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LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to your predecessor on 27 November by the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia about an alleged incident at Khor al Odaid (S/4119).

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom it is regrettable that the Saudi Arabian Government should have made inaccurate statements about the situation in the Khor al Odaid area which is part of the territories of the Sheikhdum of Abu Dhabi, a State under the protection of Her Majesty's Government.

The statement in the letter of the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia that up to 27 November Her Majesty's Government had not answered the Saudi Arabian Government's protest on this matter is not accurate. The Saudi Arabian Government's protest was received in London through the protecting power on 11 November. A reply was sent through the same channel on 14 November. This reply was delivered to the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jeddah on 19 November. While this reply did not admit the right of the Saudi Arabian Government to make representations about the area in question since it is part of the territories of the Sheikhdum of Abu Dhabi, it nevertheless provided the Saudi Arabian Government with information on the facts.

For the information of members of the Security Council these facts are that no United Kingdom forces or forces under United Kingdom command have occupied the area of Khor al Odaid. The Ruler of Abu Dhabi in October last re-established a police post consisting of some forty men at Khor al Odaid for the supervision of fishing in the area. There are no British officers nor British personnel in the Abu Dhabi police.

The letter of the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia suggests that the "Standstill" agreement and the Arbitration Agreement between Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom still exists. This is incorrect. The violation of the Standstill Agreement of October 1952 by the Saudi Arabian Government led Her Majesty's Government to inform the Saudi Arabian Government on 2 April 1953 that they must reserve their freedom of action and that of the Rulers under their protection and of the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, and they renewed their offer to submit the question to impartial arbitration. The resulting negotiations led to the signature on 30 July 1954, of the Arbitration Agreement. Unfortunately the subsequent actions and conduct of the Saudi Arabian Government amounted to a repudiation on their part of the Arbitration Agreement and made continuation of arbitration impossible. The Saudi Arabian Minister of Foreign Affairs was so informed in a Note from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Jeddah dated 26 October 1955.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated to the members of the Security Council.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) Pierson Dixon
