



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\\_100000000831.0x00028b](http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100000000831.0x00028b)

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

**'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.'**

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/R/15/6/51
<b>Date(s)</b>	26 Oct 1903-27 Oct 1923 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (5 folios)
<b>Copyright for document</b>	<a href="#">Open Government Licence</a>



**About this record**

The file contains a letter sent by the Consul and Political Agent, Muscat to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla in which he reports on his interview with the Sultan of Muscat and Oman and the latter's proposal to abdicate in favour of his son Saiyid Taimur bin Faisal al-Bu Sa'idi.

'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [front] (1/14)

File No. 19

Old Series  
Collection No.

XXXXIII

4

Pros. Serial Nos.  
IOR: R 15 6 51

Subject.

H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.

Previous References. Later References.

CLOSE D

33/4

OCTOBER 1903.

S. 97.-(Green).  
MFP-593 S&P-(M-1109)-16-9-37-100,000.

'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [front-i] (2/14)



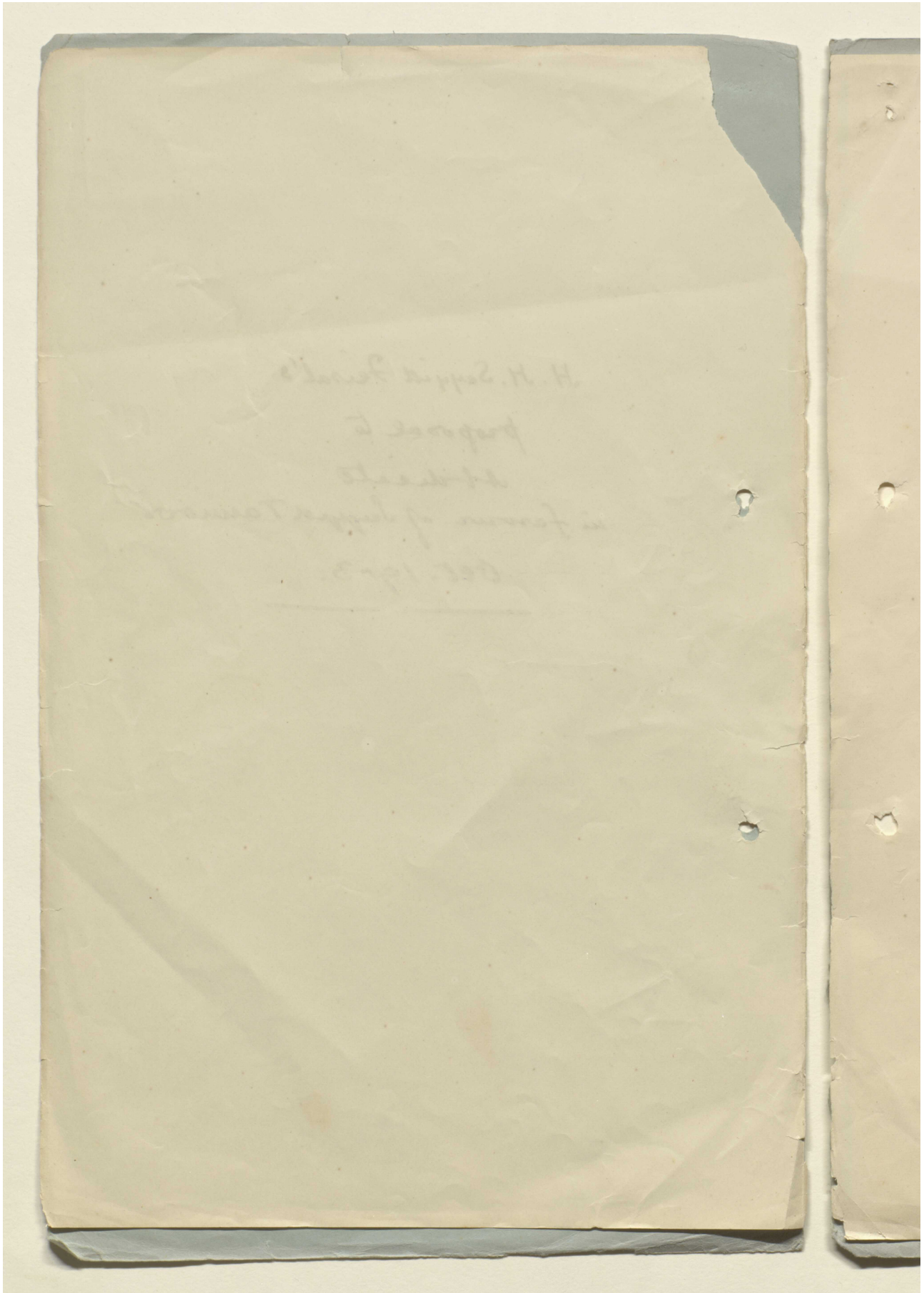
'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [2r] (3/14)

2

H. H. Saiyid Faisal's  
proposal to  
abdicate  
in favour of Saiyid Taimur  
Oct. 1903.

---

'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [2v] (4/14)



'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [3r] (5/14)

To

Foreign

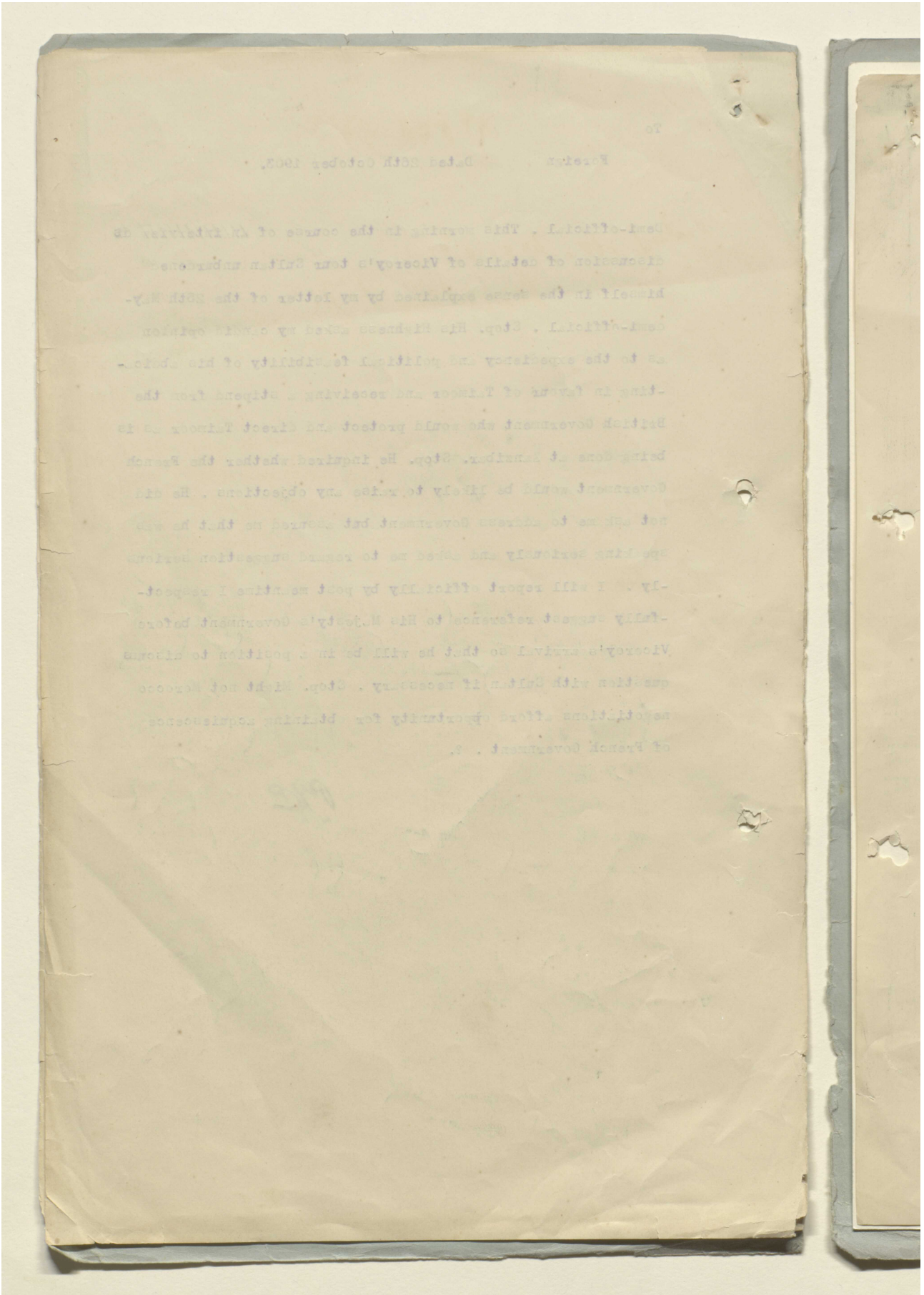
Dated 26th October 1903.

3

Demi-official . This morning in the course of ~~the~~ discussion of details of Viceroy's tour Sultan unburdened himself in the sense explained by my letter of the 25th May - demi-official . Stop. His Highness asked my candid opinion as to the expediency and political feasibility of his abdicating in favour of Taimoor and receiving a stipend from the British Government who would protect and direct Taimoor as is being done at Zanzibar. Stop. He inquired whether the French Government would be likely to raise any objections . He did not ask me to address Government but assured me that he was speaking seriously and asked me to regard suggestion seriously . I will report officially by post meantime I respectfully suggest reference to His Majesty's Government before Viceroy's arrival so that he will be in a position to discuss question with Sultan if necessary . Stop. Might not Morocco negotiations afford opportunity for obtaining acquiescence of French Government . ?.

*pye*

'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [3v] (6/14)



'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [4r] (7/14)

4

N<sup>o</sup> 598-1903

Jed. W. Daudy  
Secretary F. D  
Simla

Secretary to the Government of India

Foreign Department, SIMLA.

October 27th 1903.

Sir

I have the honour to report the details of an interview which took place yesterday between the Sultan and myself, during which His Highness expressed a wish to abdicate.

(2). There were several items of the programme for His Excellency the Viceroy's visit which had to be arranged to be arranged in communication with His Highness and discussion of which had been delayed owing to the latter's indisposition for two or three days past. Yesterday morning however he was well enough to see me.

After the various points for settlement had been gone into I explained to His Highness that I now learnt from Government that the Viceroy would hold a Durbar on the second day of his visit, during which he would no doubt address the Durbaris and I therefore asked him if anything especial occurred to him with regard to which His Excellency could strengthen His Highness's hands or help him in any way by



'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [4v] (8/14)

touching upon it in his speech . I added that if he would mention it to me beforehand I would pass it on for favourable consideration if it did not seem open to any objection .

His Highness replied : " No: there is nothing particular that ~~can~~ I can think of at present in the direction you mention and you probably you know better than I do what it would be possible ~~to~~ to suggest to ~~me~~ <sup>H.S.</sup> and what not . There is however another matter which I want to consult you about . I have for some time past been seriously thinking of giving up the reins of Government "

I had heard some months ago at the time of the last French Flag incident , that he had been talking in this strain to some of his confidential friends but he now spoke without any emotion and in fact almost jocularly and I was therefore not quite sure whether to take him seriously or not . I replied <sup>in the same tone</sup> ~~that~~ : " *I hope Y. H. will not do anything of the same sort while I am in Muscat* " ~~and let me not say before you do any thing of that sort~~

He rejoined : " On the contrary I thought that I should like to get the matter over while you are yet here . I am not joking "

I asked him what it was that had turned his thoughts in such a direction : was he feeling aged or ill or what ? .

He answered : " No: I do not feel that I am getting old but I am weary of all the cares of my position : the incessant worry which I experience from the tribes and the constant anxiety <sup>from</sup> ~~of~~ knowing where to look for money to meet all the calls that are made upon me . I have come to the conclusion ~~that~~ that I should be happier if I took an allowance from the Sarkar and gave up the government . My idea is this , that I should abdicate in favour of Seyyid Taimoor and that the British Government should recognise and direct him . I am afraid he is too inexperienced to run alone and would require someone to guide his footsteps . "

'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [5r] (9/14)

5

I observed : " Then the conditions would be the same as at Zanzibar ? " . He replied " Yes ; that is what it comes to . " I asked him what he thought the people of Oman would have to say to such an arrangement . He replied that he did not think they would be affected or interested at all as their own condition would remain practically unaltered and that in any case he did not consider that they constituted a factor of any difficulty : " But " he added , " what do you think about the French ? Would they be likely to object ? " I answered that I thought they would have something to say but that it was not impossible that they might be got to waive their objections .

His Highness then went on to speak of his brother Seyyid Mahomed bin Turki , whose status and attitude in regard to Seyyid Taimur had been touched upon between us earlier in the interview , when we were discussing the details of the Viceroy's visit . He observed that he did not anticipate any difficulty with his brother as he had not , though the older brother, <sup>later</sup> made any attempt to dispute the Sultanate on Seyyid Turki's death and he thought that like himself Seyyid Mahomed would be quite contented to live on a pension under the new regime . He added that he would have a talk with him about it and see what he said . As a matter of fact I am pretty sure from previous information received months ago that he must have arranged matters with his brother before he spoke to me .

It appears to me that the situation is really as follows . Seyyid Faisal as he frankly states is weary of the many worries of the difficult and artificial position in which he is placed - a Sultan in name only , without the power or money necessary to enable him to enforce his authority as such . <sup>He</sup> feels impotent to cope any longer with his diffi-

*unsatisfactory*

'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [5v] (10/14)

*difficulties;*

... with Foreign Powers; with his turbu-  
lent bribesmen; and with money, and wants British protection and a  
British stipend, so that he may pass the rest of his days  
in a position of peaceful irresponsibility. At the same time  
he desires to avoid before his people and for his own self-respect  
the appearance of ignominiously throwing in his hand  
and giving the government of the country into the hands of the  
British. To go a little further, he is anxious probably for  
the sake of the boy's mother as well the boy himself, to se-  
cure a little future dignity and position for his eldest son ~~xxx~~  
Taimoor, and perhaps hopes <sup>at</sup> the same time to provide against  
the possible but improbable contingency of his elder brother  
Seyyid Mahomed aspiring to take up what he himself is <sup>now</sup> anxious  
~~to lay down.~~ <sup>To</sup> ~~to lay down.~~ <sup>he has</sup> ~~to lay down.~~ <sup>devised</sup> the middle course of  
abdicating in favour of his son. <sup>If</sup> that can be arranged he  
will fulfil his resolve. If it cannot he will no doubt strug-  
gle on as best he can as he is.

It would not have done for me on this occasion to be too  
searching in my inquiries or too anxious to press the disem-  
-sion, and I therefore relinquished it when he His Highness  
said he would have a talk with his brother on the subject.  
Seyyid Faisal impressed upon me two or three times however  
that he was perfectly in earnest and when I was leaving and  
again asked him to <sup>consider and</sup> let me know if anything occurred to him  
which he would like me to suggest to His Excellency, he re-  
-plied; "And you must think about that too and especially  
think seriously over what we have just been discussing".

Weak though <sup>devoid of</sup> Seyyid Faisal's character undoubtedly is, <sup>it is not</sup>  
his traits which command one's respect, and realising as I  
do what his difficulties have been the present situation is a  
little pathetic to me, but the advantages to us of such an  
arrangement as that foreshadowed would be manifold and a Mus-

'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [6r] (11/14)

6

-eat in the hands of the British Government offers to my  
mind considerable possibilities , but on these it would be  
out of place <sup>for me</sup> to dilate <sup>here</sup> and the immediate <sup>pressing</sup> question of the  
present feasibility and political expediency, ~~of which~~  
~~the British proposal~~ is one of which Government alone are  
in a position to judge and I respectfully commit it to their  
<sup>wise</sup>  
~~wise~~ consideration .

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

*P. H. C.*

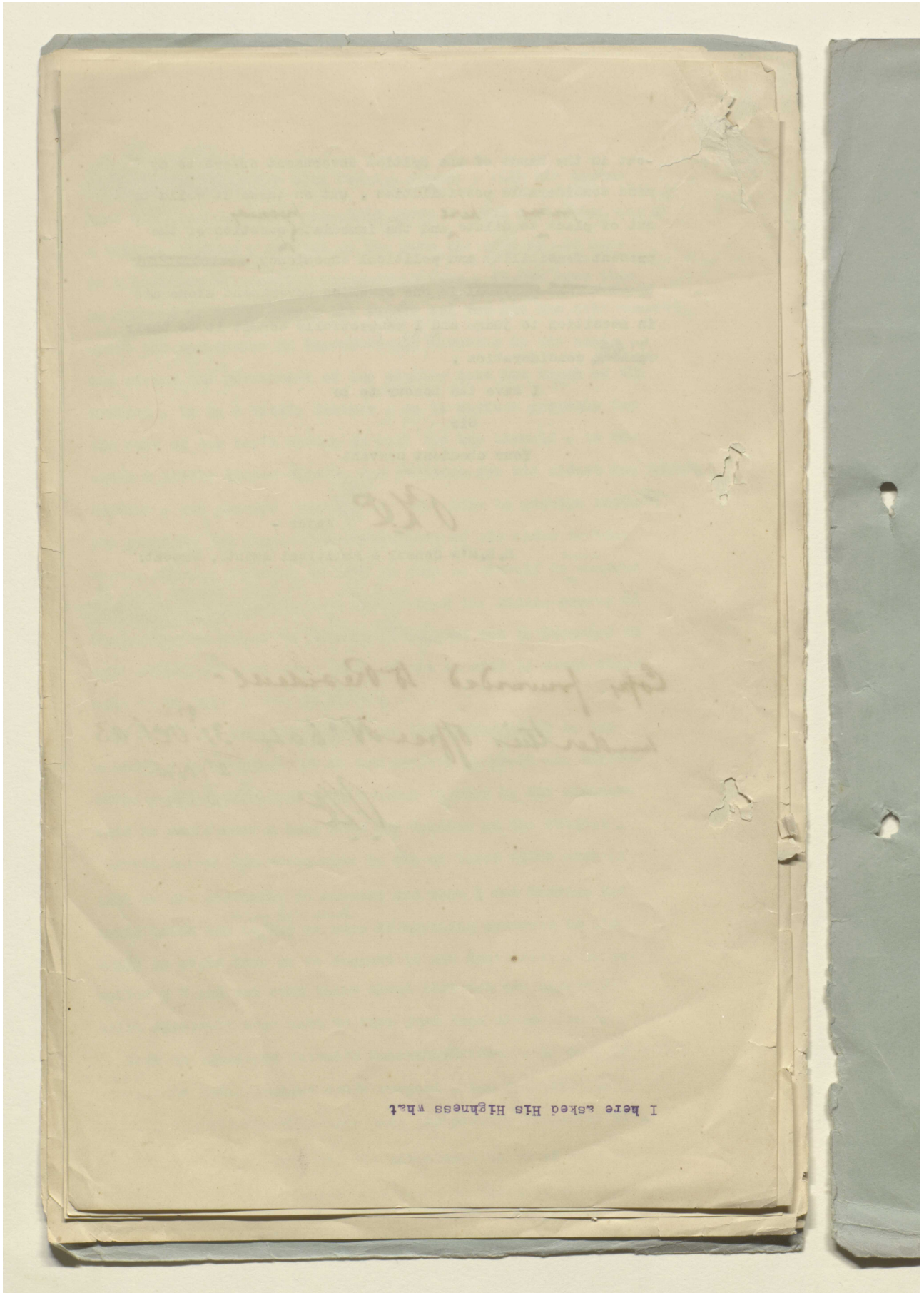
Major -

H. B. M's Consul & Political Agent , Muscat.

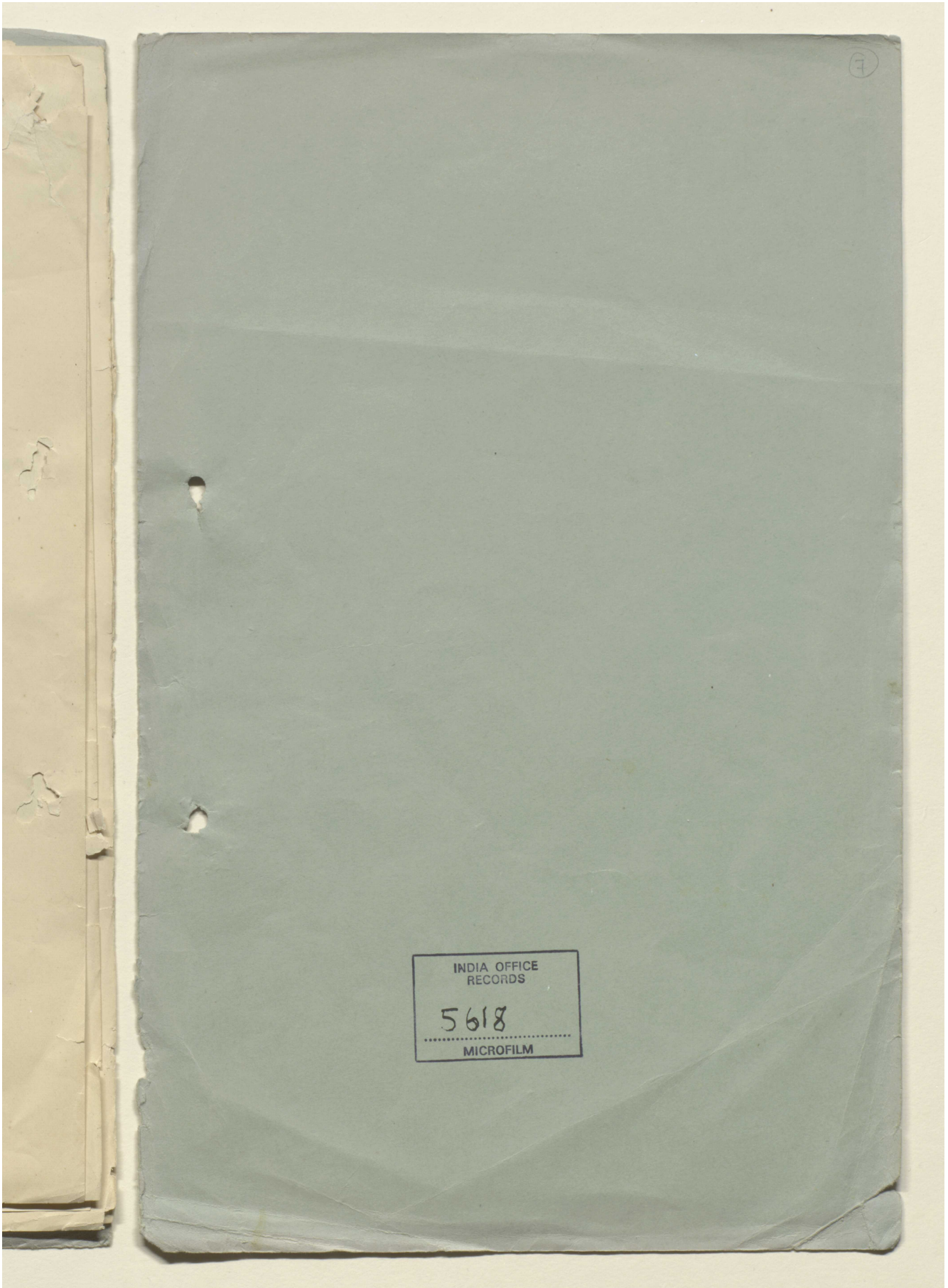
Copies forwarded to Resident -  
under this office N° 604 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 03  
2<sup>d</sup> NW

*P. H. C.*

'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [6v] (12/14)



'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [back-i] (13/14)



'File XXXIII/4 H. H. Saiyid Faisal's proposal to abdicate and take British  
Protection from Saiyid Taimur 1903.' [back] (14/14)

