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Ext 1077/43 'Utilisation of coke stocks in Bahrain'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/12/799
Date(s)	2 Feb 1943 (CE, Gregorian)
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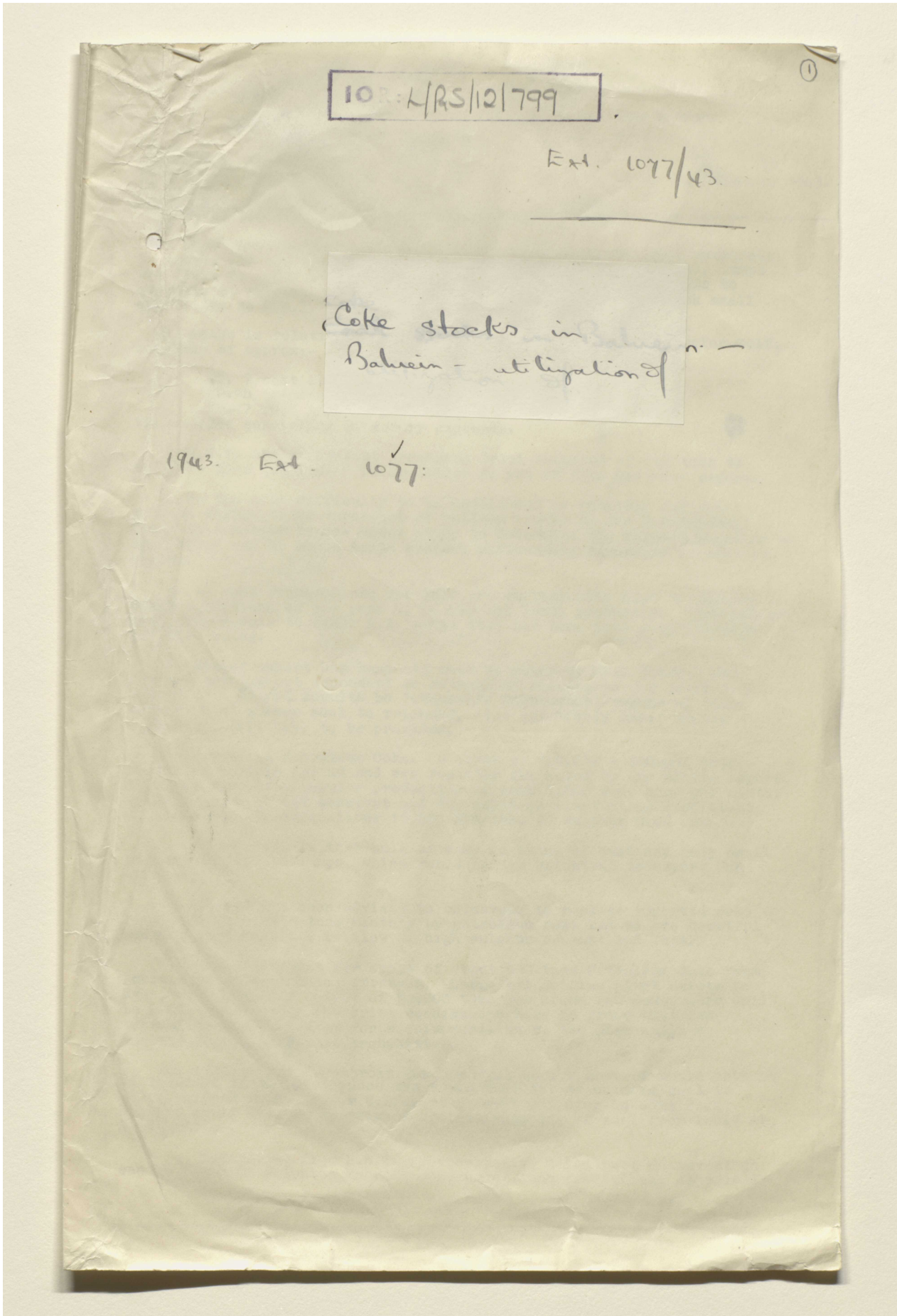


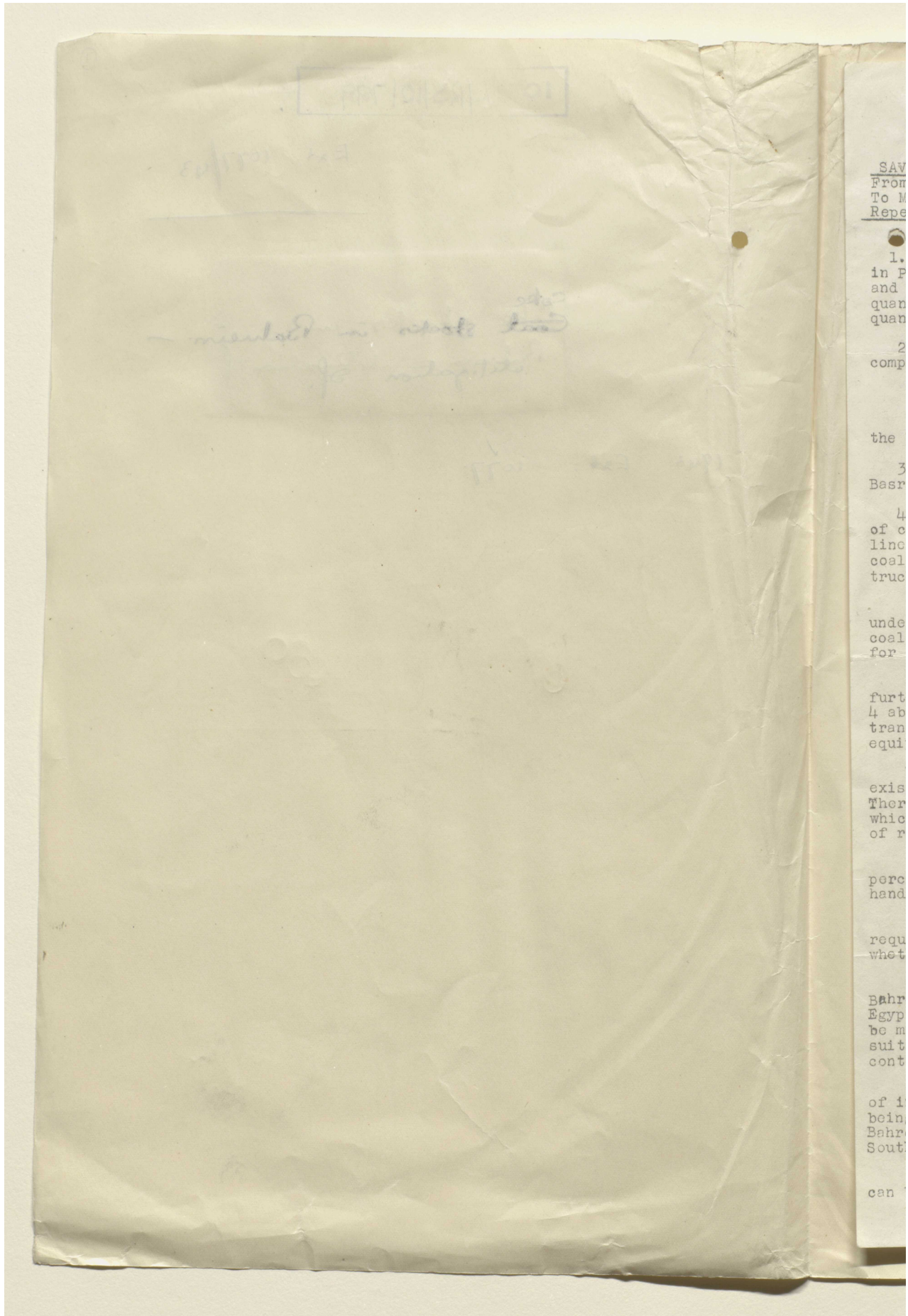
About this record

This file consists of one letter and a note from the Middle East Supply Centre in Cairo. The letter is a study of local resources in Persia regarding supplies and transport of coal and coal lumps and is composed of several parts covering the following topics:

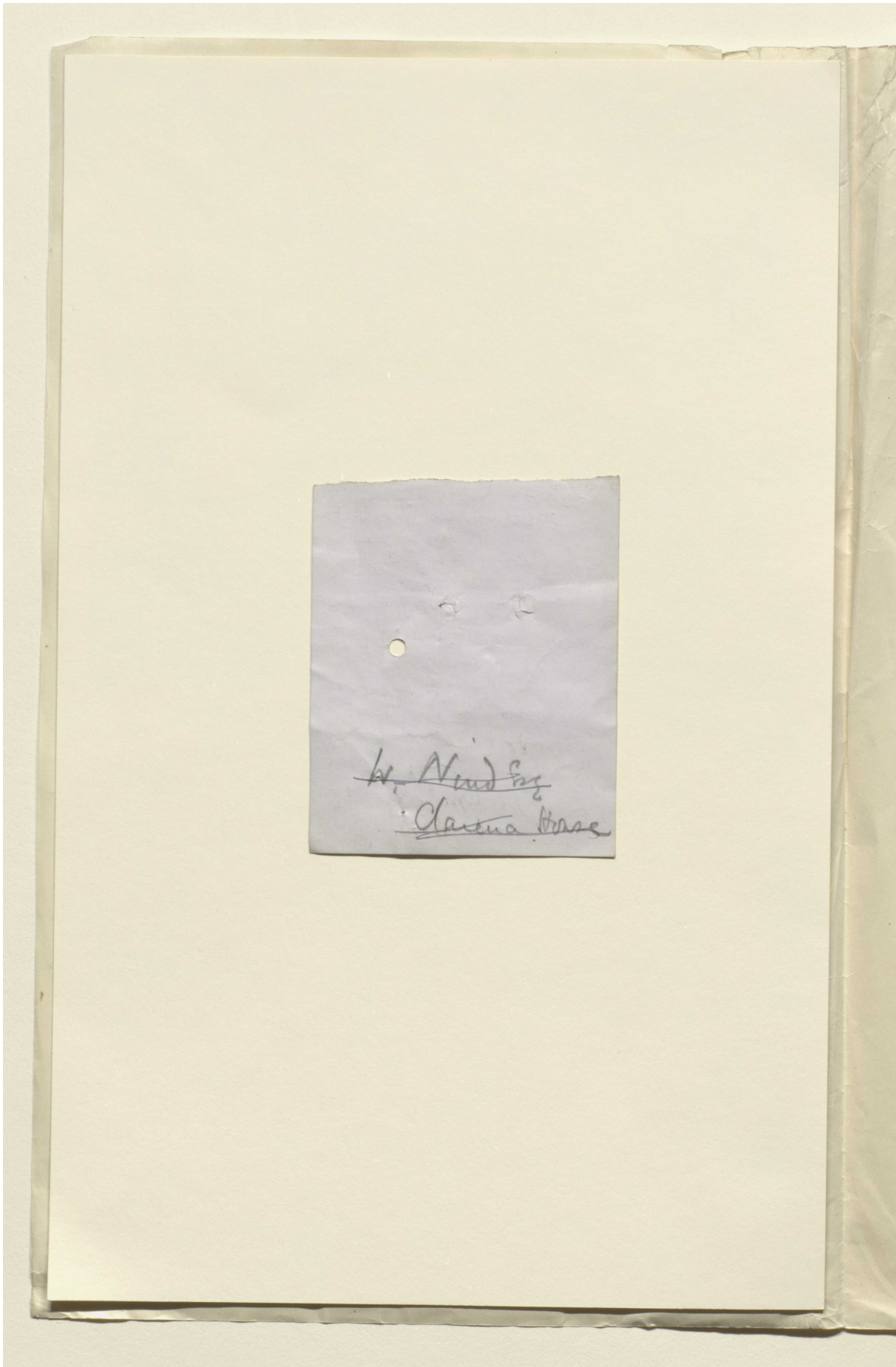
- The supplies of coal lumps that civilians need
- The prices of coal and coal lumps in the Persian Gulf
- Tests on the quality of the ships
- Difficulties in transporting the material from Tehran to the Gulf
- Coal requirements for the Gulf
- Results of the transports
- Petroleum coke
- A trial shipment for Egypt.

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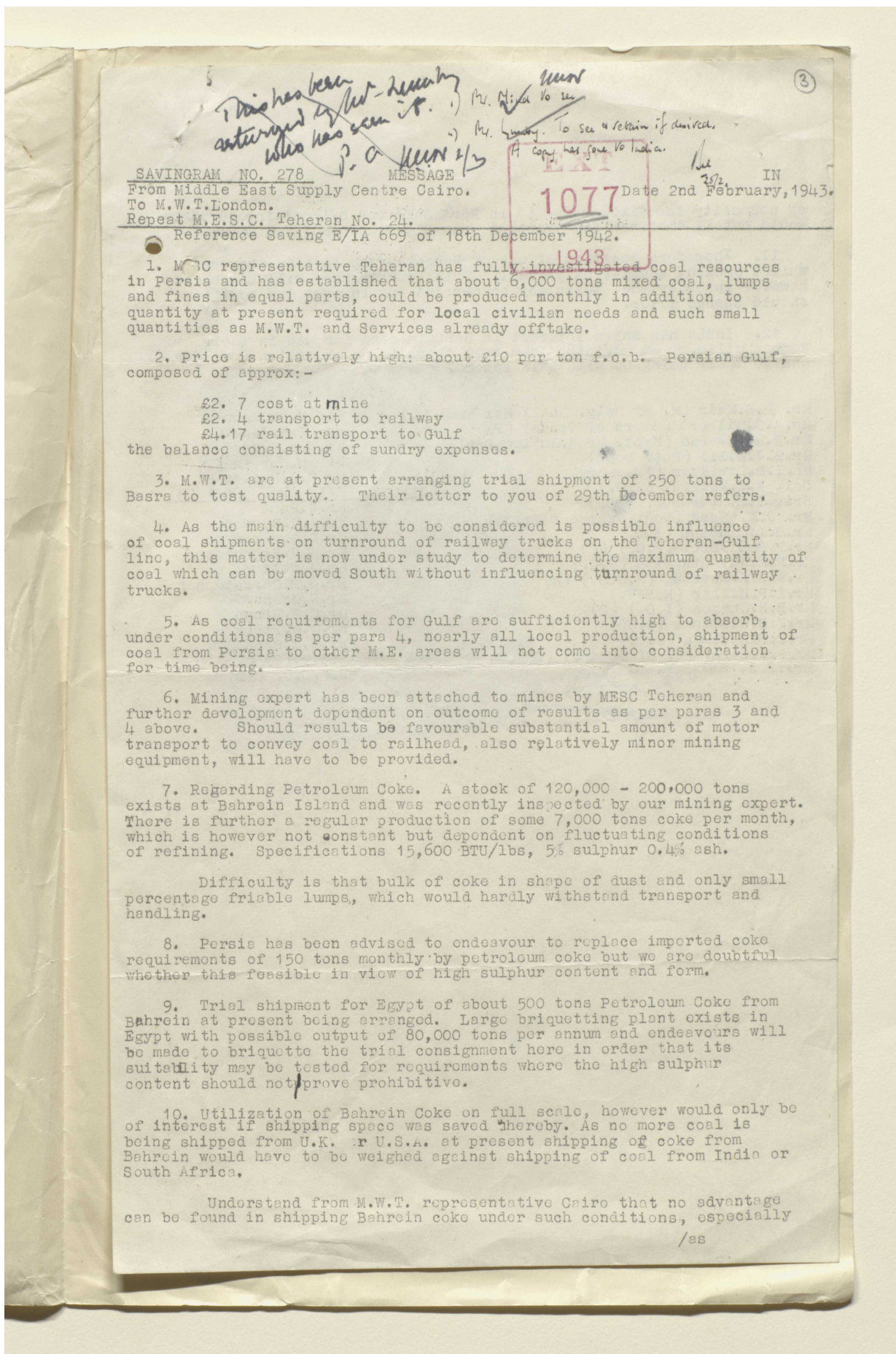




W- Library ⁽²⁾
It was only after I
had noted on the tel-
below that I realised
I had not initialled it.
Probably that was why
you returned it.
If you now wish
to retain please do so
Respectfully W. W. 2/3
Have we any
pps. about Bahrain coke?
No. pa → Encl.
2-111.



Ext 1077/43 'Utilisation of coke stocks in Bahrain' [3r] (5/8)



SAVINGRAM NO. 278 MESSAGE
From Middle East Supply Centre Cairo.
To M.W.T. London.
Repeat M.E.S.C. Teheran No. 24.
Date 2nd February, 1943.
Reference Saving E/IA 669 of 18th December 1942.

1. MESC representative Teheran has fully investigated coal resources in Persia and has established that about 6,000 tons mixed coal, lumps and fines in equal parts, could be produced monthly in addition to quantity at present required for local civilian needs and such small quantities as M.W.T. and Services already offtake.
2. Price is relatively high: about £10 per ton f.o.b. Persian Gulf, composed of approx:-
£2. 7 cost at mine
£2. 4 transport to railway
£4.17 rail transport to Gulf
the balance consisting of sundry expenses.
3. M.W.T. are at present arranging trial shipment of 250 tons to Basra to test quality. Their letter to you of 29th December refers.
4. As the main difficulty to be considered is possible influence of coal shipments on turnround of railway trucks on the Teheran-Gulf line, this matter is now under study to determine the maximum quantity of coal which can be moved South without influencing turnround of railway trucks.
5. As coal requirements for Gulf are sufficiently high to absorb, under conditions as per para 4, nearly all local production, shipment of coal from Persia to other M.E. areas will not come into consideration for time being.
6. Mining expert has been attached to mines by MESC Teheran and further development dependent on outcome of results as per paras 3 and 4 above. Should results be favourable substantial amount of motor transport to convey coal to railhead, also relatively minor mining equipment, will have to be provided.
7. Regarding Petroleum Coke. A stock of 120,000 - 200,000 tons exists at Bahrein Island and was recently inspected by our mining expert. There is further a regular production of some 7,000 tons coke per month, which is however not constant but dependent on fluctuating conditions of refining. Specifications 15,600 BTU/lbs, 5% sulphur 0.4% ash.
Difficulty is that bulk of coke in shape of dust and only small percentage friable lumps, which would hardly withstand transport and handling.
8. Persia has been advised to endeavour to replace imported coke requirements of 150 tons monthly by petroleum coke but we are doubtful whether this feasible in view of high sulphur content and form.
9. Trial shipment for Egypt of about 500 tons Petroleum Coke from Bahrein at present being arranged. Large briquetting plant exists in Egypt with possible output of 80,000 tons per annum and endeavours will be made to briquette the trial consignment here in order that its suitability may be tested for requirements where the high sulphur content should not prove prohibitive.
10. Utilization of Bahrein Coke on full scale, however would only be of interest if shipping space was saved thereby. As no more coal is being shipped from U.K. or U.S.A. at present shipping of coke from Bahrein would have to be weighed against shipping of coal from India or South Africa.

Understand from M.W.T. representative Cairo that no advantage can be found in shipping Bahrein coke under such conditions, especially /as

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as necessity for discharging it in Port Said for briquetting purposes would entail distinct disadvantage from distribution point of view.

11. Therefore question of use of Bahrain coke left in abeyance whilst present conditions prevail. Trial consignment will be shipped however in order that tests may be carried out in case the position should change later.

12. India has shown interest in Bahrain coke for use in their Bombay mills. I am advising them that there is no objection from our end to their going on with this scheme.

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