

~~TOP SECRET~~

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RECEIVED BY O.T.P.

PRIORITY

FROM : B. J. S. M. WASHINGTON.
TO : MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, LONDON.

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(022155A)
TOR 030238A

ZO 726

2nd May 1951

Subject is Oil Denial.

Please connect with ZO 725 dated 1st May 1951.

1. The meeting referred to in Para 5 was held morning 1st May. The American representatives were Mr. George Pressing of C.I.A. and Lt Col. D. Roberts of Admiral Bigg's office. We were represented by Beckett Petroleum attache at the Embassy and Darlington of G.H.Q. MELF.
2. We exchanged full details of the demolition plans made by us for Oil Denial in Persia and Iraq and by the C.I.A. for Saudi Arabia. We were in general agreement as to what type of targets must be attacked and as to priorities. We have agreed some minor modifications to our plans are desirable. Darlington will bring back details with him.
3. The American representatives thought our plans generally satisfactory but feared they would break down at the moment of the arrival of our parties at the installations because no advance arrangements had been made with the oil companies. In view of our instructions we did not disclose the fact that the situation is better than it appears particularly as regards contacts that have been established between G.H.Q. MELF and the Iraq Petroleum Company.
4. It has been apparent in our talks that the State Department are disappointed at our apparent failure to work out with the oil companies detailed plans for the use of their personnel in operations. It is suggested therefore early consideration should be given to the possibility of taking the State Department and the C.I.A. into our full confidence on this matter. Disclosure might be made on the understanding that no information about our planning would be divulged by the State Department or the C.I.A. to the American Oil companies and that no contacts should be permitted between their oil companies and ours.
5. On the American side we have learnt that selected company personnel are already being given training and instructions in the oil fields on the tasks required of them should it be necessary to put Denial measures into effect. Unless we express our intention to make preliminary arrangements of a similar nature we are at a

Central Intelligence Agency
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disadvantage when suggesting we accept responsibility of Kuwait and Qatar.

6. In the event of our assuming responsibility for Denial in an area for which military personnel cannot be made available would plans for employment of company personnel be made by our special operations organisation in consultation with company concerned? If this were done it would be in line with American practice of using C.I.A. and liaison could be between special operations and C.I.A. rather than company to company.

7. C.I.A. are willing to send their representatives in June to the Cairo meeting referred to in ZO 725 Para 7. We understand that Drake General Manager Abadan may be in Cairo about that time for discussions with G.H.C. MELF. It may be considered undesirable that the C.I.A. officials and Drake should be in Cairo at the same time and we suggest that this point be considered in arranging the dates of these two sets of meetings. This meeting might be a suitable time to reveal further details of our plans with companies so as to avoid giving the impression that we have been holding back information in the current talks. Grateful you inform us earliest whether early June is suitable for Cairo meetings so that we may inform C.I.A.

CIRCULATION

TOO 022055Z

- D. C. O. R.
- Foreign Office.
- War Registry, Admiralty.
- Message Control, War Office.
- Registry Telegrams, Air Ministry.
- Mr. D. P. Reilly, F.O.
- Sir P. Liesching.