Association with Other Governments: Other Countries: Saudi Arabia
FROM

Jidda

February 16, 1944

Rec'd: 4d

Secretary of State,
Washington

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 pre-
vailing 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 in-
advisable 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

J3H/cjm