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Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/12/3860
Date(s)	16 Jun 1944-9 Jun 1945 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (35 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



About this record

This file contains correspondence between officials at the India Office, the Political Residency and the Admiralty regarding the construction of a Cable and Wireless cable station at Khor Kuwait, Oman in 1944 and the station's subsequent closure in 1945.

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.

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [front] (1/74)

①

Previous File :
Next File :

No. 30
File 126(2)

IOR: L/PS/12/3860

**POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT
COLLECTION**

GENERAL HEADING { PERSIAN GULF

SUB-HEAD { Naval Base at Khor Kuwait.
Erection of Wireless Transmitter +
Cable Station.

Notes: Coll. 30/196 Muscat. Defence of
Coll. 30/111 Estab. of Naval Base at Khor Kuwait, Bahrain
Coll. 447 Bahrain Wireless Station in Was Tunis.
Coll. 30/126(1) Construction of Naval Base at Khor Kuwait - Bahrain.

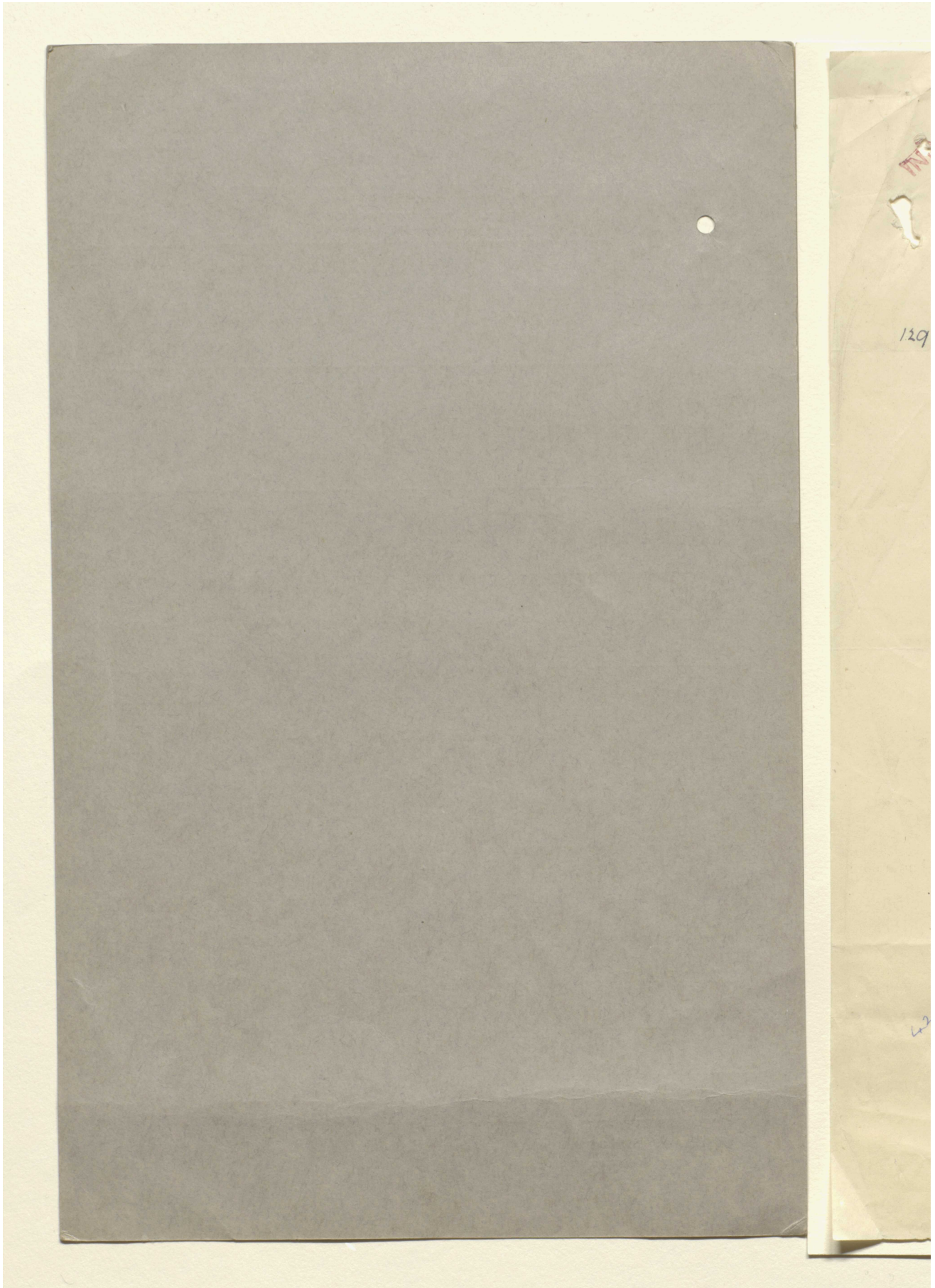
This File contains the following papers :—

YEAR.	
1944	EXT. 2704, 2861, 2966, 3896, 4231, 4723, 4805.
1945	EXT. 1299, 1411, 2529, 2688.
19	. P.Z.
19	. P.Z.
19	. P.Z.
19	. P.Z.
19	. P.Z.
19	. P.Z.

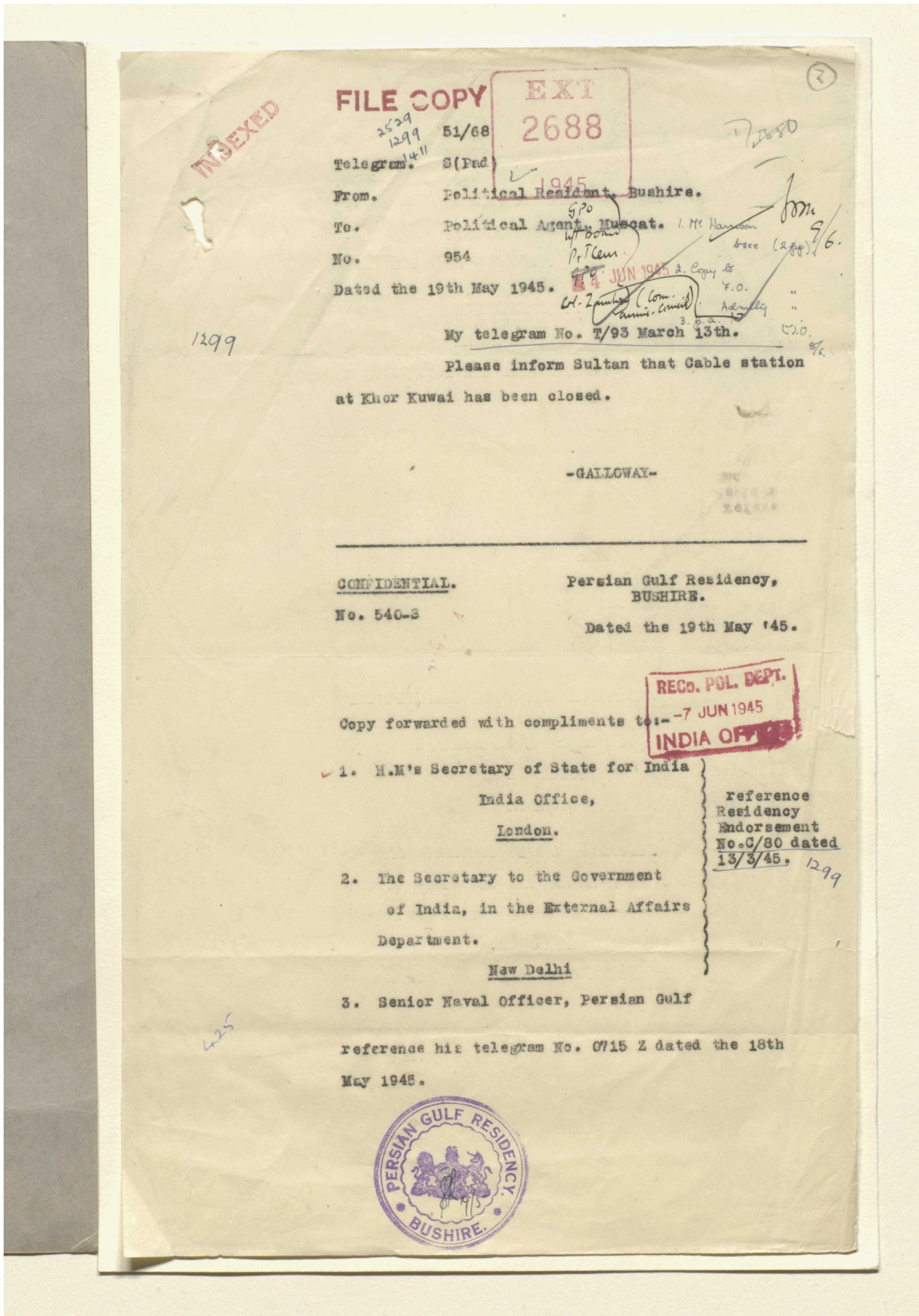
Papers may be removed from or placed within this File only by the Political Registry.

(11192) Wt.21570/P251 1,000 7/39 A.& E.V.Ltd. Gp.685

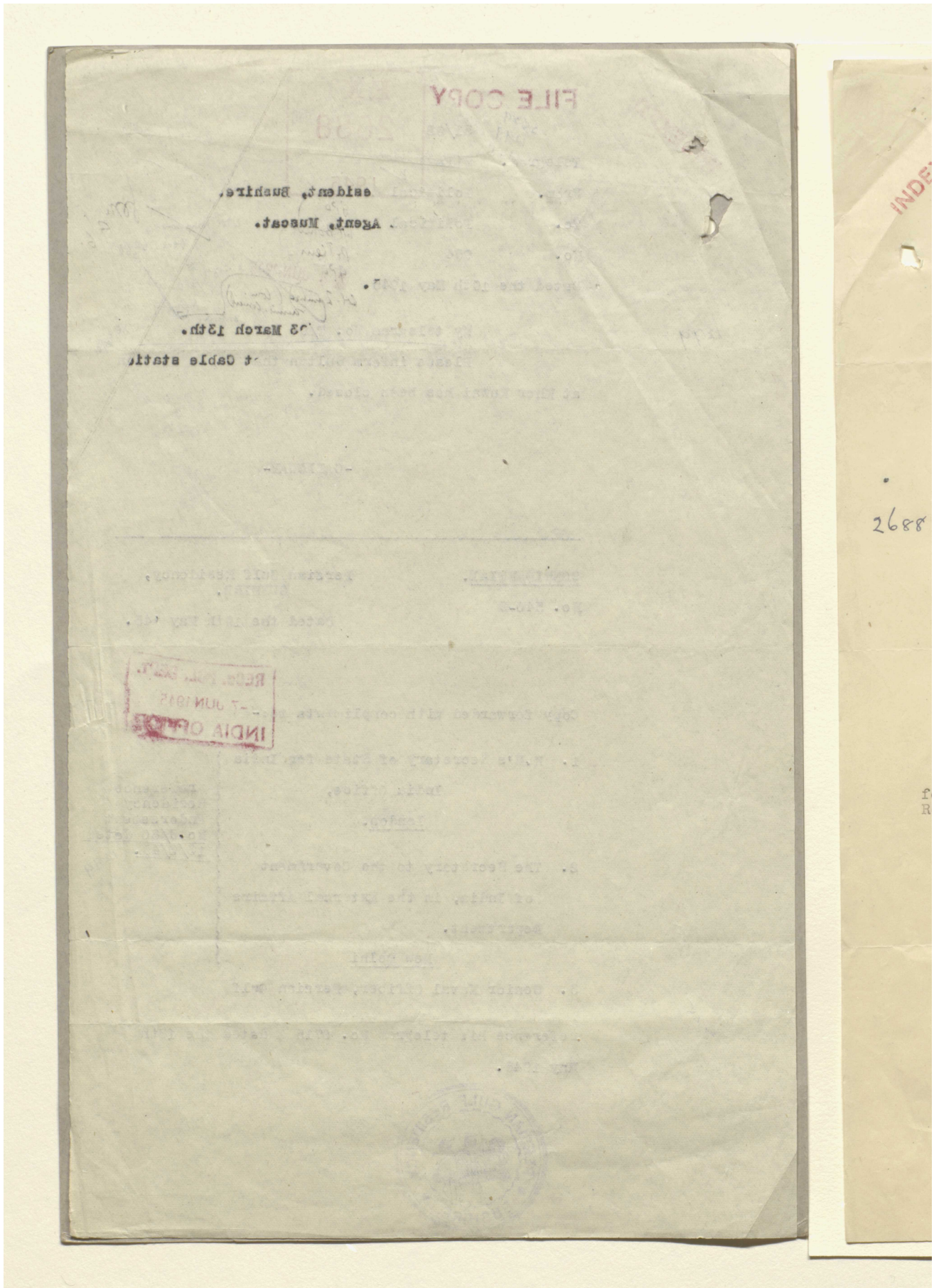
Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [front-i] (2/74)



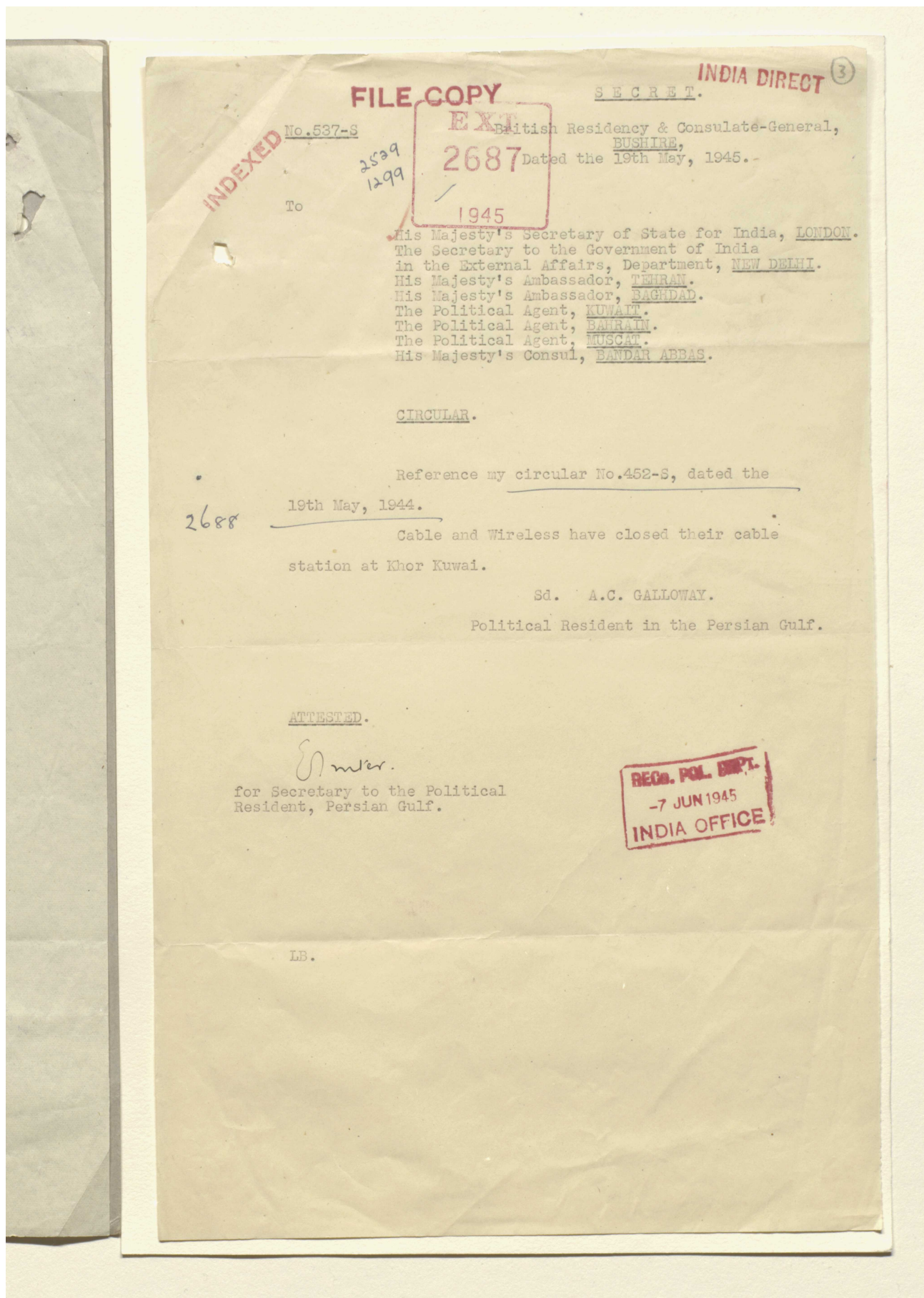
Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [2r] (3/74)



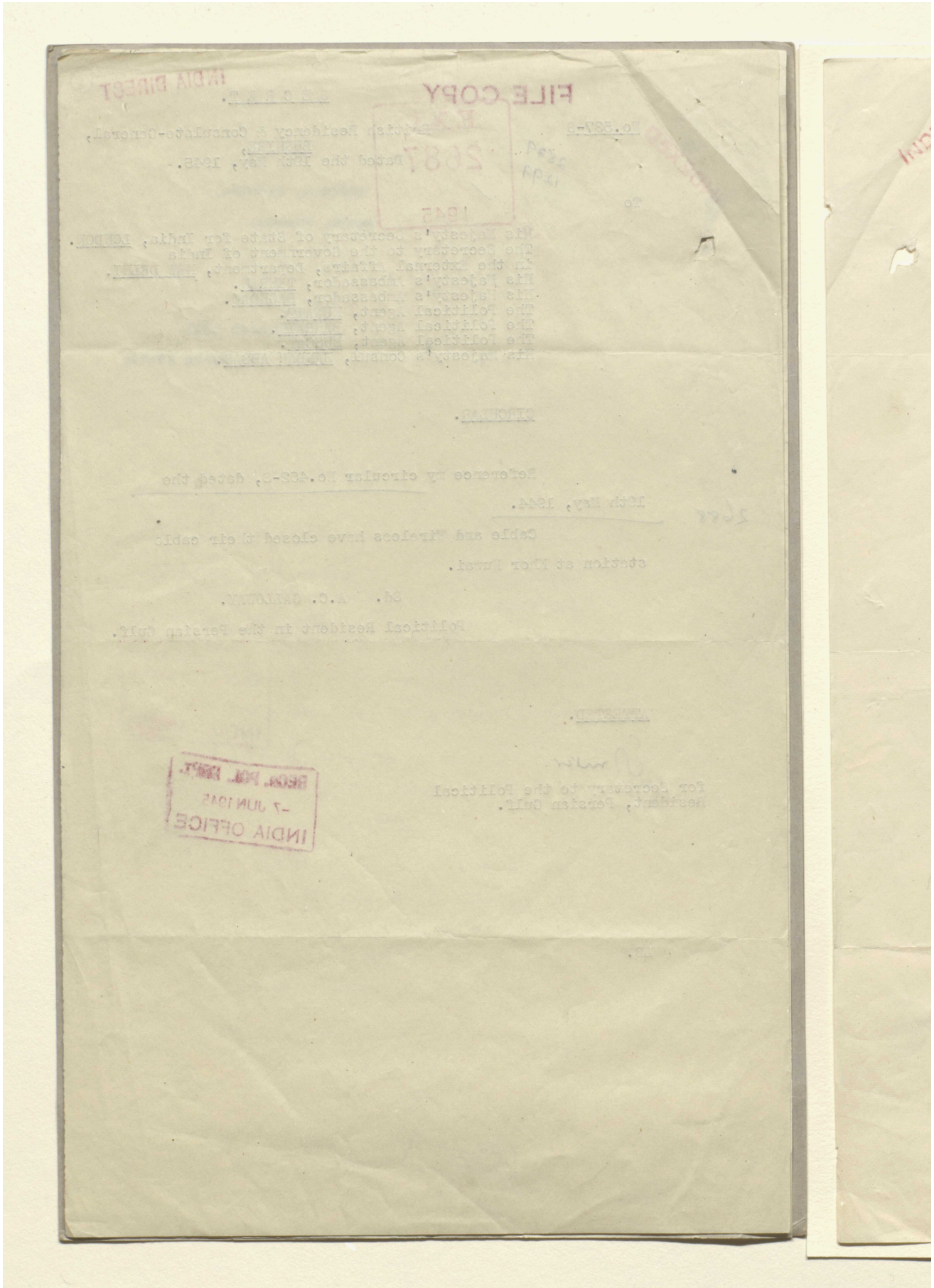
Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [2v] (4/74)



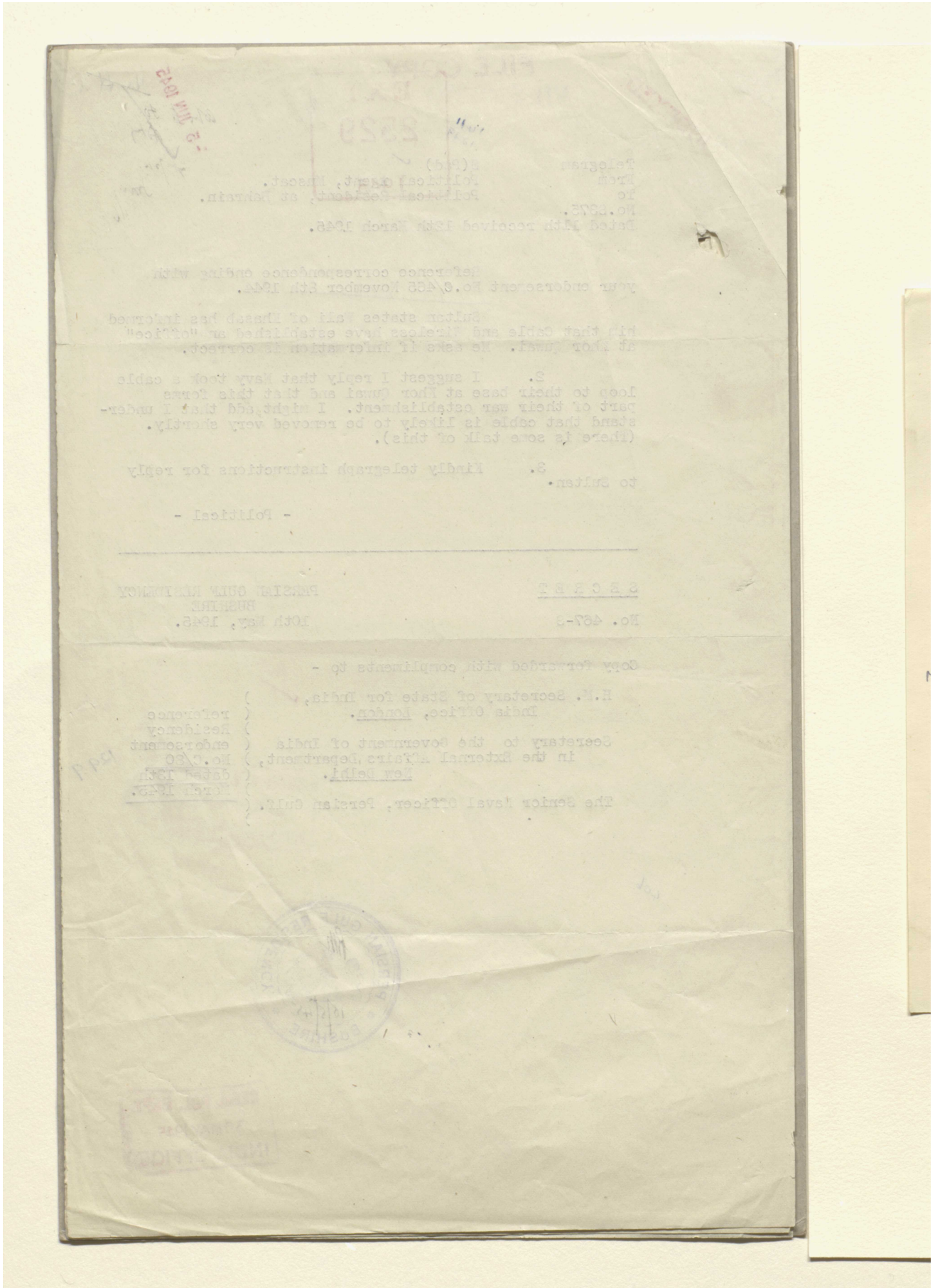
Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [3r] (5/74)



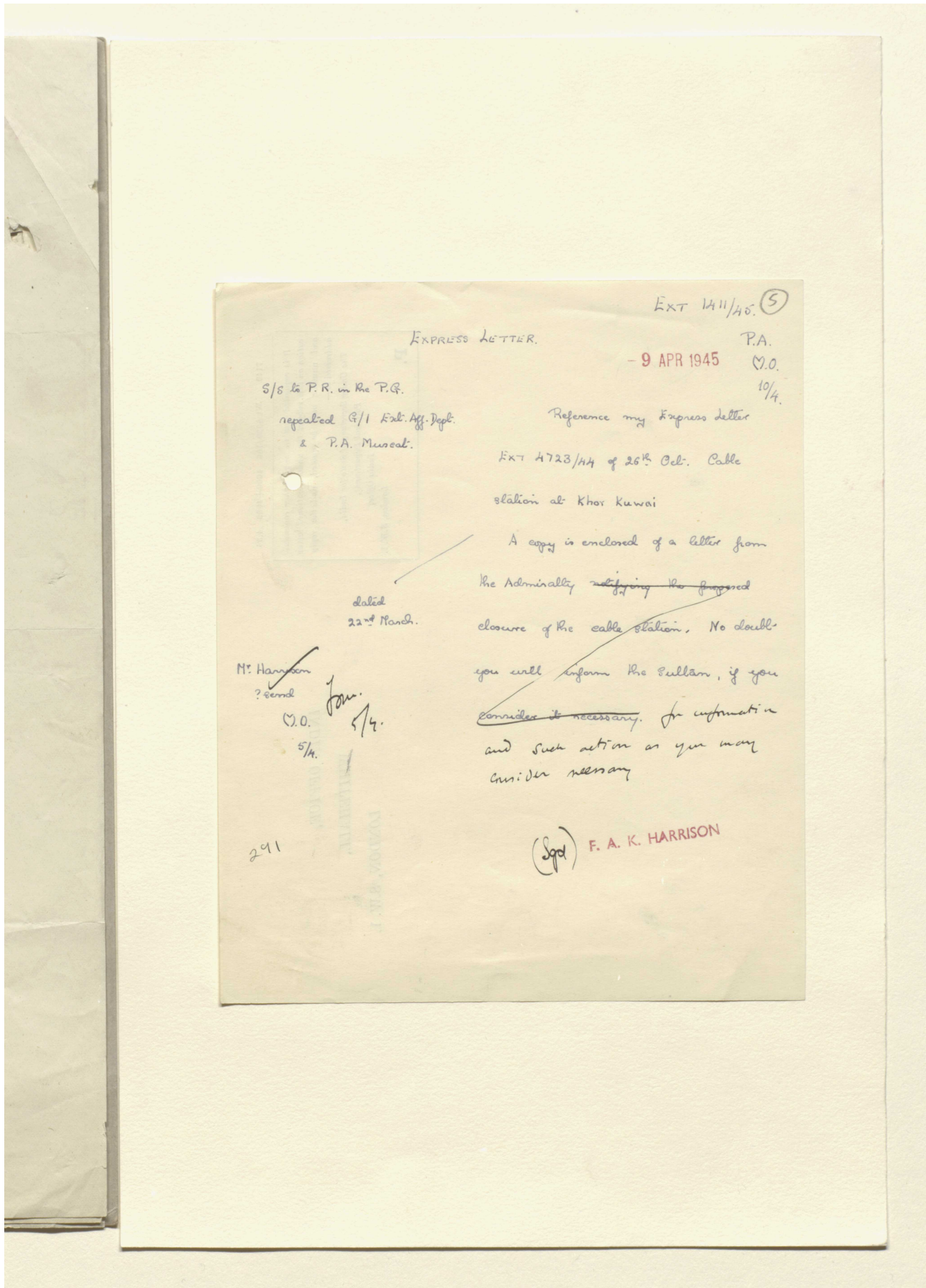
Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [3v] (6/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [4v] (8/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [5r] (9/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [6r] (11/74)

30
176

FILE COPY
Any further communication should be addressed to—
The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London, S.W.1. Admiralty, S.W.1. (6)

INDEXED **EXT**
M.013225/14
on the outside of the envelope
as well as in the text.

22 March, 1945.
no 0.

Whitehall 9000
Extension 88

Sir, 299-
1411
1945

With reference to Admiralty Letter 1606/44 of the 2nd September last and to subsequent correspondence (Ext.4231/44) about the Naval W/T Station and Cable Station at Khor Kuwait, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that arrangements are now in hand to close the Cable Station, although the cable will still be left connected to the island.

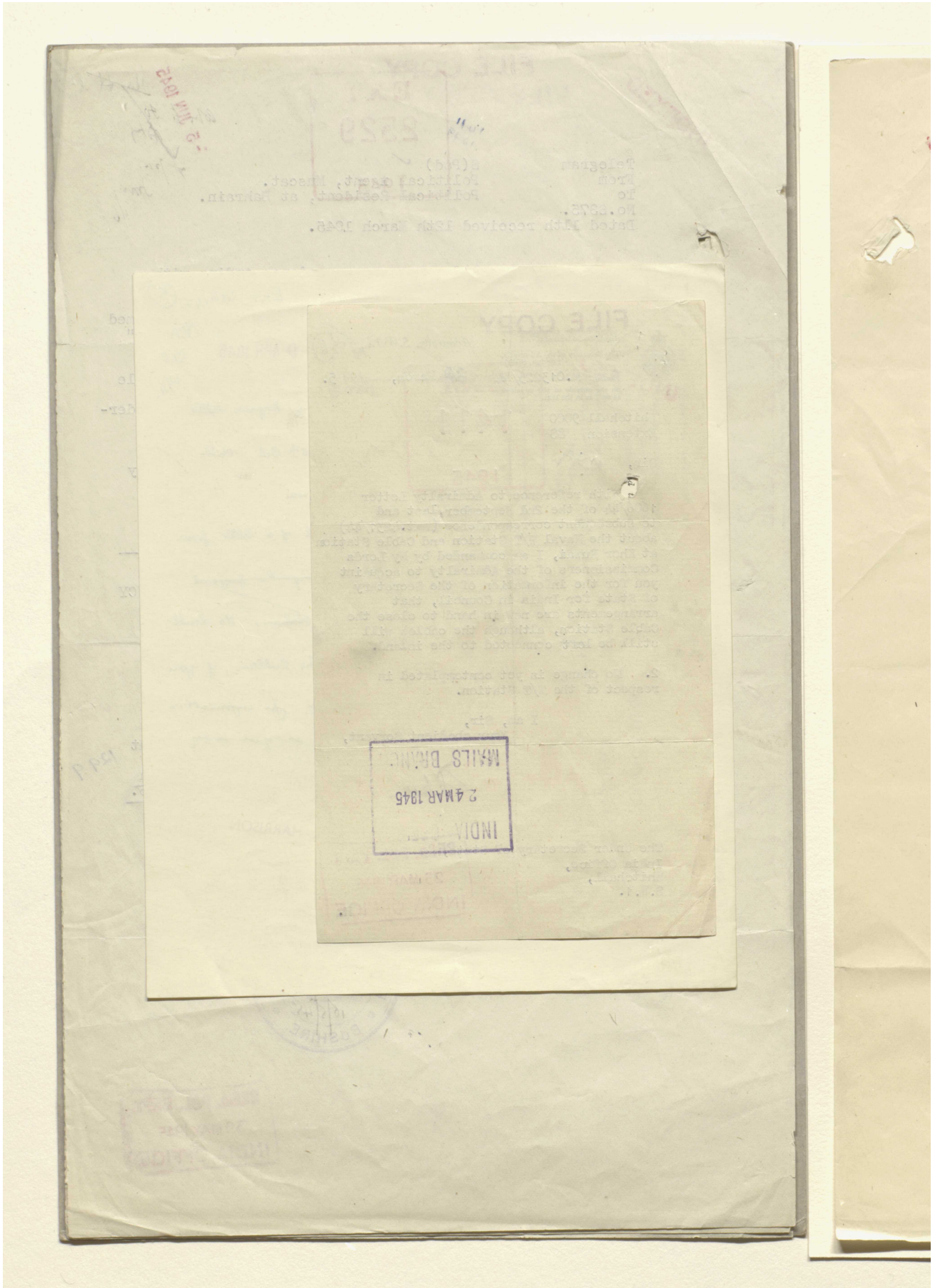
2. No change is yet contemplated in respect of the W/T Station.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
P. H. ...

The Under Secretary of State
India Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.
23 MAR 1945
INDIA OFFICE

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [6v] (12/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [7r] (13/74)

INDEXED FILE COPY

Telegram. S(Pad)
From. Political Resident at Bahrain.
To. Political Agent, Muscat.
No. T/93
Dated 13th March 1945.

**EXT
1299
1945**

7
Data
Copy to For
21 APR 1945
W.S.

Your telegram No. 3 375 March 11th.

Please reply to Sultan that Navy took loop from Muscat - Bahrain cable to their base at Khor Quwai, that station was erected by and is maintained by Navy as part of their war establishment, that it is not a "public" station and that it is required for war time purposes only. Please add that it is regretted that Sultan was not informed in advance as by oversight details were not communicated by Service Department concerned.

PRIOR

SECRET

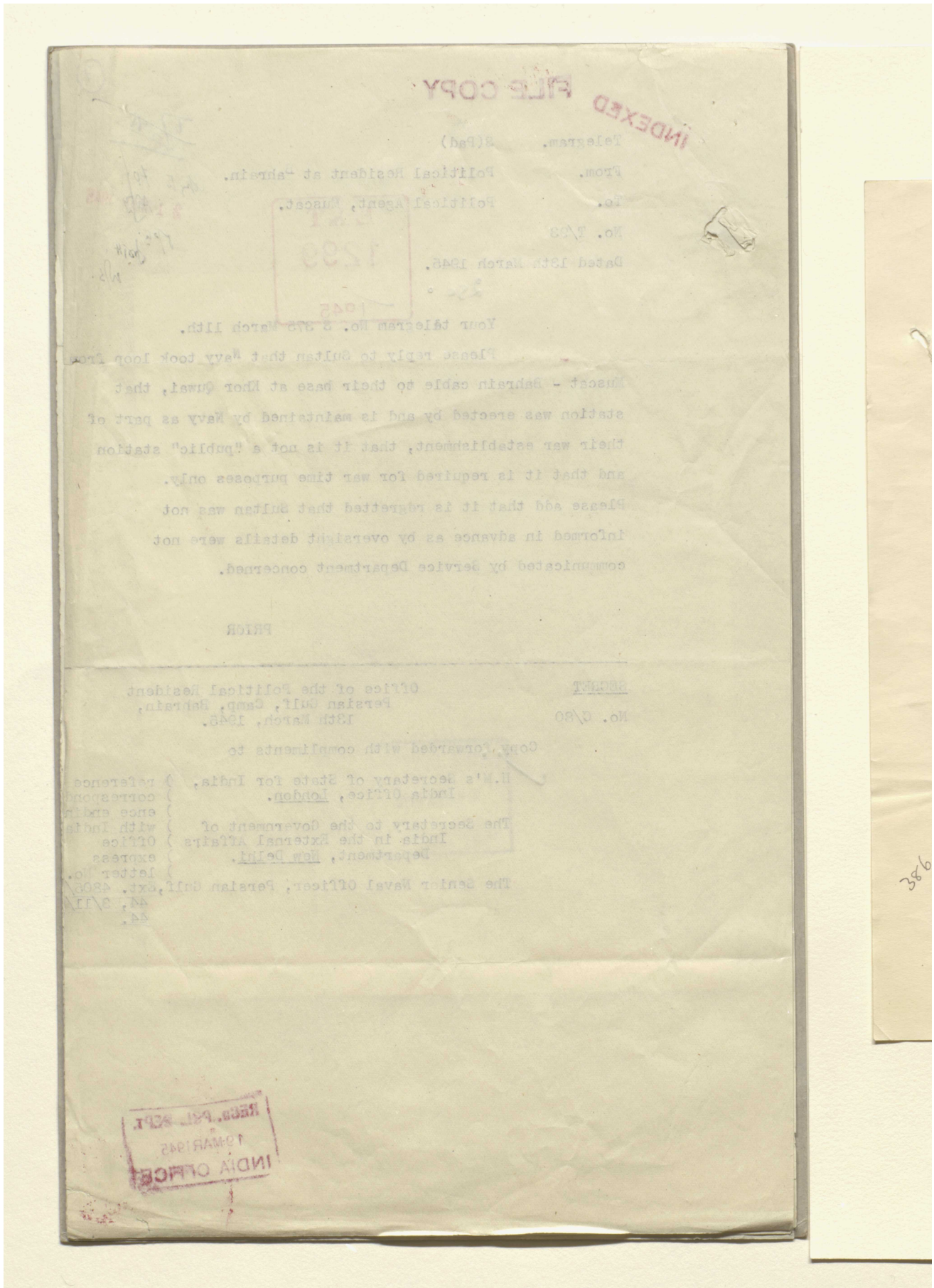
Office of the Political Resident
Persian Gulf, Camp, Bahrain,
13th March, 1945.

No. C/80

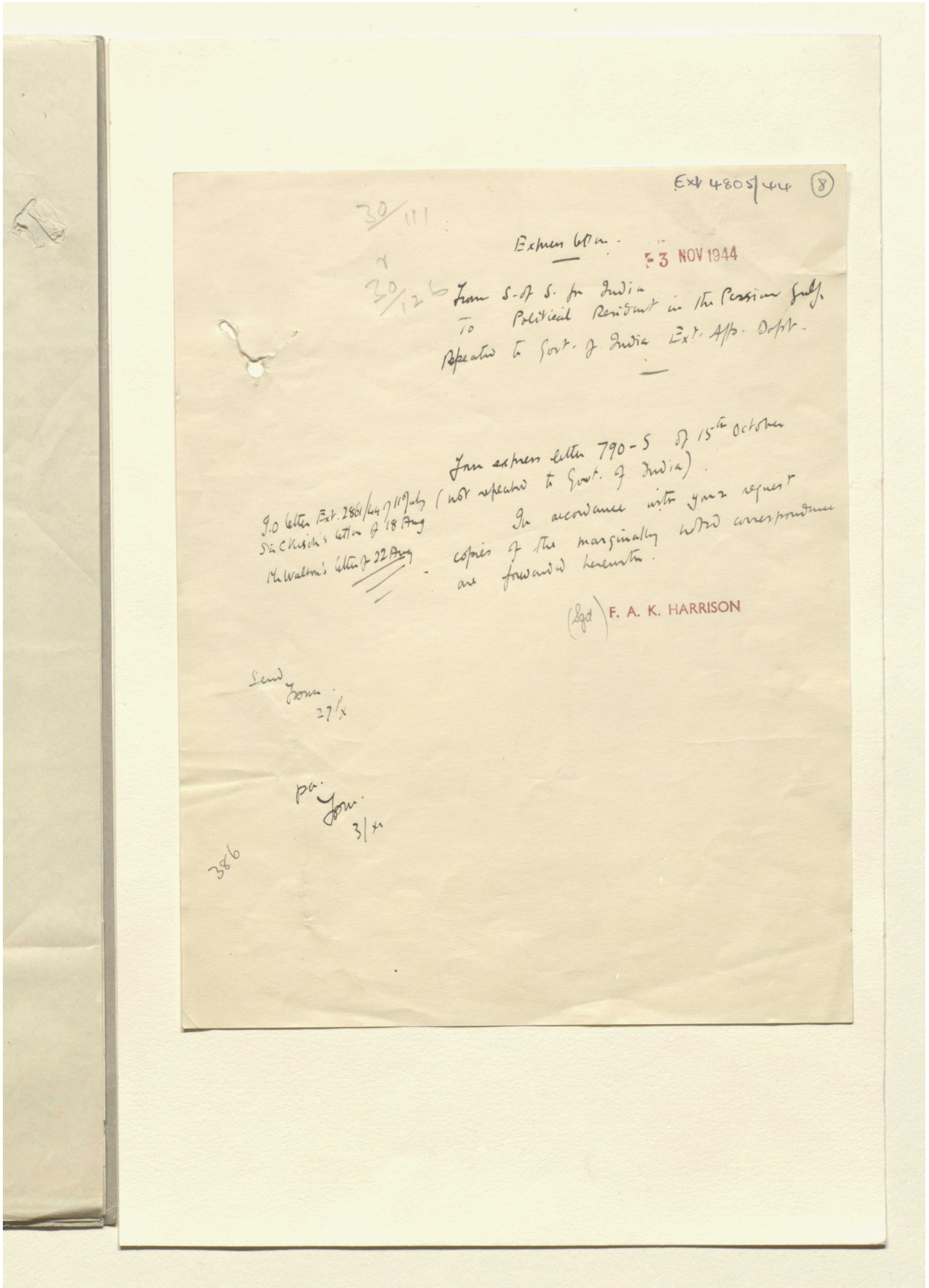
Copy forwarded with compliments to

✓ H.M.'s Secretary of State for India,) reference
India Office, London.) correspond
The Secretary to the Government of) ence endin
India in the External Affairs) with India
Department, New Delhi.) Office
The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf,) express
Ext. 4805/) letter No.
44, 3/11/)
44.)

**REGD. P.S.L. DEPT.
19 MAR 1945
INDIA OFFICE**



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [8r] (15/74)



Ext 4805/44 (8)

30/11

Express letter -

3 NOV 1944

30/12

From S-A S. for India
to Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.
Repealed to Govt. of India Ext. Affs. Dept.

From express letter 790-5 of 15th October
(not repeated to Govt. of India).
In accordance with your request
copies of the marginally word correspondence
are forwarded herewith.

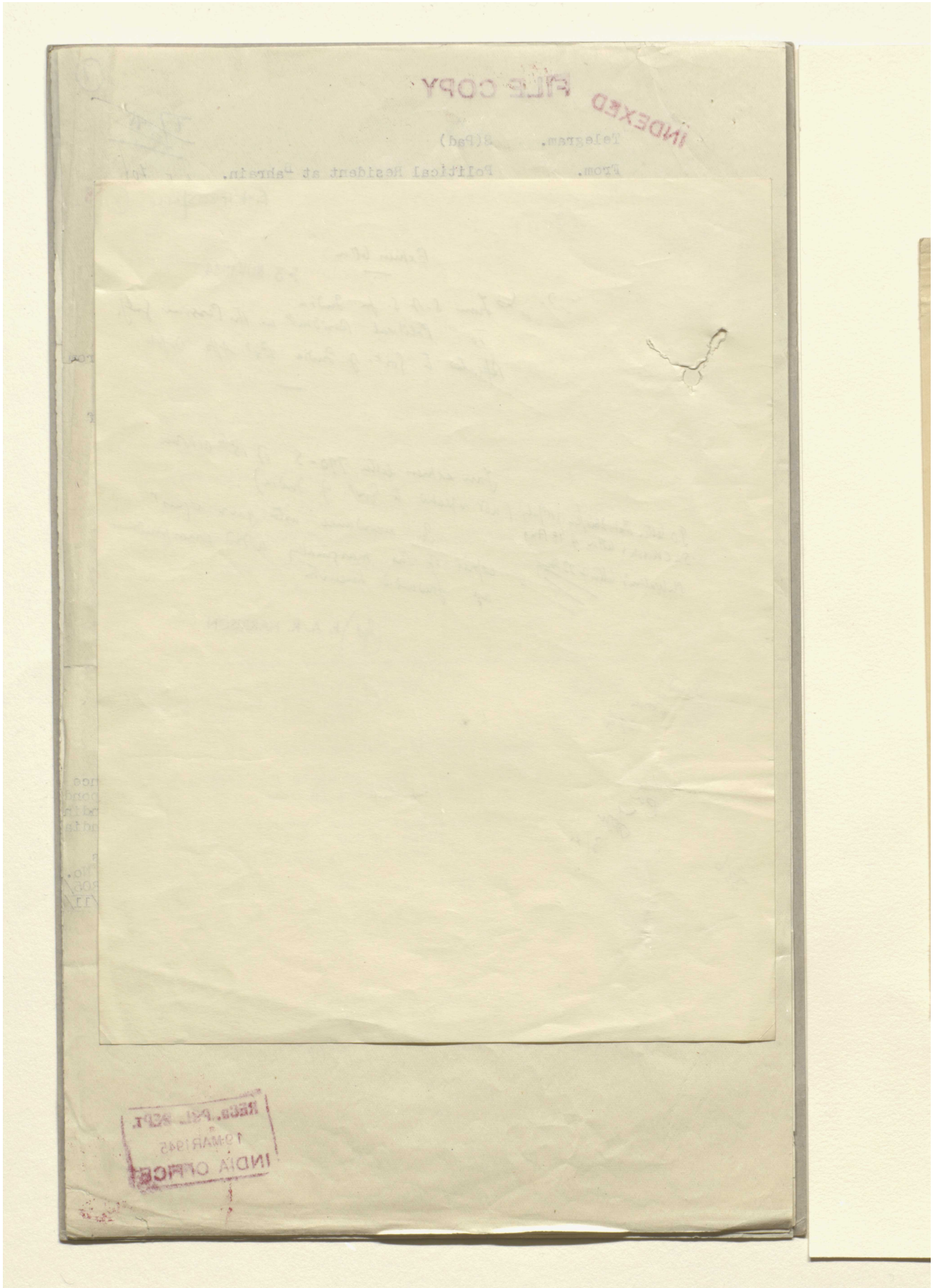
(Sgd) F. A. K. HARRISON

Send from
27/x

pa.
from
3/x

386

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [8v] (16/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [9r] (17/74)

37/5

CONFIDENTIAL

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, 3896
DEPARTMENT, 3419

INDEXED

FILE COPY

M.H.

EXT 4805
1944

EXPRESS LETTER

[N. B.—This is an ORIGINAL MESSAGE, sent by post to save telegraphic expense and undue use of the wires, but intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and formalities it is worded and signed as if it had been so despatched.]

FROM

Political Resident, Persian Gulf,
BUSHIRE

To

Retaxandum, London.

No. 790-S Dated 15th October 193 44

Khor Kuwait

Your Printed Letter No. Ext. 3896/44 of 16th September 1944.
Grateful if you would supply me with copies of the letters referred to in paragraph No. 1 of Admiralty letter No. M. 1606/44 dated the 2nd September 1944.

Sd./- GEOFFREY PRIOR
Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

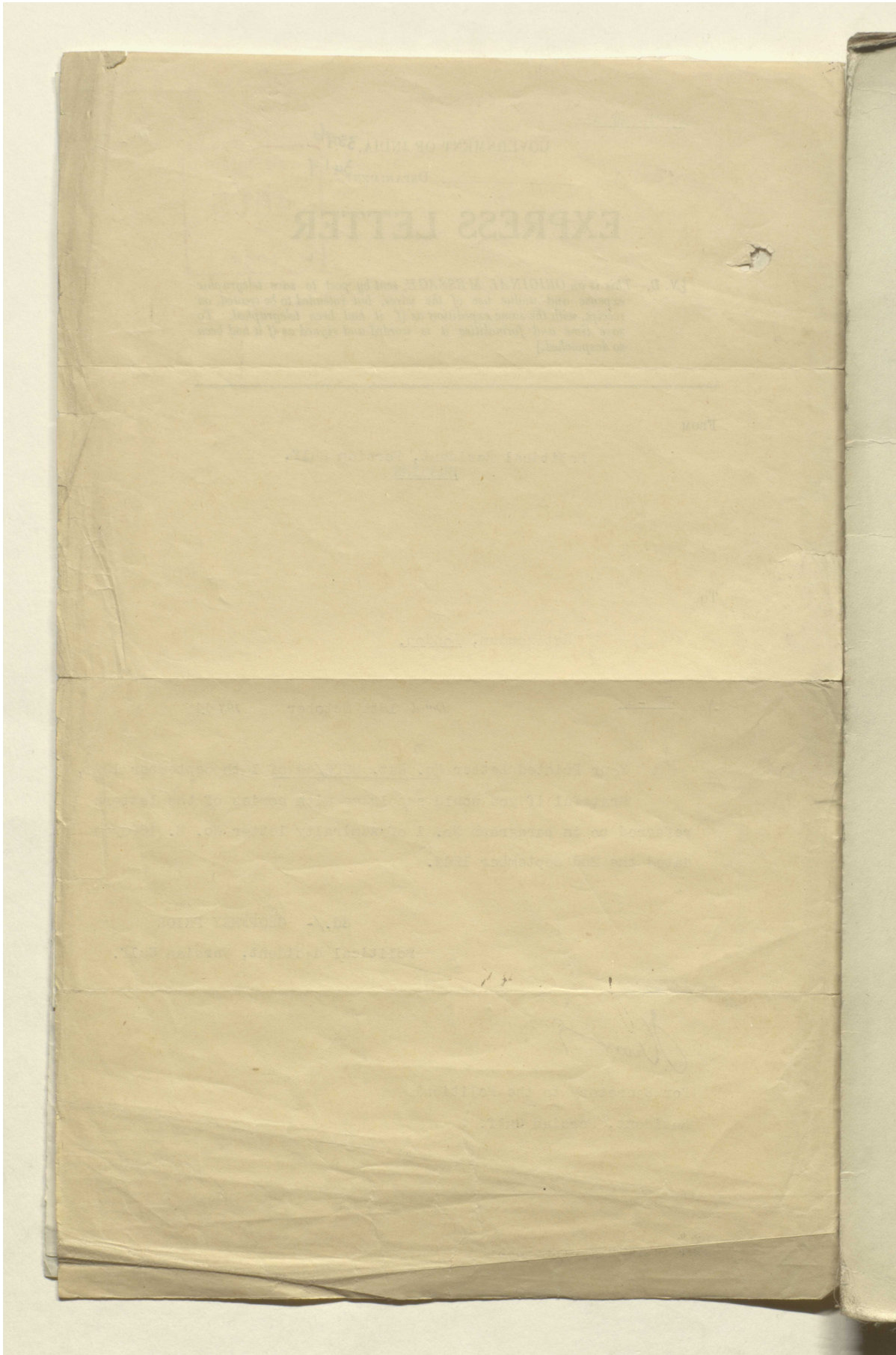
ATTESTED

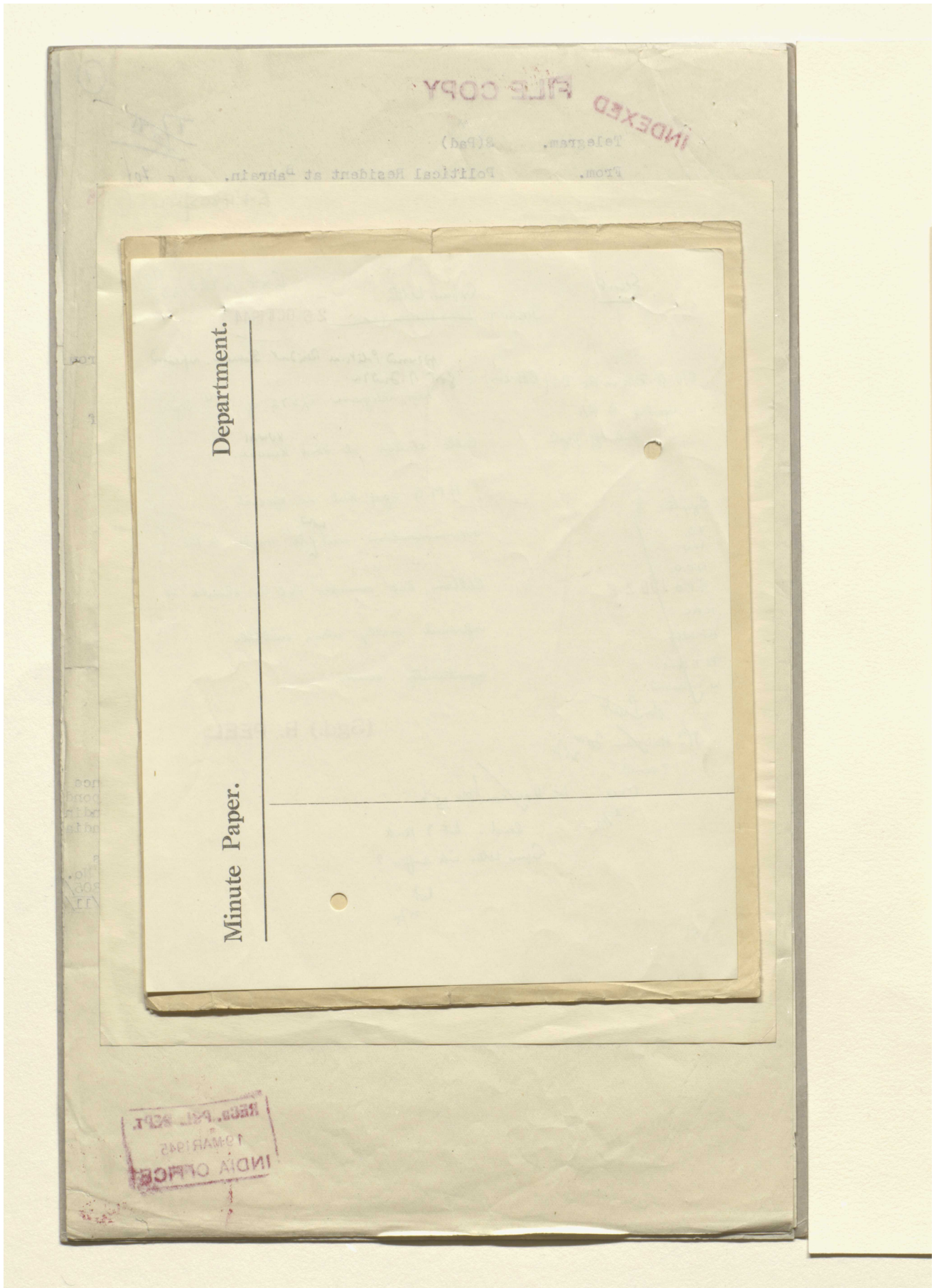
Kroning

for Secretary to the Political
Resident, Persian Gulf.

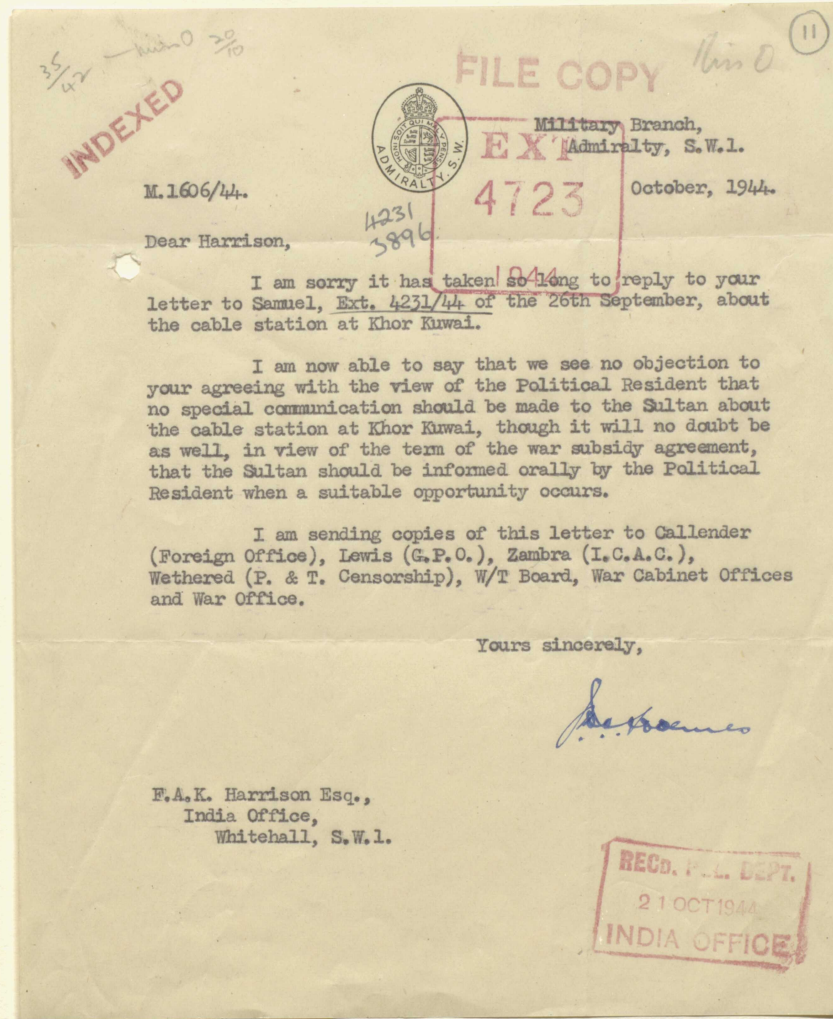
S. 6.
MFP-601 S&P-(M-820)-23-7-36-300,000.

REC'D. P.M. L.P.
2-OCT-1944
INDIA OFFICE

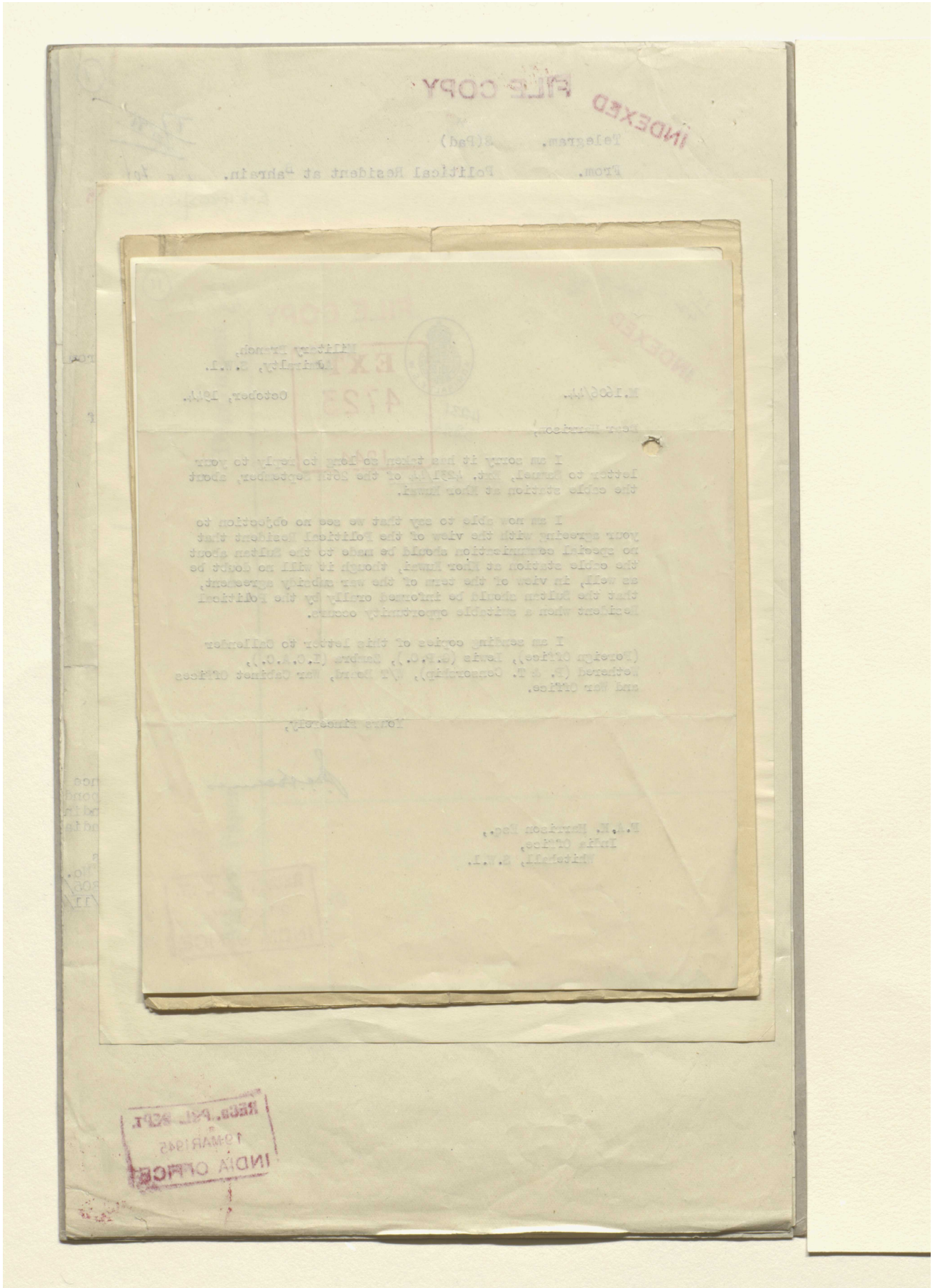




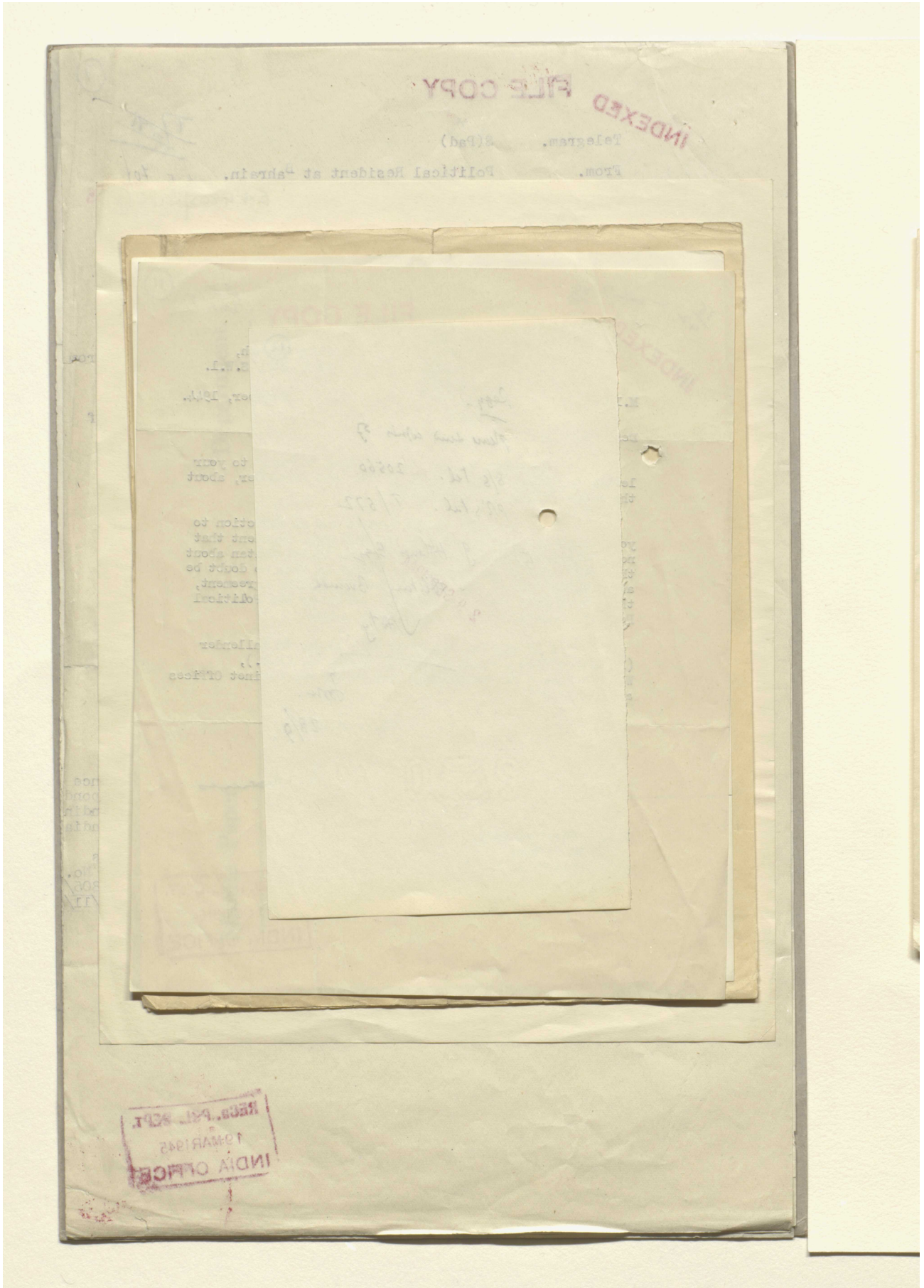
Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [11r] (21/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [11v] (22/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [12v] (24/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [13r] (25/74)

Ext. 4231/44.

13

DRAFT LETTER.

H.D. Samuel, Esq.,
Admiralty.

26 SEP 1944

Dear Samuel,

With reference to your letter of the 2nd September, No. M.1606/44, regarding the opening of a cable station at Khor Kuwait, you will now have seen the telegrams which we have exchanged with the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. Unless the Admiralty see any objection we are prepared to agree with ^{the view of} the Political Resident that the cable station at Khor Kuwait should be treated similarly to the wireless station there and

Mr Peel
sign
M.O.
24/9

~~that~~ ^{special} communication ^{shall} need be made to the Sultan. ~~about~~

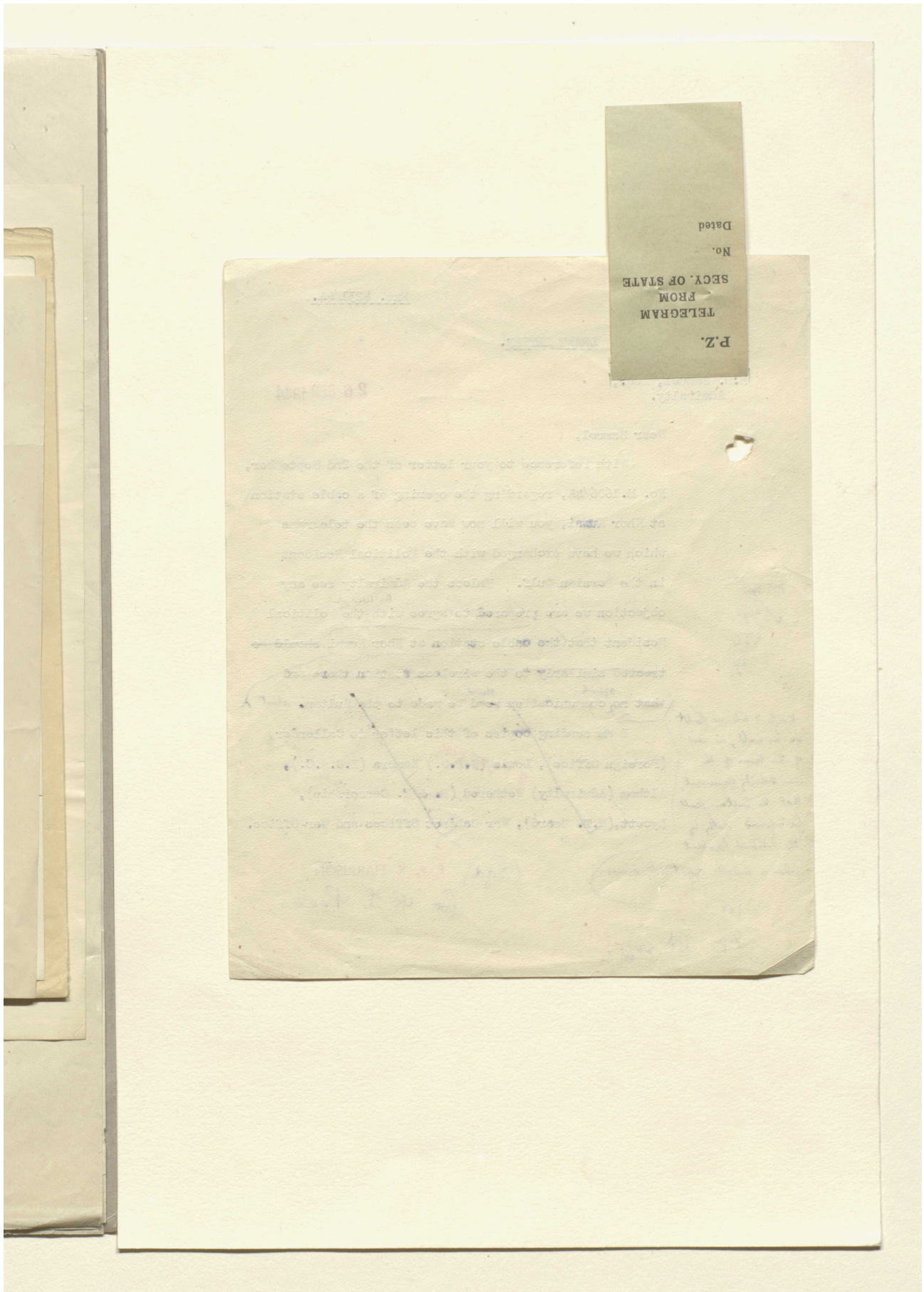
though it will no doubt be as well, in view of the terms of the war subsidy agreement, that the Sultan should be informed orally by the Political Resident when a suitable opportunity occurs.

I am sending copies of this letter to Callender, (Foreign Office), Lewis ¹⁹⁴⁴ (P.O.) Zambra (I.C.A.C.), Altham (Admiralty) Wethered (P. & T. Censorship), Lycett, (W.T. Board), War Cabinet Offices and War Office.

(Sgd) F. A. K. HARRISON
for R. I. Peel.

368
Sip 24/9

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [13v] (26/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [14r] (27/74)

F.O. (Callender)
W.O.
W.C.O.
P.P.O. (Lanis)
I.C.A.S. (Dambra)
Adm. (Atham)
P.T. Sec. (De Rueda)
W.T. Bd. (Lyall)

14
21
9
44

INDEXED

INWARD TELEGRAM
SECRET 32901

EXT 4231

CYPHER TELEGRAM (O.T.P.)
1944

3896
3896

Allocated to External Department

From Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To Secretary of State for India. Adm. (Holmes) 29.9.44

Repeated to Government of India.

Dated Shiraz, 16.30 hours, 20th September, 1944.

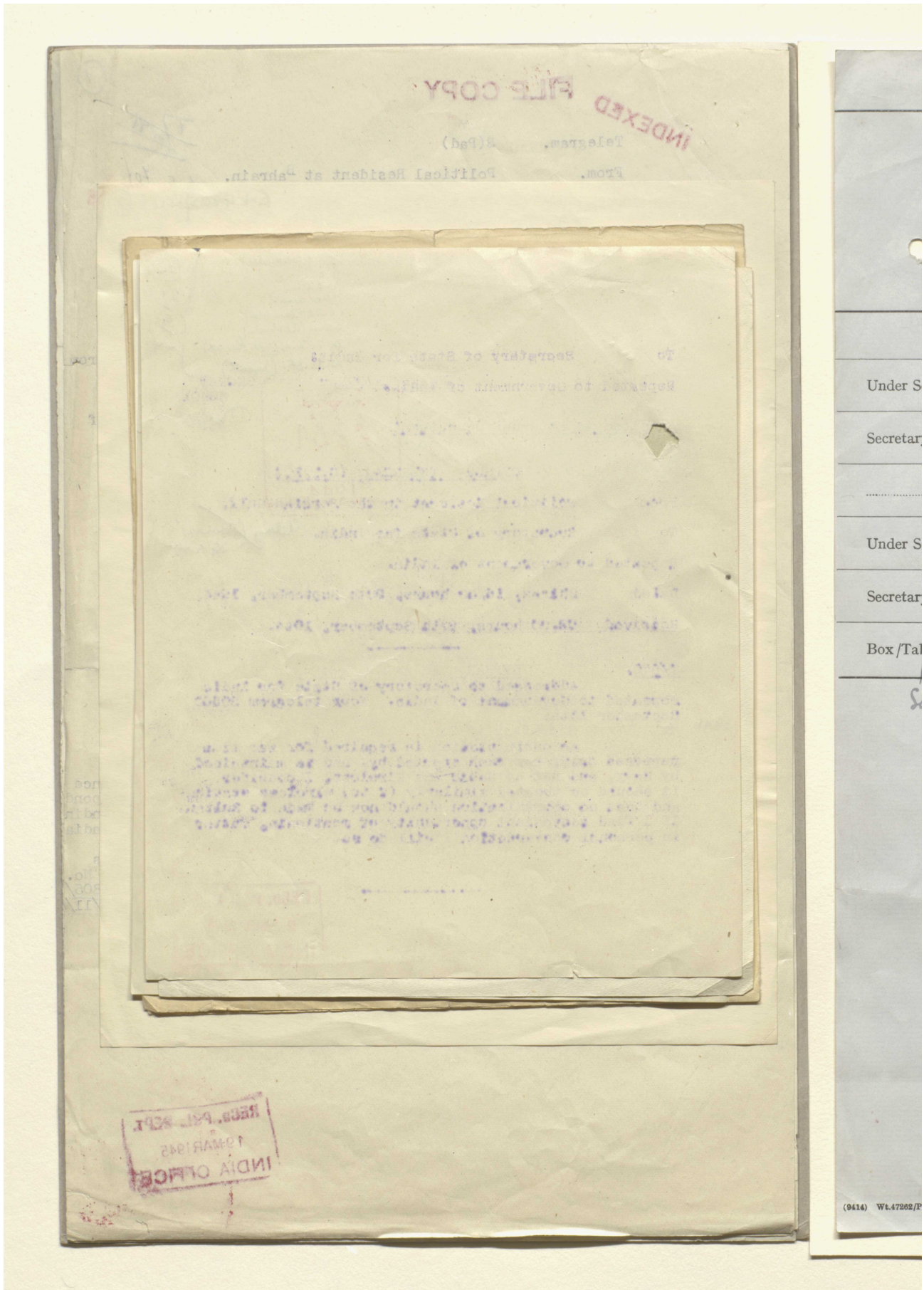
Received 22.00 hours, 20th September, 1944.

T/572. Addressed to Secretary of State for India repeated to Government of India. Your telegram 20560 September 15th.

As cable station is required for war time purposes only, has been erected by, and is maintained by Navy, and not by Cable and Wireless, I consider it should be treated similarly (? to) wireless station and that no communication should now be made to Sultan. If I find convenient opportunity of mentioning matter in personal conversation I will do so.

RECO. POL. DEPT.
21 SEP 1944
INDIA OFFICE

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [14v] (28/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [15r] (29/74)

		EXTERNAL DEPARTMENT Burma Office.	
NOTES FOR REGISTRY.		REGISTER NO. (15)	
<p>B.O. 29/9/44 M.O. 14/9.</p>		<p>EXT. 3896/44</p>	
1944...	Initials.	SUBJECT.	
Under Secretary	14-9	<p>MUSCAT</p> <p>Erection of W/T Station and Cable Station at Khor Kuwait by the Royal Navy.</p> <p>-----</p>	
Secretary of State			
.....Committee			
Under Secretary			
Secretary of State			
Box/Table			
<p>Send OK 14/9</p>			

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwai. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [15v] (30/74)

Please see Political Resident's telegram No.1514 of the 26th June, flagged below.

We have at long last extracted a reply from the Admiralty to our letter of the 11th July in which we asked them to inform us of the circumstances in which the Cable Station came to be opened at Khor Kuwai and reminded them of our agreements with the Sultan of Muscat under which he is entitled to prior information of such facilities. The Admiralty letter makes it clear that with true naval breeziness they have simply gone ahead with this scheme for a Cable Station without informing anybody. They express regret that this occurred owing to the extreme urgency of improving communications in this area for war purposes. The Cable Station and the buildings are required for wartime purposes only, and the Cable Station has been erected and is maintained by the Navy. Cable & Wireless are acting purely as Agents for the Navy.

We must now pass this information on to the Political Resident, and get him to consider what action is to be taken vis-à-vis the Sultan. It is clear that the original 1935 Agreement, under which the Sultan gave permission for the grant of certain naval facilities at Khor Kuwai, does not entitle the Navy to put up Wireless Transmitting or Cable Stations. These facilities must be regarded as special wartime facilities, which the Sultan agreed to provide for us as required in return for a subsidy. He was, however, expressly told that whenever it became necessary to ask for further facilities he would be informed as long as possible in advance of what was required. x The Sultan may, therefore, be justifiably annoyed if he is now told of this Cable Station as a fait accompli. If it were not for the pending negotiations for the purchase of Masirah Island which make it desirable that we should keep the Sultan in a good humour with us, it would probably have been best to inform the Sultan of the Cable Station with apologies for not having done so before; but on looking into the papers to which the Admiralty refer in their letter (Ext.4515/43, flagged on the attached file), I find that in 1943 the Senior Naval Officer did tell the Political Resident that the Navy had put up buildings at Khor Kuwai on a scale considerably larger than that contemplated by the original undertaking with the Sultan, and were also erecting a powerful wireless station. The Senior Naval Officer raised the question whether the Sultan need be informed, and the Political Resident suggested that in view of our wartime agreement with the Sultan, it was unnecessary to inform him of what had been done. I can only suppose that the Political Resident must then have overlooked our undertaking to give the Sultan advance information. That being the case, however, I am inclined to doubt whether the addition of a Cable Station makes any great difference, and I should think that we might continue to leave things as they are, unless the Sultan himself asks any questions.

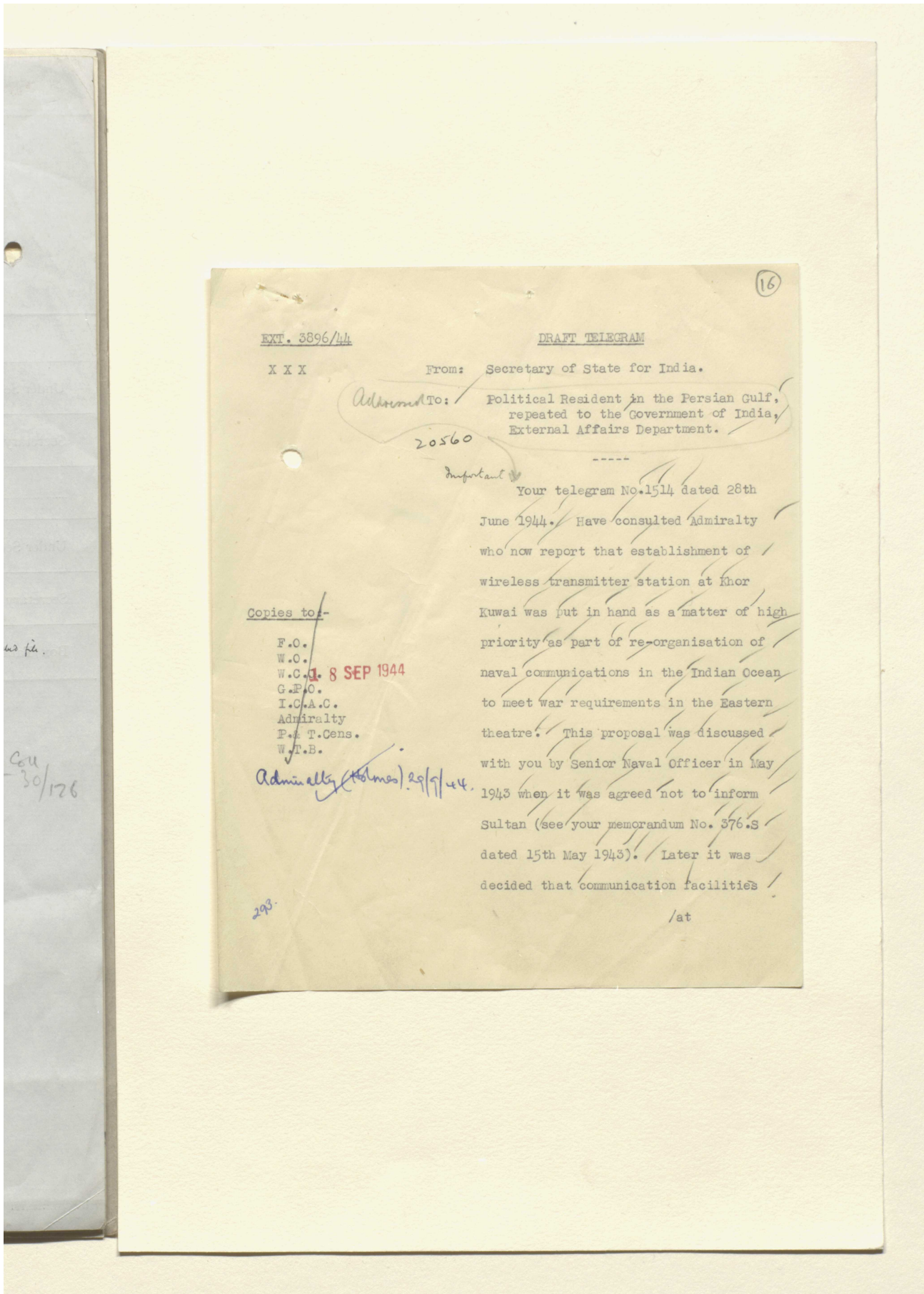
A draft telegram to the Political Resident is submitted.

R. A. C. L.
14/9

x P.2.7144/40
on first attached file.

(4515/43) - Coll 30/126

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [16r] (31/74)



EXT. 3896/44

DRAFT TELEGRAM

X X X

From: Secretary of State for India.

Addressed To: Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
repeated to the Government of India,
External Affairs Department.

20560

Important

Your telegram No. 1514 dated 28th June 1944. Have consulted Admiralty who now report that establishment of wireless transmitter station at Khor Kuwait was put in hand as a matter of high priority as part of re-organisation of naval communications in the Indian Ocean to meet war requirements in the Eastern theatre. This proposal was discussed with you by Senior Naval Officer in May 1943 when it was agreed not to inform Sultan (see your memorandum No. 376.S dated 15th May 1943). Later it was decided that communication facilities

Copies to:-

F.O.
W.O.
W.C. 8 SEP 1944
G.P.O.
I.C.A.C.
Admiralty
P. & T. Cens.
W.T.B.

Admiralty (Holmes) 29/9/44.

293.

/at

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [17r] (33/74)

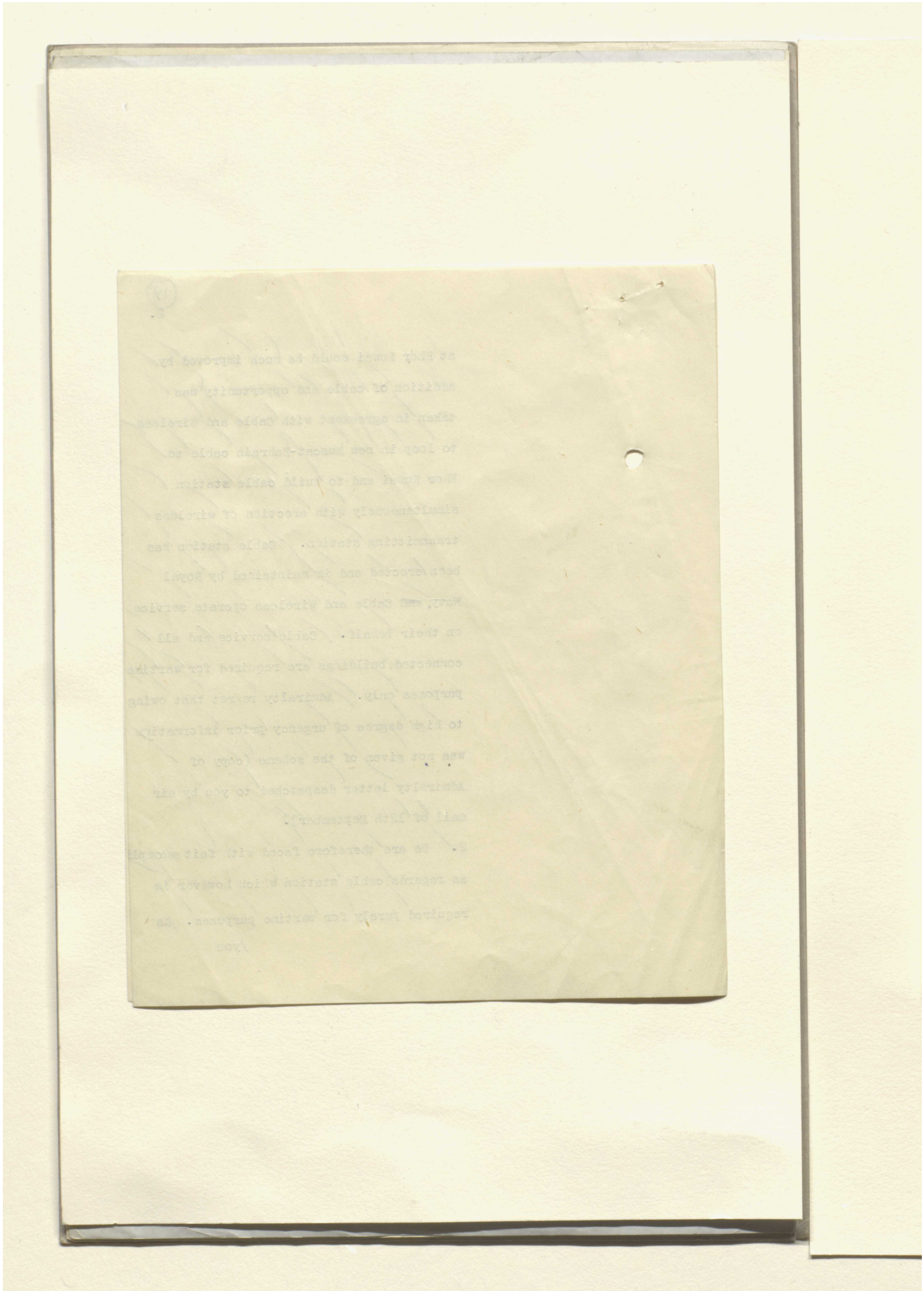
(17)
2.

at Khor Kuwait would be much improved by addition of cable and opportunity was taken in agreement with Cable and Wireless to loop in new Muscat-Bahrain cable to Khor Kuwait and to build cable station simultaneously with erection of wireless transmitting station. Cable station has been erected and is maintained by Royal Navy, and Cable and Wireless operate service on their behalf. Cable service and all connected buildings are required for wartime purposes only. Admiralty regret that owing to high degree of urgency prior information was not given of the scheme (copy of Admiralty letter despatched to you by air mail of 12th September).

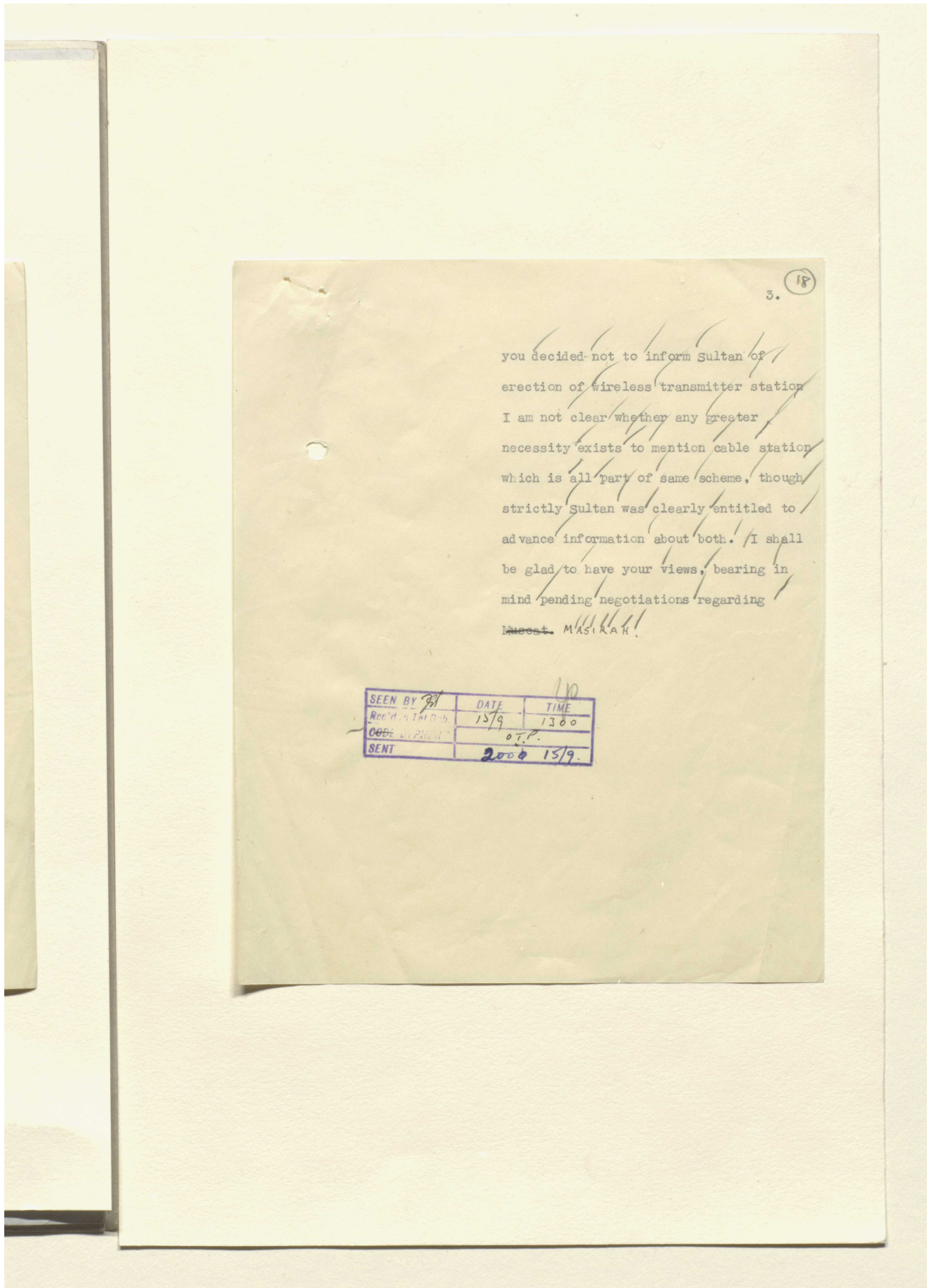
2. We are therefore faced with fait accompli as regards cable station which however is required purely for wartime purposes. As

/you

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [17v] (34/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [18r] (35/74)

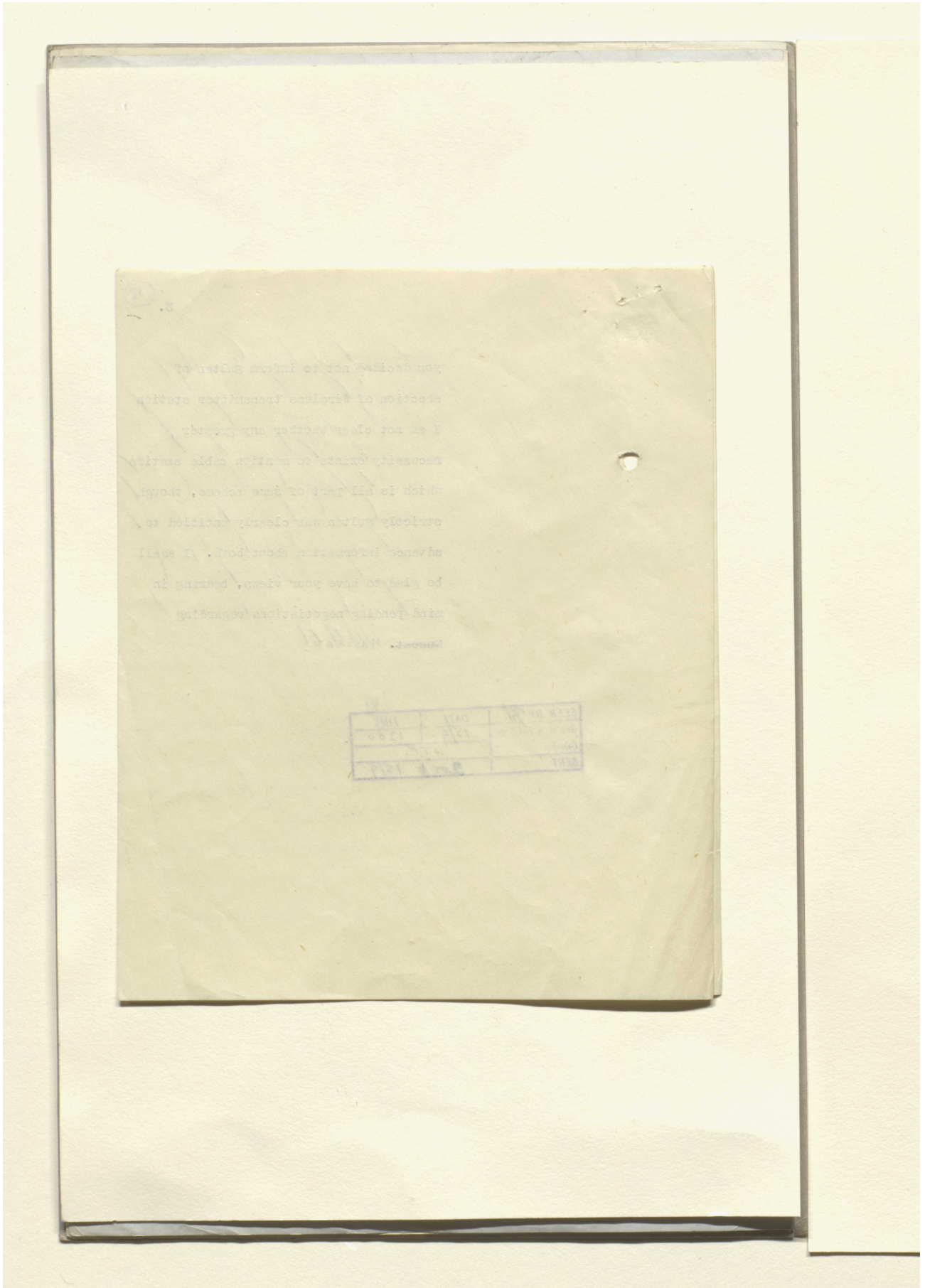


3. (18)

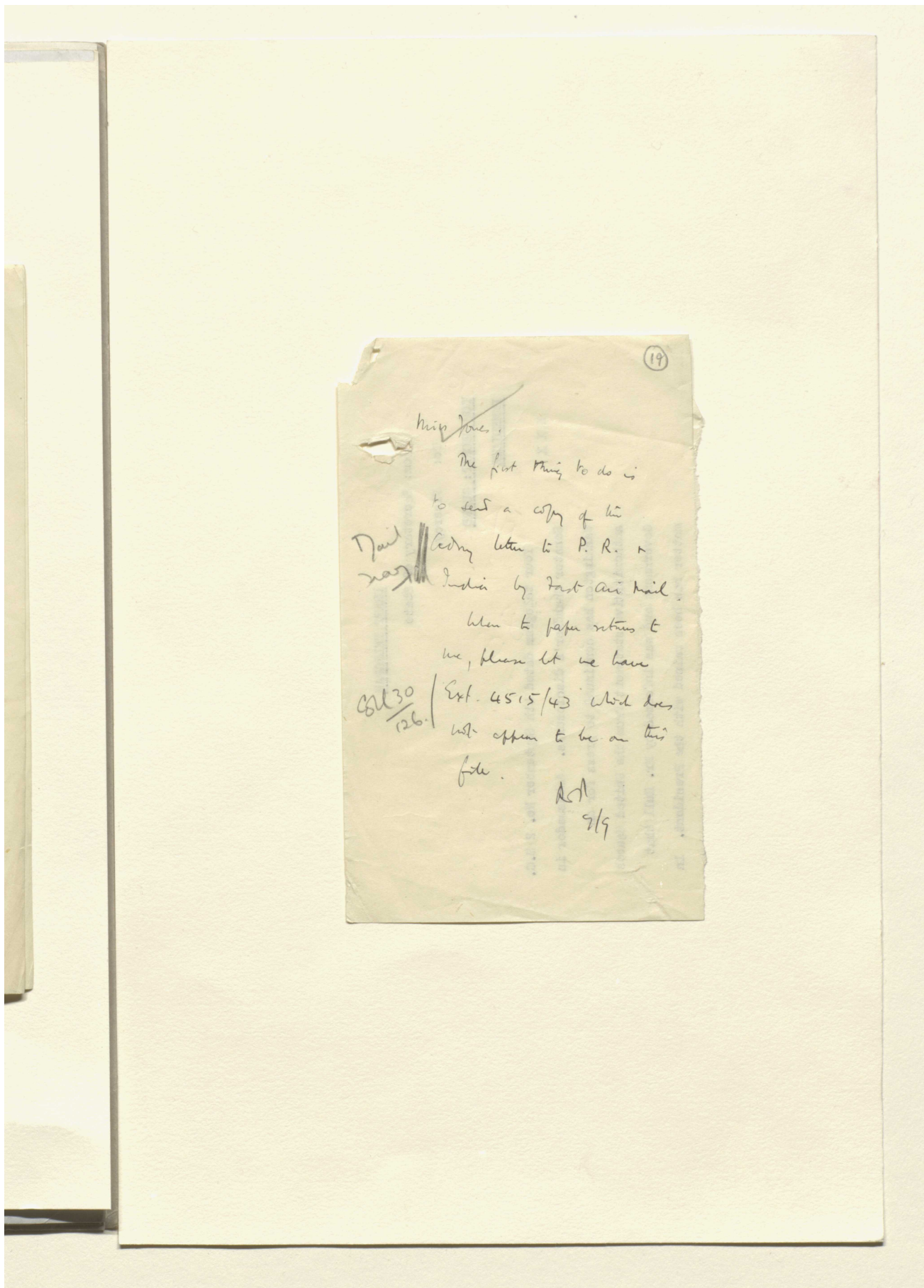
you decided not to inform Sultan of
erection of wireless transmitter station
I am not clear whether any greater
necessity exists to mention cable station
which is all part of same scheme, though
strictly Sultan was clearly entitled to
advance information about both. I shall
be glad to have your views, bearing in
mind pending negotiations regarding
M. ASIRAH.

SEEN BY	DATE	TIME
Rec'd in Tel. Rm.	15/9	1300
COPIES	O.T.P.	
SENT	2008 15/9.	

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [18v] (36/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [19r] (37/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [19v] (38/74)

DRAFT TELEGRAM

From: Secretary of State

To: Viceroy.

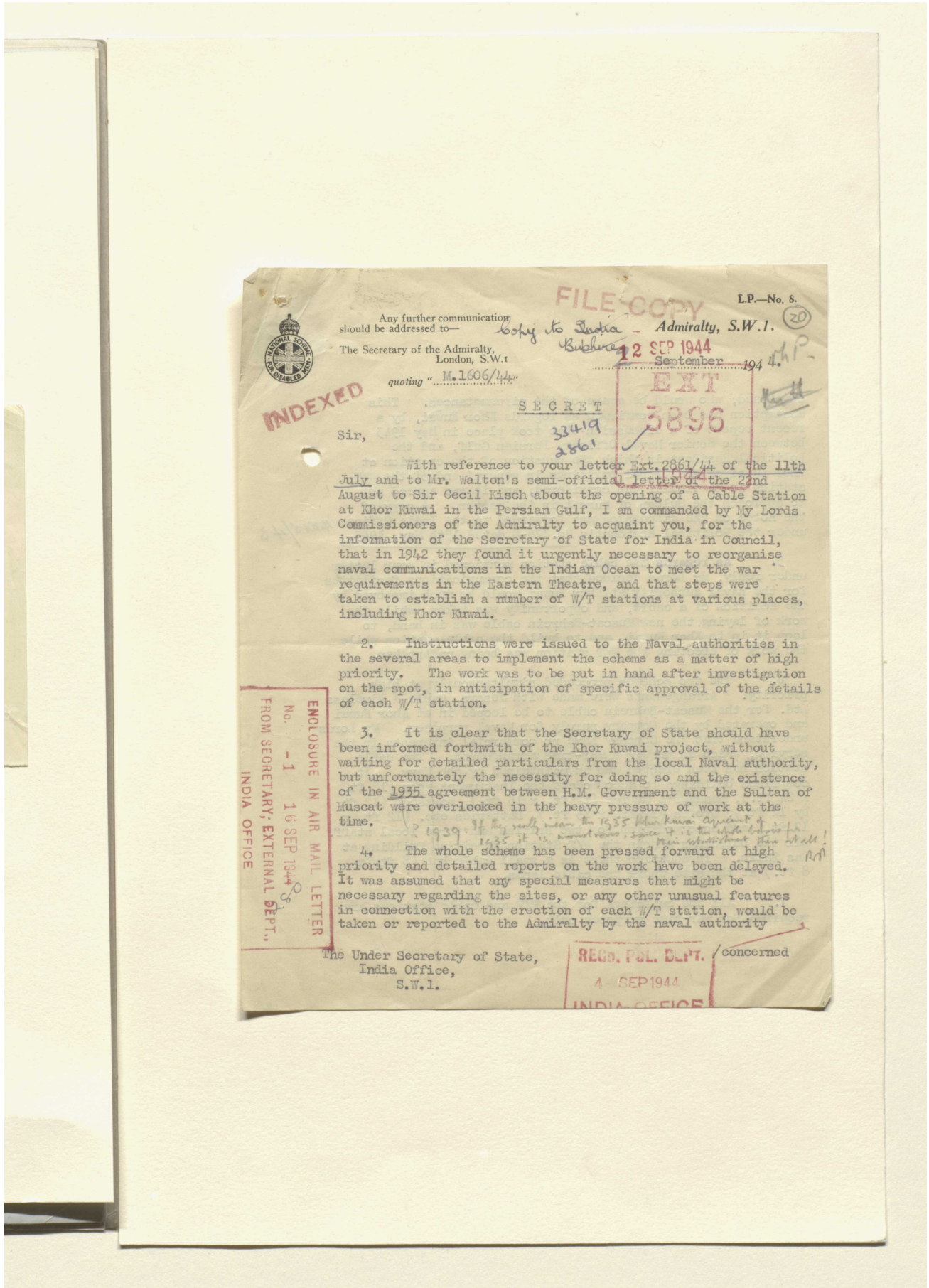
TOP SECRET: GUARD

IMMEDIATE

X X X

Your telegram dated 4th September No. 2 S.C. Senator Chandler's disclosures. Ambassador in Washington has continued to press for an authoritative statement from the United States Government and was informed by Mr. Hull that matter has been raised with the President. In

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [20r] (39/74)



Any further communication should be addressed to—
The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London, S.W.1

FILE COPY

L.P.—No. 8.

Copy to India - Admiralty, S.W.1.

Bubhwa 12 SEP 1944

September 1944

quoting "M.1606/44"

INDEXED

SECRET

EXT

3896

Sir,

With reference to your letter Ext.2861/44 of the 11th August and to Mr. Walton's semi-official letter of the 22nd August to Sir Cecil Kisch about the opening of a Cable Station at Khor Kuwait in the Persian Gulf, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that in 1942 they found it urgently necessary to reorganise naval communications in the Indian Ocean to meet the war requirements in the Eastern Theatre, and that steps were taken to establish a number of W/T stations at various places, including Khor Kuwait.

2. Instructions were issued to the Naval authorities in the several areas to implement the scheme as a matter of high priority. The work was to be put in hand after investigation on the spot, in anticipation of specific approval of the details of each W/T station.

3. It is clear that the Secretary of State should have been informed forthwith of the Khor Kuwait project, without waiting for detailed particulars from the local Naval authority, but unfortunately the necessity for doing so and the existence of the 1935 agreement between H.M. Government and the Sultan of Muscat were overlooked in the heavy pressure of work at the time.

4. The whole scheme has been pressed forward at high priority and detailed reports on the work have been delayed. It was assumed that any special measures that might be necessary regarding the sites, or any other unusual features in connection with the erection of each W/T station, would be taken or reported to the Admiralty by the naval authority

ENCLOSEURE IN AIR MAIL LETTER
 No. -1 16 SEP 1944
 FROM SECRETARY, EXTERNAL SEPT.,
 INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office,
S.W.1.

REGD. POL. DEPT. / concerned
4 SEP 1944
INDIA OFFICE

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [20v] (40/74)

concerned, who would be aware of the circumstances. This assumption has been confirmed as regards Khor Kuwait, by a recent report of a discussion that took place in May 1943 between the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, and the Political Resident in which the question of the erection at Khor Kuwait of additional buildings in general and of the W/T station in particular was considered, and it was agreed not to approach the Sultan of Muscat in the matter. A copy of the notes on the discussion was forwarded to the India Office under the Political Resident's No. 376-S dated 15th May, 1943.

4515/43

5. As regards the cable station mentioned in your letter under reply, My Lords decided that the communications facilities for the naval authority at Khor Kuwait would be much improved by the addition of a cable, and opportunity was taken, while the work of laying the new Muscat-Bahrein cable was in hand, to loop it in to Khor Kuwait, and to build the cable station while the work of erecting the W/T station was being undertaken.

6. The two schemes proceeded simultaneously at high priority. Arrangements were made with Messrs. Cable & Wireless Ltd. for the Muscat-Bahrein cable to be looped in at Khor Kuwait and operated by the Company purely for Naval purposes. My Lords understand that the Company have no commercial interests in the service, which is purely a war-time arrangement. The cable station has been erected and is maintained by the Navy. It comprises buildings to accommodate the Instrument Room (12 ft. x 24 ft.), Manager's Office (12 ft. x 15 ft.), Workshop (12 ft. by 12 ft.), Stores (12 ft. x 15 ft.), Batteries etc. (12 ft. x 12 ft.) and accommodation for two British and three local staff. All the buildings adjoin the W/T Station Receiving Building at Ras Salib. In addition there is a small cable hut (8 ft. x 8 ft.) at the site where the cable lands.

7. All the buildings for the W/T and cable stations are required for war time purposes only.

/8.

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [21r] (41/74)

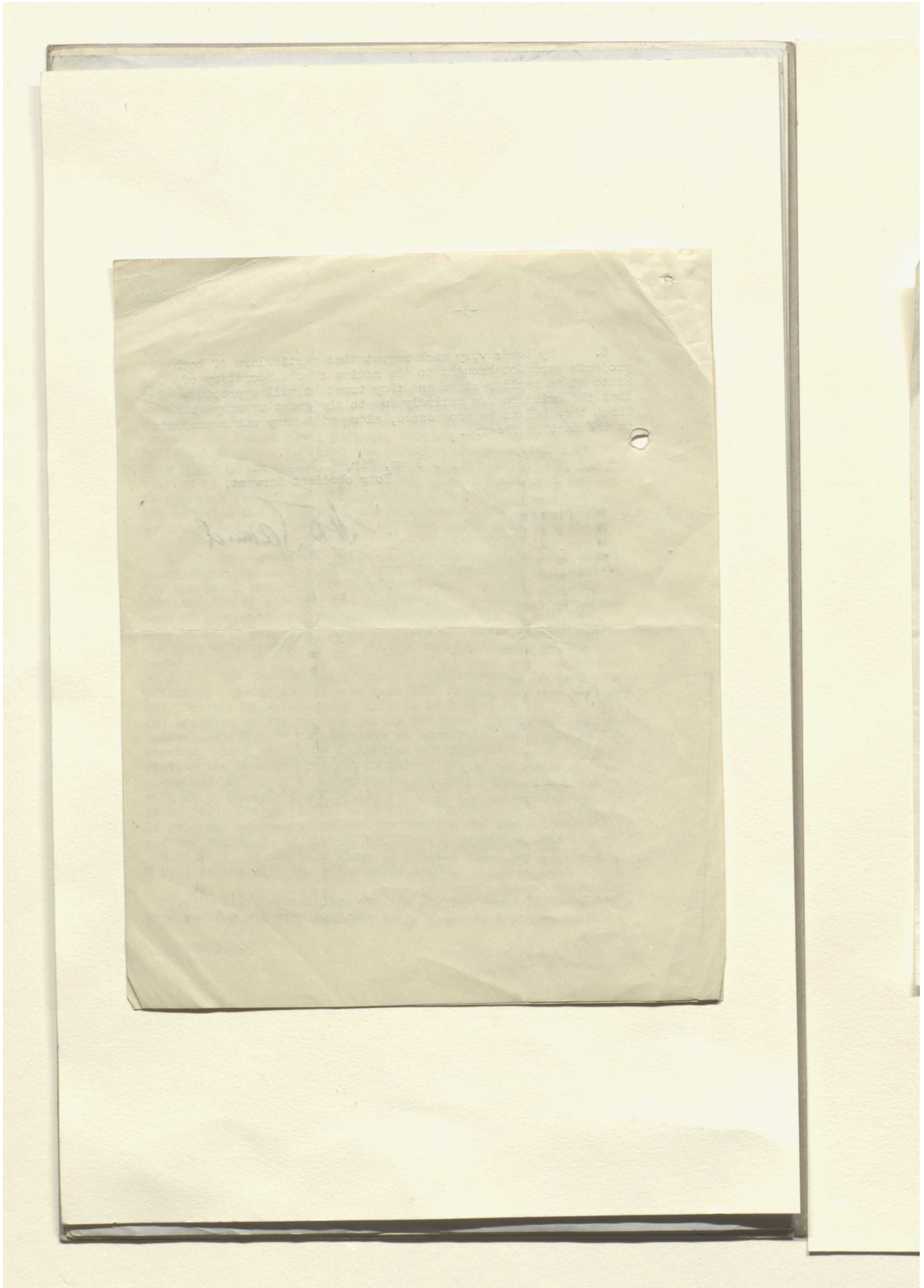
-3-

8. My Lords very much regret that particulars of both projects were not brought to the notice of the Secretary of State at an earlier stage and they trust he will appreciate that the omission was entirely due to the great urgency with which they had to be progressed, along with many other projects in the Eastern Theatre.

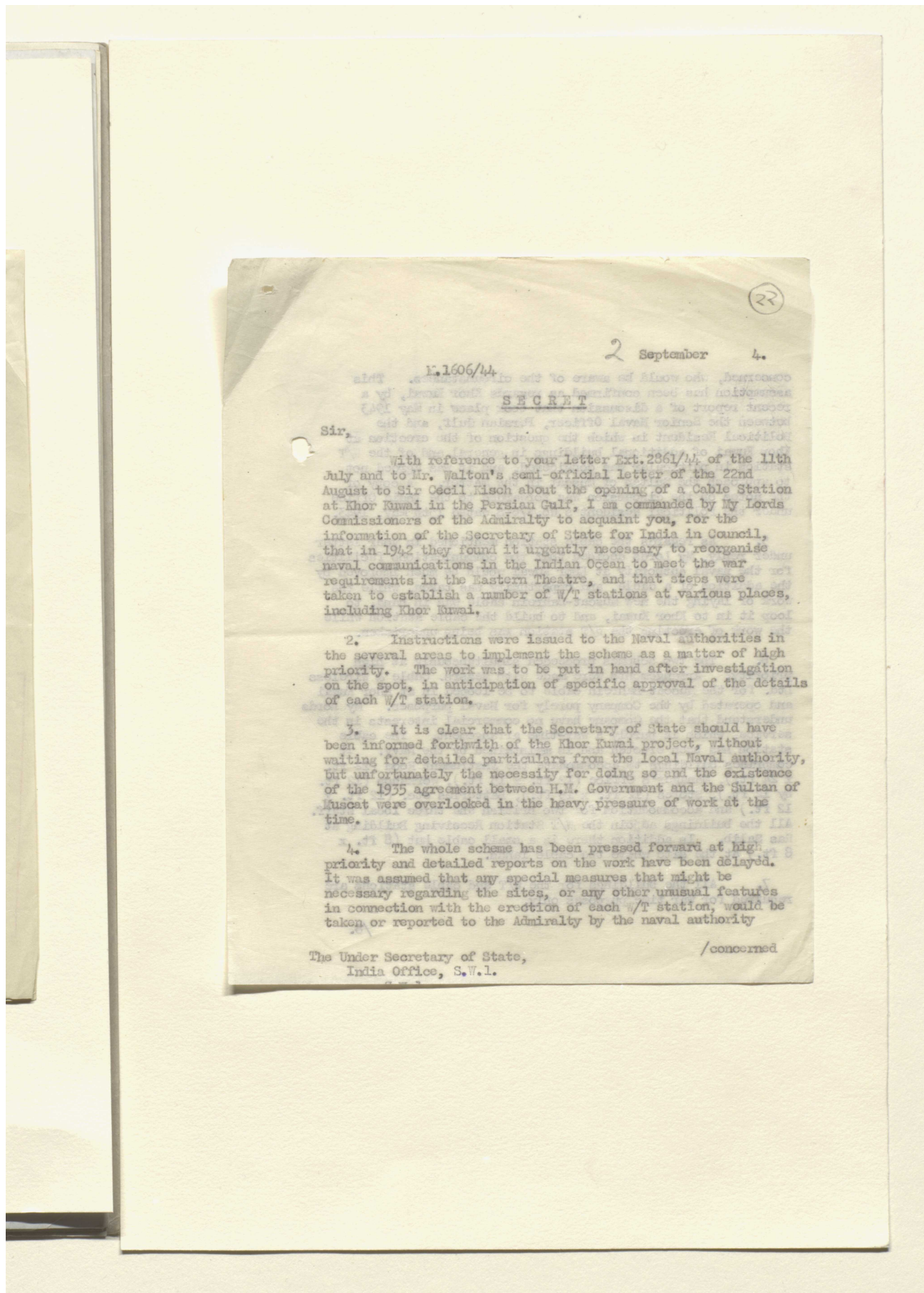
I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

H. D. Jamud

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [21v] (42/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [22r] (43/74)



L.1606/44

2 September 4.

SECRET

Sir,

With reference to your letter Ext.2361/44 of the 11th July and to Mr. Walton's semi-official letter of the 22nd August to Sir Cecil Kisch about the opening of a Cable Station at Khor Kuwait in the Persian Gulf, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that in 1942 they found it urgently necessary to reorganise naval communications in the Indian Ocean to meet the war requirements in the Eastern Theatre, and that steps were taken to establish a number of W/T stations at various places, including Khor Kuwait.

2. Instructions were issued to the Naval authorities in the several areas to implement the scheme as a matter of high priority. The work was to be put in hand after investigation on the spot, in anticipation of specific approval of the details of each W/T station.

3. It is clear that the Secretary of State should have been informed forthwith of the Khor Kuwait project, without waiting for detailed particulars from the local Naval authority, but unfortunately the necessity for doing so and the existence of the 1935 agreement between H.M. Government and the Sultan of Muscat were overlooked in the heavy pressure of work at the time.

4. The whole scheme has been pressed forward at high priority and detailed reports on the work have been delayed. It was assumed that any special measures that might be necessary regarding the sites, or any other unusual features in connection with the erection of each W/T station, would be taken or reported to the Admiralty by the naval authority

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office, S.W.1.

/concerned

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [22v] (44/74)

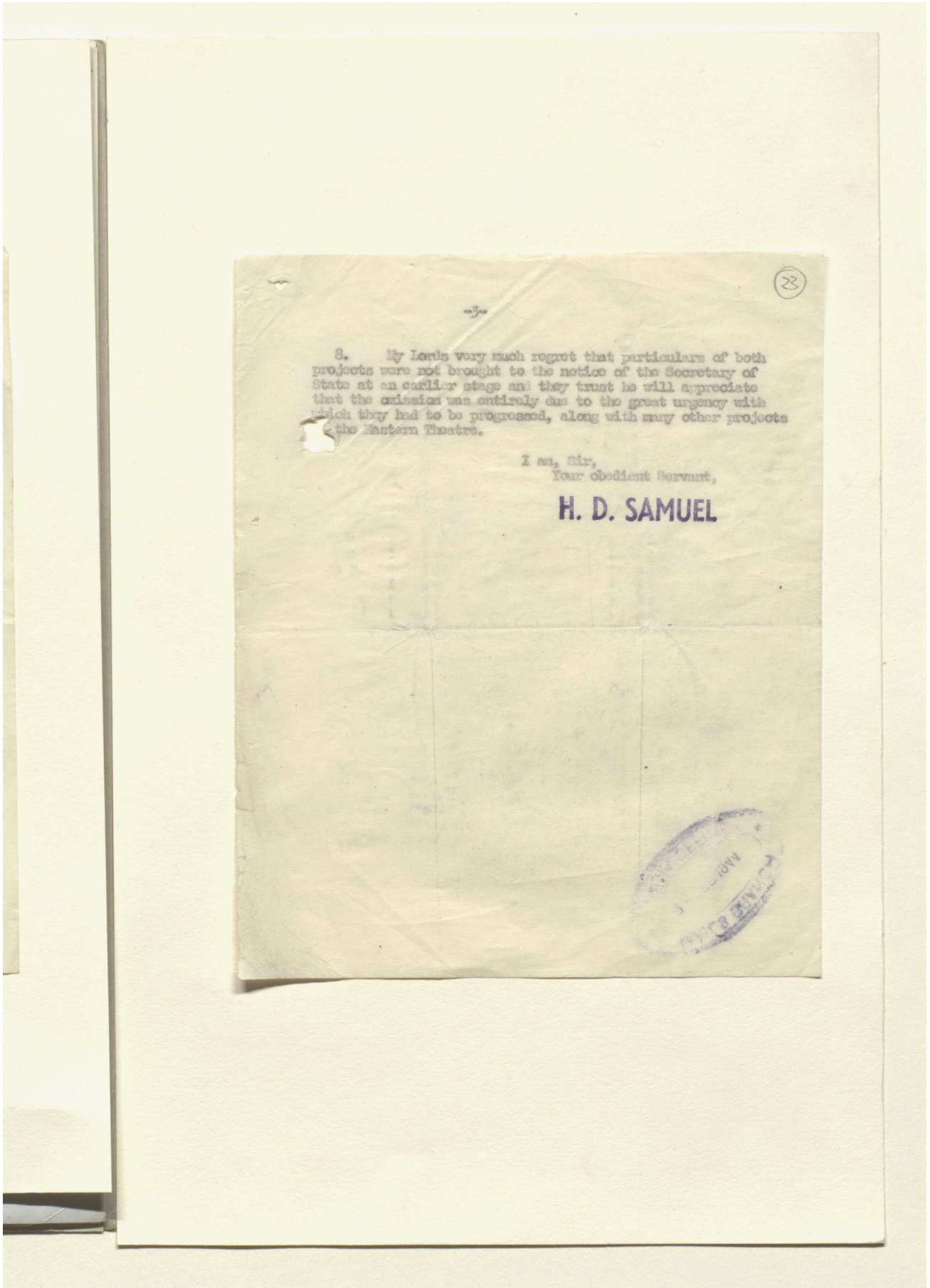
concerned, who would be aware of the circumstances. This assumption has been confirmed as regards Khor Kuwait, by a recent report of a discussion that took place in May 1943 between the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, and the Political Resident in which the question of the erection at Khor Kuwait of additional buildings in general and of the W/T station in particular was considered, and it was agreed not to approach the Sultan of Muscat in the matter. A copy of the notes on the discussion was forwarded to the India Office under the Political Resident's No. 376-S dated 15th May, 1943.

5. As regards the cable station mentioned in your letter under reply, My Lords decided that the communications facilities for the naval authority at Khor Kuwait would be much improved by the addition of a cable, and opportunity was taken, while the work of laying the new Muscat-Bahrain cable was in hand, to loop it in to Khor Kuwait, and to build the cable station while the work of erecting the W/T station was being undertaken.

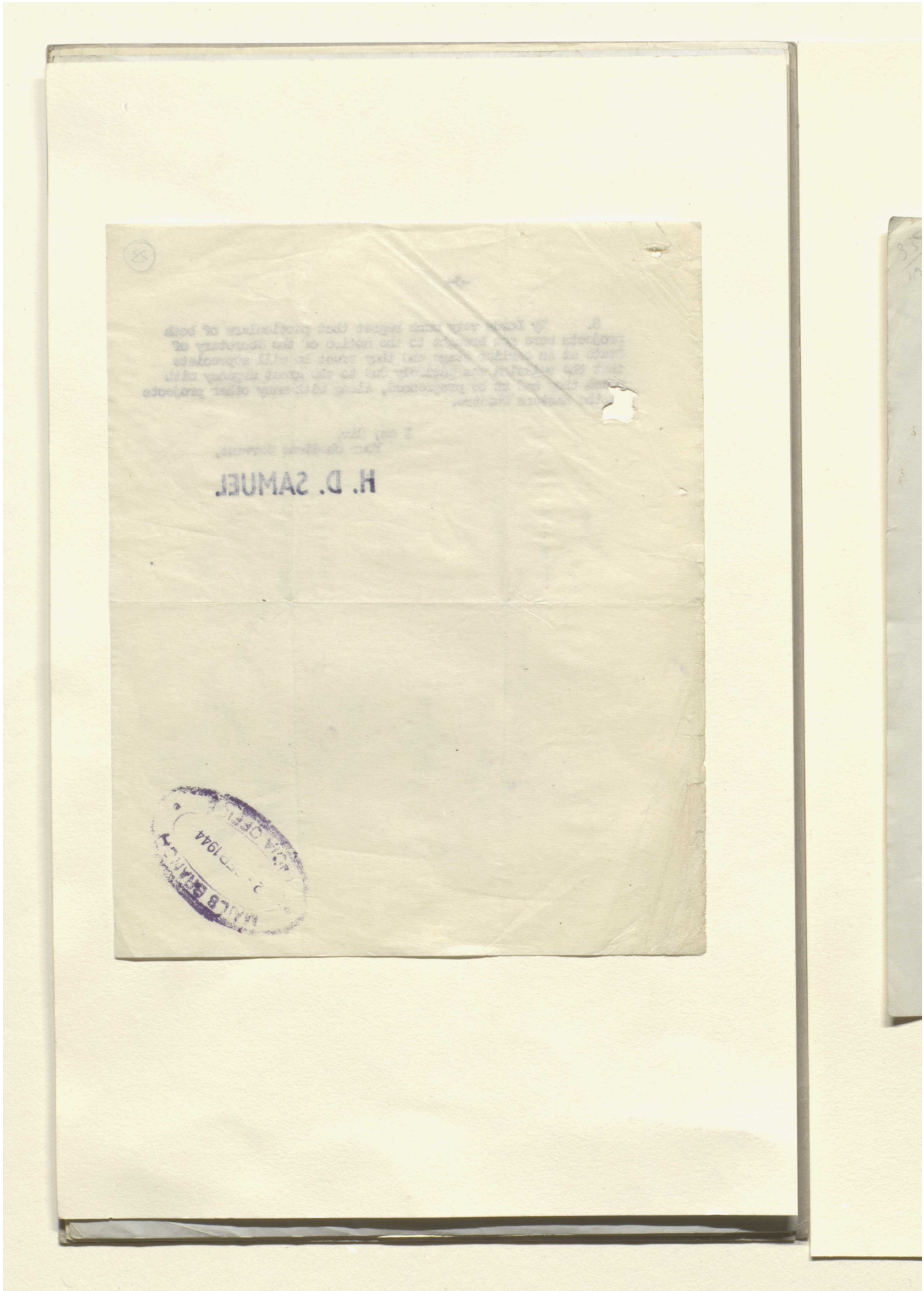
6. The two schemes proceeded simultaneously at high priority. Arrangements were made with Messrs. Cable & Wireless Ltd. for the Muscat-Bahrain cable to be looped in at Khor Kuwait and operated by the Company purely for Naval purposes. My Lords understand that the Company have no commercial interests in the service, which is purely a war-time arrangement. The cable station has been erected and is maintained by the Navy. It comprises buildings to accommodate the Instrument Room (12 ft. x 24 ft.), Manager's Office (12 ft. x 15 ft.), Workshop (12 ft. x 12 ft.), Stores (12 ft. x 15 ft.), Batteries etc. (12 ft. x 12 ft.) and accommodation for two British and three local staff. All the buildings adjoin the W/T Station Receiving Building at Ras Salib. In addition there is a small cable hut (8 ft. x 8 ft.) at the site where the cable lands.

7. All the buildings for the W/T and cable stations are required for war time purposes only.

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [23r] (45/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [23v] (46/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [24r] (47/74)

35
105
M.1606/44
with pp
Mr H. I suppose we had better wait for
the info furnished in para 2
before we say anything to P.A.
23/8
24
22nd August 1944.

Dear Kisch,

You wrote on August 18th to Barnes, asking for a very early reply to your official letter (Ext. 2861/44) of 11th July about the opening of a Cable Station at Khor Kuwait in the Persian Gulf. I am sorry that the urgency of this matter was not appreciated. It certainly does appear that we must plead guilty of having failed to keep you informed of our plans for Khor Kuwait.

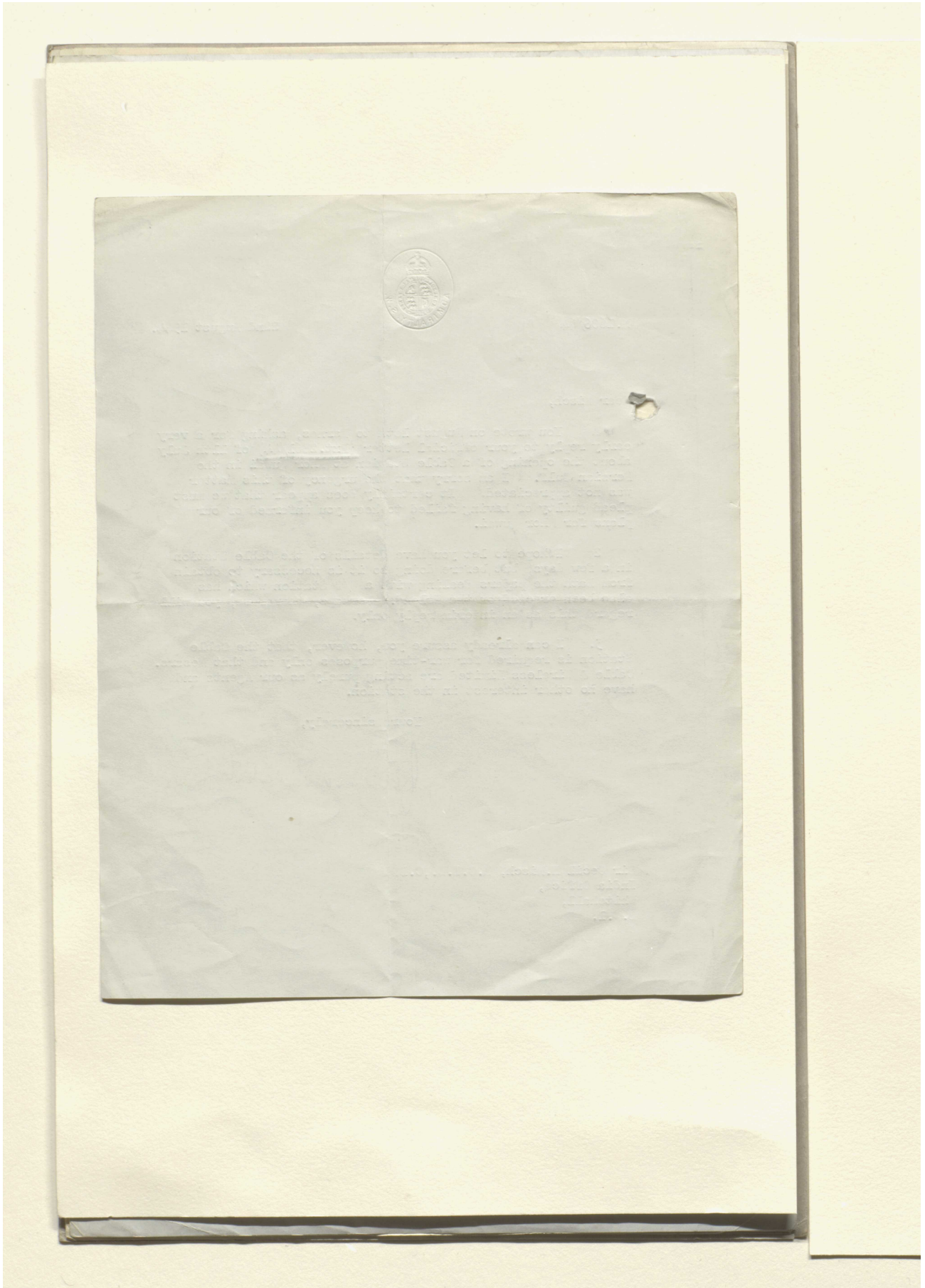
2. I hope to let you have details of the Cable Station in a few days, but before doing so it is necessary to obtain from Bath the papers dealing with a W/T Station which has also been erected on the Island. Perhaps, therefore, you will regard this as an interim reply only.

3. I can already assure you, however, that the Cable Station is required for war-time purposes only and that Messrs. Cable & Wireless Limited are acting purely as our Agents and have no other interest in the station.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Butler

Sir Cecil H. Kisch, K.C.I.E., C.B.,
India Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [24v] (48/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [25r] (49/74)

18th August, 1944.

Sir Barnes,

This Office wrote to the Admiralty on 11th July (our reference No. is Hct. 2861/44) asking for information as to the circumstances of the opening of a Cable Station at Khor Qumai in the Persian Gulf, where the Navy maintain an establishment by agreement with the Sultan of Muscat, to whom the territory in question belongs.

The Political Resident had told us that this Station had been opened without giving him any intimation and so enabling him to give the Sultan prior notice, as should properly have been done. The Sultan, as you know, is an independent Ruler and we have to walk warily in our relations with him. Moreover, we are at the moment contemplating negotiations with him for the purchase or lease of Masirah Island as a permanent R.A.F. base.

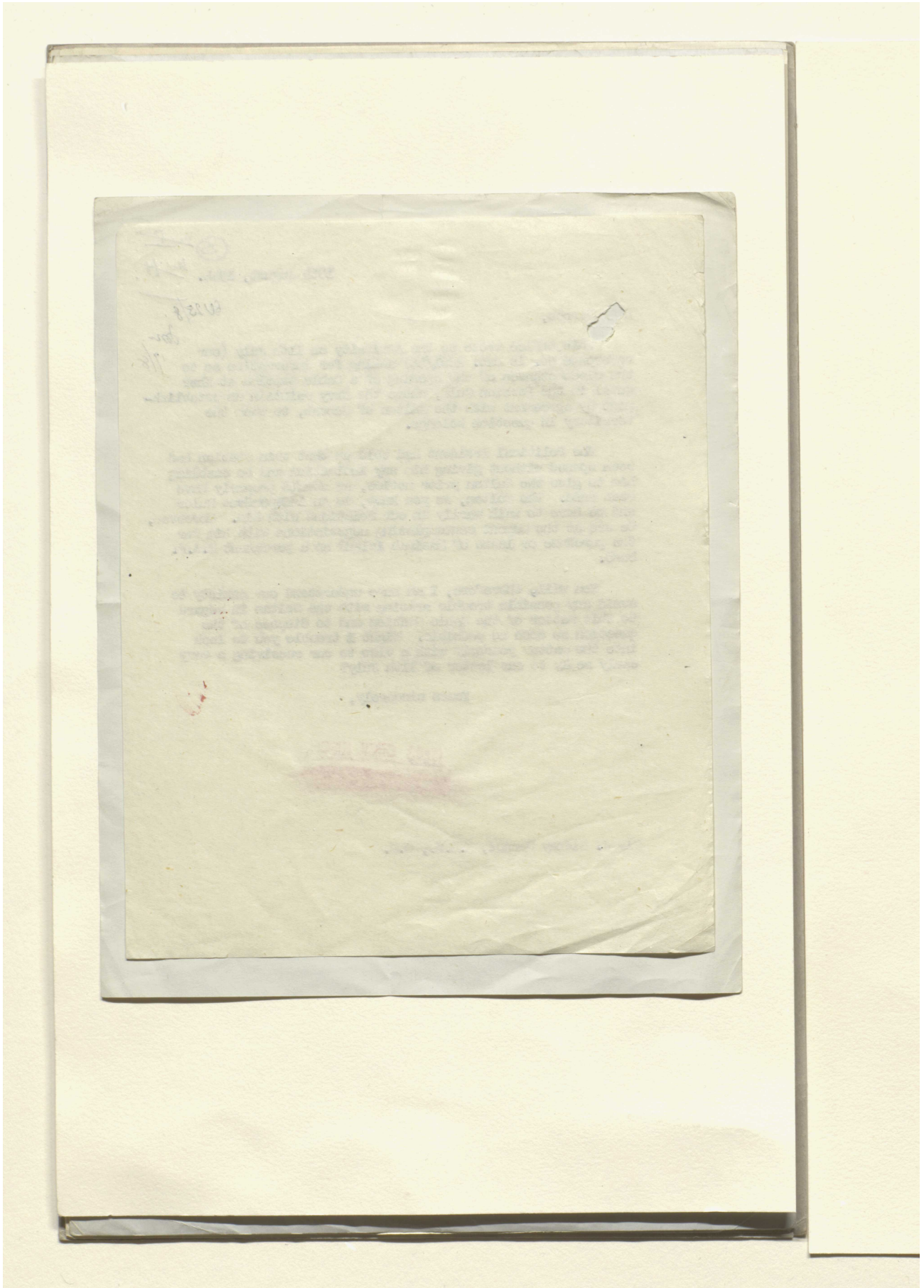
You will, therefore, I am sure understand our anxiety to avoid any possible trouble arising with the Sultan in regard to this matter of the Cable Station and to dispose of the question as soon as possible. Might I trouble you to look into the matter yourself with a view to our receiving a very early reply to our letter of 11th July?

Yours sincerely,

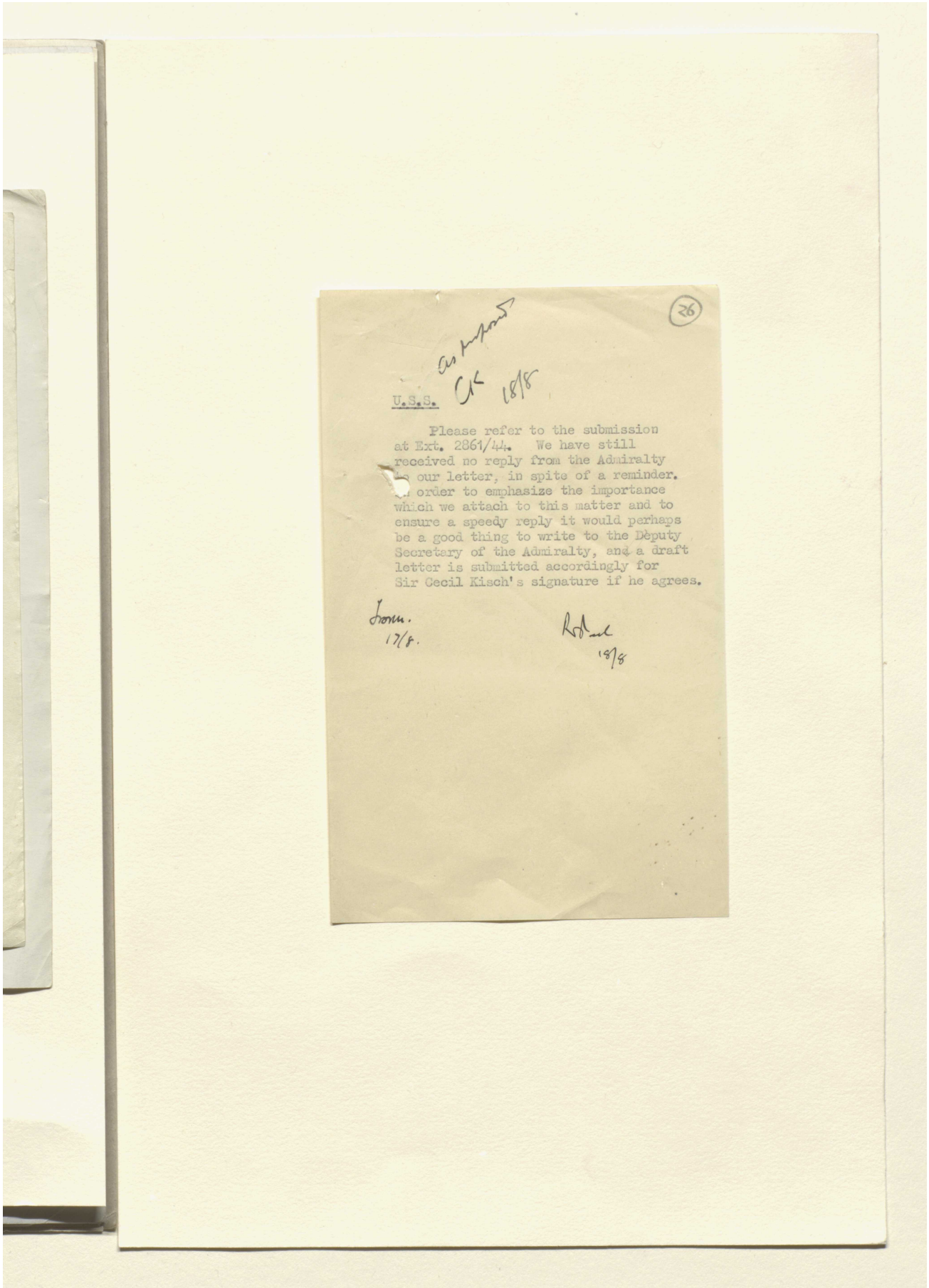
(Sd) CECIL KISCH,

Sir J. Sidney Barnes, K.C.B., C.B.

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [25v] (50/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [26r] (51/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [26v] (52/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [27r] (53/74)

(27)

DRAFT LETTER

Sir J. Sidney Barnes, K.B.E., C.B.,
Admiralty,
Whitehall, S.W. 1.

Dear Barnes,

This Office wrote to the Admiralty on 11th July
(our reference No. is Ext. 2861/44) asking for information
as to the circumstances of the opening of a Cable
Station at Khor Kuwait in the Persian Gulf, where the
Navy maintain an establishment by agreement with the
Sultan of Muscat, to whom the territory in question
belongs.

The Political Resident had told us that this
Station ~~was~~ ^{had been} opened without giving him any intimation and
so enabling him to give the Sultan prior notice as
should properly have been done. The Sultan, as you
know, is an independent Ruler and we have to walk
warily in our relations with him. Moreover we are at
the moment contemplating negotiations with him for the
purchase/

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [27v] (54/74)

purchase or lease of Masirah Island ^{as a permanent RAF base.} on behalf of the Air Ministry.

You will, therefore, I am sure understand our anxiety to avoid any possible trouble arising with the Sultan in regard to this matter of the Cable Station and to dispose of the question as soon as possible. ^{might} ~~would~~ ^{I think you} you be so good as to look into the matter yourself with a view to our receiving a very early reply to our letter of 11th July?

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [28r] (55/74)

35
15-11-44

INDEXED

2861
2704

FILE COPY

F.O. (Cable)
W.O.
W.C.O.
C.P.O. (Leeds)
I.C.A.C. (Zomba)

(28)
31
1
44

Adm. (Atham)
W.T.B.
M.H.

INWARD TELEGRAM 3419

SECRET 26289

Allotted to External Department.

CYPHER TELEGRAM (C.T.P.)

From Government of India, External Affairs Department.

To Secretary of State for India.

Repeated to Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Dated New Delhi, 12.30 hours, 29th July, 1944.

Received 16.45 hours, 29th July, 1944.

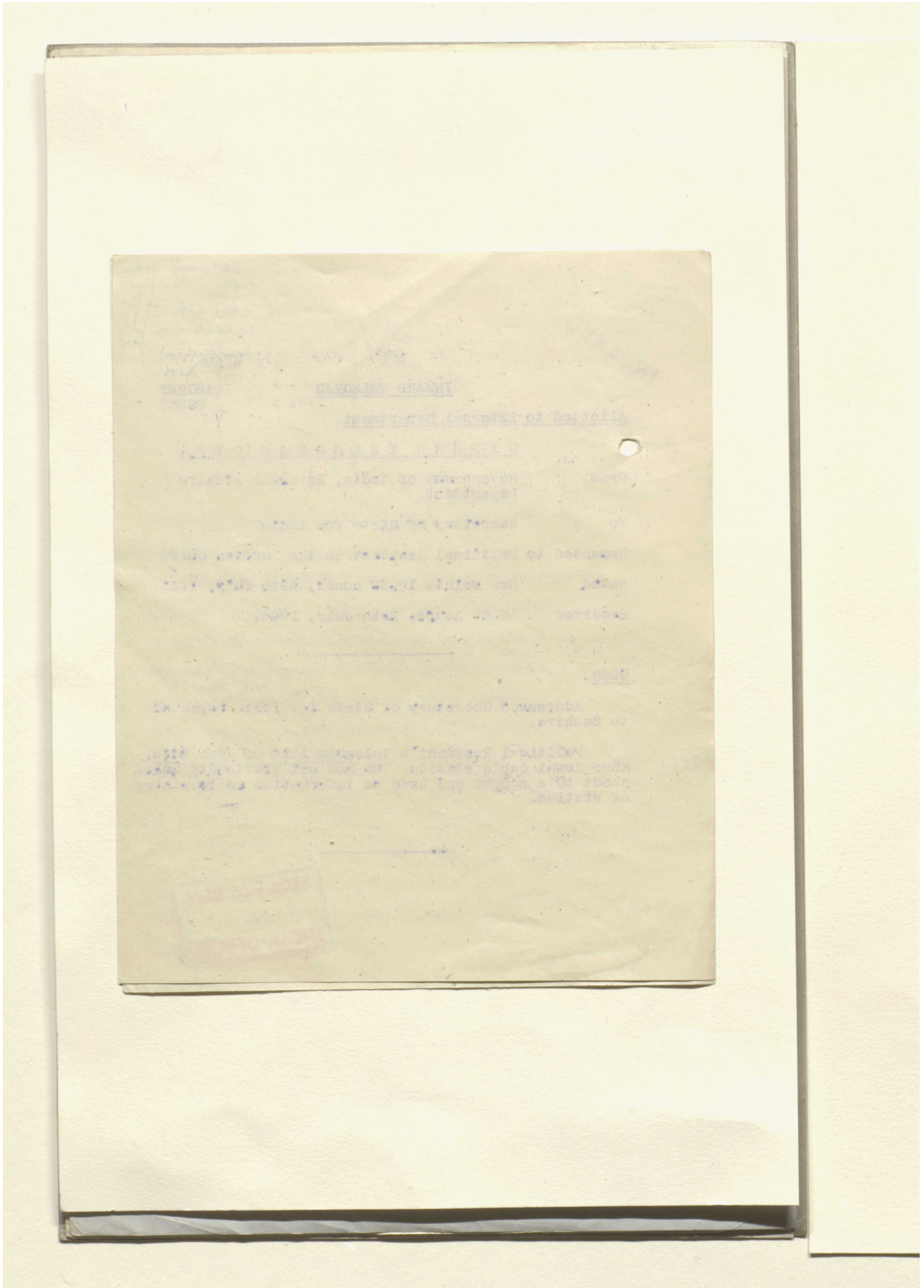
9928.

Addressed Secretary of State for India repeated to Bushire.

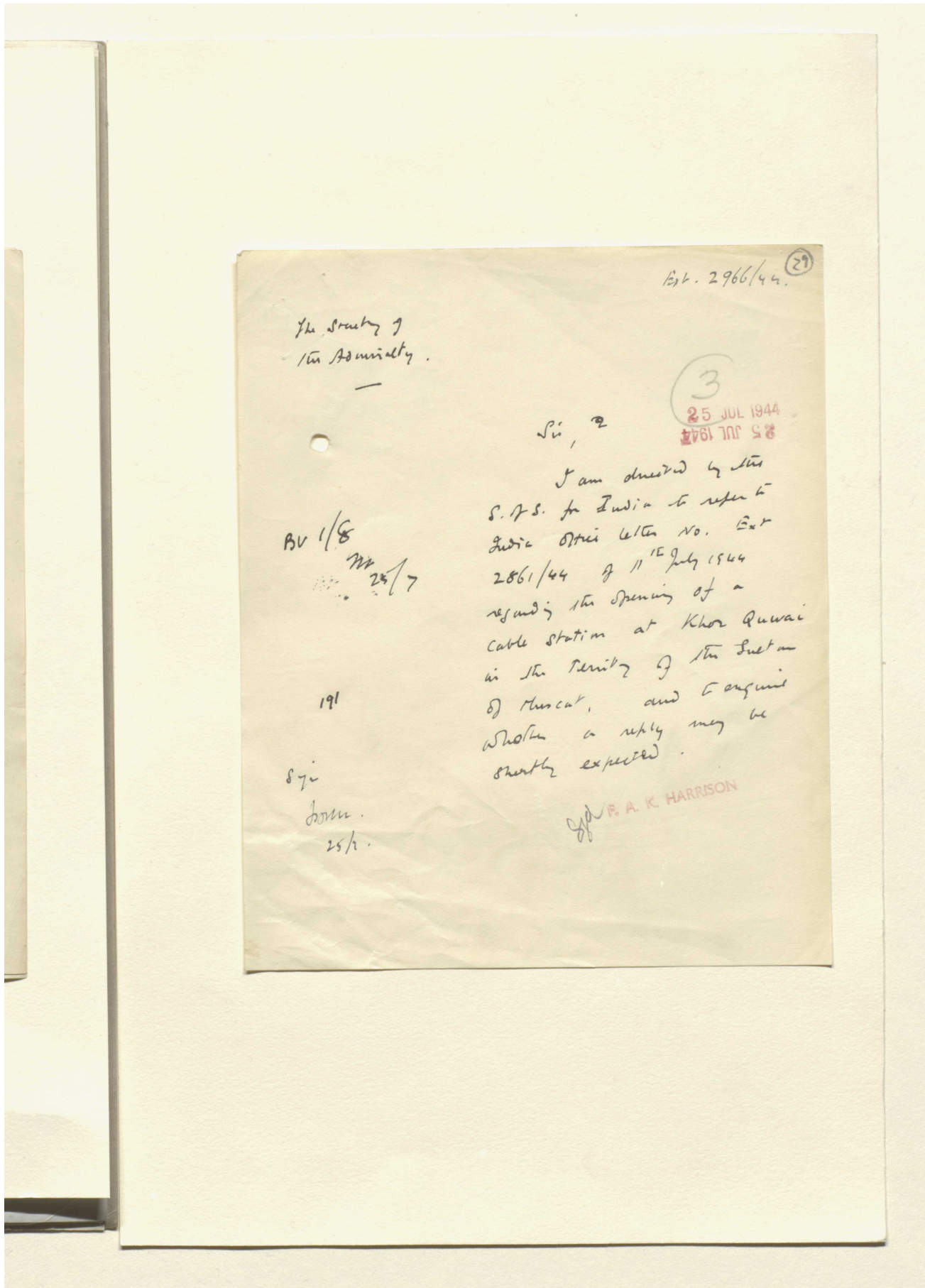
2861 Political Resident's telegram 1514 of June 28th. Khor Kuwait cable station. We had not previously heard about this scheme and have no information as to status of station.

RECD. POL. DEPT.
31 JUL 1944
INDIA OFFICE

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [28v] (56/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [29r] (57/74)



Est. 2966/44. (29)

The Secretary of
the Admiralty.

Sir,

3
25 JUL 1944
25 JUL 1944

BV 1/8
Mr
25/7

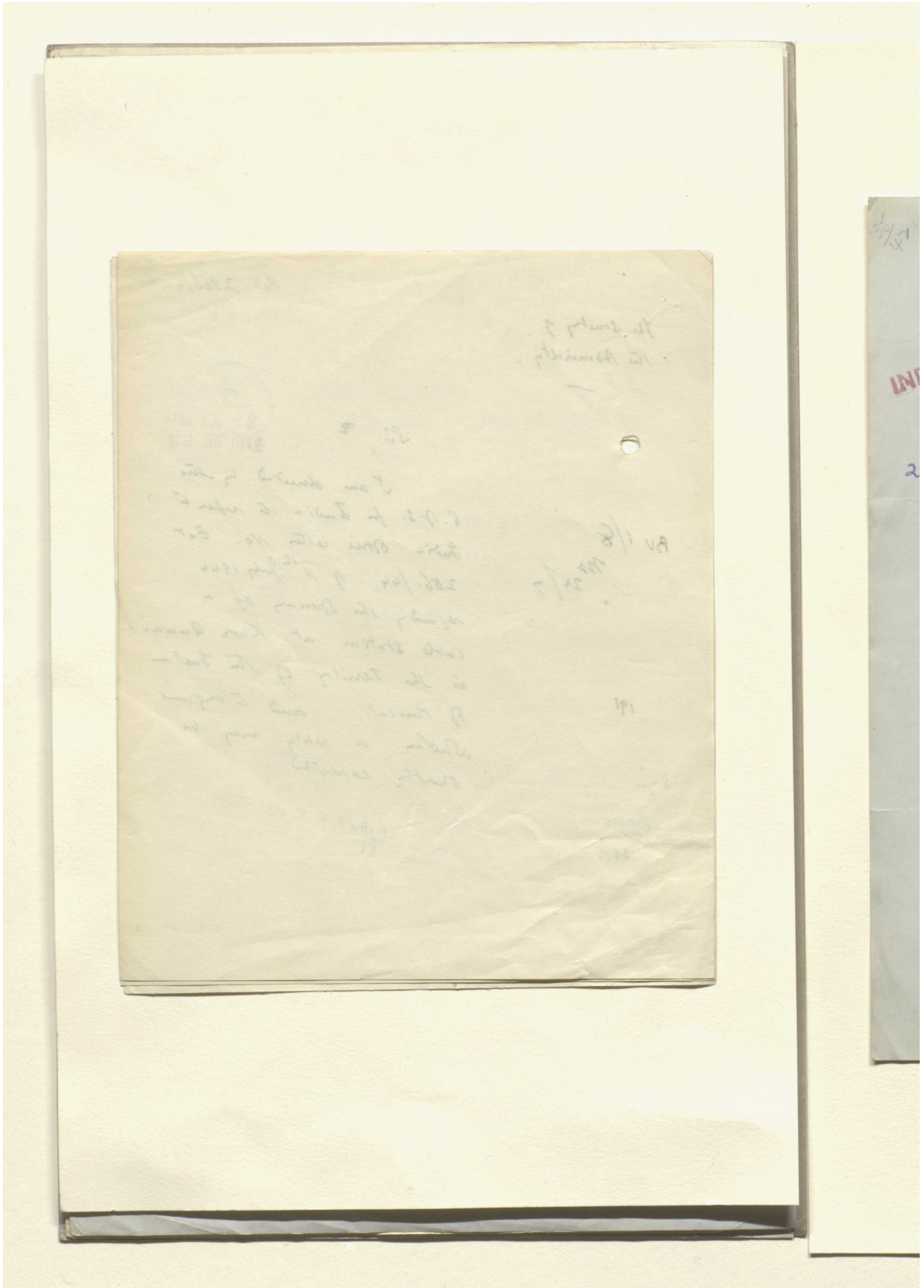
I am directed by the
S. F. S. for India to refer to
India Office letter No. Est
2861/44 of 11th July 1944
regarding the opening of a
cable station at Khor Kuwait
in the Sultanate of the Sultan
of Muscat, and to enquire
whether a reply may be
shortly expected.

191

Sr
down.
25/7.

F. A. K. HARRISON

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [29v] (58/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [30r] (59/74)

59/74

FILE COPY

COMMONWEALTH COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

HALIFAX HOUSE, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

ELECTRA HOUSE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, LONDON, W.C.2.

TEMPLE BAR 9468.

INDEXED SECRET

2861

2704

EL 5th July, 1944.

2966

Met. BV 18/7 Jm 11/7

Dear Peel,

Thank you for sending ~~me a~~ copy of telegram No. 1514 dated the 28th June from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf about the cable station which is reported to have been established by Cable and Wireless Limited at Khor Kuwait.

The Signals Division at the Admiralty (Lt. Cdr. Lacey) informed me that this station has been established by the Company at the request of the Admiralty.

The matter was not referred to us in advance by the Admiralty and I have therefore asked them to explain the matter fully to you.

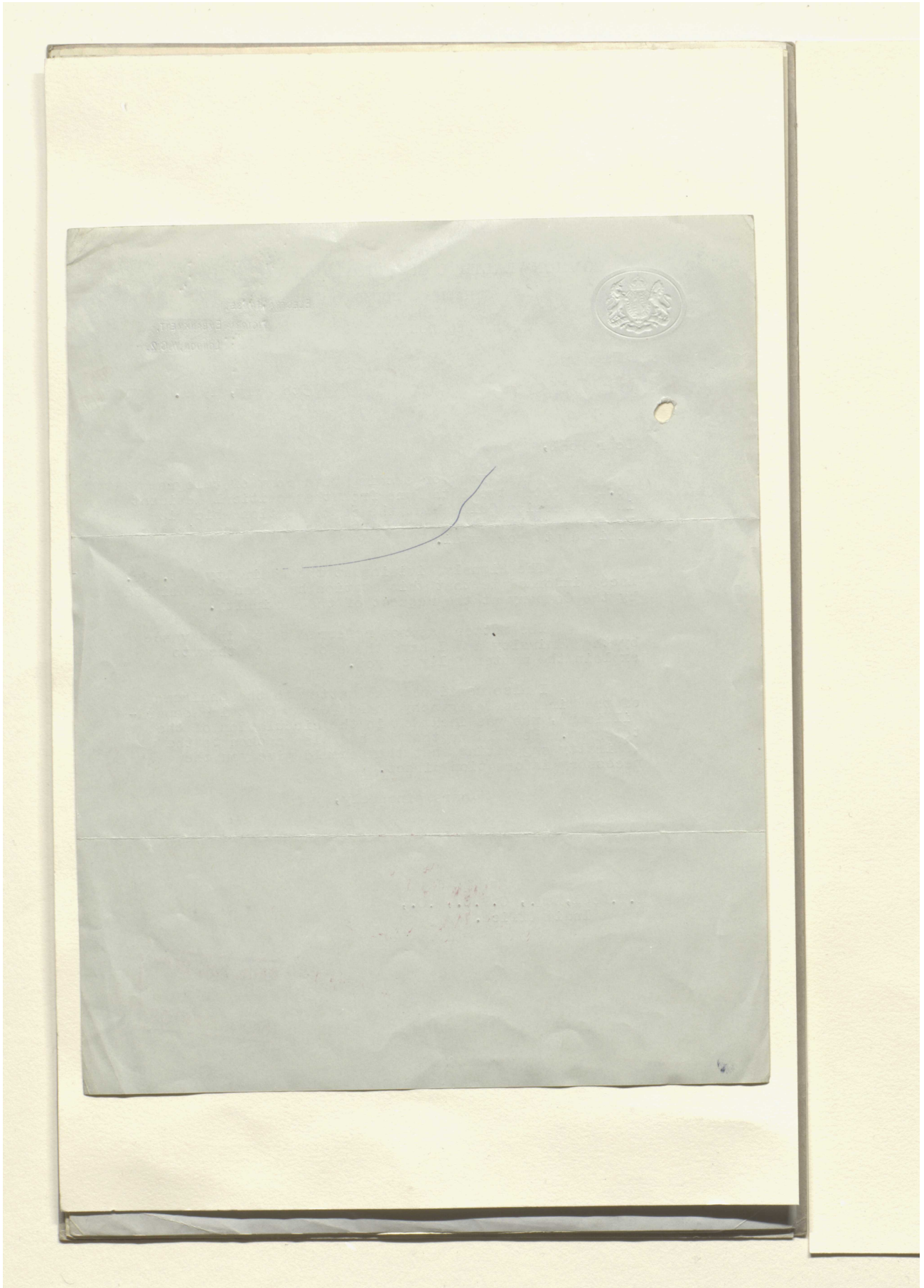
I also mentioned the matter to the Chairman of the Wireless Telegraphy Board (Group Captain Leonard-Williams), who was included in the circulation of the telegram. He told me that he had also spoken to the Admiralty suggesting that they should give you the necessary information direct.

Yours sincerely,

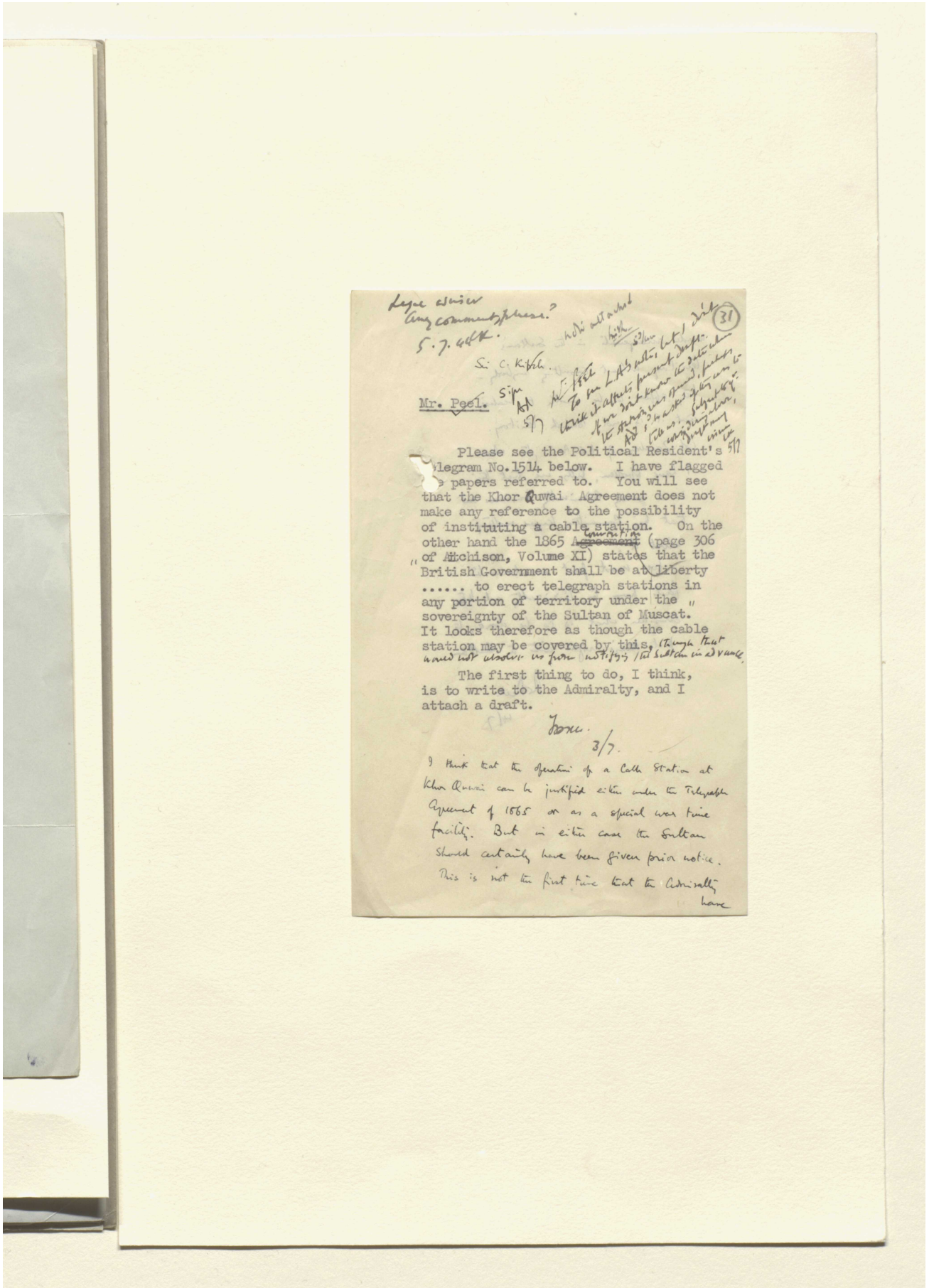
W. W. Shaw-Zambon

R. T. Peel, Esq., C. B. E., M. C.,
India Office.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.
INDIA OFFICE



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [31r] (61/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [31v] (62/74)

made arrangements in the Sultan's
territory without consulting anybody -
they appear to be unable to realize
that it is not British territory.
Col. Zambon of I.C.A.C., to whom
I have spoken, tells me that the
issue is purely Admiralty business and
that his Committee know nothing
about it.
We must first ascertain the
facts from the Admiralty and then
consider what is to be done, to
put things right with the Sultan.
R. D. Rice
4/7

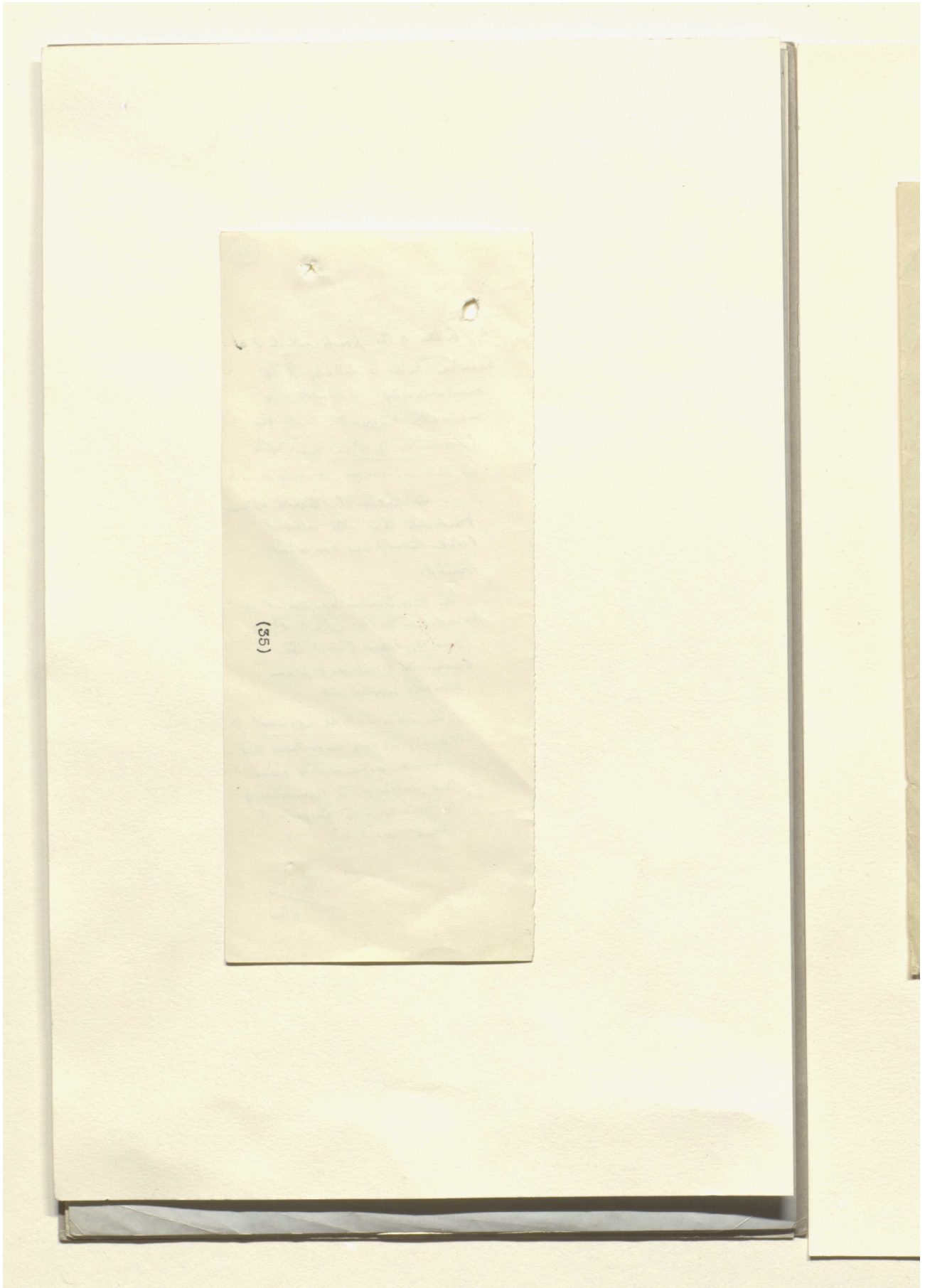
32

of either of the points which I
mention below is likely to be
embarrassing, I should be
inclined to suggest that the
Convention of 1915 would be
the best instrument to rely on —
though the preamble thereto appears
to indicate that the intended
scope thereof was somewhat
limited.

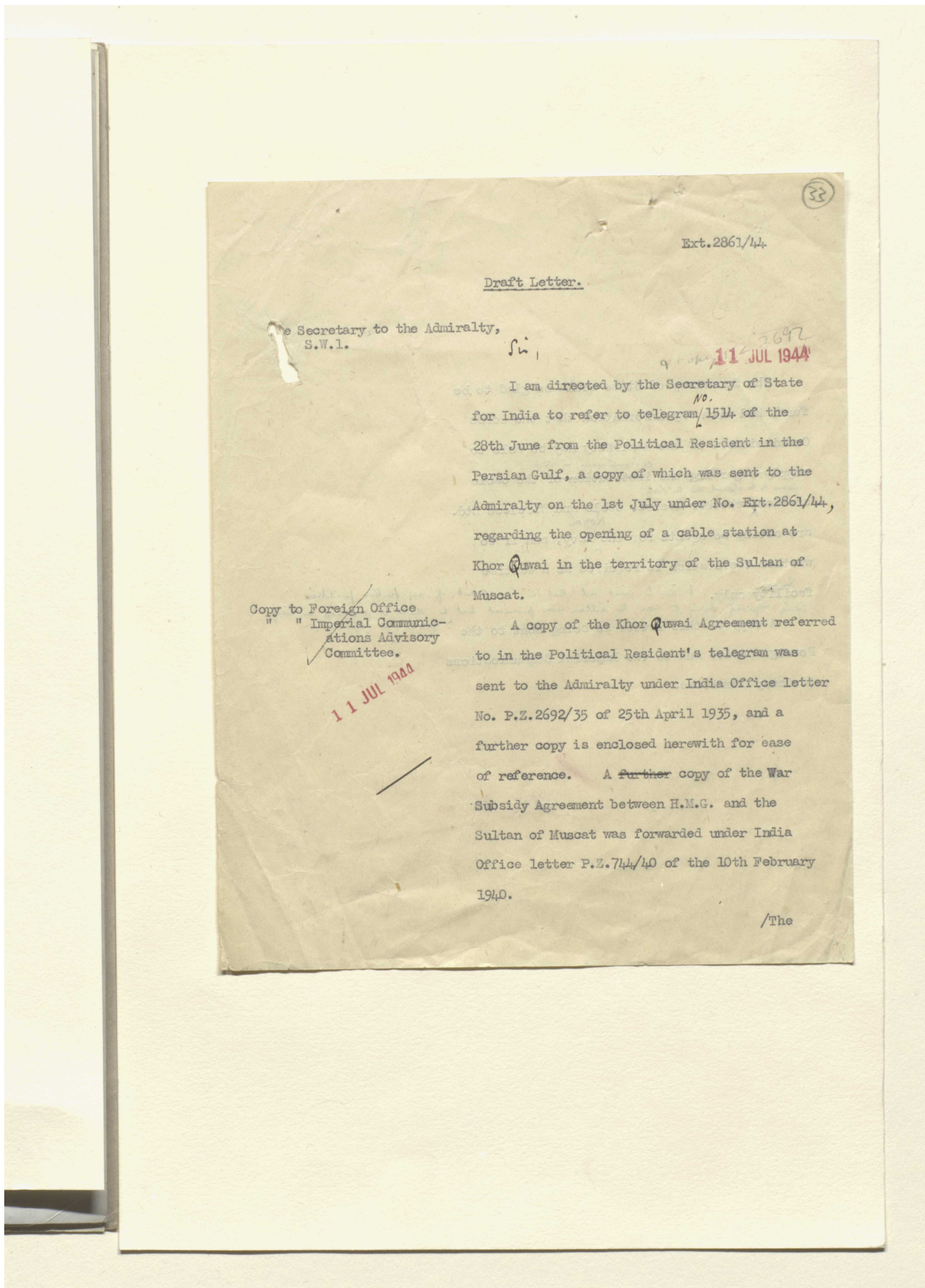
The Khor Ammai agreement as
recorded in the PA's letter of 18/3/15,
(para 15), seems to limit the
construction of buildings & areas
already limited out.

The War Subsidy agreement of
Nov. 1939 only undertakes that
a advance notice will be given
but provides for the elimination of
the facilities on the conclusion of
peace (art. 3(b)).

L. H.
5/1/16



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [33r] (65/74)



Ext.2861/44.

Draft Letter.

The Secretary to the Admiralty,
S.W.I.

Si,

11 JUL 1944

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to refer to telegram/1514 of the 28th June from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, a copy of which was sent to the Admiralty on the 1st July under No. Ext.2861/44, regarding the opening of a cable station at Khor Kuwait in the territory of the Sultan of Muscat.

Copy to Foreign Office
" " Imperial Communications Advisory Committee.

11 JUL 1944

A copy of the Khor Kuwait Agreement referred to in the Political Resident's telegram was sent to the Admiralty under India Office letter No. P.Z.2692/35 of 25th April 1935, and a further copy is enclosed herewith for ease of reference. A further copy of the War Subsidy Agreement between H.M.G. and the Sultan of Muscat was forwarded under India Office letter P.Z.744/40 of the 10th February 1940.

/The

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [33v] (66/74)

1918 JUL 11

The Secretary of State would be glad to be furnished with any information that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may be able to supply regarding the ^{circumstances in which} institution of the cable ^{came to be opened and the date,} station, whether Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd. ^{Royal} are acting as agents for the Navy, and, if so, whether the station is required as a wartime facility only. I am to point out that, in the event of any further facilities being required during the war, the Sultan was promised that he should be informed as long as possible in advance.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Foreign Office and to the Imperial Communications Advisory Committee.

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [34r] (67/74)

5 JUL 1944
Reg.
Pl. circular
connection with F
how an 2 original
tel. from
Ext 2461/44
SECRET
22327
34

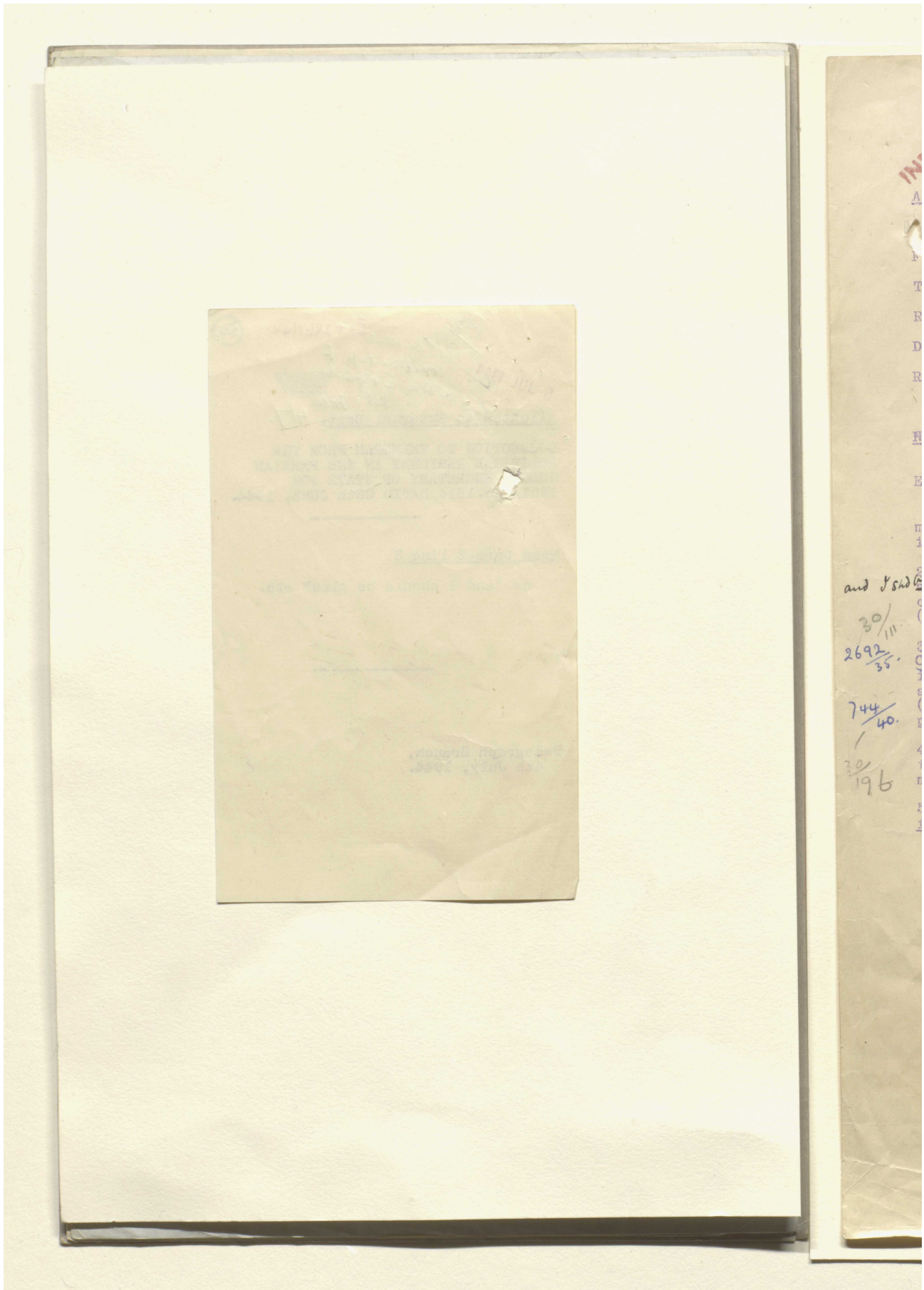
Allotted to External Dept. 4/7.

CORRECTION TO TELEGRAM FROM THE
POLITICAL RESIDENT IN THE PERSIAN
GULF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
INDIA No. 1514 DATED 28th JUNE, 1944.

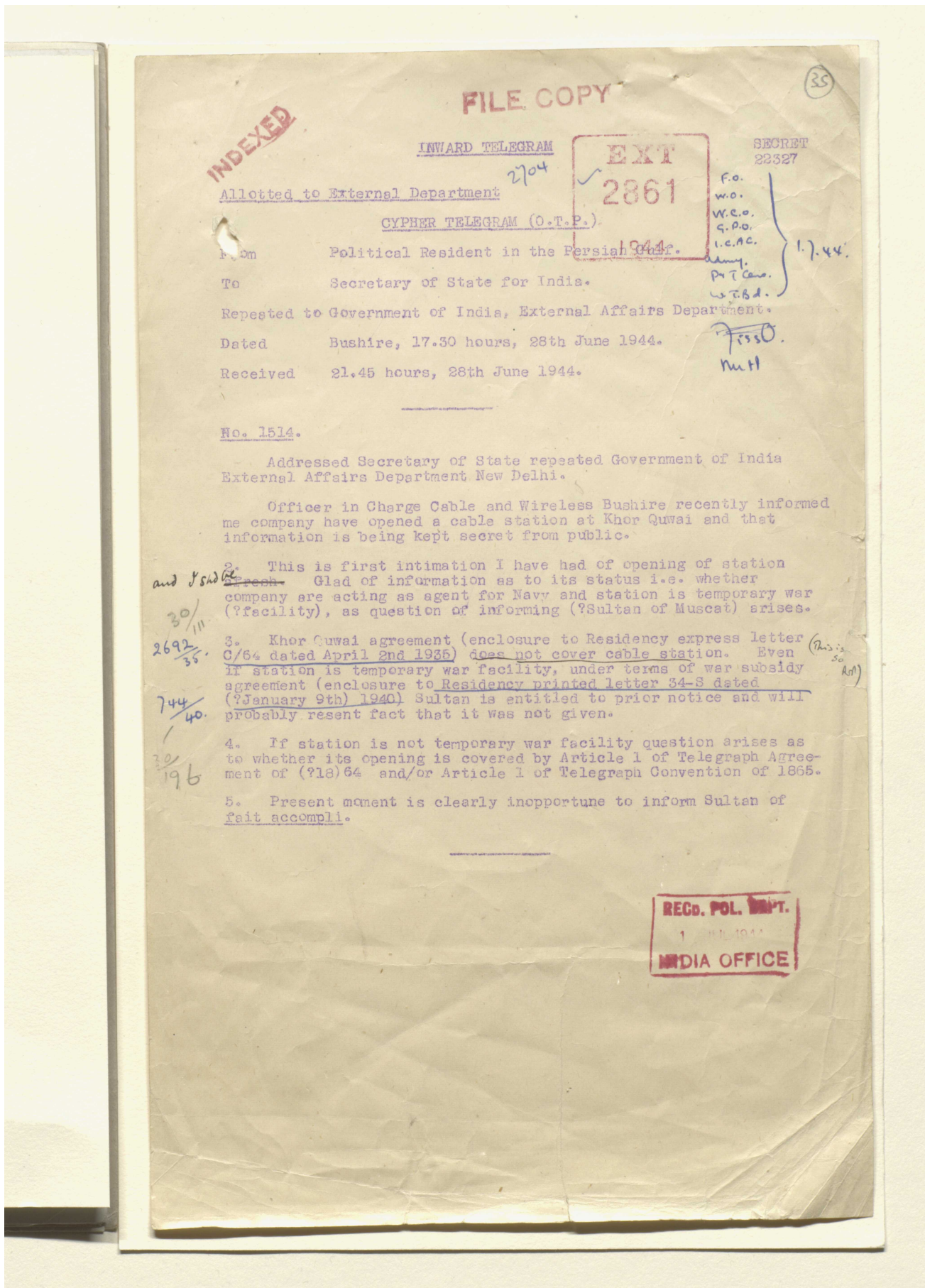
Read para. 2 line 2
as "and I should be glad" etc.

Telegraph Branch,
4th July, 1944.

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [34v] (68/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [35r] (69/74)



INDEXED

FILE COPY

35

INWARD TELEGRAM

2704

EXT 2861

SECRET 23327

Allotted to External Department

CYPHER TELEGRAM (O.T.P.)

From Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To Secretary of State for India.

Repeated to Government of India, External Affairs Department.

Dated Bushire, 17.30 hours, 28th June 1944.

Received 21.45 hours, 28th June 1944.

F.O.
W.O.
W.C.O.
S.P.O.
I.C.A.C.
P.T. Cas.
S.T.B.d.
1.7.44
Fessl.
M.H.

No. 1514.

Addressed Secretary of State repeated Government of India External Affairs Department New Delhi.

Officer in Charge Cable and Wireless Bushire recently informed me company have opened a cable station at Khor Kuwait and that information is being kept secret from public.

2. This is first intimation I have had of opening of station ~~fresh~~ Glad of information as to its status i.e. whether company are acting as agent for Navy and station is temporary war facility, as question of informing (?Sultan of Muscat) arises.

and I said
30/11
2692/35

3. Khor Kuwait agreement (enclosure to Residency express letter C/64 dated April 2nd 1935) does not cover cable station. Even if station is temporary war facility, under terms of war subsidy agreement (enclosure to Residency printed letter 34-S dated (?January 9th) 1940) Sultan is entitled to prior notice and will probably resent fact that it was not given.

744/40

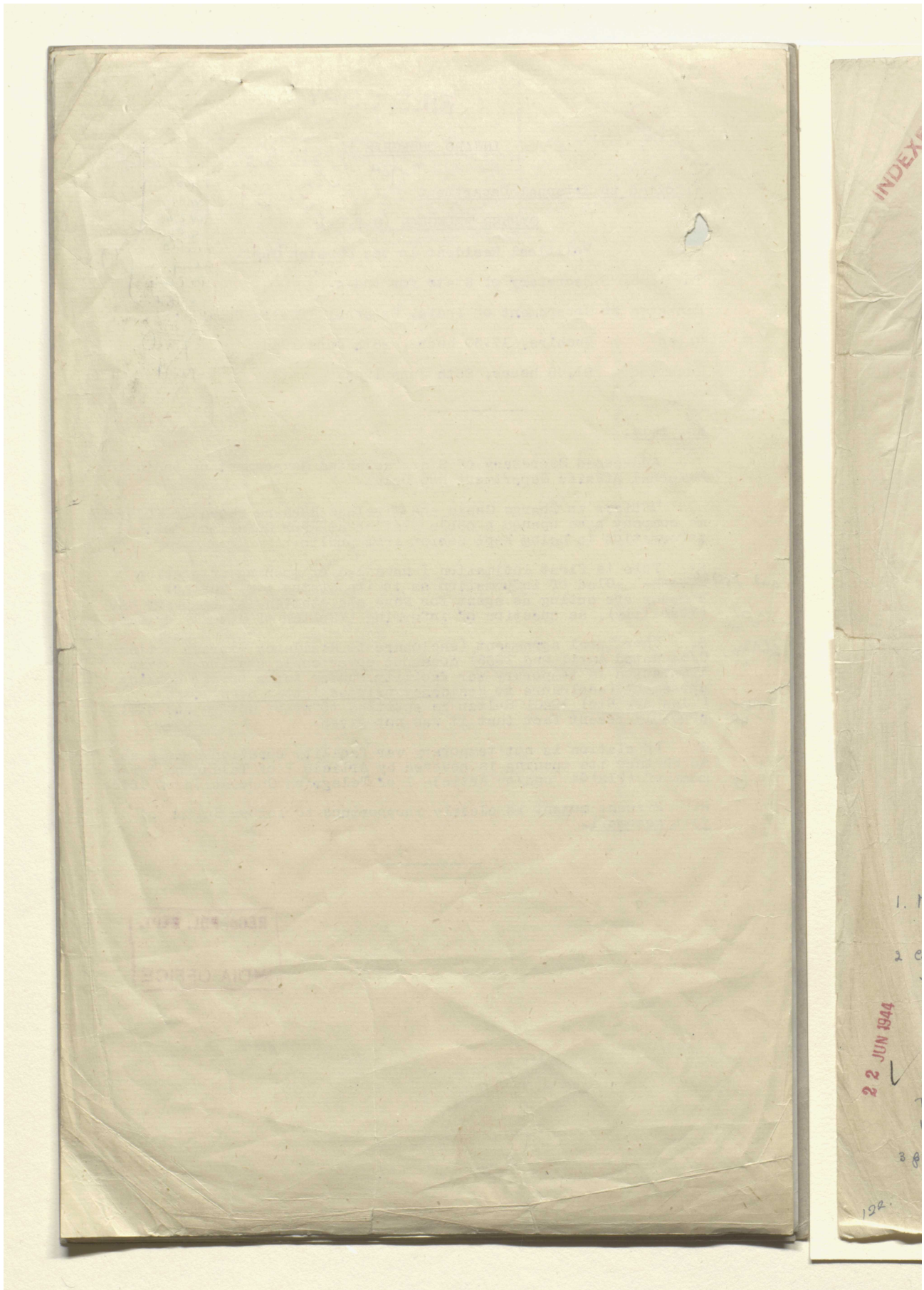
4. If station is not temporary war facility question arises as to whether its opening is covered by Article 1 of Telegraph Agreement of (?18)64 and/or Article 1 of Telegraph Convention of 1865.

30/196

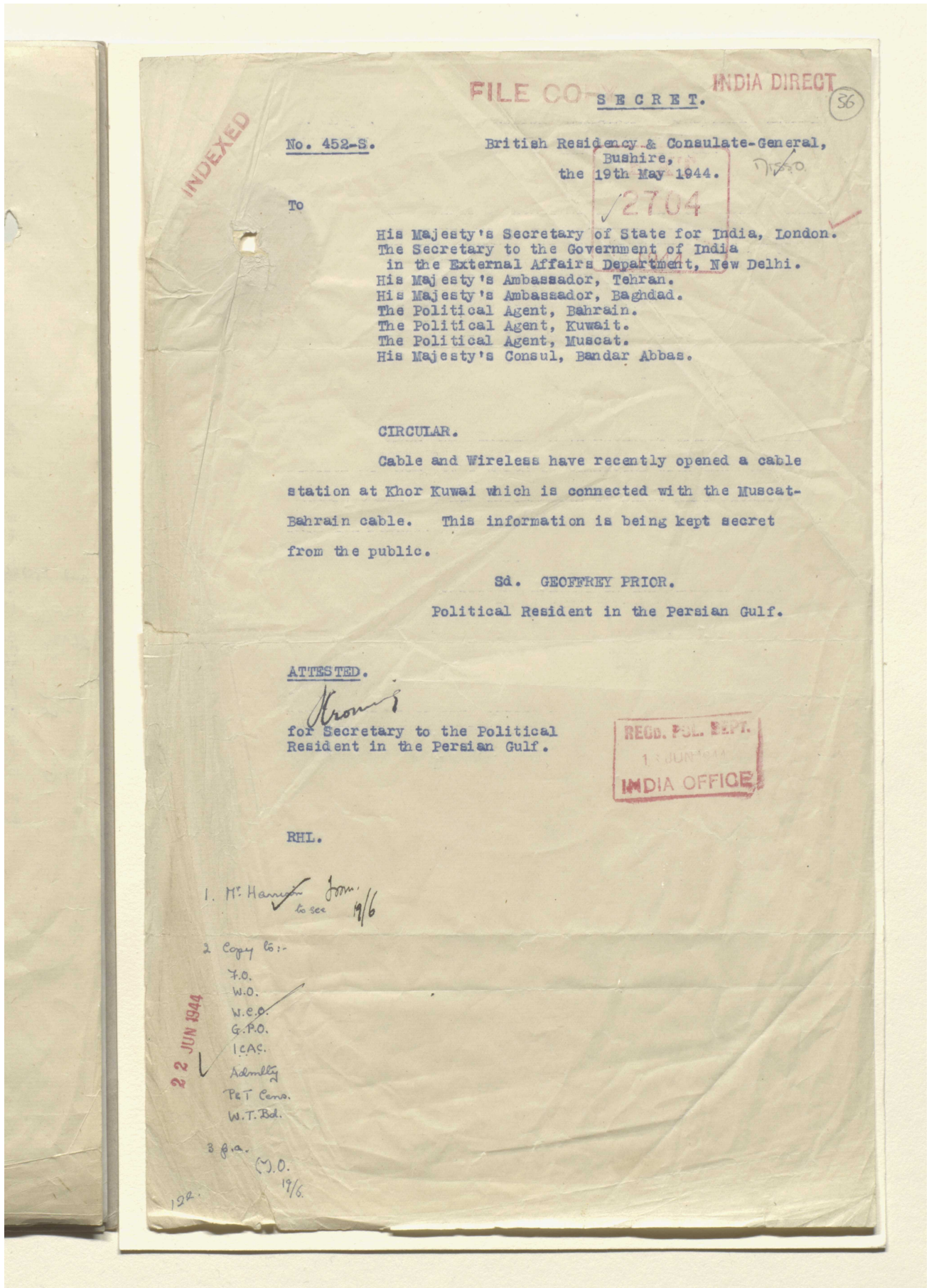
5. Present moment is clearly inopportune to inform Sultan of fait accompli.

**REC'D. POL. DEPT.
1 JUL 1944
INDIA OFFICE**

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [35v] (70/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [36r] (71/74)



FILE CO-SECRET.

INDIA DIRECT

36

INDEXED

No. 452-S.

British Residency & Consulate-General,
Bushire,
the 19th May 1944.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.
The Secretary to the Government of India
in the External Affairs Department, New Delhi.
His Majesty's Ambassador, Tehran.
His Majesty's Ambassador, Baghdad.
The Political Agent, Bahrain.
The Political Agent, Kuwait.
The Political Agent, Muscat.
His Majesty's Consul, Bandar Abbas.

2704

CIRCULAR.

Cable and Wireless have recently opened a cable station at Khor Kuwait which is connected with the Muscat-Bahrain cable. This information is being kept secret from the public.

Sd. GEOFFREY PRIOR.

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

ATTESTED.

Strom
for Secretary to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

REGD. POL. DEPT.
1 JUN 1944
INDIA OFFICE

RHL.

1. Mr. Hamlyn *Hamlyn*
to see *19/6*

2. Copy to:-

F.O.

W.O.

W.C.P.

G.P.O.

I.C.A.S.

Adm. Secy

P&T Comr.

W.T. Bd.

22 JUN 1944

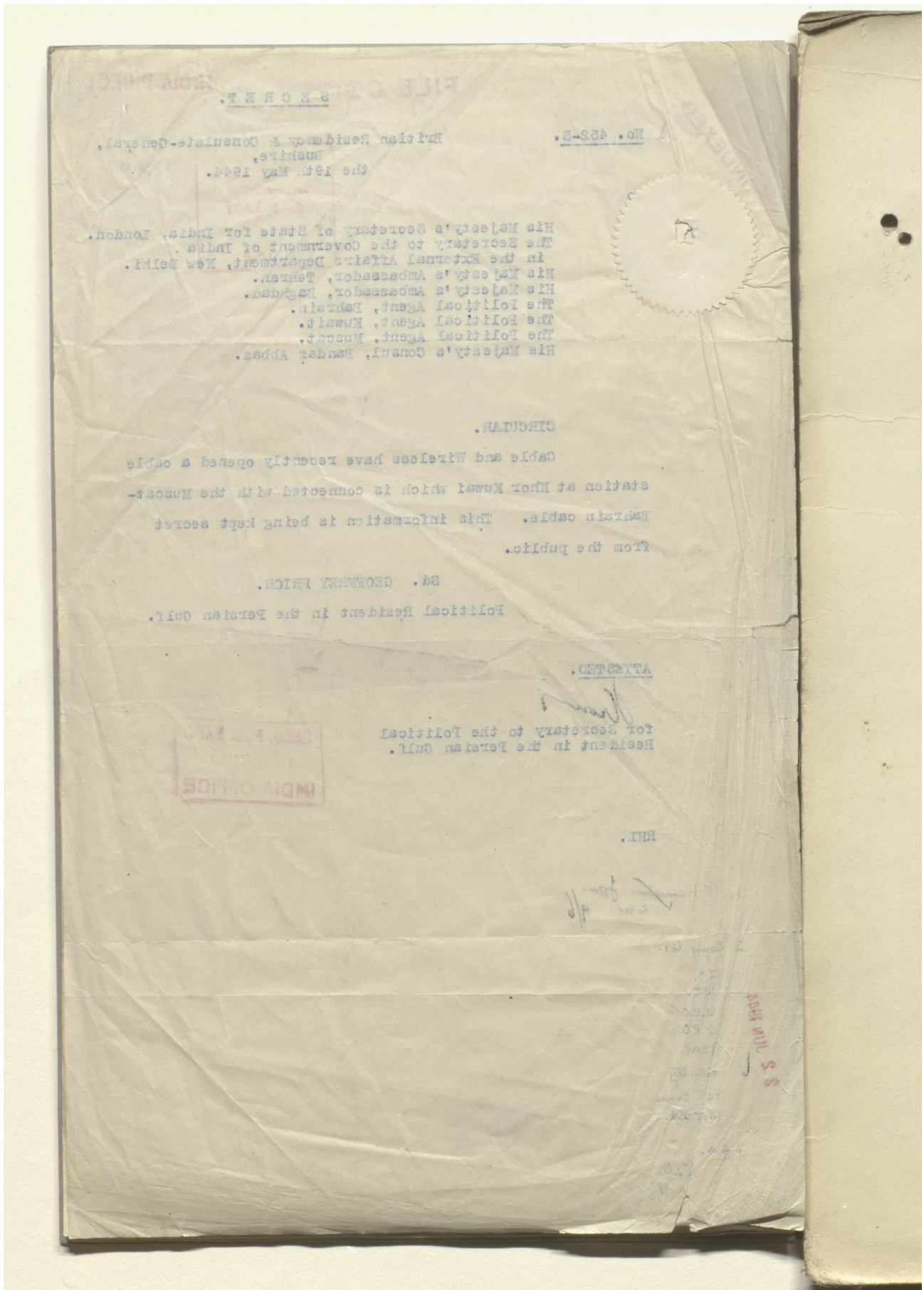
3 p.a.

(C.O.)

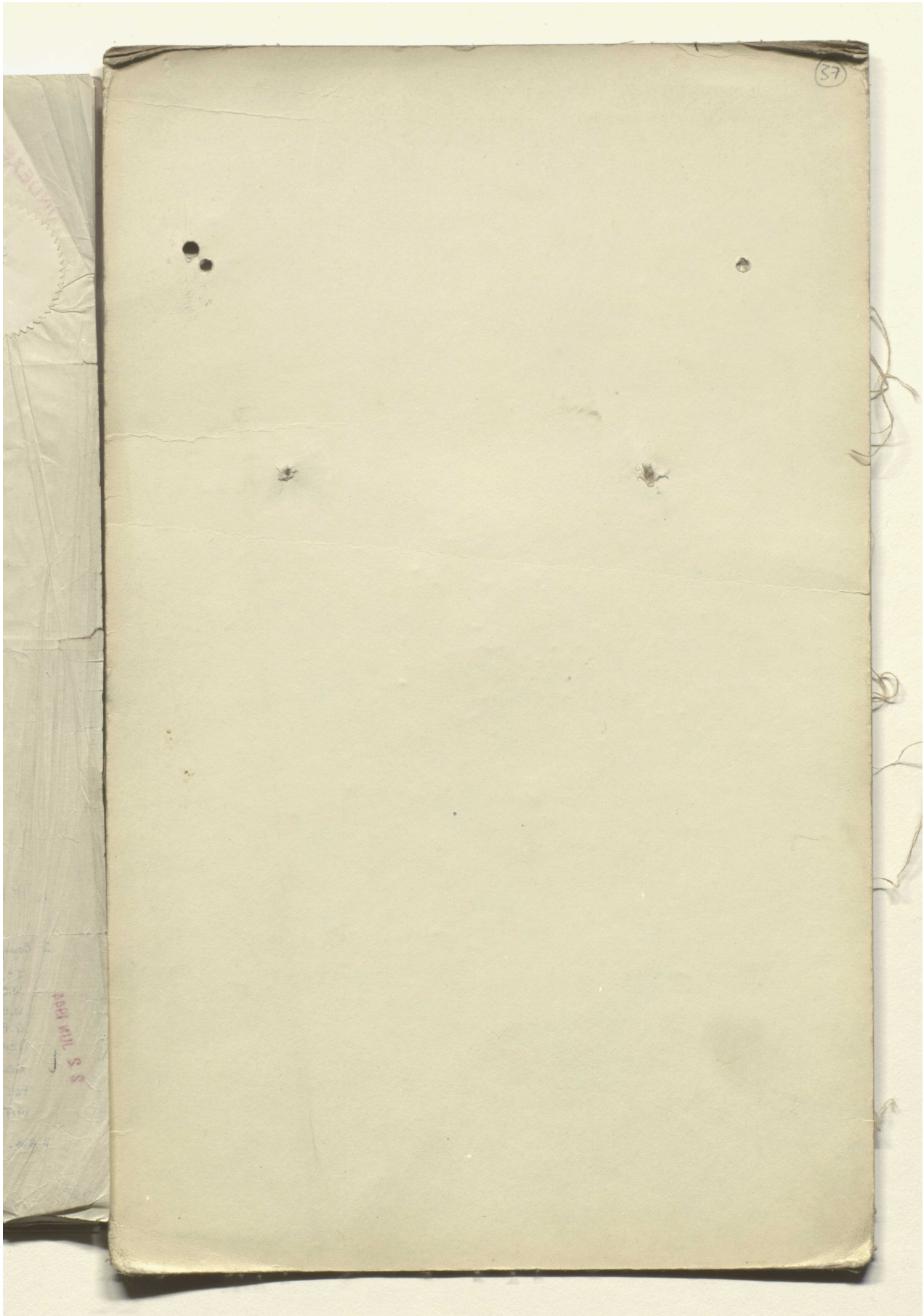
19/6

122.

Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [36v] (72/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [back-i] (73/74)



Coll 30/126(2) 'Persian Gulf. Naval Base at Khor Kuwait. Erection of Wireless Transmitter and Call Station' [back] (74/74)

