

وثيقة رقم 6/10411 مورخه في 9 فبراير 1953

من : رئيس المفوضية البريطانية في تعز

الى : وزير الخارجية البريطاني السير انطوني ايدن

ملخص الوثيقة :

✧ تسلم المفوضية البريطانية في تعز مذكرة من وزارة الخارجية اليمنية تطالب فيها الحكومة البريطانية باتخاذ اجراءات عقابية ضد صحيفة الفضول وبعض الصحف الصادرة في عدن التي تنتقد الحكم الامامي في الشمال وتخالف الاتفاقية الموققة "Modus Vivendi" حيث سلمها له القاضي العمري نائب وزير الخارجية اليمني.

✧ تم خلال اللقاء طرح عدد من المواضيع من كلا الجانبين حيث عبر الجانب البريطاني من انزعاجه من استمرار المقالات الصحفية التي تمول من قبل الامام والموجهه ضد السياسة البريطانية في عدن والتي اعتبرها الجانب اليمني انتقادات مبرره، كونها لا تمس السيادة البريطانية ولا تمس الحاكم العام في عدن، حيث اكد القاضي العمري بان انزعاج الحكومة اليمنية يتمثل بالمقالات التي تصدر عن صحيفة الفضول والتي تهاجم النظام الملكي بشكل عام والامام احمد بشكل خاص.

✧ اعترف رئيس البعثة البريطانية بتعز بان مقالات صحيفة الفضول ضد الامام تمثل انتهاك لاتفاقية "موداس فيفي" وان الامام احمد لديه حساسية مفرطة تجاه الانتقادات الصحفية خصوصا الصادرة من الفضول.

✧ قلق الامام احمد من وصول الشيخ عبد الله علي الحكيمي الى عدن من كاردف

والتقاءه بالفضول ، حيث ان الشيخ الحكيمي كان قد اصدر صحيفة السلام المناوئه للحكم الامامي ، ويخشى الامام احمد ان يستغل الفضول هذه الزيارة ليصبح اكثر انتقادة لسياسة وحكمة.

✧ اقتراح رئيس المفوضية البريطانية في تعز بأن يتم التخاطب مرة ثانية مع رئيس تحرير صحيفة الفضول من قبل الحاكم العام في عدن بأن يخفف من انتقادة للحكومة اليمنية وبالأخص عدم التعرض لشخصية الأمام.

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Despatch No. 10. ✓

(10411/6)

Confidential

British Legation,

Taiz, Yemen.

9th. February 1953.

Em 1671/4

Sir, -/2

I have the honour to refer to my telegrams No. 29 and No. 30 of 6th. February reporting that I had received a note from the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting that steps should be taken to prevent the Aden newspaper Al Fadool, and others, publishing articles contravening the terms of Article VIII of the modus vivendi agreement between Her Majesty's Government and the Yemeni Government, and to submit the following recommendation on a reply to this note. -/1

2. As stated in my telegram No. 29, I have had the honour to submit a despatch, No. 4 (10411/1) of 30th. January, in which I have tried to show that the newspaper Al Saba, which is published in Taiz, has not in fact been controlled in conformity with the obligations laid upon the Yemeni Government by their acceptance of the terms of the modus vivendi agreement. When I pointed this out to Gadhhi al Amri, the Deputy Foreign Minister, while discussing with him the note from his Ministry, he claimed that a real, and in his Government's view successful, effort had been made to ensure that the sovereign of the United Kingdom and his Excellency the Governor of Aden would not be defamed by newspapers published in the Yemen. In support of this

/ contention

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contention he recalled that publication of this newspaper had been suspended once when I had made an official complaint about an article in it, and that the editor had been told not to make allegations about his Excellency the Governor of Aden when I had complained on a second occasion about such a matter. This is a fairly accurate statement of fact. What is not true, however, is the claim that this newspaper has not been publishing in its every issue articles which tend to impair the relations between the United Kingdom and the Yemen. He made this claim, but I am in no doubt that a charge that it has been doing so can be proved without much difficulty. The Yemeni Government's view is that it has been publishing only fair criticism.

3. When I stated that a great deal that was published in the Aden newspaper Al Fadool really was fair criticism, Qadhi al Amri accepted my point, though he added that it was not only Al Fadool which was guilty in the eyes of his Government. So I then asked him to inform me to which articles his Government did take exception. He replied that these articles were the ones in which criticism was made of the Imam himself. On being asked to give details of these articles he said that he could not do so at once but would try to give details within a few days time. He added that it was not difficult for me to find the articles, for in whichever one mention was made of the Imam there would be found statements contravening the terms of Article VIII. I replied that it would be better if he detailed the articles himself.

4. As I have had the honour to state in my despatch No. 4, there is little doubt in my mind that the newspaper Al Fadool has been overstepping the limits set by Article VIII. Since

/the Imam

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the Imam is most sensitive to criticism in the press it is not unlikely that he has become increasingly concerned as Al Fadool has continued to criticise him. But I think that the arrival of Shaikh Abdullah Ali al Hakimi in Aden has increased his concern, for this person used to be the editor of the Cardiff newspaper Al Salam, which, it will be recalled, was the subject of complaints from the Yemeni Government in the past. The close association between him and the editor of Al Fadool may have led the Imam to fear that Al Fadool will be even more outspoken in the future. In my opinion such a fear is not groundless and it may be considered necessary to request his Excellency the Governor of Aden to make a further approach to the editor of Al Fadool advising him to restrict his criticism of the Yemeni Government to fair criticism and to avoid criticism of the Imam himself.

5. On the other hand I have argued in my despatch No. 4 that it may be best to ignore the question of the contravention of Article VIII for the time being. I am still inclined to feel that this is the best course to follow, and the recent deterioration in Anglo-Yemeni relations, due to various actions of the Imam, does not give any added reason for placating the Yemeni Government. I therefore have the honour to recommend that, unless it is deemed advisable to await exact details of the articles to which the Yemeni Government have taken exception, the reply to the note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be to the effect that Her Majesty's Government have done, and are still doing, all in their power to ensure that newspapers published in their territories are not allowed to contravene the terms of Article VIII; that they have noted that the Yemeni Government have taken steps to the same end, but that they regret that these steps do not seem to have been consistently effective.

I have the honour to be, with the highest considerations,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

M. B. Jacomb

(M. B. Jacomb)