

UK

119

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

7th June, 1951.

TOP SECRET

Dear Murphy

I am writing to place on record my understanding of the main conclusions reached at our meeting yesterday about oil denial.

2. As regards the role which M.I.6 might be able to play in oil denial or counter denial operations, it was agreed that no definite decision could be reached until further details had been obtained of the precise nature of the operations to be undertaken (the Ministry of Fuel and Power were pursuing this point) and the matter had been discussed with the companies.

3. The following conclusions were reached about arrangements for the forthcoming technical talks in Cairo and connected matters:-

- (a) M.I.6 would nominate a representative to attend the talks.
- (b) There would be no difficulty about receiving Prusning of the U.I.A. if he passed through London about the 20th June.
- (c) The Ministry of Fuel and Power had already taken up the question of clearing British key personnel in the A.C.C. and the Q.P.C. They would try to make sure that some names at least could be cleared before Prusning arrived and, if they experienced any difficulty over this, they would get in touch with the Foreign Office who would also take the matter up with M.I.6.
- (d) As regards the B.P.C., an American company, it would be appropriate for the Americans in the first instance to produce the names of British key personnel requiring clearance. The Ministry of Fuel and Power would, however, investigate the possibility of getting in touch with the B.P.C. direct on the matter in London.
- (e) The British official who would probably be nominated to attend the meeting which Prusning proposed to hold on arrival at Dohafran would be Polly of the Political Residency, Persian Gulf. At Kuwait and Bahrain the appropriate British official for him to meet would be the Political Agent and the Political Resident respectively.

L.P. Murphy, Esq.,  
Ministry of Fuel and Power.

(r)

UK

- (f) Arrangements could be made when Prussing reached London to nominate the appropriate representatives of the K.O.C. and Q.P.C. to attend his meeting at Dshahran.
- (g) The War Office would telegraph to Cairo to obtain the answers to the questions in Steel's letter of the 28th May about the administrative arrangements for the proposed technical talks in Egypt.
- (h) In view of the postponement of the proposed talks in Cairo it would not be desirable to consider at these talks all the points suggested in paragraph 1 of Prussing's memorandum enclosed with Steel's letter from Washington. Points (a) and (b) should be dealt with in the course of his visit to the United Kingdom and the Persian Gulf and arrangements could be made at his meetings with members of the oil companies to deal with points (d), (f) and (g). There would remain only points (c) and (e) for discussion at the Cairo talks, at which oil company officials would, of course, not be present.
- (i) No action was required on paragraph 2 of Prussing's memorandum.

4. It was agreed that no reply should be sent to Washington telegram number 1748 until a decision had been reached about the clearance of British key personnel. I think, however, that we should send some reply before the end of this week, if only to make it clear to Prussing that we should be glad to see him in London about the 30th June. I think we should do this even if we are only able to give an interim reply about the questions of clearance. I should be grateful if you would let me know what you think about this.

5. I am sending copies of this letter to Rowing and Howell.

*Yours sincerely*

*T. H. St. G. Moss*

(T. H. St. G. Moss).