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**Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt
by members of the I.E.T.D.'**

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/12/3421
Date(s)	18 Feb 1931-20 Mar 1931 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (12 folios)
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About this record

Correspondence from the British Legation in Tehran (Raymond Cecil Parr), Foreign Office (George William Rendel), and India Office minutes (John Gilbert Laithwaite; Maurice George Simpson) concerning an agreement between the British and Persian Governments, for the transfer of the Indo-European Telegraph Department's (IETD) telegraph cables in Persia to the Persian Government. The papers refer specifically to the cancellation of debts and claims existing between the two governments, relating to telegraph operations.

Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [front] (1/28)

Previous File: IOR: 4/PS/12/3421 No. 28
 Next File: File 24

**POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.
COLLECTION.**


GENERAL HEADING { Persia

SUB-HEAD { Relations with H.M.G.
Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.

Notes: Call 28/23 Withdrawal of I.E.T.D.
 " " 25. Misjawa - Duzdag line.
 " " 26. Infestation of H.M.G. I.E.T.D. Staff
 " " 27. Delay for Tehran legation
 5924/20(3) Private claims against Persian Govt.

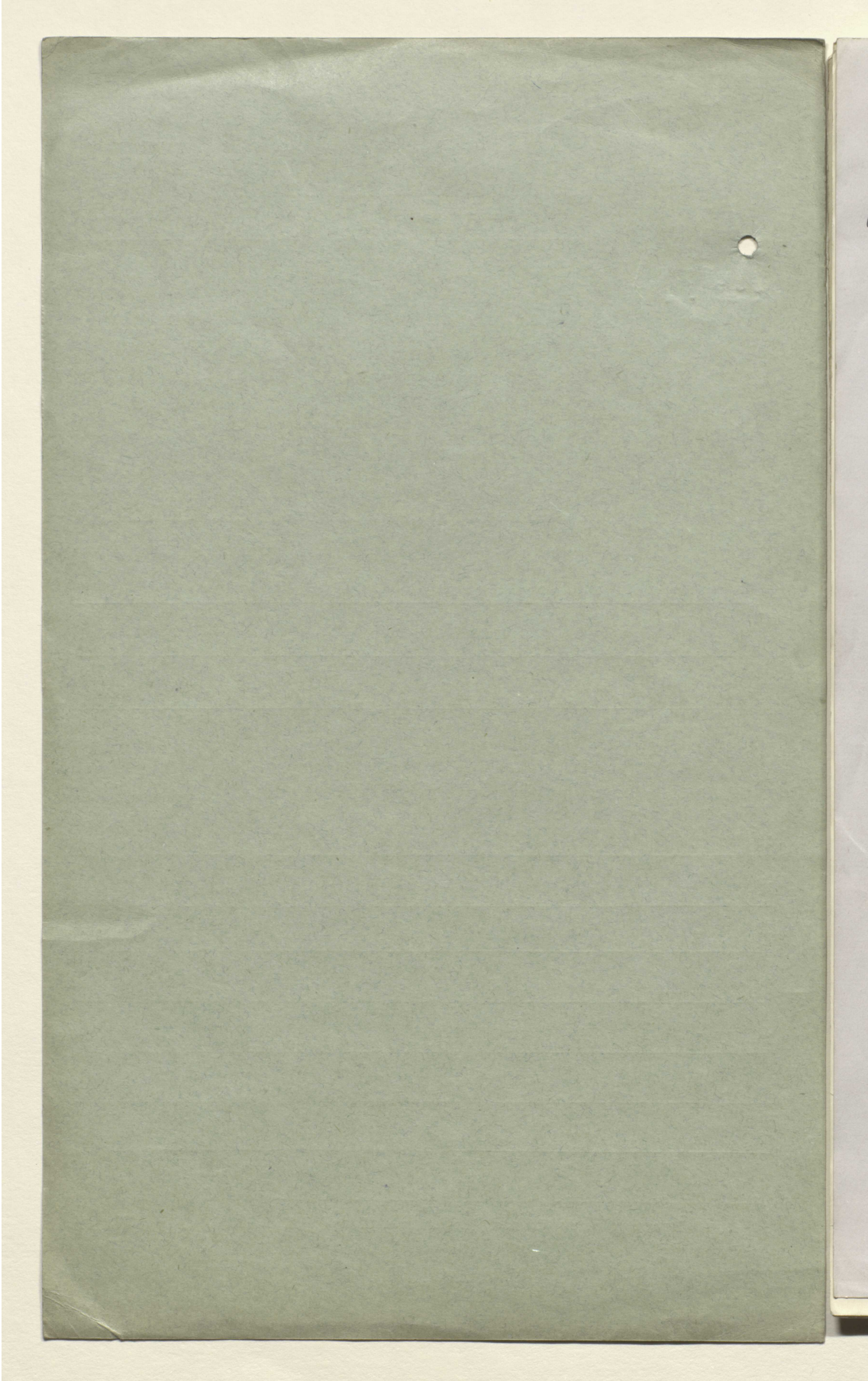
This File contains the following papers:—

YEAR.	P.L.
1931	P.L. 1162.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.

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

4987R 1000 12.30

Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [front-i] (2/28)



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [2r] (3/28)

②

Register No.
PZ
 1162/31.

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SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Do Letter from *Mr. Rendel F.O.* Dated *25 Feb.* 1931
 Rec. *1931*

Formally acknowledged

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Chairman			INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT: Position of claims which may in future be received from members of the I.E.T.D., in view of fact that we are agreeing with Persians for a mutual waiver of "claims".
Under Secretary	<i>10. 3.</i>	<i>ms.</i>	
Secretary of State ...			
Committee.....	<i>14</i>	<i>W</i>	
Under Secretary.....	<i>18</i>	<i>ms.</i>	
Secretary of State...			

*W. H. R. (L.C.)
W
18. iii*

Copy to

FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.

Draft d.o. letter to Foreign Office.

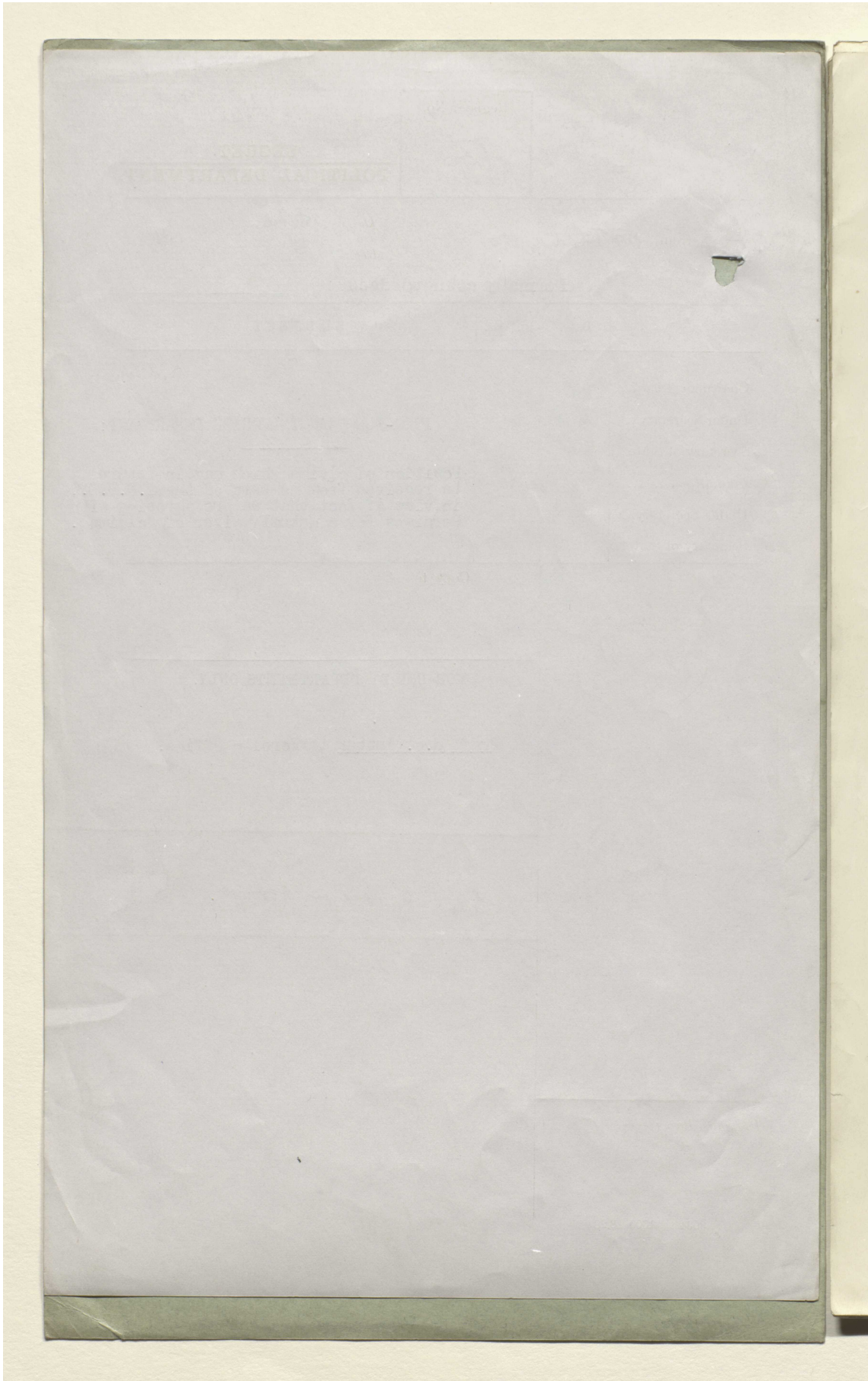
APPROVED
POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 18 MAR 1931

20 MAR 1931

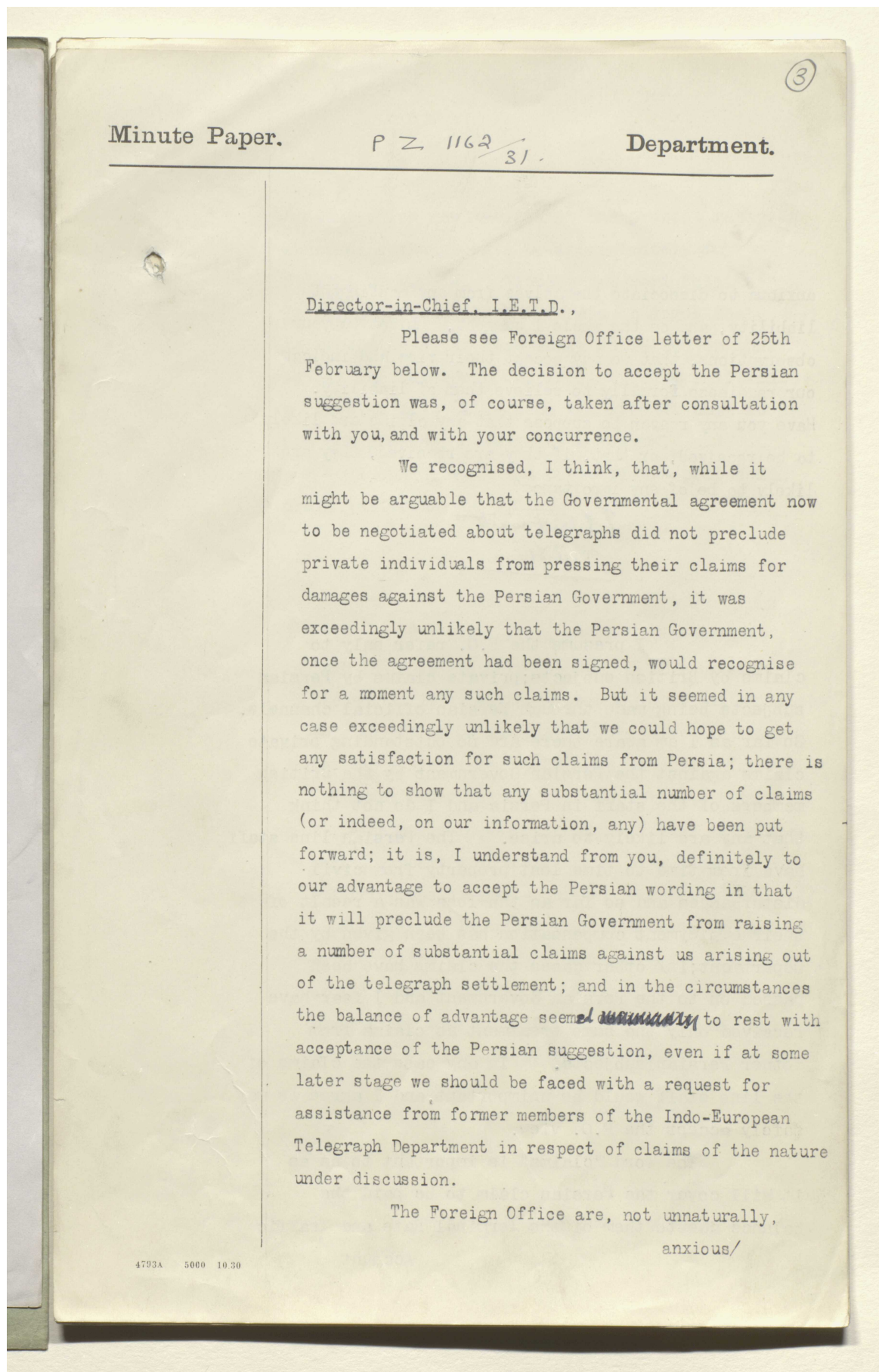
Letter to Foreign Office.

Previous Papers :—

3034 1000 8.28



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [3r] (5/28)



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [3v] (6/28)

anxious to dissociate themselves from any contingent liability, and on the whole I suggest, subject to your observations, that we may accept their view and indicate our readiness formally to relieve them of liability. Have you any reason to suppose that any claims are likely to be received, or that, if they are received, they are likely to be of any importance?

U. Hatt-watt
28. ii. 31

I presume the F.O. refer only to claims by British subjects; private claims by Persian subjects being made through Persian official channels. So far as I am aware there are no outstanding private claims against the Persian Government by the British members of the staff in Persia and I do not think that any are likely to arise. The Persian line staff have from time to time lost property from civil disturbances and so far as the loss was a result of their employment compensation has been given by the Department; in other cases the claims have been passed on to the Persian Government and I fear have received only the same treatment as claims from other Persian subjects. In any case the claims of the line staff would be unimportant, and I agree we may safely accept the F.O. view.

The word "claims" is important to us as it will cover the Persian claim to be paid the balance due to them of the Terminal Rate and Traffic Account

Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [4r] (7/28)

(4)

Minute Paper.

Department.

Account, which now amounts at the present rather abnormal exchange rate to approximately ~~to~~ 5 lakhs of rupees. Without the word "claims" it might be possible for Persia to argue that, representing as it does money collected on their behalf for telegraph traffic, they were entitled to receive this balance on the grounds that it did not properly constitute a "debt".

I concur with the terms of the proposed draft letter to the F.O.

M. G. Simpson

2.3.31

Sir Maurice Simpson's minute suggests that there is probably not much in this question. I doubt if it is worth referring in our letter to the Foreign Office to the distinction between claims by British subjects and by Persian subjects. The Telegraph Department in the past seems to have used its discretion in the case of the latter as between paying a measure of compensation itself and referring the claimants to their own Government. If a particularly deserving case were to be brought up in the future we could no doubt consider (particularly as the amount involved would be unlikely to be of importance) some ex gratia payment. I submit a draft letter to Mr. Rendel for my signature, if approved.

J. H. Kaitwaite

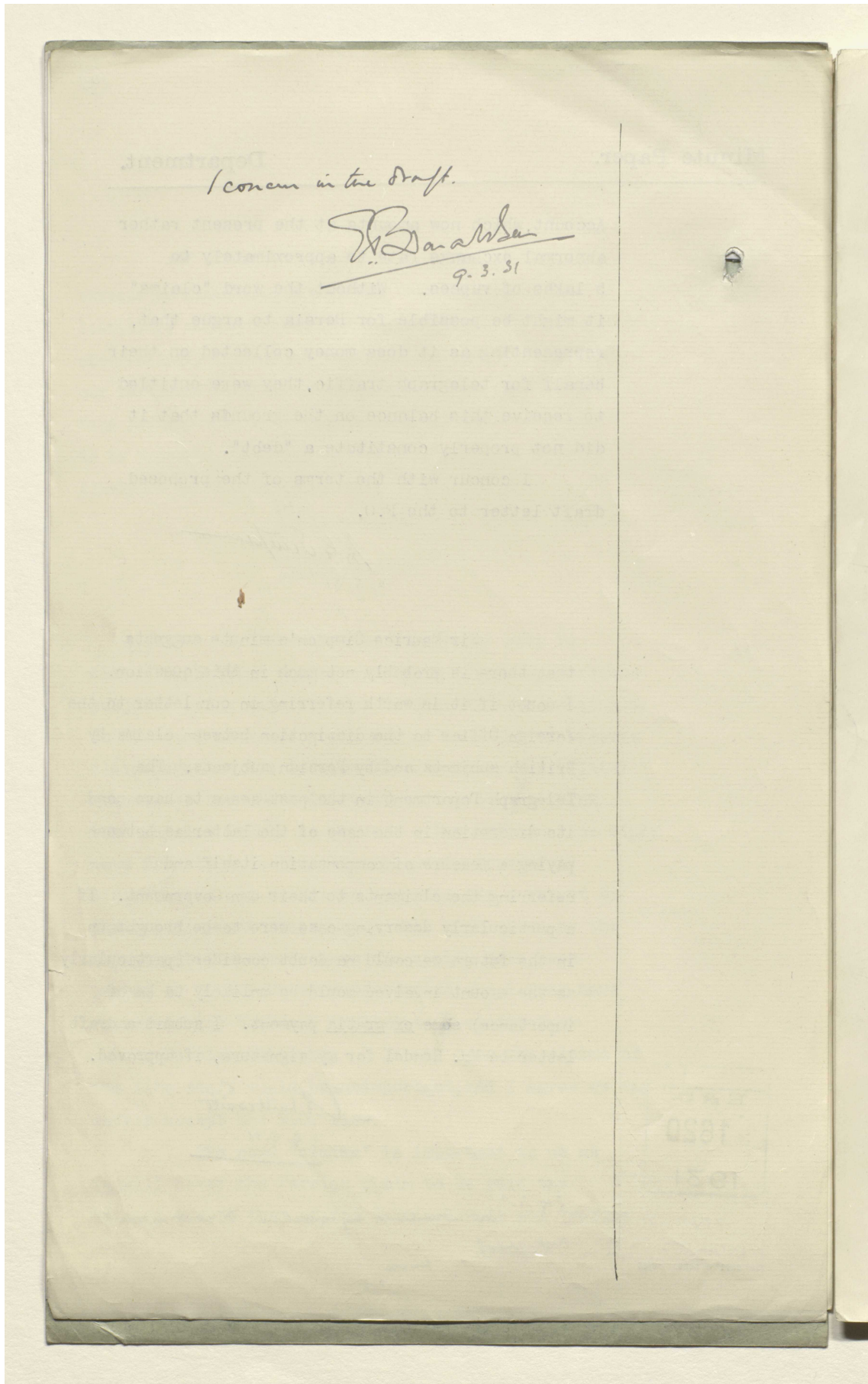
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E & O.
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INDIA OFFICE
2871 5000 6/28

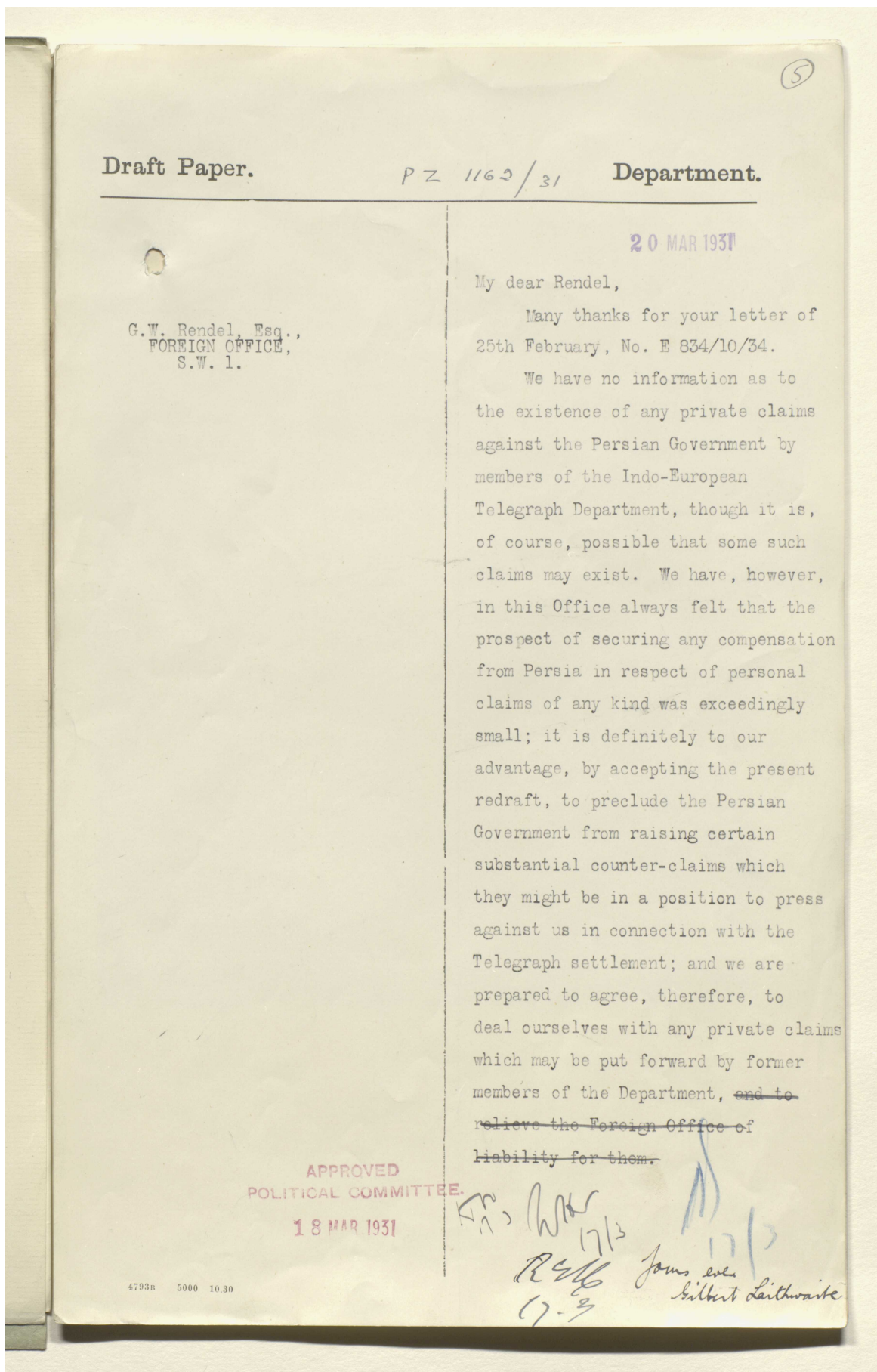
E to S.A. In information or any observations. Do you concur in the next page?

W. J. J.

Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [4v] (8/28)



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [5r] (9/28)



Draft Paper.

PZ 1162/31

Department.

5

20 MAR 1931

G.W. Rendel, Esq.,
FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W. 1.

My dear Rendel,

Many thanks for your letter of 25th February, No. E 834/10/34.

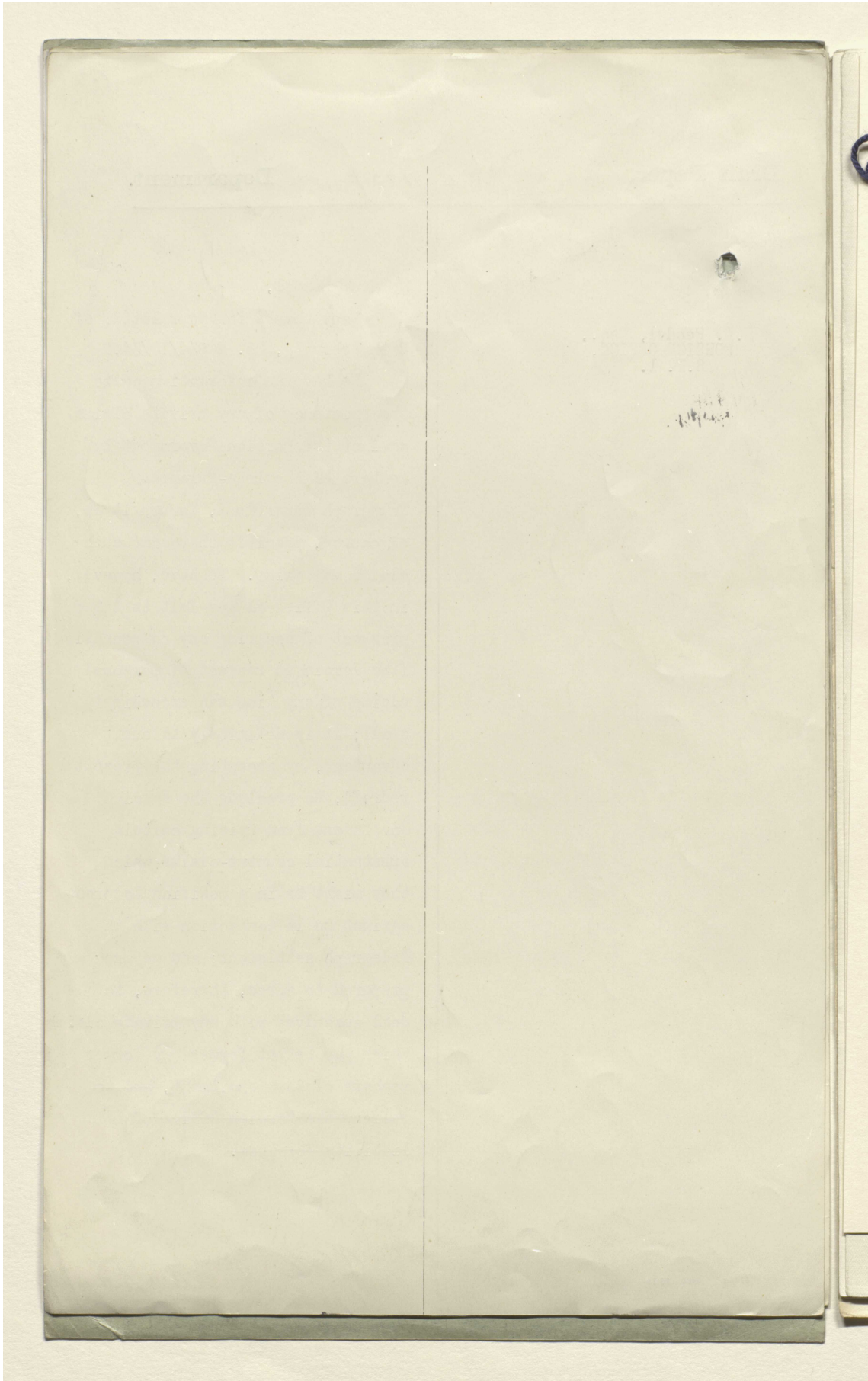
We have no information as to the existence of any private claims against the Persian Government by members of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, though it is, of course, possible that some such claims may exist. We have, however, in this Office always felt that the prospect of securing any compensation from Persia in respect of personal claims of any kind was exceedingly small; it is definitely to our advantage, by accepting the present redraft, to preclude the Persian Government from raising certain substantial counter-claims which they might be in a position to press against us in connection with the Telegraph settlement; and we are prepared to agree, therefore, to deal ourselves with any private claims which may be put forward by former members of the Department, ~~and to relieve the Foreign Office of liability for them.~~

APPROVED
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

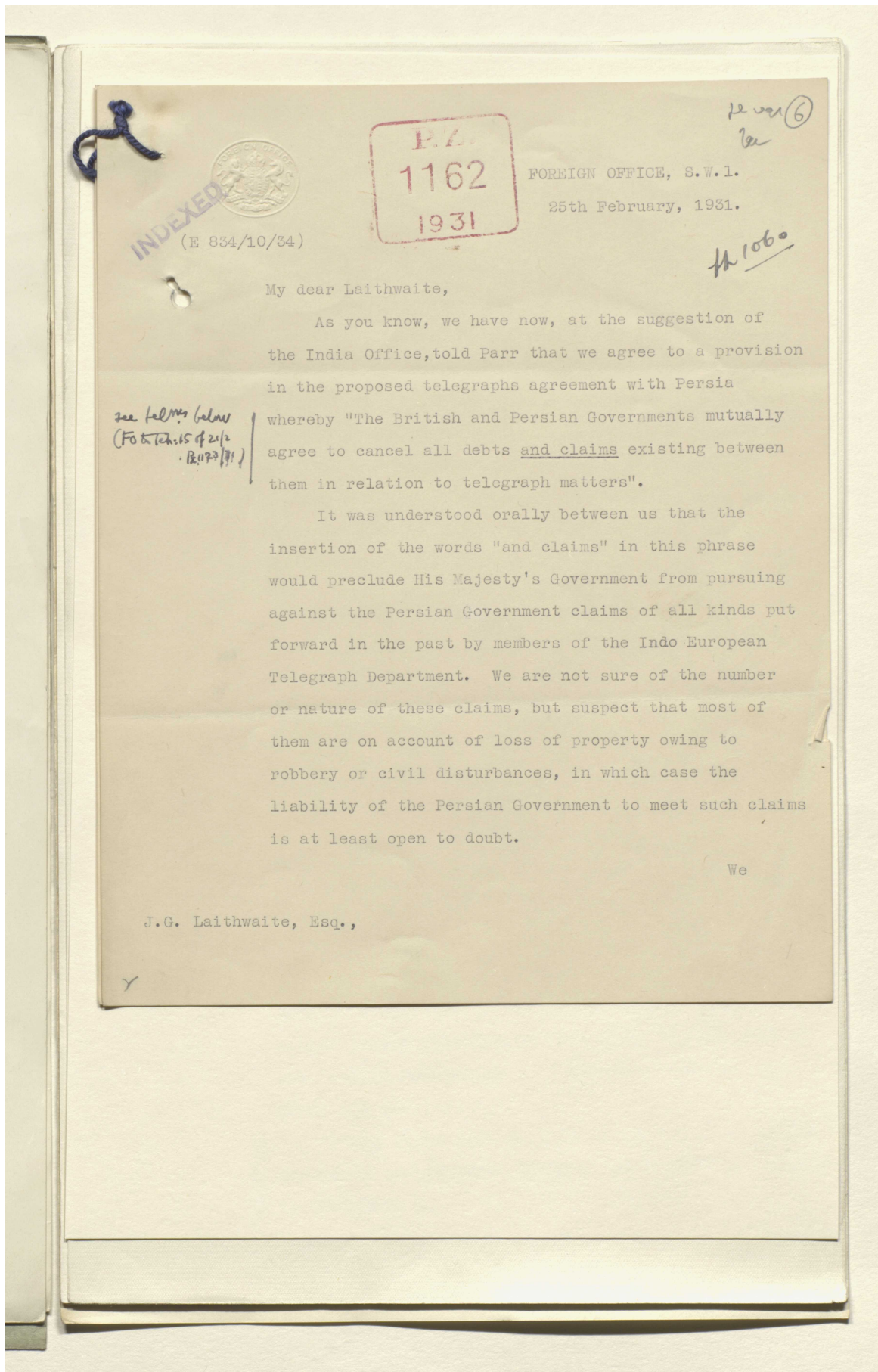
18 MAR 1931

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James L. Lathwaite
Gilbert Lathwaite
17/3
17-9



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [6r] (11/28)



INDEXED
(E 834/10/34)

P.L.
1162
1931

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
25th February, 1931.

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H 1060

My dear Laithwaite,

see below (below
(F to Tech. 15 of 24/2
B. 11/23/31)

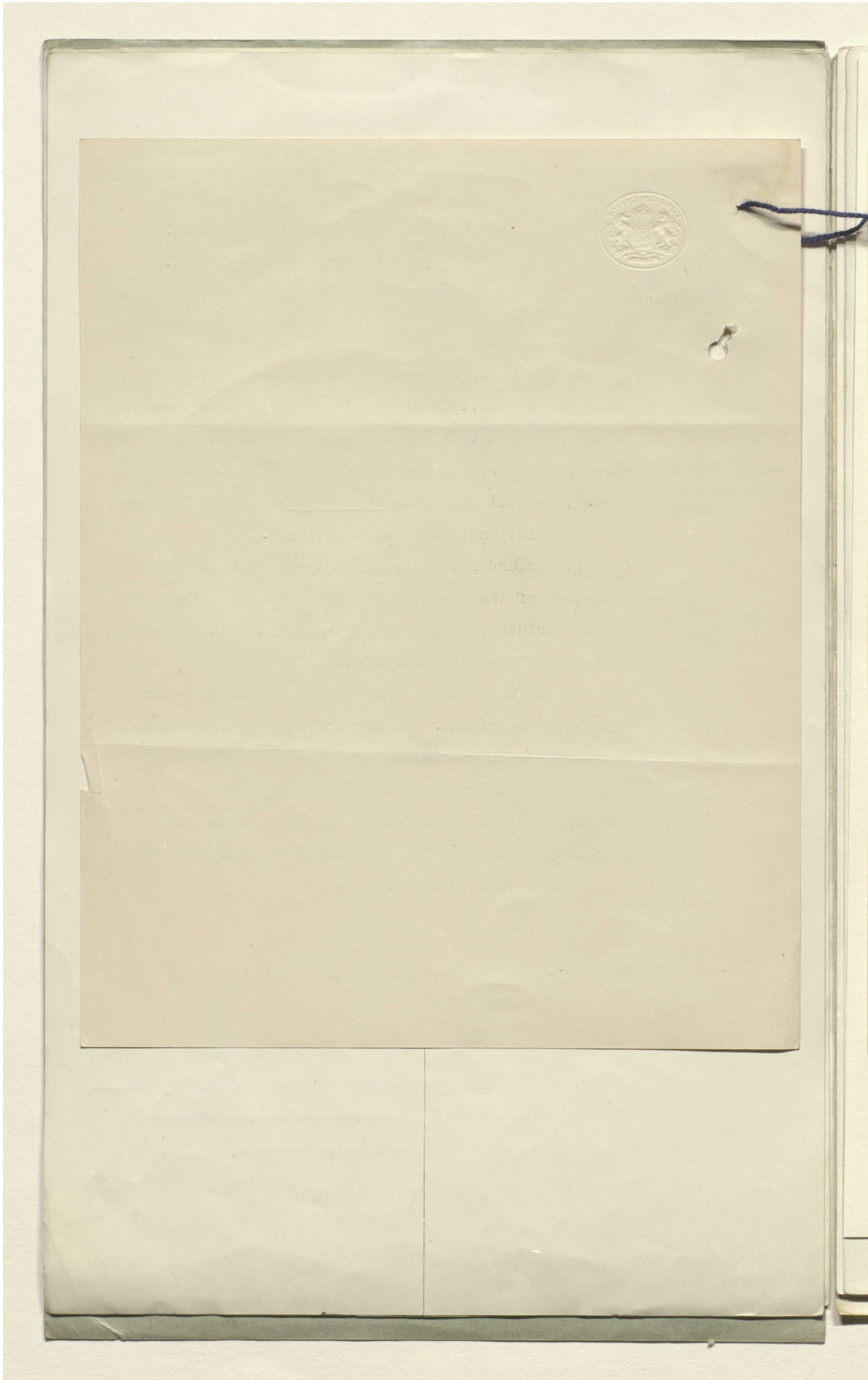
As you know, we have now, at the suggestion of the India Office, told Parr that we agree to a provision in the proposed telegraphs agreement with Persia whereby "The British and Persian Governments mutually agree to cancel all debts and claims existing between them in relation to telegraph matters".

It was understood orally between us that the insertion of the words "and claims" in this phrase would preclude His Majesty's Government from pursuing against the Persian Government claims of all kinds put forward in the past by members of the Indo European Telegraph Department. We are not sure of the number or nature of these claims, but suspect that most of them are on account of loss of property owing to robbery or civil disturbances, in which case the liability of the Persian Government to meet such claims is at least open to doubt.

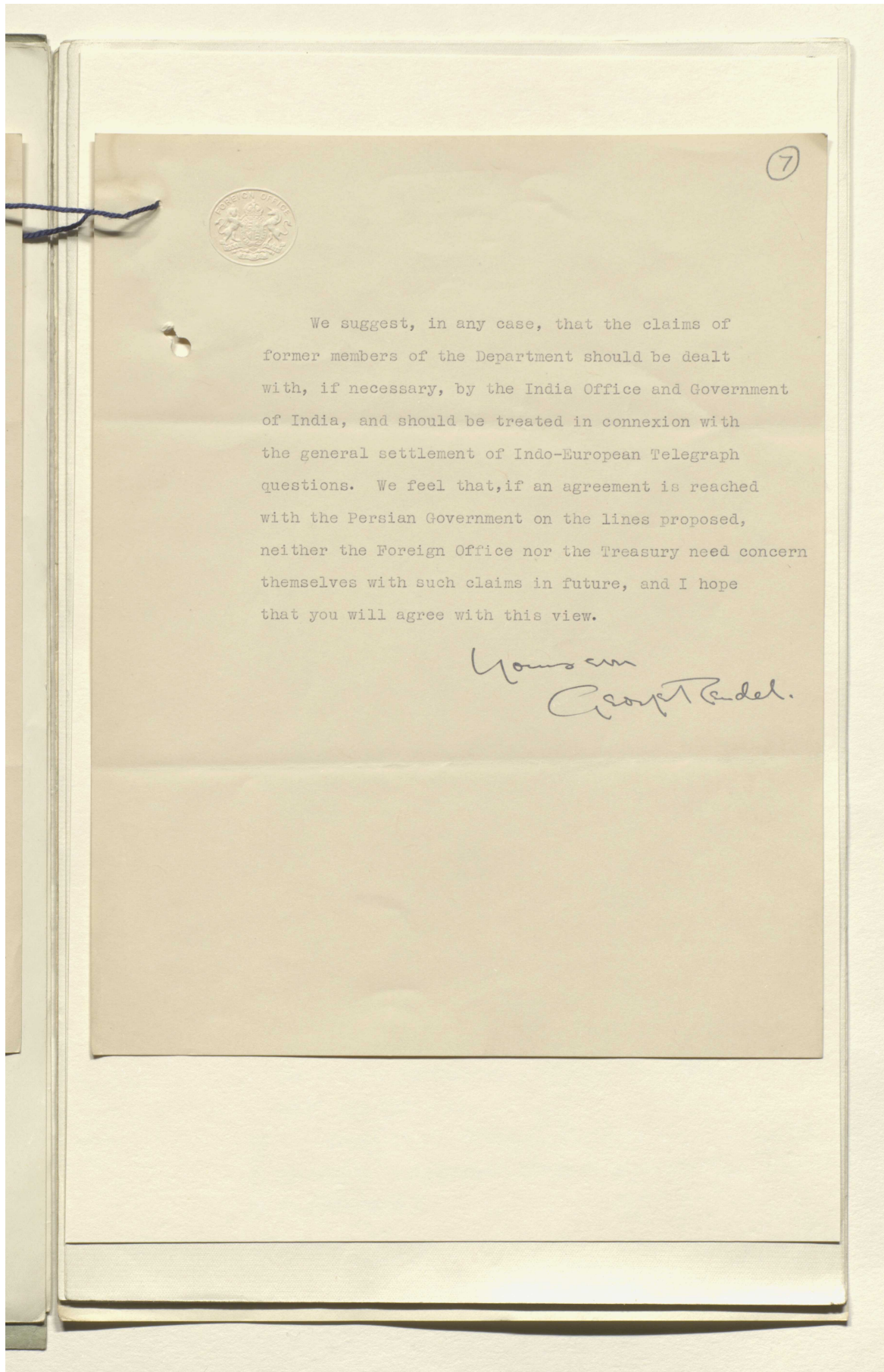
We

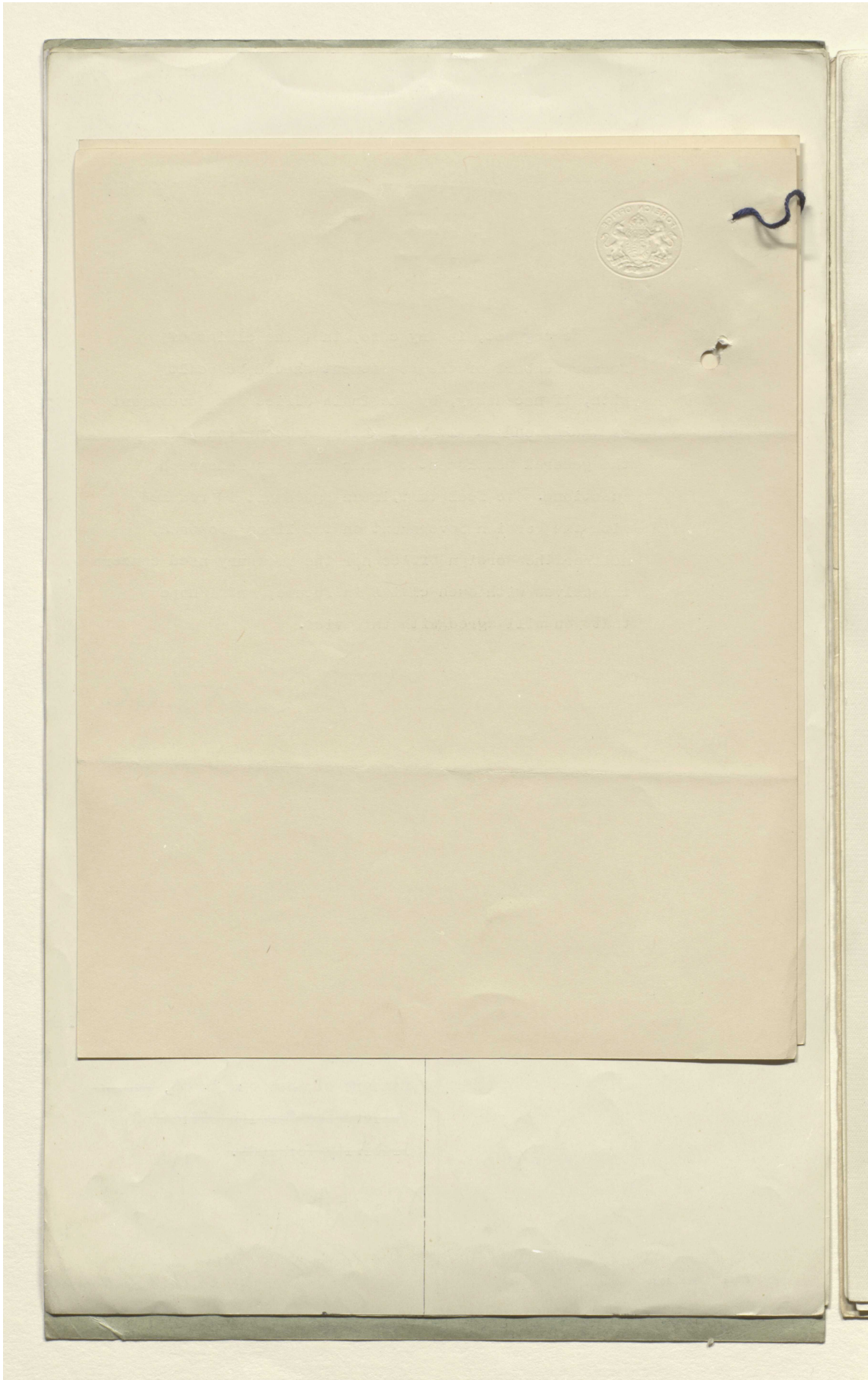
J.G. Laithwaite, Esq.,

Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by
members of the I.E.T.D.' [6v] (12/28)

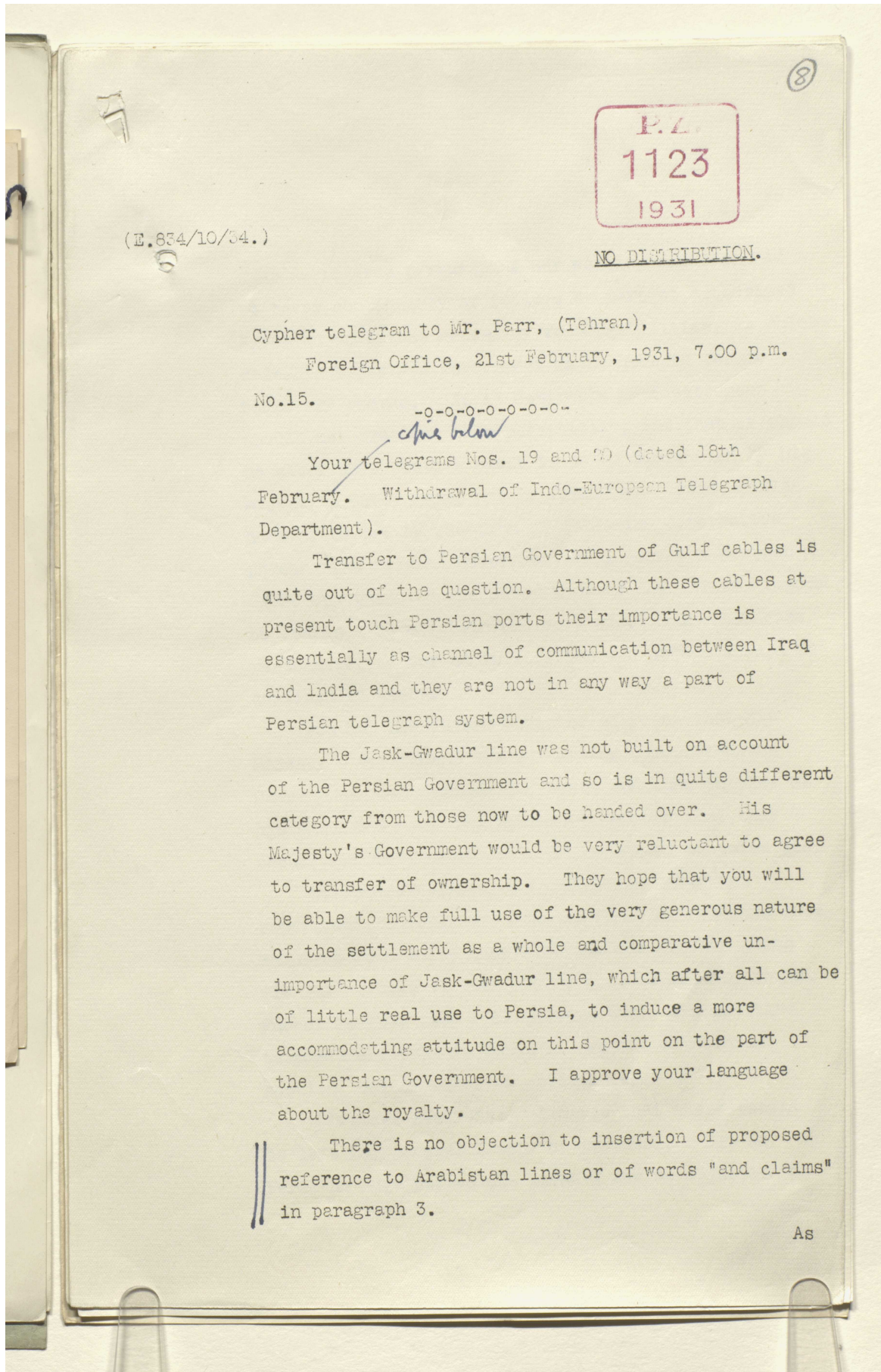


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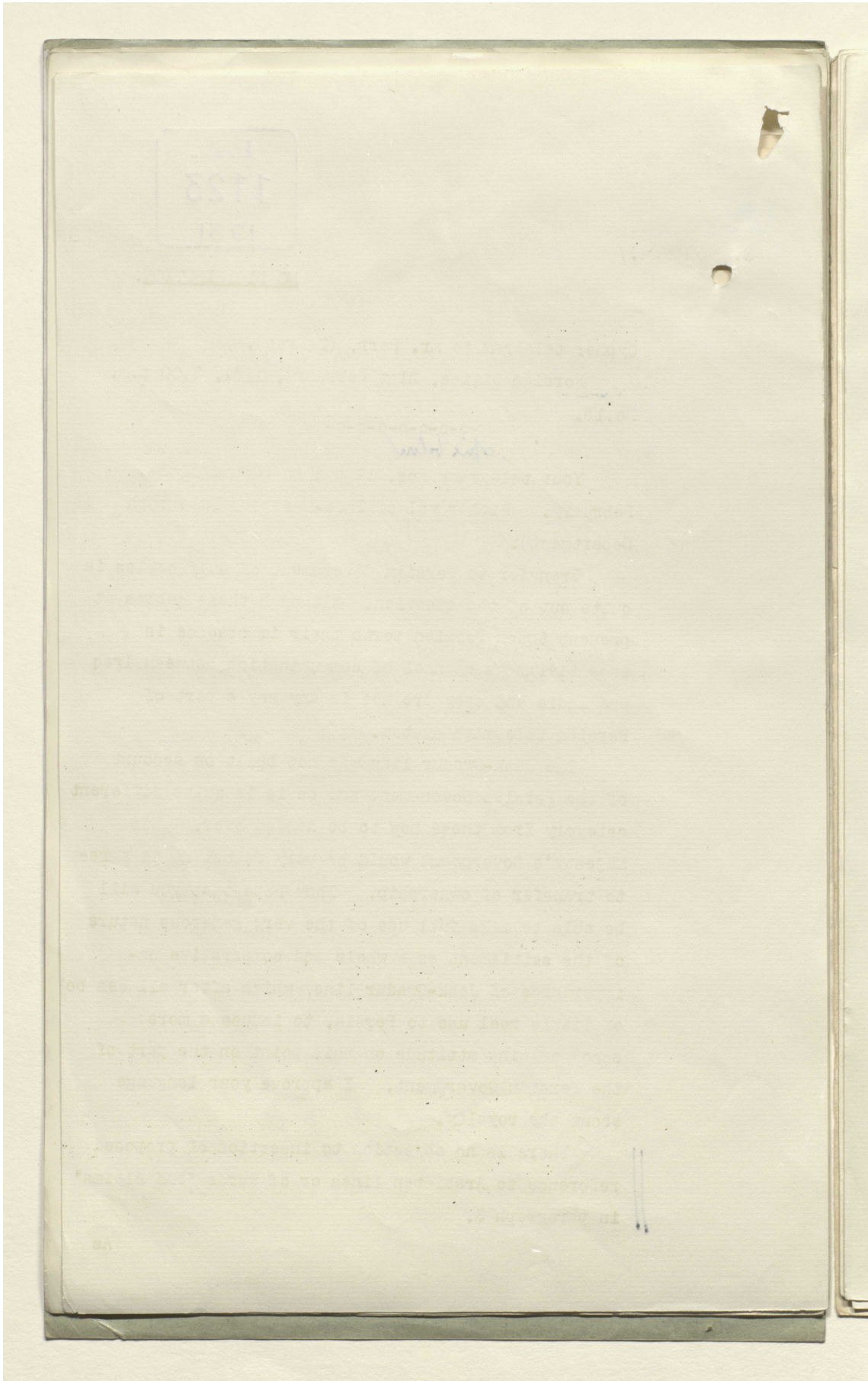




Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [8r] (15/28)



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [8v] (16/28)



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [9r] (17/28)

2.

As regards paragraph 4 our wording was designed to cover contingency of failure on part of authorised agent to undertake necessary responsibilities, in which case His Majesty's Government might have to assume temporary charge. It is desirable that agreement should not preclude this possibility, and that it should be clear that British agent is to be designated by His Majesty's Government, not by Persians. Point could however be met by adoption of following alternative phrase "The Persian Government will permit a British agent appointed by the Government of the United Kingdom to continue to maintain and work etc." In that case responsibility for administration and upkeep should be confined to agent.

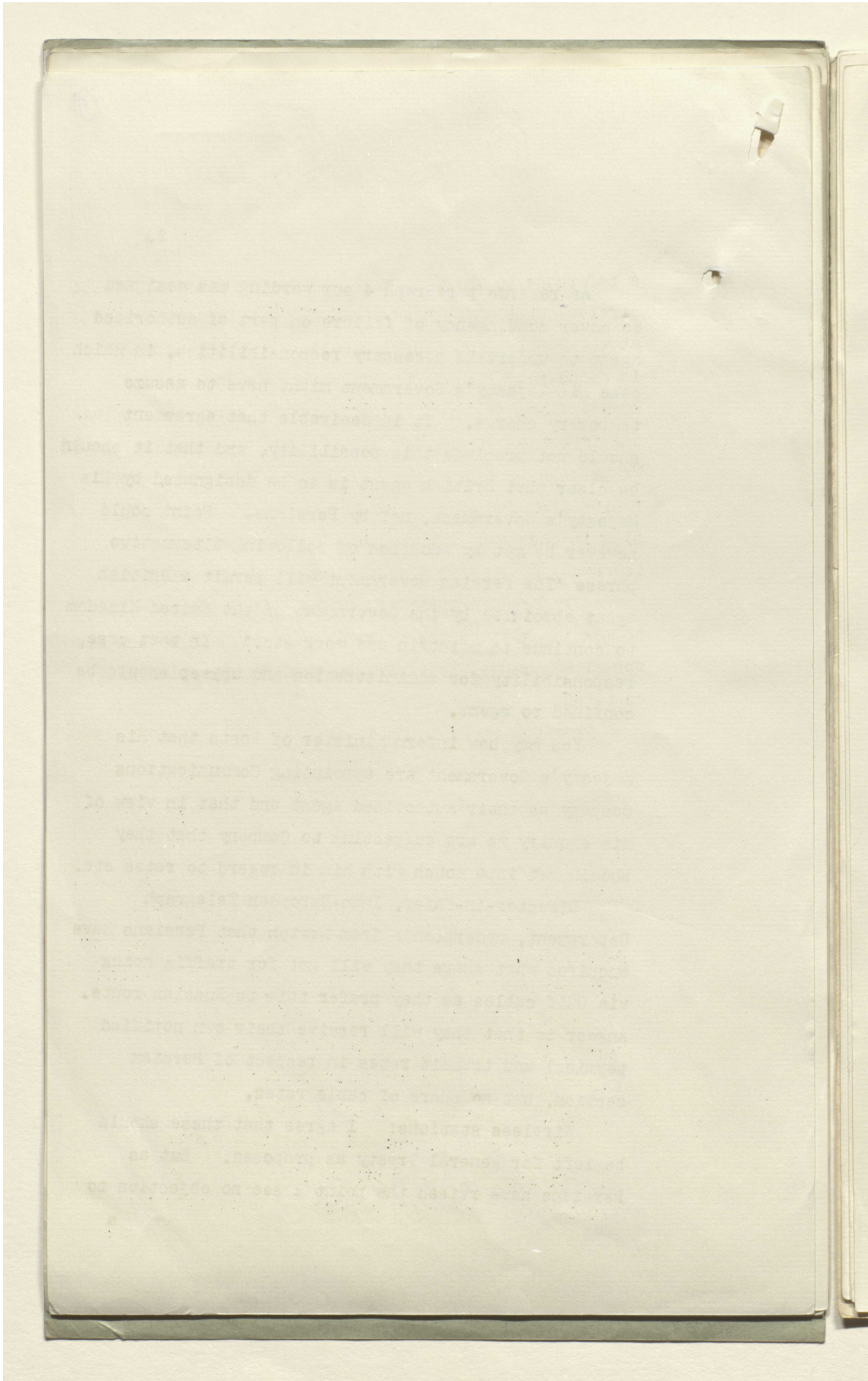
You may now inform Minister of Posts that His Majesty's Government are appointing Communications Company as their authorised agent and that in view of his enquiry we are suggesting to Company that they should get into touch with him in regard to rates etc.

Director-in-Chief, Indo-European Telegraph Department, understands from Newton that Persians have enquired what share they will get for traffic going via Gulf cables as they prefer this to Russian route. Answer is that they will receive their own notified terminal and transit rates in respect of Persian section, but no share of cable rates.

Wireless stations: I agree that these should be left for general Treaty as proposed. But as Persians have raised the point I see no objection to

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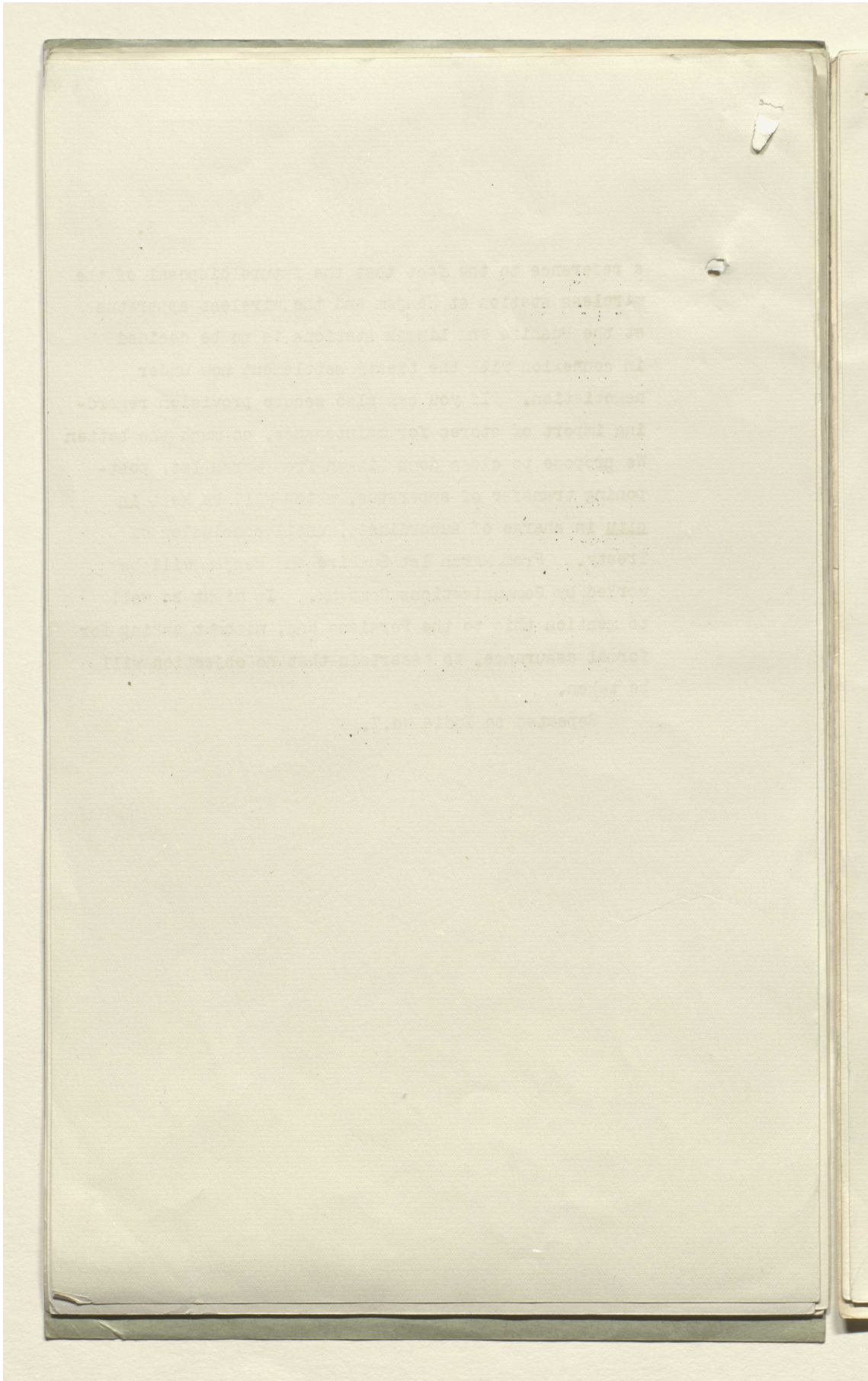
Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [10r] (19/28)

10

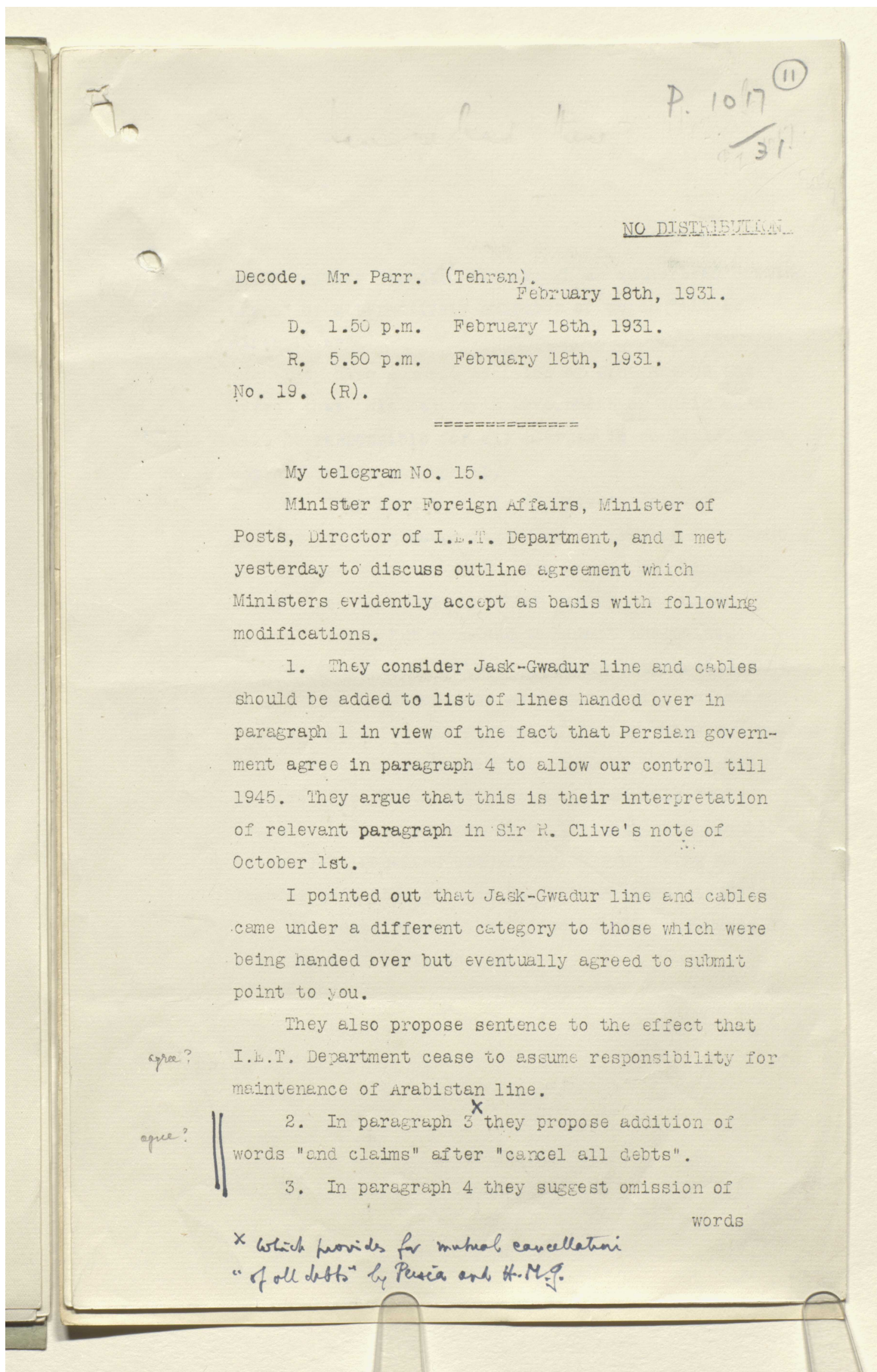
3.

a reference to the fact that the future disposal of the wireless station at Henjam and the wireless apparatus at the Bushire and Lingah stations is to be decided in connexion with the treaty settlement now under negotiation. If you can also secure provision regarding import of stores for maintenance, so much the better. We propose to close down Lingah from March 1st, postponing transfer of apparatus, which will be kept in situ in charge of subordinate, until conclusion of Treaty. From March 1st Bushire and Henjam will be worked by Communications Company. It might be well to mention this to the Persians and, without asking for formal assurance, to ascertain that no objection will be taken.

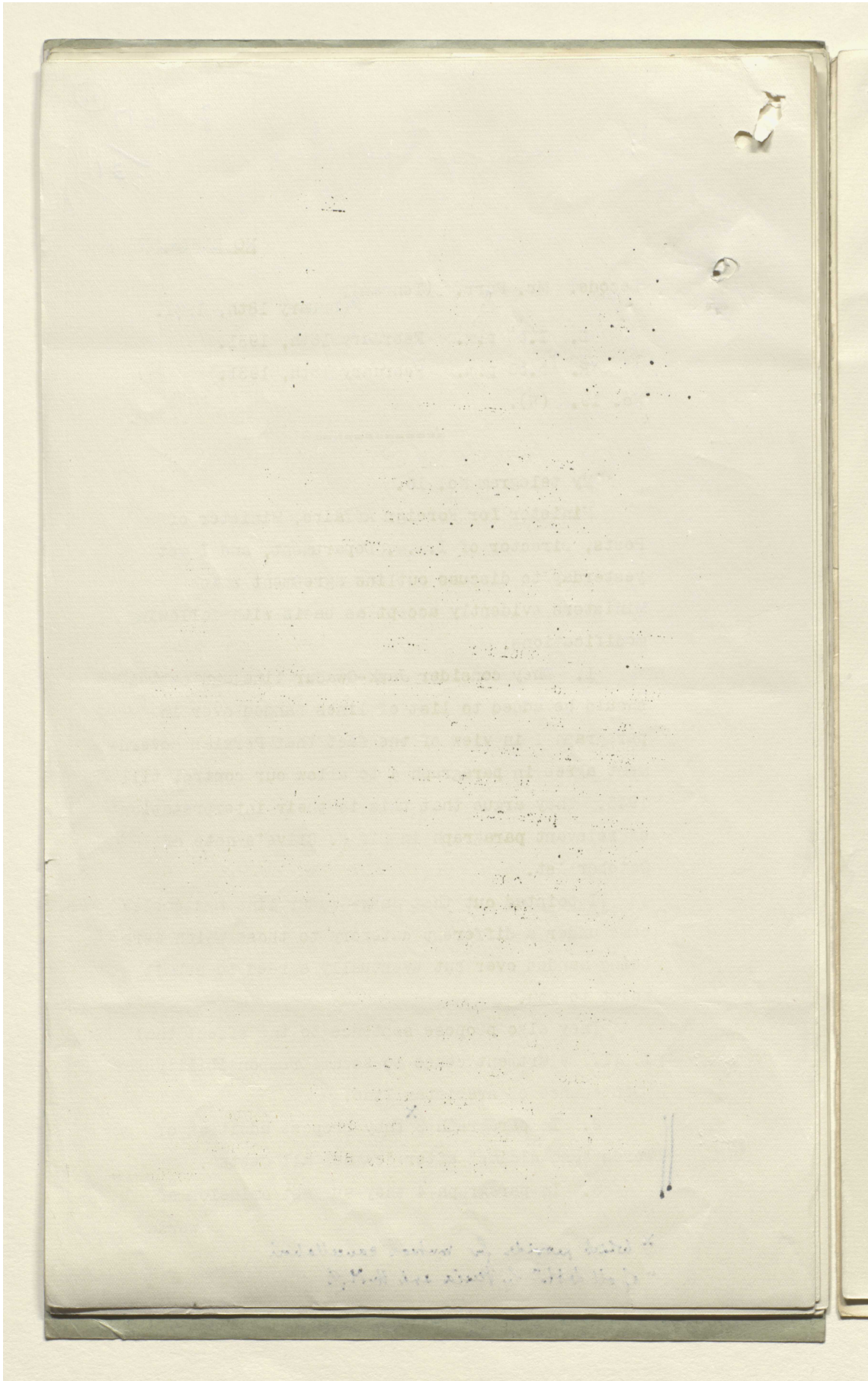
Repeated to India No.7.



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [11r] (21/28)



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [11v] (22/28)



Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [12r] (23/28)

(12)

2.

words "either directly or through an authorised British agent" or alternatively omission of words "either directly or".

They also suggest addition of sentence to the effect that His Majesty's Government or their agent will be responsible for all charges in connexion with administration and upkeep.

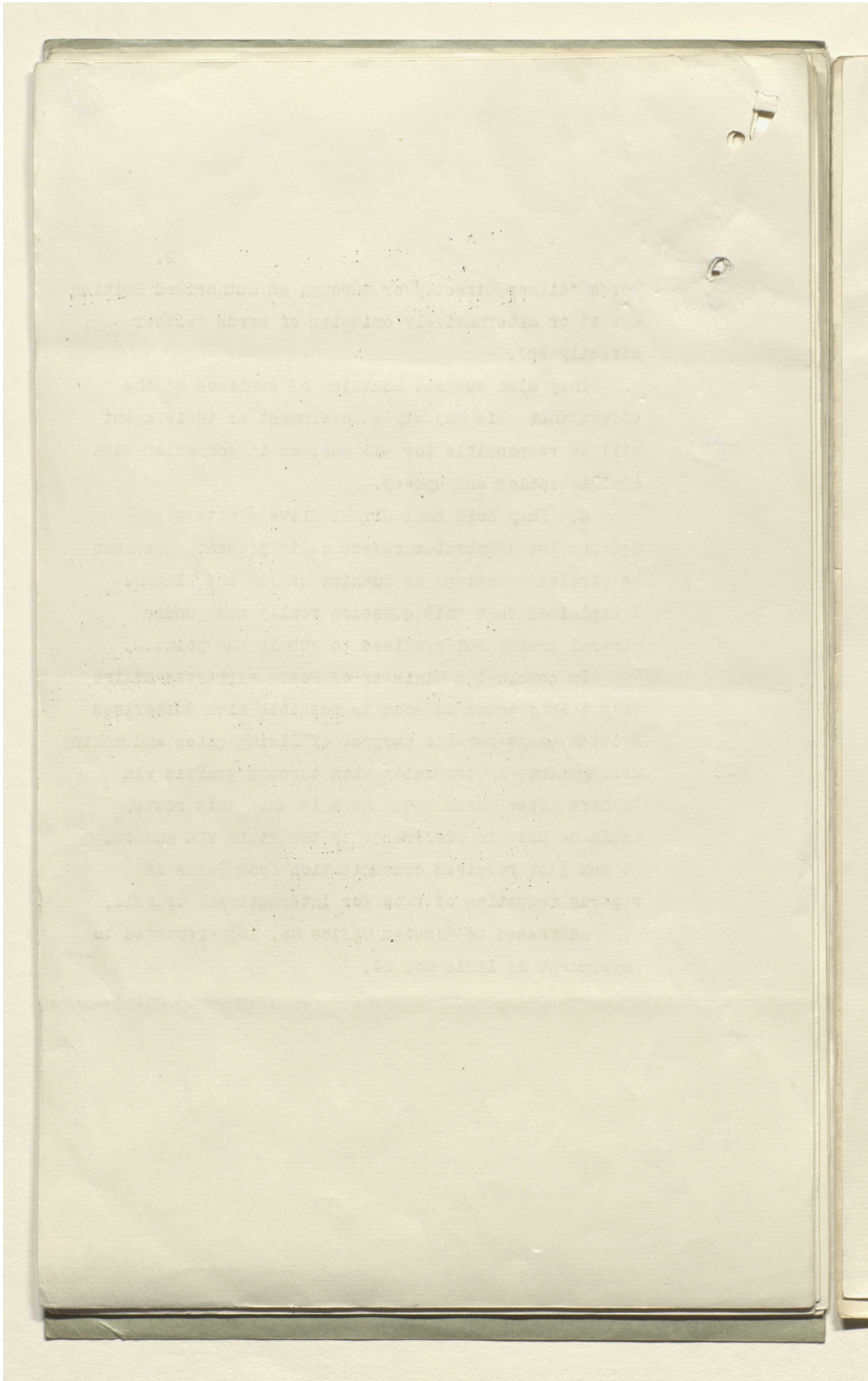
4. They hold that Sir R. Clive's note of October 1st adumbrates reference in present agreement to wireless stations at Bushire Henjam and Lingah. I explained that this question really came under general treaty but promised to submit the point.

In conclusion Minister of Posts expressed desire to get into touch as soon as possible with authorised British agent for the purpose of fixing rates and making arrangements in connexion with through traffic via Bushire after March 1st. He said that this route would be used in preference to the route via Russia. He had just received communication from Berne as regards reduction of rate for international traffic.

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 19; repeated to government of India No. 24.

agree +
mention
ICC?

Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by
members of the I.E.T.D.' [12v] (24/28)



(13)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decypher. Mr. Parr (Tehran)
18th February 1931.

D. 1.50 p.m. 18th February 1931.

R. 5.00 p.m. 18th February 1931.

No. 20.

- - -

My immediately preceding telegram.

Apart from one, modifications appear to be more or less innocuous.

In connexion with three, Minister raised question of Jask royalty. I explained to Minister of Posts that as convention of 1868 which mentioned royalty would now presumably lapse, royalty would also disappear. I also hinted to Minister for Foreign Affairs as a matter of course that question of royalty came under mutual cancellation of debts. Both ministers appeared to accept explanation and did not refer to the matter further.

With regard to four I should be glad to learn in what terms reference could be made to wireless station. It would seem possible to insert sentence regarding importation of stores for maintenance so long as we are in possession. I regret that I forgot to remind Minister for Foreign Affairs about question of submission of agreement to Majlis but I will do so at once in writing.

Both ministers were friendly and appeared anxious to avoid making difficulties.

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 20, repeated to Government of India No. 25.

Coll 28/24 'Persia. Relations with H.M.G. Private Claims against Persian Govt by members of the I.E.T.D.' [13v] (26/28)

