

This PDF was generated on 17/01/2022 from online resources of
the **Qatar Digital Library**

The online record can be viewed at:

http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100000000831.0x00008f

It contains extra information, high resolution zoomable views and transcriptions.

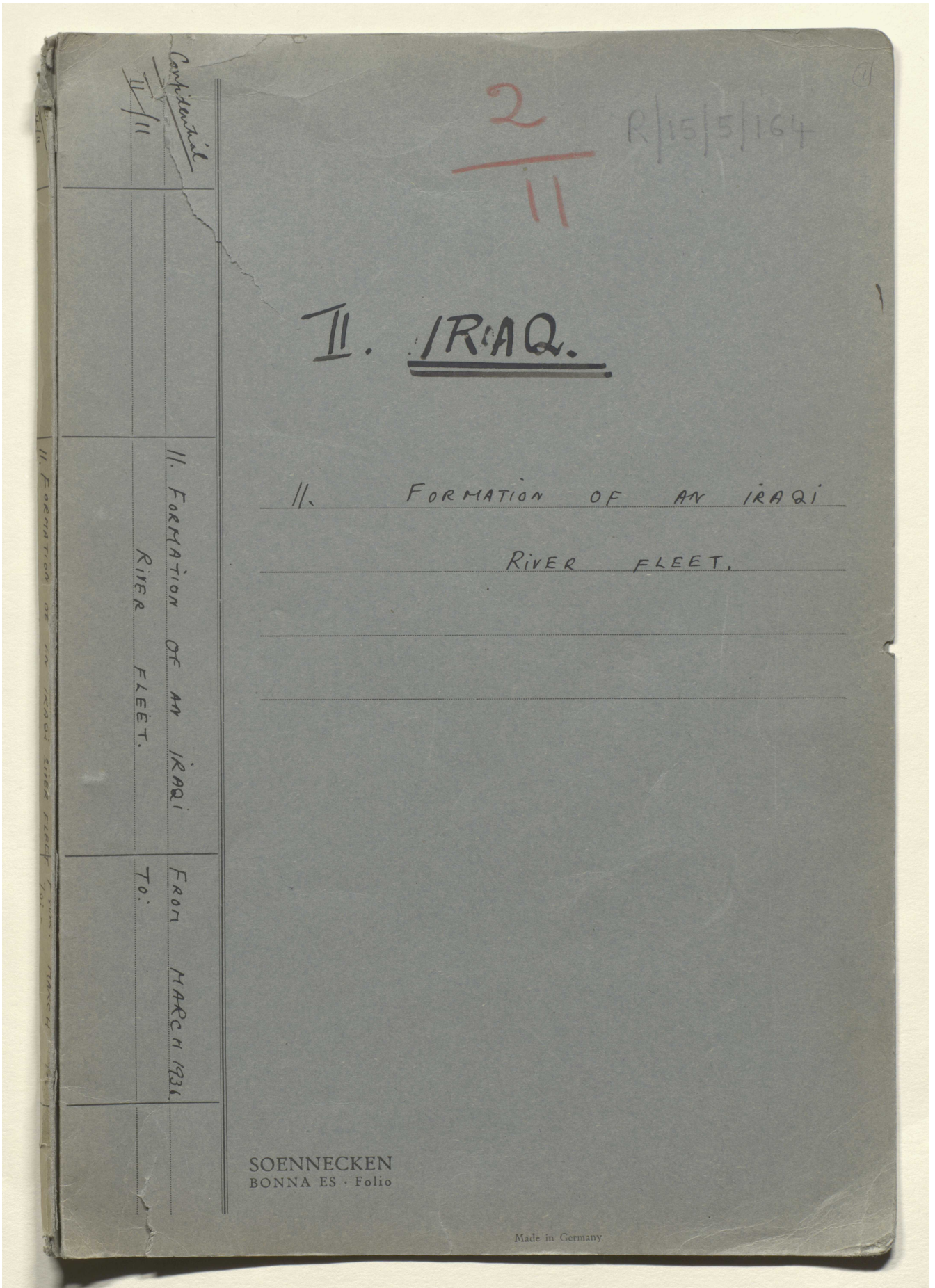
'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet'

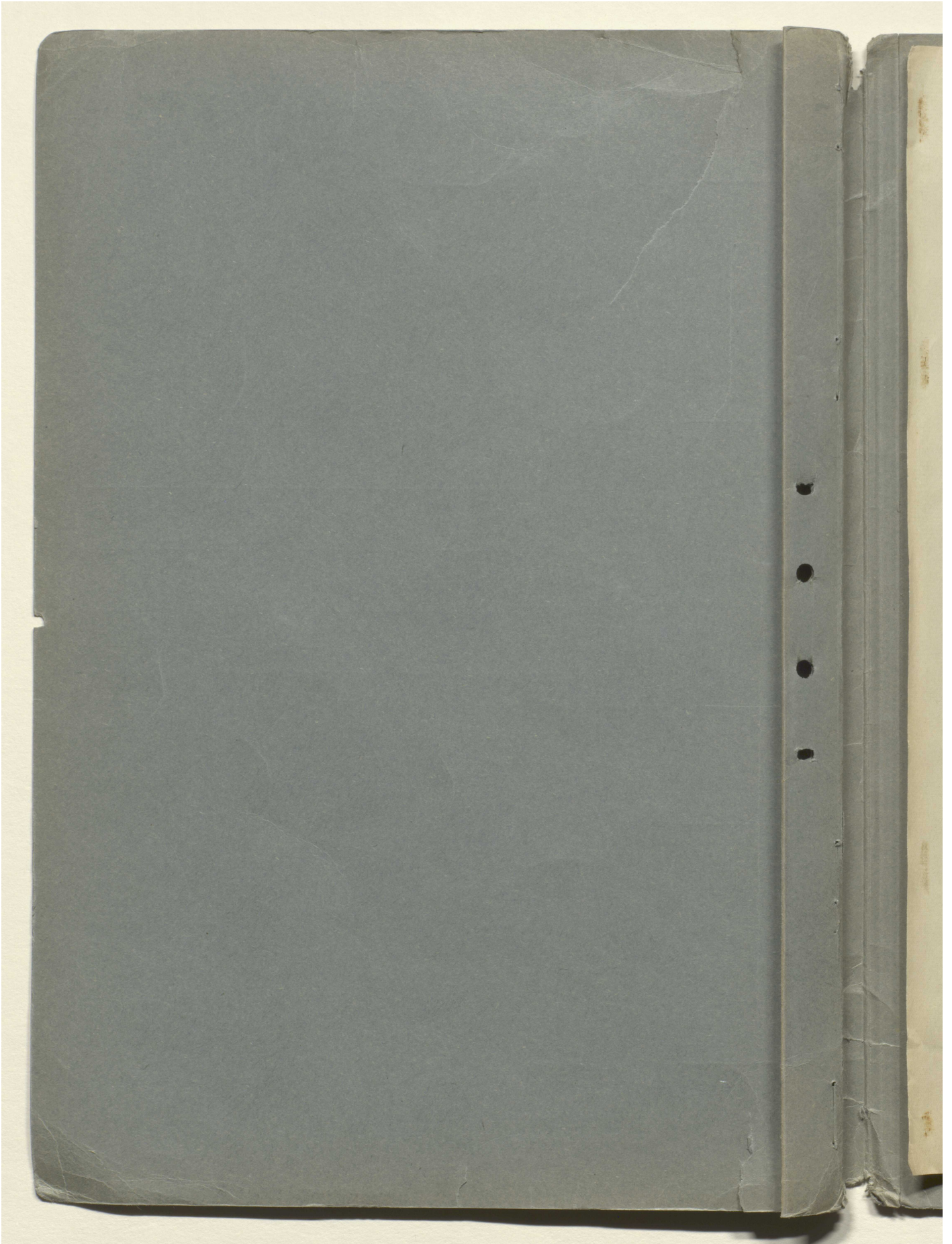
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/R/15/5/164
Date(s)	3 Mar 1936-20 Mar 1942 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (11 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



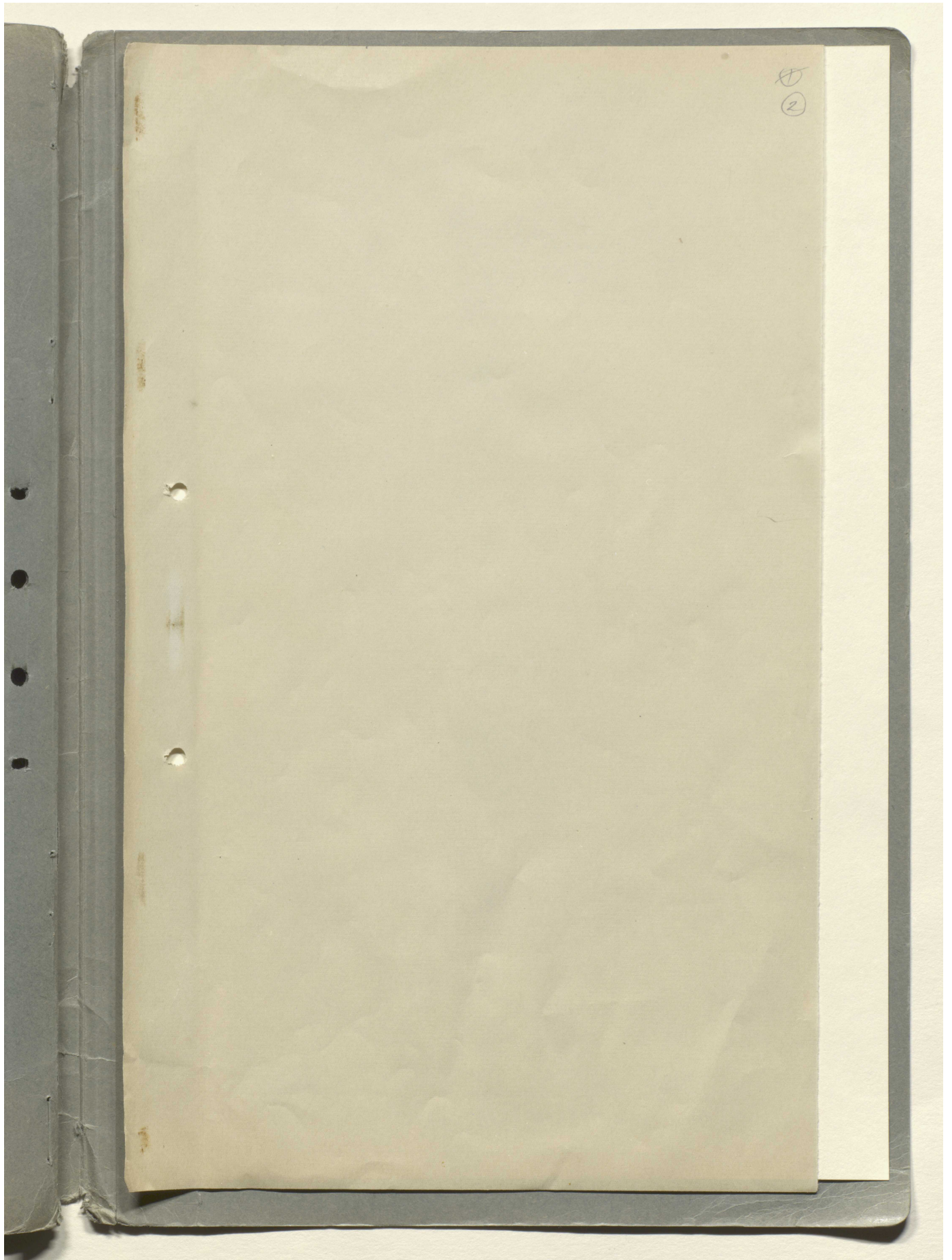
About this record

This file contains correspondence between the India Office and the British Embassy in Basra on the formation of a small river fleet in Iraq to protect the Shatt al-Arab waterway during the Second World War. The papers cover the size and armament of the fleet of six boats, the projected cost of the fleet, and the amount of time it would take the government of Iraq to pay for the fleet.

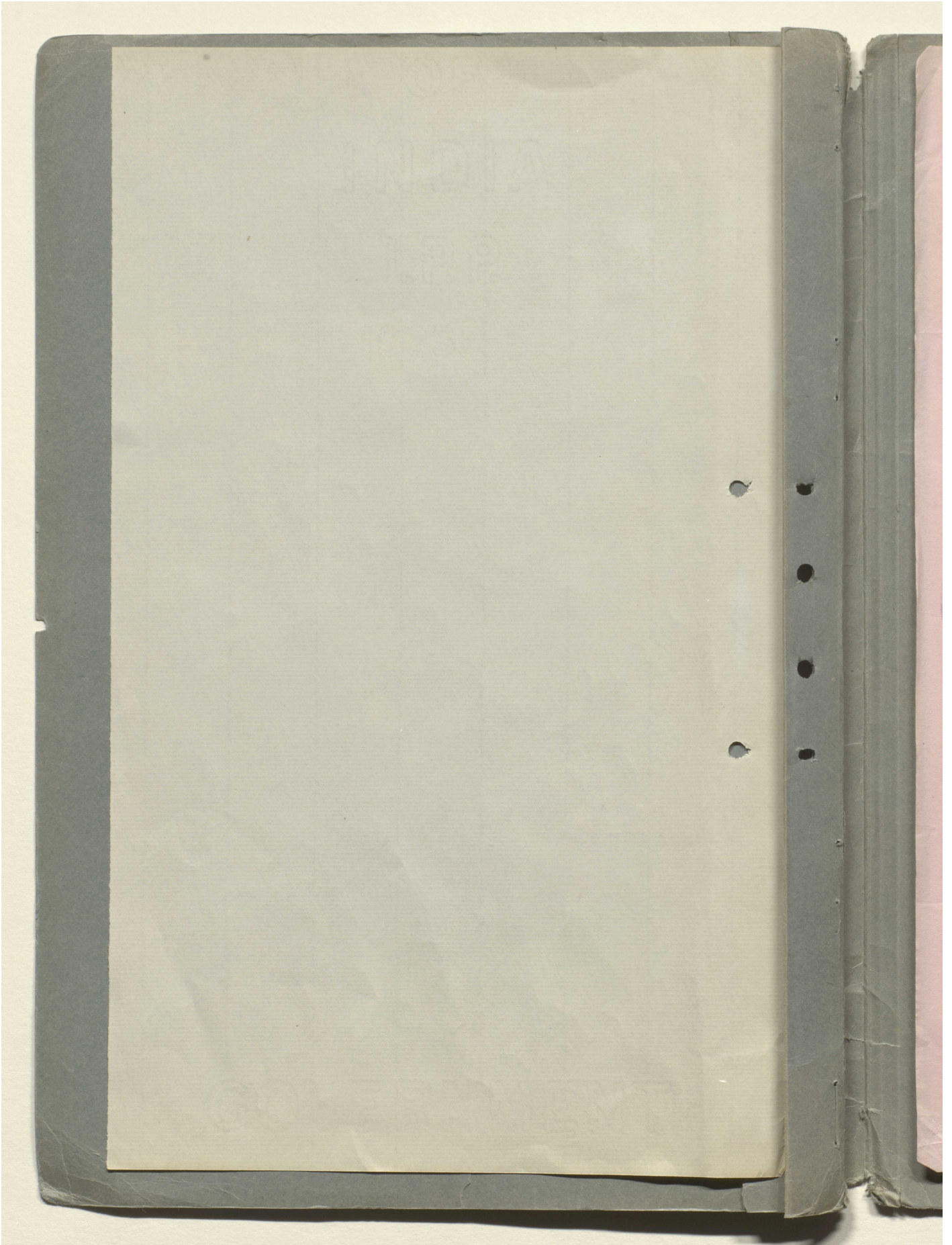




'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [2r] (3/22)



'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [2v] (4/22)



'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [3r] (5/22)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 209-S of 1936.

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

1. The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, New Delhi.
2. The Political Agent, Kuwait.

CONFIDENTIAL
Receipt
No 191 Dated 31.3.36

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

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE.

Dated 16th March 1936.



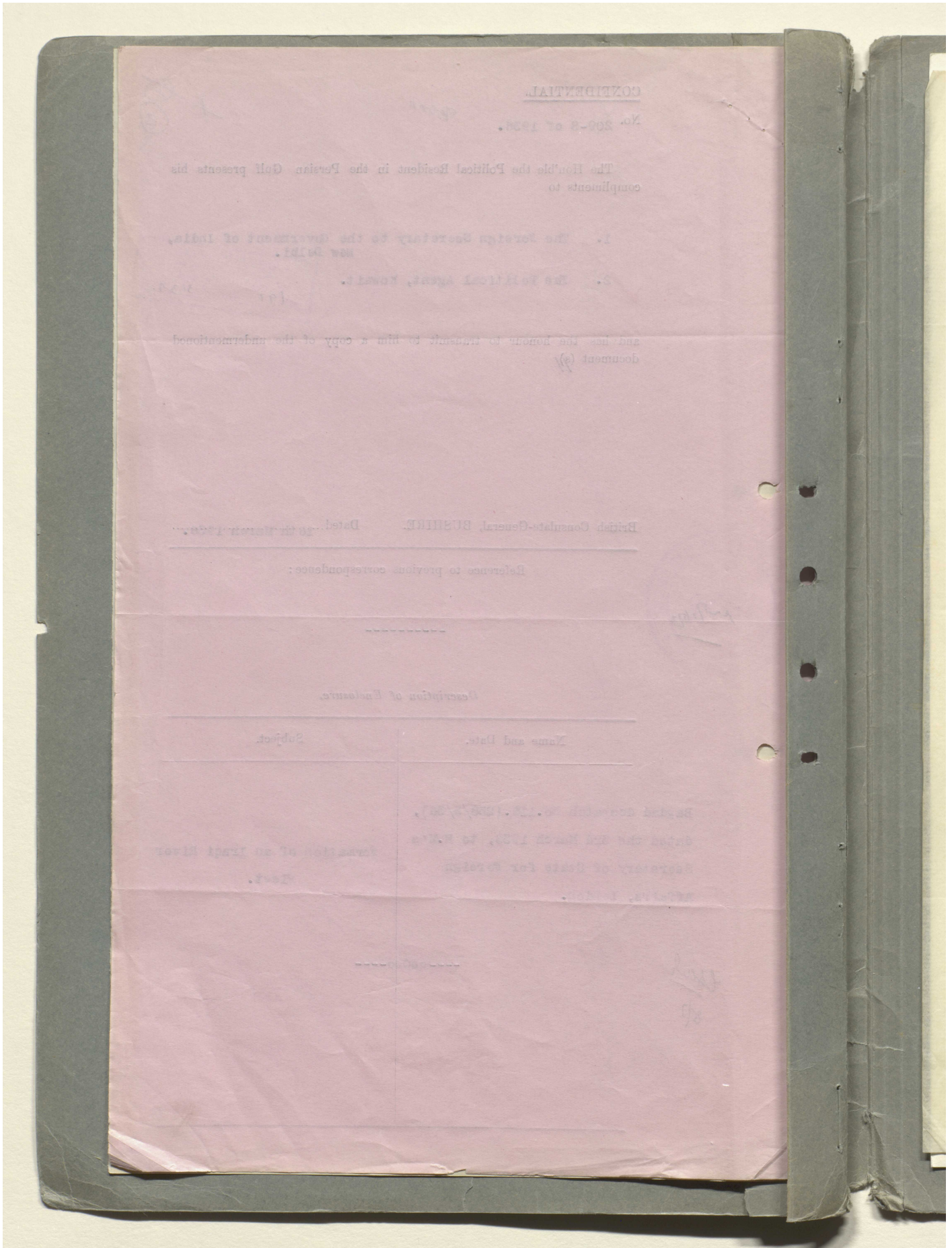
Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Bagdad despatch No.118.(258/5/36), dated the 3rd March 1936, to H.M's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London.	Formation of an Iraqi River Fleet.

lsal
8/3

'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [3v] (6/22)



'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [4r] (7/22)

No. 118.

(258/5/36)

BRITISH EMBASSY,

BAGDAD.

3rd March, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Iraqi Government are taking steps for the formation of a small river fleet. This idea may have been suggested to them by the existence of a Persian fleet with its base at Mahammerah, but I have little doubt that they have been brought to the point of action by their experience during the Euphrates rising in the spring, when two armed vessels which were hastily fitted out by the Director of the Port of Basra rendered considerable assistance to the Government by their successful operations in and about the Hammar Lake.

2. Colonel Ward, who was asked to submit recommendations regarding the type of vessels required, informs me that the government have now practically decided to purchase five vessels - one 150 foot Quarter Paddle Wheel vessel, two 100 foot Quarter Paddle Wheel vessels, and two 45 foot motor boats. The Inspector-General of the Iraqi Army was consulted regarding their armament, which will be as follows:

The 150 foot vessel.

One 3.7" howitzer.

One 12-pounder gun.

Two Stockes Mortars with 4 mountings.

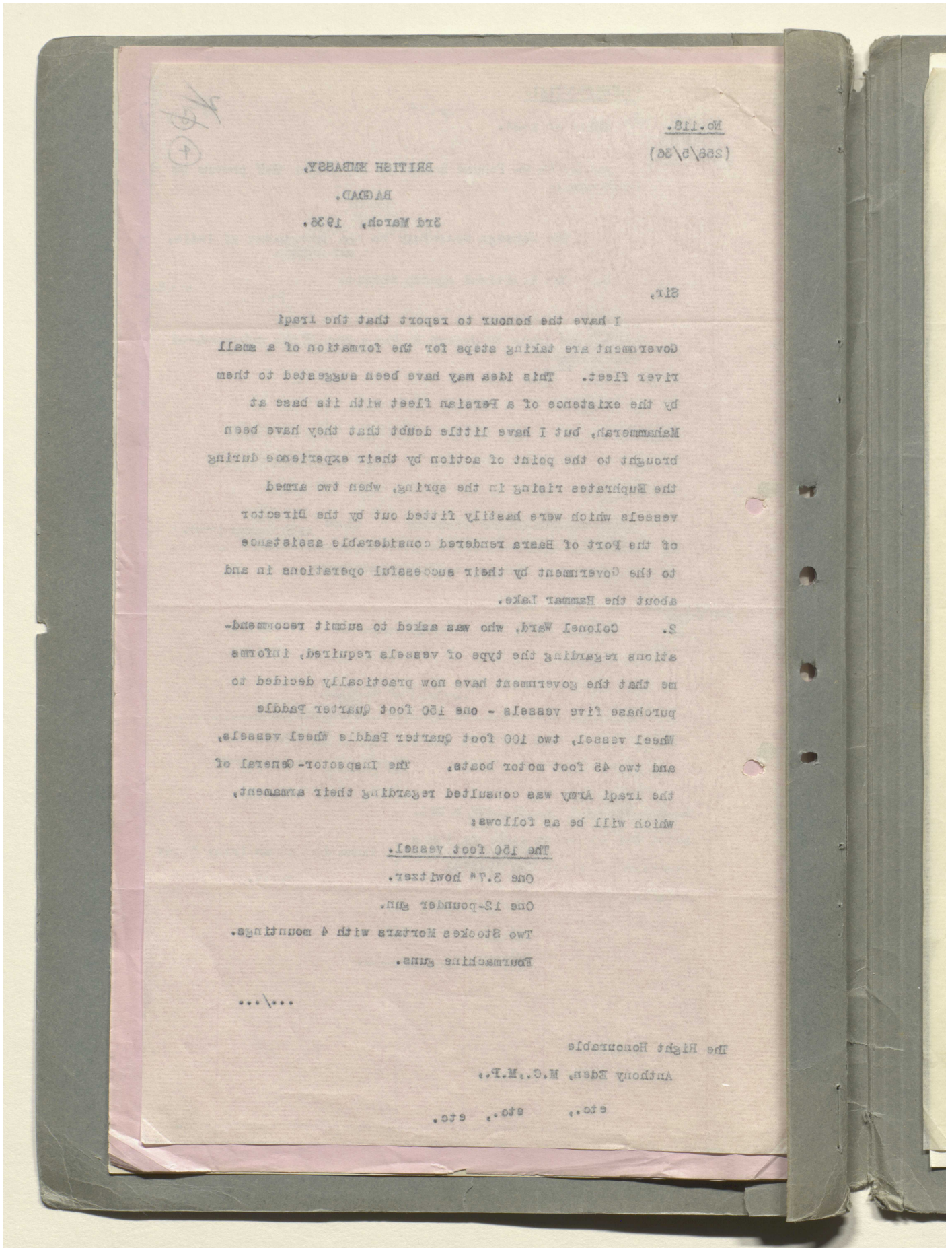
Four machine guns.

.../...

The Right Honourable

Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.,

etc., etc., etc.



No. 118.

(288/5/38)

BRITISH EMBASSY

BAGDAD.

27th March, 1938.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Iraqi Government are taking steps for the formation of a small river fleet. This idea may have been suggested to them by the existence of a Persian fleet with the base at Mahammerah, but I have little doubt that they have been brought to the point of action by their experience during the operations in the spring, when two armed vessels which were hastily fitted out by the Director of the Port of Basra rendered considerable assistance to the Government by their successful operations in and about the Hammar Lake.

Colonel Ward, who was asked to submit recommendations regarding the type of vessels required, informs me that the Government have now practically decided to purchase five vessels - one 150 foot Quarter Padde Wheel vessel, two 100 foot Quarter Padde Wheel vessels and two 45 foot motor boats. The Inspector-General of the Iraqi Army was consulted regarding their armament, which will be as follows:

The 150 foot vessel.

One 3.7" howitzer.

One 12-pounder gun.

Two Stokes mortars with 4 mountings.

Machine guns.

...

The Right Honourable

Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.

etc., etc., etc.

'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [5r] (9/22)

- 2 -

30
5

Each 100 foot vessel.

One 12-pounder gun in the bow.

Two Mortars with 4 mountings.

Four machine guns.

Each 45 foot motor boat.

Two machine guns.

3. The cost of this fleet, which is estimated at ID.127,000, is to be spread over three years, and a draft bill now before parliament provides for the allotment of ID.60,000 during the coming financial year. Colonel Ward informs me that this sum will meet the cost of the largest vessel and her armament, and that he is only awaiting the formal sanction of parliament before calling for tenders.

4. I am sending copies of this despatch to His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Tehran and to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

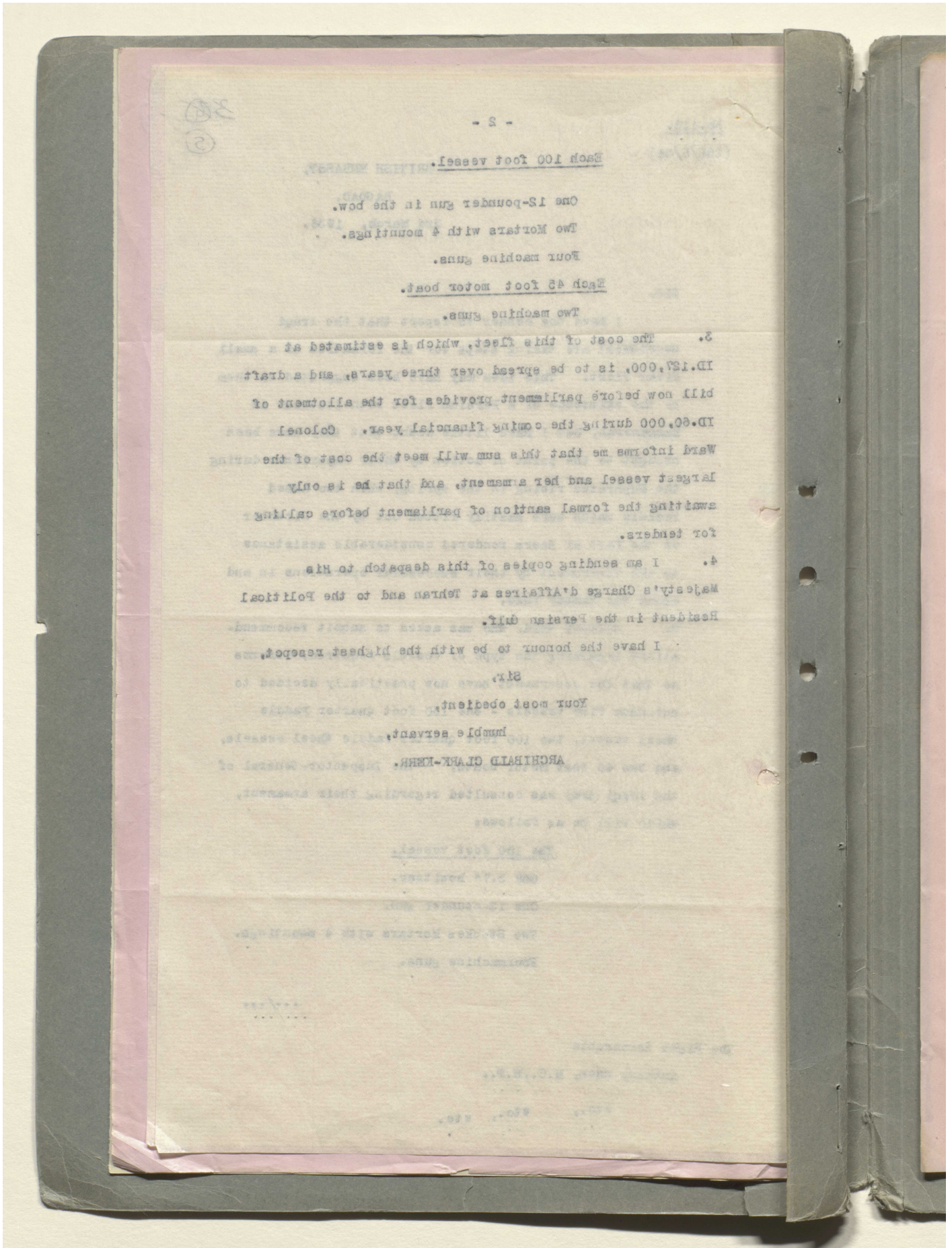
Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

ARCHIBALD CLARK-KERR.

'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [5v] (10/22)



'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [6r] (11/22)

2/11
11/12 ?

CONFIDENTIAL

No. G/166

R 1270

(1)

CONFIDENTIAL
Kuwait Receipt
No. 377 Dated

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

The Political Agent, Kuwait.

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

Office of the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf, Camp Bahrain.
British Consulate General, BUSHIRE. Dated...16th March...1942.

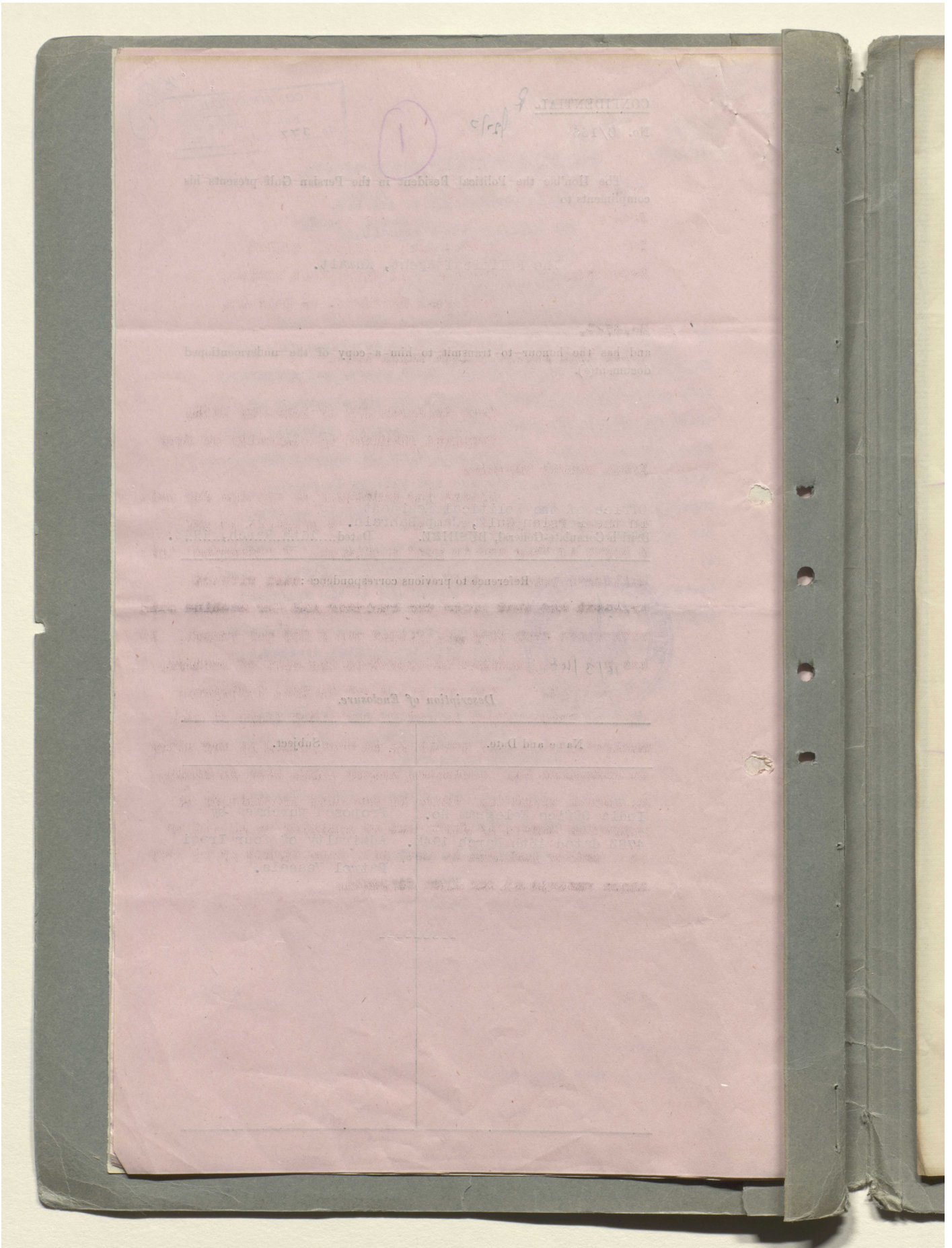
Reference to previous correspondence :



Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
India Office Telegram No. 4783 dated 13th March 1942.	Proposed purchase by Admiralty of four Iraqi Patrol Vessels.
	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>

'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [6v] (12/22)



'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [7r] (13/22)

23/19

Telegram S.
From India Office, London.
To Ambassador, Baghdad. No.304
Repeated Commander in Chief, East Indies.
Political Resident, at Bahrain.
No.4783.

Dated 13th received 15th March 1942.

Your telegram 229 of February 28th.
Proposed purchase by Admiralty of four
Iraqi patrol vessels.

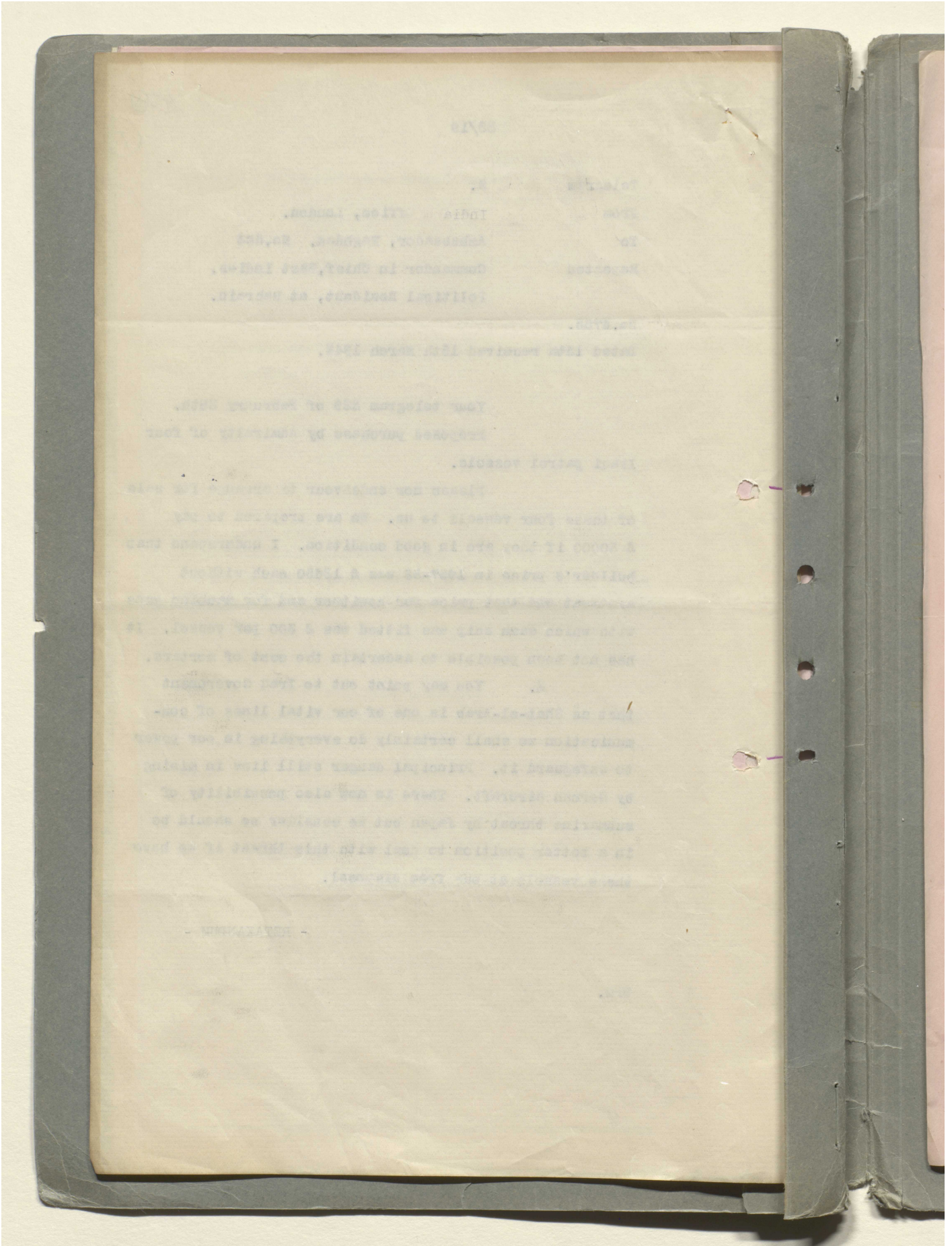
Please now endeavour to arrange for sale
of these four vessels to us. We are prepared to pay
£ 50000 if they are in good condition. I understand that
builder's price in 1937-38 was £ 12650 each without
armament and that price for howitzer and for machine guns
with which each ship was fitted was £ 300 per vessel. It
has not been possible to ascertain the cost of mortars.

2. You may point out to Iraq Government
that as Shat-el-Arab is one of our vital lines of com-
munication we shall certainly do everything in our power
to safeguard it. Principal danger still lies in mining
by German aircraft. There is now also possibility of
submarine threat by Japan but we consider we should be
in a better position to deal with this threat if we have
these vessels at our free disposal.

- RETAXANDUM -

NFG.

'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [7v] (14/22)



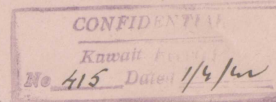
'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [8r] (15/22)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. G/194

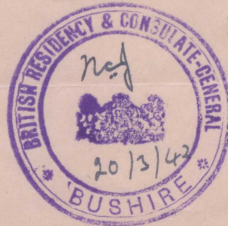
The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

The Political Agent, Kuwait.



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

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated..20th..March,..1942.
Camp, Bahrain.



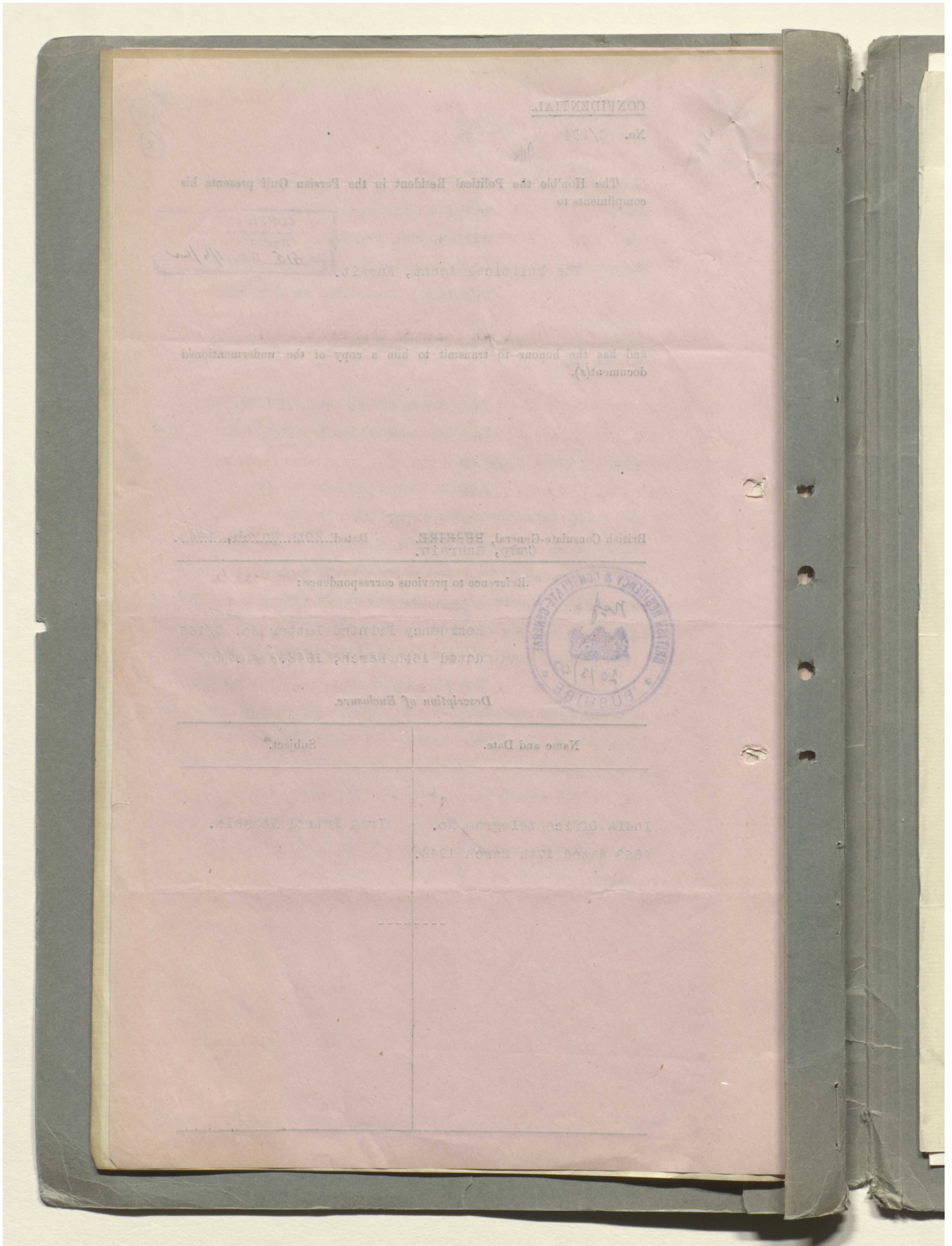
Reference to previous correspondence:

Residency Printed Letter No. G/166
dated 16th March, 1942.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
India Office telegram No. 4869 dated 17th March 1942.	Iraq Patrol Vessels.

'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [8v] (16/22)



'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [9r] (17/22)

23/19

Telegram S.
From India Office, London.
To Political Resident, Bushire.
No.4869.
Dated the 17th March 1942.

(Relayed under Bushire telegram No.518
dated and received 19th March 1942).

IMPORTANT.

Following from Foreign Office to Bagdad No.316
March 16th repeated Commander-in-Chief East Indies No.4
Minister of State's office Cairo (for Commander-in-Chief
Middle East) No.404 begins.

My telegram No.304 March 13th.

Iraq Patrol Vessels.

General Officer Commanding Tenth Army will no
doubt have told you that Commander-in-Chief Middle East
wishes two of these vessels retained on the Tigris.

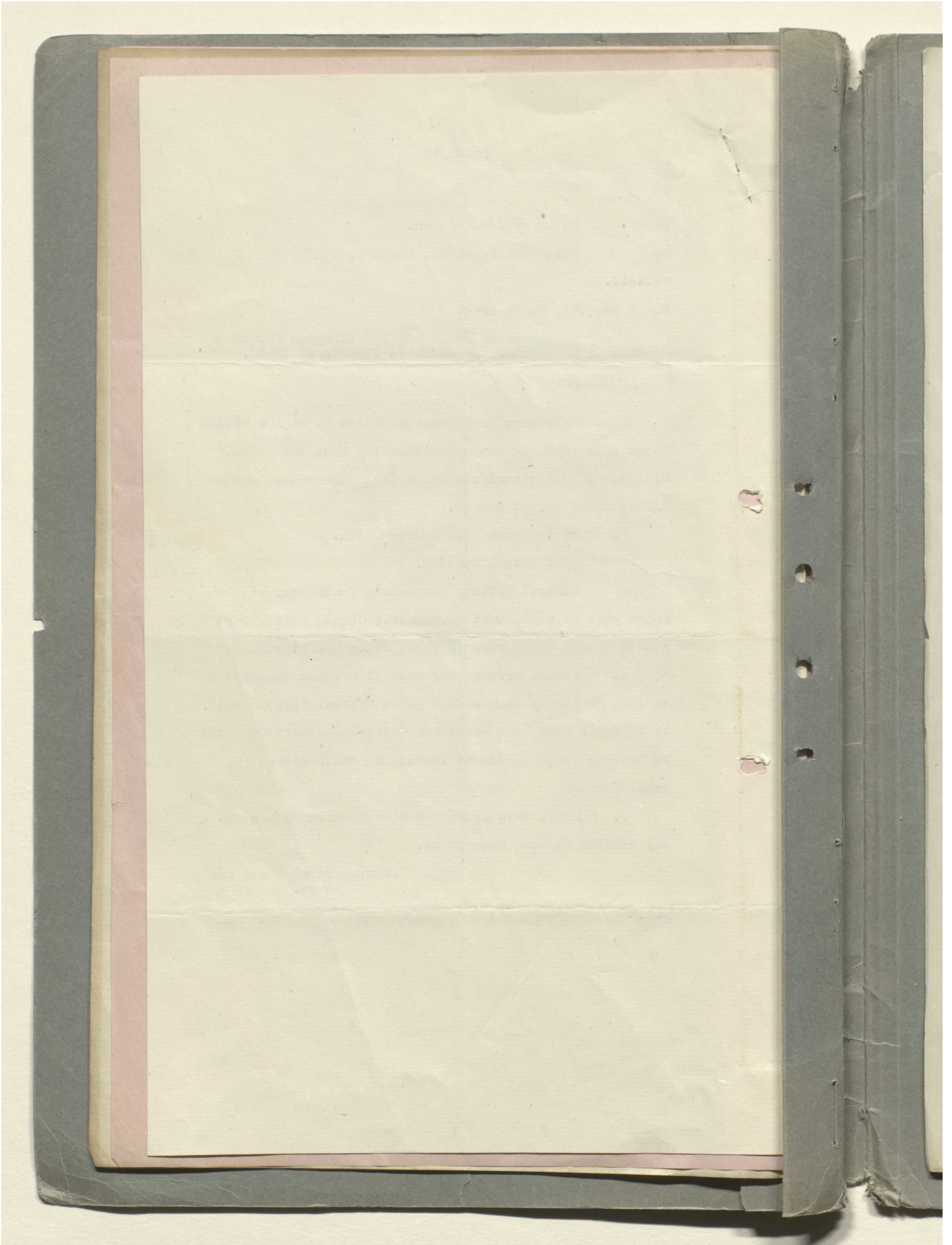
2. Please arrange for General Officer Commanding
to take matter up with Senior Naval Officer Persian Gulf.
It is hoped here that Naval and Military authorities will
be able to reach agreement locally on their respective
requirements.

3. Until this point has been cleared up you should
say nothing to Iraq Government.

-Secretary of State for
India.

W.L.

'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [9v] (18/22)



'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [10r] (19/22)

File 2/11

(10) (A)

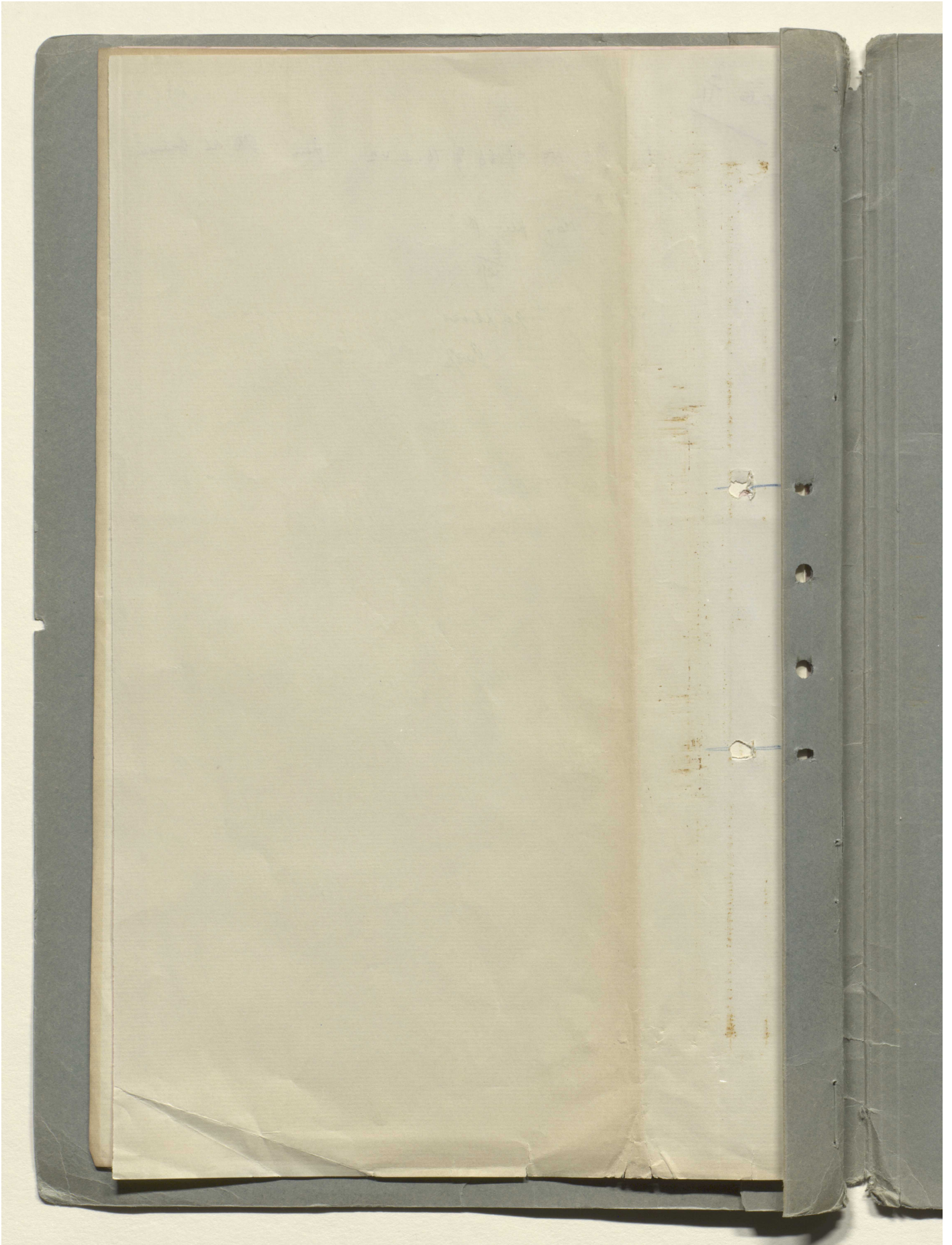
1. P.L. No. 146 of 16.2.42 from PR. al Bahain

P.A.
May file re:
1/28/3

Yes please

1/28/3

'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [10v] (20/22)



'File 2/11 Formation of an Iraqi river fleet' [back-i] (21/22)

