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EXCHANGE OF CABLES WITH THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

At the request of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, His Excellency, Mr. Jamil M. Baroody, the Secretary-General is circulating the following exchange of cables which relate to the letter dated 14 February 1967 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia (S/7749) to the Secretary-General and the reply of the Secretary-General dated 18 February 1967 (S/7768).

1. Cable dated 20 February 1967 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the Secretary-General

Excellency Secretary-General U Thant
United Nations NY

Acknowledge with thanks receipt Your Excellency's letter 18 February. Promptly communicating same to His Majesty King Faisal. Meanwhile, His Majesty instructed me urgently request Your Excellency to please let me know soonest possible what effective steps you have taken regarding cables addressed to you by HRH Prince Saiful Islam Alhassan Premier of Mutawakalite Kingdom of Yemen and Alsayed Ibrahim Alwaziri President of United Public Forces aside from other cables and representations Your Excellency received in connexion with lethal gas exploded by Egyptian planes in Kitaf northern Yemen of 5 January resulting in over hundred dead and many injured. Needless to say it is indeed farfetched expect those resorting to lethal gas to confess its use. If on no other than humanitarian grounds mankind expects U Thant to raise his voice lest lethal gas continue to be used in Yemen or elsewhere. Appreciate your prompt reply to enable me relay it promptly to His Majesty. Staying at Savoy Hotel till Saturday. Thanks highest regards.

Jamil BAROODY

2. Cable dated 21 February 1967 from the Secretary-General to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia

His Excellency
Mr. Jamil Baroodi
Savoy Hotel
London (England)

Your Excellency's cable of 20 February has been received and carefully noted. You request me to let you know promptly "what effective steps" I have taken regarding cables addressed to me by Prince Saiful Islam Alhassan and Mr. Alsayed Ibrahim Alwaziri. I have received these cables but have not, of course, taken any steps or action along the lines they suggest. As you well know, since I myself have emphasized it to you on several occasions, I am bound by the actions of United Nations organs in matters involving official status and accreditation of Governments. On matters relating to Yemen, therefore, I deal only with the representative of the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic whose credentials have been accepted here. With regard to your reference to the allegation that United Arab Republic aircraft have employed "lethal gas" in an attack in northern Yemen on 5 January, as I have informed you orally earlier, I immediately communicated this allegation to the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations with the request that he transmit it to his Government for comment. You will recall also that I had immediately informed you of the prompt and firm denial of the Government of the United Arab Republic that any lethal or poison gas had been employed by their aircraft as alleged. Thus, the facts are in sharp dispute and I have no means of ascertaining the truth. In these circumstances, I have no choice but to inform Your Excellency that there is no further action on this matter that I can properly take at this time. Regards.

U THANT New York

3. Cable dated 22 February from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the Secretary-General

Excellency U Thant United Nations New York

Thanks for your cable dated 21 February which I am promptly relaying to my Government. Notwithstanding what Your Excellency considers as technical or legal difficulties which seem to impose inaction on you in your capacity of Secretary-General regarding the claim that lethal gas has been used in Yemen please note that the last word on

this matter has not yet been said. With further reference to Your Excellency's letter dated 18 February, May I formally request you to kindly endeavour again to obtain a reply from the United Arab Republic representative regarding the Egyptian air raids on civilians in Najran whence the United Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia have not been at war with each other but in fact maintain diplomatic relations with each other. When I last saw you in New York you kindly promised to communicate to me the United Arab Republic reply regarding the air raids on Najran. Over two weeks have elapsed since said air raids were carried out on Saudi Arabia a State Member of the United Nations. Either the United Arab Republic Government are still thinking what their formal reply should be or they elect to remain silent. If you cannot elicit a reply from them kindly let me know. Would appreciate prompt reply soonest possible. Staying in London till Saturday morning. Regards.

Jamil BAROODY Savoy Hotel

4. Cable dated 23 February 1967 from the Secretary-General to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia

Ambassador Baroody
Savoy Hotel (London)

I have the honour to reply to Your Excellency's cable to me of 22 February. With regard to the allegation of the use by the United Arab Republic of lethal gas in Yemen, as you request, note has been taken by me "that the last word in this matter has not yet been said". Concerning the alleged raids on Najran, your new request for a reply from the Government of the United Arab Republic will be called to the attention of the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations. At present, I can only renew my previous assurance to you that any views or observations on the alleged raids presented to me by the Government of the United Arab Republic will be communicated to you without delay. In this regard, Excellency, permit me to inquire whether, in view of the fact stated in your latest cable to me that "the United Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia have not been at war with each other but in fact maintain diplomatic relations with each other", any effort has been exerted by your Government to elicit directly a reaction from the Government of the United Arab Republic to the allegation about the raids on Najran, and also on the use of lethal gas? With regards.

U THANT New York

5. Cable dated 23 February 1967 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs

Excellency Dr. Ralph Bunche United Nations New York

Received Secretary-General's cable dated 23 February. With reference to his question beginning with "any efforts your Government" etc. my Government undoubtedly made strong representations directly in Cairo. But were Cairo's reply in any way satisfactory especially regarding the Najran air raids, I would not have been requested to take up the matter formally with the Secretary-General. U Thant in your presence promised to communicate to me the United Arab Republic reply once the United Arab Republic representative obtained it from his Government. The Secretary-General reported to me that the United Arab Republic representative denied on behalf of his Government the use of lethal gas by Egyptian planes in northern Yemen. However, both the Secretary-General and yourself told me that you were still awaiting the United Arab Republic's reply regarding the Najran raids. In my last cable, I drew U Thant's attention to the fact that over two weeks have elapsed since I took up with him the question of the said raids in fact I should have said over three weeks. I am sure U Thant did his best to elicit a reply from the United Arab Republic regarding Najran. But, does it take that long for the United Arab Republic Government to even think and rethink what their formal reply is or should be unless I believe I am entitled to know whether or not the Secretary-General or his Deputy can elicit a reply or whether the United Arab Republic Government has refused to answer his request for a reply. Please note that this is not a game of hide and seek but an extremely serious matter since the wanton raids or any other aggression on Saudi Arabia may set the stage for a conflagration the consequences of which could easily threaten world peace. All this may happen whilst the United Nations would be acting as a sorry spectator. It is U Thant's privilege not to make any statement about this serious situation whilst he has seen fit to be most articulate about the war in South-East Asia. Is this so because only big-Power conflicts seem to draw the limelight, I wonder. I do know that the United Nations organs are wide open for receiving complaints but at this juncture may I ask you whether the Secretary-General or his office still hopes to obtain the promised United Arab Republic reply. You have my permission

to circulate this cable immediately to the members of the Security Council.
Awaiting your reply Savoy Hotel till Saturday noon or Hotel Crillon Paris later.
Thanks and regards.

Jamil M. BAROODY

6. Cable dated 24 February 1967 from Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia

His Excellency
Mr. Jamil M. Baroody
Hotel Savoy
London, England

Dear Mr. Ambassador, I acknowledge receipt of your cable to me from London of 23 February and am replying to it personally as you have requested. As you know, the Secretary-General is now in Burma where he will be on vacation for a week or so. I will be in communication with him, however, and will not fail to inform him of your reply to the inquiry he made in his cable delivered to you in London on 23 February as to whether your Government had made any direct approach to the Government of the United Arab Republic on the matters of the Najran raids and the use of lethal gas.

As you know, the information which you presented to the Secretary-General about the alleged raids on Najran and the use of lethal gas was promptly given to the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations who transmitted it to his Government. The Secretary-General informed him at the time that he had promised to transmit to you any word about these complaints which would be forthcoming from his Government. Subsequently, the representative of the United Arab Republic was informed of the substance of your letter of 14 February and your two cables of 20 and 22 February from London. As you have been advised previously, the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic has informed the Secretary-General that his Government denies that it has used lethal gas in northern Yemen as alleged. As of this date, there has been no word from the Government of the United Arab Republic to the Secretary-General about the alleged raids on Najran. You will understand that I am not in position to give you any assurance as to whether or not any word on the Najran complaint will be forthcoming. I can only assure you that if and when any word is received it will be communicated to you without delay.

I note with surprise your statement that "it is U Thant's privilege not to make any statement about this serious situation whilst he has seen fit to be most articulate about the war in South-East Asia. Is this so only because only big-Power conflicts seem to draw the limelight, I wonder." Since we are always frank with each other, Mr. Ambassador, I know you will expect me to be so now. It is not, of course, for me to speak for the Secretary-General and certainly not to defend him, but I must say that I consider your statement quoted above to be uncalled for and entirely unjust to the Secretary-General. As you, yourself, have said in your telegram to me, there is a war in South-East Asia. It is, as you know, universally regarded as a most dangerous war. As you have indicated in one of your cables to the Secretary-General, there is no war between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic. The Secretary-General does not in the least minimize the seriousness of the situation that could result from incidents of hostility between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic and it is for this reason that he has regarded your complaints most seriously and has taken them up with the representative of the United Arab Republic. But clearly the overt war in Viet-Nam and the unquestioned bombing occurring out there regularly cannot validly be equated in terms of seriousness and danger with the allegations which you have presented to the Secretary-General.

I must inform you that I am not taking advantage of your "permission" to me to circulate to the Security Council the cable you have addressed to me, for I would think it would be most inappropriate for this to be done. You are fully entitled, of course, to address a communication to the President of the Security Council, which is the usual procedure, or to the Secretary-General, in which you could express such views as you might deem fit and ask that the letter be circulated to the Council.

With best wishes.

Ralph BUNCHE

7. Cable dated 25 February 1967 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs

His Excellency Dr. Ralph Bunche United Nations New York

My dear Dr. Bunche with reference to your cable dated 24 February just received, please note that I addressed my cable dated 23 February to your good self in your

capacity of Assistant Secretary-General precisely because I knew that the Secretary-General had left for Burma otherwise my cable of 23 February would have been addressed to him personally therefore kindly be advised that I am hereby requesting again that my cable of 23 February be distributed to the members of the Security Council through your good self as Assistant Secretary-General or if you deem fit by relaying my said cable to the Secretary-General with my urgent request that it be distributed to the members of the Security Council without undue delay. In reply to quotation from you stated from my previous letters and cable that there is no war between the United Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia, may I draw your attention that in essence wars are being waged nowadays without necessarily being declared. Since the 1930's most wars have been waged without notice or formal declaration. In fact the conflict in South-East Asia was neither announced in the beginning nor formally declared as a war until it gathered momentum and was subsequently dubbed as a war by the international community likewise no formal war was declared in the south-western part of the Arabian Peninsula but this did not prevent the United Arab Republic from sending sizeable army to the region and inter alia subjected Saudi territory to scores of air raids the last two of which were perpetrated on Najran on 27 January. But neither should you nor I nor the Secretary-General for that matter attempt to define modern war or aggression. The United Nations Sixth Committee has so far failed to do so. What is clearer than mid-day sun in cloudless sky is that there is an undeclared war and wanton aggression in the other aforementioned region. You have been a witness to my having repeatedly seized the Secretary-General of the dangerous situation there since 1962. Please my dear Dr. Bunche let us not lose sight of the facts by technical terminology or legalistic quibblings. It is a conservative estimate that over 100,000 have perished during the last four years in the region. Has the toll of killed in Viet-Nam attained this number? Furthermore, should silence continue to prevail regarding the south-western part of the Arabian Peninsula while the whole world is made to feel horrified by what is happening in South-East Asia? I still consider U Thant as a messenger of peace and I don't feel that I am being unfair to him by what I mentioned in my cable of 23 February. War or no war declared or undeclared the trouble in the area might lead to a conflagration which in turn could easily threaten world peace. As a representative who has served in the United Nations for twenty years I deem it my duty on behalf of my

Government to take whatever steps at this juncture to warn the Security Council and the whole international community of a most serious situation before it may become too late. Therefore I do formally request you or whoever is authorized in the absence of the Secretary-General or if needs be I request the Secretary-General himself to kindly circulate my cable of 23 February as well as this cable to the members of the Security Council. Please note that I consider that I am doing my sacred duty in my own frank manner by this request whilst I still personally hold U Thant with my highest esteem. Awaiting your kind reply care Hotel Crillon Paris. Thanks and regards.

Jamil M. BAROODY

8. Cable dated 26 February 1967 from Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia

His Excellency Mr. Jamil M. Baroody
Hotel Crillon
Paris (France)

Your cable to me of 25 February is being transmitted to Secretary-General and I shall await his instructions. In meantime, Secretary-General has instructed me to point out to you that if your cable of 24 February to me is to be circulated, your cable to Secretary-General of 22 February and his reply to it should likewise be circulated in the interest of sequence and clarity. Please cable your concurrence. Regards

Ralph J. BUNCHE

9. Cable dated 26 February 1967 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs

His Excellency Dr. Ralph Bunche
United Nations New York

Thanks for your prompt cable of 26 February. You have my concurrence to circulate to the members of the Security Council and automatically to all the States Members of the United Nations all the cables I sent to the Secretary-General as well as all the cables of the Secretary-General and those sent by you in reply. Please also note that in the interest of sequence and clarity my cable of 20 February addressed to the Secretary-General beginning with "Acknowledge with thanks receipt of Your Excellency's letter dated 18 February" together with the Secretary-General's

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reply thereto should likewise be circulated. , Kindly confirm to me by cable the approximate date of the requested circulation. Thank you and best wishes.

Jamil M. BAROODY Hotel Crillon Paris
