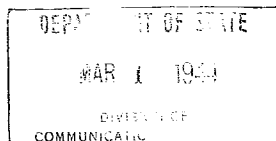


Cooperation with Other Governments: Other Countries: Saudi Arabia

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AIRGRAM



Secretary of State,
Washington

FROM

Jidda

February 16, 1944

Rec'd: Feb 29 1944

A-10, February 16, 10:00 a.m.

Reference is made to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, 7:00 p.m. quoting the policy of the United States Government with regard to victims of enemy oppression, instructing this Legation to submit a report on the situation in Saudi Arabia, and directing that the Government of Saudi Arabia be approached to ascertain how far it is ready to cooperate in the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order.

The circular instruction referred to above appears to have no application to Saudi Arabia. There are no Jews in Saudi Arabia, and the nature of the country, the nature of its inhabitants, the tenets of the prevailing religion (Islam) and the local adverse reaction to Zionism, combine to make it certain that no Jew will be permitted to enter Saudi Arabia unless a special reason exists for doing so. Those same reasons make it unlikely that Jews will apply for admission into Saudi Arabia.

In the past two years one Jew is known to have come to Saudi Arabia. He was British, and a salesman of woolen textiles. That he ever came to Arabia is believed to have been due to a misconception of where Jidda is on his part, and to ignorance on the part of the Saudi officials that he was a Jew. No refusals of applications for entry of Jews are known.

In view of the special hostility toward Zionism held in Saudi Arabia, both officially and privately, and consequent suspicion of all Jews, it is believed inadvisable for this Legation to explain the President's policy to the Saudi Arabian Government or to confirm that the Saudi Arabian authorities will not cooperate in any such policy. Authorization to take no action in the matter is respectfully requested.

MOOSE

JSK/cjm

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