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### 'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians'

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/R/15/6/160
<b>Date(s)</b>	2 Nov 1936-9 Oct 1948 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (80 folios)
<b>Copyright for document</b>	<a href="#">Public Domain</a>



#### About this record

This file contains correspondence between British officials concerning reports of Iranian Government customs vessels 'interfering' with a number of vessels from Oman and Kuwait. In addition to correspondence that discusses these specific instances, the file also contains correspondence regarding the broader diplomatic and legal questions that were raised by them.

The Arabic language material in the file consists of a letter sent to the Political Agency in Muscat by the Secretary of the Sultan of Oman and Muscat and an accompanying letter from an Omani trader whose cargo had been seized by an Iranian vessel (folios 68-69).

In addition to correspondence the file contains copies of the following documents:

- 'Notification by Shaikh Mubarak-Bin-Subah, Chief of Kuwait', May 1900 (folio 47)
- 'Translation of Proclamation from Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifah, Chief of Bahrain, Dated 8th Zil Hijjah 1315 (30th April, 1898)' (folio 47)
- 'Translation of Proclamation issued by the Sultan of Oman regarding the Suppression of the Illegal Importation of Arms into Persian and British India, 1898' (folio 48).

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [front] (1/164)

10R:R/15/6/160

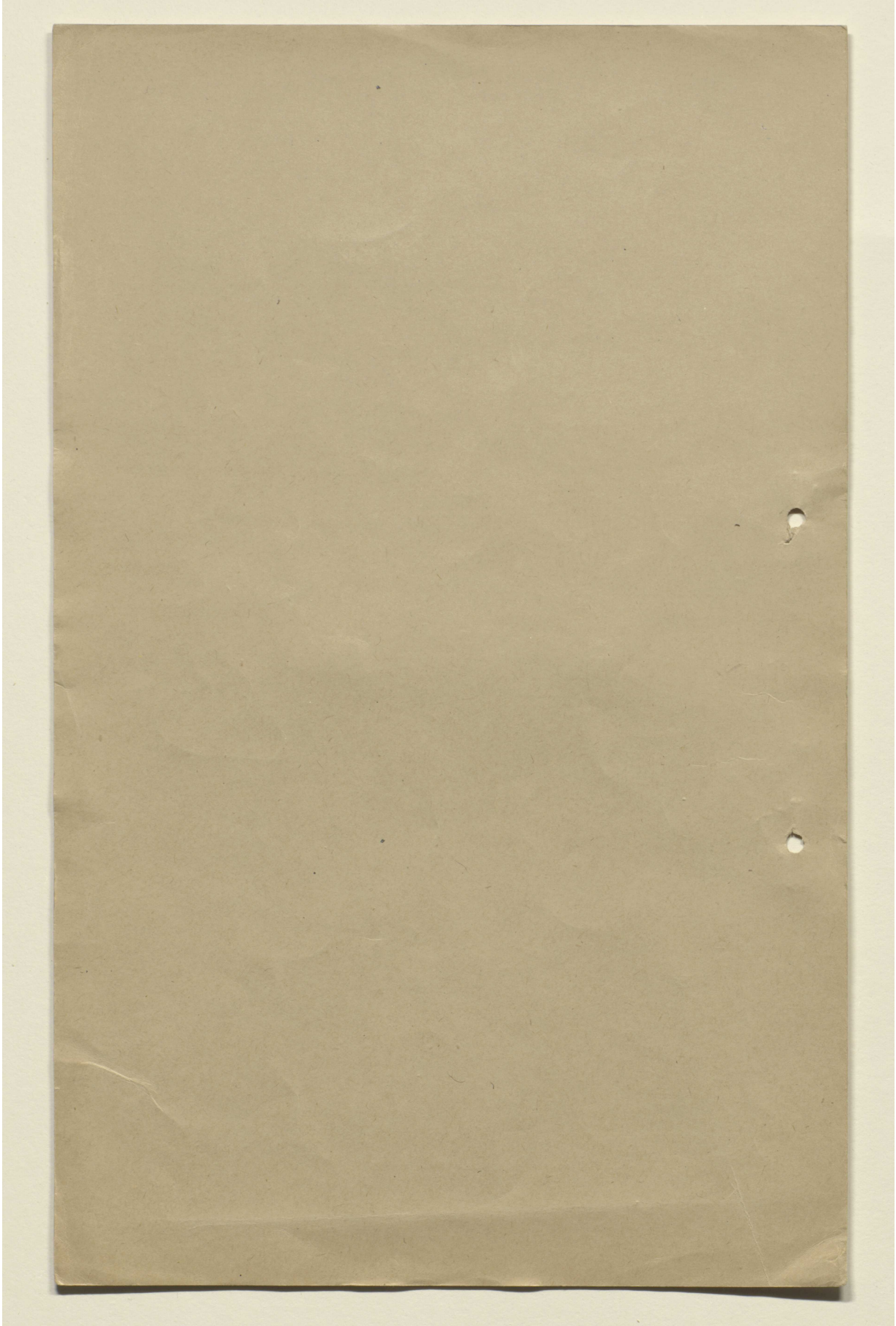
BRITISH CONSULATE  
MUSCAT

FILE NO: 6/13

NAME OF FILE: FOREIGN INTERESTS:  
SEIZURE OF ARAB DHOWS BY PERSIANS.

FILE NO: 6/13  
DECEMBER 1936 - OCTOBER 1948.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [front-i]  
(2/164)



(2)

VI.

FOREIGN INTERESTS.

D. IRAN.

(7) Scizure of Arab dhows by Persians.

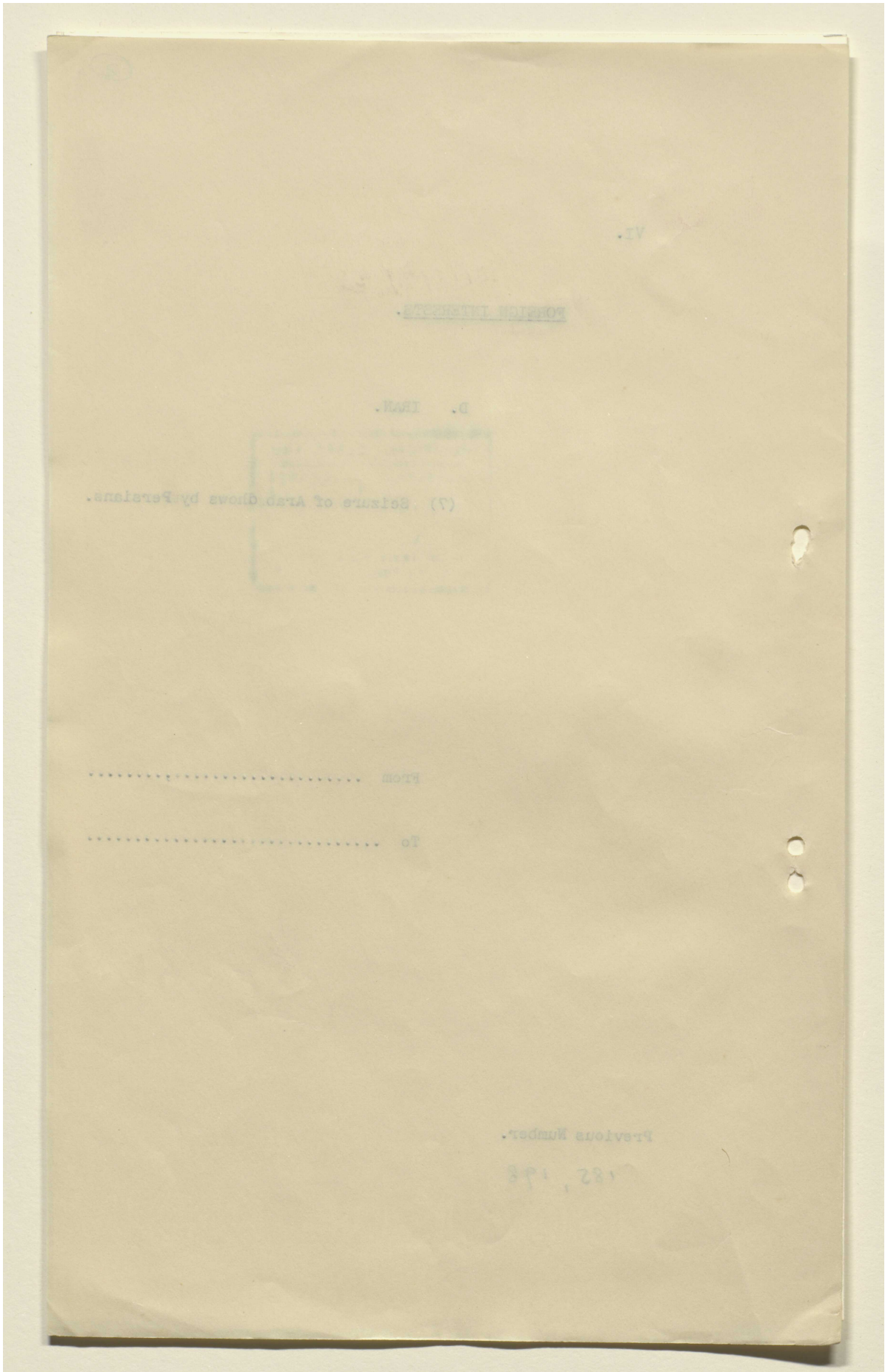
From .....

To .....

Previous Number.

185, 198

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [2v] (4/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [3r] (5/164)

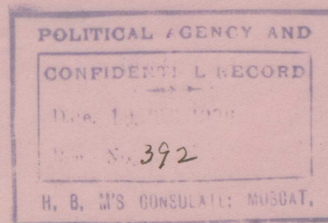
CONFIDENTIAL.

No.

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

1. His Majesty's Minister, Tehran. No. 11-B.  
2. The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, New Delhi.  
3. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf. } No. 880-S  
4. His Majesty's Consul, Kerman. ✓  
5. The Political Agent, Muscat. ✓

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



British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE.

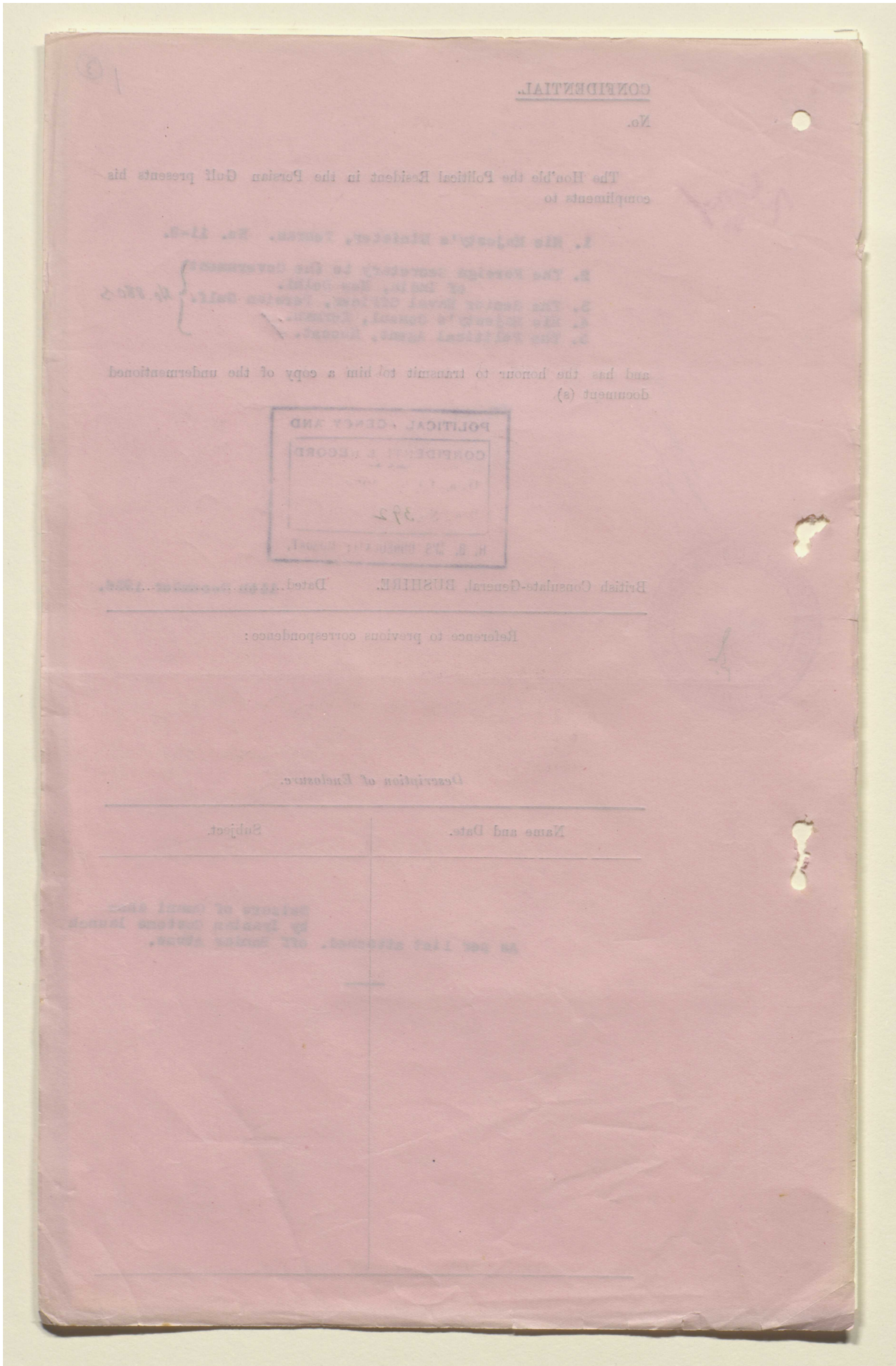
Dated. 11th December. 1936.

Reference to previous correspondence:

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
As per list attached.	Seizure of Omani dhow by Iranian Customs launch off Bandar Abbas.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [3v] (6/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [4r] (7/164)

24

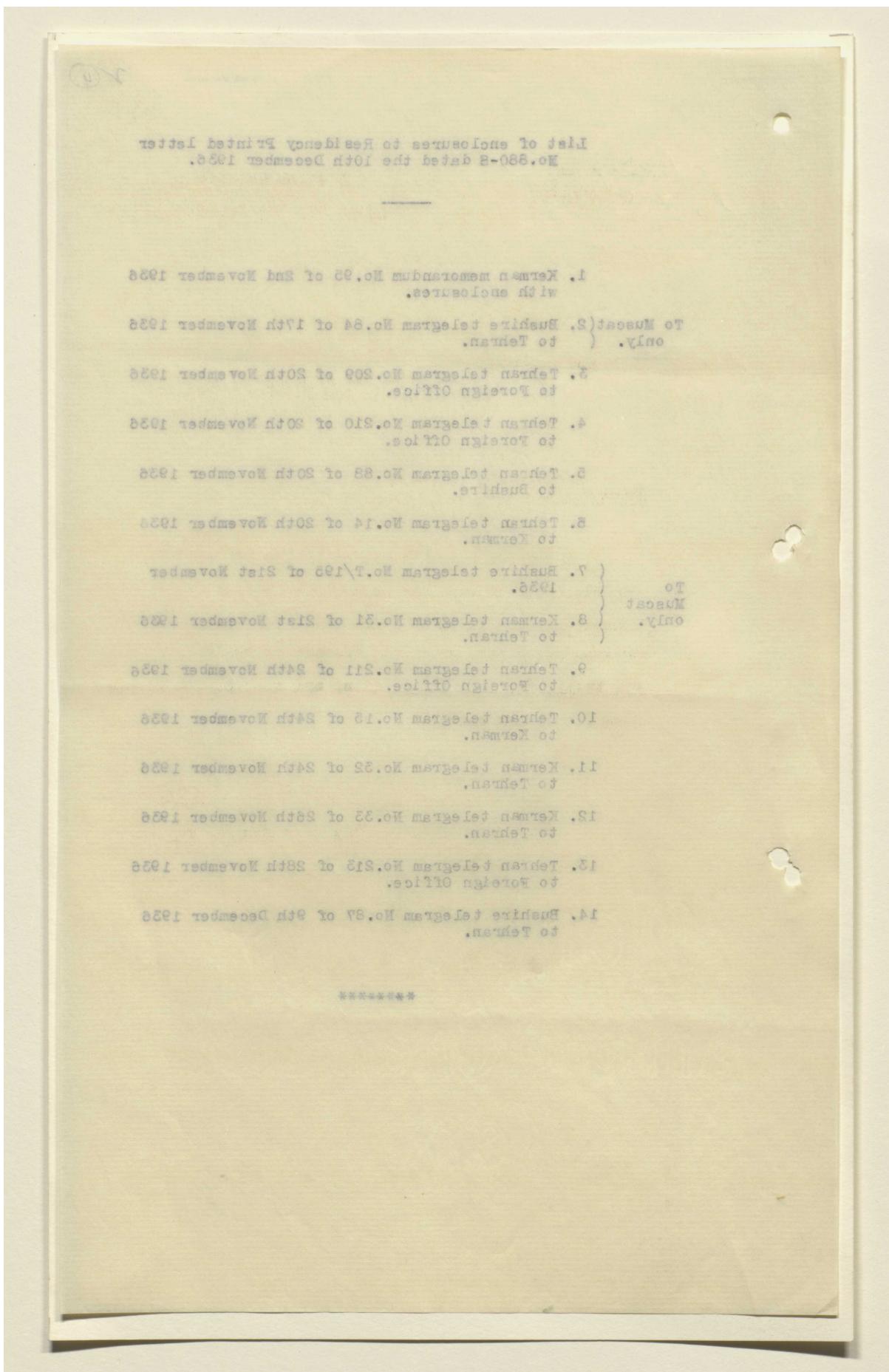
List of enclosures to Residency Printed letter  
No.880-S dated the 10th December 1936.

1. Kerman memorandum No.95 of 2nd November 1936 with enclosures.
- To Muscat (2. Bushire telegram No.84 of 17th November 1936 only. { to Tehran.
3. Tehran telegram No.209 of 20th November 1936 to Foreign Office.
4. Tehran telegram No.210 of 20th November 1936 to Foreign Office.
5. Tehran telegram No.88 of 20th November 1936 to Bushire.
5. Tehran telegram No.14 of 20th November 1936 to Kerman.
- To Muscat { 7. Bushire telegram No.T/195 of 21st November only. { 1936.
8. Kerman telegram No.31 of 21st November 1936 to Tehran.
9. Tehran telegram No.211 of 24th November 1936 to Foreign Office.
10. Tehran telegram No.15 of 24th November 1936 to Kerman.
11. Kerman telegram No.32 of 24th November 1936 to Tehran.
12. Kerman telegram No.33 of 26th November 1936 to Tehran.
13. Tehran telegram No.213 of 28th November 1936 to Foreign Office.
14. Bushire telegram No.87 of 9th December 1936 to Tehran.

\*\*\*\*\*



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [4v] (8/164)



Confidential.  
No.95 of 1936.

35  
British Consulate,  
Kerman, the 2nd November 1936.

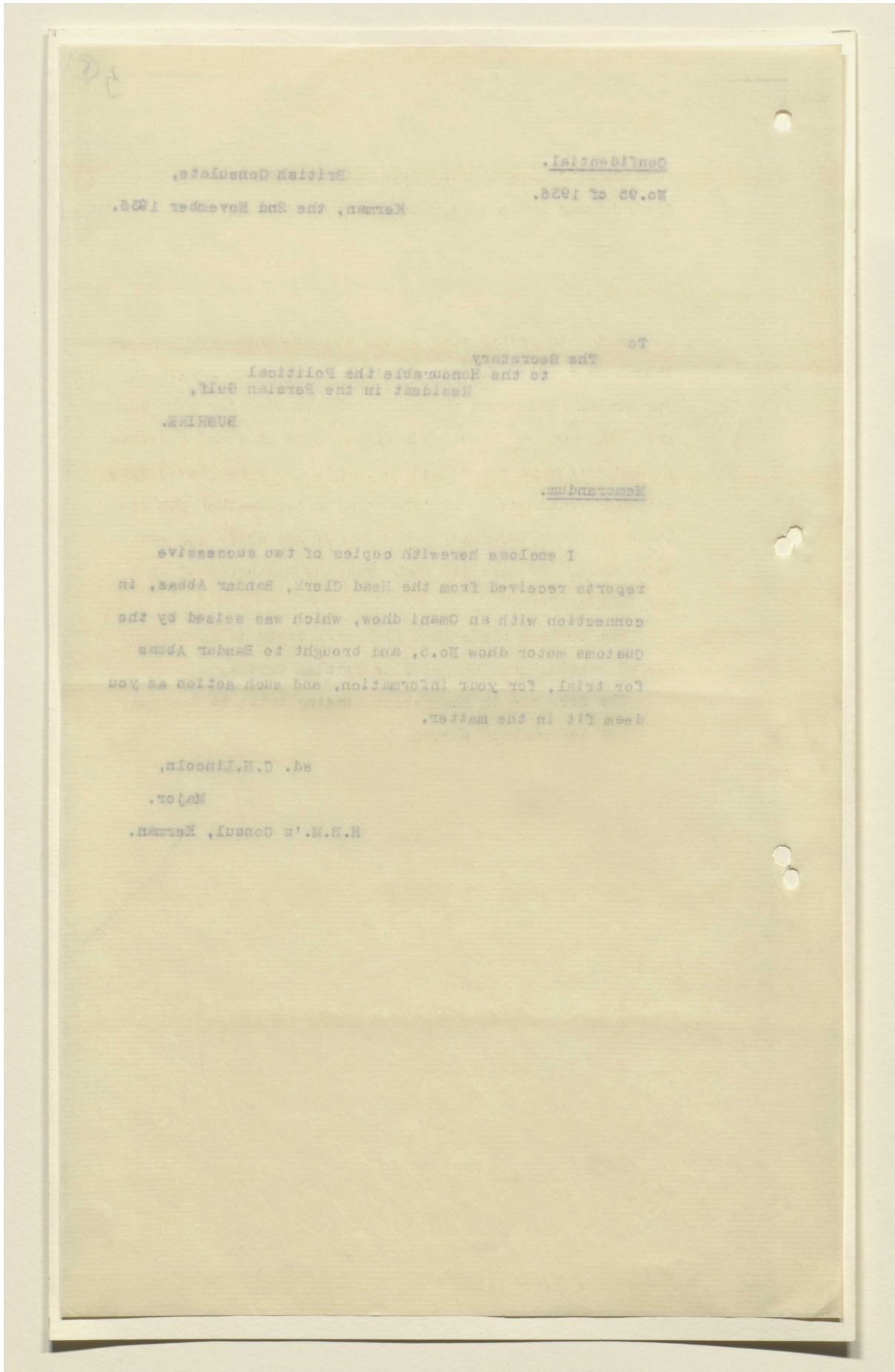
To  
The Secretary  
to the Honourable the Political  
Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
BUSHIRE.

Memorandum.

I enclose herewith copies of two successive reports received from the Head Clerk, Bandar Abbas, in connection with an Omani dhow, which was seized by the Customs motor dhow No.5, and brought to Bandar Abbas for trial, for your information, and such action as you deem fit in the matter.

sd. C.H.Lincoln,  
Major.  
H.B.M.'s Consul, Kerman.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [5v] (10/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [6r] (11/164)

4 (6)

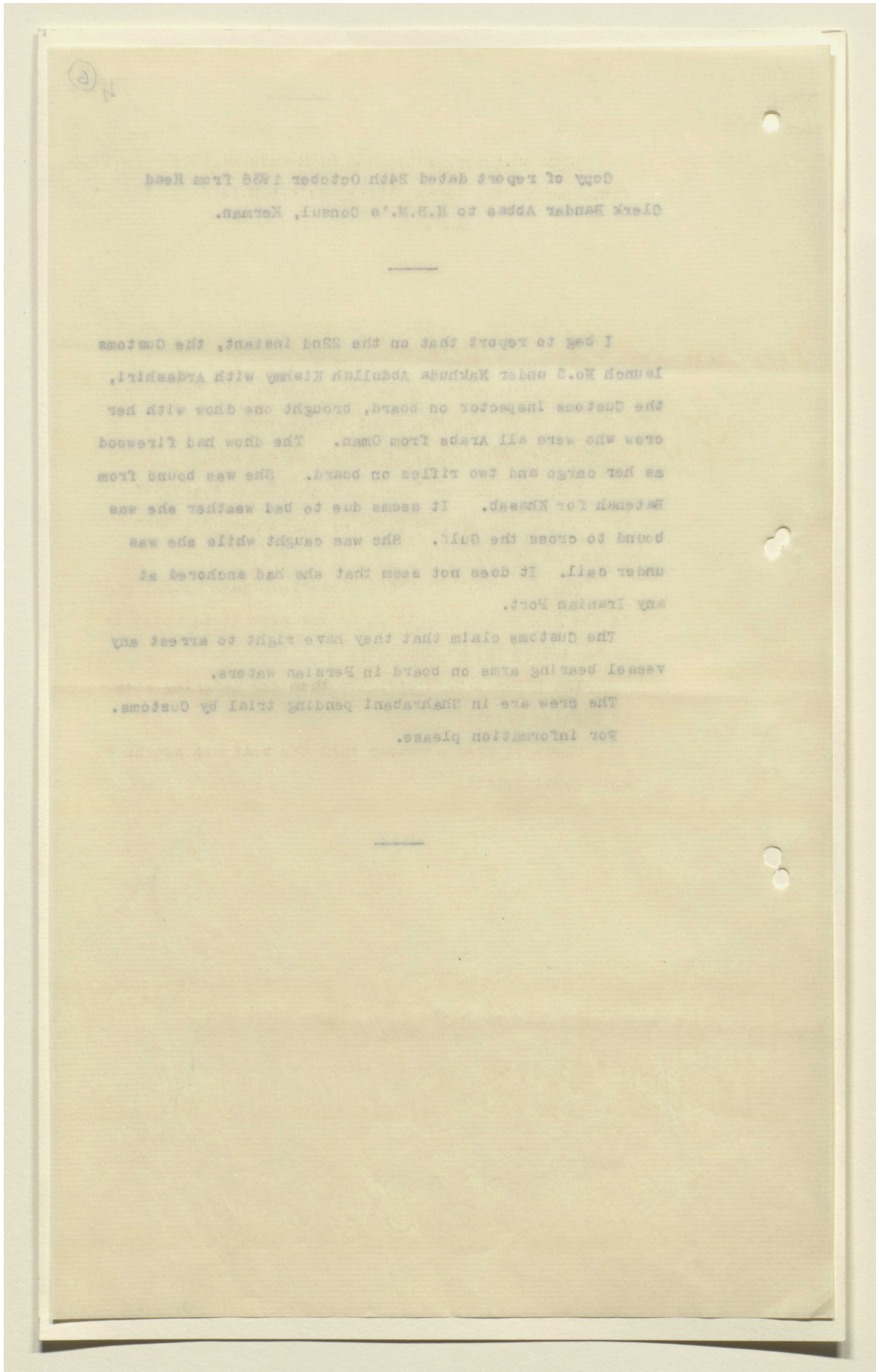
Copy of report dated 24th October 1936 from Head  
Clerk Bandar Abbas to H.B.M.'s Consul, Kerman.

I beg to report that on the 22nd instant, the Customs  
launch No.5 under Nakhuda Abdullah Kishmy with Ardashiri,  
the Customs Inspector on board, brought one dhow with her  
crew who were all Arabs from Oman. The dhow had firewood  
as her cargo and two rifles on board. She was bound from  
Batenah for Khasab. It seems due to bad weather she was  
bound to cross the Gulf. She was caught while she was  
under sail. It does not seem that she had anchored at  
any Iranian Port.

The Customs claim that they have right to arrest any  
vessel bearing arms on board in Persian waters.

The crew are in Shahrabani pending trial by Customs.  
For information please.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [6v] (12/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [7r] (13/164)

5-2

Copy of report dated the 27th October 1936  
from Head Clerk, Bāmdar Abbas, to H.B.M.'s Consul,  
Kerman.

II

In continuation of my report dated the 24th instant, regarding the Omani dhow, I beg to report the further development for your information.

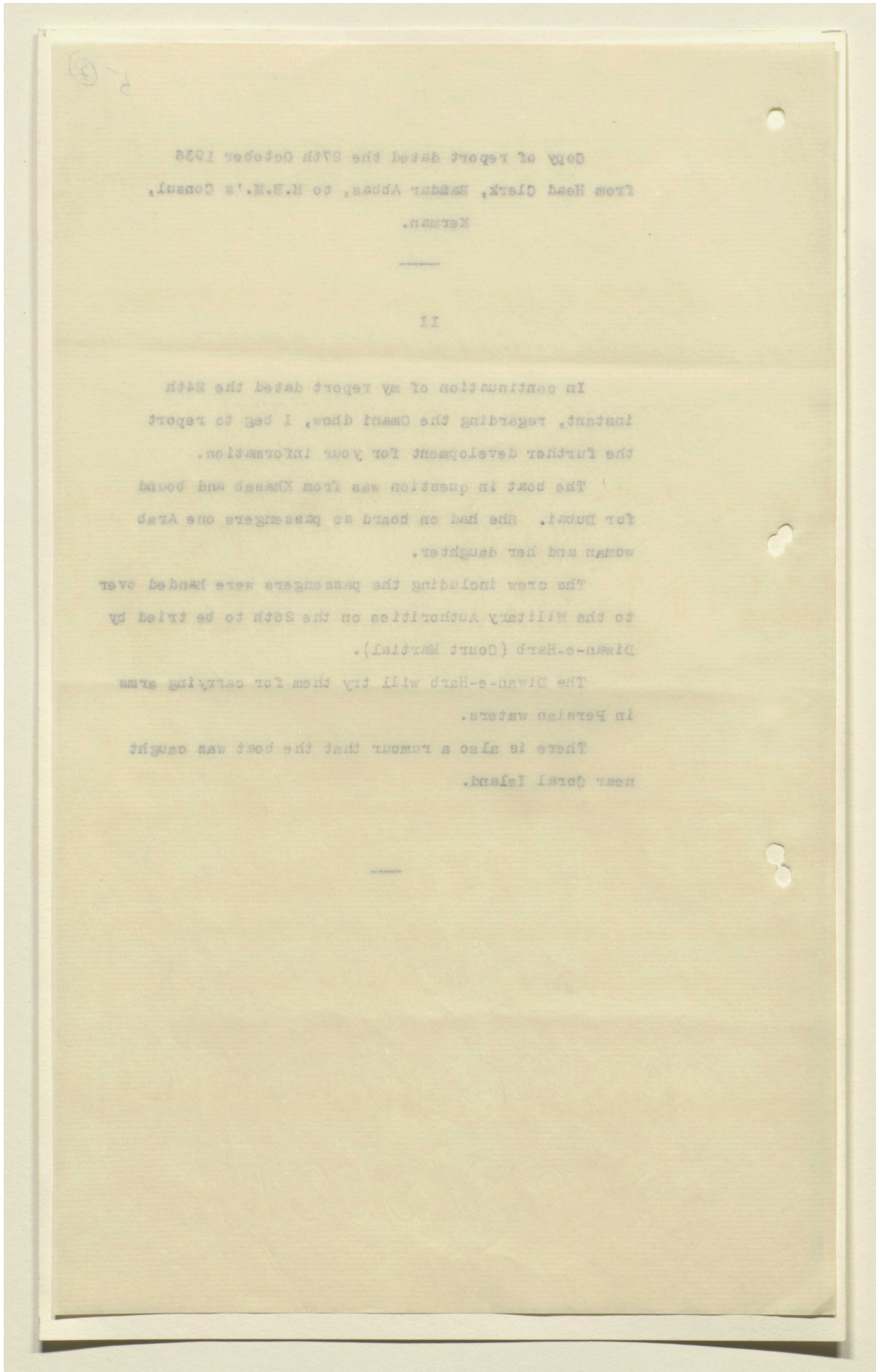
The boat in question was from Khasab and bound for Dubai. She had on board as passengers one Arab woman and her daughter.

The crew including the passengers were handed over to the Military Authorities on the 26th to be tried by Diwan-e-Harb (Court Martial).

The Diwan-e-Harb will try them for carrying arms in Persian waters.

There is also a rumour that the boat was caught near Coral Island.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [7v] (14/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [8r] (15/164)

COPY.

6 (8)

Telegram C.  
From Secretary to the Political Resident, in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.  
To H.M.'s Minister, Tehran. No.84.  
Repeated to Political Resident, Bahrain )  
H.M.'s Consul, Kerman ) No.828.  
Dated 17th November 1936.

Addressed to Tehran No.84 repeated to Kerman with reference to his memorandum No.95 and Political Resident at Bahrain.

Consul, Kerman, has forwarded to me for information and action report from Head Clerk, Bandar Abbas that an Omani dhow bound from Kasab to Debai with an Omani crew, two female Arab passengers, cargo of firewood and having two rifles on board was seized under sail off Bandar Abbas and brought into Bandar Abbas by Iranian Customs launch No.5 on 22nd October. Crew and passengers were handed over to military authorities on 26th October to be tried by martial law for carrying arms in Iranian waters.

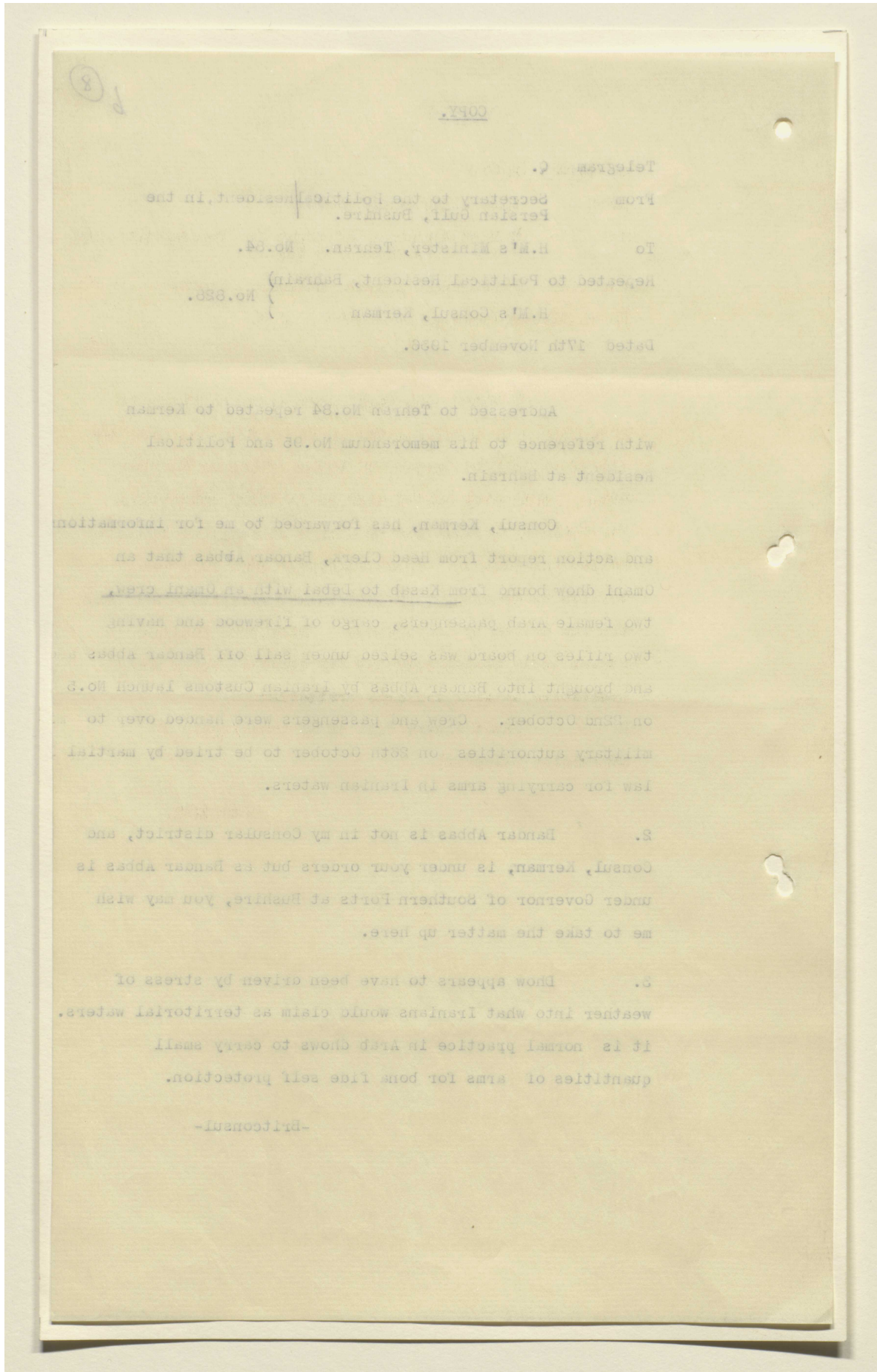
2. Bandar Abbas is not in my Consular district, and Consul, Kerman, is under your orders but as Bandar Abbas is under Governor of Southern Ports at Bushire, you may wish me to take the matter up here.

3. Dhow appears to have been driven by stress of weather into what Iranians would claim as territorial waters. it is normal practice in Arab dhows to carry small quantities of arms for bona fide self protection.

-Britconsul-



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [8v] (16/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [9r] (17/164)

7/8  
9

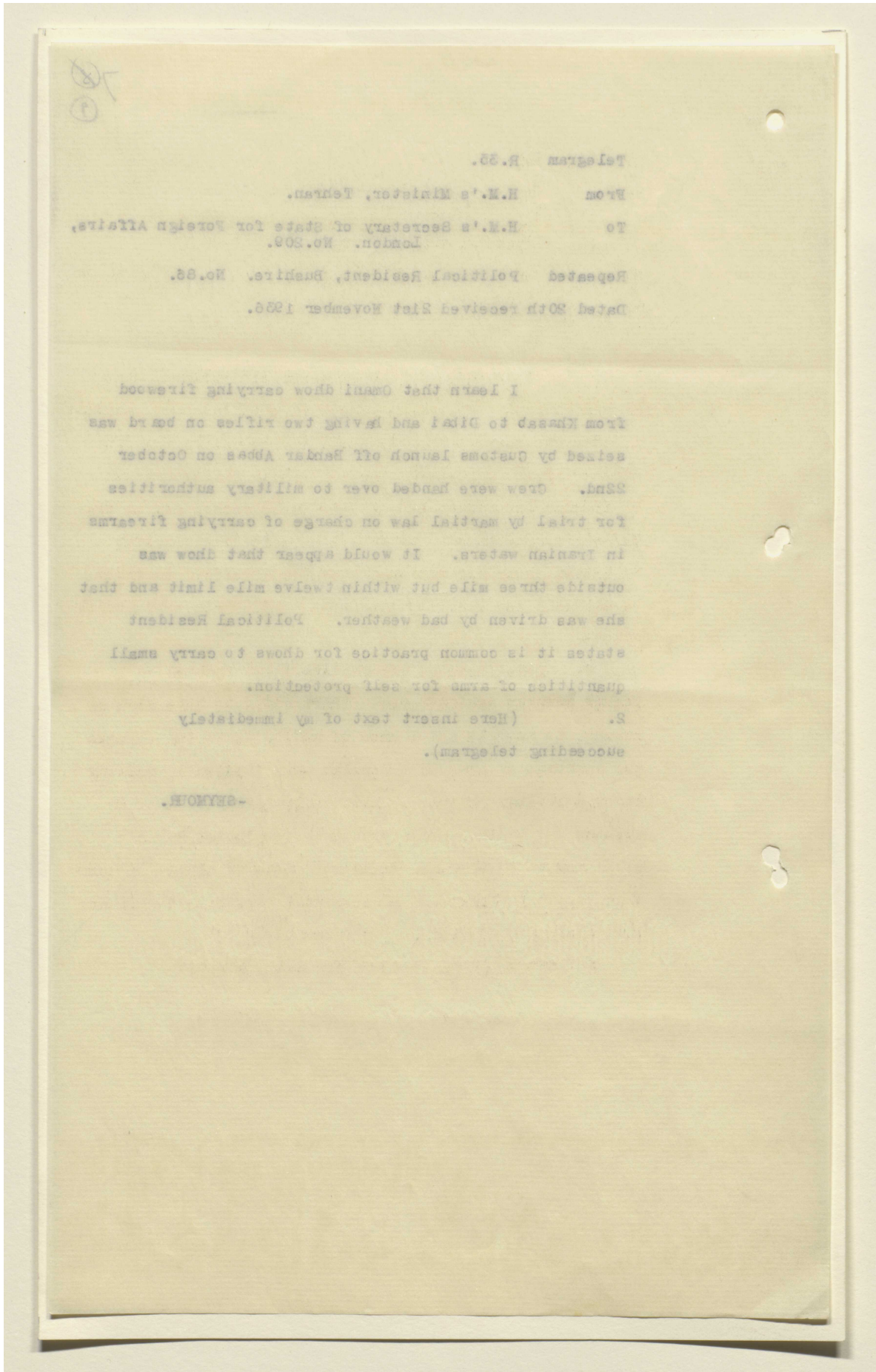
Telegram R.35.  
From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
To H.M.'s Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,  
London. No.209.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire. No.86.  
Dated 20th received 21st November 1936.

I learn that Omani dhow carrying firewood from Khasab to Dibai and having two rifles on board was seized by Customs launch off Bandar Abbas on October 22nd. Crew were handed over to military authorities for trial by martial law on charge of carrying firearms in Iranian waters. It would appear that dhow was outside three mile but within twelve mile limit and that she was driven by bad weather. Political Resident states it is common practice for dhows to carry small quantities of arms for self protection.

2. (Here insert text of my immediately succeeding telegram).

-SEYMOUR.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [9v] (18/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [10r] (19/164)

8  
10

Telegram S.  
From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
To H.M.'s Secretary of State for Foreign  
Affairs, London. No.210.  
Repeated Secretary to Political Resident, Bushire. No.87.  
Dated 20th received 21st November 1936.

I am endeavouring to ascertain position more accurately. I presume that there is clear case for protest if dhow was outside 12 mile limit but do you wish me to protest if as is probable she was within limits claimed by Iranian Government but outside those recognised by His Majesty's Government. We cannot hope for satisfaction in latter event but action is perhaps necessary in order to maintain our position over arms traffic in territorial waters.

2. Likelihood of alternative issue is that of charge brought against crew. There seems to have been no attempt to smuggle and I know of no law declaring illegal the carriage of arms in a foreign ship innocently passing through Iranian waters. There would hardly seem to be grounds for protest while matter is sub\_judice but I could ask to be informed of exact nature of charge in hope that informal discussion of case will convince authorities that there are no grounds for prosecution.

3. I should be grateful for instructions.

-SEYMOUR.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [10v] (20/164)

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Telegram  
From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
To H.M.'s Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London. No. 210.  
Repeated Secretary to Political Resident, Bushire. No. 27.  
Dated 20th received 21st November 1908.

I am endeavouring to ascertain more accurately. I presume that there is clear case for protest if dhow was outside 12 mile limit but do you wish me to protest if as is probable she was within limits claimed by Iranian Government but outside those recognized by His Majesty's Government. We cannot hope for satisfaction in latter event but action is perhaps necessary in order to maintain our position over arms traffic in territorial waters.

2. Likelihood of alternative issue is that of charge brought against crew. There seems to have been no attempt to smuggle and I know of no law dealing illegal carriage of arms in a foreign ship innocently passing through Iranian waters. There would hardly seem to be grounds for protest while matter is sub iudice but I could ask to be informed of exact nature of charge in hope that informal discussion of case will convince authorities that there are no grounds for prosecution.

3. I should be grateful for instructions.

- 27/10/08 -

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [11r] (21/164)

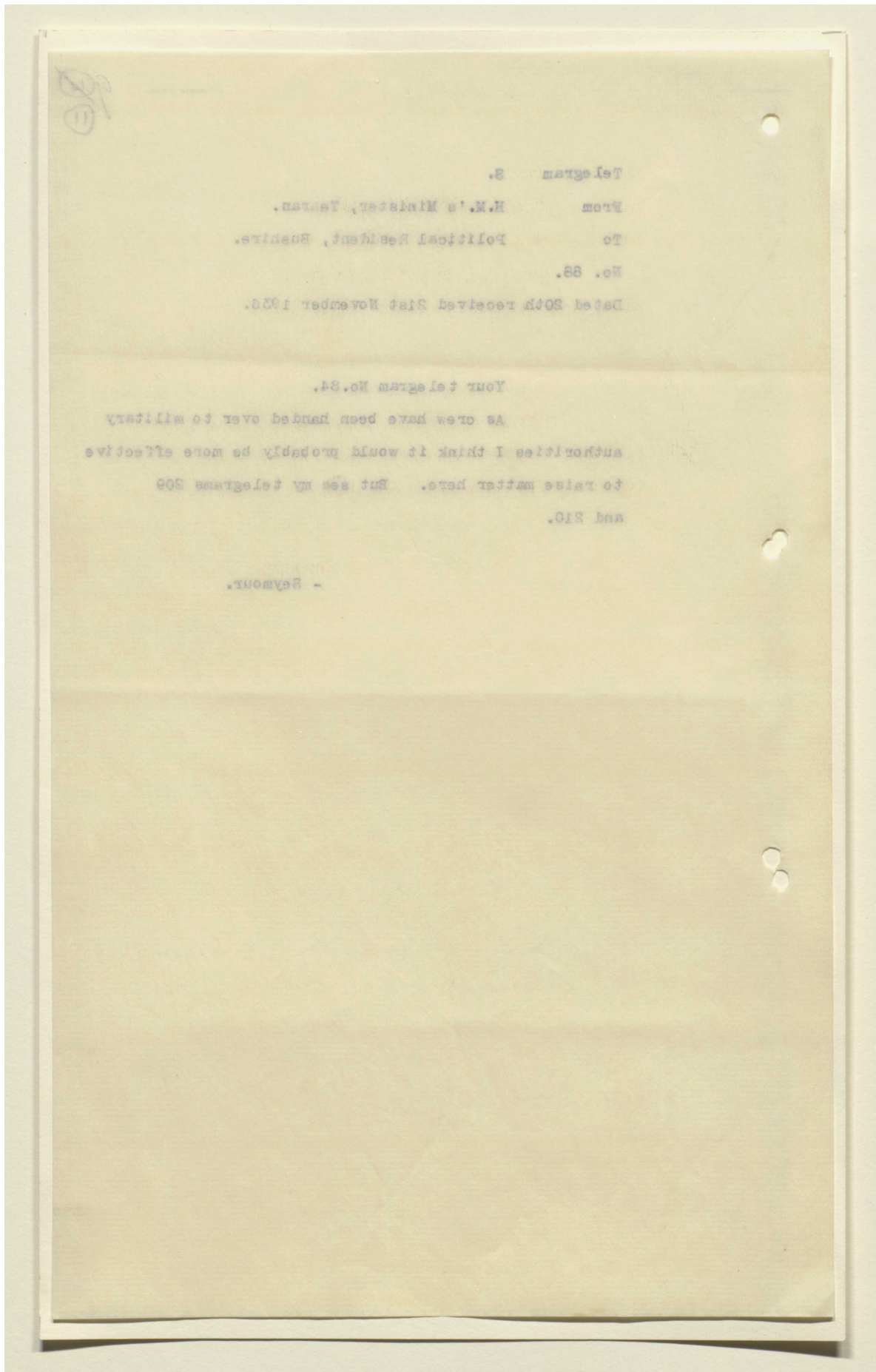
Telegram S.  
From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
To Political Resident, Bushire.  
No. 88.  
Dated 20th received 21st November 1936.

Your telegram No.84.

As crew have been handed over to military  
authorities I think it would probably be more effective  
to raise matter here. But see my telegrams 209  
and 210.

- Seymour.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [11v] (22/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [12r] (23/164)

10/12  
12

Telegram R.35.

From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.

To H.M.'s Consul, Kerman. No.14.

Political Resident, Bushire. No.89.

Dated 20th received 21st November 1936.

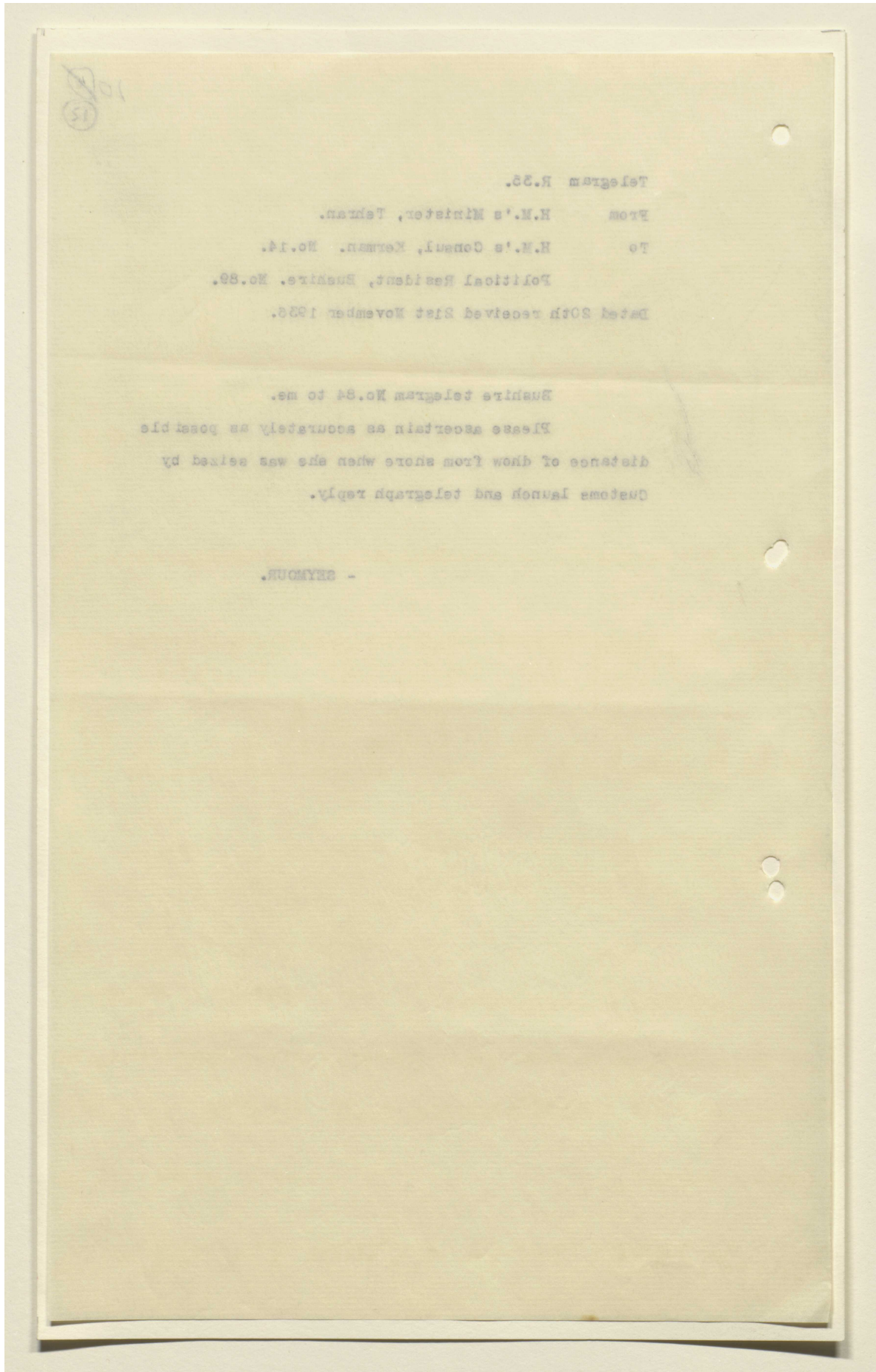
Bushire telegram No.84 to me.

Please ascertain as accurately as possible distance of dhow from shore when she was seized by customs launch and telegraph reply.

- SEYMOUR.



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [12v] (24/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [13r] (25/164)

Telegram S.

From Political Resident, Bushire, at Bahrain.

To H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.

Repeated Secretary to the Political Resident, Bushire,  
who will please repeat to Kerman.

Copy sent by air mail to Government of India, New Delhi,  
and Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, with  
copy of Bushire telegram No.84.

No.T/195.

Dated and received the 21st November 1936.

Bushire telegram No.84. OMANI DHOW.

In view of fact that dhow had only two rifles  
on board and of circumstances explained in paragraph 3 of  
telegram I trust you will be able to ask Iranian Government  
for release of crew and dhow.

- Resident.

Repeated to Kerman under Bushire telegram No.832 of  
22nd November 1936.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [13v] (26/164)

11  
13

Telegram 2.  
From Political Resident, Bahire, at Bahrain.  
To H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
Repeated Secretary to the Political Resident, Bahire,  
who will please repeat to Kerman.  
Copy sent by air mail to Government of India, New Delhi,  
and Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, with  
copy of Bahire telegram No. 84.  
No. T/195.  
Dated and received the 21st November 1938.  
Bahire telegram No. 84. OMANI DHOW.  
In view of fact that dhow had only two rifles  
on board and of circumstances explained in paragraph 3 of  
telegram I trust you will be able to ask Iranian Government  
for release of crew and dhow.  
- Resident.  
Repeated to Kerman under Bahire telegram No. 832 of  
22nd November 1938.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [14r] (27/164)

12/14  
14

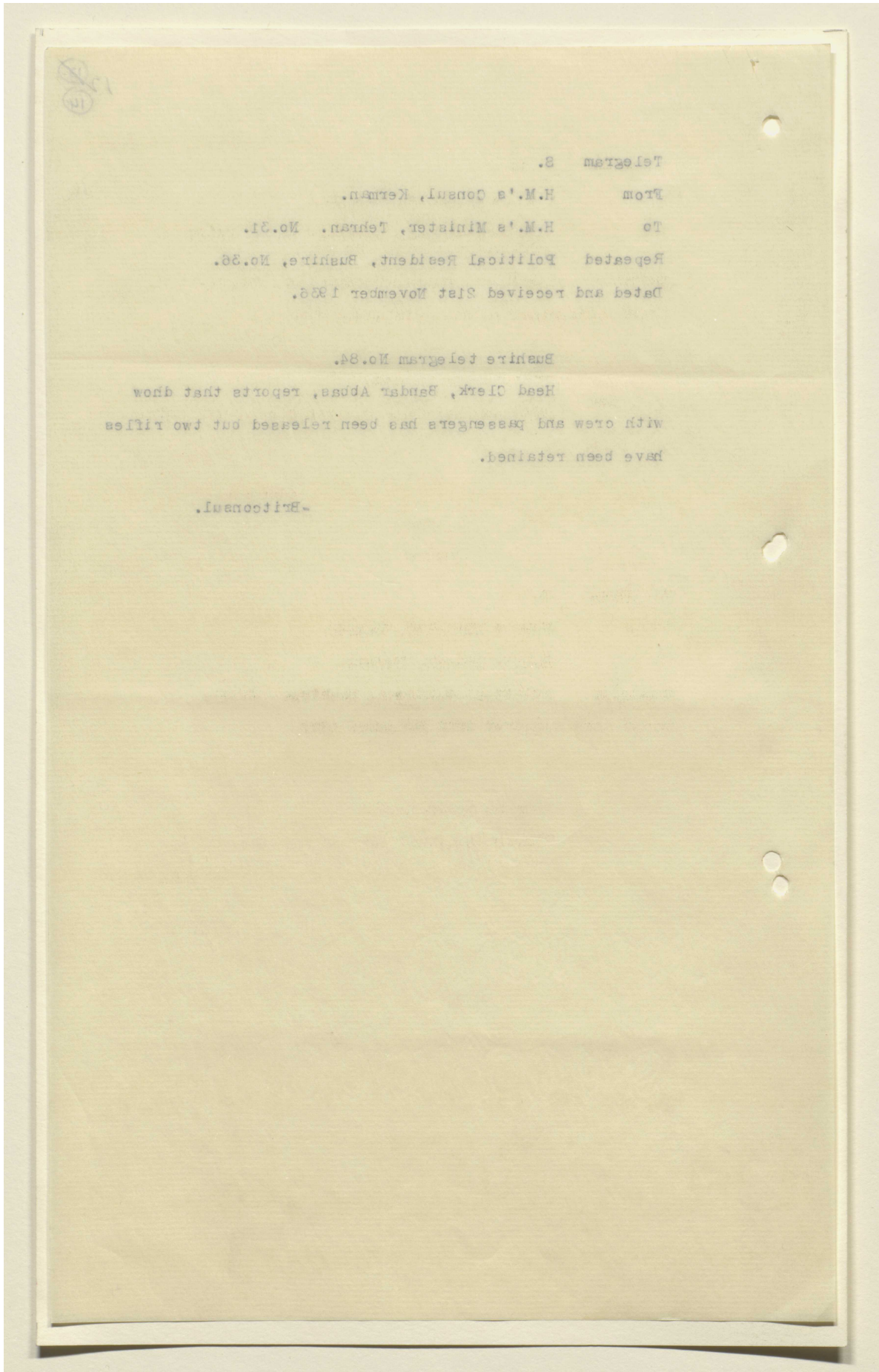
Telegram S.  
From H.M.'s Consul, Kerman.  
To H.M.'s Minister, Tehran. No.31.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire, No.36.  
Dated and received 21st November 1936.

Bushire telegram No.84.

Head Clerk, Bandar Abbas, reports that dhow  
with crew and passengers has been released but two rifles  
have been retained.

-Britconsul.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [14v] (28/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [15r] (29/164)

1314  
15

Telegram R.35.  
From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
To H.M.'s Secretary of State for Foreign  
Affairs, London. No.211.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire. No.91.  
Dated 24th received 25th November, 1936.

My telegram No.209.  
Dhow and crew have been released but rifles  
retained.

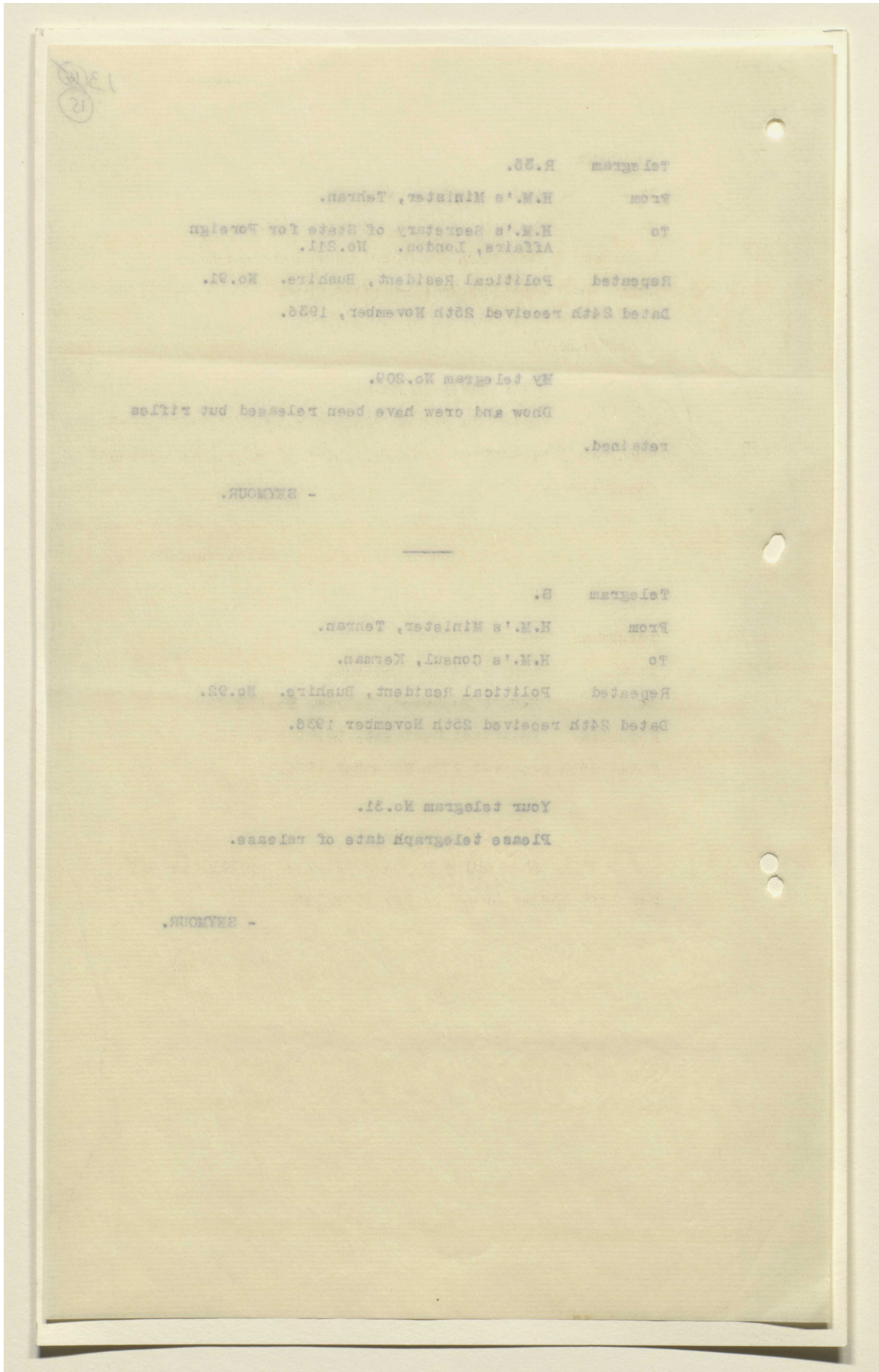
- SEYMOUR.

Telegram S.  
From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
To H.M.'s Consul, Kerman.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire. No.92.  
Dated 24th received 25th November 1936.

Your telegram No.31.  
Please telegraph date of release.

- SEYMOUR.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [15v] (30/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [16r] (31/164)

14/15  
16

Telegram S.  
From H.M.'s Consul, Kerman.  
To H.M.'s Minister, Tehran. No.32.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire. No.27.  
Dated 24th received 25th November 1936.

Important.

Your telegram No.14.  
Dhow was seized about 4 miles off south west  
point of Hormuz which would be about 10 miles from Bandar  
Abbas shore.

- Britconsul.

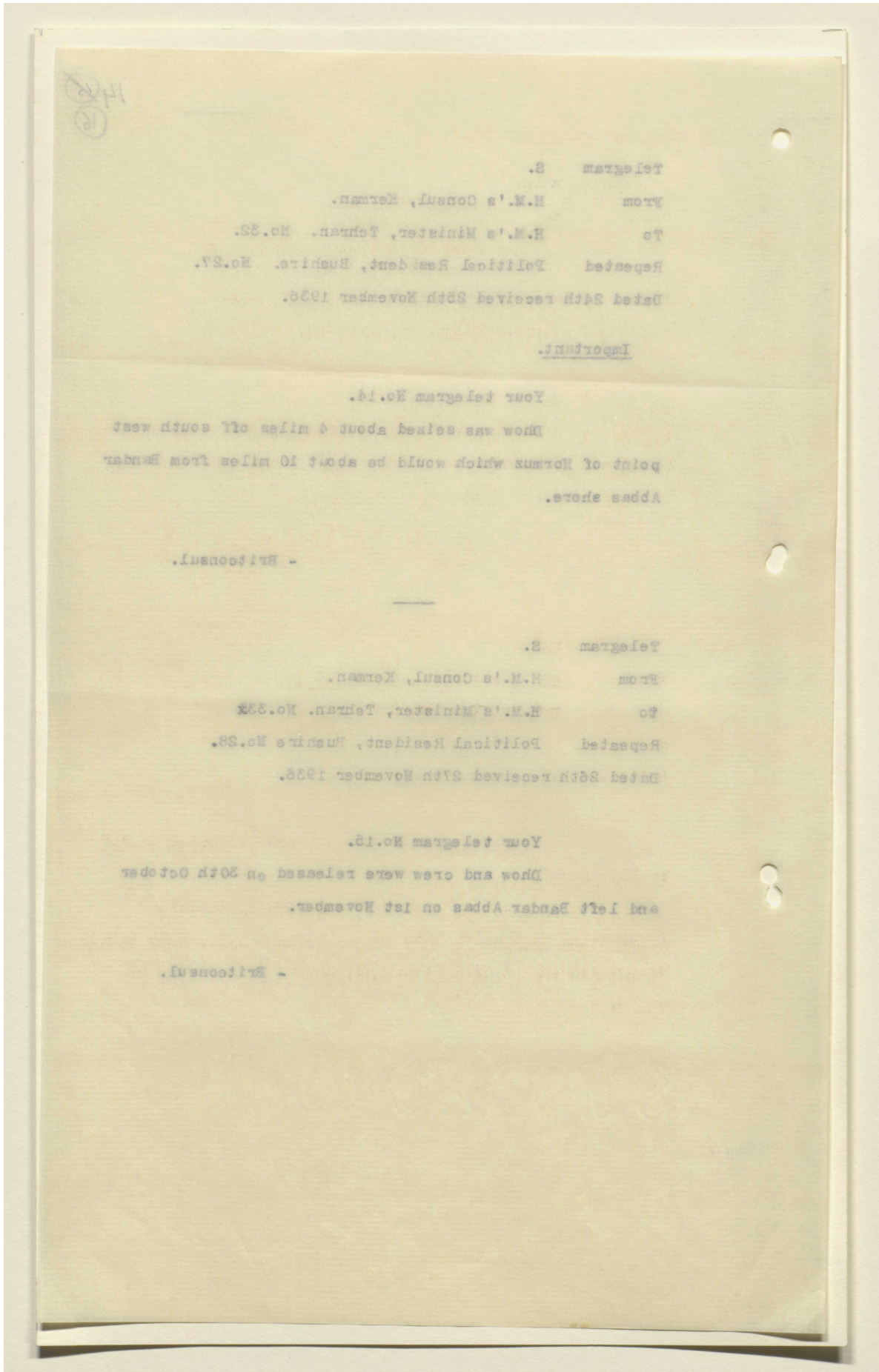
Telegram S.  
From H.M.'s Consul, Kerman.  
to H.M.'s Minister, Tehran. No.33  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire No.28.  
Dated 26th received 27th November 1936.

Your telegram No.15.  
Dhow and crew were released on 30th October  
and left Bandar Abbas on 1st November.

- Britconsul.



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [16v] (32/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [17r] (33/164)

15  
16  
17

Telegram R.35.  
From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
To H.M.'s Secretary of State for Foreign  
Affairs, London. No.213.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire. No.92.  
Dated and received 28th November 1936.

My telegram No.211.

I learn now that dhow was seized when about four  
miles off south-west point of Hormuz Island and that dhow  
and crew were released on 30th October.

- SEYMOUR.

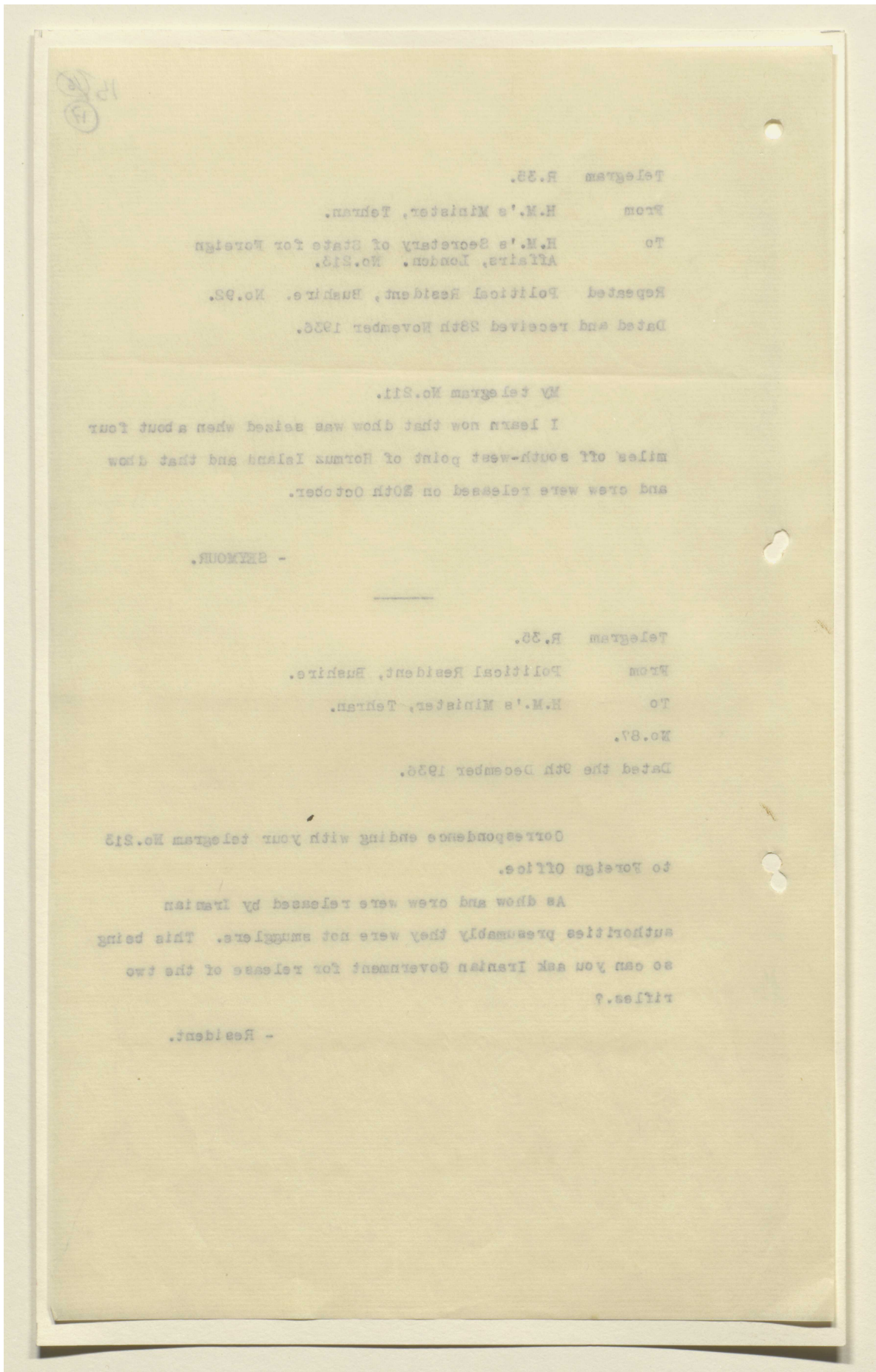
Telegram R.35.  
From Political Resident, Bushire.  
To H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
No.87.  
Dated the 9th December 1936.

Correspondence ending with your telegram No.213  
to Foreign Office.

As dhow and crew were released by Iranian  
authorities presumably they were not smugglers. This being  
so can you ask Iranian Government for release of the two  
rifles.?

- Resident.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [17v] (34/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [18r] (35/164)

Telegram. G.T.C.

From - Britconsul, Bushire.

To - Political, Muscat.

No. - 904.

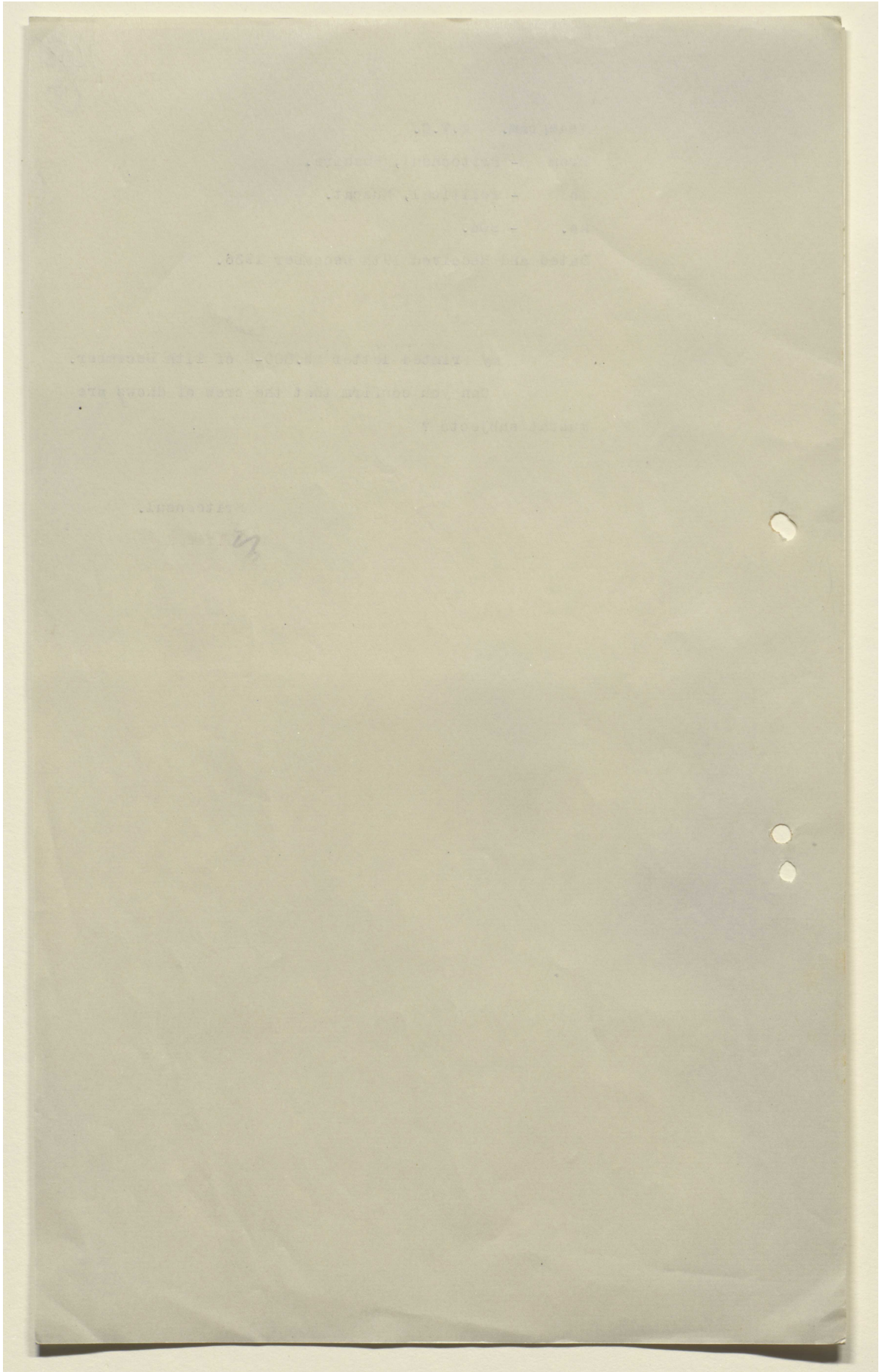
Dated and Received 19th December 1936.

*below*  
my Printed letter No.880-S of 11th December.

Can you confirm that the crew of dhows are  
Muscat subjects ?

Britconsul.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [18v] (36/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [19r] (37/164)

Telegram. G.T.C.

From - Political, Muscat

To - Britconsul, Bushire.

No. - 105.

Dated the 21st December 1936-.

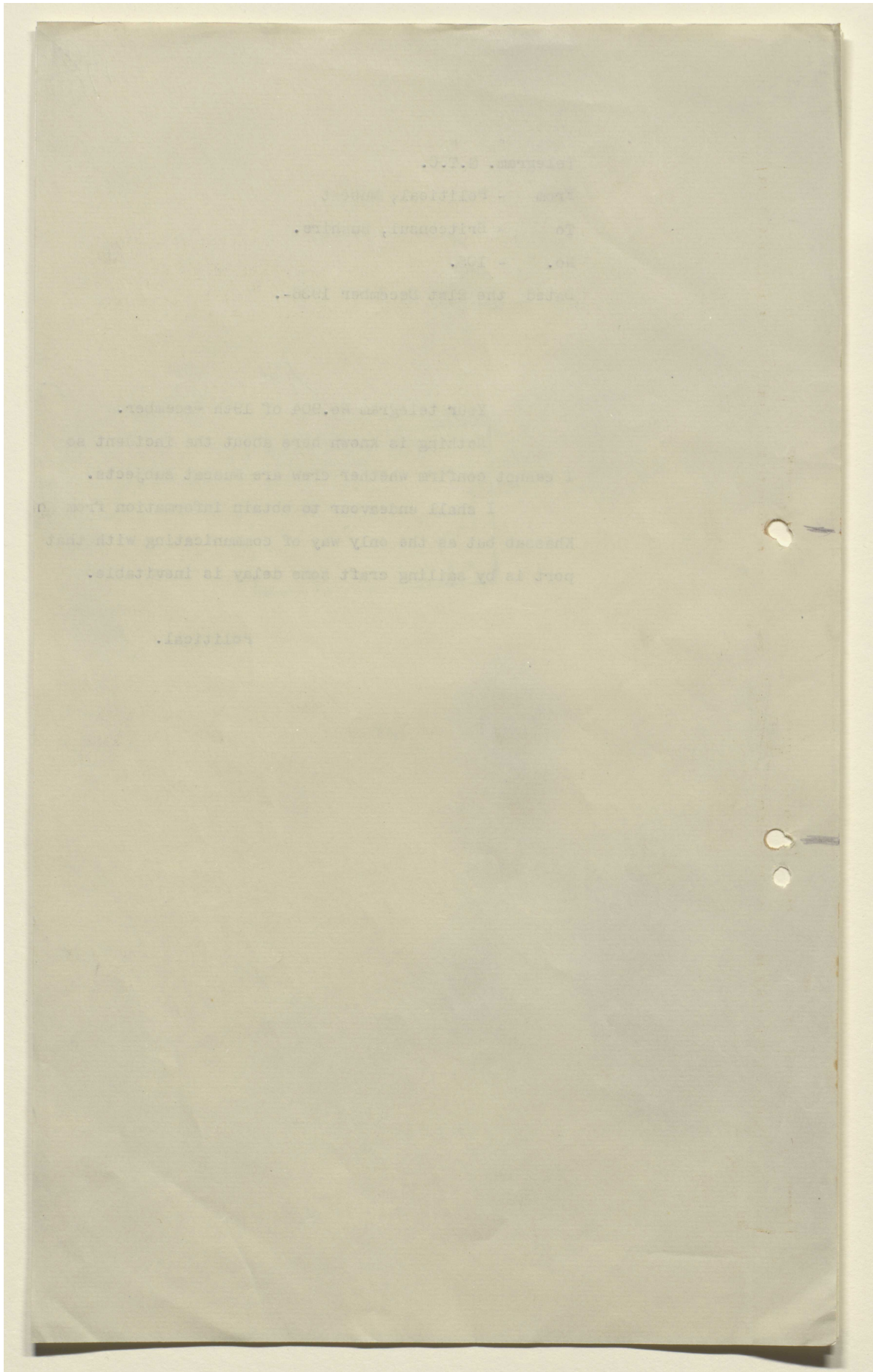
*17*  
*18*  
Your telegram No.904 of 19th December.

Nothing is known here about the incident so  
I cannot confirm whether crew are Muscat subjects.

I shall endeavour to obtain information from  
Khassab but as the only way of communicating with that  
port is by sailing craft some delay is inevitable.

Political.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [19v] (38/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [20r] (39/164)

185

18  
20

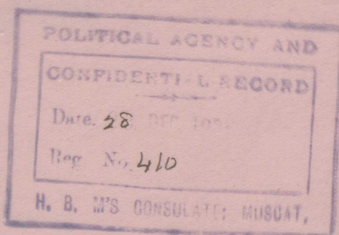
CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 898-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 Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, H.M.S. Shoreham, at Basrah.
3. His Majesty's Consul, Kerman.
- ✓ 4. The Political Agent, Muscat.

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



British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE.

Dated, 15th December, 1936.

Reference to previous correspondence:

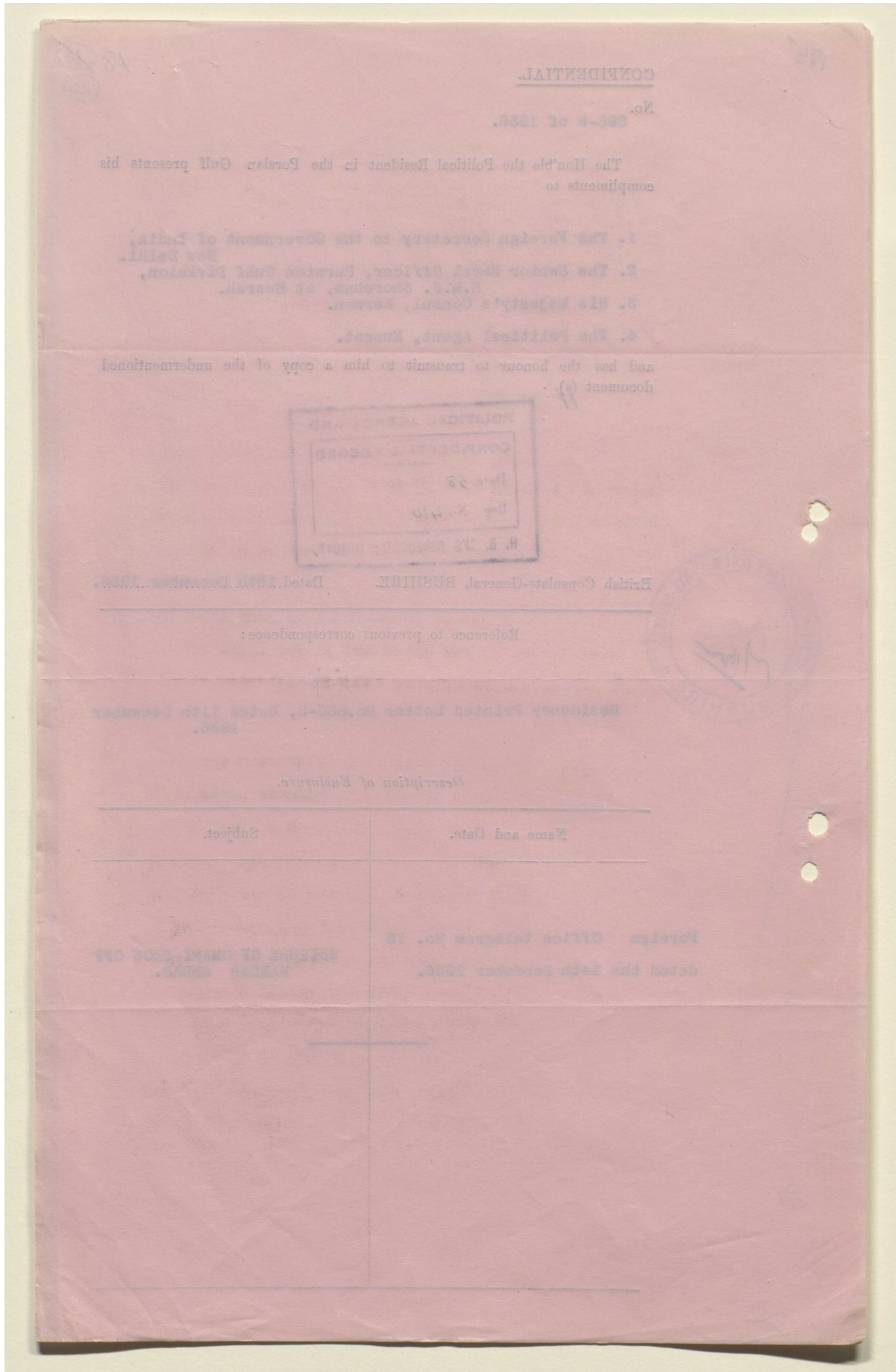
Residency Printed Letter No. 880-S, dated 11th December 1936.

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
Foreign Office telegram No. 18 dated the 14th December 1936.	SEIZURE OF OMANI DHOW OFF BANDAR ABBAS.



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [20v] (40/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [21r] (41/164)

1926  
21

Telegram            3.  
From                H.M.'s Secretary of State for Foreign  
                      Affairs, London.  
To                    H.M.'s Minister, Tehran. No.115  
Repeated to        Political Resident, Bushire. No.18  
Dated 14th received 18th December 1936.

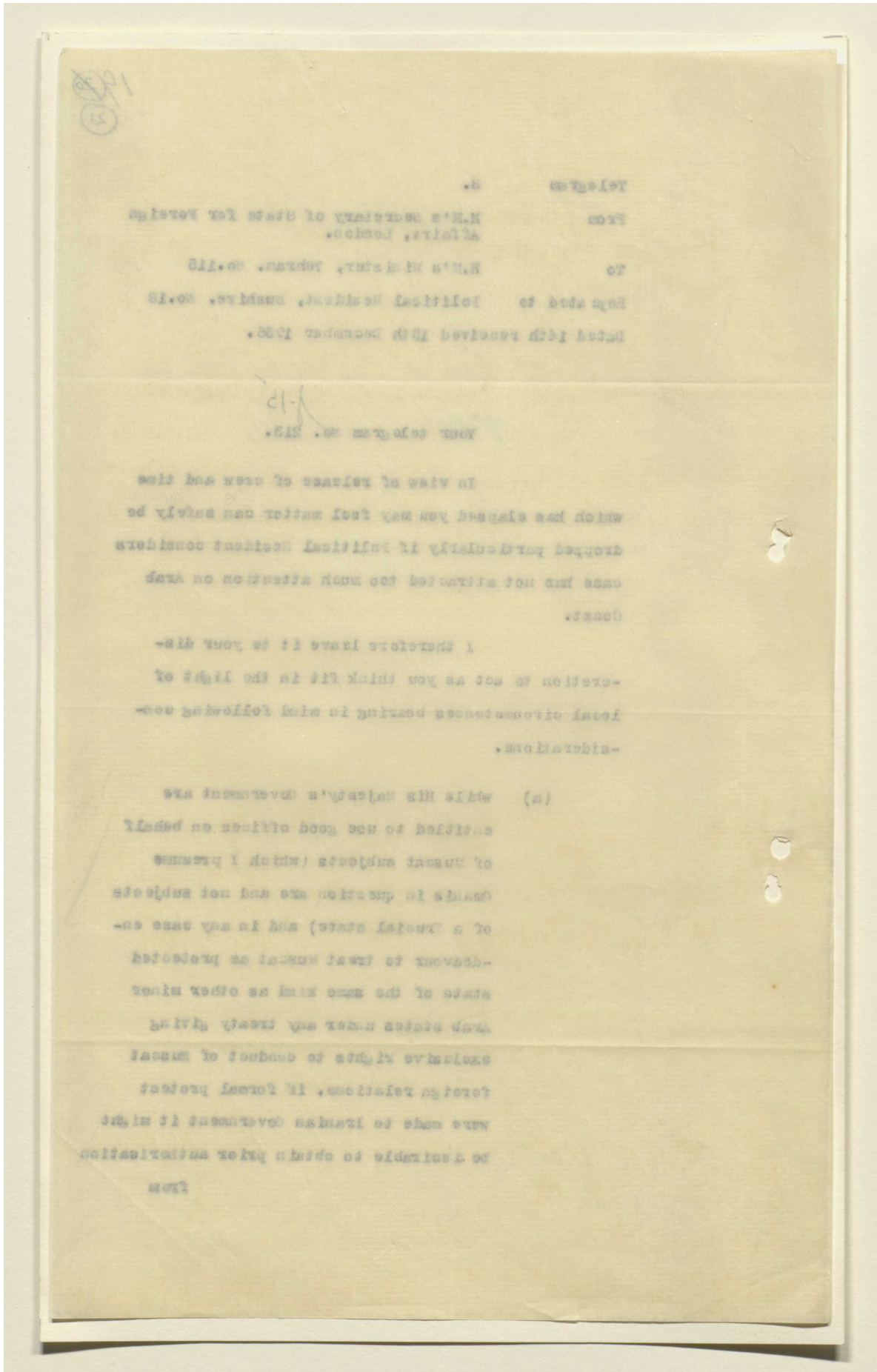
8-15  
Your telegram No. 213.

In view of release of crew and time which has elapsed you may feel matter can safely be dropped particularly if Political Resident considers case has not attracted too much attention on Arab Coast.

I therefore leave it to your discretion to act as you think fit in the light of local circumstances bearing in mind following considerations.

- (a) while His Majesty's Government are entitled to use good offices on behalf of Muscat subjects (which I presume Omanis in question are and not subjects of a Trucial state) and in any case endeavour to treat Muscat as protected state of the same kind as other minor Arab states under any treaty giving exclusive rights to conduct of Muscat foreign relations. if formal protest were made to Iranian Government it might be desirable to obtain prior authorisation from

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [21v] (42/164)



20 ~~21~~  
(22)

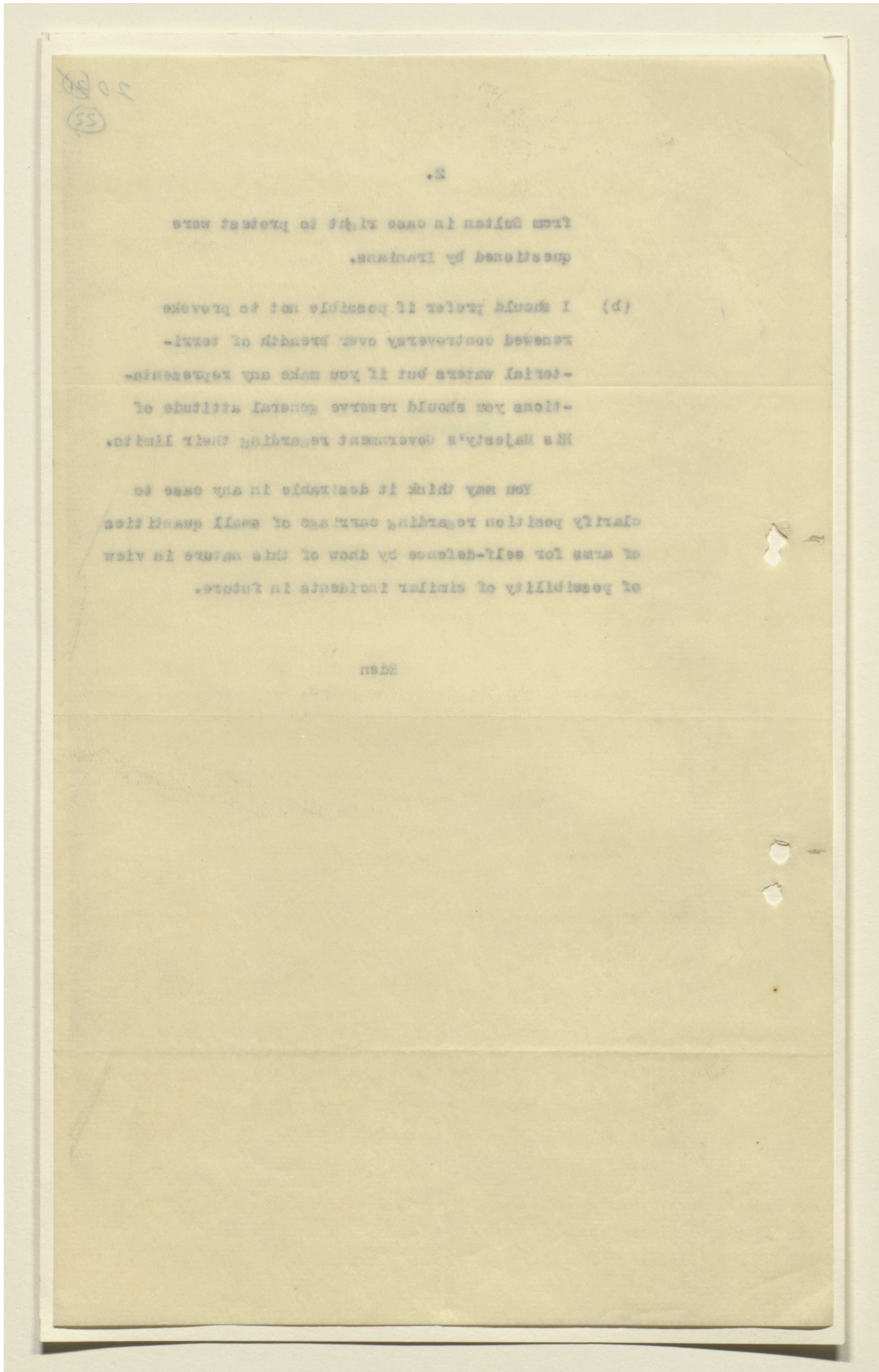
2.

from Sultan in case right to protest were questioned by Iranians.

(b) I should prefer if possible not to provoke renewed controversy over breadth of territorial waters but if you make any representations you should reserve general attitude of His Majesty's Government regarding their limits.

You may think it desirable in any case to clarify position regarding carriage of small quantities of arms for self-defence by dhow of this nature in view of possibility of similar incidents in future.

Eden



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [23r] (45/164)

185

File 23  
27

CONFIDENTIAL.  
No. 921-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 Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, H.M.S. Shoreham.
3. His Majesty's Consul, Kerman.
- ✓ 4. The Political Agent, Muscat.

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

POLITICAL AGENCY AND  
CONFIDENTIAL RECORD  
Date: - 5 JAN 1936  
Reg. No. 4  
H. B. M'S CONSULATE: MUSCAT.

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated 23rd December 1936.

Reference to previous correspondence:  
Residency Printed Letter No.898-S, dated 15th December 1936

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
1. Tehran telegram No.97, dated 18th December 1936.	SEIZURE OF OMANI DHOW OFF BANDAR ABBAS.
2. Political Resident's telegram No.97, dated 23rd December 1936.	



32  
24 25

Telegram 3.  
From H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
To Political Resident, Bushire.  
Copy by post H.M.'s secretary of state for Foreign  
Affairs, London.

No. 97

Dated 18th received 19th December 1936.

1-19

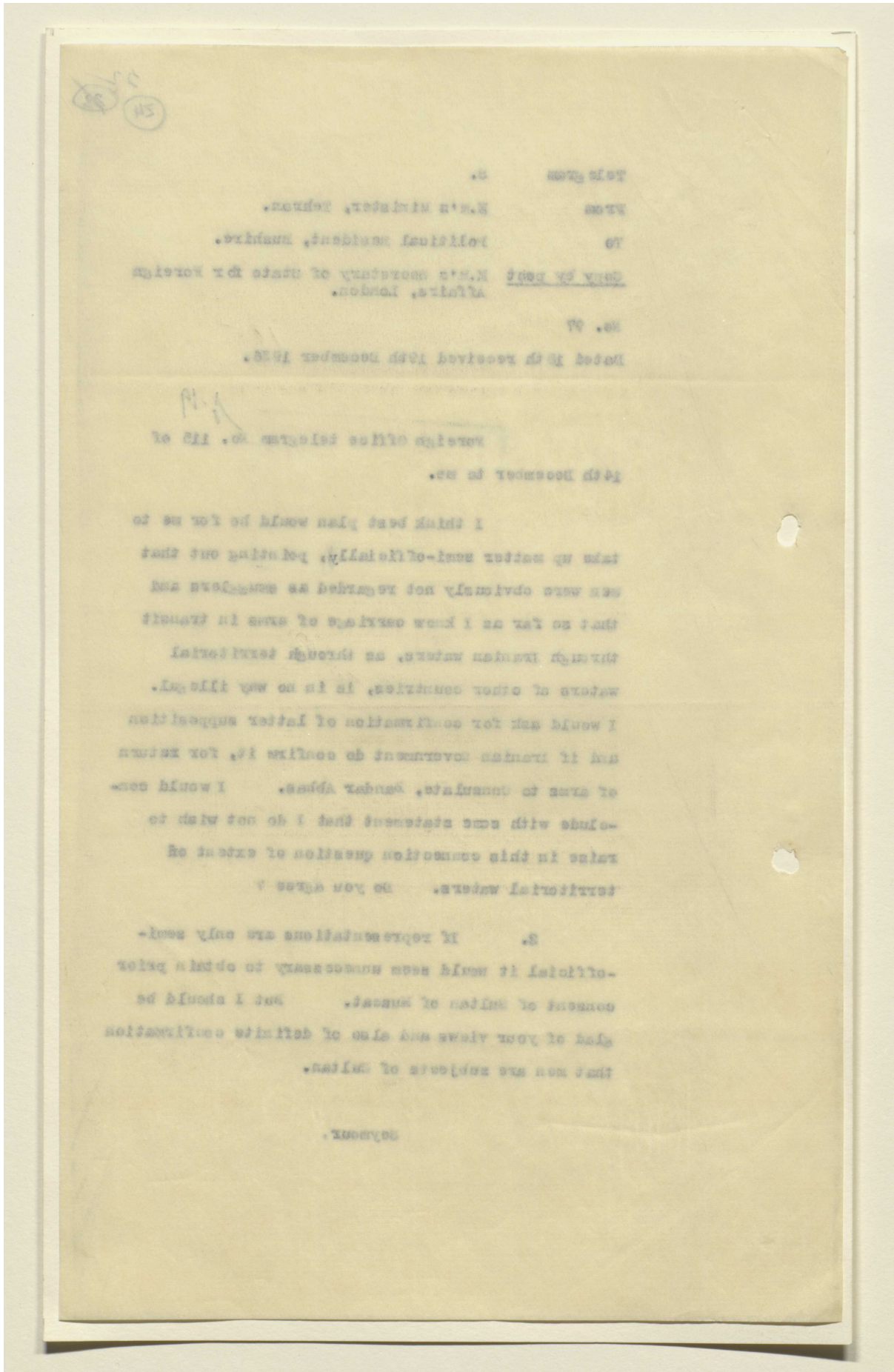
Foreign Office telegram No. 115 of  
14th December to me.

I think best plan would be for me to take up matter semi-officially, pointing out that men were obviously not regarded as smugglers and that so far as I know carriage of arms in transit through Iranian waters, as through territorial waters of other countries, is in no way illegal. I would ask for confirmation of latter supposition and if Iranian Government do confirm it, for return of arms to Consulate, Bandar Abbas. I would conclude with some statement that I do not wish to raise in this connection question of extent of territorial waters. Do you agree?

2. If representations are only semi-official it would seem unnecessary to obtain prior consent of Sultan of Muscat. But I should be glad of your views and also of definite confirmation that men are subjects of Sultan.

seymour.





'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [25r] (49/164)

23/25  
24

Telegram            3.  
From                Political Resident, Bushire.  
To                    H.M.'s Minister, Tehran.  
Copy by post    Government of India, Foreign and  
                         Political Department, New Delhi.  
                         Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf  
                         Division, H.M.S. Shoreham, Bushireradio.  
                         H.M.'s Consul, Kerman.  
                         Political Agent, Muscat.

No. 97

Dated 23rd December 1936.

1-22

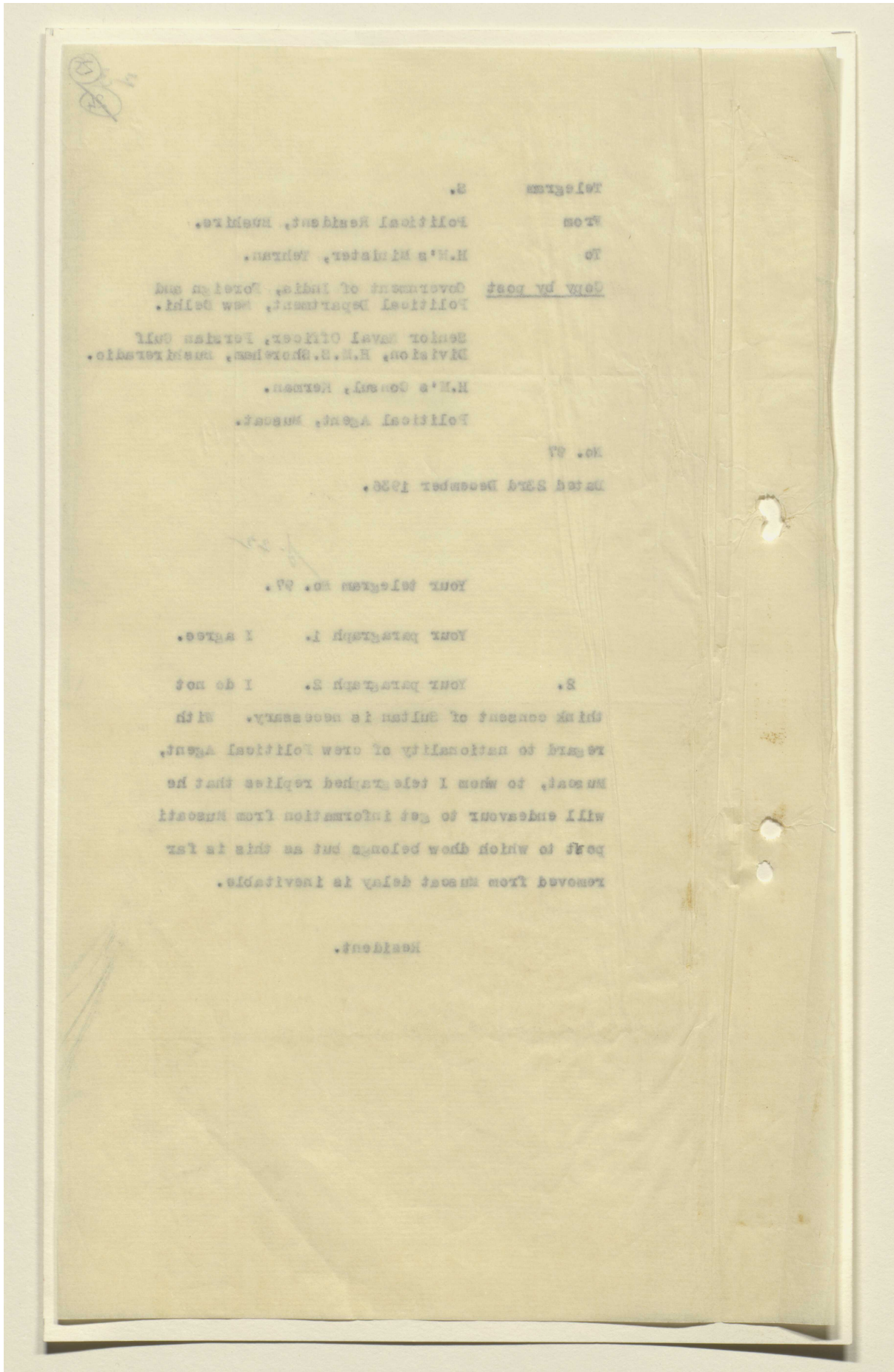
Your telegram no. 97.

Your paragraph 1.        I agree.

2.            Your paragraph 2.        I do not  
think consent of Sultan is necessary. With  
regard to nationality of crew Political Agent,  
Muscat, to whom I telegraphed replies that he  
will endeavour to get information from Muscati  
post to which dhow belongs but as this is far  
removed from Muscat delay is inevitable.

Resident.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [25v] (50/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [26r] (51/164)

Telegram - Q.

From - Senior Officer, P.G.

To - Political, Muscat.

No. 1347.

Dated 11th February 1937.

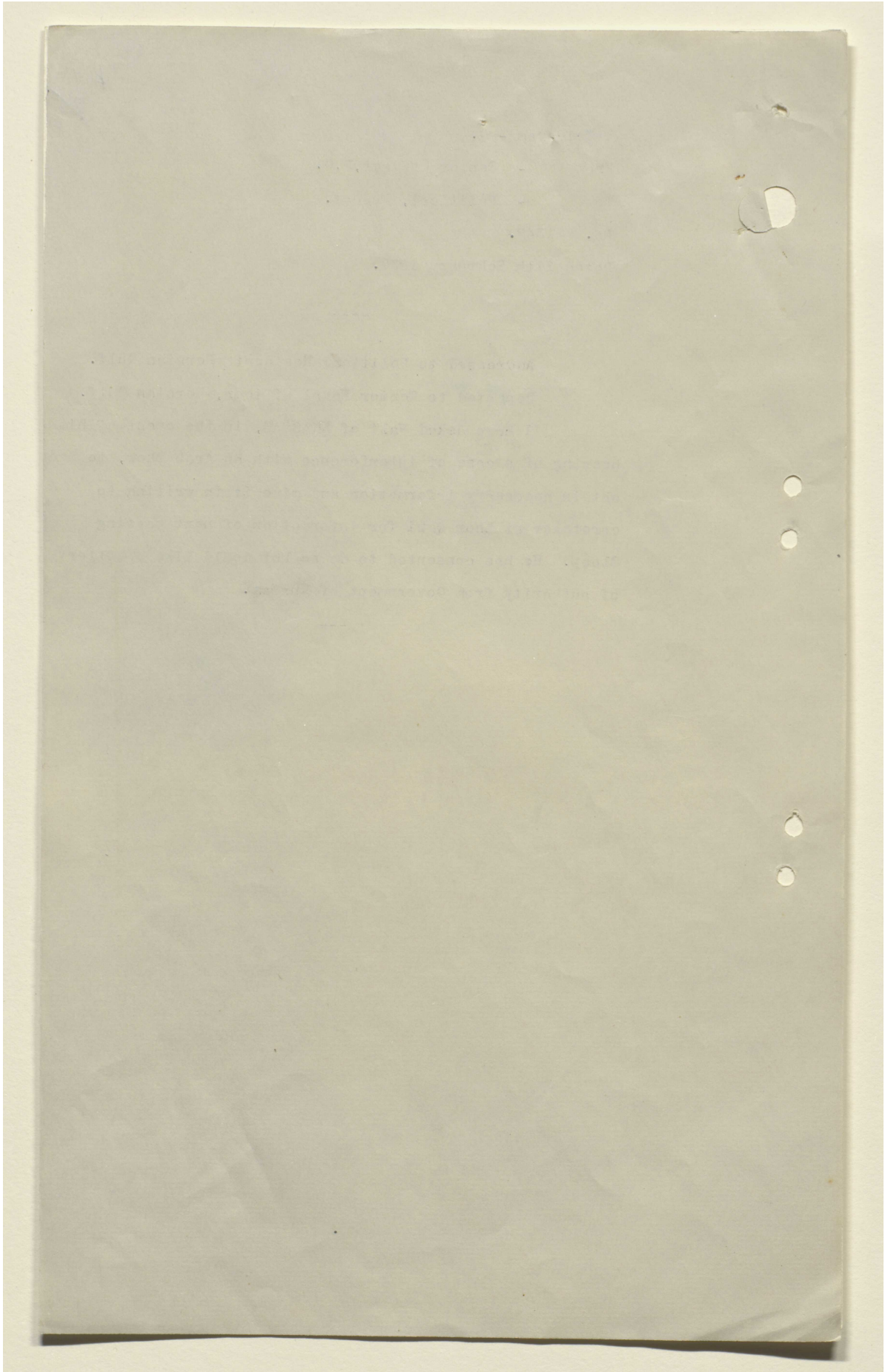
-----  
Addressed to Political Resident Persian Gulf.

Repeated to Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

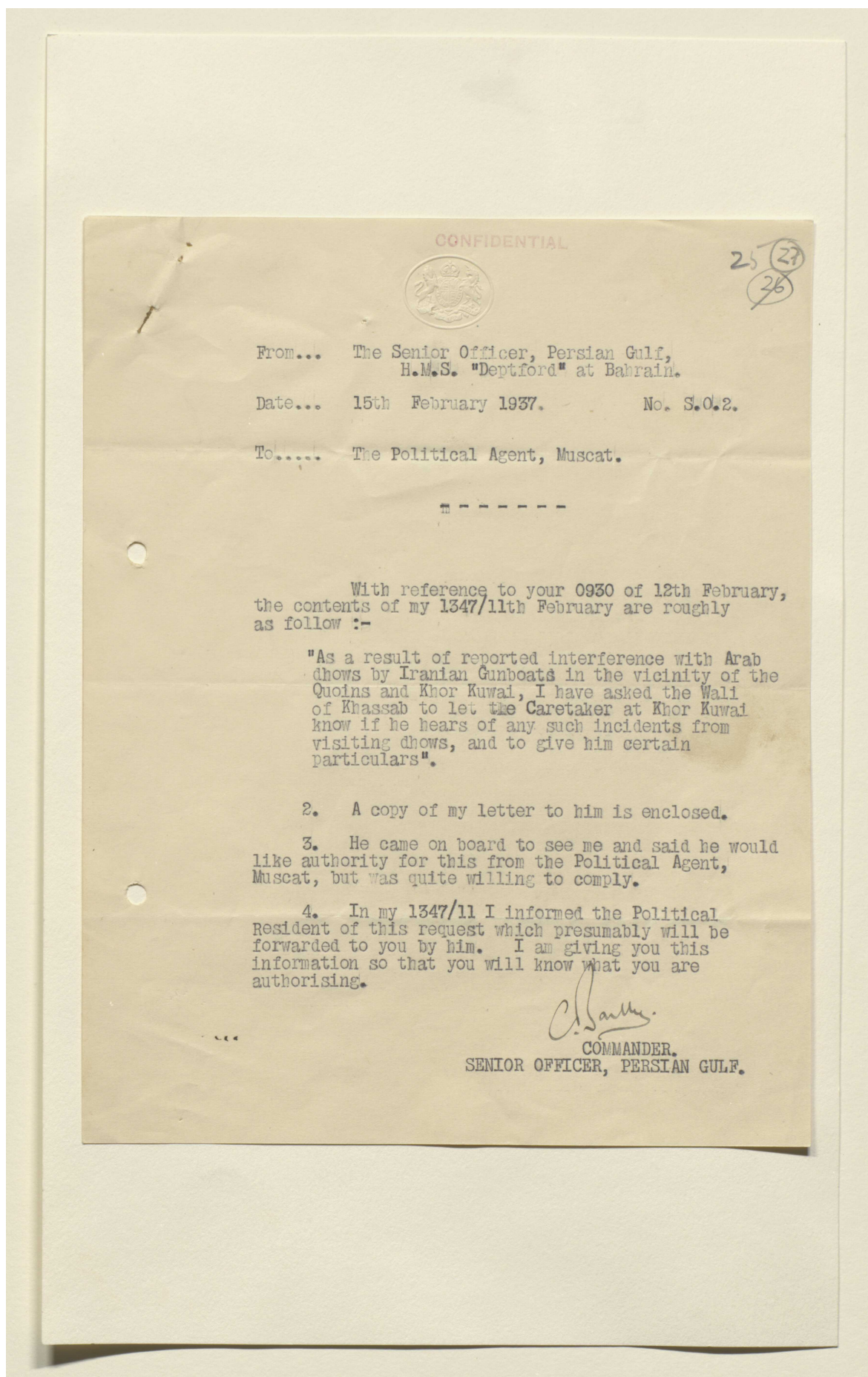
I have asked Wali of KHASSAB, in the event of his hearing of a case of interference with an Arab Dhow, to obtain necessary information and give it in writing to caretaker at Khor Qawi for information of next passing Sloop. He has consented to do so but would like a letter of authority from Government of Muscat.

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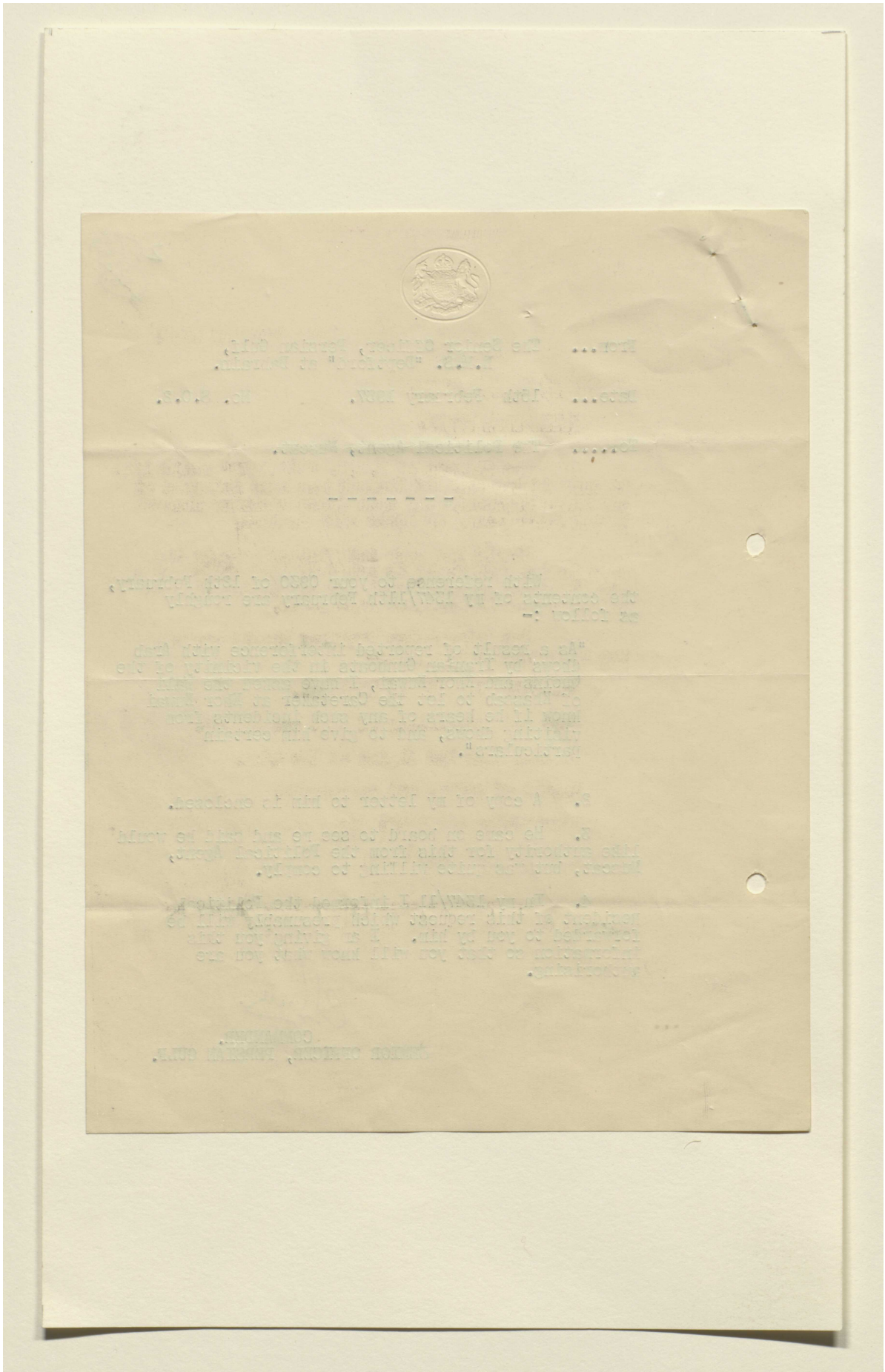
'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [26v] (52/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [27r] (53/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [27v] (54/164)



36 (28)  
(27)  
11th February 1937.

TO THE WALI OF KHASSAB.

With compliments.

The Captain of H.M.S. "DEPTFORD" would like to know if the Wali of Khassab has been informed of any interference to any Arab dhows visiting Khassab by any man-of-war, or other ship or boat.

Should any such information come to his ears in the future, he is asked to send a message to the Caretaker at Khor Kuwal for the information of the next visiting British man-of-war.

The information required should contain the following particulars:-

Date and locality of incident.

Name and nationality of boat and nakuda.

Whether flag was flying at the time.

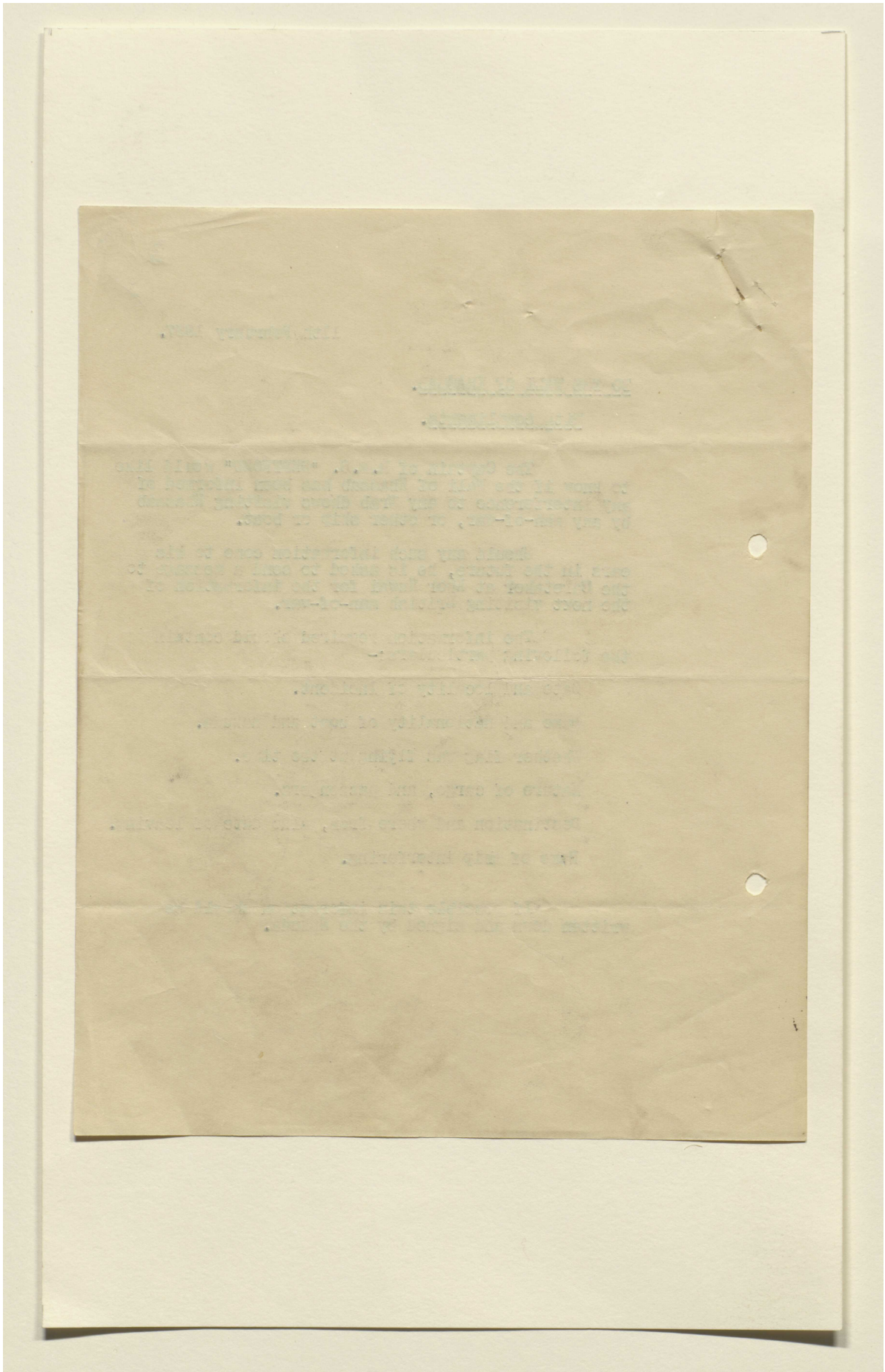
Nature of cargo, and passengers.

Destination and where from, also date of leaving.

Name of ship interfering.

If possible this information should be written down and signed by the Nakuda.



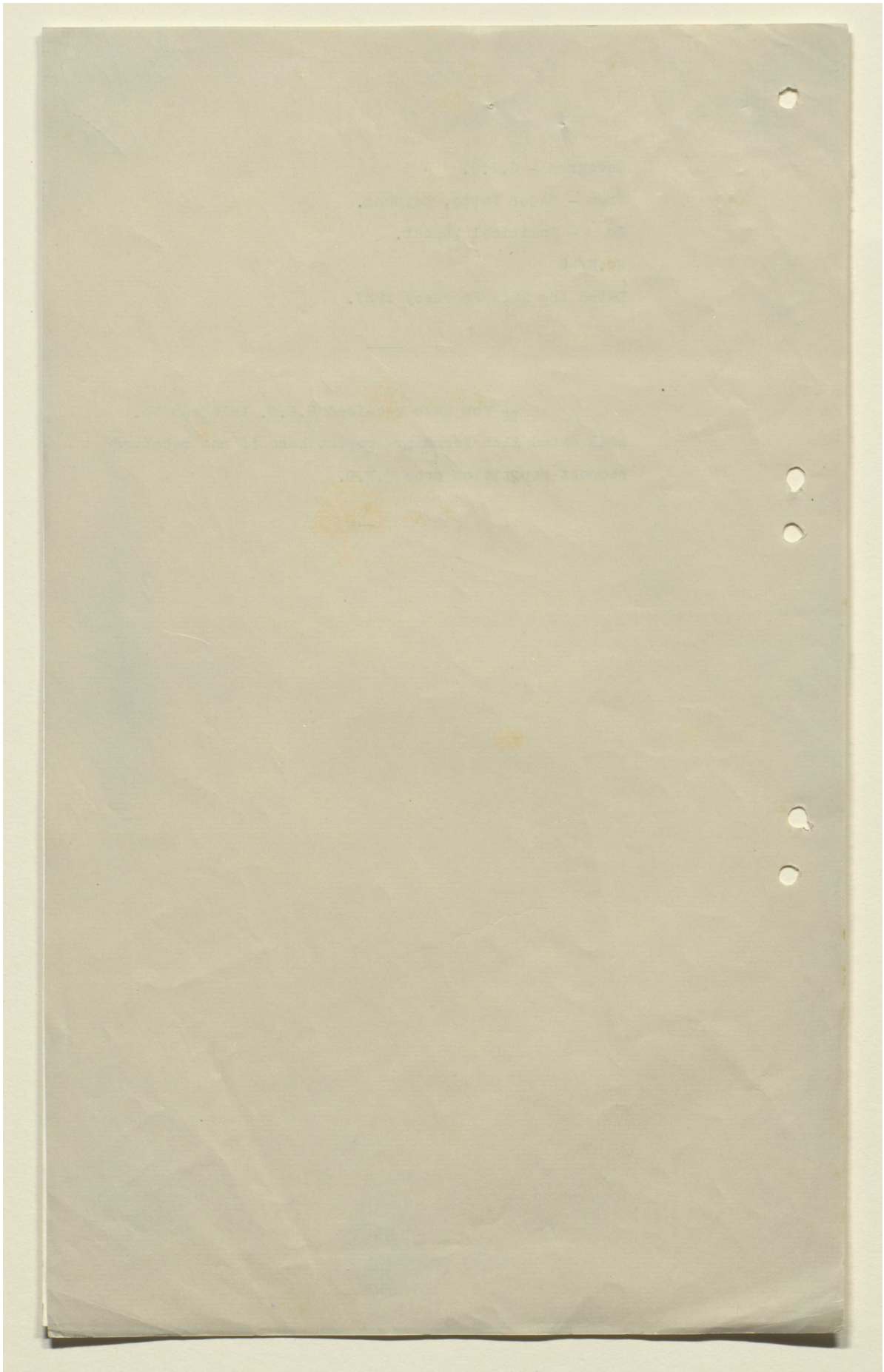


'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [29r] (57/164)

Telegram - G.T.C.  
From - Major Watts, Karachi.  
To - Political Muscat.  
No.K/26  
Dated the 19th February 1937.

-----  
If you have received S.N.O. telegram No.  
1347 dated 11th February- repeat here if not received  
request repetition from S.N.O.  
---

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [29v] (58/164)



CONFIDENTIAL. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
DEPARTMENT,

EXPRESS LETTER

[N. B.—This is an ORIGINAL MESSAGE, sent by post to save telegraphic expense and undue use of the wires, but intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and formalities it is worded and signed as if it had been so despatched.]

FROM - Political Resident, Bushire.

To - Political Agent, Muscat, at Karachi.

Repeated Senior Officer, Persian Gulf, H.M.S. Deptford.

Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, H.M.S. Shoreham, at Bombay.

By

No. 201-S of 1937.

Dated 13th February 1937.

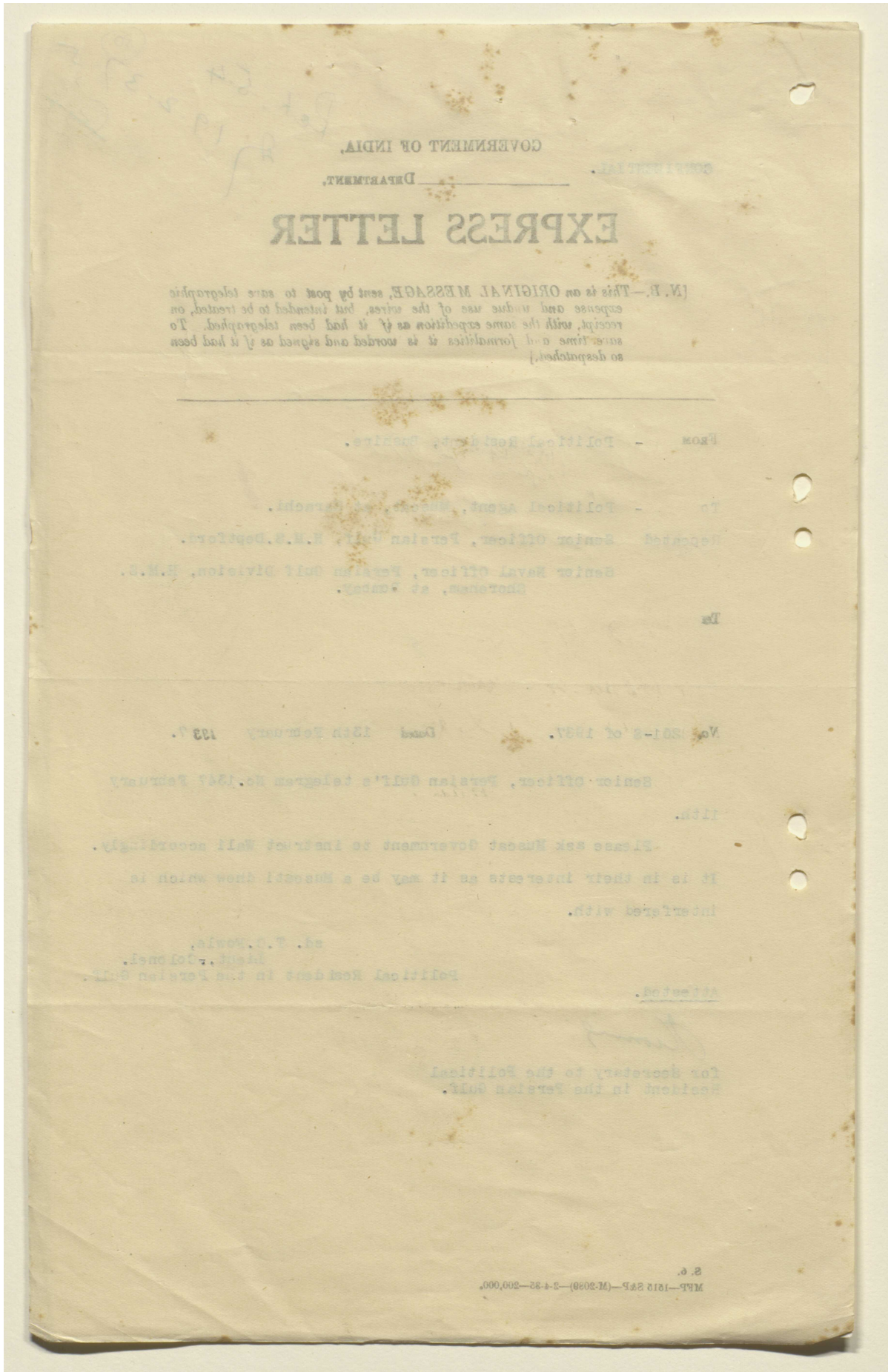
Senior Officer, Persian Gulf's telegram No. 1347 February 11th.

Please ask Muscat Government to instruct Wali accordingly. It is in their interests as it may be a Muscati dhow which is interfered with.

sd. T.C. Fowle,  
Lieut. Colonel.  
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Attested.

*K. M. M.*  
for Secretary to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.



P.R. New File 6 (31)  
29  
30

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
DEPARTMENT,

**EXPRESS LETTER**

[N. D.—This is an ORIGINAL MESSAGE, sent by post to save telegraphic expense and undue use of the wires, but intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same rapidity as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and formalities it is worded and signed as if it had been so despatched.]

---

FROM

Political,  
Muscat.


To

Britconsul,  
Bushire.

No. 40-C Dated 31st March 1937.

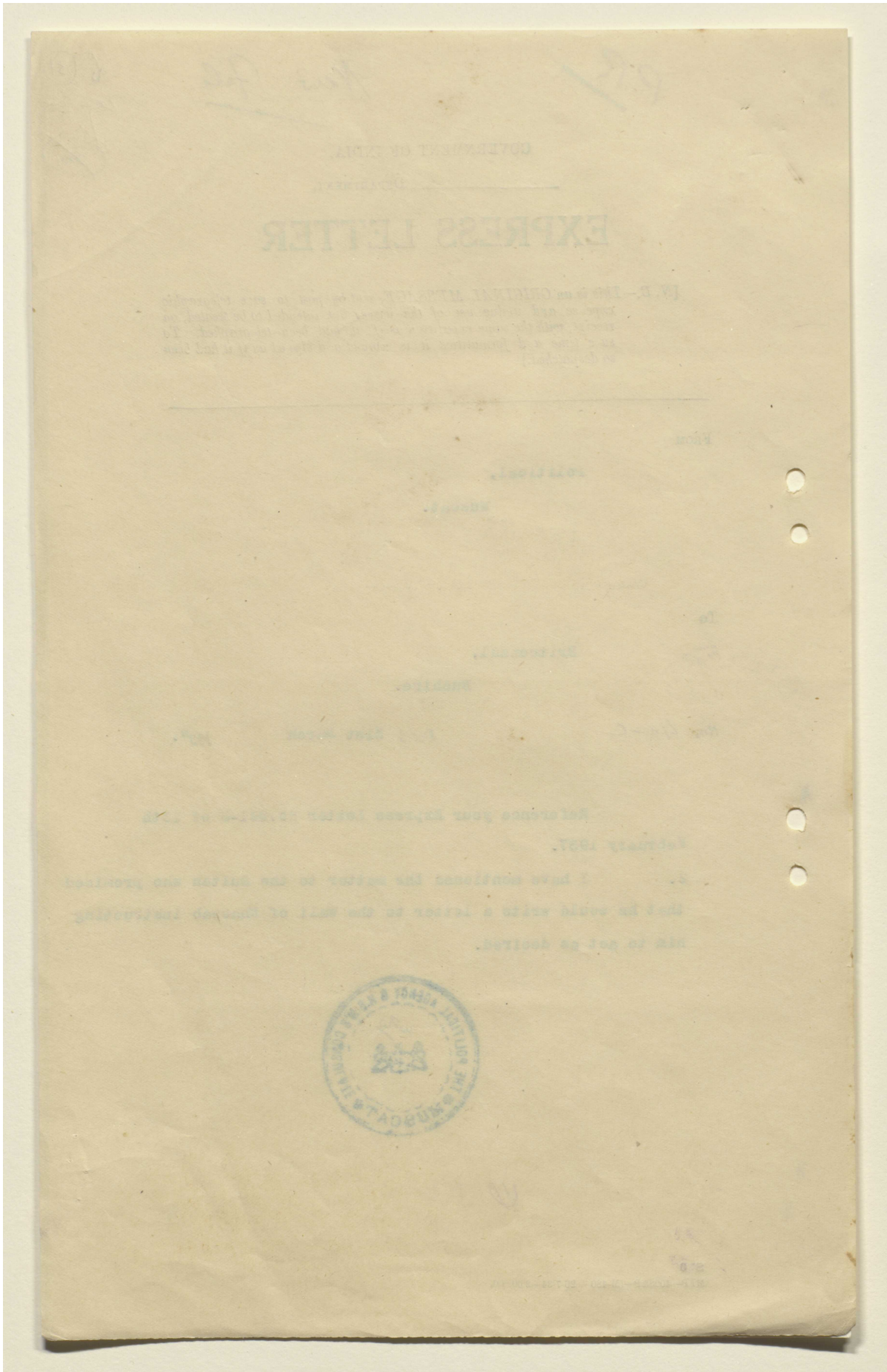
Reference your Express Letter No.201-S of 13th February 1937.

2. I have mentioned the matter to the Sultan who promised that he would write a letter to the Wali of Khassab instructing him to act as desired.



S 6  
MFP-400S&P-(M-480-26-7-34-2,00. X 0.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [31v] (62/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [32r] (63/164)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. C/46 of 1937.

file W 134 (32) 730 (31)

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

POLITICAL RESIDENCY AND  
CONFIDENTIAL & RECORD  
14.4.37  
Doc. No. 103

1. The Political Agent, Kuwait.
2. The Political Agent, Bahrain.
3. The Political Agent, Muscat. ✓

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, KUWAIT.

~~British Consulate General, BUSHIRE~~

Dated... 6th April, 1938.

Reference to previous correspondence:

To (1) only. Political Resident's Printed letter  
No. C/41 of 5th April, 1937.

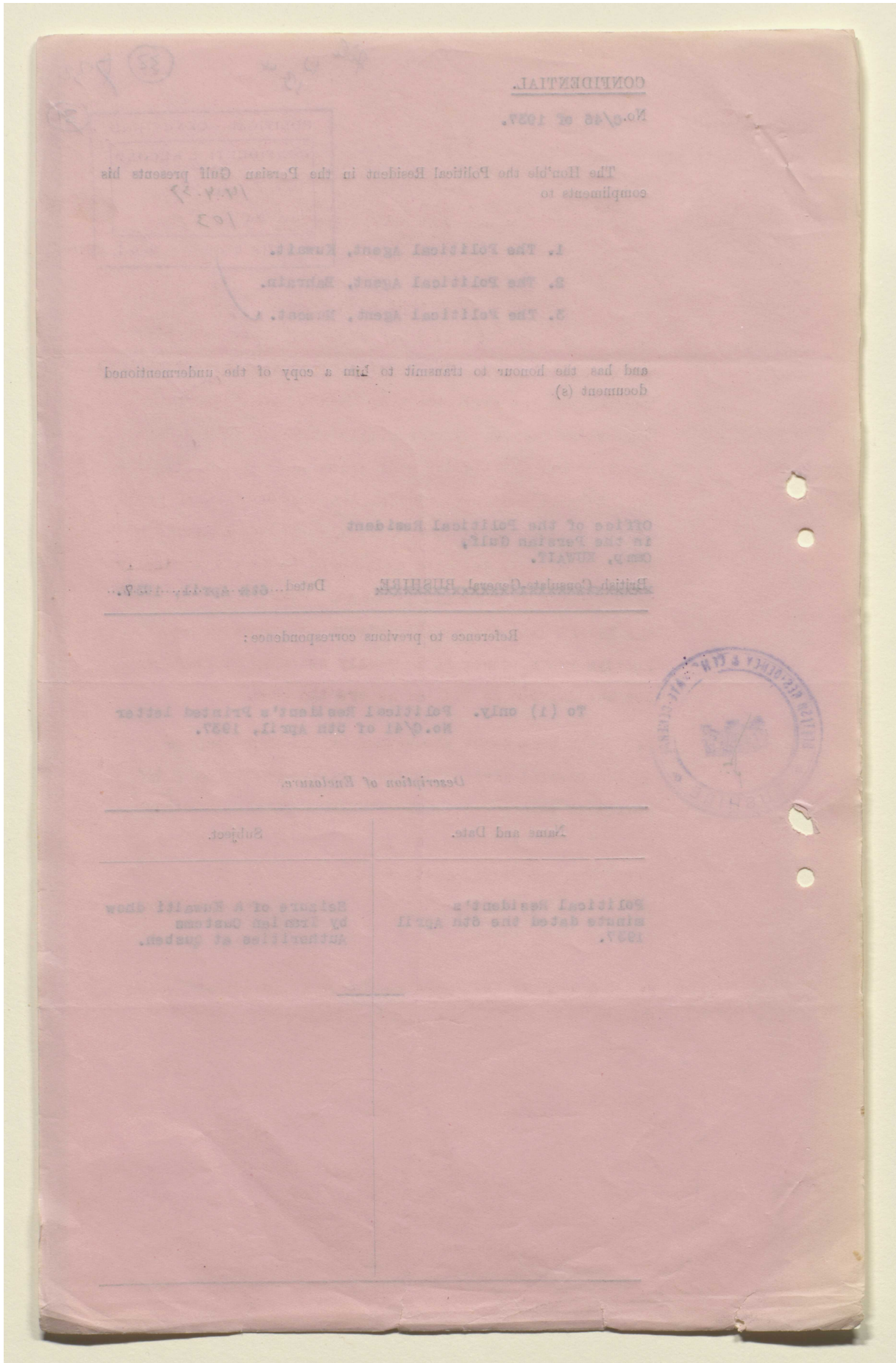


Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Political Resident's minute dated the 6th April 1937.	Seizure of a Kuwaiti dhow by Iranian Customs Authorities at Qusbeh.



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [32v] (64/164)



NOTE.

Subject: Seizure of a Kuwaiti dhow by  
Iranian Customs Authorities at  
QUSEBH.

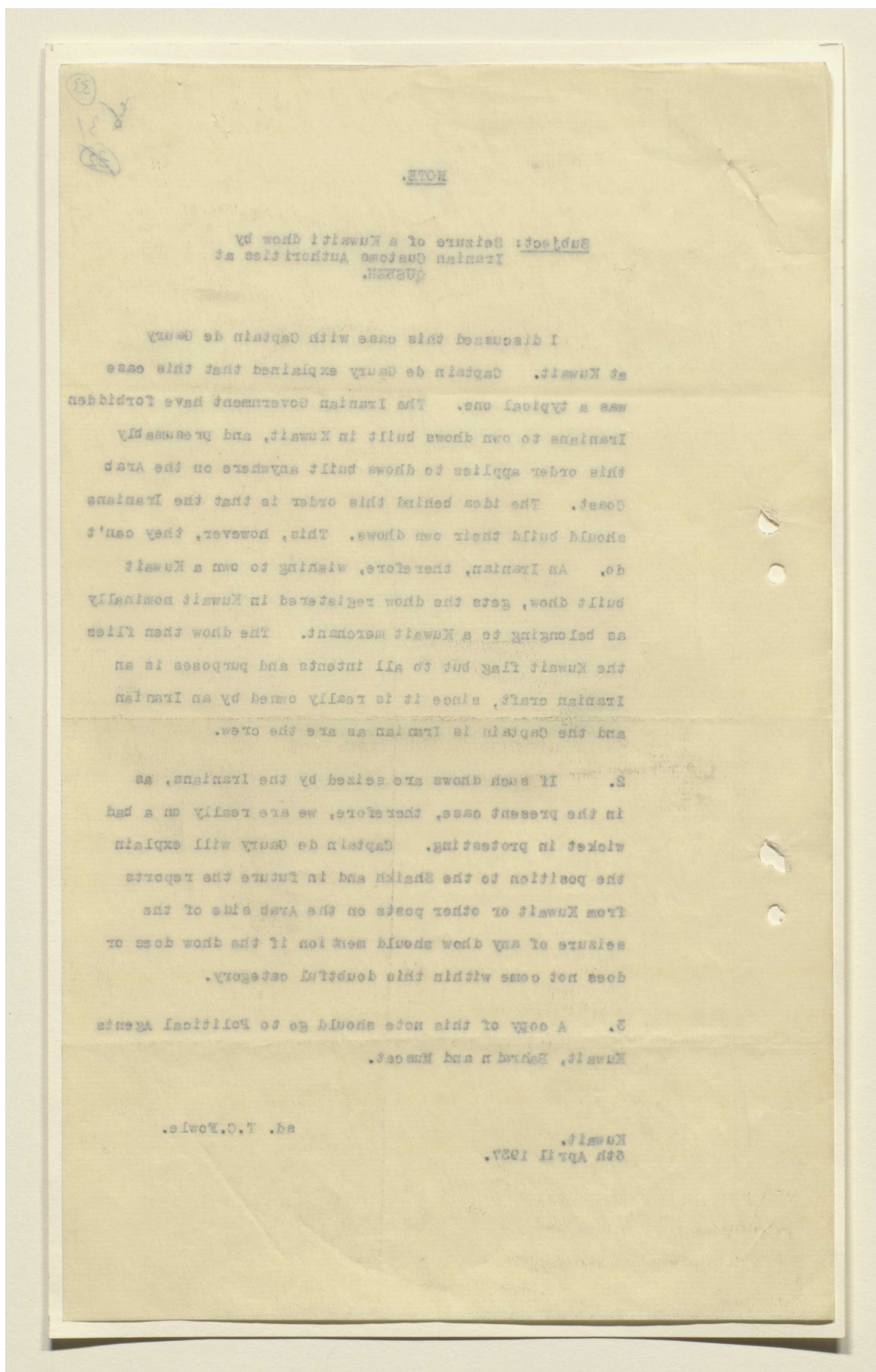
I discussed this case with Captain de Gaury at Kuwait. Captain de Gaury explained that this case was a typical one. The Iranian Government have forbidden Iranians to own dhows built in Kuwait, and presumably this order applies to dhows built anywhere on the Arab Coast. The idea behind this order is that the Iranians should build their own dhows. This, however, they can't do. An Iranian, therefore, wishing to own a Kuwait built dhow, gets the dhow registered in Kuwait nominally as belonging to a Kuwait merchant. The dhow then flies the Kuwait flag but to all intents and purposes is an Iranian craft, since it is really owned by an Iranian and the Captain is Iranian as are the crew.

2. If such dhows are seized by the Iranians, as in the present case, therefore, we are really on a bad wicket in protesting. Captain de Gaury will explain the position to the Shaikh and in future the reports from Kuwait or other posts on the Arab side of the seizure of any dhow should mention if the dhow does or does not come within this doubtful category.

3. A copy of this note should go to Political Agents Kuwait, Bahrain and Muscat.

Kuwait.  
6th April 1937.

sd. F.C.Fowle.



NOTE.

Subject: Seizure of a Kuwaiti dhow by  
Iranian Customs Authorities at  
QUSBAH.

I discussed this case with Captain de Gentry  
at Kuwait. Captain de Gentry explained that this case  
was a typical one. The Iranian Government have forbidden  
Iranians to own dhows built in Kuwait, and presumably  
this order applies to dhows built anywhere on the Arab  
Coast. The idea behind this order is that the Iranians  
should build their own dhows. This, however, they can't  
do. An Iranian, therefore, wishing to own a Kuwaiti  
built dhow, gets the dhow registered in Kuwait nominally  
as belonging to a Kuwaiti merchant. The dhow then flies  
the Kuwait flag but to all intents and purposes is an  
Iranian craft, since it is really owned by an Iranian  
and the Captain is Iranian as are the crew.

2. If such dhows are seized by the Iranians, as  
in the present case, therefore, we are really on a bad  
wicket in protesting. Captain de Gentry will explain  
the position to the British and in future the reports  
from Kuwait or other posts on the Arab side of the  
seizure of any dhow should mention if the dhow does or  
does not come within this doubtful category.

3. A copy of this note should go to Political Agents  
Kuwait, Bahrain and Muscat.

ad. T.C. Fowler.

Kuwait.  
8th April 1937.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [34r] (67/164)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 348-S of 1937.

*File Met* (34) 32 (33)

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

1. The Political Agent, Bahrain.
2. The Political Agent, Muscat. ✓

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

POLITICAL AGENT AND  
CONFIDENTIAL RECORD  
Date 197  
1937/5/17

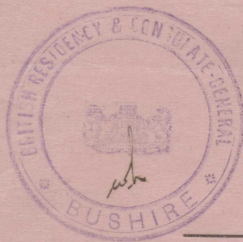
British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE.

Dated 17th May, 1937.

Reference to previous correspondence:

To(1). Political Resident's Printed letter No.C/72 of 12th April 1937.

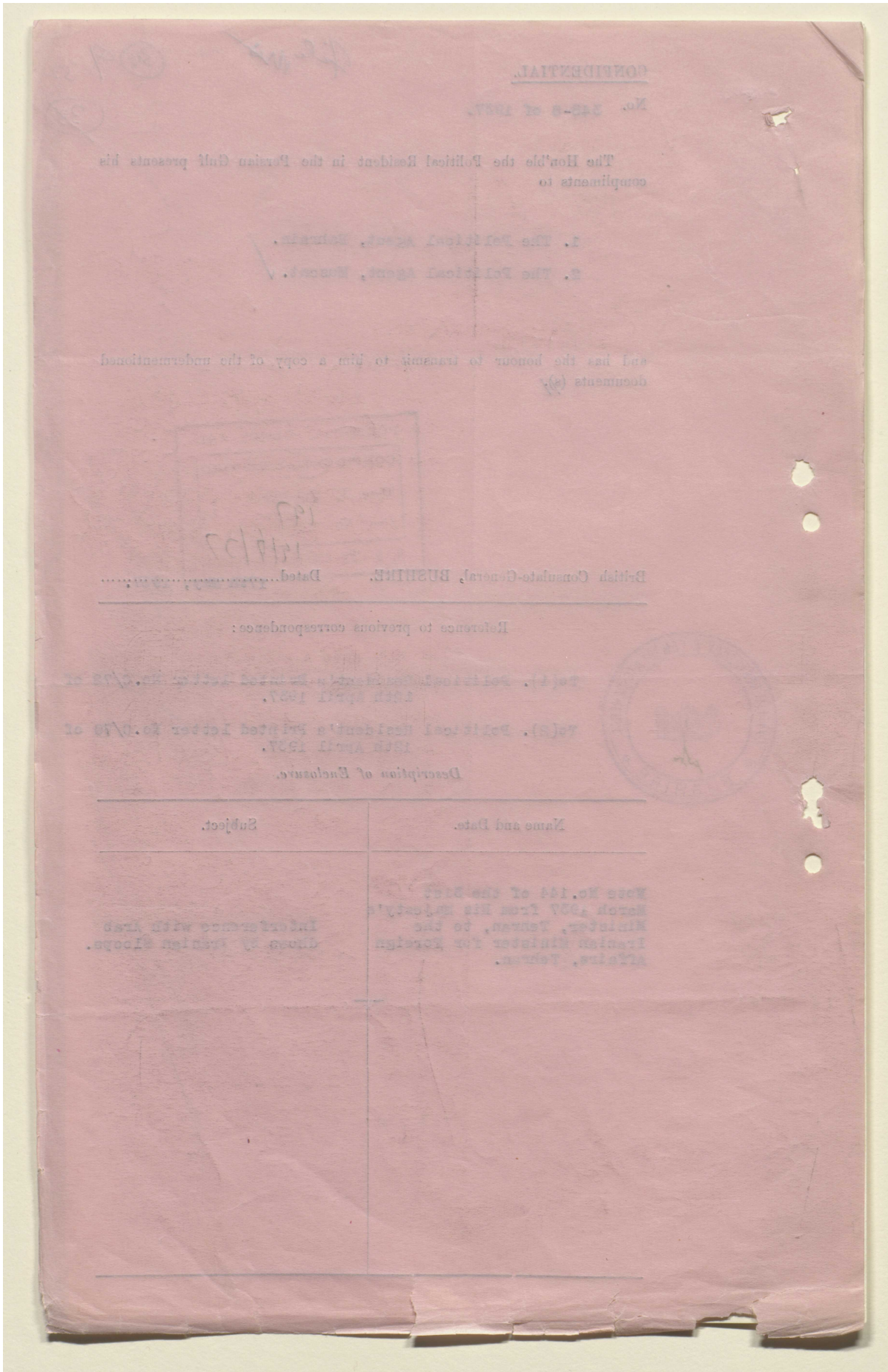
To(2). Political Resident's Printed letter No.C/70 of 12th April 1937.



*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note No.144 of the 31st March 1937 from His Majesty's Minister, Tehran, to the Iranian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tehran.	Interference with Arab dhows by Iranian Sloops.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [34v] (68/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [35r] (69/164)

Copies to: BUSHIRE No. 25  
(Ref. Bushire Tel. No. 42  
& Express letter No.  
C. 22 of March 6th).  
S. N. O. No. 237/10/37.  
F. O. No. 122.  
(Ref. Des. No. 193-S of  
12/2/37 from P. R. in  
the Persian Gulf to  
S. of S. for India).  
& INDIA No. 54  
(Ref. Bushire des. No. 193-S  
of 12/2/37).

No. 144.  
(237/10/37).

31st March 1937.

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to inform  
Your Excellency that my attention  
has recently been drawn to two cases  
in which ships of the Imperial Iranian  
Navy have interfered with Arab vessels  
within Arab territorial waters.

2. The first incident took place  
on the 25th January (5th Bahman).  
On that date H. I. M. S. "Babr" stopped  
and searched two dhows belonging to  
Debai. The first dhow was searched  
two miles north east of Quoin Island,  
and the second one mile from Quoin  
Island. Both dhows were therefore  
stopped within the territorial waters  
of the Sultan of Muscat. The first  
dhow is the property of Muhammad Khan  
of Debai, and its Nakhuda is named  
Ahmed Ali Harmuzi. The second  
belongs to a relative of Muhammad  
Khan and its Nakhuda is Hasan Tahlak.  
The two dhows carried passengers and  
cargoes of salt, dates and clothing  
for the Batineh coast. The cargoes  
of both dhows were searched, being  
prodded /

His Excellency  
Monsieur Enayatollah  
Saghi,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Tehran.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [35v] (70/164)

32  
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 37

Copies to: BUSHIRE No. 23  
 (Ref. Bushire Tel. No. 42  
 & Express Letter No.  
 G. 22 of March 6th).  
 S. N. O. No. 237/10/37.  
 P. O. No. 122.  
 (Ref. Des. No. 193-2 of  
 12/2/37 from P. R. in  
 the Persian Gulf to  
 S. of S. for India).  
 & INDIA No. 34  
 (Ref. Bushire Des. No. 193-2  
 of 12/2/37).

No. 144  
 (237/10/37)

31st March 1937.

Monsieur le Ministre,  
 I have the honour to inform  
 Your Excellency that my attention  
 has recently been drawn to two cases  
 in which ships of the Imperial Iranian  
 Navy have interfered with Arab vessels  
 within Arab territorial waters.  
 2. The first incident took place  
 on the 28th January (5th Bahman).  
 On that date H. I. M. S. "Babr" stopped  
 and searched two dhows belonging to  
 Debat. The first dhow was searched  
 two miles north east of Guoin Island,  
 and the second one mile from Guoin  
 Island. Both dhows were therefore  
 stopped within the territorial waters  
 of the Sultan of Muscat. The first  
 dhow is the property of Muhammad Khan  
 of Debat, and its name is named  
 Ahmed Ali Harmani. The second  
 belongs to a relative of Muhammad  
 Khan and its name is Hasan Tahak.  
 The two dhows carried passengers and  
 cargoes of salt, dates and clothing  
 for the Persian coast. The cargoes  
 of both dhows were searched, being  
 His Excellency  
 Monsieur Enayatollah  
 Sa'idi,  
 Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
 Tehran.

/ provided

-2-

(36)  
N34  
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prodded with a steel prong, and the baggage and clothing of the passengers and crews were also searched. After completion of the search, the dhows were allowed to proceed.

3. The second incident took place on the 16th February (27th Bahman). On that date an unnamed jolly-boat, belonging to Debai, sailed from Khassab to Debai with a cargo of dried fish. The jolly-boat is the property of Humail bin Khalfan al Basti of Debai, and the Nakhuda is named Ali bin Hasan ash-Shahi of Khassab. At about noon on the 16th February (27th Bahman) an Iranian warship was sighted coming from the direction of Hengam. The name of this warship is not known, but it is believed that she was H.I.M.S. "Chahrokh". When the jolly-boat was off Ghamda (between Bakha and Sha'am) she was overtaken by the warship, which stopped a few yards distant from her. Both vessels were then about one mile from the shore. The Nakhuda was ordered to go aboard the warship, where he was questioned about the nationality of his boat, himself and his crew. He was then allowed to proceed.

4. Your Excellency will observe that in both these cases, Arab vessels from Debai were stopped by Iranian warships actually within Arab territorial waters. In these circumstances I must make to Your Excellency a strong protest

at /



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [36v] (72/164)

-2-

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1721  
38

provided with a steel prong, and the baggage and clothing of the passengers and crews were also searched. After completion of the search, the dhows were allowed to proceed.

3. The second incident took place on the 18th February (27th Bahman). On that date an unnamed Jolly-boat, belonging to Debal, sailed from Khasab to Debal with a cargo of dried fish. The Jolly-boat is the property of Humail bin Khalifa al Basti of Debal, and the Nakhuda is named Ali bin Hasan ash-Shahi of Khasab. At about noon on the 18th February (27th Bahman) an Iranian warship was sighted coming from the direction of Hejham. The name of this warship is not known, but it is believed that she was H.I.M.S. "Chahrokh". When the Jolly-boat was off Ghanda (between Bakha and Sha'am) she was overtaken by the warship, which stopped a few yards distant from her. Both vessels were then about one mile from the shore. The Nakhuda was ordered to go aboard the warship, where he was questioned about the nationality of his boat, himself and his crew. He was then allowed to proceed.

4. Your Excellency will observe that in both these cases, Arab vessels from Debal were stopped by Iranian warships actually within Arab territorial waters. In these circumstances I must make to Your Excellency a strong protest at \

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1235  
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-3-

at these further cases of interference with Arab vessels outside Iranian territorial waters. In my note No.112 of the 11th March (20th Esfand 1315) I had the honour to remind Your Excellency that incidents of this nature could not but make a most unfortunate impression. I have no doubt that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India will view these further incidents with much concern, and I would therefore again earnestly request Your Excellency, in the interests of the friendly relations so happily existing between those Governments and the Imperial Government, to cause strict instructions to be issued to the Commanding Officers of His Imperial Majesty's ships to abstain from interference with Arab vessels outside Iranian territorial waters.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) H.J. SEYMOIR.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [37v] (74/164)

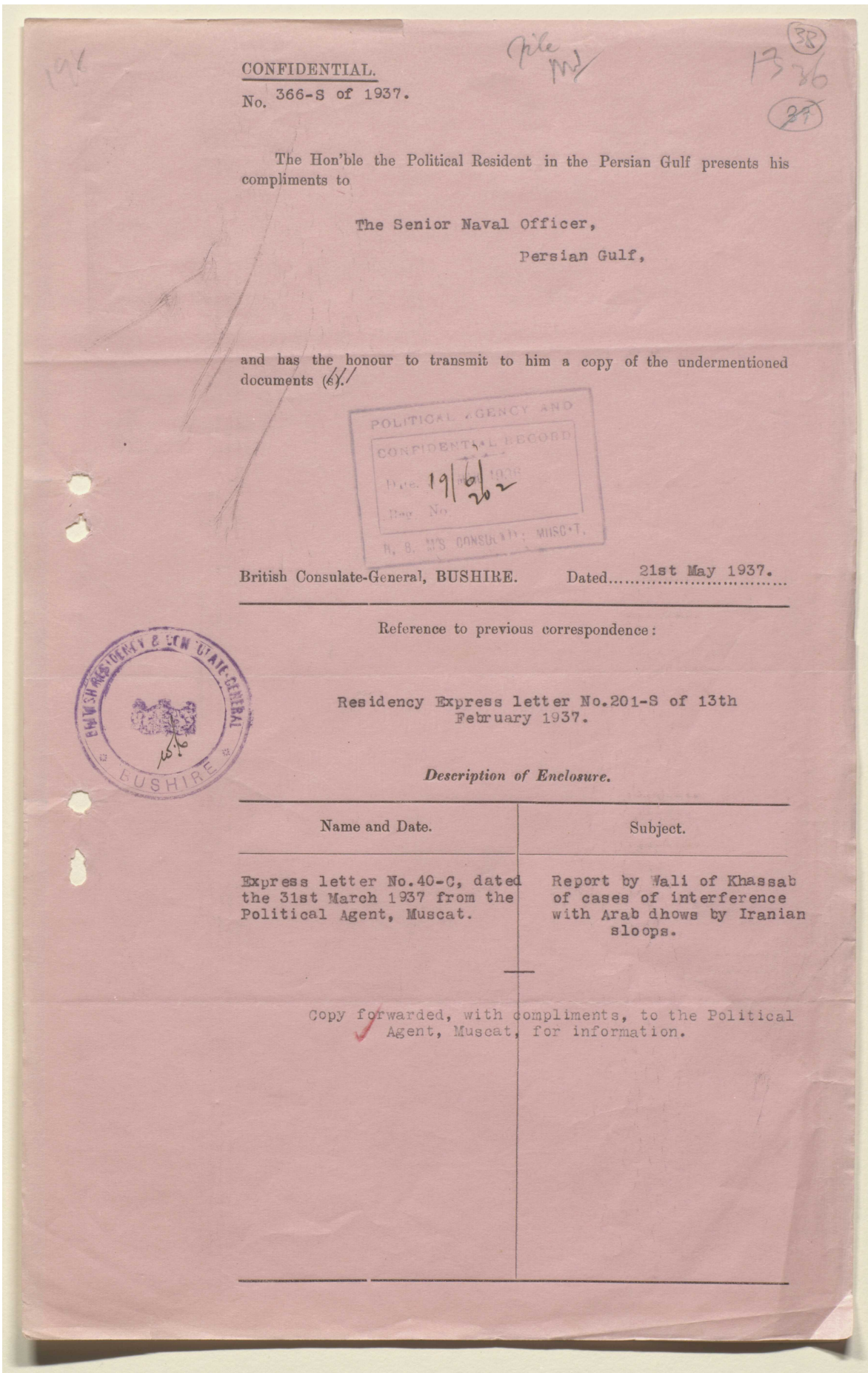
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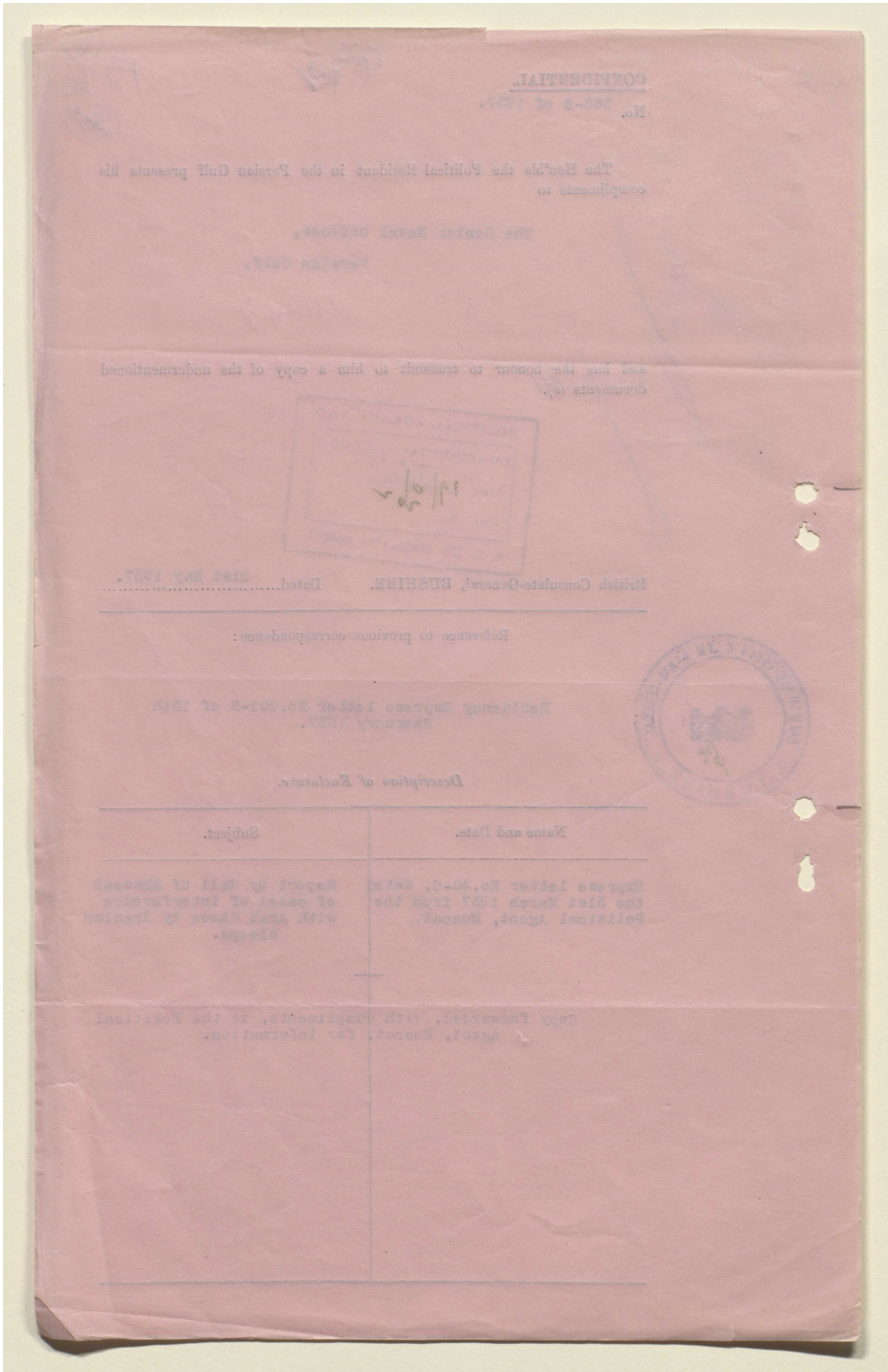
at these further cases of interference with  
Arab vessels outside Iranian territorial waters.  
In my note No. 112 of the 11th March (20th  
Erand 1315) I had the honour to remind Your  
Excellency that incidents of this nature could  
not but make a most unfortunate impression. I  
have no doubt that His Majesty's Government in  
the United Kingdom and the Government of India  
will view these further incidents with much  
concern, and I would therefore again earnestly  
request Your Excellency, in the interests of  
the friendly relations so happily existing  
between those Governments and the Imperial  
Government, to issue strict instructions to be  
issued to the Commanding Officers of His  
Imperial Majesty's ships to abstain from inter-  
ference with Arab vessels outside Iranian  
territorial waters.  
I avail myself of this opportunity to  
renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my  
highest consideration.

(signed) H. L. SEYMOUR.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [38r] (75/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [38v] (76/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [39r] (77/164)

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1437 (39)  
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CONFIDENTIAL.

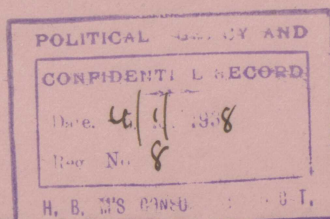
No. 834-B of 1937.

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

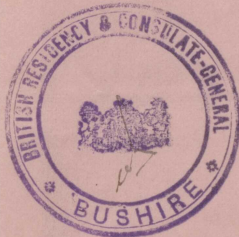
1. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.
2. The Political Agent, Kuwait.
3. The Political Agent, Bahrain.
4. The Political Agent, Muscat. ✓

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

*file in 32*



British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated...17th..December...1937.



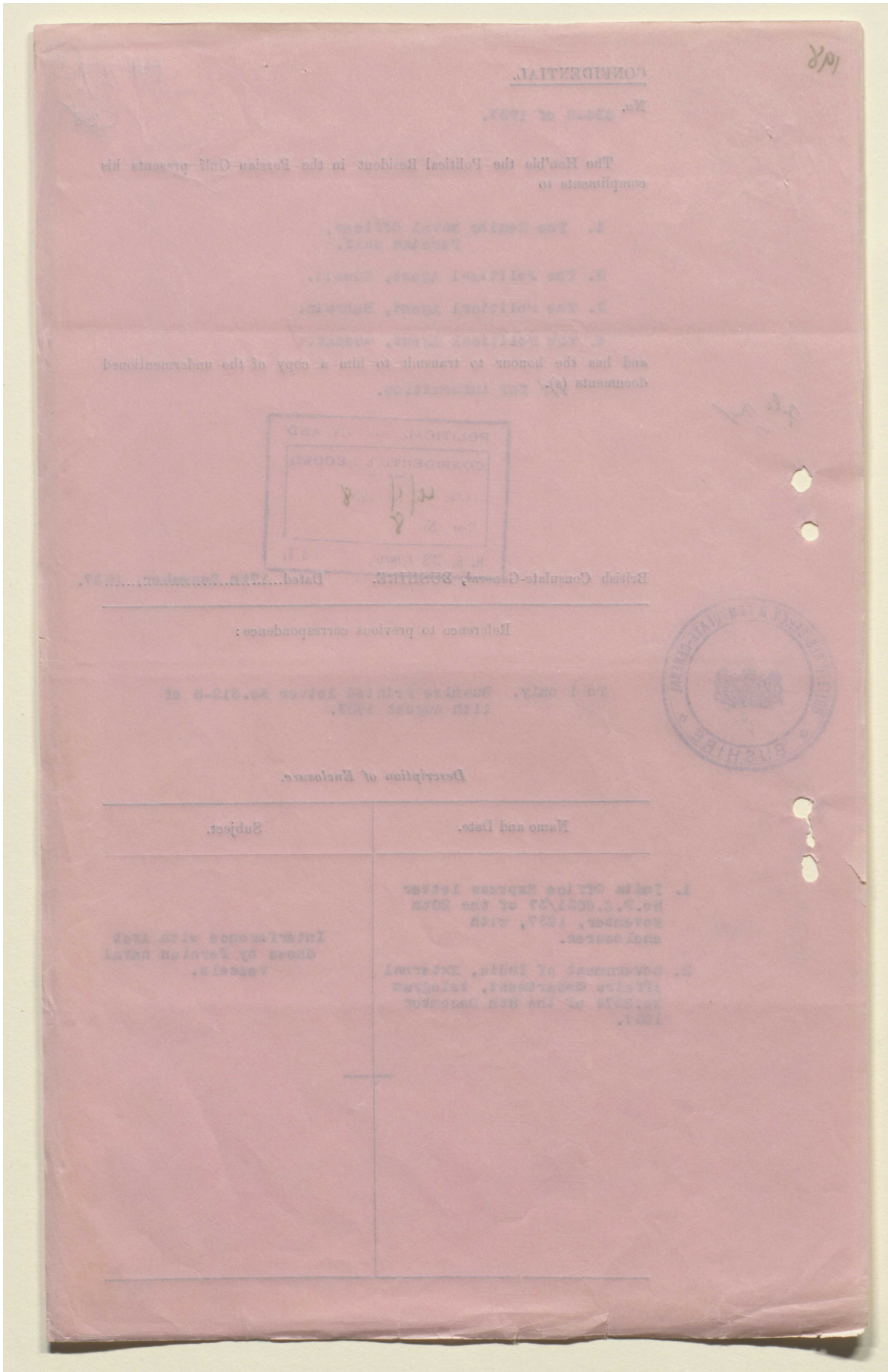
Reference to previous correspondence:

To 1 only. Bushire Printed letter No.612-B of 11th August 1937.

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
1. India Office Express letter No.P.2.6031/37 of the 20th November, 1937, with enclosures.	Interference with Arab dhows by Persian naval vessels.
2. Government of India, External Affairs Department, telegram No.2379 of the 8th December 1937.	

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [39v] (78/164)



(40) H 38  
39

Copy.

EXPRESS LETTER (AIR MAIL).

From - Secretary of State for India

To - Government of India, External Affairs Department.

Copy sent to Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Dated - 20th November, 1937.

No. P.Z.6031/37.

Interference with Arab dhows by Persian naval vessels. Please see Foreign Office letter to Admiralty dated 7th July, No.E 3169/1359/91, (copy sent to you by sea mail of 15th July) and enclosed copy of Admiralty reply dated 10th September, and other connected correspondence including Tehran despatch of 31st July, copy sent to you as No.130.

After consultation with Fowle and subject to your views I am disposed to think that in present circumstances it would be inadvisable to pursue the proposal for the cancellation of the Muscat proclamation of 1898, the Bahrain proclamation of 1898 and the Kuwait proclamation of 1900, and I am also disposed to agree with the views of the Admiralty regarding the nature of the instructions which should be issued to His Majesty's Ships.

I should be grateful if your views could be communicated by telegraph.

(The issue of the above has been duly authorised)

sd. J.P.Gibson.



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [40v] (80/164)

75 28 4 20

Copy.  
EXPRESS LETTER (AIR MAIL).

From - Secretary of State for India  
To - Government of India, External Affairs Department.  
Copy sent to Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.  
Dated - 20th November, 1937.  
No. P.2.8031/37.

Interference with Arab dhows by Persian naval  
vessels. Please see Foreign Office letter to Admiralty dated  
7th July, No. E 3189/138/21. (copy sent to you by sea mail of 15th July) and enclosed copy of Admiralty reply dated 10th  
September, and other connected correspondence including  
Tehran despatch of 31st July, copy sent to you as No. 130.  
After consultation with Lowe and subject to your  
views I am disposed to think that in present circumstances it  
would be inadvisable to pursue the proposal for the cancella-  
tion of the Muscat proclamation of 1898, the Bahrain proclama-  
tion of 1898 and the Kuwait proclamation of 1900, and I am  
also disposed to agree with the views of the Admiralty  
regarding the nature of the instructions which should be  
issued to His Majesty's Ships.  
I should be grateful if your views could be  
communicated by telegraph.

(The issue of the above has been duly authorized)

ed. J.P. Gibson.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [41r] (81/164)

Copy.  
P.Z.6031/37.

46-38 (41)  
40  
Enclosures in Admiralty covering Note No. M.03427/  
37 dated the 10th September, 1937.

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.  
10th September.1937.

Confidential.

M.03427/37.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.E.3169/1359/91 of the 7th July, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to state, for the information of Viscount Halifax, that Their Lordships have had under consideration the memorandum dealing with interference by Persian warships with Arab dhows which was enclosed in Mr.Seymour's despatch No.147 of the 21st April last, together with the comments of the Political Resident on this memorandum which were contained in a semi-official letter to Sir Aubrey Metcalfe dated 21st May.

2. The main point raised in Mr.Seymour's memorandum is whether or not force should in the last resort be employed by one of H.M.Ships to protect an Arab dhow against molestation by a Persian warship. They note that Mr.Seymour suggests that, although force might properly be used in Arab territorial waters, it should not at present be authorised in cases occurring on the high seas.

3. Their Lordships suggest that the necessity for the employment of force against a Persian warship in such an eventuality is very unlikely to arise. On the one occasion when a few years ago a British sloop came on the scene when a Persian warship was interfering with an Arab dhow, the Persian ship made off in great haste long before H.M.Ship came up with the dhow.

4. My Lords nevertheless consider it to be important that H.M.Ships should have clear authority to use force if necessary,

The Under Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

on /

(4)  
10/23/37  
ADMIRALTY, S.W.I.  
10th September, 1937.

CONFIDENTIAL.

M.03427/37.

COPY.  
P.2.6037/37.  
Enclosures in Admiralty covering note no. M.03427/  
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Sir,

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4. My Lords nevertheless consider it to be important that H.M. Ships should have clear authority to use force if necessary.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office, S.W.I.

-2-

17-40 (42)  
(41)

on the high seas as well as in Arab territorial waters. They suggest, therefore, that the instructions should take the form that, in the event of an Arab dhow being interfered with in the presence of a British warship, the latter should communicate with the Persian warship, warn her that she is committing an illegal act and, if necessary, take the dhow in tow and take such other steps as are necessary to ensure that she is not further interfered with. They would point out that unless the instructions are in the sense suggested above, there is always the possibility, however remote, that a Persian war vessel might persist in her interference in the presence of and in spite of remonstrances by a British warship. If in such circumstances no attempt were made to resist the illegal action of the Persian warship the effect upon our prestige amongst the Arabs would be likely to be serious.

5. An additional reason for issuing instructions in the sense proposed above is that (in spite of recent verbal communications by individual Persian officials) it seems likely that it will shortly be necessary to make a formal communication to the Persian Government in the sense proposed in paragraph 6 of Mr. Seymour's memorandum - namely that ~~the~~ orders have been given to H.M. Ships to prevent any interference with Arab dhows on the high seas. In this connection, their Lords concur with the views expressed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Political Resident's semi-official letter of the 21st May. Any divergence between the language used at Tehran and the instructions issued to H.M. Ships would clearly be open to objection.

6. Another suggestion contained in Mr. Seymour's memorandum is that in waters claimed by Persia as territorial, but not admitted as such by His Majesty's Government, the same course should /

-3-

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6. Another suggestion contained in Mr. Seymour's memorandum is that in waters claimed by Persia as territorial, but not admitted as such by His Majesty's Government, the same course should

-3-

should be adopted as in Persian territorial waters proper - namely that there should be no intervention by His Majesty's Ships, but that diplomatic protests should be made and claims advanced if the vessels have been arrested without reasonable cause. The reason he advances for making this suggestion is the desirability of avoiding risking a reference to an international tribunal on the question of the limit of Persian territorial waters.

7. Their Lordships feel that arrangements on the lines proposed are unnecessarily complicated, and that the risk of an incident leading to recourse to an international tribunal on the question of the proper extent of territorial waters can be discounted. They therefore suggest that the same instructions should cover the whole of the high seas, up to the limit admitted by us as Persian territorial water.

8. As regards possible interferences inside Arab territorial waters, Their Lordships would draw attention to the Muscat, Bahrain and Kuwait Proclamations made in 1898-1900 in connection with the arms traffic. Copies of these proclamations are appended for convenient reference. It will be seen that they all confer upon Persian vessels the right of search of Muscati, Bahraini and Kuwaiti dhows within the ruler's own territorial waters. The question of the cancellation of these proclamations has recently been under consideration - see in this connection semi-official correspondence commencing with Mr. Clauson's letter P.Z.2970 of the 11th May and Foreign Office despatch No.204 to Tehran. Their Lordships consider that it is extremely unlikely that the Persian Government are aware of these provisions, and they feel that it is not necessary to take open steps to cancel them - which, as pointed out in the correspondence /

-3-

should be adopted as in Persian territorial waters proper - namely that there should be no intervention by His Majesty's ships, but that diplomatic protests should be made and claims advanced if the vessels have been arrested without reasonable cause. The reason he advances for making this suggestion is the desirability of avoiding risking a reference to an international tribunal on the question of the limit of Persian territorial waters.

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79 (44)  
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-4-

correspondence referred to above, might draw attention to the Persian Firman of 1897. They would point out moreover that these proclamations only relate to the suppression of the arms trade, whereas the present activities of the foreign warships seem to be mainly directed to the suppression of smuggling.

9. In order to cover the point, Their Lordships suggest that the instructions to H.M. Ships should provide that if a Persian warship which is interfering with an Arab dhow attempts to justify her action to a British warship by alleging that the vessel is engaged in the arms traffic, the British Commanding Officer should reply that, if the allegation proves to be correct, he will see that the offenders are properly dealt with according to the law to which they are subject; and that he should subsequently take the necessary steps to ensure that this is done, acting in collaboration with the Political Resident and his staff. It is understood that all the Arab States in treaty relations with H.M. Government have legislation prohibiting their subjects from engaging in the arms traffic.

10. Their Lordships have noted that in the Political Resident's note dated 26th February suggesting the cancellation of the proclamations, it is stated in paragraph 2 that under the Muscat Proclamation Persian vessels have rights of search of Muscat vessels on the high seas. Their Lordships presume that this interpretation is based upon the notification dated 13th January, 1898, which was apparently issued at the same time as the proclamation and which states that "in future our Muscat flag will be no protection to vessels carrying the said arms and ammunition from our dominions to India and Persia." Their Lordships would suggest that it is unnecessary to treat this notification as formally conveying powers of search upon the

high /



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right

-5-

high seas, and that it can be regarded as being no more than an intimation to the Sultan's subjects that they cannot expect the support of their ruler if they indulge in forbidden activities. On the assumption, therefore, that no other document exists which confers these powers in a more formal and definite manner, Their Lordships suggest that the matter would be adequately met if the instruction covering the case where a Persian warship alleges that a dhow is engaged in the arms traffic (see paragraph 9 above) were made applicable to any case of interference with an Arab dhow on the high seas as well as in Arab territorial waters.

11. In reply to the enquiry as to the existing instructions in your letter of the 7th July, I am to state that Their Lordships have been unable to trace that any specific instructions governing the use of force have been issued to H.M. Ships in connection with Persian interferences with Arab dhows, other than those issued in Admiralty letter M.01721/31 of the 14th October, 1931, (copies of which were sent to Foreign Office and India Office on the same date) which stated that "any interference outside Persian territorial waters with Arab dhows suspected of smuggling would call for a strong protest. The action to be taken would, however, have to depend on the circumstances of the case". As regards instruction of general application, Article 949 K.R. and A.I. provides that British ships (which would undoubtedly be interpreted as including ships under British protection) "are only to be protected by force against actual and wrongful violence and when remonstrance has failed". This Article relates to British ships in foreign ports, and a fortiori it could be argued that it applies with even /

-3-

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connection with Persian interferences with Arab dhows, other  
than those issued in Admiralty letter M.01251\31 of the 14th  
October, 1931, (copies of which were sent to Foreign Office  
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under British protection) "are only to be protected by force  
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failed". This Article relates to British ships in foreign  
ports, and a fortiori it could be argued that it applies with  
even

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [46r] (91/164)

-6-

even greater force to British ships upon the high seas.

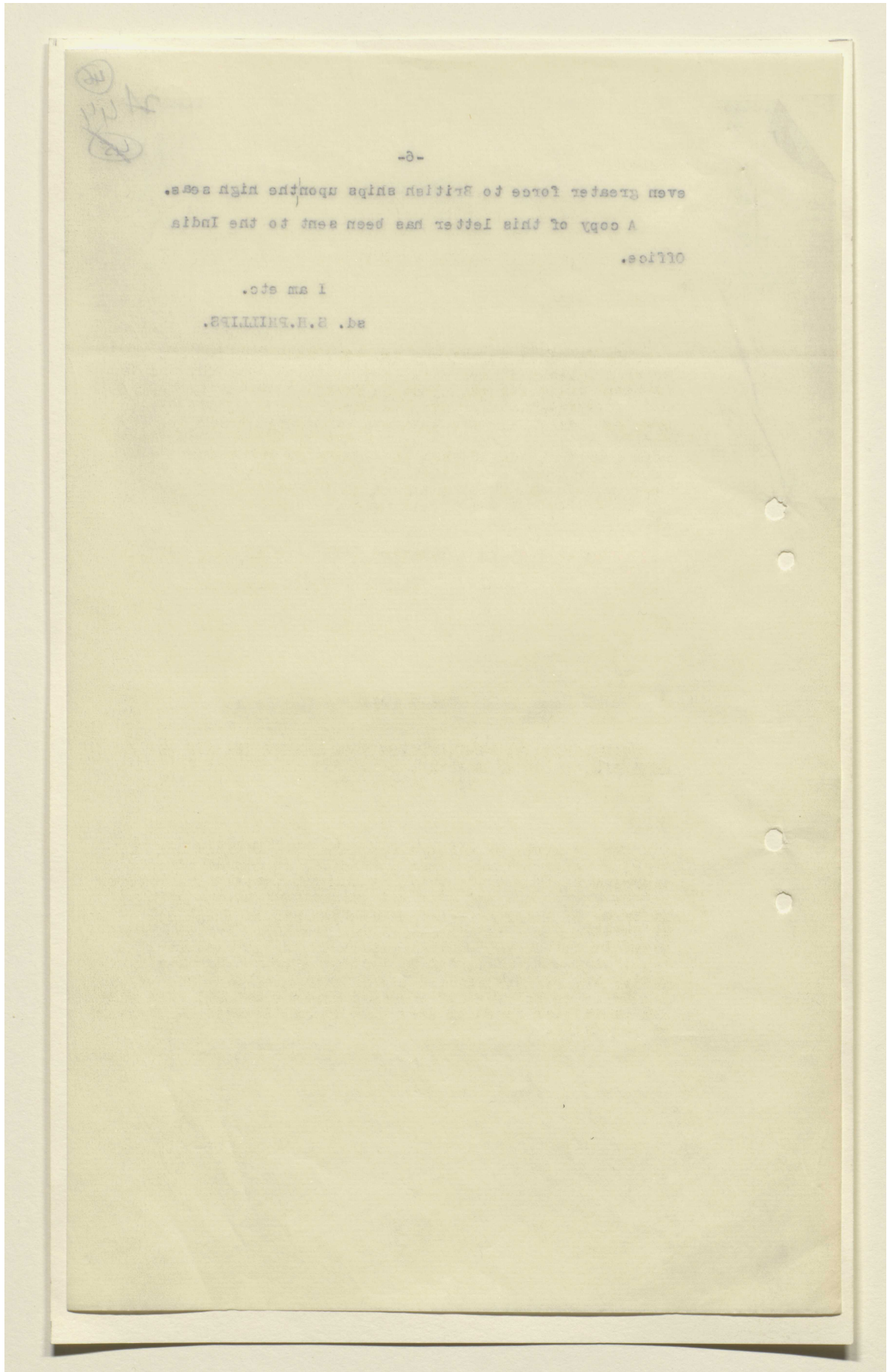
A copy of this letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am etc.

sd. S.H.PHILLIPS.

2444  
46  
45

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [46v] (92/164)



Copy.

No. 3 (b).

NOTIFICATION BY SHAHK MUBARAK-BIN-SUBAH, CHIEF OF  
KUWAIT.

Be it known to all who see this that British and Persian vessels of war have permission to search vessels carrying their and our flags in Kuwait territorial waters and to confiscate all arms and ammunition in them if these arms and ammunition are intended for Indian or Persian or Kuwait ports. Kuwait vessels found in Indian and Persian waters by British and Persian vessels of war suspected to contain arms and ammunition for Indian, Persian and Kuwait ports are liable to be searched by the said vessels and all such arms and ammunition found in them will be confiscated.

Dated this 24th Muharram 1318 (: 24th May, 1900)

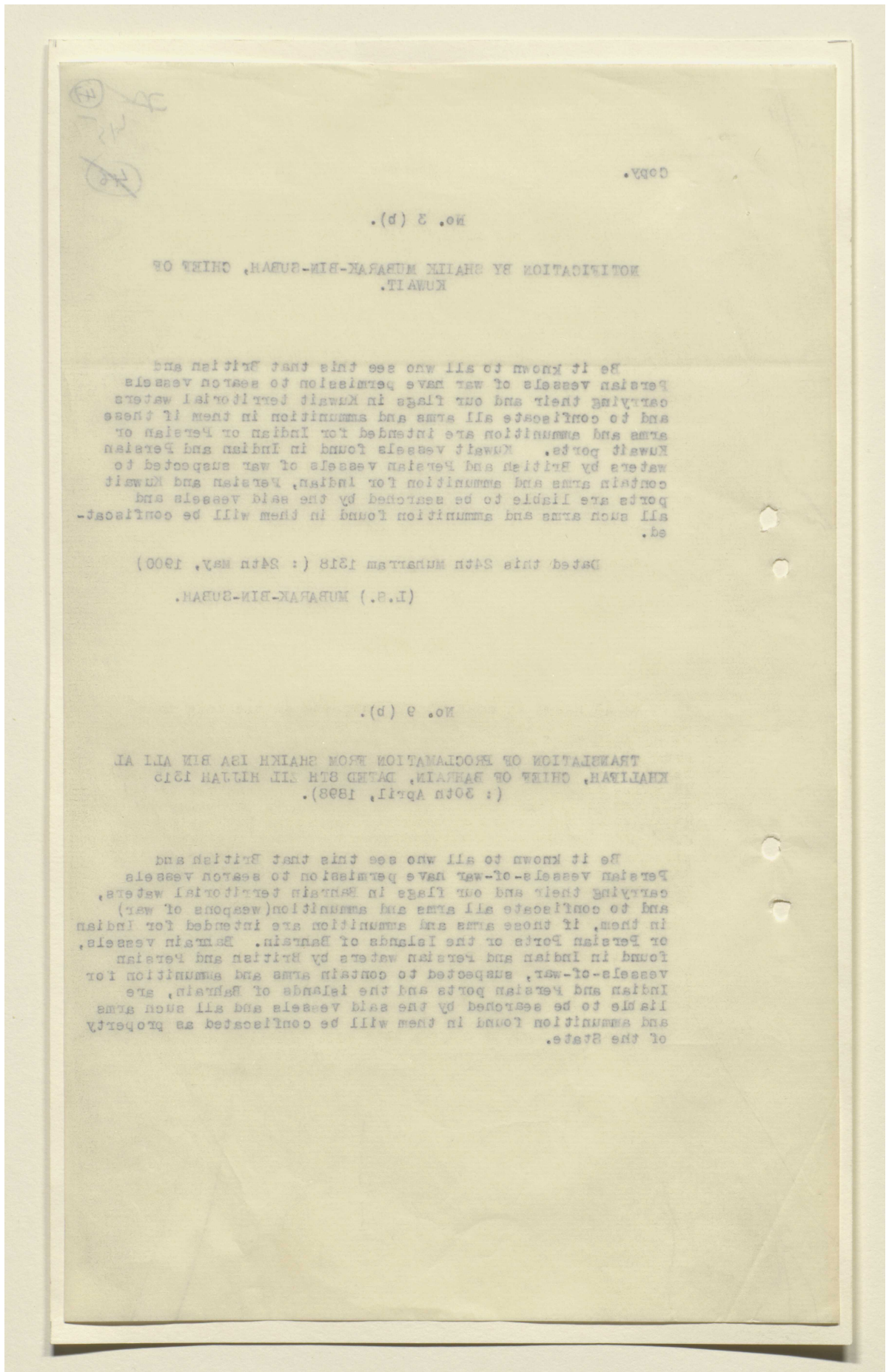
(I.S.) MUBARAK-BIN-SUBAH.

No. 9 (b).

TRANSLATION OF PROCLAMATION FROM SHAIKH ISA BIN ALI AL  
KHALIFAH, CHIEF OF BAHRAIN, DATED 8TH ZIL HIJJAH 1315  
(: 30th April, 1898).

Be it known to all who see this that British and Persian vessels-of-war have permission to search vessels carrying their and our flags in Bahrain territorial waters, and to confiscate all arms and ammunition (weapons of war) in them, if those arms and ammunition are intended for Indian or Persian Ports or the Islands of Bahrain. Bahrain vessels, found in Indian and Persian waters by British and Persian vessels-of-war, suspected to contain arms and ammunition for Indian and Persian ports and the islands of Bahrain, are liable to be searched by the said vessels and all such arms and ammunition found in them will be confiscated as property of the State.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [47v] (94/164)



Copy.

No. 8a.

TRANSLATION OF PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE SULTAN OF  
OMAN REGARDING THE SUPPRESSION OF THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION  
OF ARMS INTO PERSIA AND BRITISH INDIA, 1898.

Be it known to all who see it that we have given permission to British and Persian vessels of war to search vessels carrying their and our flags in our territorial waters, and to confiscate all arms and ammunition (weapons of war) in them, if those arms and ammunition are intended for Indian and Persian ports, and if they are the property of British, Persian or Muscat subjects.

We have also given permission to those vessels of war to search Muscat vessels in Indian and Persian waters suspected to contain arms and ammunition for Indian and Persian ports, and to confiscate the said arms and ammunition.

(This is written) that it may be know. And salaams.

written the 19th say of Shaban 1315 A.H.(13th January, 1898).

No. 8(b).

Be it known to such of our subjects as see this that, whereas the British and Persian Governments have represented to us that they are desirous of preventing introduction of arms and ammunition into India and Persia and that there is reason to think that many are exported from Muscat and taken to those two above named countries, we have resolved to join them and to assist them as far as it lies in our power in suppressing this trade in arms and ammunition between Muscat and India and Persia. We therefore warn (our subjects) that all the arms and ammunition sent to those two countries will be confiscated and those engaged in this trade will be punished, as the introduction of arms and ammunition into India and Persia is prohibited by the Governments of those two countries and therefore illegal.

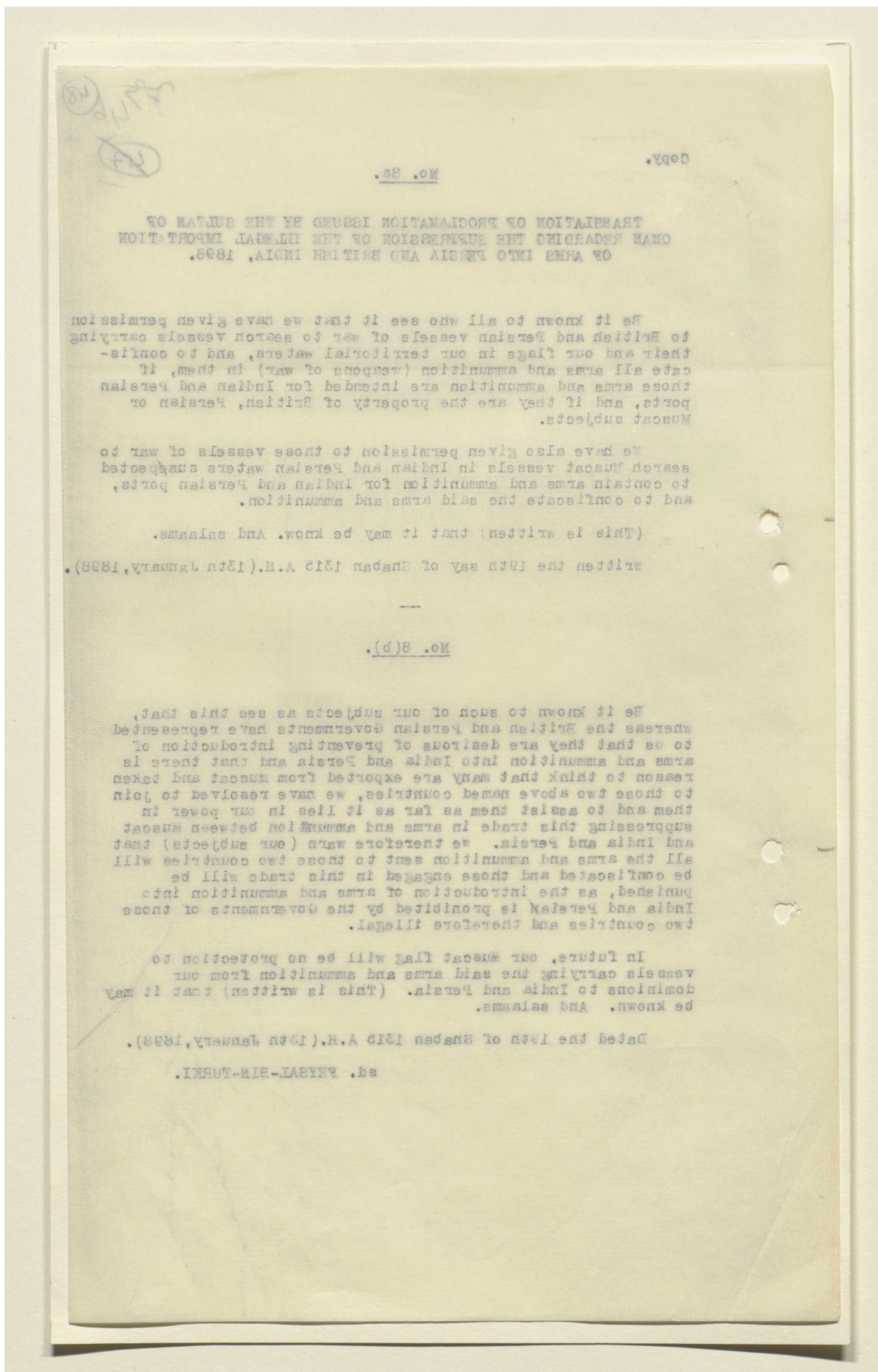
In future, our Muscat flag will be no protection to vessels carrying the said arms and ammunition from our dominions to India and Persia. (This is written) that it may be known. And salaams.

Dated the 19th of Shaban 1315 A.H.(13th January, 1898).

sd. FEYSAL-BIN-TURKI.



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [48v] (96/164)



Handwritten marks: a circled '48' and some illegible scribbles.

No. 8a.

Copy.

TRANSMISSION OF PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF  
OMAN REGARDING THE SUPPRESSION OF THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION  
OF ARMS INTO PERSIA AND BRITISH INDIA, 1898.

It is known to all who see it that we have given permission  
to British and Persian vessels of war to search vessels carrying  
their and our flags in our territorial waters, and to confiscate  
all arms and ammunition (weapons of war) in them, if  
those arms and ammunition are intended for Indian and Persian  
ports, and if they are the property of British, Persian or  
Muscat subjects.

We have also given permission to those vessels of war to  
search Muscat vessels in Indian and Persian waters suspected  
to contain arms and ammunition for Indian and Persian ports,  
and to confiscate the said arms and ammunition.

(This is written) that it may be known. And salams.

Written the 13th day of Shaaban 1319 A.H. (13th January, 1898).

No. 8(b).

It is known to such of our subjects as see this that  
whereas the British and Persian governments have represented  
to us that they are desirous of preventing introduction of  
arms and ammunition into India and Persia and that there is  
reason to think that many are exported from Muscat and taken  
to those two above named countries, we have resolved to join  
them and to assist them as far as it lies in our power in  
suppressing this trade in arms and ammunition between Muscat  
and India and Persia. We therefore warn (our subjects) that  
all the arms and ammunition sent to those two countries will  
be confiscated and those engaged in this trade will be  
punished, as the introduction of arms and ammunition into  
two countries and therefore illegal.

In future, our Muscat flag will be no protection to  
vessels carrying the said arms and ammunition from our  
dominions to India and Persia. (This is written) that it may  
be known. And salams.

Dated the 13th of Shaaban 1319 A.H. (13th January, 1898).

BY: THEYAL-BIR-TURKI.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [49r] (97/164)

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(49)  
~~48~~

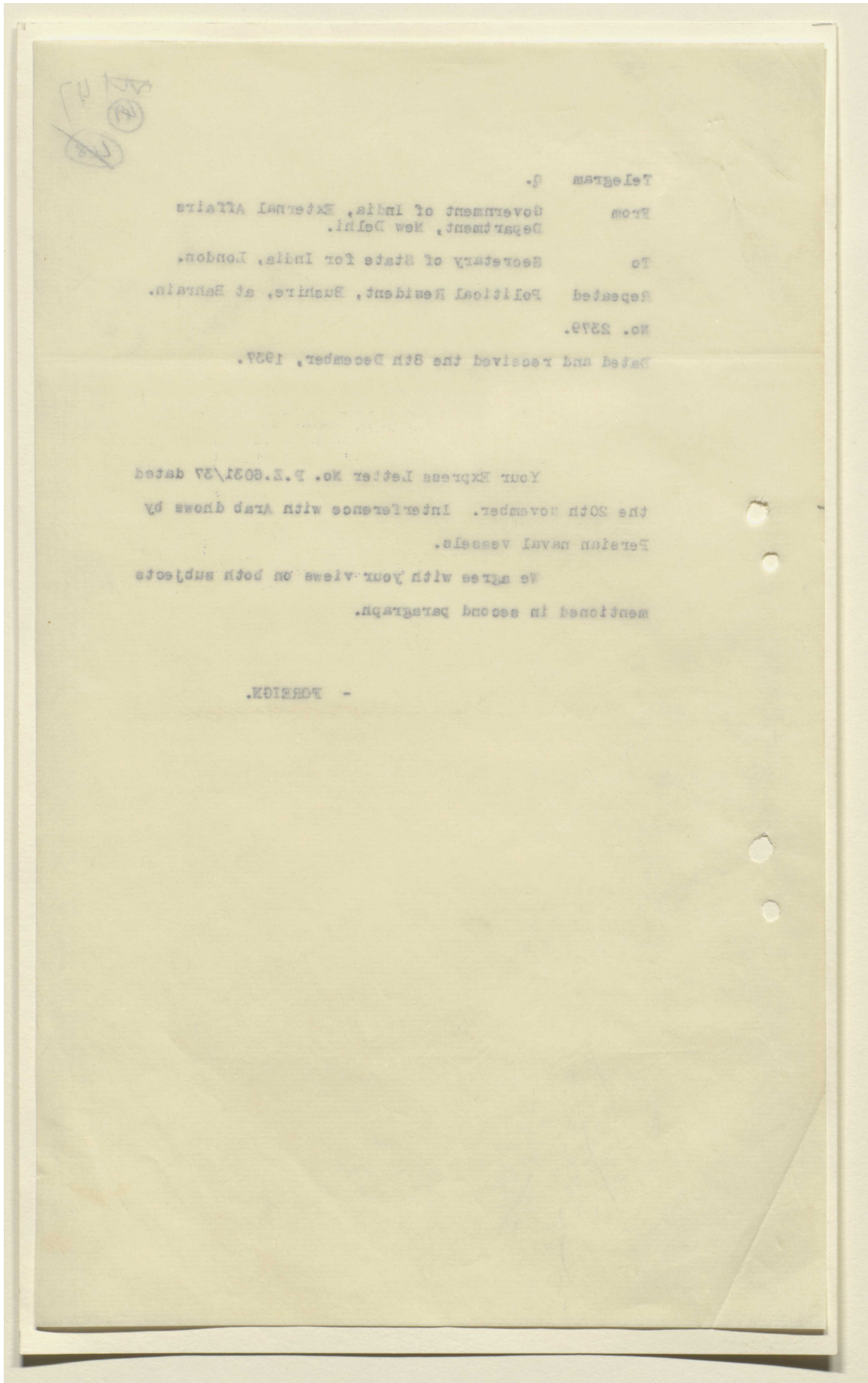
Telegram Q.  
From Government of India, External Affairs  
Department, New Delhi.  
To Secretary of State for India, London.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire, at Bahrain.  
No. 2379.  
Dated and received the 8th December, 1937.

Your Express Letter No. P.Z.6031/37 dated  
the 20th November. Interference with Arab dhows by  
Persian naval vessels.

We agree with your views on both subjects  
mentioned in second paragraph.

- FOREIGN.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [49v] (98/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [50r] (99/164)

198

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 62-S of 1938.

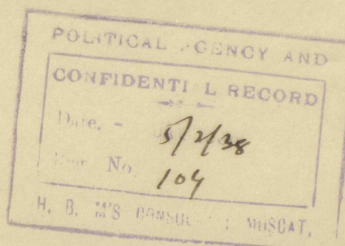
File in 210

2548 (50)  
(49)

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

1. Political Agent, Bahrain.
2. Political Agent, Muscat. ✓
3. Political Agent, Kuwait.
4. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

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



British Consulate-General,  
BUSHIRE.

Dated... 25th January 1938



Reference to previous correspondence:

India Office Express Letter No.P.Z.6031/37 of 20/11/37,  
sent under Residency P.L. No.834-S of 17th December 1937.  
*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>India Office letter No.P.Z. 8003/37, dated 14th December 1937, to the Foreign Office.</p>	<p>114 Persian Government's rights of inspection and search of Arab Dhows.</p>

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [50v] (100/164)

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 68-3 of 1938.

1938

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his com-  
pliments to

1. Political Agent, Bahrain.
2. Political Agent, Muscat.
3. Political Agent, Kuwait.
4. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned docu-  
ment (a).

POLITICAL COPY AND  
CONFIDENTIAL RECORD

Date - 1/1/38  
No. 101

H. B. M. S. ...

British Consulate-General,  
BUSHIRE.

Dated... 15th January 1938

Reference to previous correspondence:

India Office Express Letter No. P.S. 6002/37 of 20/11/37.  
sent under Residency P.I. No. 244-A of 17th December 1937.  
Description of Enclosure.

Subject.	Name and Date.
<p>Iranian Government's request of inspection and seizure of Arab dhows.</p>	<p>India Office letter No. P.S. 6002/37, dated 14th December 1937, to the Naval Officer.</p>

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [51r] (101/164)

P.Z.8003/37

India Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

14th December, 1937.

My dear Baggallay,

Would you kindly refer to Clauson's letter of the 11th May, No.P.Z.2970/37 and connected correspondence about the Persian Government's rights of inspection and search of Arab Dhows ?

We have given further consideration to the question of the cancellation of the Muscat, Bahrain and Kuwait Proclamations in the light of the views expressed in the subsequent correspondence and after consultation with Fowle and the Government of India we agree with the generally expressed view that in present circumstances it would be inadvisable to cancel the proclamations.

We also agree with the views expressed in Admiralty letter of the 10th September, No.M.03427/37 regarding the nature of the instructions which should be issued to His Majesty's Ships.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Seal at the Admiralty.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. J.P. GIBSON

H.L. Baggallay, Esq.

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [51v] (102/164)

12  
India Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.  
14th December, 1937.

P.L.8003/37

My dear Baskin,

Would you kindly refer to Ganson's letter of the 11th May, No.P.L.8003/37 and connected correspondence about the Persian Government's rights of inspection and search of Arab Dhows?

We have given further consideration to the question of the cancellation of the Mesopotamian, Bahrain and Kuwait proclamations in the light of the views expressed in the subsequent correspondence and after consultation with the Government of India we agree with the generally expressed view that in present circumstances it would be inadvisable to cancel the proclamations.

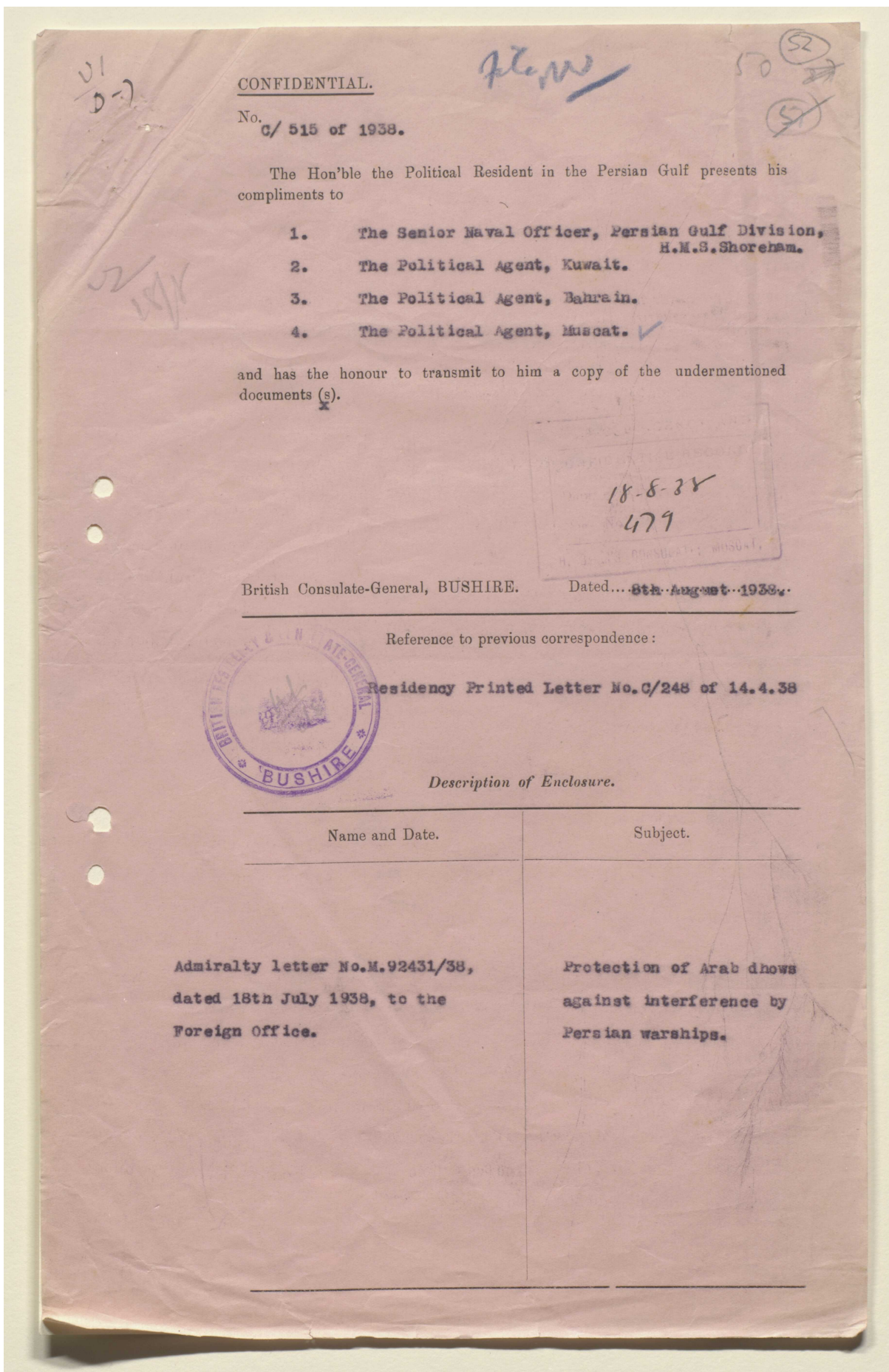
We also agree with the views expressed in Admiralty letter of the 10th September, No.M.03427/37 regarding the nature of the instructions which should be issued to His Majesty's Ships.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Seal at the Admiralty.

Yours sincerely,  
M. T. P. GIBSON

H.I. Baskin, Esq.  
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [52r] (103/164)



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*Alam*

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. **C/ 515 of 1938.**

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

1. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, H.M.S. Shoreham.
2. The Political Agent, Kuwait.
3. The Political Agent, Bahrain.
4. The Political Agent, Muscat. ✓

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

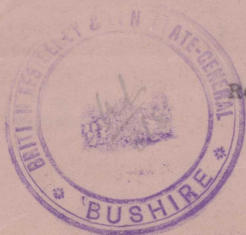
*18-8-38*  
*479*

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE.

Dated... ~~8th August 1938~~...

Reference to previous correspondence :

Residency Printed Letter No. C/248 of 14.4.38

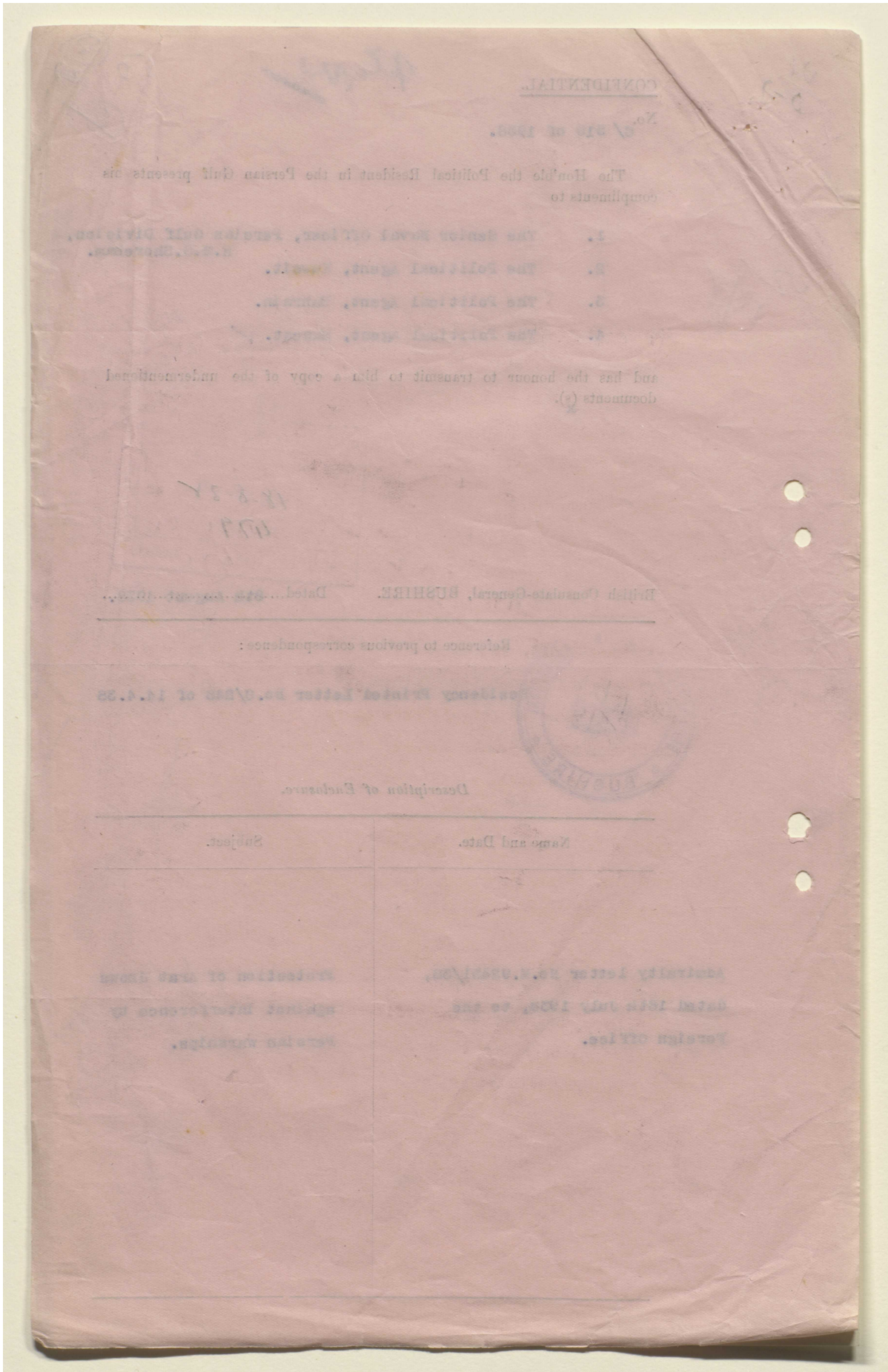


Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Admiralty letter No. M.92431/38, dated 18th July 1938, to the Foreign Office.	Protection of Arab dhows against interference by Persian warships.



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [52v] (104/164)



M.02431/38

18th July 1938.

Confidential.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Halifax, that they have had under consideration your letter E 968/162/91 of the 30th March, 1938, concerning the action to be taken by Commanding Officers of H.M. ships in the Persian Gulf to protect Arab dhows against interference by Persian ships.

2. My Lords note that Lord Halifax considers that the balance of advantage lies in including waters off the Iranian coast outside the three-mile limit, but within the six-mile limit, in the scope of the proposed instructions authorising Commanding Officers to use force in the last resort to prevent interference on the high seas. Lord Halifax then suggests, however, that in order to reduce the risk of a serious incident within the six-mile limit, further, possibly secret, instructions should be given to Commanding Officers that they should, so far as possible, contrive to avoid witnessing incidents which may occur within the six-mile limit.

3. My Lords have given careful consideration to Lord Halifax's suggestion, but regret that they are unable to agree that Commanding Officers' discretion should be limited by such secret instructions. They do not consider that it would be in fact practicable to instruct H.M. Ships  
not to enter/

M.02431\38

18th July 1938

Confidential.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Halifax, that they have had under consideration your letter E 98\162\91 of the 30th March, 1938, concerning the action to be taken by Commanding Officers of H.M. ships in the Persian Gulf to protect Arab dhows against interference by Persian ships.

2. My Lords note that Lord Halifax considers that the balance of advantage lies in including waters off the Persian coast outside the three-mile limit, but within the six-mile limit, in the scope of the proposed instructions authorising Commanding Officers to use force in the last resort to prevent interference on the high seas. Lord Halifax then suggests, however, that in order to reduce the risk of a serious incident within the six-mile limit, further, possibly secret, instructions should be given to Commanding Officers that they should, as far as possible, contrive to avoid witnessing incidents which may occur within the six-mile limit.

3. My Lords have given careful consideration to Lord Halifax's suggestion, but regret that they are unable to agree that Commanding Officers' discretion should be limited by such secret instructions. They do not consider that it would be in fact practicable to instruct H.M. ships not to enter

2.

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54

enter the six-mile limit. It would not, for instance, be possible, without serious detriment to our prestige for H.M. Ships patrolling outside the six-mile limit either to ignore an incident which they may observe within the six-mile limit, or fail to pursue, if necessary, an offending Persian vessel up to the limit of waters claimed by us as the high seas. The damage to our prestige would be all the more serious if, as would now be the case, it were public knowledge that we had authorised resistance to Persian interference outside Persian territorial waters. It would therefore seem necessary, if the risk of incidents is to be avoided in the manner suggested by Lord Halifax for H.M. Ships to be instructed to keep, not only outside the six mile limit, but at a distance from it sufficient to ensure that they did not witness any incident occurring within the six miles, or likely to involve pursuit beyond that limit. My Lords do not, however, consider that any such instruction would be desirable in principle or practical; those suggested by Lord Halifax would, not, in fact, avoid the risk of incidents, and would, My Lords consider, merely introduce an undesirable element of doubt in Commanding Officers' instructions which would make decision in particular cases difficult and embarrassing. As explained in Admiralty letter M.03427/37 of the 10th September, 1937, they do not consider that the risk of a serious incident arising is great, and, for the reasons explained above, they would be glad if Lord Halifax could agree to the issue of the instructions without the proposed reservation.

4. My Lords have also considered the proposal that H.M. Ships should undertake to see that suspected vessels  
proceed/-

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [54v] (108/164)

2.

enter the six-mile limit. It would not, for instance, be possible, without serious detriment to our prestige for H.M. Ships patrolling outside the six-mile limit either to ignore an incident which they may observe within the six-mile limit, or fail to pursue, if necessary, an offending Persian vessel up to the limit of waters claimed by us as the high seas. The damage to our prestige would be all the more serious if, as would now be the case, it were public knowledge that we had authorized resistance to Persian interference outside Persian territorial waters. It would therefore seem necessary, if the risk of incidents is to be avoided in the manner suggested by Lord Halifax for H.M. Ships to be instructed to keep, not only outside the six mile limit, but at a distance from it sufficient to ensure that they did not witness any incident occurring within the six miles, or likely to involve pursuit beyond that limit. My Lords do not, however, consider that any such instruction would be desirable in principle or practical; those suggested by Lord Halifax would, in fact, avoid the risk of incidents, and would, My Lords consider, merely introduce an undesirable element of doubt in Commanding Officers' instructions which would make decision in particular cases difficult and embarrassing. As explained in Admiralty letter M.03427/37 of the 10th September, 1937, they do not consider that the risk of a serious incident arising is great, and, for the reasons explained above, they would be glad if Lord Halifax could agree to the issue of the instructions without the proposed reservation.

4. My Lords have also considered the proposal that H.M. Ships should undertake to see that suspected vessels proceed -

SS 53  
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3.

proceed to their alleged destination, and that offences are investigated and punished. To be effective, this would involve escorting the dhow to its alleged destination. The actual destination of such dhows would presumably be generally within Persian waters; the a ~~alleged destination~~ might be anywhere, and an undertaking to escort suspected dhows would therefore be unacceptable for operational reasons. As regards the investigation and punishment of offences, Thier Lordships consider that the proposal in paragraph 9 of Admiralty letter of 10th September, 1937, would be sufficient to cover cases of suspected arms running. It is observed, however, that the activities of Persian warsnips appear at present to be mainly directed towards the suppression of smuggling, and its would not seem possible for any undertaking to be given that offences which are offences against Persian law will be investigated and punished elsewhere.

5. A copy of this letter is being sent to the India Office.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

sd/- S.H.Phillips

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [55v] (110/164)

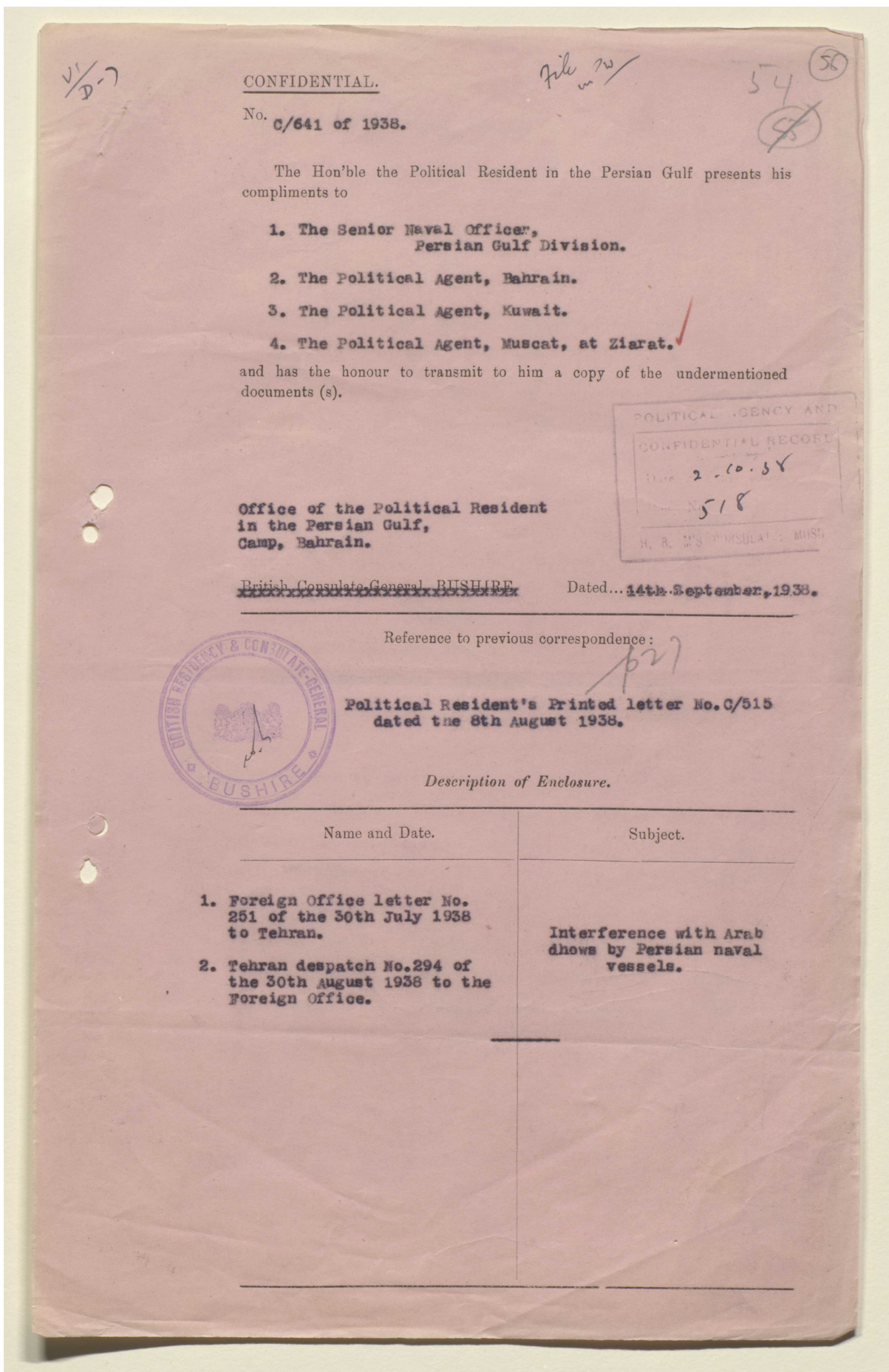
3.

proceed to their alleged destination, and that offences  
are investigated and punished. To be effective, this  
would involve escorting the dhow to its alleged destina-  
tion. The actual destination of such dhows would  
presumably be generally within Persian waters; the  
alleged destination might be anywhere, and an undertaking  
to escort suspected dhows would therefore be unacceptably  
for operational reasons. As regards the investigation  
and punishment of offences, their Lordships consider that  
the proposal in paragraph 9 of Admiralty letter of 10th  
September, 1937, would be sufficient to cover cases of  
suspected arms running. It is observed, however, that  
the activities of Persian warships appear at present to  
be mainly directed towards the suppression of smuggling,  
and it would not seem possible for any undertaking to be  
given that offences which are offences against Persian  
law will be investigated and punished elsewhere.

b. A copy of this letter is being sent to the  
India Office.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
ad - S.H. Phillips

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [56r] (111/164)



V1  
D-7

File in 70

54 (56)  
5

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. **C/641 of 1938.**

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

1. The Senior Naval Officer,  
Persian Gulf Division.
2. The Political Agent, Bahrain.
3. The Political Agent, Kuwait.
4. The Political Agent, Muscat, at Ziarat. ✓

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

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
Camp, Bahrain.

POLITICAL AGENCY AND  
CONFIDENTIAL RECORD  
Date 2-10-38  
518  
H. R. M'S CONSULATE, MUSCAT

~~British Consulate General, BUSHIRE~~

Dated... **14th September, 1938.**

Reference to previous correspondence:

Political Resident's Printed letter No. C/515  
dated the 8th August 1938.

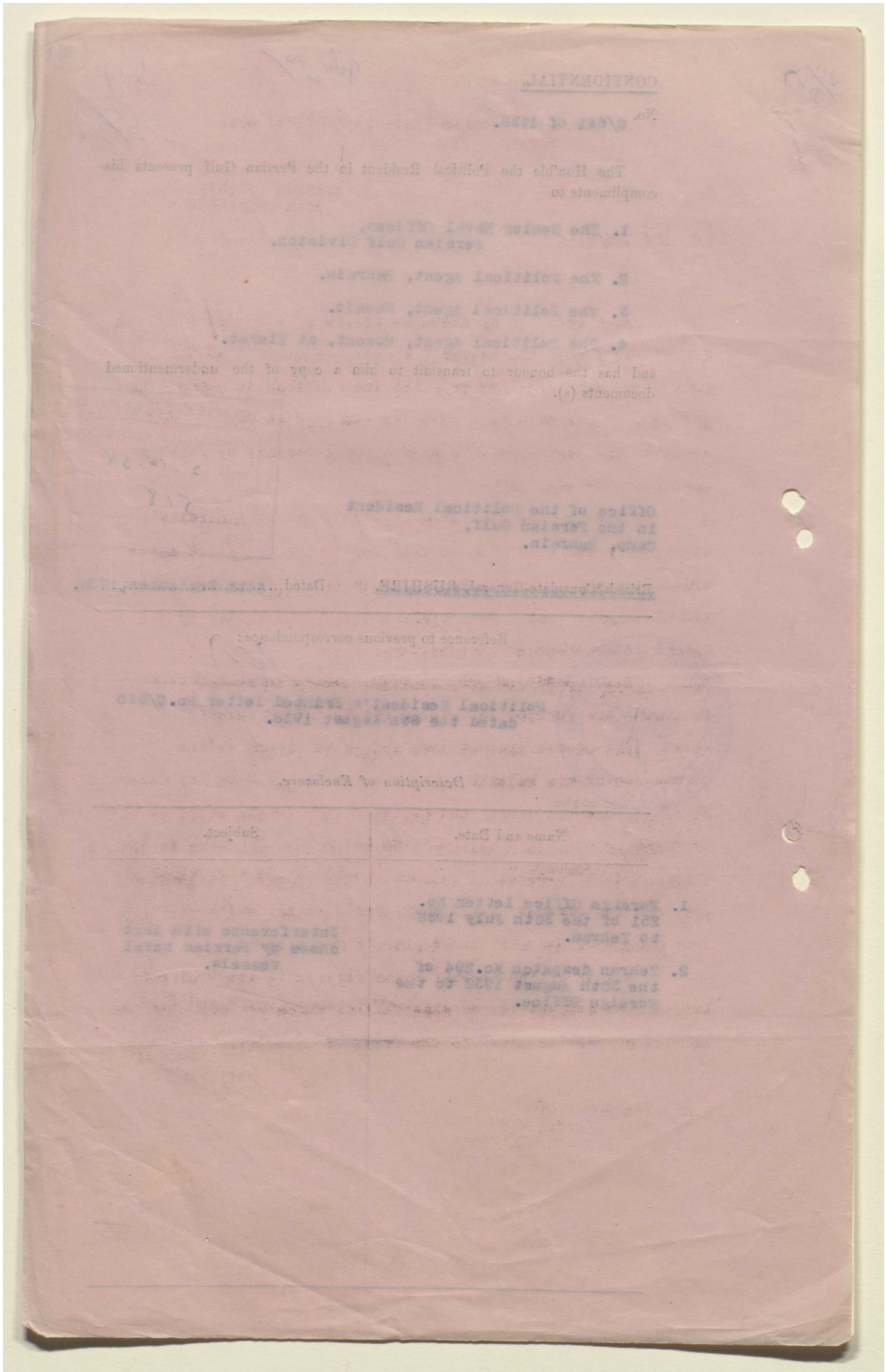


Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
1. Foreign Office letter No. 251 of the 30th July 1938 to Tehran.	Interference with Arab dhows by Persian naval vessels.
2. Tehran despatch No. 294 of the 30th August 1938 to the Foreign Office.	



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [56v] (112/164)



(Received under Tehran despatch No.55 of 30th  
August 1938).

53(57)  
30  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.  
30th July, 1938.

No. 251.  
(B 4289/162/91).

Sir,

Under cover of my despatch No.109 of the 31st March, I sent you a copy of a letter from this department to the Admiralty, regarding the proposed instructions to Commanding Officers of His Majesty's Ships in the Persian Gulf to use force in the last resort to prevent interference by Persian warships with Arab dhows.

2. I transmit to you herewith a copy of the Admiralty's reply, from which it will be seen that Their Lordships agree that the balance of advantage lies in including waters outside the three-mile limit, but within the six-mile limit, in the scope of the proposed instructions.

3. Their Lordships are, however, unable to accept the proposals put forward in Foreign Office letter referred to above, that secret instructions should be issued to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships to avoid entering the six-mile limit whenever possible, and secondly that in the event of an incident arising, His Majesty's Ships should undertake to ensure that the dhow in question proceed to its alleged destination, and that any offence (apart from arms running) which may have been committed be duly investigated and punished.

4. In view of the arguments put forward in the Admiralty letter, and subject to any observations which you may wish to make, I propose to agree to the issue of instructions in the

modified /

N.M. Butler Esq., CVO.,  
etc., etc., etc.,  
Tehran.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [57v] (114/164)

(Received under Tehran despatch No. 25 of 20th August 1903).

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.  
20th July, 1903.

No. 281.  
(A 4289/13/21).

Sir,

Under cover of my despatch No. 109 of the 21st March, I sent you a copy of the letter from this department to the Admiralty, regarding the proposed instructions to Commanding Officers of His Majesty's ships in the Persian Gulf to use force in the last resort to prevent interference by Persian warships with Arab dhows.

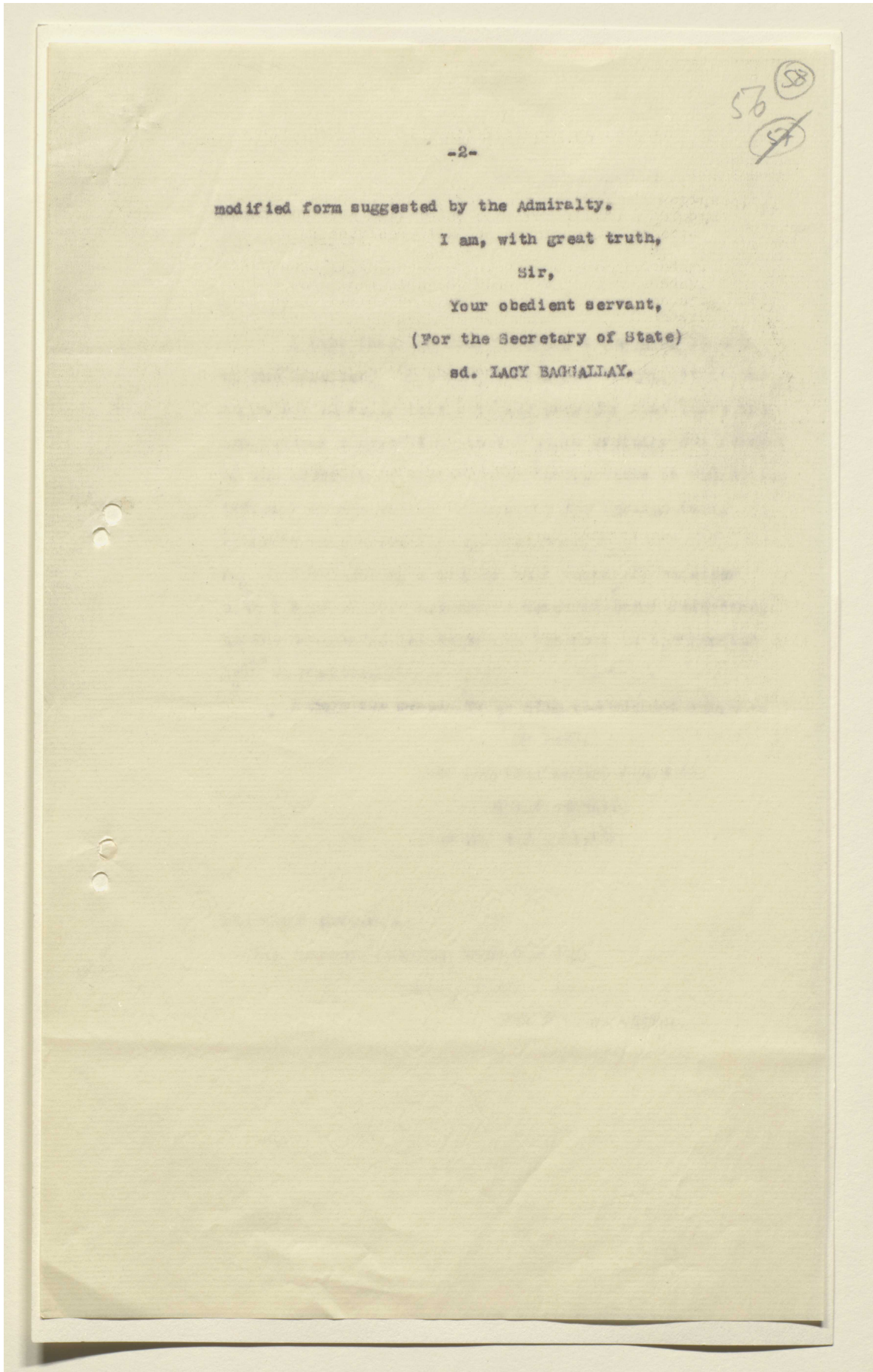
I transmit to you herewith a copy of the Admiralty's reply, from which it will be seen that their foreign office agrees that the balance of advantage lies in including waters outside the three-mile limit, but within the six-mile limit, in the scope of the proposed instructions.

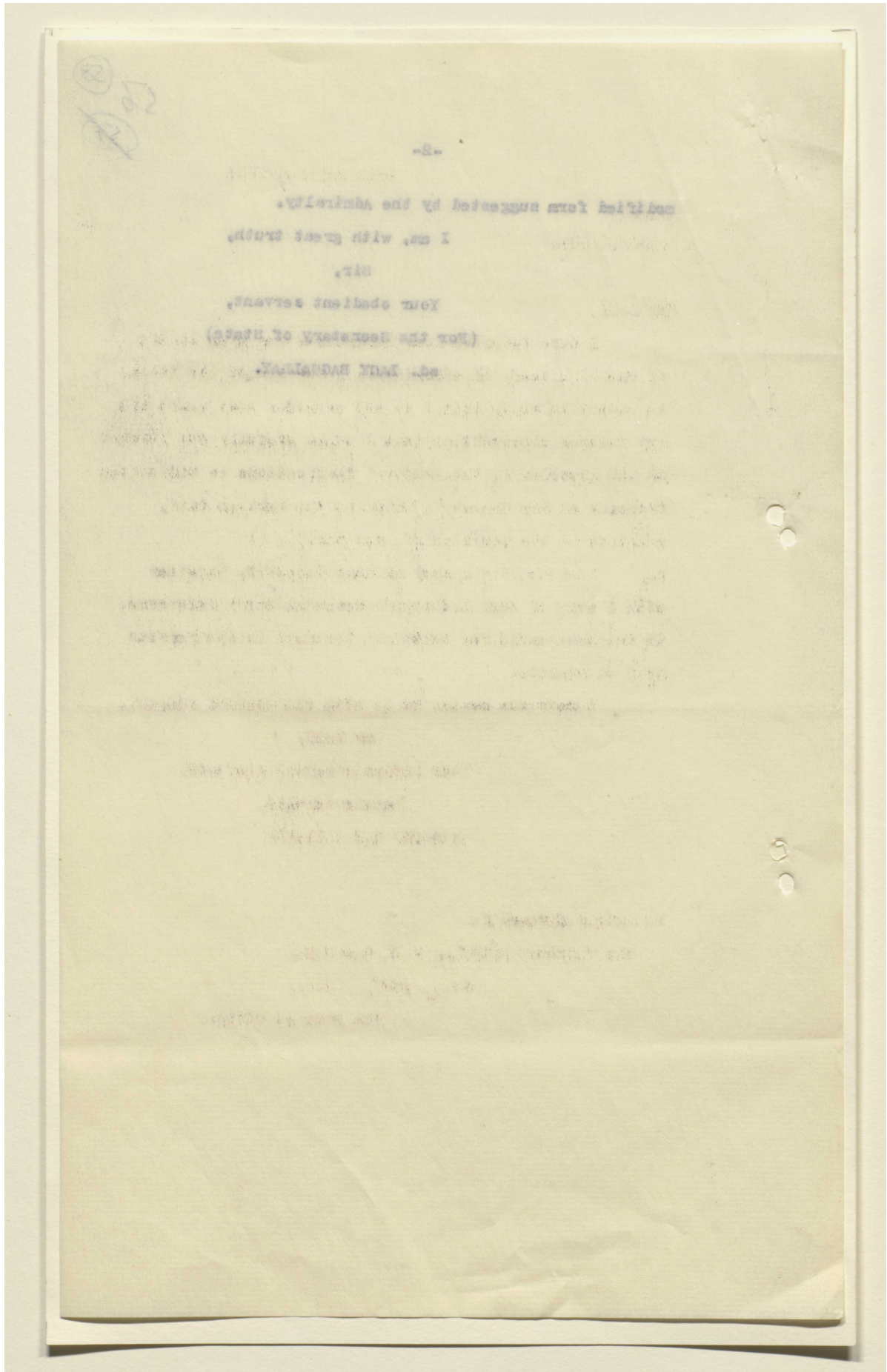
Their Lordships are, however, unable to accept the proposals put forward in Foreign Office letter referred to above, that secret instructions should be issued to the Commanders of His Majesty's ships to avoid entering the six-mile limit whenever possible, and secondly that in the event of an incident arising, His Majesty's ships should undertake to ensure that the dhow in question proceed to its alleged destination, and that any offence (spelt from some running) which may have been committed be duly investigated and punished.

In view of the arguments put forward in the Admiralty letter, and subject to any observations which you may wish to make, I propose to agree to the issue of instructions in the modified

M. M. Butler Esq., CVO.  
etc., etc., etc.  
Tehran.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [58r] (115/164)





30th August, 1938.

No. 294.

(196/15/38).

My Lord,

I have received Your Lordship's despatch No. 251 of the 30th July, (E 4289/162/91), and I have the honour to report in reply that I do not consider that there are any further observations that I could usefully put forward on the question of the proposed instructions to Commanding Officers of His Majesty's Ships in the Persian Gulf, relative to the position of Arab dhows.

2. I am sending a copy of this despatch, together with a copy of Your Lordship's despatch under reference, to the Honourable the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf at Bushire.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

(signed) H.J. SEYMOUR.

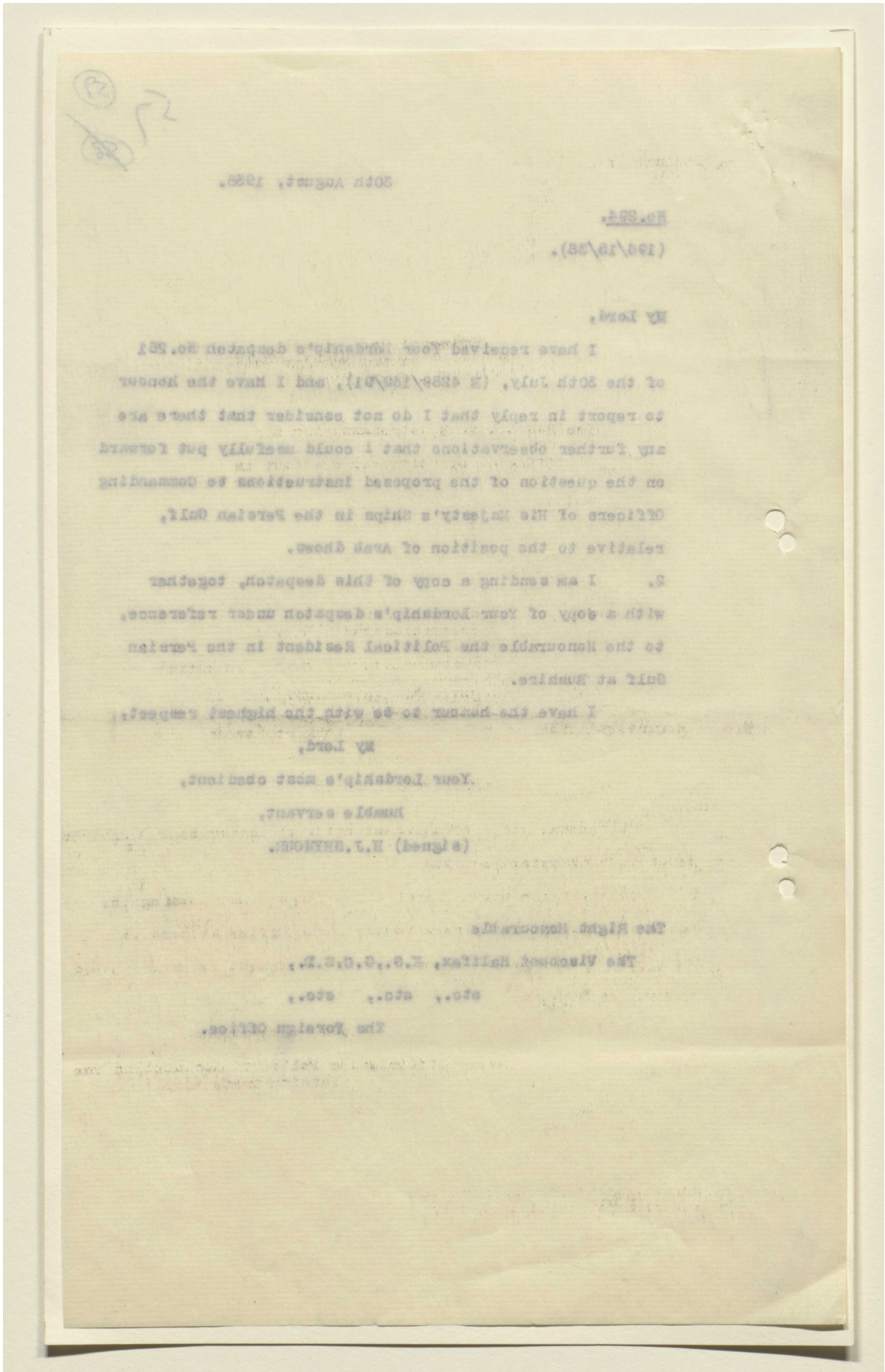
The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.D.,

etc., etc., etc.,

The Foreign Office.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [59v] (118/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [60r] (119/164)

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File  
in 20

58 (60)  
59

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. **C/749** of 1938.

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

1. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.
2. The Political Agent, Kuwait.
3. The Political Agent, Bahrain.
4. The Political Agent, Muscat,

POLITICAL AGENCY AND  
CONFIDENTIAL RECORD  
Date: 26-X-38  
No. 559  
H. B. M'S CONSULATE, MUSCAT.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned documents (s).  
**xx**

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
Camp, KUWAIT.

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE.

Dated... **10th October, 1938.**

Reference to previous correspondence:

Political Resident's Printed letter No-C/515  
of the 8th August 1938.

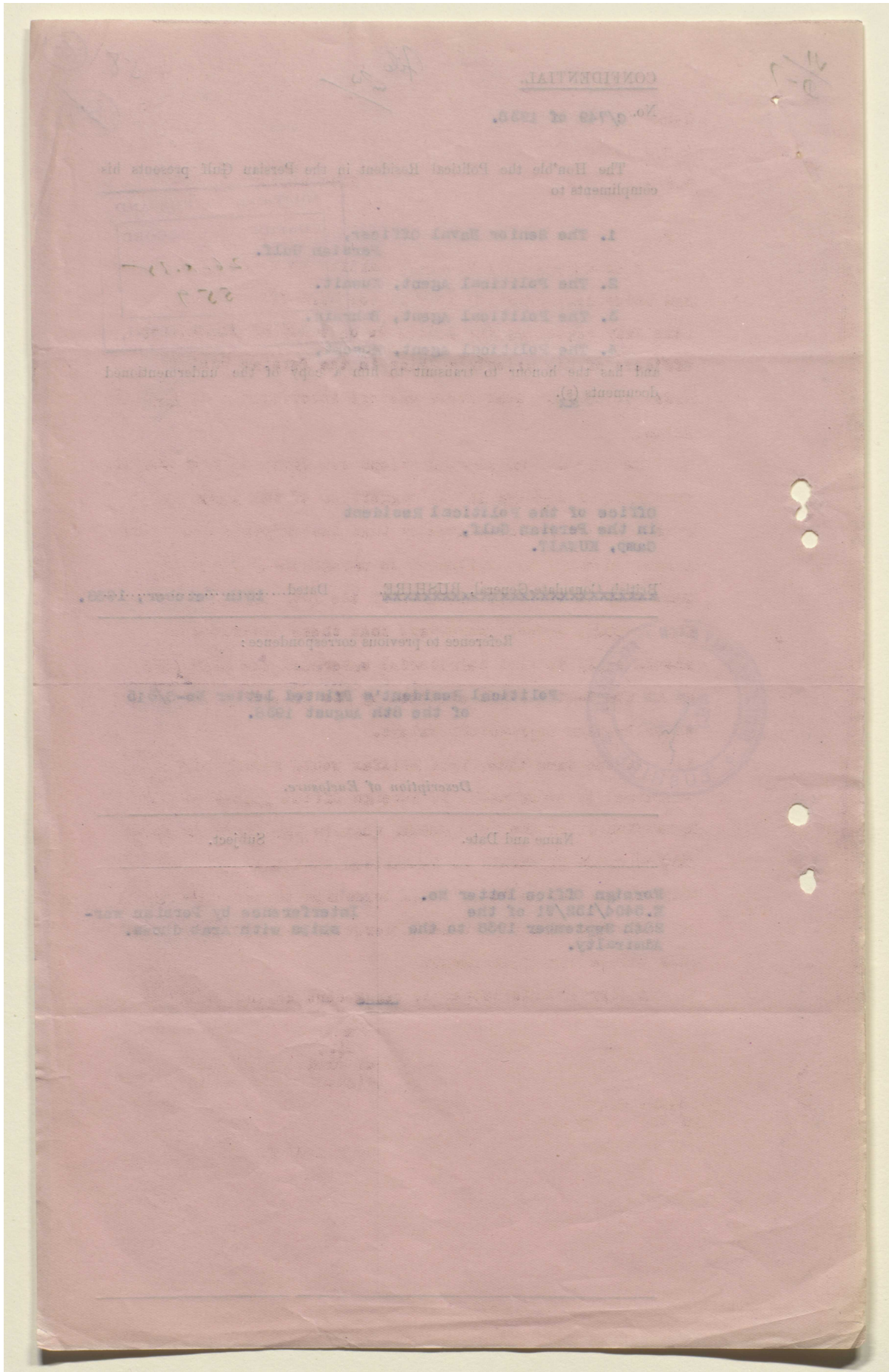


Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Foreign Office letter No. E.5404/152/91 of the 28th September 1938 to the Admiralty.	Interference by Persian war-ships with Arab dhows.



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [60v] (120/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [61r] (121/164)

Copy.

P. Z. 6738/38.

E. 5404/152/91.

S. W. I.  
28th September, 1938.

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Halifax to state that he has had under consideration your letter No. M. 02431/38 of the 16th July regarding the action to be taken by Commanding Officers of His Majesty's Ships in the Persian Gulf in order to protect Arab dhows against interference by Persian ships.

2. In view of the considerations set forth in your letter, Lord Halifax concurs in the suggestion of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that instructions should be issued on the lines indicated in paragraphs 4 and 9 of Admiralty letter No. M. 05427/37 of the 10th September, 1937. His Lordship agrees, moreover, that these instructions should apply to Arab territorial waters and the high seas up to the 3-mile limit admitted by His Majesty's Government to be Persian territorial waters.

3. At the same time, Lord Halifax would recall his wish, expressed in paragraph 5 of Foreign Office letter No. E 968/162/91 of the 30th March, that in the issue of these instructions it should be emphasised that they must be carried out (as no doubt Their Lordships intend they should be) with the utmost tact and discretion, and force be used only in the very last resort.

4. A copy of this letter is being sent to the India Office.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(signed) C. W. Baxter.

The Secretary  
of the Admiralty.

COPY SENT TO INDIA.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [61v] (122/164)

13 P2  
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copy.  
P. 2. 8732/28.  
P. 2404/122/21.  
S.W.I.  
28th September, 1932.

Sir,  
I am directed by Viscount Halifax to state that he has had under consideration your letter No. M. 02431/38 of the 18th July regarding the action to be taken by Commanding Officers of His Majesty's Ships in the Persian Gulf in order to protect Arab dhows against interference by Persian ships.

2. In view of the considerations set forth in your letter, Lord Halifax concurs in the suggestion of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that instructions should be issued on the lines indicated in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Admiralty letter No. M. 02427/37 of the 10th September, 1937. His Lordship agrees, moreover, that these instructions should apply to Arab territorial waters and the high seas up to the 3-mile limit admitted by His Majesty's Government to be Persian territorial waters.

3. At the same time, Lord Halifax would recall his wish, expressed in paragraph 5 of Foreign Office letter No. W 368/122/21 of the 30th March, that in the issue of these instructions it should be emphasized that they must be carried out (as no doubt their Lordships intend they should be) with the utmost tact and discretion, and force be used only in the very last resort.

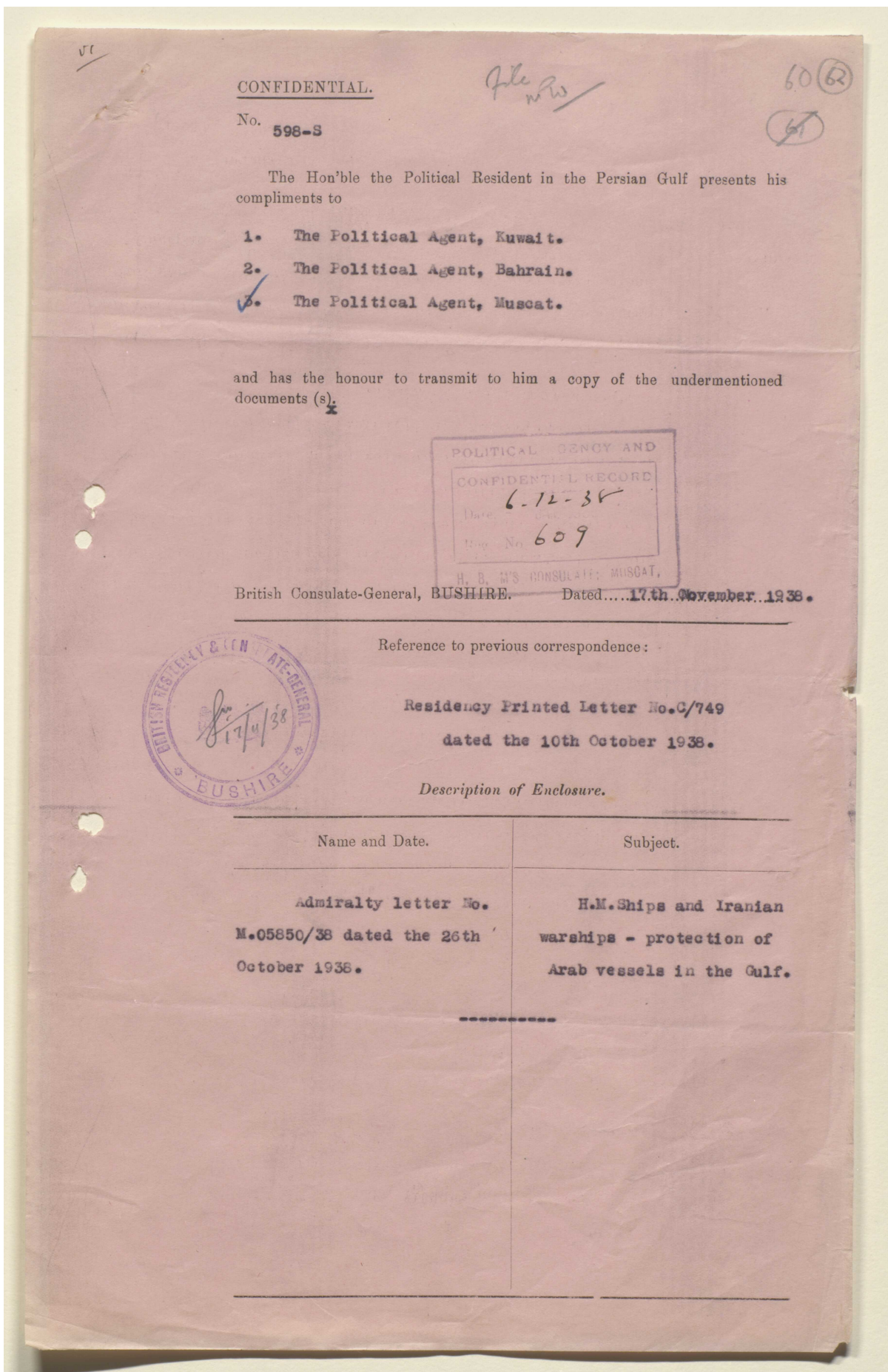
4. A copy of this letter is being sent to the India Office.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(signed) G.W. Baker.

The Secretary  
of the Admiralty.

COPY SENT TO INDIA.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [62r] (123/164)



CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 598-S

*File n/w*

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61

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

1. The Political Agent, Kuwait.
2. The Political Agent, Bahrain.
3. The Political Agent, Muscat.

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

POLITICAL AGENCY AND  
CONFIDENTIAL RECORD  
Date 6-12-38  
File No. 609  
H. B. M'S CONSULATE, MUSCAT.

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated.....17th November 1938.

Reference to previous correspondence:

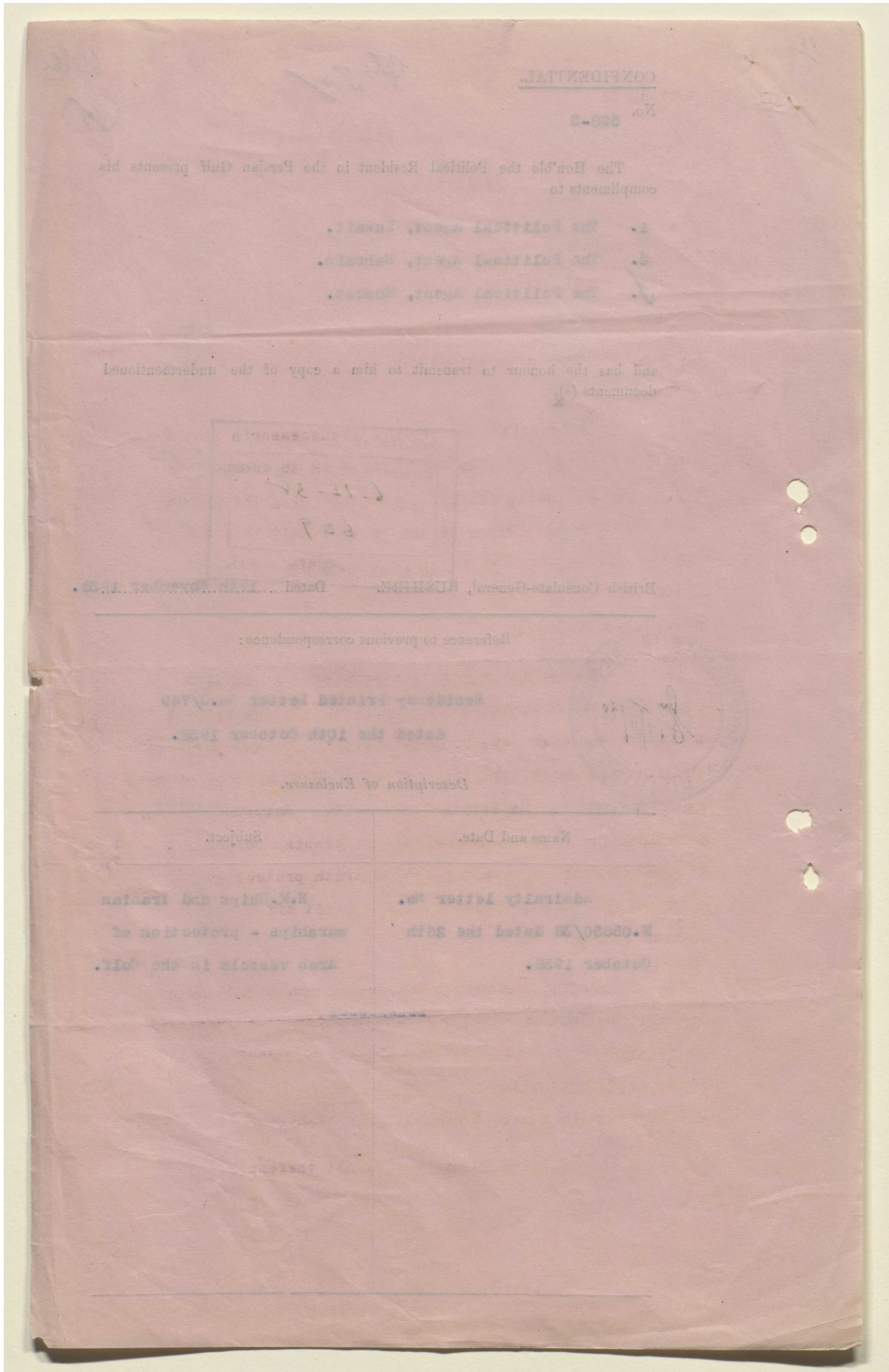
Residency Printed Letter No.C/749  
dated the 10th October 1938.



Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Admiralty letter No. M.05850/38 dated the 26th October 1938.	H.M. Ships and Iranian warships - protection of Arab vessels in the Gulf.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [62v] (124/164)



M.05850/38

26th October 1938.

Confidential.

The Commander-in-Chief,  
H.M. Ships and Vessels,  
East Indies.

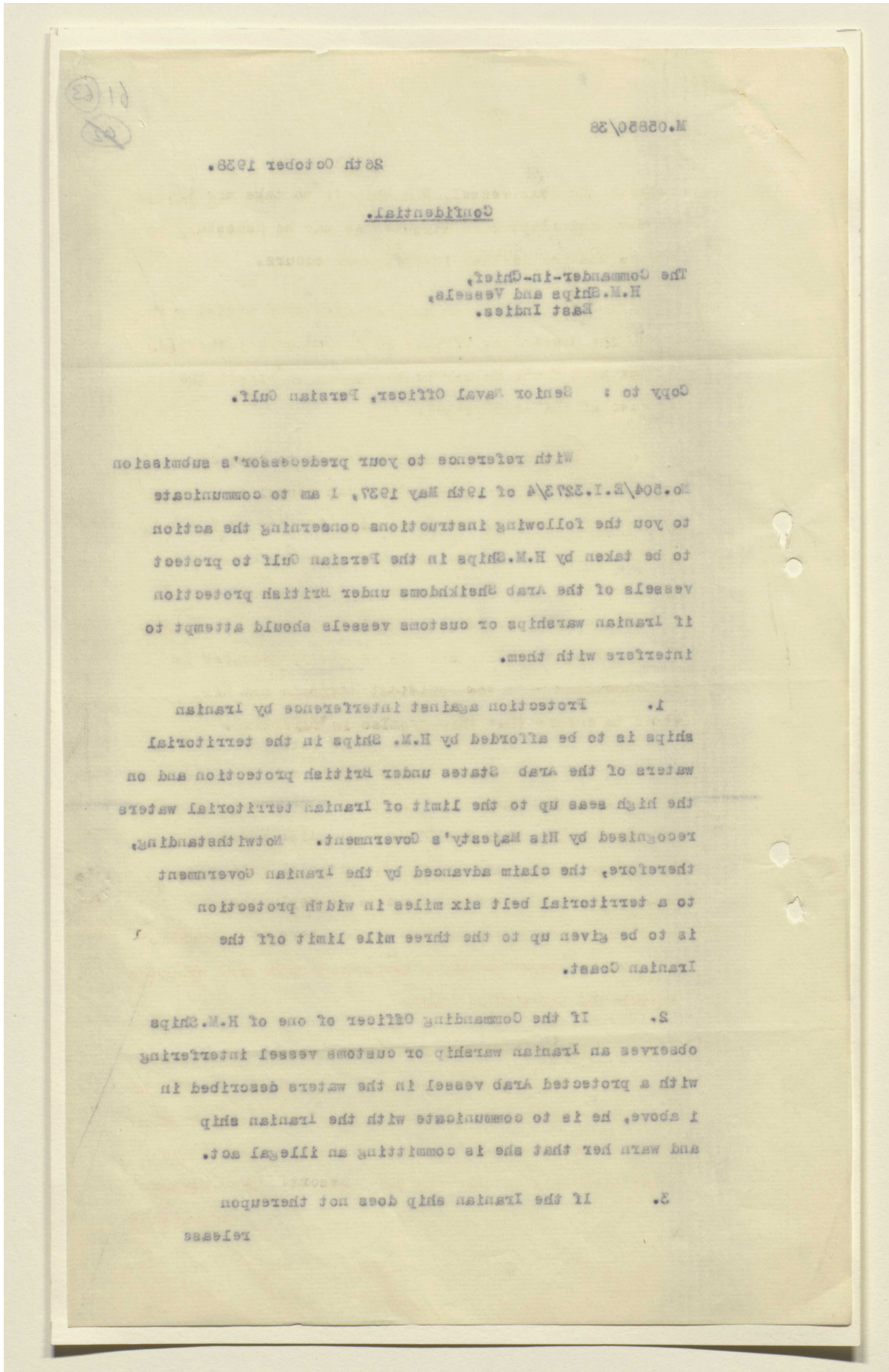
Copy to : Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

With reference to your predecessor's submission No.504/E.I.3273/4 of 19th May 1937, I am to communicate to you the following instructions concerning the action to be taken by H.M. Ships in the Persian Gulf to protect vessels of the Arab Sheikdoms under British protection if Iranian warships or customs vessels should attempt to interfere with them.

1. Protection against interference by Iranian ships is to be afforded by H.M. Ships in the territorial waters of the Arab States under British protection and on the high seas up to the limit of Iranian territorial waters recognised by His Majesty's Government. Notwithstanding, therefore, the claim advanced by the Iranian Government to a territorial belt six miles in width protection is to be given up to the three mile limit off the Iranian Coast.

2. If the Commanding Officer of one of H.M. Ships observes an Iranian warship or customs vessel interfering with a protected Arab vessel in the waters described in 1 above, he is to communicate with the Iranian ship and warn her that she is committing an illegal act.

3. If the Iranian ship does not thereupon  
release



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(64) 62  
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release the Arab vessel, H.M.Ship is to take the latter in tow, and adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure that no further interference occurs.

4. If the Iranian ship opposes such action with force the Commanding Officer of H.M.Ship is authorised to use such force as may be necessary to effect the release of the Arab vessel.

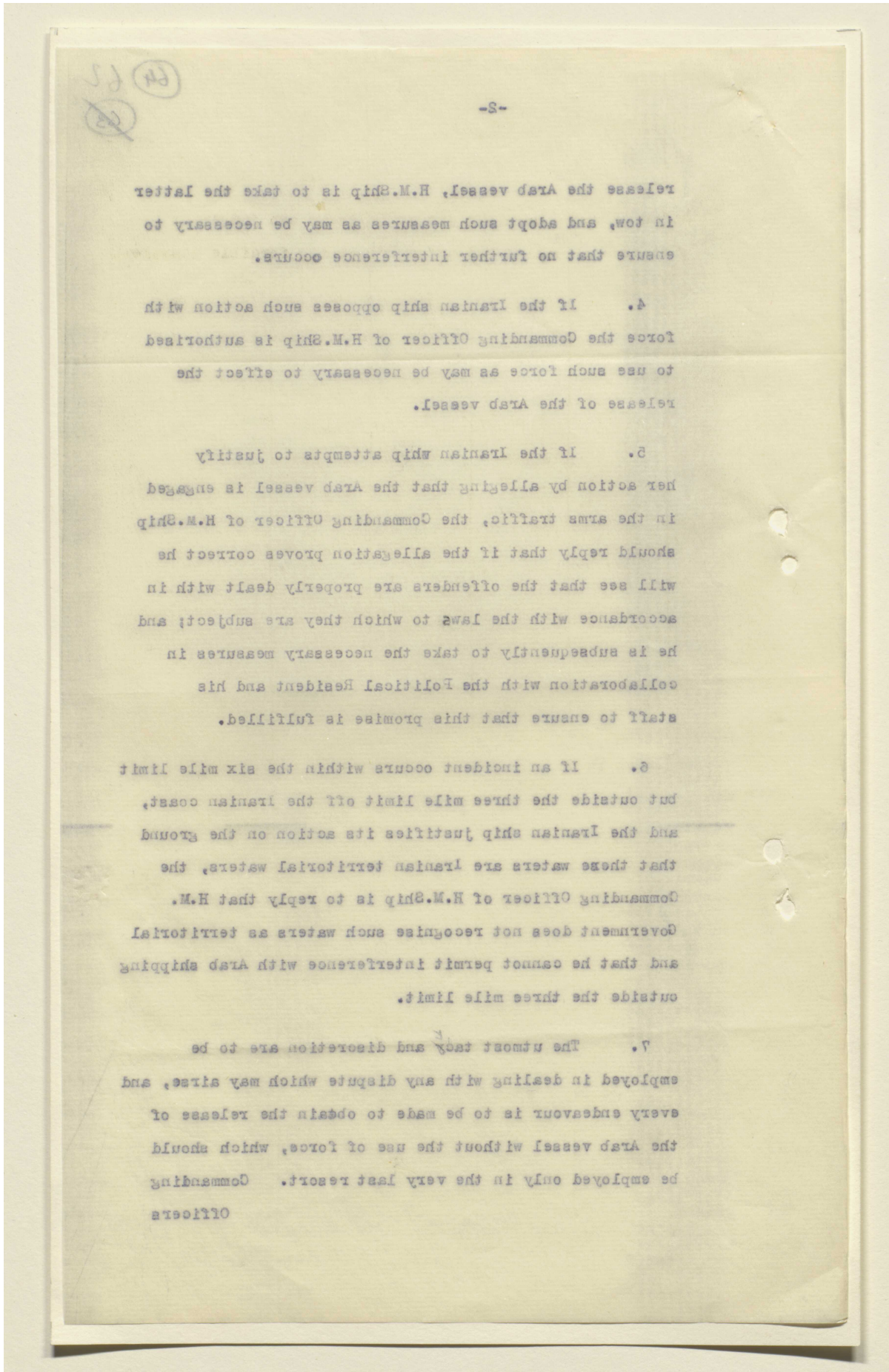
5. If the Iranian ship attempts to justify her action by alleging that the Arab vessel is engaged in the arms traffic, the Commanding Officer of H.M.Ship should reply that if the allegation proves correct he will see that the offenders are properly dealt with in accordance with the laws to which they are subject; and he is subsequently to take the necessary measures in collaboration with the Political Resident and his staff to ensure that this promise is fulfilled.

6. If an incident occurs within the six mile limit but outside the three mile limit off the Iranian coast, and the Iranian ship justifies its action on the ground that these waters are Iranian territorial waters, the Commanding Officer of H.M.Ship is to reply that H.M. Government does not recognise such waters as territorial and that he cannot permit interference with Arab shipping outside the three mile limit.

7. The utmost tac<sup>k</sup> and discretion are to be employed in dealing with any dispute which may arise, and every endeavour is to be made to obtain the release of the Arab vessel without the use of force, which should be employed only in the very last resort. Commanding  
Officers



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [64v] (128/164)



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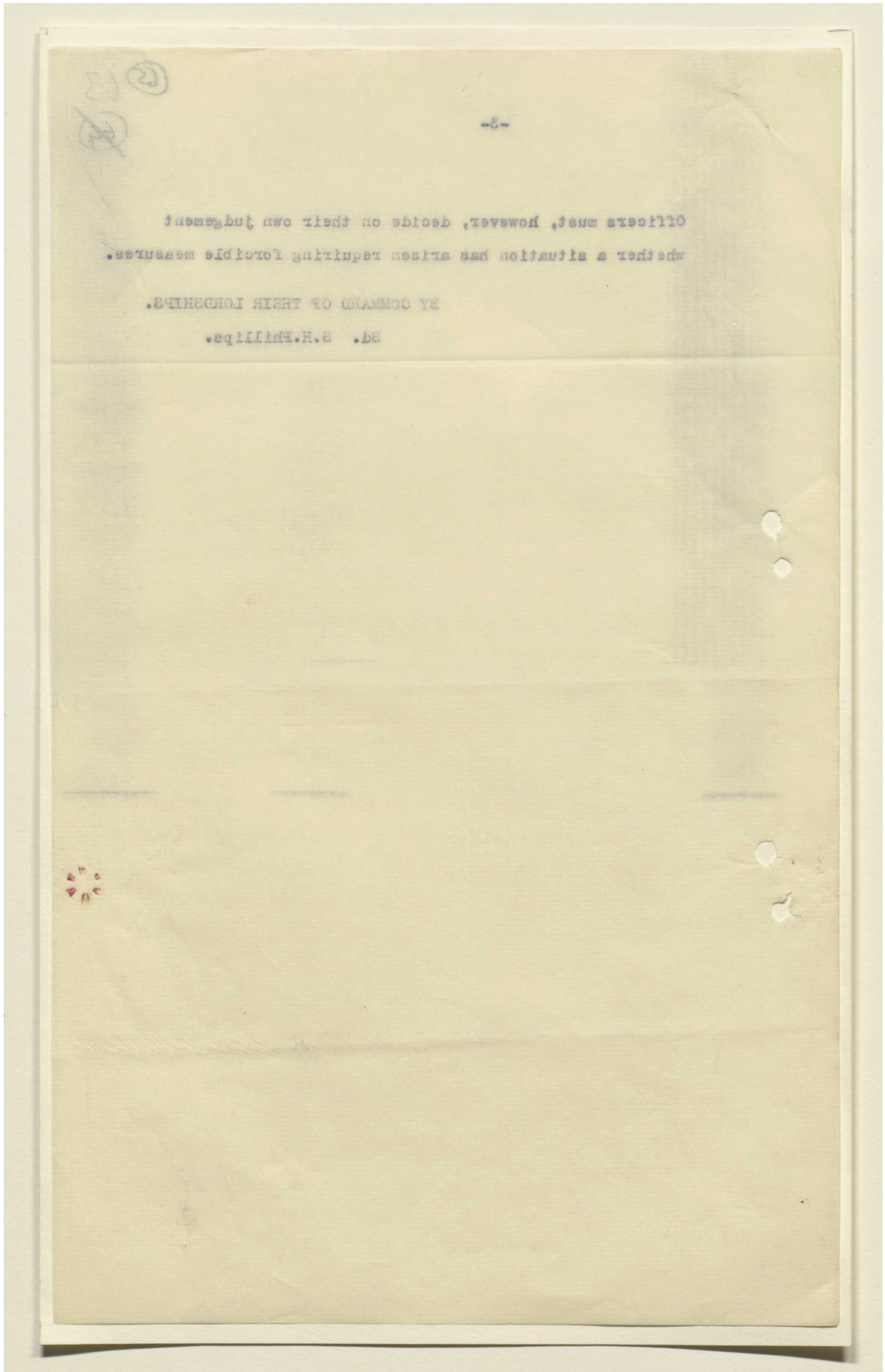
(5) 63  
~~64~~

Officers must, however, decide on their own judgement  
whether a situation has arisen requiring forcible measures.

BY COMMAND OF THEIR LORDSHIPS.

Sd. S.H.Phillips.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [65v] (130/164)



444  
9/5/47. 6/13 (66) 64  
(68)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
DEPARTMENT, PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY,  
BAHRAIN.

**EXPRESS LETTER** 9/5/47

[N. B.—This is an ORIGINAL MESSAGE, sent by post to save telegraphic expense and undue use of the wires, but intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and formalities it is worded and signed as if it had been so despatched.]

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM POLITICAL RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF.

To POLITICAL AGENT, BAHRAIN. (With spare copy for the Political Officer, Trucial Coast).  
POLITICAL AGENT, MUSCAT. ✓

No. 752 - S. Dated the 29th April, 193 47

Several cases have recently been reported of interference by Persian naval vessels with Arab dhows on the high seas. If any such cases come to your notice please send an immediate report by express letter/telegram and follow it up in due course with a detailed report on the lines prescribed in this Residency Circular Memorandum No. C/142 of 1934, copy enclosed for ready reference.

Sd. W. R. HAY.  
Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

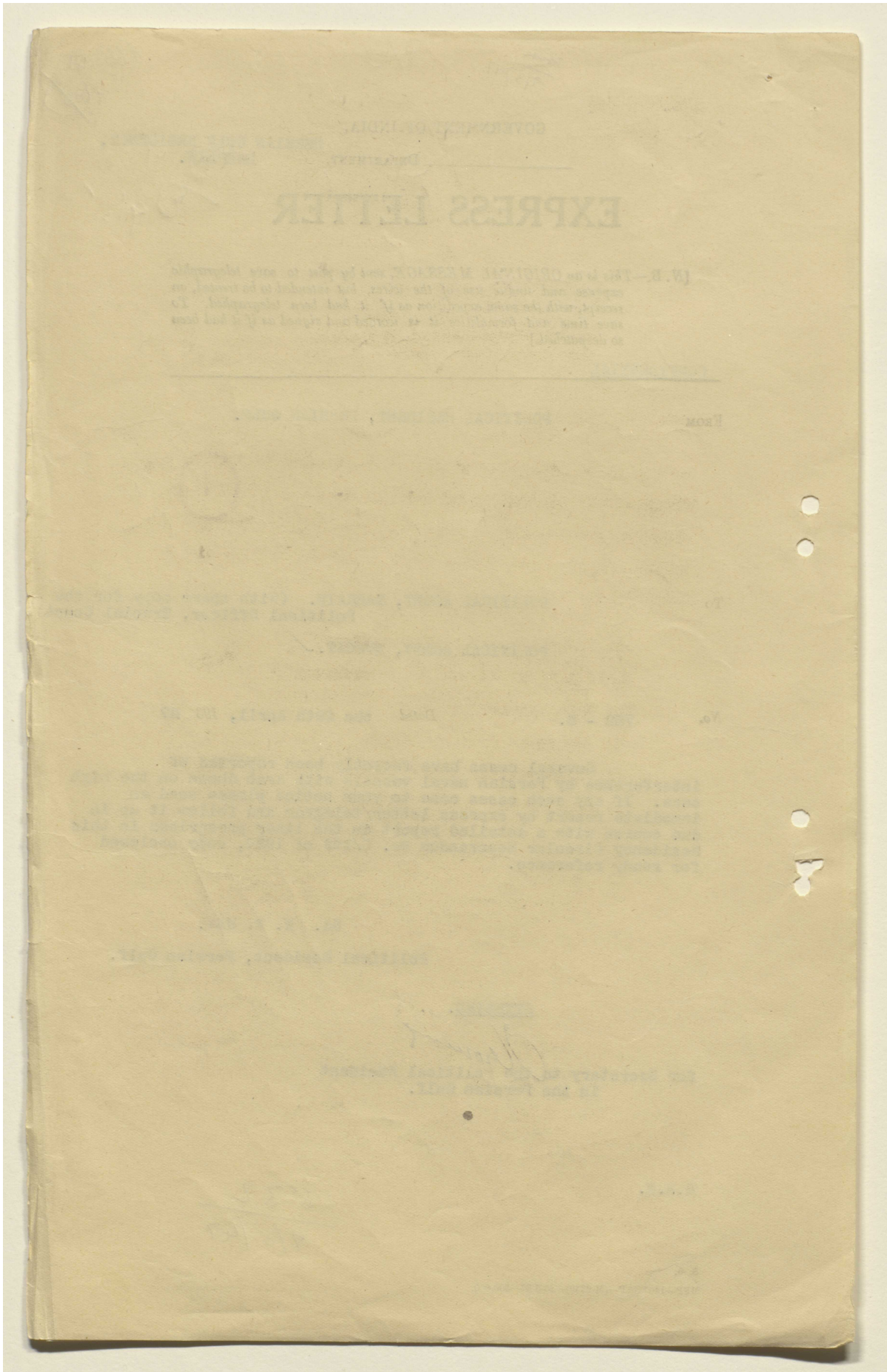
ATTESTED.  
*Shouman*  
for Secretary to the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf.

G.A.M.

532  
9/5/47

S. 6.  
MFP—1407 S&P—(M-2339)—25-5-37—300,000.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [66v] (132/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [67r] (133/164)

CONFIDENTIAL

No. C/143 of 1934.

Office of the Political Resident in the  
Persian Gulf,  
Camp, BAHRAIN.

29th March, 1934.

To

The Political Agent, Kuwait.  
The Political Agent, Bahrain.  
The Political Agent, Muscat.  
The Residency Agent, Sharjah.  
The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf. (Under  
No. C/147 of 29.3.'34.)

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM

Information on the following points, and on any others which are relevant, should, whenever possible, be furnished in the tabulated form given below in reports on the seizure of, or interference with, Arab dhows by Persian authorities.

1. Date of seizure or interference.
2. Place of seizure or interference.
3. Name of vessel.
4. Nationality of vessel.
5. Whether flag was flying at time of incident.
6. Nationality papers carried.
7. Names and nationality of Nakhuda, crew and passengers, if any.
8. Nature of cargo carried and details of manifests and Customs documents covering the cargo.
9. Date of sailing from Arab or other port.

Sd. T. C. Fowle,  
Lieutenant Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

ATTESTED

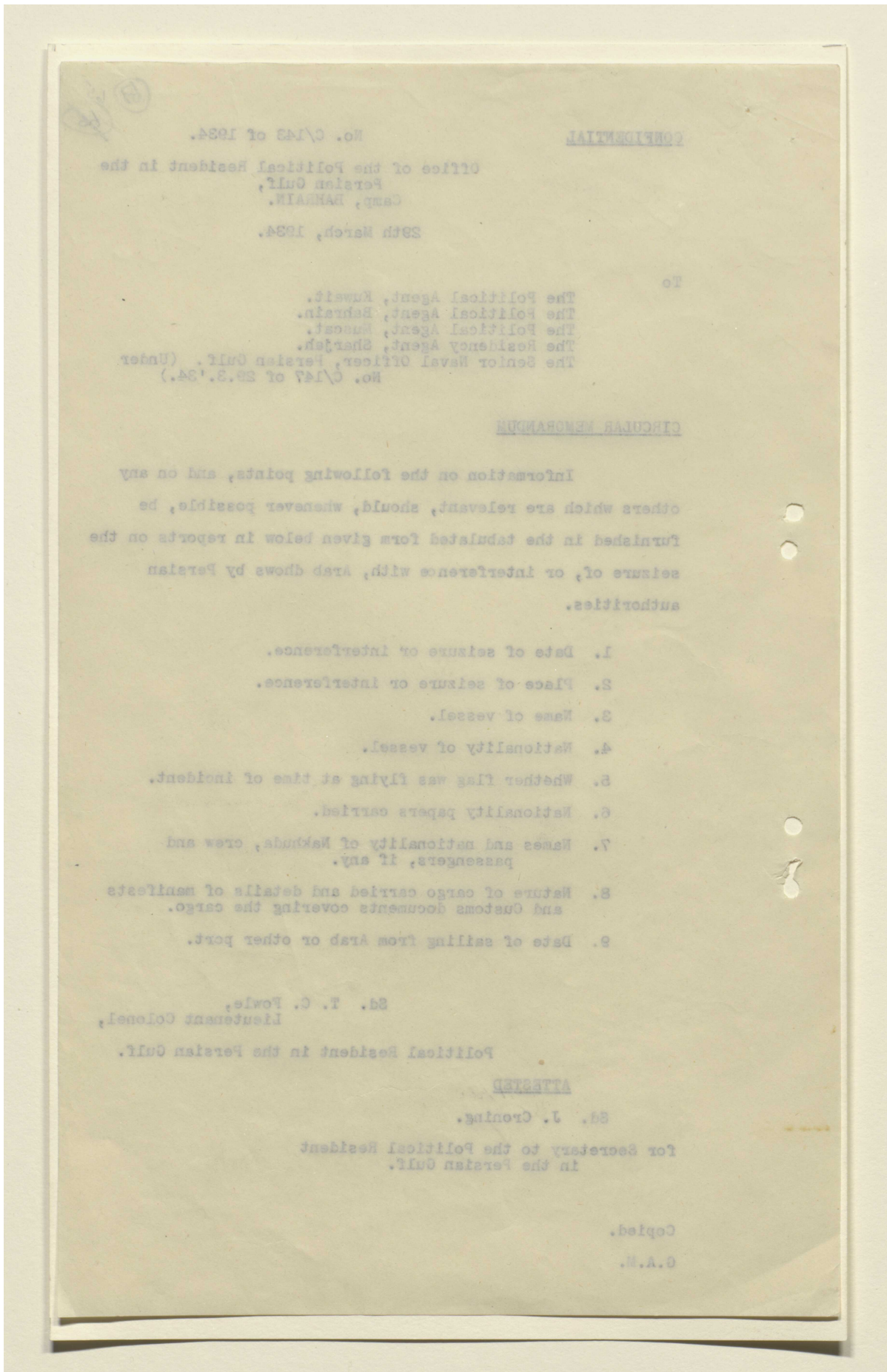
Sd. J. Croning.

for Secretary to the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf.

Copied.

G.A.M.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [67v] (134/164)



٤٤٨  
٩/٤/٤٧.  
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

(68) 30.66  
(64)  
رقم ٢/٢٤٤  
(2)

الى جناب المحترم قنصل الدولة البريطانية بمسقط

أرسل اليكم بالظي نسخة من الكتاب المرسل  
التي من محمد بن علي البهراني أحد التجار ورعايا السلطان  
بمسقط مع نسخة من البرقية التي وصلت اليه من وكيله  
محمد بن مكّي البحارنه بالبحرين راجياً أن تفضلوا بتوجيه  
الخطاب الى الجهة المختصة لاسترداد البضاعة (١٥ علبه دهن) .  
ان بندر جيروه تابع - فيما أظن - الى لنجه . ولكم  
الشكر

٣١٥  
٩/٤

تحريري في ١٧ جمادى الأولى سنة ١٣٦٦  
٩ . ابريل سنة ١٩٤٧

Translation of letter No. 244/2  
dated the 9th April 1947 from Secretary  
to His Highness.

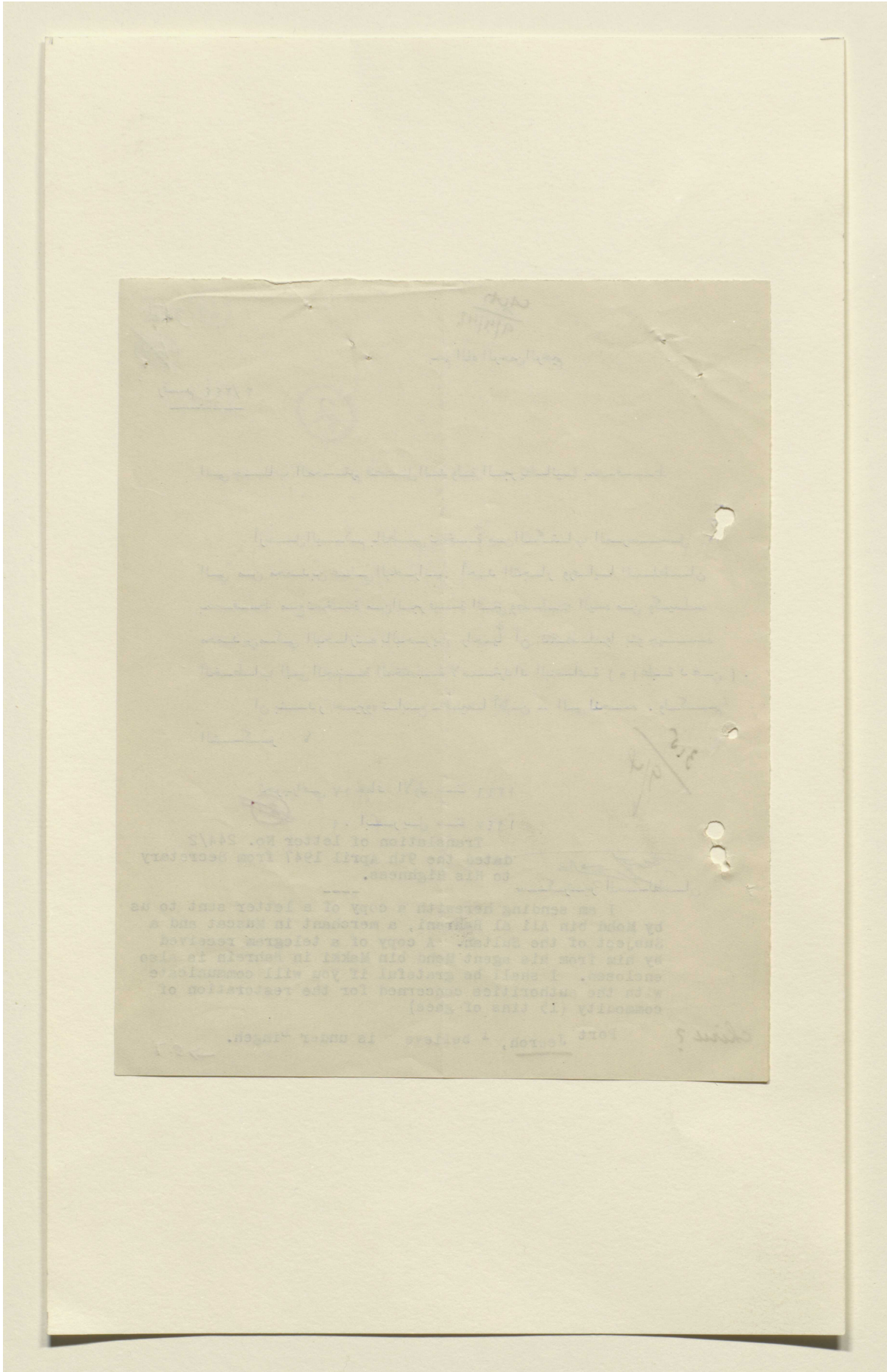
سكربتير السلطان

-----  
I am sending herewith a copy of a letter sent to us  
by Mohd bin Ali al Bahrani, a merchant in Muscat and a  
Subject of the Sultan. A copy of a telegram received  
by him from his agent Mohd bin Makki in Bahrein is also  
enclosed. I shall be grateful if you will communicate  
with the authorities concerned for the restoration of  
commodity (15 tins of ghee)

chiru? Port Jeeroh, I believe is under "ingeh. → 5.7



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [68v] (136/164)



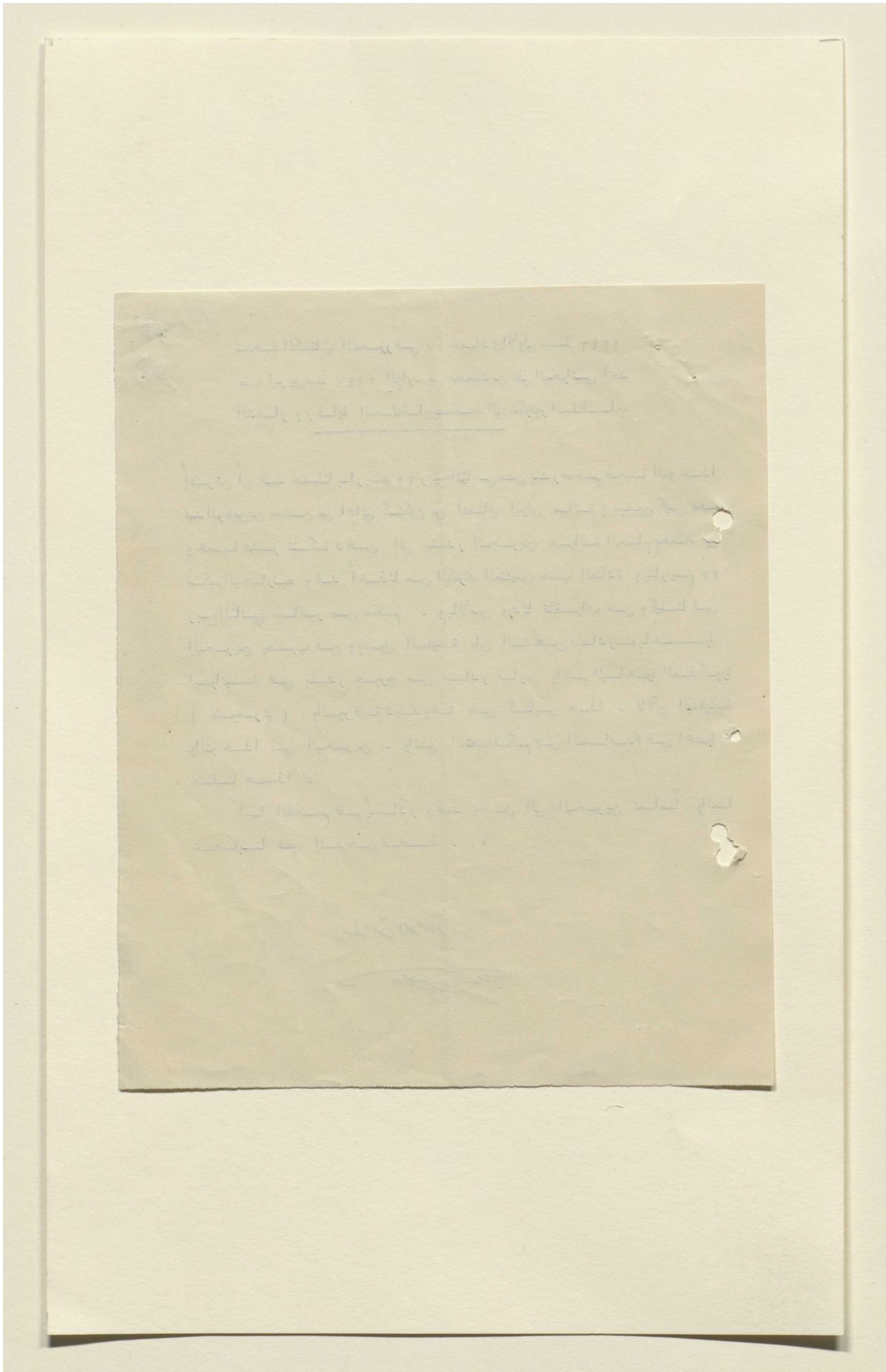
٦٩  
٦٨  
نسخة الكتاب المحرر في ١٧ جمادى الأولى سنة ١٣٦٦  
= ٩ ابريل سنة ١٩٤٧ الوارد من محمد بن علي البحراني أحد  
التجار ورعايا السلطان بمسقط الى سكرتير السلطان

أعرض أن قد حملنا بتاريخ ٢٢ ربيع الثاني من بندر صحم صبية النوخدا  
عبدالرحمن بن حسن من اهالي كسكون من أعمال ايران مائة وسبعين كيس فحم  
وخمسة عشر تنكة دهن الى بندر البحرين حوالة الحاج محمد بن  
مكيو البحراني وقد أخذنا من الكمرك المنفيس حسب العادة وبتاريخ ٢٣  
ربيع الثاني سافر من صحم . وبالأمر وردنا لتفصاف من وكيلنا في  
البحرين يعرب عن وصول السفينة وان الدهن صادرته باخرة  
ايرانية في بندر جيروه من بنادر فارس واسم الباخرة المذكورة  
( سيمرخ ) والبرقية تجدوها طي كتابي هذا . فالآن السفينة  
والنوخذنا في البحرين . واني استعطفكم في المساعدة في اخراج  
حقنا هذا .  
أما الفحم فلم يُصادر وقد وصل الى البحرين تماماً وانما  
خطابنا في الدهن فقط .

مطابق للاصل

علاء الدين

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [69v] (138/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [70r] (139/164)

Copy of a letter dated the 9th April 1 from Mohd bin Ali al Bahrani addressed to the Secretary to His Highness. (70) 58 69

I beg to state that we ~~shipped~~ on the 22nd Rabi II from Bander Saham for Bahrein (170 bags of charcoal and 15 tins of ghee.) The Nakhuda of the dhow was Abdurrehman bin Hassan, resident of Kangan, Iran, and ~~were~~ consigned to Haji Mohd bin Makki al Bahrani. We obtained the usual Manifest from the customs at ~~Saham~~ Saham and the Nakhuda left Saham on the 23rd Rabi II. Yesterday we received a telegram from our Agent in Bahrein ~~saying~~ informing us of the arrival of the vessel and saying that the ghee has been confiscated by a Persian Ship "Seemurgh" at the Persian port of Jeeroh. The telegram is enclosed with this letter. The vessel and its Nakhuda are now in Bahrain. I shall be obliged if you will assist us in retrieving this cargo.

As for charcoal it was not confiscated and reached Bahrain intact.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [70v] (140/164)

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE.

File No.  
Serial No.

Letter  
Draft Memorandum  
Telegram

No. Dated

1. Date of despatch.  
2. List of enclosures.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [71r] (141/164)

Copy of telegram dated the 7th April, 1947 from  
Bahrain.

(71) 69

70

Bahraini

Muscat.

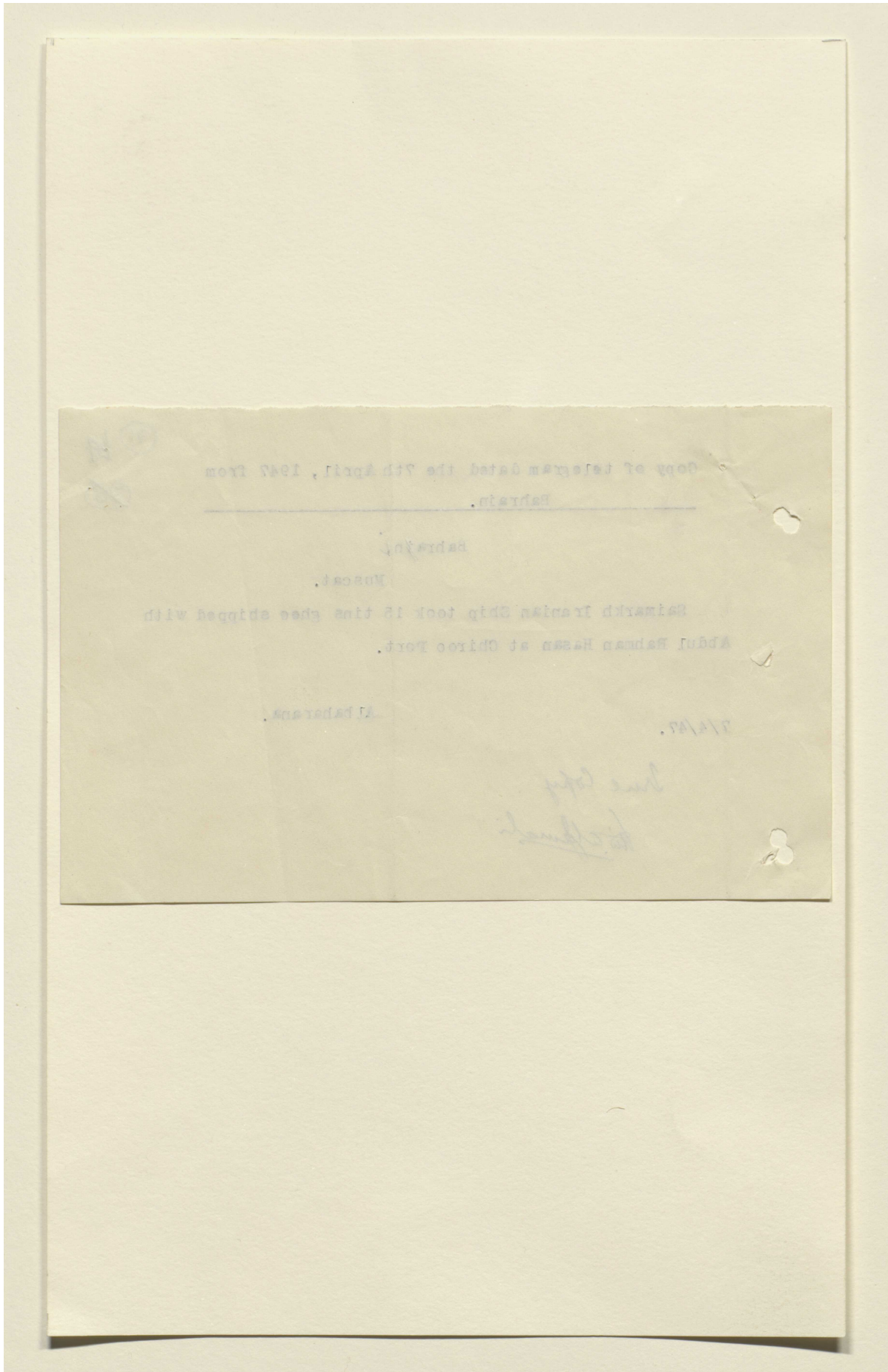
Saimarkh Iranian Ship took 15 tins ghee shipped with  
Abdul Rahman Hasan at Chireo Port.

7/4/47.

Albaharana.

True Copy  
Ali al-Fanali

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [71v] (142/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [72r] (143/164)

72  
70  
~~70~~

6/13

Telegram Q

From Political Agent, Muscat.

To Political Resident, Bahrain. (3)

No. C/227.

Dated 17th May, 1947.

-S.I.  
Enc. to S.I.

Your Express Letter No.752-S April 29th.

Following are details in respect of incident

just reported to me, c.f. your Memorandum No.C/143 March 29th 1934.

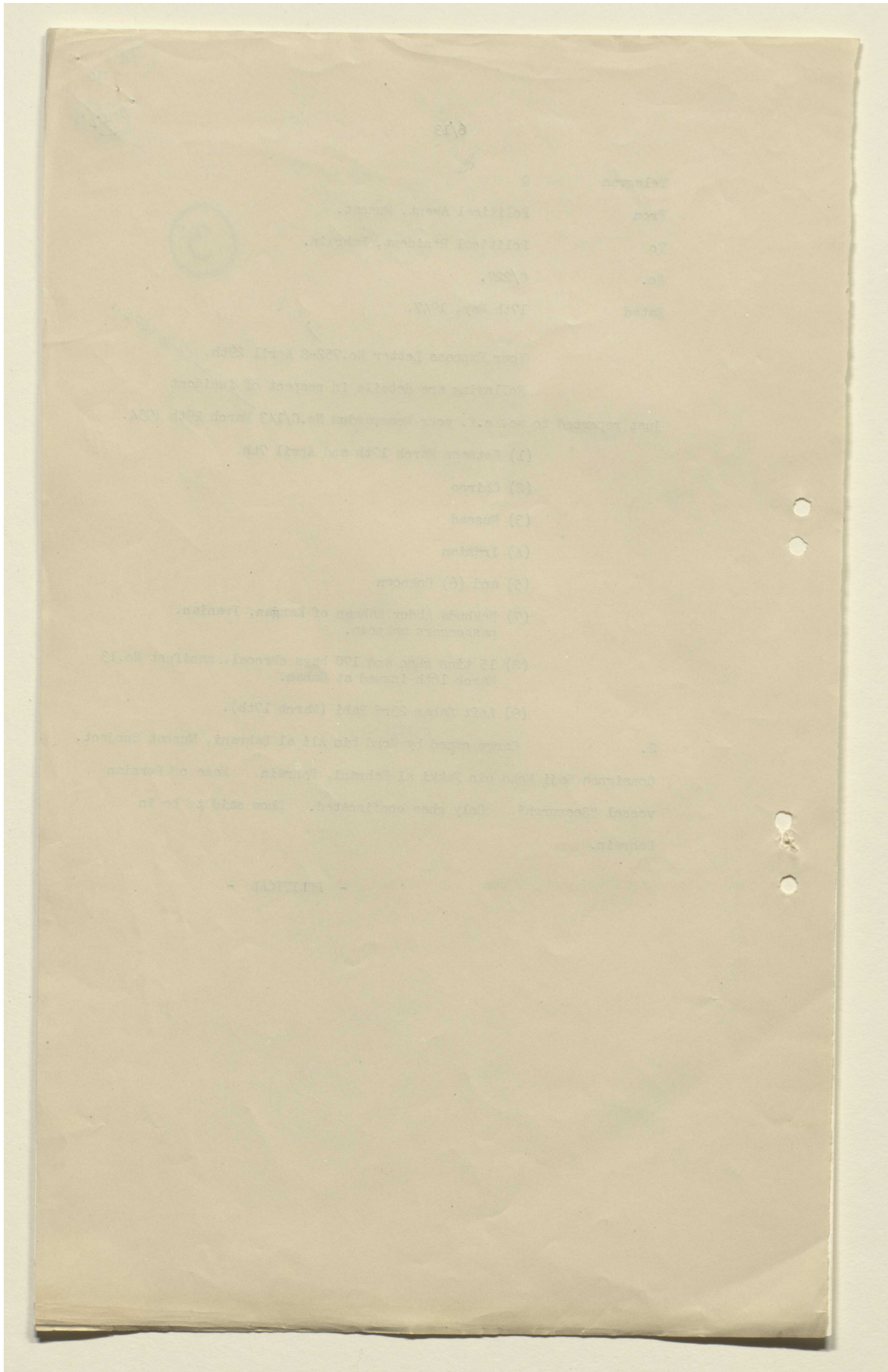
- (1) Between March 17th and April 7th.
- (2) Chiroo
- (3) Mussad
- (4) Iranian
- (5) and (6) Unknown
- (7) Nakhuda Abdur Rahman of Kangan, Iranian, passengers unknown.
- (8) 15 tins ghee and 170 bags charcoal, manifest No.13 March 16th issued at Saham.
- (9) Left Saham 23rd Rabi (March 17th).

2. Cargo owned by Mohd bin Ali al Bahrani, Muscat Subject. Consignee Haji Mohd bin Makki al Bahrani, Bahrain. Name of Persian vessel "Seemurgh". Only ghee confiscated. Dhow said to be in Bahrain.

- POLITICAL -



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [72v] (144/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [73r] (145/164)

6/13

(73) 11

(72)

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 927 - S.

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

1. His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, LONDON.
2. His Majesty's Ambassador, TEHRAN.
3. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, H.M.S. WILD GOOSE.
4. His Majesty's Consul-General, BUSHIRE.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document, without enclosure, in continuation of Residency endorsement No. 844-S, dated the 6th May, 1947, with the remark that in view of the facts that (a) the vessel was apparently in Persian territorial waters, (b) the Nakhuda and entire crew were Persians, and (c) the manifest does not appear to have been in order, the case does not seem to be one calling for a representation to be made to the Persian Government.

PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY,  
BAHRAIN.

Dated the 15th May, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of enclosure :

Number and Date	Subject
Express letter No. C/567, dated the 12th May, 1947, from the Political Agent, Bahrain.	Persian naval interference with Arab sailing craft.

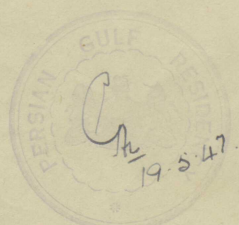
No. 958 - S.

(4)

Bahrain, the 19th May, 1947.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to

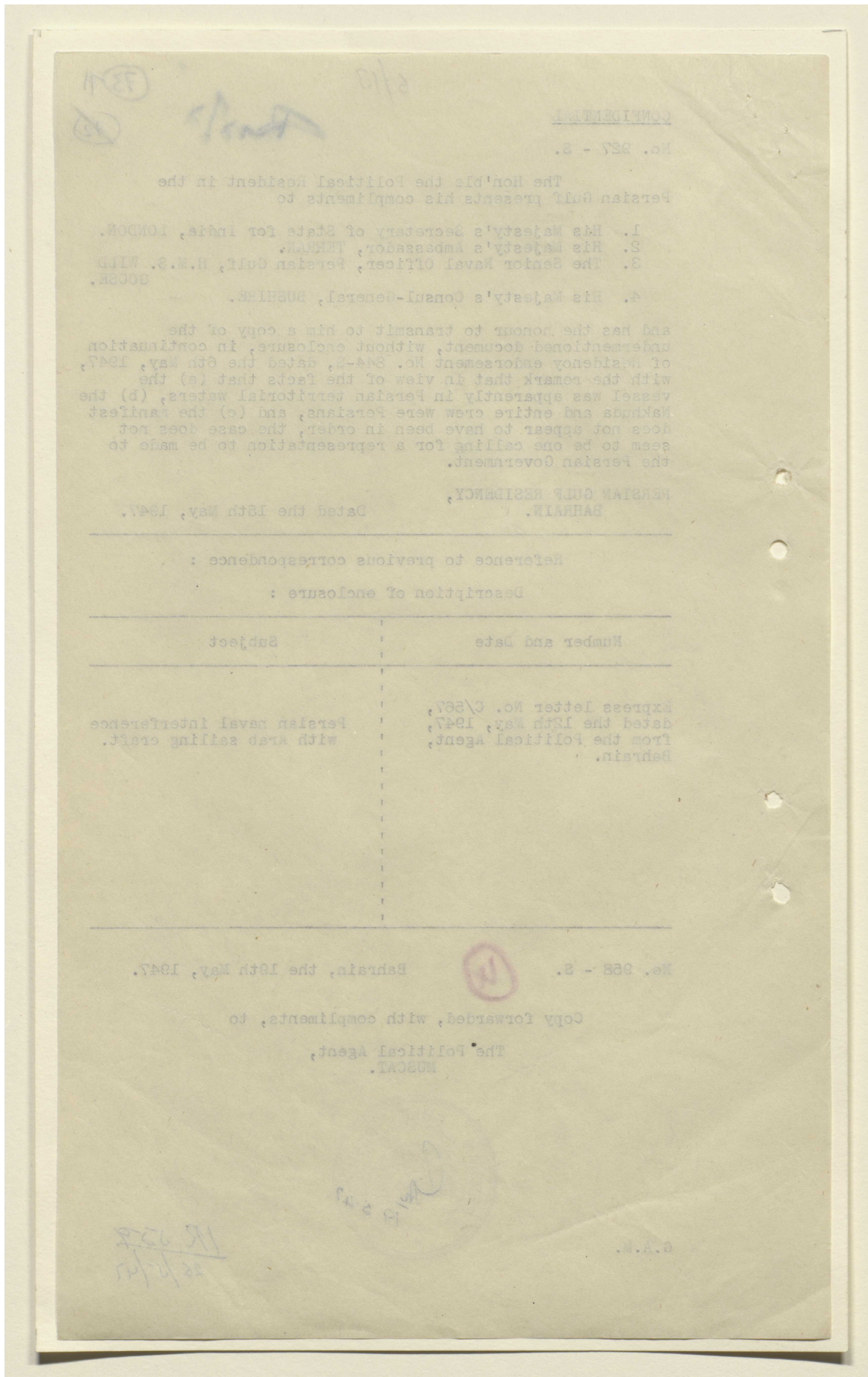
The Political Agent,  
MUSCAT.



G.A.M.

1R 559  
26/5/47

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [73v] (146/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [74r] (147/164)

EXPRESS LETTER.

From - Political, Bahrain.  
To - Reppu, Bahrain.  
No.C/567.  
Dated the 13th of May, 1947.

In continuation of my Express Letter No.C/533,  
dated the 3rd May, 1947.

2. The particulars required by you are as follows:

- (a) Date of seizure or interference: 2nd April, 1947.  
(b) Place of seizure or interference: Shivoo.  
(c) Name of dhow: Musaad.  
(d) Nationality of dhow: Registered in Bahrain.  
(e) Whether flag was flying: Yes.  
(f) Nationality papers carried: Bahrain papers.  
(g) Name and nationality of nakhuda, crew and passengers, if any:

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Nationality.</u>
1. Nakhuda Abdulrehman bin Hassan	Persian.

C r e w.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Falahi bin Yusuf.       | " |
| 2. Othman Abdul Husain.    | " |
| 3. Abdulrehman bin Hassan. | " |
| 4. Hassan bin Ahmed.       | " |
| 5. Ahmed bin Hassan.       | " |
| 6. Yusuf bin Ahmed.        | " |
| 7. Hassan Ahmed.           | " |
| 8. Hassan Mohamed.         | " |
| 9. Mohamed Ali.            | " |
| 10. Mohamed Abdulla.       | " |
| 11. Ali Husain.            | " |
| 12. Salim Yacoob.          | " |

Passengers: Nil.

- (h) Nature of cargo carried, and details of manifests, etc. 237 raffas firewood manifested for Bahrain. Also 170 bags charcoal manifested transshipment Bahrain.  
(i) Date of sailing from Arab or other port: Left Muscat 15th March, 1947.

3. I enclose in original the dhow's manifest.

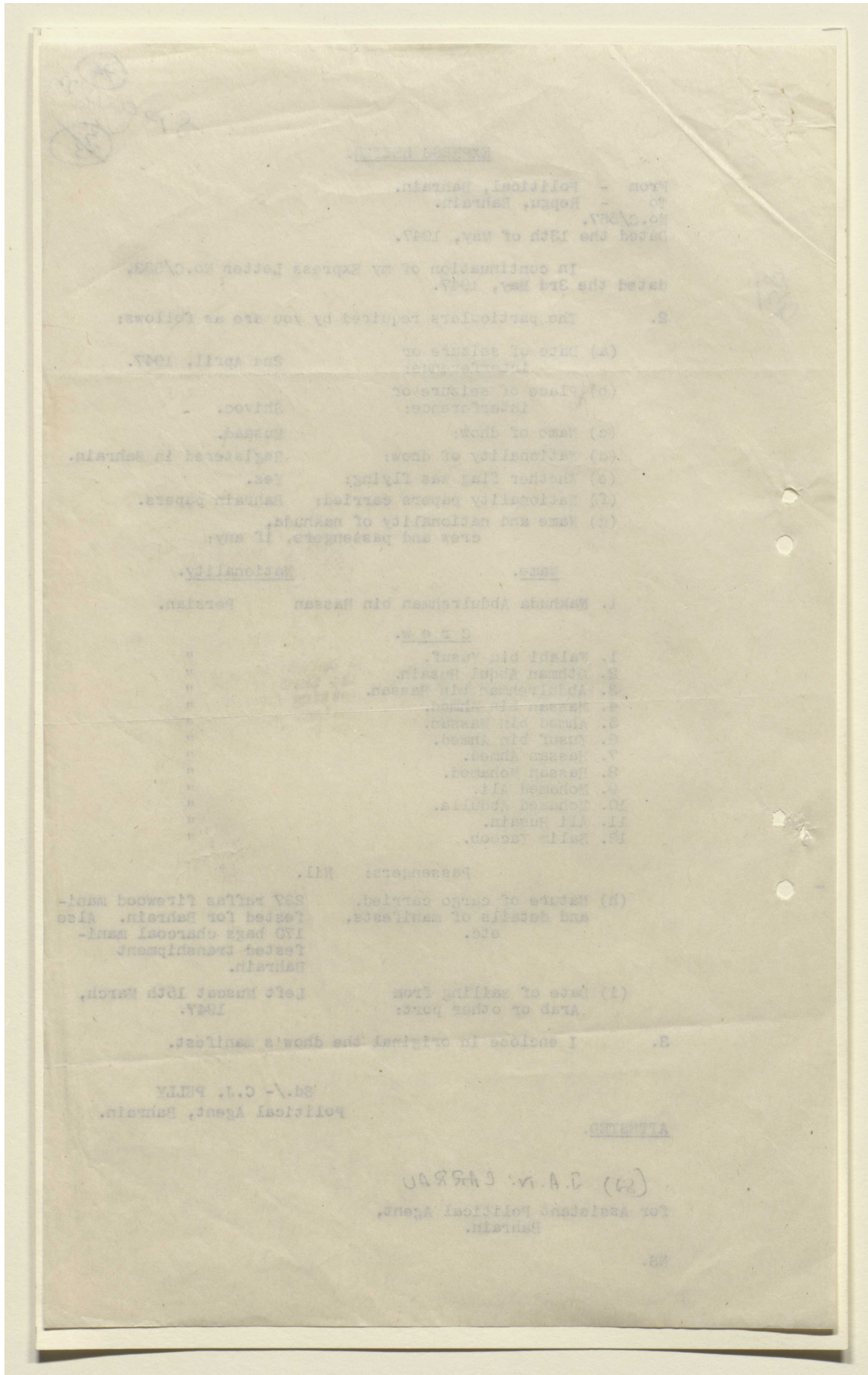
Sd./- C.J. PELLY  
Political Agent, Bahrain.

ATTESTED.

(S) J.A.N. CARRAU  
for Assistant Political Agent,  
Bahrain.

NS.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [74v] (148/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [75r] (149/164)

6/13

75 75

(Received under Foreign Office endorsement No. E3593/66/91  
dated 13.5.1947)  
(E3593/66/91) FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

74

CONFIDENTIAL.

10th May, 1947.

Will you please refer to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf's telegram No. 513 of the 27th April about two cases of interference by Persian naval vessels with Kuwaiti dhows.

*not need*

It would seem that both these incidents occurred outside not only the 3 mile limit of territorial waters which we recognise, but even the 6 mile limit which the Persians claim.

We should be grateful if you would bring these incidents to the notice of the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs or of the Prime Minister and ask that instructions should be sent to Persian naval vessels not to interfere with dhows on the high seas outside Persian territorial waters. You should point out that if the Persian naval authorities persist in stopping Kuwait and other Arab dhows on the high seas, this is likely to lead to constant friction which it is our earnest desire to avoid.

By Persian territorial waters we still mean, of course, waters within the three mile limit, but there would be no point in getting involved in a fruitless argument with the Persians on this point. I am sending copies of this letter to the Political Resident and to Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

(C.W. Baxter).  
Sir John LeRougetel, K.C.M.G., M.C.,  
Tehran.

No. 987-S.

5

Persian Gulf Residency,  
Bahrain,  
the 22nd May 1947.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to

The Political Agent, Kuwait,  
The Political Agent, Bahrain,  
The Political Agent, Muscat,

with reference to Residency endorsement No. 746-S dated the 28th April 1947 to Kuwait, No. 928-S dated 15th May 1947 to Bahrain and No. 988-S dated 19th May 1947 to Muscat.

154  
PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY  
BAHRAIN  
22/5/47

1 R 622  
21/6/47

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [75v] (150/164)

Received under Persian Office endorsement No. 2522/68/21  
dated 13.5.1947. (K3522/68/21)  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.  
10th May, 1947. CONFIDENTIAL.

Will you please refer to the following  
Resident, Persian Gulf's telegram No. 213 of the  
27th April about two cases of interference by  
Persian naval vessels with Kuwaiti dhows.

It would seem that both these incidents  
occurred outside not only the 3 mile limit of  
territorial waters which we recognise, but even the  
3 mile limit which the Persians claim.

We should be grateful if you would bring  
these incidents to the notice of the Acting Minister  
of Foreign Affairs or of the Prime Minister and  
ask that instructions should be sent to Persian  
naval vessels not to interfere with dhows on the  
high seas outside Persian territorial waters. You  
should point out that if the Persian naval author-  
ities persist in stopping Kuwaiti and other Arab  
dhows on the high seas, this is likely to lead to  
constant friction which it is our earnest desire  
to avoid.

By Persian territorial waters we still  
mean, of course, waters within the three mile limit,  
but there would be no point in getting involved in  
a fruitless argument with the Persians on this point.  
I am sending copies of this letter to the Political  
Resident and to Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf.

(C.W. Baxter).  
Sir John Leighton, K.C.M.G., K.C.,  
Tehran.

Resident Gulf Residency,  
Bahrain,  
the 28th May 1947. No. 987-B.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to  
The Political Agent, Kuwait,  
The Political Agent, Bahrain,  
The Political Agent, Muscat.

with reference to Residency endorsement No. 748-B  
dated the 28th April 1947 to Kuwait, No. 928-B dated  
15th May 1947 to Bahrain and No. 926-B dated 13th  
May 1947 to Muscat.

124  
18/5/47  
18/5/47

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [76r] (151/164)

6/13

(76) 74  
(75)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1141 - S.

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

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

(6)

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

PERSIAN GULF RESIDENCY,  
BAHRAIN.

Dated the 13th June, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence :  
Residency endorsement No. 987-S, dated the 22nd May, 1947.

Description of enclosure :

Number and Date	Subject
Letter No. 272, dated the 22nd May, 1947, from the British Embassy, Tehran.	Persian naval interference with Arab dhows.

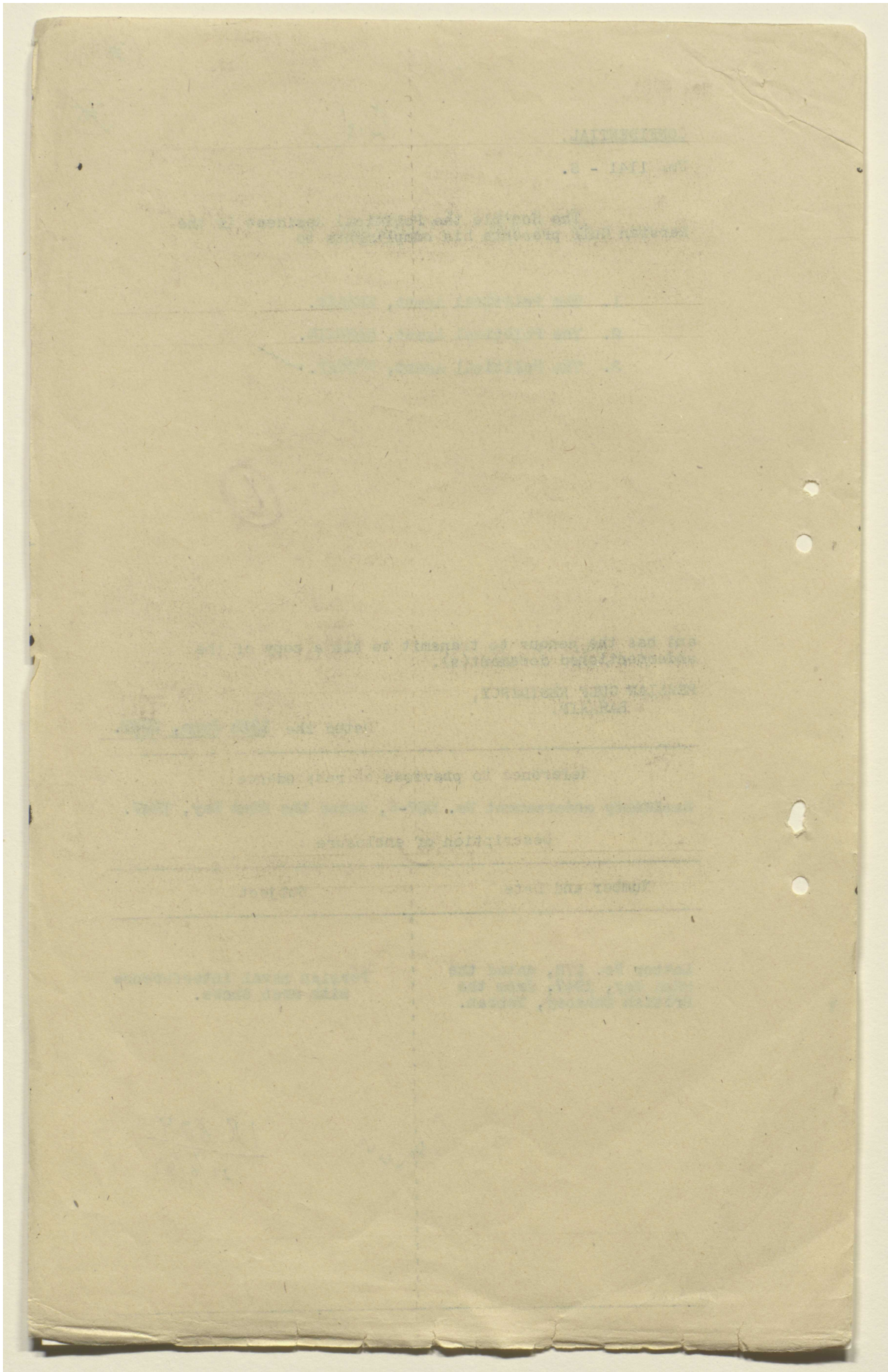
G.A.M.

13.6.47

1R 609  
21/6/47



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [76v] (152/164)



No. 272.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
TEHRAN.  
22nd May, 1947.

77 75

76

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to direct the attention of Your Excellency to the increasingly frequent practice of interference by Iranian naval vessels with Koweiti and other Arab dhows, and to refer in particular to two recent cases of such interference which have been brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government.

2. His Majesty's Government are informed :

(1) that on the 11th March one dhow was stopped at a point 30 miles North West of the island of Kharg by an Iranian naval vessel which caused serious damage in coming alongside. It appears that the boarding party failed to board the dhow owing to heavy seas;

(2) that on the 18th March two dhows were stopped by an Iranian naval vessel 18 miles from the nearest point of the Iranian shore in the vicinity of Tahiri.

Both these dhows were boarded and searched. A few articles were stolen and in each case a sum of Rs 1,000 was demanded, although the dhows were eventually released upon payment of a small levy.

3. I am to point out to Your Excellency that the dhows concerned in these incidents, which were returning to Koweit from India, were flying the flag of Koweit and were stationed well outside Iranian territorial waters when they were intercepted. I am therefore to ask you to be so good as to arrange for the issue of instructions to Iranian naval vessels not to interfere with foreign dhows on the high seas. I am further to emphasize that this practice of stopping koweiti and other Arab dhows on the high seas is likely to lead only to constant friction which it is the earnest desire of His Majesty's Government to avoid.

4. I shall be grateful to receive Your Excellency's assurance that adequate measures will be taken by the competent Imperial authority to prevent a recurrence of such interference.

5. I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

---

Received under Foreign Office printed letter No. E.4632/66/91, dated the 3rd June, 1947.

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'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [77v] (154/164)

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
TERRACE,  
22nd May, 1947.

No. 278.

Monseigneur le Ministre,

I have the honor to direct the attention of Your Excellency to the increasingly frequent practice of interference by Iranian naval vessels with Kuwaiti and other Arab dhows, and to refer in particular to two recent cases of such interference which have been brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government.

His Majesty's Government are informed:

(1) that on the 15th March one dhow was stopped at a point 30 miles North West of the island of Kharab by an Iranian naval vessel which caused serious damage in coming alongside. It appears that the boarding party failed to board the dhow owing to heavy seas;

(2) that on the 18th March two dhows were stopped by an Iranian naval vessel 18 miles from the nearest point of the Iranian shore in the vicinity of Ashir.

Both these dhows were boarded and searched. A few articles were stolen and in each case a sum of £1,000 was demanded, although the dhows were eventually released upon payment of a small levy.

I am to point out to Your Excellency that the dhows concerned in these incidents, which were returning to Kuwait from India, were flying the flag of Kuwait and were stationed well outside Iranian territorial waters when they were intercepted. I am therefore to ask you to be so good as to arrange for the issue of instructions to Iranian naval vessels not to interfere with foreign dhows on the high seas. I am further to emphasize that this practice of stopping Kuwaiti and other Arab dhows on the high seas is likely to lead only to constant friction which it is the earnest desire of His Majesty's Government to avoid.

I shall be grateful to receive Your Excellency's assurance that adequate measures will be taken by the competent Imperial authority to prevent a recurrence of such interference.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

Received under Foreign Office printed letter No. E.4632/66/91, dated the 3rd June, 1947.

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [78r] (155/164)

6/13  
No. G/380-6/13

(78) 76  
H. B. M's. Consulate,  
Muscat. (74)

Dated the 30th June, 1947.

To

The Secretary to

His Highness the Sultan of Muscat and Oman,  
Muscat.

Country Craft "Mussad" (7)

Memorandum

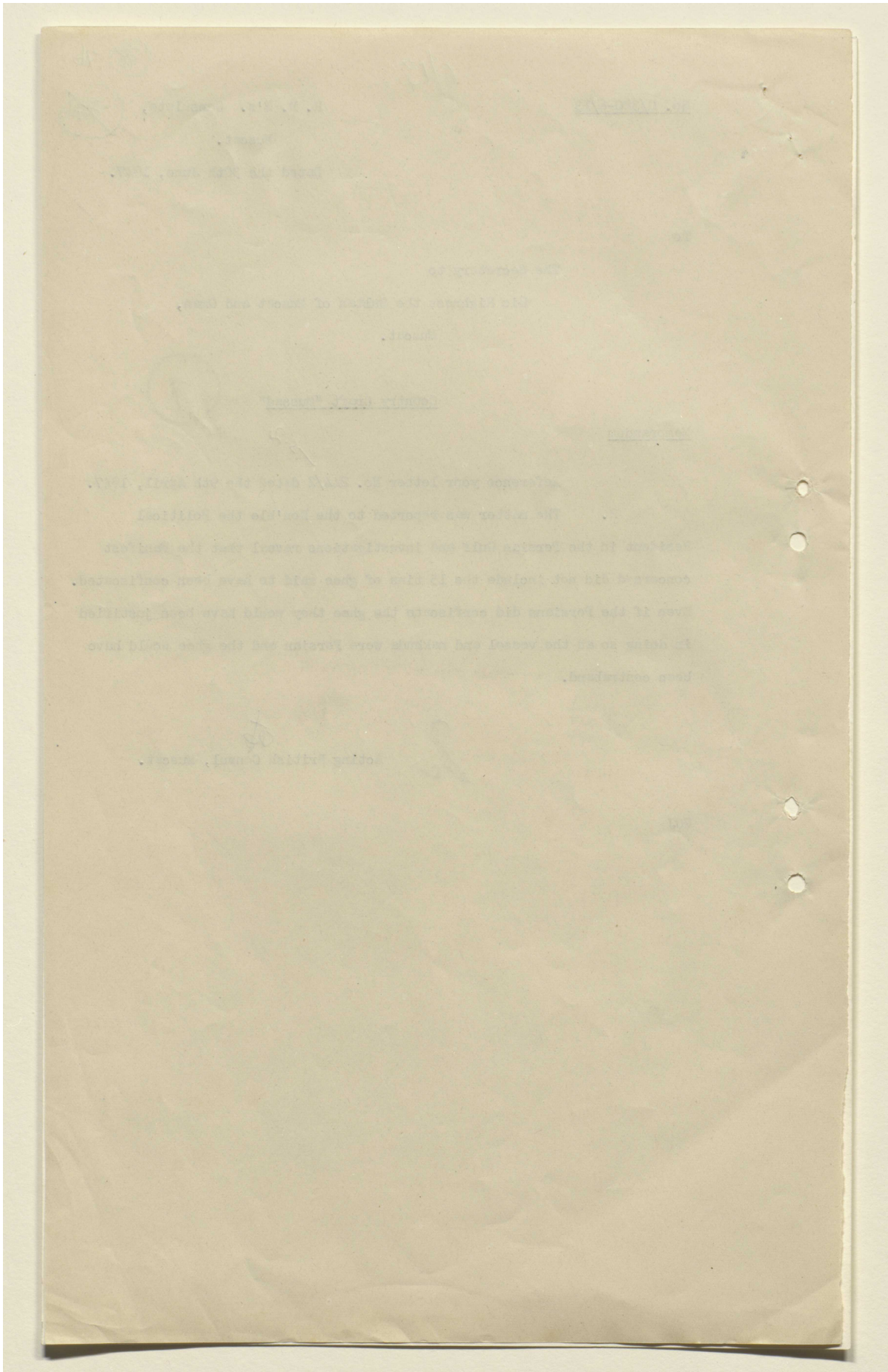
Reference your letter No. 244/2 dated the 9th April, 1947.

2. The matter was reported to the Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and investigations reveal that the Manifest concerned did not include the 15 tins of ghee said to have been confiscated. Even if the Persians did confiscate the ghee they would have been justified in doing so as the vessel and makhuda were Persian and the ghee would have been contraband.

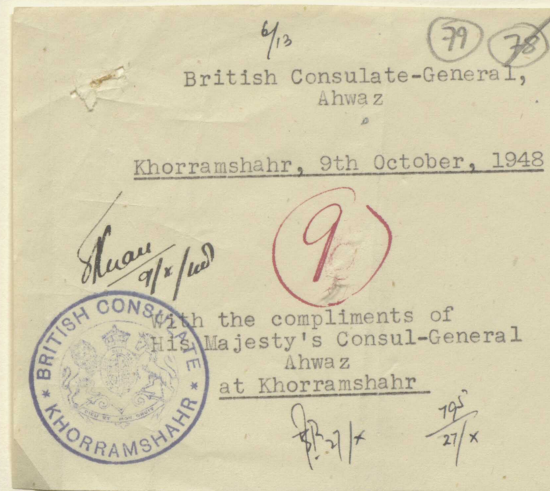
2 Acting British Consul, Muscat.

NCJ

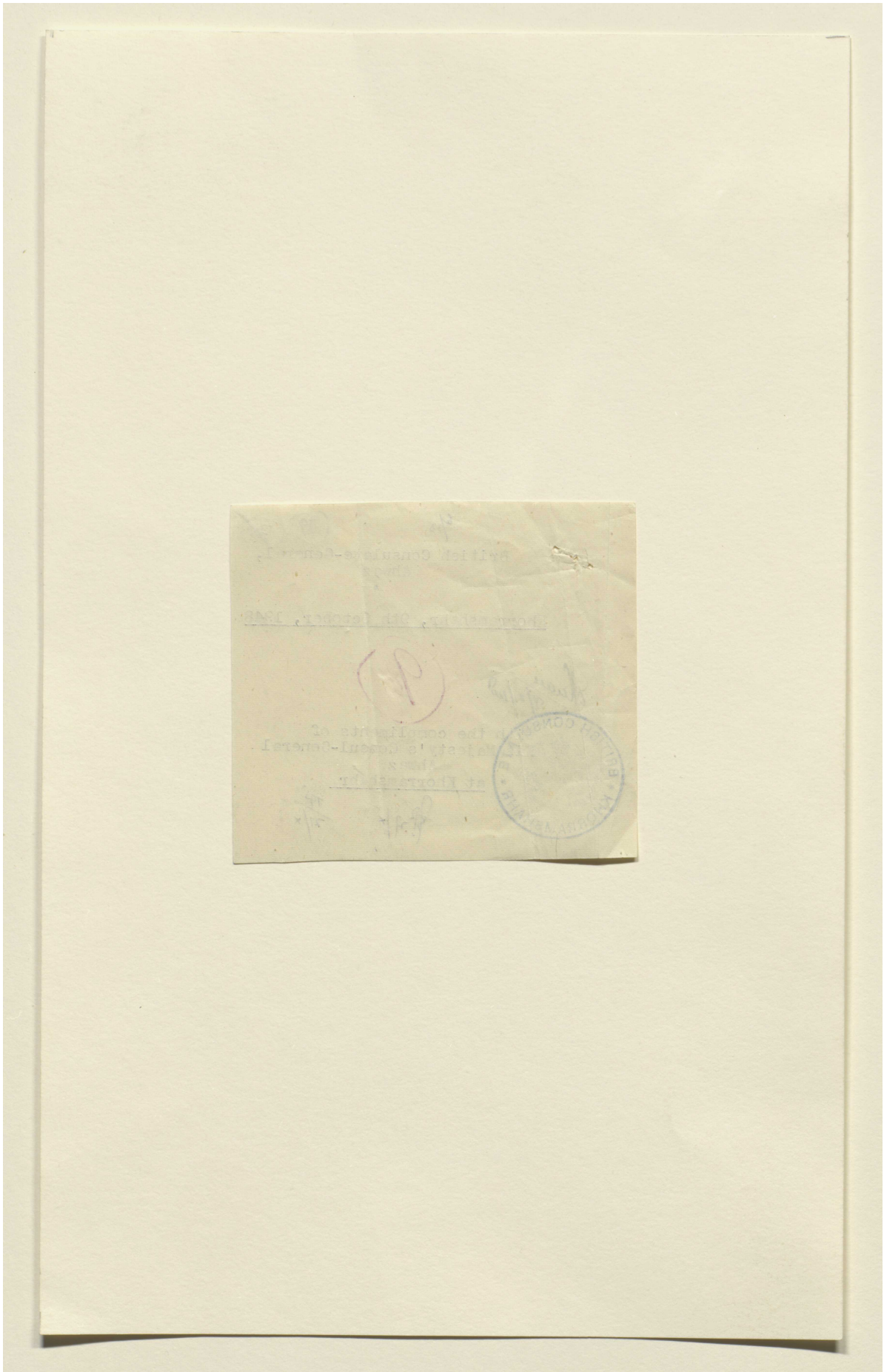
'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [78v] (156/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [79r] (157/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [79v] (158/164)



No. 76 -15/23.

British Consulate-General,  
Ahwaz.

Khorramshahr, dated 9th October, 1948.

Dear Chancery,

We have recently received petitions from four nakhodas of dhows from the Arab Coast of the Persian Gulf, stating that, while on their way to Khorramshahr, they were intercepted off Kharg Island by members of the Iranian Naval Garrison stationed there and that large sums of money had been confiscated from them. They have requested that inquiries may be made into the matter with a view to obtaining the recovery of the money.

2. Details of the incidents as reported are as follows :-

(i) Mahmood bin Ali, nakhoda of dhow "Al Mansuri" of Qa'sab, was intercepted at 9 p.m. on 19th August 1948 by four armed Iranian ratings, who searched the dhow and confiscated Rupees 3000/-

(ii) Ali bin Saleh, nakhoda of dhow "Fath-ul-Khair" from Bokha, Trucial Coast. Dhow was boarded and searched at daybreak on 2nd September 1948 by three armed ratings who confiscated Rupees 340/- and Tumans 70/- and ordered him to proceed.

(iii) Ahmad bin <sup>Mohammad</sup> Mahmood, nakhoda of dhow "Fath-ul-Majid" from Bokha, Trucial Coast. Dhow was boarded at daybreak on 12th September 1948 by four armed ratings and searched. The sum of Rupees 3000/- was found and nakhoda was taken ashore with money to a naval officer, who told him that he was not permitted to carry Rupee currency into Iran and that the amount was therefore confiscated.

(iv) Mohammad bin Ahmad, nakhoda of dhow "Nasiri" of Bokha, Trucial Coast, was intercepted at 11 a.m. on 13th September 1948 by six ratings (one of whom is named Abbas) who confiscated Rials 4000/- and Rupees 45/-.

3. We should be grateful if you would take up the matter with the appropriate authorities if you see no objection, and let us know the result in due course.

Yours ever,

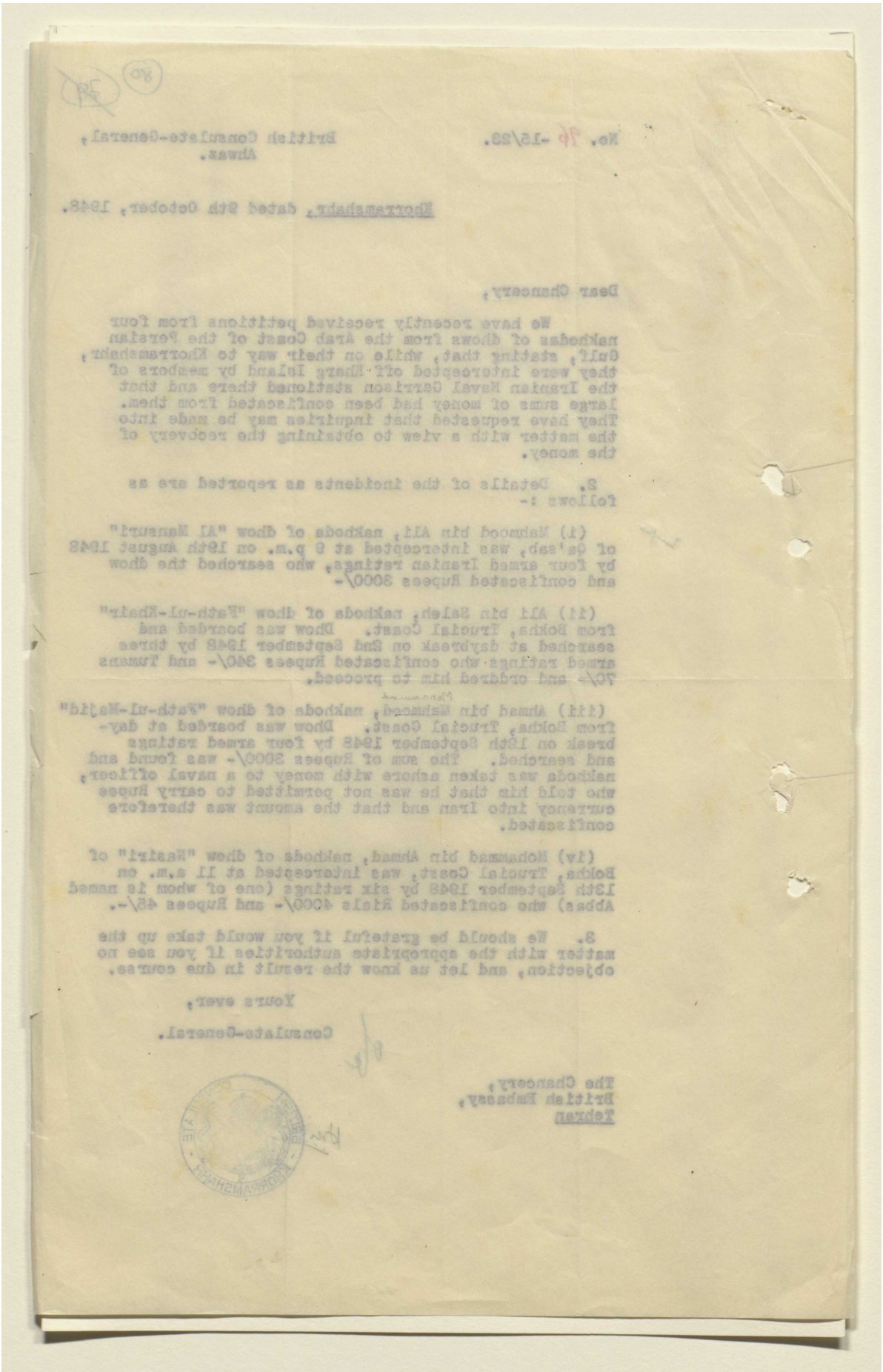
Consulate-General.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Tehran





'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [80v] (160/164)



British Consulate-General,  
Amman.  
No. 15/23.

Khorramshahr, dated 27th October, 1948.

Dear Chancery,

We have recently received petitions from four  
nakhodas of dhows from the Arab Coast of the Persian  
Gulf, stating that, while on their way to Khorramshahr,  
they were intercepted off Kharg Island by members of  
the Iranian Naval Garrison stationed there and that  
large sums of money had been confiscated from them.  
They have requested that inquiries may be made into  
the matter with a view to obtaining the recovery of  
the money.

2. Details of the incidents as reported are as follows:-

- (i) Mahmood bin Ali, nakhoda of dhow "Al Mansuri" of Qasab, was intercepted at 9 p.m. on 19th August 1948 by four armed Iranian ratings, who searched the dhow and confiscated Rupees 3000/-
- (ii) Ali bin Saif, nakhoda of dhow "Fath-ul-Khalik" from Borna, Trucial Coast. Dhow was boarded and searched at daybreak on 2nd September 1948 by three armed ratings who confiscated Rupees 200/- and Rupees 70/- and ordered him to proceed.
- (iii) Ahmad bin Mahmood, nakhoda of dhow "Fath-ul-Majid" from Borna, Trucial Coast. Dhow was boarded at daybreak on 13th September 1948 by four armed ratings and searched. The sum of Rupees 3000/- was found and nakhoda was taken ashore with money to a naval officer, who told him that he was not permitted to carry Rupees currency into Iran and that the amount was therefore confiscated.
- (iv) Mohammad bin Ahmad, nakhoda of dhow "Nasiri" of Borna, Trucial Coast, was intercepted at 11 a.m. on 13th September 1948 by six ratings (one of whom is named Abbas) who confiscated Rupees 4000/- and Rupees 48/-.

3. We should be grateful if you would take up the matter with the appropriate authorities if you see no objection, and let us know the result in due course.

Yours ever,  
Consulate-General.



The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Tehran

6/13

81  
80

FOREIGN INTERESTS

Interference with Arab dhows  
by Persians.

(No note sheets previously).

①

P.R. Bahrain Lt. No. 752-S dt 29/4/47.

②

Secy to H.H. letter no. 144/2 dt 9/4/47.

1. May telegraph brief report to P.R.  
as there is no news of an up boat? D.F.A.

J. 15/5  
15/5/47

D.F.A.

③

Joined telegram no. 9/227 dt 17.5.47 to Repsr. Bahrain

④

P.R. Bahrain endlt No. 958-S dt 19/5/47.

⑤

P.R. Bahrain endlt No. 987-S dt 22/5/47.

⑥

P.R. Bahrain P.L. No. 1141-S dt 13/6/47.

2. S. 4. - This refers to the case reported to this  
Consulate by Secy to H.H. (vide S 2) and  
passed on to P.R. by us (vide S 3). According  
to PUC the 15 tons of ghee said to have  
been confiscated do not appear in the  
Manifest and would therefore be contraband.  
The Persians appear to have been justified  
in confiscating the ghee as both the vessel  
and nakhuda were Persian. May inform

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [81v] (162/164)

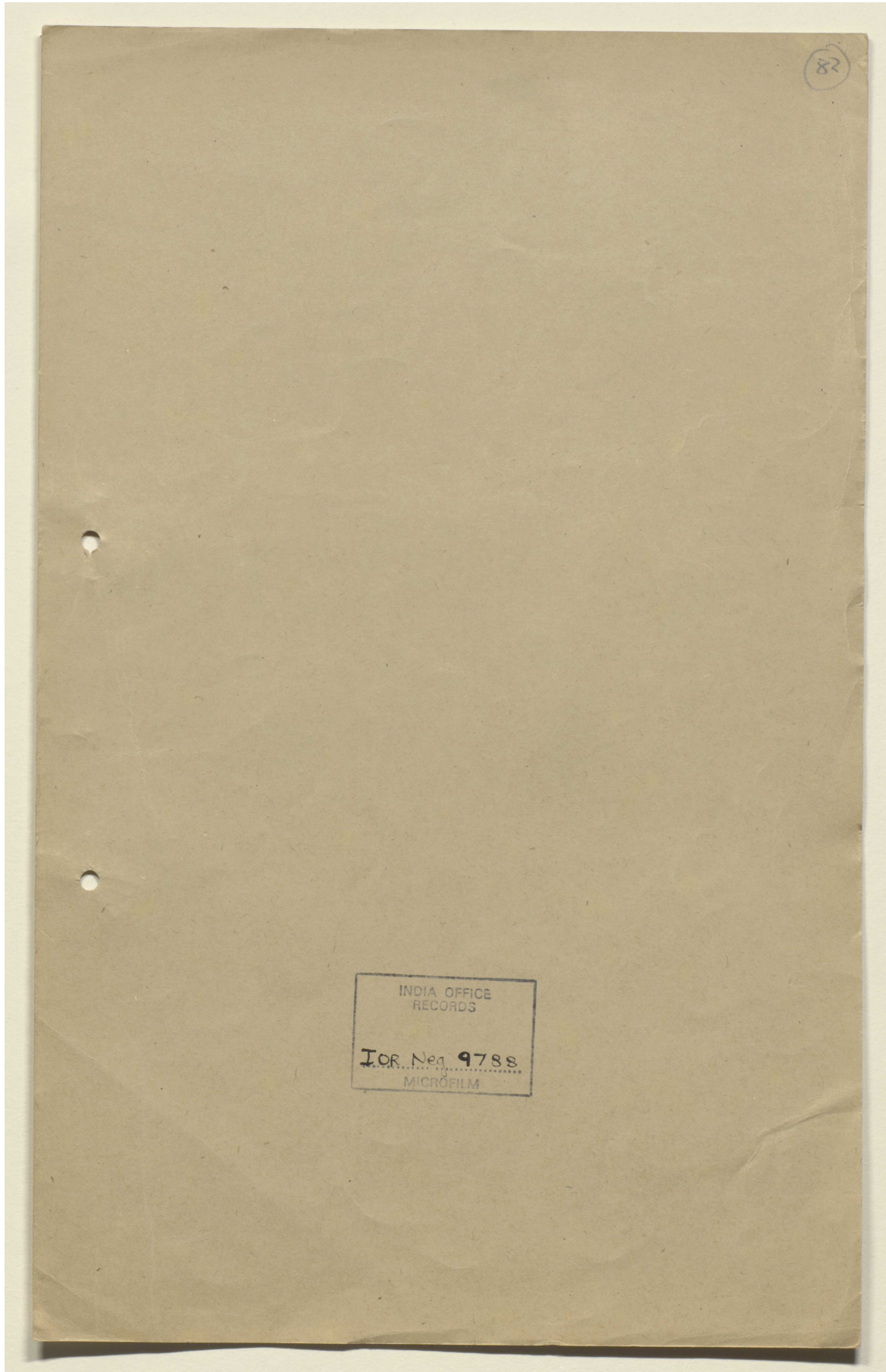
Secy to H.H. accordingly? D.F.A.  
S. 5 and 6. These are separate cases. File? 3

28/6. J 26/6 <sup>not</sup> 28/6/47.

⑧  
Issued Memo. no. C.380 dt 30.6.47 to Secretary to H.H.

⑨  
Comp. Dip dated 9.x.48 from Consul Gen. Alway.  
for information - file J 28/6/48

'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [back-i]  
(163/164)



'File 6/13 Foreign Interests: Seizure of Arab Dhows by Persians' [back]  
(164/164)

