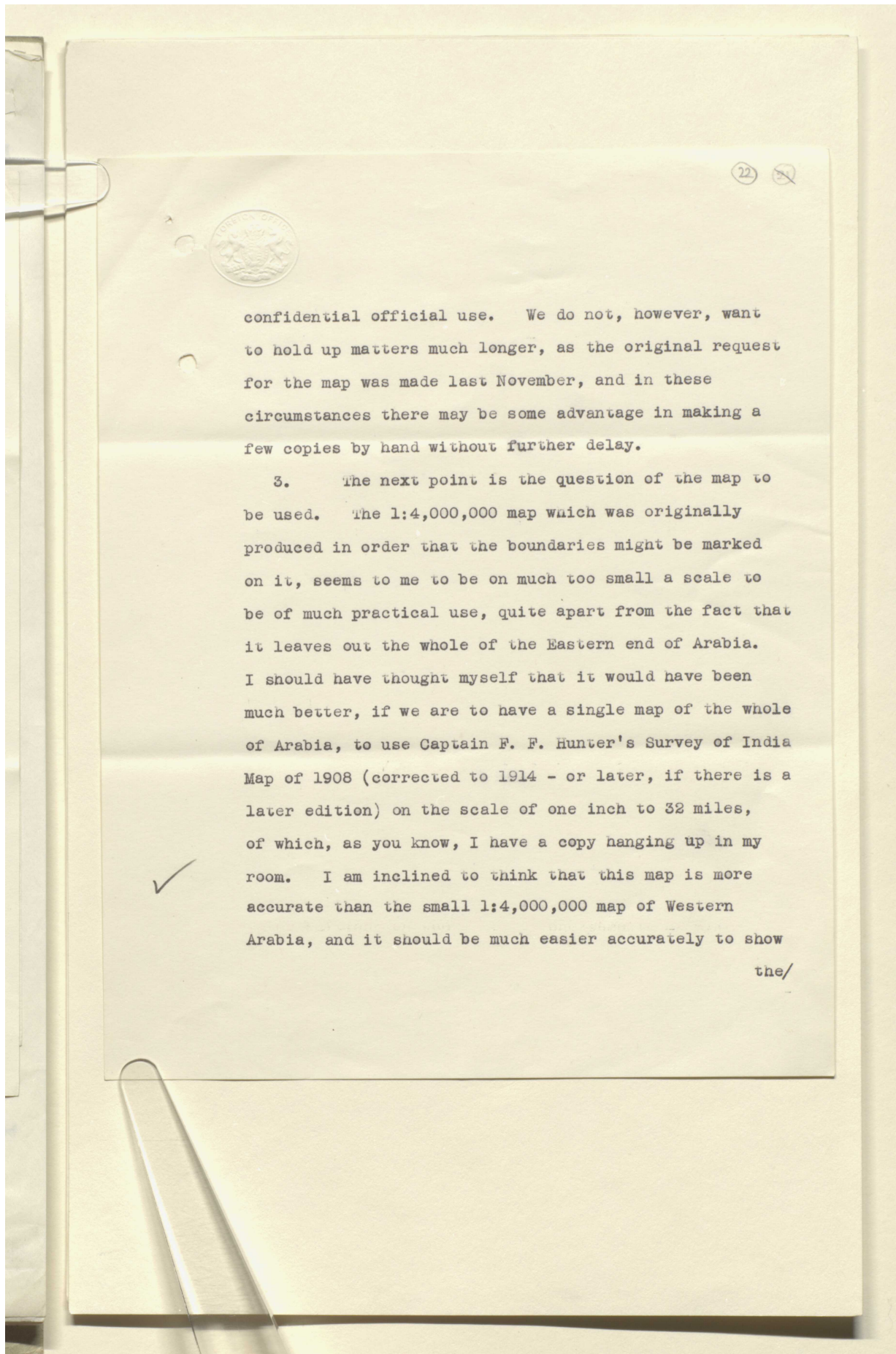
*agree*

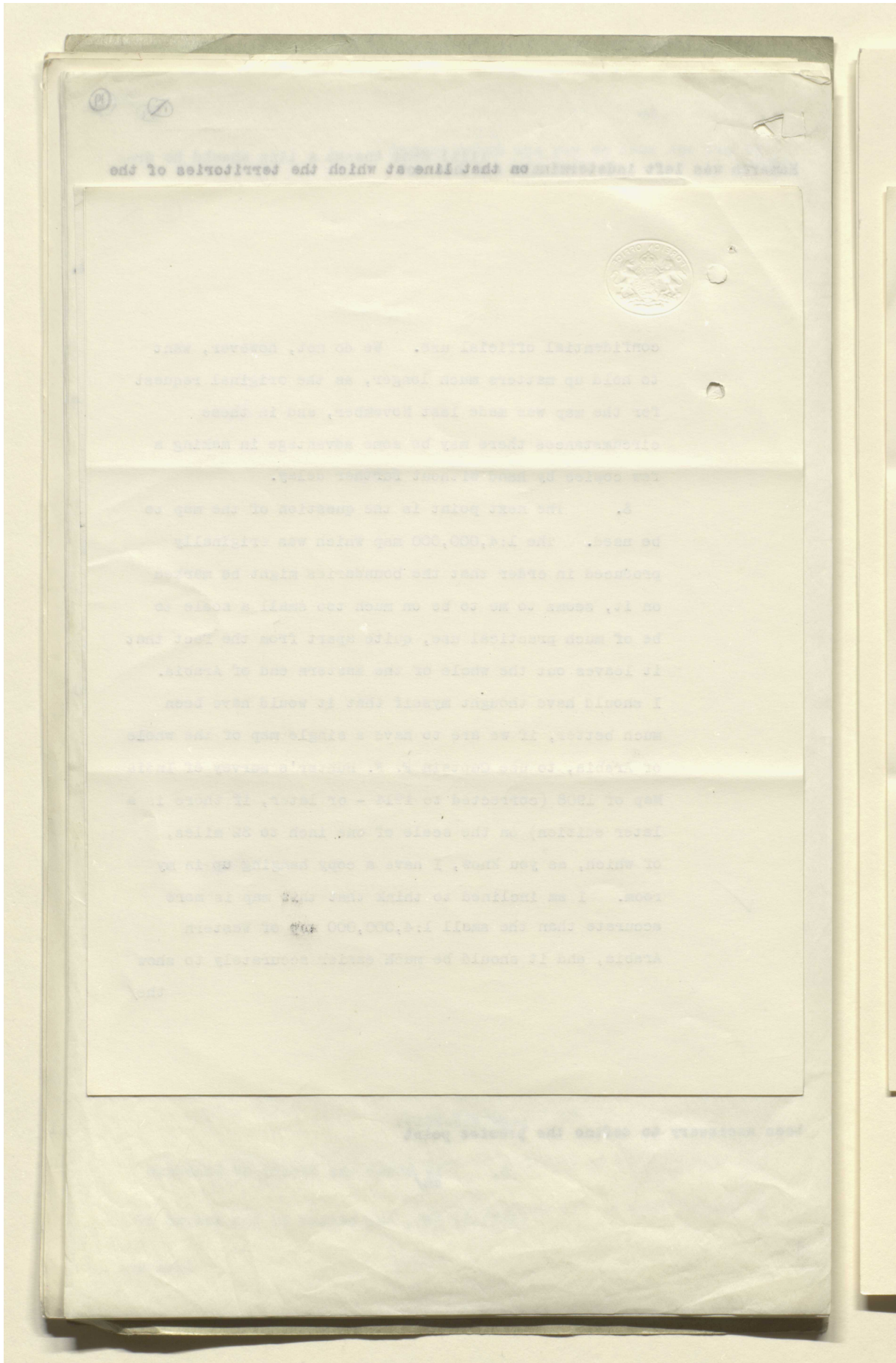
confidential/

J. G. Laithwaite, Esq.

**COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL**  
*of 25/5/34 to [signature]*







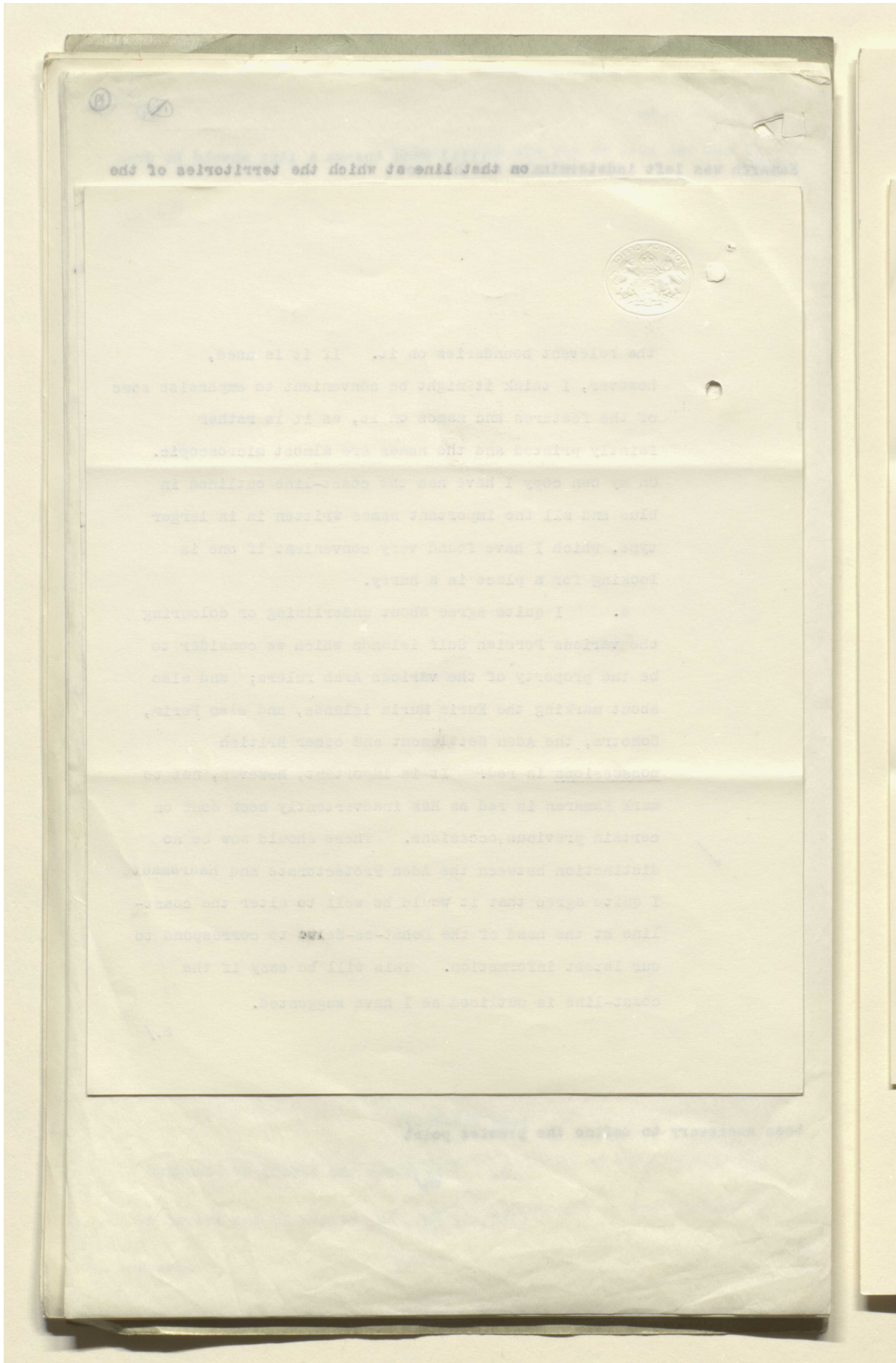


23

the relevant boundaries on it. If it is used, however, I think it might be convenient to emphasise some of the features and names on it, as it is rather faintly printed and the names are almost microscopic. On my own copy I have had the coast-line outlined in blue and all the important names written in in larger type, which I have found very convenient if one is looking for a place in a hurry.

4. I quite agree about underlining or colouring the various Persian Gulf islands which we consider to be the property of the various Arab rulers; and also about marking the Kuria Muria islands, and also Perim, Sokotra, the Aden Settlement and other British possessions in red. It is important, however, not to mark Kamaran in red as has inadvertently been done on certain previous occasions. There should now be no distinction between the Aden Protectorate and Hadramaut, I quite agree that it would be well to alter the coast-line at the head of the Donat-es-Salwa to correspond to our latest information. This will be easy if the coast-line is outlined as I have suggested.

5./



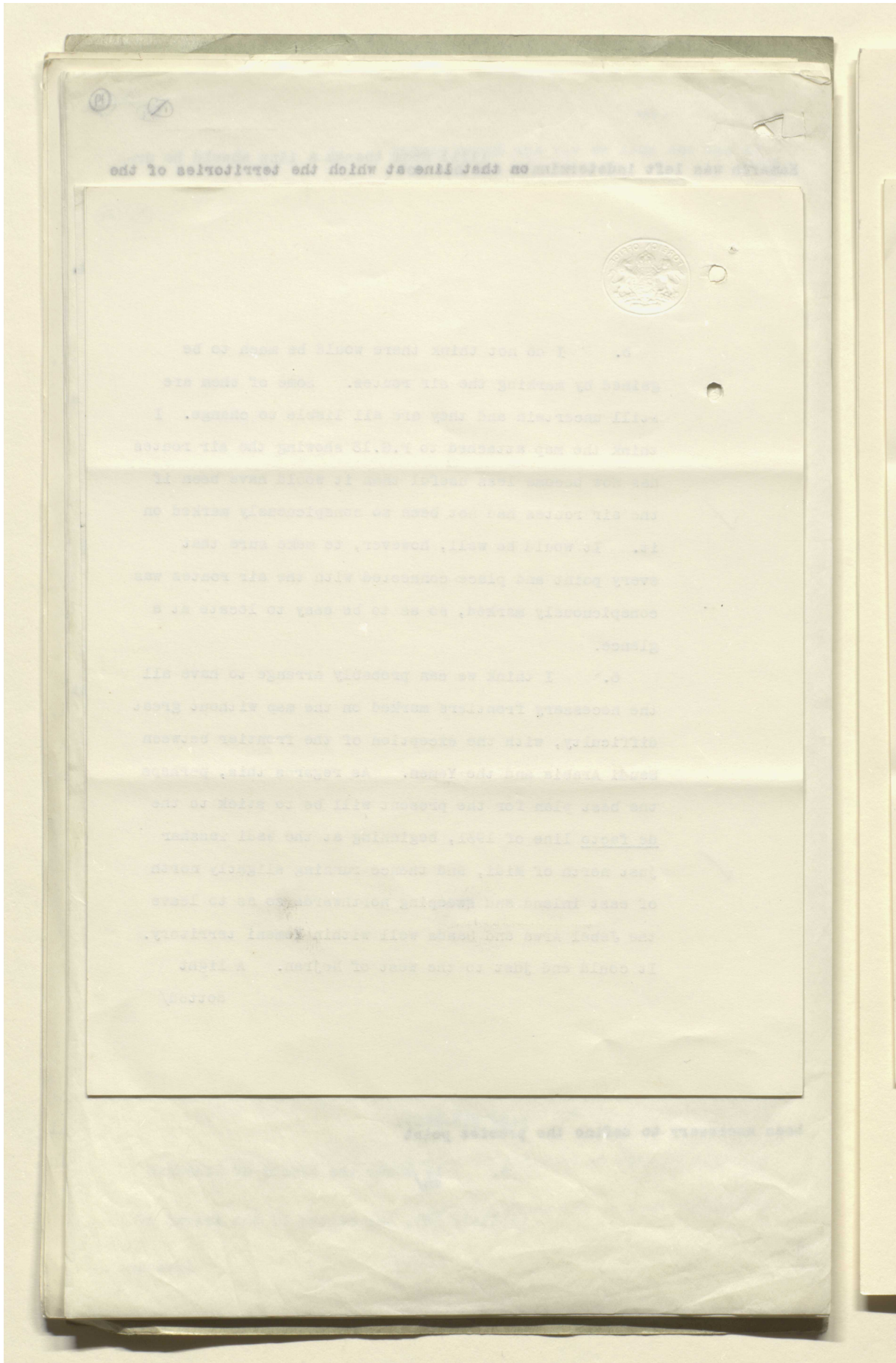


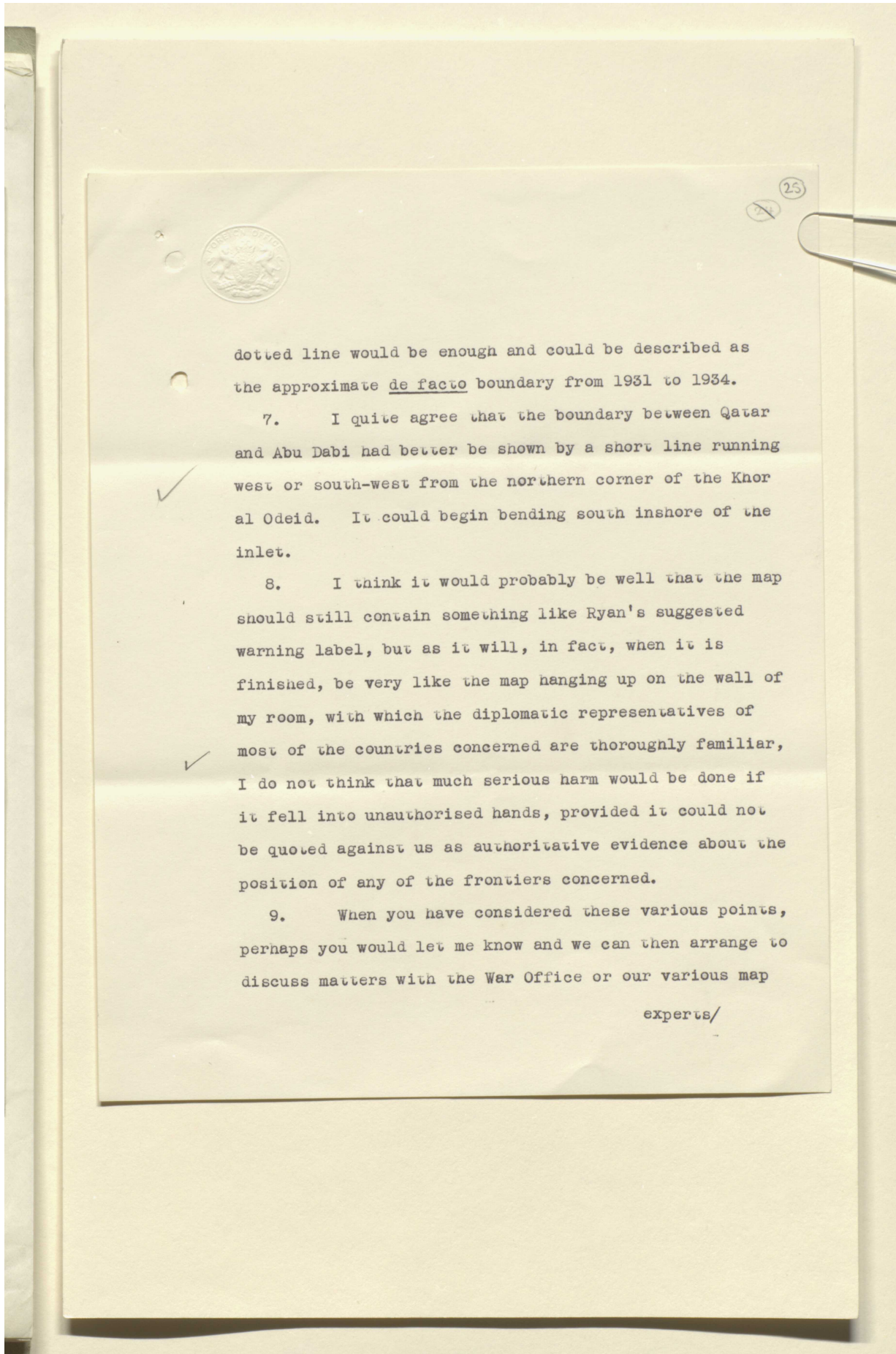


(X) (24r)

5. I do not think there would be much to be gained by marking the air routes. Some of them are still uncertain and they are all liable to change. I think the map attached to P.G.13 showing the air routes has now become less useful than it would have been if the air routes had not been so conspicuously marked on it. It would be well, however, to make sure that every point and place connected with the air routes was conspicuously marked, so as to be easy to locate at a glance.

6. I think we can probably arrange to have all the necessary frontiers marked on the map without great difficulty, with the exception of the frontier between Saudi Arabia and the Yemen. As regards this, perhaps the best plan for the present will be to stick to the de facto line of 1931, beginning at the Wadi Tasshar just north of Midi, and thence running slightly north of east inland and sweeping northwards so as to leave the Jebel Arwa and Saada well within Yemeni territory. It could end just to the west of Nejran. A light dotted/





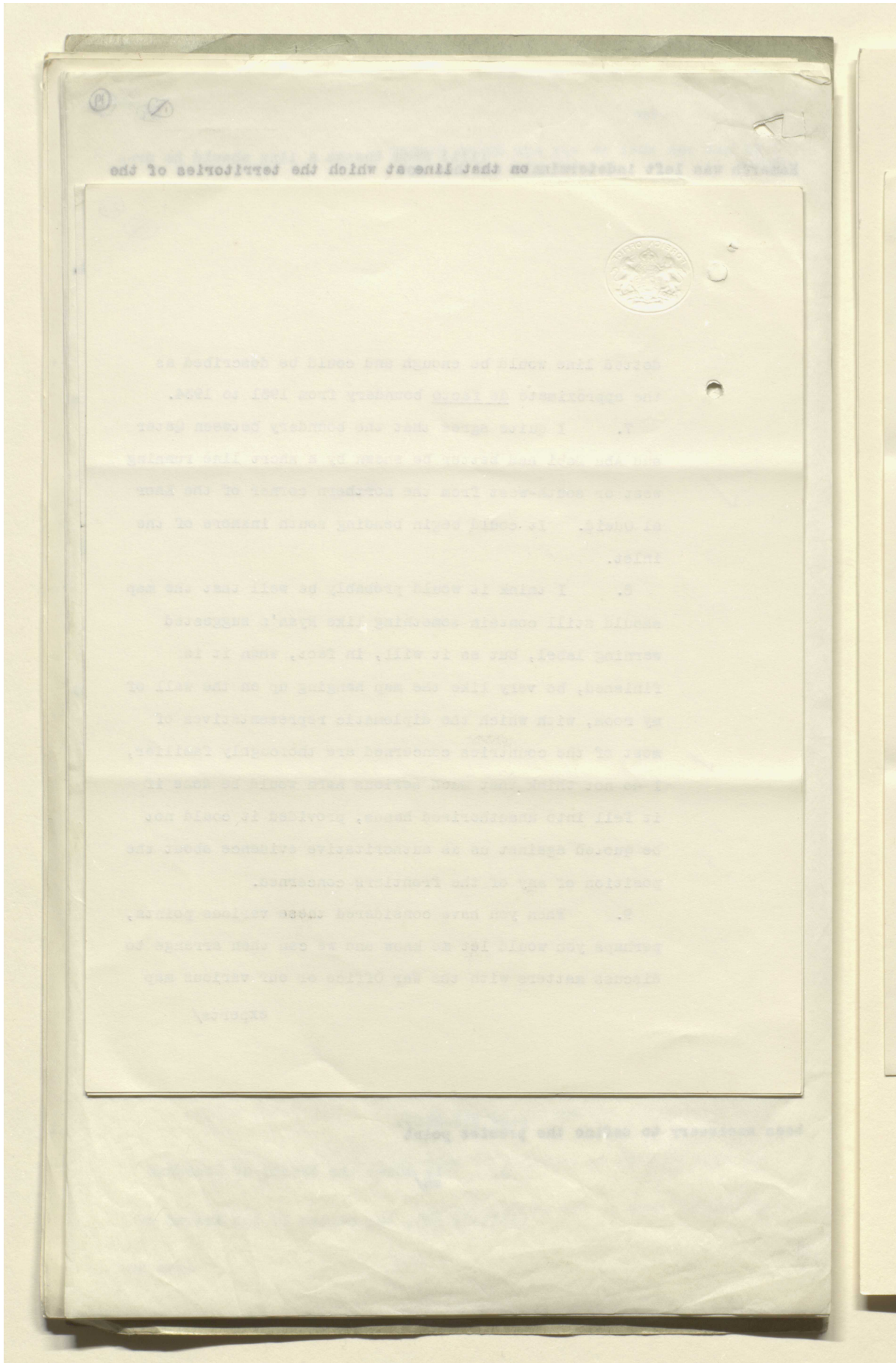
dotted line would be enough and could be described as the approximate de facto boundary from 1931 to 1934.

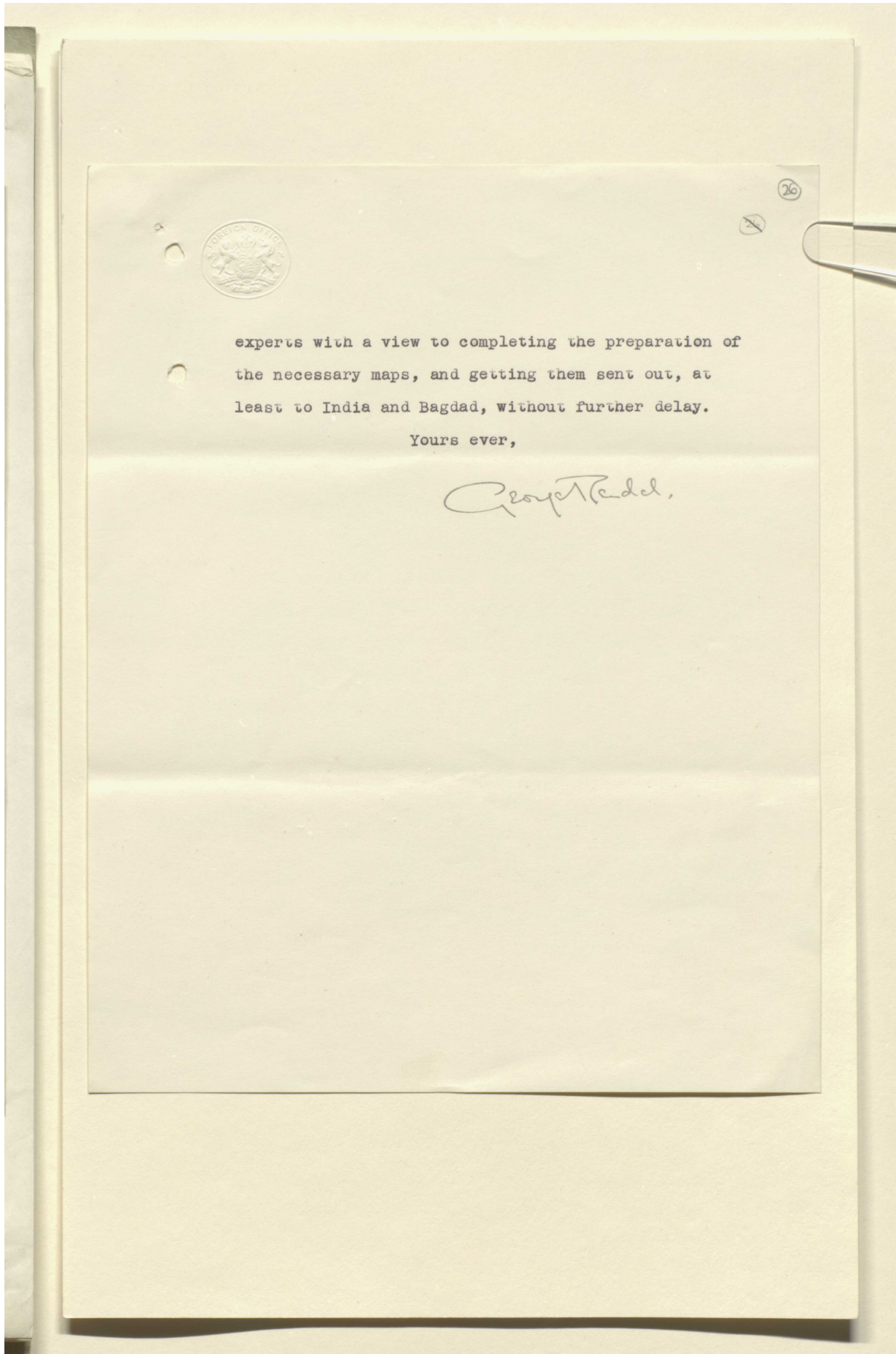
7. I quite agree that the boundary between Qatar and Abu Dabi had better be shown by a short line running west or south-west from the northern corner of the Khor al Odeid. It could begin bending south inshore of the inlet.

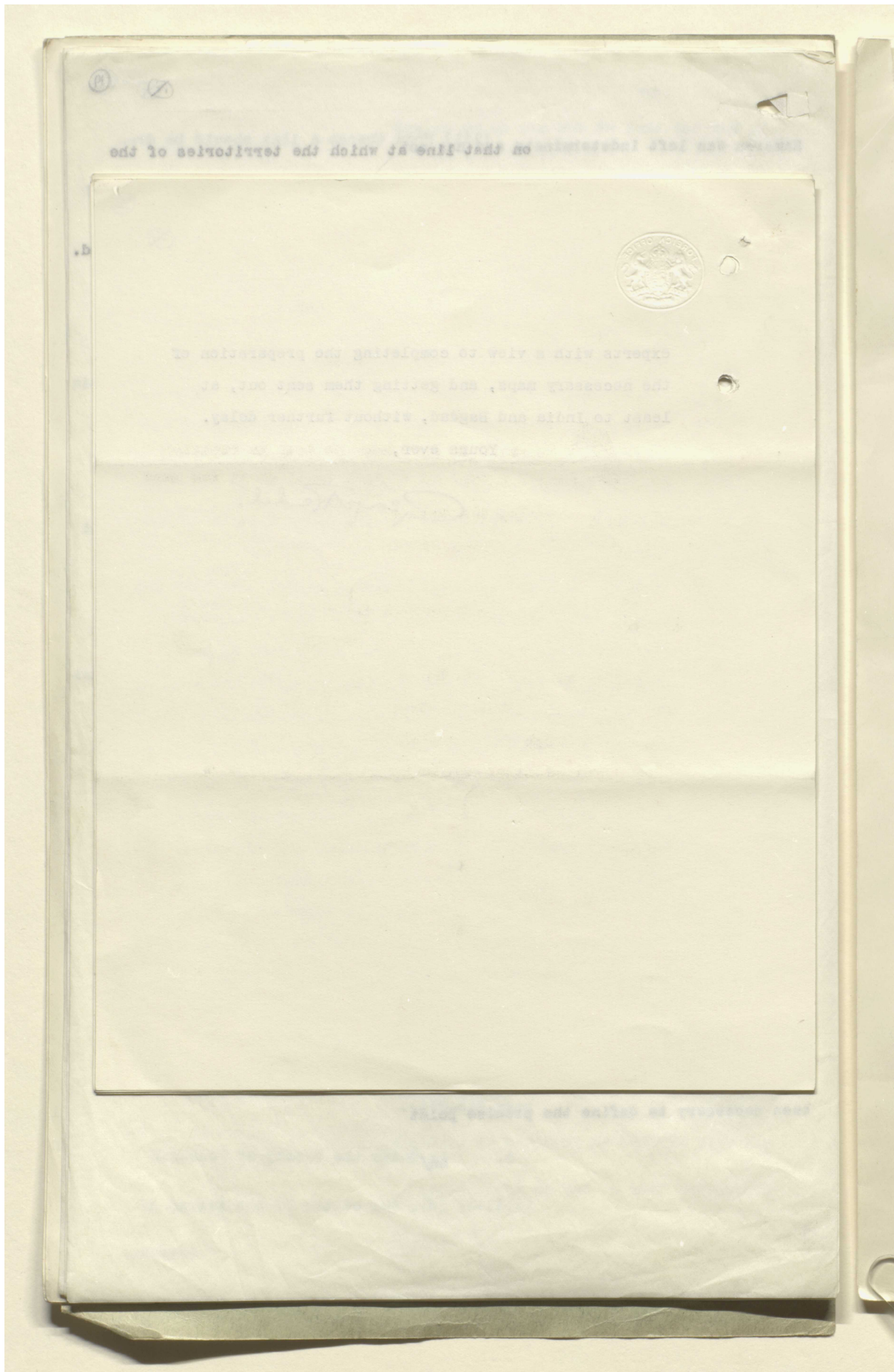
8. I think it would probably be well that the map should still contain something like Ryan's suggested warning label, but as it will, in fact, when it is finished, be very like the map hanging up on the wall of my room, with which the diplomatic representatives of most of the countries concerned are thoroughly familiar, I do not think that much serious harm would be done if it fell into unauthorised hands, provided it could not be quoted against us as authoritative evidence about the position of any of the frontiers concerned.

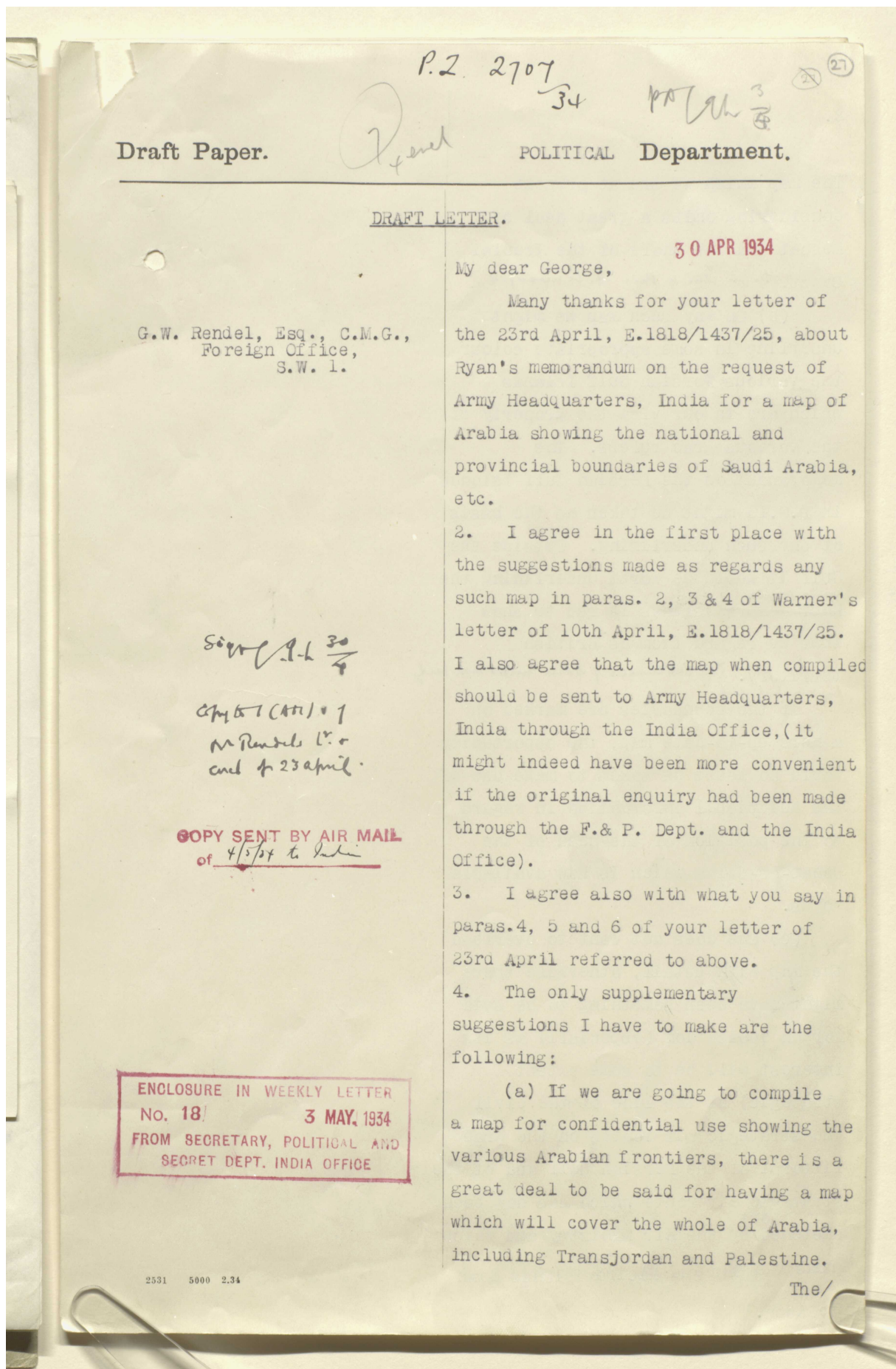
9. When you have considered these various points, perhaps you would let me know and we can then arrange to discuss matters with the War Office or our various map

experts/









Draft Paper.

POLITICAL Department.

DRAFT LETTER.

30 APR 1934

My dear George,

G.W. Rendel, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Foreign Office,  
S.W. 1.

Many thanks for your letter of the 23rd April, E.1818/1437/25, about Ryan's memorandum on the request of Army Headquarters, India for a map of Arabia showing the national and provincial boundaries of Saudi Arabia, etc.

2. I agree in the first place with the suggestions made as regards any such map in paras. 2, 3 & 4 of Warner's letter of 10th April, E.1818/1437/25. I also agree that the map when compiled should be sent to Army Headquarters, India through the India Office, (it might indeed have been more convenient if the original enquiry had been made through the F. & P. Dept. and the India Office).

3. I agree also with what you say in paras. 4, 5 and 6 of your letter of 23rd April referred to above.

4. The only supplementary suggestions I have to make are the following:

(a) If we are going to compile a map for confidential use showing the various Arabian frontiers, there is a great deal to be said for having a map which will cover the whole of Arabia, including Transjordan and Palestine.

The/

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL  
of 4/5/34 to India

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER  
No. 18/ 3 MAY, 1934  
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND  
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

2.

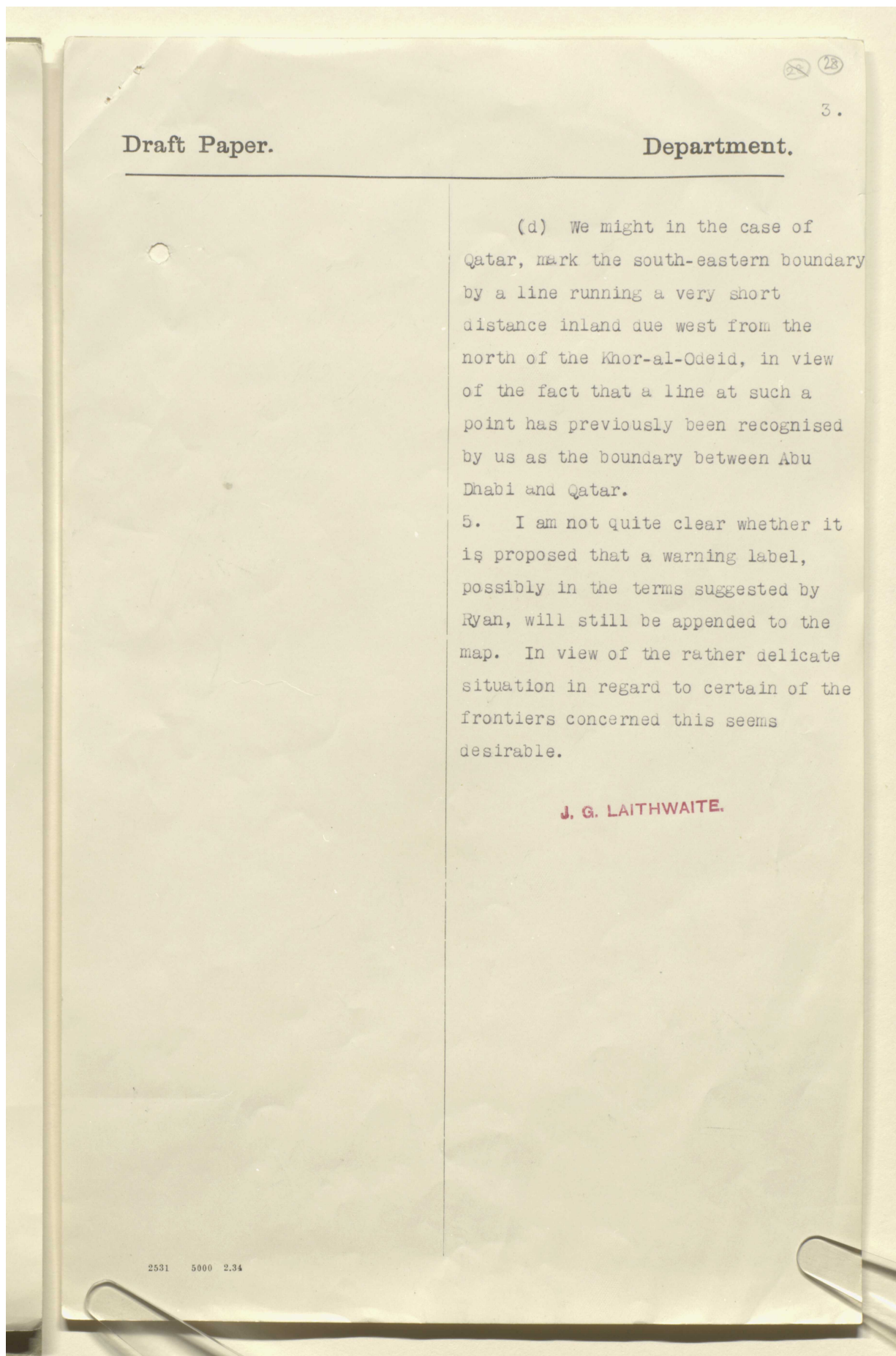
The map which we are at present considering omits a great deal of Muscat and the whole of the Trucial Coast. *Do you think this cd. be arranged?*

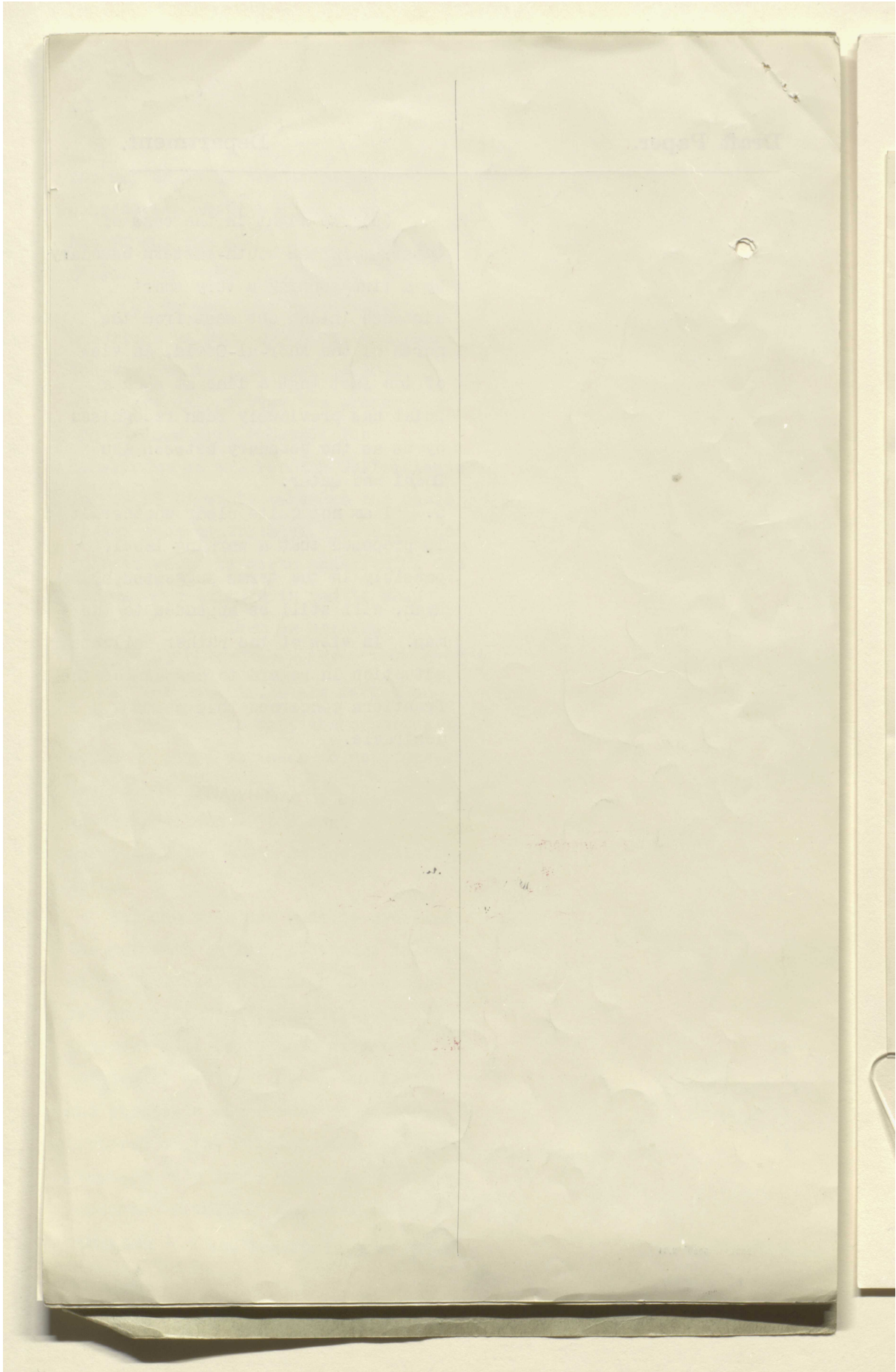
(b) On any such map we might underline in some appropriate colour the various Persian Gulf Islands which are in our view the property of the various Arab rulers. The memorandum on the Persian Gulf Islands in P.G.13 might be taken as the basis of any such underlining. Outside the Gulf it would be worth underlining the ~~Kaur~~ <sup>Kuria Kuria</sup> ~~Jamara~~ Islands in red to show that we regard them as British territory. *The Settlement of Aden might similarly be marked red.*

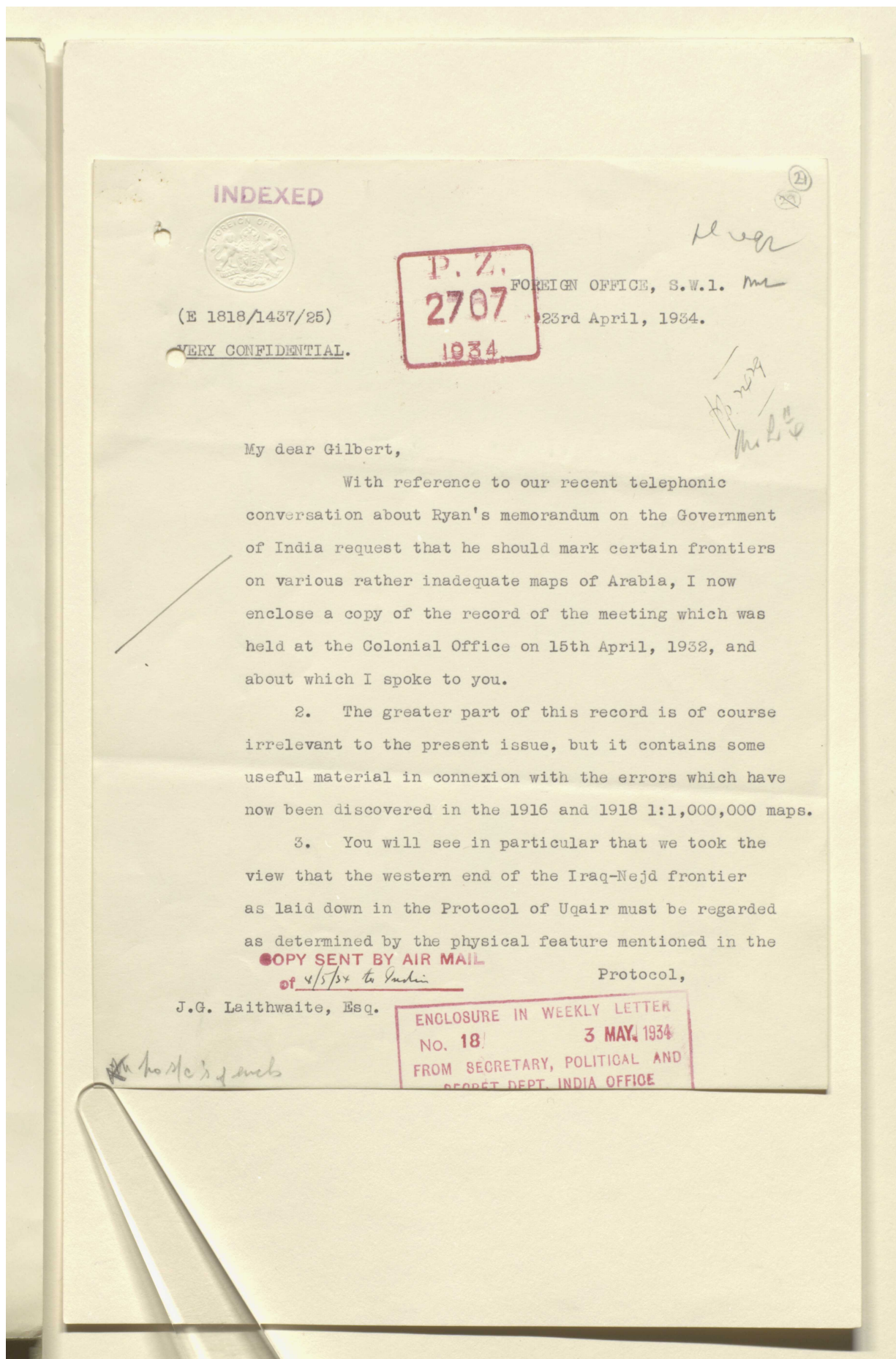
If the boundaries are marked on a more up-to-date map, the opportunity would no doubt be taken to make use of the additional information in regard to the position of the head of the Dohat-as-Salwa which is now available to us.

(c) One does not want to overload the map with detail, otherwise there might have been something to be said for an indication (especially as its interest will be to some extent strategic) of the line of the civil and strategic air routes on the Arab littoral of the Persian Gulf and of the strategic air route which has now been <sup>out</sup> sketched/by the Air Ministry and which runs via Sur and Masira Islands down to Aden.









INDEXED



(E 1818/1437/25)

VERY CONFIDENTIAL.

P. Z.  
2707  
1934

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. M  
23rd April, 1934.

Handwritten notes and initials, including a circled '2' and 'H. W. G.' with a checkmark.

My dear Gilbert,

With reference to our recent telephonic conversation about Ryan's memorandum on the Government of India request that he should mark certain frontiers on various rather inadequate maps of Arabia, I now enclose a copy of the record of the meeting which was held at the Colonial Office on 15th April, 1932, and about which I spoke to you.

2. The greater part of this record is of course irrelevant to the present issue, but it contains some useful material in connexion with the errors which have now been discovered in the 1916 and 1918 1:1,000,000 maps.

3. You will see in particular that we took the view that the western end of the Iraq-Nejd frontier as laid down in the Protocol of Uqair must be regarded as determined by the physical feature mentioned in the

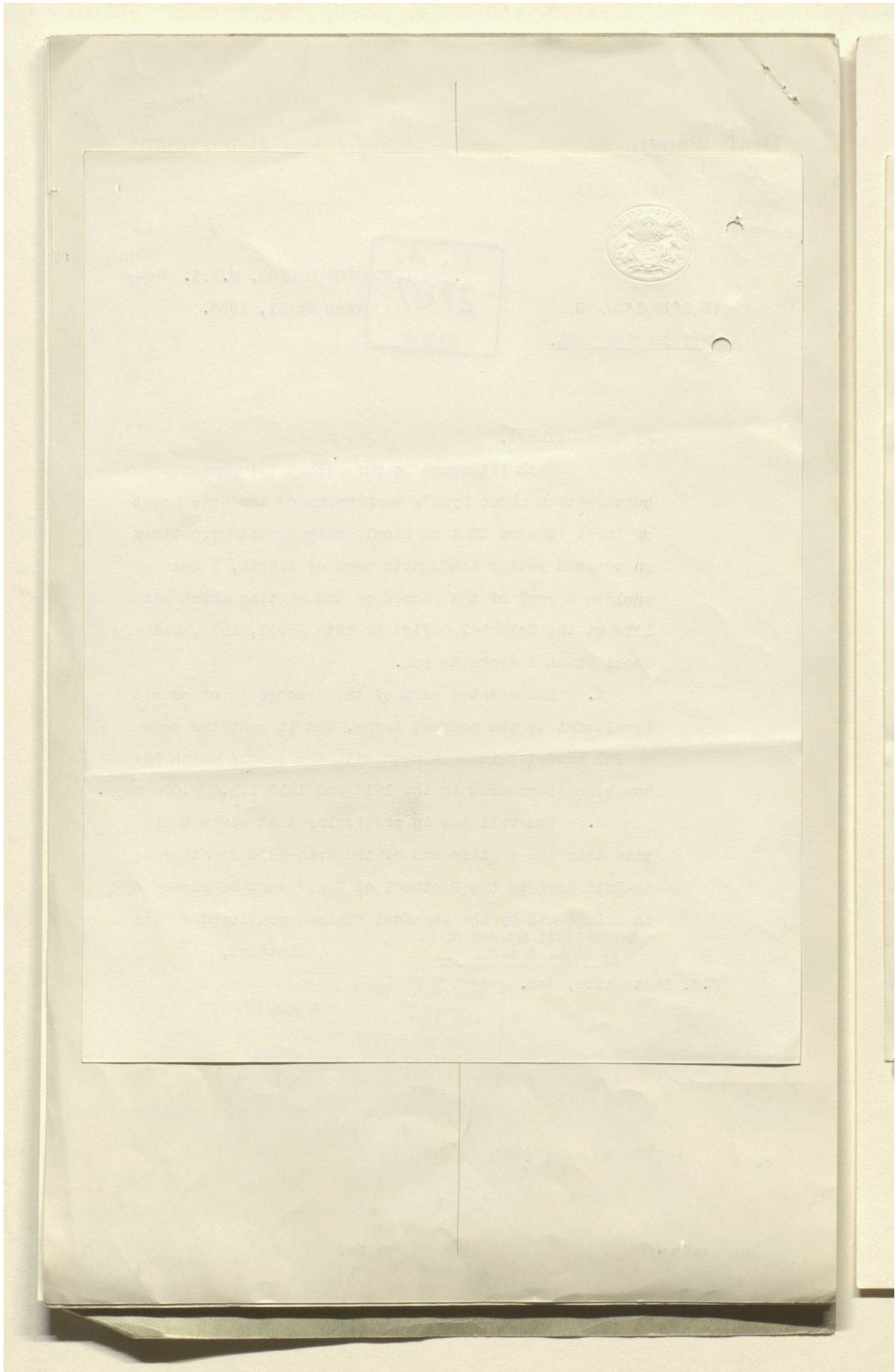
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of 4/5/34 to India

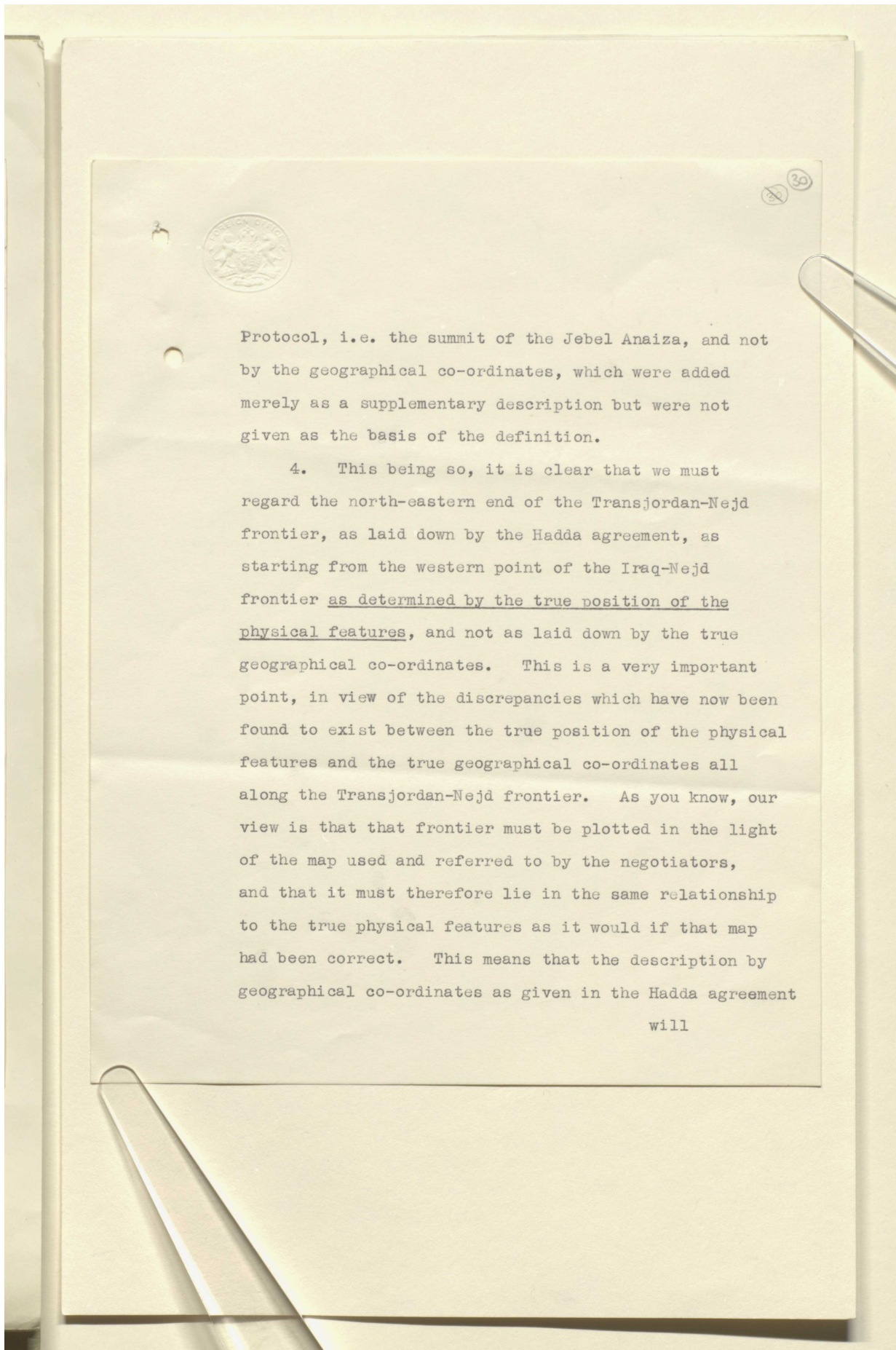
Protocol,

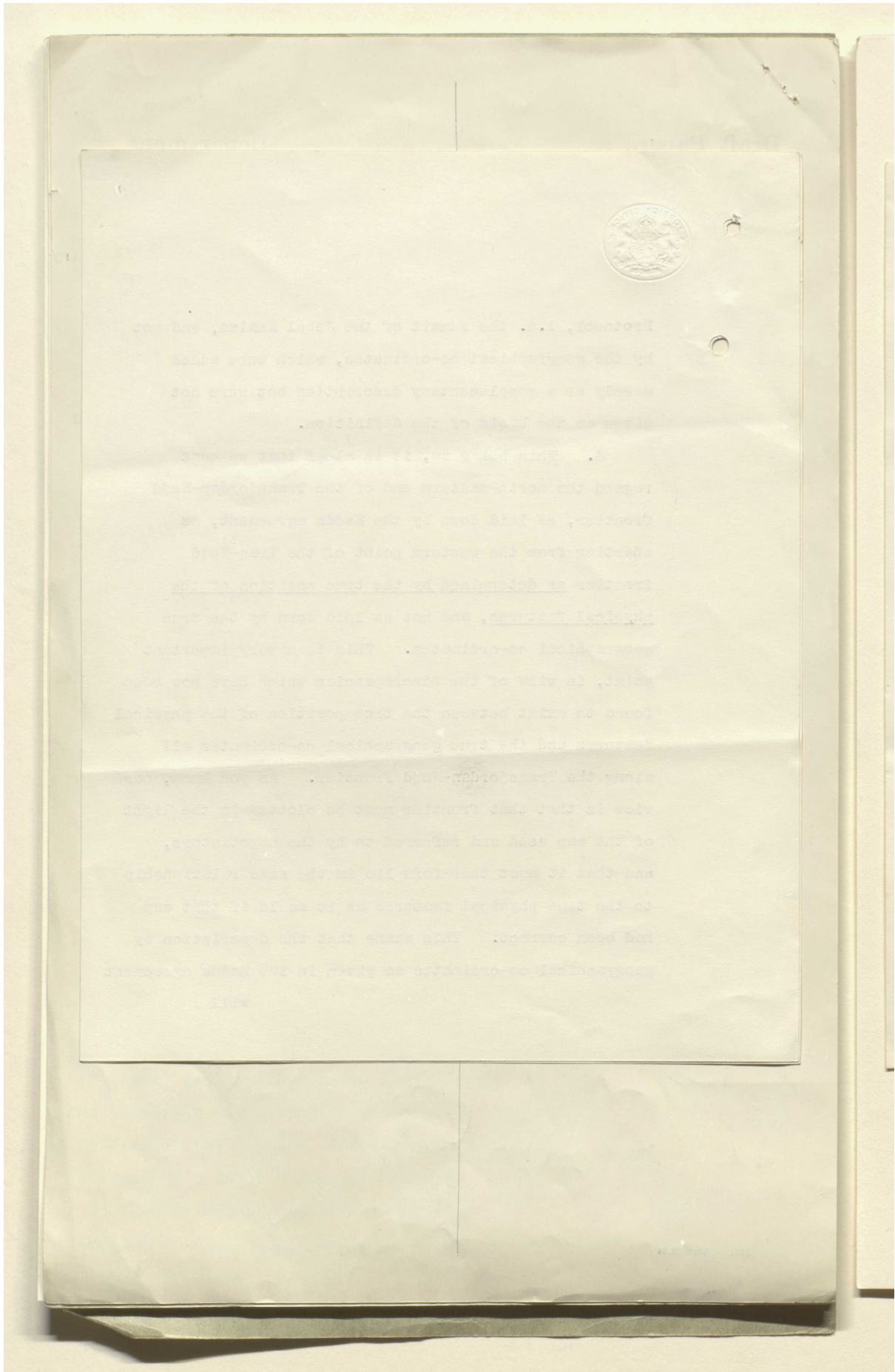
J.G. Laithwaite, Esq.

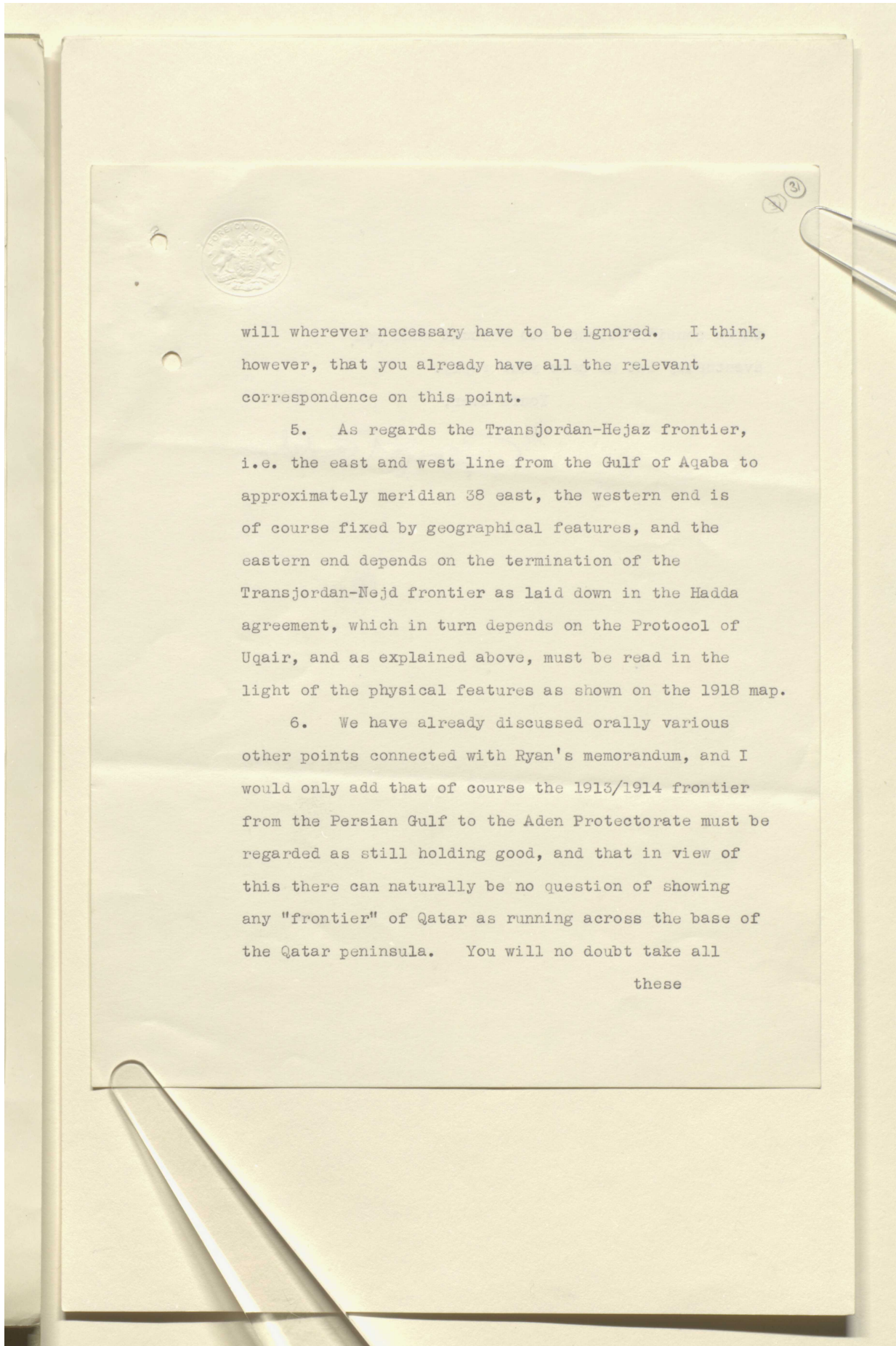
ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER  
No. 18! 3 MAY, 1934  
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND  
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Handwritten note: *to host's desk*





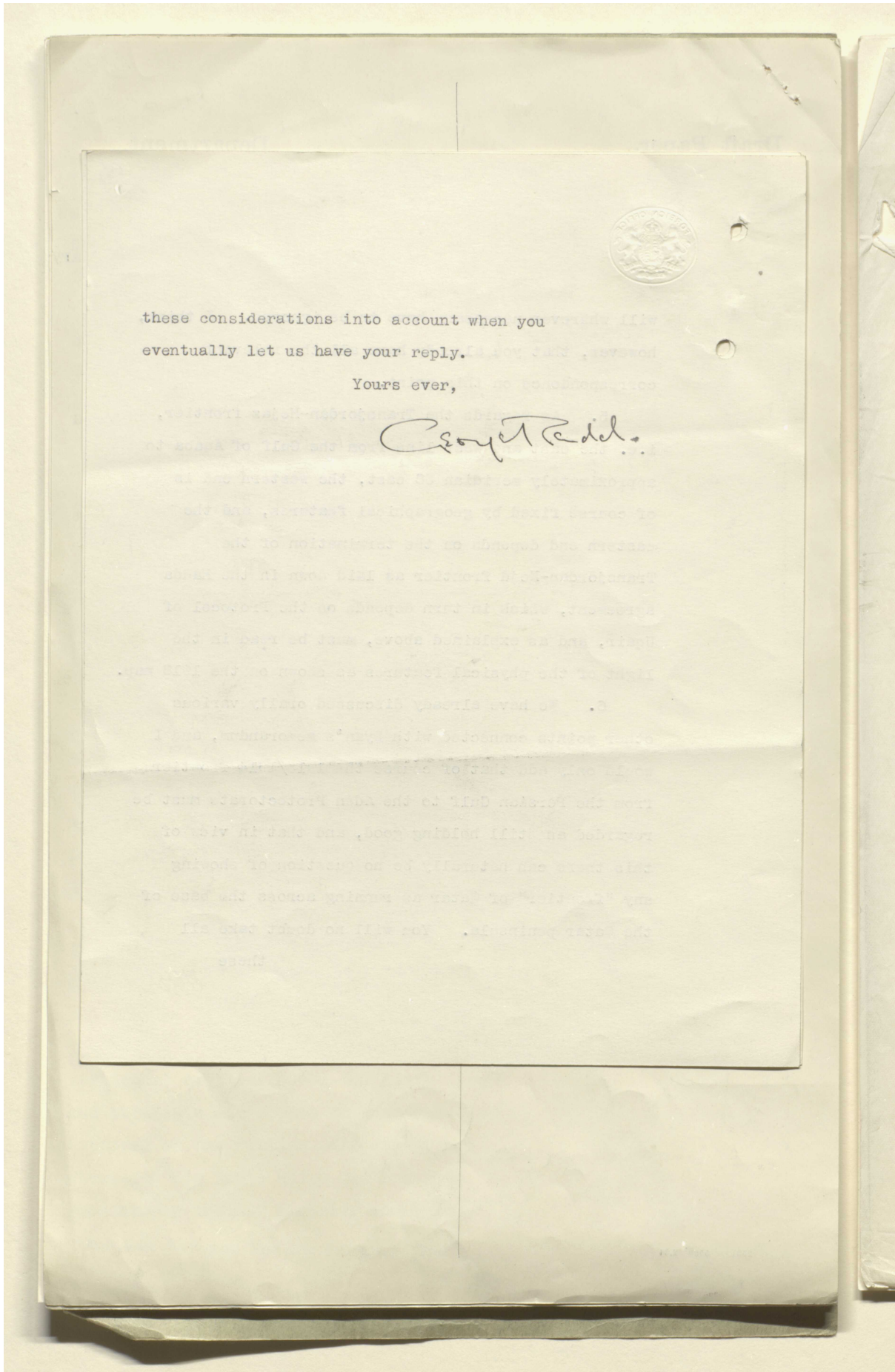




will wherever necessary have to be ignored. I think, however, that you already have all the relevant correspondence on this point.

5. As regards the Transjordan-Hejaz frontier, i.e. the east and west line from the Gulf of Aqaba to approximately meridian 38 east, the western end is of course fixed by geographical features, and the eastern end depends on the termination of the Transjordan-Nejd frontier as laid down in the Hadda agreement, which in turn depends on the Protocol of Uqair, and as explained above, must be read in the light of the physical features as shown on the 1918 map.

6. We have already discussed orally various other points connected with Ryan's memorandum, and I would only add that of course the 1913/1914 frontier from the Persian Gulf to the Aden Protectorate must be regarded as still holding good, and that in view of this there can naturally be no question of showing any "frontier" of Qatar as running across the base of the Qatar peninsula. You will no doubt take all these





4  
MEMORANDUM.

Submission of frontiers of mandated territories for approval to Council of League of Nations:

- (1) Iraq-Transjordan frontier.
- (2) Iraq-Koweit frontier.
- (3) Palestine-Syria frontier.

1. These questions were discussed at an inter-departmental conference at the Colonial Office at 3 p.m. on April 15th.

Present:

Mr. Flood (Colonial Office) (in the Chair).

Mr. Rendel )  
Mr. Beckett } Foreign Office.  
Mr. Dixon )

Mr. Hall )  
Mr. Blaxter } Colonial Office.

Colonel Macleod )  
Major Brown } War Office  
(for the discussion on the Iraq-Transjordan frontier only).

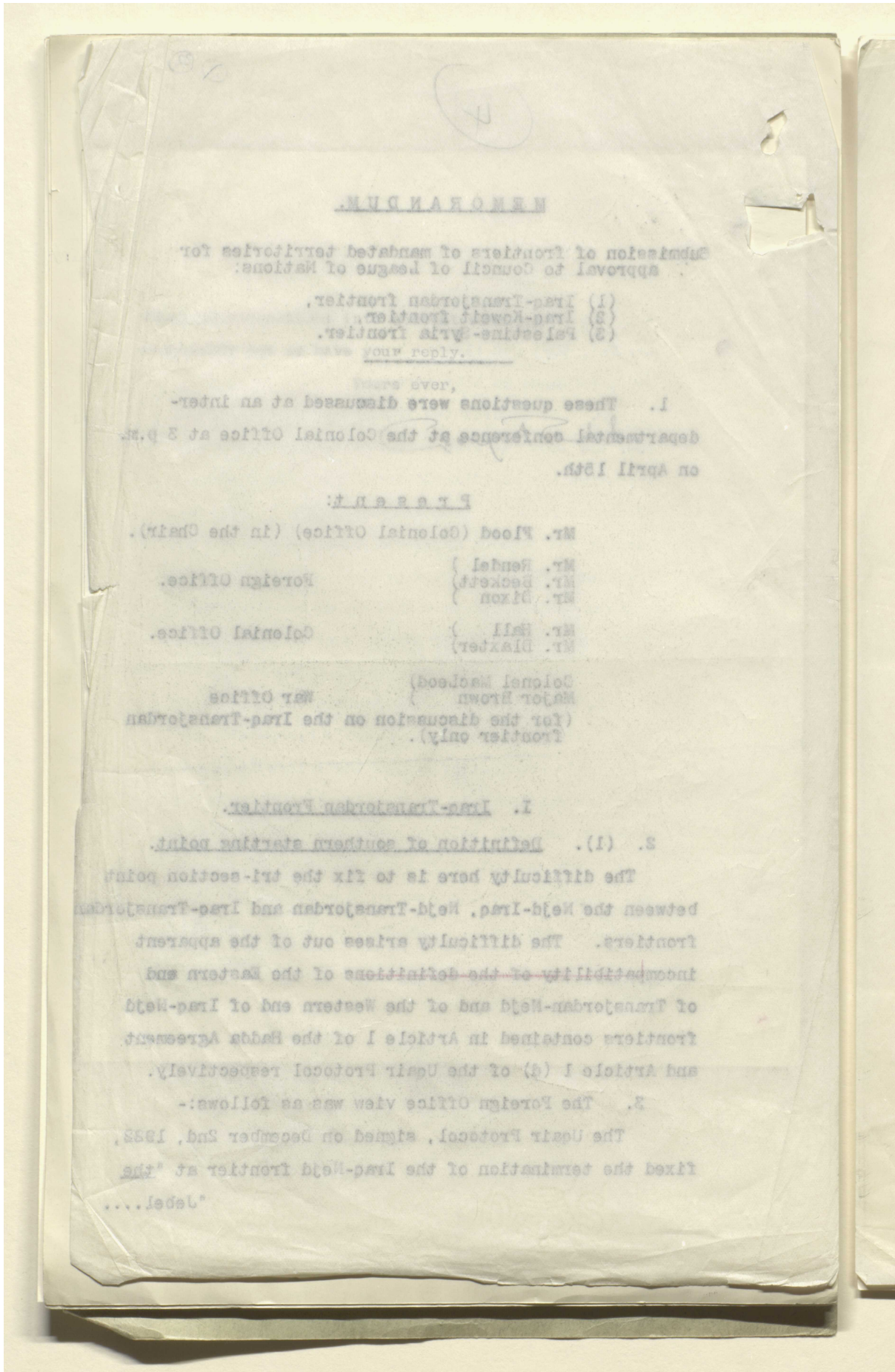
I. Iraq-Transjordan Frontier.

2. (1). Definition of southern starting point.

The difficulty here is to fix the tri-section point between the Nejd-Iraq, Nejd-Transjordan and Iraq-Transjordan frontiers. The difficulty arises out of the apparent incompatibility of the definitions of the Eastern end of Transjordan-Nejd and of the Western end of Iraq-Nejd frontiers contained in Article 1 of the Hadda Agreement and Article 1 (d) of the Uqair Protocol respectively.

3. The Foreign Office view was as follows:-

The Uqair Protocol, signed on December 2nd, 1922, fixed the termination of the Iraq-Nejd frontier at "the  
"Jebel....



33

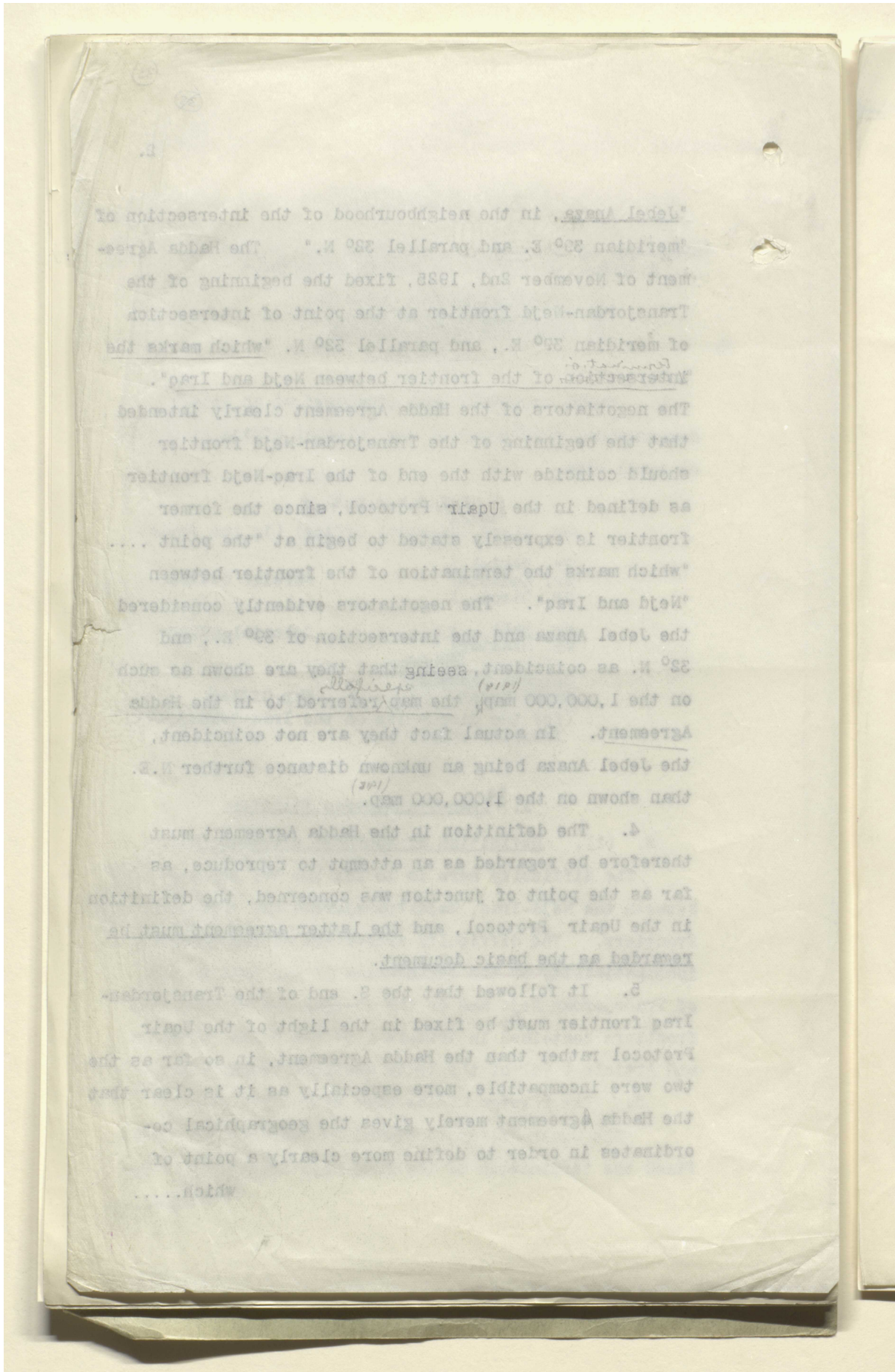
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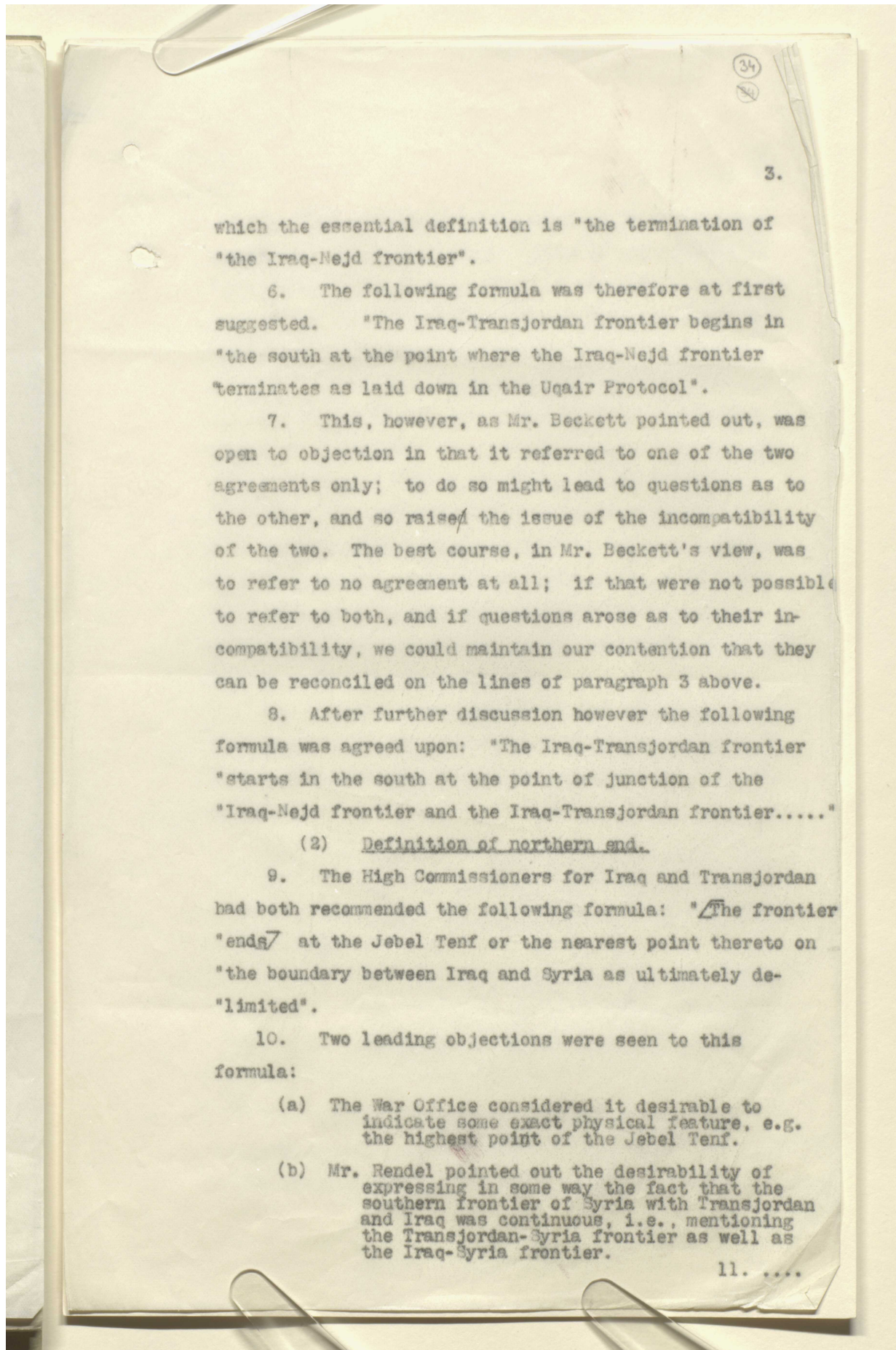
"Jebel Anaza, in the neighbourhood of the intersection of "meridian 39° E. and parallel 32° N." The Hadda Agreement of November 2nd, 1925, fixed the beginning of the Transjordan-Nejd frontier at the point of intersection of meridian 39° E., and parallel 32° N. "which marks the <sup>Termination</sup> ~~Intersection~~ of the frontier between Nejd and Iraq".

The negotiators of the Hadda Agreement clearly intended that the beginning of the Transjordan-Nejd frontier should coincide with the end of the Iraq-Nejd frontier as defined in the Uqair Protocol, since the former frontier is expressly stated to begin at "the point .... "which marks the termination of the frontier between "Nejd and Iraq". The negotiators evidently considered the Jebel Anaza and the intersection of 39° E., and 32° N. as coincident, seeing that they are shown as such on the 1,000,000 map<sup>(1919)</sup>, <sup>specifically</sup> the map referred to in the Hadda Agreement. In actual fact they are not coincident, the Jebel Anaza being an unknown distance further N.E. than shown on the 1,000,000 map<sup>(1925)</sup>.

4. The definition in the Hadda Agreement must therefore be regarded as an attempt to reproduce, as far as the point of junction was concerned, the definition in the Uqair Protocol, and the latter agreement must be regarded as the basic document.

5. It followed that the S. end of the Transjordan-Iraq frontier must be fixed in the light of the Uqair Protocol rather than the Hadda Agreement, in so far as the two were incompatible, more especially as it is clear that the Hadda Agreement merely gives the geographical coordinates in order to define more clearly a point of which.....





3.

which the essential definition is "the termination of  
"the Iraq-Nejd frontier".

6. The following formula was therefore at first  
suggested. "The Iraq-Transjordan frontier begins in  
"the south at the point where the Iraq-Nejd frontier  
"terminates as laid down in the Uqair Protocol".

7. This, however, as Mr. Beckett pointed out, was  
open to objection in that it referred to one of the two  
agreements only; to do so might lead to questions as to  
the other, and so raise~~d~~ the issue of the incompatibility  
of the two. The best course, in Mr. Beckett's view, was  
to refer to no agreement at all; if that were not possible  
to refer to both, and if questions arose as to their in-  
compatibility, we could maintain our contention that they  
can be reconciled on the lines of paragraph 3 above.

8. After further discussion however the following  
formula was agreed upon: "The Iraq-Transjordan frontier  
"starts in the south at the point of junction of the  
"Iraq-Nejd frontier and the Iraq-Transjordan frontier....."

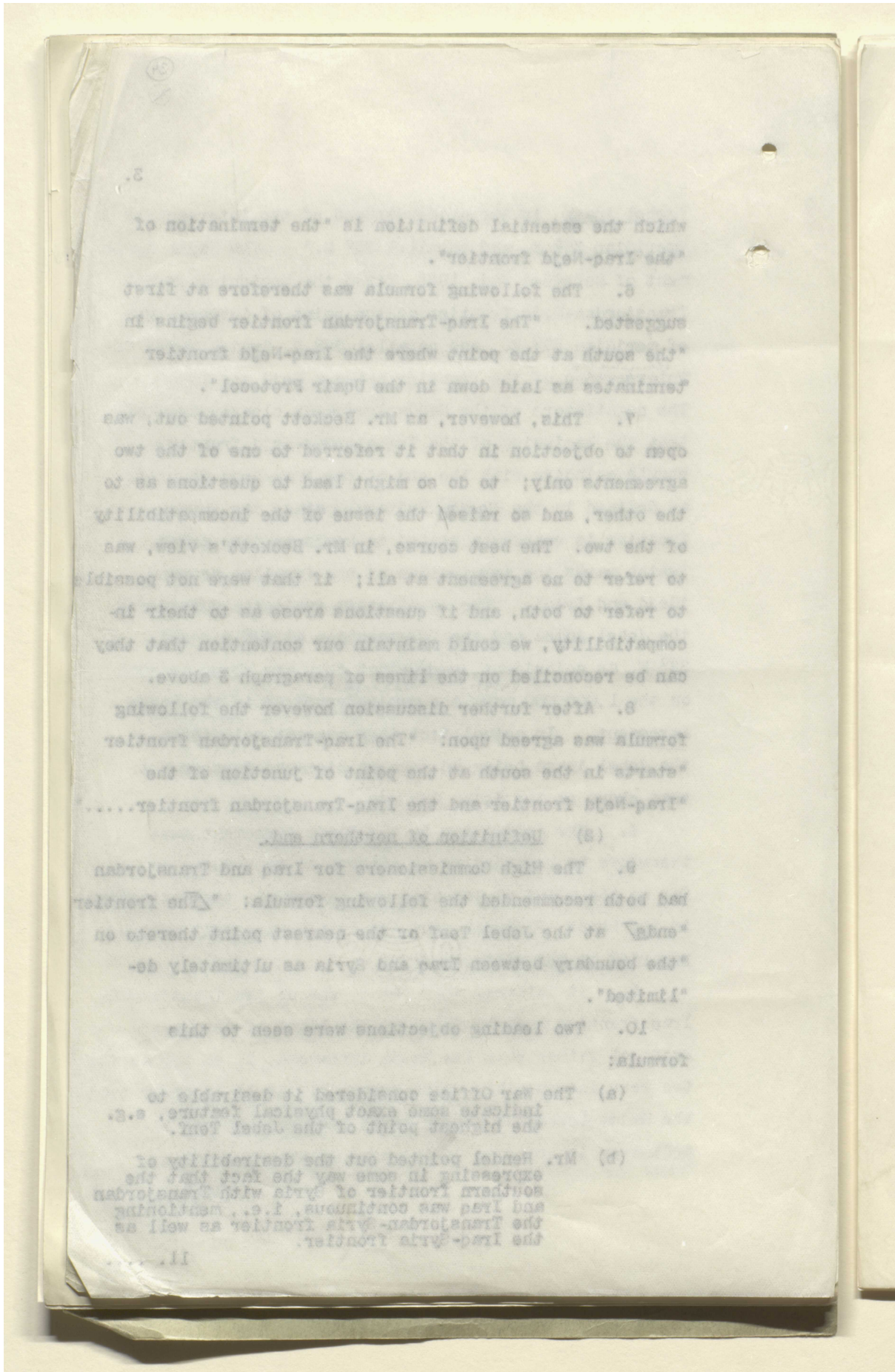
(2) Definition of northern end.

9. The High Commissioners for Iraq and Transjordan  
had both recommended the following formula: "The frontier  
"ends~~d~~ at the Jebel Tenf or the nearest point thereto on  
"the boundary between Iraq and Syria as ultimately de-  
"limited".

10. Two leading objections were seen to this  
formula:

- (a) The War Office considered it desirable to  
indicate some exact physical feature, e.g.  
the highest point of the Jebel Tenf.
- (b) Mr. Rendel pointed out the desirability of  
expressing in some way the fact that the  
southern frontier of Syria with Transjordan  
and Iraq was continuous, i.e., mentioning  
the Transjordan-Syria frontier as well as  
the Iraq-Syria frontier.

11. ....



35  
4.

11. To meet these two objections the following formula was finally adopted: "~~The frontier~~ ends in "the north at the nearest point to the summit of the "Jebel-Tenf on the boundary between Iraq and Syria and "Syria and Transjordan as ultimately delimited".

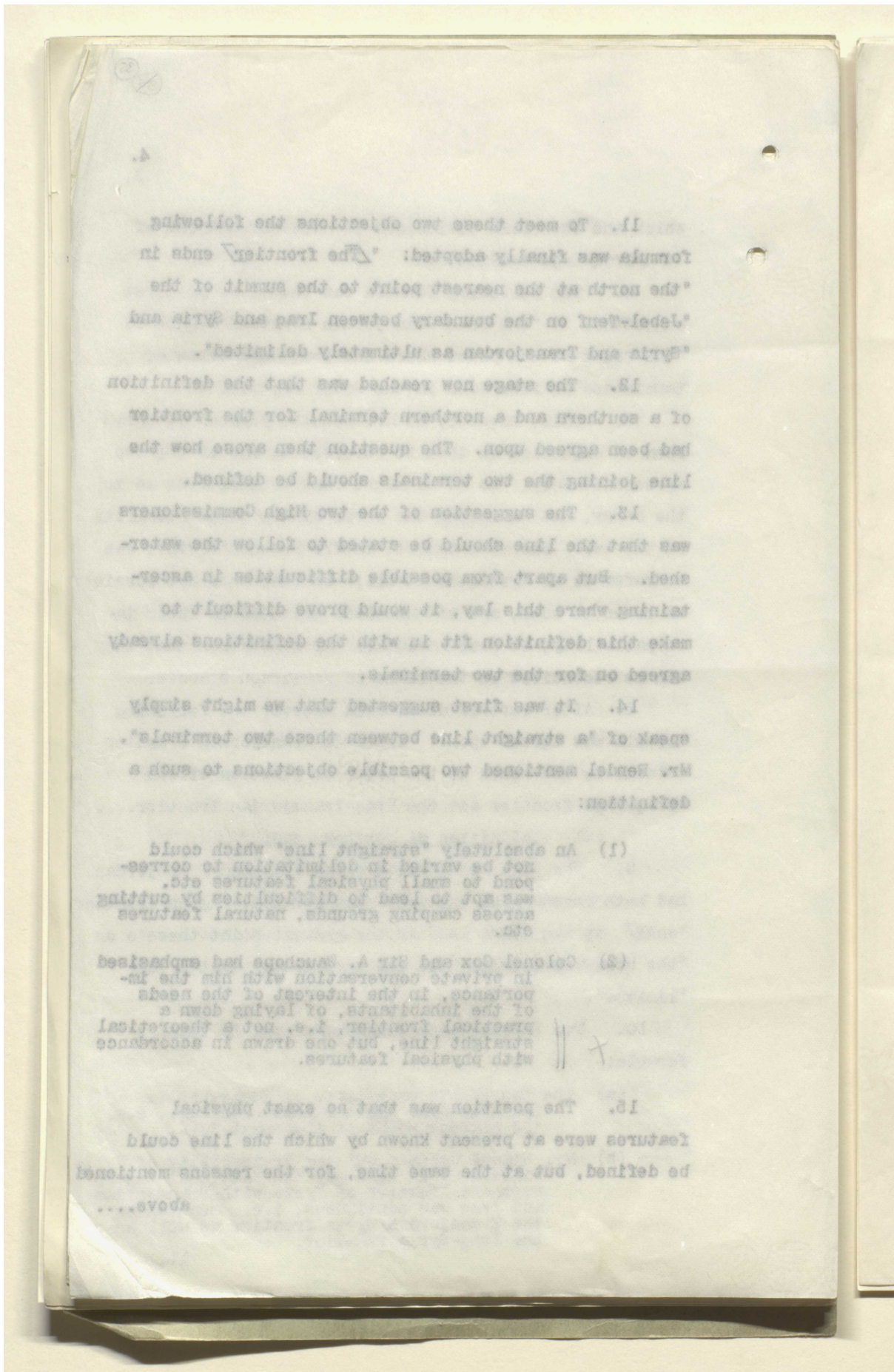
12. The stage now reached was that the definition of a southern and a northern terminal for the frontier had been agreed upon. The question then arose how the line joining the two terminals should be defined.

13. The suggestion of the two High Commissioners was that the line should be stated to follow the watershed. But apart from possible difficulties in ascertaining where this lay, it would prove difficult to make this definition fit in with the definitions already agreed on for the two terminals.

14. It was first suggested that we might simply speak of "a straight line between these two terminals". Mr. Rendel mentioned two possible objections to such a definition:

- (1) An absolutely "straight line" which could not be varied in delimitation to correspond to small physical features etc. was apt to lead to difficulties by cutting across camping grounds, natural features etc.
- (2) Colonel Cox and Sir A. Wauchope had emphasised in private conversation with him the importance, in the interest of the needs of the inhabitants, of laying down a practical frontier, i.e. not a theoretical straight line, but one drawn in accordance with physical features.

15. The position was that no exact physical features were at present known by which the line could be defined, but at the same time, for the reasons mentioned above....





5.

above, it was desirable that the eventual delimitation of the frontier should follow well-defined physical features wherever they actually existed.

16. Mr. Rendel therefore suggested that the frontier should be defined as, generally speaking, a straight line, with latitude for the delimitators to vary from the straight line within certain limits in order to take physical features into account.

17. On this basis the following formula for the middle portion of the frontier was worked out by Mr. Beckett: "Between these two terminal points the frontier follows where possible prominent physical features, provided that it shall not diverge more than five kilometres from a straight line between these two terminal points".

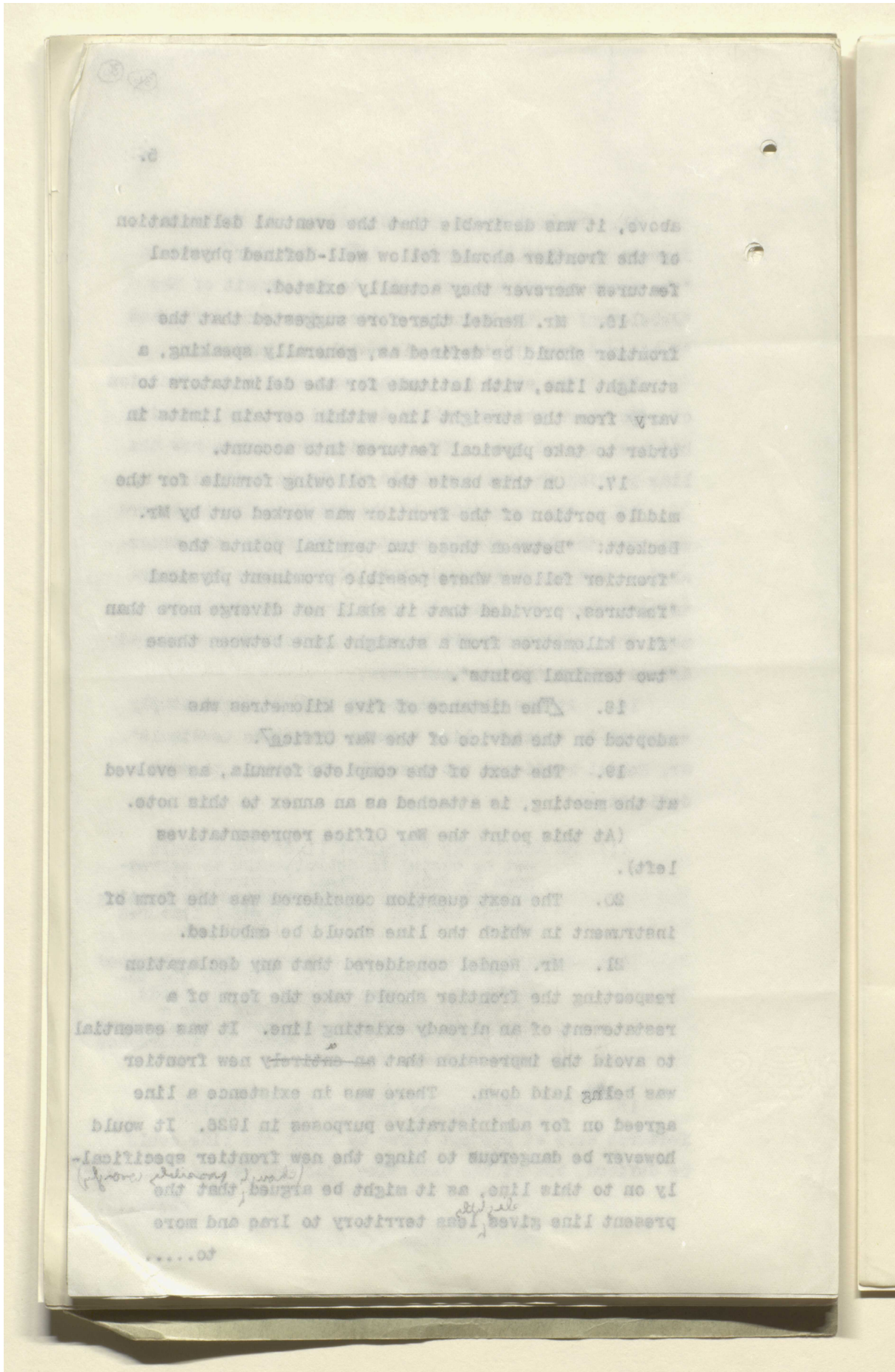
18. ~~The~~ distance of five kilometres was adopted on the advice of the War Office<sup>7</sup>.

19. The text of the complete formula, as evolved at the meeting, is attached as an annex to this note.

(At this point the War Office representatives left).

20. The next question considered was the form of instrument in which the line should be embodied.

21. Mr. Rendel considered that any declaration respecting the frontier should take the form of a restatement of an already existing line. It was essential to avoid the impression that an <sup>a</sup>entirely new frontier was being laid down. There was in existence a line agreed on for administrative purposes in 1926. It would however be dangerous to hinge the new frontier specifically on to this line, as it might be argued <sup>(though possibly wrongly)</sup> that the present line gives <sup>the</sup> less territory to Iraq and more to.....

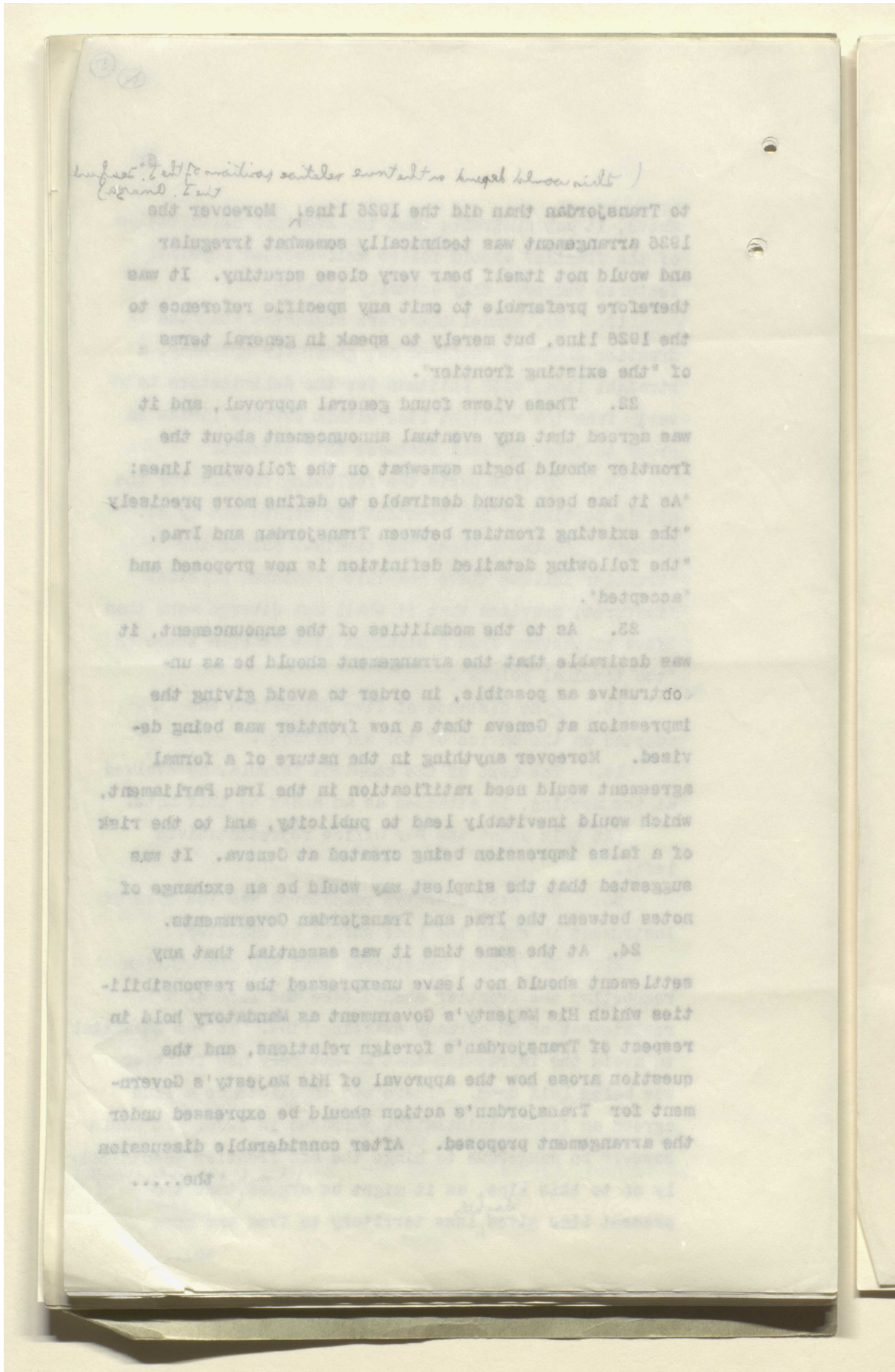


(This would depend on the true relative positions of the <sup>S. J. and</sup> ~~S. J.~~ <sup>the S. Anaza</sup> ~~S. J.~~  
to Transjordan than did the 1926 line. Moreover the  
1926 arrangement was technically somewhat irregular  
and would not itself bear very close scrutiny. It was  
therefore preferable to omit any specific reference to  
the 1926 line, but merely to speak in general terms  
of "the existing frontier".

22. These views found general approval, and it  
was agreed that any eventual announcement about the  
frontier should begin somewhat on the following lines:  
"As it has been found desirable to define more precisely  
"the existing frontier between Transjordan and Iraq,  
"the following detailed definition is now proposed and  
"accepted".

23. As to the modalities of the announcement, it  
was desirable that the arrangement should be as un-  
obtrusive as possible, in order to avoid giving the  
impression at Geneva that a new frontier was being de-  
vised. Moreover anything in the nature of a formal  
agreement would need ratification in the Iraq Parliament,  
which would inevitably lead to publicity, and to the risk  
of a false impression being created at Geneva. It was  
suggested that the simplest way would be an exchange of  
notes between the Iraq and Transjordan Governments.

24. At the same time it was essential that any  
settlement should not leave unexpressed the responsibili-  
ties which His Majesty's Government as Mandatory hold in  
respect of Transjordan's foreign relations, and the  
question arose how the approval of His Majesty's Govern-  
ment for Transjordan's action should be expressed under  
the arrangement proposed. After considerable discussion  
the.....



7.

the following procedure was eventually agreed upon:

25. (1) A note from the Iraqi Prime Minister to the Transjordan Chief Minister, putting forward the proposal, as in paragraph 22 above, on behalf of the Iraqi Government.

(2) A letter from the Transjordan Chief Minister to the High Commissioner for Transjordan, reciting the proposal and asking for the approval of His Majesty's Government.

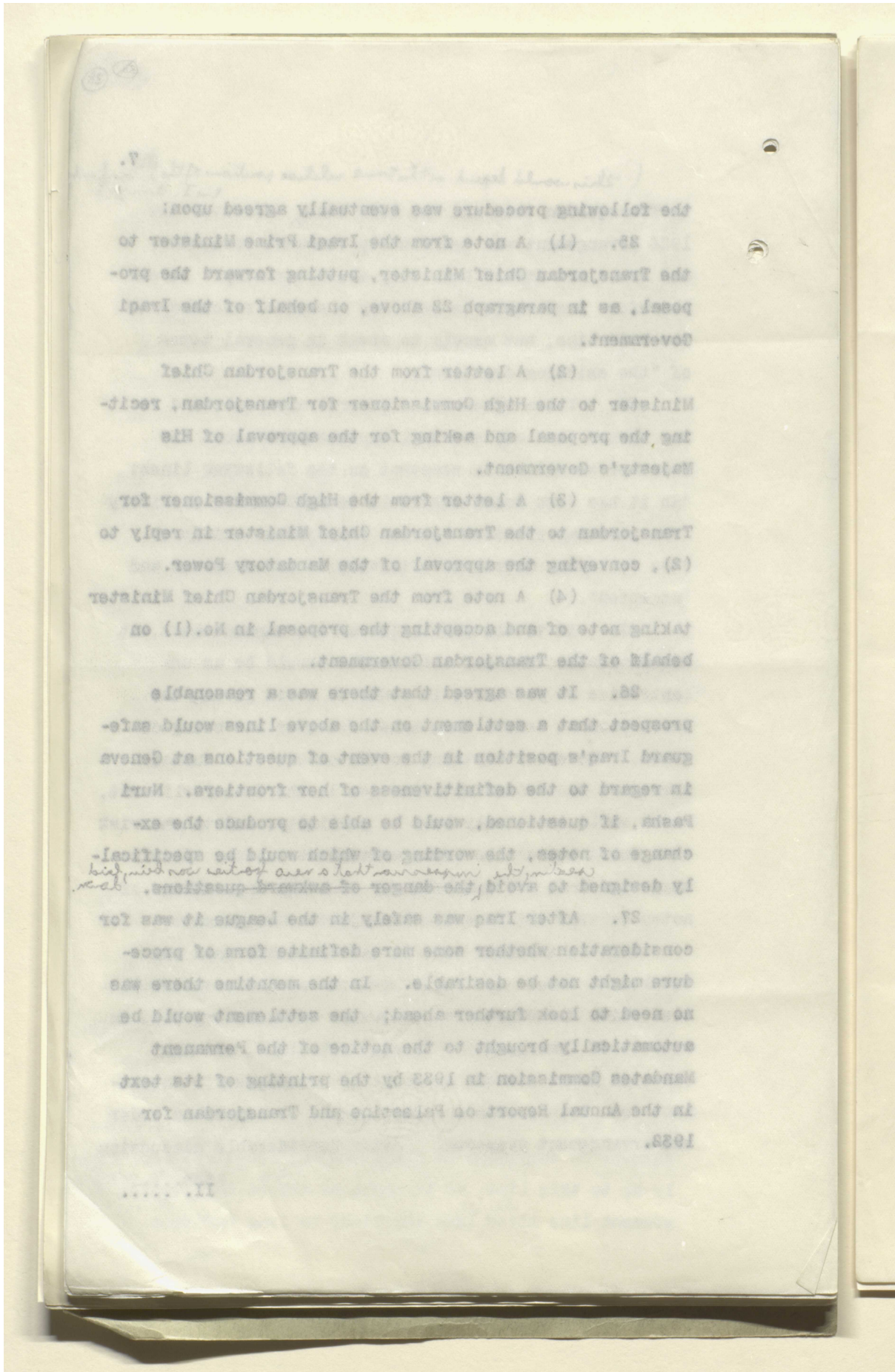
(3) A letter from the High Commissioner for Transjordan to the Transjordan Chief Minister in reply to (2), conveying the approval of the Mandatory Power.

(4) A note from the Transjordan Chief Minister taking note of and accepting the proposal in No.(1) on behalf of the Transjordan Government.

26. It was agreed that there was a reasonable prospect that a settlement on the above lines would safeguard Iraq's position in the event of questions at Geneva in regard to the definitiveness of her frontiers. Nuri Pasha, if questioned, would be able to produce the exchange of notes, the wording of which would be specifically designed to avoid <sup>creating the impression that a new frontier was being laid</sup> ~~the danger of awkward questions.~~ down.

27. After Iraq was safely in the League it was for consideration whether some more definite form of procedure might not be desirable. In the meantime there was no need to look further ahead; the settlement would be automatically brought to the notice of the Permanent Mandates Commission in 1933 by the printing of its text in the Annual Report on Palestine and Transjordan for 1932.

II. ....



8.

II. Iraq-Koweit Frontier.

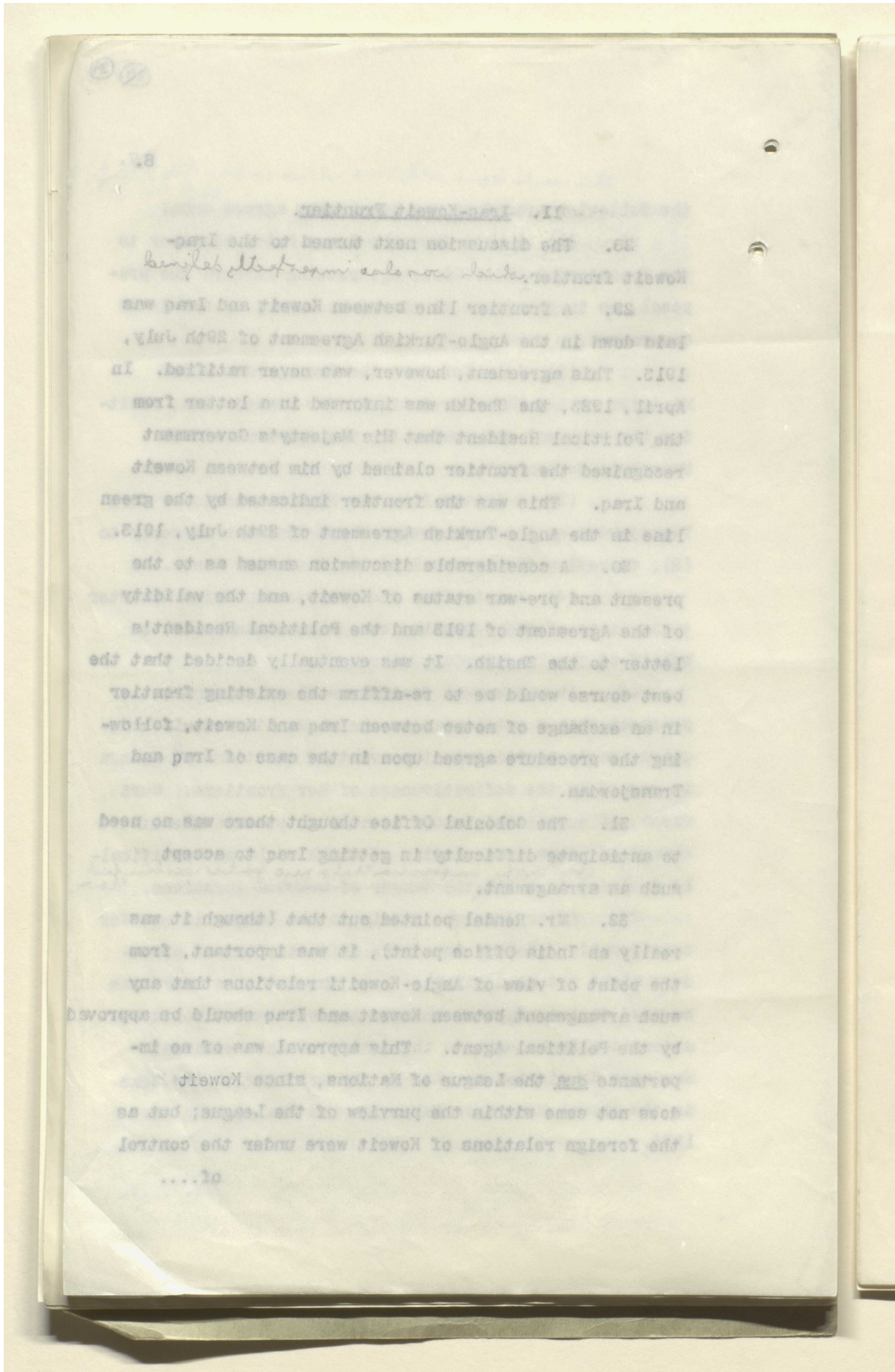
28. The discussion next turned to the Iraq-Koweit frontier, *which was also imperfectly defined*

29. A frontier line between Koweit and Iraq was laid down in the Anglo-Turkish Agreement of 29th July, 1913. This agreement, however, was never ratified. In April, 1923, the Sheikh was informed in a letter from the Political Resident that His Majesty's Government recognised the frontier claimed by him between Koweit and Iraq. This was the frontier indicated by the green line in the Anglo-Turkish Agreement of 29th July, 1913.

30. A considerable discussion ensued as to the present and pre-war status of Koweit, and the validity of the Agreement of 1913 and the Political Resident's letter to the Sheikh. It was eventually decided that the best course would be to re-affirm the existing frontier in an exchange of notes between Iraq and Koweit, following the procedure agreed upon in the case of Iraq and Transjordan.

31. The Colonial Office thought there was no need to anticipate difficulty in getting Iraq to accept such an arrangement.

32. Mr. Rendel pointed out that (though it was really an India Office point), it was important, from the point of view of Anglo-Koweit relations that any such arrangement between Koweit and Iraq should be approved by the Political Agent. This approval was of no importance qua the League of Nations, since Koweit does not come within the purview of the League; but as the foreign relations of Koweit were under the control of....





9.

of His Majesty's Government, ~~and~~ it was important to avoid in this case what might constitute a precedent for independent action on the part of the Sheikh in foreign affairs. It was therefore agreed that the settlement should take the form of an exchange of notes as follows:-

- (1) A note from the Iraqi Prime Minister to the Sheikh of Koweit, ~~and~~ putting forward the proposal, *mutatis mutandis* as in paragraph 22 above, for a reaffirmation of a frontier on behalf of the Iraqi Government;
- (2) A letter from the Sheikh to the Political Agent reciting the proposal and asking for the approval of His Majesty's Government.
- (3) A letter from the Political Agent to the Sheikh in reply to (2) conveying the approval of His Majesty's Government.

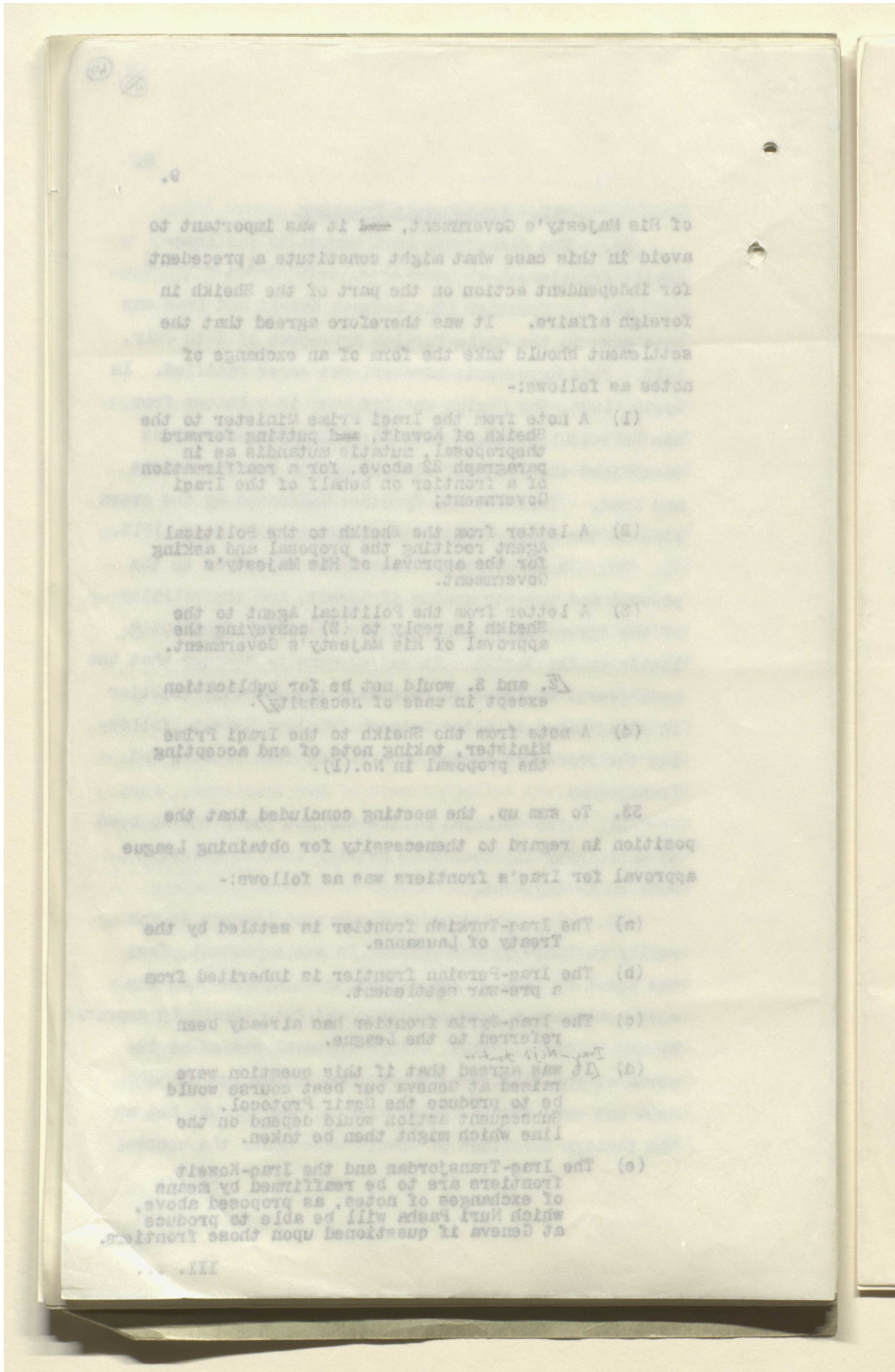
2. and 3. would not be for publication except in case of necessity.

- (4) A note from the Sheikh to the Iraqi Prime Minister, taking note of and accepting the proposal in No.(1).

33. To sum up, the meeting concluded that the position in regard to the necessity for obtaining League approval for Iraq's frontiers was as follows:-

- (a) The Iraq-Turkish frontier is settled by the Treaty of Lausanne.
- (b) The Iraq-Persian frontier is inherited from a pre-war settlement.
- (c) The Iraq-Syria frontier has already been referred to the League.
- (d) <sup>Iraq-Nejd Arabian</sup> ~~It~~ was agreed that if this question were raised at Geneva our best course would be to produce the Uqair Protocol. Subsequent action would depend on the line which might then be taken.
- (e) The Iraq-Transjordan and the Iraq-Koweit frontiers are to be reaffirmed by means of exchanges of notes, as proposed above, which Nuri Pasha will be able to produce at Geneva if questioned upon those frontiers.

III. ...



10.

III. Palestine-Syria frontier.

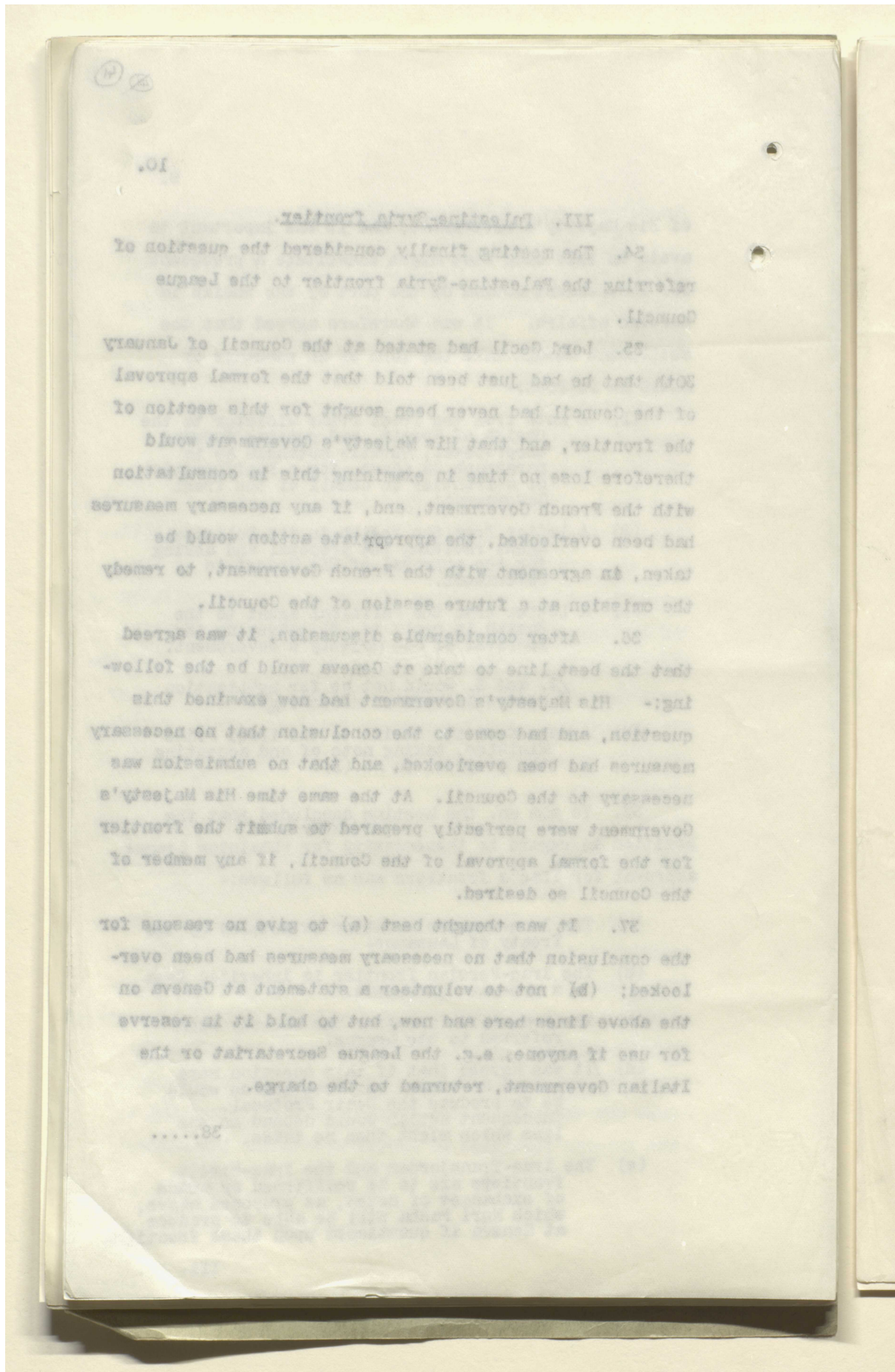
34. The meeting finally considered the question of referring the Palestine-Syria frontier to the League Council.

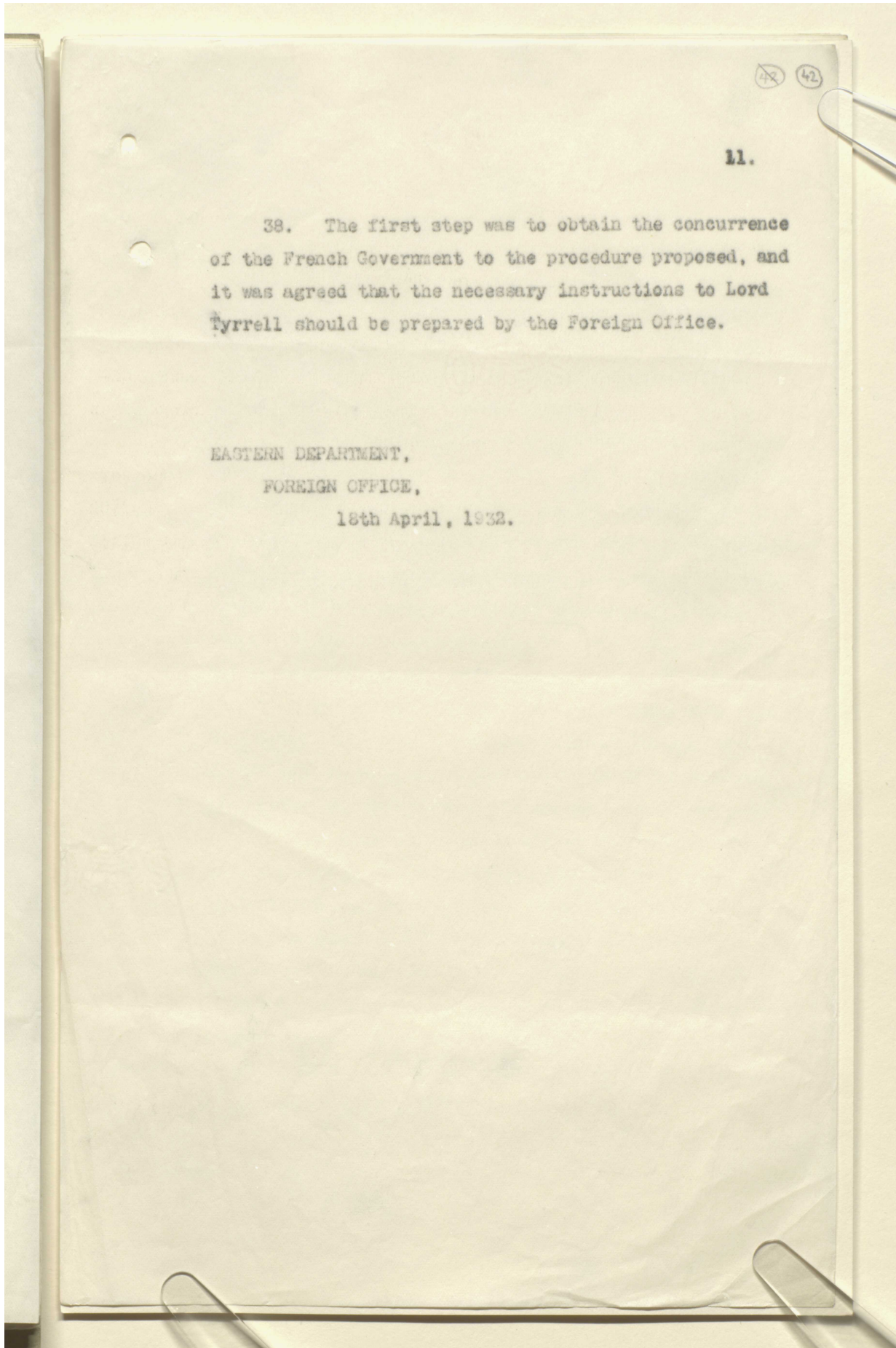
35. Lord Cecil had stated at the Council of January 30th that he had just been told that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for this section of the frontier, and that His Majesty's Government would therefore lose no time in examining this in consultation with the French Government, and, if any necessary measures had been overlooked, the appropriate action would be taken, in agreement with the French Government, to remedy the omission at a future session of the Council.

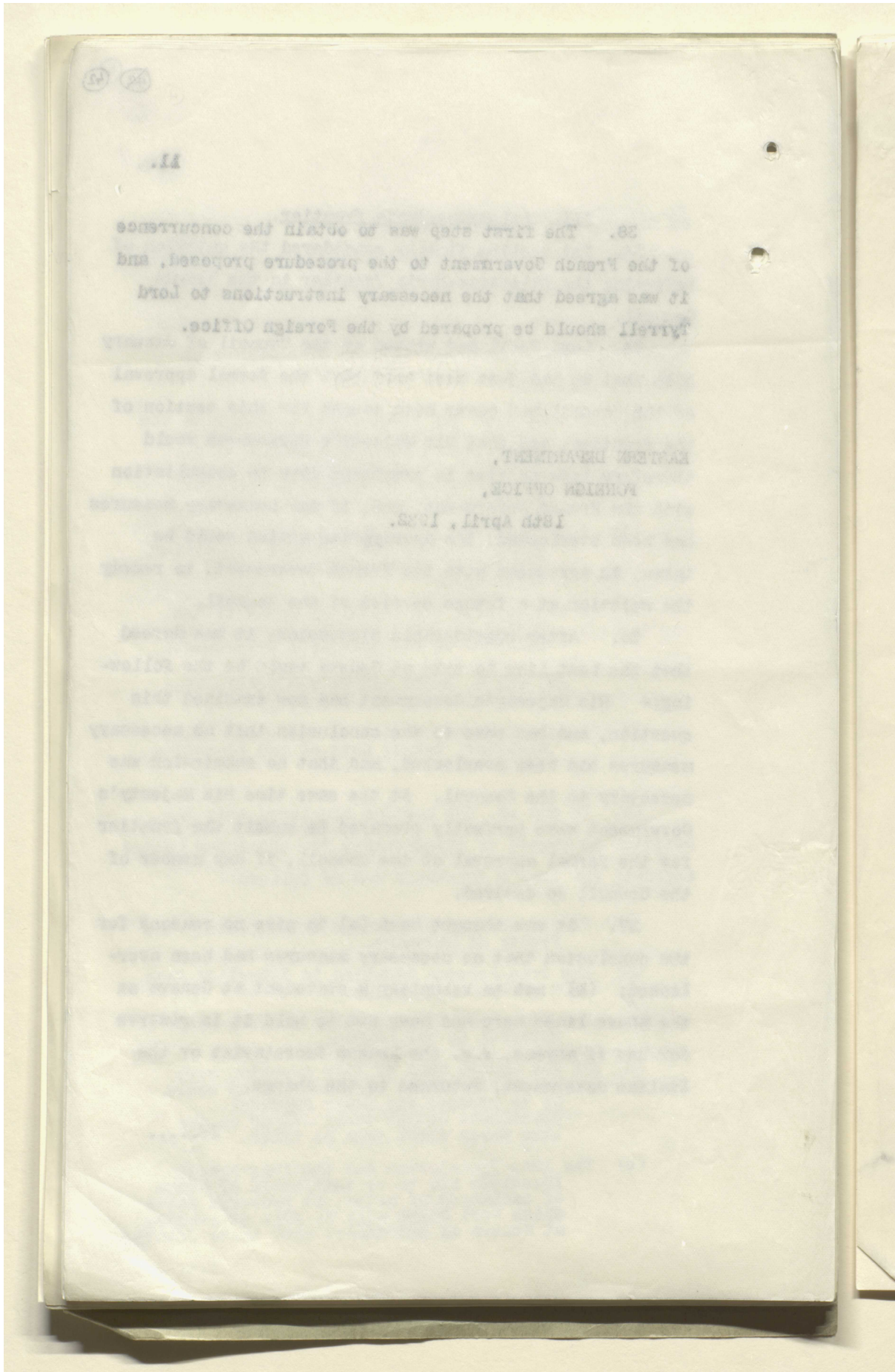
36. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the best line to take at Geneva would be the following:- His Majesty's Government had now examined this question, and had come to the conclusion that no necessary measures had been overlooked, and that no submission was necessary to the Council. At the same time His Majesty's Government were perfectly prepared to submit the frontier for the formal approval of the Council, if any member of the Council so desired.

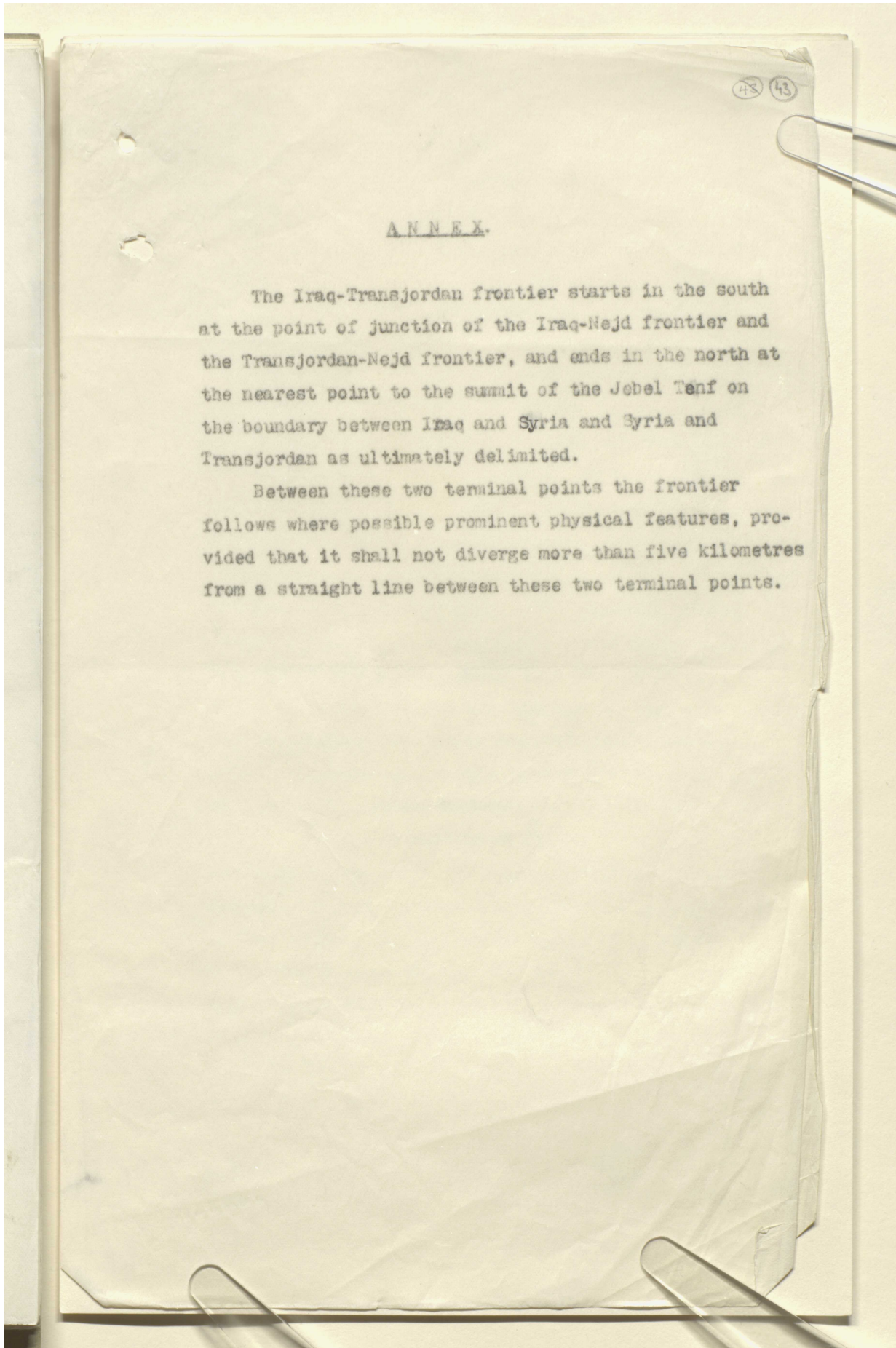
37. It was thought best (a) to give no reasons for the conclusion that no necessary measures had been overlooked; (b) not to volunteer a statement at Geneva on the above lines here and now, but to hold it in reserve for use if anyone, e.g. the League Secretariat or the Italian Government, returned to the charge.

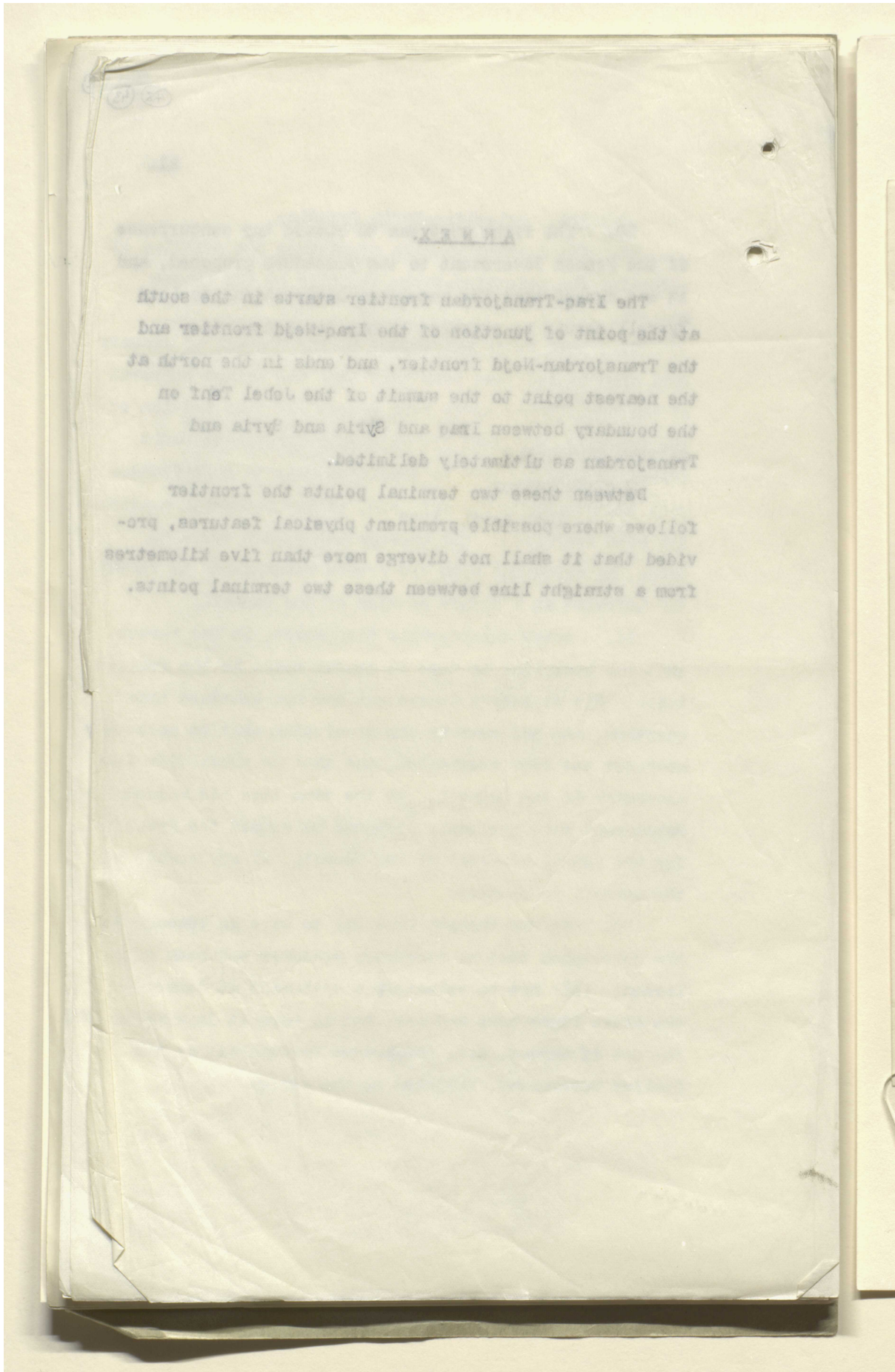
38.....



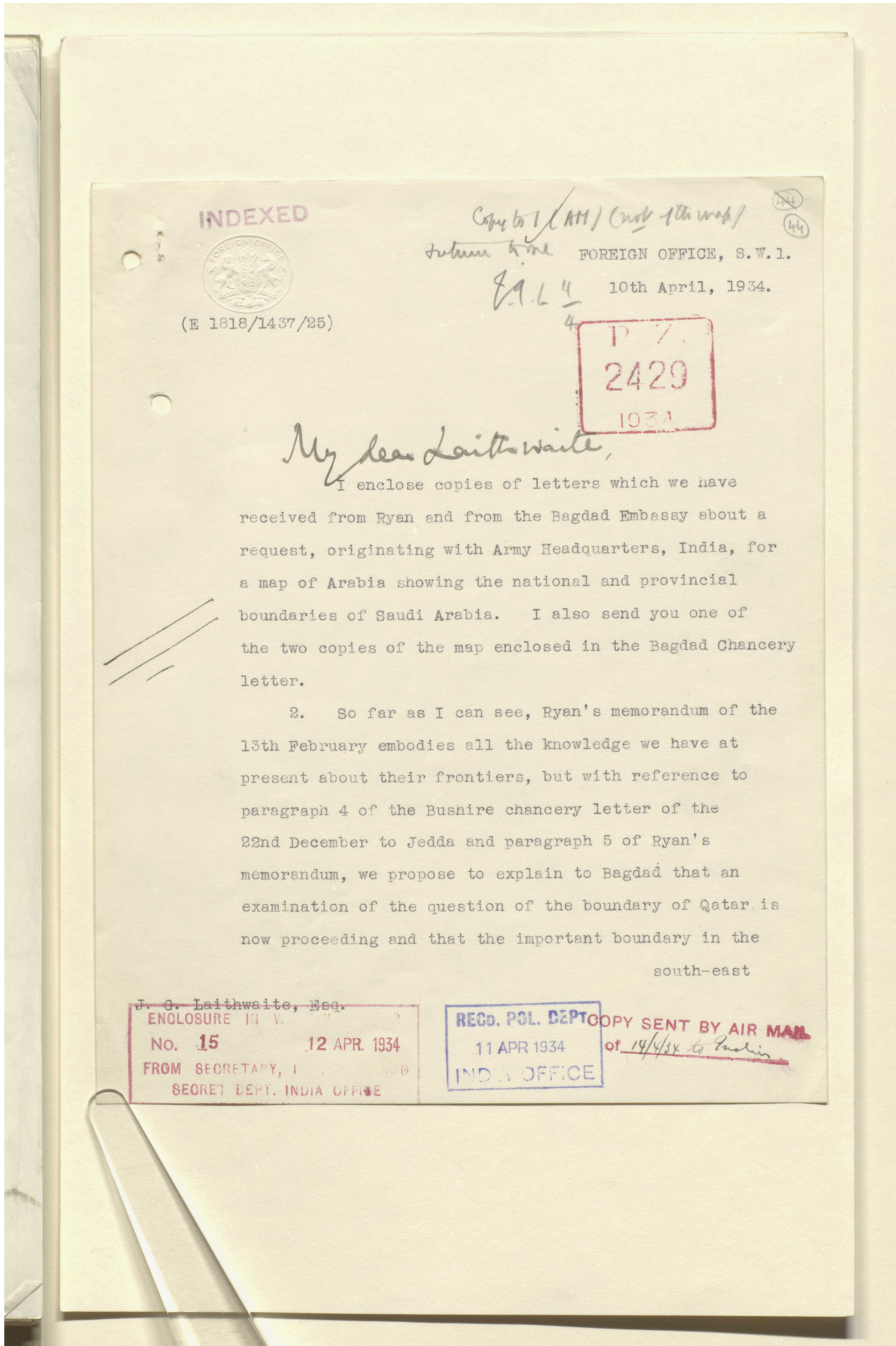












INDEXED



(E 1818/1437/35)

*Copy to 1/AM/ (not 10th map)*  
*Autumn time*  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.  
10th April, 1934.  
*E. G. L. 4*

P. 7.  
2429  
1934

*My dear Laithwaite,*

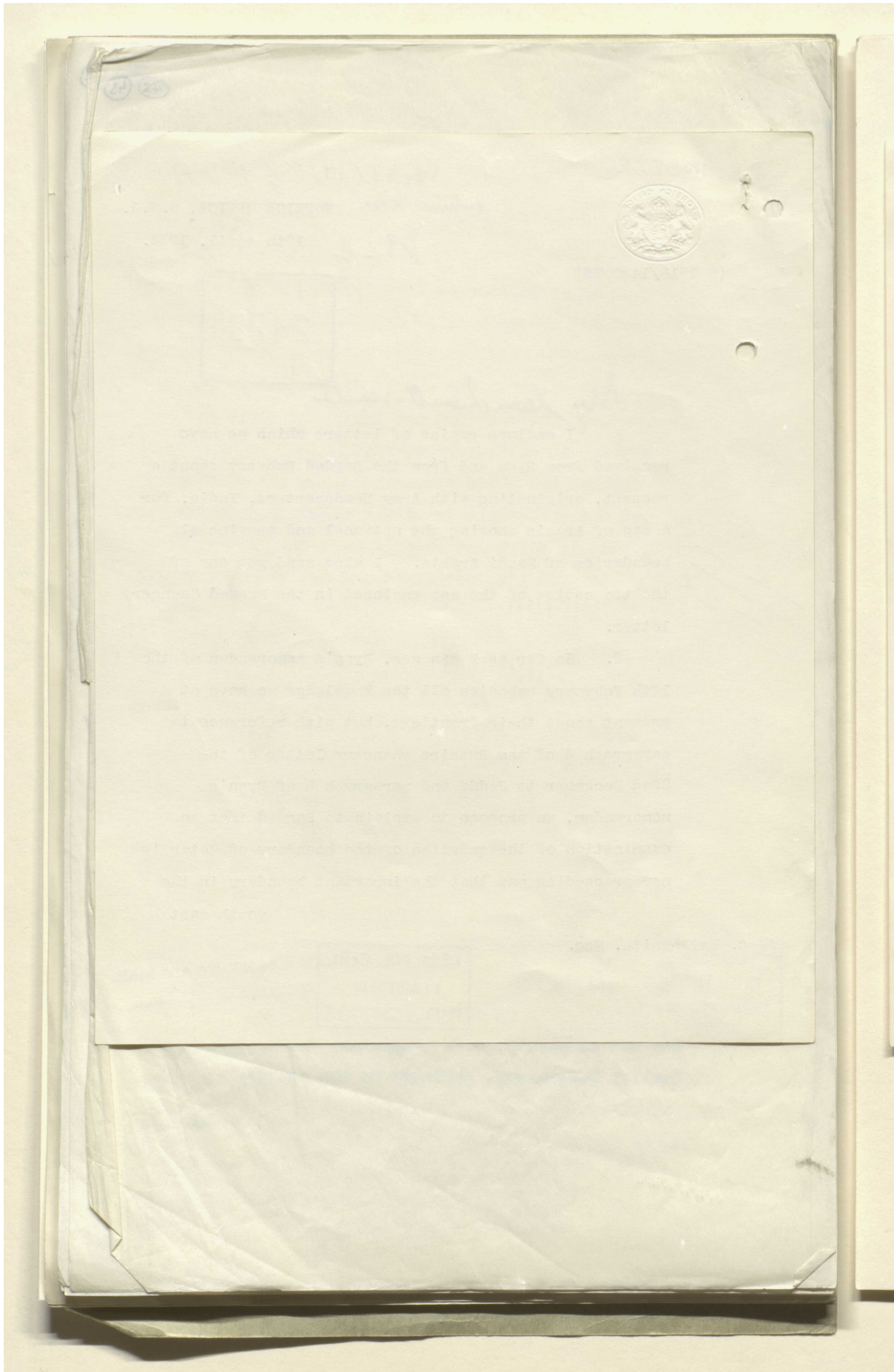
I enclose copies of letters which we have received from Ryan and from the Bagdad Embassy about a request, originating with Army Headquarters, India, for a map of Arabia showing the national and provincial boundaries of Saudi Arabia. I also send you one of the two copies of the map enclosed in the Bagdad Chancery letter.

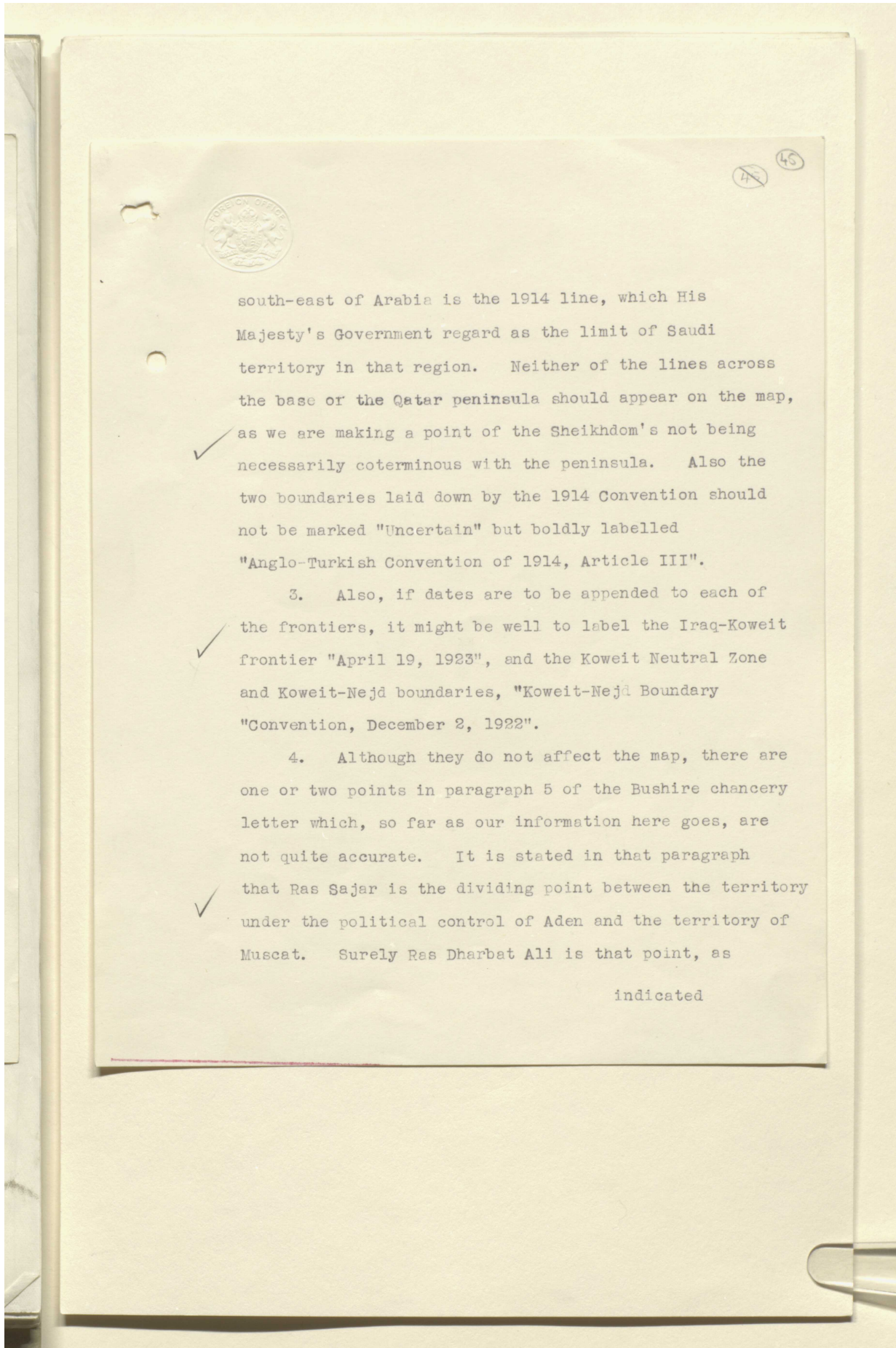
2. So far as I can see, Ryan's memorandum of the 13th February embodies all the knowledge we have at present about their frontiers, but with reference to paragraph 4 of the Bushire chancery letter of the 22nd December to Jeddah and paragraph 5 of Ryan's memorandum, we propose to explain to Bagdad that an examination of the question of the boundary of Qatar is now proceeding and that the important boundary in the south-east

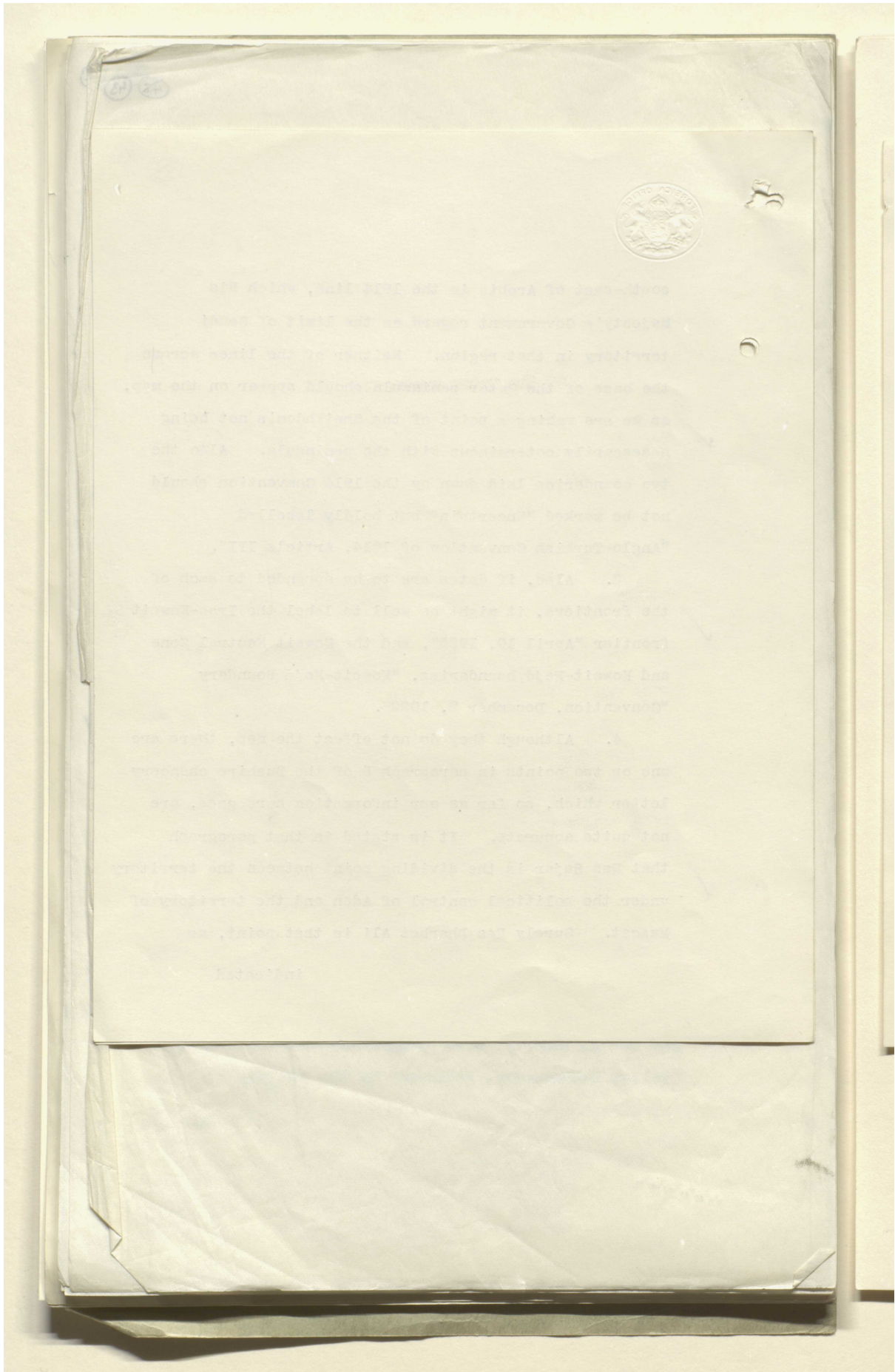
J. G. Laithwaite, Secy.  
ENCLOSURE IN V.  
NO. 15 12 APR. 1934  
FROM SECRETARY, I.  
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

REC'D. POL. DEPT.  
11 APR 1934  
INDIA OFFICE

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL  
of 14/4/34 to India









7 46

indicated by the Government of India to the Resident in their letter No. F 719-N/31 of the 24th July, 1933, a copy of which was enclosed in your official letter No. P.Z. 4963/33 of the 15th August, 1933, to us. In the same paragraph it is stated that the Trucial Coast extends from Abu Dhabi to Khassab. I take it that the Abu Dhabi referred to is not the town but the Sheikdom, which, as we now know, extends westward along the coast as far as Khor el Odeid. Also, even assuming that Khassab is the northern limit of the Trucial Coast on the Persian Gulf side, as being the frontier town of the Sheikh of Ruus al Jibal, who is a dependent of the Sultan of Muscat, there remains a short stretch of coast on the Gulf of Oman, roughly from Sai'ah to Khor Kalba, which is not under Muscat. The Sultan's dominions cannot therefore be said to extend from Khassab to the boundaries of the Hadhramaut.

5. Will you let me know whether you have any further observations on the map? As soon as we get your

your reply, we will make the necessary number of  
copies of the map for distribution. Do you agree  
to Bagdad's proposal that Army Headquarters, India,  
should receive their copy through your Department?

Yours ever

Christopher Warner

Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [47r] (93/121)

COPY.

(E 1437/1437/25)

No. 404/209/3.

CONFIDENTIAL.

P. Z.  
2429  
British Legation,  
1934

Jedda,

Saudi Arabia.

13th February, 1934.

My dear George,

While I was on leave the Legation received from Bagdad two copies of a map of Arabia with a request that we should mark on them the national and provincial boundaries of Saudi Arabia. My Chancery were asked to forward one copy to Army Head Quarters India and to send the other back to the Embassy for return to Air Head Quarters Hinaidi, who had started the ball rolling in Bagdad at the instance of Army Head Quarters, India.

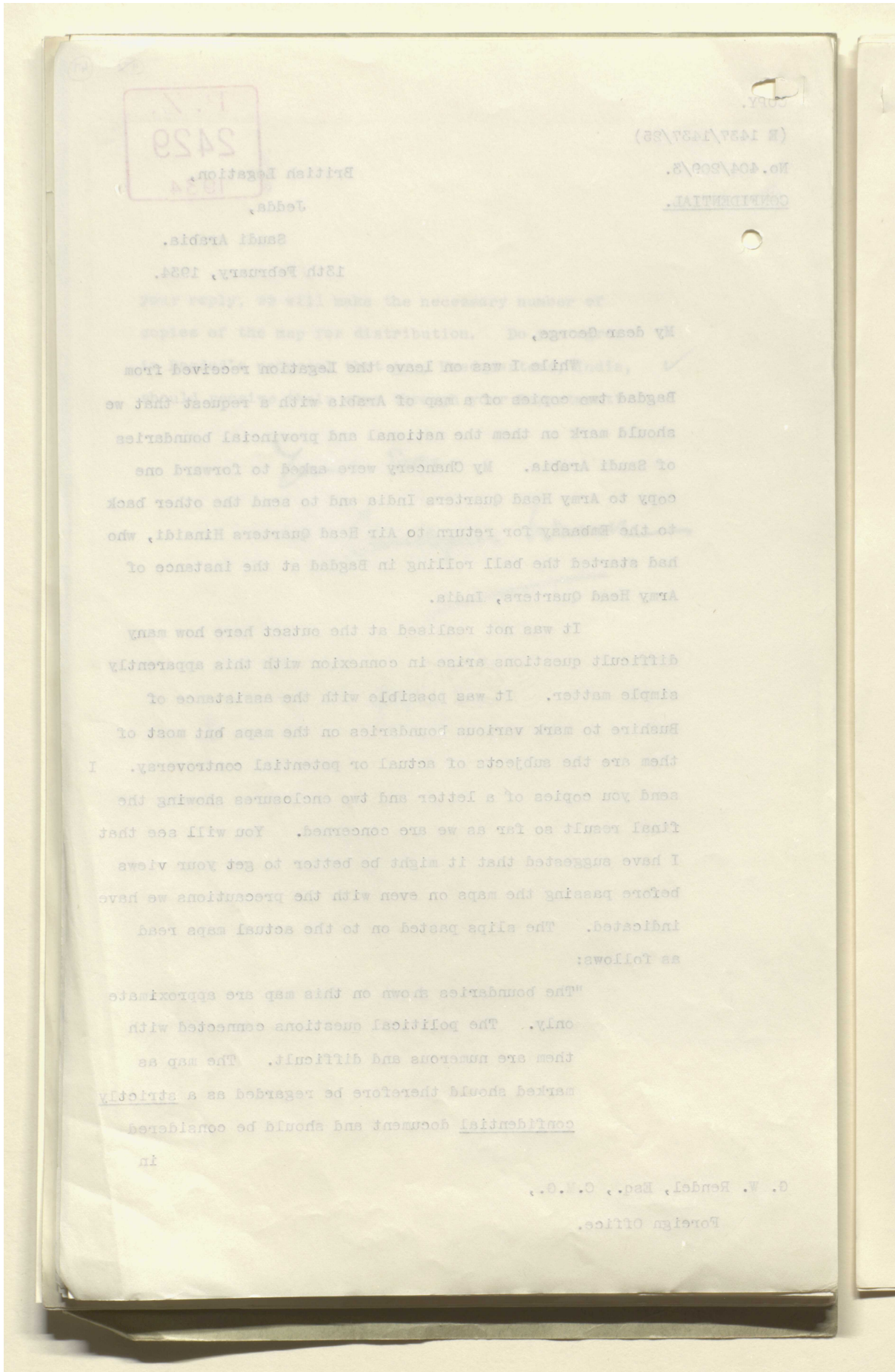
It was not realised at the outset here how many difficult questions arise in connexion with this apparently simple matter. It was possible with the assistance of Bushire to mark various boundaries on the maps but most of them are the subjects of actual or potential controversy. I send you copies of a letter and two enclosures showing the final result so far as we are concerned. You will see that I have suggested that it might be better to get your views before passing the maps on even with the precautions we have indicated. The slips pasted on to the actual maps read as follows:

"The boundaries shown on this map are approximate only. The political questions connected with them are numerous and difficult. The map as marked should therefore be regarded as a strictly confidential document and should be considered

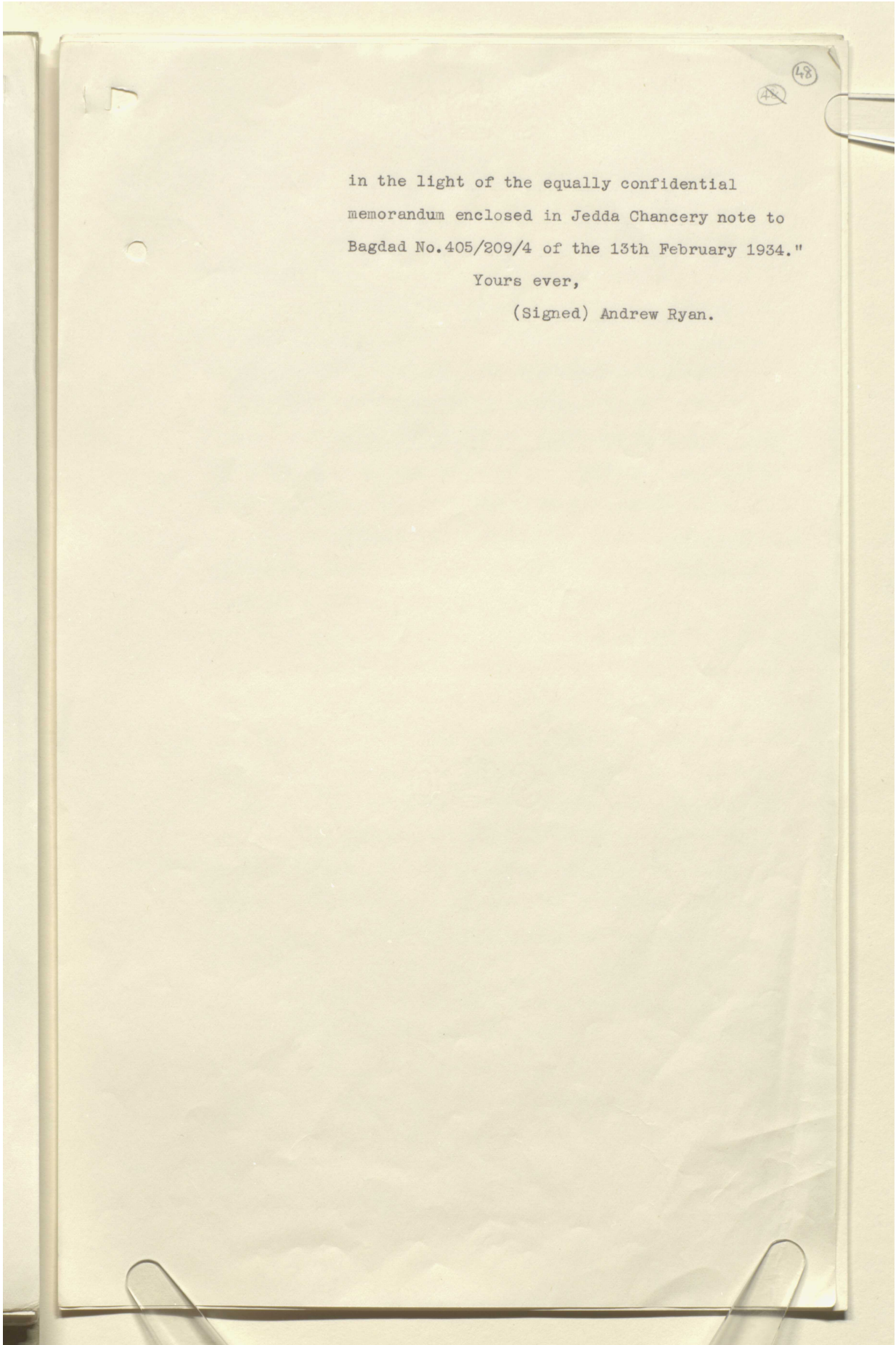
in

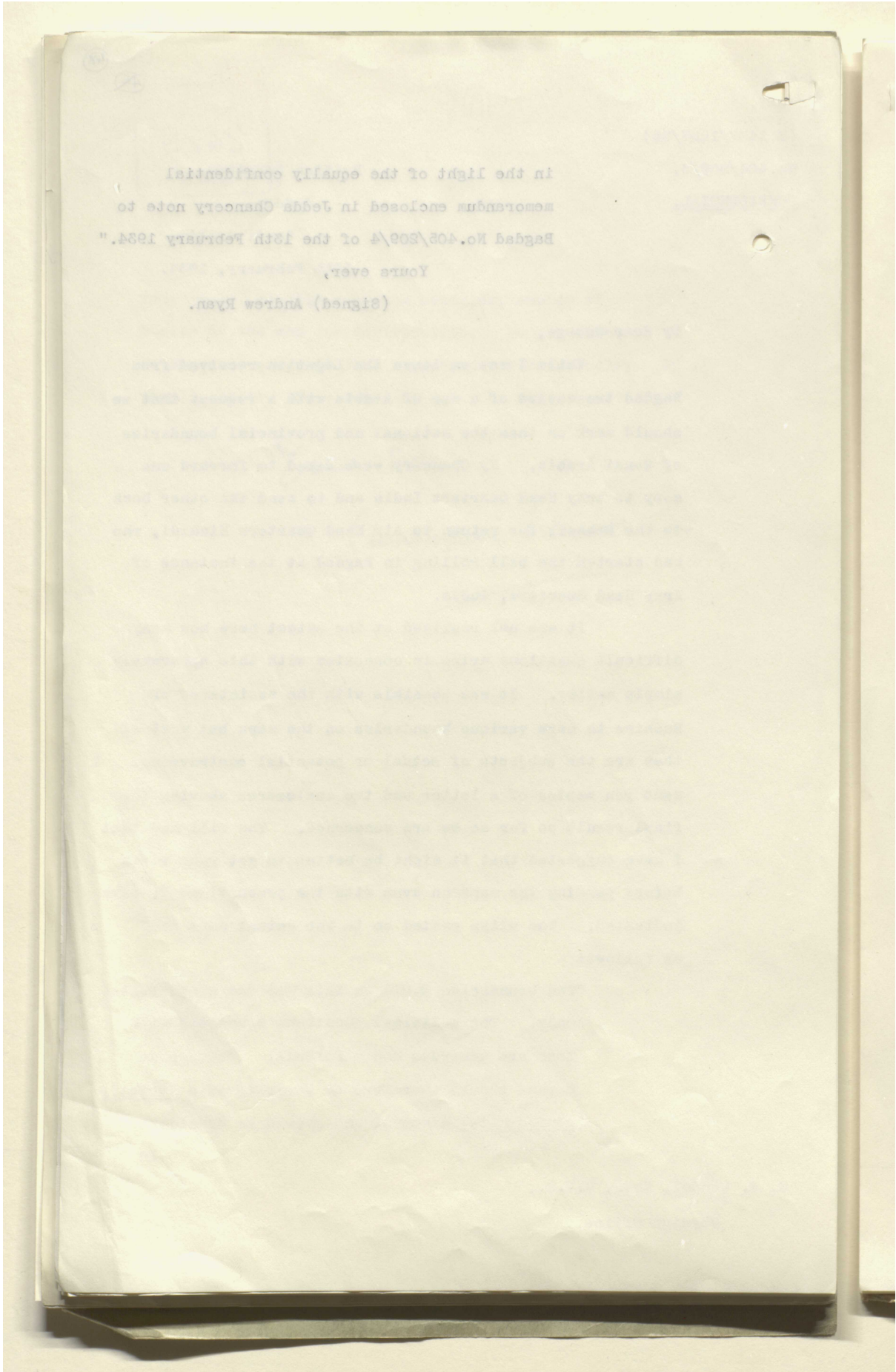
G. W. Rendel, Esq., C.M.G.,

Foreign Office.









Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [49r] (97/121)

COPY.

No. 405/209/4.

CONFIDENTIAL.

British Legation,  
Jedda.

13th February, 1934.

Dear Chancery,

Please see the correspondence ending with our Chancery note No. 3550/644/10 of December 30 regarding the maps on which we were asked to mark the national and provincial boundaries of Saudi Arabia.

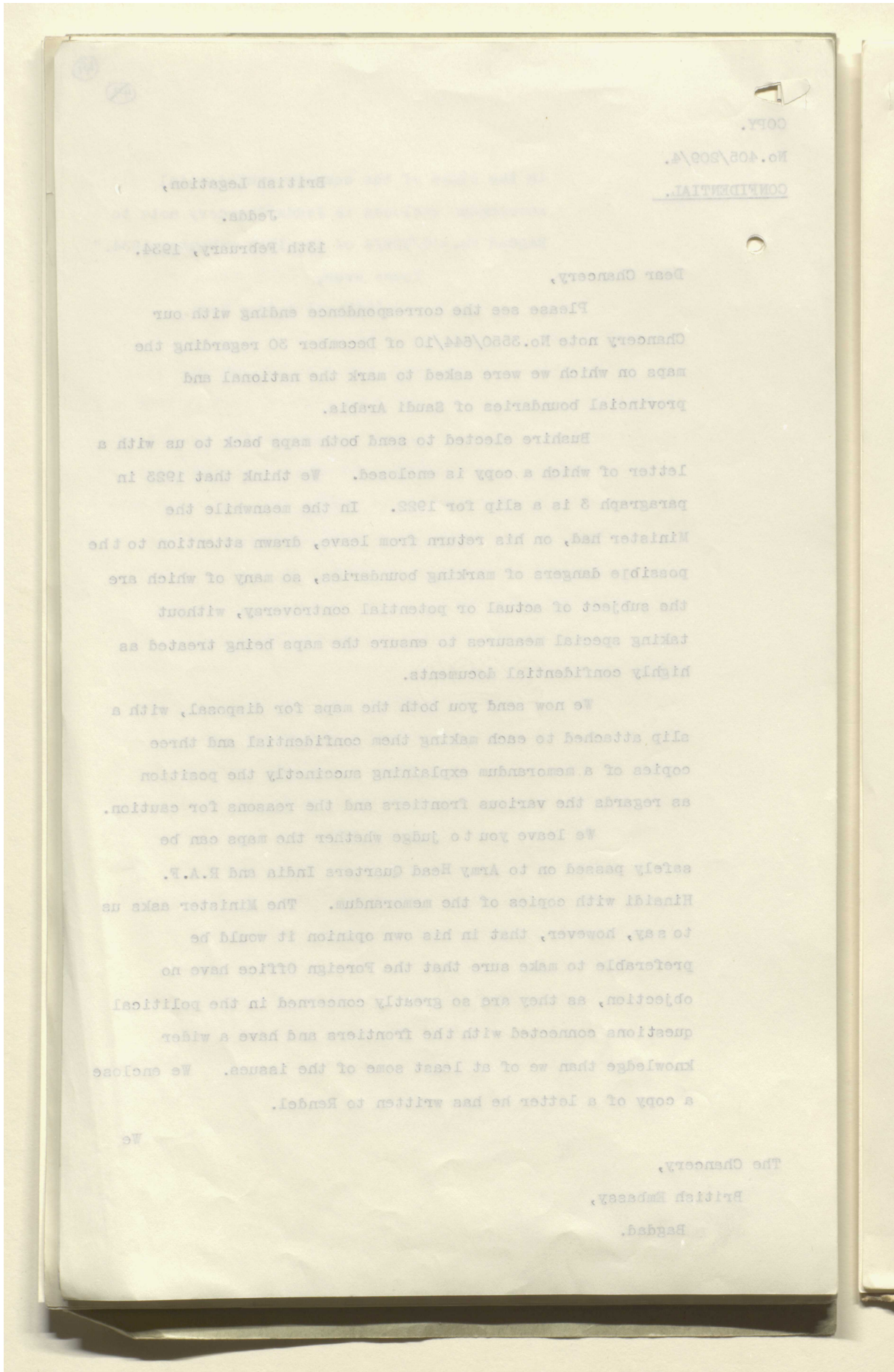
Bushire elected to send both maps back to us with a letter of which a copy is enclosed. We think that 1923 in paragraph 3 is a slip for 1922. In the meanwhile the Minister had, on his return from leave, drawn attention to the possible dangers of marking boundaries, so many of which are the subject of actual or potential controversy, without taking special measures to ensure the maps being treated as highly confidential documents.

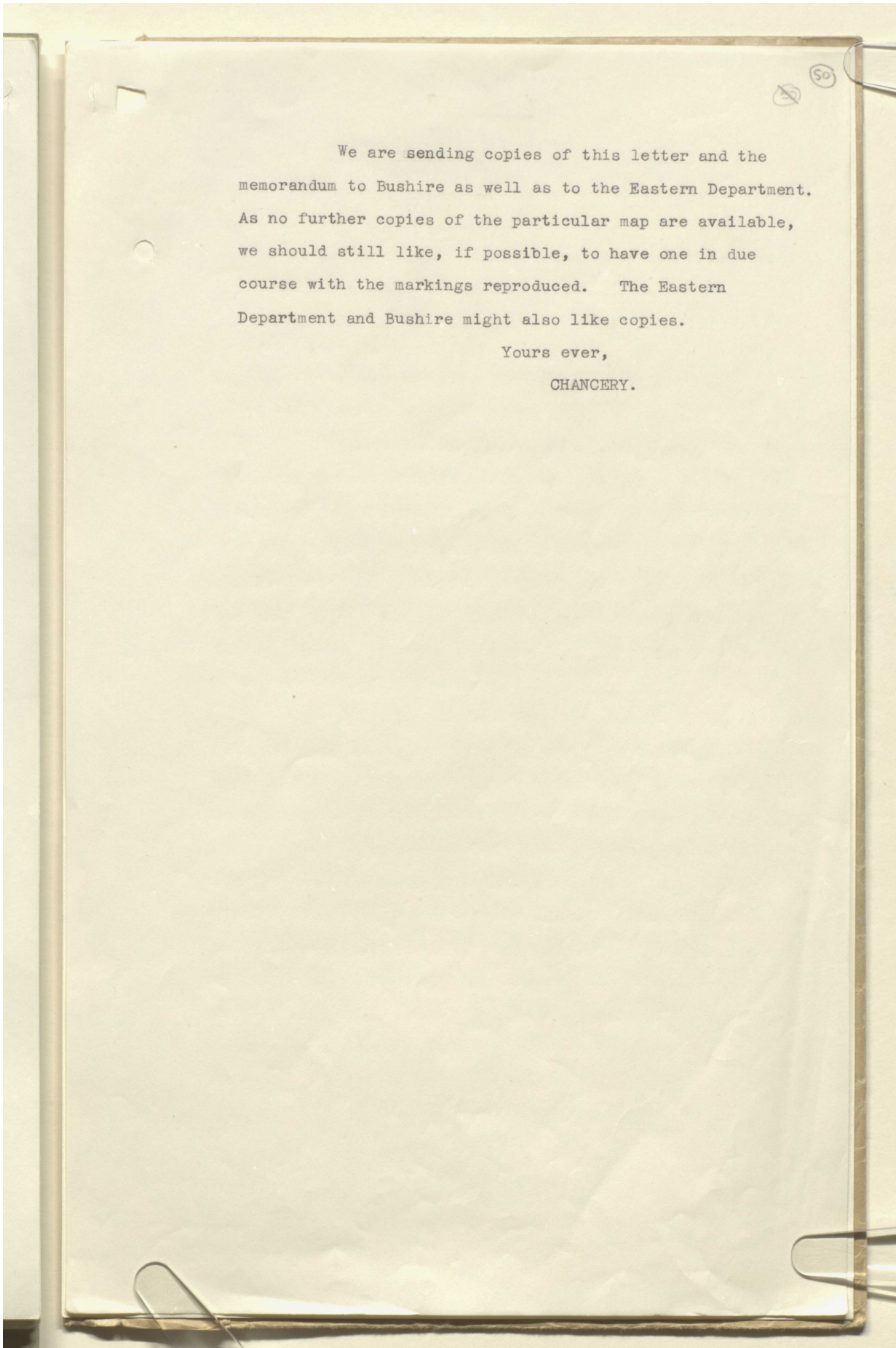
We now send you both the maps for disposal, with a slip attached to each making them confidential and three copies of a memorandum explaining succinctly the position as regards the various frontiers and the reasons for caution.

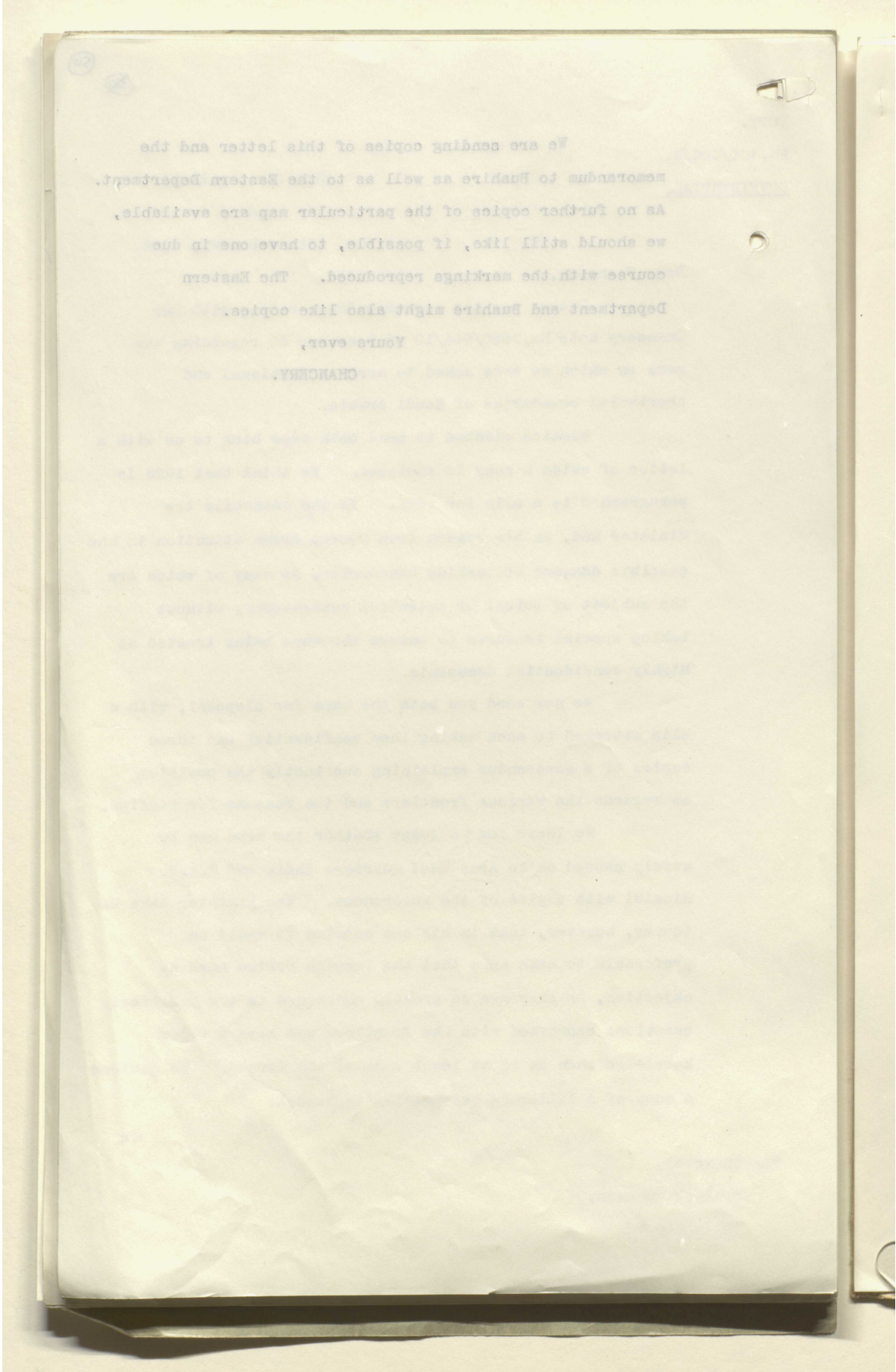
We leave you to judge whether the maps can be safely passed on to Army Head Quarters India and R.A.F. Hinaidi with copies of the memorandum. The Minister asks us to say, however, that in his own opinion it would be preferable to make sure that the Foreign Office have no objection, as they are so greatly concerned in the political questions connected with the frontiers and have a wider knowledge than we of at least some of the issues. We enclose a copy of a letter he has written to Rendel.

We

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Bagdad.







Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [51r]  
(101/121)

COPY.

Confidential.

No.1963-S of 1933.

The Residency,

Bushire.

22nd December, 1933.

Dear Chancery,

Please refer to your 3157/644/6 dated the 14th  
November 1933.

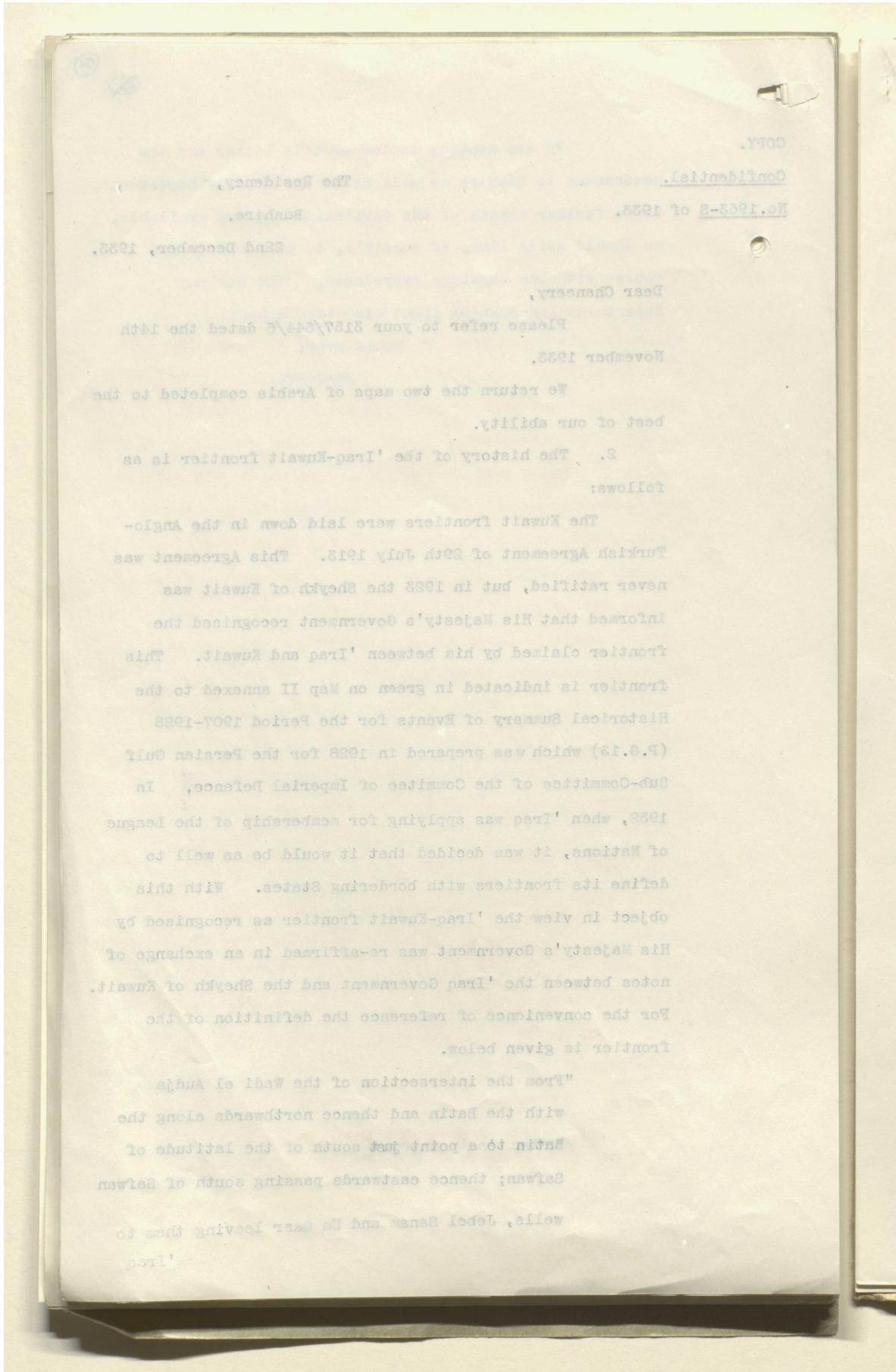
We return the two maps of Arabia completed to the  
best of our ability.

2. The history of the 'Iraq-Kuwait frontier is as  
follows:

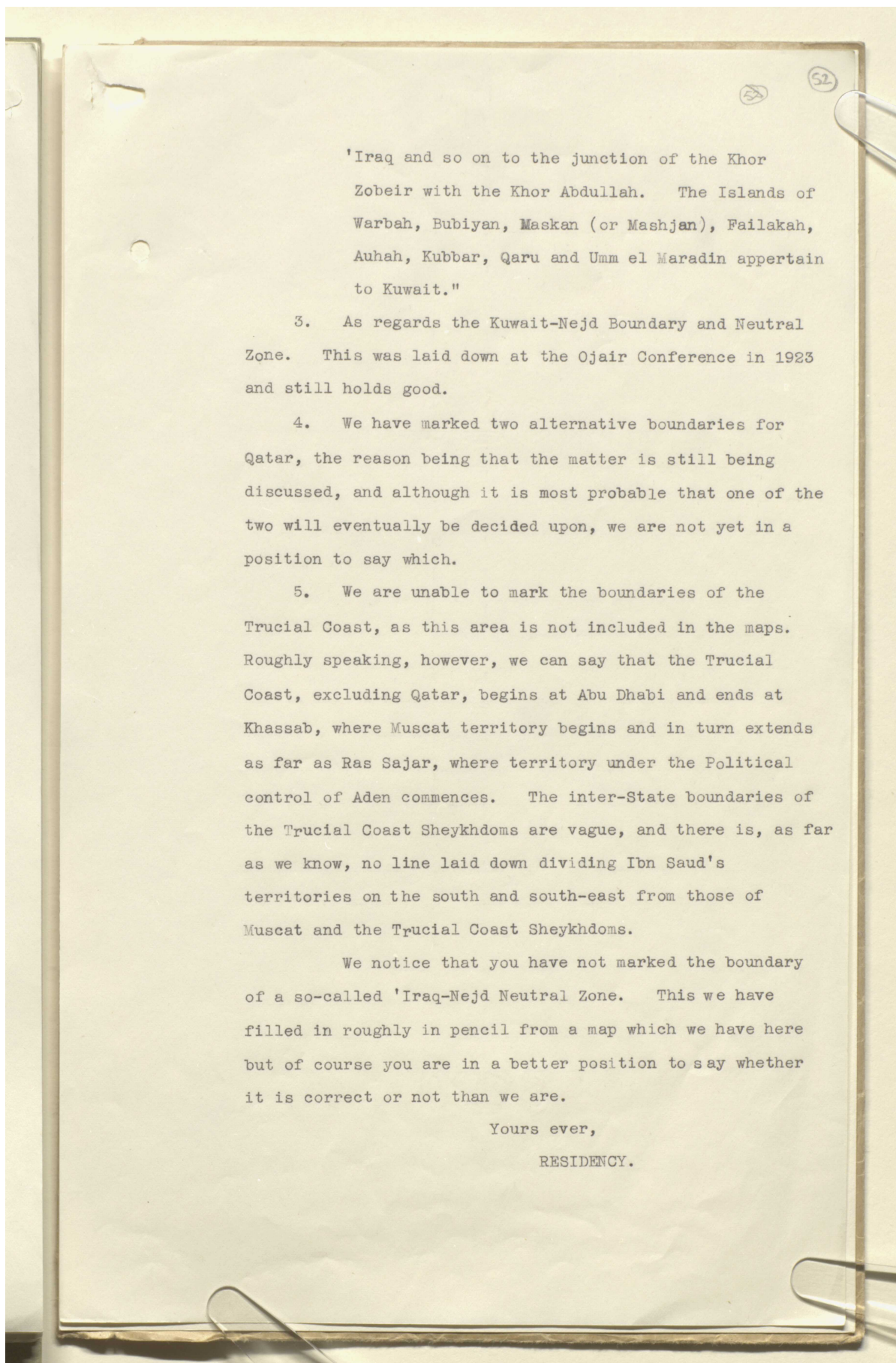
The Kuwait frontiers were laid down in the Anglo-Turkish Agreement of 29th July 1913. This Agreement was never ratified, but in 1923 the Sheykh of Kuwait was informed that His Majesty's Government recognised the frontier claimed by him between 'Iraq and Kuwait. This frontier is indicated in green on Map II annexed to the Historical Summary of Events for the Period 1907-1928 (P.G.13) which was prepared in 1928 for the Persian Gulf Sub-Committee of the Committee of Imperial Defence. In 1932, when 'Iraq was applying for membership of the League of Nations, it was decided that it would be as well to define its frontiers with bordering States. With this object in view the 'Iraq-Kuwait frontier as recognised by His Majesty's Government was re-affirmed in an exchange of notes between the 'Iraq Government and the Sheykh of Kuwait. For the convenience of reference the definition of the frontier is given below.

"From the intersection of the Wadi el Audja  
with the Batin and thence northwards along the  
Batin to a point just south of the latitude of  
Safwan; thence eastwards passing south of Safwan  
wells, Jebel Sanam and Um Qasr leaving them to  
'Iraq

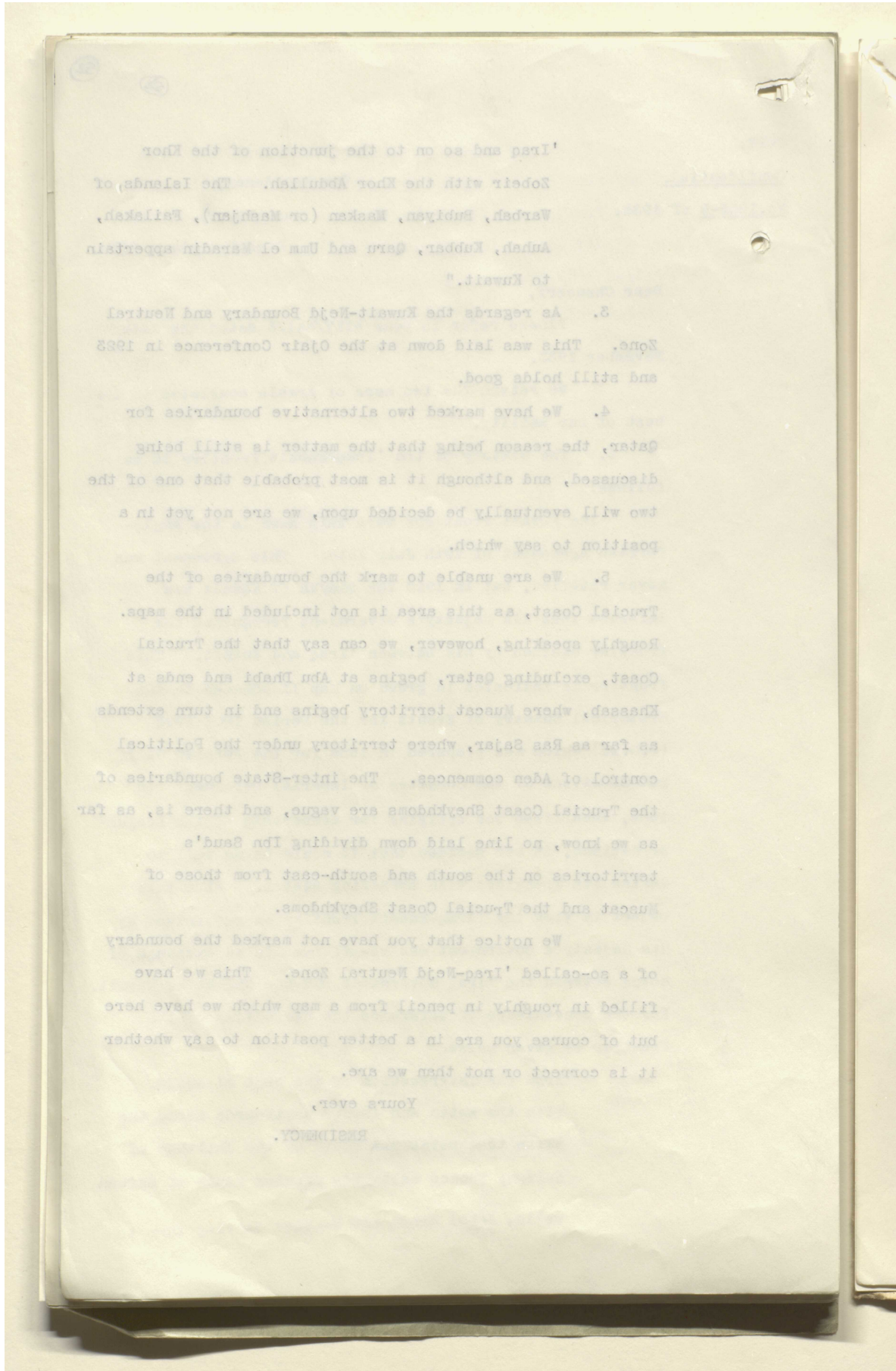
Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [51v]  
(102/121)

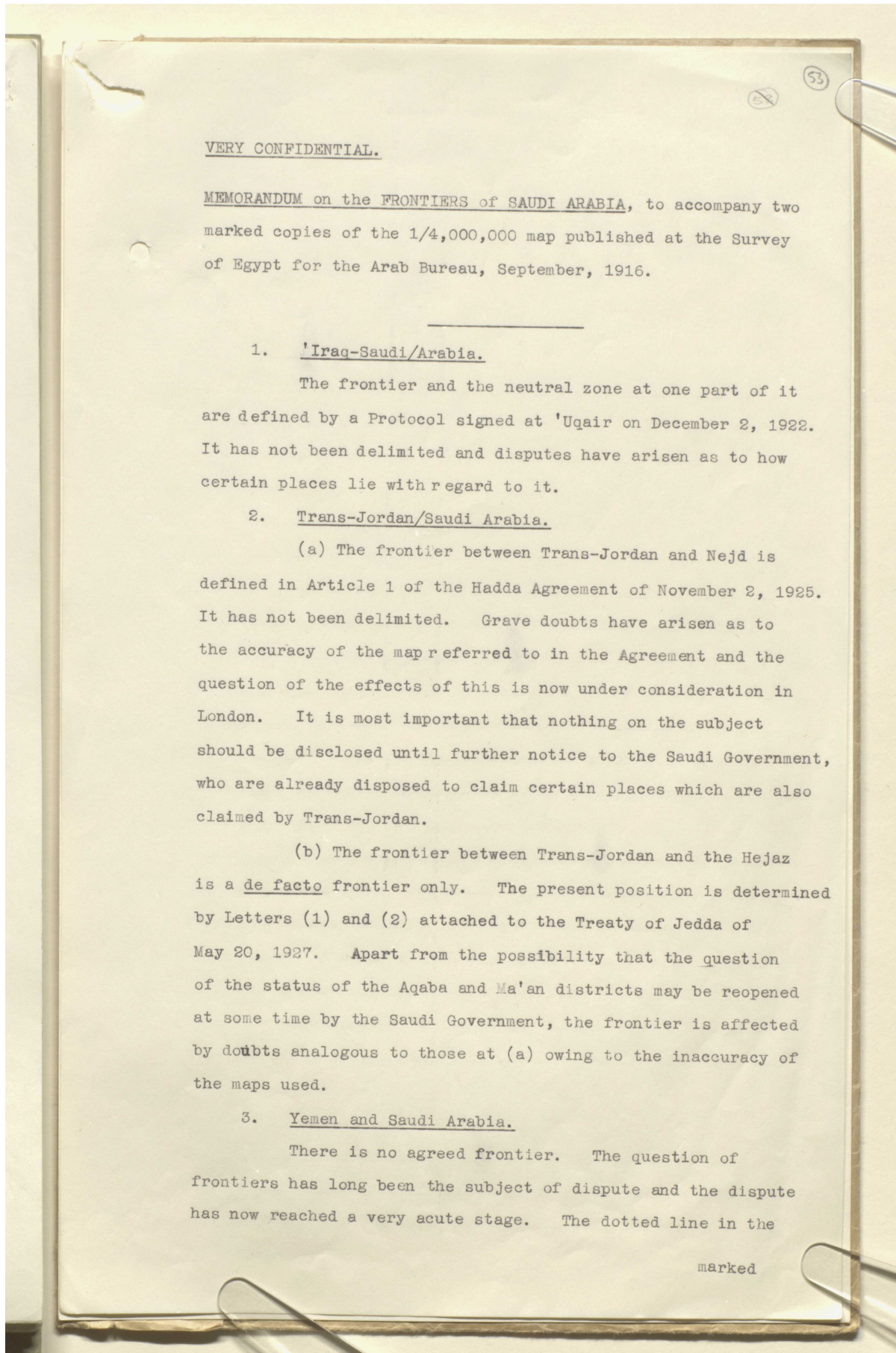






Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [52v]  
(104/121)





VERY CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM on the FRONTIERS of SAUDI ARABIA, to accompany two marked copies of the 1/4,000,000 map published at the Survey of Egypt for the Arab Bureau, September, 1916.

1. 'Iraq-Saudi/Arabia.

The frontier and the neutral zone at one part of it are defined by a Protocol signed at 'Uqair on December 2, 1922. It has not been delimited and disputes have arisen as to how certain places lie with regard to it.

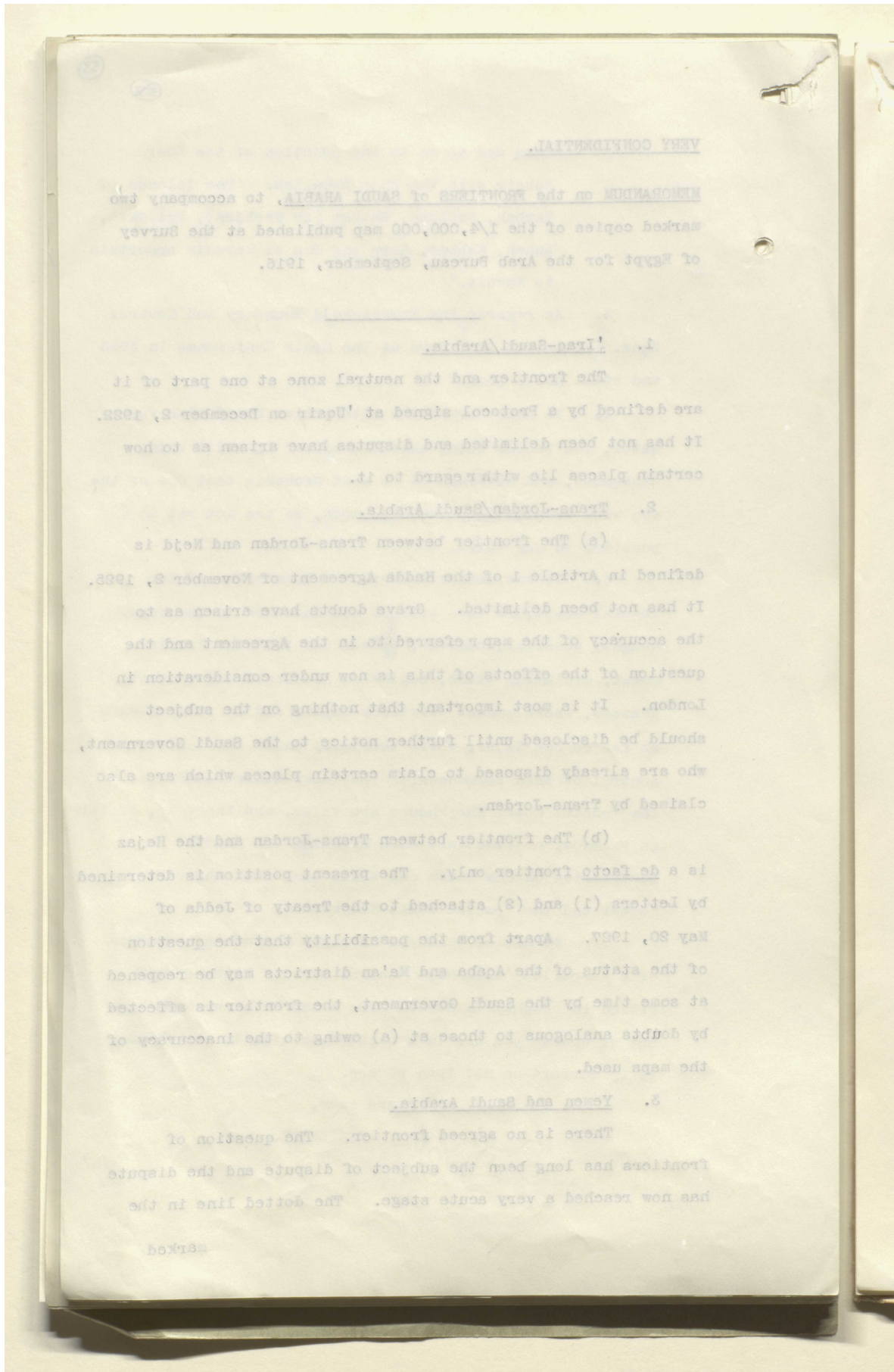
2. Trans-Jordan/Saudi Arabia.

(a) The frontier between Trans-Jordan and Nejd is defined in Article 1 of the Hadda Agreement of November 2, 1925. It has not been delimited. Grave doubts have arisen as to the accuracy of the map referred to in the Agreement and the question of the effects of this is now under consideration in London. It is most important that nothing on the subject should be disclosed until further notice to the Saudi Government, who are already disposed to claim certain places which are also claimed by Trans-Jordan.

(b) The frontier between Trans-Jordan and the Hejaz is a de facto frontier only. The present position is determined by Letters (1) and (2) attached to the Treaty of Jedda of May 20, 1927. Apart from the possibility that the question of the status of the Aqaba and Ma'an districts may be reopened at some time by the Saudi Government, the frontier is affected by doubts analogous to those at (a) owing to the inaccuracy of the maps used.

3. Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

There is no agreed frontier. The question of frontiers has long been the subject of dispute and the dispute has now reached a very acute stage. The dotted line in the  
marked



Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [54r]  
(107/121)

marked map gives a very rough idea of how the de facto frontier may lie. Even this is subject to the following observations:-

(a) Coastal area.

The de facto frontier is believed to abut on the sea at Muwassim, a place about 5 miles north of Medi. The general trend inland may be said to be north-easterly but the direction at any given point cannot be indicated.

(b) Mountain area.

This has recently come into the forefront of the dispute between Ibn Saud and the Imâm. The geography, the tribal distribution and the extent of the effective authority of the rulers are all too uncertain to admit at present of a definition.

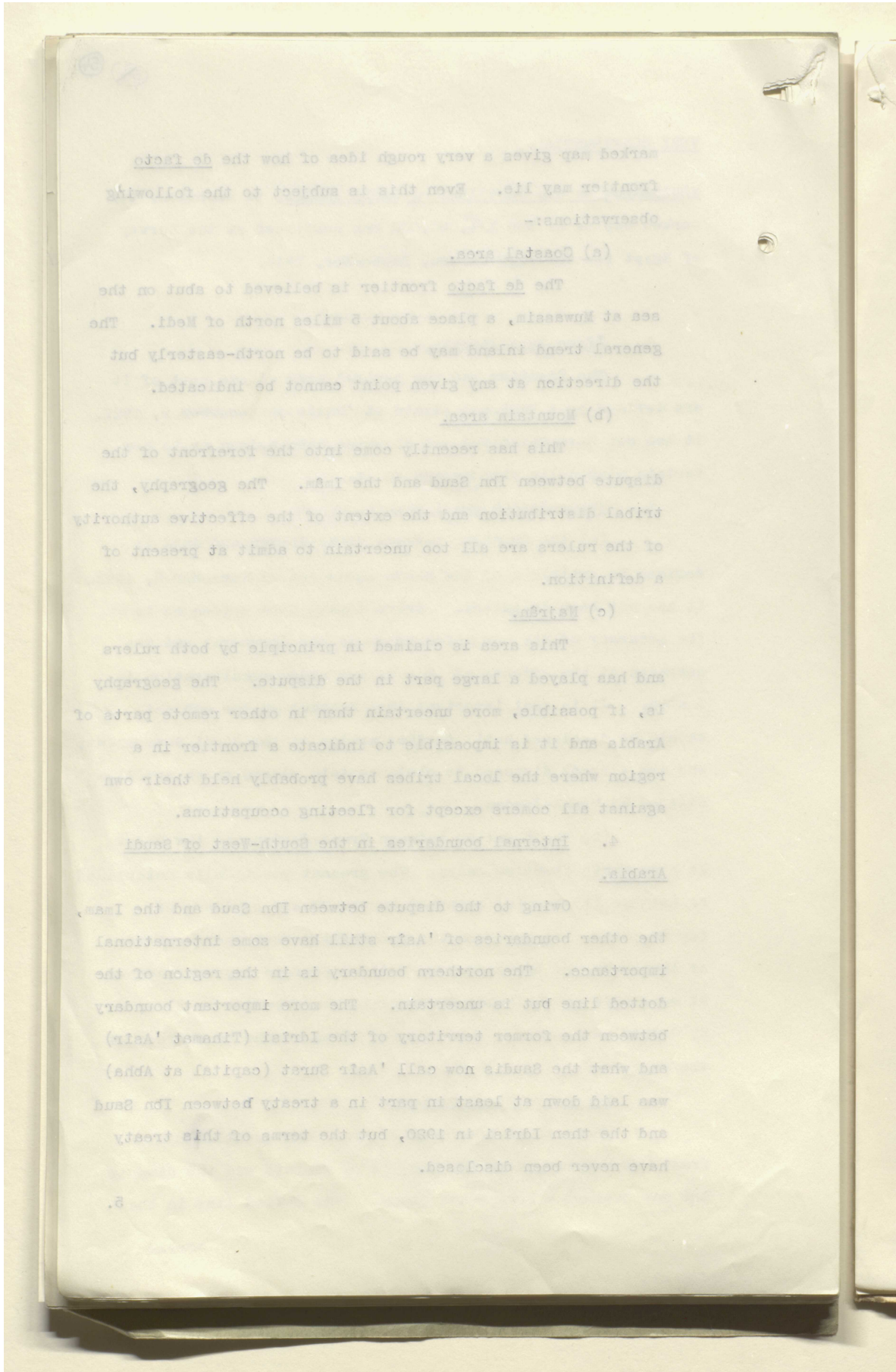
(c) Najrân.

This area is claimed in principle by both rulers and has played a large part in the dispute. The geography is, if possible, more uncertain than in other remote parts of Arabia and it is impossible to indicate a frontier in a region where the local tribes have probably held their own against all comers except for fleeting occupations.

4. Internal boundaries in the South-West of Saudi Arabia.

Owing to the dispute between Ibn Saud and the Imam, the other boundaries of 'Asîr still have some international importance. The northern boundary is in the region of the dotted line but is uncertain. The more important boundary between the former territory of the Idrîsi (Tihamat 'Asîr) and what the Saudis now call 'Asîr Surat (capital at Abha) was laid down at least in part in a treaty between Ibn Saud and the then Idrîsi in 1920, but the terms of this treaty have never been disclosed.

5.



Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [55r]  
(109/121)

5. Boundaries between Saudi Arabia on the one hand and the Aden Protectorate, the Sultanate of Muscat and the Trucial Sheykhdoms on the other.

This boundary is indeterminate. *MS* Bushire has *Blue line in the map*

indicated two possible frontiers for Qatar for reasons given in the Residency letter of December 22, 1933. Still more recent correspondence has shown (a) that there are other possible variants and (b) that the frontier of Qatar is not necessarily a frontier between it and Saudi Arabia. The question turns partly on the present effect of an Anglo-Turkish convention which was signed on July 29, 1913 but was not ratified. It determined the boundary of the Ottoman sanjak of Nejd, as shown by a blue line on an annexed map. The Legation in Jeddah has no copy of this convention. The line is thought to lie as shown in blue on the present maps. Its importance is that His Majesty's Government might take their stand on it, if occasion arose, as determining the South East boundary of Saudi Arabia, even though they did not claim that the various states in their sphere of influence extended up to it. There might conceivably be at least one No Man's Land.

6. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Neutral Zone and Kuwait.

These boundaries are laid down by one of the Protocols signed at Uqair on December 2, 1922. The Residency at Bushire has indicated them on the map. The Neutral Zone has recently been surveyed by the Royal Air Force but there has been no agreed delimitation as between the Sheykh of Kuwait and Ibn Saud.

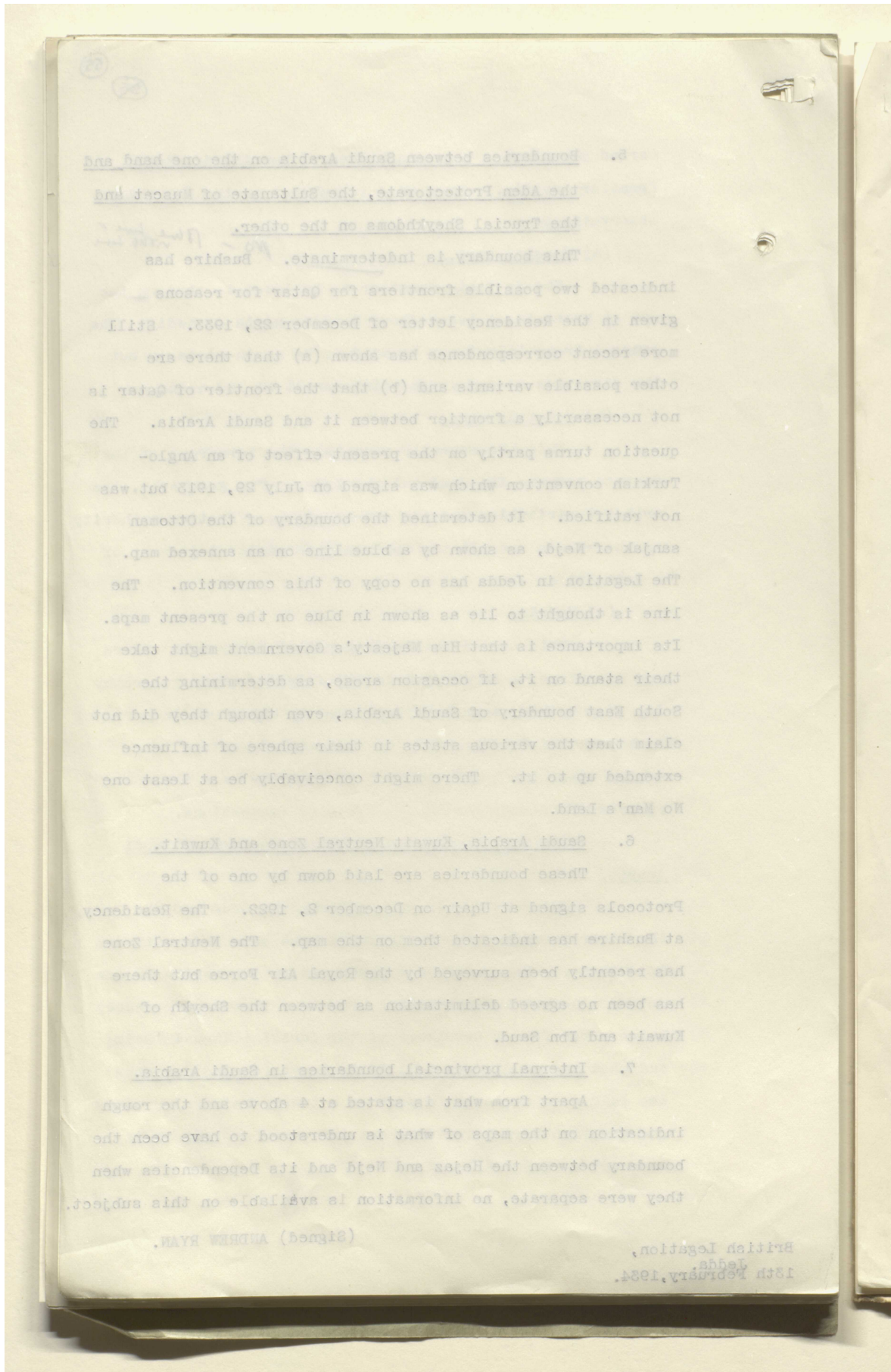
7. Internal provincial boundaries in Saudi Arabia.

Apart from what is stated at 4 above and the rough indication on the maps of what is understood to have been the boundary between the Hejaz and Nejd and its Dependencies when they were separate, no information is available on this subject.

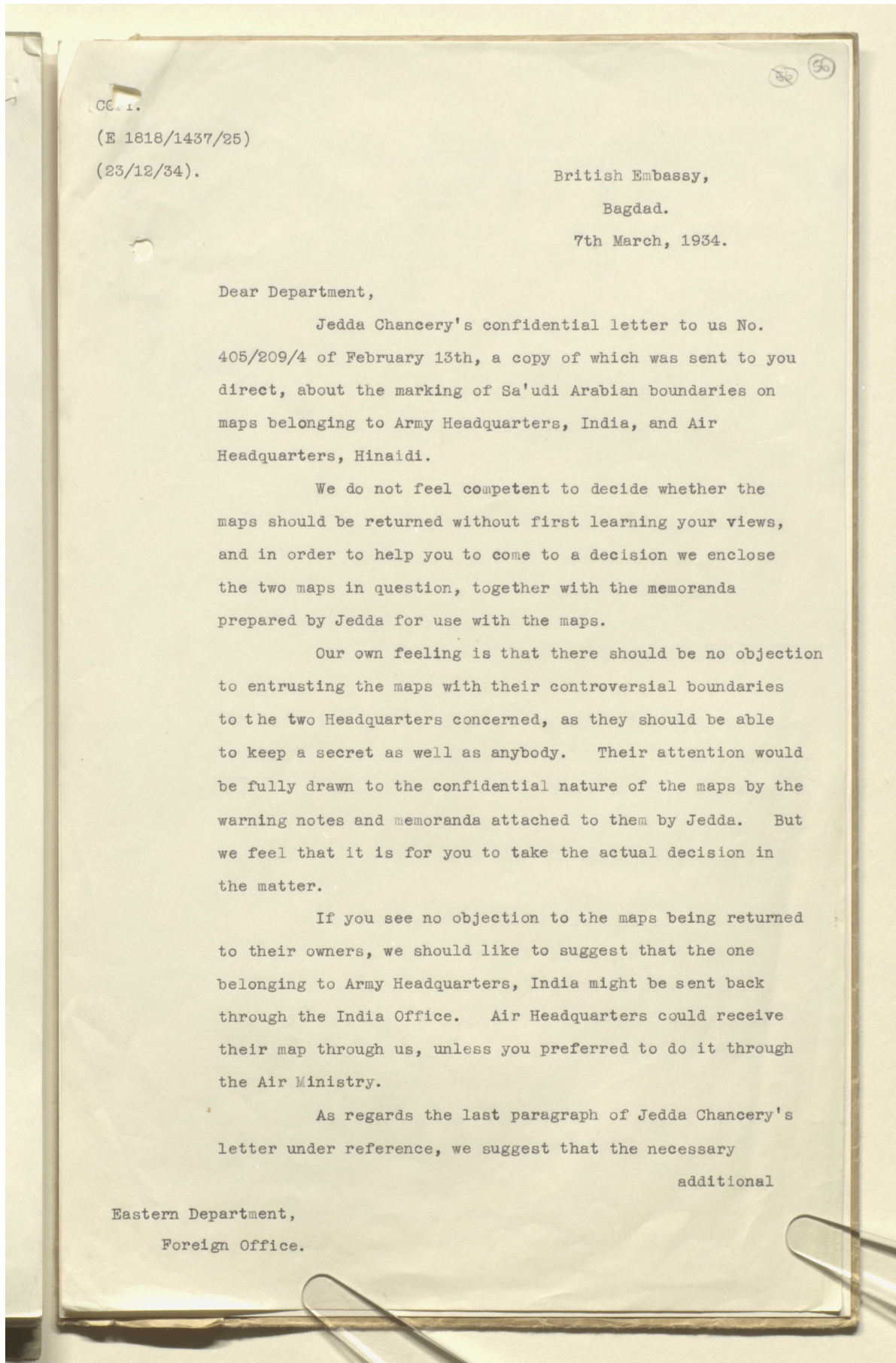
British Legation,  
Jedda.  
13th February, 1934.

(Signed) ANDREW RYAN.

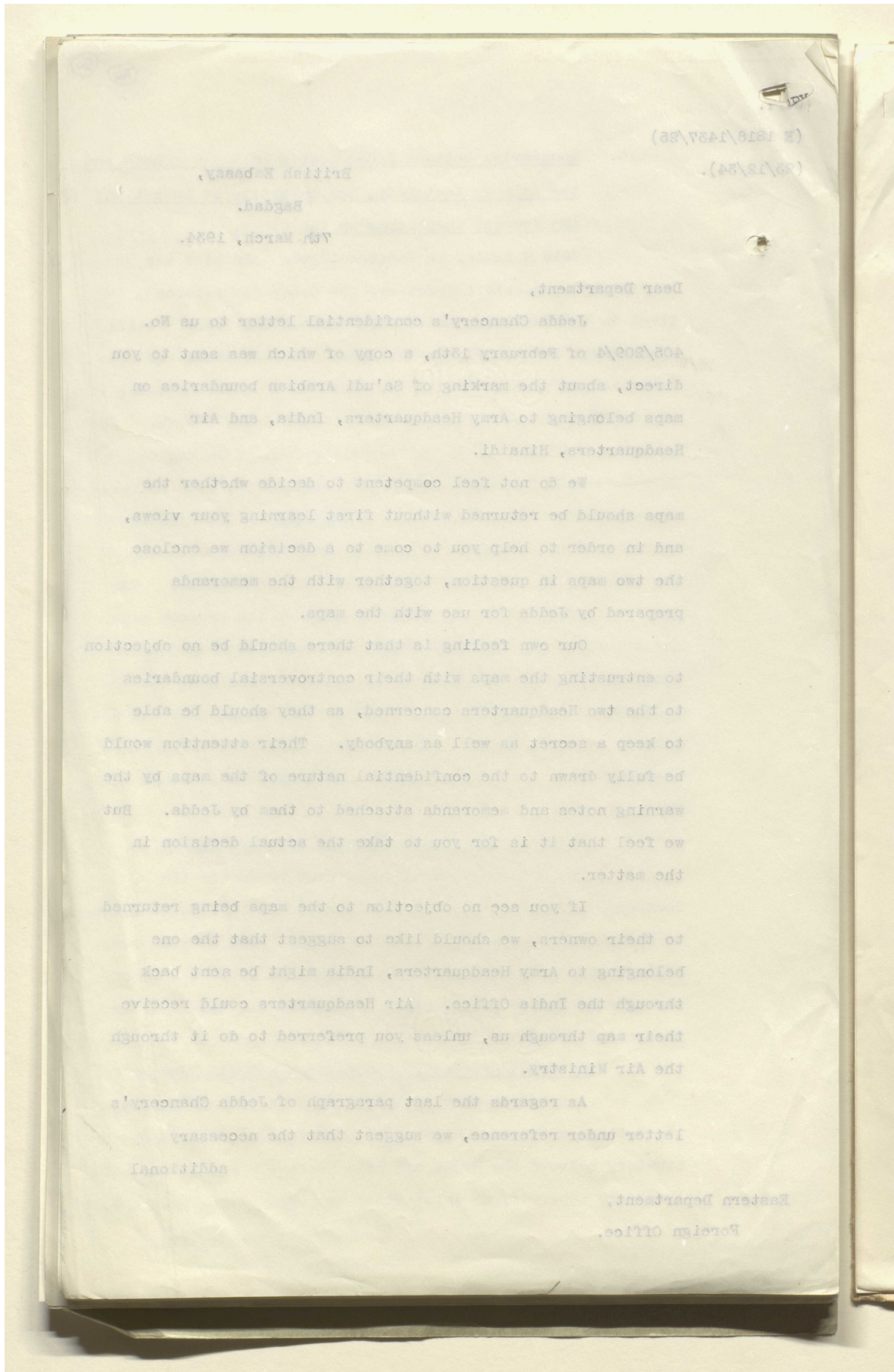
Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [55v]  
(110/121)

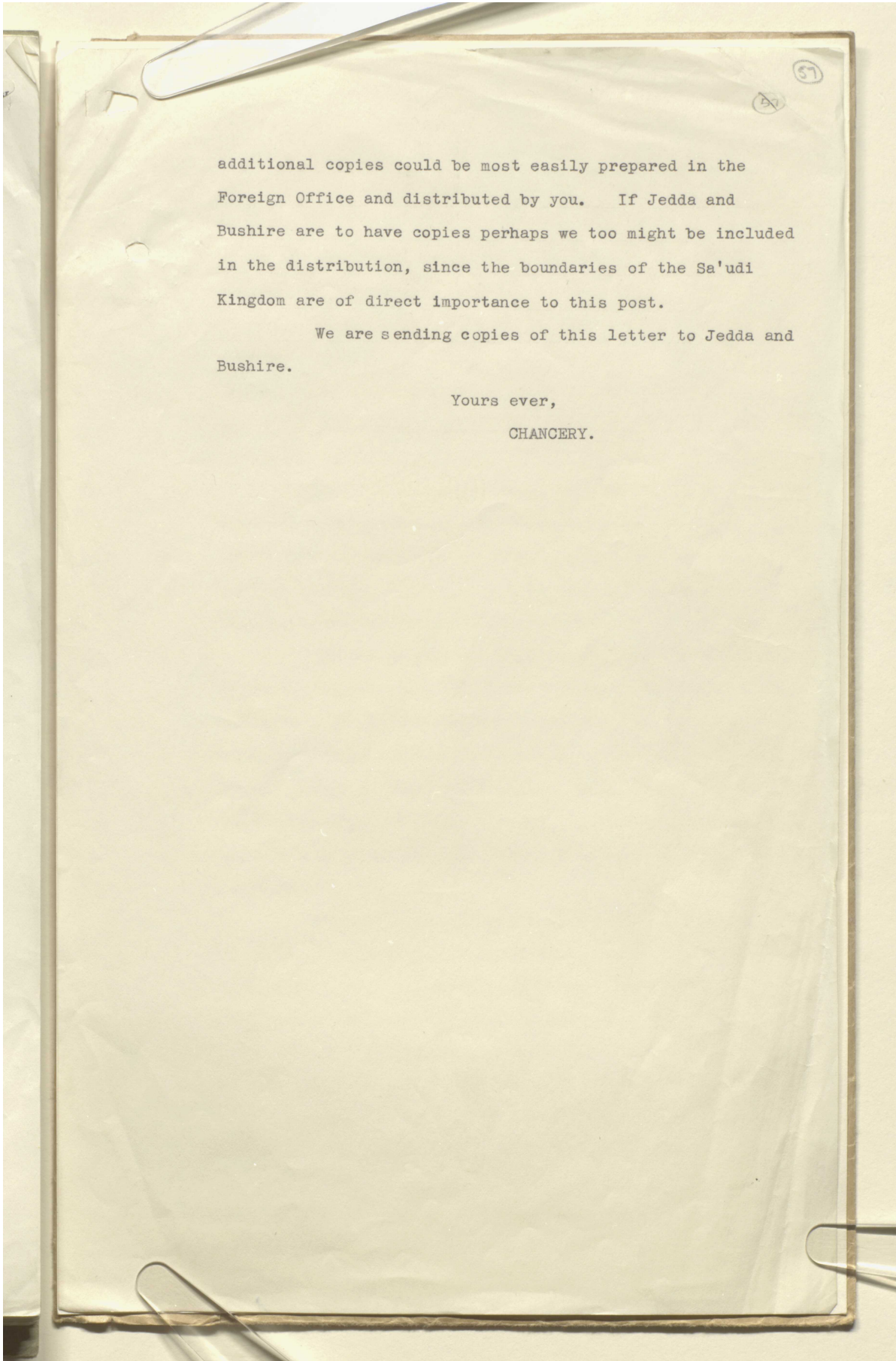




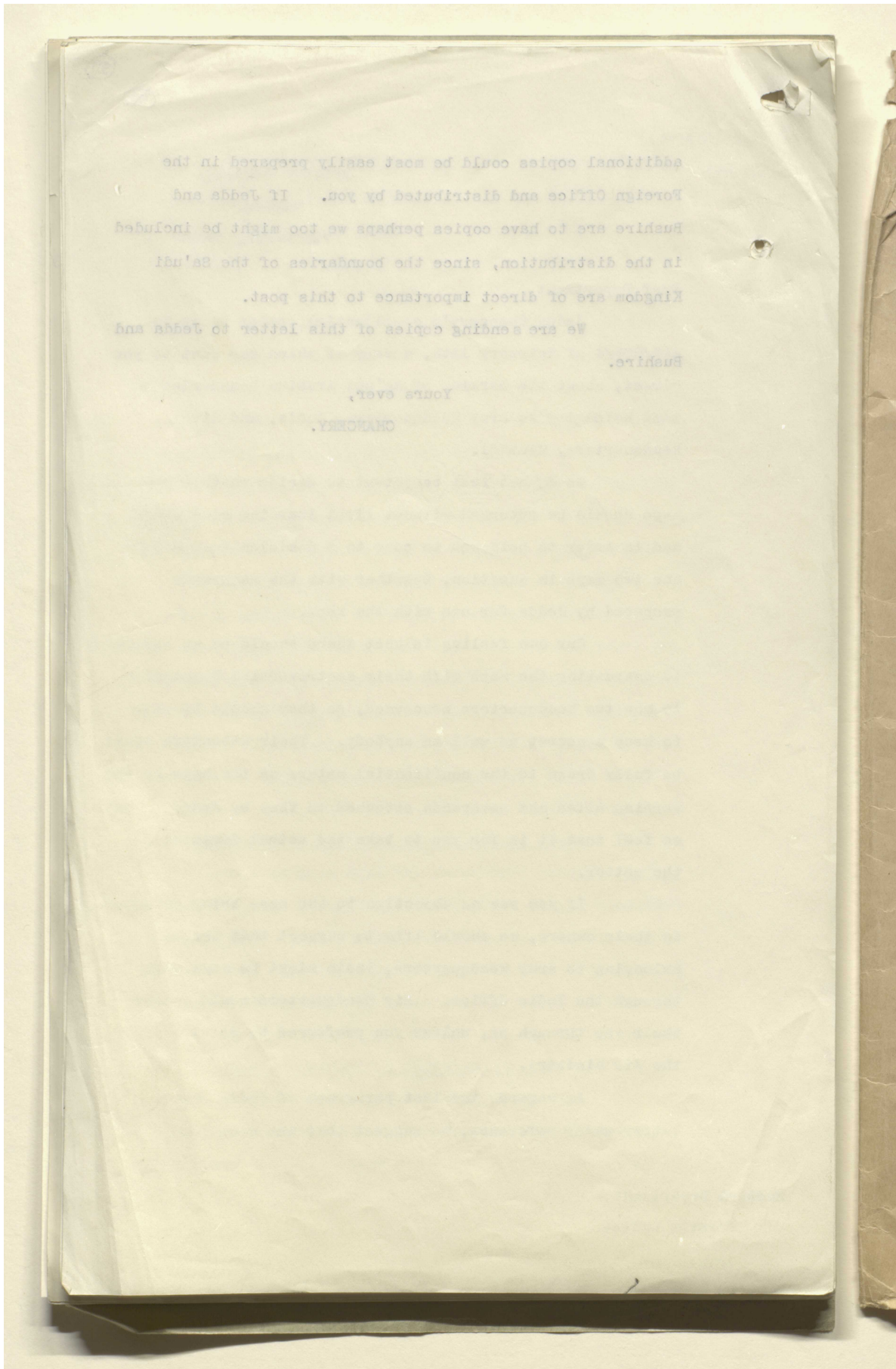


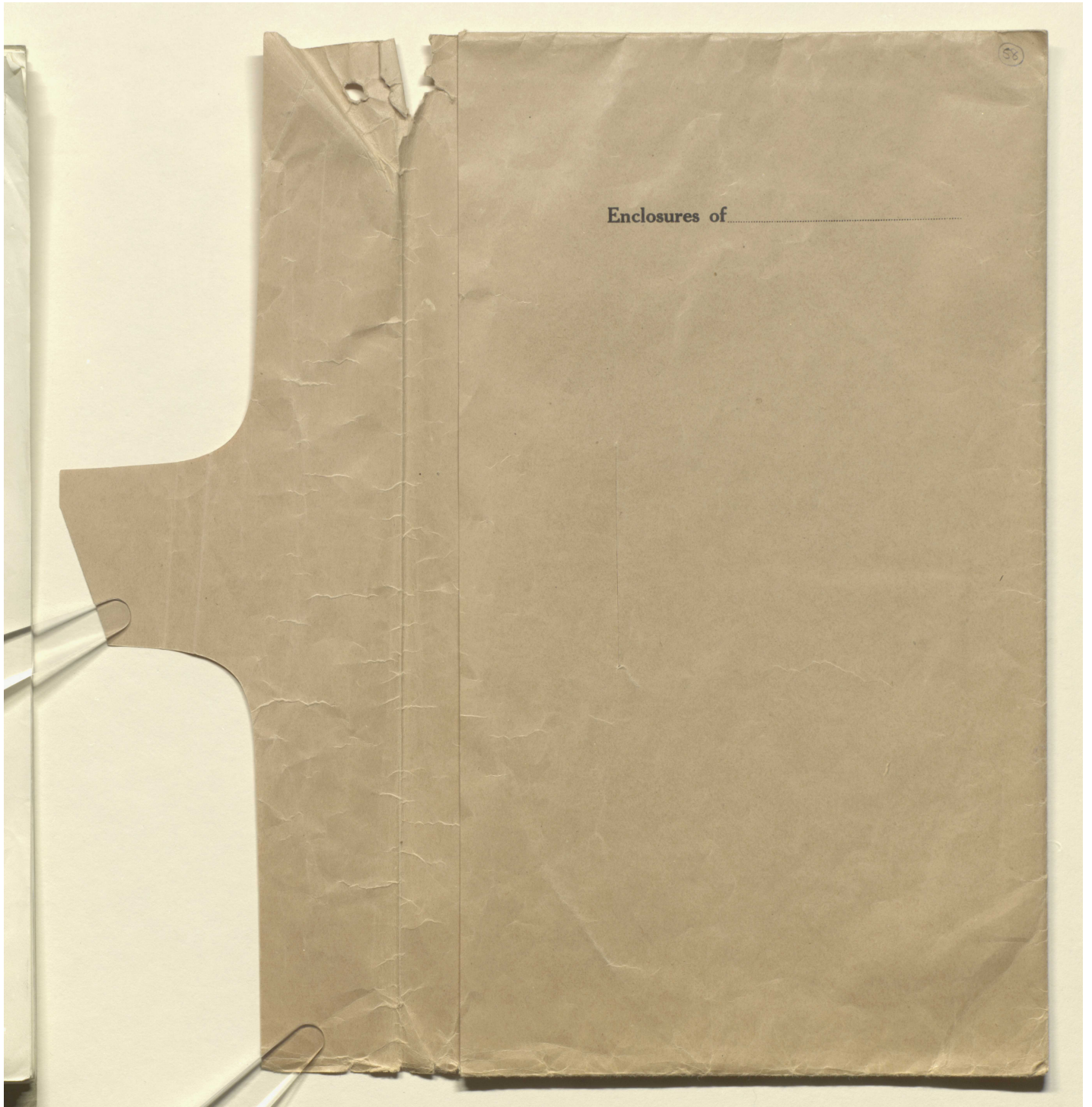
Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [56v]  
(112/121)

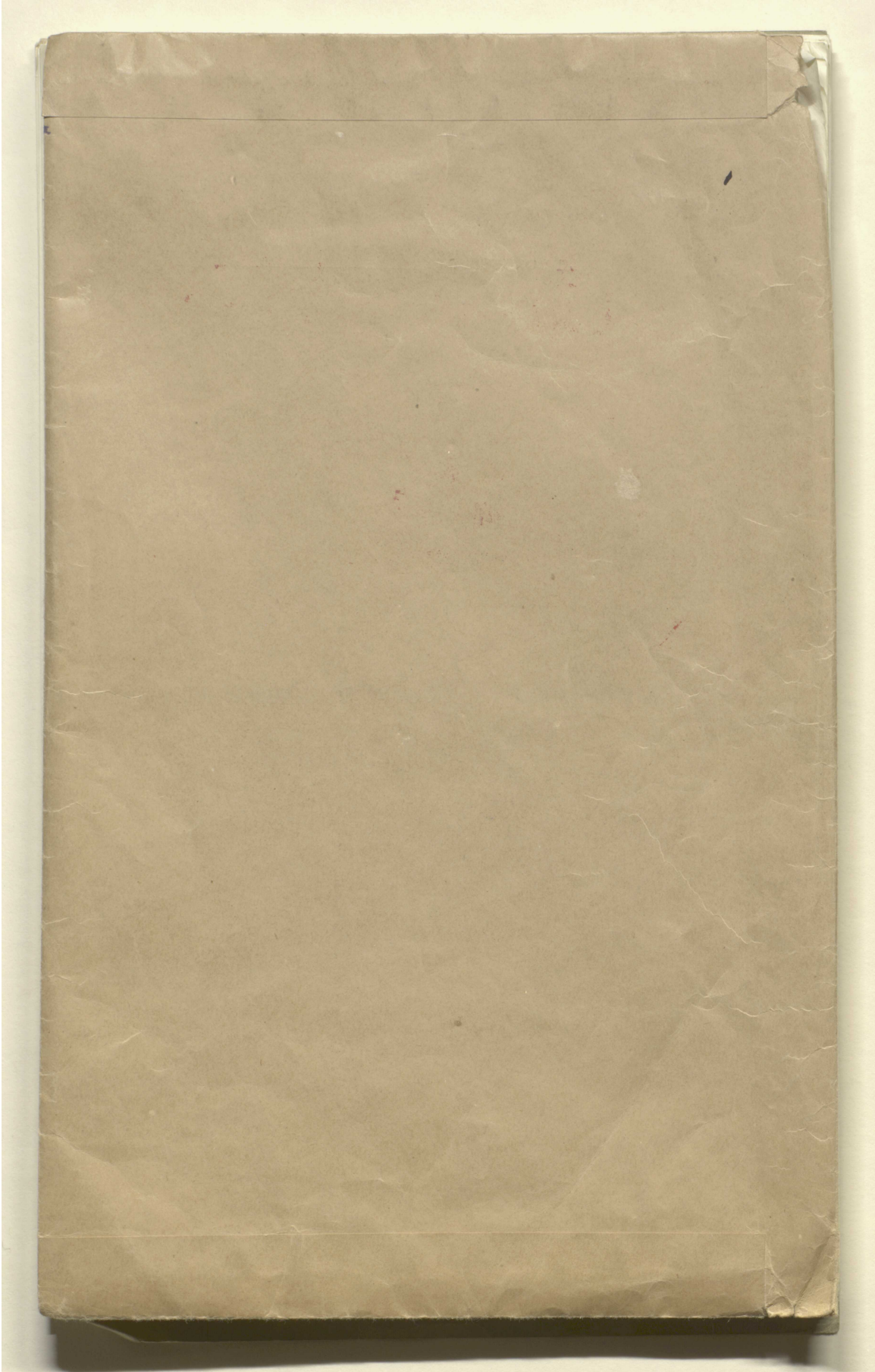




Coll 6/62 'Saudi-Arabia: National and provincial boundaries of -' [57v]  
(114/121)







'MAP OF ARABIA' [59r] (1/2)

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate only. The political questions connected with them are numerous and difficult. The map is marked therefore be regarded as a strictly confidential document and should be considered in the light of the equally confidential memorandum enclosed in Jeddah Consular note to Baghdad No. 406/209/4 of the 18th. February 1934.

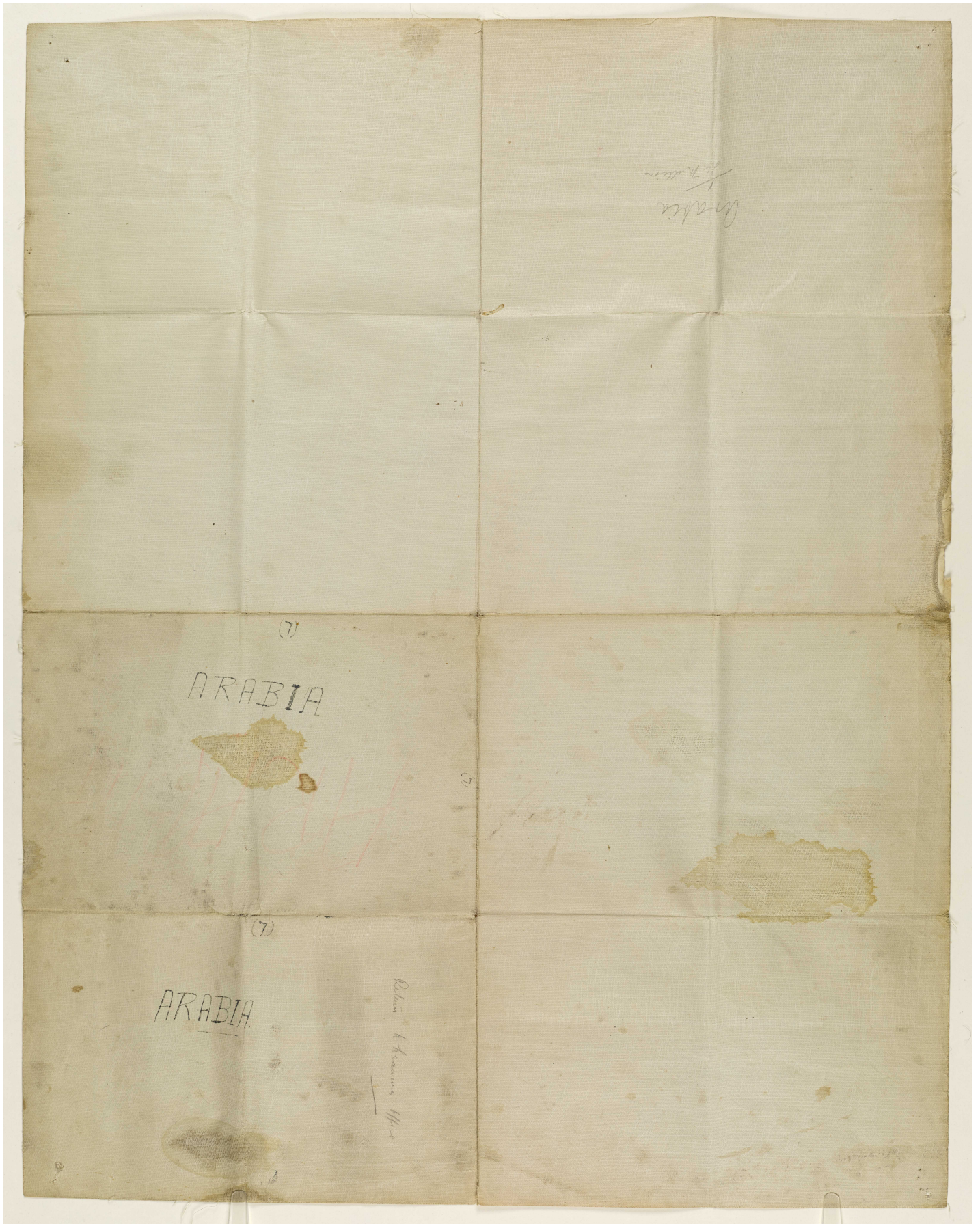
--- National frontiers fixed by Treaty  
--- National frontiers  
--- Proposed boundaries

For return to A.H.G. Baghdad.



62525 4016  
Published at the Survey of Egypt and Arab. Bureau  
under authority from the War Office, Sept. 1934.

'MAP OF ARABIA' [59v] (2/2)





'ADEN PROTECTORATE (EASTERN PORTION)' [60r] (1/2)

