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'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/R/15/5/123
Date(s)	2 Mar 1944-5 Jun 1944 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (5 folios)
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About this record

Copies of correspondence from the British Minister in Saudi Arabia (Stanley R Jordan) to the Foreign Office, dated 2 March 1944, and subsequently forwarded by the India Office to the Government of India, describing the Ruler of Saudi Arabia, Ibn Saud's [ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz bin ʿAbd al-Raḥmān bin Fayṣal Āl Saʿūd] request that Britain send financial and military advisers to Saudi Arabia. In his correspondence Jordan describes Ibn Saud's dissatisfaction with his country's financial structure, and his stipulation that the adviser should be a Sunni Muslim, as most of the work would be based in Mecca.

'I/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [front] (1/14)

File No. *1/9* R/15/5/123
19 *44* Collection No. *1*

Pros. Nos.
Serial

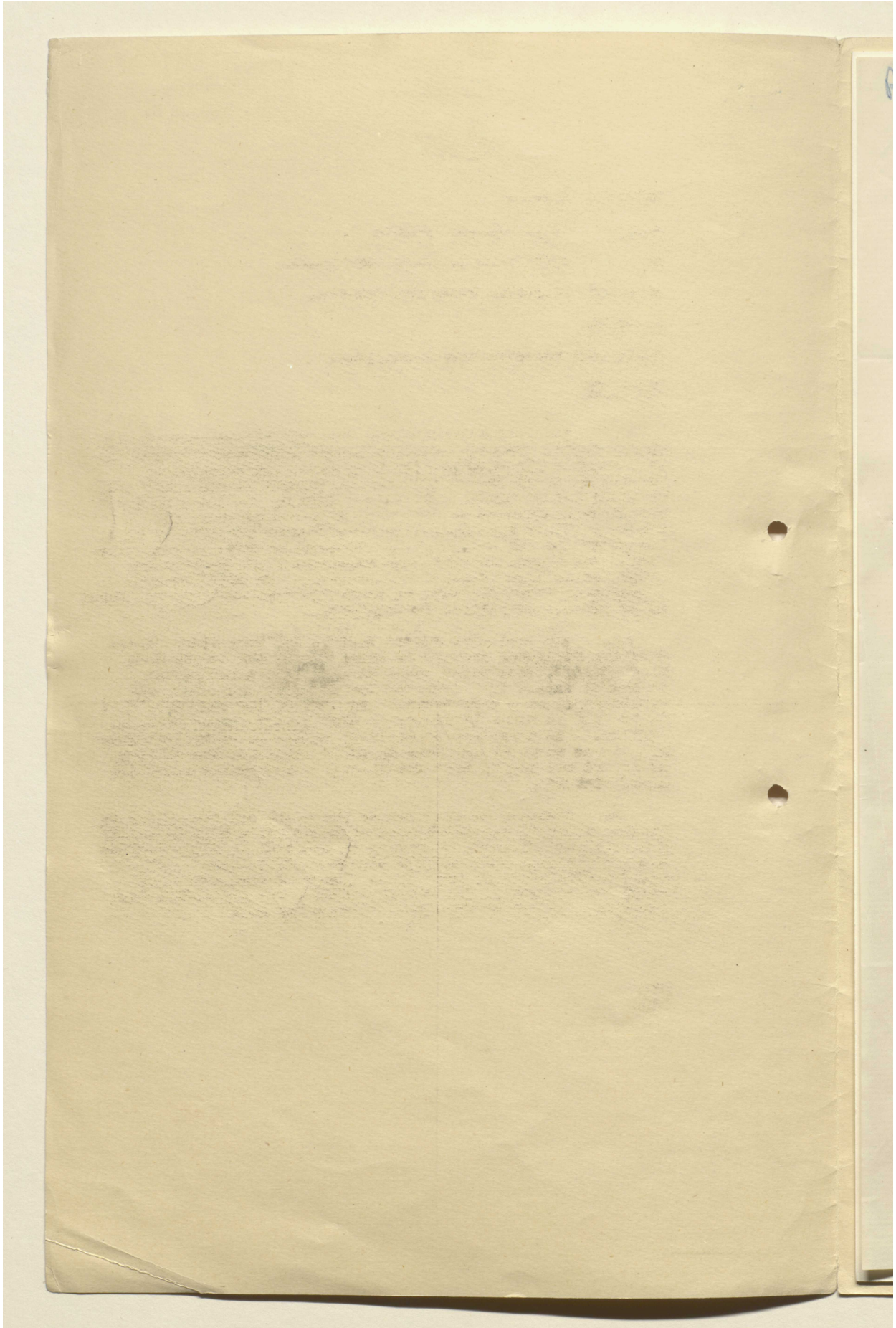
Subject.

FORMING OF ARMY IN SAUDI ARABIA

Previous References.	Later References.

S. 97--(Unbleached).
MFP-699 S&P-(M-1106)--10-10-39--300,000.

'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [front-i] (2/14)



'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [2r] (3/14)

R

2.

61/11.

CONFIDENTIAL
Kuwait Receipt
No. 470 Dated 17/4

Telegram B(Pad).
From India Office, London.
To Government of India, New Delhi.
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire.
No. 6709.

(1)

Dated 19th received 20th March 1944.

IMPORTANT.

Ibn Saud has requested that His Majesty's Government should send a senior military expert accompanied by four or five capable officers representing different branches of Service to Saudi Arabia to train and establish his small army on sound modern lines. He stated that he did not wish His Majesty's Government to take away officers serving with fighting forces but considered some reserve officers or some incapacitated and unfit for active service would be most suitable. He requested that they should be Sunni Moslems and asked for early nomination and arrival. He added that Americans were prepared to train his army but that he looked to us for the assistance he required.

2. Ibn Saud also stated that he was very disappointed with the financial control in Saudi Arabia and begged that His Majesty's Government would at once send a Government financial expert to reorganise the financial structure and establish it on a firm basis. As most of the work will have to be done in Mecca he requested that expert should be Sunni Moslem. As in matter of military expert he emphasised great importance which he attached to early selection and arrival of expert and begged that His Majesty's Government would not disappoint him.

3. I should be grateful if you would telegraph as to whether there is any likelihood of India being able to supply financial and military experts in event of it being decided that we rather than America should provide them. Both matters will probably have to be discussed with Stettinius Mission's arrival at the end of month. War Office has been consulted and has no objection to best way out.

RHL.
isc.

No. 269-S.

British Residency & Consulate-General,
Bushire,
the 22nd March 1944.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to

1. The Political Agent, KUWAIT. ✓
2. The Political Agent, BAHRAIN.



CONFIDENTIAL
Rangoon Receipt
No. 170 Dated 12/14

01/11

Telegrams (1/11)
From India Office, London.
To Government of India, New Delhi.
Referred Political Resident, Bussirah.

MEMORANDUM

The Band has requested that His Majesty's Government should send a senior military expert accompanied by four or five capable officers representing different branches of service to Saudi Arabia to train and establish the Saudi Army on a modern basis. He stated that he did not wish His Majesty's Government to take away officers serving with fighting forces but would prefer some reserve officers or some instructors and staff for active service would be most suitable. He requested that they should be sent as early as possible for early arrival on 1st arrival. He stated that the Government were expected to train his army but that he looked to us for the assistance he required.

The Band also stated that he was very disappointed in the financial control in Saudi Arabia and begged that His Majesty's Government would send a Government financial expert to reorganise the financial structure and establish it on a firm basis. As most of the work will have to be done in haste he requested that expert should be sent as soon as possible. As a matter of military expert he suggested that importance which he attached to early arrival on 1st arrival to expert and begged that His Majesty's Government would not disappoint him.

I should be grateful if you would telegraph to us to whether there is any likelihood of India being able to supply financial and military experts in event of it being decided that we should rather than ourselves should provide them. Both matters will probably have to be discussed with His Majesty's Government at the end of month. Her office has been contacted and has no objection to best my own.

His Majesty's Government
No. 282-2
The Band March 1924

- Copy forwarded, with comments, to
- 1. The Political Agent, Bussirah.
 - 2. The Political Agent, Bahrain.



'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [3r] (5/14)

3.

CONFIDENTIAL. CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

No. 535-S *Kuwait Register*
No. 750 Dated 23/6

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

The Political Agent, Kuwait. ✓
The Political Agent, Bahrain.

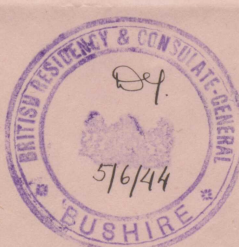
and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document(s).

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated... the 5th June 1944.

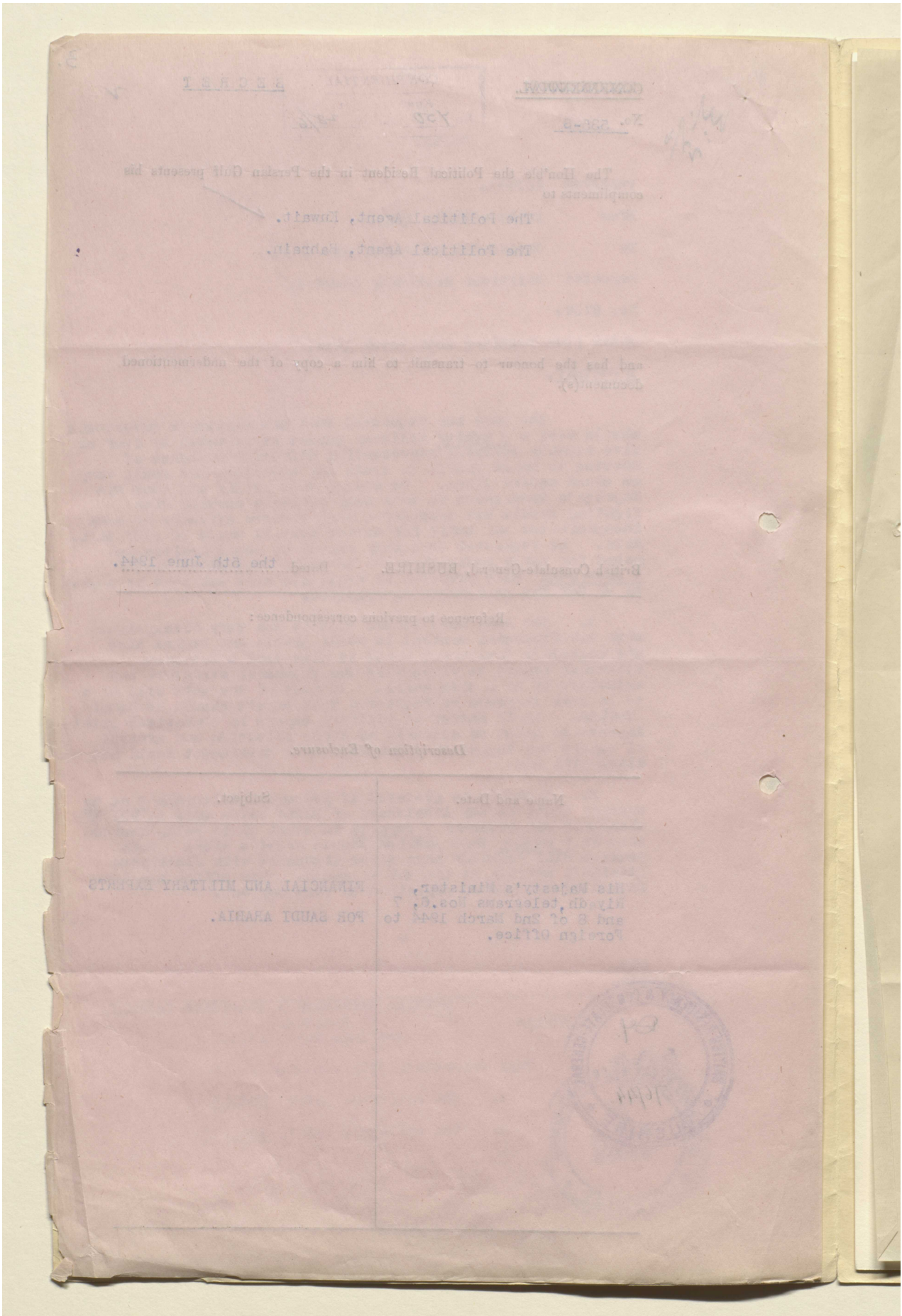
Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
His Majesty's Minister, Riyadh, telegrams Nos. 6, 7 and 8 of 2nd March 1944 to Foreign Office.	FINANCIAL AND MILITARY EXPERTS FOR SAUDI ARABIA.



'I/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [3v] (6/14)



'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [4r] (7/14)

Received under India Office Printed Letter No. Nil dated 10th March 1944. 4.

With the compliments of the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

(CYPHER)
E. 1408/325/25

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM RIYADH TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Jordan. D. 9.50 a.m. 3rd March 1944.
No. 6 R-12.15 p.m. 3rd March 1944.

2nd March 1944.

Repeated to M.E. Min telegram No. 11.

Secret
My telegram No. 58

Conversations with Ibn Saud and his advisers in Riyadh over last four days have followed closely on lines set out in my telegram under reference. They have turned chiefly on questions of supplies, transport and finance.

2. Until this morning Hafiz Wahba and Yusuf Yasin were present at all conversations and on one occasion also Amir Saud.

3. This morning however Ibn Saud wished to talk to me privately and confidentially. Conversation lasted for nearly two hours and turned around above-mentioned questions.

4. Finally Ibn Saud stated he was very dissatisfied with financial control in the country and begged that His Majesty's Government would at once send a Government Financial expert to this country to re-organise financial structure and establish it on a firm basis. As most of work will have to be done in Mecca he requested that expert chosen should be a Moslem of Sunni persuasion. He had no doubt such an expert could be found in British territory and he attached greatest importance to his early selection and arrival. He begged that His Majesty's Government did not disappoint him in this to him, most important matter.

5. Please see my immediately following telegram regarding his second request.

(Copies sent to Mr. Smyth)

(CYPHER)

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM RIYADH TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Jordan D. 10.00 a.m. 3rd March '44
No. 7 2nd March, 1944. R. 12.30 p.m. 3rd March '44

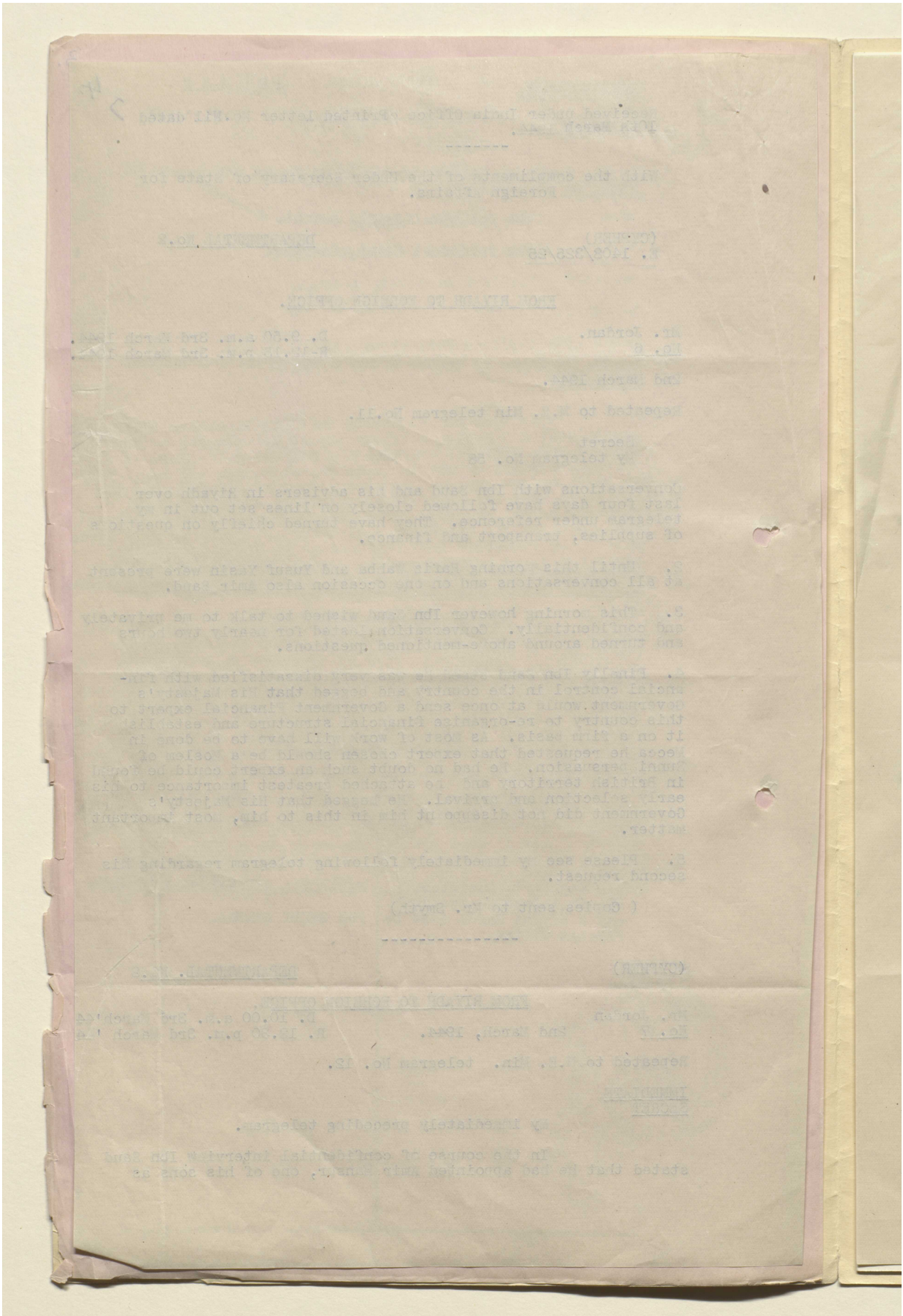
Repeated to M.E. Min. telegram No. 12.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

My immediately preceding telegram.

In the course of confidential interview Ibn Saud stated that he had appointed Amir Mansur, one of his sons as

'I/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [4v] (8/14)



'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [5r] (9/14)

Commander-in-Chief Saudi Arabian Army. He had every confidence in Mansur, who was both intelligent and loyal. He knew little of army matters, however, nor did Saudi Arabian officers. For this reason he requested that His Majesty's Government would send a senior military expert accompanied by four or five capable officers representing the different branches of the Service to Saudi Arabia to train and establish his small army on sound modern lines.

2. As in the case of financial expert he attached greatest importance to this matter and sincerely hoped His Majesty's Government would accede to his request. He did not wish His Majesty's Government to take away officers serving with the fighting forces but considered some reserve officers or some incapacitated and unfit for active service would be most suitable. He again requested that they should be Moslems of Sunnir persuasion and begged for their early nomination and arrival in this country.

3. He added that he knew the Americans were prepared to train his army and had even offered to do so but that he did not wish to let them do this. His faith was in His Majesty's Government and the British and he looked to us for the assistance both in financial and military matters which he now requires.

(CYPHER)

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2
FROM RIYADH TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Jordan.
No. 3

D. 9. 50 a.m. 3rd March 1944.
R 12.15 p.m. 3rd March 1944.

2nd March, 1944.

Repeated to M.E. Min No. 13

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

My telegrams Nos 6 and 7 to you.

I cannot stress too strongly the importance which Ibn Saud attached to his request (group undec. for) financial and military experts. A refusal on the part of His Majesty's Government to either or both of these requests would cause him grave disappointment. He realises that United States would like to take over training of army and its officers but he neither wishes their interference in internal administration of the country nor can they supply Moslem officers.

2. He has for some time past realised the rottenness of the financial administration of the country. "It is like date palm wood", he said "whereas I wish it to be as sound as steel and only the British can help me in this respect."

3. I venture to hope that in the best interests of the country and our friendly relations with Ibn Saud you will accede to his request.

4. I did not want to raise the question of payment for these services and suggest that in view of financial penury of the country we should shoulder the burden at present.

(Copies sent to Mr. Smyth.)

Government-in-Chief...
in London, who was both intelligent and loyal. He knew little
of army matters, however, nor did British officers. For
this reason he requested that his Majesty's Government would
send a senior military expert accompanied by four or five
capable officers representing the different branches of the
service to Saudi Arabia to train and establish his small army
on sound modern lines.

2. As in the case of financial experts he attached great
importance to this matter and accordingly invited his Majesty's
Government to send away officers serving with the
British Army and to send some British officers to some
independent and neutral territory to be trained
available. He again requested that they should be located in
Saudi Arabia and to begin their early formation and
arrival in this country.

3. He added that he knew the British were overworked to train
his army and had even offered to do so but that he did not
wish to let them do this. His Majesty was in his Majesty's
Government and the British and he would be for the assistance
both in financial and military matters which he now requires.

(Signed) Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

10. 12. 1934. 2nd March 1934.
10. 12. 1934. 2nd March 1934.

S. A. King, Iraq.

10. 12. 1934. 2nd March 1934.

By telegram nos 3 and 7 to you.

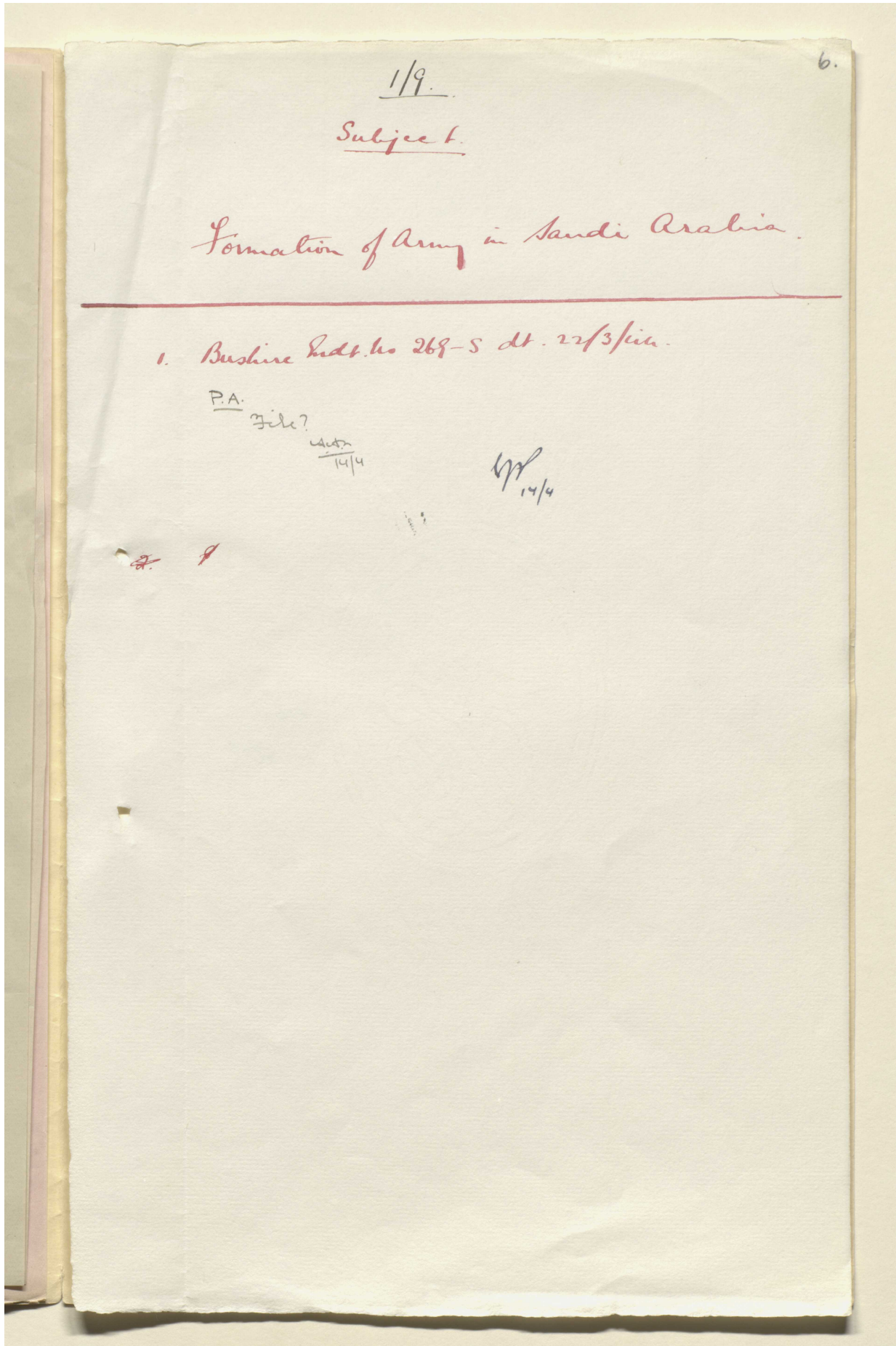
I cannot stress too strongly the importance which Ibn
Saud attached to this request (knowing under the circumstances and
military experts. A refusal on the part of his Majesty's
Government to either on both of these requests would cause him
grave disappointment. He realised that United States could like
to take over training of army and the officers but he neither
wishes their interference in internal administration of the
country nor can they supply better officers.

2. He has for some time past realised the rottenness of
the financial administration of the country. "It is like date
and only the British can help me in this respect."

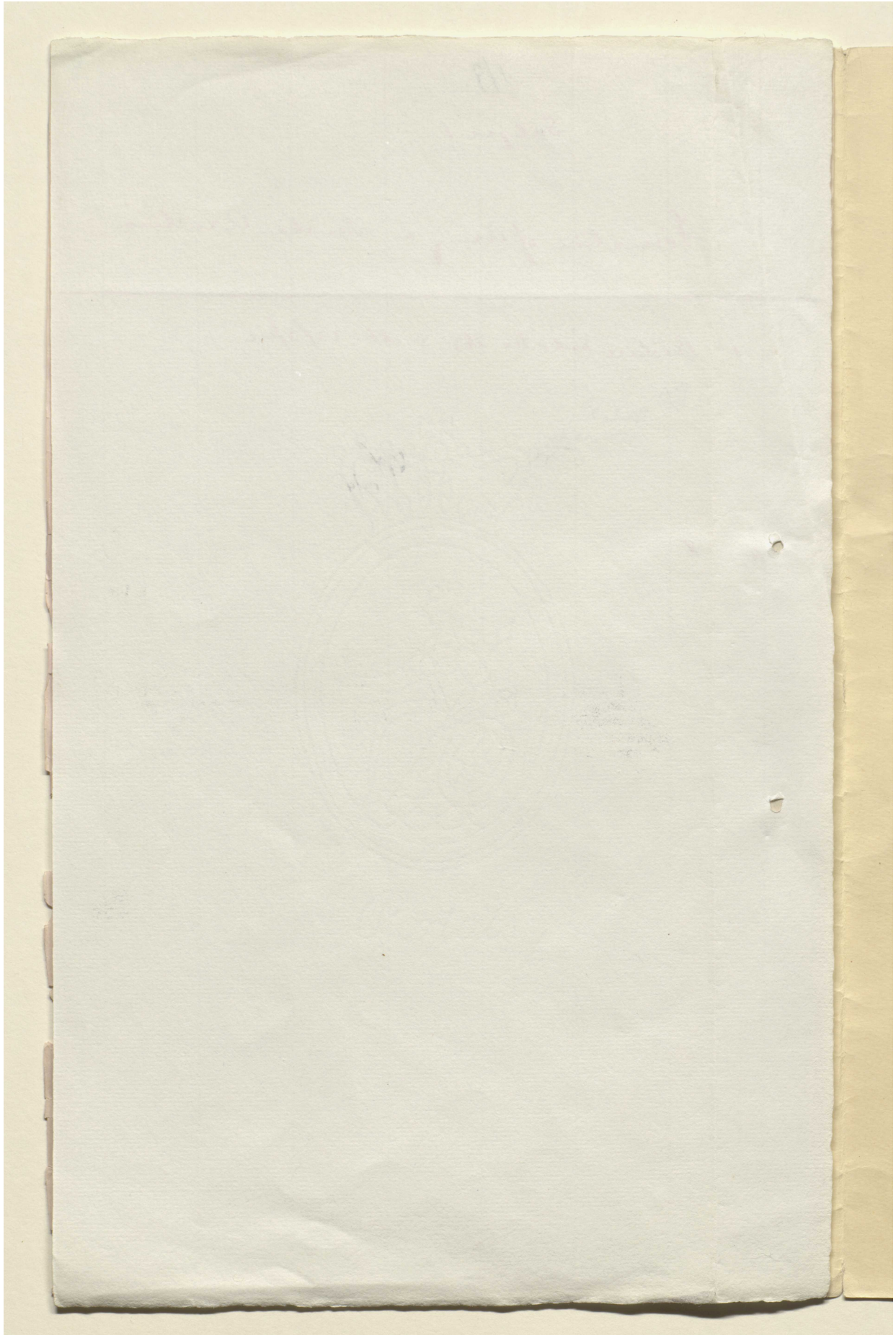
3. I venture to hope that in the long run the
country and our friendly relations with Ibn Saud you will accede
to his request.

4. I did not want to raise the question of payment for
these services and suggest that in view of financial gravity
of the country we should shoulder the burden at present.

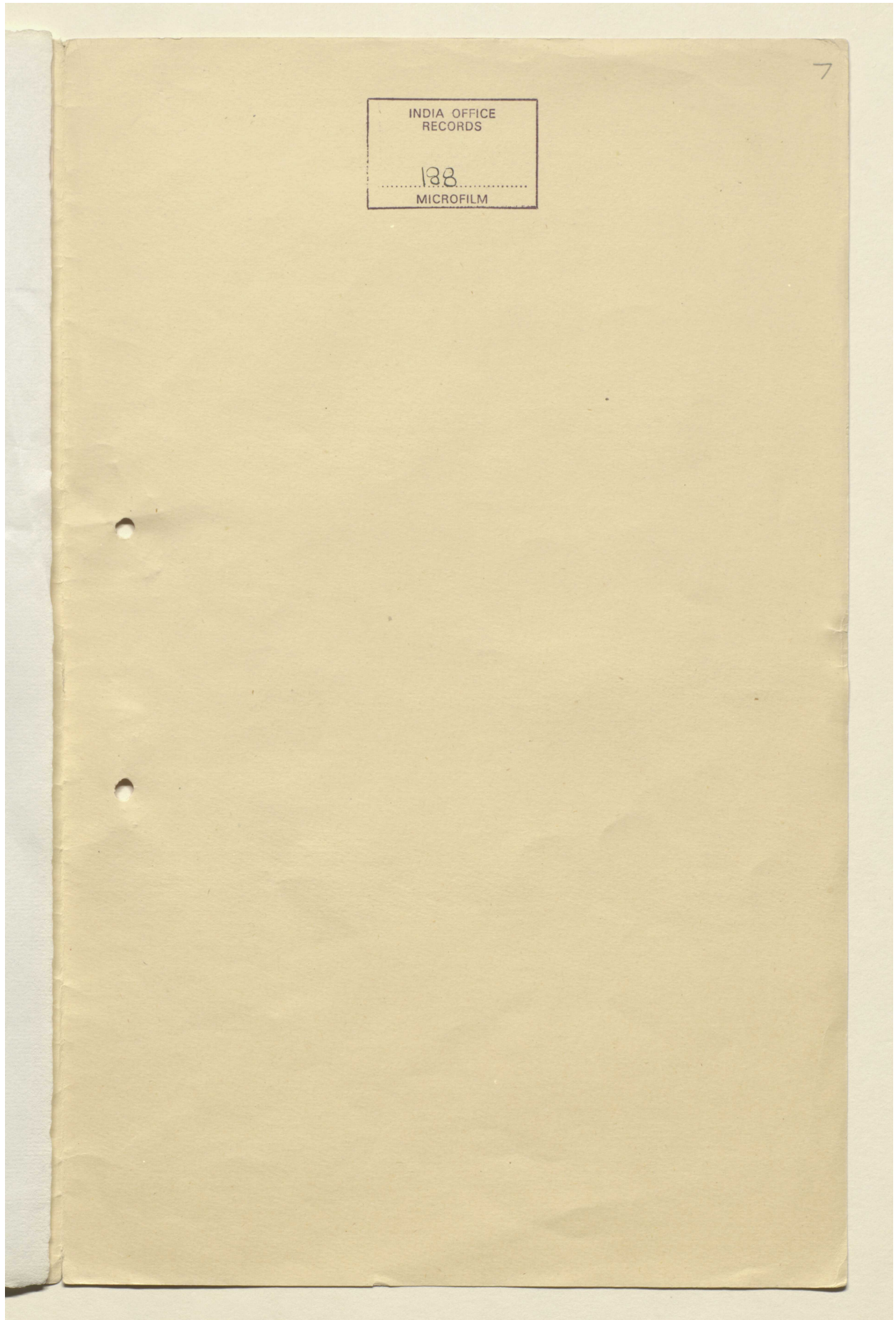
(Copies sent to Mr. Smith.)



'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [6v] (12/14)



'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [back-i] (13/14)



'1/9 Forming of Army in Saudi Arabia' [back] (14/14)

