

## وثيقة رقم (53-3-16713) المؤرخة في 27 اكتوبر 1953

من : رئيس المفوضية البريطانية في تعز

إلى : مكتب حكومة مدينة عدن

ملخص الوثيقة:

✧ هذه الوثيقة تأتي رداً على المذكر رقم (14-1671) المؤرخة في 16 اكتوبر

1953 التي تطلب فيها توضيح للنقاط الثلاث المشار اليها في تلك المذكرة:

✧ التأكيد على استمرار صحيفة الفضول بمهاجمة الإمام بطرق مباشرة او غير مباشرة .

✧ تأكيد رئيس المفوضية في تعز بأن الامام هو الحكومة وان كلمته هي القانون حيث ان اليمن في تلك المرحلة لا توجد فيها حكومة بمعنى الكلمة المتعارف عليها، وأن الفضول يعرف ذلك حق المعرفة وهو عندما يهاجم الحكومة اليمنية فالمقصود به الامام احمد شخصياً.

✧ أشار الى أن الامام احمد يعتقد بان حكومة عدن تقف وراء تلك المقالات واذا رغبت الحكومة البريطانية بتطوير العلاقات الثنائية بين البلدين فعليها وقف الانتقادات في الصحف الصادرة في عدن .

✧ تأكيد رئيس البعثة البريطانية في تعز بأن افضل الطرق لتقوية العلاقات مع الامام احمد سيكون بإغلاق الصحيفة والكف عن انتقاده في صحف المعارضة الأخرى.

✧ يرى رئيس البعثة انه في حالة اغلاق الصحيفة فإن نعمة الانتقادات الموجهه ضد حاكم عدن من قبل صحيفة سباء الصادرة في تعز سوف تقل بكل تأكيد.

✧ ارفاق ترجمة لبعض مقالات صحيفة الفضول التي تنتقد الامام احمد والنظام في الشمال.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Enter v. soon.

16713/3/53

British Legation

Taiz

November 28, 1953

EM 1671/17

Dear Maxey,

Your letter, EM 1671/14 of October 16, crossed mine, 16713/1 of October 27, to the Governor of Aden with a copy to you. The questions in paragraph 4(a) and (b) of your letter were answered in mine.

2. <sup>EM 1671/15</sup> Al Fadhul continues to write scurrilous articles against the Yemen and never has a good word to say for anything the Yemen Government has done. There is no attempt at any constructive criticism. It has to be remembered that there is no 'Government' in the Yemen in the accepted sense of the word. The Imam is the Government and his word is law. The Editor of Al Fadhul is perfectly aware that references to the 'authorities', the Masters and the Rulers are in fact direct references to the Imam himself.

3. Unfortunately the Imam is quite convinced that Al Fadhul publishes these anti-Yemeni articles with the tacit consent of the Government of Aden. He maintains that if the Government were genuinely interested in improving relations with the Yemen they could take measures to stop these attacks by an Aden newspaper.

4. I feel sure that there would be no better way of proving our friendship towards the Yemen at the present time than to withdraw the licence of Al Fadhul. I have already laid stress in my conversation with the Deputy Foreign Minister on the respect the British people have for the principle of the freedom of the Press, and how serious a matter it is for us to take strong action against a newspaper.

Whatever action is taken to suppress the constant flow of propaganda against the Yemen, if successful, would I am sure be taken as a friendly gesture and allay the suspicion that the Government of Aden did not disapprove of these attacks. I think we might well expect that Al Saba would be curbed in return.

5. I enclose the Intra-Consular Corps Press Translation and Summary relating to Al Fadhul Nos. 154-157 covering September 18 to October 31. I have not made a copy of examples from the Summary as I am rather hard pressed, being entirely on my own with not even a Clerk in the Registry to do any typing.

Yours sincerely  
R. Roper-Curzon

(R.H. Roper-Curzon)

P.M. Maxey Esq.  
Eastern Department  
Foreign Office

WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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EASTERN DEPARTMENT

EM 1671/17

YEMEN

FROM Mr Roper-Curzon  
Jaiy.  
To Mr Massey.  
Confidential  
No. 667/3/3/53  
Dated 28/11/53  
Received in  
Registry 17/12/53

Ab Fadhul is still writing scurrilous articles against the Yemen Government; suggests there the best way to prove our friendship to the Yemen is to withdraw the licence of Ab Fadhul.

Encloses Intra-bonzular Corps Press Translation and Summary relating to Ab Fadhul covering September to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

References to former relevant papers

- 15

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Pft) Sir B. Reilly  
C.O. from Mr Massey  
21/12

(Action completed)

g.g. 22/12

(Index)

15/11

References to later relevant papers

MINUTES

Sir Bernard Reilly informed me by telephone before this letter was received that there had been new developments regarding Ab Fadhul in Aden.

Apparently Ab Fadhul had added to its present sins by continuing to appear after its licence had expired. The Governor of Aden considered that this provided an extra reason, and a good opportunity to withdraw the paper's licence. Sir Bernard agreed but felt that there would still be opposition to the proposal in the C.O. He hoped that we had received a reply to our letter of October 16 (-/14) which would provide him with more material with which to support the Governor's proposal. We agreed that Mr. Roper-Curzon's letter to the Governor of Aden of 16 October

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October 27 (-/15) could be taken as an interim reply which indicated that there were good reasons from the point of view of Anglo Yemen relations why the Governor's suggestion should be supported.

This letter shows that we were right, and that Al Fadhal continued to publish articles contravening para. 8 of the 1951 Exchange of Notes.

If Sir Bernard's submission has been approved and Al Fadhal's licence is withdrawn we must make the maximum use of the fact in our dealings with the Yemenis. We can show that we are sticking to the letter of the Status Quo Agreement and ask that they should do the same, especially on the frontier.

Letter to C.O.

R. M. Maxey  
10/12

I agree. You may wish to see this as the withdraw of a licence from a Colonial  
/ newspapers

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Minutes.

newspaper may lead to  
Parliamentary questions.  
I am not hopeful that  
we shall get much lasting  
goodwill from the Inman,  
but there may be a temporary  
improvement. There is  
little doubt that the  
continued publication of  
this journal is contrary  
to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> 1957 exchange of  
~~the~~ ~~editors~~ notes

[attached]

DM Greenhill

18/12

H

19/12/53

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.