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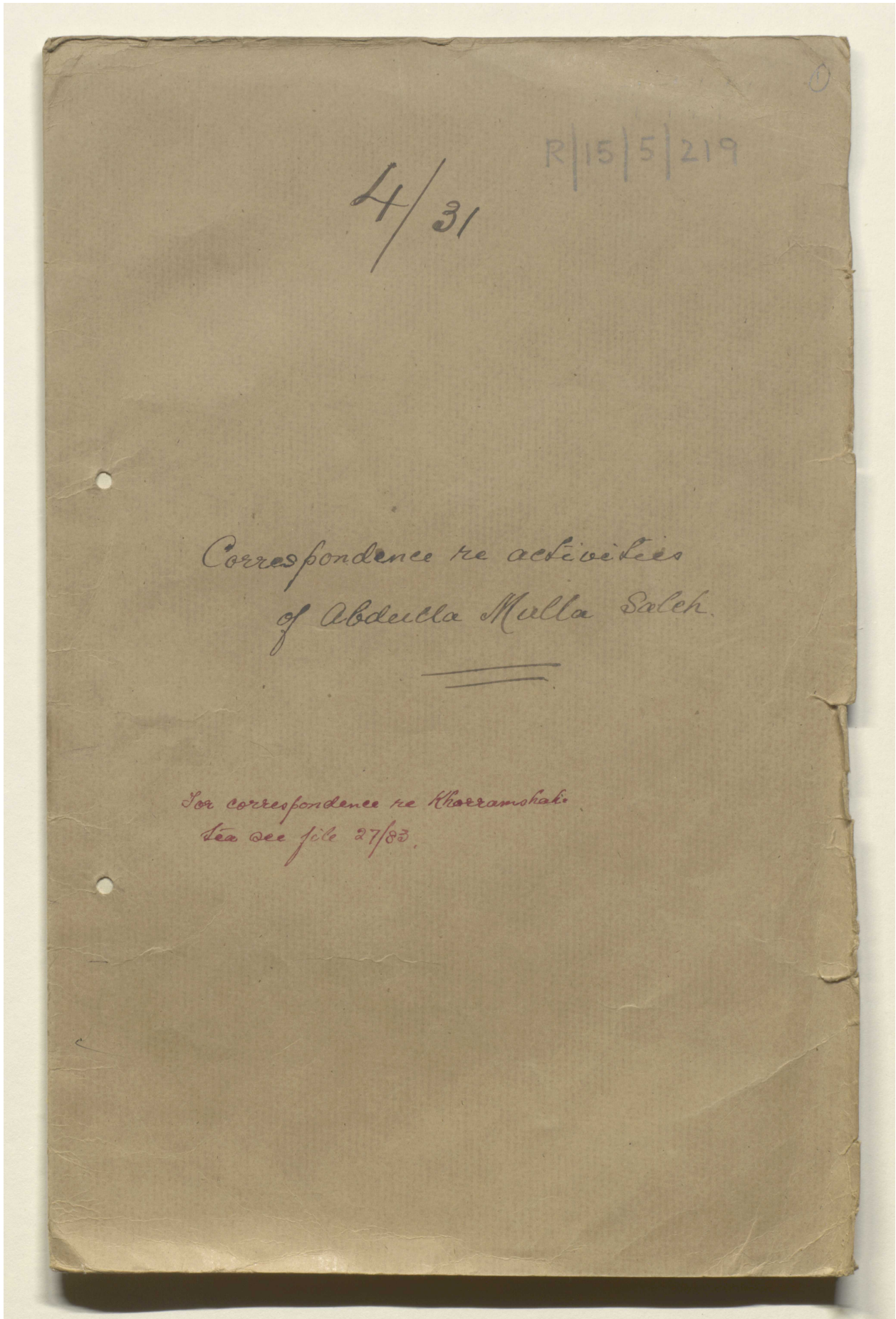
### 'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh'

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/R/15/5/219
<b>Date(s)</b>	17 Jan 1945-22 Apr 1945 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (12 folios)
<b>Copyright for document</b>	<u>Unknown</u>

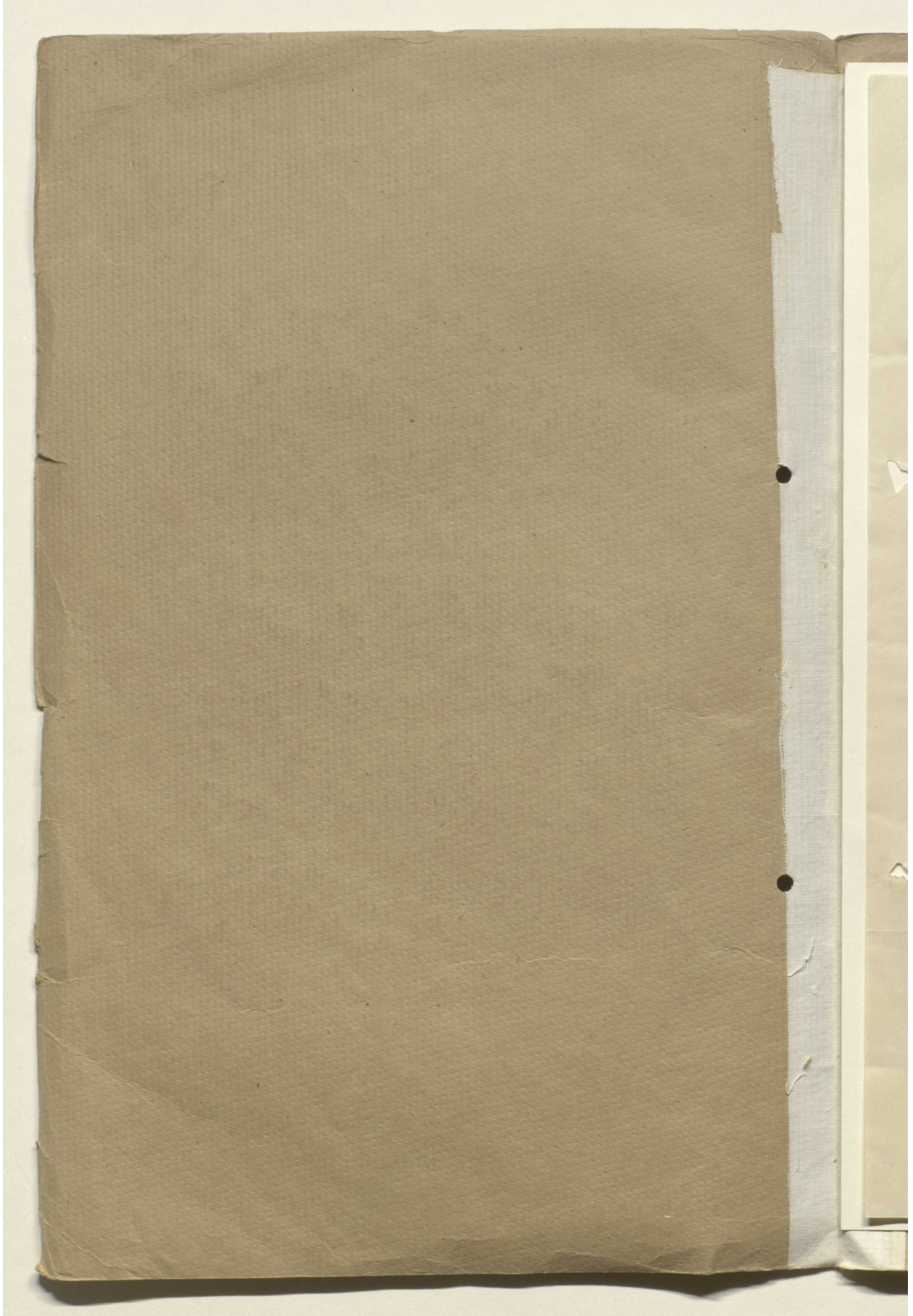


#### About this record

This file contains correspondence between British officials regarding the activities of the Ruler of Kuwait's Secretary, Abdulla Mulla Saleh. Specifically, the correspondence discusses allegations that Saleh, who was also a private merchant, was abusing his position and his proximity to the ruler for his own commercial interests.



'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [front-i]  
(2/28)



No. 3/54.

Political Agency,  
Kuwait,  
17th January, 1945.

Please refer to my Express Letter No. 53 dated the 17th January, 1945.

2. This case is an interesting example of His Highness' name being used by Abdullah Mulla Saleh in an attempt to pull wool over the Political Agent's eyes.

3. When I received the first evasive reply to my request for an investigation I returned to the charge and said that I thought the Government of India would consider such a reply unsatisfactory and that it was not conducive to retaining the Government of India's confidence. As I was unable to make any progress, however, I passed on the 'Kuwait Government's' (sic) reply in my Express Letter No. 841 of the 20th November.

4. On the 7th December, however, Akbar Lari's clerk came here and, on his application, the Director of Customs innocently gave him the usual landing certificate to the effect that the tea had been landed here. The clerk brought the certificate to me for countersignature, and I took a copy of it.

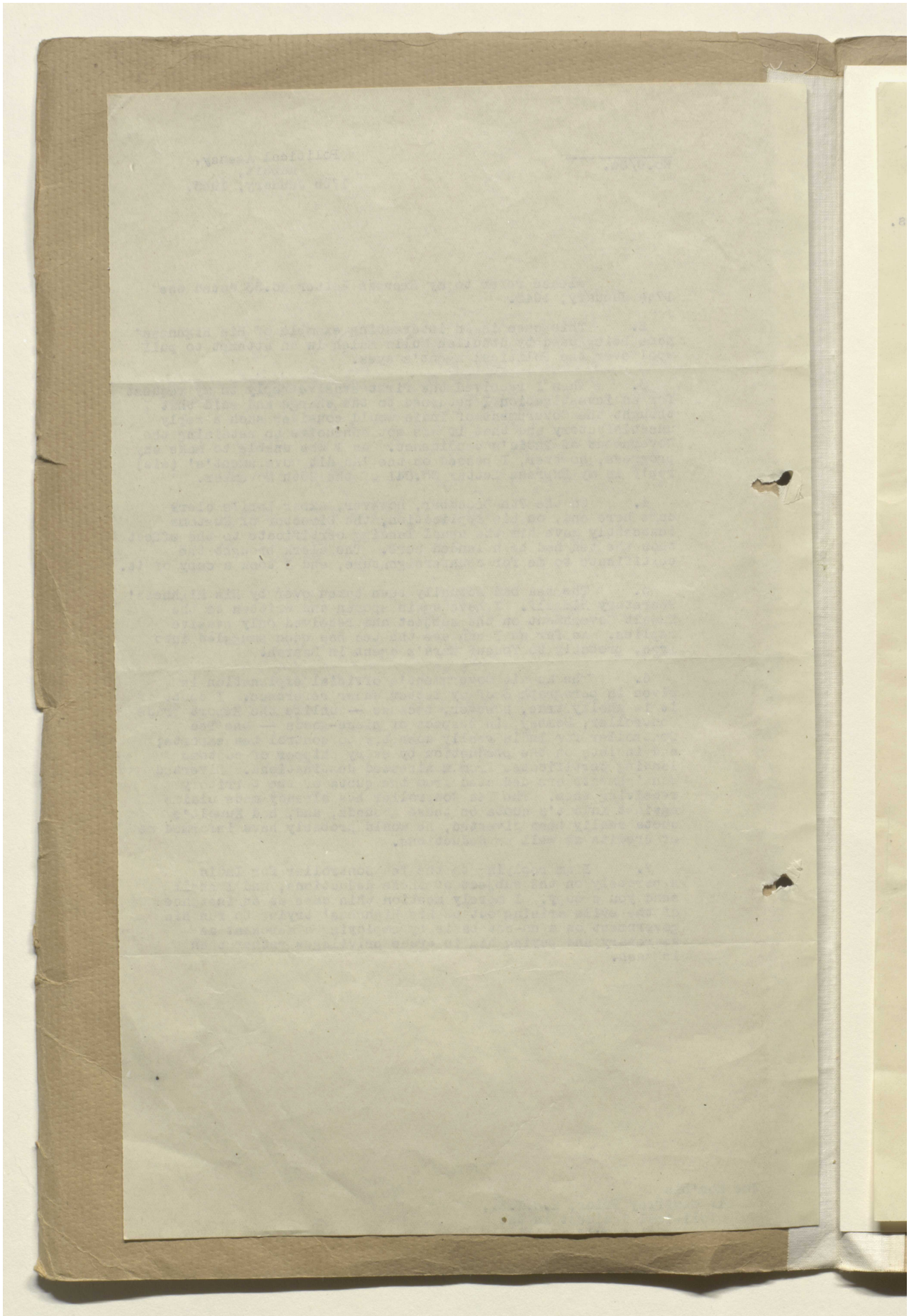
5. The tea had actually been taken over by His Highness' Secretary himself. I have again spoken and written to the Kuwait Government on the subject and received only evasive replies. As far as I can see the tea has been smuggled into Iraq, probably to Yousuf Ezra's agent in Basrah.

6. The Kuwait Government's official explanation is given in paragraph 3 of my letter under reference. I doubt if it is wholly true, however, because — unlike the Export Trade Controller, Bombay, in respect of piece-goods — the Tea Controller for India really does try to control tea exports; and insists on the production by every shipper of customs landing certificates from manifested destinations. Diverted consignments are deducted from the quota of the territory receiving them. The Tea Controller has already made claims against Kuwait's quota on these grounds, and, had Kuwait's quota really been diverted, he would probably have informed me of credits as well as deductions.

7. I am replying to the Tea Controller for India separately on the subject of these deductions, and I shall send you a copy. I merely mention this case as an instance of the evils arising out of His Highness' trying to run his government on a no-cot basis by employing a merchant as secretary and paying him in trade privileges rather than in cash.

The Hon'ble  
Sir Geoffrey Prior, K.C.I.E.,  
Political Resident in the  
Persian Gulf, Bushire

'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [2v] (4/28)



'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [3r] (5/28)

Extract of noting dated the 8th February, 1945 made by

Mr. G. N. Jackson.

This letter addressed to me, ostensibly by His Highness,

instead of the usual letter from His Highness forwarding the remarks of the Head of the Rationing Committee as at page 4, is the result of a struggle between Abdulla Mulla - a merchant himself and very much interested - and Abdulla Salim, in which Abdulla Mulla was able to get His Highness to side with him. The reason is not far to seek. His Highness employs Abdulla Mulla as his Secretary without paying him any salary. Abdulla Mulla is expected to work and to maintain a staff of clerks for no cash remuneration. His remuneration is made in the form of trade privileges and political employment - as labour adviser - with the oil and sulphur companies for which, at His Highness insistence, he gets considerable salaries. This is just one illustration of the evils of a system of Government run on a no-cost basis. Unless the P.A. insists there will be no control of prices. I have arranged with Abdulla Salim, however, that the Cloth Corporation shall import all the requirements of cloth for rationed distribution so that such essentials as chafias and mosquito netting will be available at controlled prices. Please see also in this connection my letter at page 2 of File 27/88. The only Import Assistance Recommendations that will be given for cloth to other merchants for the second half of 1945 will be to enable them to clear orders already placed and paid for.

On further consideration I am now opposed to trying to control the prices of other goods from the United Kingdom. I think is a better policy to try to get more goods. For this purpose I have asked for 100 tons instead of 50 for July - December 1945. Bahrain whose population is about the same as Kuwait's, has 400 tons. The disparity is quite unjustifiable, as this tonnage is for goods other than

'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [3v] (6/28)

those required by Oil Companies. That they have too great a tonnage  
at their disposal is obvious from the non-essentials for which Import  
Assistance Recommendations are given. This file should be ~~xxxxxx~~  
treated as a confidential file and shown to me successor when he comes.  
Sd/-G. N. Jackson.  
forwarding the results of the work of the Rationing  
Committee as at page A, is the result of a struggle between  
Abdulla Mulla - a merchant himself and very much interested  
- and Abdulla Salim, in which Abdulla Mulla was able to get  
His Highness to side with him. The reason is not far to  
seek. His Highness employs Abdulla Mulla as his Secretary  
without paying him any salary. Abdulla Mulla is expected  
to work and to maintain a staff of clerks for no cash  
remuneration. His remuneration is made in the form of  
trade privileges and political employment - as labour  
adviser - with the oil and sulphur companies for which, at  
His Highness' instance, he gets considerable salaries. This  
is just one illustration of the evils of a system of  
Government run on a no-cost basis. Unless the F.A. insists  
there will be no control of prices. I have arranged with  
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that will be given for cloth to other merchants for the  
second half of 1945 will be to enable them to clear orders  
already placed and paid for.  
On further consideration I am now opposed to trying to con-  
trol the prices of other goods from the United Kingdom. I  
think is a better policy to try to get more goods. For this  
purpose I have asked for 100 tons instead of 50 for July -  
December 1945. Britain whose population is about the  
same as Kuwait's, has 400 tons. The disparity is quite  
unjustifiable, as this shortage is for goods other than

'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [4r] (7/28)

Extract of Iraq Censorship Letter No. Baghdad/  
670/45 dated 12.2.45.

From: Meir S. Balass,  
General Merchant, Banker  
Importer and Exporter,  
Baghdad, Iraq.

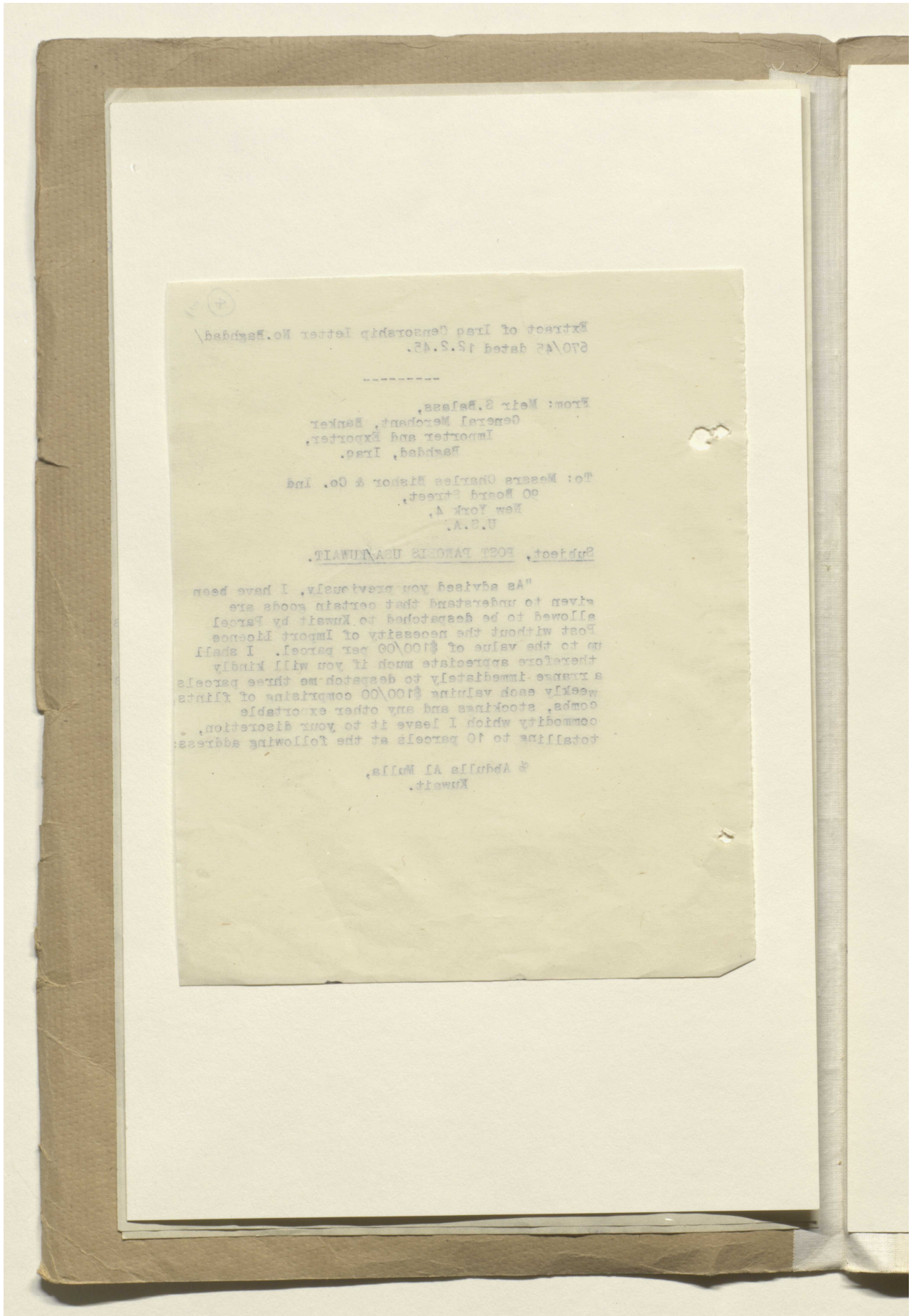
To: Messrs Charles Bishor & Co. Inc  
90 Board Street,  
New York 4,  
U.S.A.

Subject, POST PARCELS USA/KUWAIT.

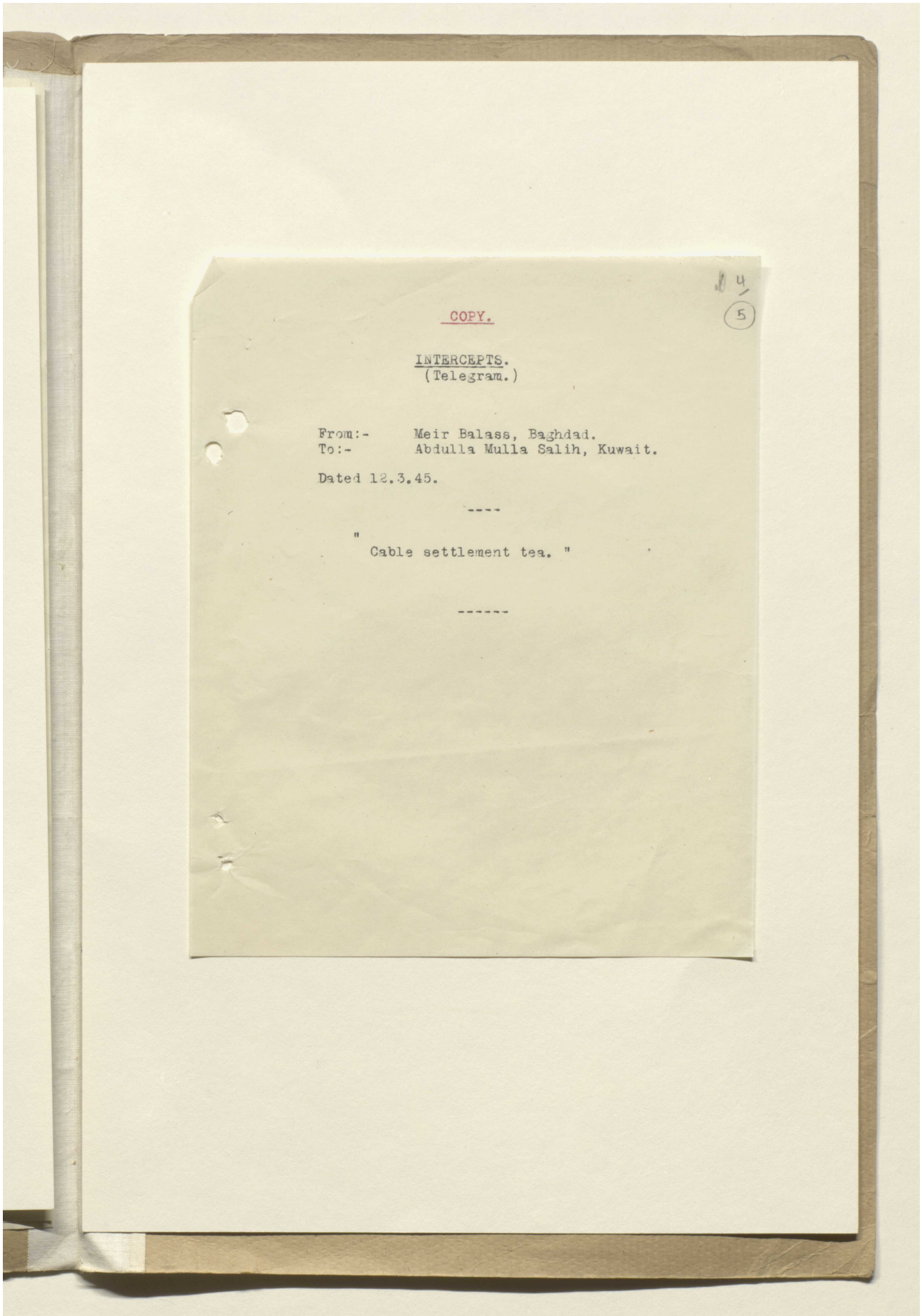
"As advised you previously, I have been given to understand that certain goods are allowed to be despatched to Kuwait by Parcel Post without the necessity of Import Licence up to the value of \$100/00 per parcel. I shall therefore appreciate much if you will kindly arrange immediately to despatch me three parcels weekly each valuing \$100/00 comprising of flints, combs, stockings and any other exportable commodity which I leave it to your discretion, totalling to 10 parcels at the following address:

% Abdulla Al Mulla,  
Kuwait.

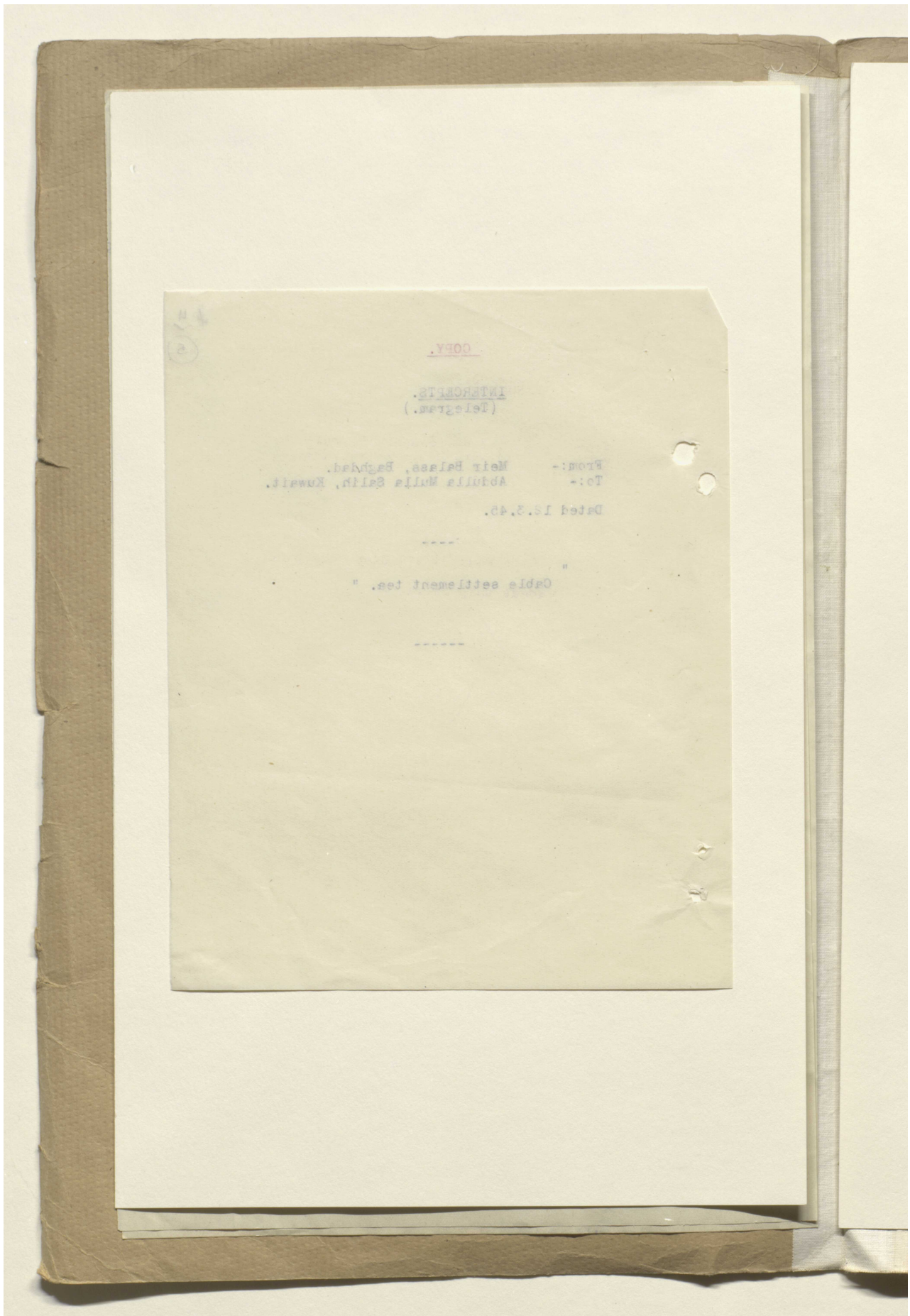


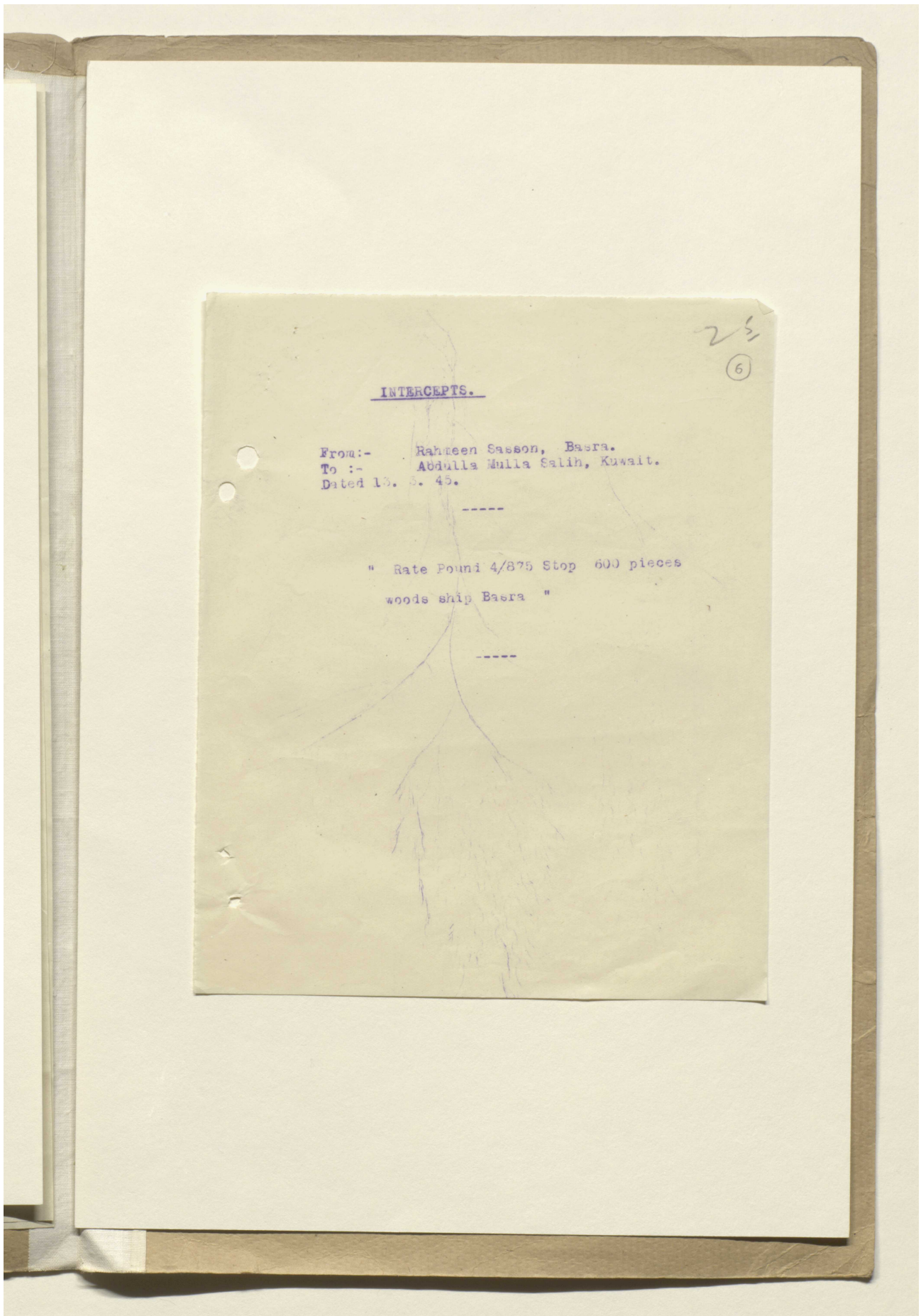


'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [5r] (9/28)

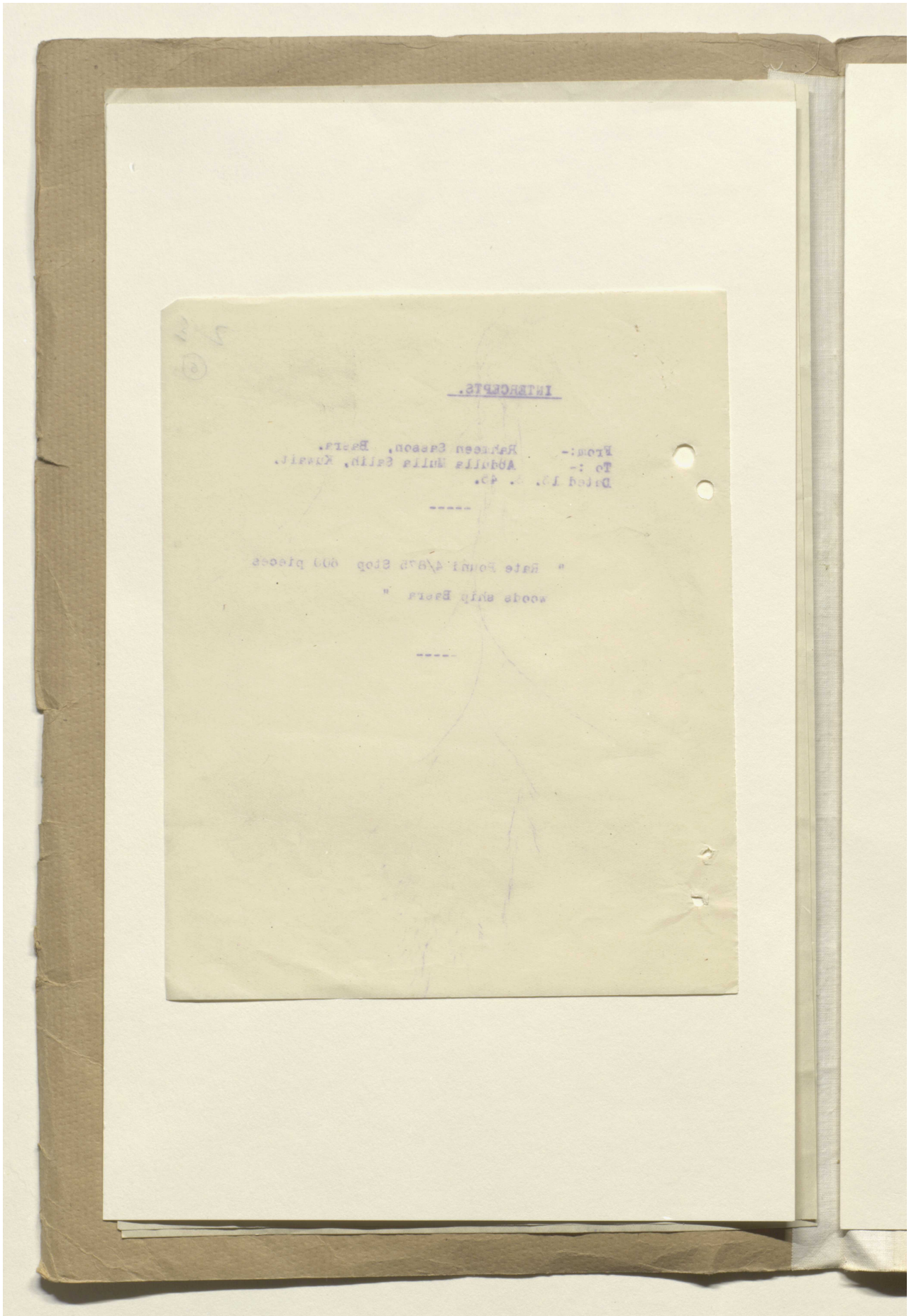


'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [5v] (10/28)

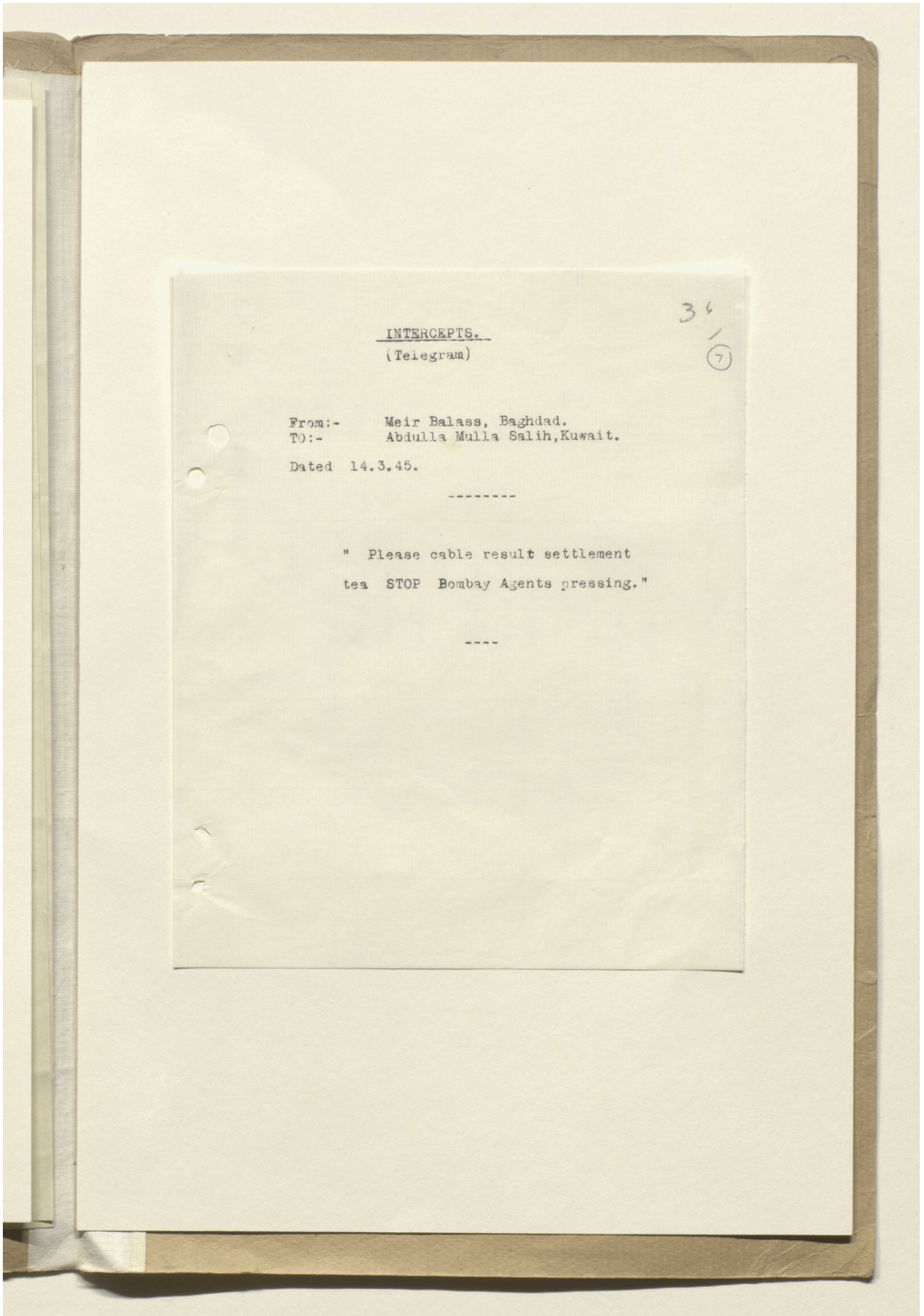




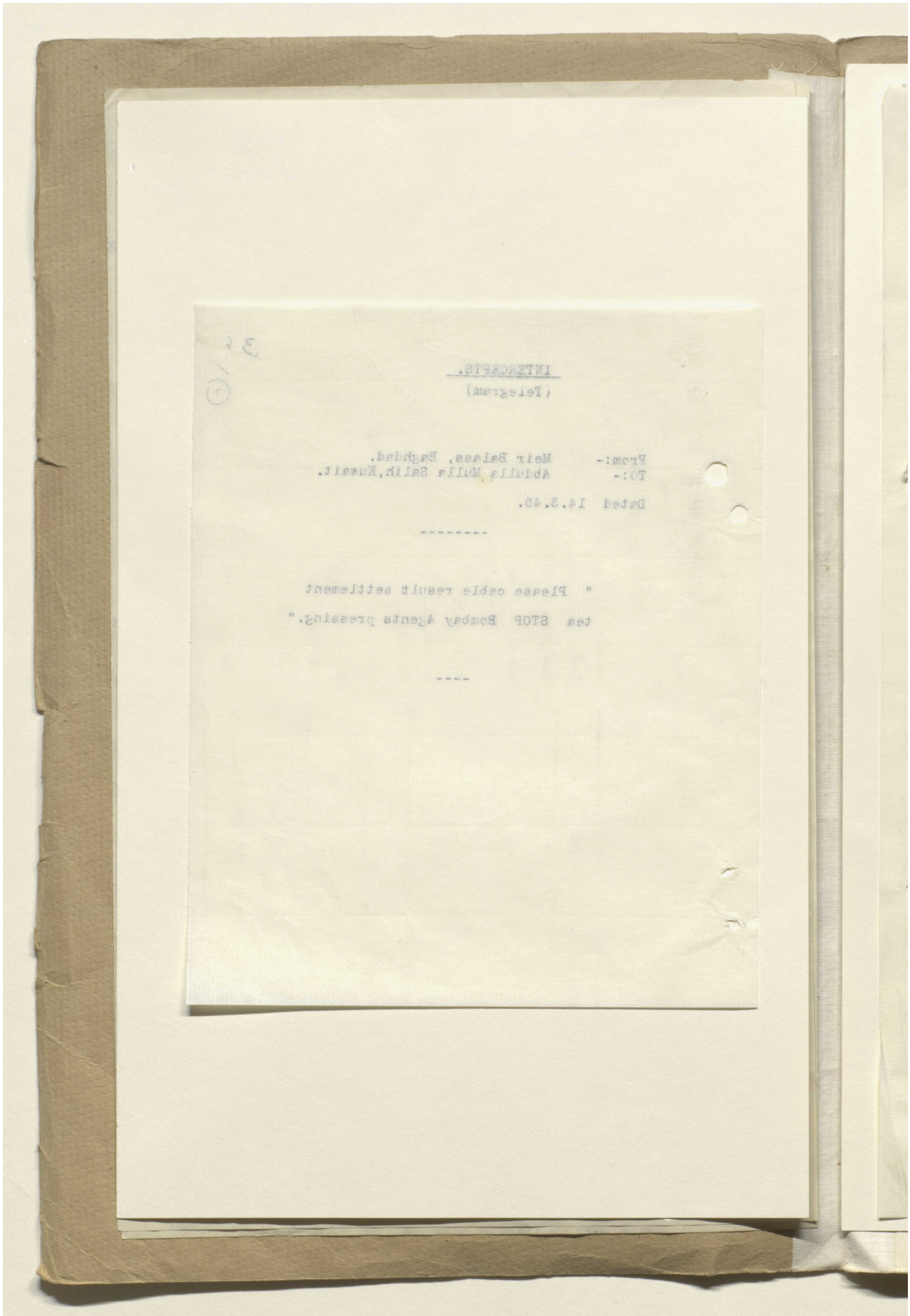
'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [6v] (12/28)



'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [7r] (13/28)



'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [7v] (14/28)



'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [8r] (15/28)

COUNTRY CRAFT BILL OF LADING

SHIPPED in good order and well condition by Popallah Daylay in and upon the good Ship or Vessel called the C.C. Husein Whereof Abdullah Mulla is Master for

the present voyage now residing at anchor in the Harbour of Murad Jayire and bound for Churamshan

Total packages 31 Thirty one

being marked and numbered as per Margin and are to be delivered in the like good order and well condition at the aforesaid Port of \_\_\_\_\_ (the act of God, the King's Enemies, Fire and all every Dangers and Accidents of the Seas, Rivers and Navigations of whatever nature and kind sever expected) unto Order or to its Assigns \_\_\_\_\_ freight for the said Goods \_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS whereof the Master of this said vessel have affirmed to Two (2) Bill of Lading and all of this Tenor and Date one of which being accomplished the other to stand void.

Dated in Murad the 10th day of May 1944

Weight and Contents unknown to

Master or Sealer's Signature SCH

No. 63

marked, numbered, and sealed as recorded  
Marks & No. of Packages and Contents as follows

27 Indian Cotton Yarn  
E.F. Jayire  
31  
S.H.I.

Measurement tons \_\_\_\_\_

Weighing Tons \_\_\_\_\_

"Freight Memo"

Packages Tons \_\_\_\_\_ freight per ton Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Balance to pay Rs. 2570/-

No freight paid here.













COUNTRY CRAFT BILL OF LADING

SHIPPED in good order and well condition by Dayfi  
in and upon the good Ship or Vessel called  
the C.C. Al-Hakima Wherof Abdullah Mulla Saleh in Master and for  
the present voyage now residing at anchor in the Harbour of  
Mundafajira and bound for Khoranabek

Total packages 17 only  
being marked and numbered as per Margin and are to be delivered  
in the like good order and well condition at the aforesaid  
Port of Khoranabek (the act of God, the King's Enemies,  
Fire and all every Dangers and Accidents of the Seas, Rivers  
and Navigations of whatever nature and kind sever expected)  
unto Order or to its Assigns \_\_\_\_\_ freight for the  
said goods \_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS whereof the Master of this said vessel have affirmed  
to Bill of Lading and all of this Tenor and Date one  
of which being accomplished the other to stand void.  
Dated in Mundafajira the 10th day of May 1944  
Weight and Contents unknown to  
MASTER or Abdullah Mulla Saleh

No. 64  
بند 2 من 17  
مكتبة قطر الوطنية

Marks & No.	Packages	Contents.
H.F.	17	Indian Cotton Yarn
	17	

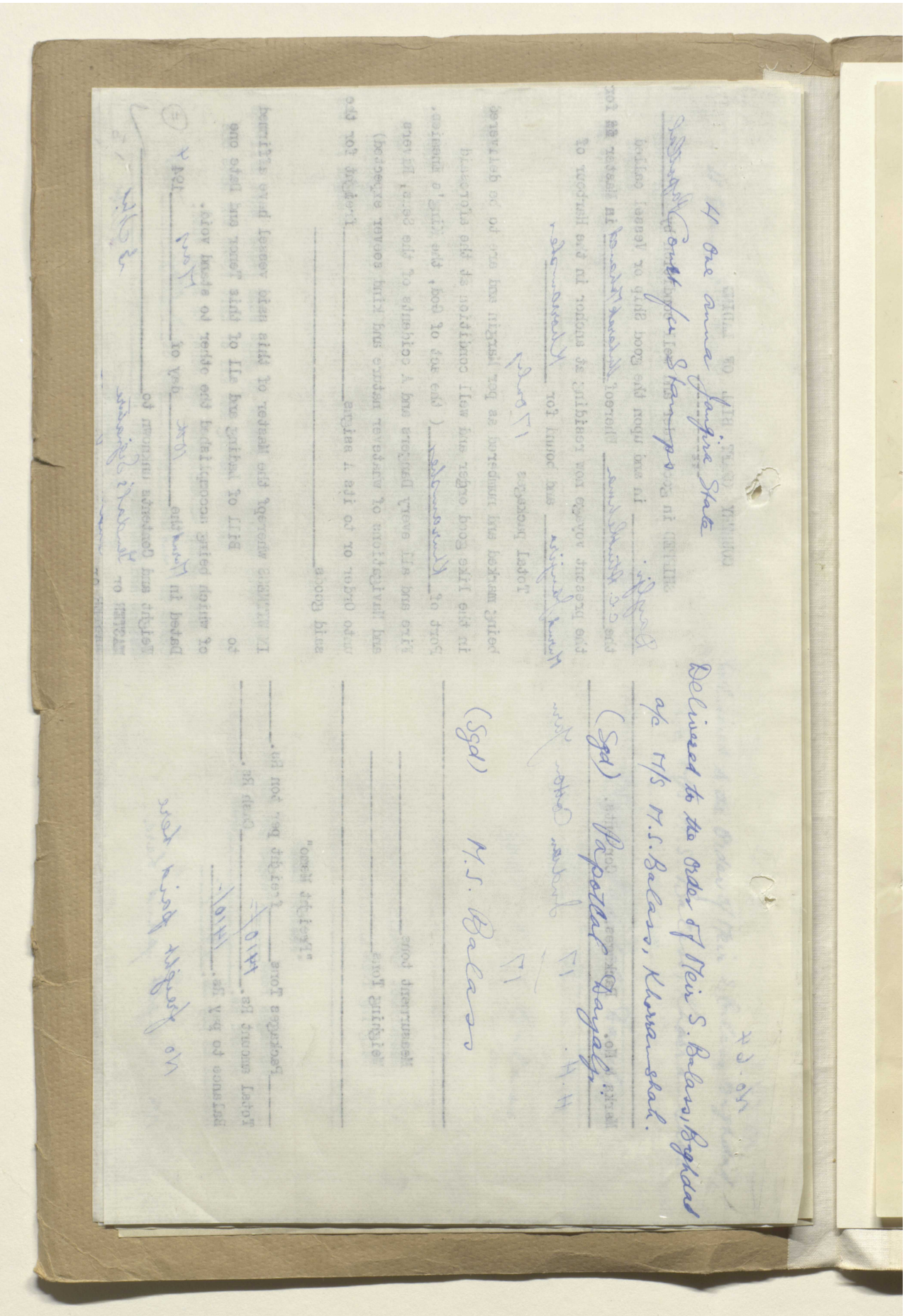
Measurement tons \_\_\_\_\_  
Weighing Tons \_\_\_\_\_

"Freight Memo"

Packages Tons \_\_\_\_\_ freight per ton Rs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Total amount Rs. 1410/- Cash Rs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Balance to pay Rs. 1410/-

No freight paid here

'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [11v] (22/28)



4 One Anna Langfire State

Delivered to the order of New S. Balass, Baghdad

of M/S M.S. Balass, Khaman-shak.

(Sgd) Patrol Bagdad

(Sgd) M.S. Balass

(Sgd) M.S. Balass

Handwritten Arabic text, likely a letter or report, with some words underlined. The text is dense and covers most of the page.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a note.

'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [12r] (23/28)

D.O. No. C/357.

Political Agency.,  
Kuwait.

The 12th April, 1945.

Please refer to your intercept No. BAGHDAD/670/45 dated the 12th February, 1945, concerning Post parcels U.S.A./ Kuwait.

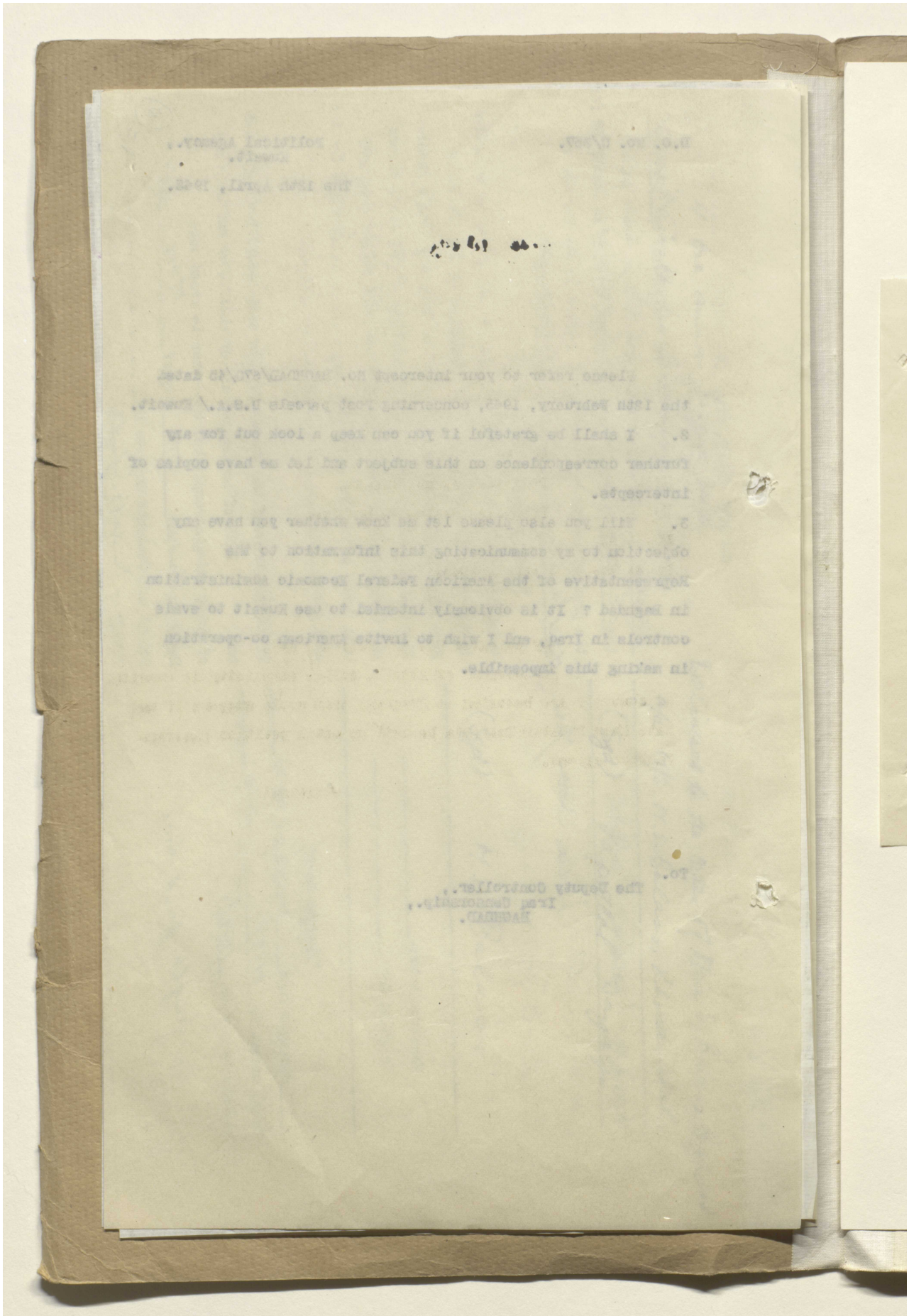
2. I shall be grateful if you can keep a look out for any further correspondence on this subject and let me have copies of intercepts.

3. Will you also please let me know whether you have any objection to my communicating this information to the Representative of the American Federal Economic Administration in Baghdad? It is obviously intended to use Kuwait to evade controls in Iraq, and I wish to invite American co-operation in making this impossible.

To.  
The Deputy Controller.,  
Iraq Censorship.,  
BAGHDAD.



'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [12v] (24/28)



Telegram Q  
From Political Agent, Kuwait.  
To. Political Resident, Bushire.  
No. 394.  
Dated the 22nd April, 1945.

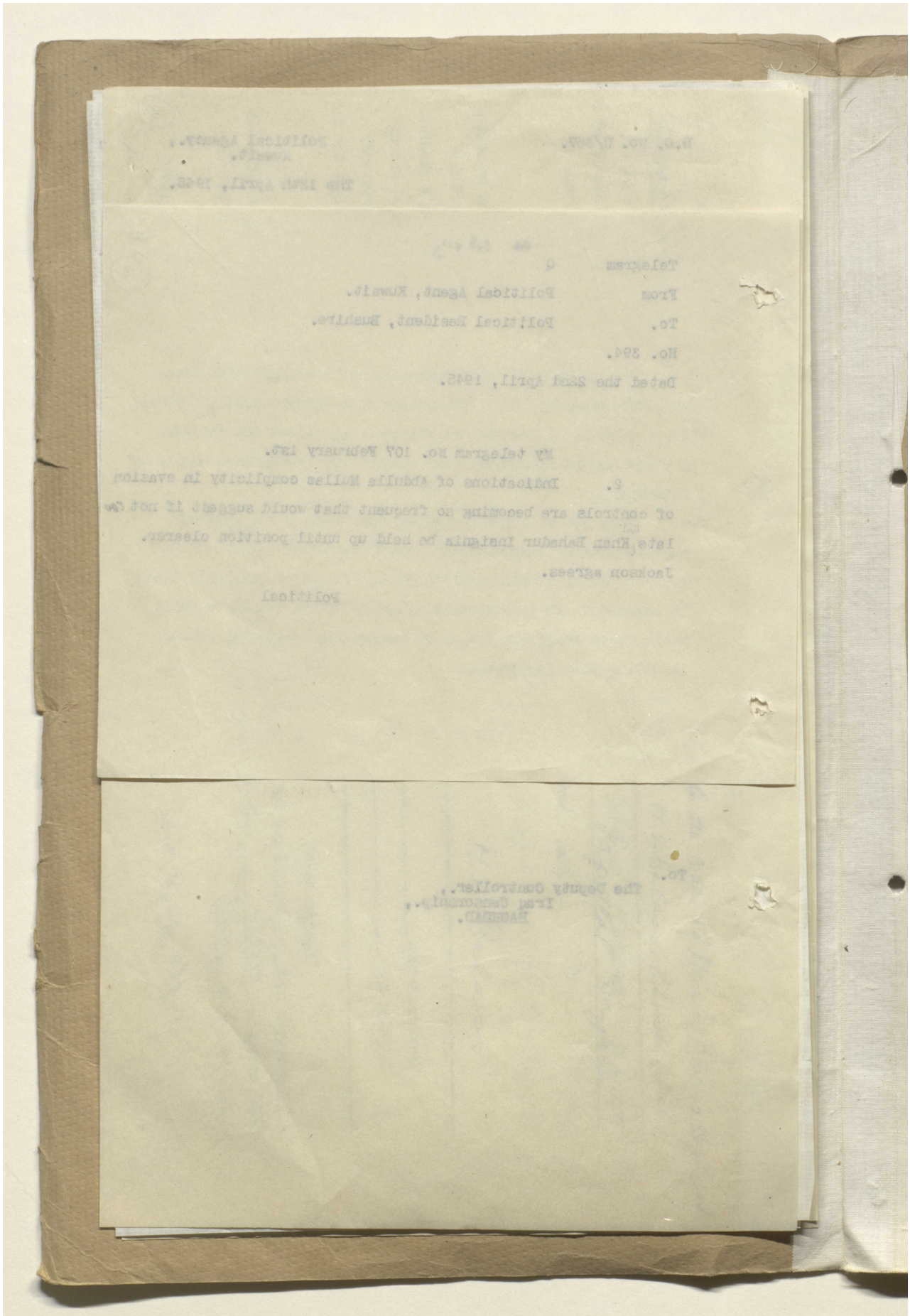
12  
13

My telegram NO. 107 February 1st.

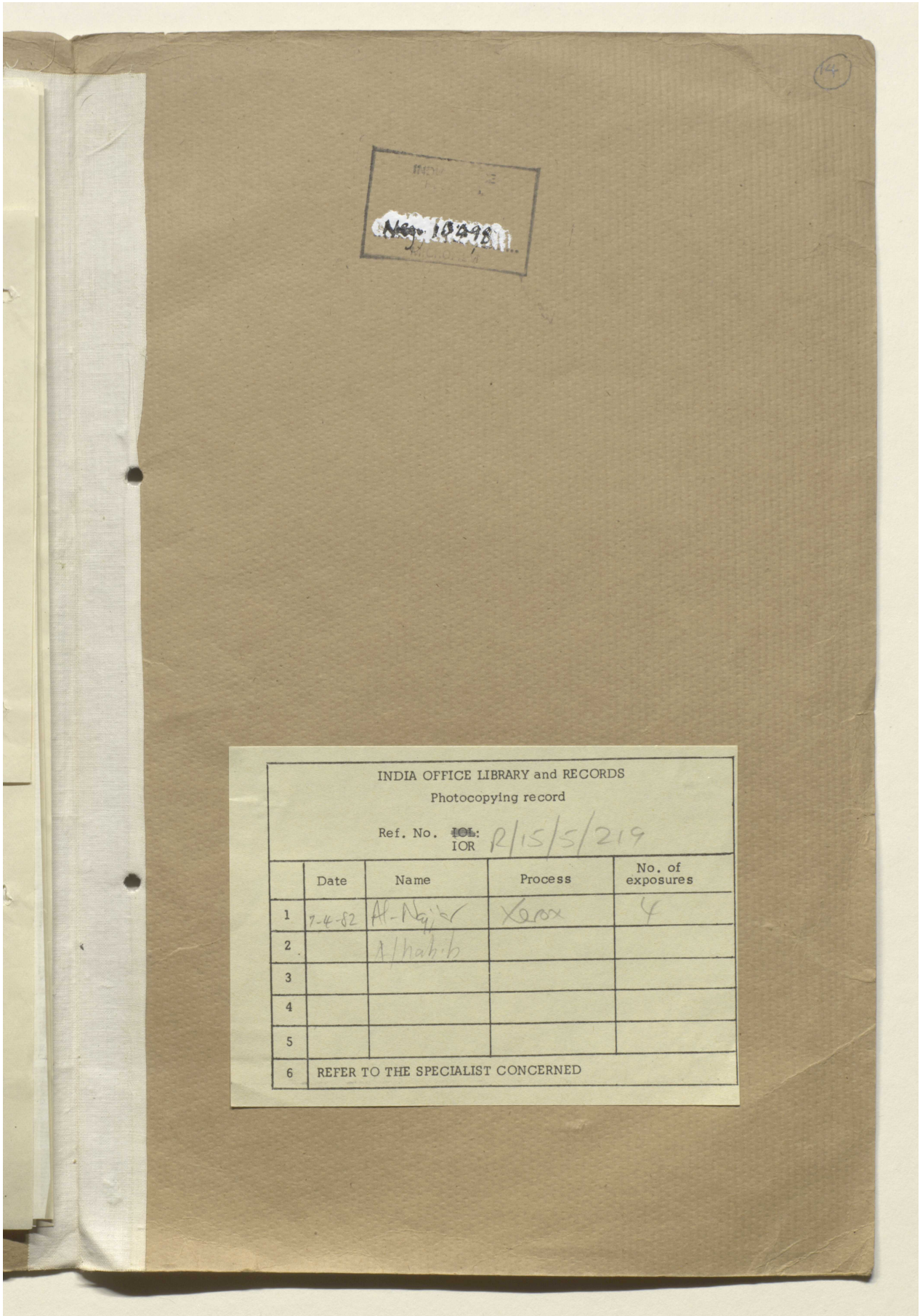
2. Indications of Abdulla Mullas complicity in evasion of controls are becoming so frequent that would suggest if not <sup>late</sup> late Khan Bahadur Insignia be held up until position clearer. Jackson agrees.

Political

'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [13v] (26/28)



'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [back-i]  
(27/28)



'File 4/31 Correspondence re Activities of Abdullah Mulla Saleh' [back] (28/28)

