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Coll 30/231 'Annual Political Review of Events in the Persian Gulf'

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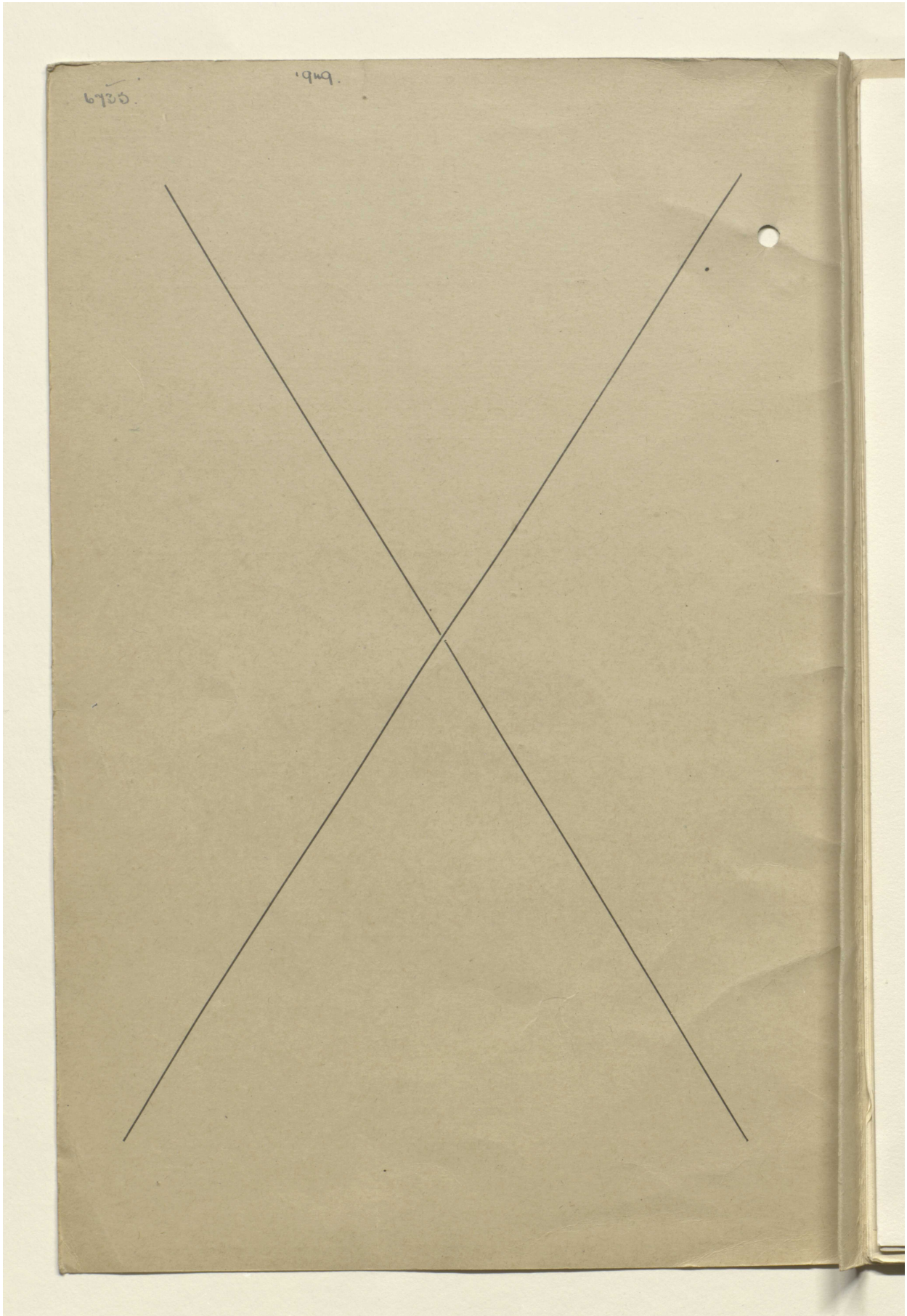
About this record

The file contains copies of the Annual Report (political review of events in the Persian Gulf) of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Rupert Hay, for the years 1948 and 1949. The report for 1948 was the first to be submitted to the Foreign Office. The reports provide a summary of political events in the ten Arab shajdoms on the western shore of the Persian Gulf, whose foreign relations were handled by the British Government, and Muscat and Oman.

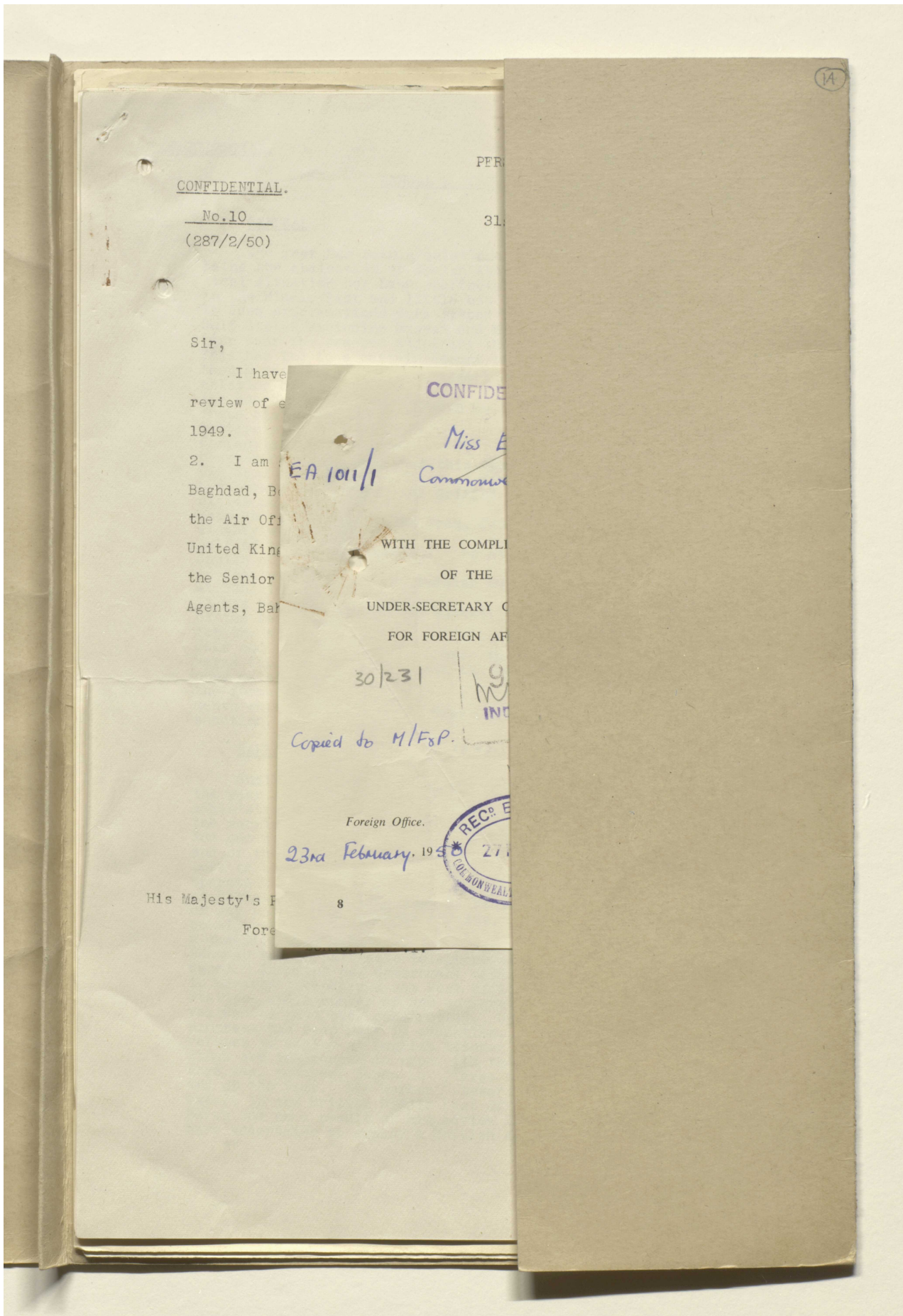
Coll 30/231 'Annual Political Review of Events in the Persian Gulf' [front]
(1/33)

C.R.O. 1949	EXT. 30/231		① INDEX HEADINGS MEMORANDA & REPORTS.
<p>PERSIAN GULF: Annual Political Review of Events in the Persian Gulf</p> <p>30/231</p> <p>IOR: L/PS/12/3973 ✓</p>			
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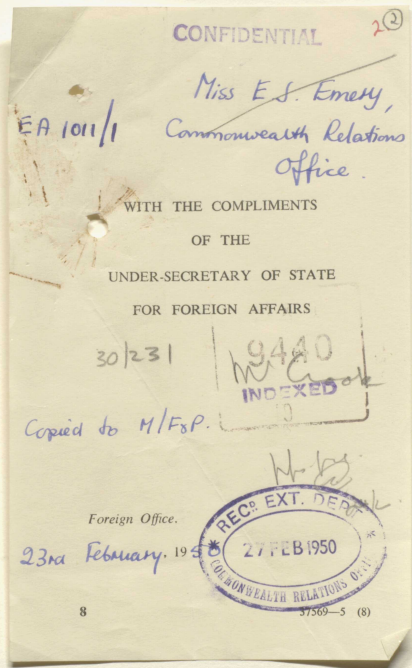
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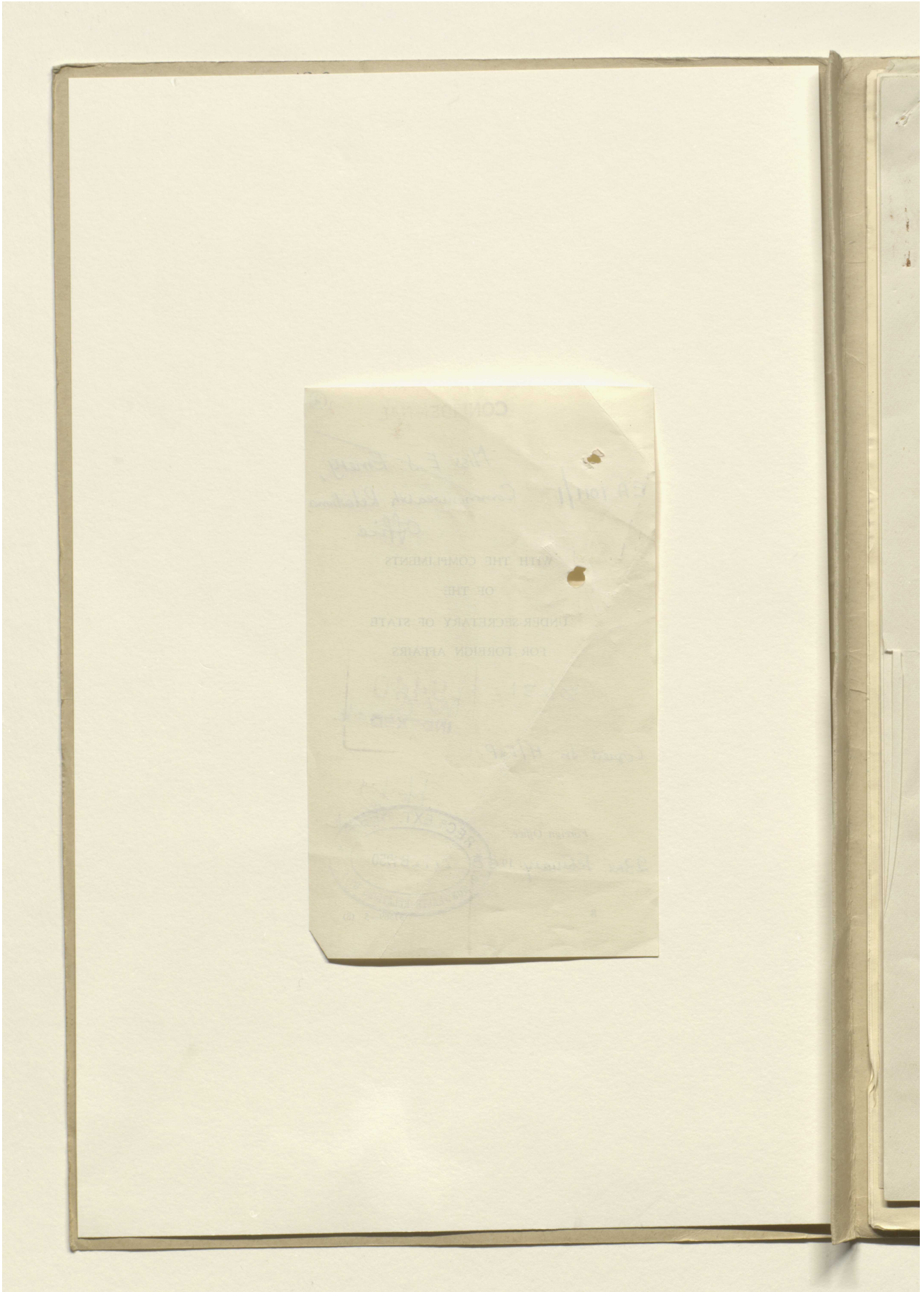


Coll 30/231 'Annual Political Review of Events in the Persian Gulf' [1ar] (3/33)



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CONFIDENTIAL.

No.10
(287/2/50)

PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY,

BAHRAIN.

31st January, 1950.

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Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a political review of events in the Persian Gulf during the year 1949.

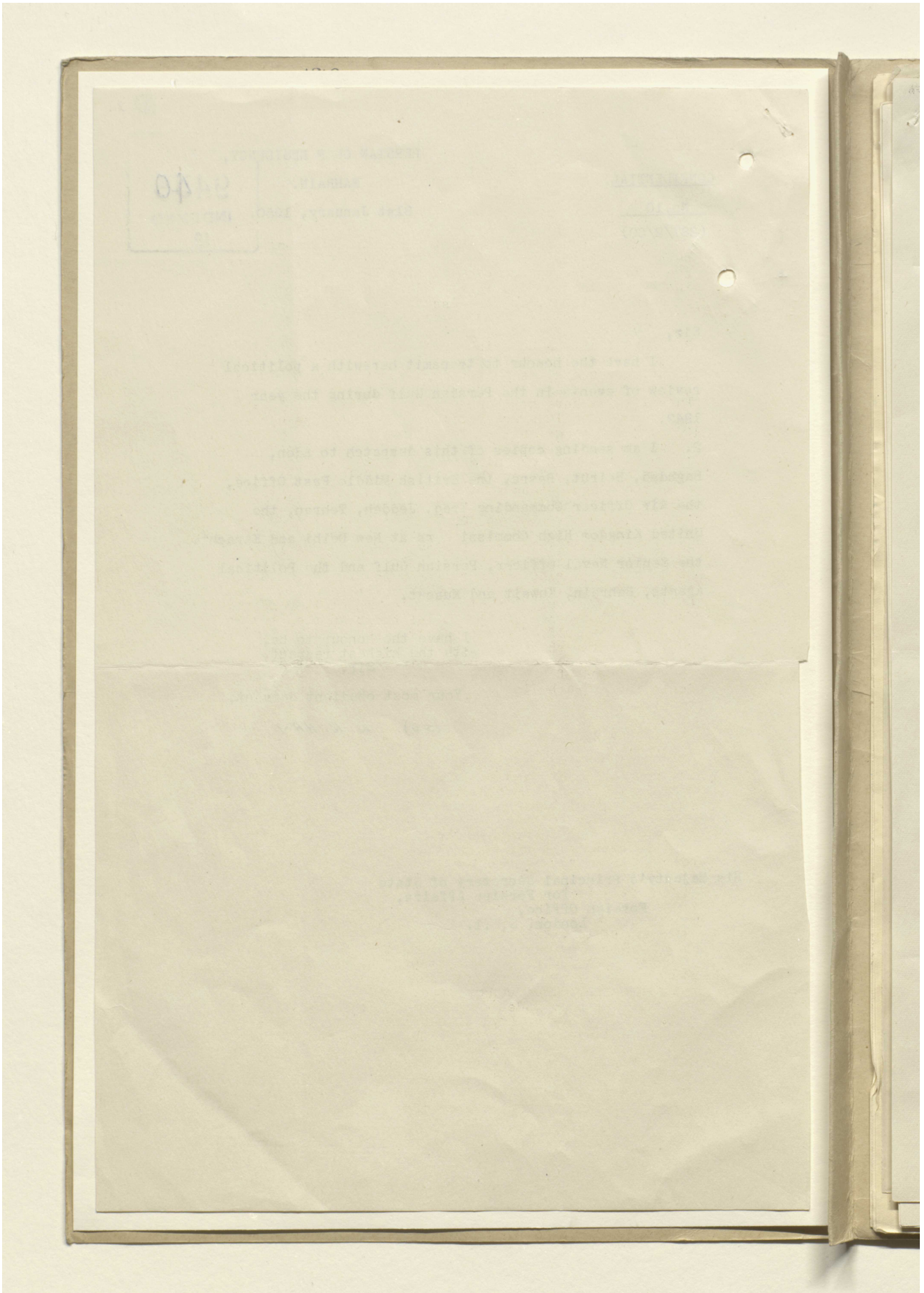
2. I am sending copies of this despatch to Aden, Baghdad, Beirut, Basra, the British Middle East Office, the Air Officer Commanding Iraq, Jeddah, Tehran, the United Kingdom High Commissioners at New Delhi and Karachi, the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf and the Political Agents, Bahrain, Kuwait and Muscat.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(SD). W. R. HAY.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.



CONFIDENTIAL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

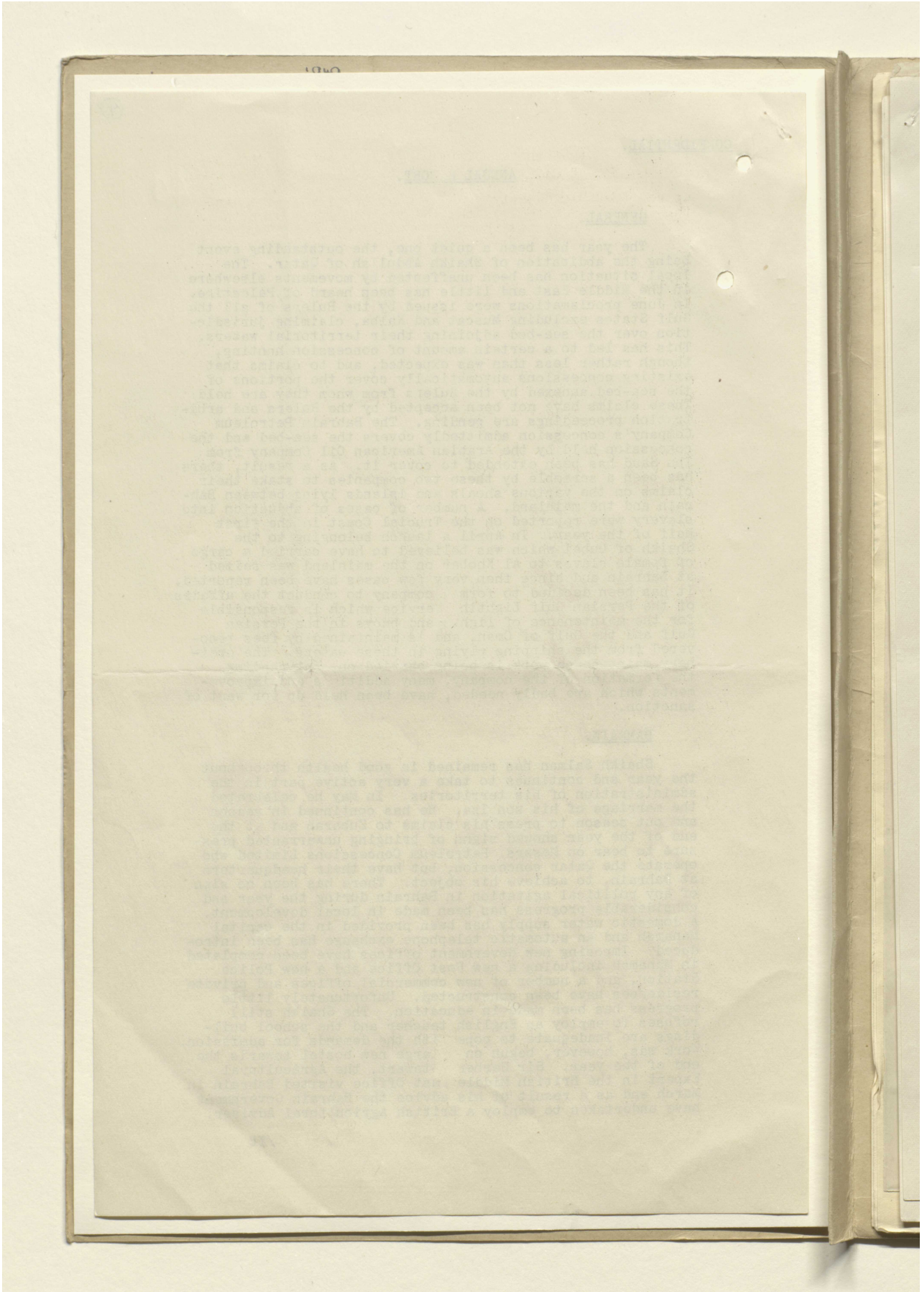
GENERAL.

The year has been a quiet one, the outstanding event being the abdication of Shaikh Abdullah of Qatar. The local situation has been unaffected by movements elsewhere in the Middle East and little has been heard of Palestine. In June proclamations were issued by the Rulers of all the Gulf States excluding Muscat and Kalba, claiming jurisdiction over the sea-bed adjoining their territorial waters. This has led to a certain amount of concession hunting, though rather less than was expected, and to claims that existing concessions automatically cover the portions of the sea-bed annexed by the Rulers from whom they are held. These claims have not been accepted by the Rulers and arbitration proceedings are pending. The Bahrain Petroleum Company's concession admittedly covers the sea-bed and the concession held by the Arabian American Oil Company from Ibn Saud has been extended to cover it. As a result, there has been a scramble by these two companies to stake their claims on the various shoals and islands lying between Bahrain and the mainland. A number of cases of abduction into slavery were reported on the Trucial Coast in the first half of the year. In April a launch belonging to the Shaikh of Dubai which was believed to have carried a cargo of female slaves to Al Khobar on the mainland was seized at Bahrain and since then very few cases have been reported. It has been decided to form a company to conduct the affairs of the Persian Gulf Lightin Service which is responsible for the maintenance of lights and buoys in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and is maintained by fees recovered from the shipping plying in these waters. The ordinary maintenance work is being carried on, but pending the formation of the company, many additions and improvements which are badly needed, have been held up for want of sanction.

BAHRAIN.

Shaikh Salman has remained in good health throughout the year and continues to take a very active part in the administration of his territories. In May he celebrated the marriage of his son Isa. He has continued in season and out season to press his claims to Zubarah and at the end of the year showed signs of bringing unwarranted pressure to bear on Messrs. Petroleum Concessions Limited who operate the Qatar concession, but have their headquarters at Bahrain, to achieve his object. There has been no sign of any political agitation in Bahrain during the year and considerable progress has been made in local development. A domestic water supply has been provided in the capital Manamah and an automatic telephone exchange has been introduced. Imposing new Government offices have been completed in Manamah including a new Post Office and a new Police Station, and a number of new commercial offices and private residences have been constructed. Unfortunately little progress has been made in education. The Shaikh still refuses to employ an English teacher and the school buildings are inadequate to cope with the demands for admission. Work was, however, begun on a large new hostel towards the end of the year. Sir Herbert Stewart, the Agricultural Expert in the British Middle East Office visited Bahrain in March and as a result of his advice the Bahrain Government have undertaken to employ a British Agricultural Adviser.

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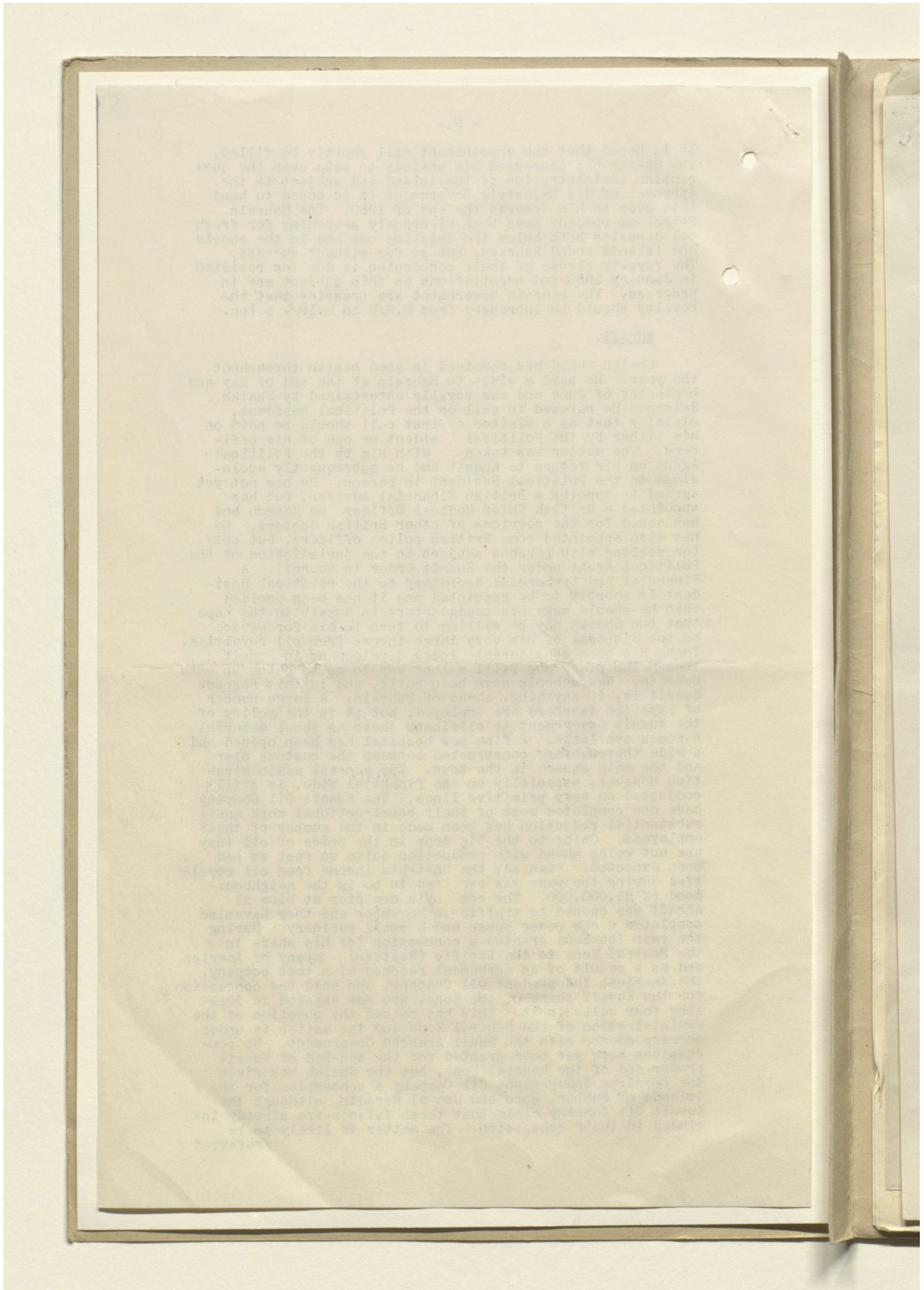
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It is hoped that the appointment will shortly be filled. The Shaikh has expressed his anxiety to take over the quarantine administration of the island and subject to the approval of His Majesty's Government it is hoped to hand this over to him towards the end of 1950. The Bahrain Petroleum Company have been vigorously searching for fresh oil deposits both below the existing one and in the shoals and islands round Bahrain, but so far without success. The royalty clause of their concession is due for revision in January 1950 and negotiations on this subject are in progress. The Bahrain Government are pressing that the royalty should be increased from Rs.3/8 to Rs.10/- a ton.

KUWAIT.

Shaikh Ahmad has remained in good health throughout the year. He paid a visit to Bahrain at the end of May and beginning of June and was royally entertained by Shaikh Salman. He refused to call on the Political Resident, claiming that as a visitor a first call should be paid on him either by the Political Resident or one of his officers. The matter was taken with him by the Political Agent on his return to Kuwait and he subsequently apologised to the Political Resident in person. He has not yet agreed to appoint a British Financial Adviser, but has appointed a British Chief Medical Officer and Matron and has asked for the services of other British doctors. He has also appointed some British police officers, but only for dealing with persons subject to the jurisdiction of the Political Agent under the Kuwait Order in Council. A Financial and Commercial Secretary to the Political Resident is shortly to be appointed and it has been decided that he should make his headquarters in Kuwait in the hope that the Shaikh may be willing to turn to him for advice on the disposal of his very large income from oil royalties. There has been considerable local development in Kuwait though the place has still a long way to go to catch up with Bahrain. New schools have been built, and in this respect Kuwait is, if anything, ahead of Bahrain. A large number of Egyptian teachers are employed, but it is the policy of the Kuwait Government to eliminate these as local material becomes available. A fine new hospital has been opened and a wide thoroughfare constructed between the customs pier and the main square in the town. The general administration however, especially on the financial side, is still conducted on very primitive lines. The Kuwait Oil Company have now completed most of their constructional work and a substantial reduction has been made in the number of their employees. Owing to the big drop in the price of oil they are not going ahead with production quite so fast as had been expected. Even so, the Shaikh's income from oil royalties during the year was expected to be in the neighbourhood of £3,000,000. The company's new pier at Mina al Ahmadi was opened to traffic in November and they have also completed a new power house and a small refinery. During the year Ibn Saud granted a concession for his share in the Neutral Zone to the Pacific (Western) Company of America and as a result of an agreement reached with that company, the American Independent Oil Company, who hold the concession for the Kuwait share of the Zone, are now engaged in drilling four wells in it. This has raised the question of the administration of the Neutral Zone and the matter is under correspondence with the Saudi Arabian Government. No concessions have yet been granted for the sea-bed of Kuwait proper and of the Neutral Zone, but the Shaikh has given the American Independent Oil Company a concession for the islands of Kubbar, Qaru and Umm al Maradin, although the Kuwait Oil Company claim that these islands are already included in their concession. The matter is likely to be /referred



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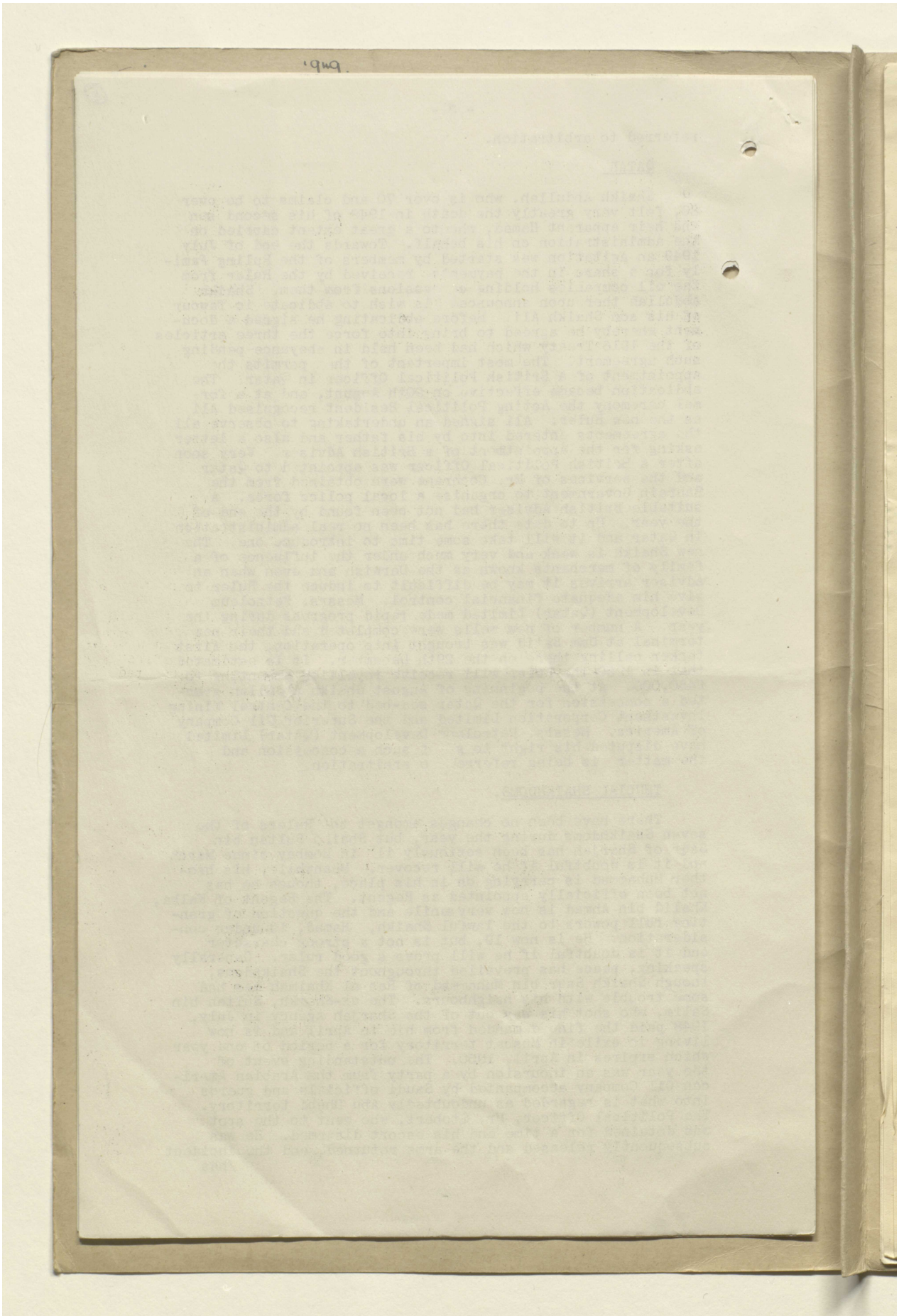
referred to arbitration.

QATAR.

Shaikh Abdullah, who is over 70 and claims to be over 80, felt very greatly the death in 1948 of his second son and heir apparent Hamad, who to a great extent carried on the administration on his behalf. Towards the end of July 1949 an agitation was started by members of the Ruling Family for a share in the payments received by the Ruler from the oil companies holding concessions from them. Shaikh Abdullah thereupon announced his wish to abdicate in favour of his son Shaikh Ali. Before abdicating he signed a document whereby he agreed to bring into force the three articles of the 1916 Treaty which had been held in abeyance pending such agreement. The most important of them permits the appointment of a British Political Officer in Qatar. The abdication became effective on 20th August, and at a formal ceremony the Acting Political Resident recognised Ali as the new Ruler. Ali signed an undertaking to observe all the agreements entered into by his father and also a letter asking for the appointment of a British Adviser. Very soon after a British Political Officer was appointed to Qatar and the services of Mr. Cochran were obtained from the Bahrain Government to organise a local police force. A suitable British Adviser had not been found by the end of the year. Up to date there has been no real administration in Qatar and it will take some time to introduce one. The new Shaikh is weak and very much under the influence of a family of merchants known as the Darwish and even when an Adviser arrives it may be difficult to induce the Ruler to give him adequate financial control. Messrs. Petroleum Development (Qatar) Limited made rapid progress during the year. A number of new wells were completed and their new terminal at Umm Sa'id was brought into operation, the first tanker calling there on the 29th December. It is estimated that in 1950 the Ruler will receive royalties amounting to £450,000. At the beginning of August Shaikh Abdullah granted a concession for the Qatar sea-bed to the Central Mining Investment Corporation Limited and the Superior Oil Company of America. Messrs. Petroleum Development (Qatar) Limited have disputed his right to grant such a concession and the matter is being referred to arbitration.

TRUCIAL SHAIKHDOMS.

There have been no changes amongst the Rulers of the seven Shaikhdoms during the year, but Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr of Sharjah has been seriously ill in Bombay since March and it is doubtful if he will recover. Meanwhile, his brother Muhammad is carrying on in his place, though he has not been officially appointed as Regent. The Regent of Kalba, Khalid bin Ahmad is now very senile and the question of granting full powers to the lawful Shaikh, Hamad, is under consideration. He is now 19, but is not a strong character and it is doubtful if he will prove a good ruler. Generally speaking, peace has prevailed throughout the Shaikhdoms, though Shaikh Saqr bin Muhammad of Ras al Khaimah has had some trouble with his neighbours. The ex-Shaikh, Sultan bin Salim, who shot his way out of the Sharjah Agency in July, 1948 paid the fine demanded from him in April and is now living in exile in Muscat territory for a period of one year which expires in April, 1950. The outstanding event of the year was an incursion by a party from the Arabian American Oil Company accompanied by Saudi officials and guards into what is regarded as undoubtedly Abu Dhabi territory. The Political Officer, Mr. Stobart, who went to the spot was detained for a time and his escort disarmed. He was subsequently released and the arms returned, and the incident /has



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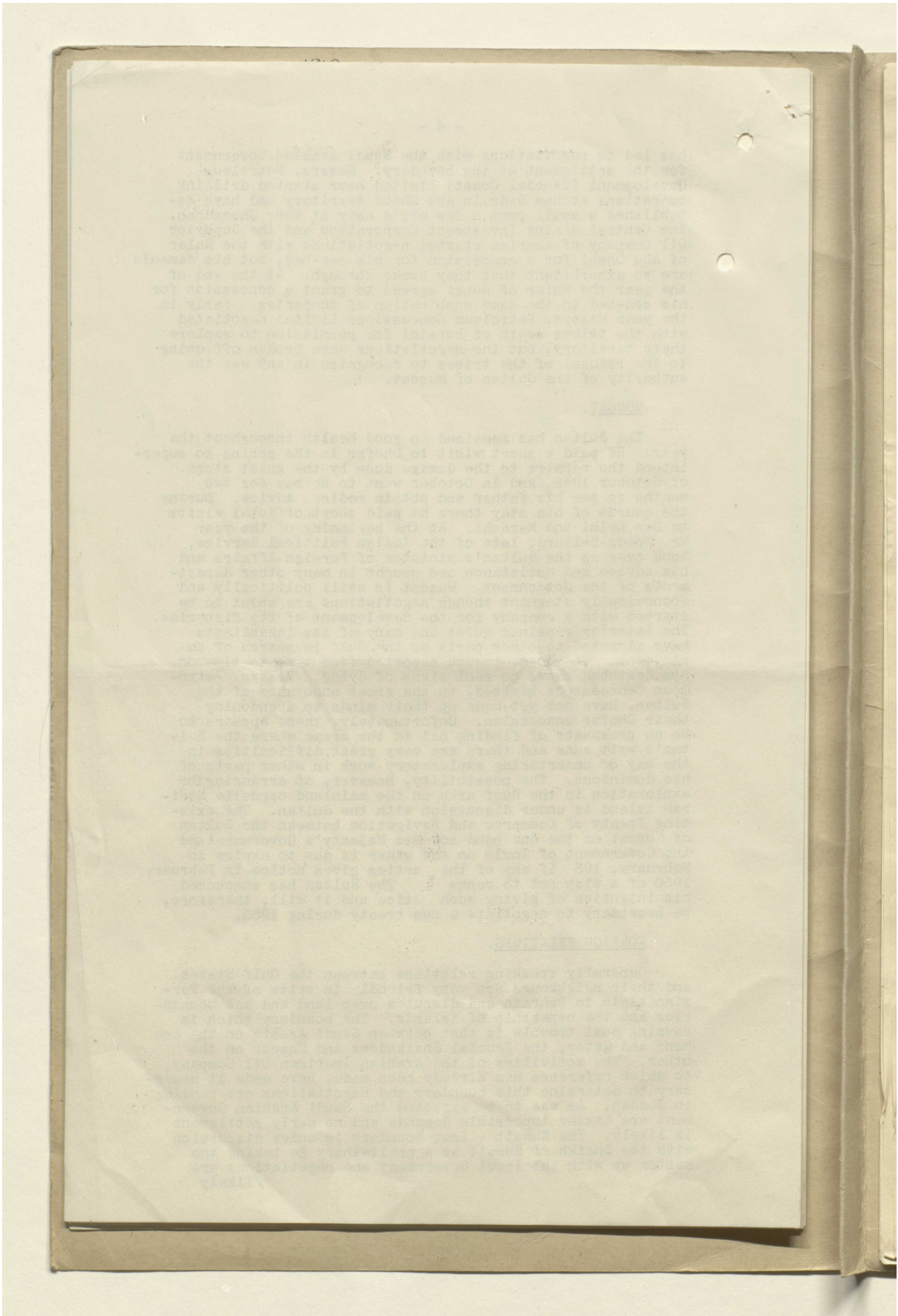
has led to negotiations with the Saudi Arabian Government for the settlement of the boundary. Messrs. Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Limited have started drilling operations at Ras Sadr in Abu Dhabi territory and have established a small port a few miles away at Khor Ghanadhah. The Central Mining Investment Corporation and the Superior Oil Company of America started negotiations with the Ruler of Abu Dhabi for a concession for his sea-bed, but his demands are so exorbitant that they broke through. At the end of the year the Ruler of Dubai agreed to grant a concession for his sea-bed to the same combination of companies. Early in the year Messrs. Petroleum Concessions Limited negotiated with the tribes south of Buraimi for permission to explore their territory, but the negotiations were broken off owing to the refusal of the tribes to recognise in any way the authority of the Sultan of Muscat.

MUSCAT.

The Sultan has remained in good health throughout the year. He paid a short visit to Dhofar in the spring to superintend the repairs to the damage done by the great storm of October 1948, and in October went to Bombay for two months to see his father and obtain medical advice. During the course of his stay there he paid short official visits to New Delhi and Karachi. At the beginning of the year Mr. Woods-Ballard, late of the Indian Political Service, took over as the Sultan's Minister of Foreign Affairs and his advice and assistance are sought in many other departments of the Government. Muscat is still politically and economically stagnant though negotiations are about to be started with a company for the development of its fisheries. The interior remained quiet and many of its inhabitants have migrated to other parts of the Gulf in search of employment. The Imam, though reported from time to time on his deathbed shows no real signs of dying. Messrs. Petroleum Concessions Limited, to the great annoyance of the Sultan, have not yet made up their minds to abandoning their Dhofar concession. Unfortunately, there appears to be no prospects of finding oil in the areas where the Sultan's writ runs and there are very great difficulties in the way of undertaking exploratory work in other parts of his dominions. The possibility, however, of arranging for exploration in the Huqf area on the mainland opposite Masirah island is under discussion with the Sultan. The existing Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the Sultan of Muscat on the one hand and His Majesty's Government and the Government of India on the other is due to expire in February, 1950 if any of the parties gives notice in February 1950 of a wish not to renew. The Sultan has announced his intention of giving such notice and it will, therefore, be necessary to negotiate a new treaty during 1950.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Generally speaking relations between the Gulf States and their neighbours are very friendly in spite of the Persian claim to Bahrain and disputes over land and sea boundaries and the ownership of islands. The boundary which is causing most trouble is that between Saudi Arabia on the one hand and Qatar, the Trucial Shaikhdoms and Muscat on the other. The activities of the Arabian American Oil Company, to which reference has already been made, have made it necessary to determine this boundary and negotiations are pending in Jeddah. As was to be expected the Saudi Arabian Government are making impossible demands and no early settlement is likely. The Kuwait - Iraq boundary is under discussion with the Shaikh of Kuwait as a preliminary to taking the matter up with the Iraqi Government and negotiations are /likely

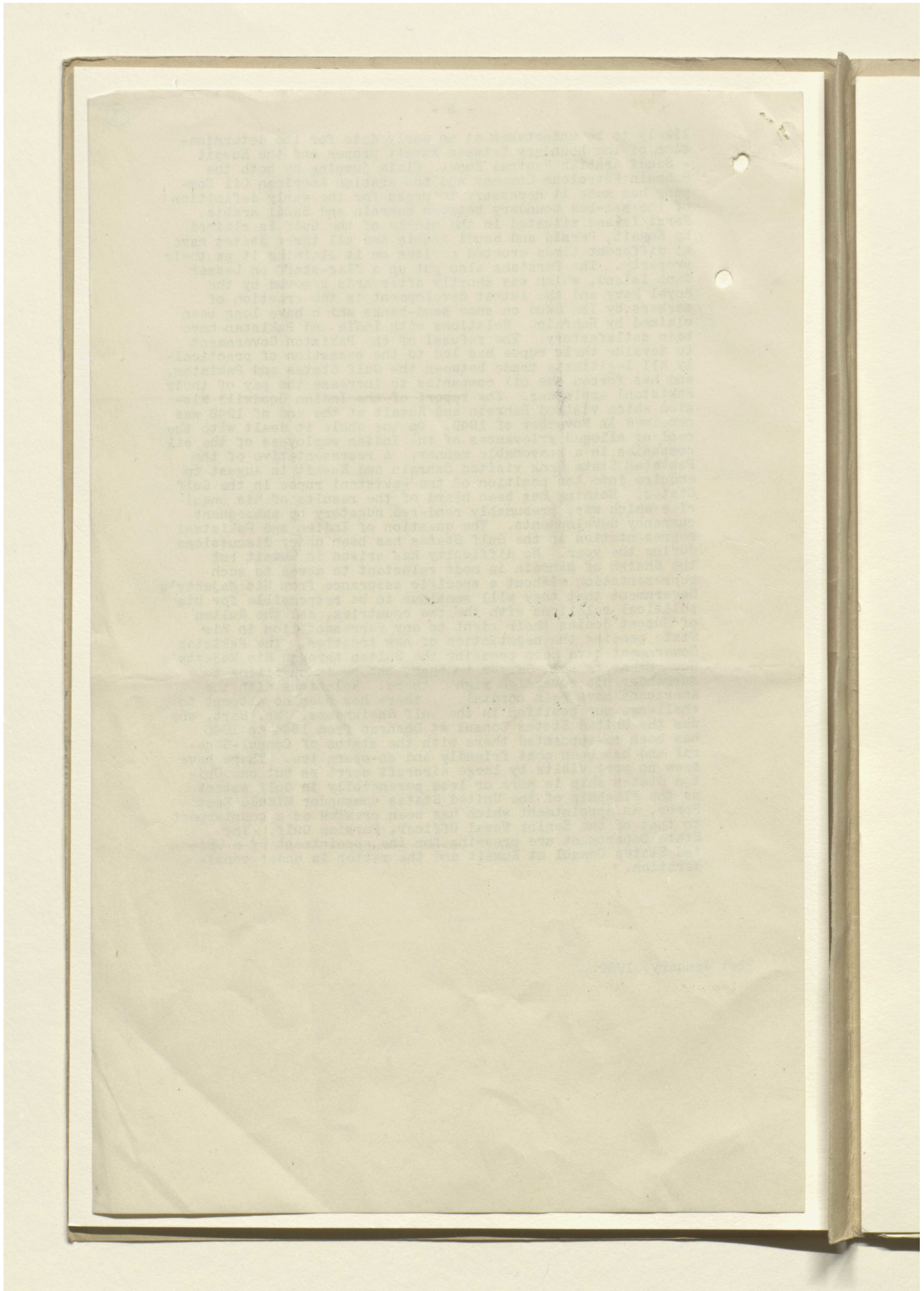


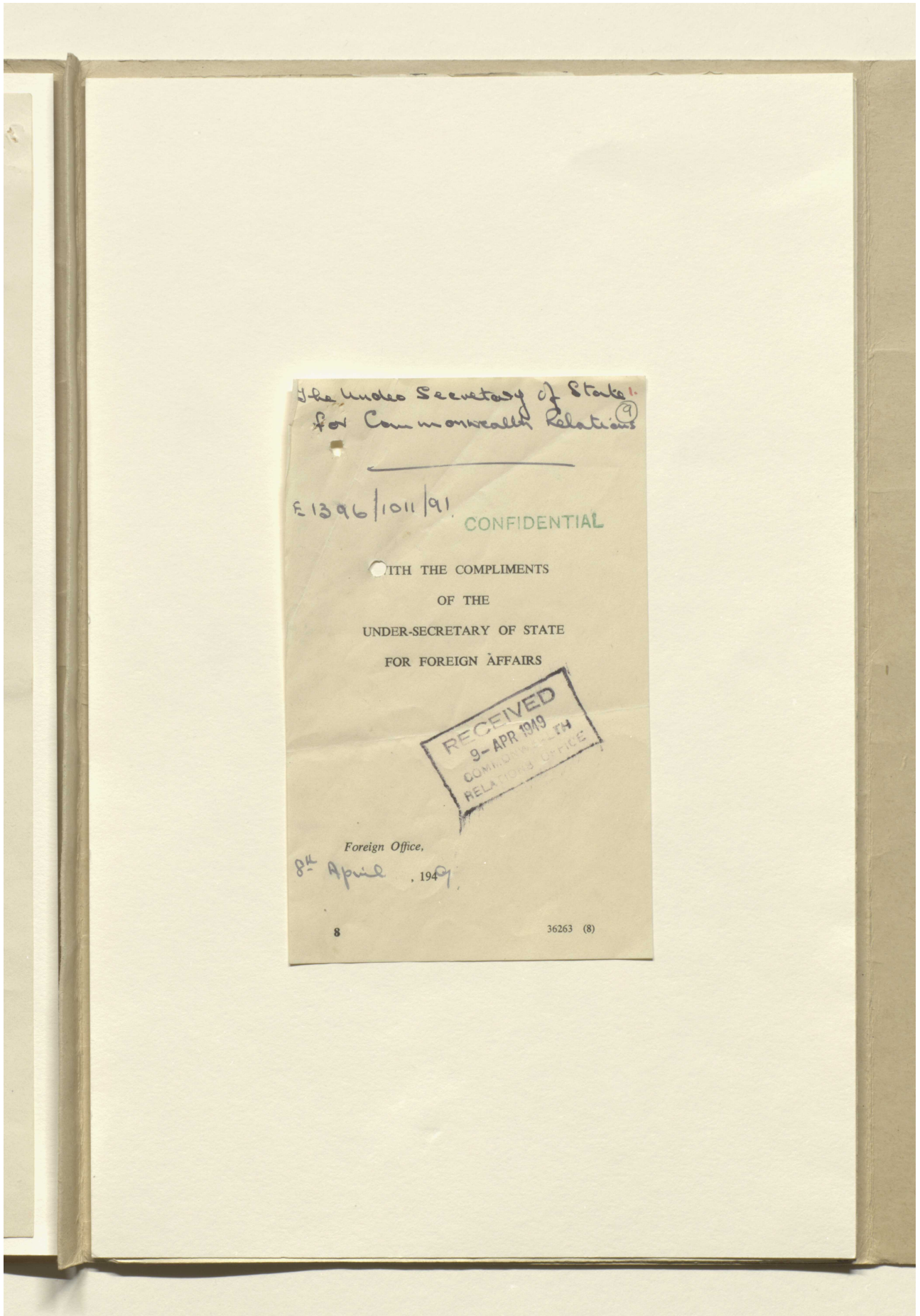
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likely to be undertaken at an early date for the determination of the boundary between Kuwait proper and the Kuwait - Saudi Arabian Neutral Zone. Claim jumping by both the Bahrain Petroleum Company and the Arabian American Oil Company has made it necessary to press for the early definition of the sea-bed boundary between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Farsi Island situated in the middle of the Gulf is claimed by Kuwait, Persia and Saudi Arabia and all three States have at different times erected notices on it claiming it as their property. The Persians also put up a flag-staff on Lesser Tanb Island, which was shortly afterwards removed by the Royal Navy and the latest development is the erection of markers by Ibn Saud on some sand-banks which have long been claimed by Bahrain. Relations with India and Pakistan have been satisfactory. The refusal of the Pakistan Government to devalue their rupee has led to the cessation of practically all legitimate trade between the Gulf States and Pakistan, and has forced the oil companies to increase the pay of their Pakistani employees. The report of the Indian Goodwill Mission which visited Bahrain and Kuwait at the end of 1948 was received in November of 1949. On the whole it dealt with the real or alleged grievances of the Indian employees of the oil companies in a reasonable manner. A representative of the Pakistan State Bank visited Bahrain and Kuwait in August to enquire into the position of the Pakistani rupee in the Gulf States. Nothing has been heard of the results of his enquiries which were presumably rendered nugatory by subsequent currency developments. The question of Indian and Pakistani representation in the Gulf States has been under discussions during the year. No difficulty has arisen in Kuwait but the Shaikh of Bahrain is most reluctant to agree to such representation without a specific assurance from His Majesty's Government that they will continue to be responsible for his political relations with the two countries, and the Sultan of Muscat denies their right to any representation in his State pending the negotiation of new treaties. The Pakistan Government have been pressing the Sultan through His Majesty's Government to sell Gwadar to them, but he is unwilling to surrender his sovereign right there. Relations with the Americans have been cordial and there has been no attempt to challenge our position in the Gulf Shaikhdoms. Mr. Hart, who was the United States Consul at Dhahran from 1944 to 1946 has been re-appointed there with the status of Consul-General and has been most friendly and co-operative. There have been no more visits by large aircraft carriers but one United States ship is more or less perennially in Gulf waters as the Flagship of the United States Commander Middle East Force, an appointment which has been created as a counterpart to that of the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf. The State Department are pressing for the appointment of a United States Consul at Kuwait and the matter is under consideration.

31st January, 1950.





The Under Secretary of State¹
for Commonwealth Relations²

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WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

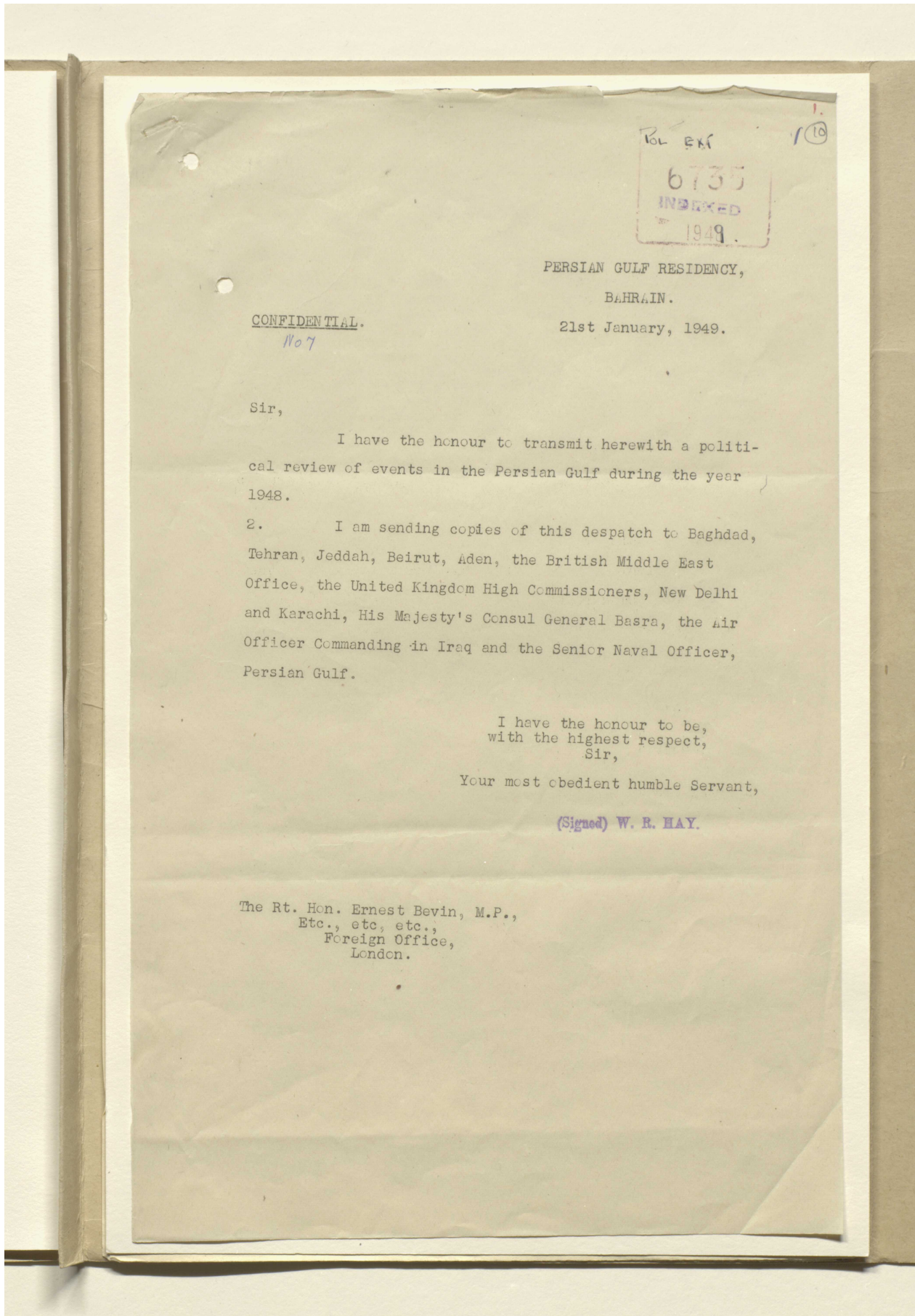
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(20/33)



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1949

PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY,
BAHRAIN.

21st January, 1949.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No 7

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a political review of events in the Persian Gulf during the year 1948.

2. I am sending copies of this despatch to Baghdad, Tehran, Jeddah, Beirut, Aden, the British Middle East Office, the United Kingdom High Commissioners, New Delhi and Karachi, His Majesty's Consul General Basra, the Air Officer Commanding in Iraq and the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

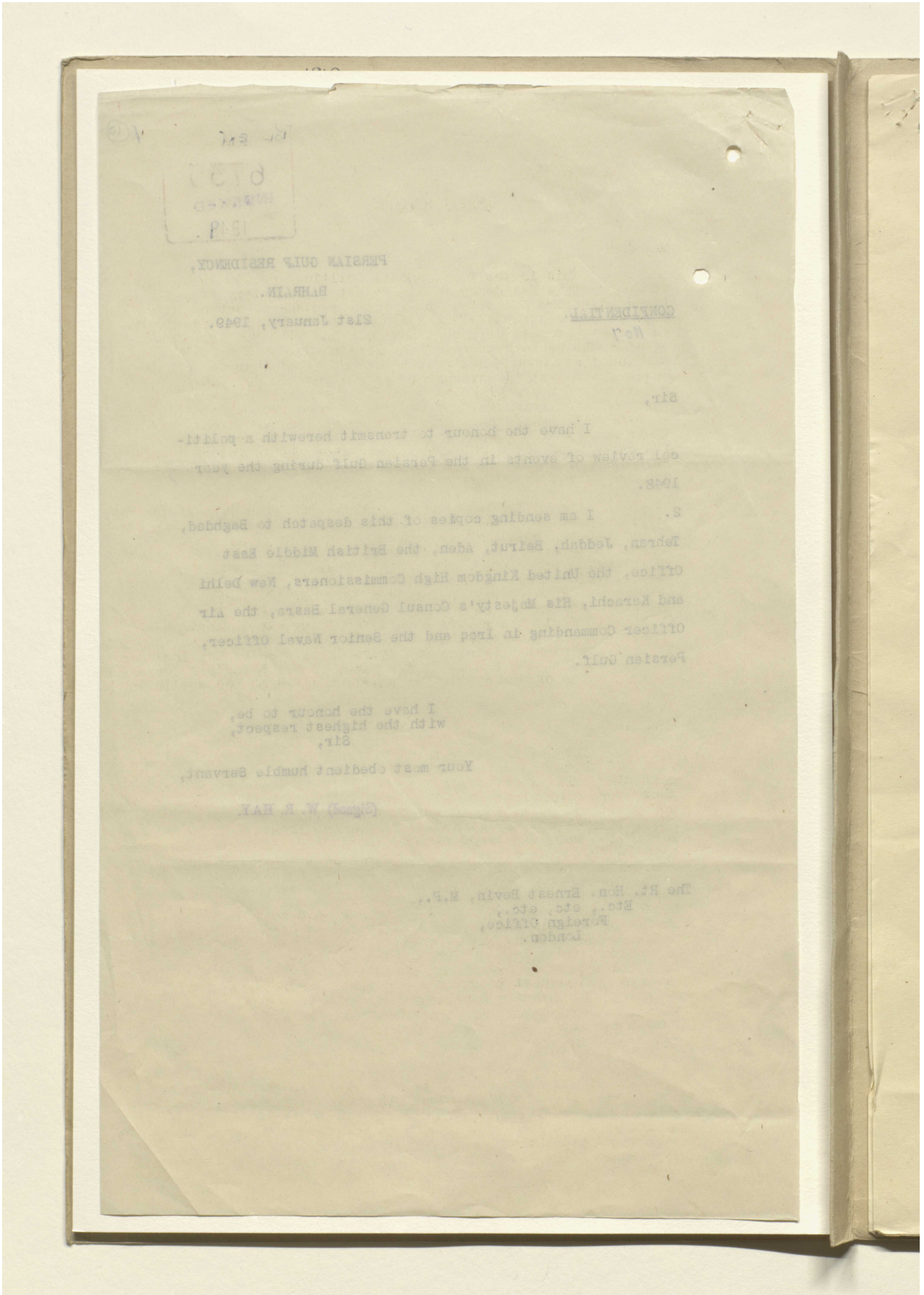
I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) W. R. HAY.

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
Etc., etc, etc.,
Foreign Office,
London.

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(21/33)



Coll 30/231 'Annual Political Review of Events in the Persian Gulf' [11r]
(22/33)

CONFIDENTIAL.

ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL.

This is the first annual political review to be submitted by this Residency to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and a few preliminary remarks by way of explanation appear desirable. The Residency is responsible for dealings with the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman and with ten Arab shaikhdoms on the western shore of the Persian Gulf. The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman has direct relations with other foreign powers, while His Majesty's Government are responsible for the foreign relations of the shaikhdoms. In all the states concerned the government is patriarchal and in some of them the administration is extremely primitive. Most of them are concerned only with their own petty problems and all of them are at present outside the current of world politics. They show little interest in the Arab League, are in most cases apathetic to events in Palestine and are as yet untouched by communism.

During the past year in particular, the Gulf States have carried on as usual and there has been no occurrences in any of them of outstanding political importance. In Bahrain and Kuwait desultory efforts have been made to collect funds for the Arab cause in Palestine and clothes for the refugees. The conduct of the various rulers has, on the whole been satisfactory and there has been no evidence of any inclination to flout the authority of His Majesty's Government as a result of the withdrawal from India and Burma. In fact, the rulers seem, if anything, to be anxious to preserve their ties with His Majesty's Government to whom they owe their independent existence and there is no sign of any inclination to turn to the U.S.A. in the place of His Majesty's Government in spite of the display of American strength and wealth in the Gulf.

BAHRAIN.

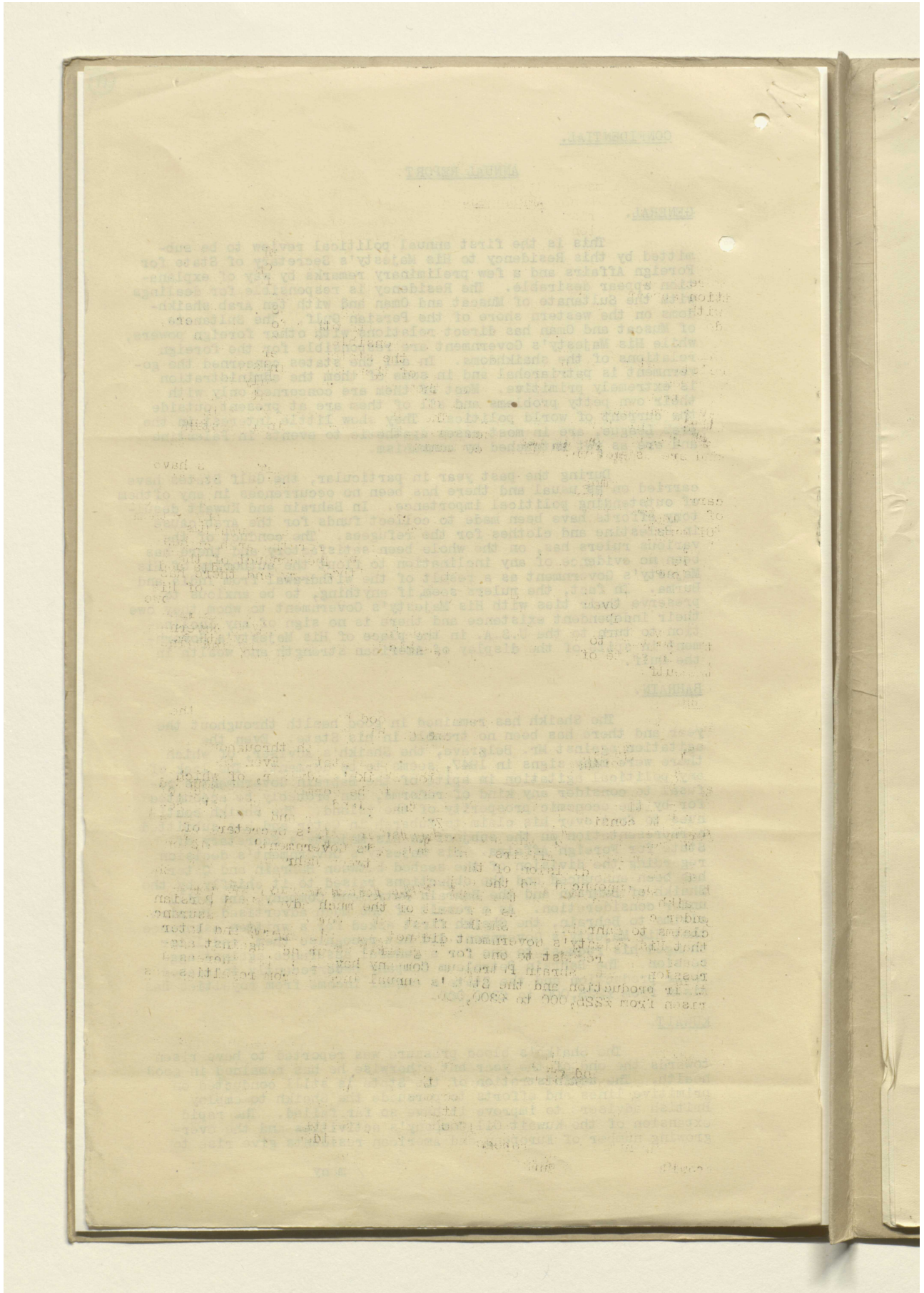
The Shaikh has remained in good health throughout the year and there has been no trouble in his State. Even the agitation against Mr. Belgrave, the Shaikh's Adviser, of which there were many signs in 1947, seems to be dormant. The lack of any political agitation in spite of the Bahrain Government's refusal to consider any kind of reforms, can probably be accounted for by the economic prosperity of the island. The Shaikh continues to fret over his claim to Zubarah in Qatar and has submitted a representation on the subject to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. His Majesty's Government's decision regarding the division of the seabed between Bahrain and Qatar has been announced and the objections raised to it chiefly by the Shaikh of Bahrain and the Bahrain Petroleum Company, are still under consideration. As a result of the much advertised Persian claims to Bahrain, the Shaikh first asked for a written assurance that His Majesty's Government did not recognise them, and later changed his request to one for a general assurance against aggression. The Bahrain Petroleum Company have recently increased their production and the State's annual income from royalties has risen from £225,000 to £300,000.

KUWAIT.

The Shaikh's blood pressure was reported to have risen towards the end of the year but otherwise he has remained in good health. The administration of the State is still conducted on primitive lines and efforts to persuade the Shaikh to employ British advisers to improve it have so far failed. The rapid expansion of the Kuwait Oil Company's activities and the ever-growing number of European and American residents give rise to

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many problems and lead to an ever increasing demand for such improvement. Money is pouring into the State and prices and wages continue to rise. The outstanding event of the year was the grant of a concession by the Shaikh to the American Independent Oil Company for oil rights in the Kuwait share of the Kuwait-Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone. Under the concession the Shaikh obtained an immediate payment of nearly eight million dollars. The Company has established an office in Kuwait but is unable to make any progress as Ibn Saud has not yet granted a concession for his share of the Neutral Zone.

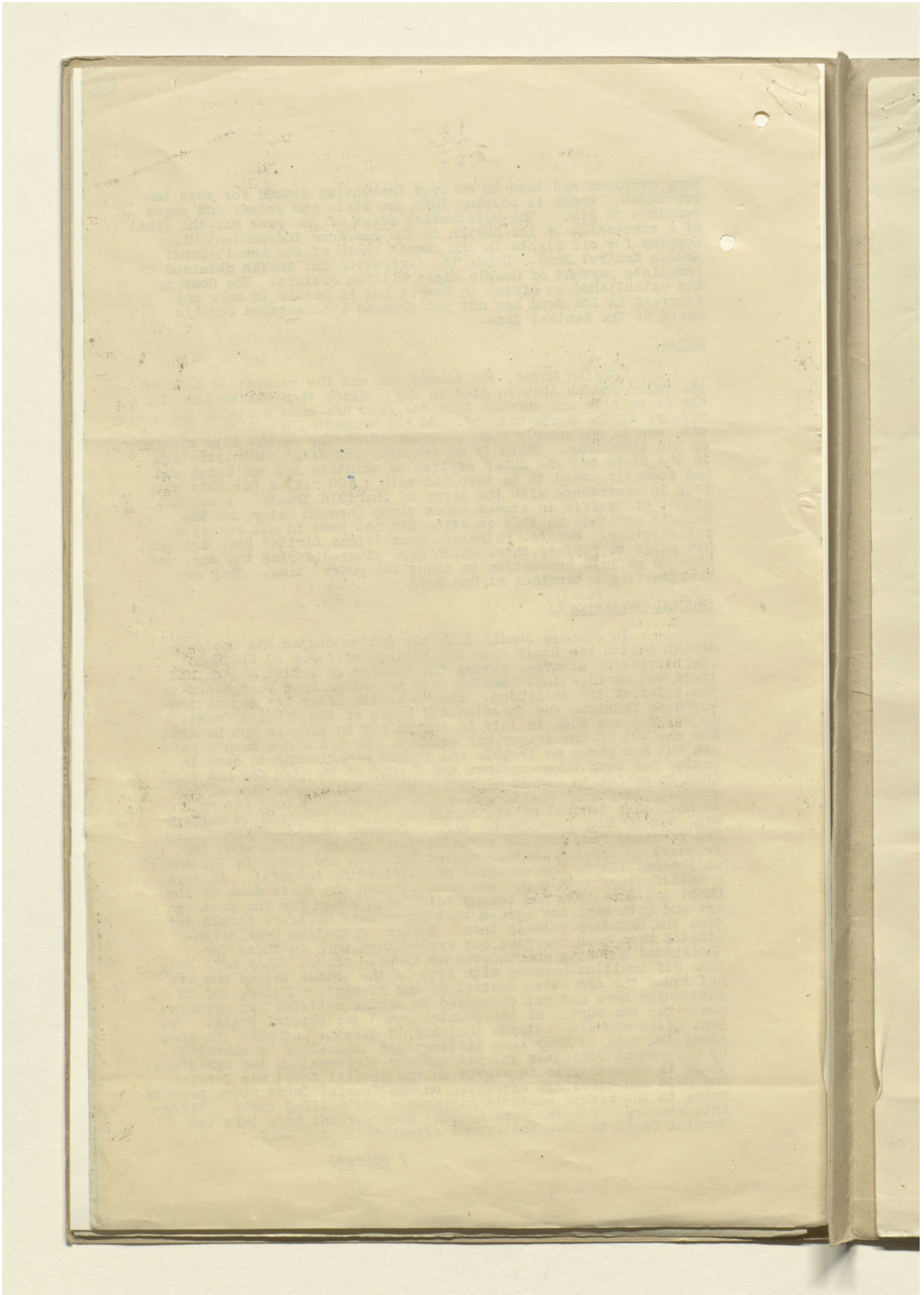
QATAR.

Shaikh Hamad, the second son and the recognised heir of the ruler Shaikh Abdulla died in May. Since then Shaikh Abdulla who is over 70 and suffers from diabetes has been managing the affairs of the State himself. He has nominated his eldest son Ali, who is not nearly such a strong character as his late brother, as his successor. There is no properly organised administration in the State but the Ruler aspires to maintain law and order and has recently asked to be supplied with 1,500 rifles for this purpose in accordance with the terms of the 1916 Treaty. A certain amount of traffic in slaves takes place through Qatar and the Ruler's attitude on this question has not been in all respects satisfactory. Messrs. Petroleum Concessions Limited have drilled new wells to replace those which were plugged during the war, and hope to go into production in about two years' time. They are constructing a terminal at Umm Said.

TRUCIAL SHAIKHDOMS.

In January Shaikh Saqr bin Sultan ousted his uncle Shaikh Sultan bin Salim from the Shaikhdom of Ras al Khaimah. The usurpation occurred during the absence of Shaikh Sultan and there was no fighting. Shaikh Saqr has since been recognised as the ruler of the shaikhdom. Shaikh Sultan after his deposition began to intrigue and threaten the peace of the Trucial Coast. An attempt was made in July to deport him to Bahrain but he shot his way out of the Agency and escaped. He has since been a refugee but has given no trouble and is now negotiating to come in. Action has been taken against the Shaikh of Sharjah for his failure to assist in apprehending Shaikh Sultan at the time of his escape. As Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed, Regent of Kalbah appeared to have lost control of the shaikhdom it was proposed to replace him, but in July he suddenly made a descent on Khor Fakkan which had revolted from him and recaptured the place, since when the proposal to appoint another regent has been dropped. In the other shaikhdoms little has occurred of outstanding interest. In April a satisfactory settlement was made between the Shaikhdoms of Abu Dhabi and Dubai who had been raiding each other for the past two years and both have now agreed that Government Officers should determine the boundary between them. Messrs. Petroleum Concessions Limited have been carrying out exploratory work in these two Shaikhdoms and have encountered no trouble there. They have had some difficulties however with some of the tribes inland who are not under the effective control of any recognised Ruler, and in particular have not yet succeeded in making satisfactory arrangements for the survey of the country round the Buraimi Oasis. The Beni Qitab who live astride the road to Buraimi and also the road along the Wadi al Gaur have distinguished themselves by shooting up Government Officials and oil company personnel on two occasions. There is some traffic in slaves on the Trucial Coast via Buraimi and Nejd and cases are occurring on the Trucial Coast where parents owing to the severe economic stringency are selling their children into slavery. For the same reason, many persons have left the Trucial Coast to seek employment elsewhere in the Gulf.

/ MUSCAT.



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MUSCAT

The Sultan returned to Muscat from Dhofar, after a long absence, in March; he has enjoyed good health throughout the year. Little of importance has occurred in the Sultanate. The Sultan is still waiting for the death of the Imam in order to make an endeavour to establish his control over the tribes of the interior, but although he is visited by some of the tribal shaikhs and has talk with them he does little to make himself popular and always remains somewhat aloof and inaccessible to the tribesmen and his subjects generally. He administers his Sultanate through a number of Wallis or Governors many of whom are inexperienced and illiterate. For some years he has been asking for the services of a British Officer as Minister of Foreign Affairs and has now appointed Lt. Colonel B. Woods-Ballard to the post. His real object in making the appointment is to have somebody whom he can trust to look after affairs in Muscat during his long absences in Dhofar. As on the Trucial Coast large numbers of tribesmen have left to obtain employment in the oil fields in the Gulf owing to the economic stringency. The Sultan has continued to control Gwador on the Mekran coast through an Arab governor and an Indian administrator. The place is prosperous and a considerable revenue is derived from the customs duties levied there. Since the Khan of Kalat has ceased to rule Mekran nothing further has been heard of his claim for its rendition.

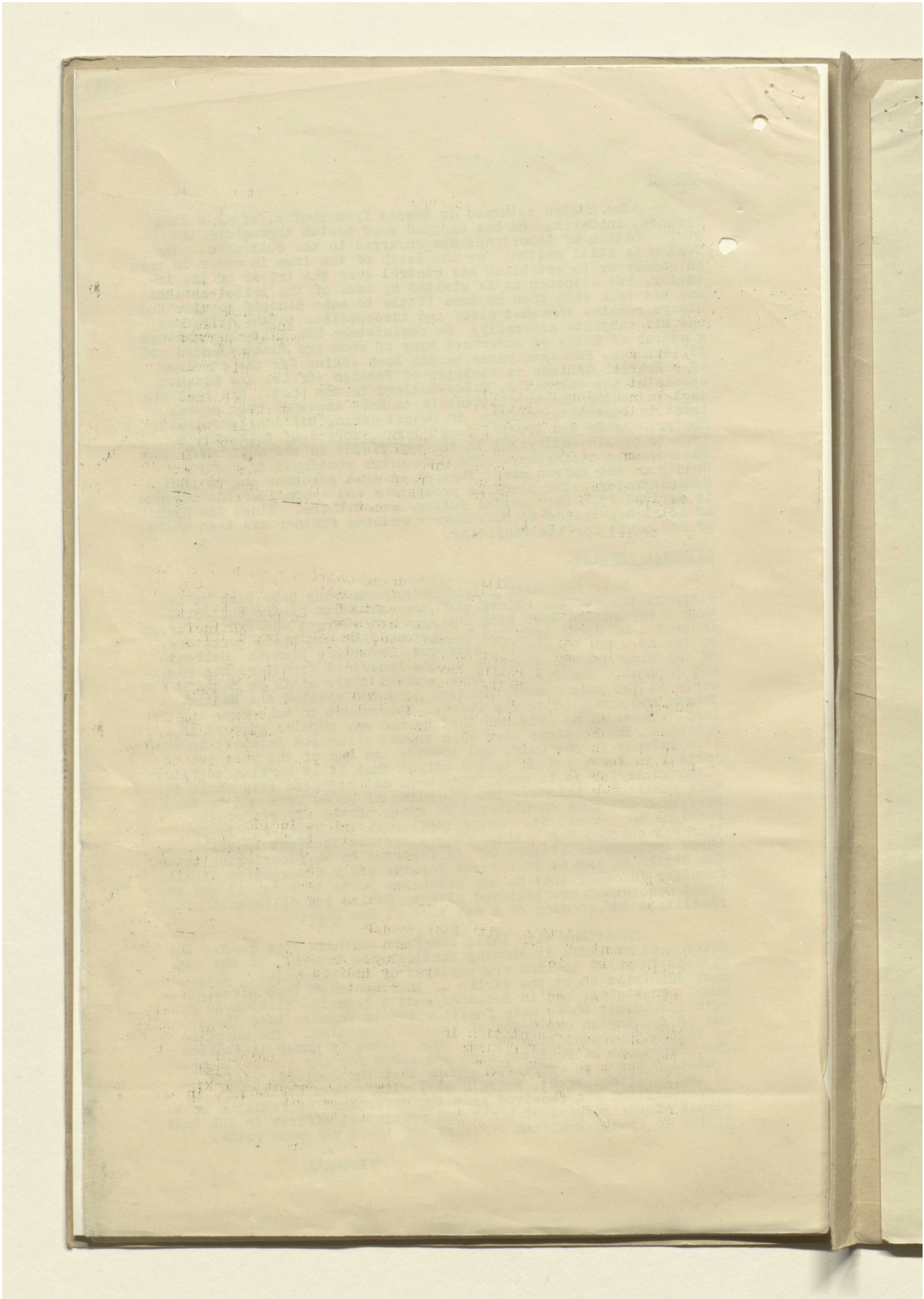
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Relations with neighbouring countries have been on traditional lines. All rulers with the exception of the Sultan of Muscat regard Ibn Saud with the greatest respect and except for an incursion of Saudi Arab tax collectors into Abu Dhabi territory, so far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, there has been no incident of any kind and the question of the undefined frontiers has remained dormant. The Persians have renewed their claim to Bahrain and early in the year a half-educated Bahraini visited the Majlis at Tehran and appealed to the Persian Government to take over the island. There is no evidence that he had any popular support in Bahrain. The Persians have also showed a renewed interest in certain islands in the Gulf, and towards the end of the year put up notices in Farsi Island to the effect that it is Persian territory although so far as is known they have not hitherto laid claim to this particular island. The smuggling of goods from and to the Persian coast goes on unabated in spite of the efforts of the Persians to prevent it. Smuggling across the Iraqi-Kuwait frontier was checked for a time after a serious incident in which three Iraqis were killed, but is reported to be flourishing again. The Shaikh of Kuwait is anxious for the early demarcation of his frontier in order that he may establish posts to watch it and the Iraqi Government are believed also to desire its delimitation to facilitate the opening of a new port at Umm Qasr.

Relations with India and Pakistan have been good. The Government of India is showing considerable interest in the conditions in which Indians are employed by oil companies. They made many enquiries about the strike of Indians which took place at Kuwait in August, and in December sent a goodwill mission to Bahrain and Kuwait whose main function was to enquire into the conditions of the Indian employees of the oil companies. The question of Indian representation in the Gulf States is under discussion. The Government of Pakistan have not asked for any special representation but have expressed a hope that the Judicial Assistant to the Political Agent, Bahrain will always be a Pakistani. A representation was received from the Government of Pakistan as a result of the refusal of banks and government offices in the Gulf States to accept Pakistan currency and there was some rather

/s strongly

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- 4 -

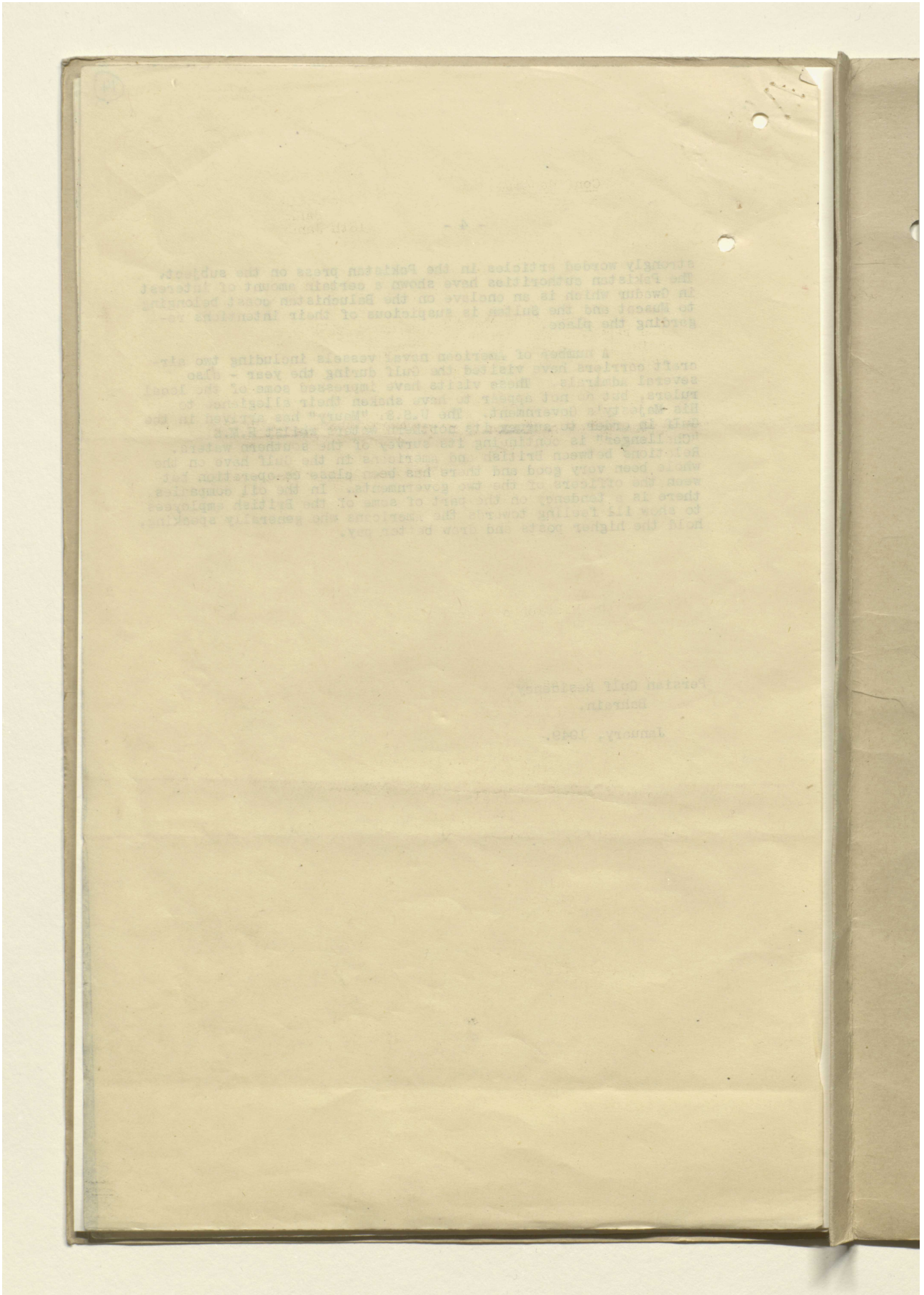
strongly worded articles in the Pakistan press on the subject. The Pakistan authorities have shown a certain amount of interest in Gwadar which is an enclave on the Baluchistan coast belonging to Muscat and the Sultan is suspicious of their intentions regarding the place.

A number of American naval vessels including two aircraft carriers have visited the Gulf during the year - also several Admirals. These visits have impressed some of the local rulers, but do not appear to have shaken their allegiance to His Majesty's Government. The U.S.S. "Maury" has arrived in the Gulf in order to survey its northern waters whilst H.M.S. "Challenger" is continuing its survey of the southern waters. Relations between British and Americans in the Gulf have on the whole been very good and there has been close co-operation between the officers of the two governments. In the oil companies, there is a tendency on the part of some of the British employees to show ill feeling towards the Americans who generally speaking, hold the higher posts and draw better pay.

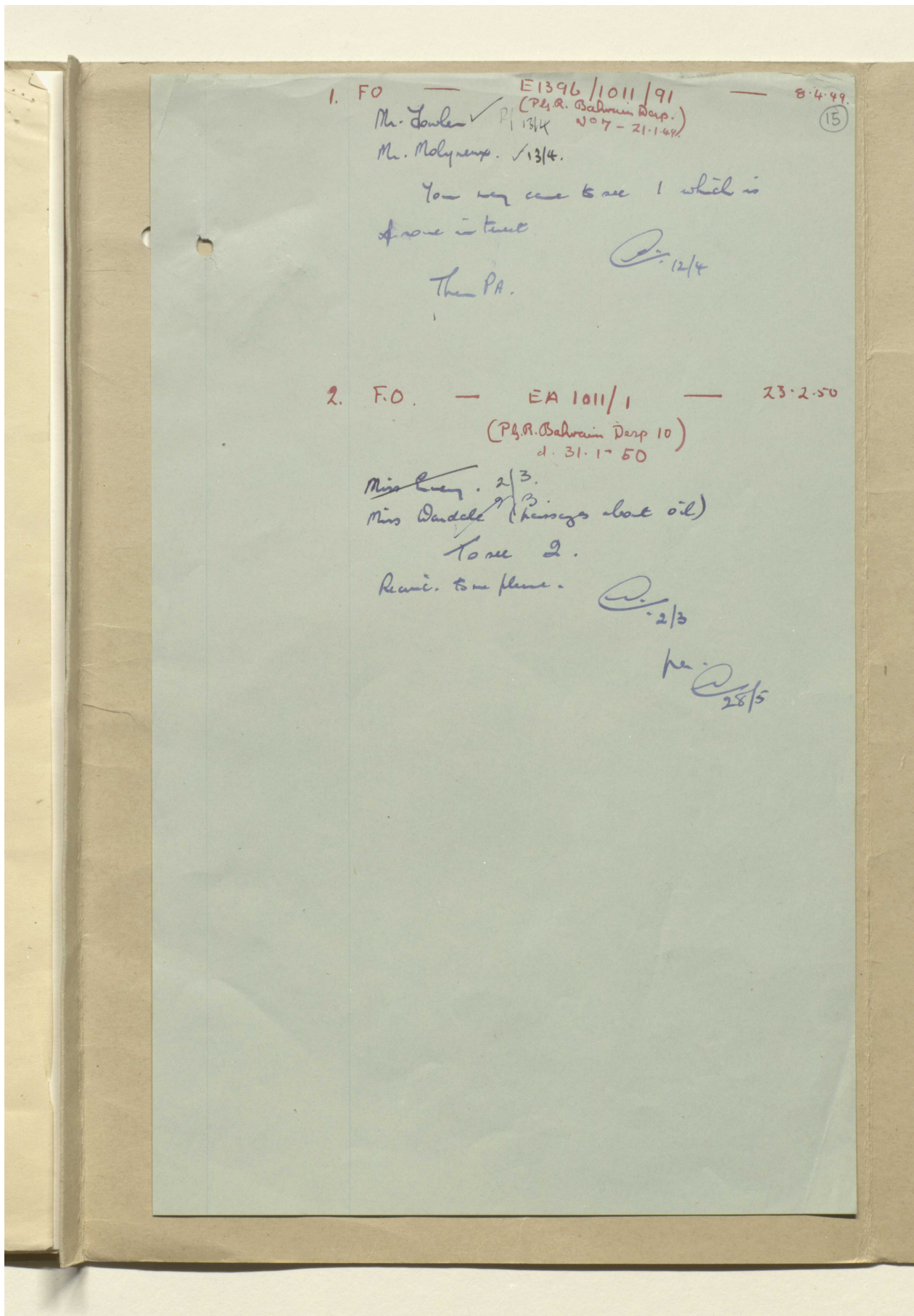
Persian Gulf Residency,
Bahrain.

January, 1949.

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1. FO — E1396/1011/91 — 8.4.49
(P.R. Bahrain Dep.)
1344 No 7-21-1-49 (15)
Mr. Towler ✓
Mr. Molyneux ✓ 13/4.
You may care to see 1 which is
of some interest
The PA. *[Signature]* 12/4

2. F.O. — EA 1011/1 — 23.2.50
(P.R. Bahrain Dep 10)
d. 31.1.50
Miss Lacey 2/3.
Miss Dardale 9/3 (herings boat oil)
To see 2.
Recd. to me please. *[Signature]* 2/3
[Signature] 28/5



