

Lease-Lend assistance to Saudi Arabia so that it at least equalled the help afforded by the British Government. This decision had been taken before the United States Government had received any recommendations from Mr. Moose and had formed the subject of a decree issued by President Roosevelt.

9. Mr. Moose added that in his opinion the basis they should work on was to draw up a definite estimate of the requirements of the country and then consider how far United States Government could meet these requirements under existing war-time conditions. Mr. Moose considered it would be best to compile a list of the country's requirements over a number of years, say four or five, so that no time would be lost by discussions and everything could be delivered in time.

10. Mr. Moose went on to enquire whether the British Government had as yet reduced their assistance to Saudi Arabia. His Majesty thereupon expressed his gratitude to the United States Government for their decision with regard to his country and proceeded to praise the assistance granted to him by British Government when times were hardest. His Majesty referred to the ties of firm friendship which had for so long bound him to the British Government and which had stood whether their help was great or small. His Majesty considered the help he had received from British Government and latterly also from United States Government was but one of many proofs of friendship uniting Saudi Arabian Government with the two friendly powers.

11. His Majesty then summarised the position regarding the assistance afforded by the British Government during the present year and intimated that no final decision had yet been taken in the matter but that discussions were still proceeding regarding limitation of quantities of foodstuffs supplied to Saudi Arabia. The question of finance was also under discussion but no final decision had, it appeared, yet been reached.

12. His Majesty went on to refer to relations between the three countries stating that their mutual interests lay in collaboration with one another. He did not think, as some thought, that the interests of his country were served by rivalry between Britain and America. The present and future interests of his country depended on friendship between Britain and America and anyone who endeavoured to act otherwise was bound to fall into error.

13. Mr. Moose thanked His Majesty for his statement and declared that this was indeed the wisest course. He concluded by requesting His Majesty's permission to discuss details of the three questions he had raised with Yusuf Yassin and Fuad Hamza.

14. Talks subsequently took place between Yusuf Yassin and Fuad Hamza and Mr. Moose. The latter was informed that Saudi Arabian requirements were as stated in the budget which Mr. Moose had seen. Mr. Moose replied that the budget dealt with present requirements without taking into consideration possible future requirements of Saudi Arabian Government. In reply he was told that greatest requirements were those given in the budget and that if any additional items were subsequently needed they would be ordered as and when required.

15. Mr. Moose agreed to arrangements on this basis and promised to submit them to his Government.

O.T.P. [Copies sent to Mr. Wiltshire].