

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\\_100000000831.0x0000ce](http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100000000831.0x0000ce)

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

### 'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait'

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/R/15/5/211
<b>Date(s)</b>	17 Mar 1939-19 Jun 1939 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (22 folios)
<b>Copyright for document</b>	<a href="#">Public Domain</a>



#### About this record

This file contains correspondence regarding a request made by the Ruler of Kuwait, Shaikh Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah for the Political Agency in Kuwait to find him a suitable engineer to oversee an expansion of the country's port.

The correspondence discusses Shaikh Ahmad's initial request, the appointment of an Indian engineer named Murtaza, his subsequent arrival in Kuwait and the payment for his initial spell of work in the country.

Much of the correspondence is between British officials but the file also contains a limited amount of correspondence between Shaikh Ahmad and the Political Agency in Kuwait (in Arabic with English translations) including his request for assistance in hiring an engineer (folio 2).

'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [front] (1/48)

File No.  $\frac{4}{23}$  19  
R/15/5/211

Collection No. ①

Pros. Nos.  
Serial

Subject.

$\frac{4}{23}$  CIVIL ENGINEER FOR KUWAIT.

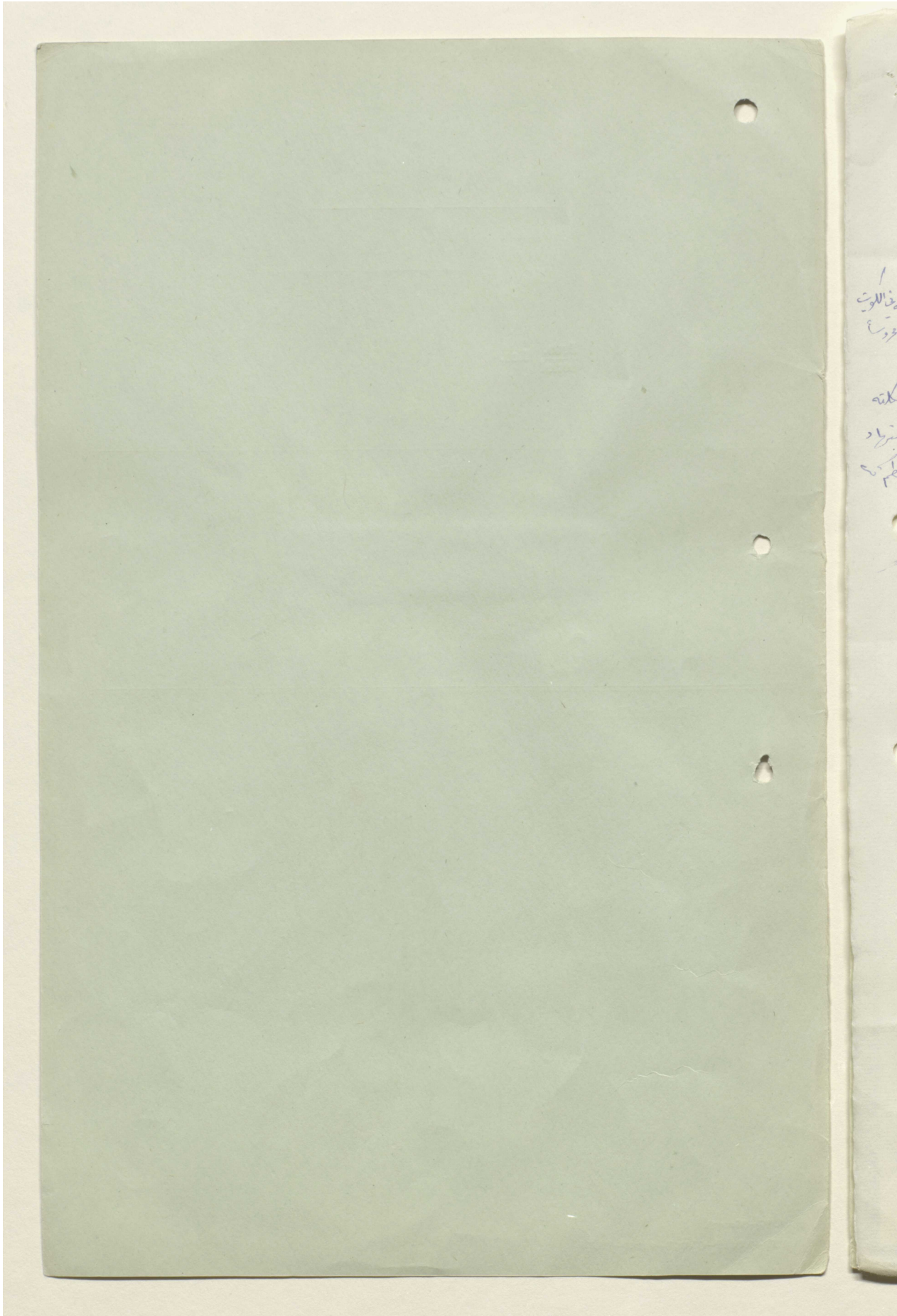
Previous References.

Later References.

$\frac{4}{23}$

S. 97—(Green).  
MFP—700 S&P—(M-1107)—4.10.30—100,000.

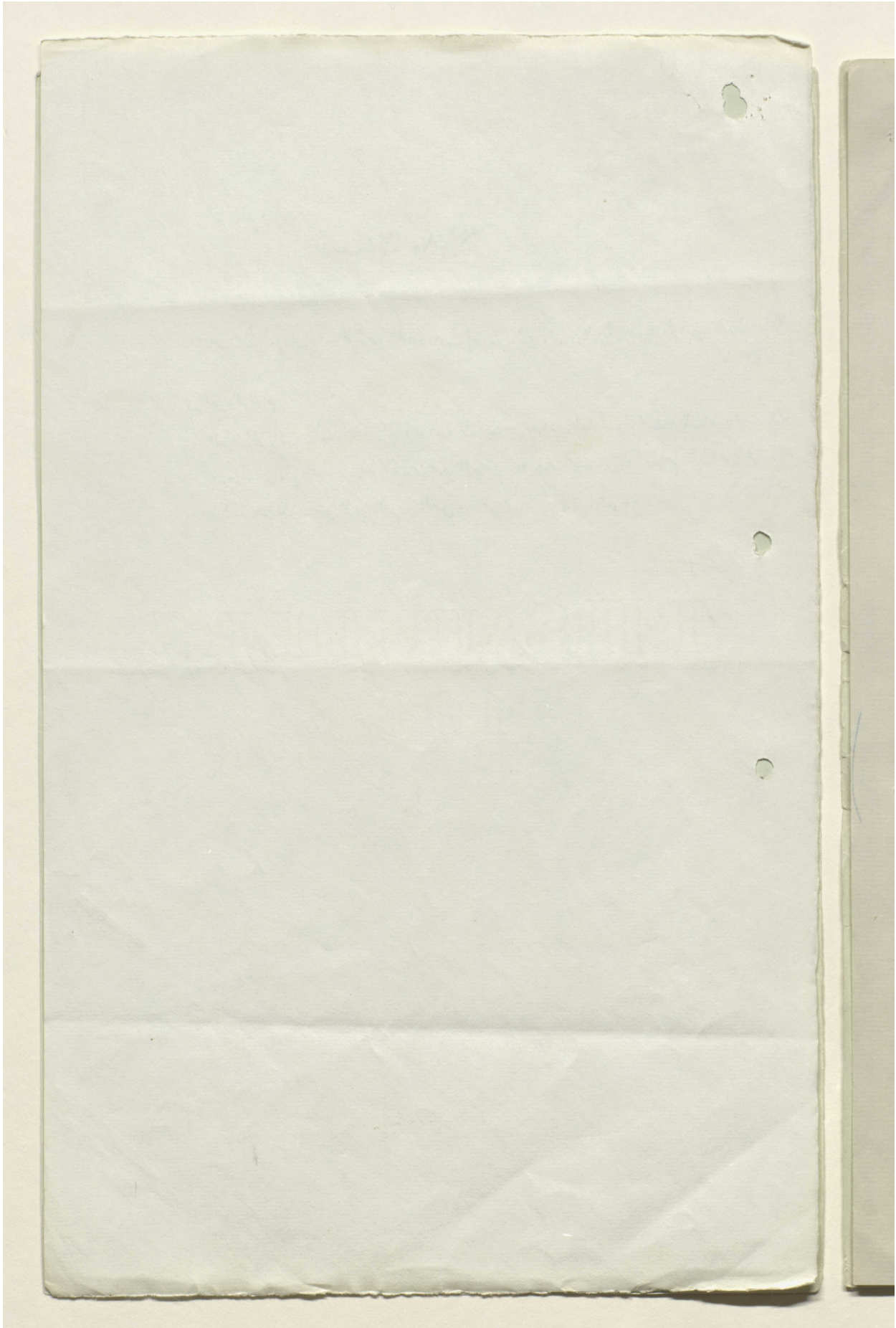
'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [front-i] (2/48)











'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [3r] (5/48)

2.

(3)

Telegram - Q  
From - Political Agent, Kuwait.  
To - Political Resident, Bushire.  
No. - C/106

Dated the 17th March, 1939.

Engineer for Kuwait State.

Shaikh has written to me asking us to arrange as quickly as may be possible for an Engineer capable of directing construction of landing quay and other municipal works in Kuwait.

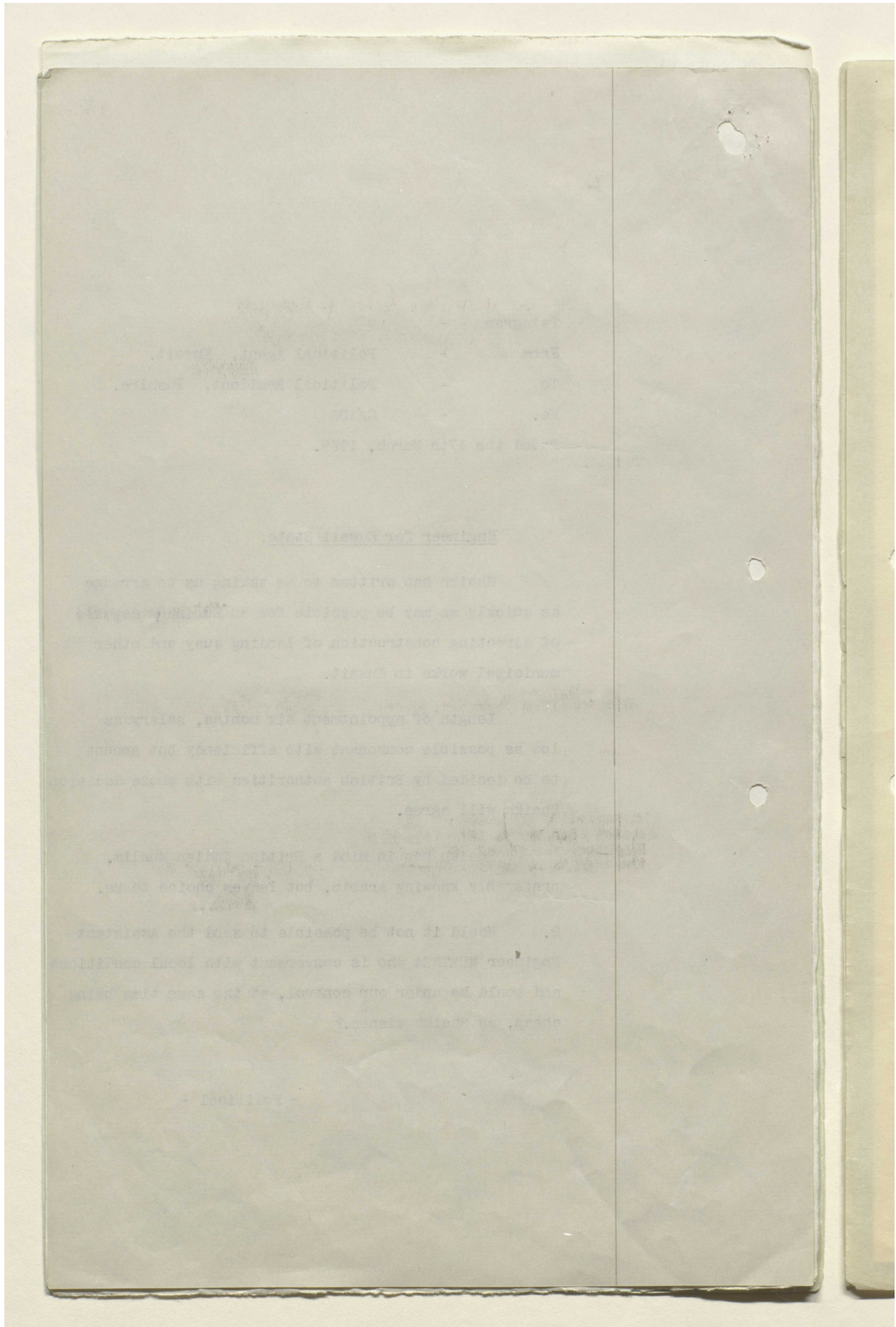
Length of appointment six months, salary as low as possible consonant with efficiency but amount to be decided by British authorities with whose decision Shaikh will agree.

Shaikh has in mind a British Indian Muslim, preferably knowing Arabic, but leaves choice to us.

2. Would it not be possible to send the Assistant Engineer MURTEZA who is conversant with local conditions and would be under our control, at the same time being cheap, as Shaikh wishes.?

- Political -





'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [4r] (7/48)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. C-108

3.  
④

The Political Agent at Kuwait presents his compliments to

The Honourable the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,

BUSHIRE.

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

POLITICAL AGENCY,  
KUWAIT.

Dated the 17th March, 1939.

Reference to previous correspondence:

His telegram No.C/106, dated 17th March 1939.

DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE.

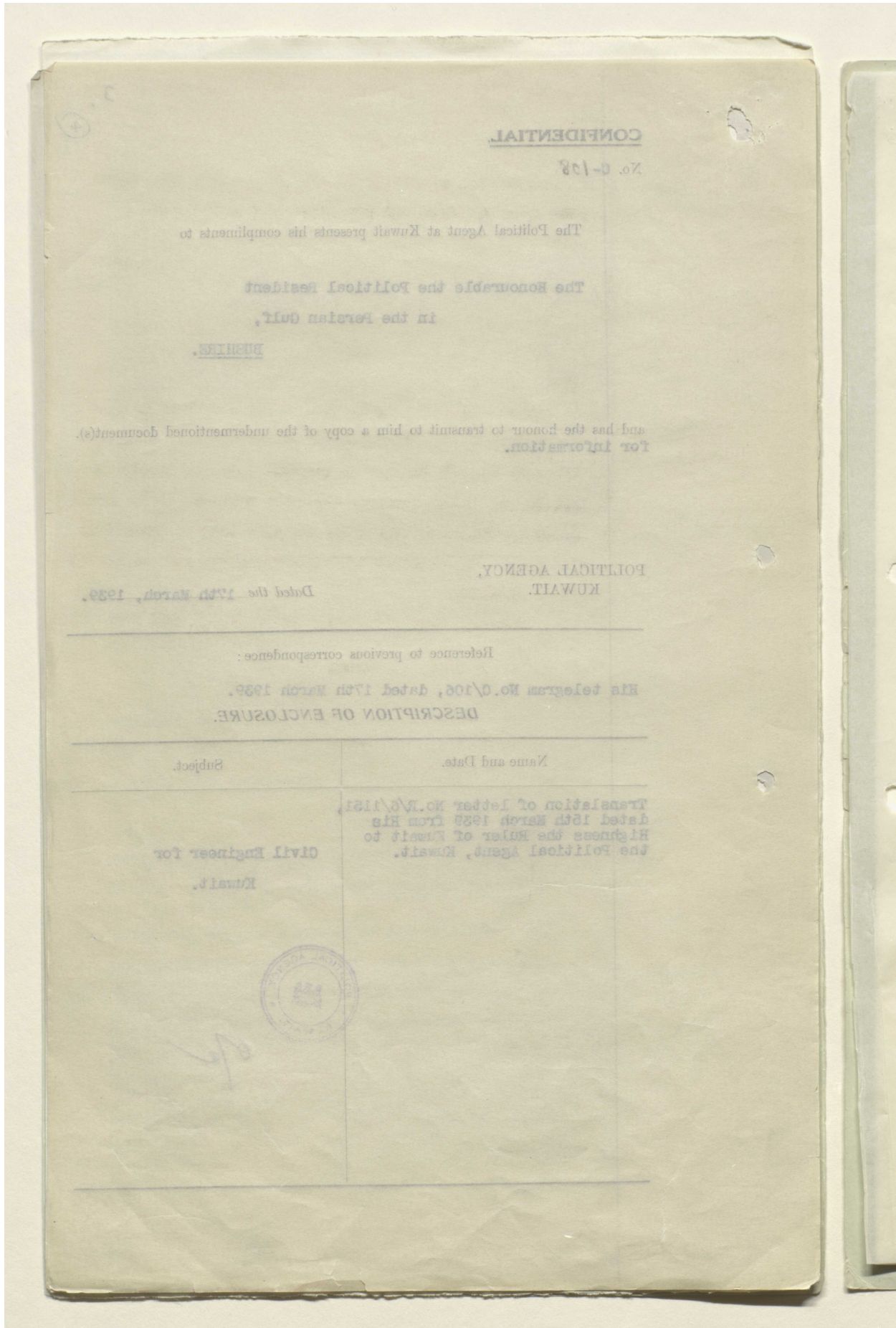
Name and Date.	Subject.
Translation of letter No.R/6/1151, dated 15th March 1939 from His Highness the Ruler of Kuwait to the Political Agent, Kuwait.	Civil Engineer for Kuwait.



*of*



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [4v] (8/48)



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [5r] (9/48)

4.  
5

Translation of letter No.R/6/1151, dated 15th March  
1939 from His Highness the Ruler of Kuwait to the  
Political Agent, Kuwait.

----

A/C.

The cause of writing this cordial letter is that  
we require a Civil Engineer to direct the new works on  
the Port and its quays. We request Your Excellency to  
provide an Indian Engineer for this purpose, so we shall  
be much grateful if you will try your best in selecting  
the proper Engineer who has experience and who is suitable  
for this work.

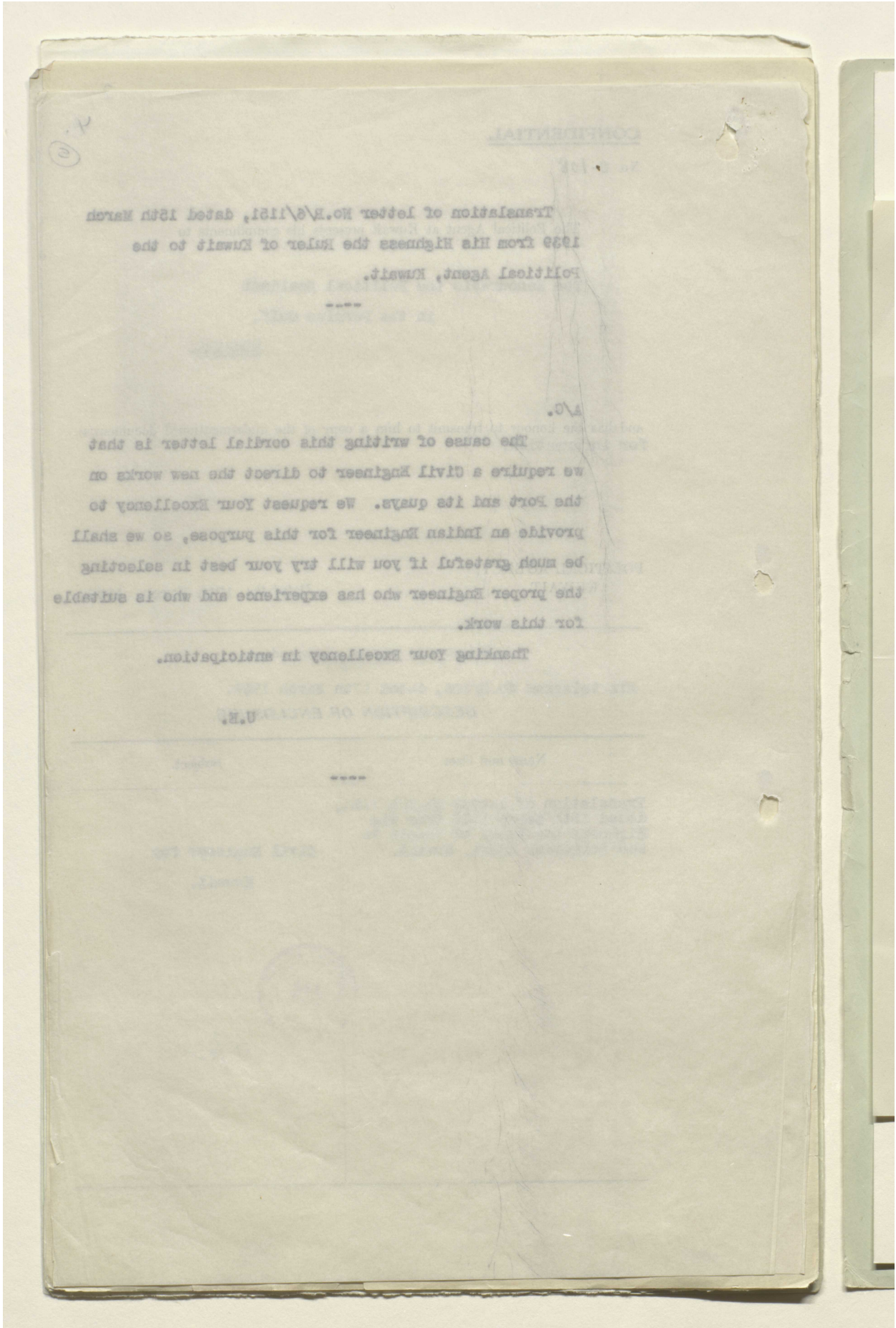
Thanking Your Excellency in anticipation.

U.E.

----



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [5v] (10/48)



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [6r] (11/48)



CONFIDENTIAL  
Consulate General.  
Kuwait Receipt  
Business.

274 Date 27/3

5.  
⑥

D.O. No. 353

18th March, 1939.

*My dear de Gaury,*

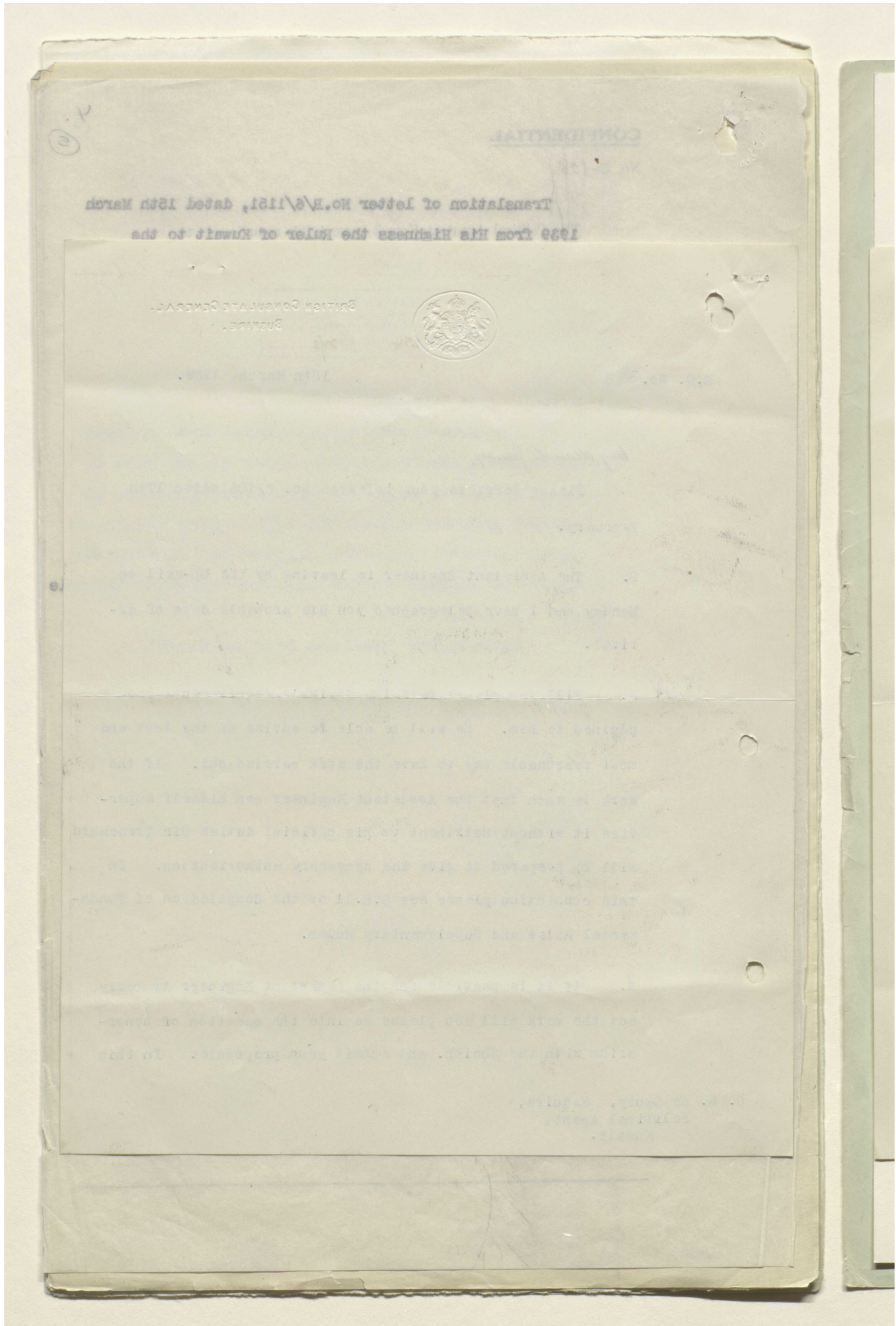
Please refer to your telegram No. C/106 dated 17th February.

2. The Assistant Engineer is leaving by the Up-mail on Monday and I have telegraphed you his probable date of arrival.
3. Will you please have the Shaikh's requirements explained to him. He will be able to advise on the best and most reasonable way to have the work carried out. If the work is such that the Assistant Engineer can himself supervise it without detriment to his official duties Sir Trenchard will be prepared to give the necessary authorisation. In this connection please see S.R.11 of the Compilation of Fundamental Rules and Supplementary Rules.
4. If it is possible for the Assistant Engineer to carry out the work will you please go into the question of honorarium with the Shaikh. and submit your proposals. In this

G. H. de Gaury, Esquire,  
Political Agent,  
Kuwait.



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [6v] (12/48)



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [7r] (13/48)

6.  
2. (7)

this event there will be no objection to the Assistant Engineer remaining in Kuwait to commence the preliminary work.

5. If the work is such that it will not be practicable for him to supervise it in addition to his normal duties then I am to suggest that the quickest way to obtain a man would be by advertisement in the Indian papers.

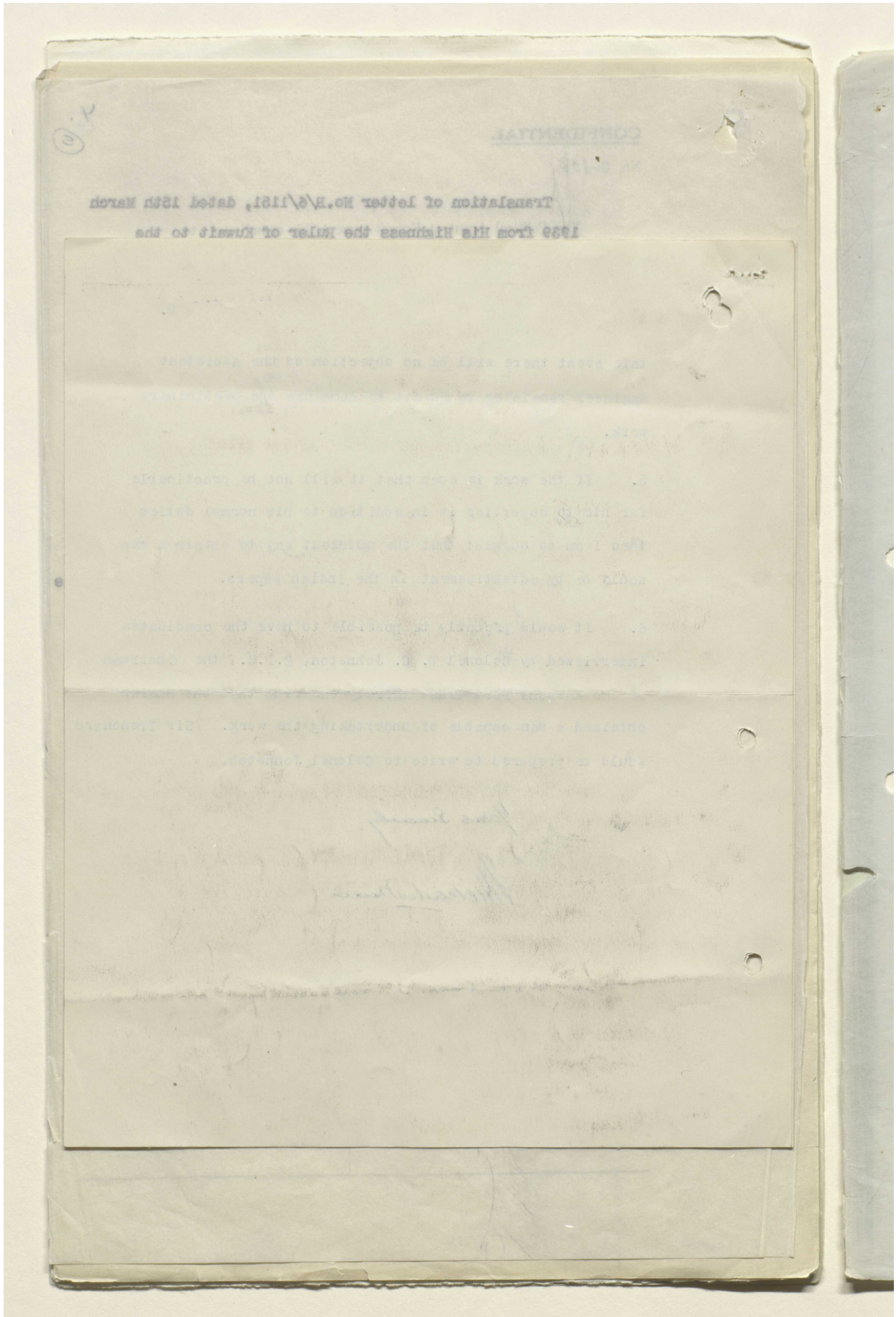
6. It would probably be possible to have the candidates interviewed by Colonel D. G. Johnston, C.I.E., the Chairman of the Karachi Port Trust thereby ensuring that the Shaikh obtained a man capable of undertaking the work. Sir Trenchard would be prepared to write to Colonel Johnston.

*Yours Sincerely*

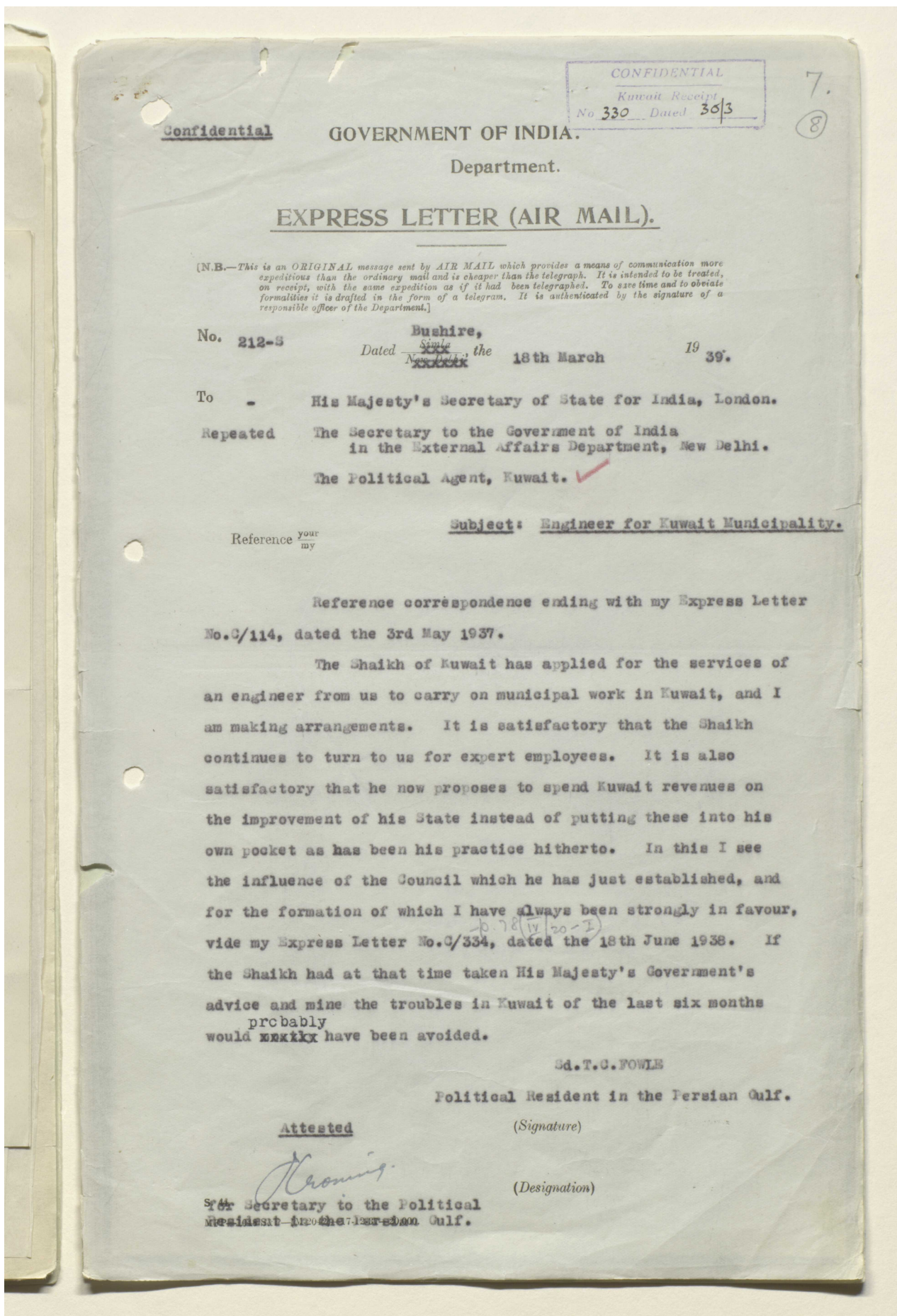
*Michael D. Johnston*



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [7v] (14/48)







Confidential

CONFIDENTIAL  
Kwair Receipt  
No 330 Dated 30/3

7.  
8

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Department.

EXPRESS LETTER (AIR MAIL).

[N.B.—This is an ORIGINAL message sent by AIR MAIL which provides a means of communication more expeditious than the ordinary mail and is cheaper than the telegraph. It is intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and to obviate formalities it is drafted in the form of a telegram. It is authenticated by the signature of a responsible officer of the Department.]

No. 212-3                      Bushire,  
Dated ~~Six~~ <sup>Six</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> 18th March 19 39.

To - His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

Repeated The Secretary to the Government of India  
in the External Affairs Department, New Delhi.

The Political Agent, Kuwait. ✓

Subject: Engineer for Kuwait Municipality.

Reference <sup>your</sup>  
<sub>my</sub>

Reference correspondence ending with my Express Letter  
No.C/114, dated the 3rd May 1937.

The Shaikh of Kuwait has applied for the services of  
an engineer from us to carry on municipal work in Kuwait, and I  
am making arrangements. It is satisfactory that the Shaikh  
continues to turn to us for expert employees. It is also  
satisfactory that he now proposes to spend Kuwait revenues on  
the improvement of his State instead of putting these into his  
own pocket as has been his practice hitherto. In this I see  
the influence of the Council which he has just established, and  
for the formation of which I have always been strongly in favour,  
vide my Express Letter No.C/334, dated the 18th June 1938. If  
the Shaikh had at that time taken His Majesty's Government's  
advice and mine the troubles in Kuwait of the last six months  
would ~~probably~~ <sup>probably</sup> have been avoided.

Sd. T.C. FOWLE

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Attested

(Signature)

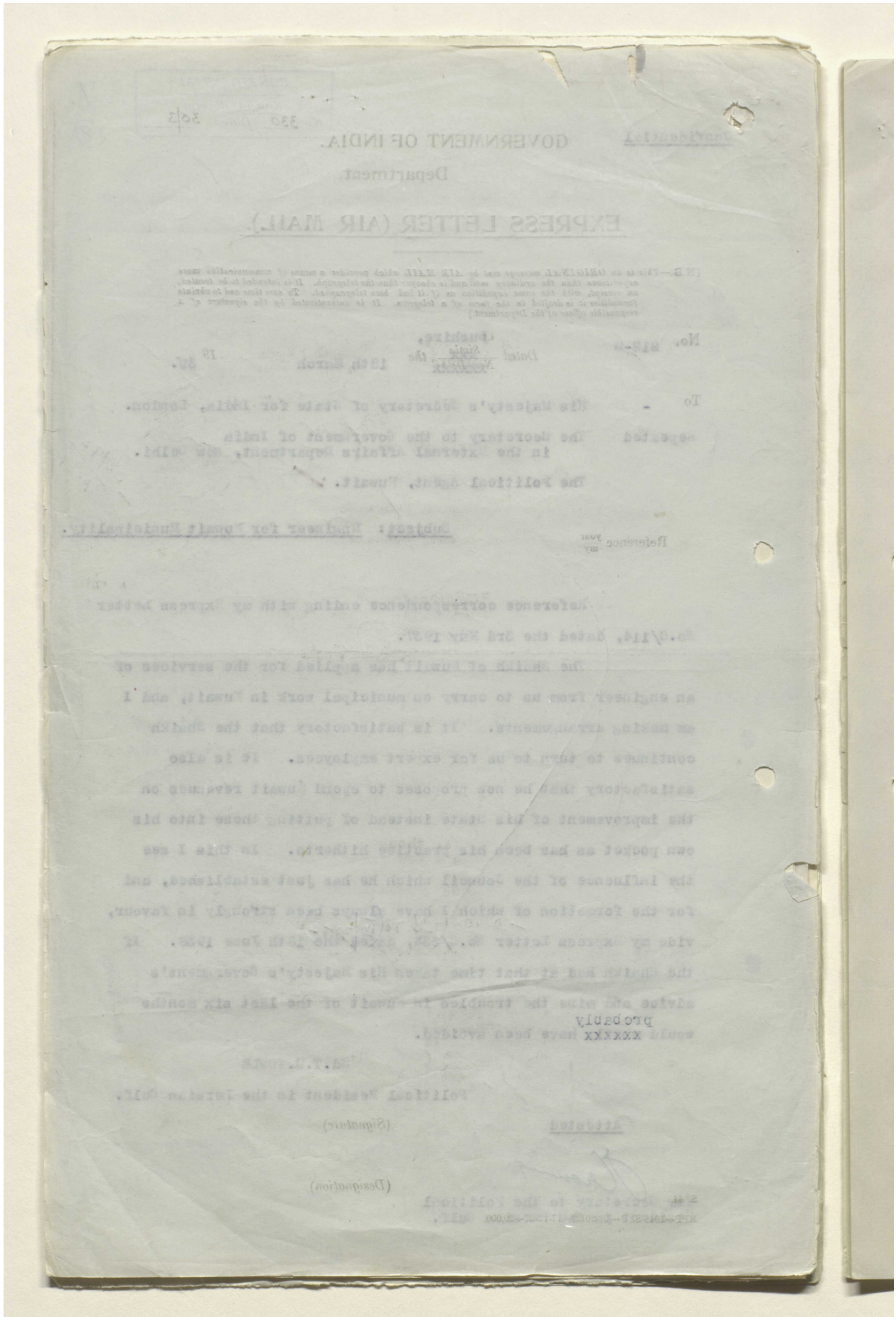
*[Handwritten Signature]*

(Designation)

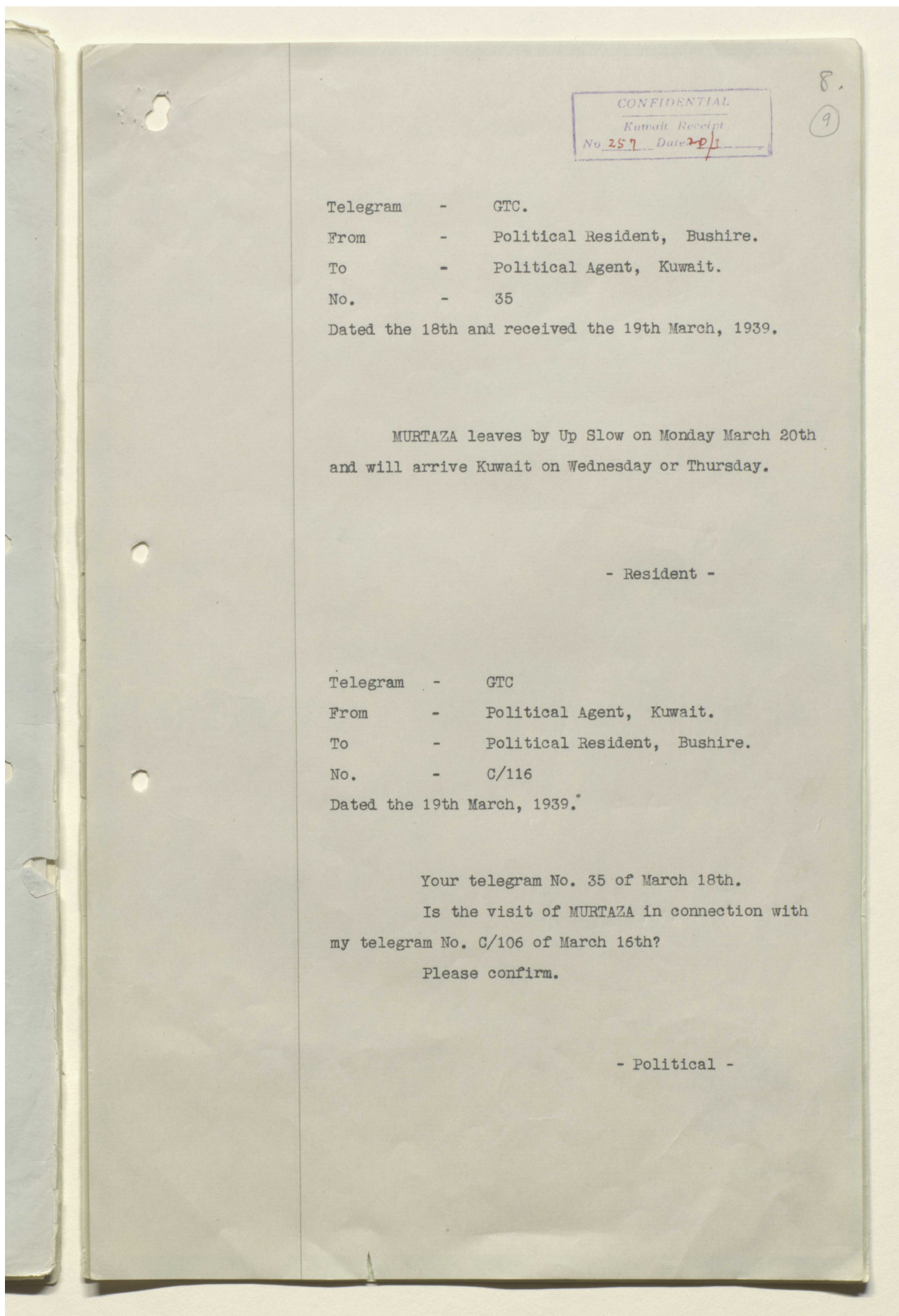
Secy Secretary to the Political  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [8v] (16/48)

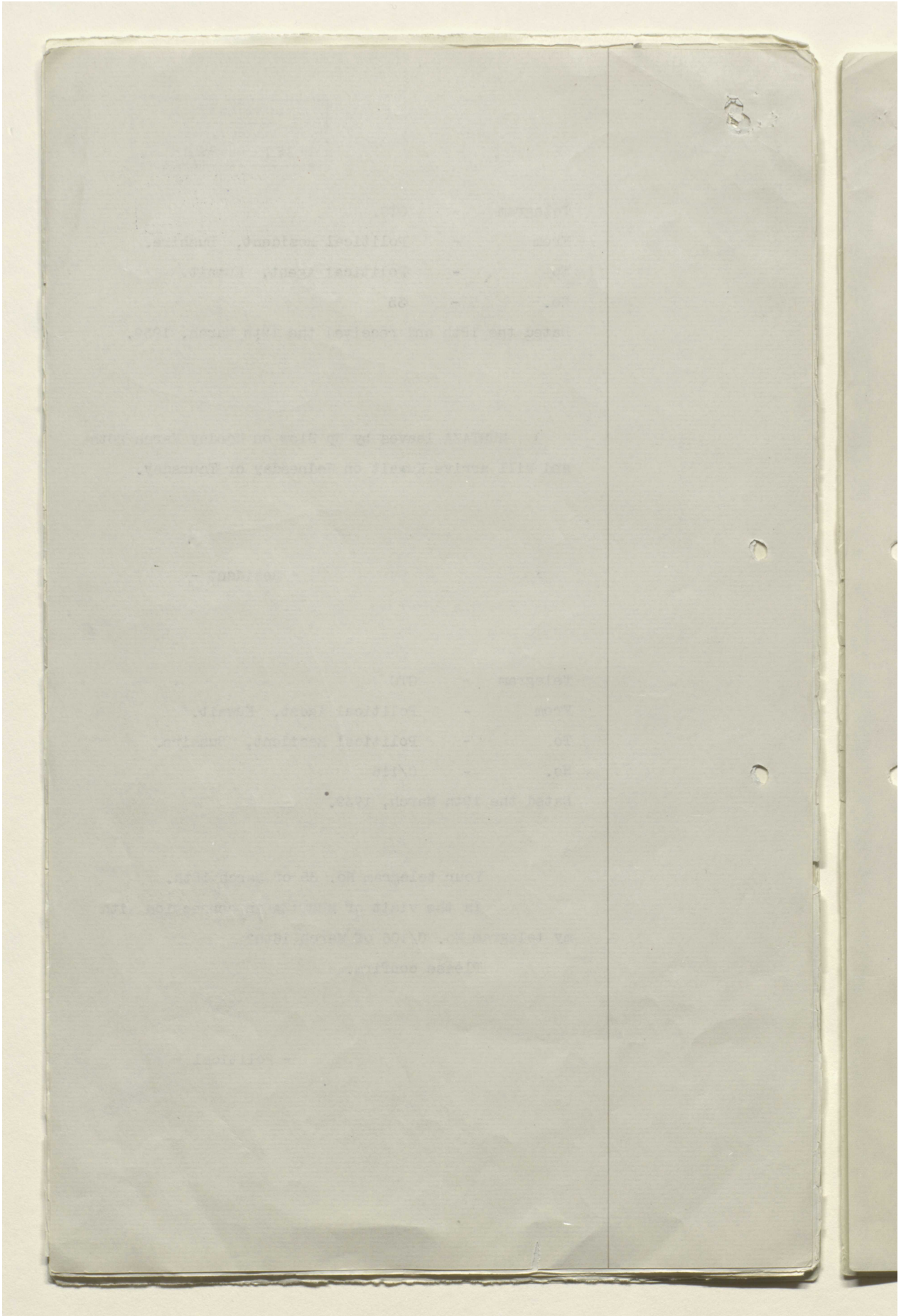


'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [9r] (17/48)

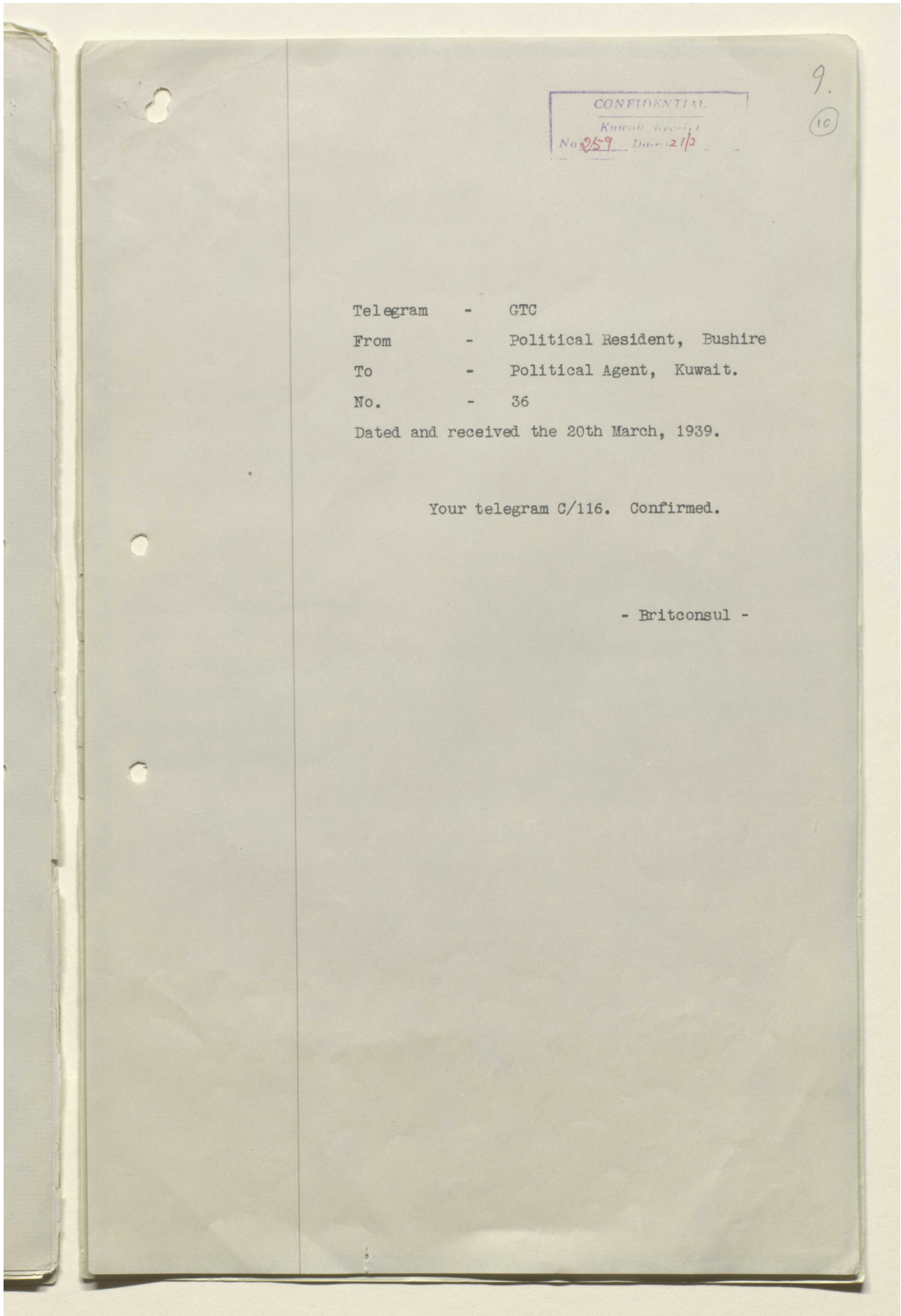




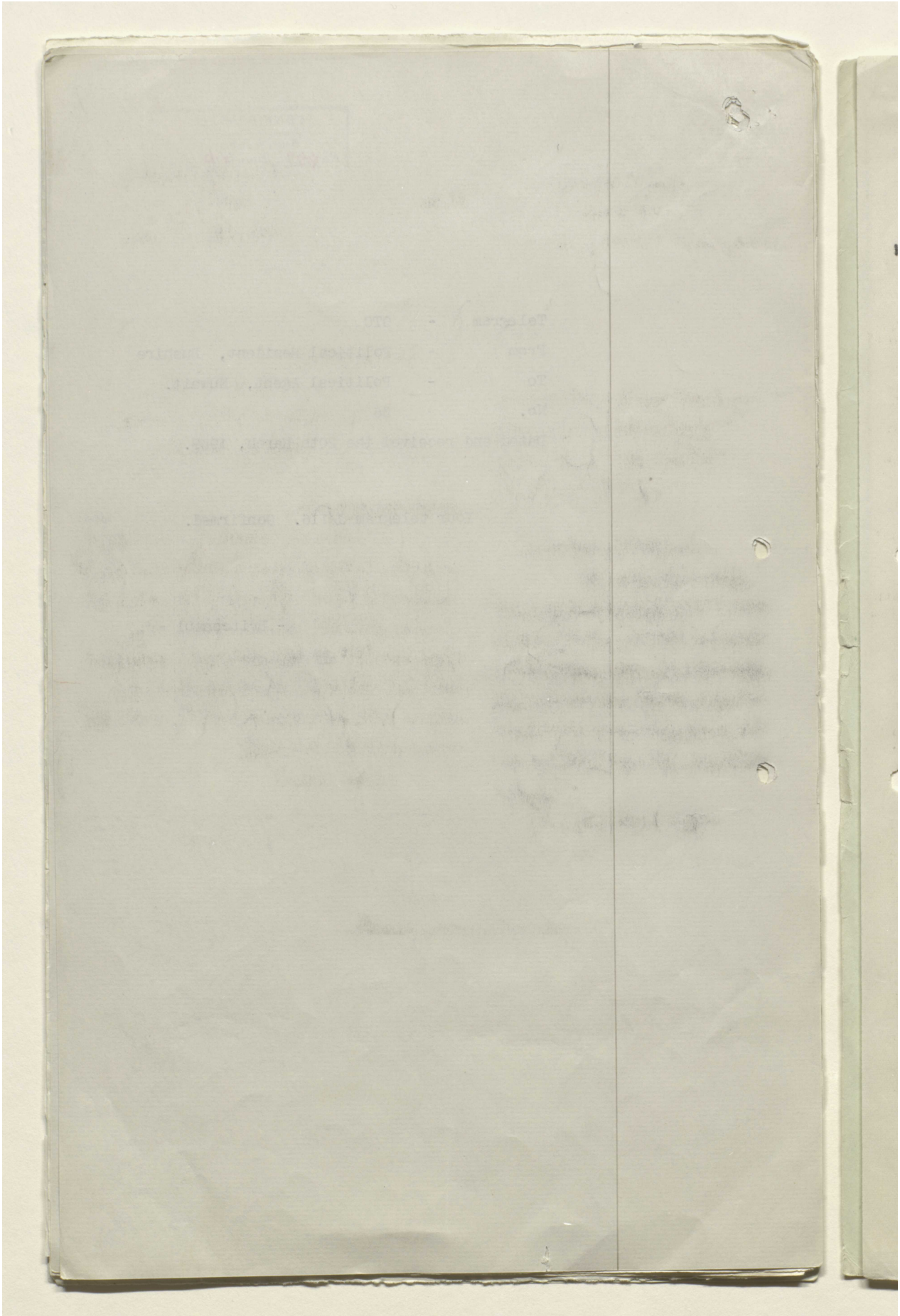
'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [9v] (18/48)

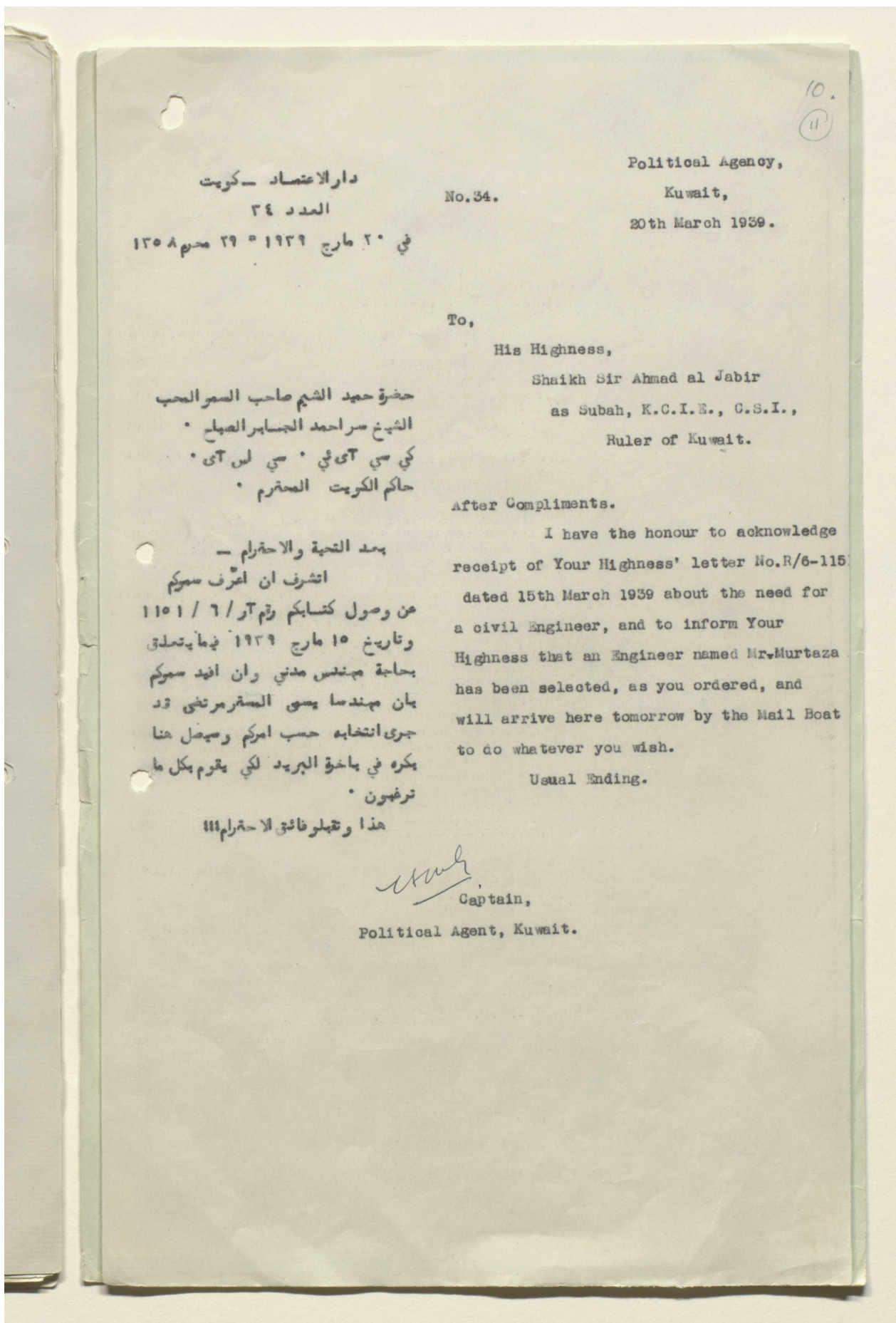


'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [10r] (19/48)



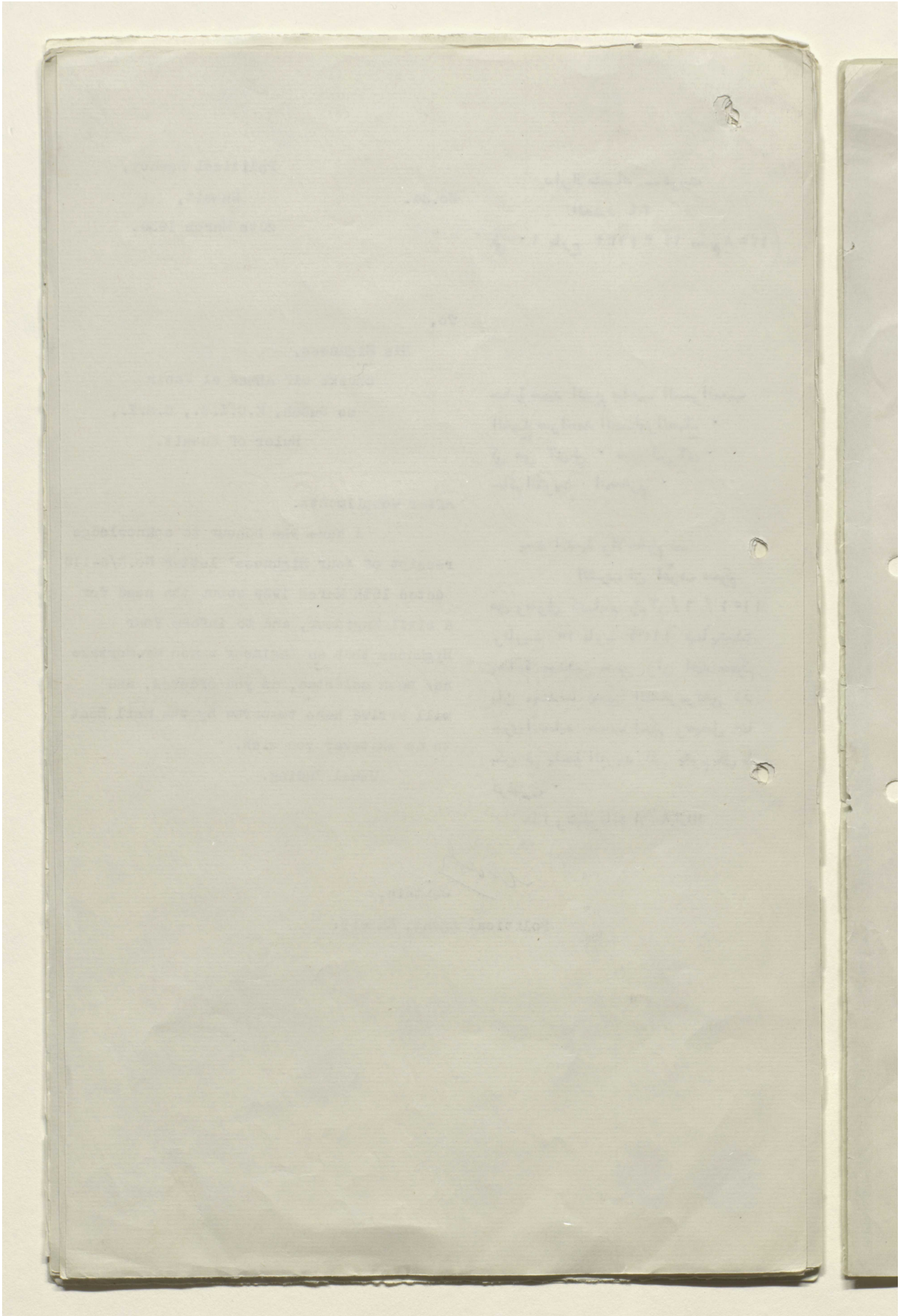








'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [11v] (22/48)



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [12r] (23/48)

11.  
(12)

Telegram - Code.  
From - Political Agent, Kuwait.  
To - Political Resident, Bushire.  
No. - C/142.

Dated the 29th March, 1939.

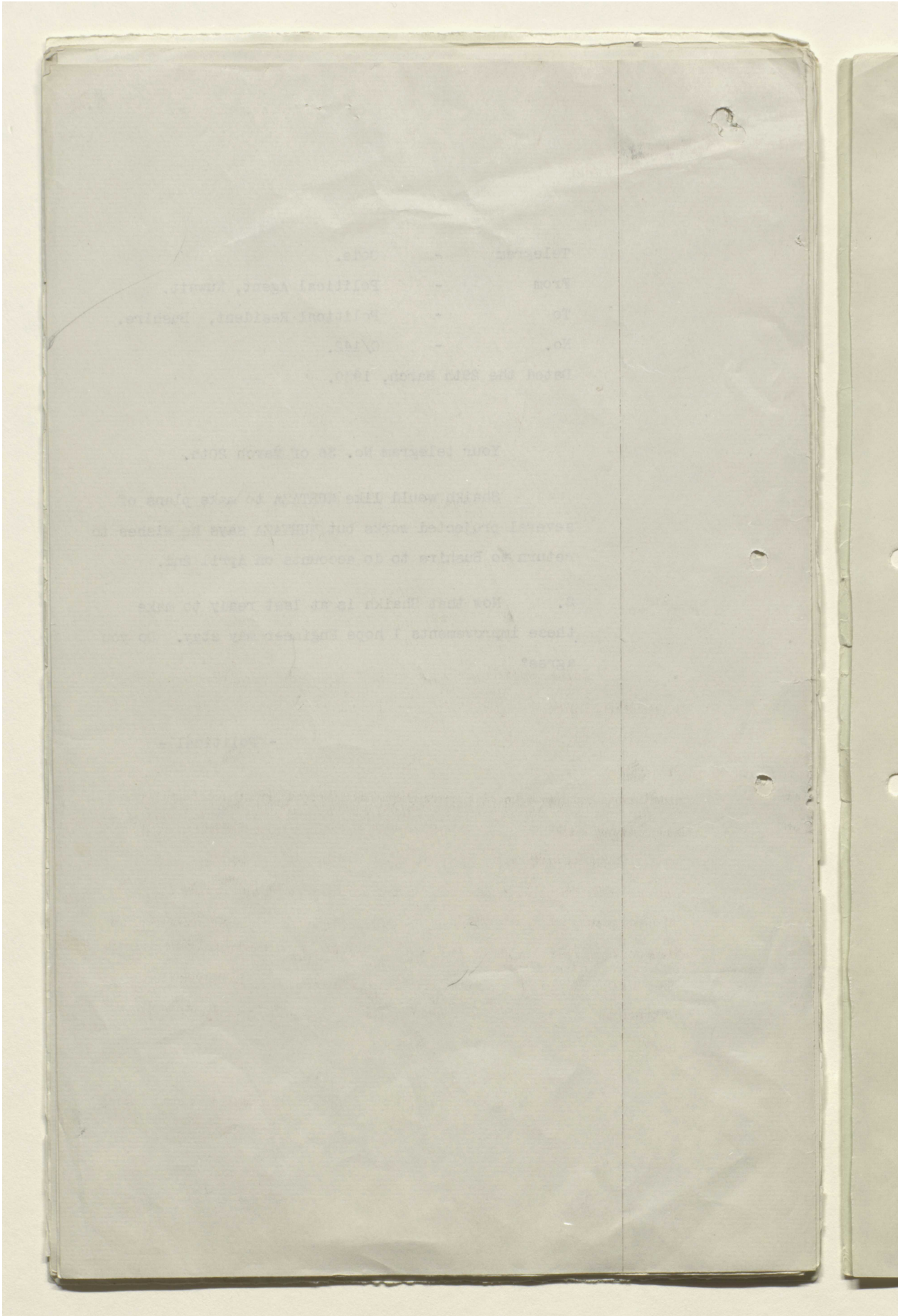
Your telegram No. 36 of March 20th.

Shaikh would like MURTAZA to make plans of several projected works but MURTAZA says he wishes to return to Bushire to do accounts on April 2nd.

2. Now that Shaikh is at last ready to make these improvements I hope Engineer may stay. Do you agree?

- Political -





'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [13r] (25/48)

12  
13

Telegram - GTC  
From - Political Resident, Bushire.  
To - Political Agent, Kuwait.  
No. - 185

Dated and received the 30th March, 1939.

Your telegram No. C/142 of March 29th.

MURTAZA can stay another week. If necessary  
I will explain to Accounts authorities that he was on  
tour under my orders.

P.A.

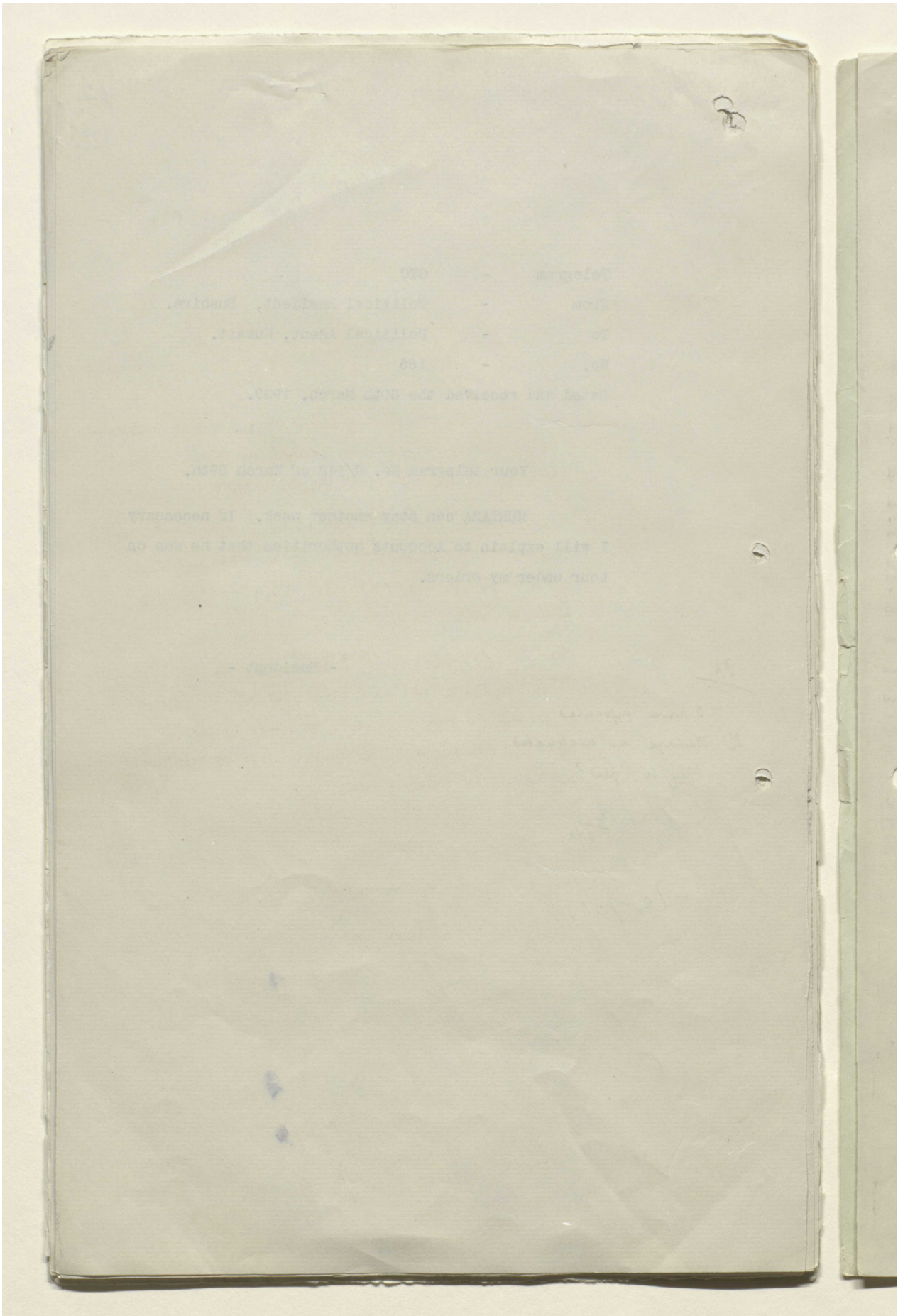
- Resident -

I have informed  
P.A. Murtagh as instructed.  
May be filed?

$\frac{6}{3/3}$

Respor.





'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [14r] (27/48)

13.

14

D.O. No. c/172

Political Agency,  
Kuwait,  
14th April, 1939.

My dear Sir Trenchard,

Could you please refer to the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 185 of March 30th, 1939, regarding Assistant Engineer Murtaza?

2. As you know, he is now temporarily returned to Bushire, having given to the local authorities certain plans, estimates etc. for a harbour and landing quays.

3. His Highness the Shaikh, who was pleased with Murtaza's work, and most grateful to you, asks if he can be sent back here as early as may be possible for supervision of the building work and the making of other plans.

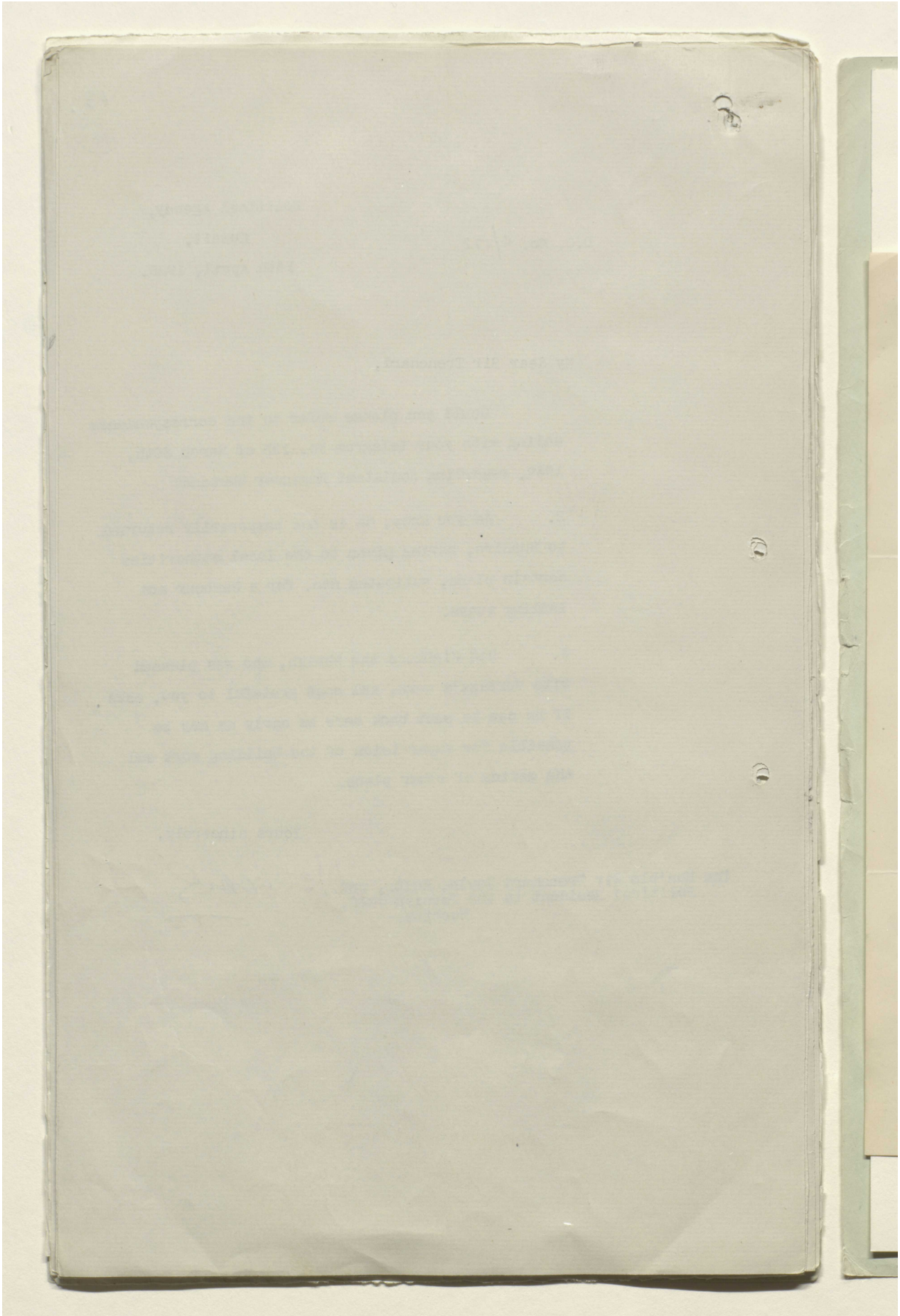
Yours sincerely,

The Hon'ble Sir Trenchard Fowle, KCIE., CBE.,  
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
Bushire.

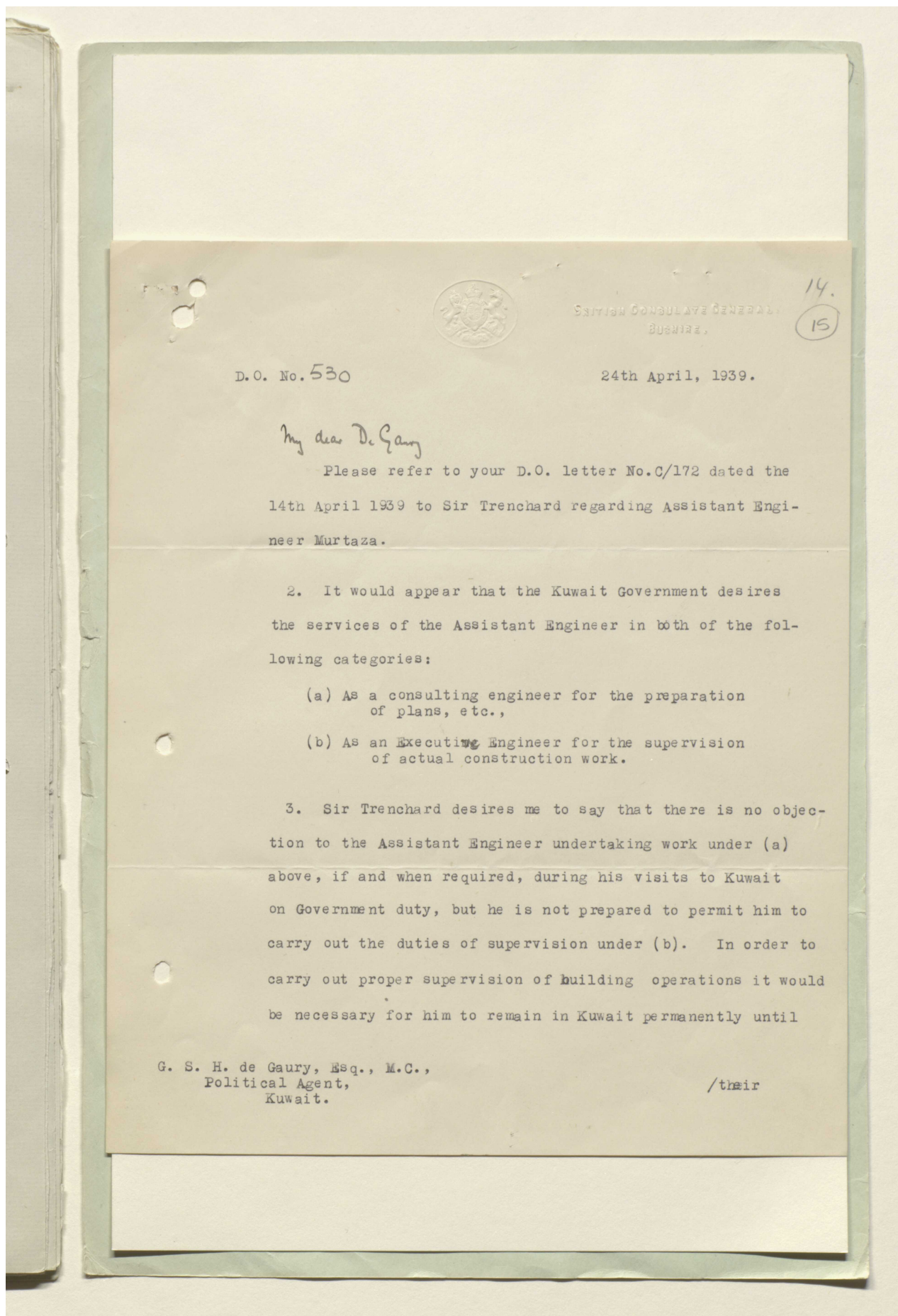
*o/c* *Law*



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [14v] (28/48)



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [15r] (29/48)



D.O. No. 530

24th April, 1939.

My dear D. Gaury

Please refer to your D.O. letter No.C/172 dated the 14th April 1939 to Sir Trenchard regarding Assistant Engineer Murtaza.

2. It would appear that the Kuwait Government desires the services of the Assistant Engineer in both of the following categories:

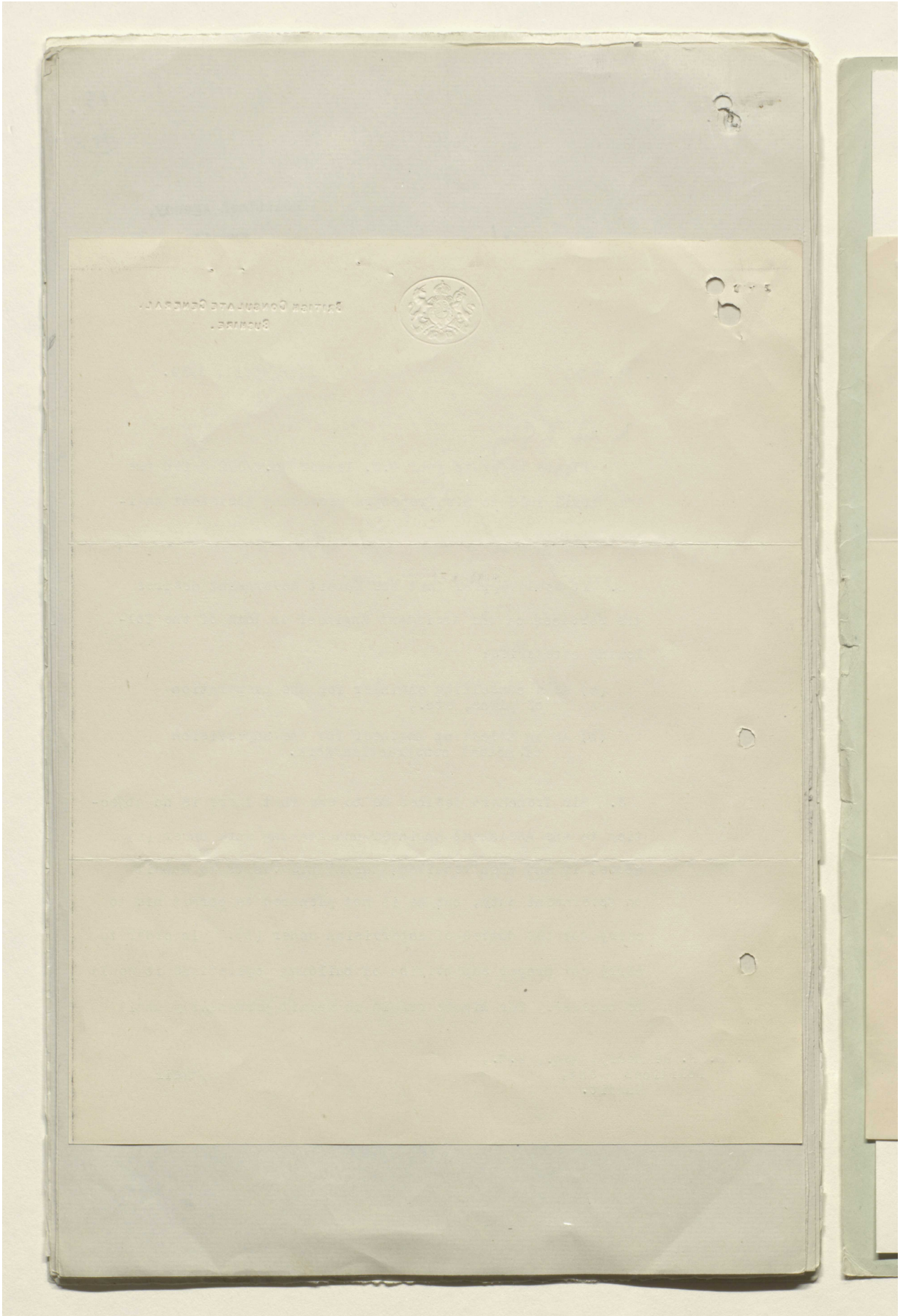
- (a) As a consulting engineer for the preparation of plans, etc.,
- (b) As an Executing Engineer for the supervision of actual construction work.

3. Sir Trenchard desires me to say that there is no objection to the Assistant Engineer undertaking work under (a) above, if and when required, during his visits to Kuwait on Government duty, but he is not prepared to permit him to carry out the duties of supervision under (b). In order to carry out proper supervision of building operations it would be necessary for him to remain in Kuwait permanently until

G. S. H. de Gaury, Esq., M.C.,  
Political Agent,  
Kuwait.

/their





'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [16r] (31/48)

15.  
2. (16)

their completion and this is not possible. On the other hand, if he undertook supervision during his short visits to Kuwait on Government duty we would lay ourselves open to criticism for any inferior, and probably concealed work done during his absence.

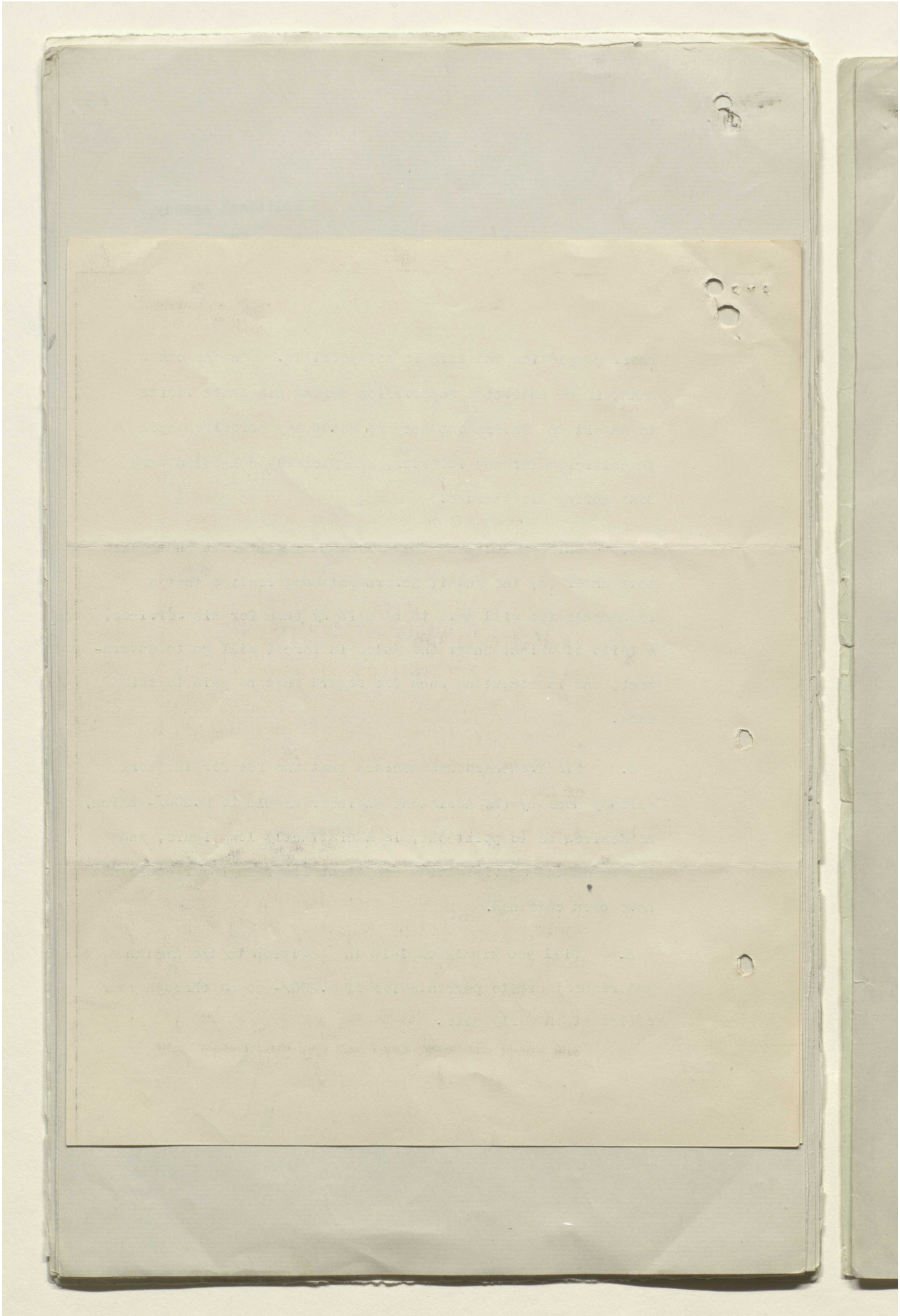
4. While permitting the Assistant Engineer to undertake work under (a) the Kuwait Government must realise that a reasonable fee will have to be paid by them for his services, a third of which, under the Rules in force, will go to Government, and in computing such fee regard must be paid to this fact.

5. Sir Trenchard has decided that the fee for the work already done by the Assistant Engineer should be Rs.200/- which, he desires me to point out, is a distinctly low figure, and for which the services of a competent Iraqi engineer could not have been obtained.

6. Will you kindly explain the position to the Shaikh and request him to pay this fee of Rs.200/- to us through your office at an early date?

Yrs sincerely  
M. L. L.







'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [17r] (33/48)

D.O. No. C/192.

Political Agency,  
Kuwait, 29th April, 1939.

16.  
17

Will you please refer to demi-official letter No. 530, dated the 24th April, 1939, from Rushton?

Mr. Murtaza almost as soon as he arrived here let me know that his fees for his work and his allowances here would make a total of Rs. 700/- per month. (This amount included Rs. 10/- for "Transport allowance" although he was being provided with transport by the local authorities, as well, as had been suggested by me, a house and servant).

I considered this sum ridiculously high and I let him know it. A little later he announced his immediate return to Bushire. I then sent you my telegram No. C/142 of March 29th.

2. The Shaikh now believes that he will return to continue (a) plans and (b) supervision, just as would an engineer from Iraq or elsewhere, and he told me that he would pay him well on completion of his work. I understood when I was hinting that he should treat the Engineer, when he arrived very well, that it would be much more than Rs. 200, and that the Shaikh was so grateful to you for the quick despatch here and our assistance that he was anxious to treat him generously.

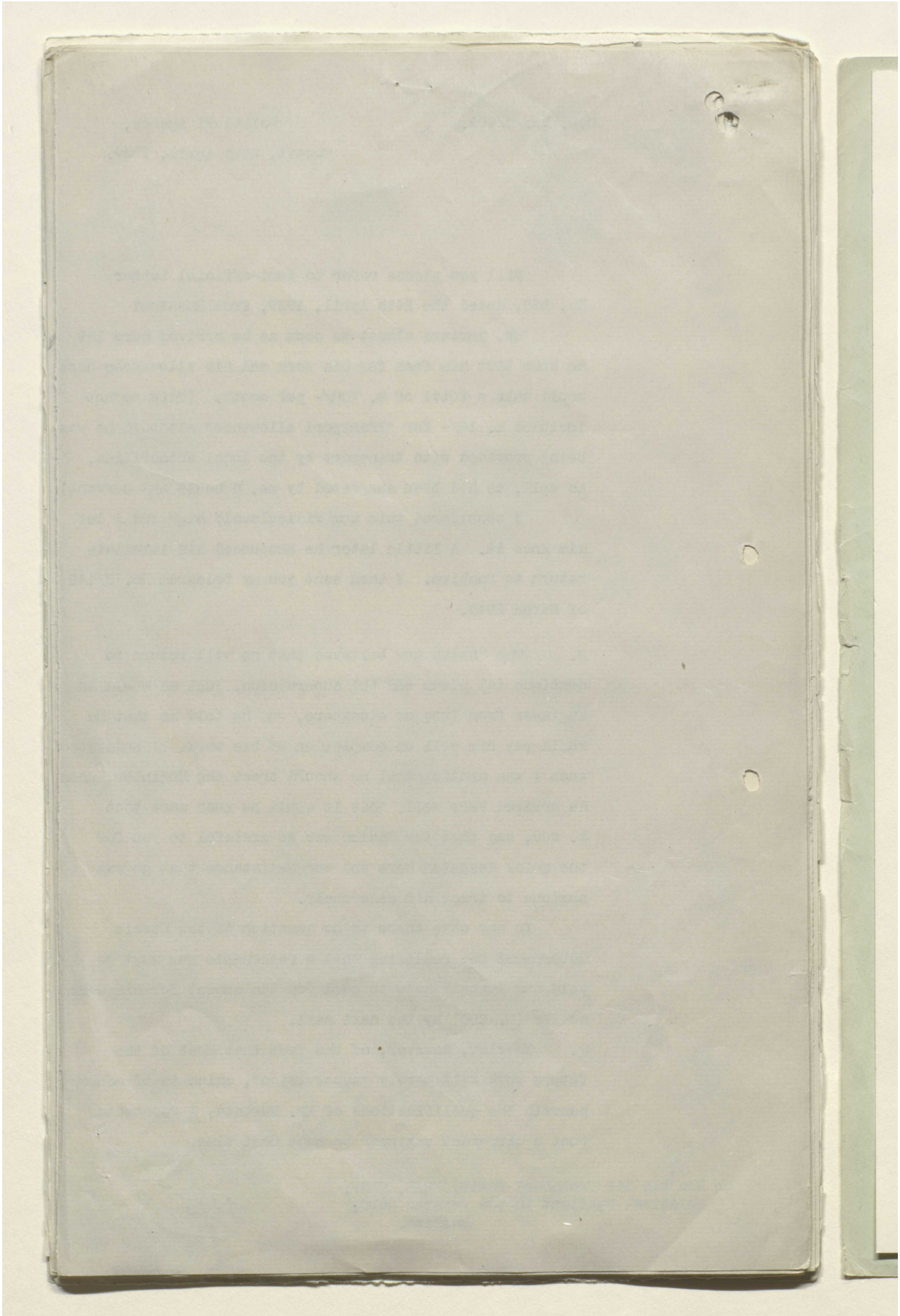
In any case there is no question of the Kuwait Government not realizing that a reasonable sum must be paid and I shall hope to send you the amount for his work so far (Rs. 200) by the next mail.

3. In view, however, of the fact that most of the future work will merely "supervision", which is of course beneath the qualifications of Mr. Murtaza, I recommend that a different engineer be sent next time.

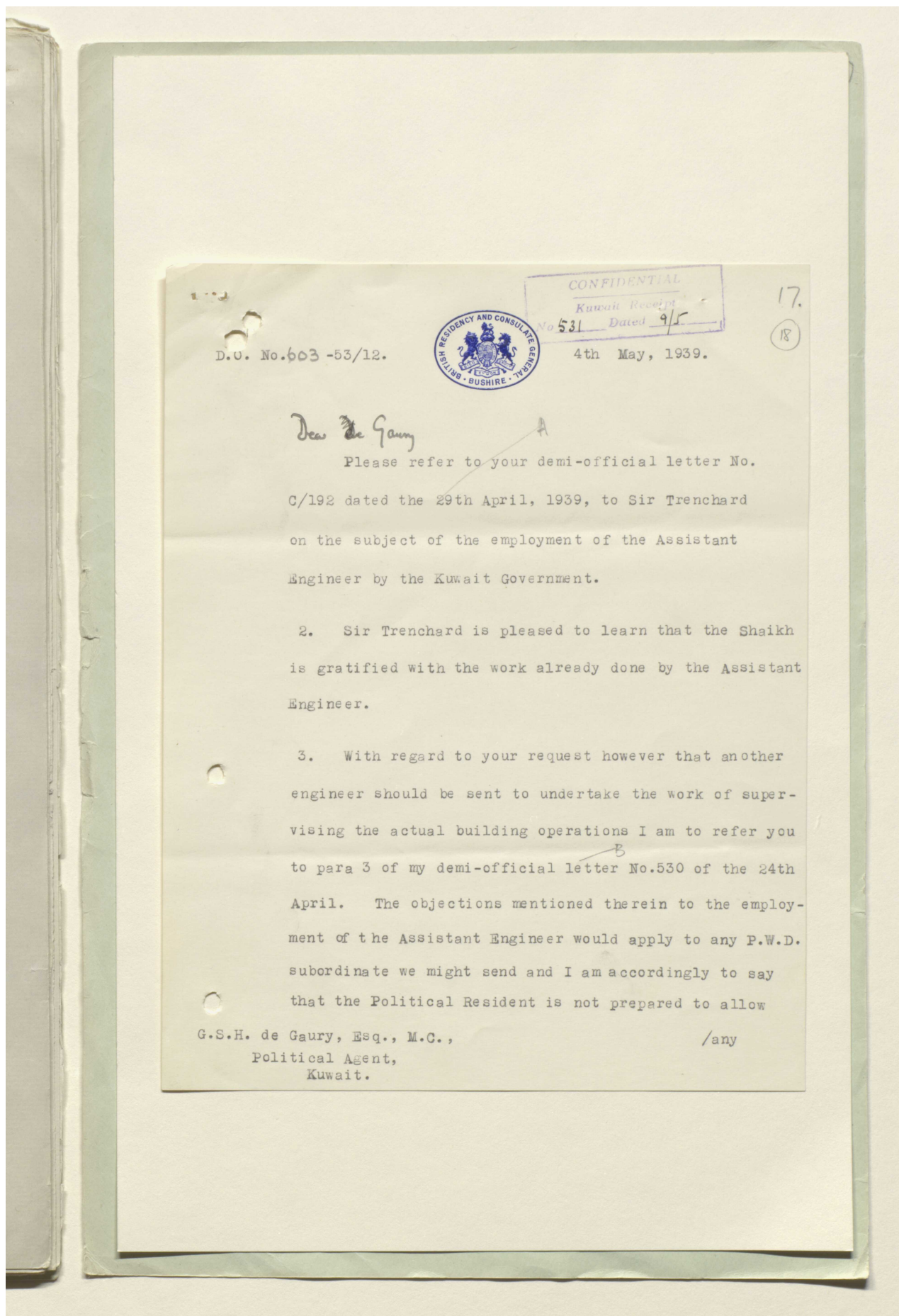
The Hon'ble Sir Trenchard Fowle, KCIE, CBE.,  
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
Bushire.

*ofc* *Usuf*



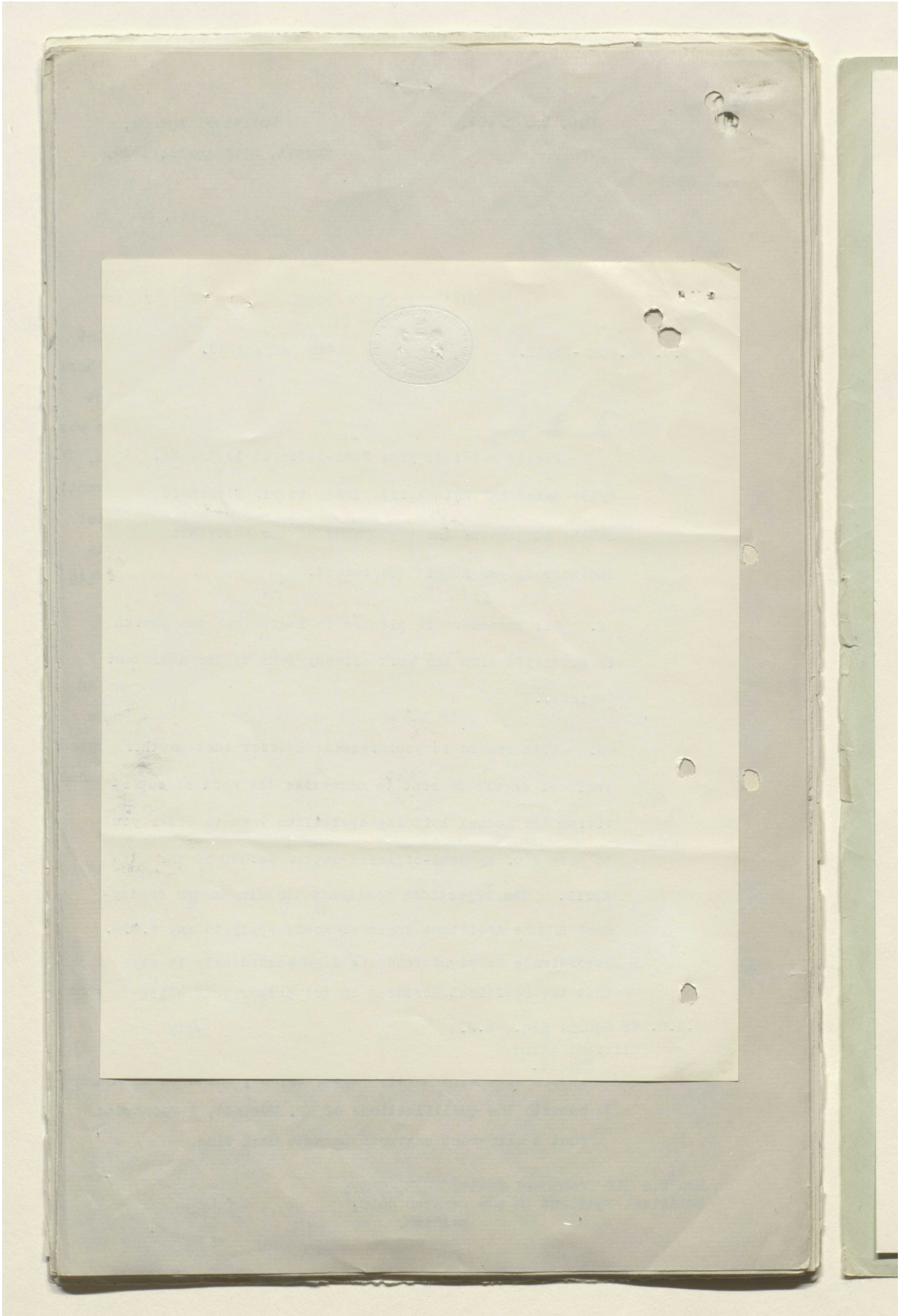


'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [18r] (35/48)

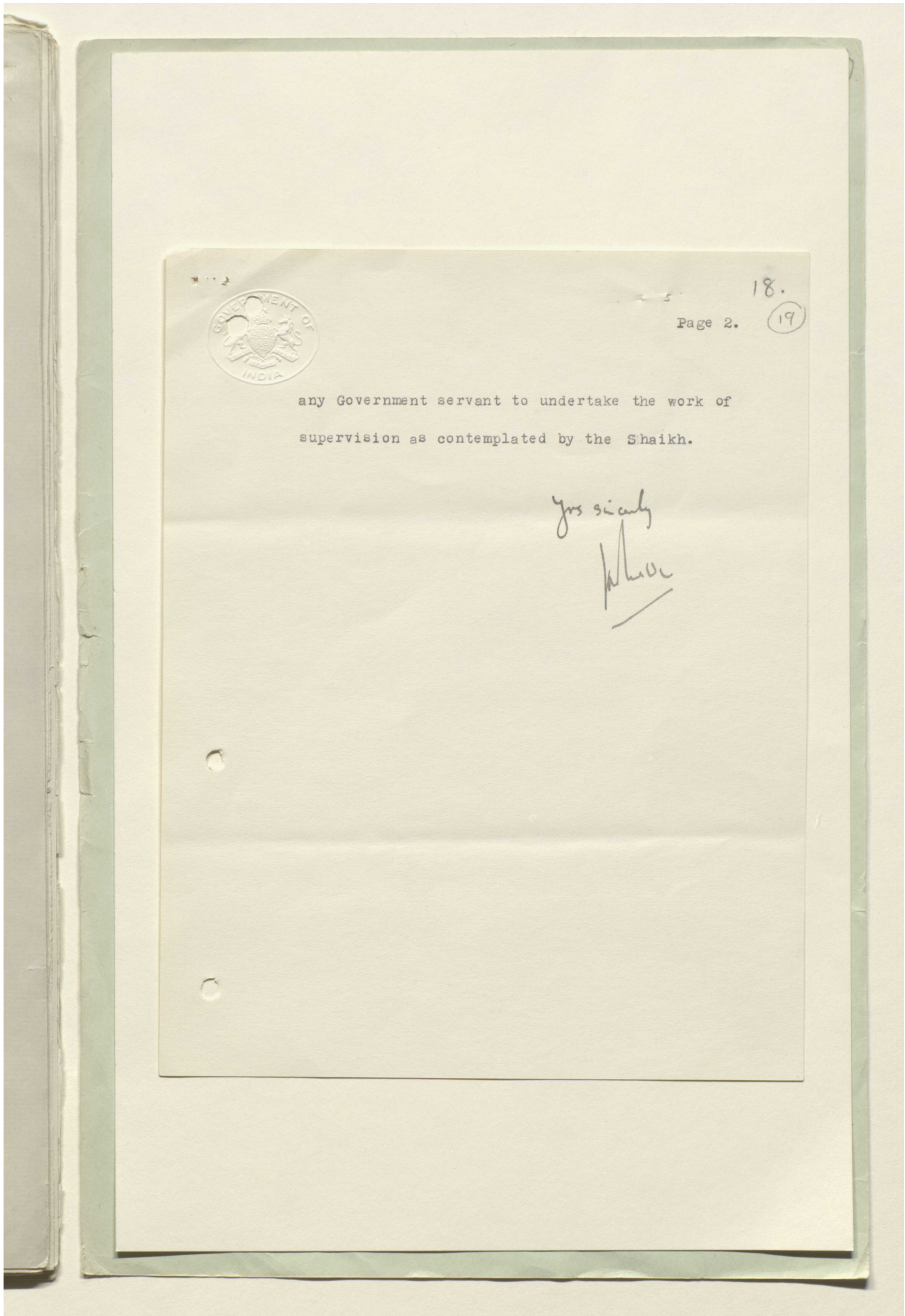




'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [18v] (36/48)

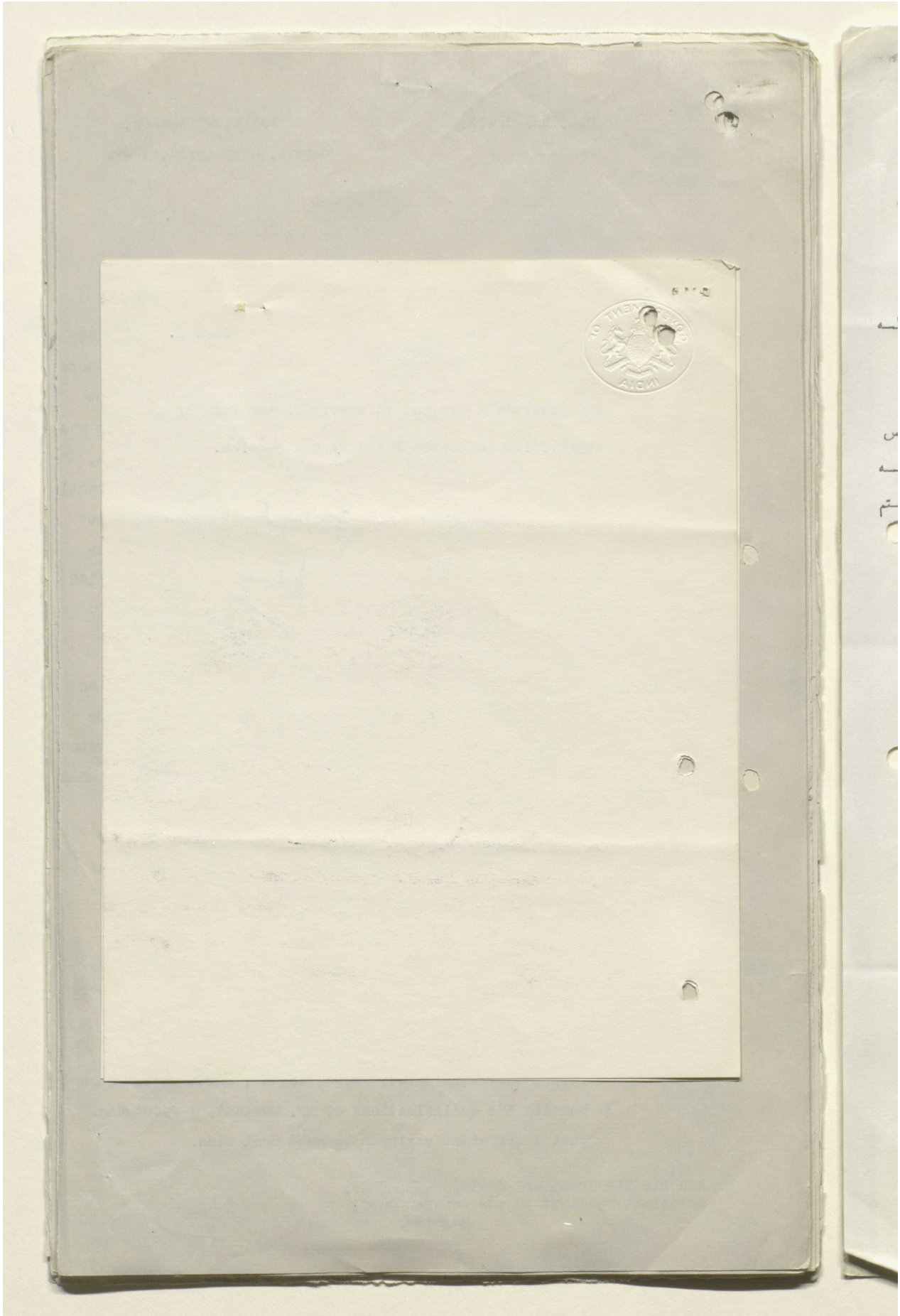


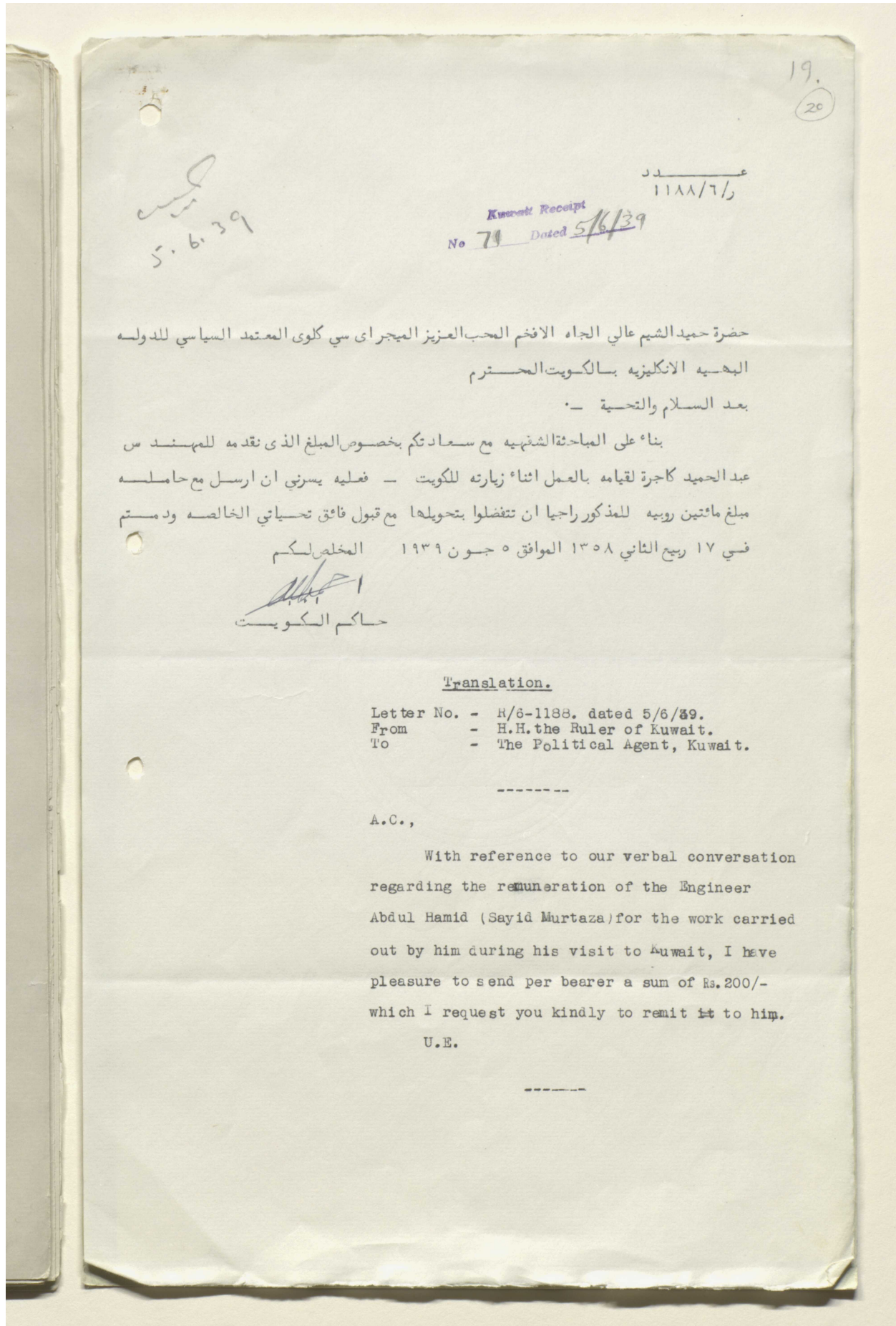
'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [19r] (37/48)





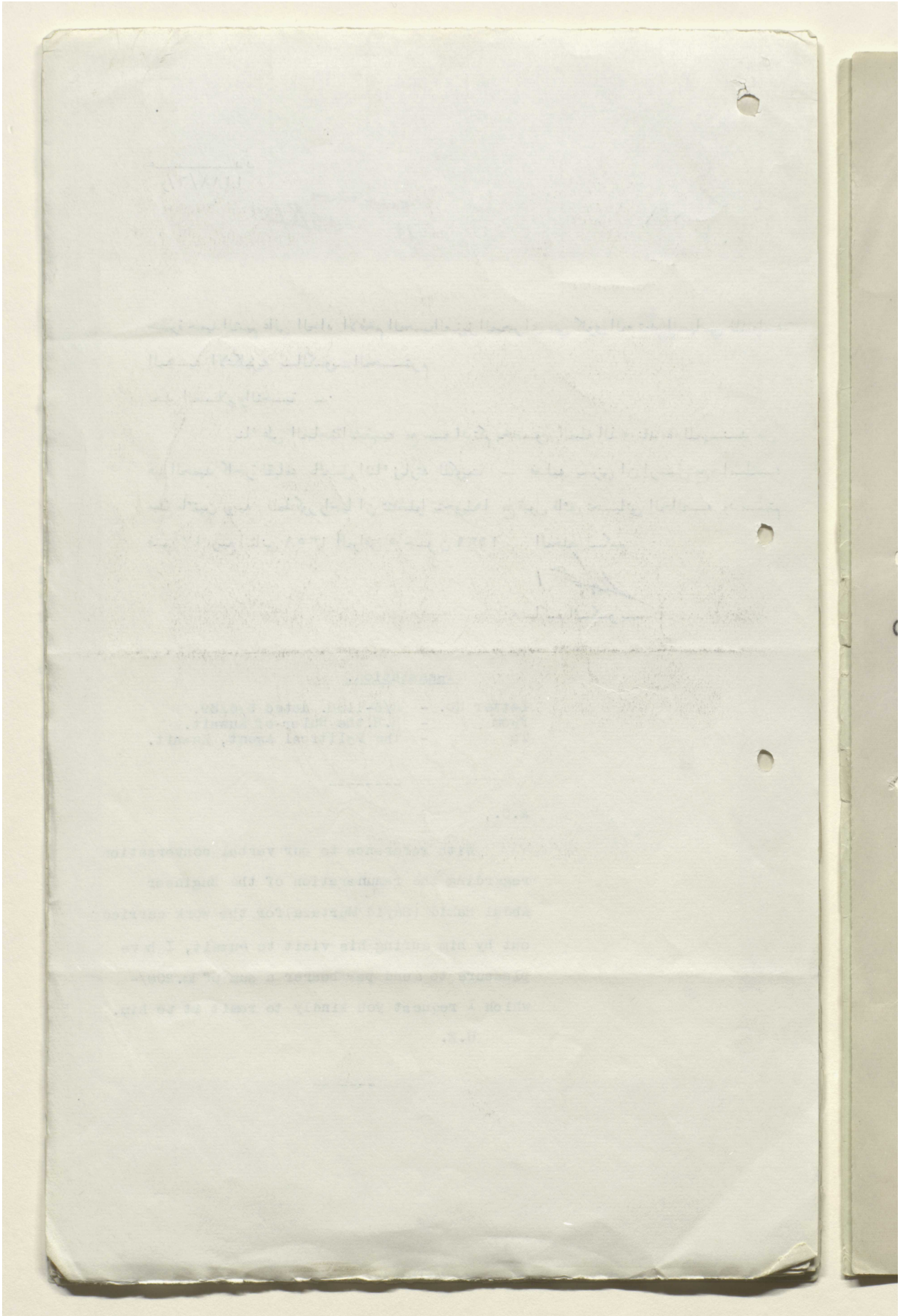
'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [19v] (38/48)







'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [20v] (40/48)



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [21r] (41/48)

20,

(21)

دار الاعتماد - الكويت  
العدد ٦٩  
في ٦ جون ١٩٣٩ = ١٨ ربيع ٢ - ١٣٥٨

Political Agency,  
Kuwait,  
The 6th June 1939.

To,

His Highness  
Shaikh Sir Ahmad al Jabir  
as Subah, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,  
Ruler of Kuwait.

حضرة حميد الشيخ صاحب الممر المحب  
الشيخ سراج احمد الجابر الصباح  
كي سي سي آي ثي - سي اس آي  
حاكم الكويت المحترم

After Compliments.

I have the honour to acknowledge  
the receipt of Your Highness' letter  
No.R/6-1188 of 5th June 1939 together  
with the sum of Es.200/- on account of  
remuneration for the Assistant Engineer  
Sayid Murtaza, for which I am very  
grateful to you.

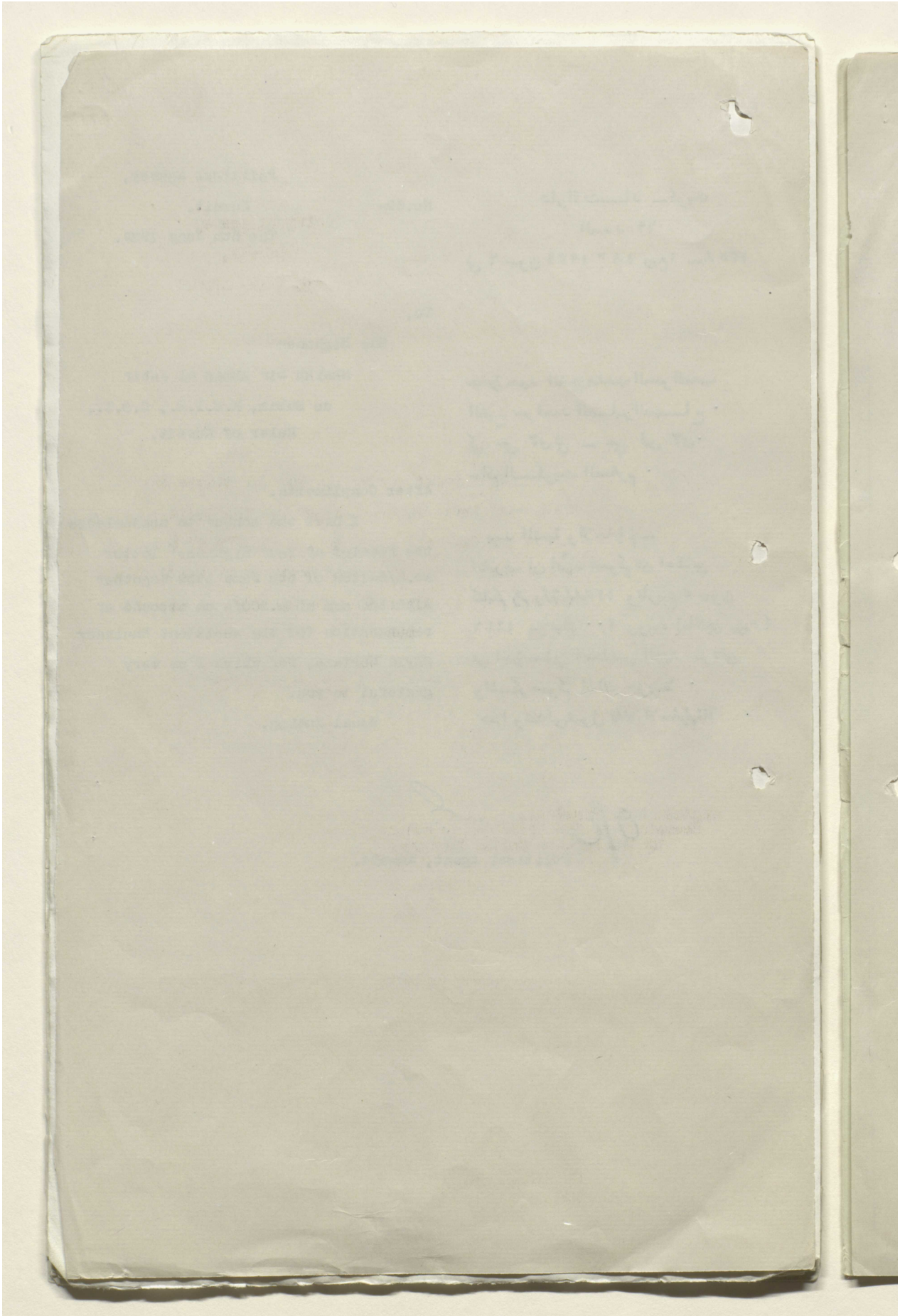
بمد التحية والاحترام -  
اتشرف ان اعرف سموكم عن استلامي  
كتابكم رقم ر/٦/١١٨٨ وتاريخه ٥ جون  
١٩٣٩ مع مبلغ ٢٠٠ روبية (مائتين روبية)  
عن اجرة ممان المهندس السيد مرتضى  
واشكر سموكم لذلك جزيلًا  
هذا وتفضلوا بتقبل فائق الاحترام !!!

Usual Ending.

Political Agent, Kuwait.



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [21v] (42/48)



'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [22r] (43/48)

21.

(22)

D.O. No. 341

Political Agency,  
Kuwait,  
6th June, 1939.

My dear Rushton,

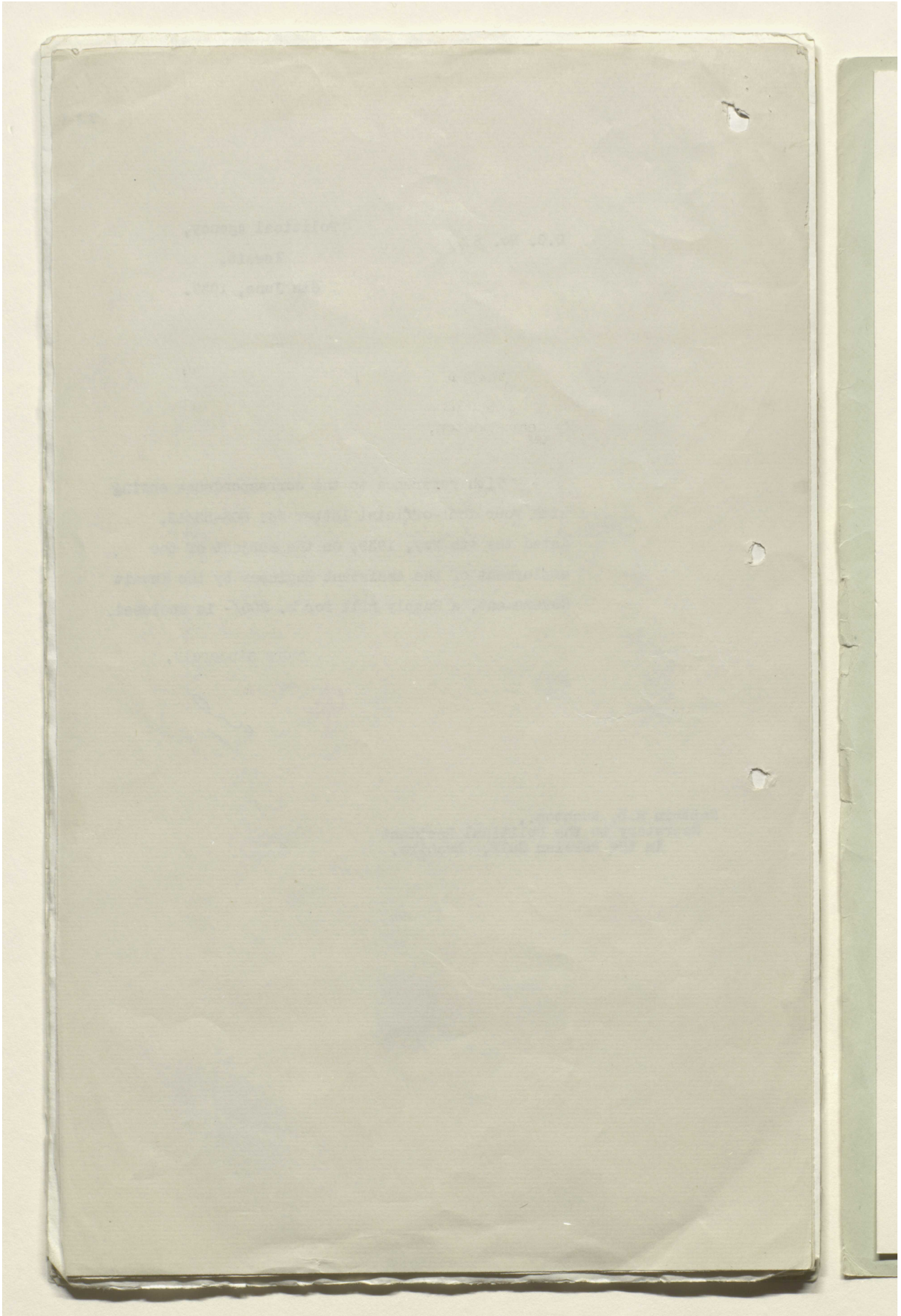
With reference to the correspondence ending with your demi-official letter No. 603-53/12, dated the 4th May, 1939, on the subject of the employment of the Assistant Engineer by the Kuwait Government, a Supply Bill for Rs. 200/- is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

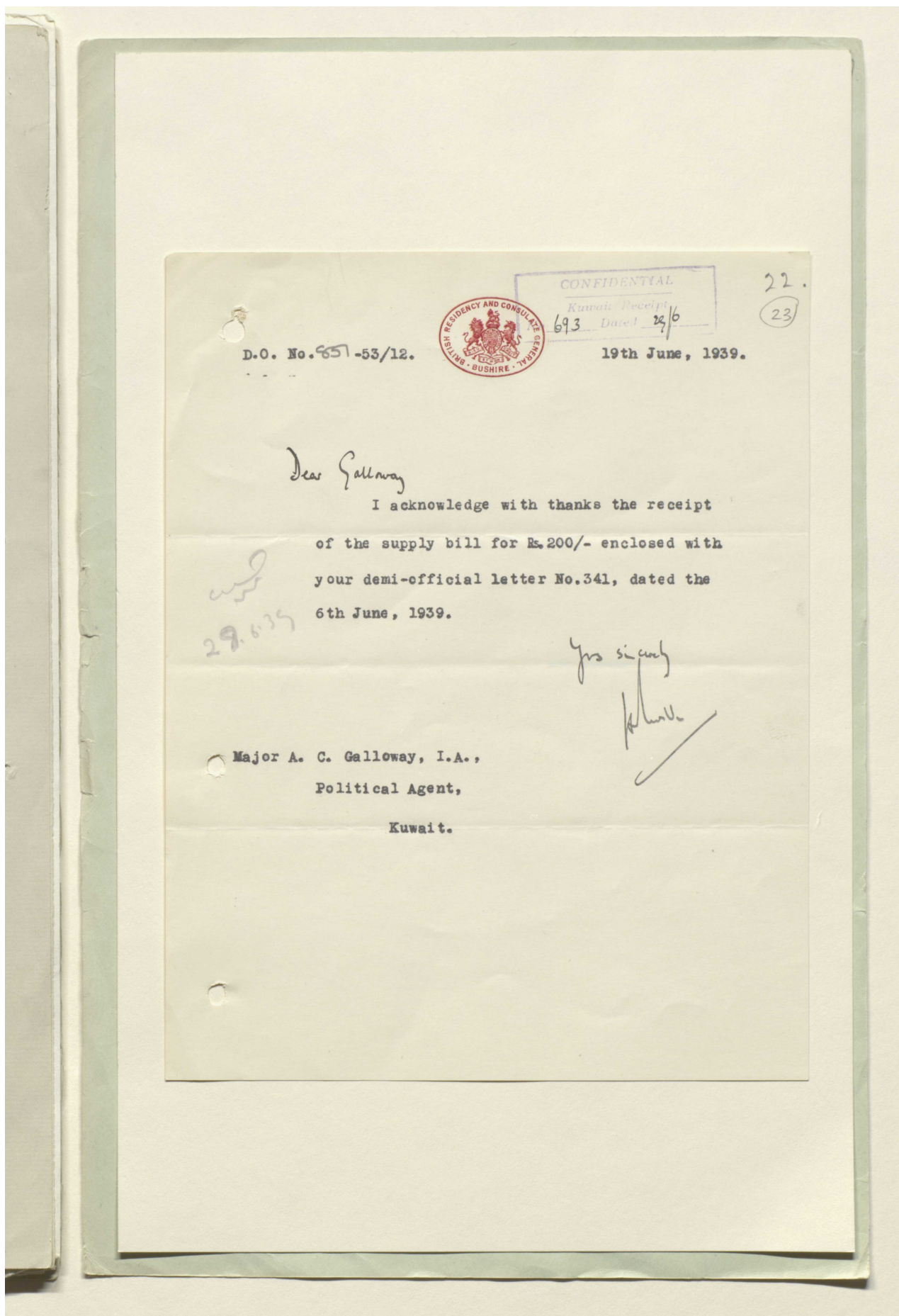
*o/c* *and*

Captain H.D. Rushton.,  
Secretary to the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.



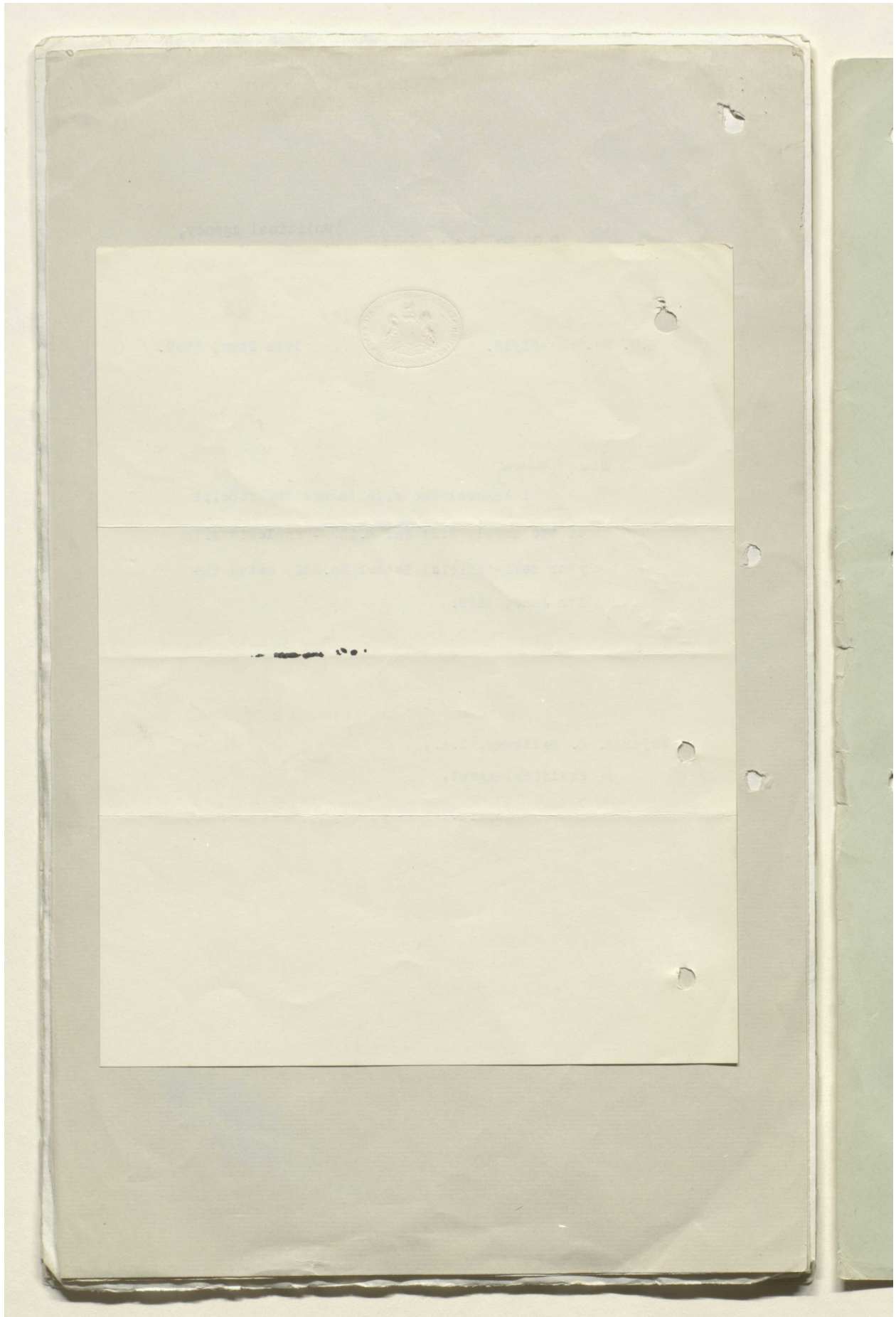


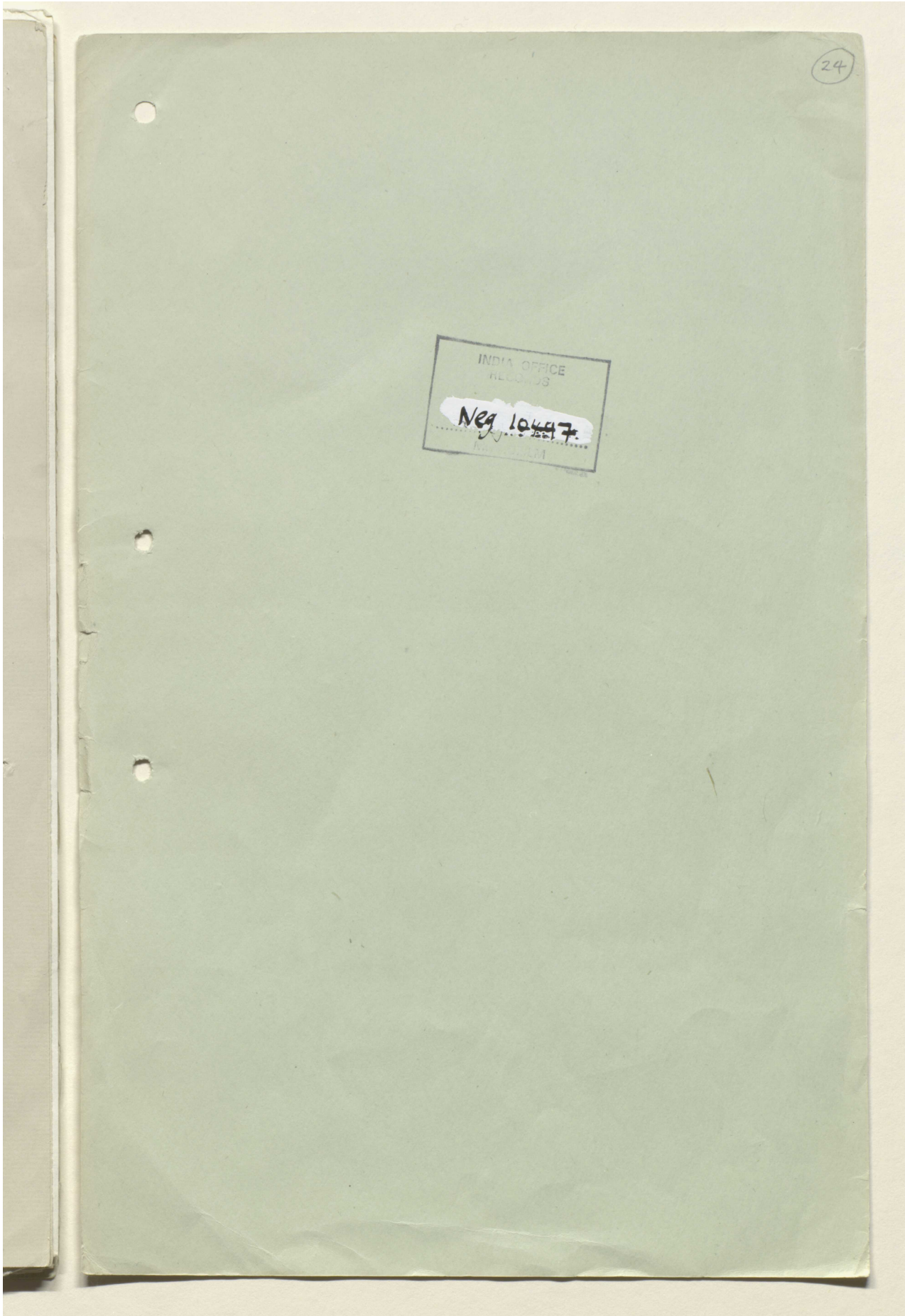
'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [23r] (45/48)





'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [23v] (46/48)







'File 4/23 Civil Engineer for Kuwait' [back] (48/48)

