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Coll 6/21(1) 'Hejaz-Nejd: Relations with H.M.G.: Hejaz Legation in London and British Minister in Jeddah.'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/12/2087
Date(s)	7 Sep 1927-10 Jan 1935 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 volume (453 folios)
Copyright for document	Public Domain

About this record

This volume concerns relations between the British Government and the Government of the Hejaz and Nejd (later Saudi Arabia).

The volume largely consists of copies of Foreign Office and Colonial Office correspondence. The correspondence near the beginning of the volume discusses Ibn Saud's [‘Abd al-‘Azīz bin ‘Abd al-Raḥmān bin Fayṣal Āl Sa‘ūd's] wish to enter into full diplomatic relations with the British Government. The Hejazi Government's proposal in 1929 to establish a legation in London is accompanied by a request for the British Government to raise the status of its Agency and Consulate in Jedda to the same status.

The subsequent correspondence in the volume discusses the following:

- The British Government's consideration (and acceptance) of Ibn Saud's proposal, and the appointment of Sir Andrew Ryan as His Majesty's Minister at the British Legation in Jedda in May 1930.

- Hafiz Wahba's appointment as Hejazi Minister in London in 1930.

- Complaints made by the Hejazi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regarding Sir Andrew Ryan's attitude and conduct since his arrival in Jedda.

• Details of an Hejazi-Nejdi diplomatic mission to Europe (including visits to Italy, France, Britain, and the Netherlands), undertaken in May 1932 and headed by Amir Feisal [Fayṣal bin ʻAbd al-ʻAzīz Āl Saʻūd], Hejazi Minister for Foreign Affairs (this part of the volume includes detailed accounts of the mission's meetings with Foreign Office officials during its visit to London).

• Sir Andrew Ryan's account of his meeting with Ibn Saud at Taif in July 1934, and their discussion of the 'blue line' (the frontier which marked the Ottoman Government's renunciation of its claims to Bahrain and Qatar, in the Anglo-Ottoman convention of 1913) and the Kuwait blockade.

• Details of several meetings held at the Foreign Office between Fuad Bey Hamza (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for Saudi Arabia), Sir Andrew Ryan and George William Rendel (Head of the Foreign Office's Eastern Department), during September 1934, regarding the 'blue line', the Kuwait blockade, and the future of the Treaty of Jedda (the treaty signed between Britain and Ibn Saud in 1927).

• Requests from the Italian Government for information regarding Fuad Bey Hamza's visit to London.

The volume features the following principal correspondents: His Majesty's Agent and Consul at Jedda, a position that was raised to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to Jedda in late 1929 (Hugh Stonehewer Bird, William Linskill Bond, Cecil Gervase Hope Gill, and Albert Spencer Calvert successively); His Majesty's Minister at Jedda (Sir Andrew Ryan); His Majesty's Ambassador in Rome (Ronald William Graham); Ibn Saud; Amir Faisal; officials of the Hejazi/Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs; officials of the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the India Office.

In addition to correspondence, the volume contains a copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Committee of Imperial Defence's Standing Official Sub-Committee for Questions Concerning the Middle East. The meeting, which took place in London on 8 November 1934, was primarily concerned with the settlement of the 'blue line' issue, the Saudi-Transjordan frontier, and the Kuwait blockade.

The volume includes two dividers which give a list of correspondence references contained in the volume by year. These are placed at the back of the correspondence.

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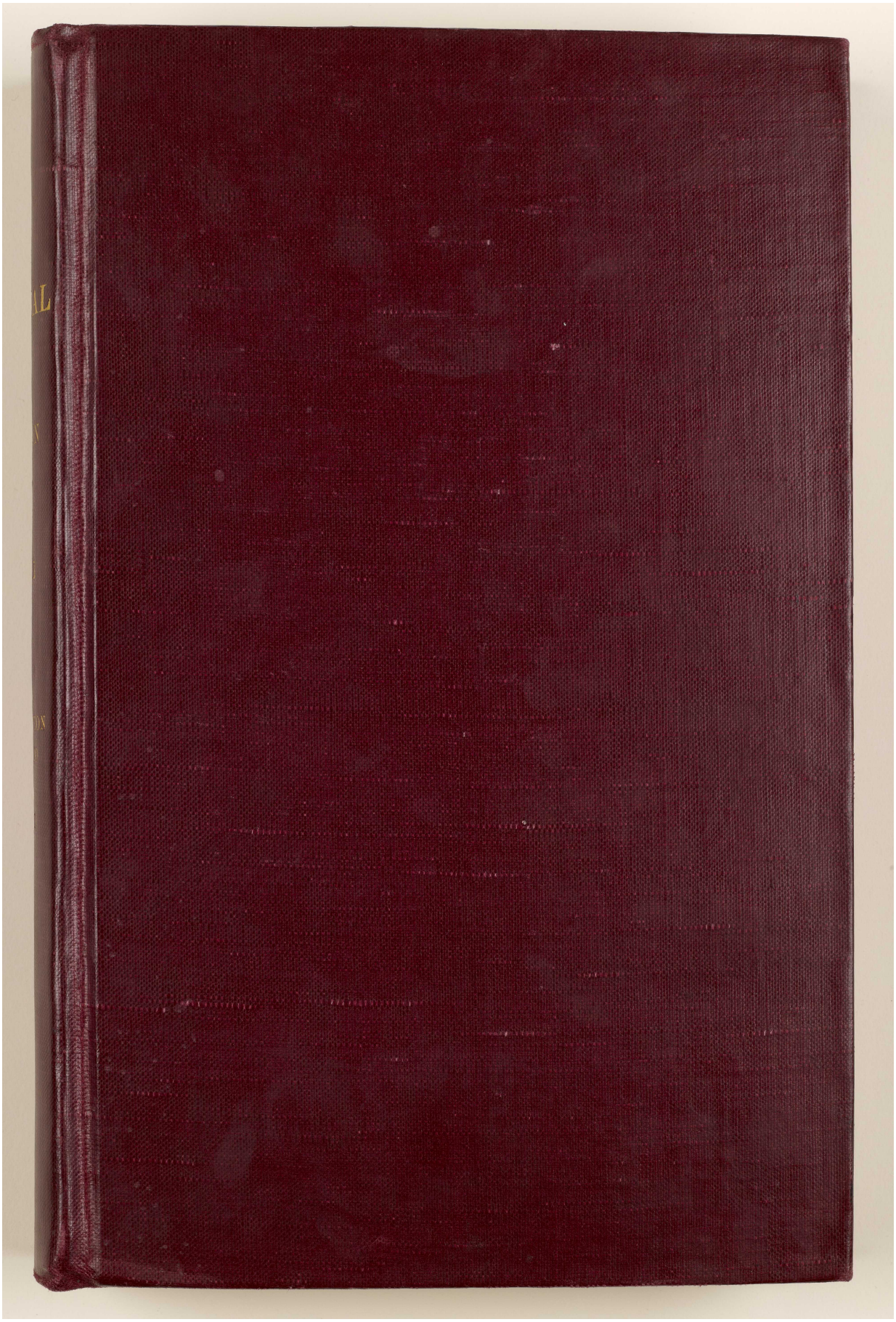

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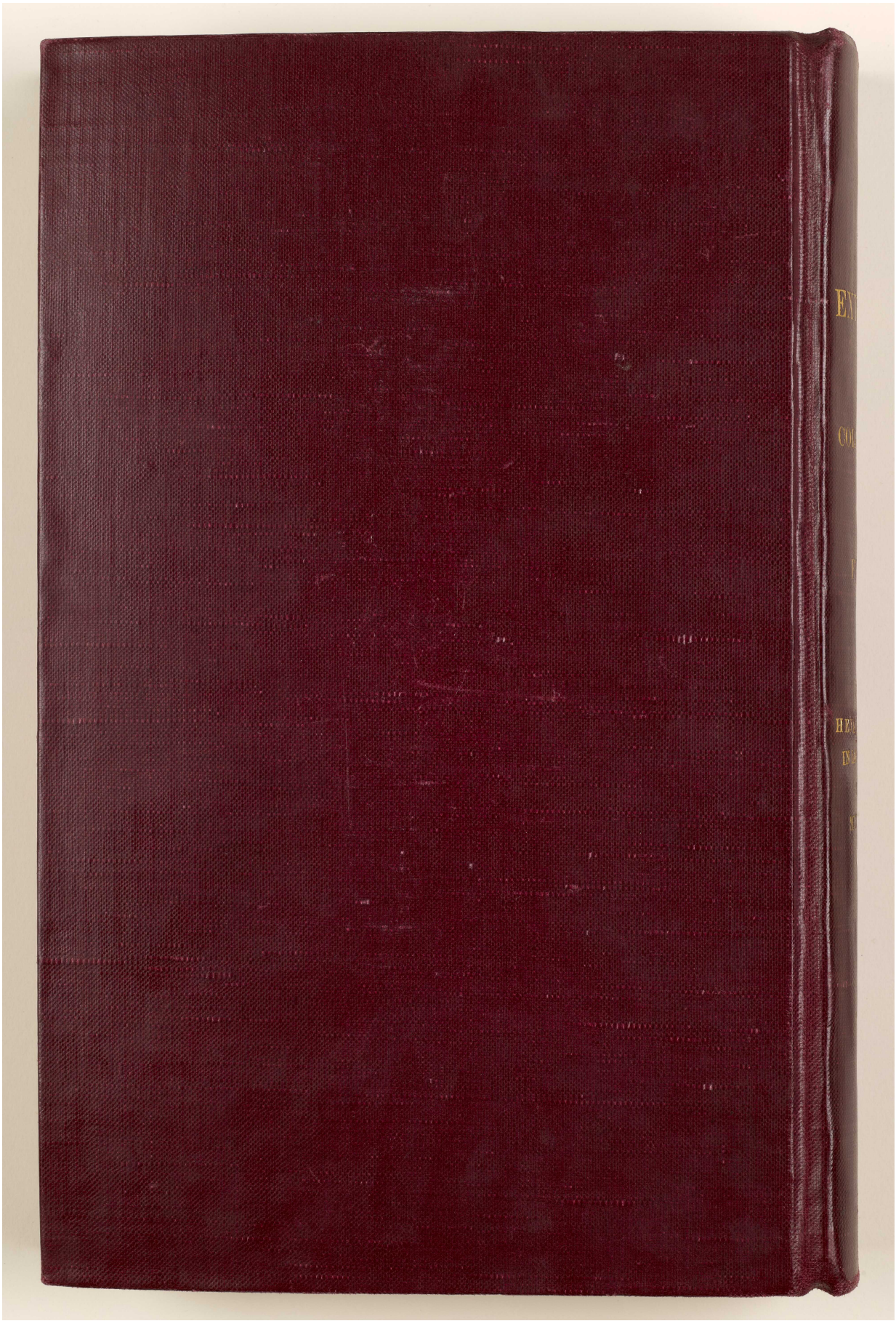

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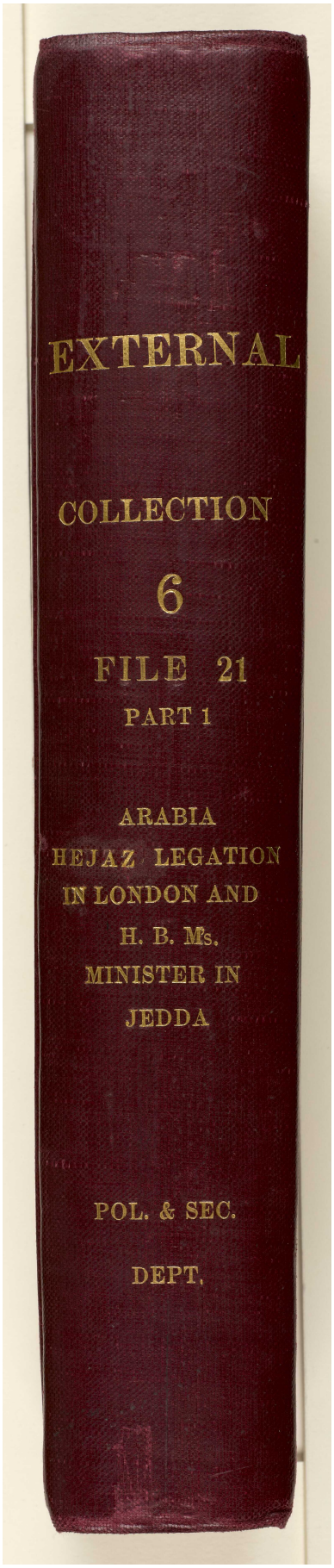







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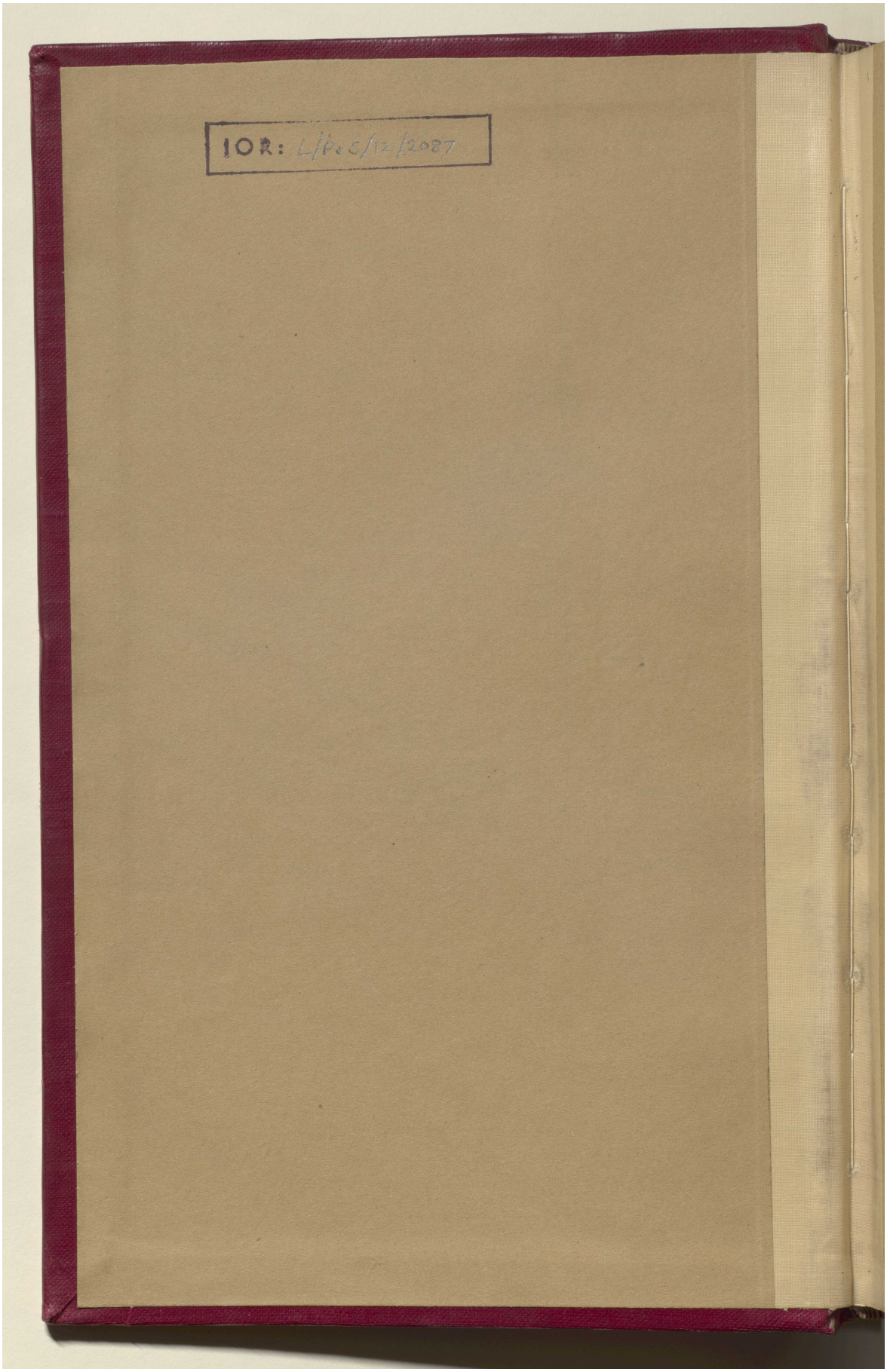
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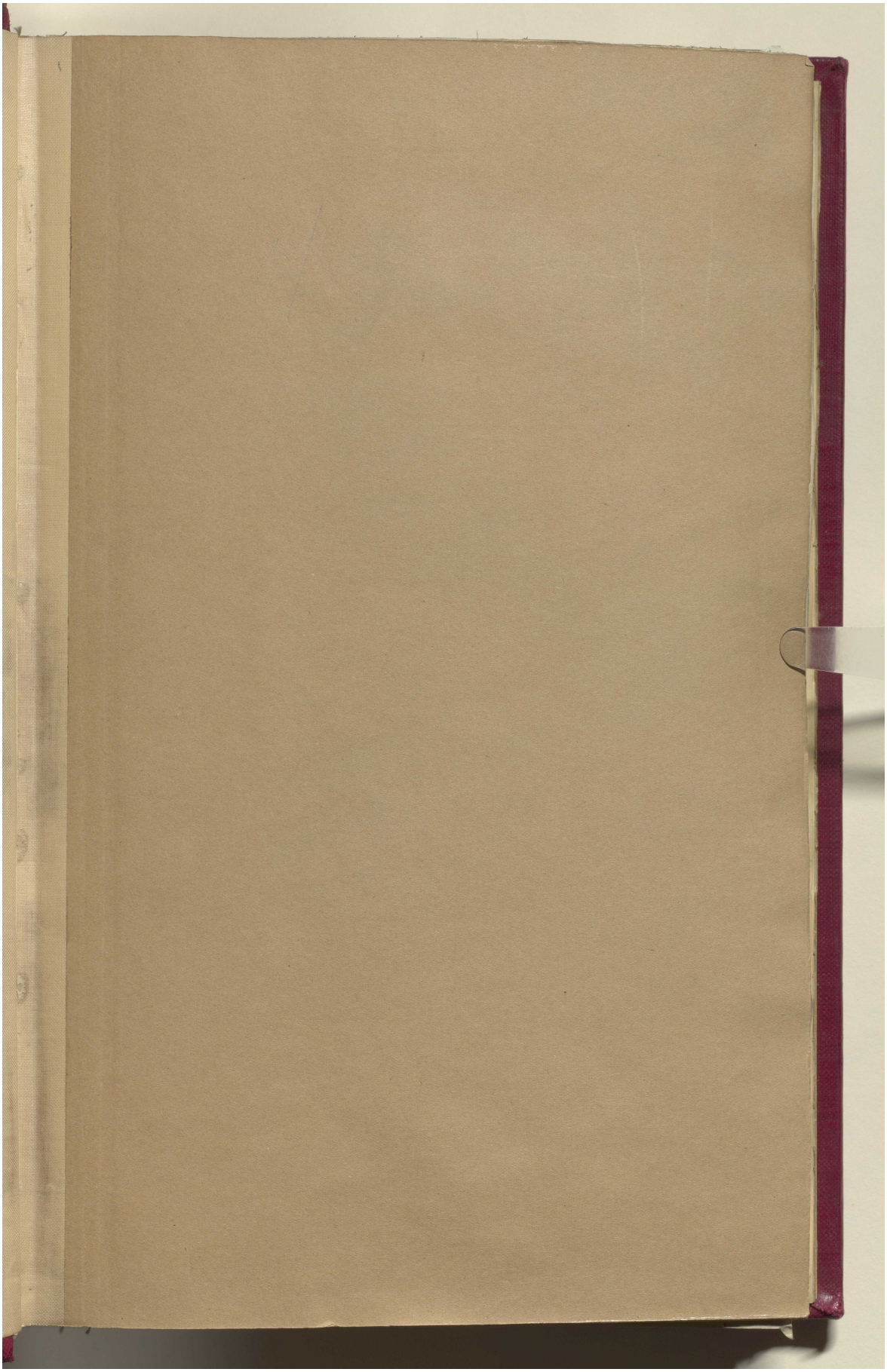

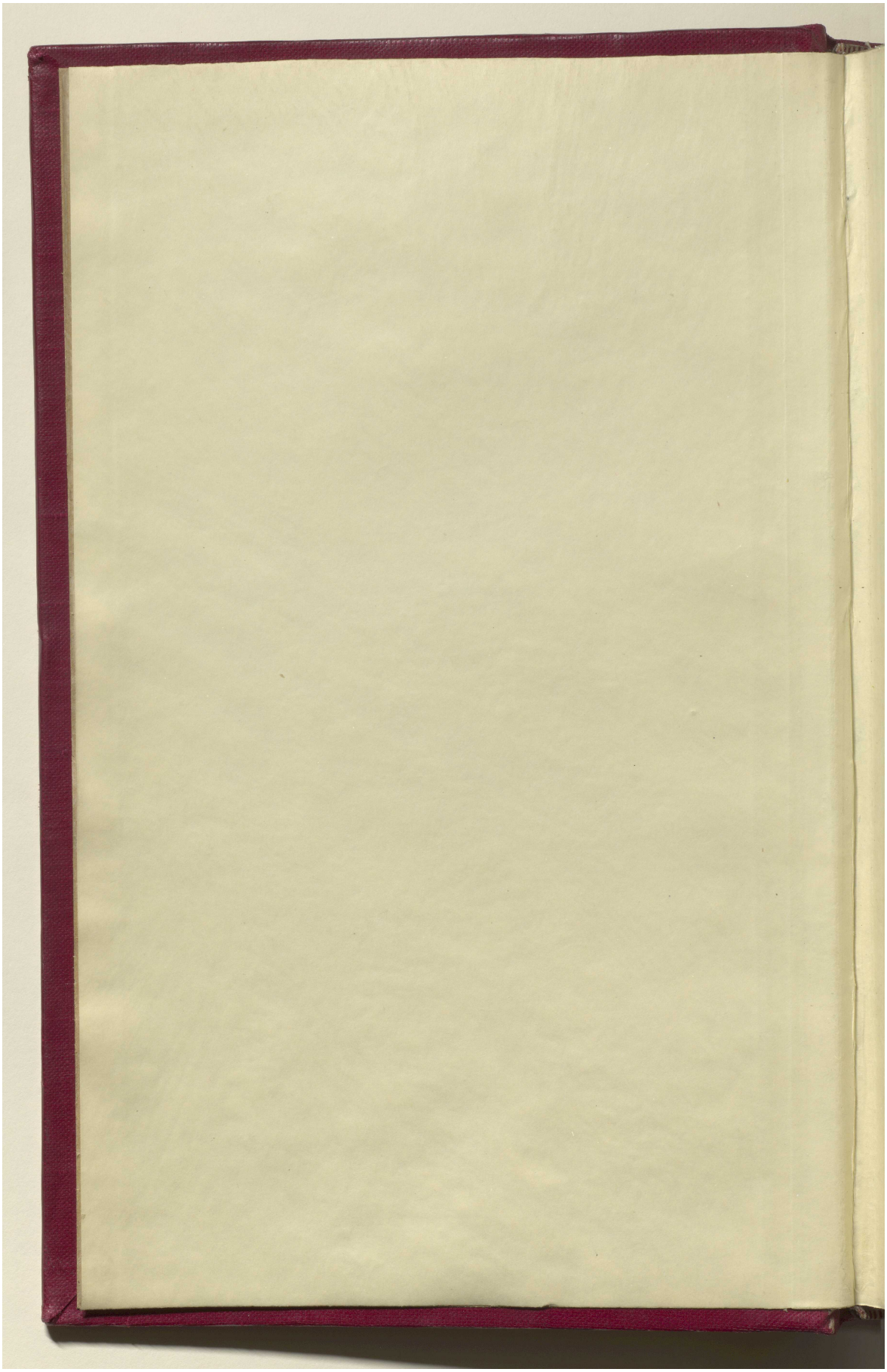

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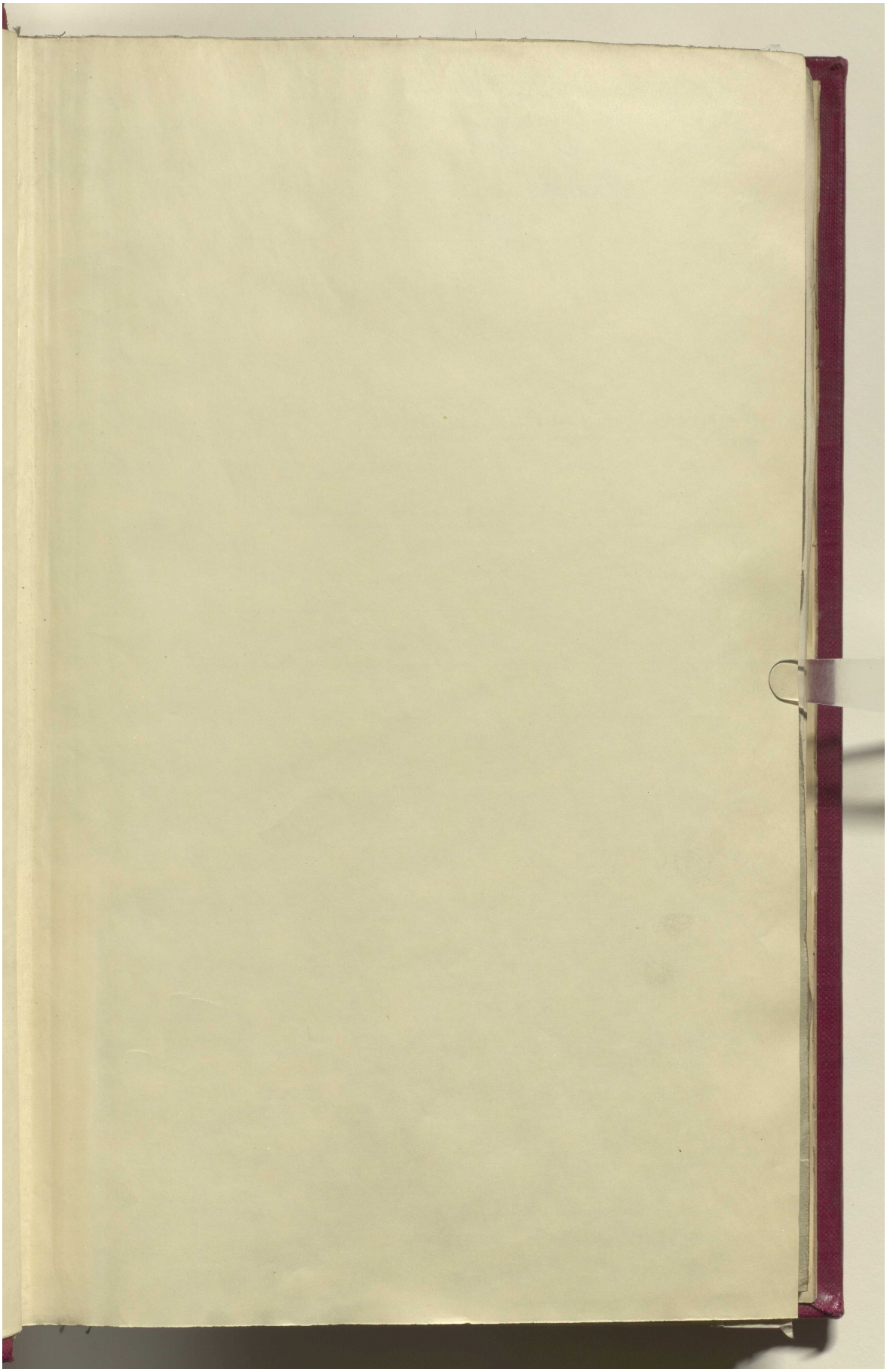

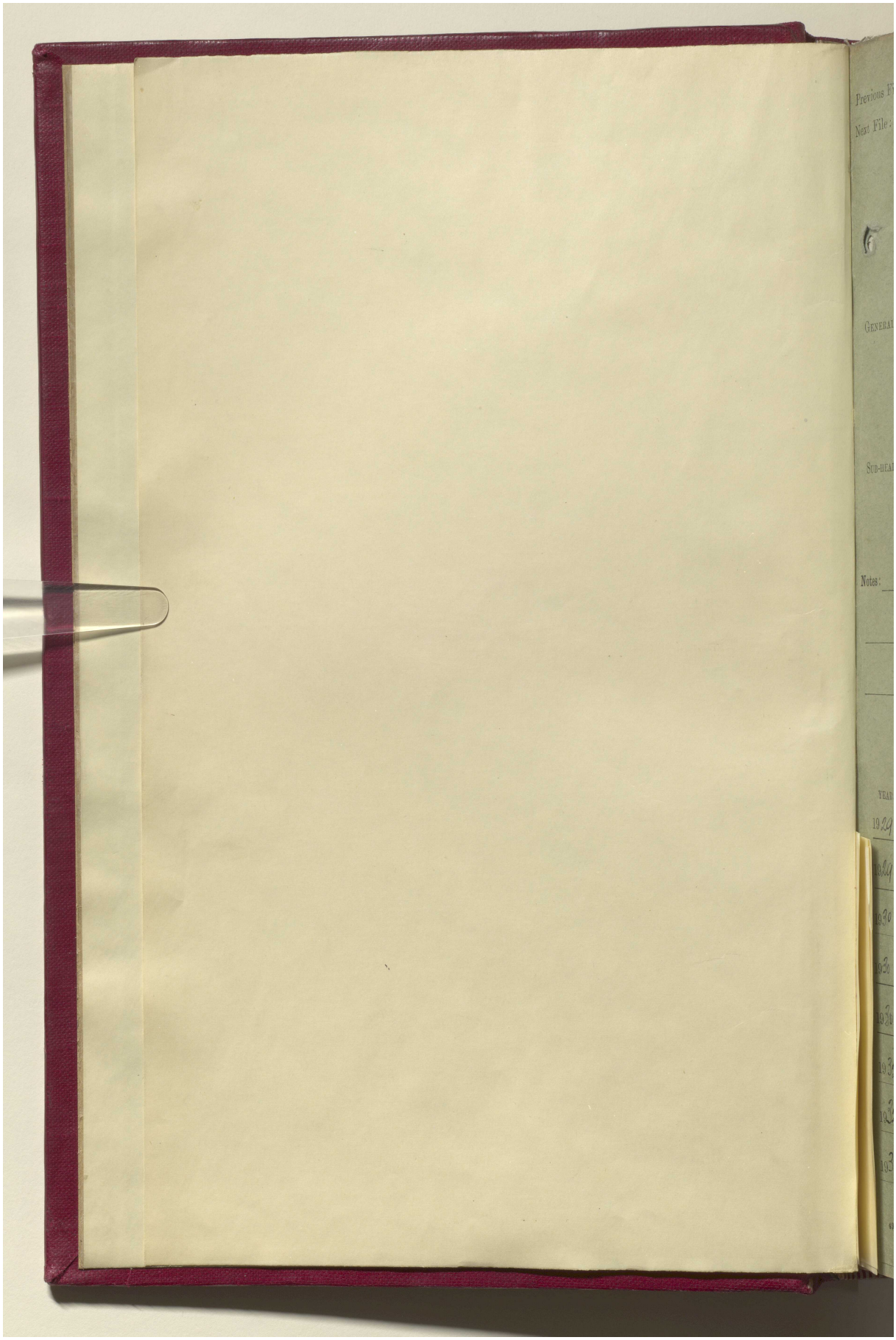

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Coll 6/21(1) 'Hejaz-Nejd: Relations with H.M.G.: Hejaz Legation in London and British Minister in Jeddah.' [iii-r] (12/914)

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Previous File:
Next File: Coll 6/21 (2)

Part 1

No. 6

File 21 (1)

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.

COLLECTION.

GENERAL HEADING: Arabia

Hejaz-Nejd: Relations with H.M.G.

SUB-HEAD: Hejaz Legation in London and British Minister in Jeddah.

Notes:

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This File contains the following papers:—

YEAR. 1927 P. 4746

1929. P. 3138 3181 4517 4616 4708 5036 5082 6979 7387 7507

29. P. 7677 8043 8149 8281 3564 4199 5073

30. P. 26 202 938 1232 1485 1669 1673 4235 4344 4582

30. P. 2922 3220 4192 4565 4889 5045 5281 5250 5323 6104

30. P. 6641 8864 ~~1141~~ 1931 P.Z. 1141 7832

32. P.Z 715 717 1914 2149 2153 2118 2135 2235 2170 2236 2392

32. P.Z. 2336 2458 2568 2798 2824 2846 3233 3238 3253 3254

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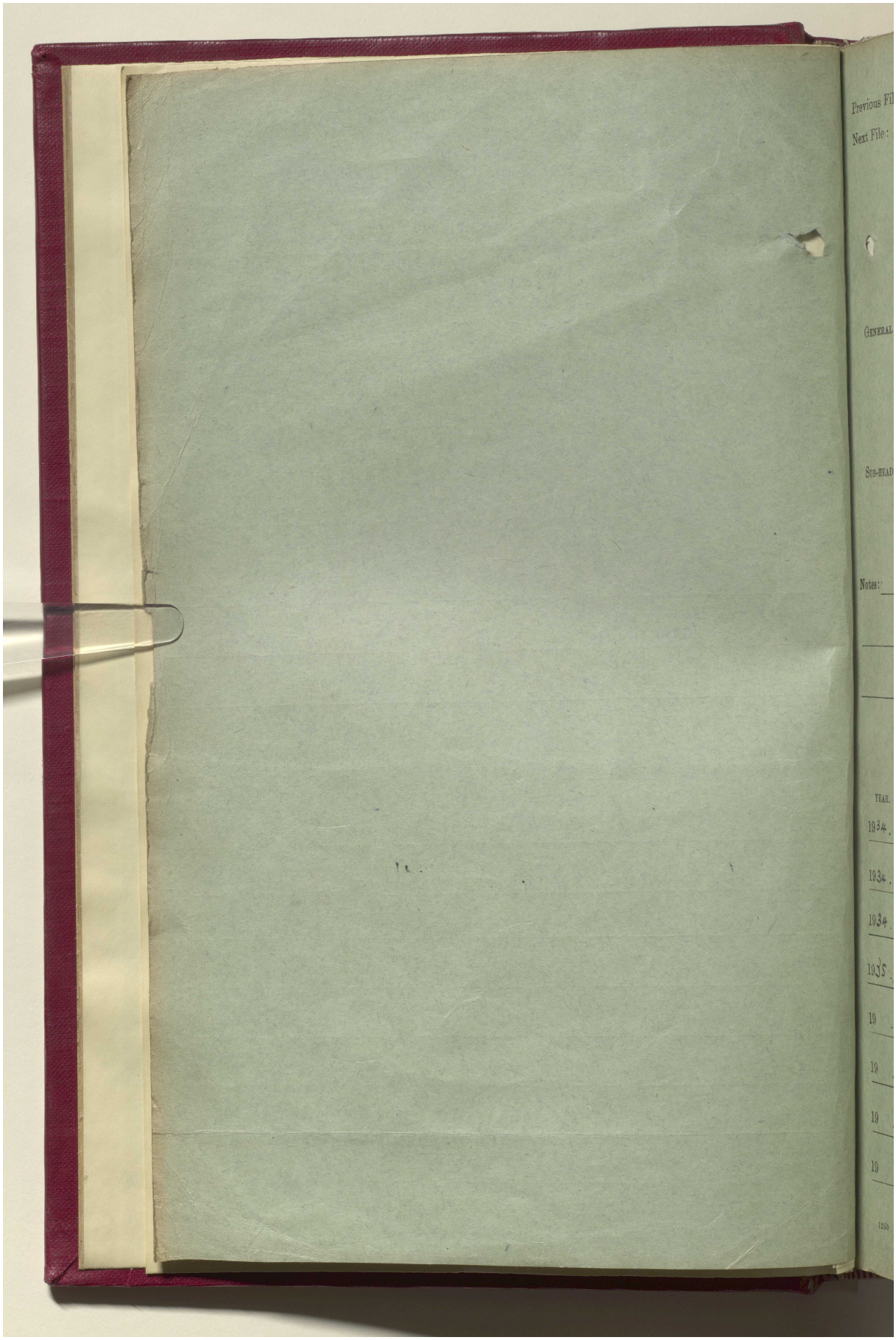

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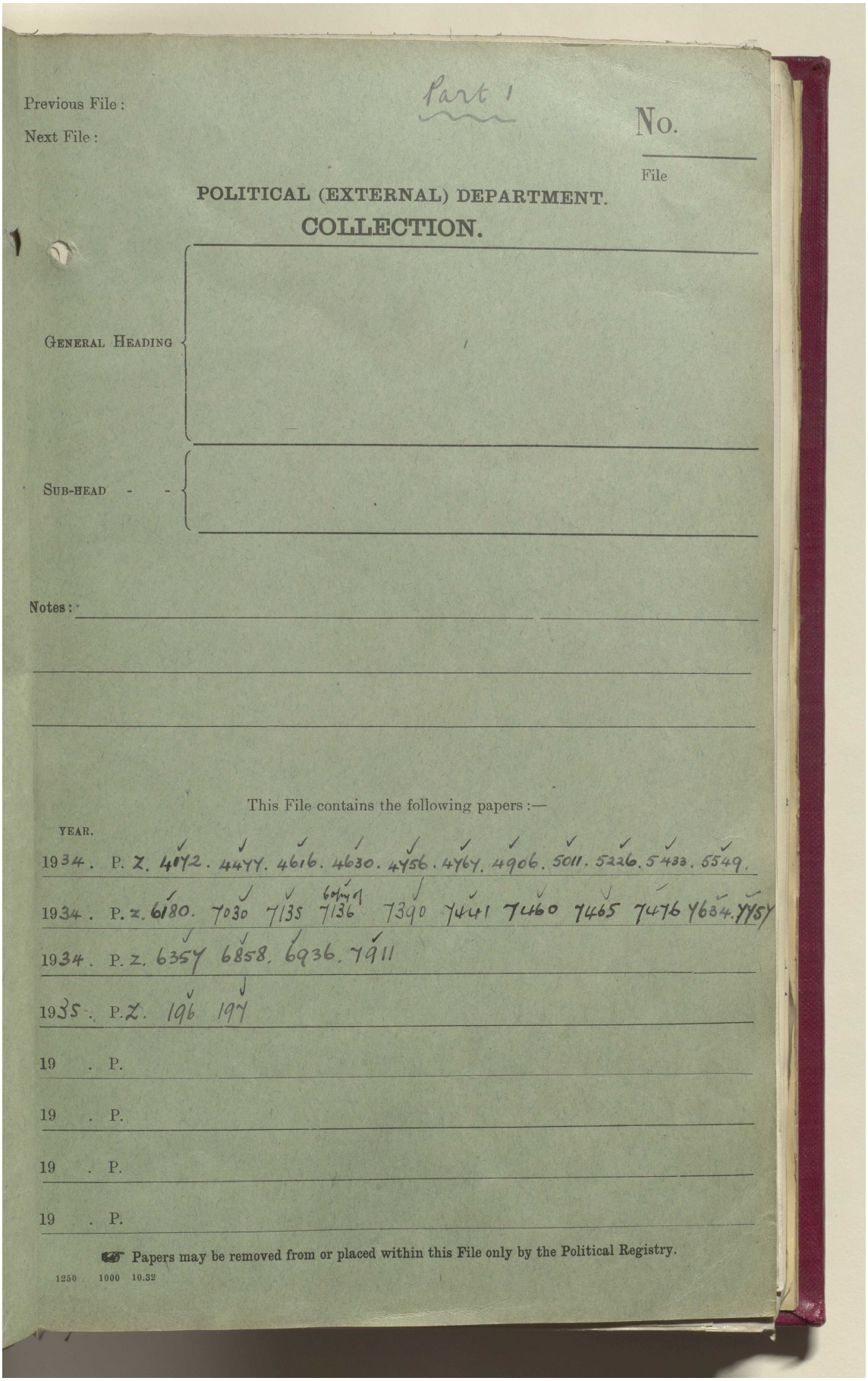

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Part 1

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GENERAL HEADING

SUB-HEAD - -

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YEAR.

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1934. P. Z. 6180. 7030 7135 7136 7390 7441 7460 7465 7476 7684. 7757

1934. P. Z. 6357 6858. 6936. 7911

1935. P. Z. 196 197

19 . P.

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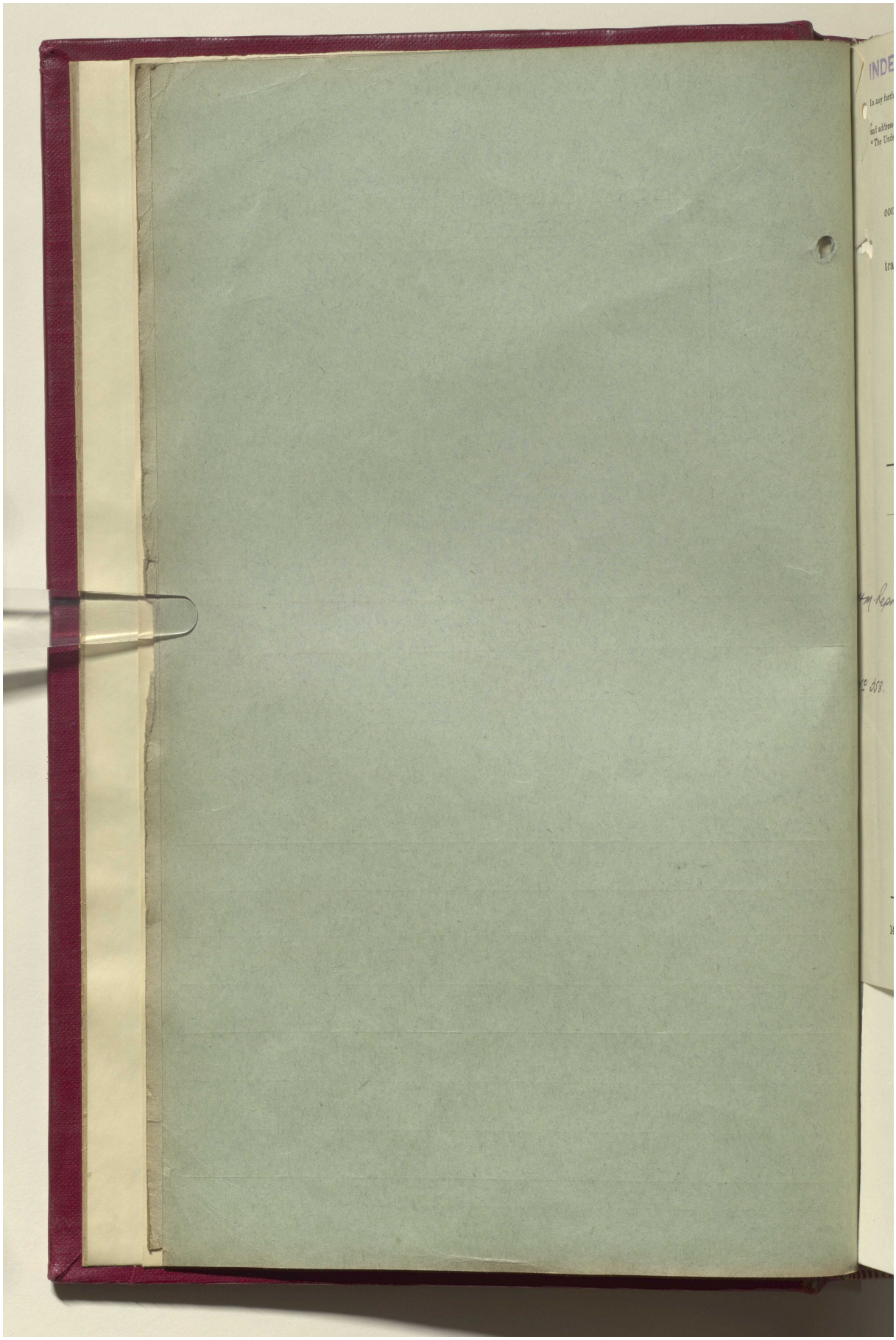

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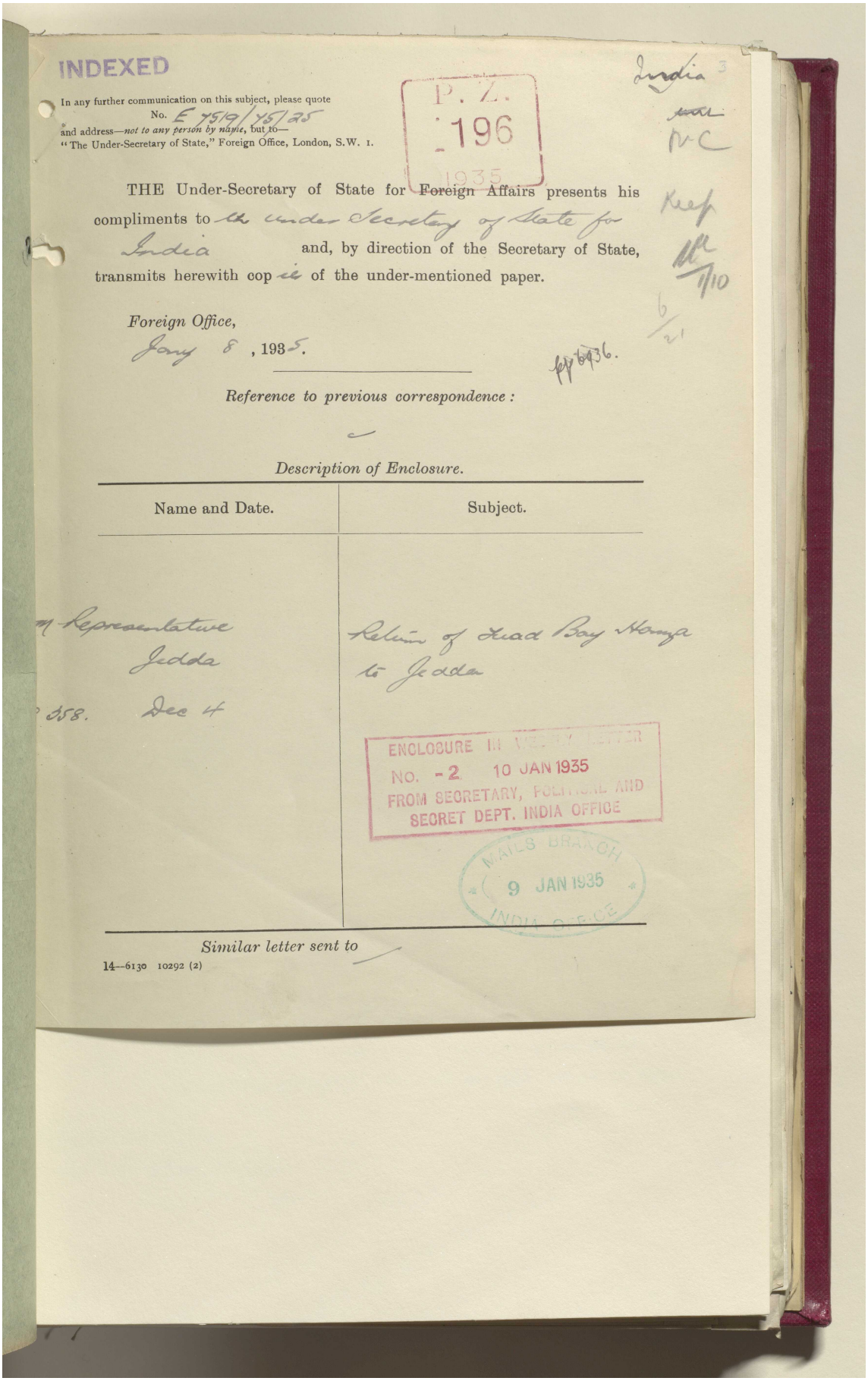

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No. E 7519/75/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P. Z.
196
1935

India 3

NC

Keep

1/10

6/21

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Jany 8, 1935.

pp 6436.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
m Representative Jedda 358. Dec 4	Return of Fuad Bey Hamza to Jedda

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. -2 10 JAN 1935
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH
9 JAN 1935
INDIA OFFICE

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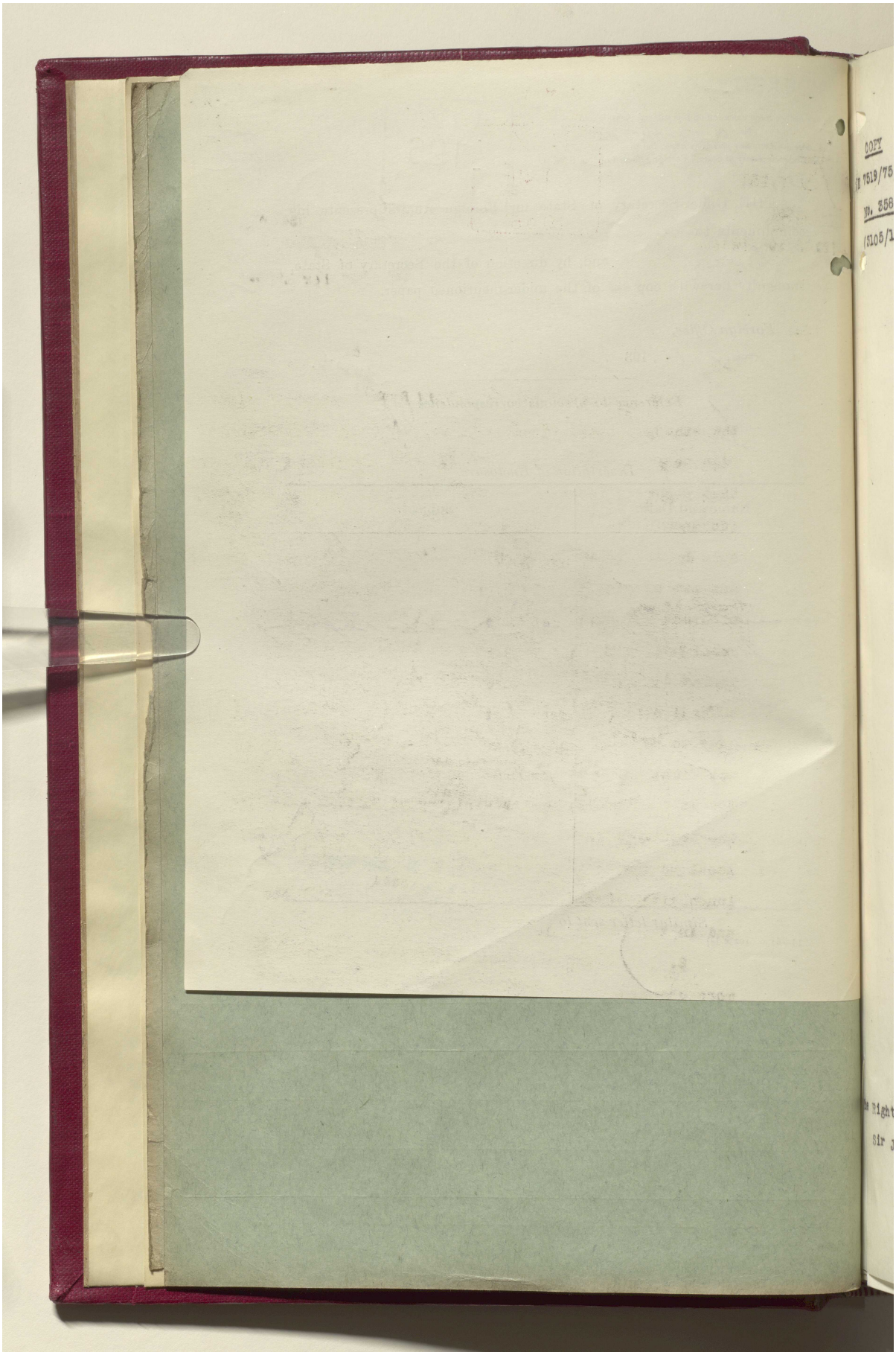

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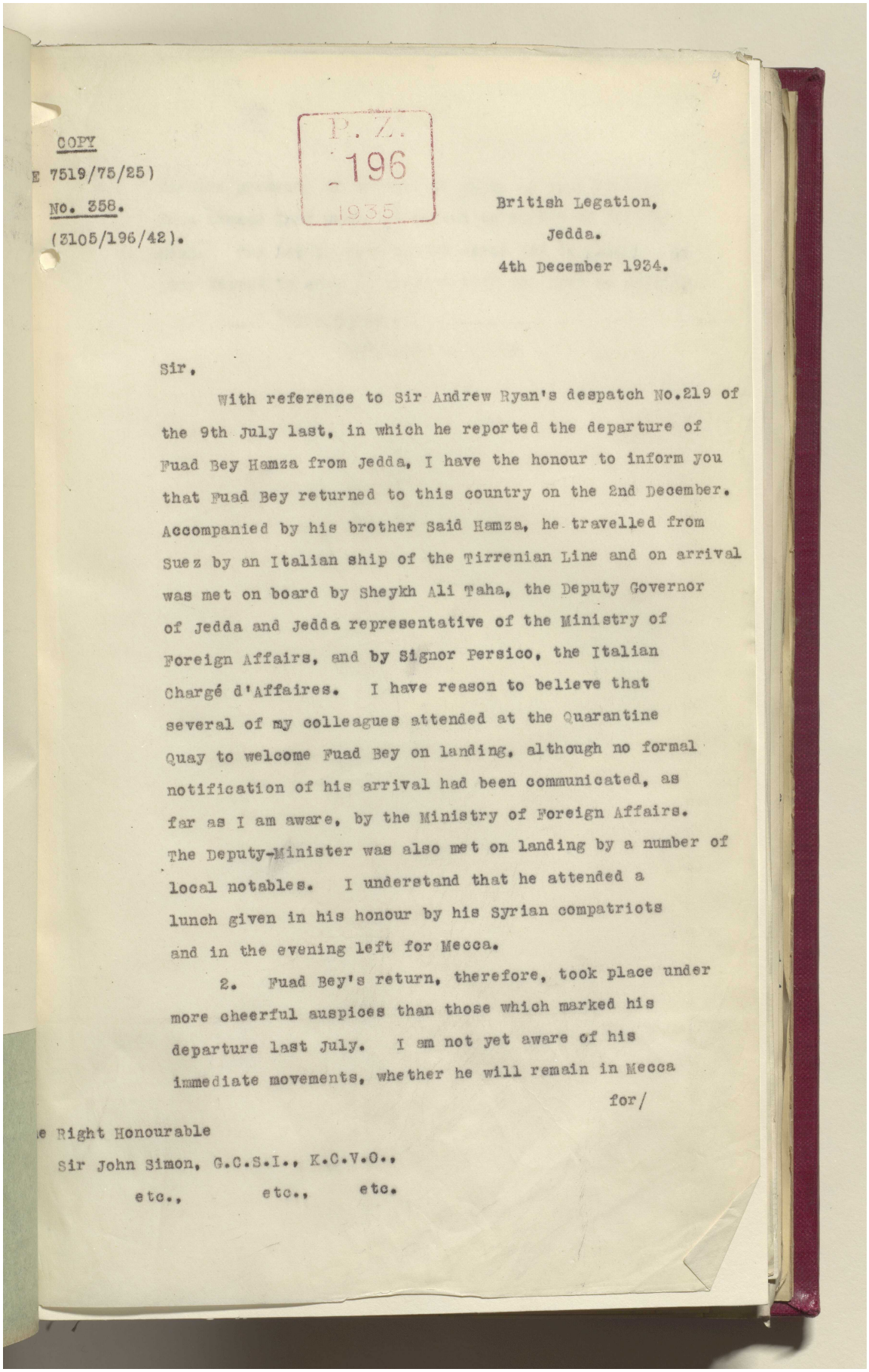

COPY

E 7519/75/25)

No. 358.

(3105/196/42).

P. Z.
196
1935

British Legation,
Jedda.
4th December 1934.

Sir,

With reference to Sir Andrew Ryan's despatch No.219 of the 9th July last, in which he reported the departure of Fuad Bey Hamza from Jedda, I have the honour to inform you that Fuad Bey returned to this country on the 2nd December. Accompanied by his brother Said Hamza, he travelled from Suez by an Italian ship of the Tirrenian Line and on arrival was met on board by Sheykh Ali Taha, the Deputy Governor of Jedda and Jedda representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by Signor Persico, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires. I have reason to believe that several of my colleagues attended at the Quarantine Quay to welcome Fuad Bey on landing, although no formal notification of his arrival had been communicated, as far as I am aware, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Deputy-Minister was also met on landing by a number of local notables. I understand that he attended a lunch given in his honour by his Syrian compatriots and in the evening left for Mecca.

2. Fuad Bey's return, therefore, took place under more cheerful auspices than those which marked his departure last July. I am not yet aware of his immediate movements, whether he will remain in Mecca

for/

e Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.

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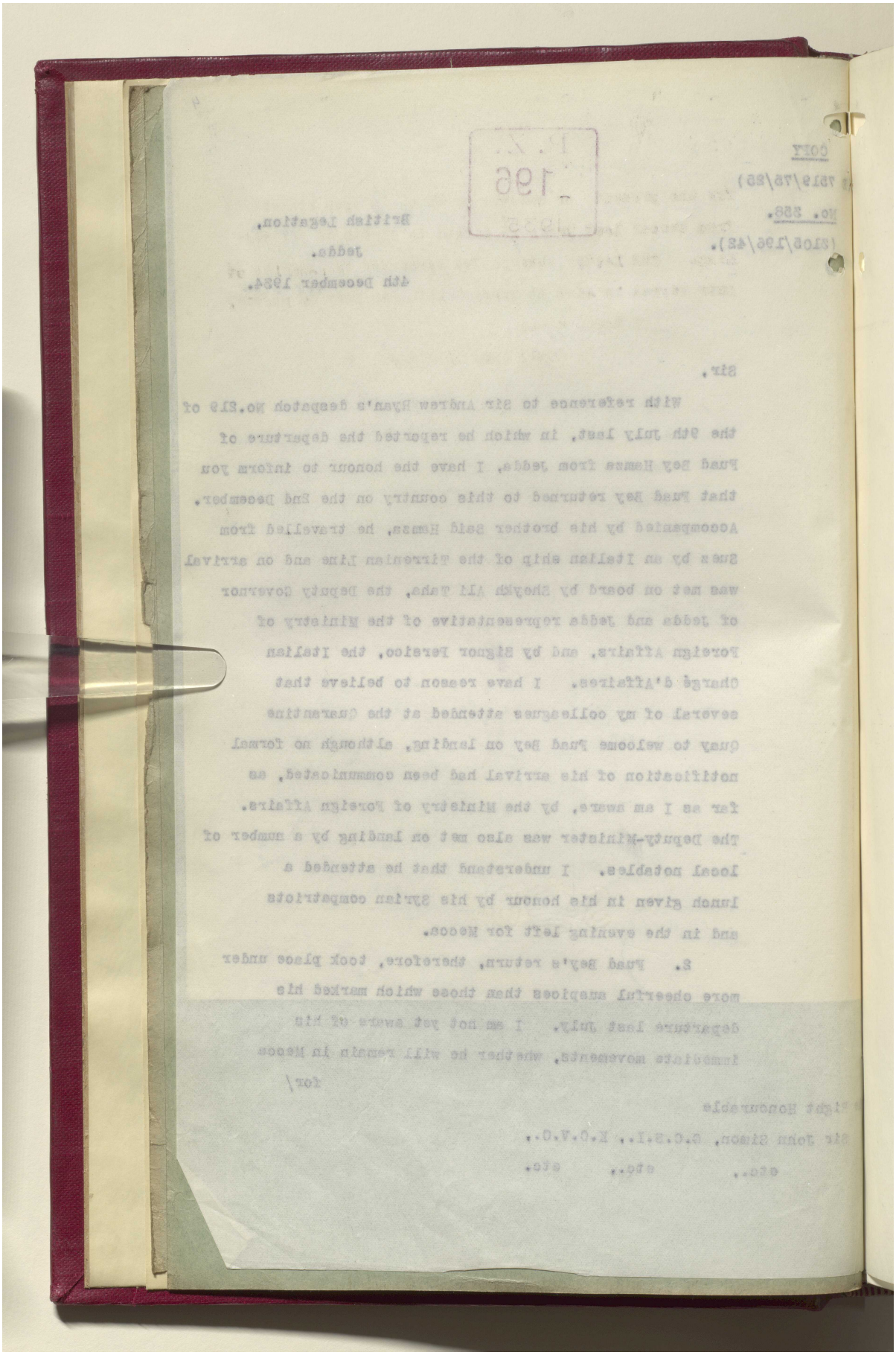

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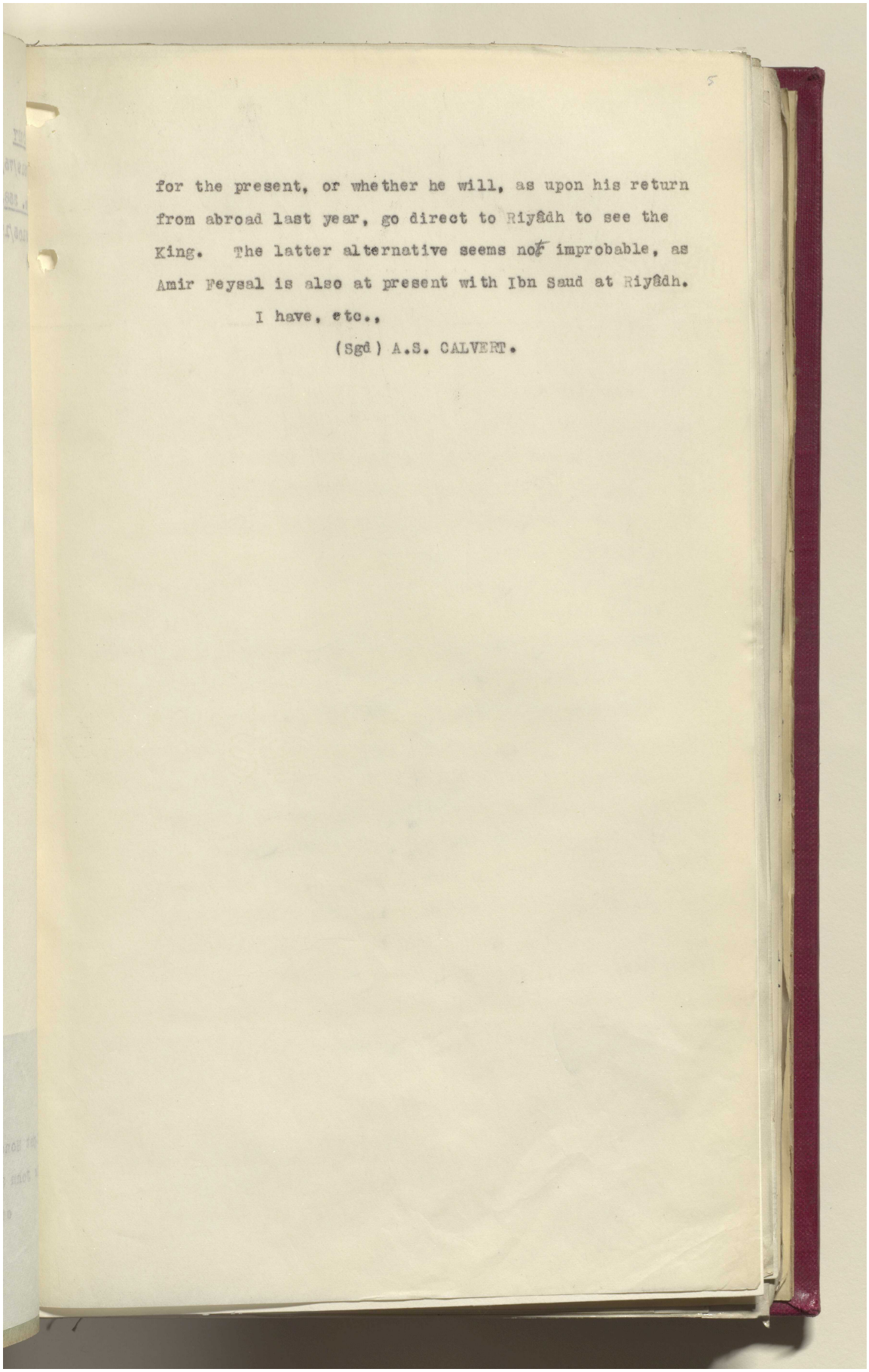

for the present, or whether he will, as upon his return from abroad last year, go direct to Riyâdh to see the King. The latter alternative seems not improbable, as Amir Feysal is also at present with Ibn Saud at Riyâdh.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd) A.S. CALVERT.

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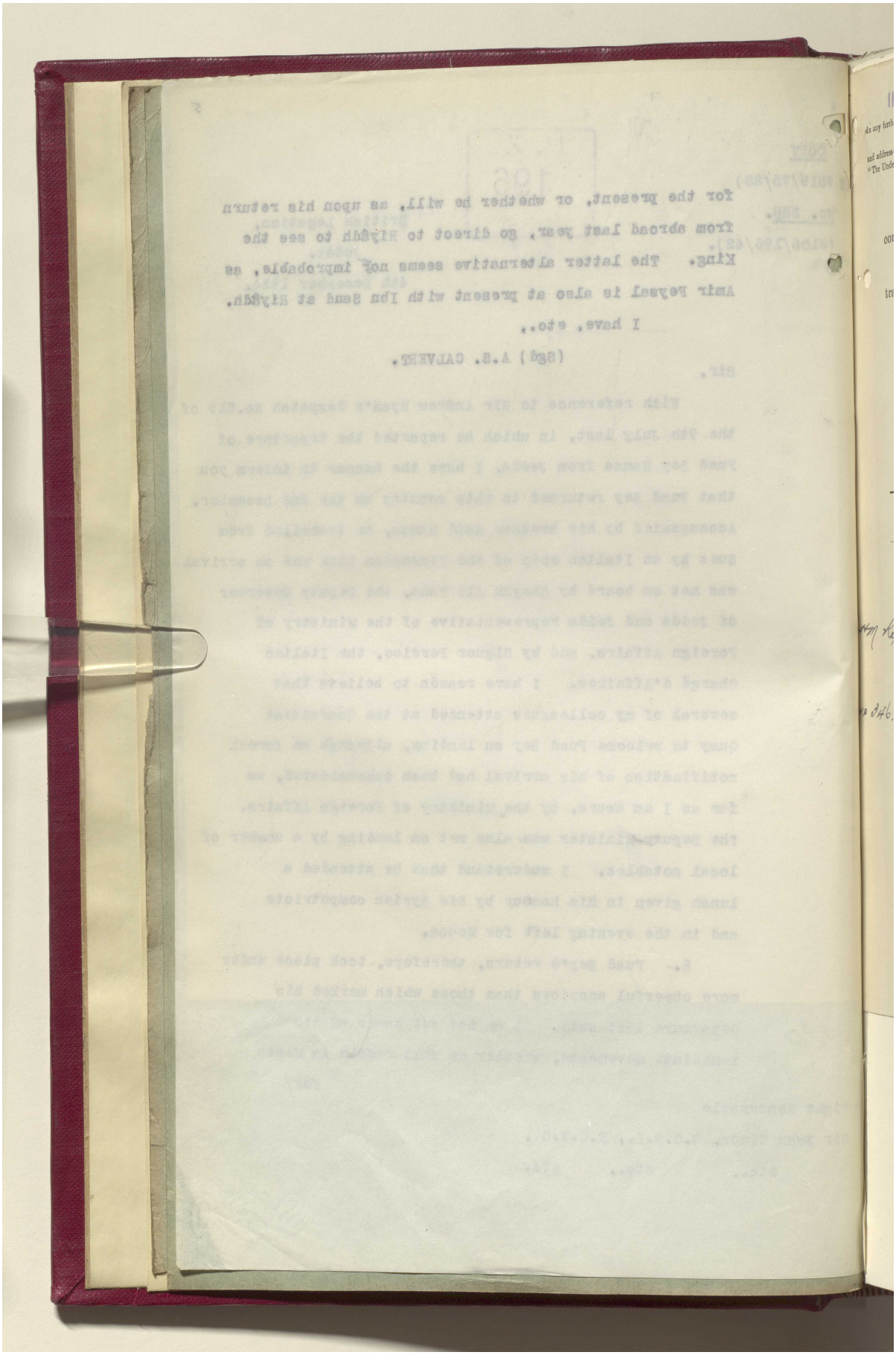

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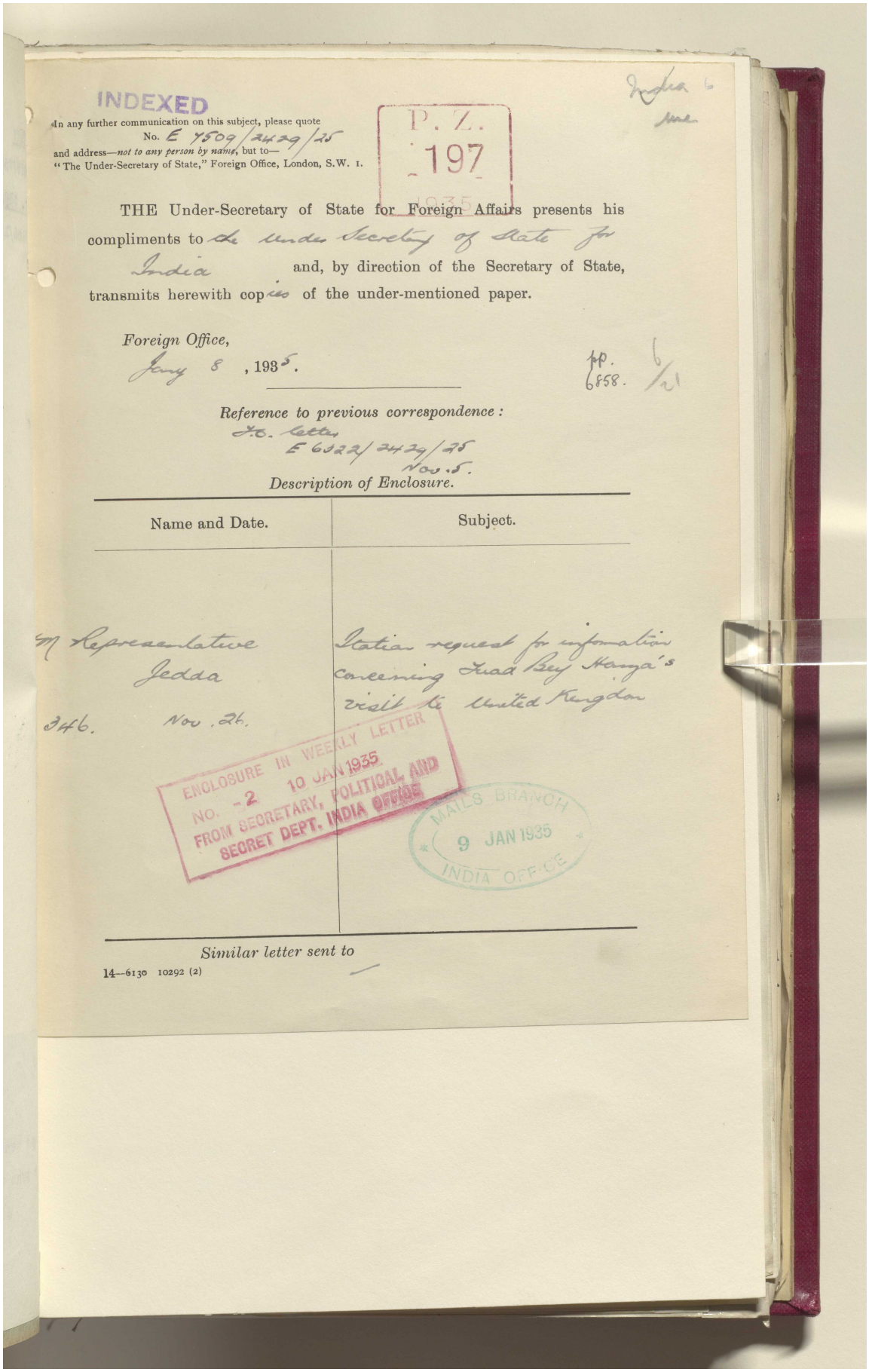

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P. Z. 197 1935

India 6 me

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Jany 8, 1935.

pp. 6858. 6/21

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. letter E 6322/2429/25 Nov. 5.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
My Representative Jedda 346. Nov. 26.	Italian request for information concerning Fuad Bey Hamza's visit to United Kingdom

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER NO. 2 10 JAN 1935 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH 9 JAN 1935 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

14—6130 10292 (2)

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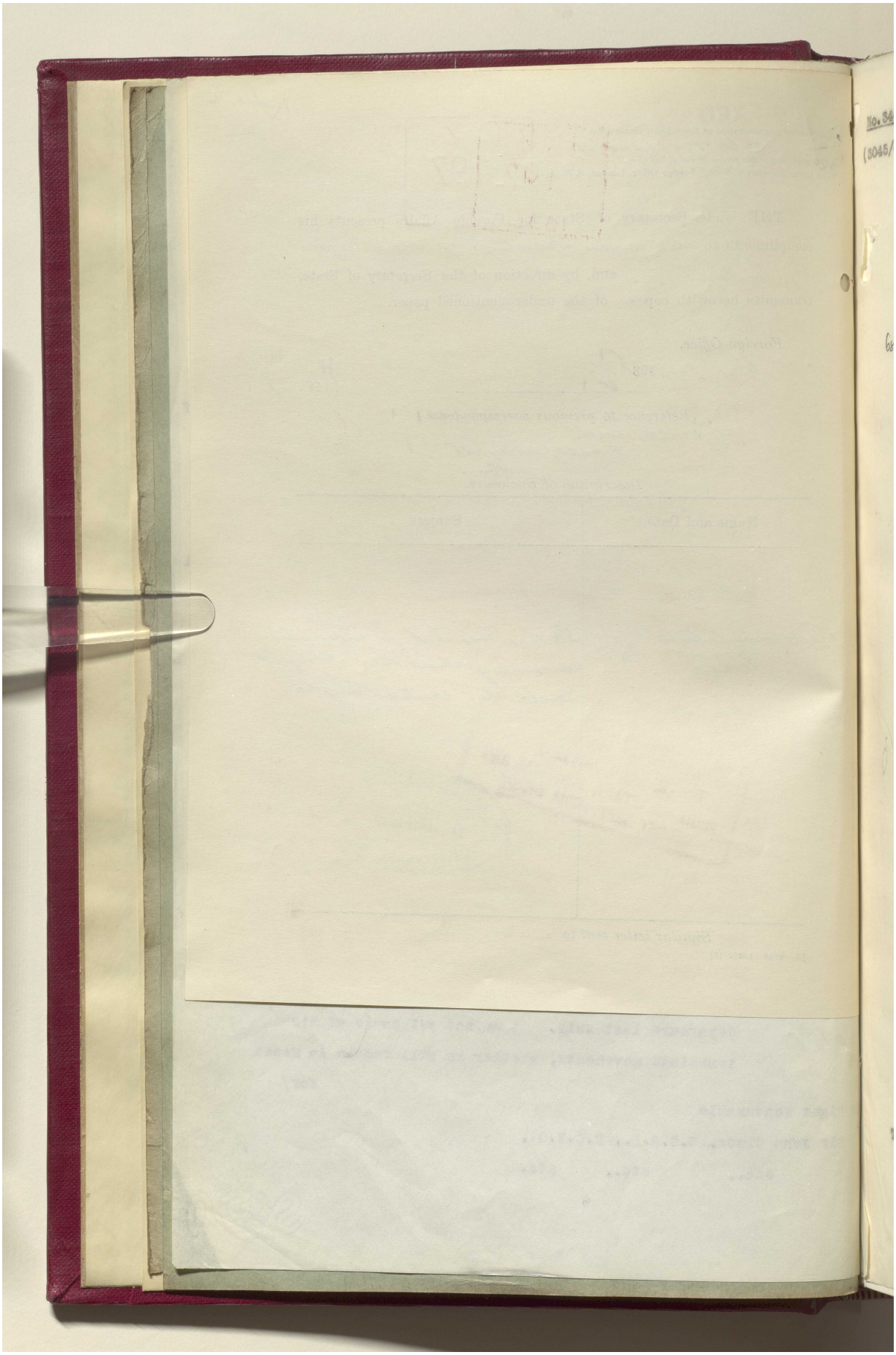

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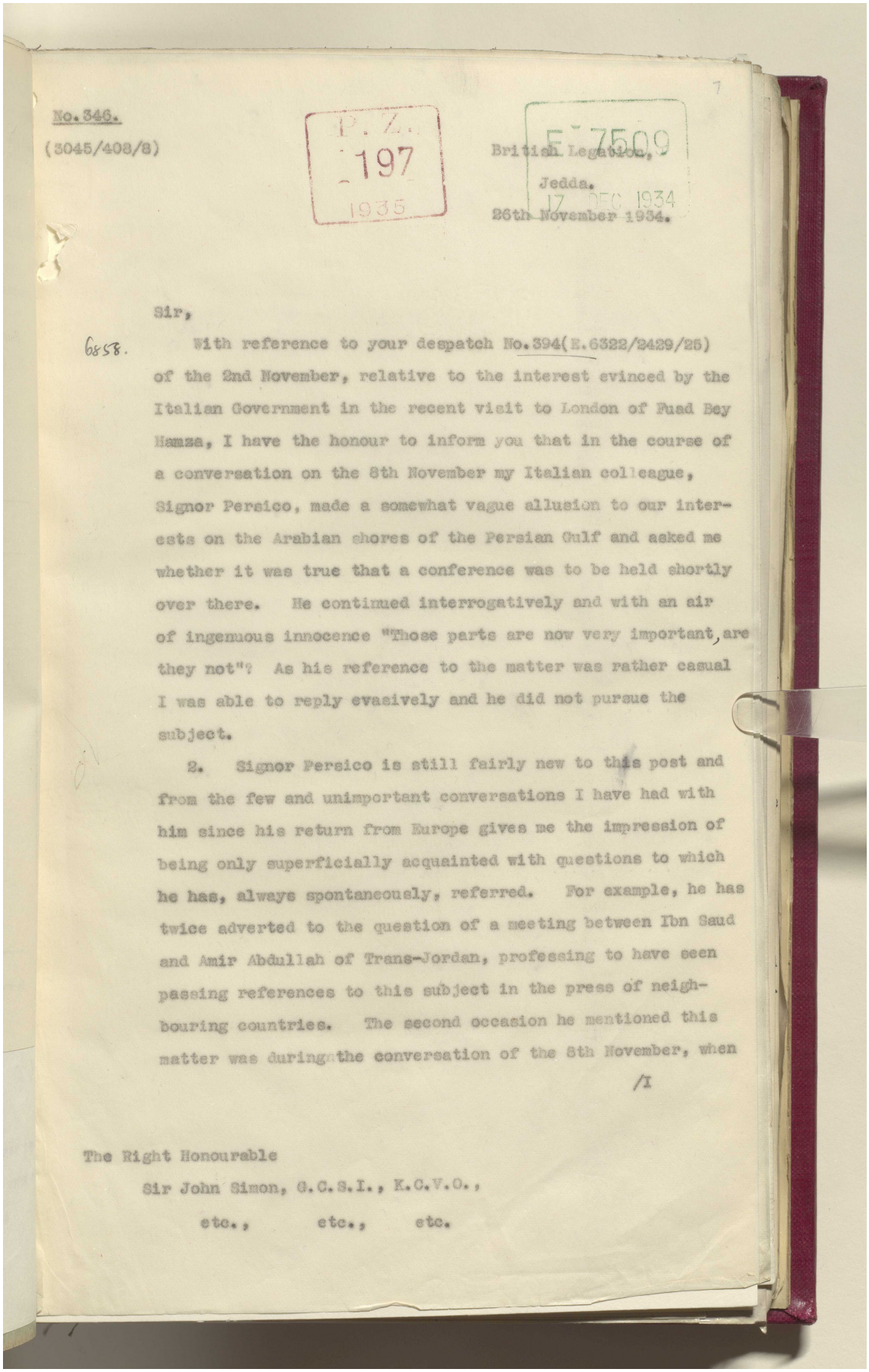

No.346.
(3045/408/8)

P.Z. 197 1935

E 7509

British Legation,
Jedda.
17 DEC 1934
26th November 1934.

Sir,

6858. With reference to your despatch No.394(E.6322/2429/25) of the 2nd November, relative to the interest evinced by the Italian Government in the recent visit to London of Fuad Bey Hamza, I have the honour to inform you that in the course of a conversation on the 8th November my Italian colleague, Signor Persico, made a somewhat vague allusion to our interests on the Arabian shores of the Persian Gulf and asked me whether it was true that a conference was to be held shortly over there. He continued interrogatively and with an air of ingenuous innocence "Those parts are now very important, are they not"? As his reference to the matter was rather casual I was able to reply evasively and he did not pursue the subject.

2. Signor Persico is still fairly new to this post and from the few and unimportant conversations I have had with him since his return from Europe gives me the impression of being only superficially acquainted with questions to which he has, always spontaneously, referred. For example, he has twice adverted to the question of a meeting between Ibn Saud and Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, professing to have seen passing references to this subject in the press of neighbouring countries. The second occasion he mentioned this matter was during the conversation of the 8th November, when

/I

The Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.

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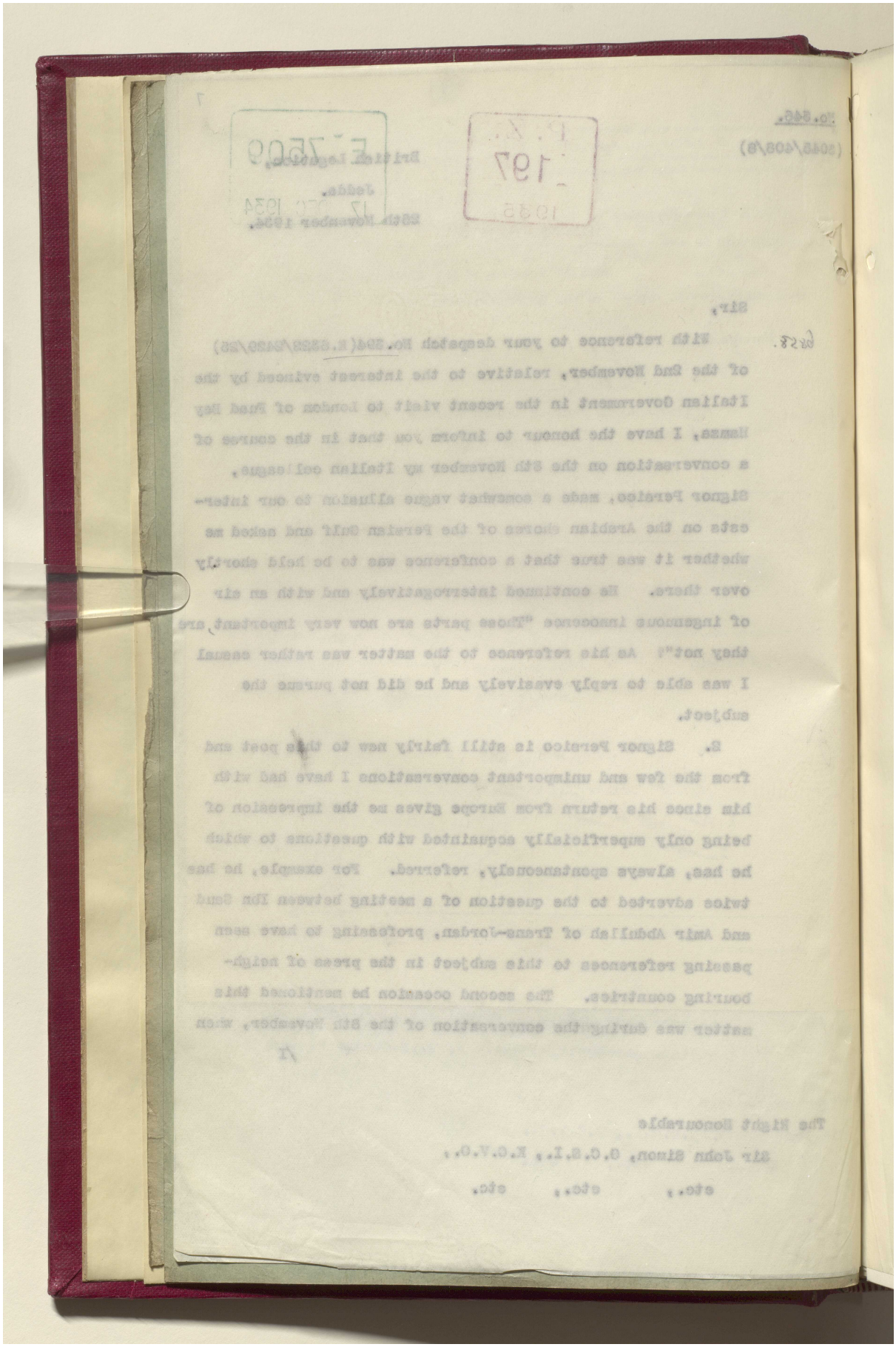
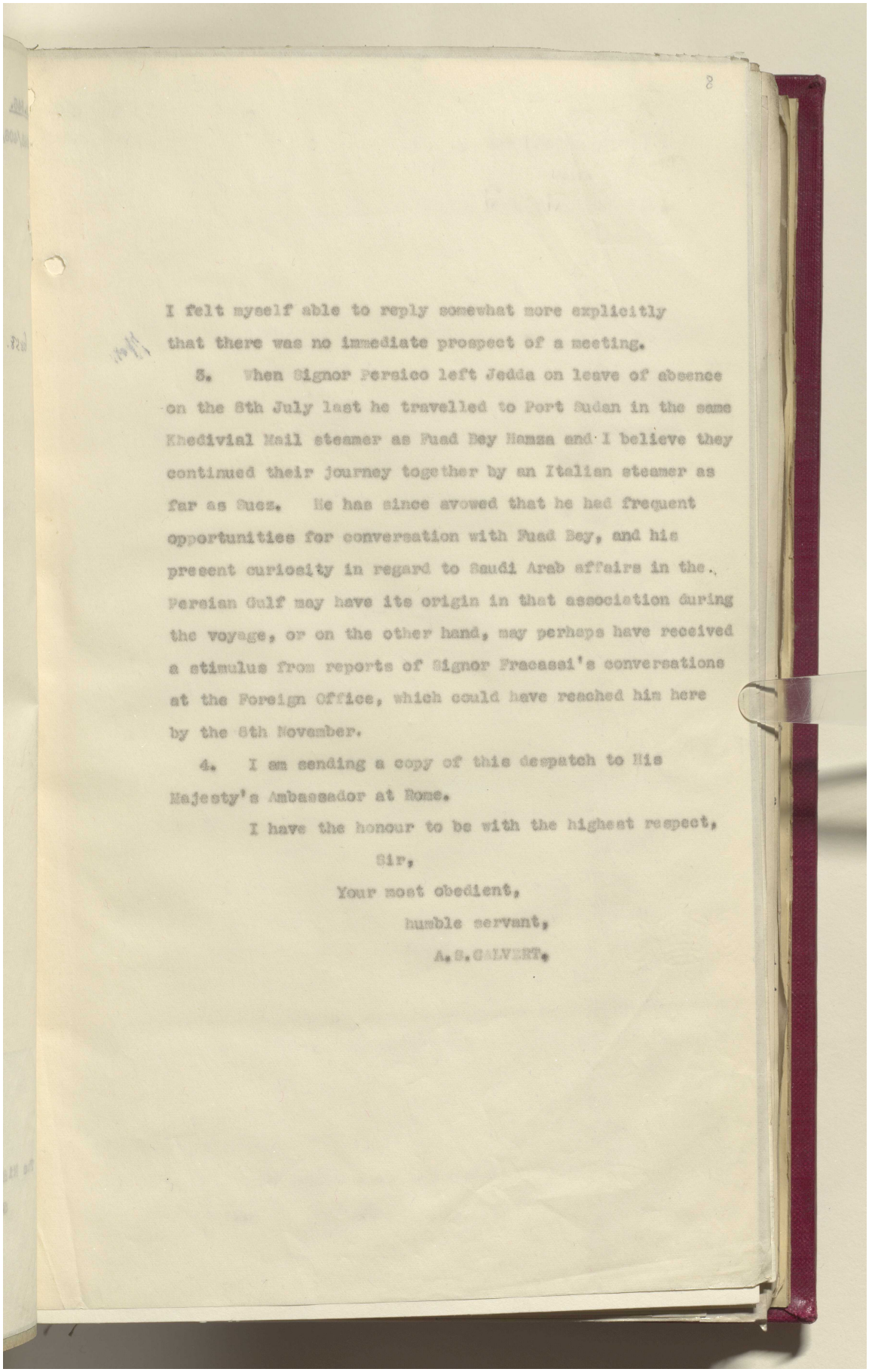




I felt myself able to reply somewhat more explicitly that there was no immediate prospect of a meeting.

5. When Signor Persico left Jedda on leave of absence on the 8th July last he travelled to Port Sudan in the same Khedivial Mail steamer as Fuad Bey Hamza and I believe they continued their journey together by an Italian steamer as far as Suez. He has since avowed that he had frequent opportunities for conversation with Fuad Bey, and his present curiosity in regard to Saudi Arab affairs in the Persian Gulf may have its origin in that association during the voyage, or on the other hand, may perhaps have received a stimulus from reports of Signor Fracassi's conversations at the Foreign Office, which could have reached him here by the 8th November.

4. I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome.

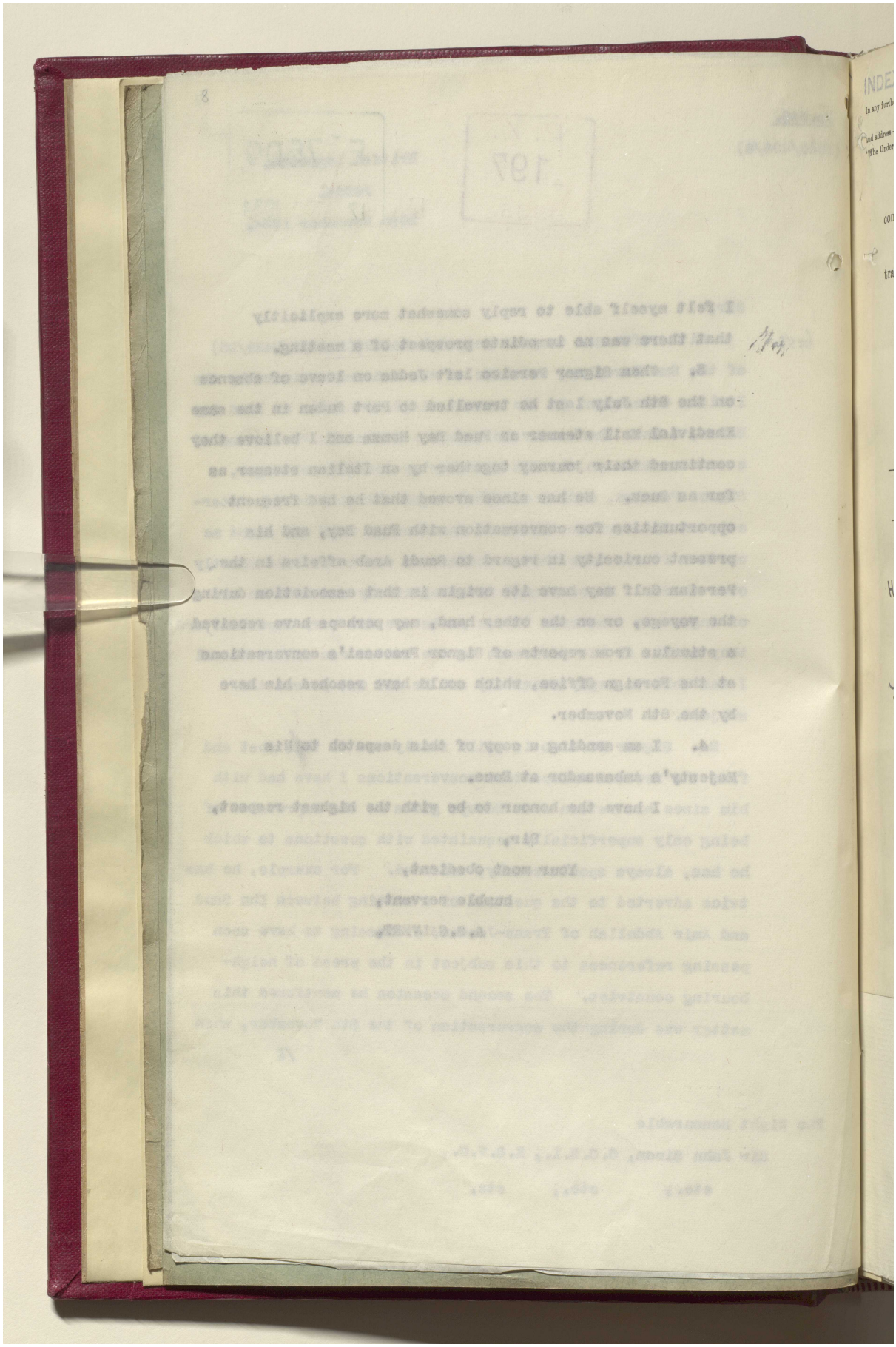
I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

A.S.CALVERT.



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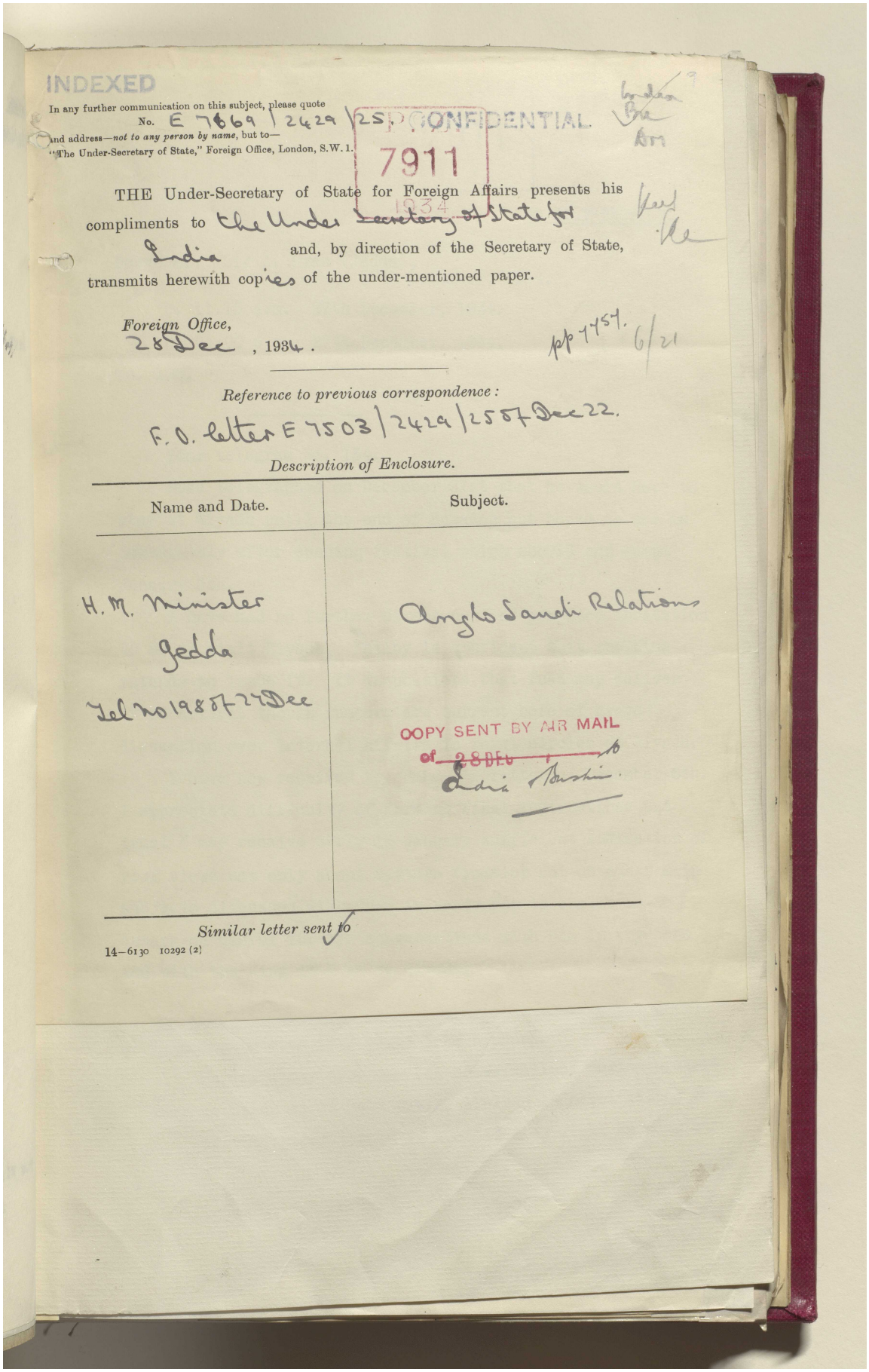

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL

7911
1934

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under ~~Secretary of State for~~ India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
28 Dec, 1934.

pp 7457. 6/21

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. letter E 7503/2429/25 of Dec 22.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Minister Jedda Tel No 198 of 27 Dec	Anglo Saudi Relations

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL of 28 Dec to India Office.

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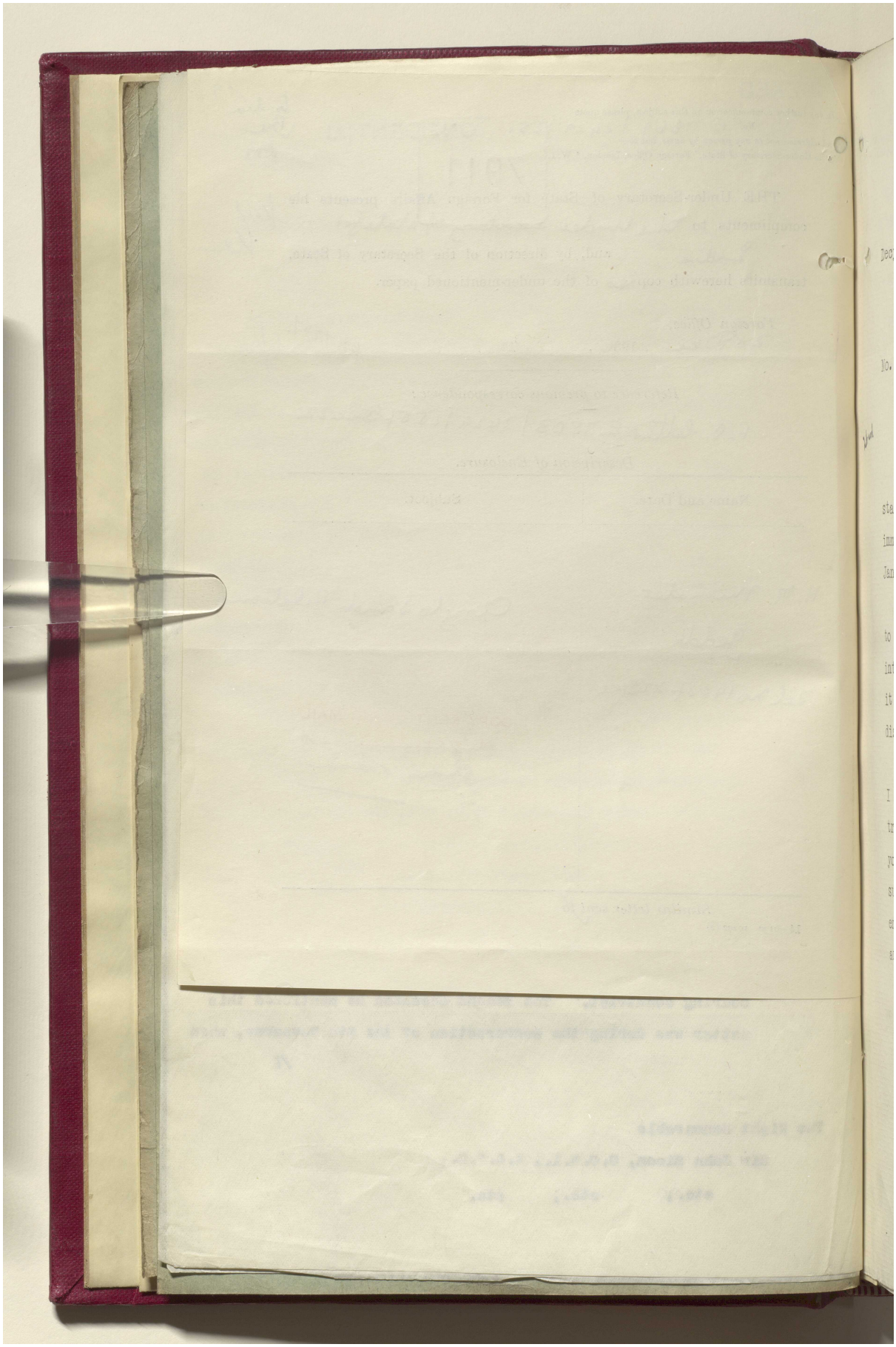

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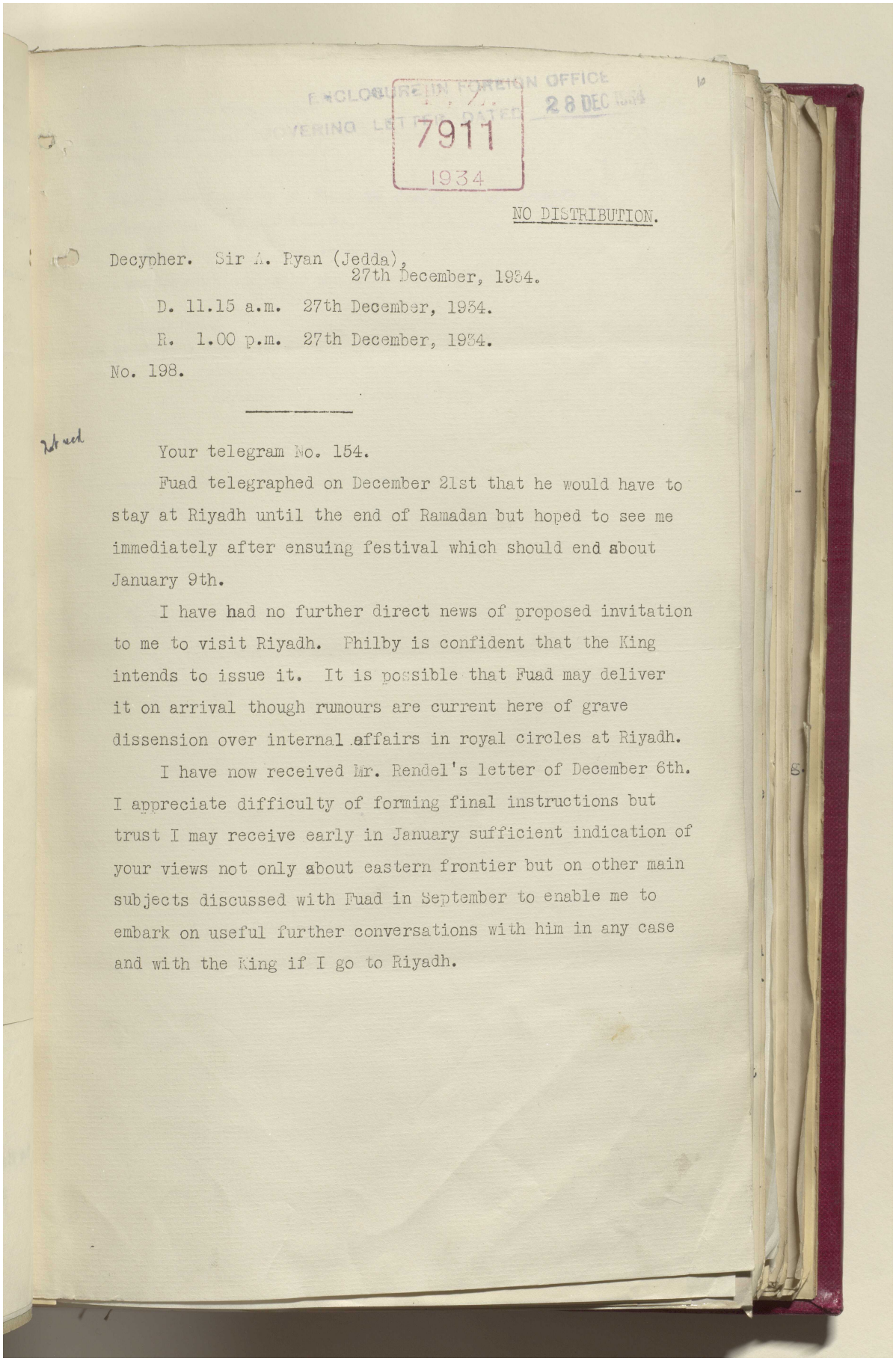

ENCLOSURE IN FOREIGN OFFICE
COVERING LETTER DATED 28 DEC 1934
7911
1934

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decypher. Sir A. Ryan (Jedda),
27th December, 1934.

D. 11.15 a.m. 27th December, 1934.

R. 1.00 p.m. 27th December, 1934.

No. 198.

Your telegram No. 154.

Fuad telegraphed on December 21st that he would have to stay at Riyadh until the end of Ramadan but hoped to see me immediately after ensuing festival which should end about January 9th.

I have had no further direct news of proposed invitation to me to visit Riyadh. Philby is confident that the King intends to issue it. It is possible that Fuad may deliver it on arrival though rumours are current here of grave dissension over internal affairs in royal circles at Riyadh.

I have now received Mr. Rendel's letter of December 6th. I appreciate difficulty of forming final instructions but trust I may receive early in January sufficient indication of your views not only about eastern frontier but on other main subjects discussed with Fuad in September to enable me to embark on useful further conversations with him in any case and with the King if I go to Riyadh.

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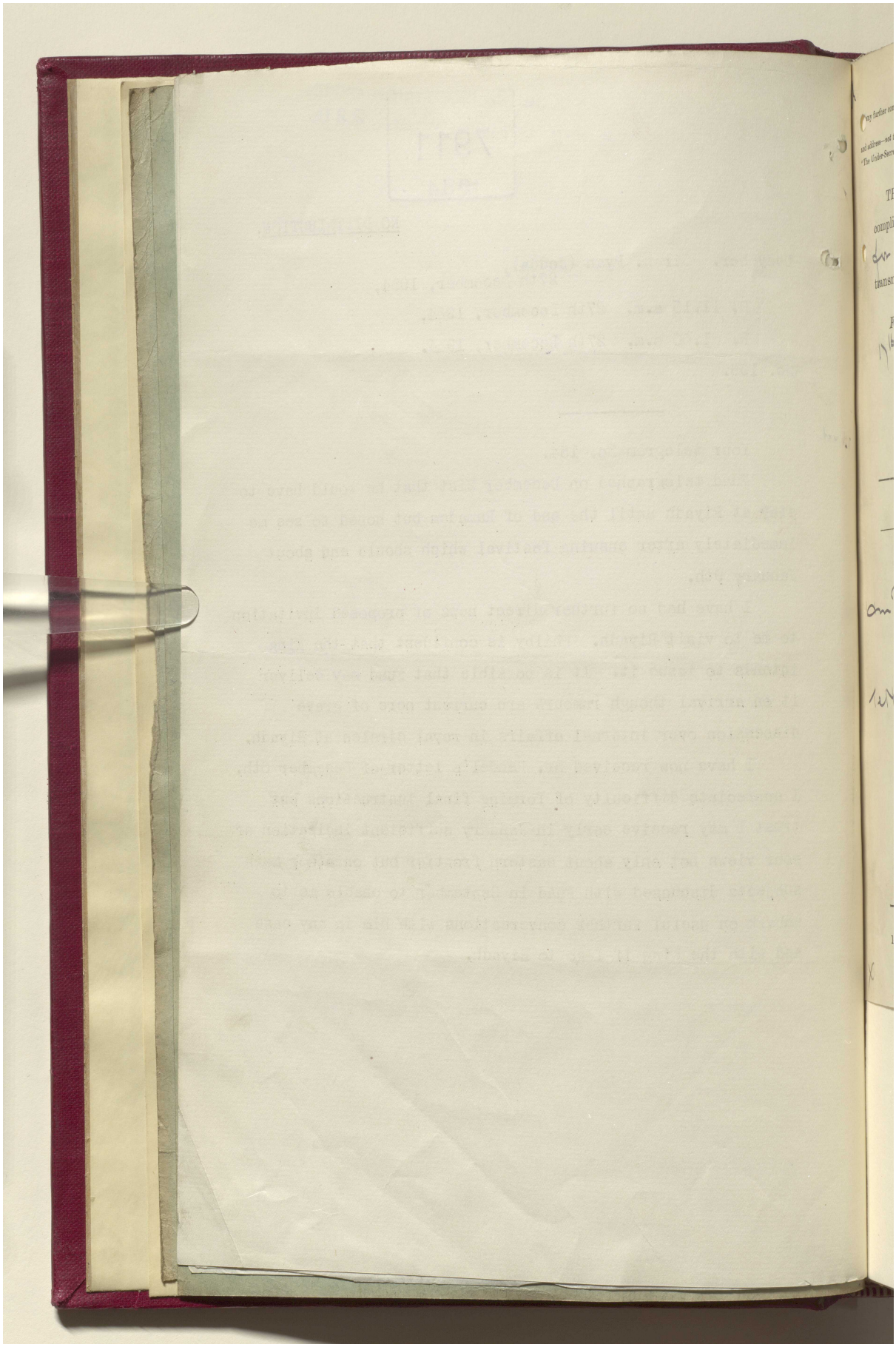

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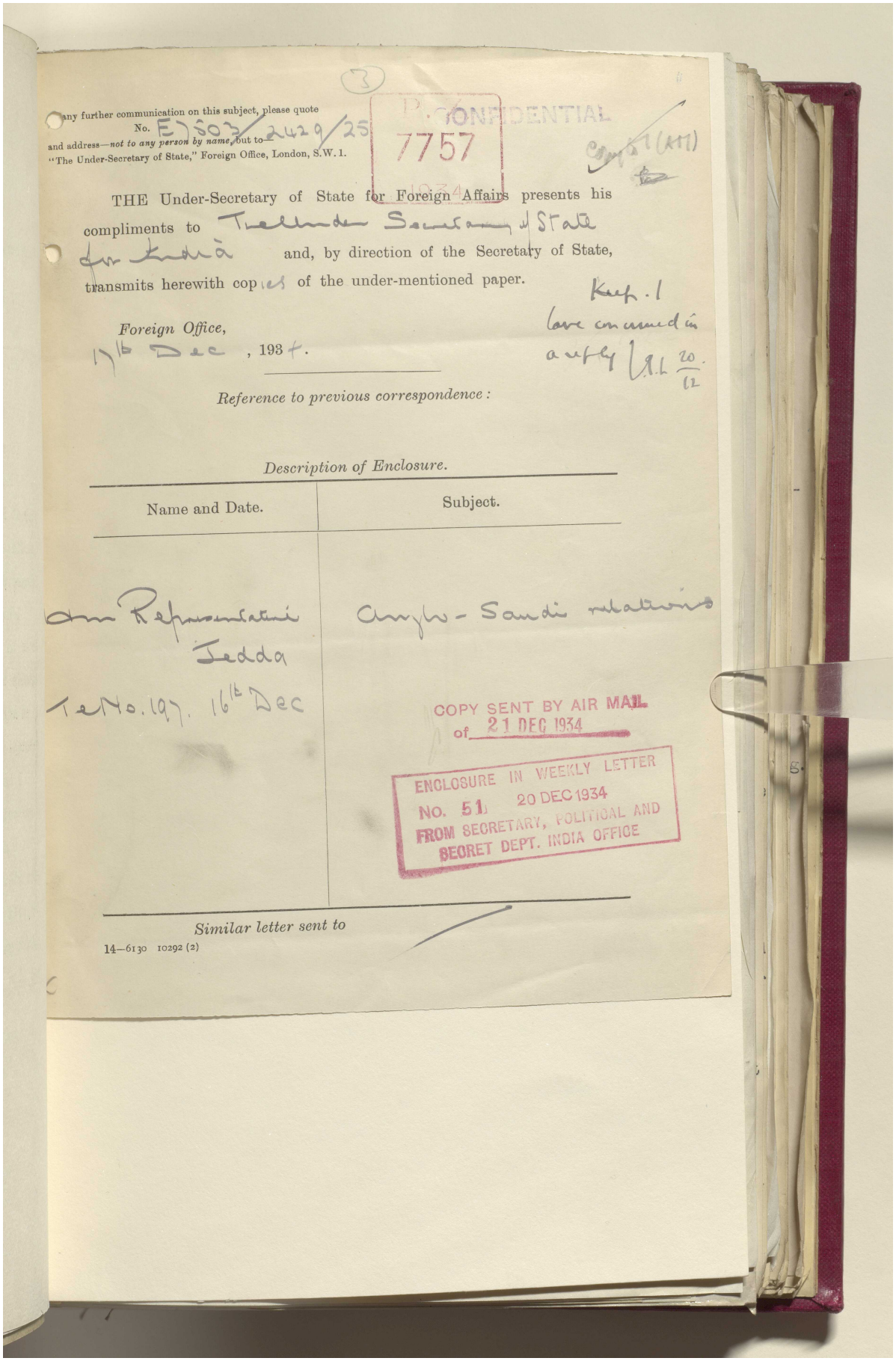

any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E7503/2429/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL
P. 6
7757
1934

Copy 51 (A11)

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Keep. I have concerned in a reply [illegible] 20/12

Foreign Office,
17th Dec, 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Am Representative Jedda Te No. 197. 16th Dec	Anglo-Saudi relations

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL
of 21 DEC 1934

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 51 20 DEC 1934
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

14—6130 10292 (2)

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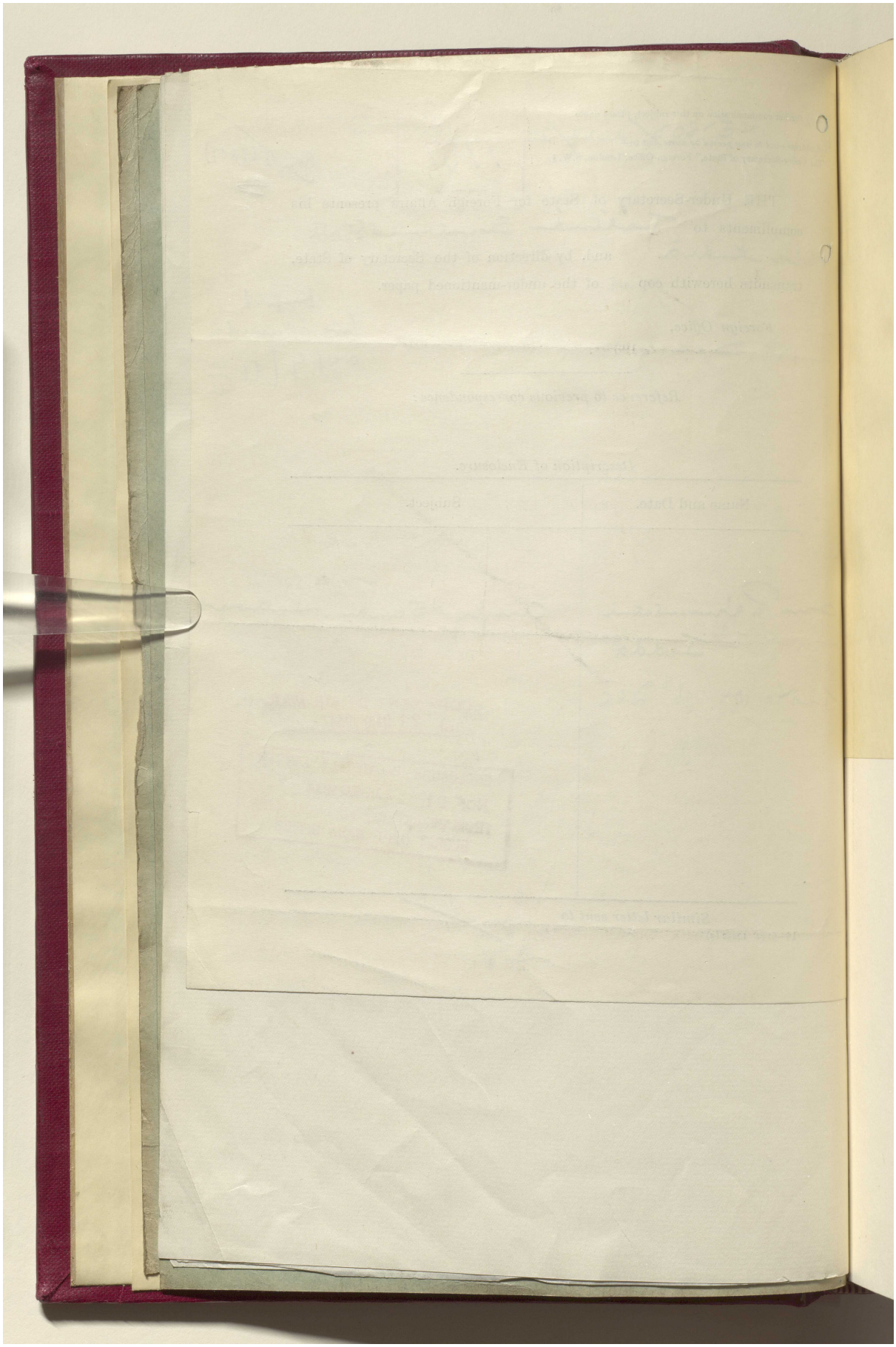

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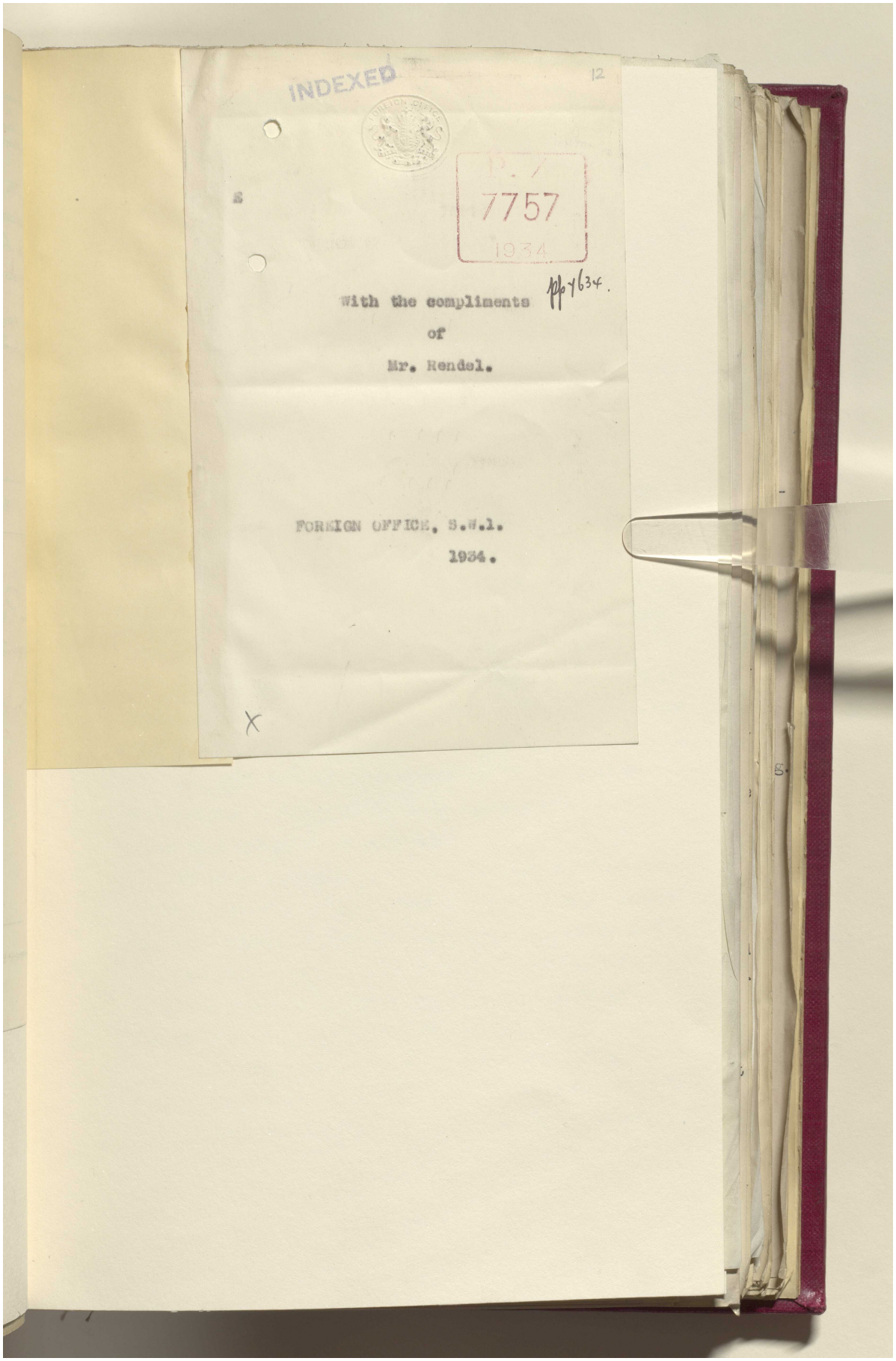

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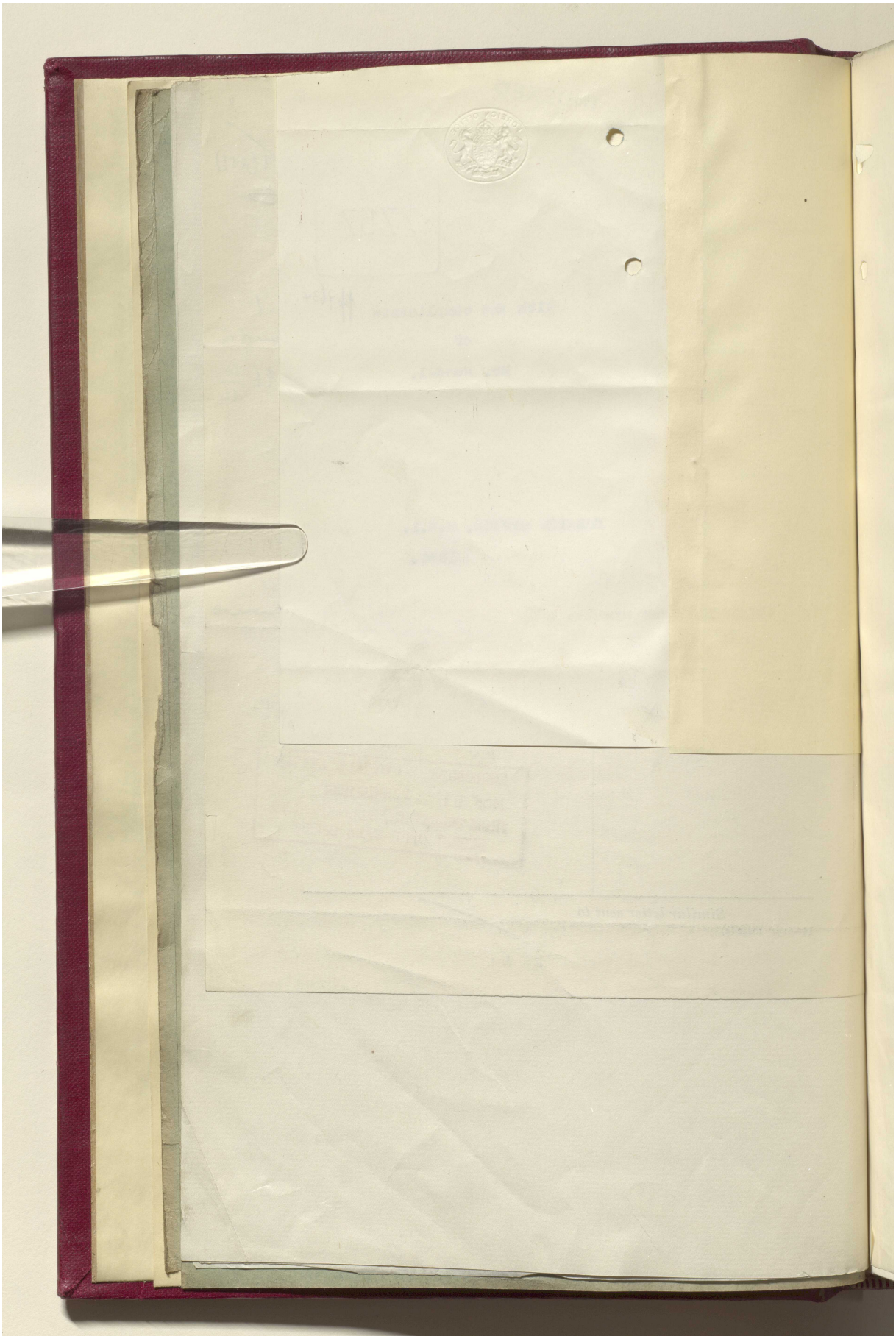

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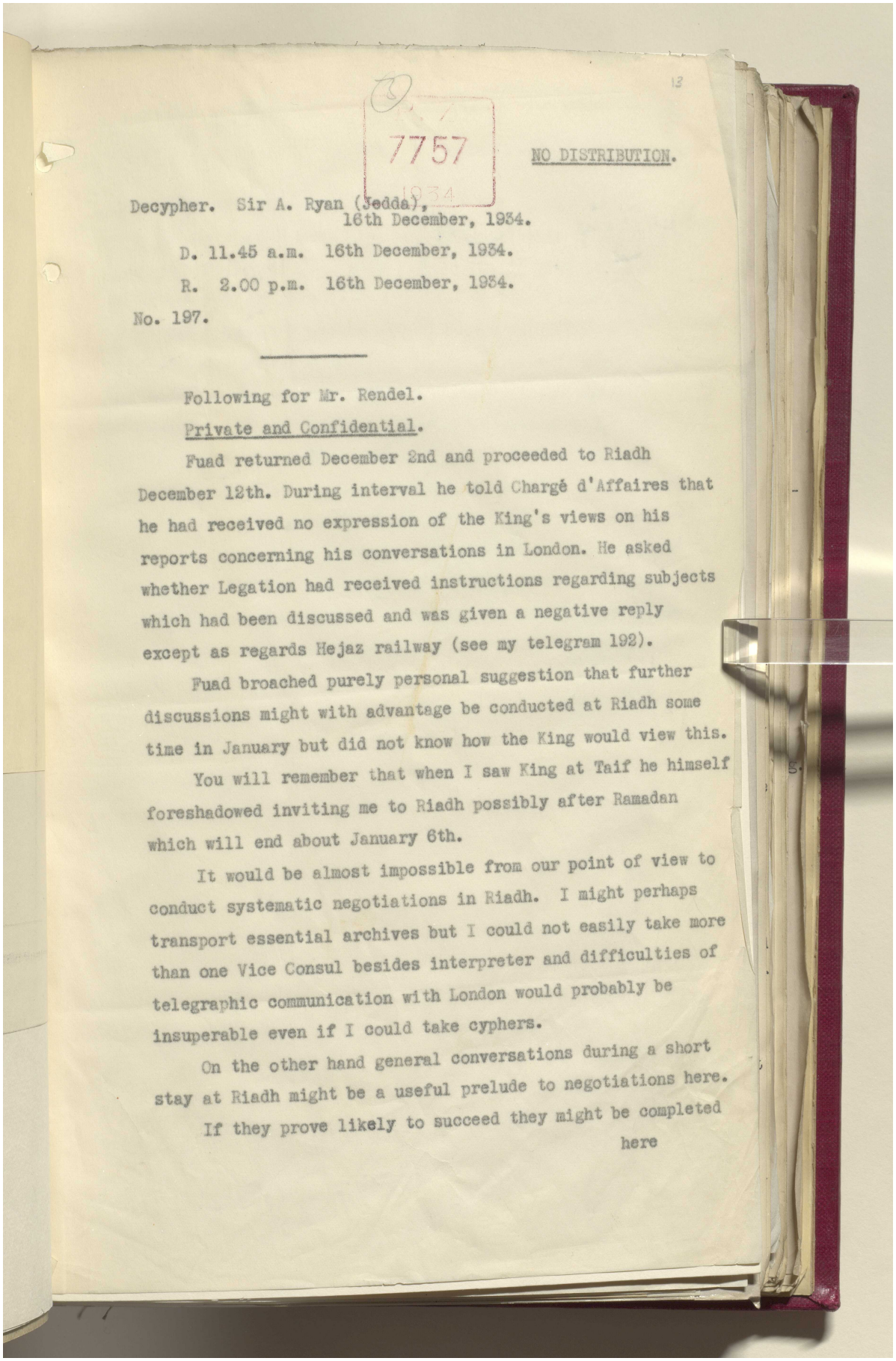

7757
1934

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decypher. Sir A. Ryan (Jedda),
16th December, 1934.

D. 11.45 a.m. 16th December, 1934.

R. 2.00 p.m. 16th December, 1934.

No. 197.

Following for Mr. Rendel.

Private and Confidential.

Fuad returned December 2nd and proceeded to Riadh December 12th. During interval he told Chargé d'Affaires that he had received no expression of the King's views on his reports concerning his conversations in London. He asked whether Legation had received instructions regarding subjects which had been discussed and was given a negative reply except as regards Hejaz railway (see my telegram 192).

Fuad broached purely personal suggestion that further discussions might with advantage be conducted at Riadh some time in January but did not know how the King would view this.

You will remember that when I saw King at Taif he himself foreshadowed inviting me to Riadh possibly after Ramadan which will end about January 6th.

It would be almost impossible from our point of view to conduct systematic negotiations in Riadh. I might perhaps transport essential archives but I could not easily take more than one Vice Consul besides interpreter and difficulties of telegraphic communication with London would probably be insuperable even if I could take cyphers.

On the other hand general conversations during a short stay at Riadh might be a useful prelude to negotiations here.

If they prove likely to succeed they might be completed here

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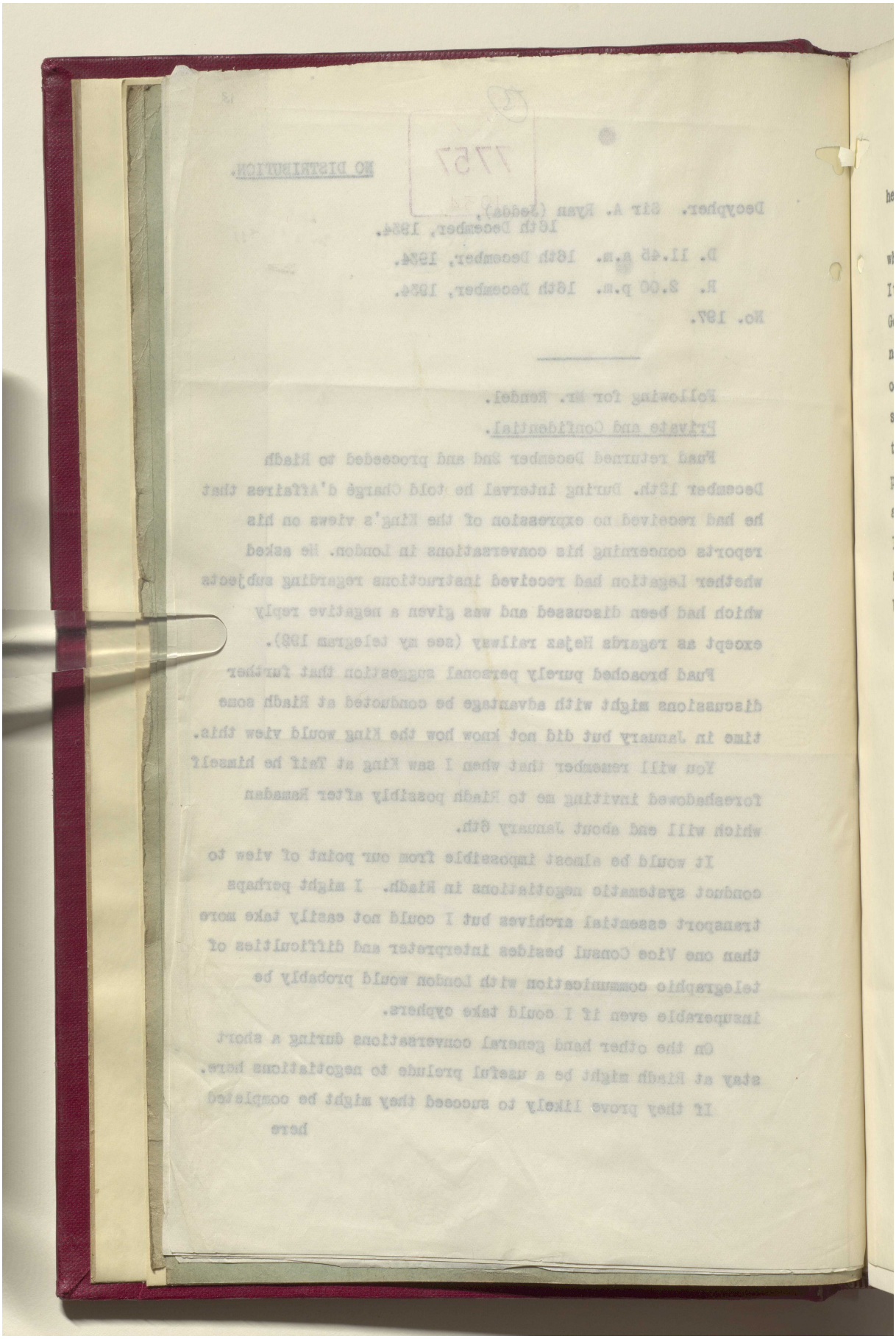

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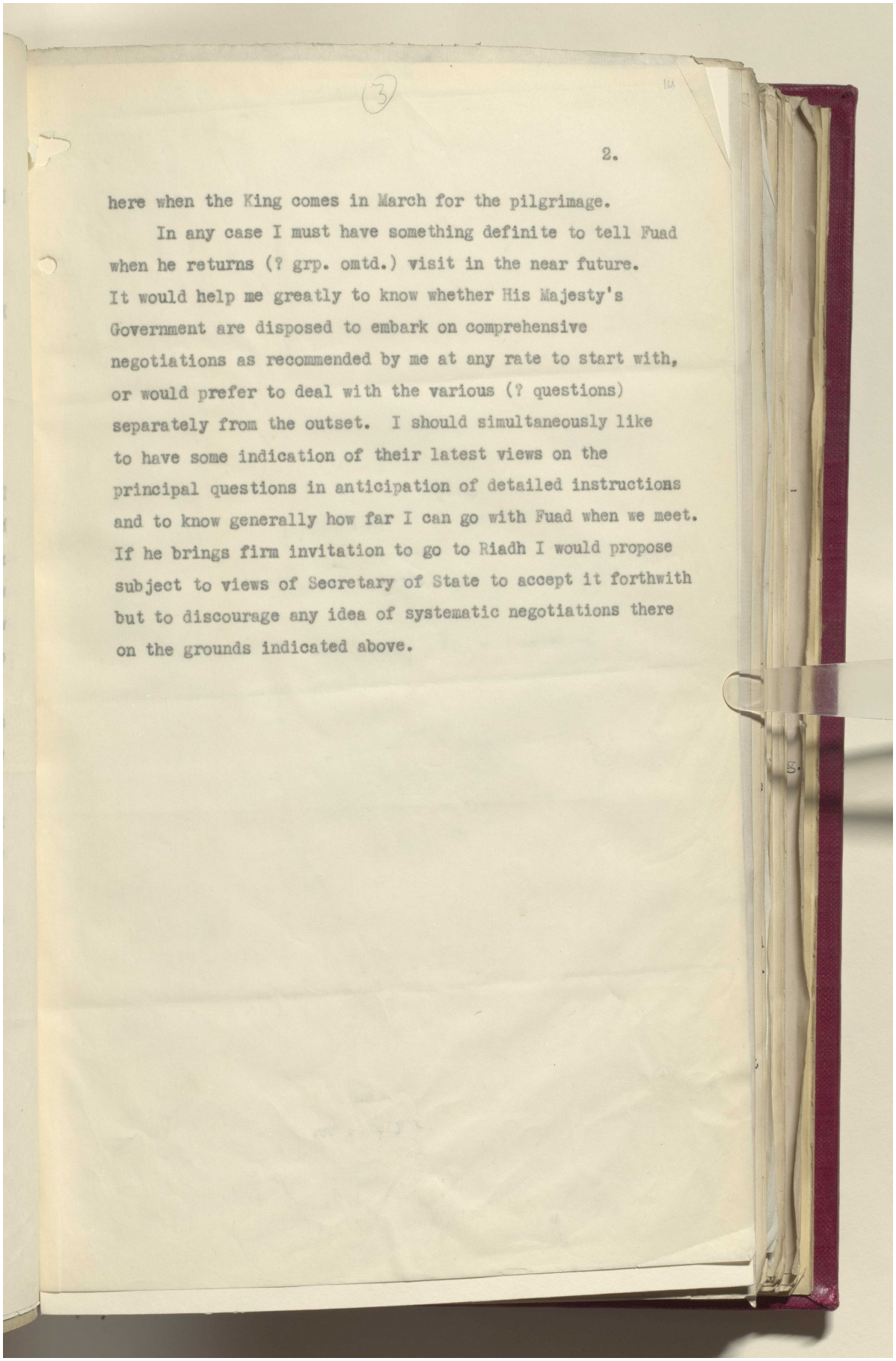

(3)

2.

here when the King comes in March for the pilgrimage.

In any case I must have something definite to tell Fuad when he returns (? grp. omtd.) visit in the near future. It would help me greatly to know whether His Majesty's Government are disposed to embark on comprehensive negotiations as recommended by me at any rate to start with, or would prefer to deal with the various (? questions) separately from the outset. I should simultaneously like to have some indication of their latest views on the principal questions in anticipation of detailed instructions and to know generally how far I can go with Fuad when we meet. If he brings firm invitation to go to Riadh I would propose subject to views of Secretary of State to accept it forthwith but to discourage any idea of systematic negotiations there on the grounds indicated above.

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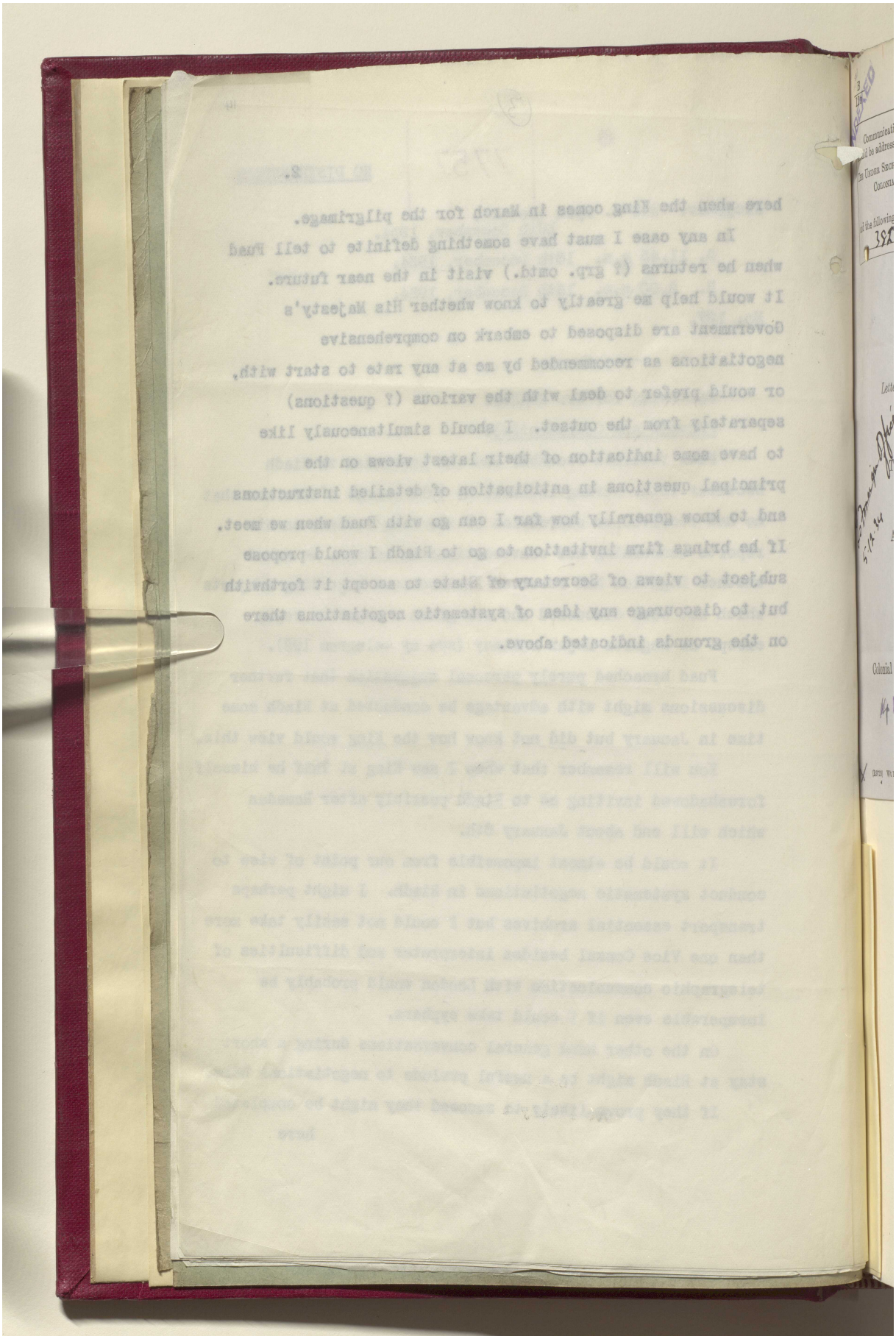

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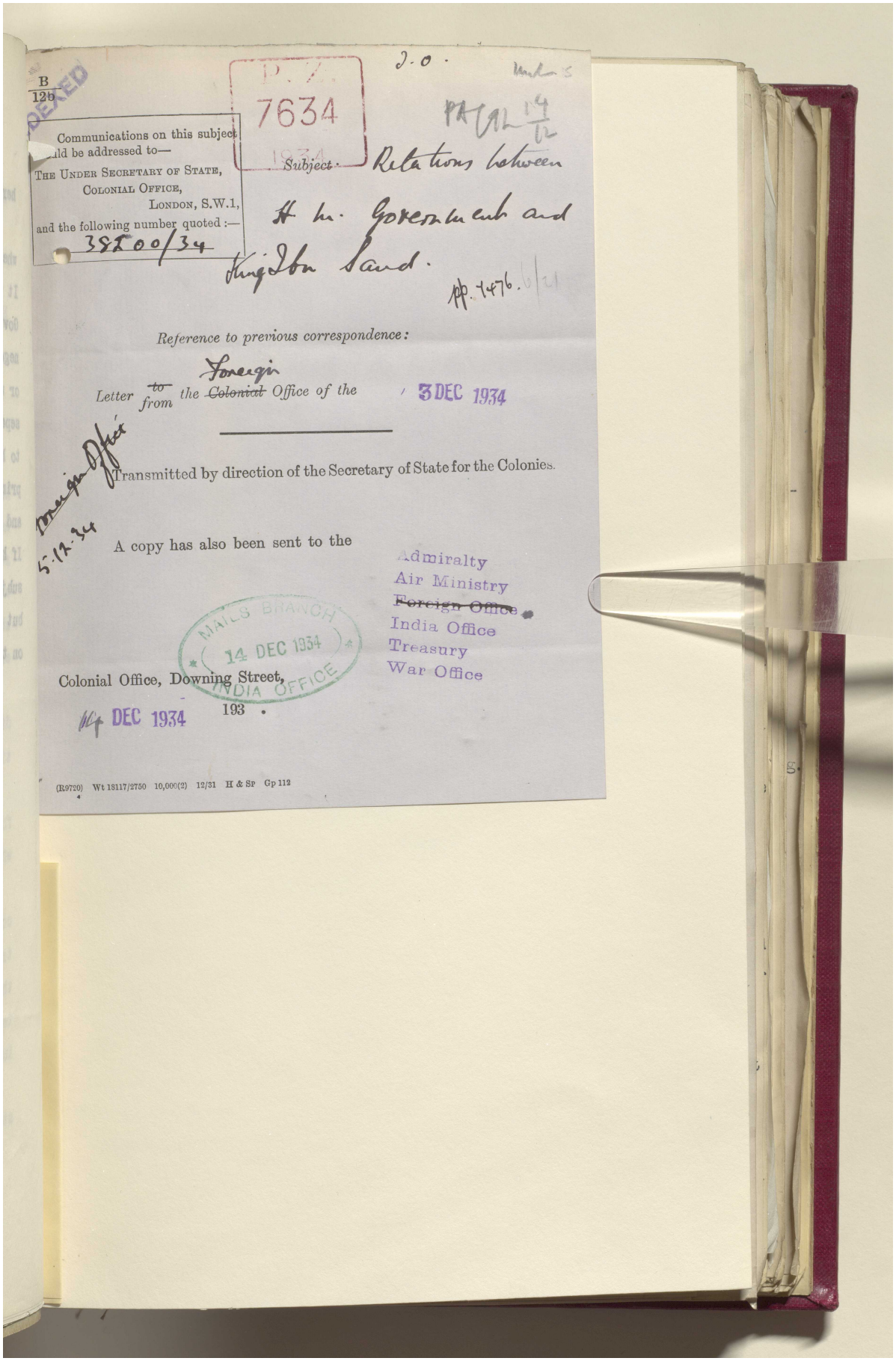

B
120

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
38200/34

P.Z. 7634 1934

I.O.

Subject: Relations between H.M. Government and Kingdom Saud.

App. 1476.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ~~*to*~~ *from the* ~~*Colonial*~~ *Foreign Office of the* 3 DEC 1934

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the

Admiralty
Air Ministry
~~Foreign Office~~
India Office
Treasury
War Office

MAILS BRANCH 14 DEC 1934 INDIA OFFICE

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
4 DEC 1934 193 .

(R9720) Wt 18117/2750 10,000(2) 12/31 H & Sp Gp 112

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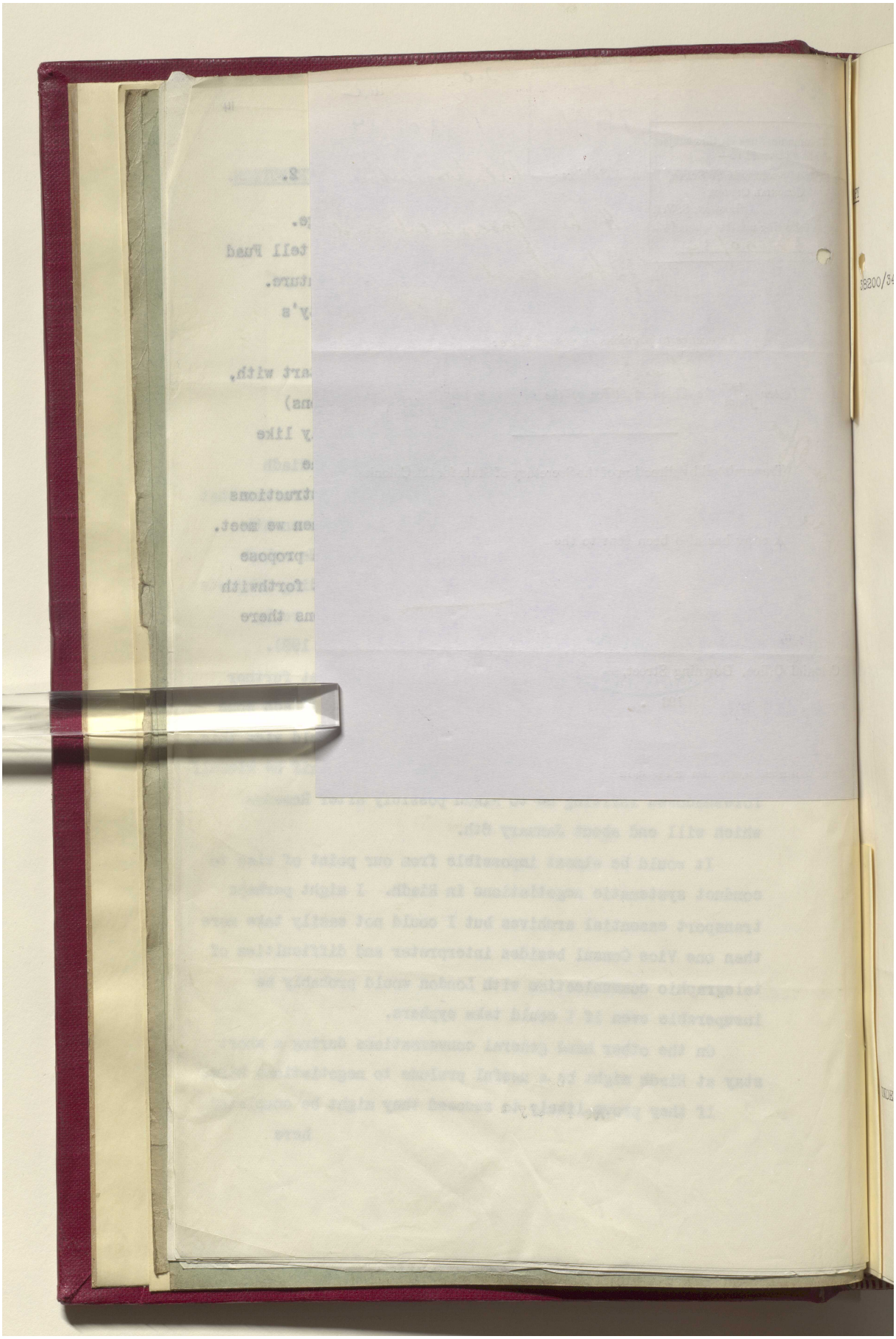

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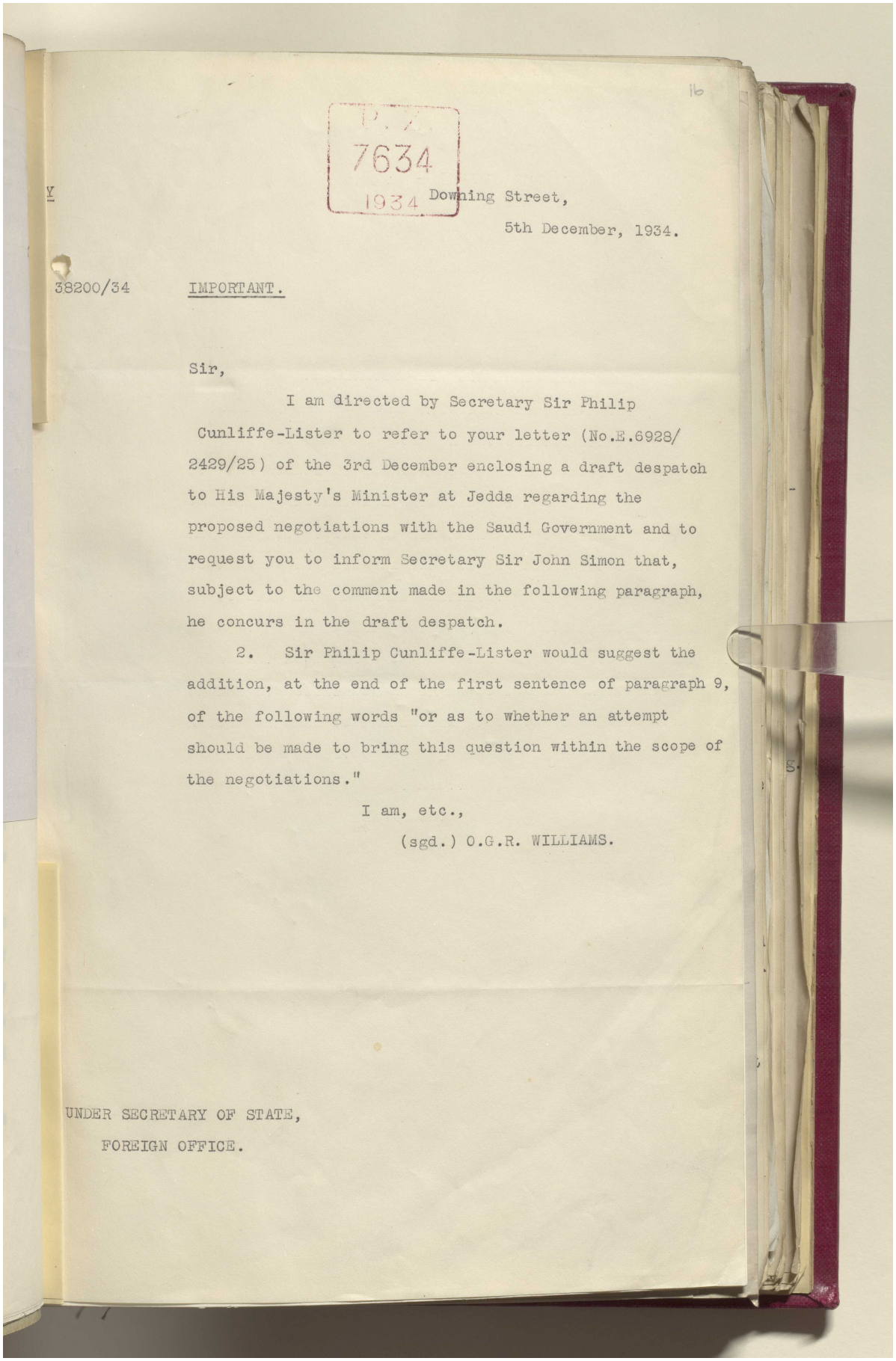

P.Z.
7634
1934

16

Y

Downing Street,
5th December, 1934.

38200/34 IMPORTANT.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister to refer to your letter (No.E.6928/2429/25) of the 3rd December enclosing a draft despatch to His Majesty's Minister at Jedda regarding the proposed negotiations with the Saudi Government and to request you to inform Secretary Sir John Simon that, subject to the comment made in the following paragraph, he concurs in the draft despatch.

2. Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister would suggest the addition, at the end of the first sentence of paragraph 9, of the following words "or as to whether an attempt should be made to bring this question within the scope of the negotiations."

I am, etc.,
(sgd.) O.G.R. WILLIAMS.

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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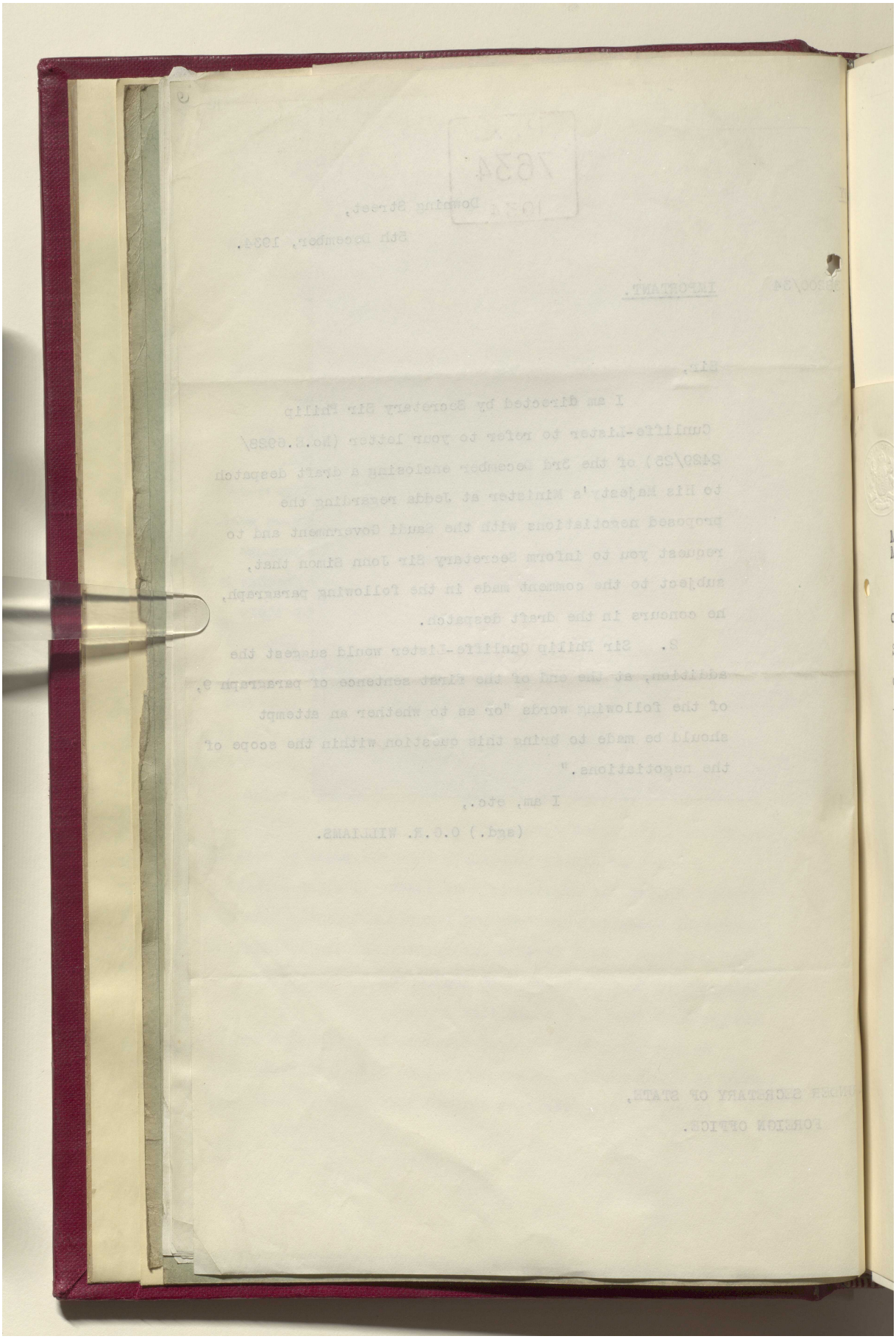

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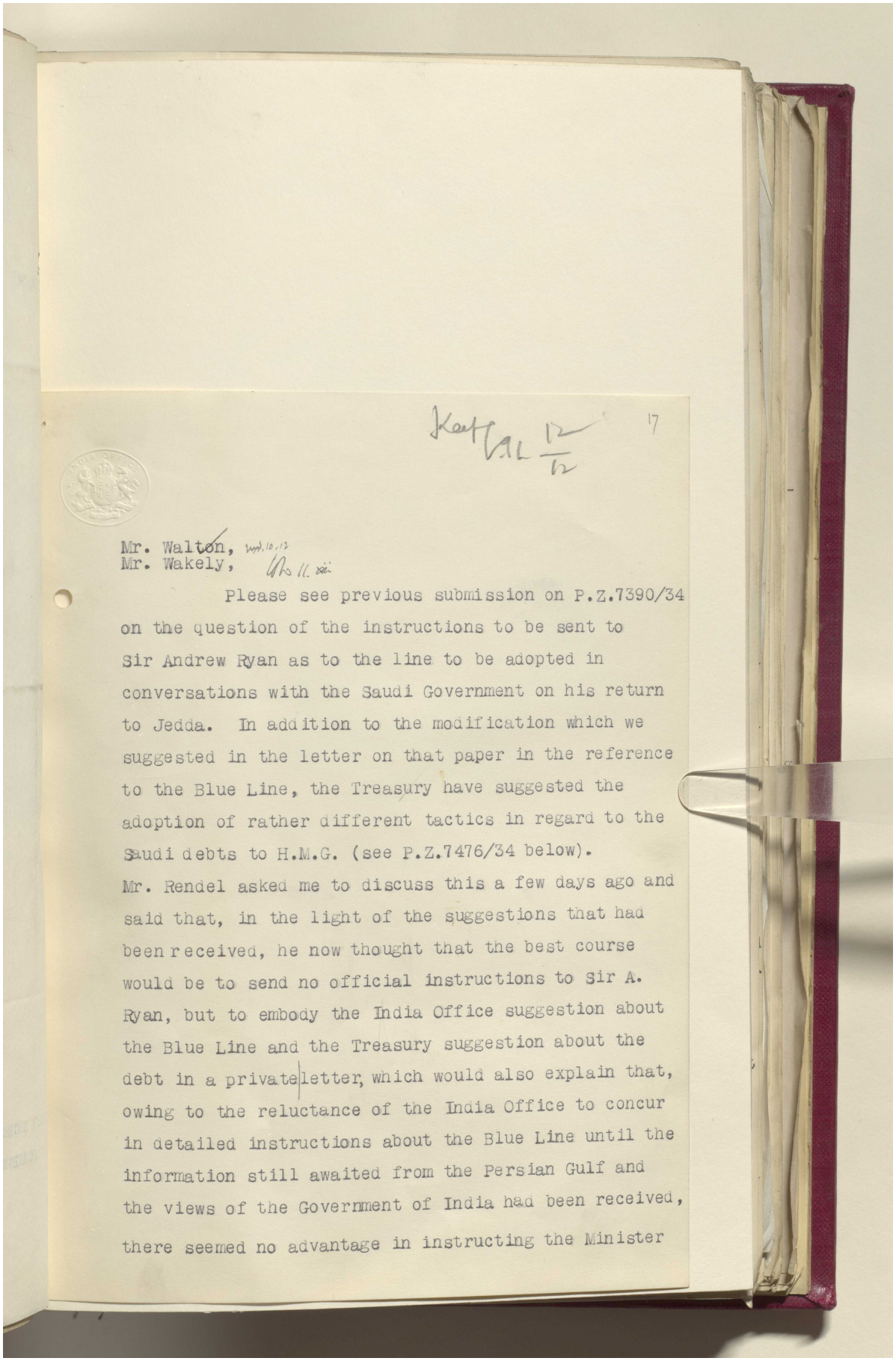

17

Mr. Walton,
Mr. Wakely,

Please see previous submission on P.Z.7390/34 on the question of the instructions to be sent to Sir Andrew Ryan as to the line to be adopted in conversations with the Saudi Government on his return to Jedda. In addition to the modification which we suggested in the letter on that paper in the reference to the Blue Line, the Treasury have suggested the adoption of rather different tactics in regard to the Saudi debts to H.M.G. (see P.Z.7476/34 below).
Mr. Rendel asked me to discuss this a few days ago and said that, in the light of the suggestions that had been received, he now thought that the best course would be to send no official instructions to Sir A. Ryan, but to embody the India Office suggestion about the Blue Line and the Treasury suggestion about the debt in a private letter, which would also explain that, owing to the reluctance of the India Office to concur in detailed instructions about the Blue Line until the information still awaited from the Persian Gulf and the views of the Government of India had been received, there seemed no advantage in instructing the Minister

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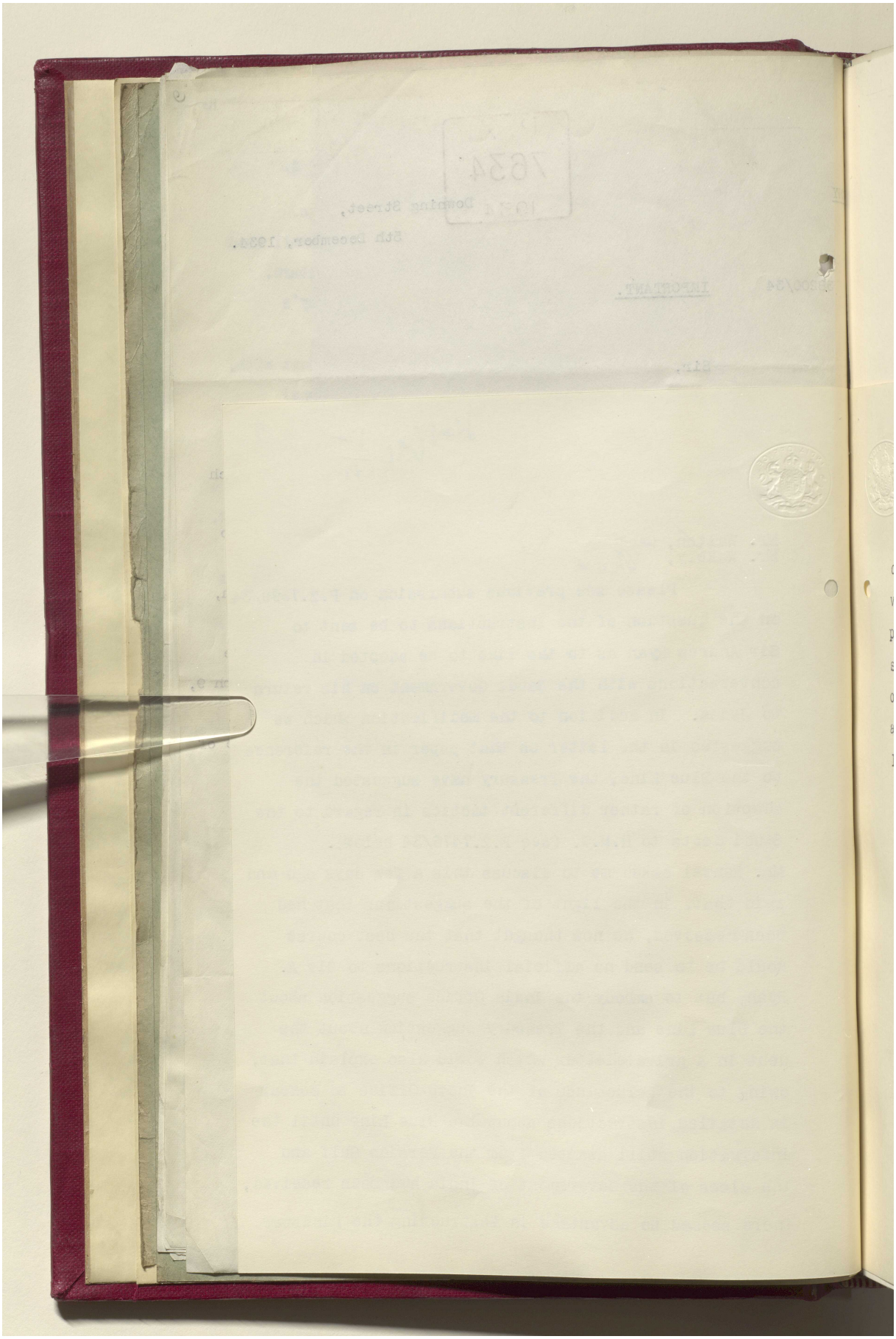

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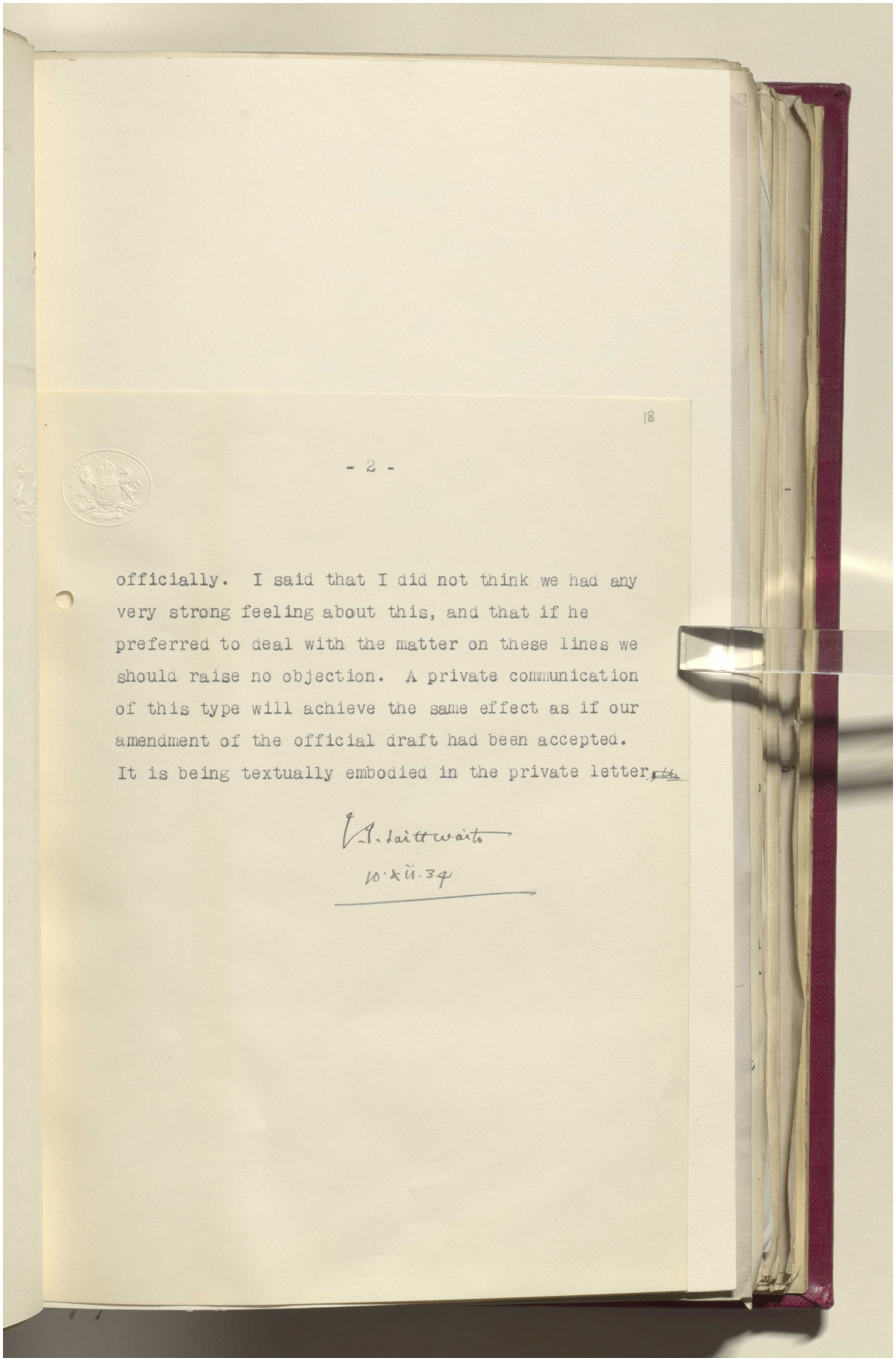

18

- 2 -

officially. I said that I did not think we had any very strong feeling about this, and that if he preferred to deal with the matter on these lines we should raise no objection. A private communication of this type will achieve the same effect as if our amendment of the official draft had been accepted. It is being textually embodied in the private letter.

V. A. Laithwaite
10.XII.34

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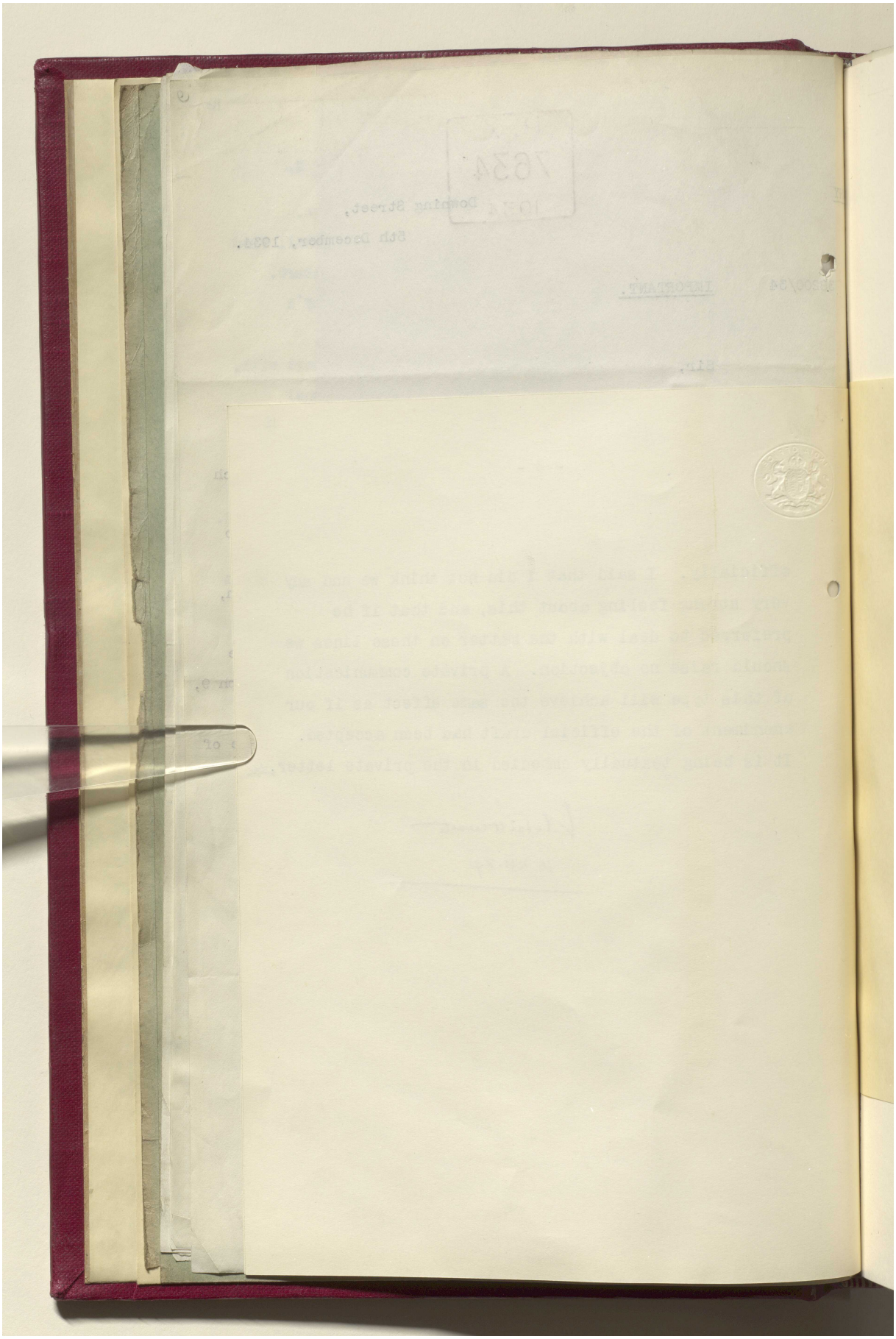
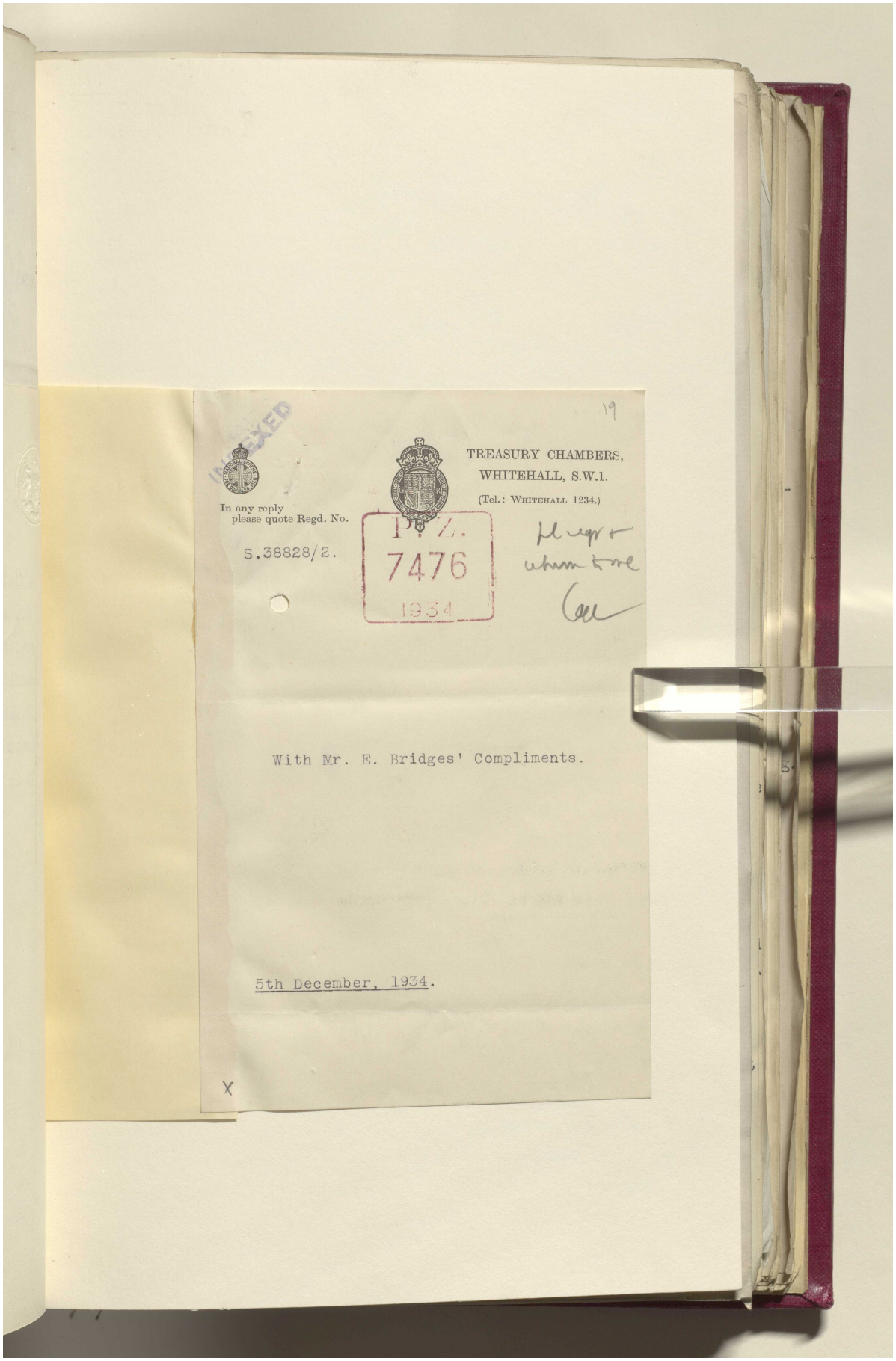




19

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.
(Tel.: WHITEHALL 1234.)

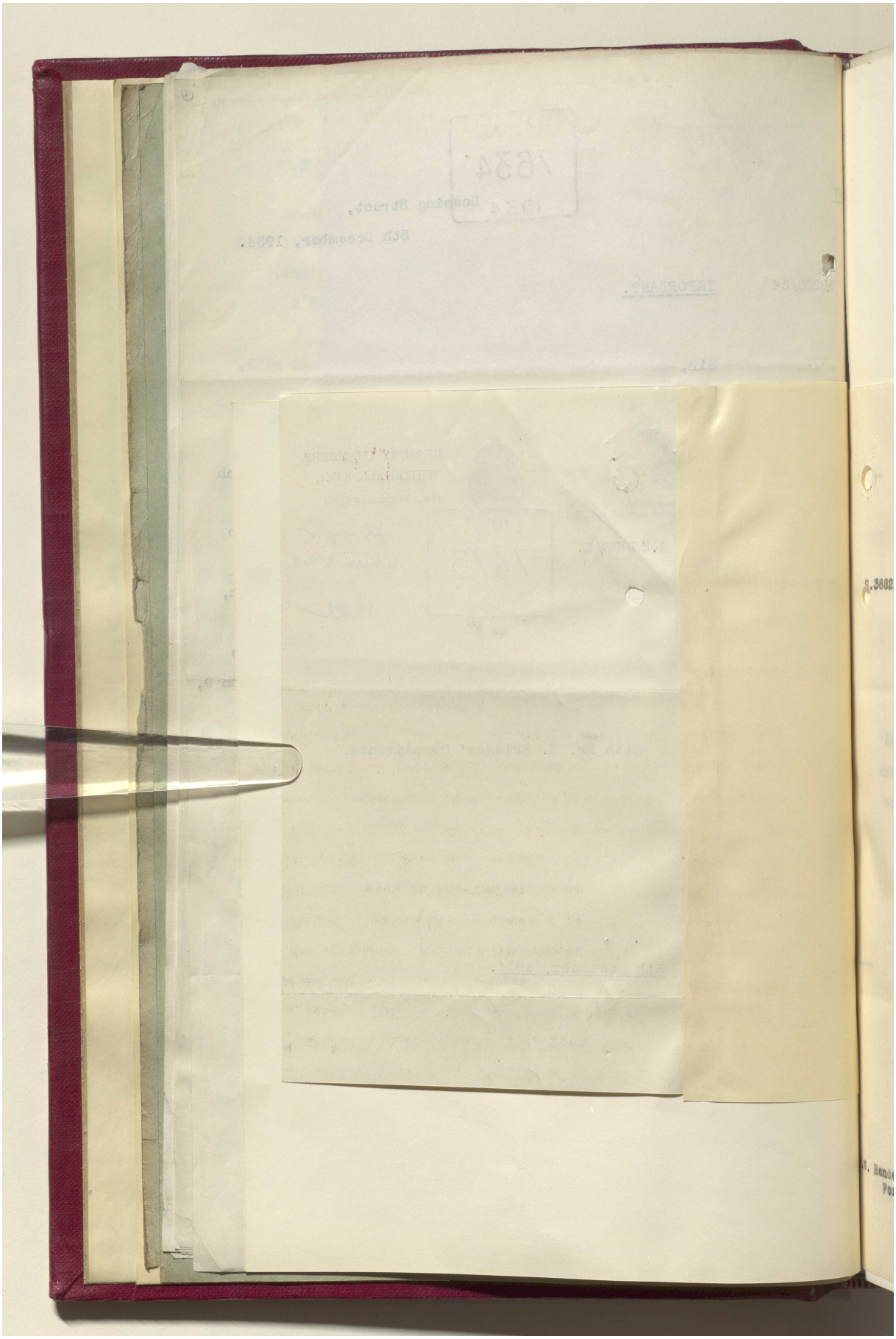
In any reply
please quote Regd. No.
S.38828/2.

P.Z.
7476
1934

With Mr. E. Bridges' Compliments.

5th December, 1934.

X



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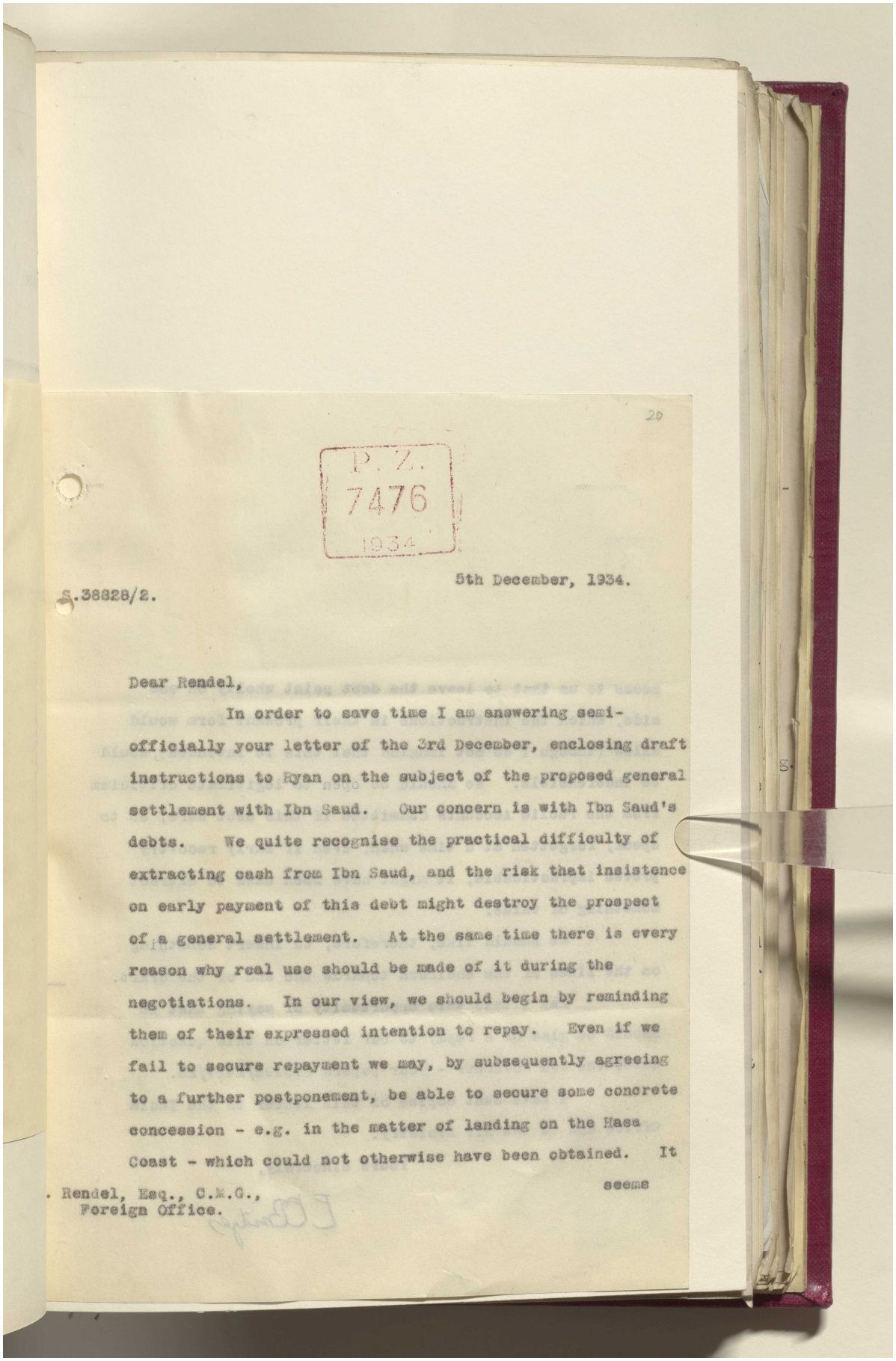

20

P. Z.
7476
1934

5th December, 1934.

S.38828/2.

Dear Rendel,

In order to save time I am answering semi-officially your letter of the 3rd December, enclosing draft instructions to Ryan on the subject of the proposed general settlement with Ibn Saud. Our concern is with Ibn Saud's debts. We quite recognise the practical difficulty of extracting cash from Ibn Saud, and the risk that insistence on early payment of this debt might destroy the prospect of a general settlement. At the same time there is every reason why real use should be made of it during the negotiations. In our view, we should begin by reminding them of their expressed intention to repay. Even if we fail to secure repayment we may, by subsequently agreeing to a further postponement, be able to secure some concrete concession - e.g. in the matter of landing on the Hasa Coast - which could not otherwise have been obtained. It seems

. Rendel, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office.

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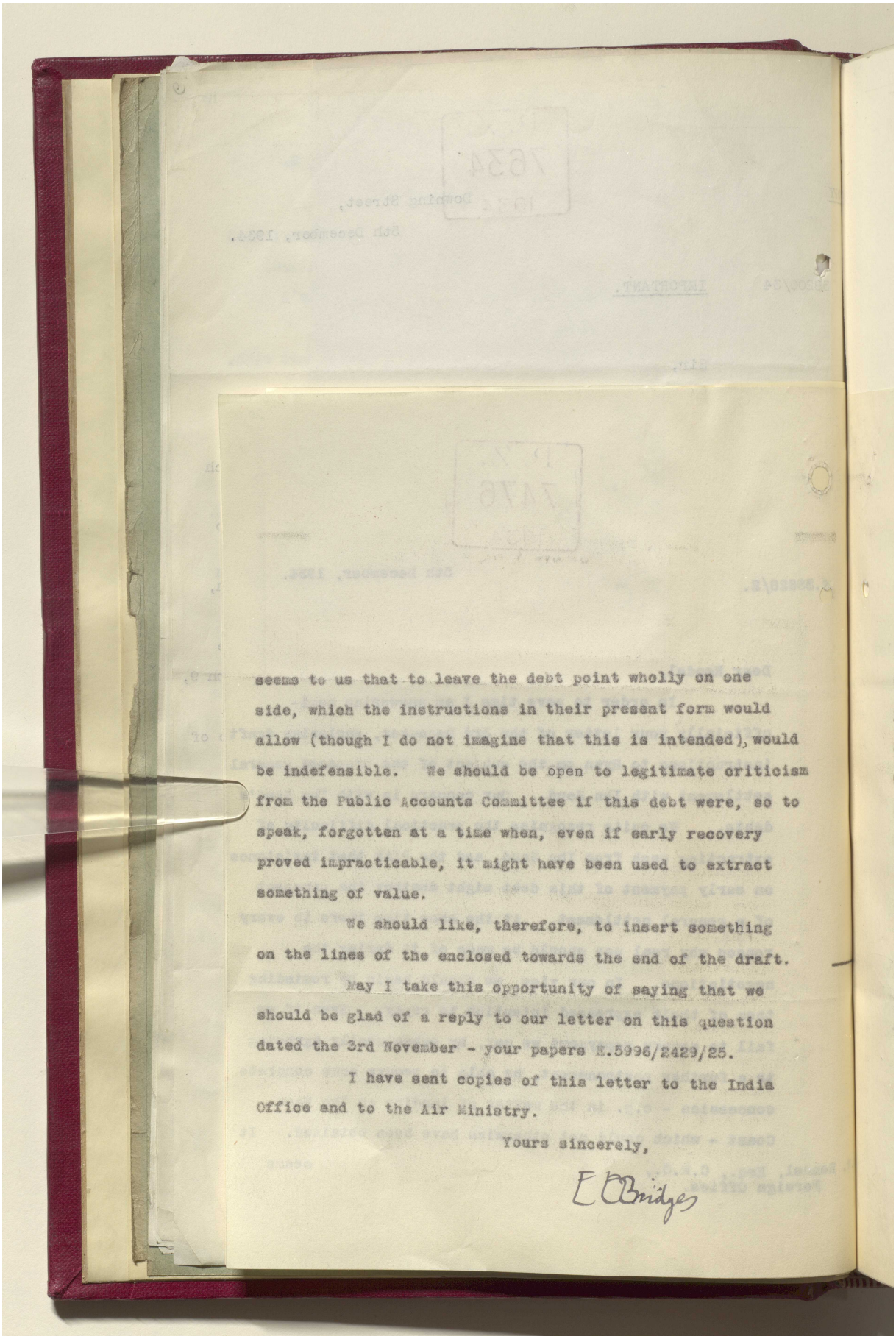

seems to us that to leave the debt point wholly on one side, which the instructions in their present form would allow (though I do not imagine that this is intended), would be indefensible. We should be open to legitimate criticism from the Public Accounts Committee if this debt were, so to speak, forgotten at a time when, even if early recovery proved impracticable, it might have been used to extract something of value.

We should like, therefore, to insert something on the lines of the enclosed towards the end of the draft.

May I take this opportunity of saying that we should be glad of a reply to our letter on this question dated the 3rd November - your papers E.5996/2429/25.

I have sent copies of this letter to the India Office and to the Air Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

E C Bridges

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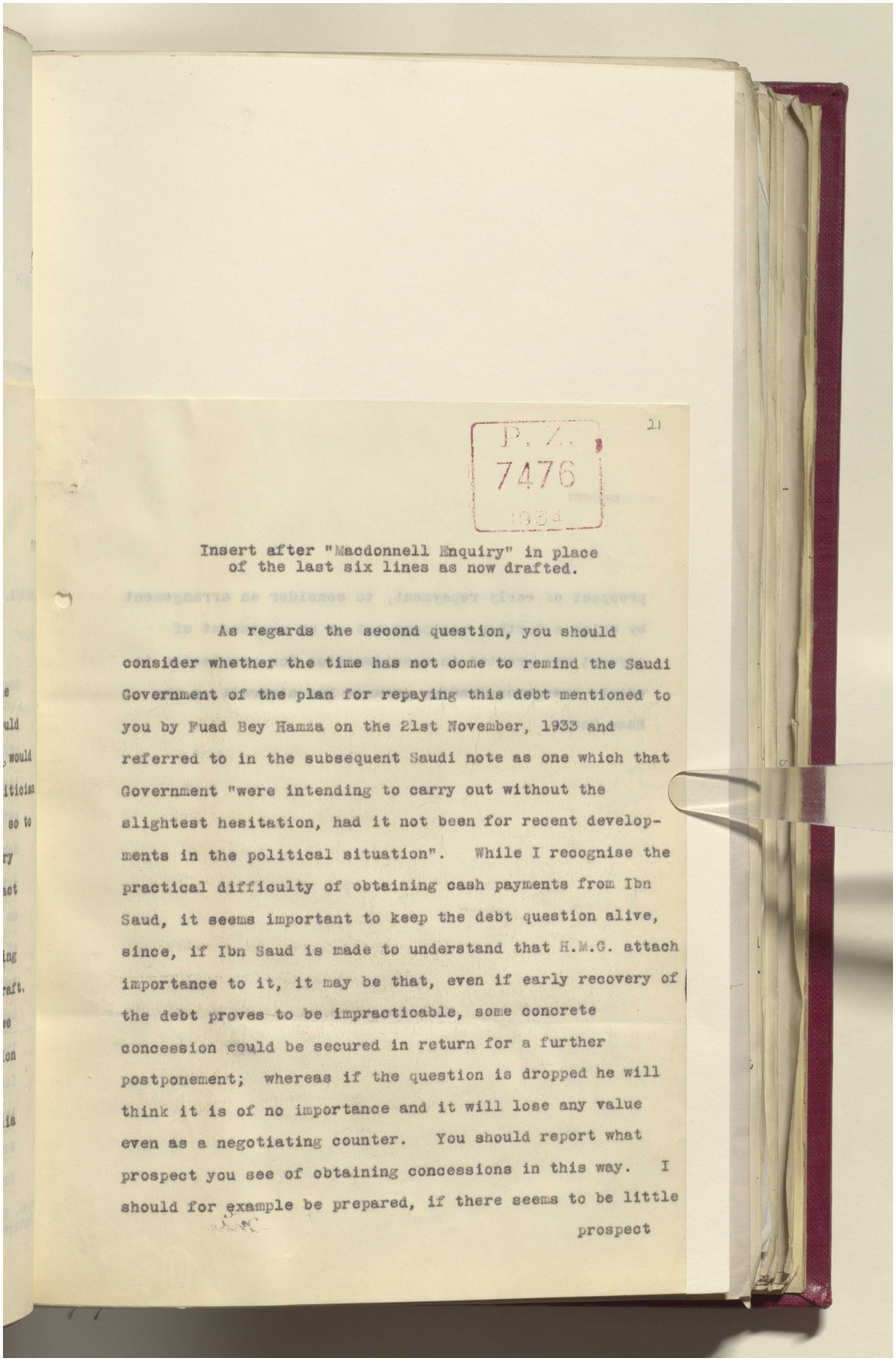

21

P. Z. 7476 1934

Insert after "Macdonnell Enquiry" in place of the last six lines as now drafted.

As regards the second question, you should consider whether the time has not come to remind the Saudi Government of the plan for repaying this debt mentioned to you by Fuad Bey Hamza on the 21st November, 1933 and referred to in the subsequent Saudi note as one which that Government "were intending to carry out without the slightest hesitation, had it not been for recent developments in the political situation". While I recognise the practical difficulty of obtaining cash payments from Ibn Saud, it seems important to keep the debt question alive, since, if Ibn Saud is made to understand that H.M.G. attach importance to it, it may be that, even if early recovery of the debt proves to be impracticable, some concrete concession could be secured in return for a further postponement; whereas if the question is dropped he will think it is of no importance and it will lose any value even as a negotiating counter. You should report what prospect you see of obtaining concessions in this way. I should for example be prepared, if there seems to be little prospect

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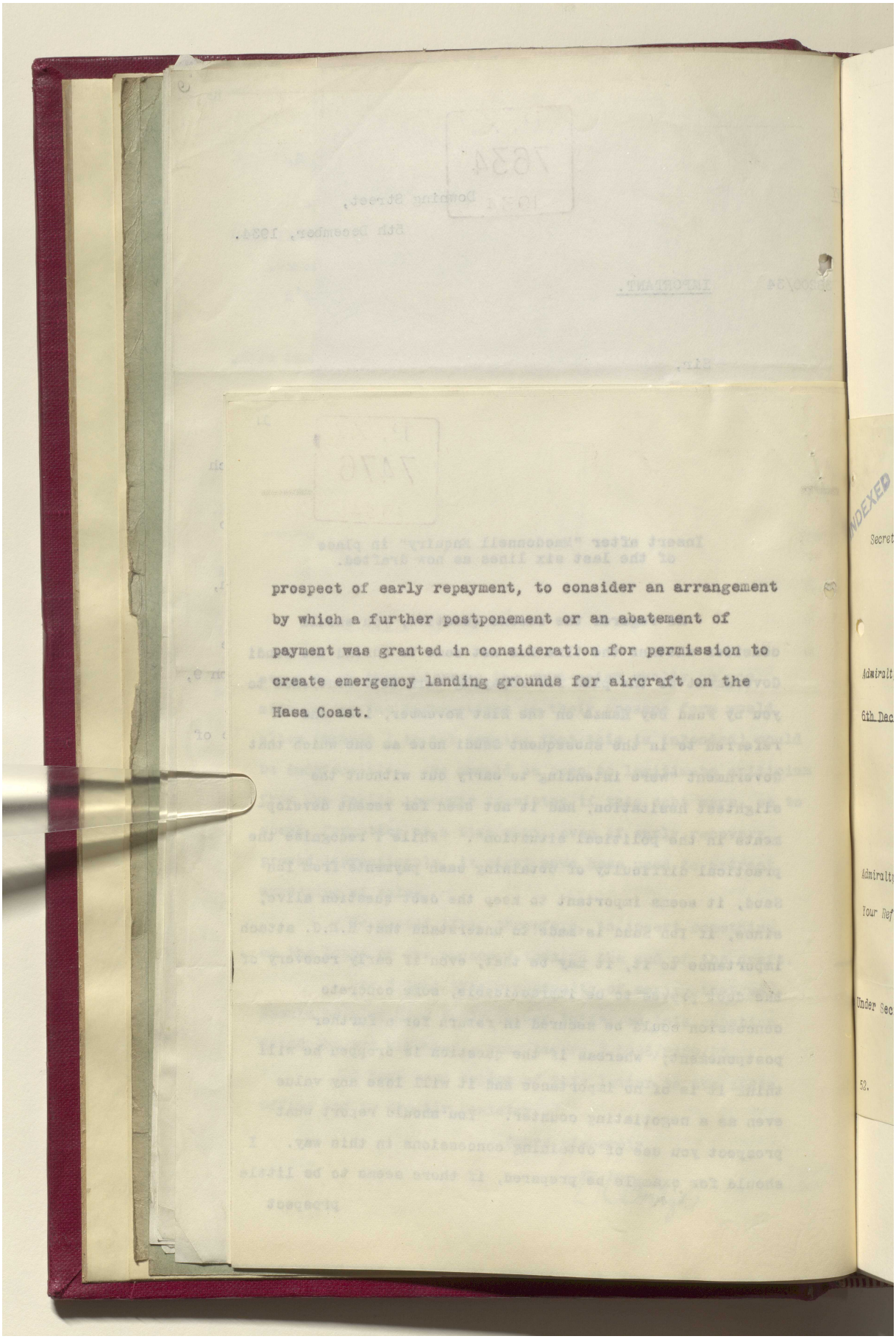

prospect of early repayment, to consider an arrangement by which a further postponement or an abatement of payment was granted in consideration for permission to create emergency landing grounds for aircraft on the Hasa Coast.

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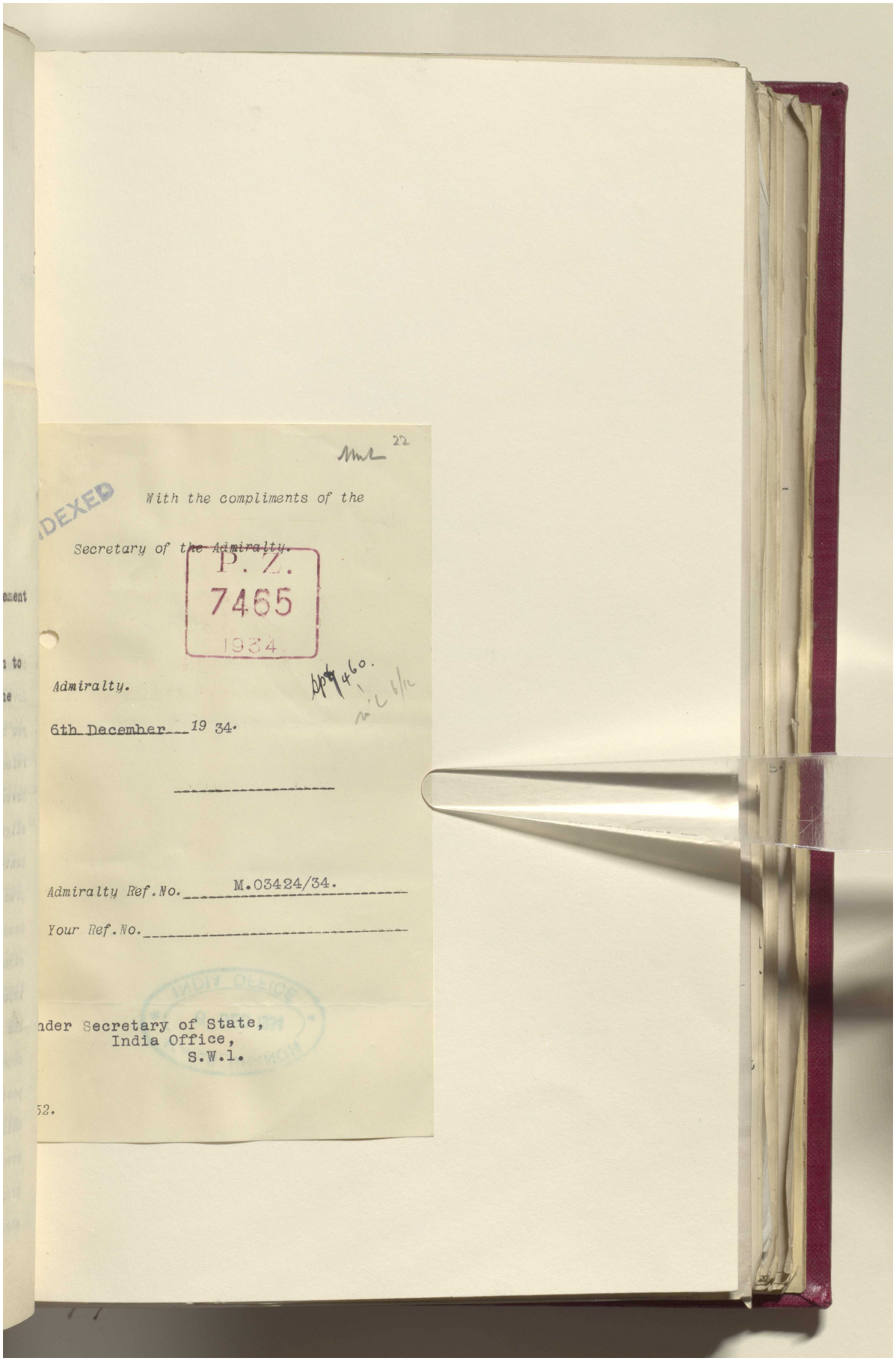


22

With the compliments of the

Secretary of the Admiralty.

P. Z.
7465
1934

Admiralty.

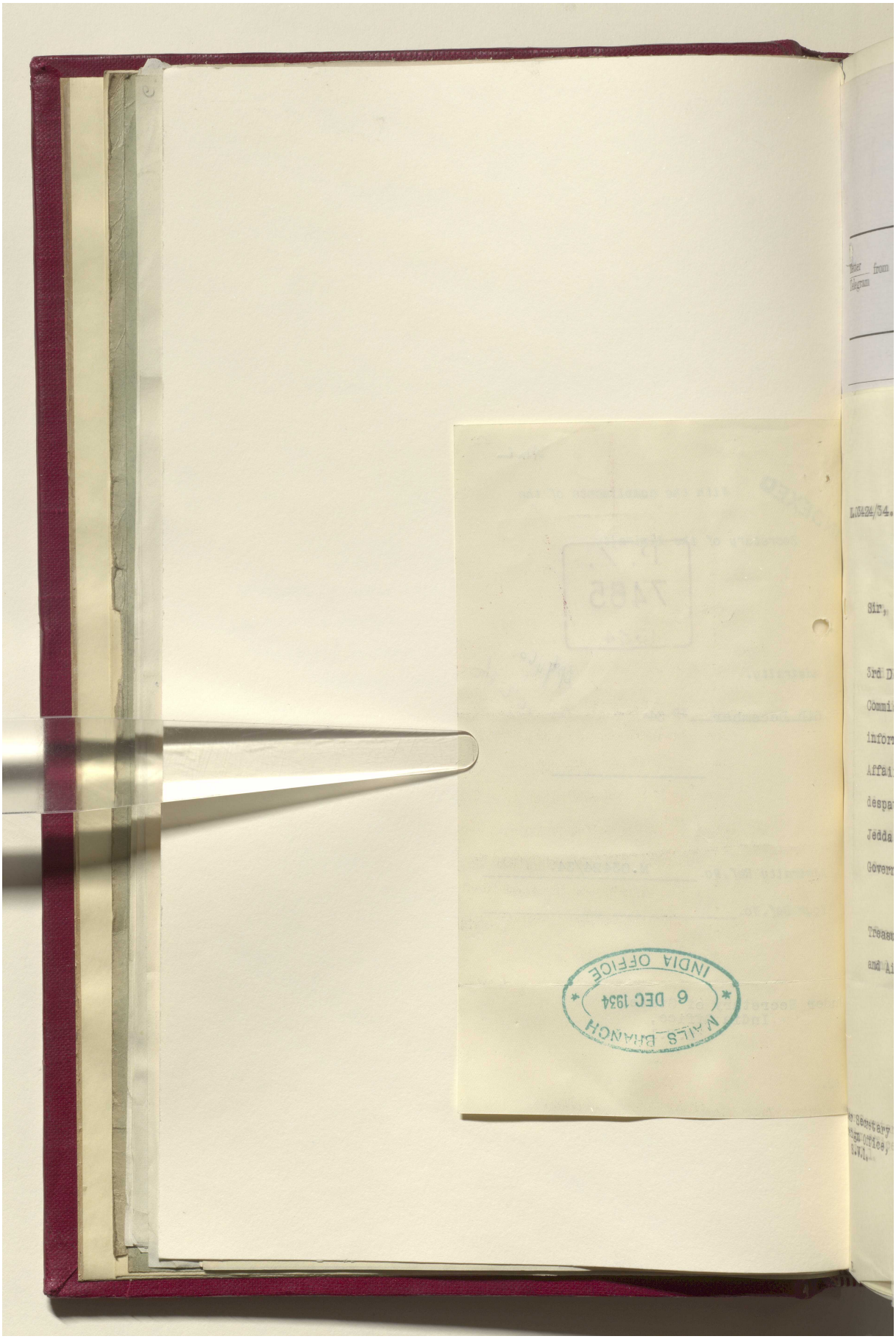
6th December 19 34.

Admiralty Ref.No. M.03424/34.

Your Ref.No.

Under Secretary of State,
India Office,
S.W.1.

52.



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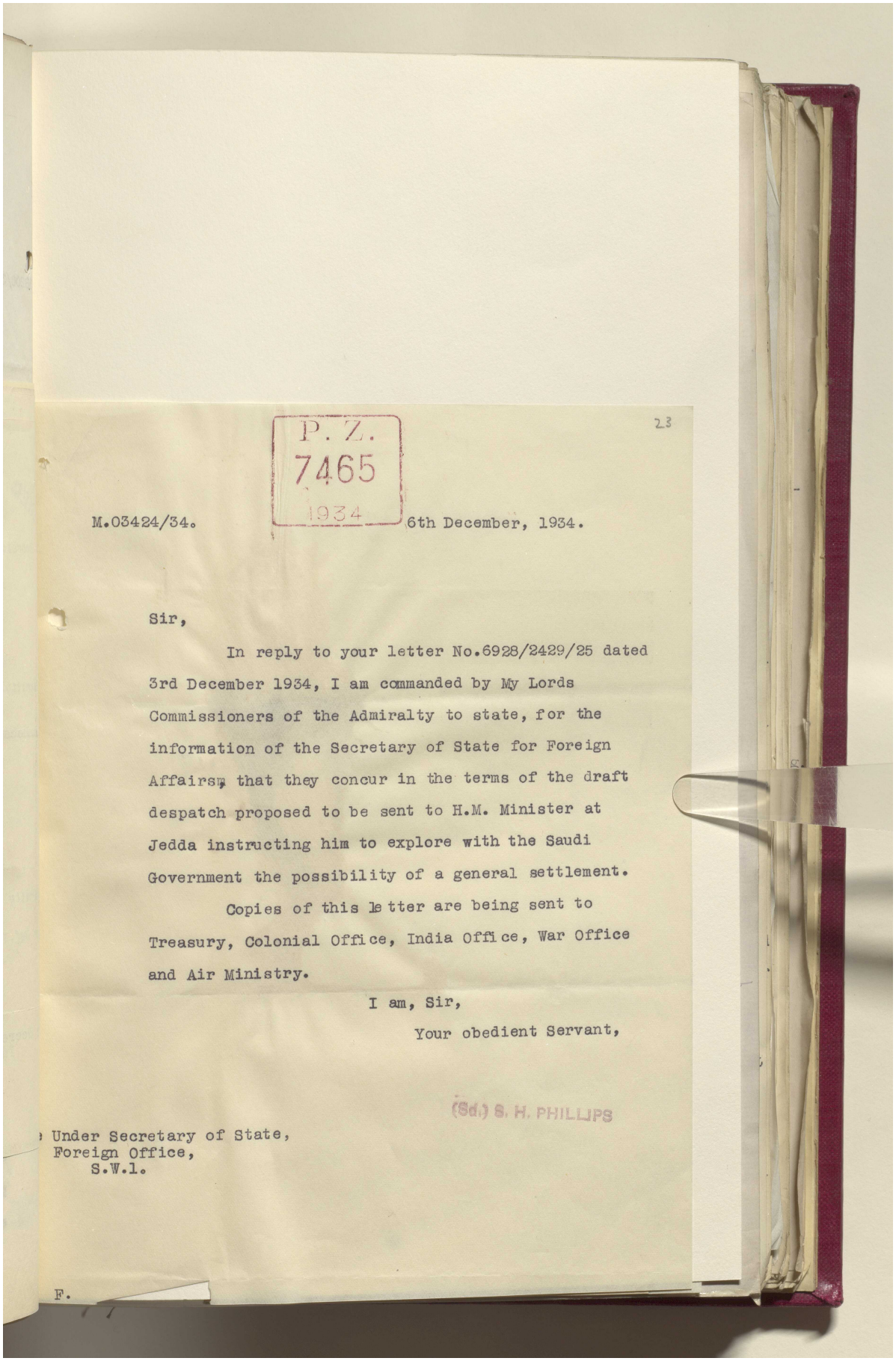

23

P. Z.
7465
1934

M.03424/34. 6th December, 1934.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No.6928/2429/25 dated 3rd December 1934, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that they concur in the terms of the draft despatch proposed to be sent to H.M. Minister at Jedda instructing him to explore with the Saudi Government the possibility of a general settlement.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Treasury, Colonial Office, India Office, War Office and Air Ministry.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) S. H. PHILLIPS

Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

F.

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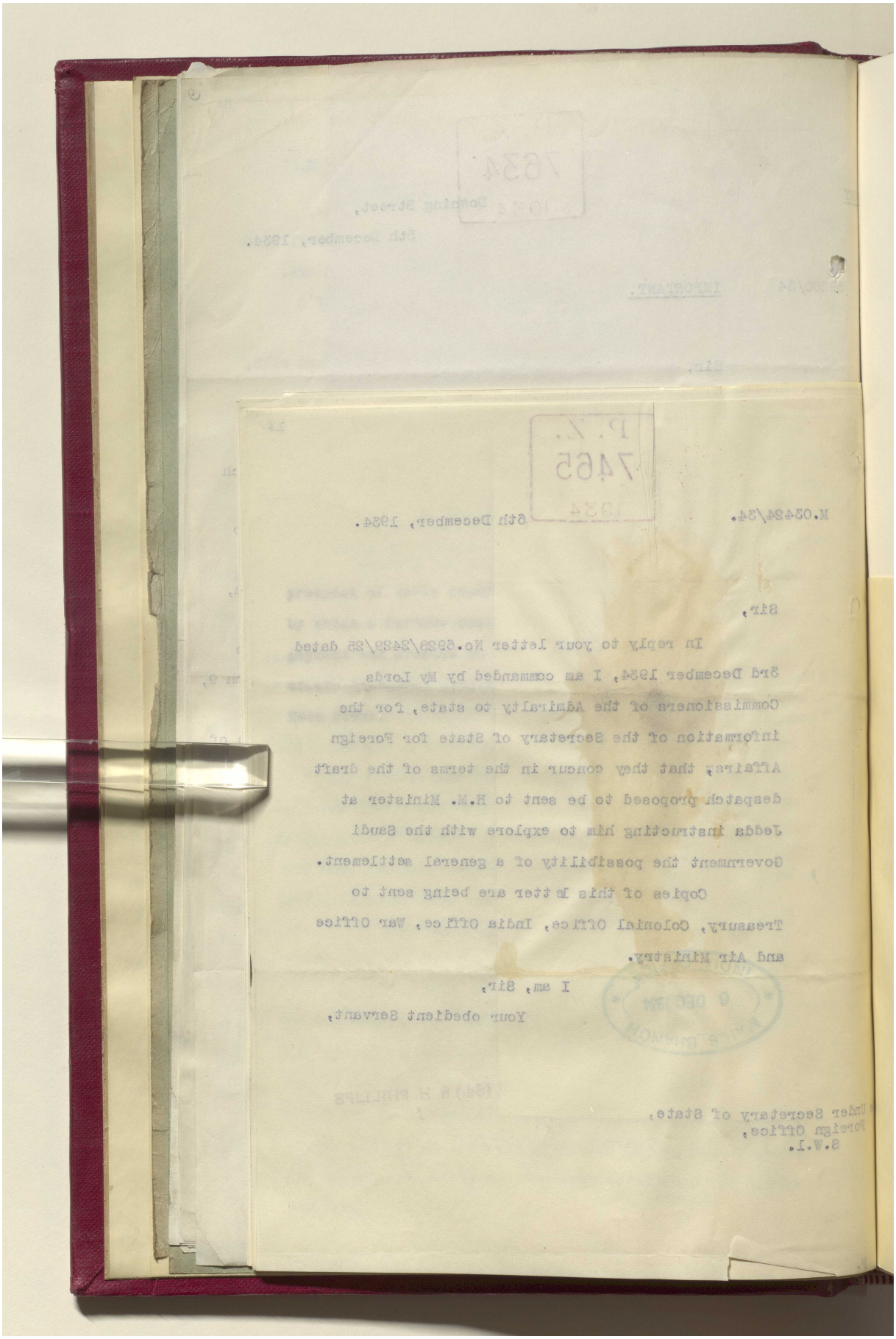

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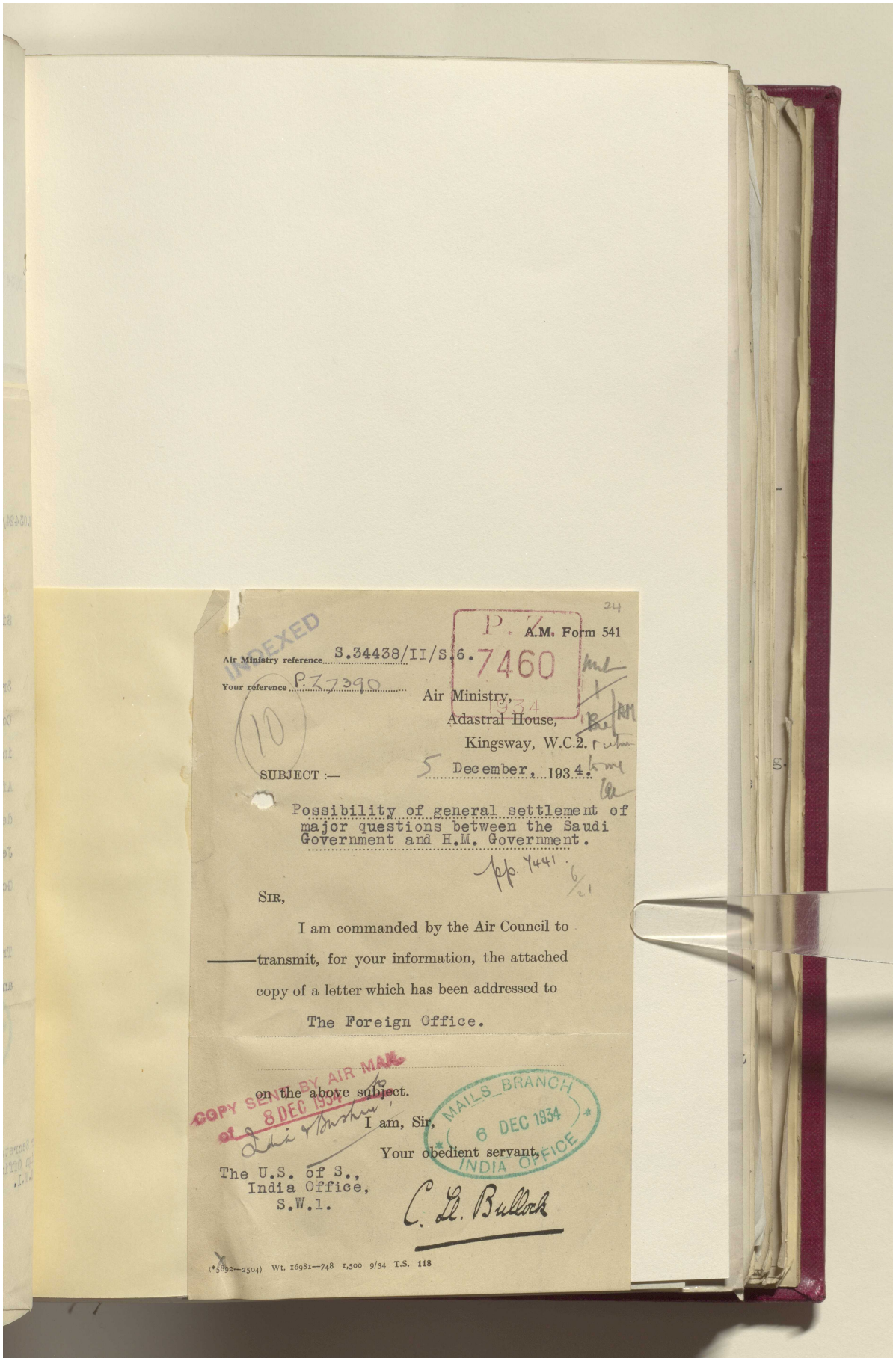

24

A.M. Form 541

INDEXED

P. Z. 7460 1934

Air Ministry reference S.34438/II/S.6.

Your reference P.Z.7390

Air Ministry,
Adastral House,
Kingsway, W.C.2.

5 December, 1934.

SUBJECT :—

Possibility of general settlement of major questions between the Saudi Government and H.M. Government.

pp. 4441. 6/21

SIR,

I am commanded by the Air Council to transmit, for your information, the attached copy of a letter which has been addressed to The Foreign Office.

on the above subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. Ll. Bullock

The U.S. of S.,
India Office,
S.W.1.

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL of 8 DEC 1934

MAILS BRANCH 6 DEC 1934 INDIA OFFICE

(*5892—2504) Wt. 16981—748 1,500 9/34 T.S. 118

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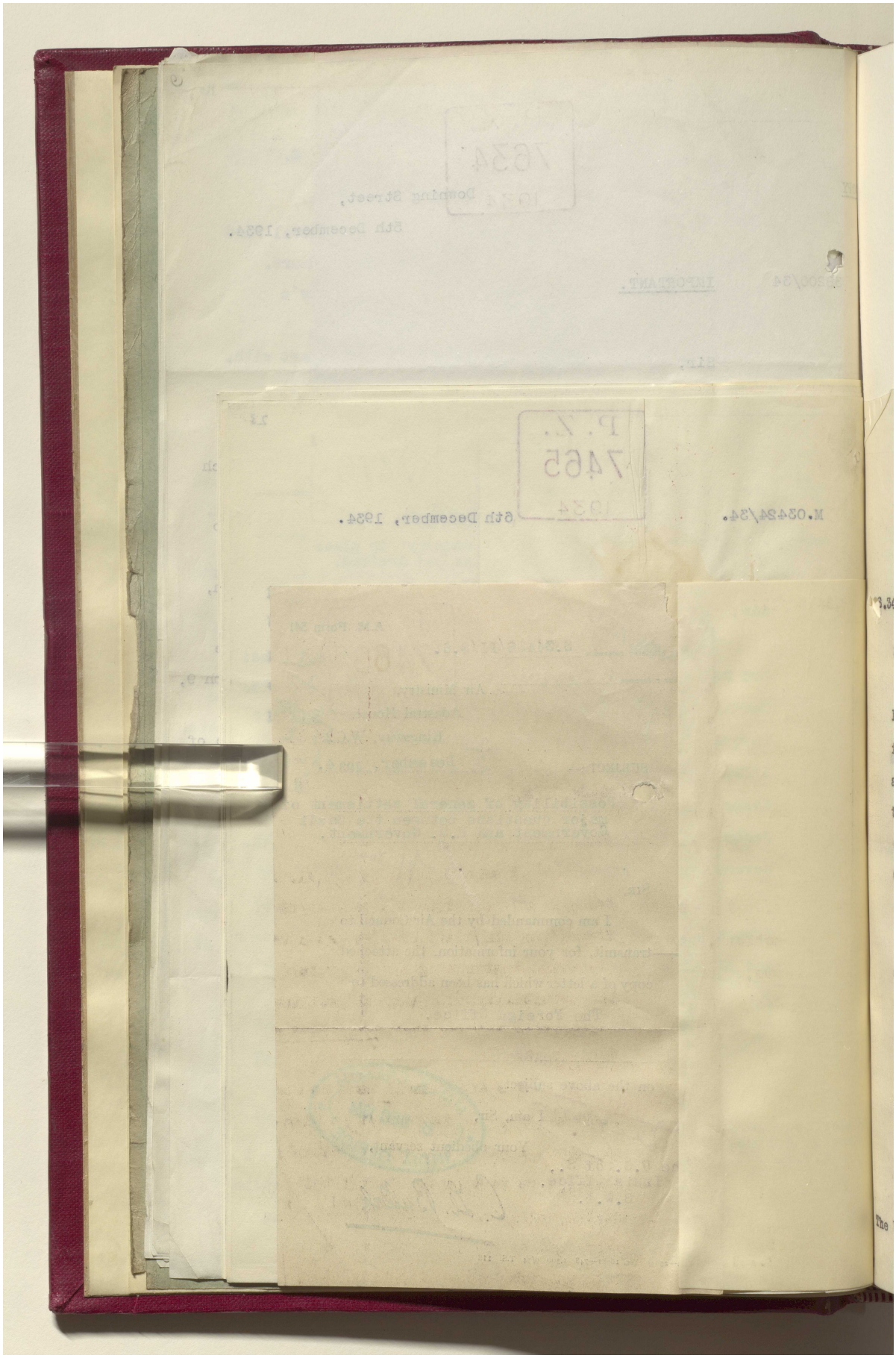

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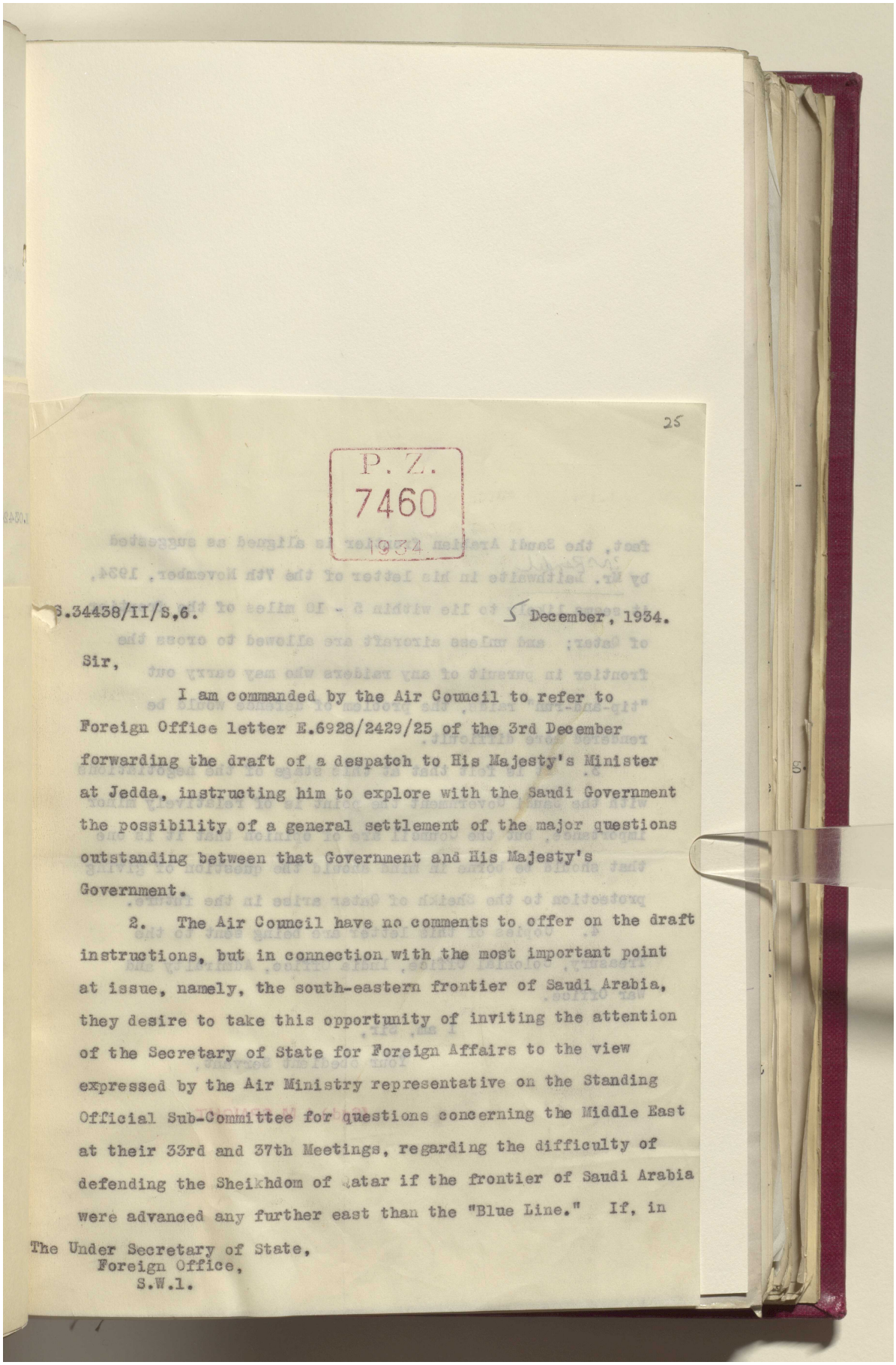

25

P. Z.
7460
1934

S.34438/II/S,6. 5 December, 1934.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Air Council to refer to Foreign Office letter E.6928/2429/25 of the 3rd December forwarding the draft of a despatch to His Majesty's Minister at Jedda, instructing him to explore with the Saudi Government the possibility of a general settlement of the major questions outstanding between that Government and His Majesty's Government.

2. The Air Council have no comments to offer on the draft instructions, but in connection with the most important point at issue, namely, the south-eastern frontier of Saudi Arabia, they desire to take this opportunity of inviting the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the view expressed by the Air Ministry representative on the Standing Official Sub-Committee for questions concerning the Middle East at their 33rd and 37th Meetings, regarding the difficulty of defending the Sheikhdom of Qatar if the frontier of Saudi Arabia were advanced any further east than the "Blue Line." If, in

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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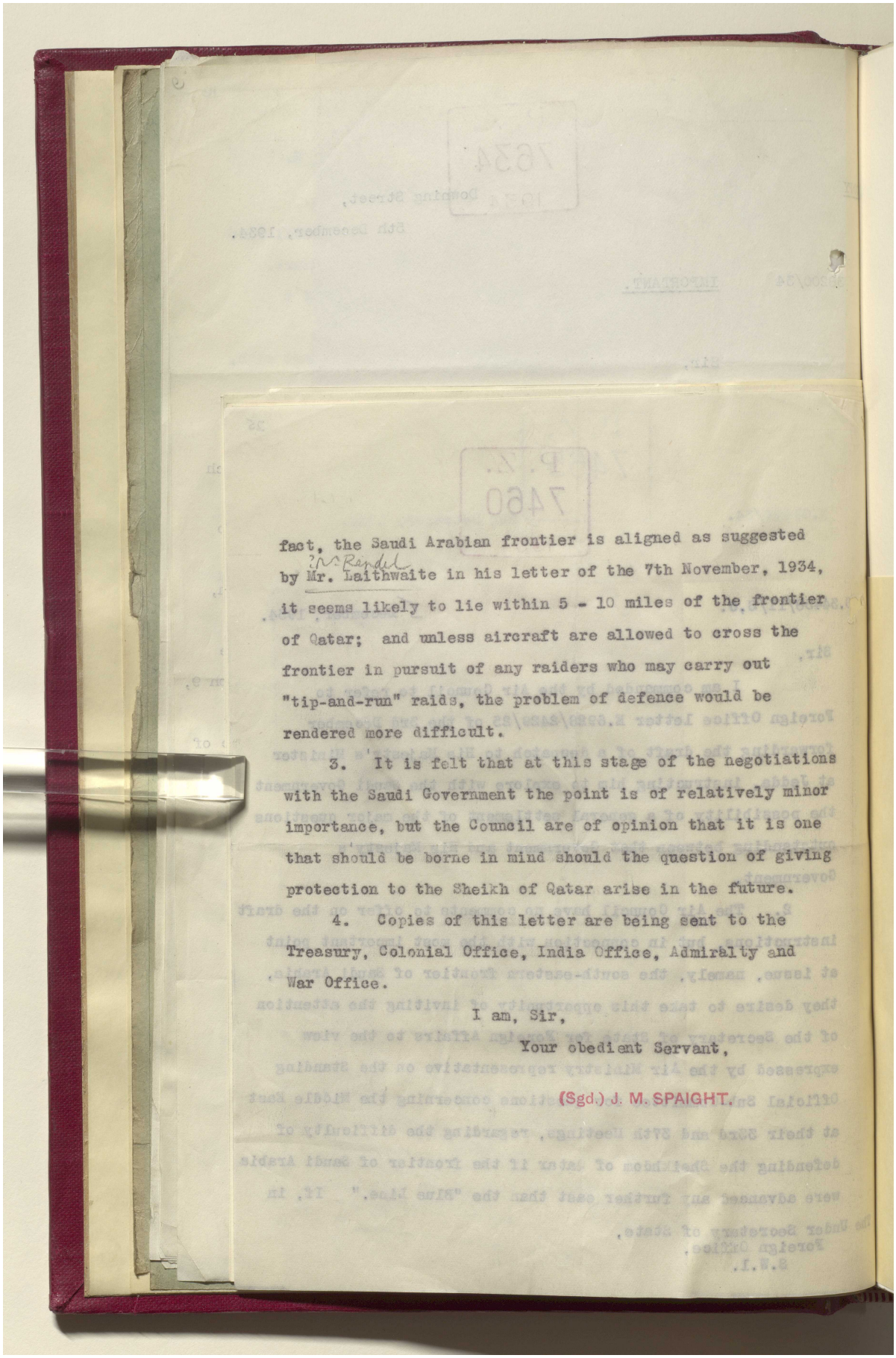

fact, the Saudi Arabian frontier is aligned as suggested by Mr. Laithwaite in his letter of the 7th November, 1934, it seems likely to lie within 5 - 10 miles of the frontier of Qatar; and unless aircraft are allowed to cross the frontier in pursuit of any raiders who may carry out "tip-and-run" raids, the problem of defence would be rendered more difficult.

3. It is felt that at this stage of the negotiations with the Saudi Government the point is of relatively minor importance, but the Council are of opinion that it is one that should be borne in mind should the question of giving protection to the Sheikh of Qatar arise in the future.

4. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Treasury, Colonial Office, India Office, Admiralty and War Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) J. M. SPAIGHT.

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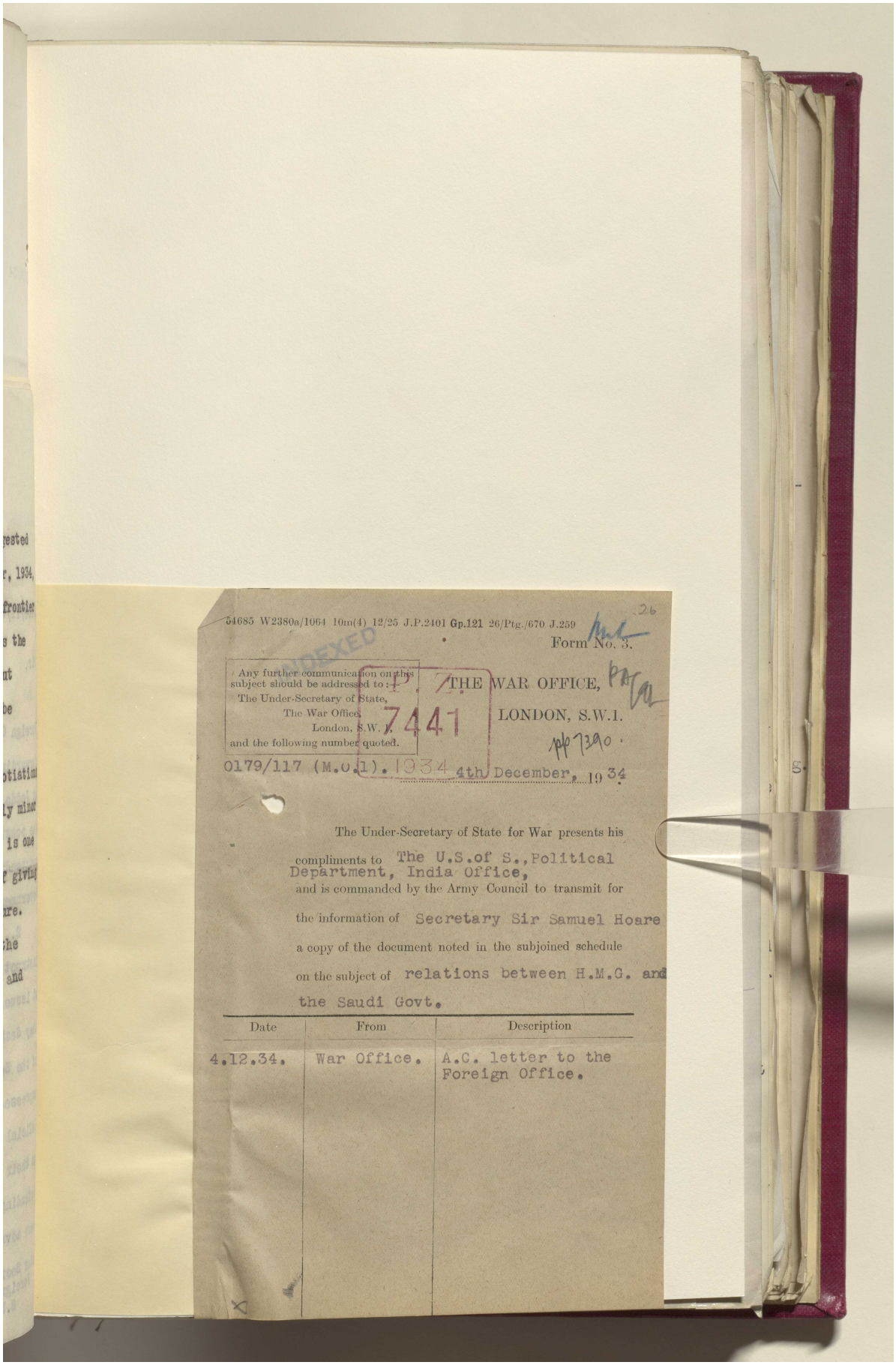

54685 W2380a/1064 10m(4) 12/25 J.P.2401 Gp.121 26/Ptg./670 J.259

26

Form No. 3.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to: The Under-Secretary of State, The War Office, London, S.W.1. and the following number quoted.

INDEXED

P. 7441

THE WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

pp 7390.

0179/117 (M.O.1). 1934 4th December, 1934

The Under-Secretary of State for War presents his compliments to The U.S.of S.,Political Department, India Office, and is commanded by the Army Council to transmit for the information of Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare a copy of the document noted in the subjoined schedule on the subject of relations between H.M.G. and the Saudi Govt.

Date	From	Description
4.12.34.	War Office.	A.C. letter to the Foreign Office.

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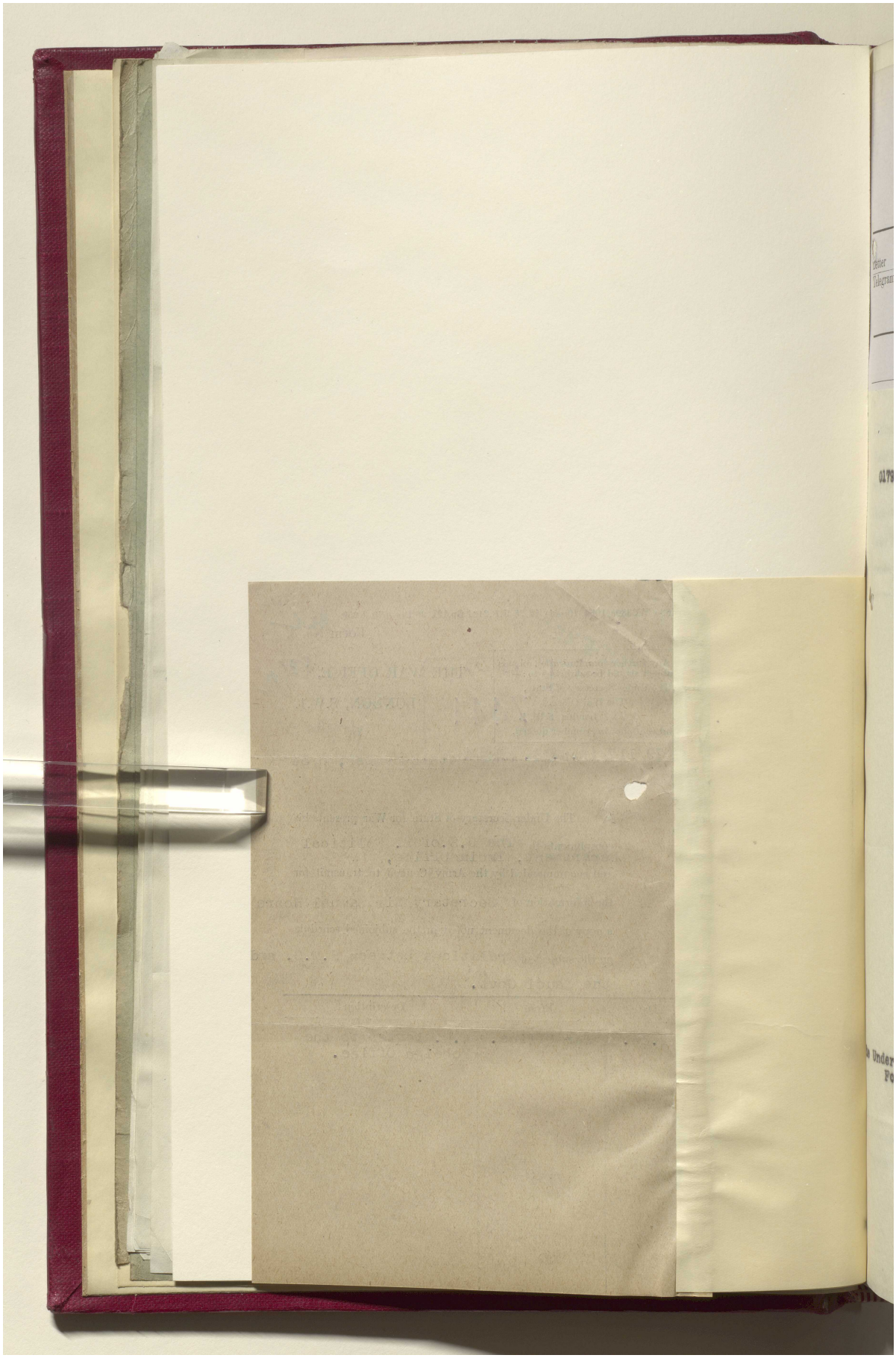

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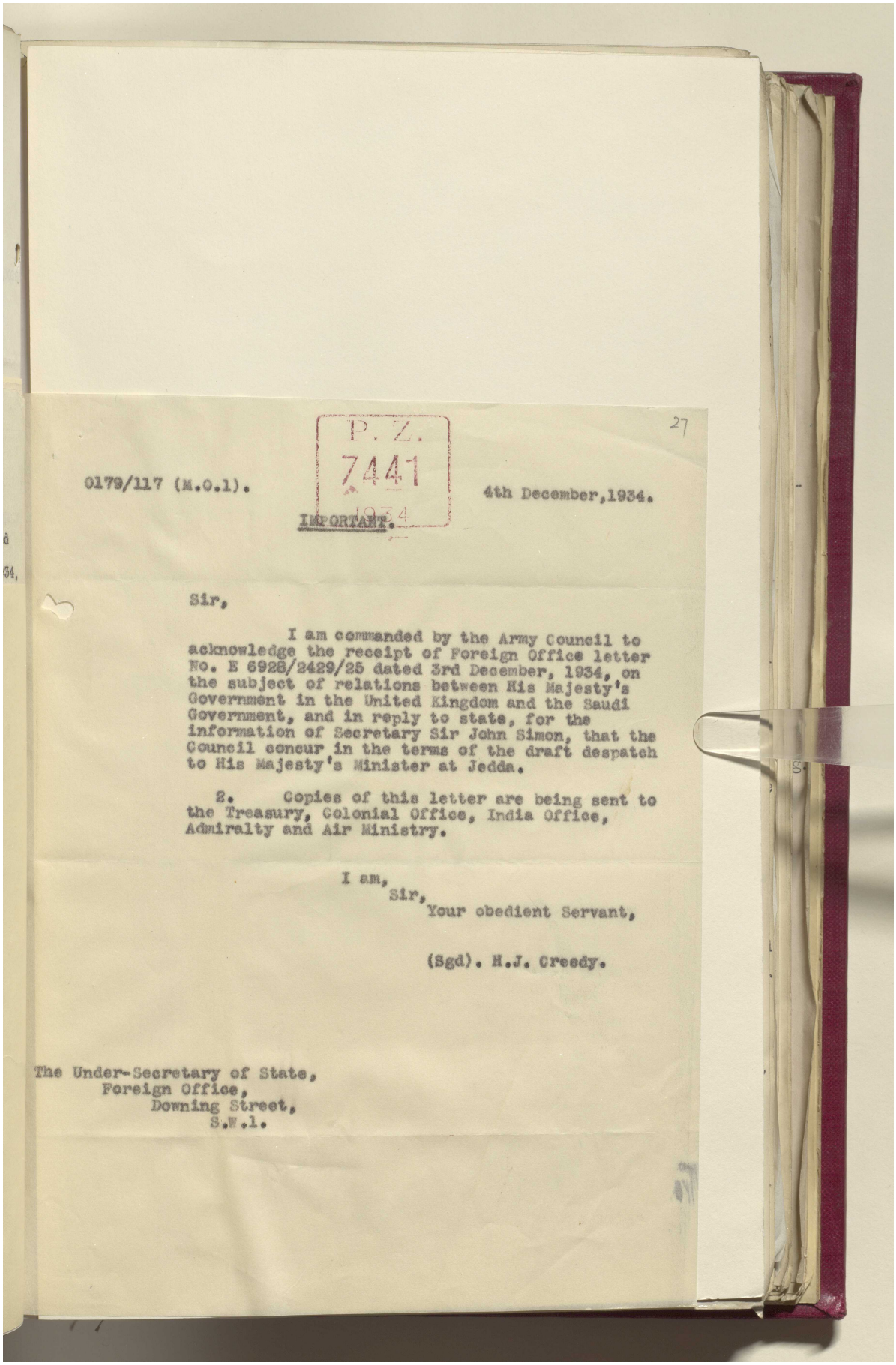

27

P. Z.
7441
1934

0179/117 (M.O.1). 4th December, 1934.

IMPORTANT.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of Foreign Office letter No. E 6928/2429/25 dated 3rd December, 1934, on the subject of relations between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Saudi Government, and in reply to state, for the information of Secretary Sir John Simon, that the Council concur in the terms of the draft despatch to His Majesty's Minister at Jedda.

2. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Treasury, Colonial Office, India Office, Admiralty and Air Ministry.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd). H.J. Creedy.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

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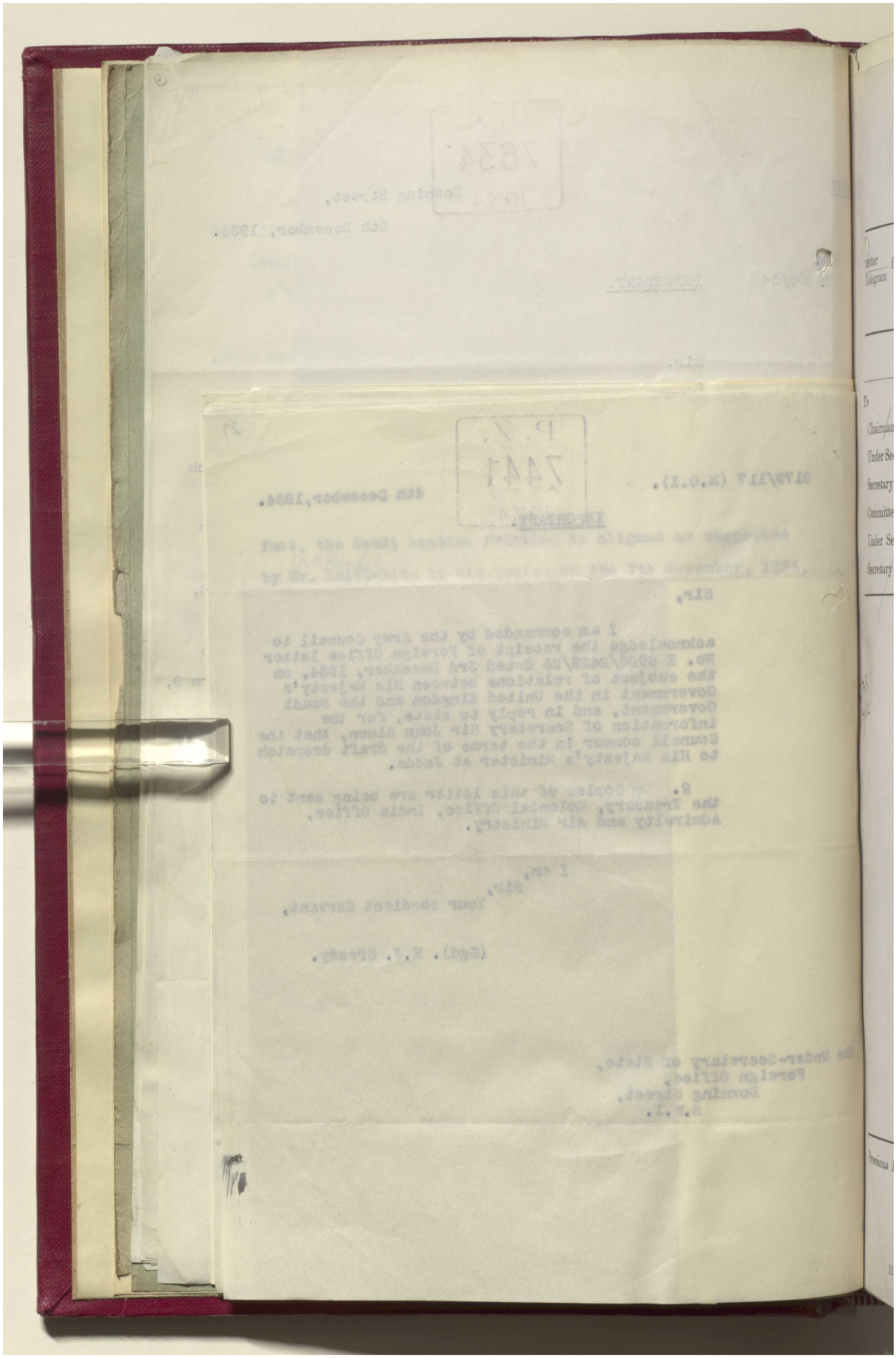

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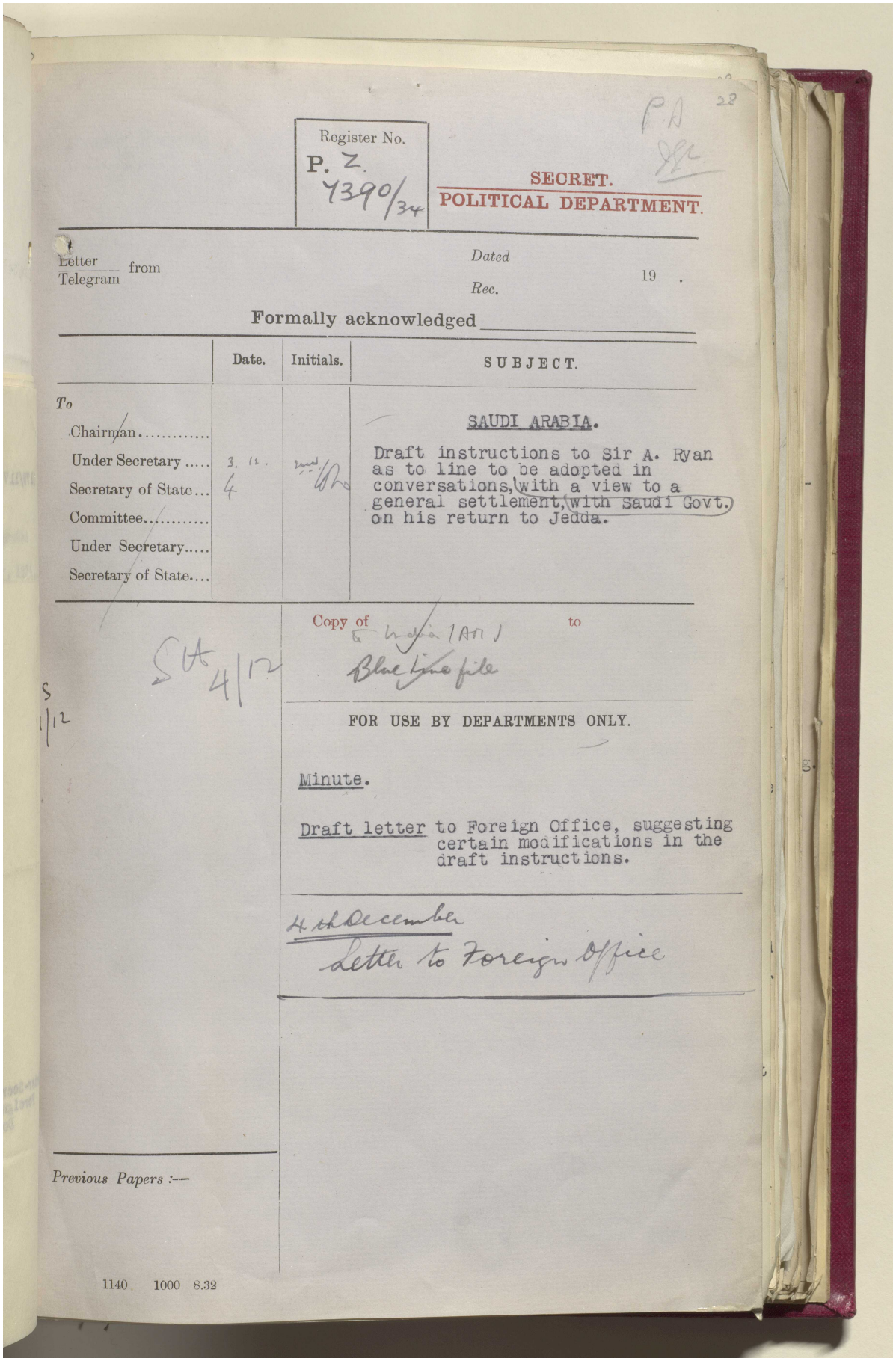
P.A



Register No.
P. Z.
7390/34

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter / Telegram from

Dated

Rec. 19 .

Formally acknowledged

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			SAUDI ARABIA.
Chairman.....			Draft instructions to Sir A. Ryan as to line to be adopted in conversations, with a view to a general settlement, with Saudi Govt. on his return to Jedda.
Under Secretary	3. 12.	[illegible]	
Secretary of State...	4		
Committee.....			
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State....			

Copy of to India (AM) to

Blue Line file

SA 4/12

S
1/12

FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.

Minute.

Draft letter to Foreign Office, suggesting certain modifications in the draft instructions.

4th December
Letter to Foreign Office

Previous Papers :—

1140 1000 8.32

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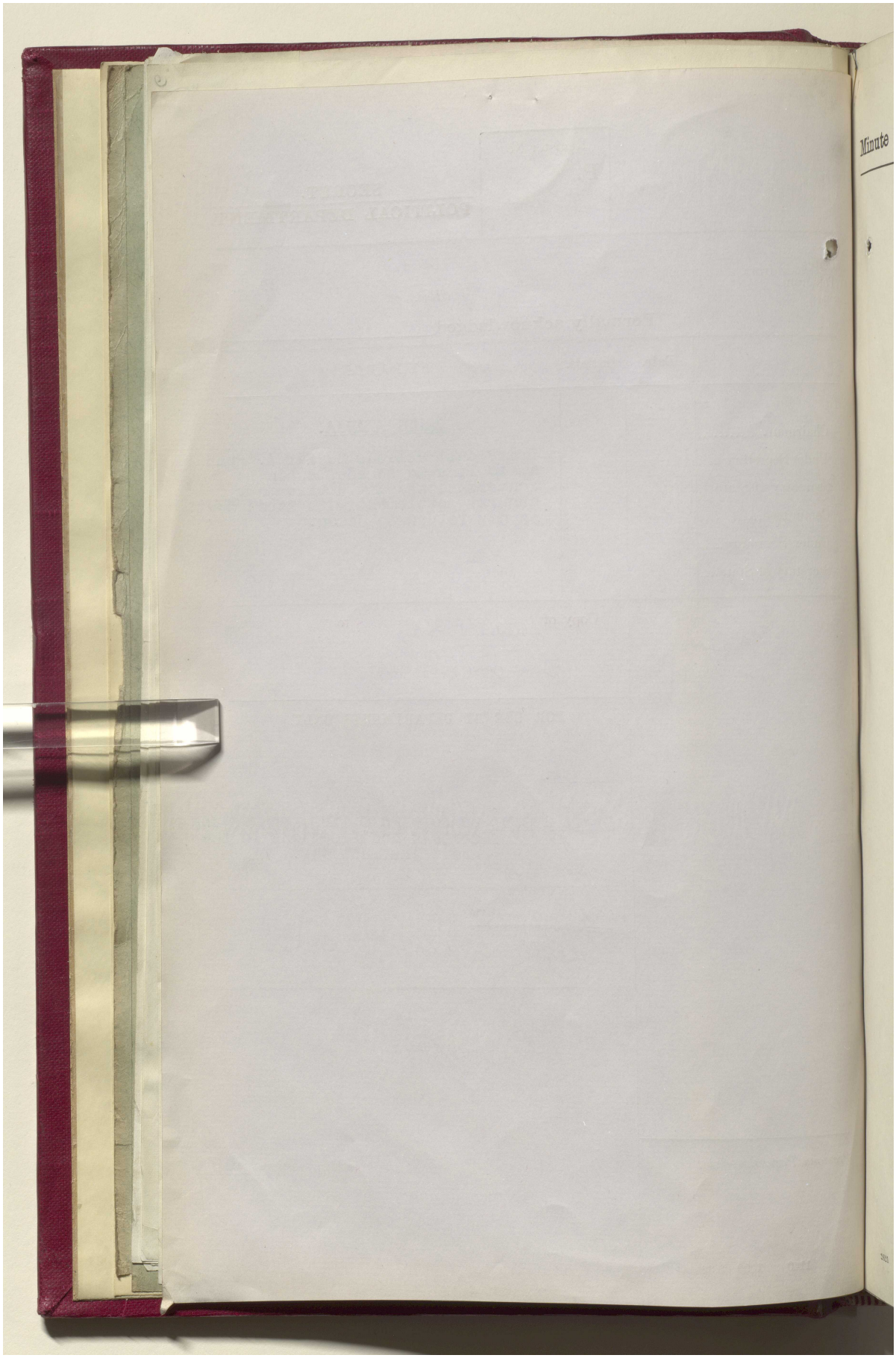

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29

Minute Paper. POLITICAL **Department.**

Please see previous submission on P.Z.7135/34, commenting on the discussions in the Middle East Committee on the question of relations with Saudi Arabia flagged on that file. The Foreign Office have now sent us draft instructions to the Minister at Jedda.

2. The only points arising out of these instructions in which we are directly concerned are:

(1) Whether the Minister should aim at a general comprehensive settlement;

(2) The Blue Line;

(3) Koweit Blockade;

(4) Bahrein Transit Dues.

3. On the first of these points - whether a general comprehensive settlement is preferable to dealing in isolation with the various points which have been raised,- reference is invited to the submission on P.Z.7135/34. It is suggested that the recommendation of the Middle East Committee that a general comprehensive settlement should be aimed it, but that Sir A. Ryan should be given discretion to recommend a reversion to disposal of the items in dispute in isolation if in his view the local situation or the course of discussions renders that preferable, may be accepted.

4. Blue Line. The India Office representative in the discussion in the Middle East Committee made it clear that the Secretary of State for India was not prepared to commit himself as regards the Blue Line until he had received the further information which the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf has been directed to obtain as regards the present position in the/

2621 6000 3/34

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the hinterland of the Trucial Sheikhdoms and Muscat. The Service Departments have, in the past, equally been anxious, before any final decision is reached as to the line to be adopted on this subject, to consider their strategic desiderata. Finally, and perhaps in some ways most important of all, Ibn Saud has not yet committed himself as to the precise extent of his claims in the interior of Arabia. In these circumstances it seems impossible to give the Minister any instructions at the present point, other than that he should, if it is impossible to avoid discussion of the Blue Line, endeavour to ascertain what Ibn Saud's desiderata are. I do not think that we could possibly go so far as the Foreign Office draft instructions now suggest, viz. that H.M.G., while they cannot make up their minds finally until the supplementary information awaited is forthcoming, at this stage accept the conclusions of the Middle East Committee. On this point it seems better to suggest a redraft, and I have warned the Foreign Office that, unless the Secretary of State is prepared to concur in their draft instructions, we should have no option but to do so.

5. Koweit Blockade. Certain minor alterations of wording alone are required in the Foreign Office draft on this subject.

6. Bahrein Transit Dues. The instructions are suitable. The discussions on this subject to which reference is made in the draft despatch to Jedda have already been submitted and no exception has been taken to the provisional conclusions reached in them.

7. We are not directly concerned with the question of the Saudi-Transjordan Frontier; and the questions of emergency landing grounds on the Hasa Coast and of the debts of Ibn Saud to H.M.G. and the Government of

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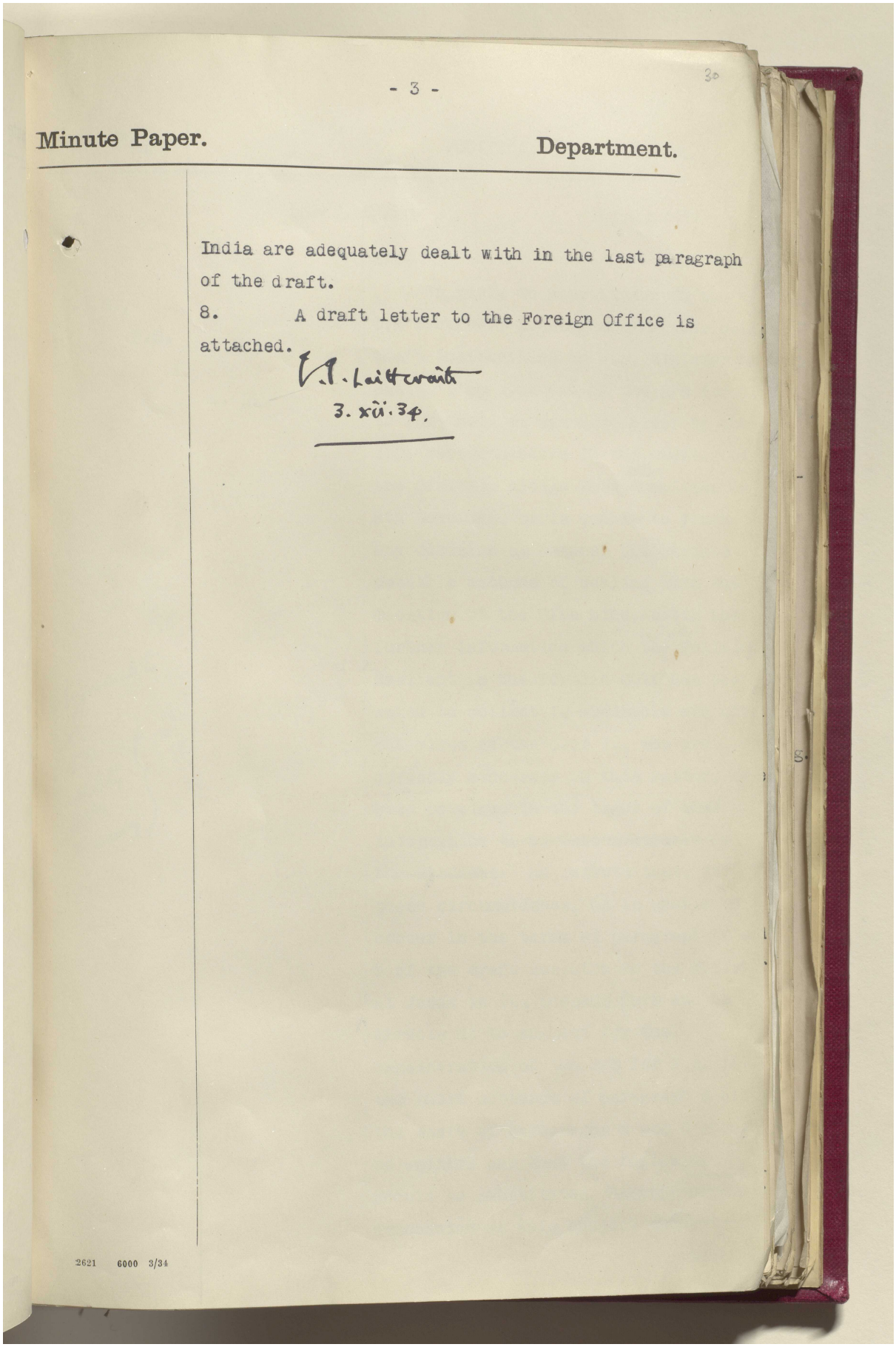

Minute Paper. Department.

India are adequately dealt with in the last paragraph of the draft.

8. A draft letter to the Foreign Office is attached.

V. J. Laithwaite
3. xii. 34.

2621 6000 3/34

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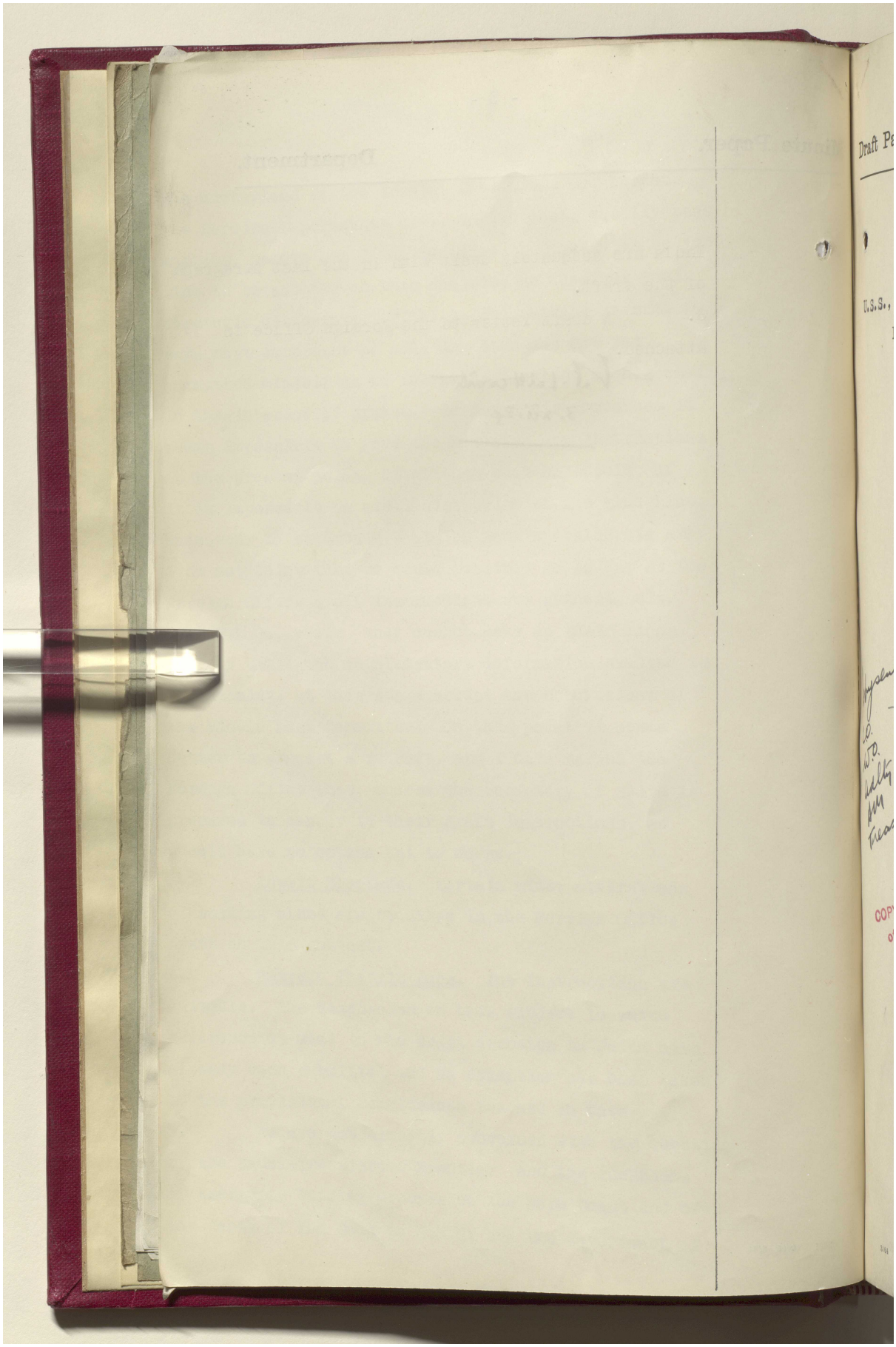

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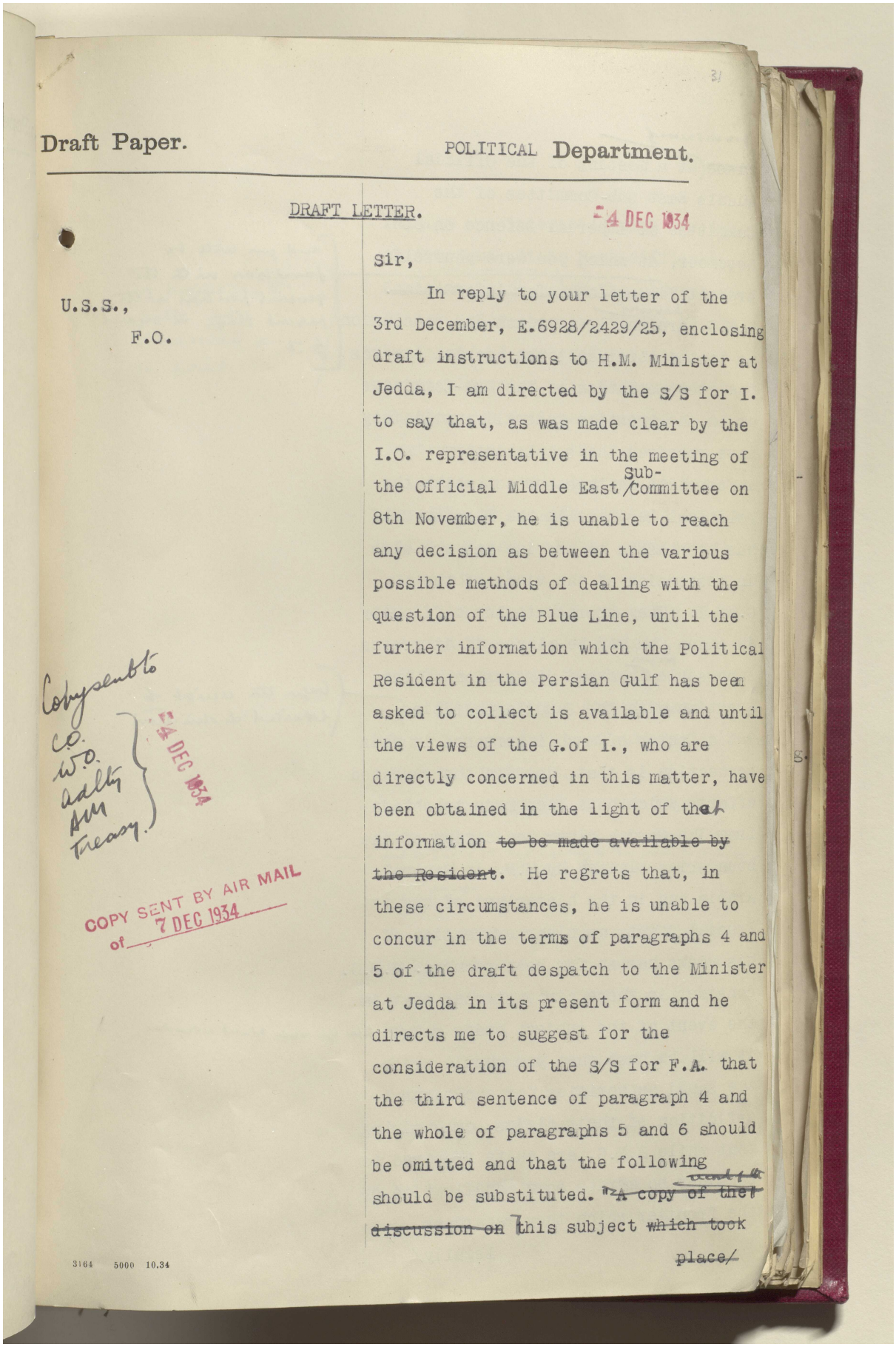

Draft Paper. POLITICAL Department.

DRAFT LETTER. 4 DEC 1934

U.S.S.,
F.O.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 3rd December, E.6928/2429/25, enclosing draft instructions to H.M. Minister at Jedda, I am directed by the S/S for I. to say that, as was made clear by the I.O. representative in the meeting of the Official Middle East Sub-Committee on 8th November, he is unable to reach any decision as between the various possible methods of dealing with the question of the Blue Line, until the further information which the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf has been asked to collect is available and until the views of the G.of I., who are directly concerned in this matter, have been obtained in the light of that information ~~to be made available by the Resident~~. He regrets that, in these circumstances, he is unable to concur in the terms of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the draft despatch to the Minister at Jedda in its present form and he directs me to suggest for the consideration of the S/S for F.A. that the third sentence of paragraph 4 and the whole of paragraphs 5 and 6 should be omitted and that the following should be substituted. "~~A copy of the discussion on~~ this subject ~~which took place~~/

Copy sent to C.O. W.O. Admty AIR Treasy. 4 DEC 1934

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL of 7 DEC 1934

3164 5000 10.34

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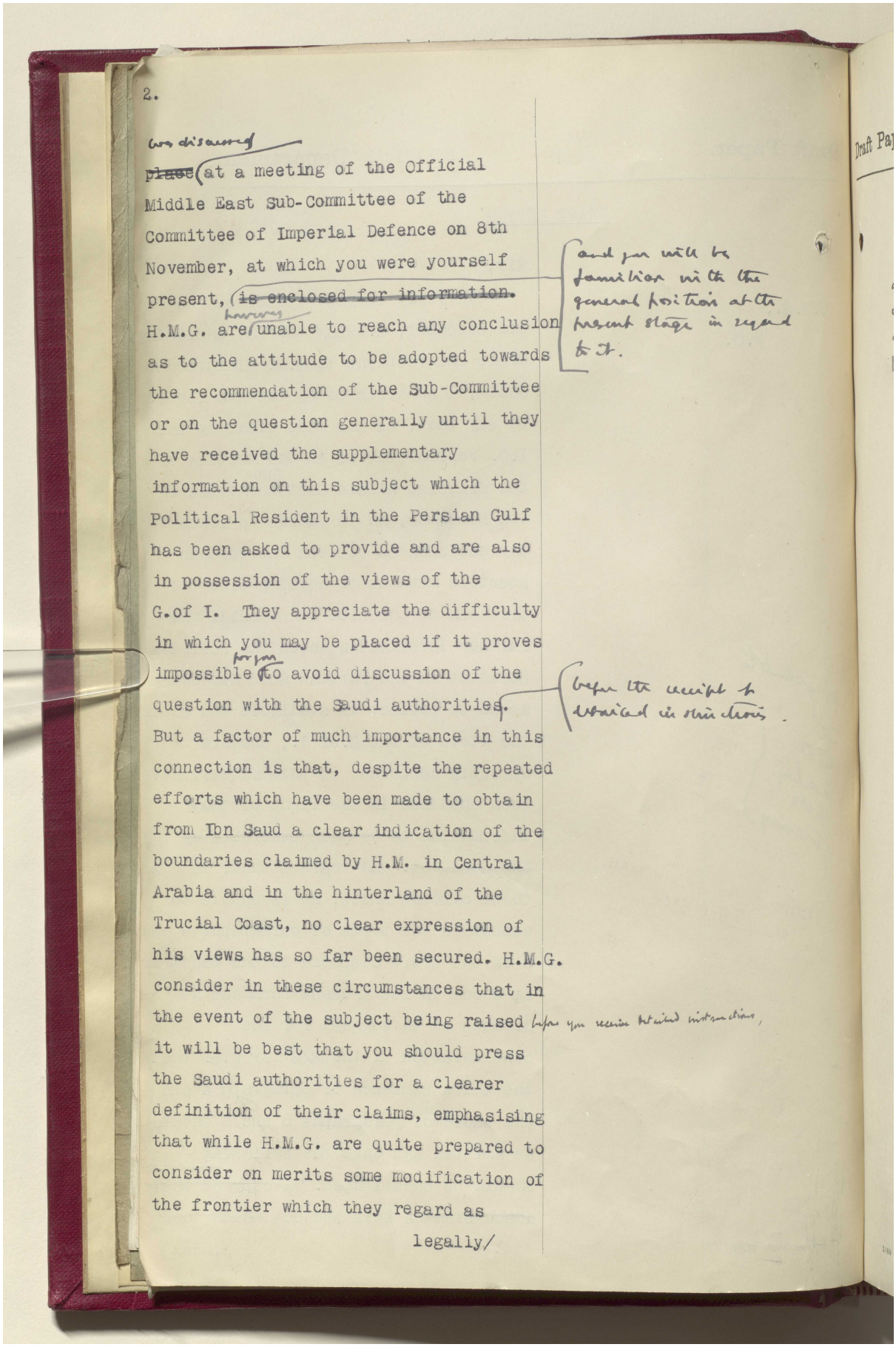

2.

~~place~~ (at a meeting of the Official Middle East Sub-Committee of the Committee of Imperial Defence on 8th November, at which you were yourself present, ~~is enclosed for information.~~ H.M.G. are unable to reach any conclusion as to the attitude to be adopted towards the recommendation of the Sub-Committee or on the question generally until they have received the supplementary information on this subject which the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf has been asked to provide and are also in possession of the views of the G.of I. They appreciate the difficulty in which you may be placed if it proves impossible to avoid discussion of the question with the Saudi authorities. But a factor of much importance in this connection is that, despite the repeated efforts which have been made to obtain from Ibn Saud a clear indication of the boundaries claimed by H.M. in Central Arabia and in the hinterland of the Trucial Coast, no clear expression of his views has so far been secured. H.M.G. consider in these circumstances that in the event of the subject being raised it will be best that you should press the Saudi authorities for a clearer definition of their claims, emphasising that while H.M.G. are quite prepared to consider on merits some modification of the frontier which they regard as

legally/

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Draft Paper. Department.

legally and internationally binding on Ibn Saud, it is most difficult for them to do so in the absence of fuller information as to the King's position. I need not say that no avoidable delay will take place in sending you full ~~telegraphic~~ instructions once the necessary material is available and it has been possible to consider it both from the political and from the strategical standpoint."

or hospitality to enter into discussions on the point

2. Sir Samuel Hoare would also suggest the following minor modifications in the draft:

Paragraph 7. 4th sentence. For "Colonel Loch" substitute "Colonel Dickson".

Paragraph 10. In the light of the redraft suggested in para.1 above, the third sentence of ~~this~~ paragraph might perhaps be omitted.

+ what is said in para: 9 of the despt regarding the Transjordan frontier question,

3. Subject to the modifications suggested above, Sir Samuel Hoare concurs in the draft instructions to Sir A. Ryan.

4. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Treasury, C.O., Admiralty, W.O. and A.M.

(Sd.) J. C. WALTON.

3164 5000 10.34

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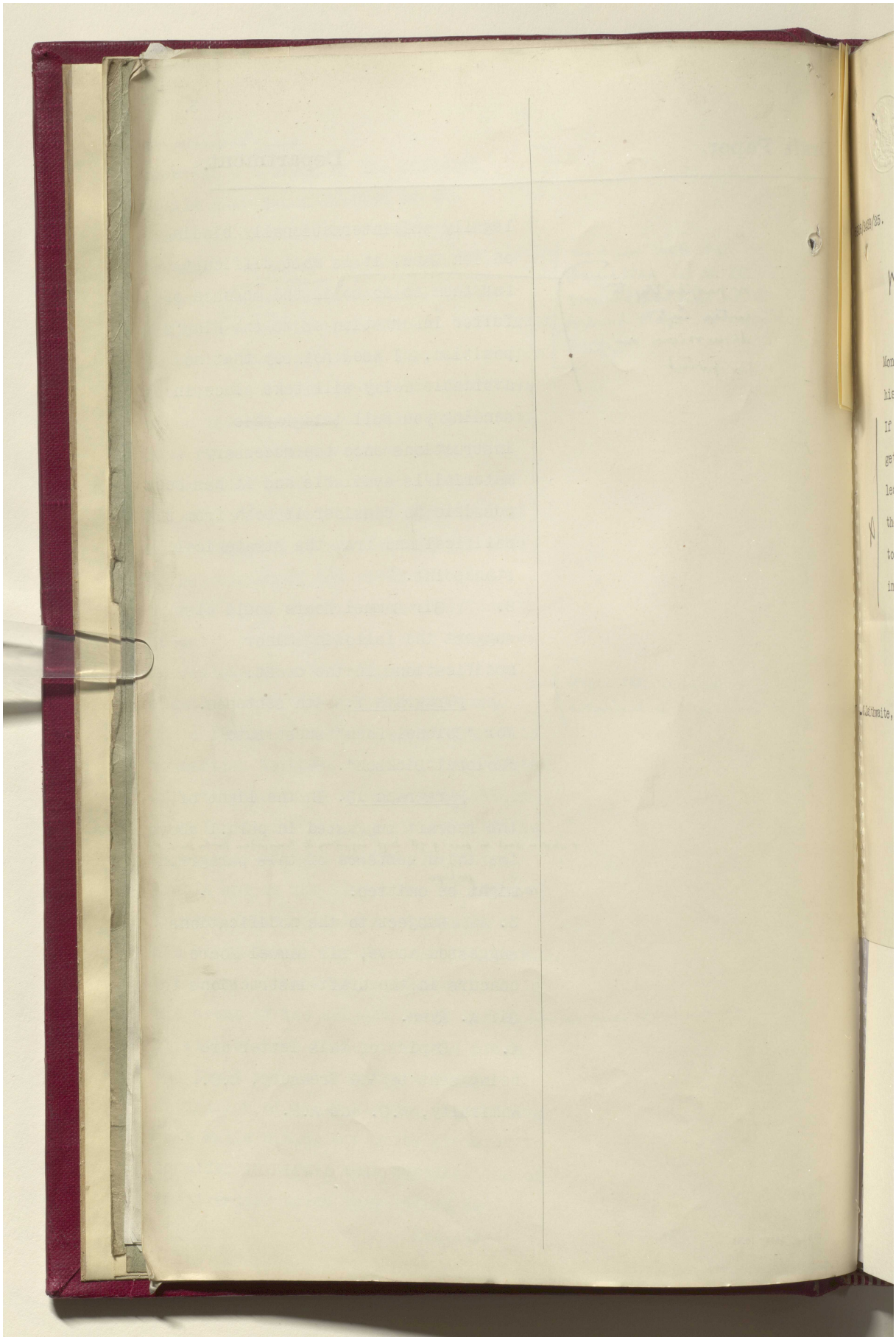

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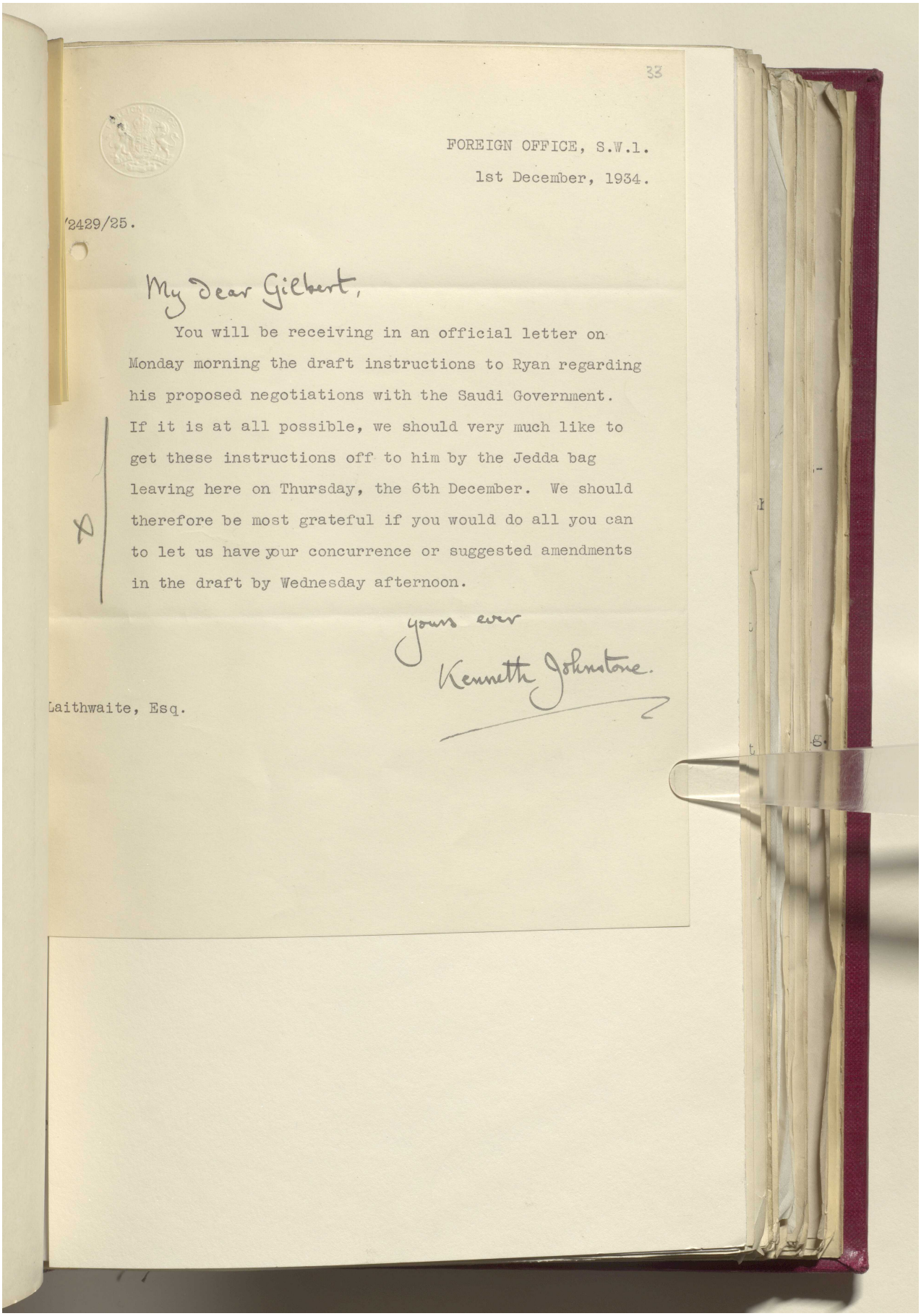

33

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

1st December, 1934.

'2429/25.

My dear Gilbert,

You will be receiving in an official letter on Monday morning the draft instructions to Ryan regarding his proposed negotiations with the Saudi Government. If it is at all possible, we should very much like to get these instructions off to him by the Jedda bag leaving here on Thursday, the 6th December. We should therefore be most grateful if you would do all you can to let us have your concurrence or suggested amendments in the draft by Wednesday afternoon.

Yours ever

Kenneth Johnstone.

Laithwaite, Esq.

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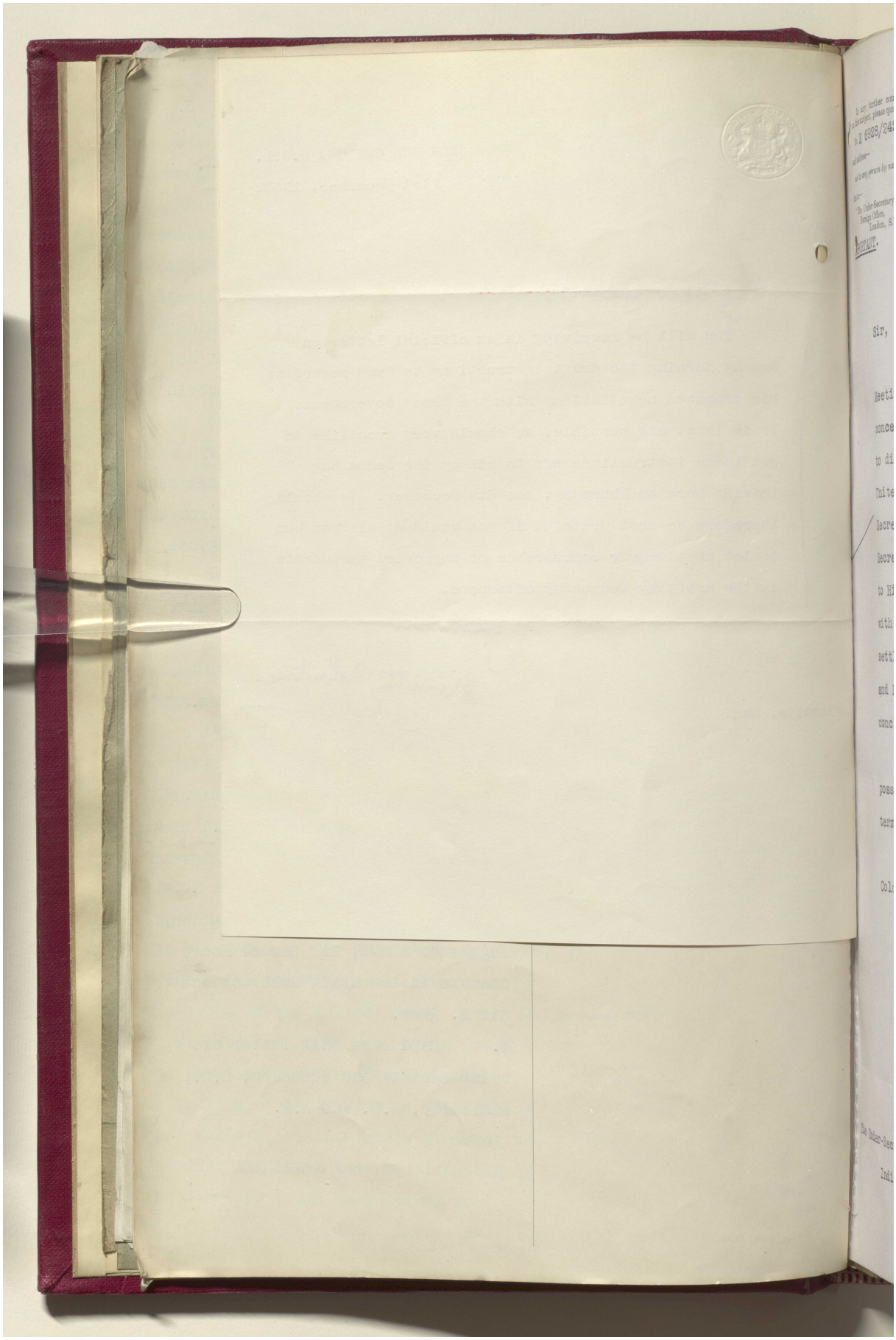

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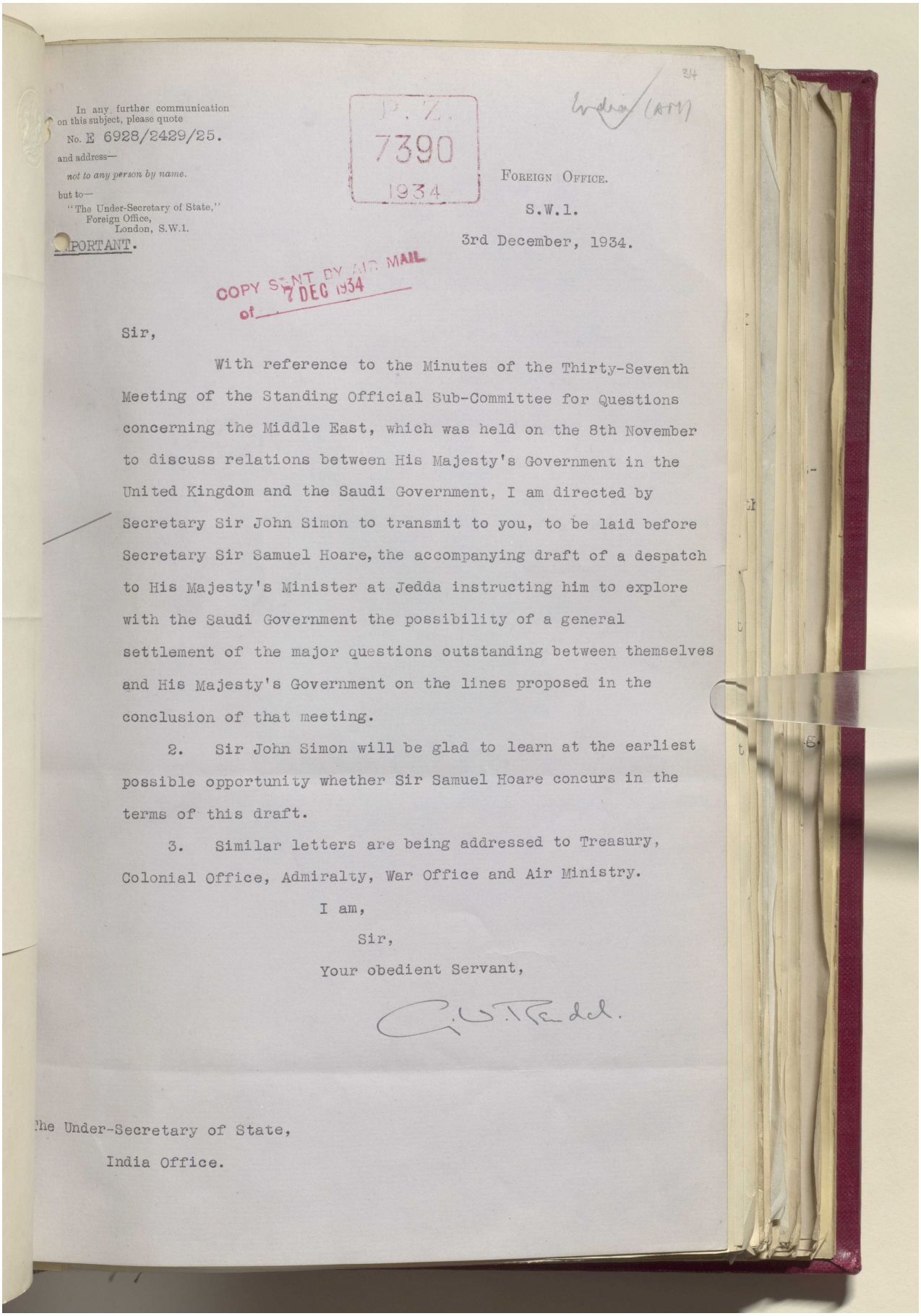

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 6928/2429/25.
and address—
not to any person by name.
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

IMPORTANT.

P. Z. 7390 1934

FOREIGN OFFICE.
S.W.1.
3rd December, 1934.

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL
of 7 DEC 1934

Sir,

With reference to the Minutes of the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Standing Official Sub-Committee for Questions concerning the Middle East, which was held on the 8th November to discuss relations between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Saudi Government, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare, the accompanying draft of a despatch to His Majesty's Minister at Jedda instructing him to explore with the Saudi Government the possibility of a general settlement of the major questions outstanding between themselves and His Majesty's Government on the lines proposed in the conclusion of that meeting.

2. Sir John Simon will be glad to learn at the earliest possible opportunity whether Sir Samuel Hoare concurs in the terms of this draft.

3. Similar letters are being addressed to Treasury, Colonial Office, Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

G. W. Rendel.

The Under-Secretary of State,
India Office.

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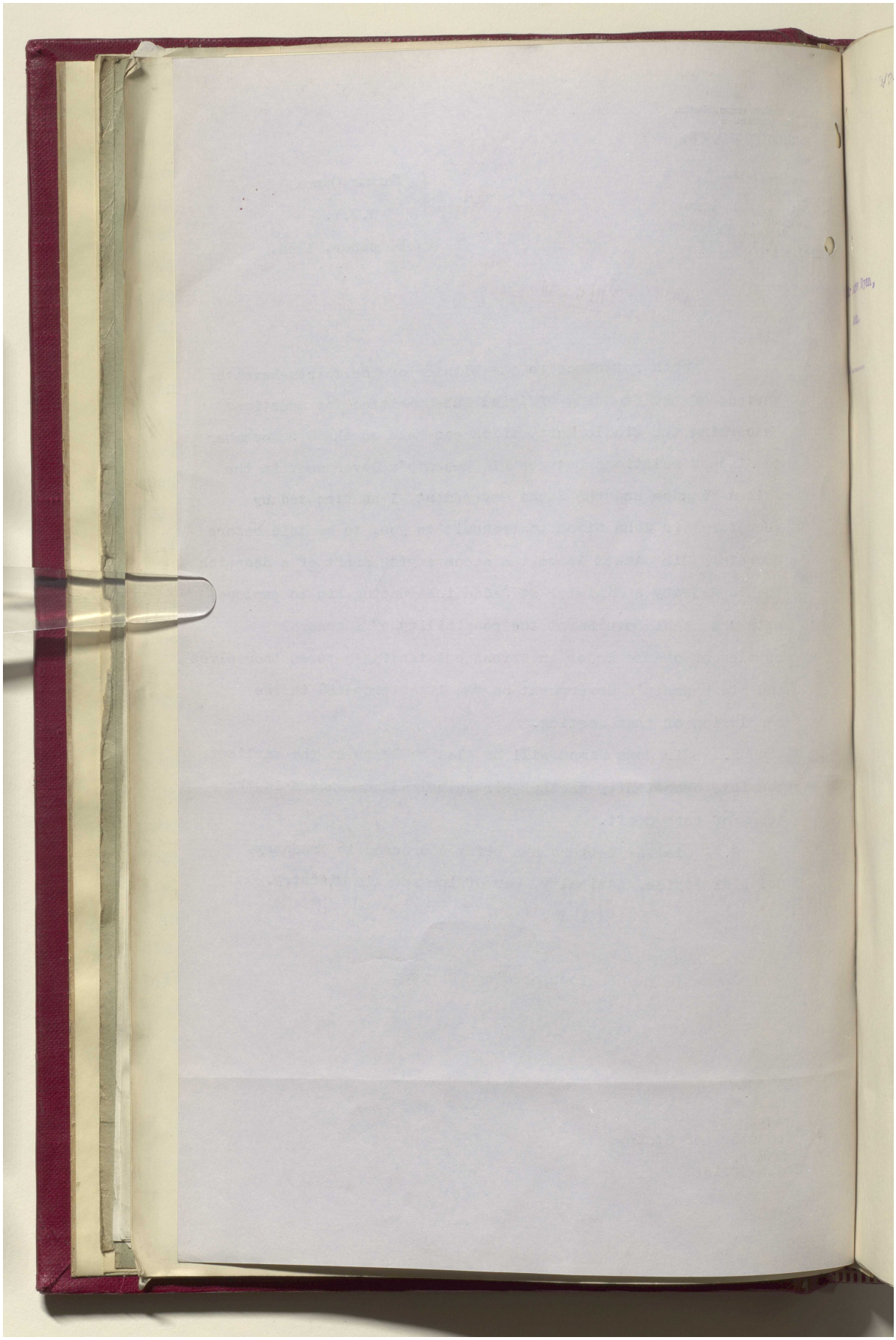

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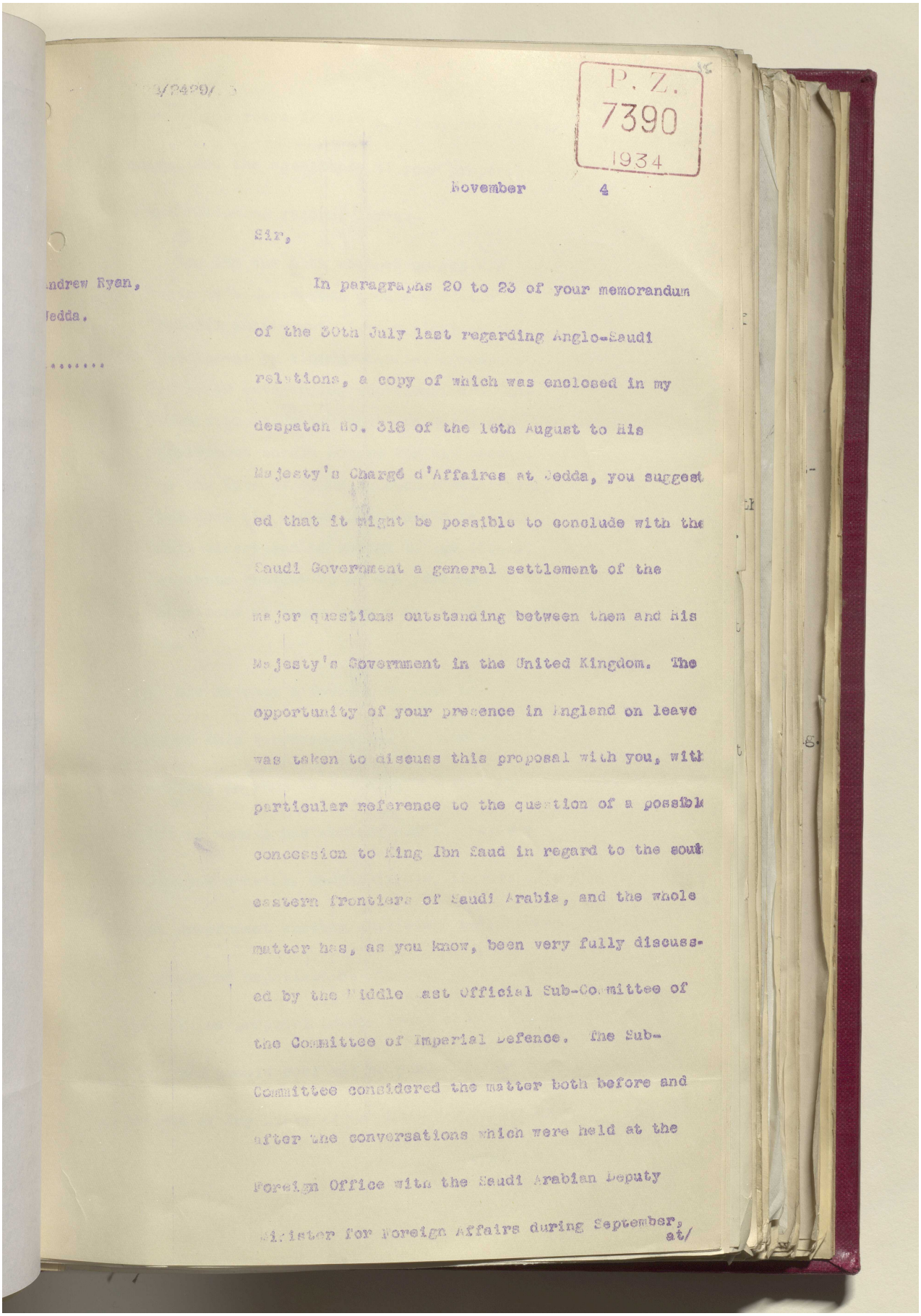

P. Z.
7390
1934

November 4

Sir,

ndrew Ryan,
edda.

In paragraphs 20 to 23 of your memorandum of the 30th July last regarding Anglo-Saudi relations, a copy of which was enclosed in my despatch No. 318 of the 16th August to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Jedda, you suggested that it might be possible to conclude with the Saudi Government a general settlement of the major questions outstanding between them and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. The opportunity of your presence in England on leave was taken to discuss this proposal with you, with particular reference to the question of a possible concession to King Ibn Saud in regard to the south eastern frontiers of Saudi Arabia, and the whole matter has, as you know, been very fully discussed by the Middle East Official Sub-Committee of the Committee of Imperial Defence. The Sub-Committee considered the matter both before and after the conversations which were held at the Foreign Office with the Saudi Arabian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs during September, at/

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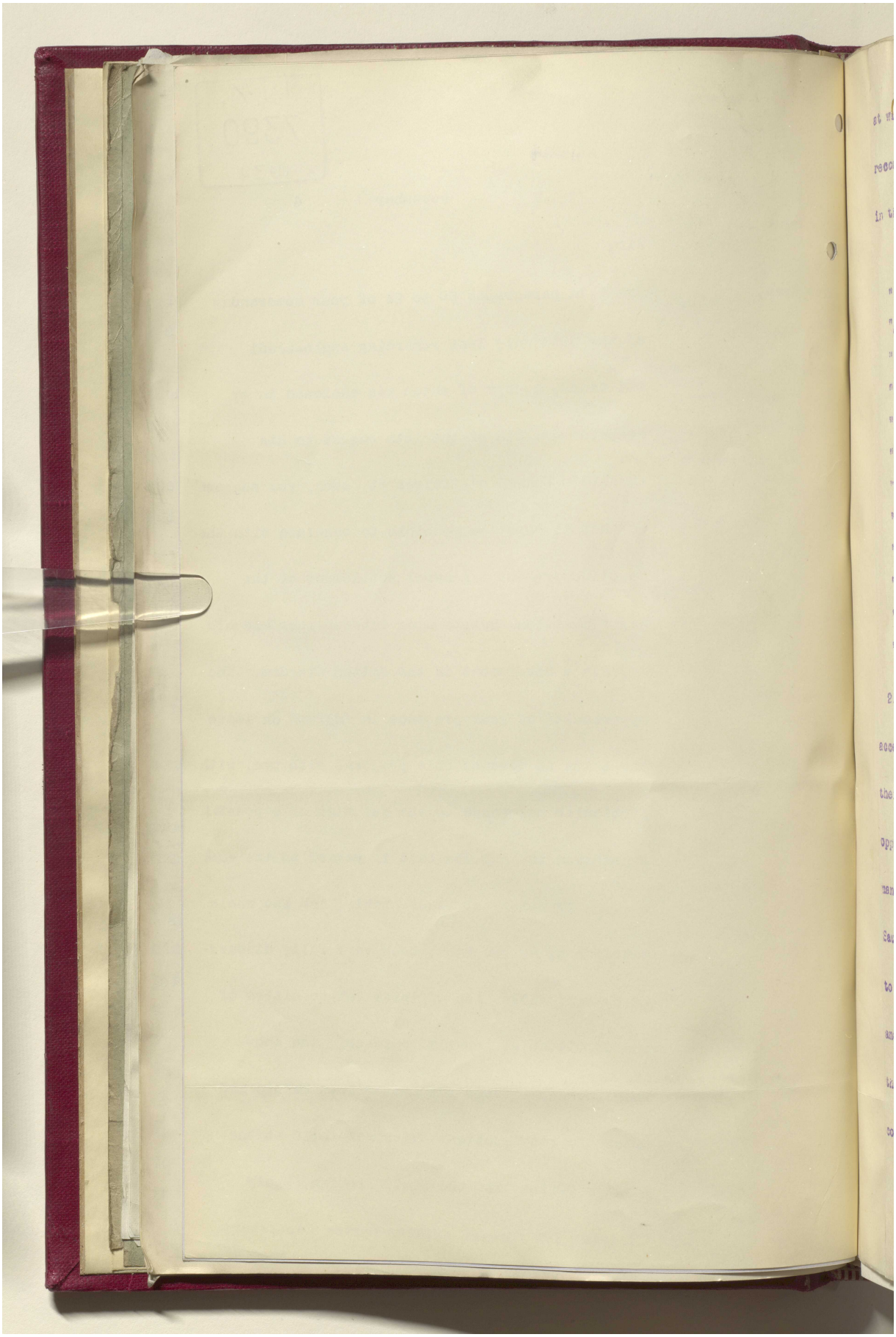

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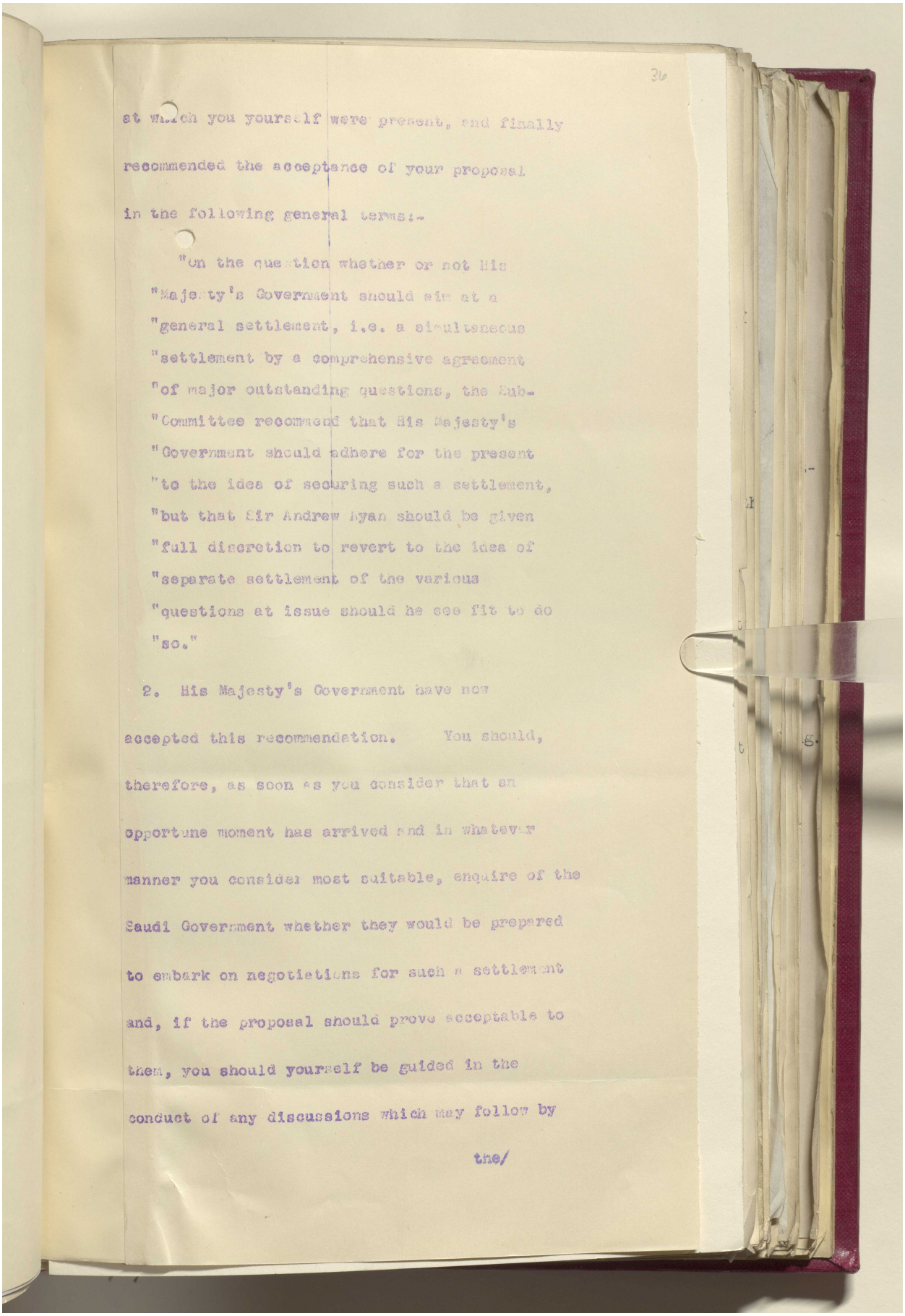

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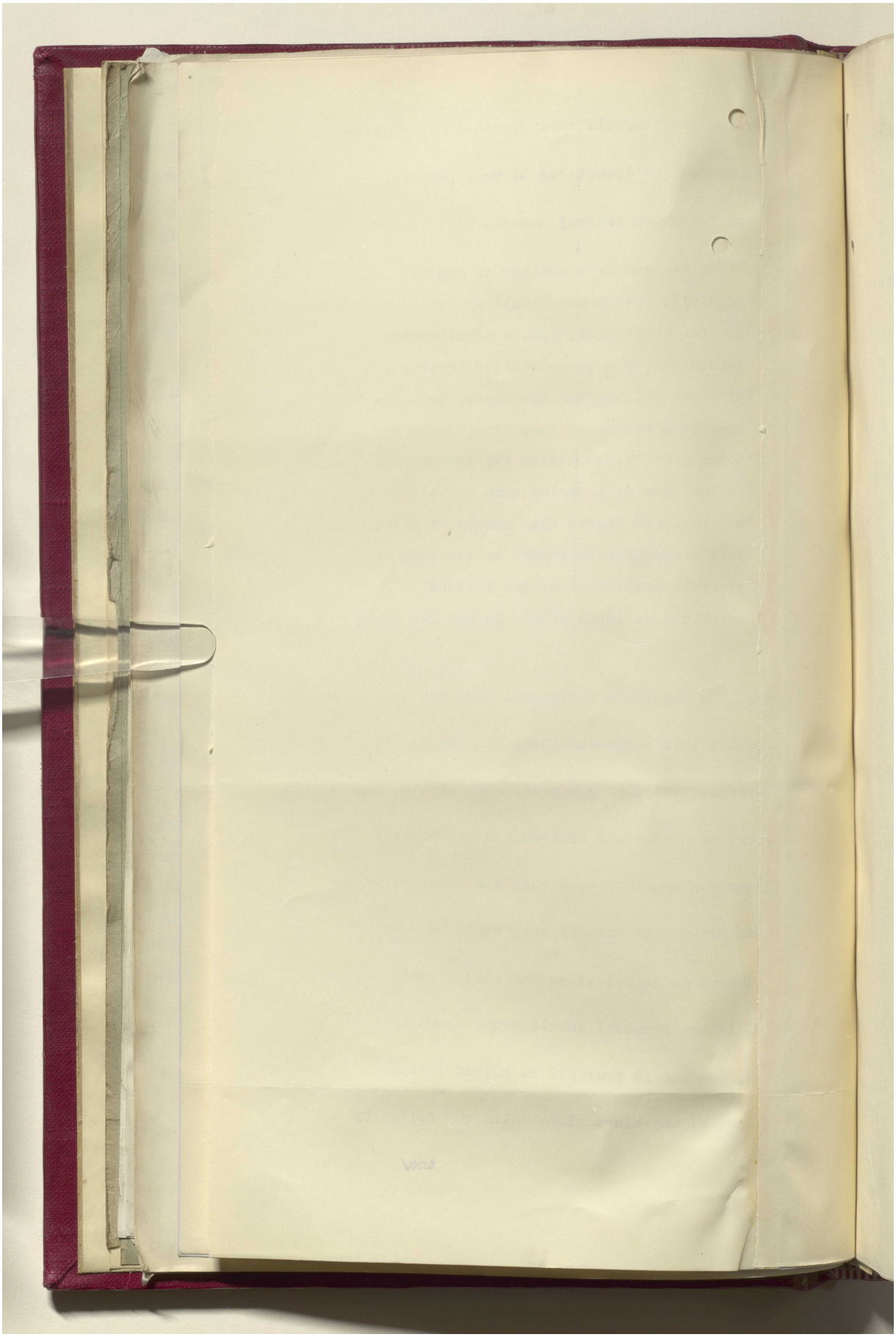
at which you yourself were present, and finally recommended the acceptance of your proposal in the following general terms:-

"On the question whether or not His "Majesty's Government should aim at a "general settlement, i.e. a simultaneous "settlement by a comprehensive agreement "of major outstanding questions, the Sub- "Committee recommend that His Majesty's "Government should adhere for the present "to the idea of securing such a settlement, "but that Sir Andrew Ryan should be given "full discretion to revert to the idea of "separate settlement of the various "questions at issue should he see fit to do "so."

2. His Majesty's Government have now accepted this recommendation. You should, therefore, as soon as you consider that an opportune moment has arrived and in whatever manner you consider most suitable, enquire of the Saudi Government whether they would be prepared to embark on negotiations for such a settlement and, if the proposal should prove acceptable to them, you should yourself be guided in the conduct of any discussions which may follow by

the/



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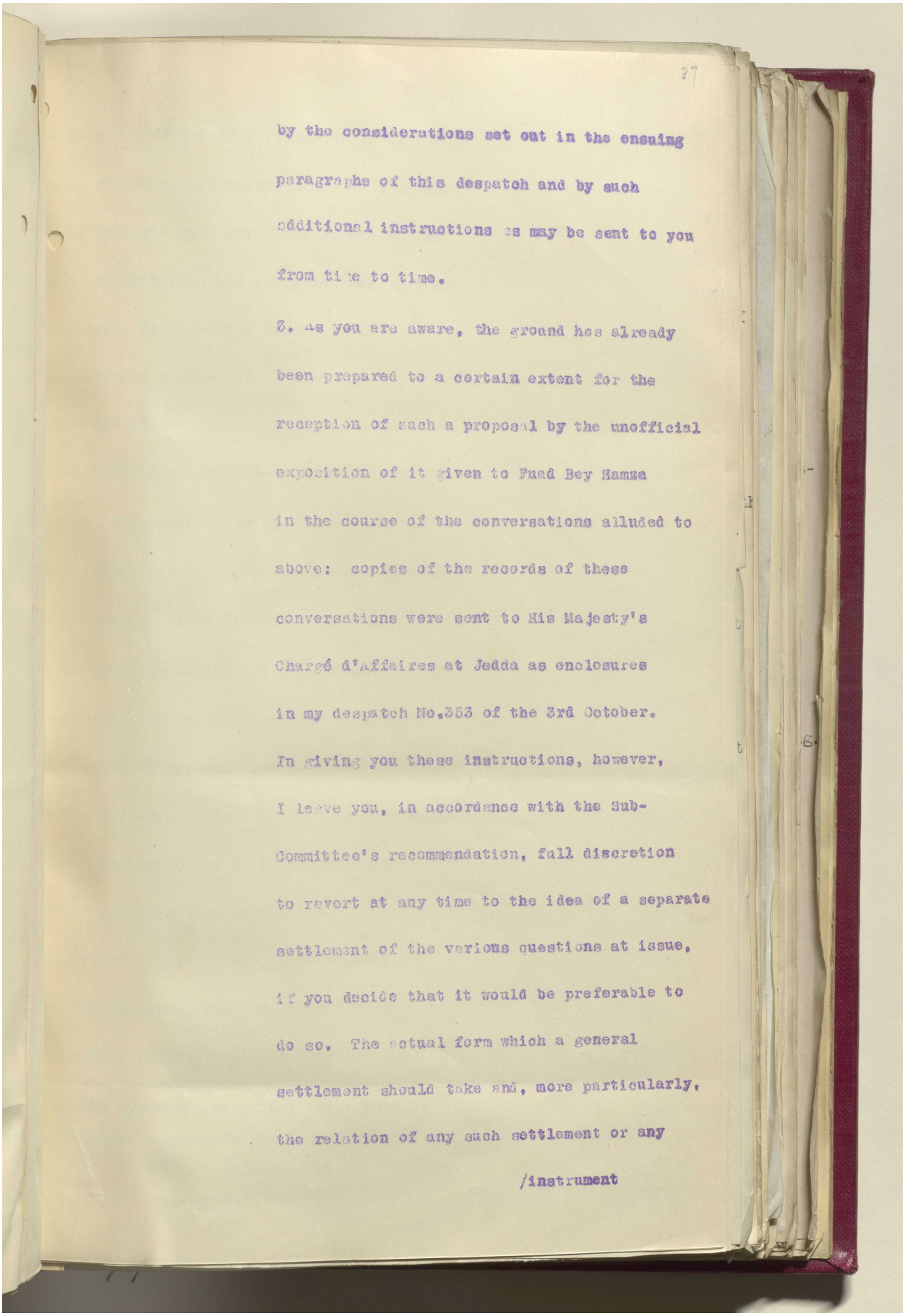

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by the considerations set out in the ensuing paragraphs of this despatch and by such additional instructions as may be sent to you from time to time.

3. As you are aware, the ground has already been prepared to a certain extent for the reception of such a proposal by the unofficial exposition of it given to Fuad Bey Hamza in the course of the conversations alluded to above: copies of the records of these conversations were sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Jedda as enclosures in my despatch No.353 of the 3rd October. In giving you these instructions, however, I leave you, in accordance with the Sub-Committee's recommendation, full discretion to revert at any time to the idea of a separate settlement of the various questions at issue, if you decide that it would be preferable to do so. The actual form which a general settlement should take and, more particularly, the relation of any such settlement or any

/instrument

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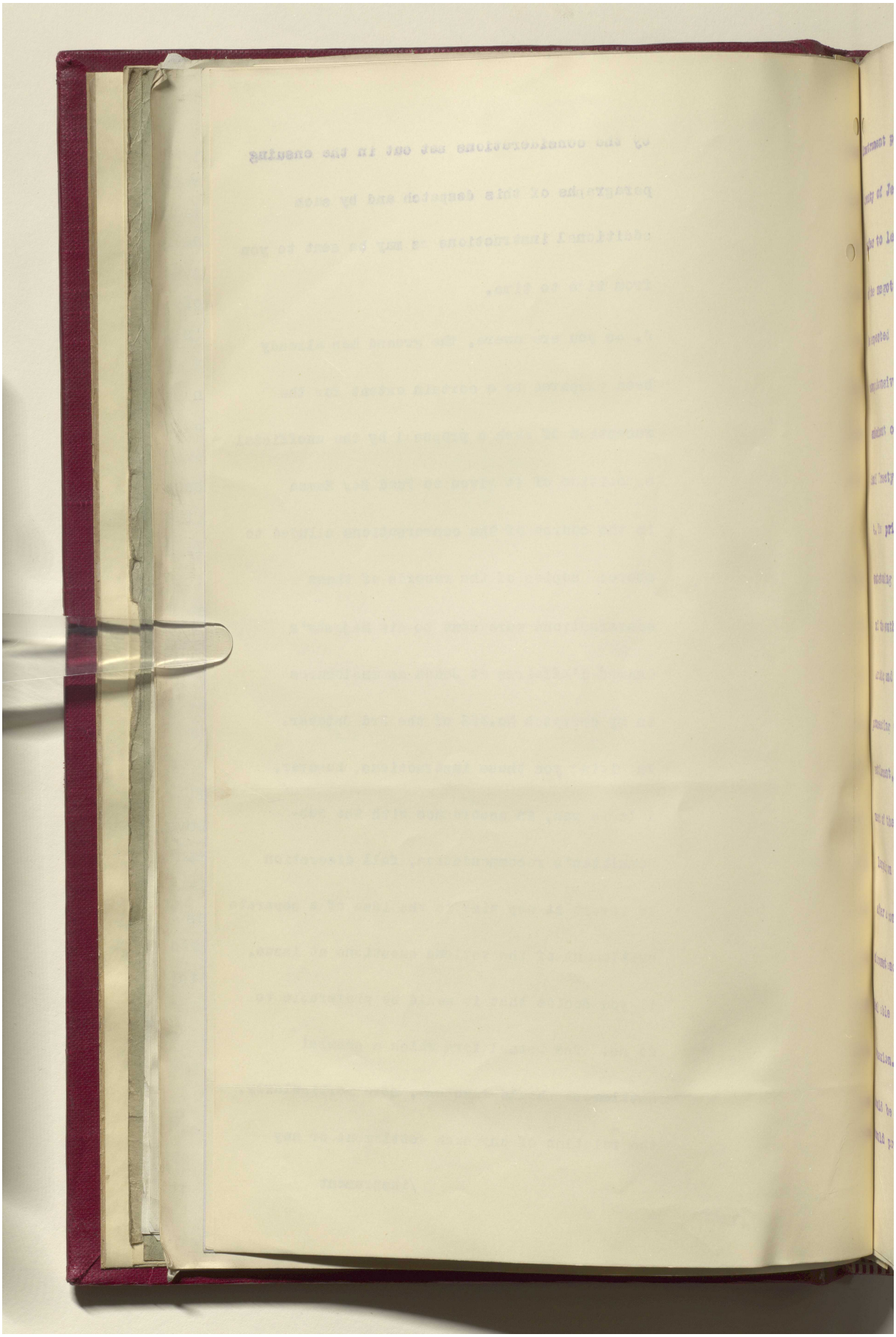

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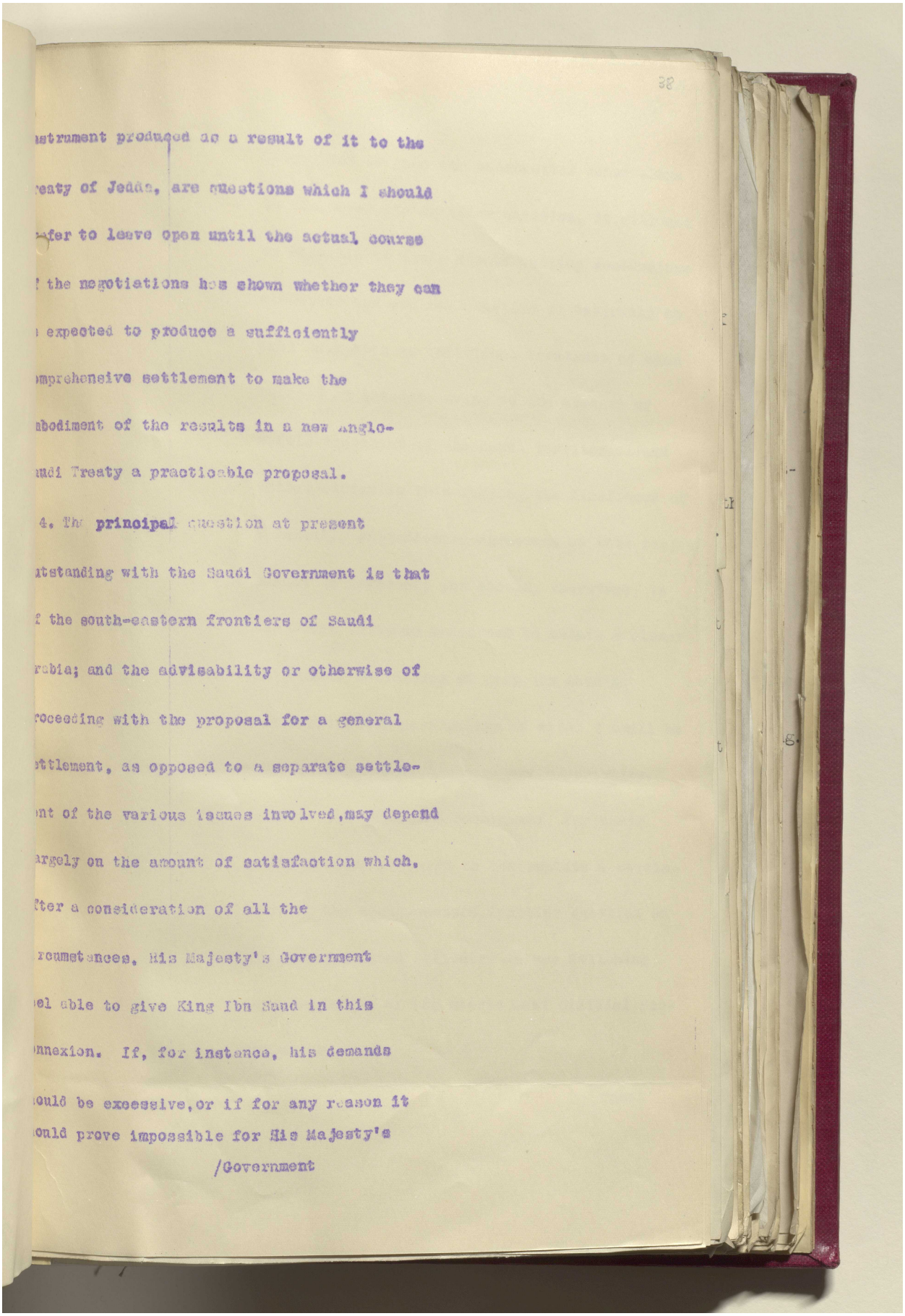

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nstrument produced as a result of it to the
reaty of Jedda, are questions which I should
efer to leave open until the actual course
f the negotiations has shown whether they can
e expected to produce a sufficiently
omprehensive settlement to make the
mbodiment of the results in a new Anglo-
udi Treaty a practicable proposal.

4. The principal question at present
utstanding with the Saudi Government is that
f the south-eastern frontiers of Saudi
rabia; and the advisability or otherwise of
roceeding with the proposal for a general
ettlement, as opposed to a separate settle-
nt of the various issues involved, may depend
argely on the amount of satisfaction which,
fter a consideration of all the
rcumstances, His Majesty's Government
el able to give King Ibn Saud in this
nnexion. If, for instance, his demands
ould be excessive, or if for any reason it
ould prove impossible for His Majesty's

/Government

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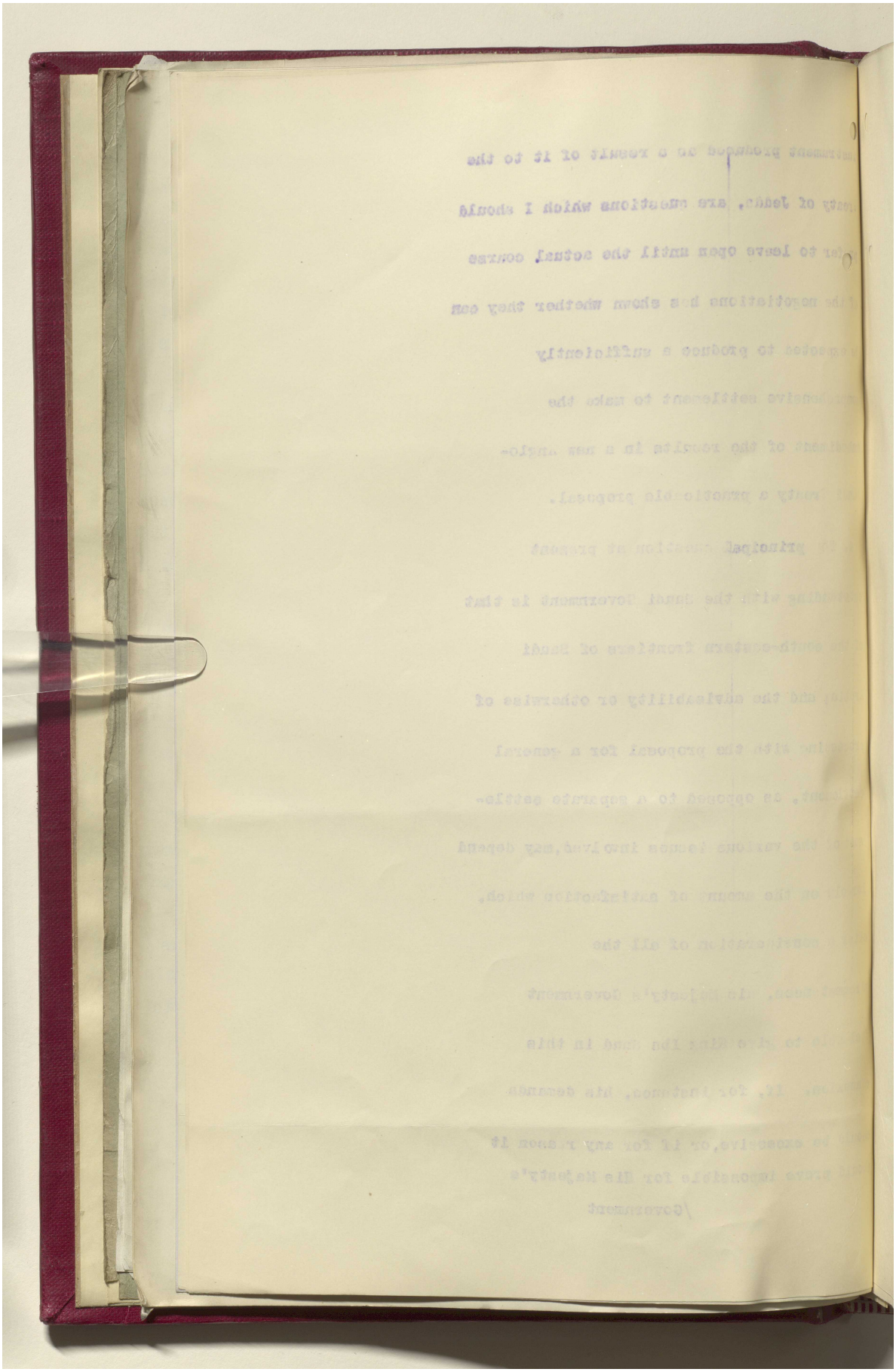

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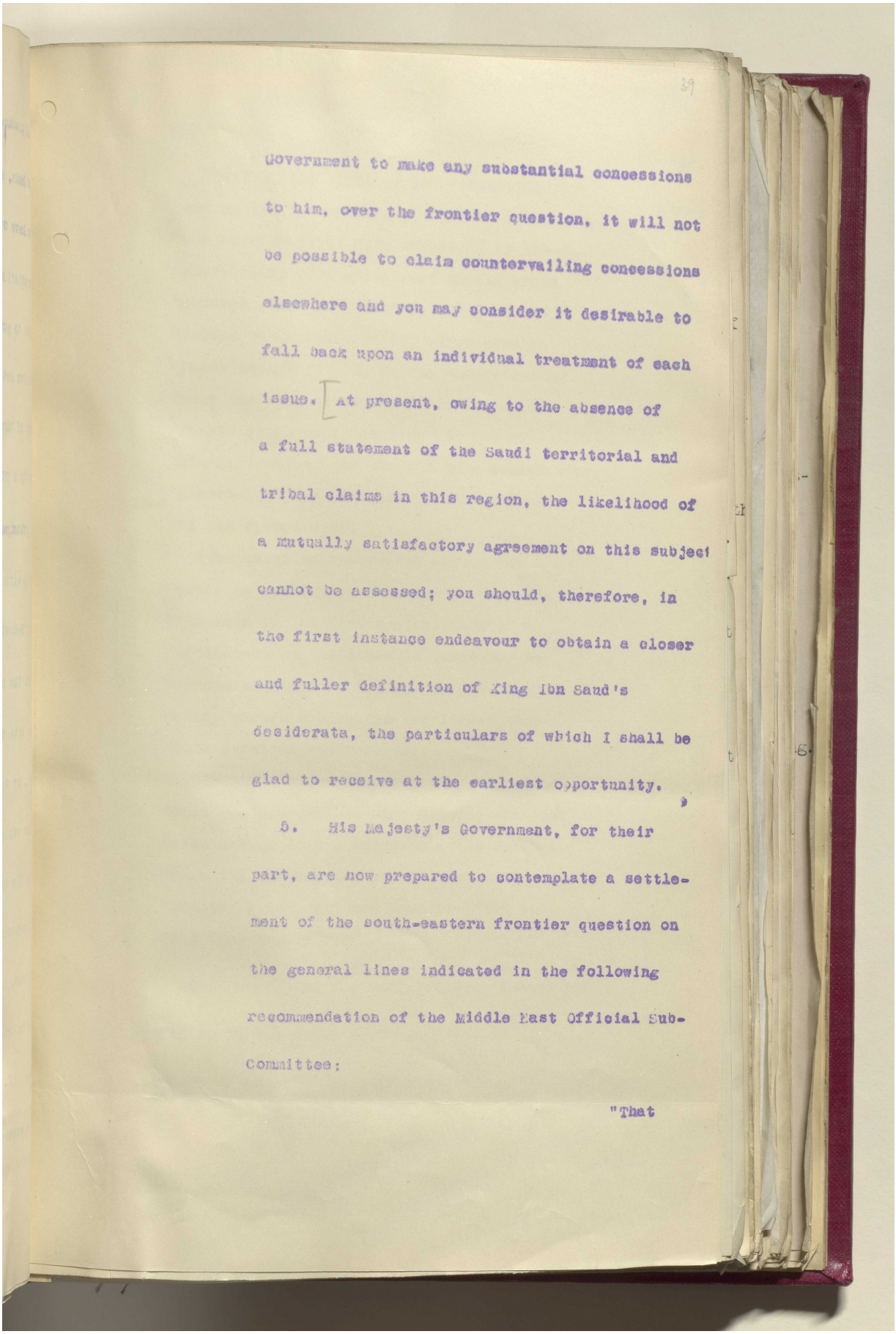

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Government to make any substantial concessions to him, over the frontier question, it will not be possible to claim countervailing concessions elsewhere and you may consider it desirable to fall back upon an individual treatment of each issue. At present, owing to the absence of a full statement of the Saudi territorial and tribal claims in this region, the likelihood of a mutually satisfactory agreement on this subject cannot be assessed; you should, therefore, in the first instance endeavour to obtain a closer and fuller definition of King Ibn Saud's desiderata, the particulars of which I shall be glad to receive at the earliest opportunity.

5. His Majesty's Government, for their part, are now prepared to contemplate a settlement of the south-eastern frontier question on the general lines indicated in the following recommendation of the Middle East Official Sub-Committee:

"That

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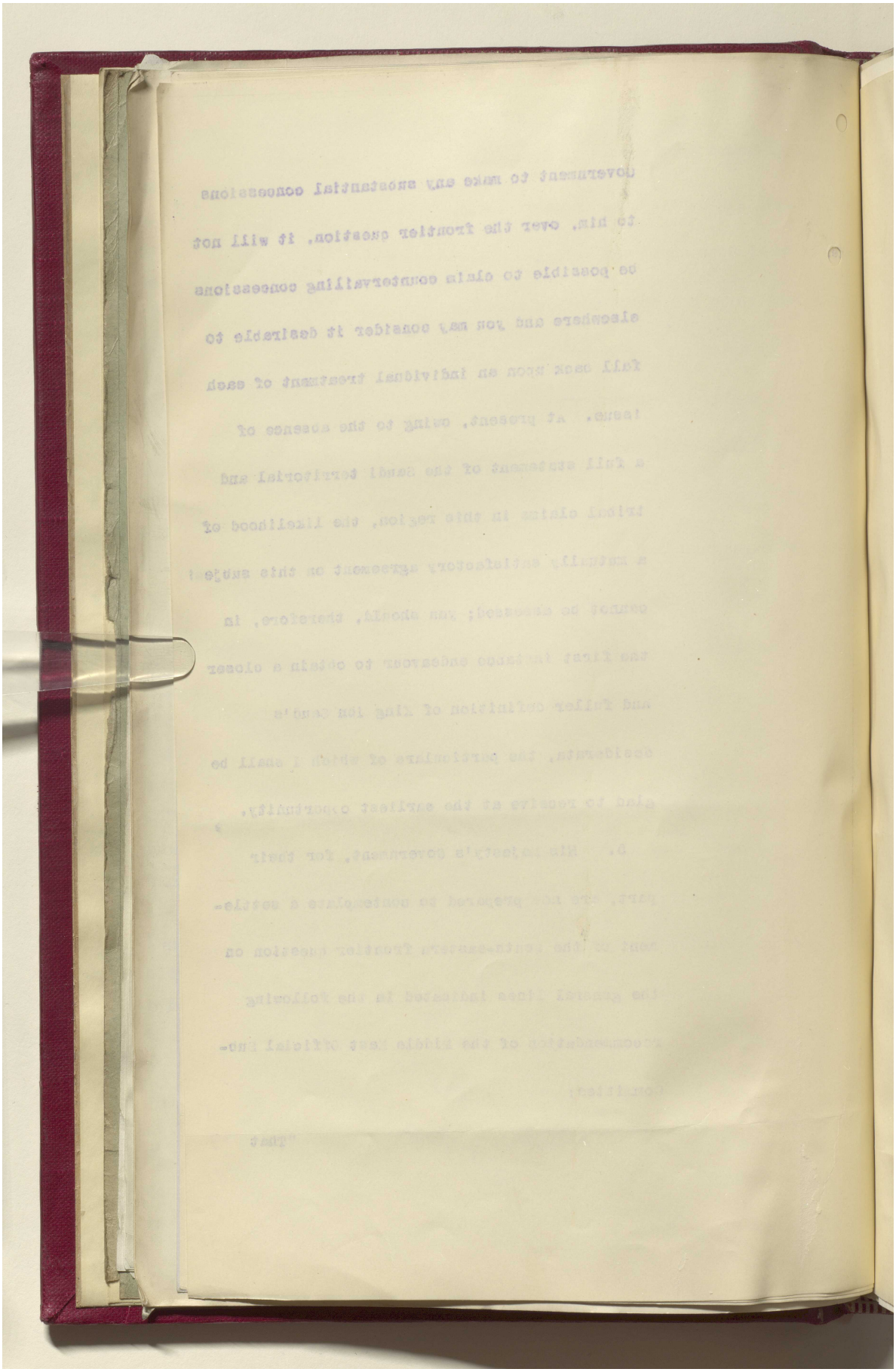

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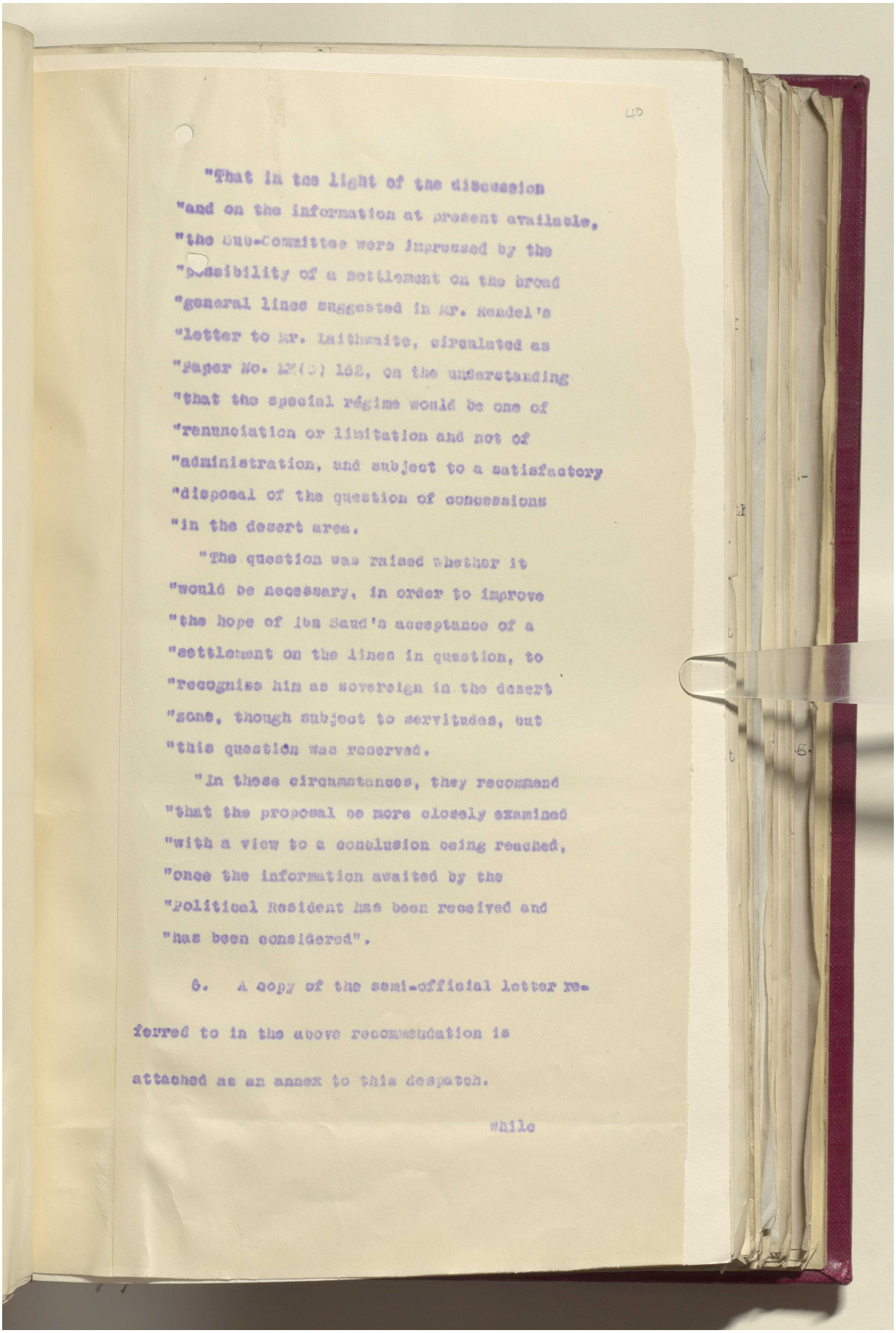

"That in the light of the discussion
"and on the information at present available,
"the Sub-Committee were impressed by the
"possibility of a settlement on the broad
"general lines suggested in Mr. Rendel's
"letter to Mr. Laithwaite, circulated as
"Paper No. M.P.(S) 168, on the understanding
"that the special régime would be one of
"renunciation or limitation and not of
"administration, and subject to a satisfactory
"disposal of the question of concessions
"in the desert area.

"The question was raised whether it
"would be necessary, in order to improve
"the hope of Ibn Saud's acceptance of a
"settlement on the lines in question, to
"recognise him as sovereign in the desert
"zone, though subject to servitudes, but
"this question was reserved.

"In these circumstances, they recommend
"that the proposal be more closely examined
"with a view to a conclusion being reached,
"once the information awaited by the
"Political Resident has been received and
"has been considered".

6. A copy of the semi-official letter re-
ferred to in the above recommendation is
attached as an annex to this despatch.

While

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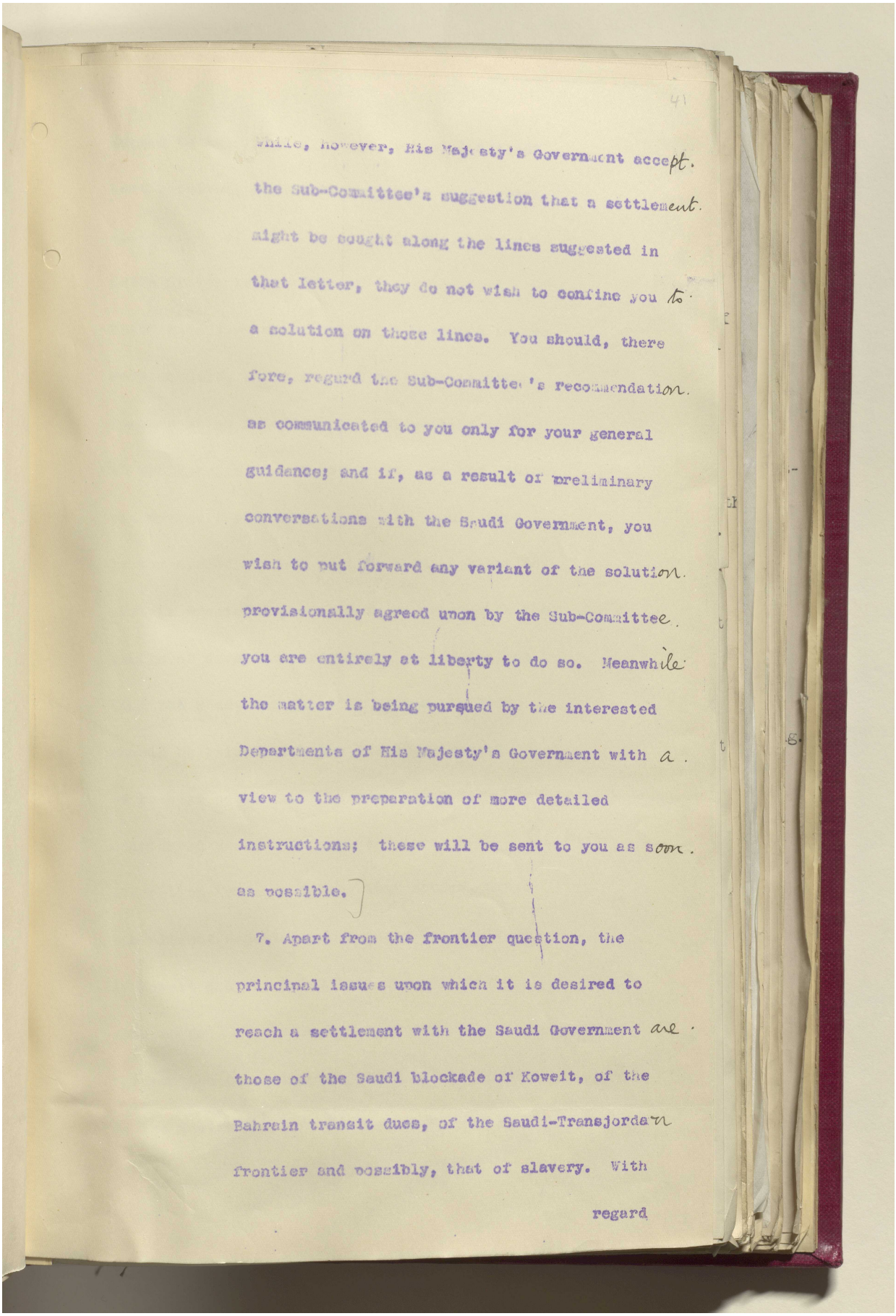

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while, however, His Majesty's Government accept the Sub-Committee's suggestion that a settlement might be sought along the lines suggested in that letter, they do not wish to confine you to a solution on those lines. You should, therefore, regard the Sub-Committee's recommendation as communicated to you only for your general guidance; and if, as a result of preliminary conversations with the Saudi Government, you wish to put forward any variant of the solution provisionally agreed upon by the Sub-Committee you are entirely at liberty to do so. Meanwhile the matter is being pursued by the interested Departments of His Majesty's Government with a view to the preparation of more detailed instructions; these will be sent to you as soon as possible.

7. Apart from the frontier question, the principal issues upon which it is desired to reach a settlement with the Saudi Government are those of the Saudi blockade of Koweit, of the Bahrain transit dues, of the Saudi-Transjordan frontier and possibly, that of slavery. With

regard

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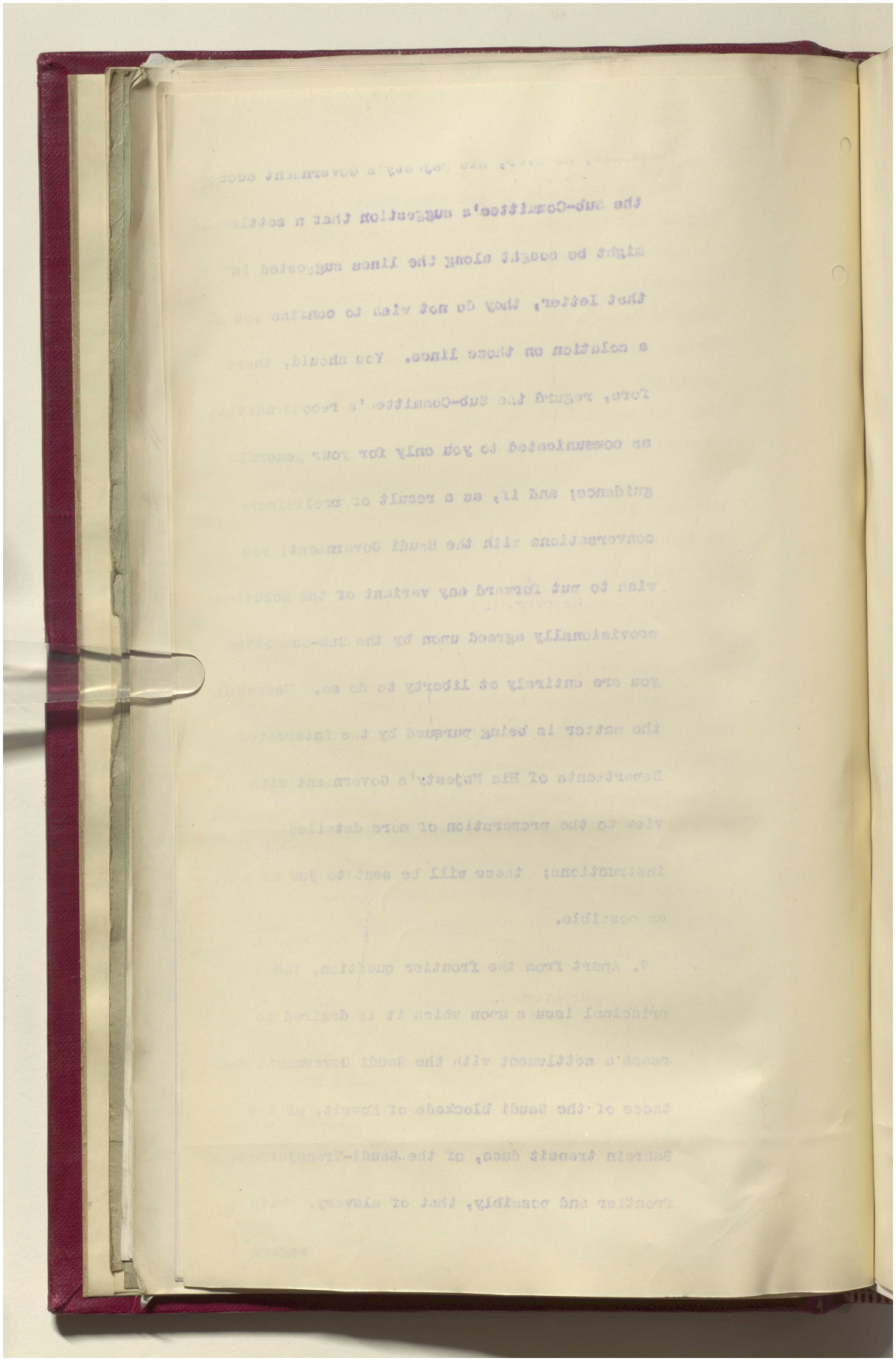

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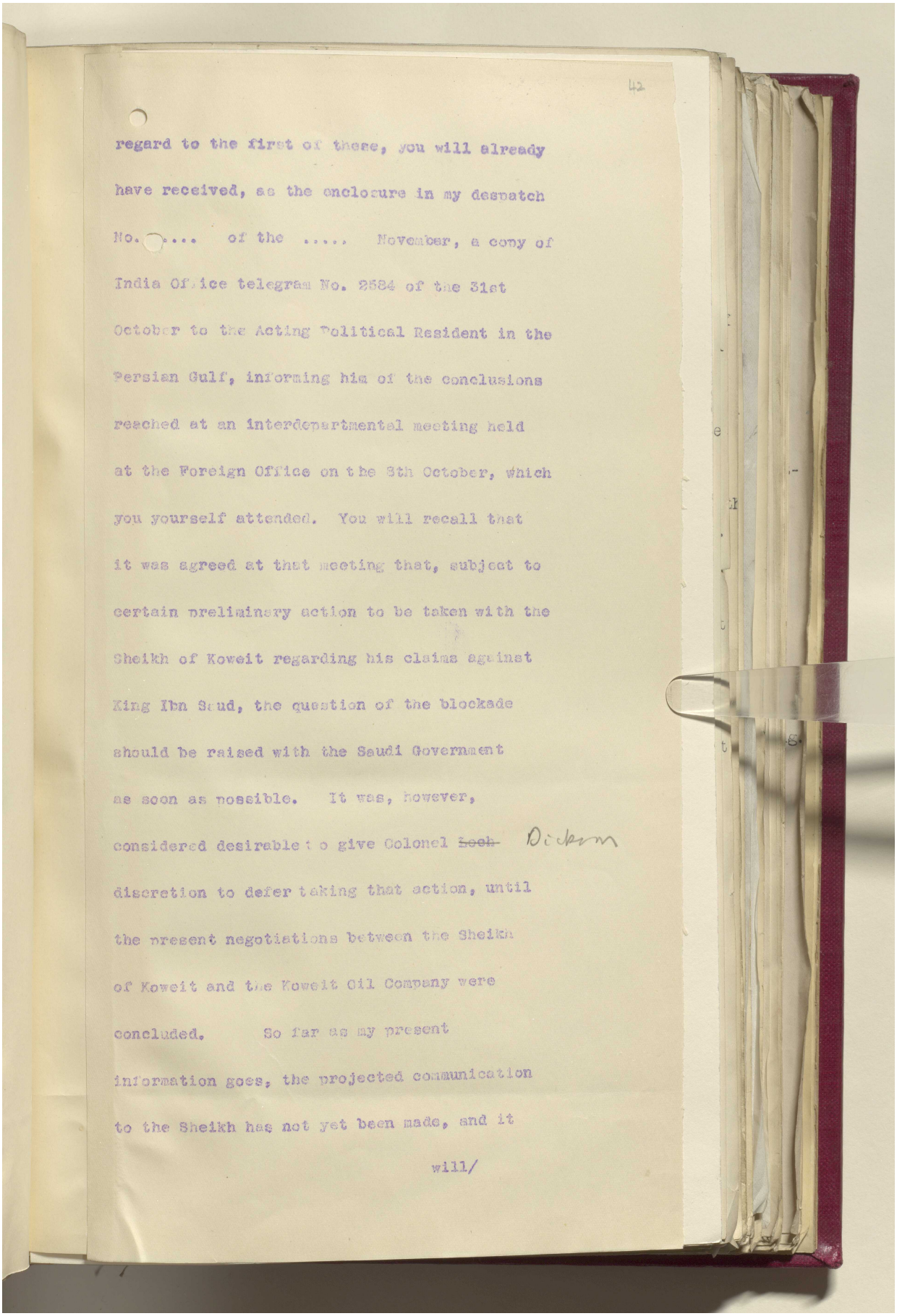

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regard to the first of these, you will already have received, as the enclosure in my despatch No. .... of the ..... November, a copy of India Office telegram No. 2584 of the 31st October to the Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, informing him of the conclusions reached at an interdepartmental meeting held at the Foreign Office on the 8th October, which you yourself attended. You will recall that it was agreed at that meeting that, subject to certain preliminary action to be taken with the Sheikh of Koweit regarding his claims against King Ibn Saud, the question of the blockade should be raised with the Saudi Government as soon as possible. It was, however, considered desirable to give Colonel ~~Loch~~ Dickson discretion to defer taking that action, until the present negotiations between the Sheikh of Koweit and the Koweit Oil Company were concluded. So far as my present information goes, the projected communication to the Sheikh has not yet been made, and it

will/

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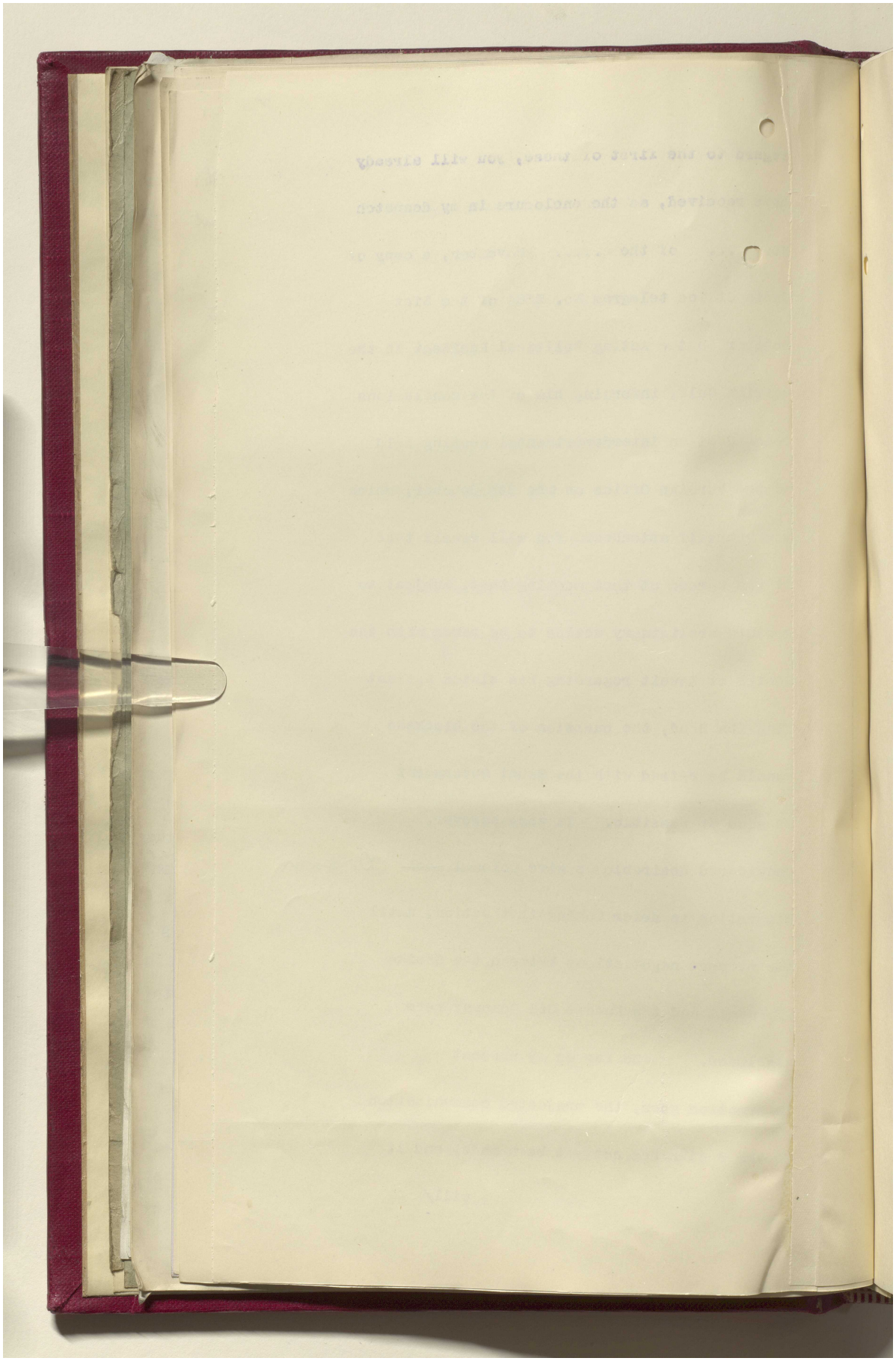

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will therefore be necessary to postpone for the present any official representations to the Saudi Government on the blockade issue. Fuad Bey Hamza is, however, well aware, as a result of his conversations at the Foreign Office in September, that the blockade dispute is one of the matters in regard to which His Majesty's Government are most desirous to reach an early settlement, and the Saudi-Arabian Minister was again reminded of this when he called at the Foreign Office to take his leave on 30th November, prior to his departure for Saudi Arabia on leave of absence.

8. So far as the Bahrain transit dues are concerned, you were yourself present at the inter-departmental meeting at the Foreign Office on the 8th October, when the line to be taken with the Saudi Government was fully discussed: a copy of the record of that meeting and its conclusions has been sent to you officially as the enclosure in my despatch No. .... of the .... November. Subject to any further comments or suggestions which you may wish to offer on this

subject,/

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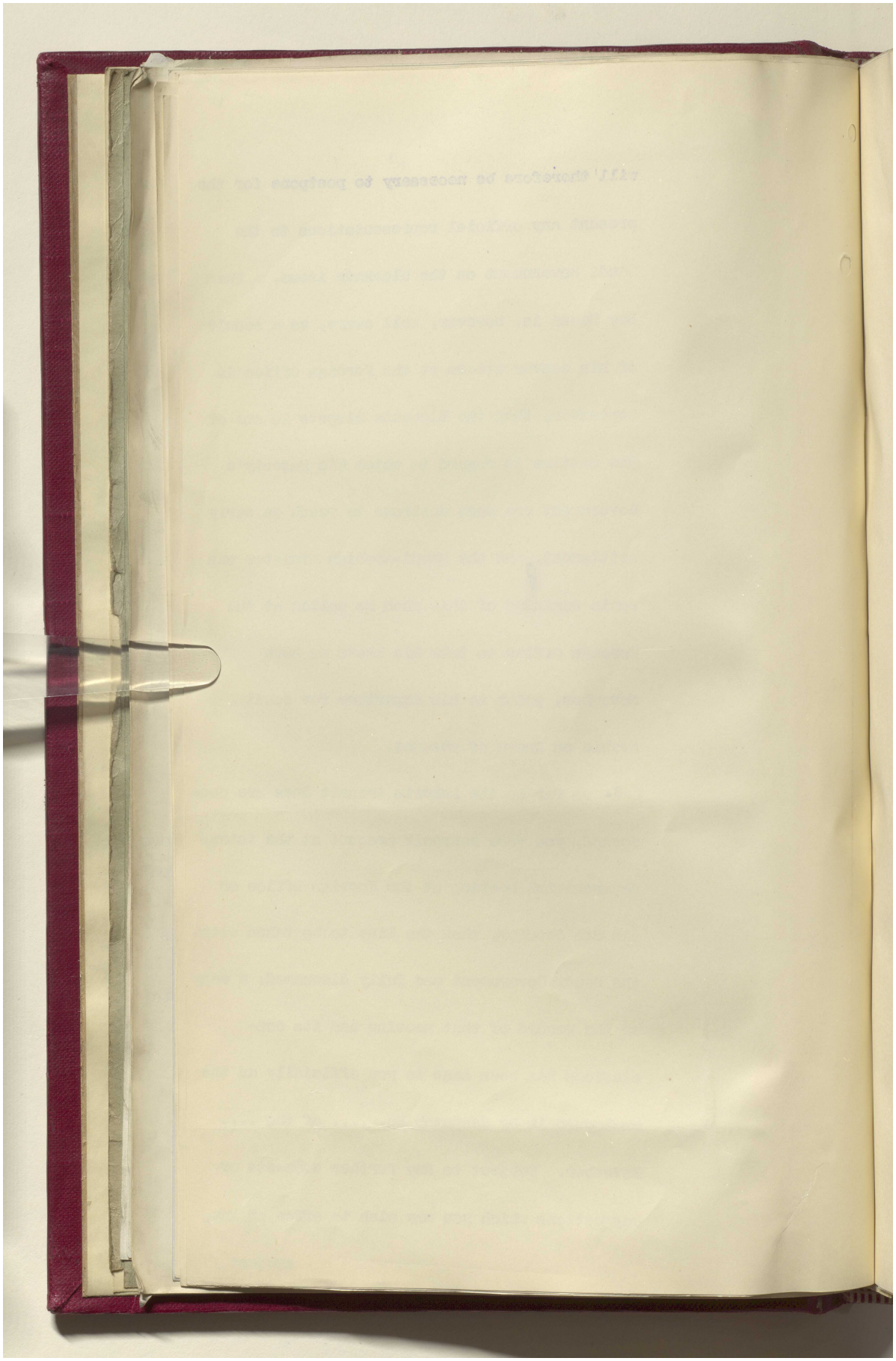

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subject, you should be guided by the con-
clusions reached at that meeting.

9. Pending the result of the frontier survey which is now in progress, I regret that it is not possible to give you any instructions as to the manner in which the question of the Saudi-Transjordan frontier should be dealt with. In any case, only the Transjordan-Nejd section of that frontier will come within the scope of any discussions which may take place with the Saudi Government, since it was agreed with Fuad Bey Hamza during the second conversation held with him, that, as King Ibn Saud was unable to recede from the position which he had taken up with regard to the Akaba-Aman question at the time of his exchange of notes with His Majesty's Government on this subject in 1927, it would be best not to raise the question of the Trans-jordan-Hejaz frontier in any form.

10. On the question of Slavery also it has not yet been possible to reach any final decision. More detailed instructions will, however, be sent to you on this and on the

other/

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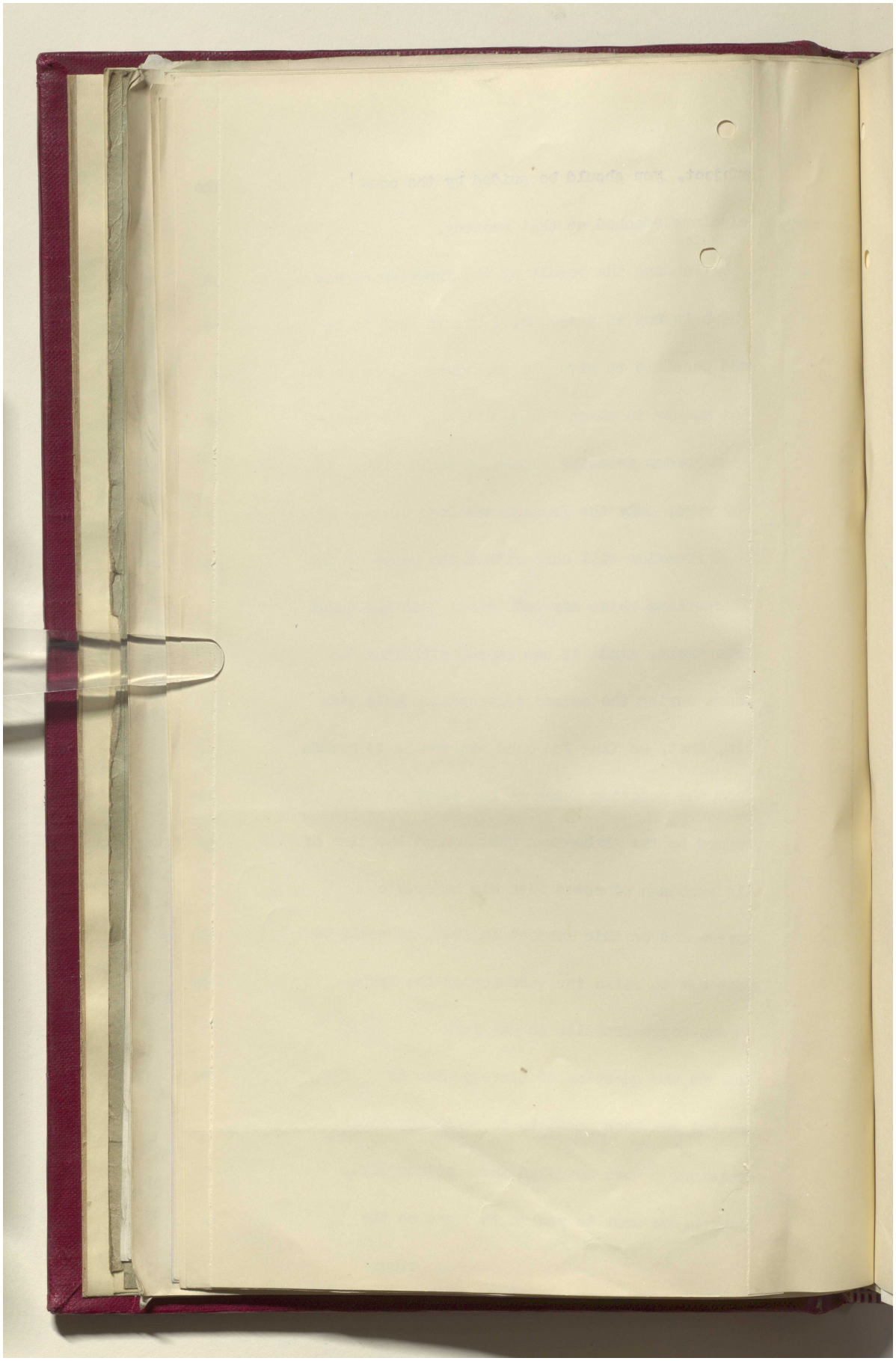

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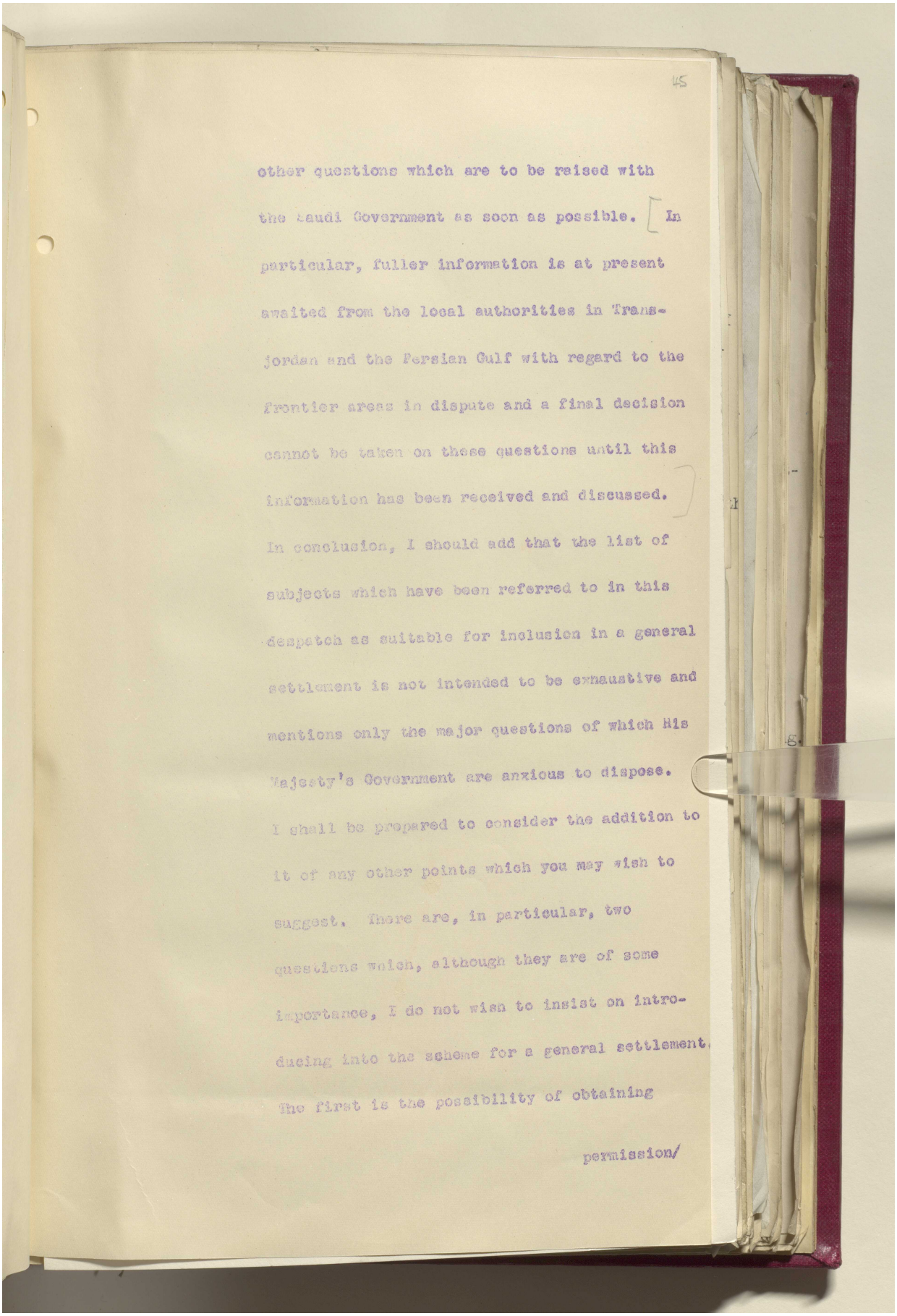

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other questions which are to be raised with the Saudi Government as soon as possible. In particular, fuller information is at present awaited from the local authorities in Trans-jordan and the Persian Gulf with regard to the frontier areas in dispute and a final decision cannot be taken on these questions until this information has been received and discussed.

In conclusion, I should add that the list of subjects which have been referred to in this despatch as suitable for inclusion in a general settlement is not intended to be exhaustive and mentions only the major questions of which His Majesty's Government are anxious to dispose. I shall be prepared to consider the addition to it of any other points which you may wish to suggest. There are, in particular, two questions which, although they are of some importance, I do not wish to insist on intro-ducing into the scheme for a general settlement. The first is the possibility of obtaining

permission/

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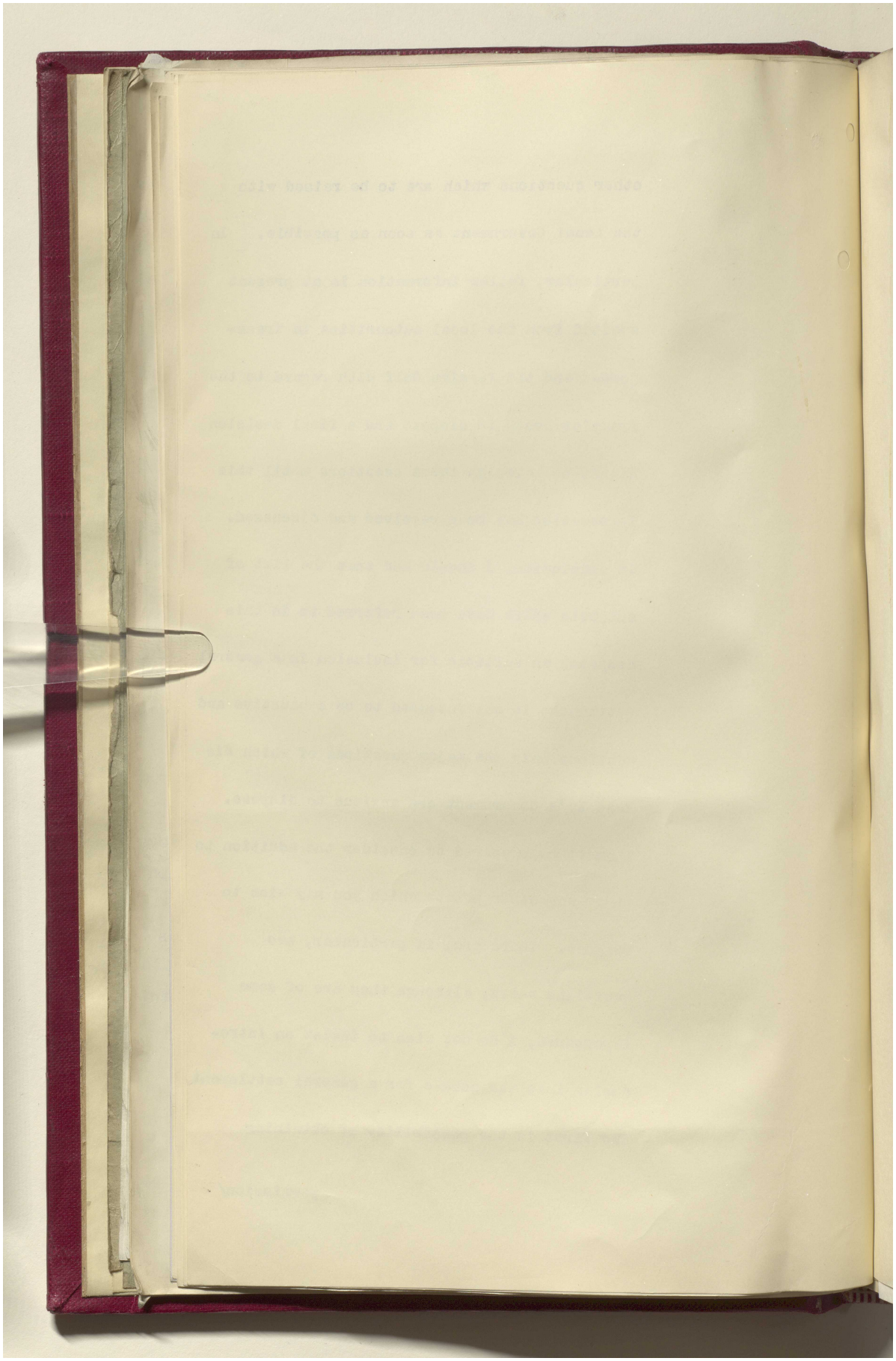

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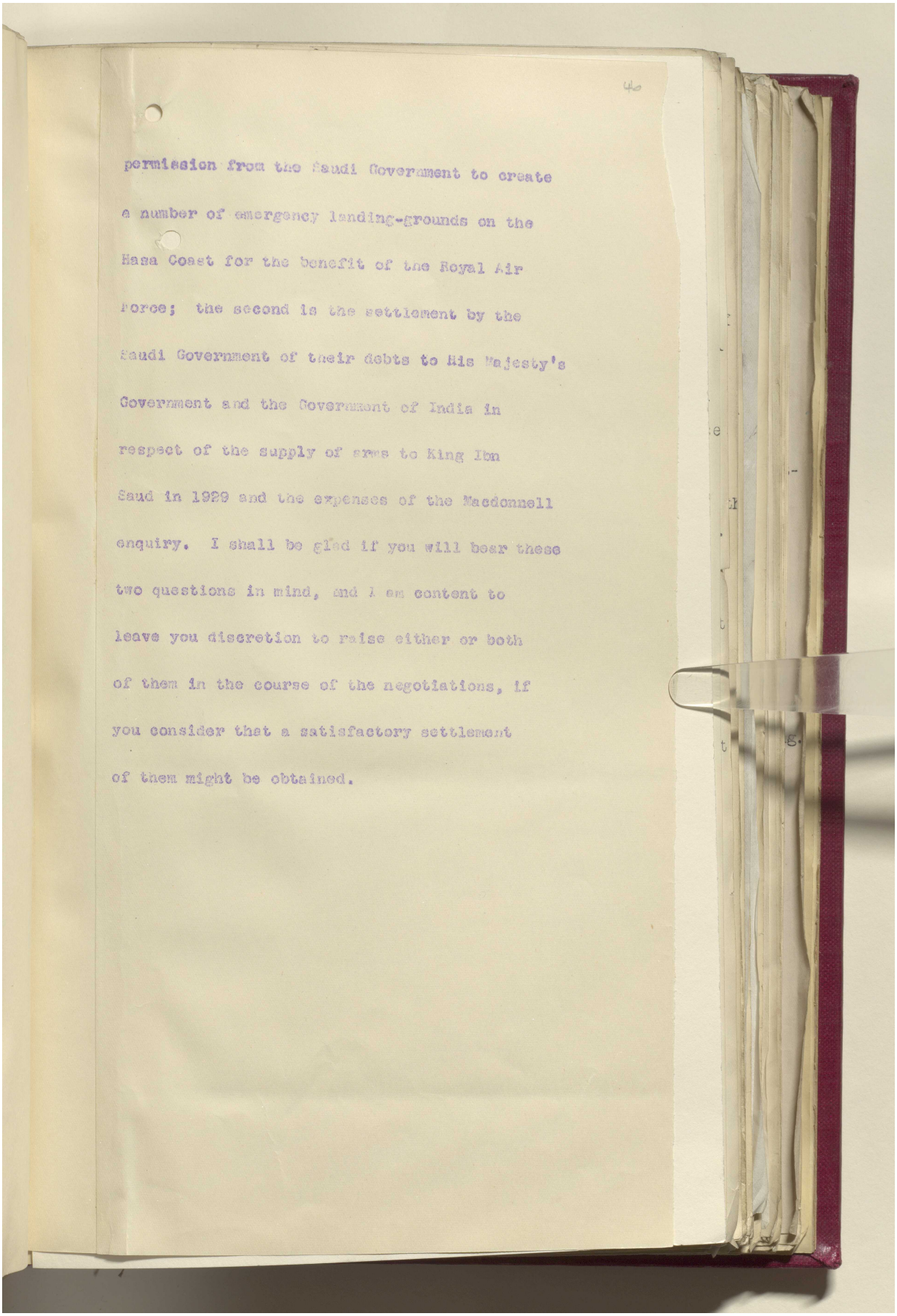

permission from the Saudi Government to create a number of emergency landing-grounds on the Hasa Coast for the benefit of the Royal Air Force; the second is the settlement by the Saudi Government of their debts to His Majesty's Government and the Government of India in respect of the supply of arms to King Ibn Saud in 1929 and the expenses of the Macdonnell enquiry. I shall be glad if you will bear these two questions in mind, and I am content to leave you discretion to raise either or both of them in the course of the negotiations, if you consider that a satisfactory settlement of them might be obtained.

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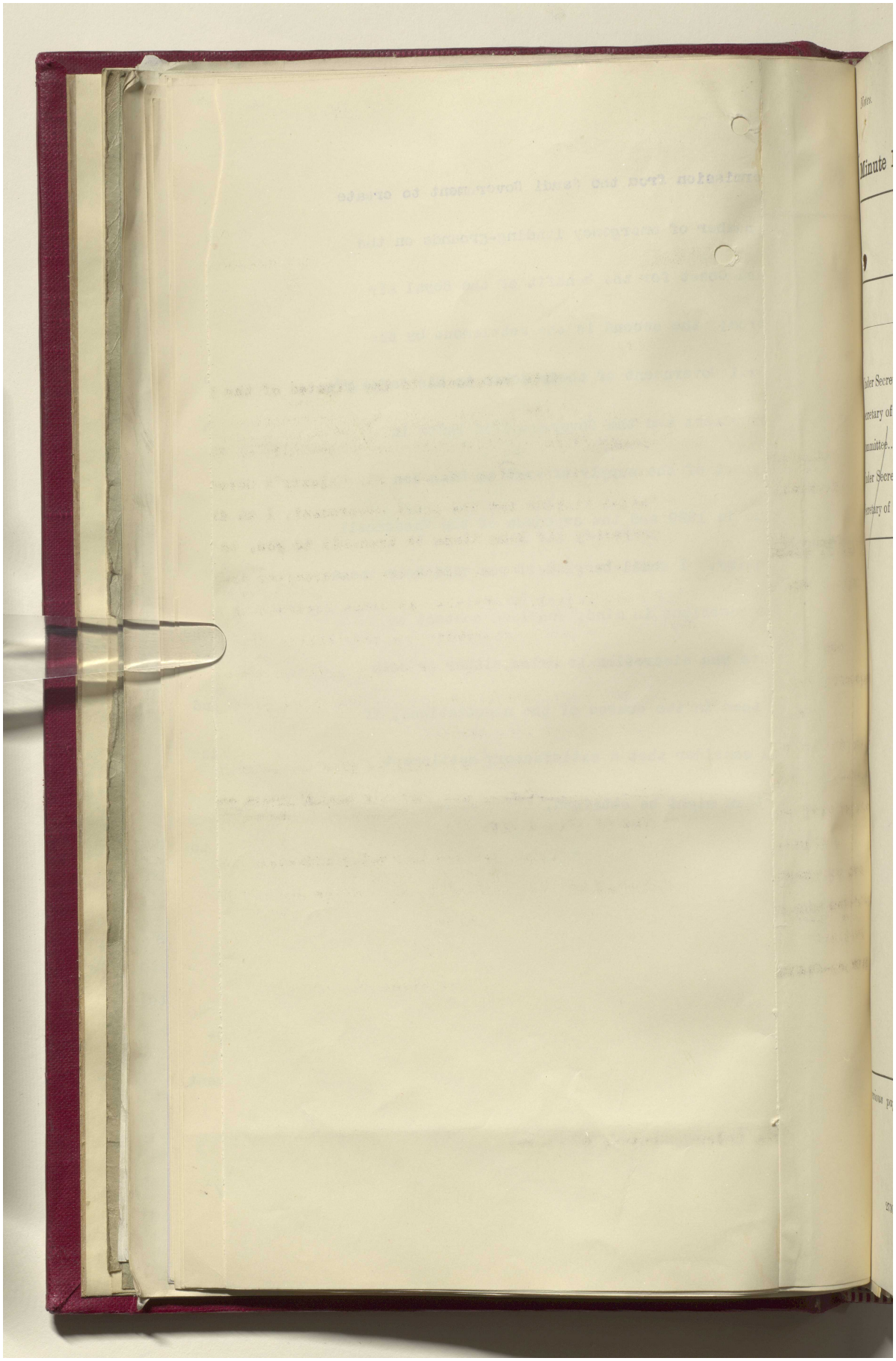

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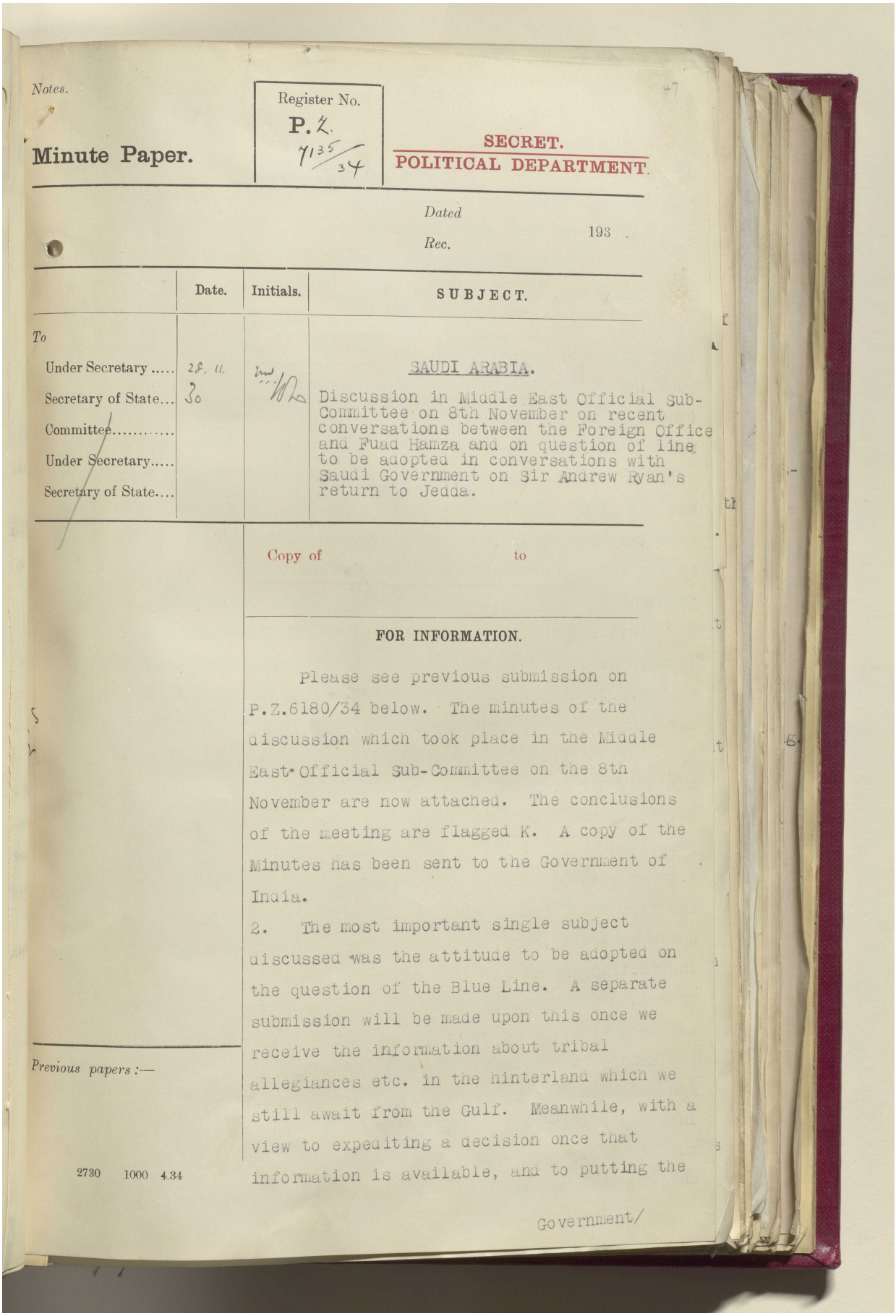

Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P.Z. 7135/34

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

47

Dated

Rec. 193

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	28. 11		SAUDI ARABIA.
Secretary of State...	30		Discussion in Middle East Official Sub-Committee on 8th November on recent conversations between the Foreign Office and Fuad Hamza and on question of line to be adopted in conversations with Saudi Government on Sir Andrew Ryan's return to Jedda.
Committee.....			
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State....			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

Please see previous submission on P.Z.6180/34 below. The minutes of the discussion which took place in the Middle East Official Sub-Committee on the 8th November are now attached. The conclusions of the meeting are flagged K. A copy of the Minutes has been sent to the Government of India.

2. The most important single subject discussed was the attitude to be adopted on the question of the Blue Line. A separate submission will be made upon this once we receive the information about tribal allegiances etc. in the hinterland which we still await from the Gulf. Meanwhile, with a view to expediting a decision once that information is available, and to putting the

Government/

Previous papers :—

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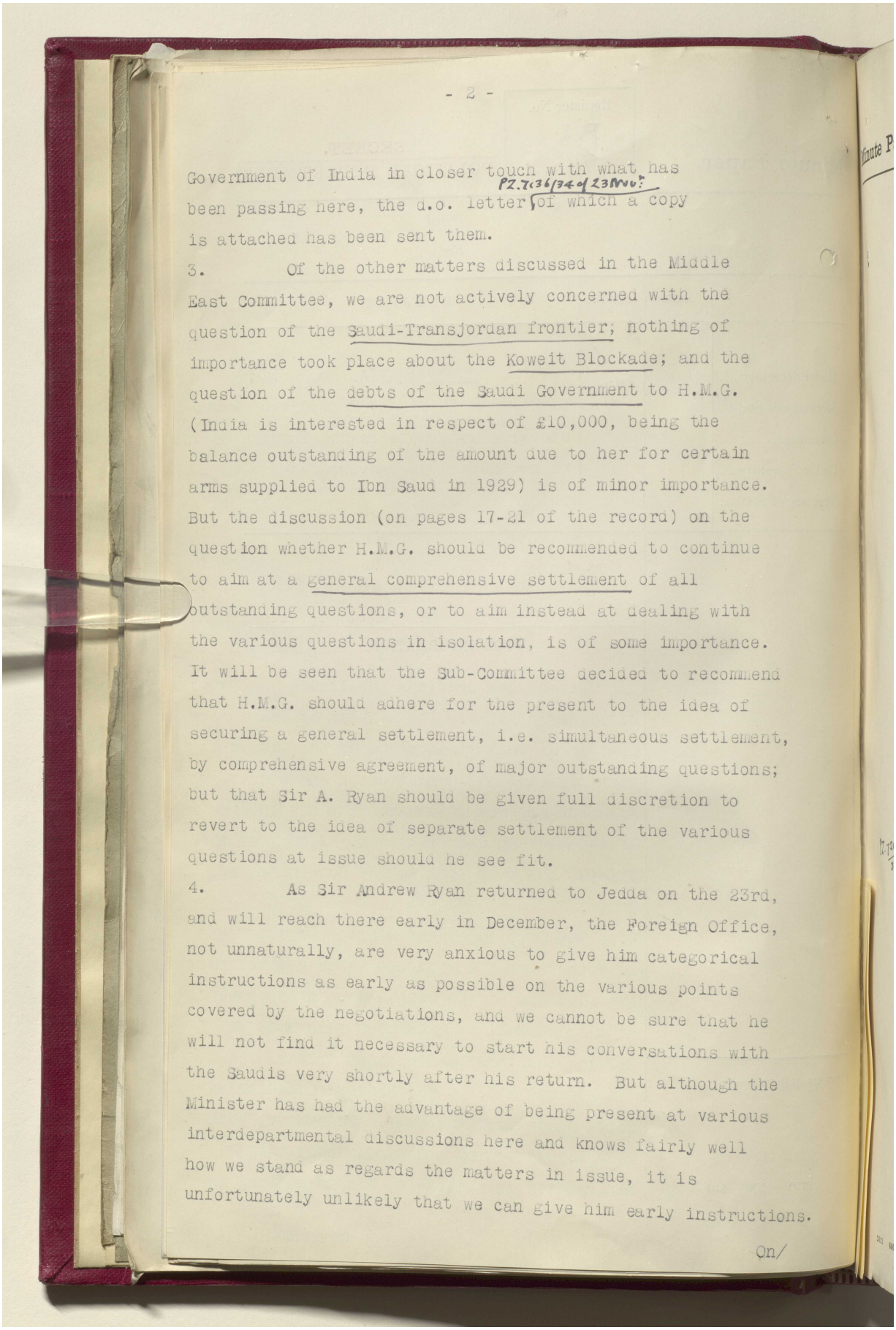

Government of India in closer touch with what has been passing here, the d.o. letter of which a copy is attached has been sent them.

3. Of the other matters discussed in the Middle East Committee, we are not actively concerned with the question of the Saudi-Transjordan frontier; nothing of importance took place about the Koweit Blockade; and the question of the debts of the Saudi Government to H.M.G. (India is interested in respect of £10,000, being the balance outstanding of the amount due to her for certain arms supplied to Ibn Saud in 1929) is of minor importance. But the discussion (on pages 17-21 of the record) on the question whether H.M.G. should be recommended to continue to aim at a general comprehensive settlement of all outstanding questions, or to aim instead at dealing with the various questions in isolation, is of some importance. It will be seen that the Sub-Committee decided to recommend that H.M.G. should adhere for the present to the idea of securing a general settlement, i.e. simultaneous settlement, by comprehensive agreement, of major outstanding questions; but that Sir A. Ryan should be given full discretion to revert to the idea of separate settlement of the various questions at issue should he see fit.

4. As Sir Andrew Ryan returned to Jedda on the 23rd, and will reach there early in December, the Foreign Office, not unnaturally, are very anxious to give him categorical instructions as early as possible on the various points covered by the negotiations, and we cannot be sure that he will not find it necessary to start his conversations with the Saudis very shortly after his return. But although the Minister has had the advantage of being present at various interdepartmental discussions here and knows fairly well how we stand as regards the matters in issue, it is unfortunately unlikely that we can give him early instructions.

On/

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Minute Paper. Department.

On the most important question - that of the Blue Line - we still await the detailed information which the Political Resident has been asked to obtain with a view to enabling H.M.G. to reach a decision as to the policy to be adopted. Fortunately, our position is slightly eased by the fact that Ibn Saud has so far failed to give us any positive indication of his desiderata as regards a frontier settlement and at a pinch the Minister could press for further light on this and make the absence of a clearer statement by the Saudis an excuse for delaying discussion generally. If it had been possible for him, pending a decision on the Blue Line, to start discussions in regard to the less important points on the agenda, such as the Koweit Blockade and the Bahrein Transit Dues, there would have been much advantage in this. But we cannot start to discuss the question of the Koweit Blockade until the Sheikh of Koweit has formally agreed to the abandonment of his claims against Ibn Saud, and the latest information from the Gulf is to the effect that pending the disposal of the Koweit oil negotiations it is undesirable to approach the Sheikh on this subject. We are not without hope that the oil negotiations may reach an early conclusion (there are various outstanding questions which we hesitate to broach with the Sheikh for fear of indisposing him pending their conclusion) in the near future. But it would be dangerous to try to hurry matters and there seems nothing for it, despite the very difficult position in which the Minister may be placed, but to continue to mark time for the moment. The Bahrein Transit Dues question/

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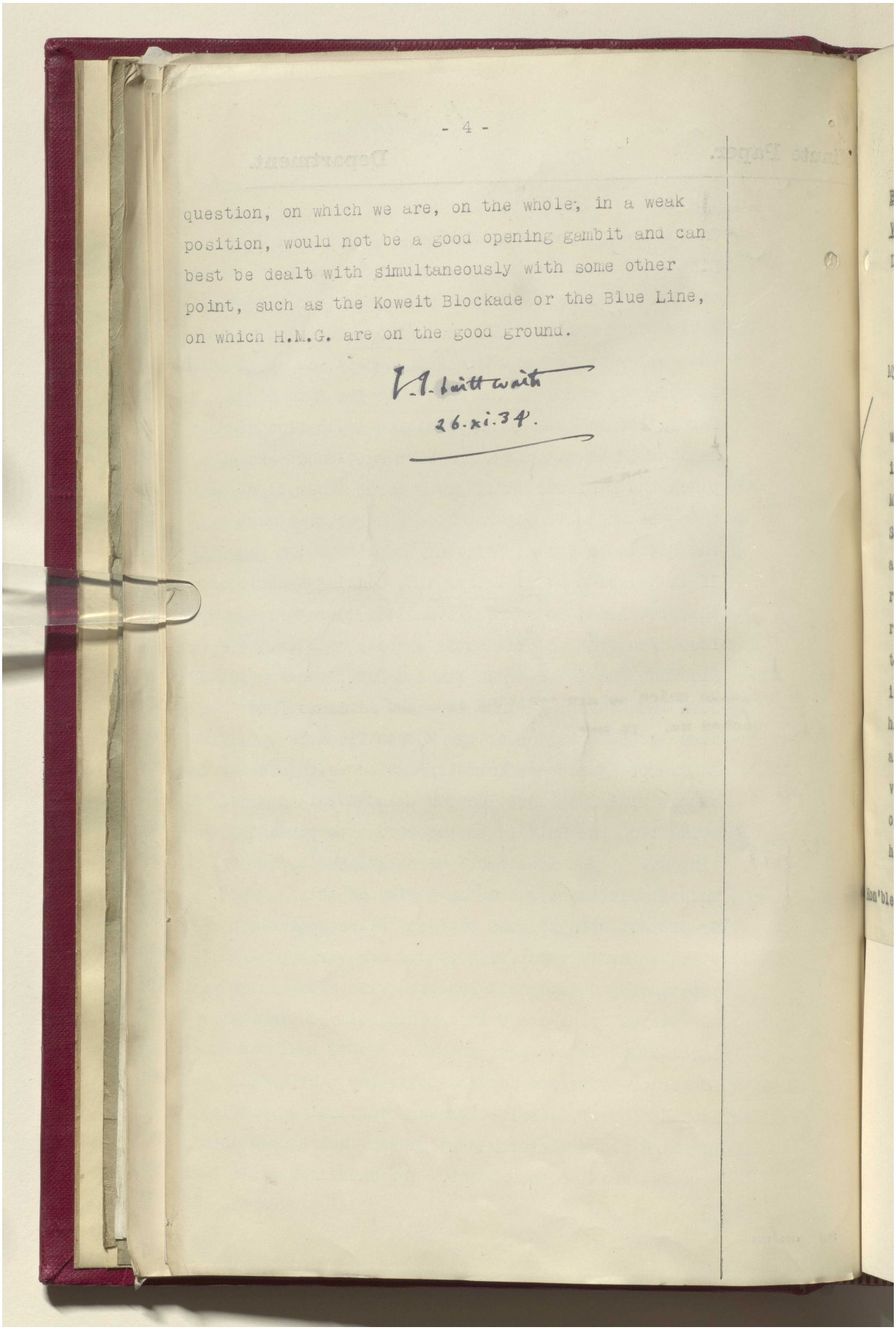

question, on which we are, on the whole, in a weak position, would not be a good opening gambit and can best be dealt with simultaneously with some other point, such as the Koweit Blockade or the Blue Line, on which H.M.G. are on the good ground.

V. A. Smith-Waith
26.xi.34.

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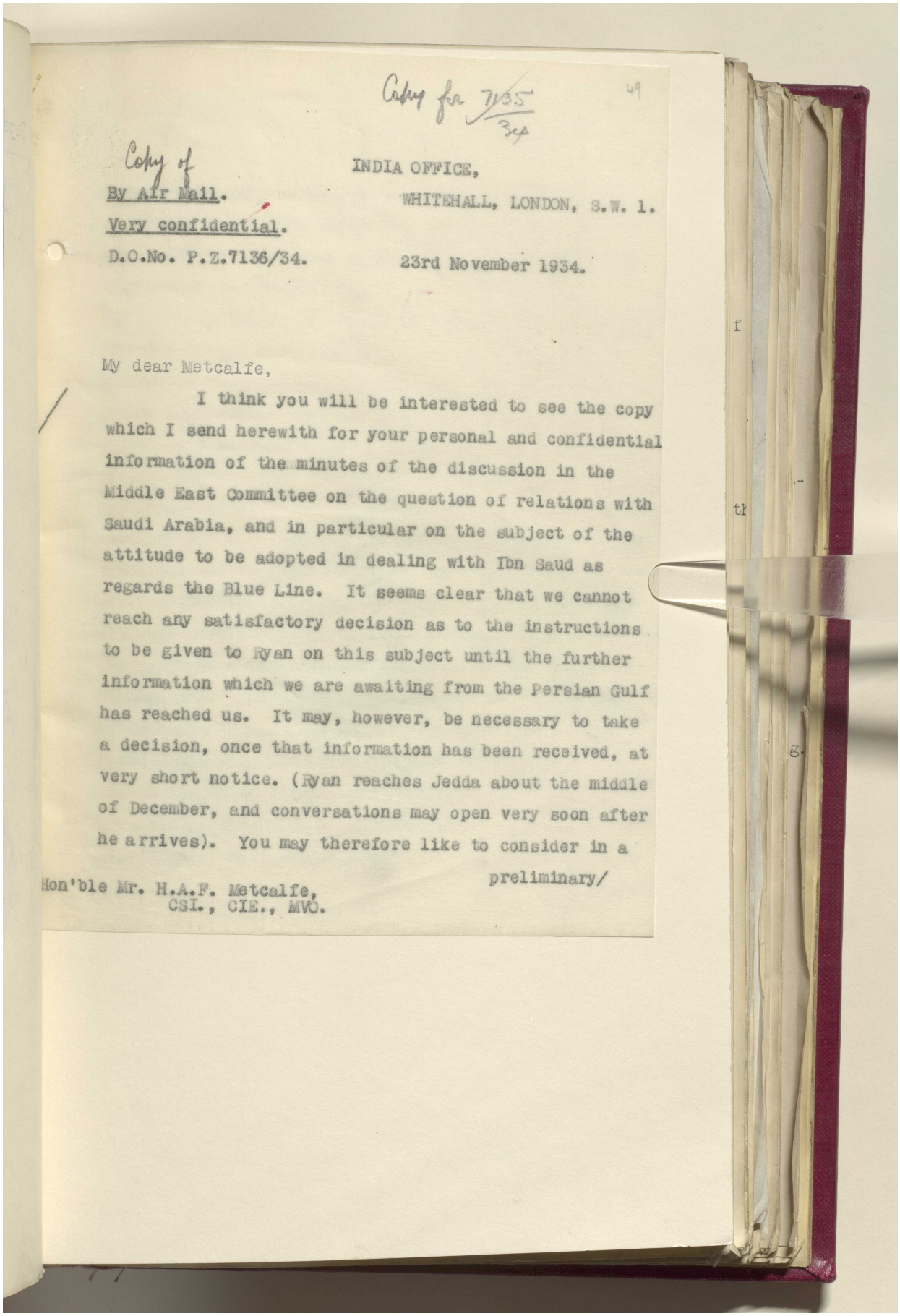

Copy for 7135/34

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Copy of

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W. 1.

By Air Mail.
Very confidential.
D.O.No. P.Z.7136/34.

23rd November 1934.

My dear Metcalfe,

I think you will be interested to see the copy which I send herewith for your personal and confidential information of the minutes of the discussion in the Middle East Committee on the question of relations with Saudi Arabia, and in particular on the subject of the attitude to be adopted in dealing with Ibn Saud as regards the Blue Line. It seems clear that we cannot reach any satisfactory decision as to the instructions to be given to Ryan on this subject until the further information which we are awaiting from the Persian Gulf has reached us. It may, however, be necessary to take a decision, once that information has been received, at very short notice. (Ryan reaches Jedda about the middle of December, and conversations may open very soon after he arrives). You may therefore like to consider in a preliminary/

Hon'ble Mr. H.A.F. Metcalfe,
CSI., CIE., MVO.

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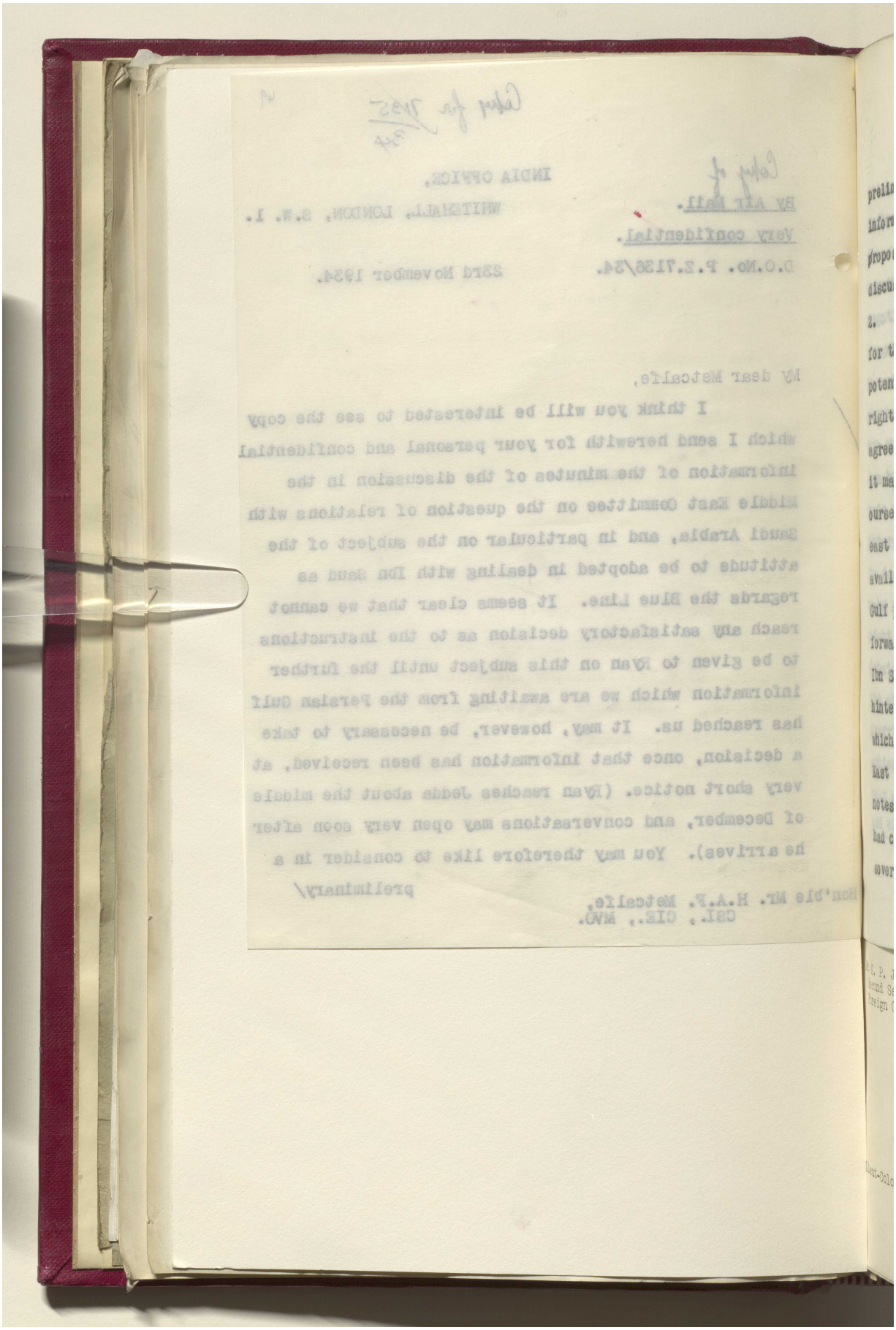

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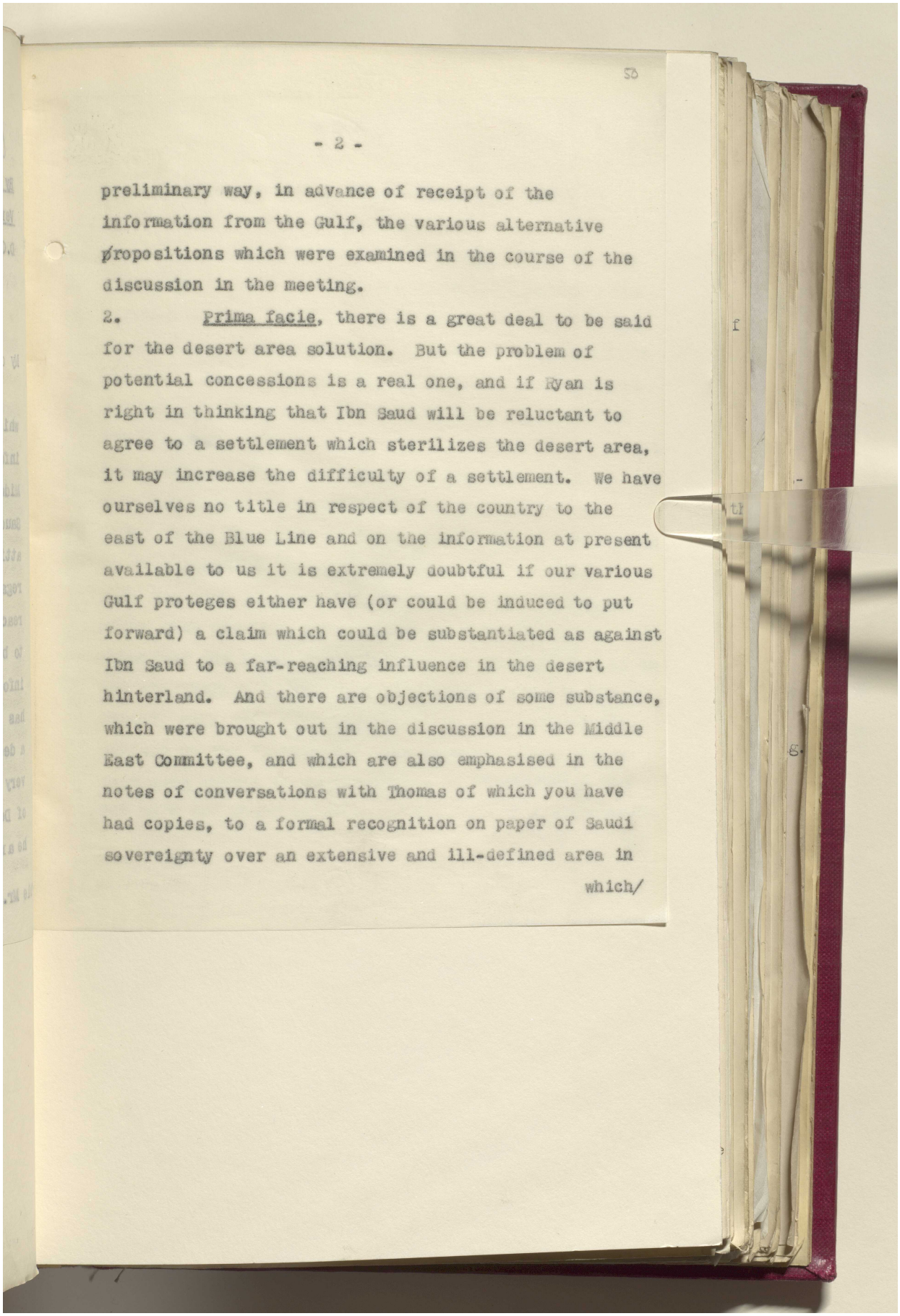

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preliminary way, in advance of receipt of the information from the Gulf, the various alternative propositions which were examined in the course of the discussion in the meeting.

2. Prima facie, there is a great deal to be said for the desert area solution. But the problem of potential concessions is a real one, and if Ryan is right in thinking that Ibn Saud will be reluctant to agree to a settlement which sterilizes the desert area, it may increase the difficulty of a settlement. We have ourselves no title in respect of the country to the east of the Blue Line and on the information at present available to us it is extremely doubtful if our various Gulf proteges either have (or could be induced to put forward) a claim which could be substantiated as against Ibn Saud to a far-reaching influence in the desert hinterland. And there are objections of some substance, which were brought out in the discussion in the Middle East Committee, and which are also emphasised in the notes of conversations with Thomas of which you have had copies, to a formal recognition on paper of Saudi sovereignty over an extensive and ill-defined area in

which/

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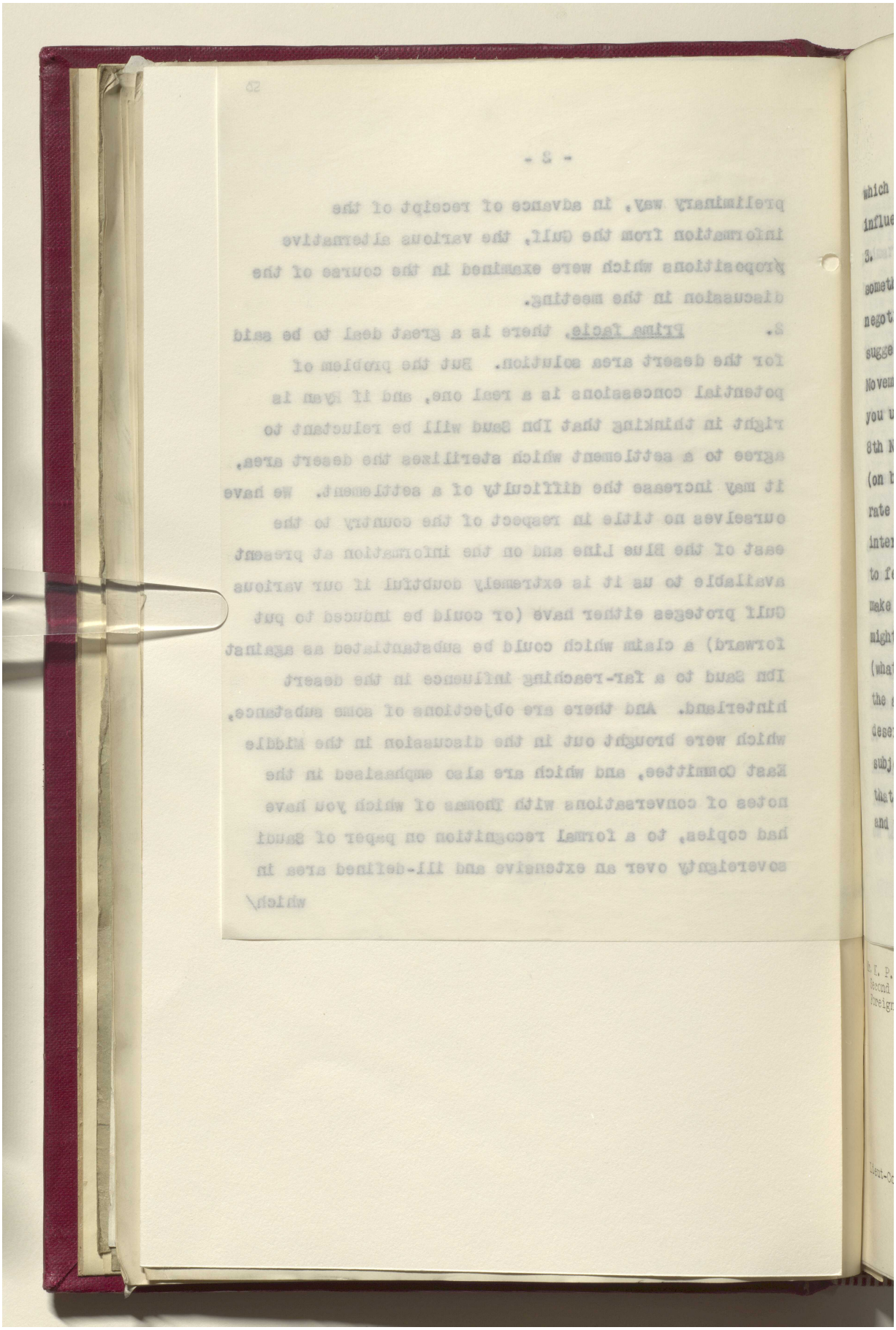

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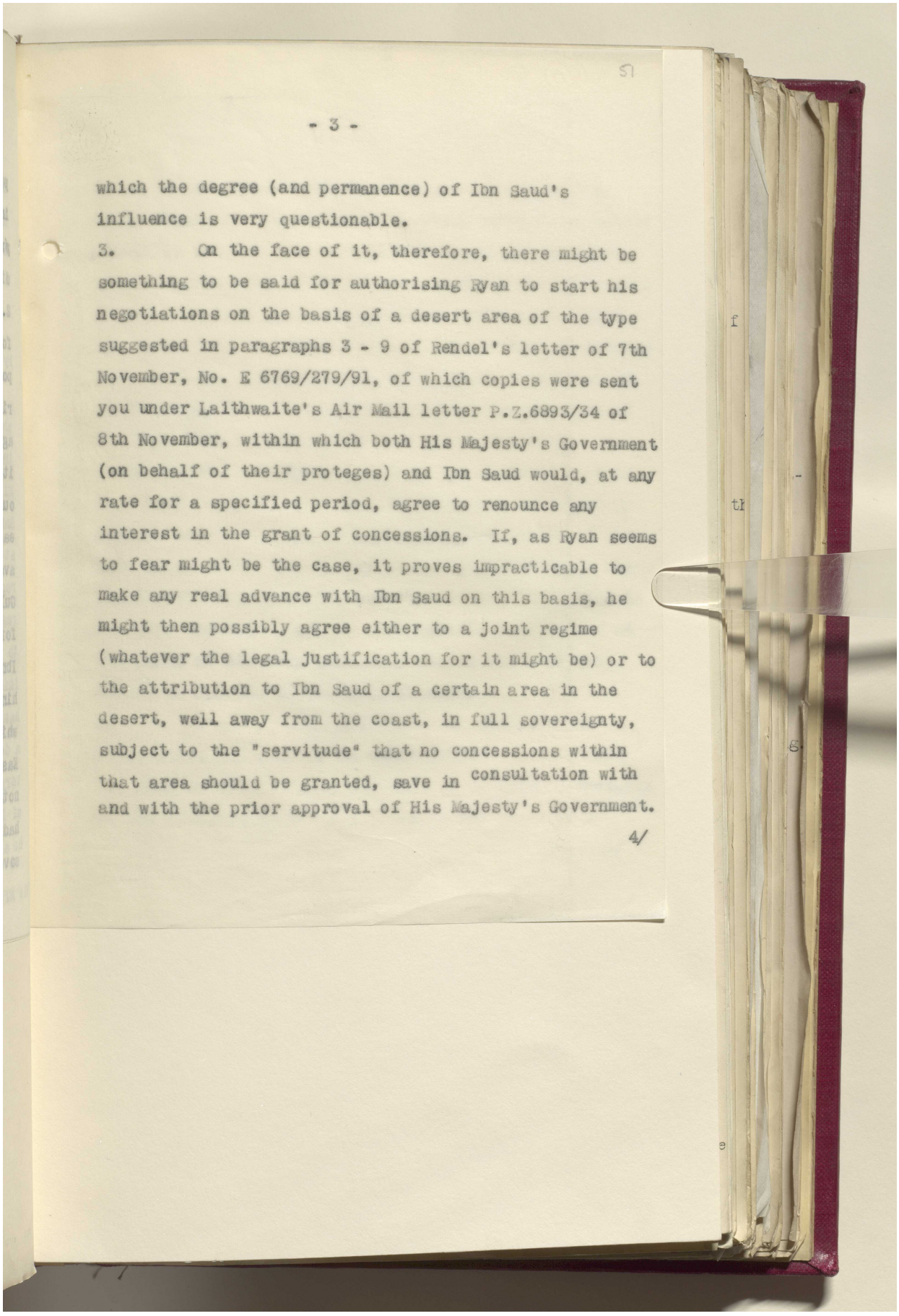

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which the degree (and permanence) of Ibn Saud's influence is very questionable.

3. On the face of it, therefore, there might be something to be said for authorising Ryan to start his negotiations on the basis of a desert area of the type suggested in paragraphs 3 - 9 of Rendel's letter of 7th November, No. E 6769/279/91, of which copies were sent you under Laithwaite's Air Mail letter P.Z.6893/34 of 8th November, within which both His Majesty's Government (on behalf of their proteges) and Ibn Saud would, at any rate for a specified period, agree to renounce any interest in the grant of concessions. If, as Ryan seems to fear might be the case, it proves impracticable to make any real advance with Ibn Saud on this basis, he might then possibly agree either to a joint regime (whatever the legal justification for it might be) or to the attribution to Ibn Saud of a certain area in the desert, well away from the coast, in full sovereignty, subject to the "servitude" that no concessions within that area should be granted, save in consultation with and with the prior approval of His Majesty's Government.

4/

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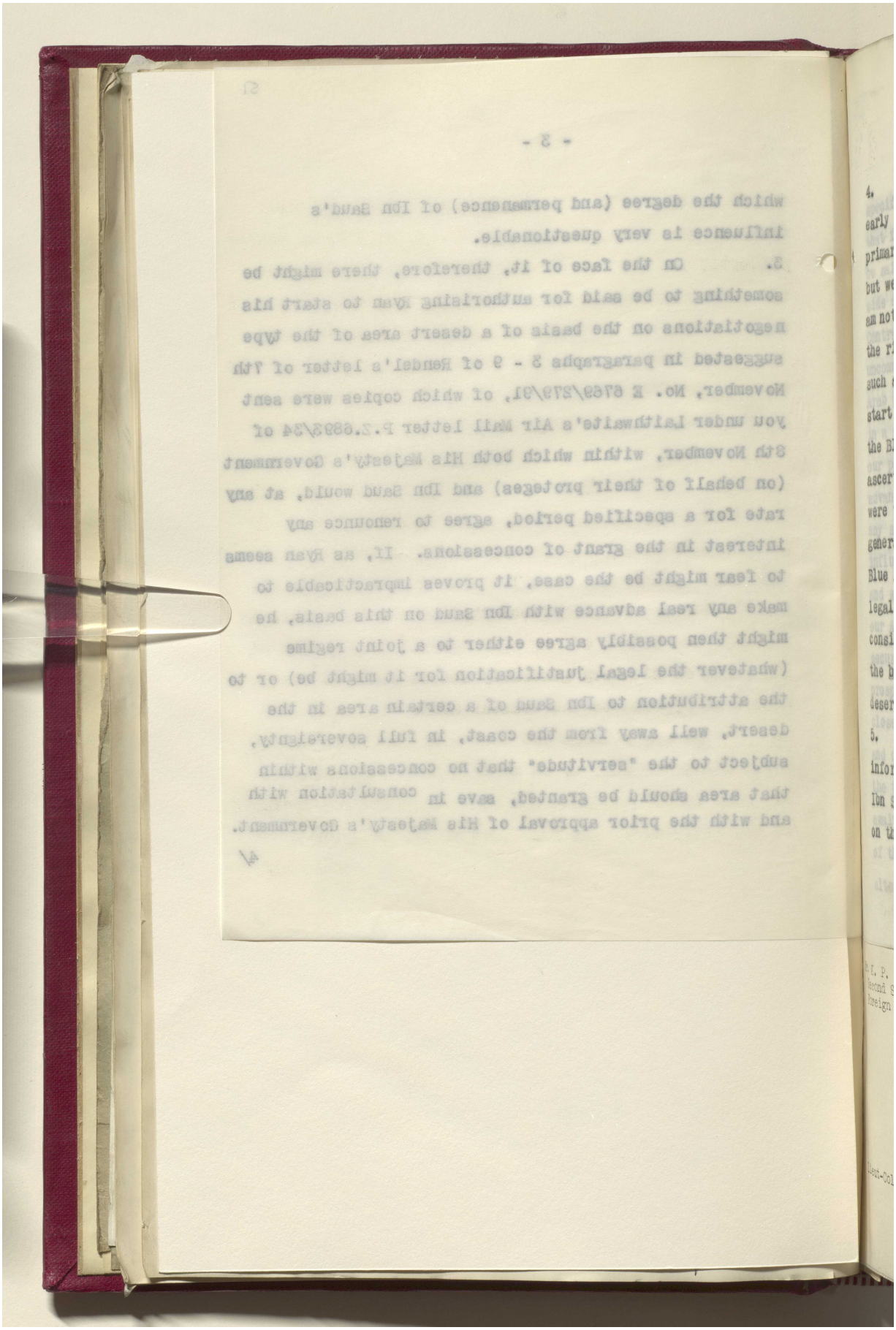

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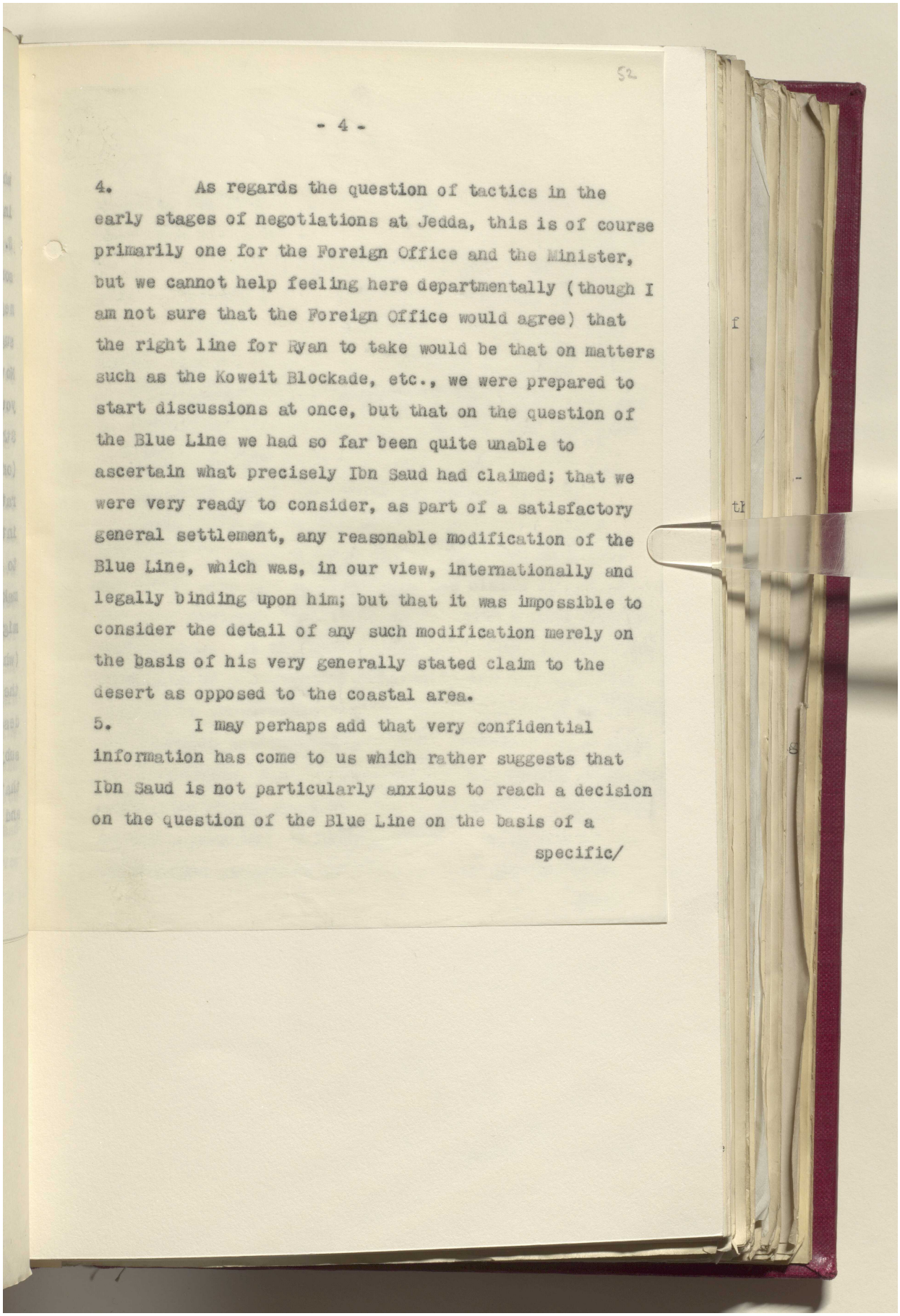

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4. As regards the question of tactics in the early stages of negotiations at Jedda, this is of course primarily one for the Foreign Office and the Minister, but we cannot help feeling here departmentally (though I am not sure that the Foreign Office would agree) that the right line for Ryan to take would be that on matters such as the Koweit Blockade, etc., we were prepared to start discussions at once, but that on the question of the Blue Line we had so far been quite unable to ascertain what precisely Ibn Saud had claimed; that we were very ready to consider, as part of a satisfactory general settlement, any reasonable modification of the Blue Line, which was, in our view, internationally and legally binding upon him; but that it was impossible to consider the detail of any such modification merely on the basis of his very generally stated claim to the desert as opposed to the coastal area.

5. I may perhaps add that very confidential information has come to us which rather suggests that Ibn Saud is not particularly anxious to reach a decision on the question of the Blue Line on the basis of a

specific/

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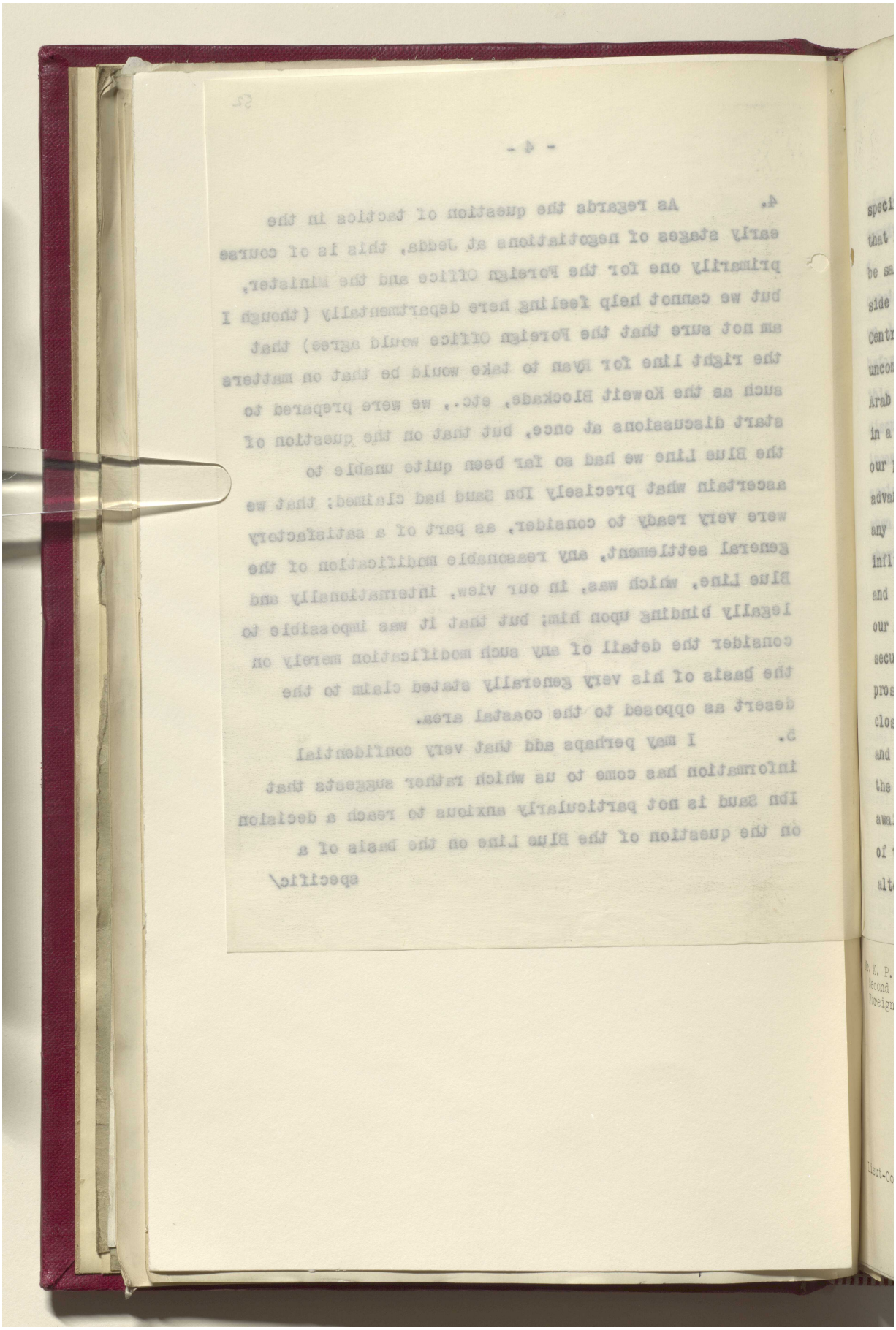

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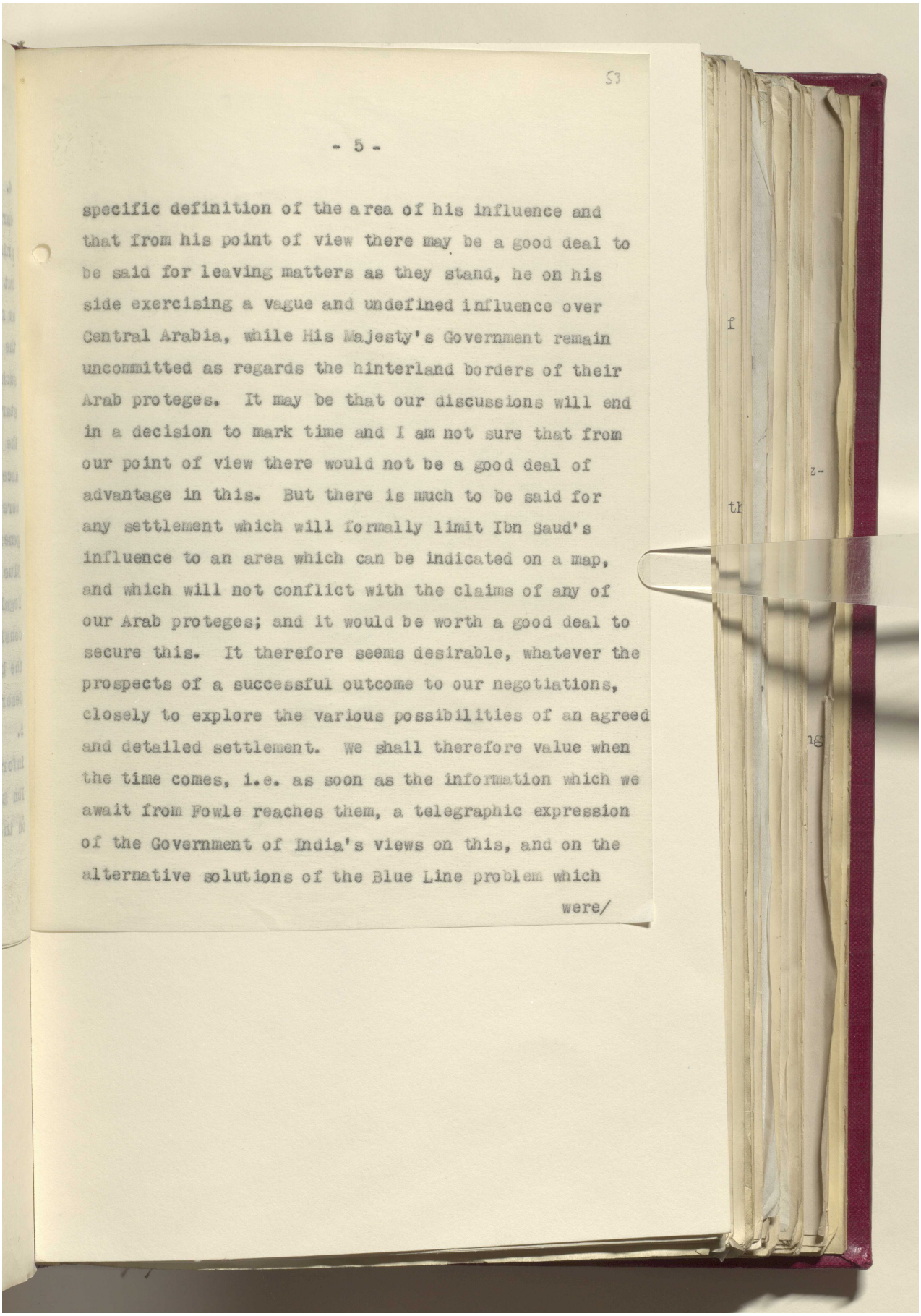

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specific definition of the area of his influence and that from his point of view there may be a good deal to be said for leaving matters as they stand, he on his side exercising a vague and undefined influence over Central Arabia, while His Majesty's Government remain uncommitted as regards the hinterland borders of their Arab proteges. It may be that our discussions will end in a decision to mark time and I am not sure that from our point of view there would not be a good deal of advantage in this. But there is much to be said for any settlement which will formally limit Ibn Saud's influence to an area which can be indicated on a map, and which will not conflict with the claims of any of our Arab proteges; and it would be worth a good deal to secure this. It therefore seems desirable, whatever the prospects of a successful outcome to our negotiations, closely to explore the various possibilities of an agreed and detailed settlement. We shall therefore value when the time comes, i.e. as soon as the information which we await from Fowle reaches them, a telegraphic expression of the Government of India's views on this, and on the alternative solutions of the Blue Line problem which

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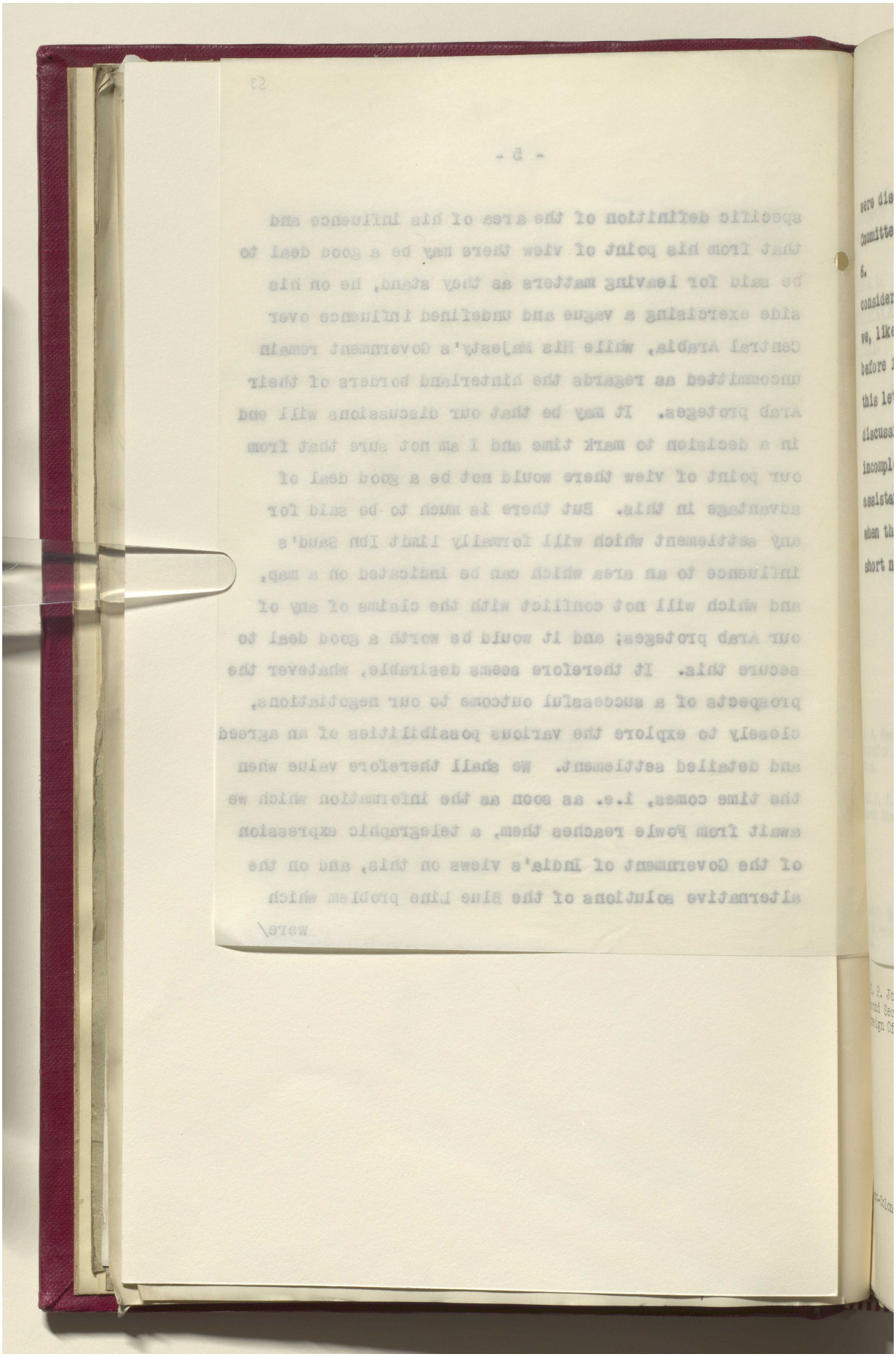

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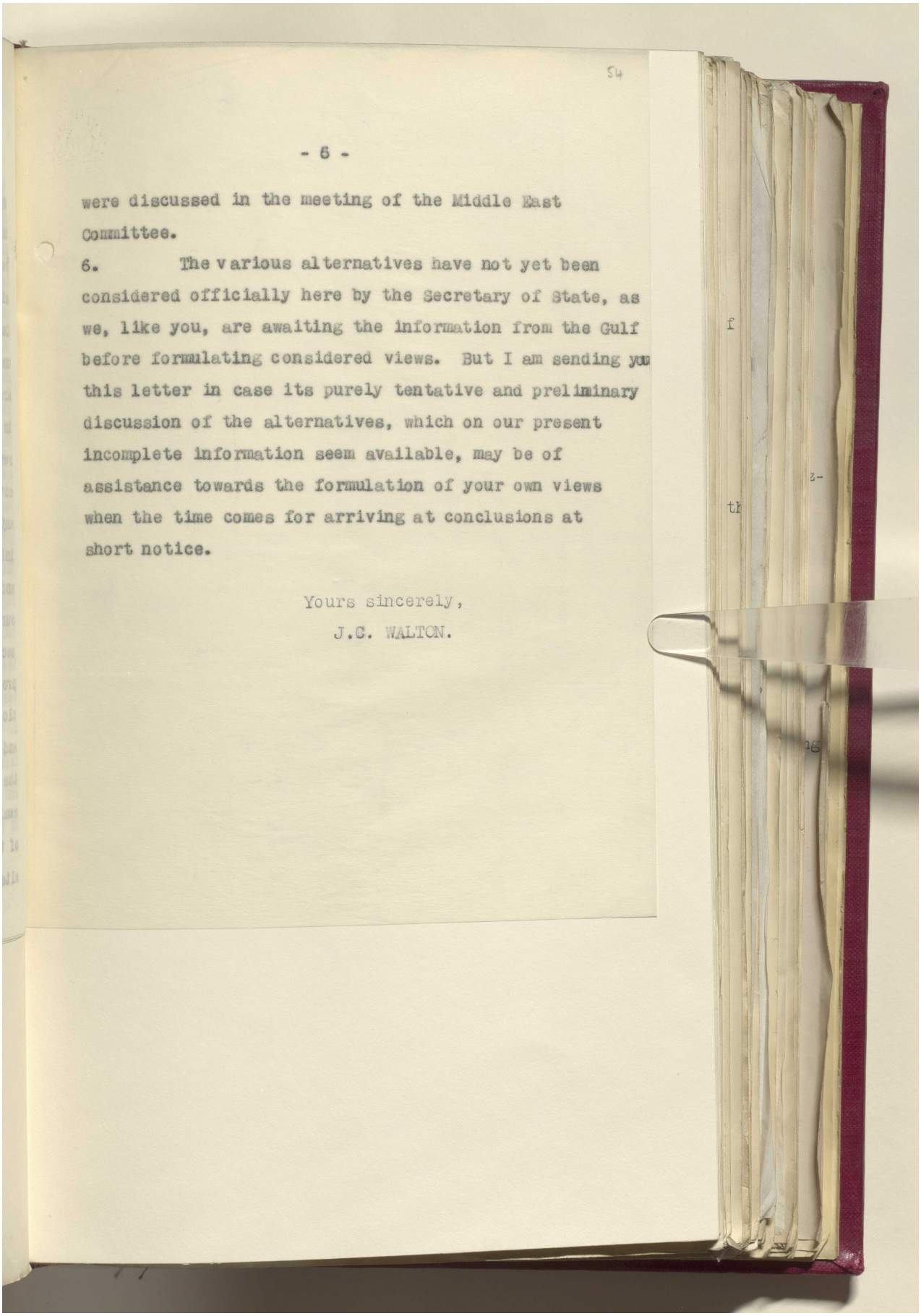

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were discussed in the meeting of the Middle East Committee.

6. The various alternatives have not yet been considered officially here by the Secretary of State, as we, like you, are awaiting the information from the Gulf before formulating considered views. But I am sending you this letter in case its purely tentative and preliminary discussion of the alternatives, which on our present incomplete information seem available, may be of assistance towards the formulation of your own views when the time comes for arriving at conclusions at short notice.

Yours sincerely,

J.C. WALTON.

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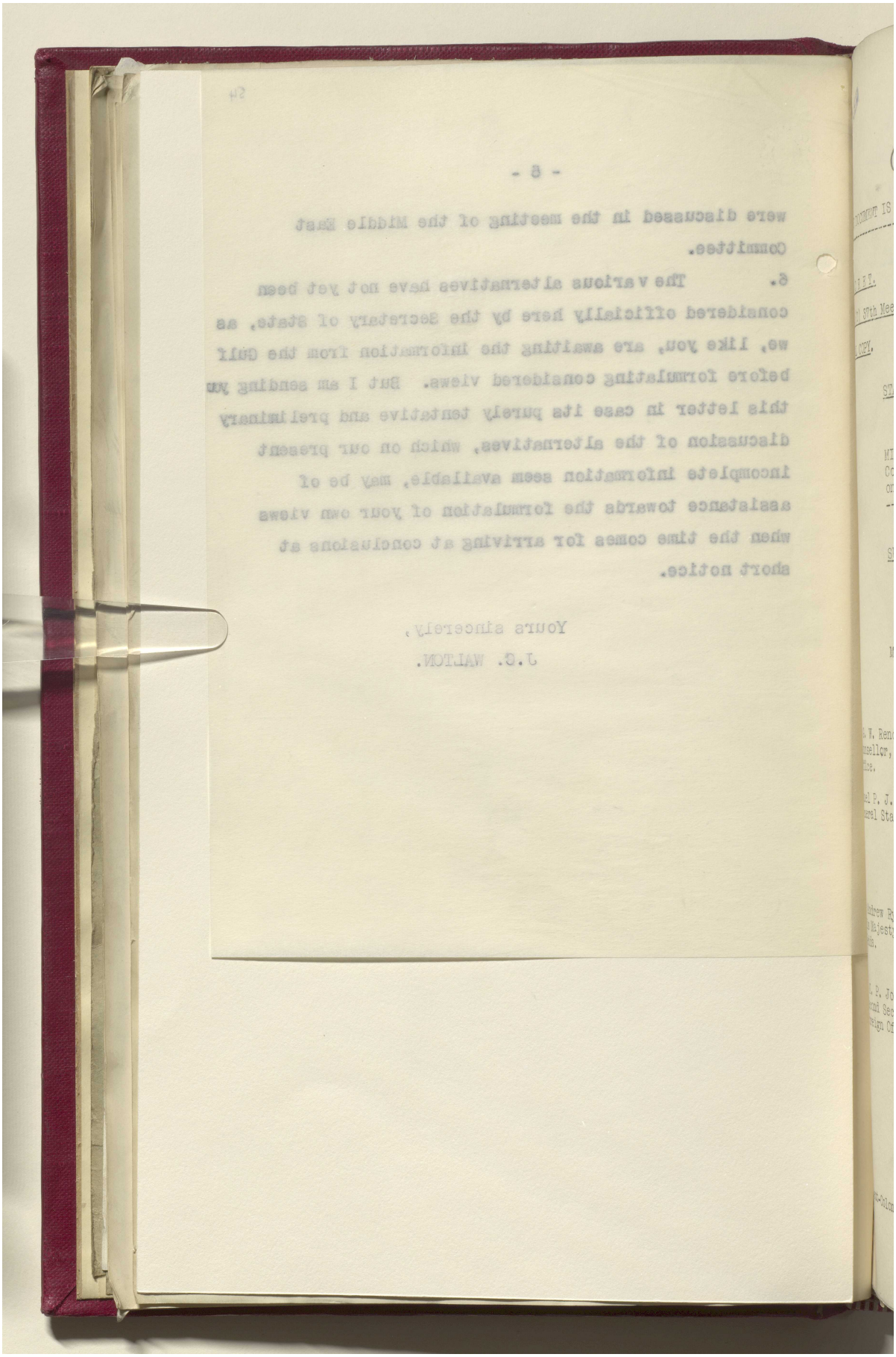

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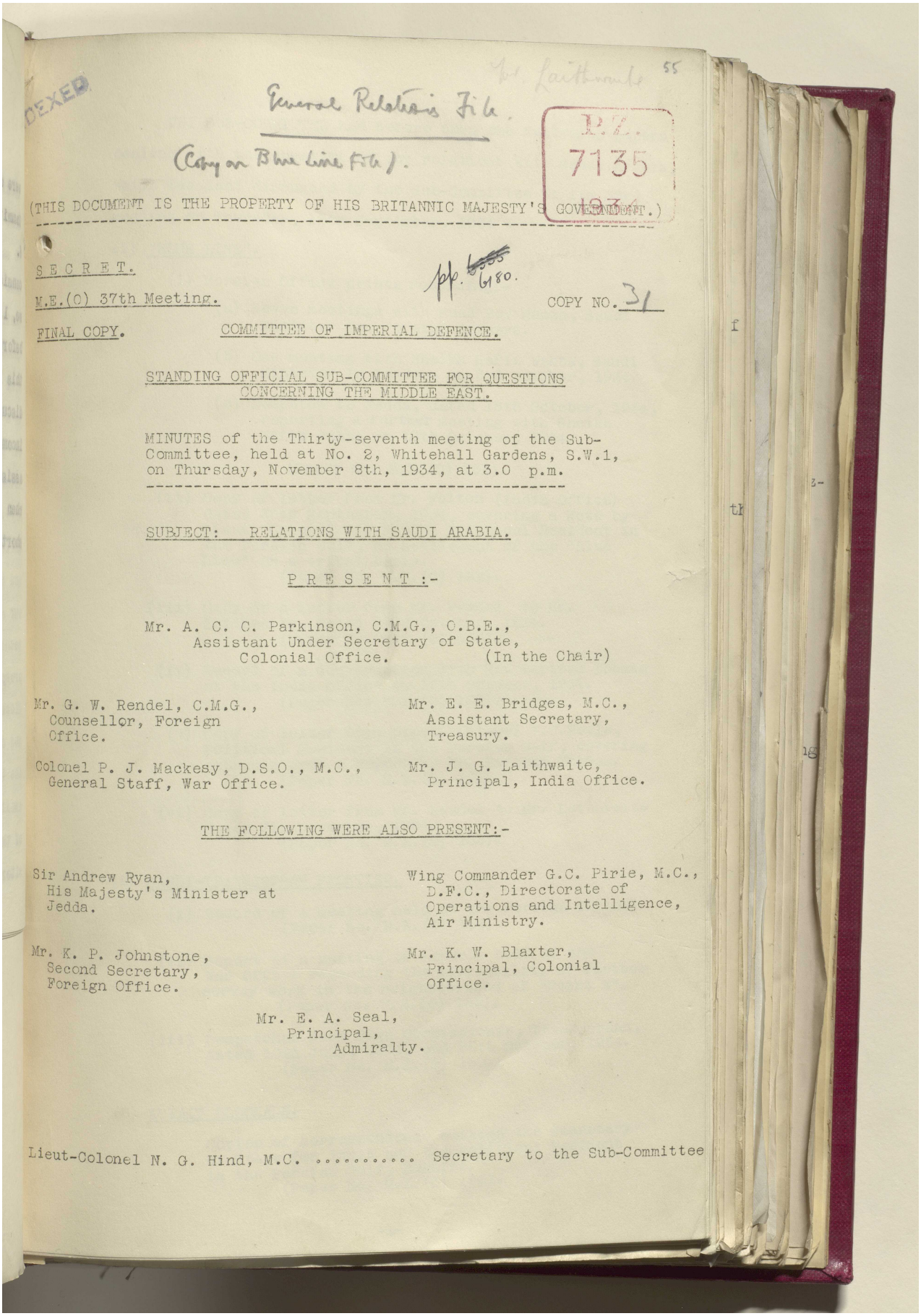

DEXED

General Relations File.

(Copy on Blue Line File).

P.Z. 7135 1934

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SECRET.

M.E.(O) 37th Meeting.

pp. 6180.

COPY NO. 31

FINAL COPY.

COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

STANDING OFFICIAL SUB-COMMITTEE FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST.

MINUTES of the Thirty-seventh meeting of the Sub-Committee, held at No. 2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1, on Thursday, November 8th, 1934, at 3.0 p.m.

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA.

PRESENT:-

Mr. A. C. C. Parkinson, C.M.G., C.B.E., Assistant Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office. (In the Chair)

Mr. G. W. Rendel, C.M.G., Counsellor, Foreign Office.

Mr. E. E. Bridges, M.C., Assistant Secretary, Treasury.

Colonel P. J. Mackesy, D.S.O., M.C., General Staff, War Office.

Mr. J. G. Laithwaite, Principal, India Office.

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:-

Sir Andrew Ryan, His Majesty's Minister at Jedda.

Wing Commander G.C. Pirie, M.C., D.F.C., Directorate of Operations and Intelligence, Air Ministry.

Mr. K. P. Johnstone, Second Secretary, Foreign Office.

Mr. K. W. Blaxter, Principal, Colonial Office.

Mr. E. A. Seal, Principal, Admiralty.

Lieut-Colonel N. G. Hind, M.C. ..... Secretary to the Sub-Committee

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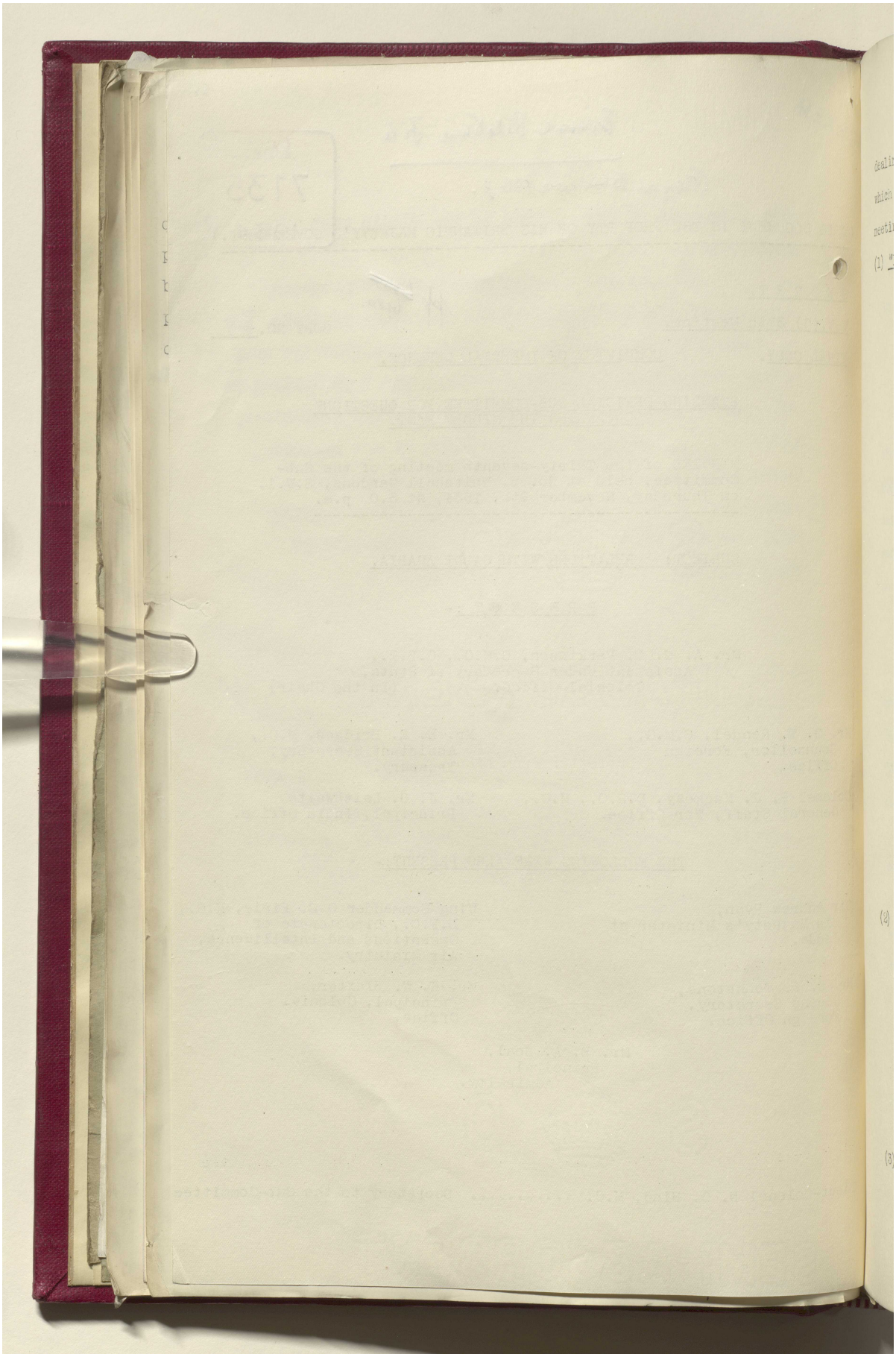

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THE SUB-COMMITTEE had before them the following papers dealing with the question of our relations with Saudi Arabia, which was last discussed by the Sub-Committee at its 33rd meeting on Thursday, 13th September, 1934 -

(1) "BLUE LINE".

(i) Foreign Office prints recording:-

(a) Seven meetings with Fuad Bey Hamza, Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(b) One meeting with Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, Saudi Minister in London, on 3rd October, 1934.

(c) Despatch to Jedda, dated 18th October, 1934, reporting a further meeting with Sheikh Hafiz Wahba on 15th October, 1934.

(Paper No. M.E.(O) 151).

(ii) Copy of letter from Mr. Walton (India Office) dated 26th September, 1934, covering a Note by Lieut. Colonel T.C.Fowle, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, on settlement of the "Blue Line" on a tribal basis.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 152).

(iii) Copy of a letter from Mr. Rendel to Mr. Laithwaite, dated 23rd October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 153).

(iv) Record of a conversation with Mr. Bertram Thomas at the India Office on 19th October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 158).

(v) Copy of letter from Lieut. Colonel T.C.Fowle, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, covering extracts from a Report by Mr. Bertram Thomas.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 161).

(vi) Copy of letter from Mr. Rendel to Mr. Laithwaite dated 7th November, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 162).

(2) SAUDI-TRANSJORDAN FRONTIER.

(i) Record of a meeting held at the Foreign Office.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 154).

(ii) Report of a meeting of experts held at the War Office regarding the advisability of further survey work in the neighbourhood of "Point E".
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 155).

(iii) Despatches from High Commissioner, Transjordan, dated 10th July, 1934, and 26th October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 160).

(3) KUWAIT BLOCKADE.

Copies of correspondence between the Secretary of State for India and the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 156).

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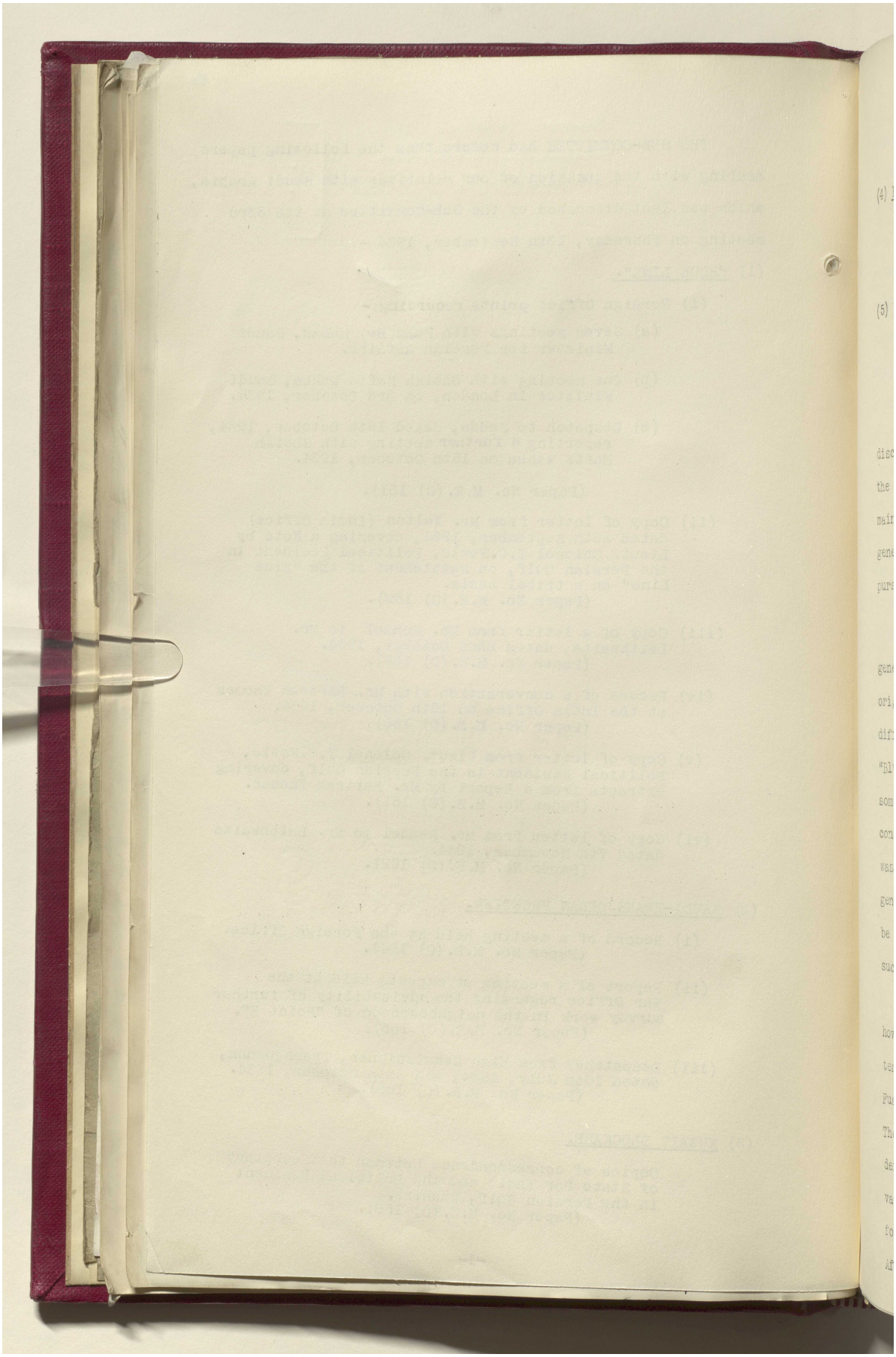

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(4) BAHREIN TRANSIT DUES.

Record of a meeting held at the Foreign Office on the 8th October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 157).

(5) BOUNDARIES OF THE HADRAMAUT.

Copy of correspondence with the Resident at Aden.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 159).

THE CHAIRMAN said that the meeting was being held to discuss with Sir Andrew Ryan, prior to his return to Jedda, the general question of relations with Ibn Saud. The main question to decide was whether the proposal for a general settlement of outstanding questions should be pursued or not.

MR. RENDEL recalled that the suggestion for a new general comprehensive settlement with Ibn Saud had originally been put forward mainly as a result of the difficulties which had developed over the question of the "Blu Line". It was clear that we should have to make some concession to Ibn Saud in this area, and if this concession was not to be represented as a surrender it was desirable that it should be brought into some kind of general settlement. Moreover the concession could then be used as a lever to secure a favourable settlement of such other outstanding matters as the Koweit blockade.

The proposal for a comprehensive settlement was still, however, only tentative, and it was only on a purely tentative and informal basis that it had been discussed with Fuad Bey Hamza during his visit to England in September. The intention had been to work out something much more definite before submission to Ministers; but, owing to various delays, this had not yet been possible, so that the formal approval of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had not yet been obtained. The delay had been

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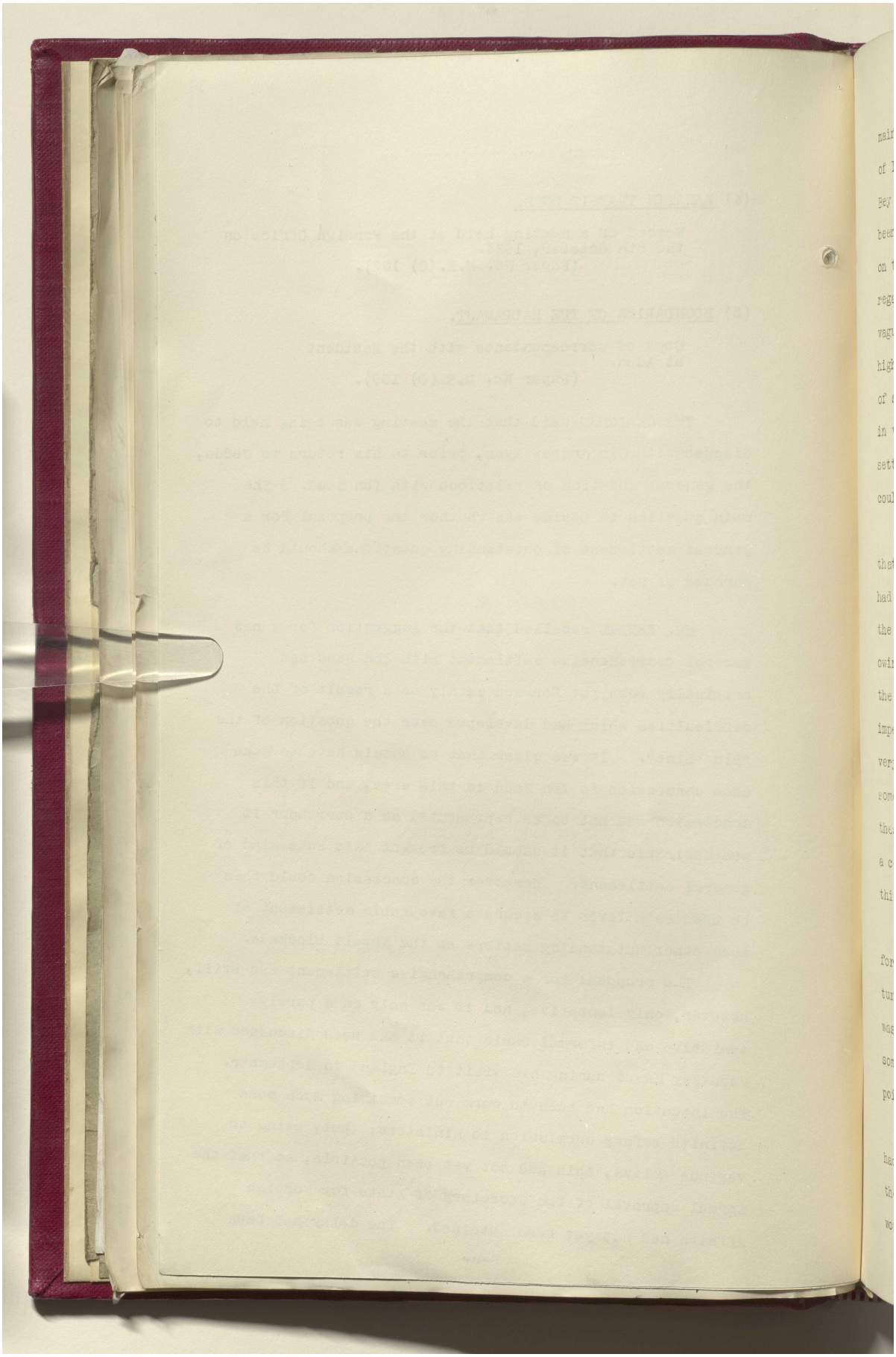

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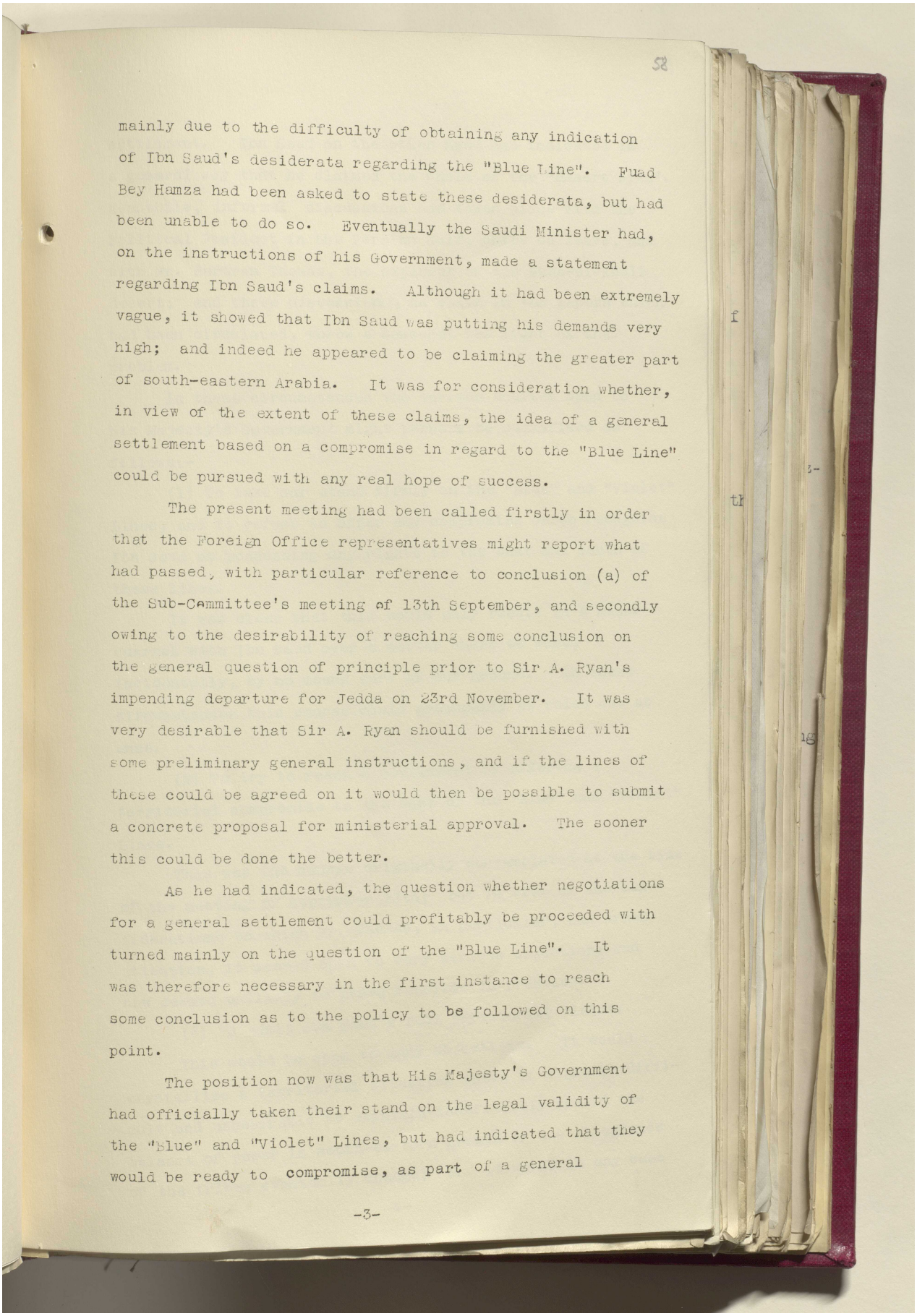

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mainly due to the difficulty of obtaining any indication of Ibn Saud's desiderata regarding the "Blue Line". Fuad Bey Hamza had been asked to state these desiderata, but had been unable to do so. Eventually the Saudi Minister had, on the instructions of his Government, made a statement regarding Ibn Saud's claims. Although it had been extremely vague, it showed that Ibn Saud was putting his demands very high; and indeed he appeared to be claiming the greater part of south-eastern Arabia. It was for consideration whether, in view of the extent of these claims, the idea of a general settlement based on a compromise in regard to the "Blue Line" could be pursued with any real hope of success.

The present meeting had been called firstly in order that the Foreign Office representatives might report what had passed, with particular reference to conclusion (a) of the Sub-Committee's meeting of 13th September, and secondly owing to the desirability of reaching some conclusion on the general question of principle prior to Sir A. Ryan's impending departure for Jedda on 23rd November. It was very desirable that Sir A. Ryan should be furnished with some preliminary general instructions, and if the lines of these could be agreed on it would then be possible to submit a concrete proposal for ministerial approval. The sooner this could be done the better.

As he had indicated, the question whether negotiations for a general settlement could profitably be proceeded with turned mainly on the question of the "Blue Line". It was therefore necessary in the first instance to reach some conclusion as to the policy to be followed on this point.

The position now was that His Majesty's Government had officially taken their stand on the legal validity of the "Blue" and "Violet" Lines, but had indicated that they would be ready to compromise, as part of a general

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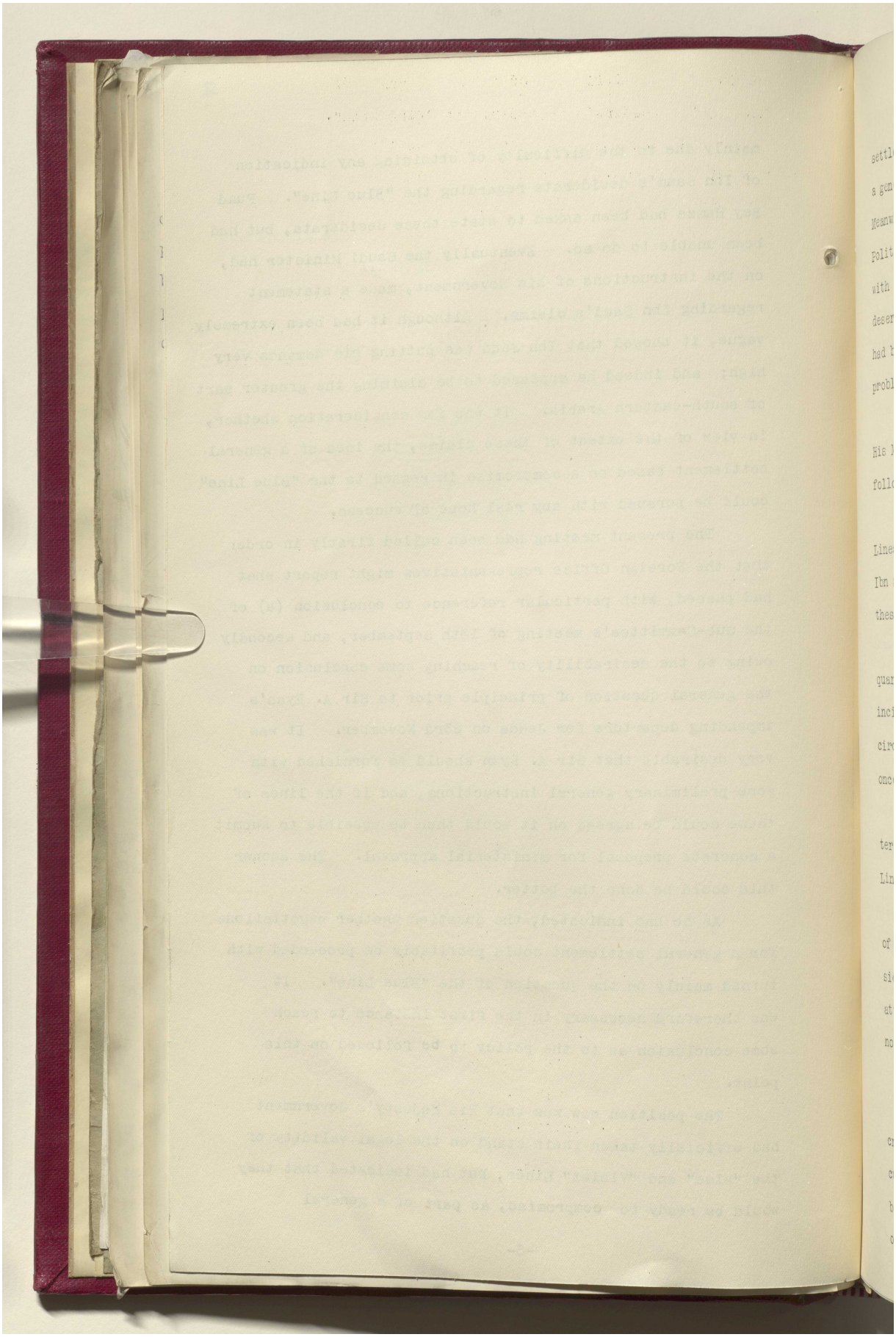

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settlement. Ibn Saud on the other hand had indicated in a general way that he claimed the whole of the "desert area". Meanwhile, informal discussions had taken place with the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, while on leave, and with Mr. Bertram Thomas, the explorer of the Ruba-al-Khali desert; and these discussions, as shown in the papers which had been circulated, threw a somewhat new light on the problem.

In these circumstances the various courses open to His Majesty's Government might perhaps be summarised as follows:-

(1) To take our stand firmly on the "Blue" and "Violet" Lines, and to refuse to offer any compromise or to recognise Ibn Saud as possessing any rights to the east and south of these lines.

It was clear that this would only result in a major quarrel with Ibn Saud over a matter where we were, incidentally, by no means sure of our ground. In these circumstances this course could presumably be ruled out at once.

(2) To try to reach a settlement by offering a territorial compromise to the east of the "Blue" and "Violet" Lines.

This was the course originally contemplated at the time of the meeting of September 13th; but in view of the considerations to which Mr. Thomas, in particular, had drawn attention, it seemed open to very serious objections and now seemed unlikely to prove feasible in practice.

(3) To admit Ibn Saud's full territorial claims.

This would be open to many objections. It would crystallise a territorial situation which it might be difficult and undesirable to maintain indefinitely should the balance of power in south-eastern Arabia or the allegiance of the tribes eventually change; and it would in any case

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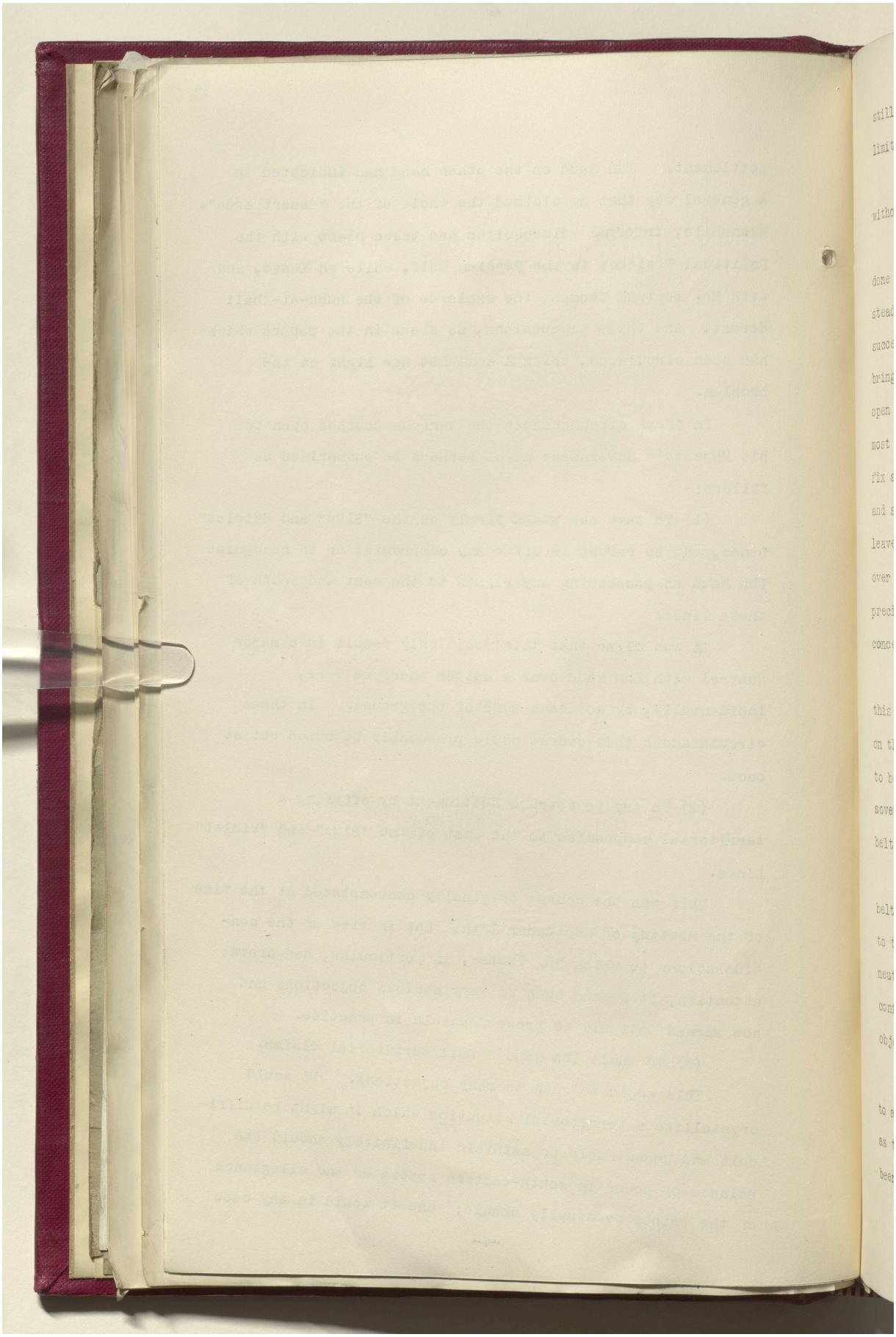

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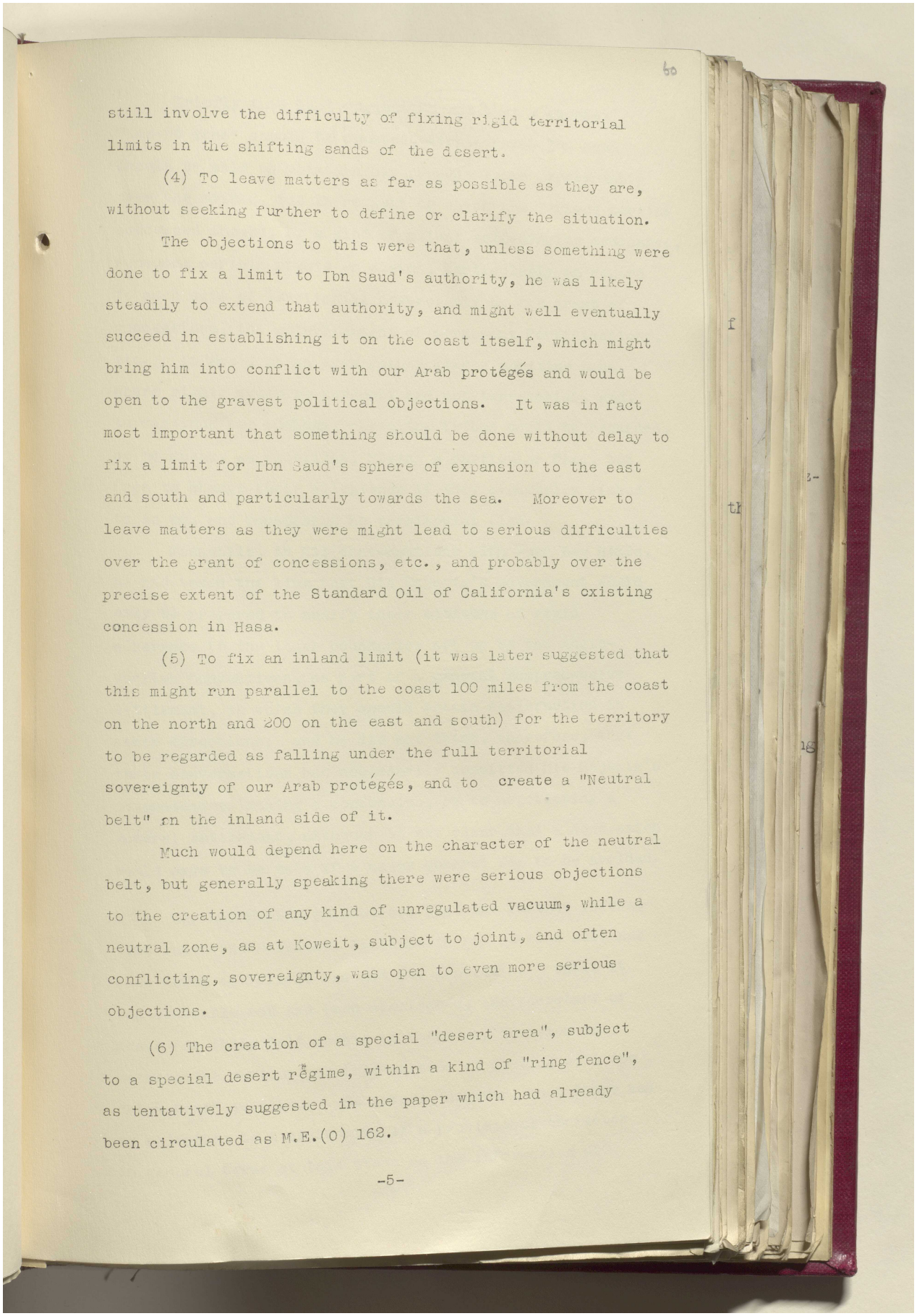

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still involve the difficulty of fixing rigid territorial limits in the shifting sands of the desert.

(4) To leave matters as far as possible as they are, without seeking further to define or clarify the situation.

The objections to this were that, unless something were done to fix a limit to Ibn Saud's authority, he was likely steadily to extend that authority, and might well eventually succeed in establishing it on the coast itself, which might bring him into conflict with our Arab protégés and would be open to the gravest political objections. It was in fact most important that something should be done without delay to fix a limit for Ibn Saud's sphere of expansion to the east and south and particularly towards the sea. Moreover to leave matters as they were might lead to serious difficulties over the grant of concessions, etc., and probably over the precise extent of the Standard Oil of California's existing concession in Hasa.

(5) To fix an inland limit (it was later suggested that this might run parallel to the coast 100 miles from the coast on the north and 200 on the east and south) for the territory to be regarded as falling under the full territorial sovereignty of our Arab protégés, and to create a "Neutral belt" on the inland side of it.

Much would depend here on the character of the neutral belt, but generally speaking there were serious objections to the creation of any kind of unregulated vacuum, while a neutral zone, as at Koweit, subject to joint, and often conflicting, sovereignty, was open to even more serious objections.

(6) The creation of a special "desert area", subject to a special desert régime, within a kind of "ring fence", as tentatively suggested in the paper which had already been circulated as M.E.(O) 162.

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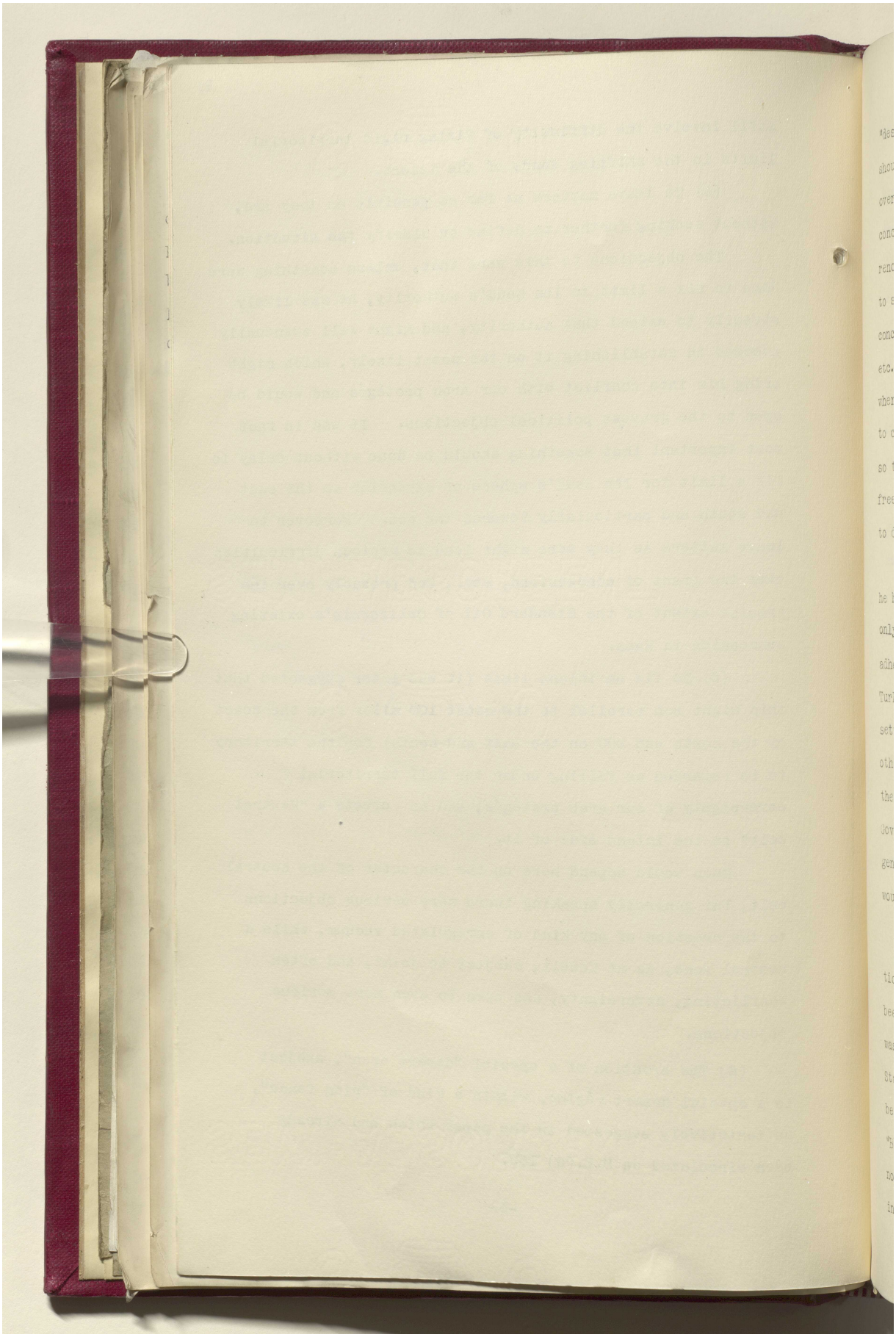

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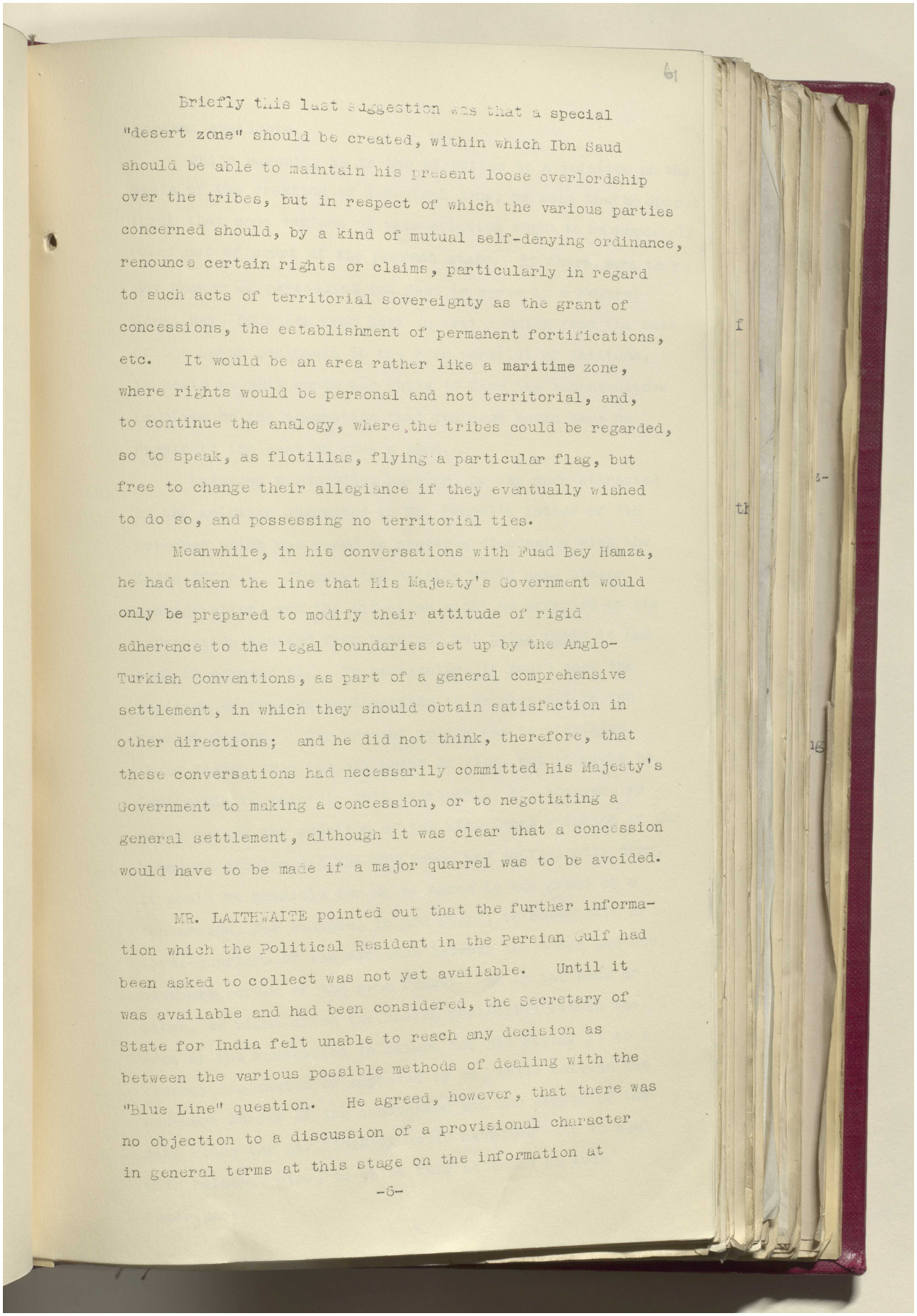

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Briefly this last suggestion was that a special "desert zone" should be created, within which Ibn Saud should be able to maintain his present loose overlordship over the tribes, but in respect of which the various parties concerned should, by a kind of mutual self-denying ordinance, renounce certain rights or claims, particularly in regard to such acts of territorial sovereignty as the grant of concessions, the establishment of permanent fortifications, etc. It would be an area rather like a maritime zone, where rights would be personal and not territorial, and, to continue the analogy, where the tribes could be regarded, so to speak, as flotillas, flying a particular flag, but free to change their allegiance if they eventually wished to do so, and possessing no territorial ties.

Meanwhile, in his conversations with Fuad Bey Hamza, he had taken the line that His Majesty's Government would only be prepared to modify their attitude of rigid adherence to the legal boundaries set up by the Anglo-Turkish Conventions, as part of a general comprehensive settlement, in which they should obtain satisfaction in other directions; and he did not think, therefore, that these conversations had necessarily committed His Majesty's Government to making a concession, or to negotiating a general settlement, although it was clear that a concession would have to be made if a major quarrel was to be avoided.

MR. LAITHWAITE pointed out that the further information which the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf had been asked to collect was not yet available. Until it was available and had been considered, the Secretary of State for India felt unable to reach any decision as between the various possible methods of dealing with the "Blue Line" question. He agreed, however, that there was no objection to a discussion of a provisional character in general terms at this stage on the information at

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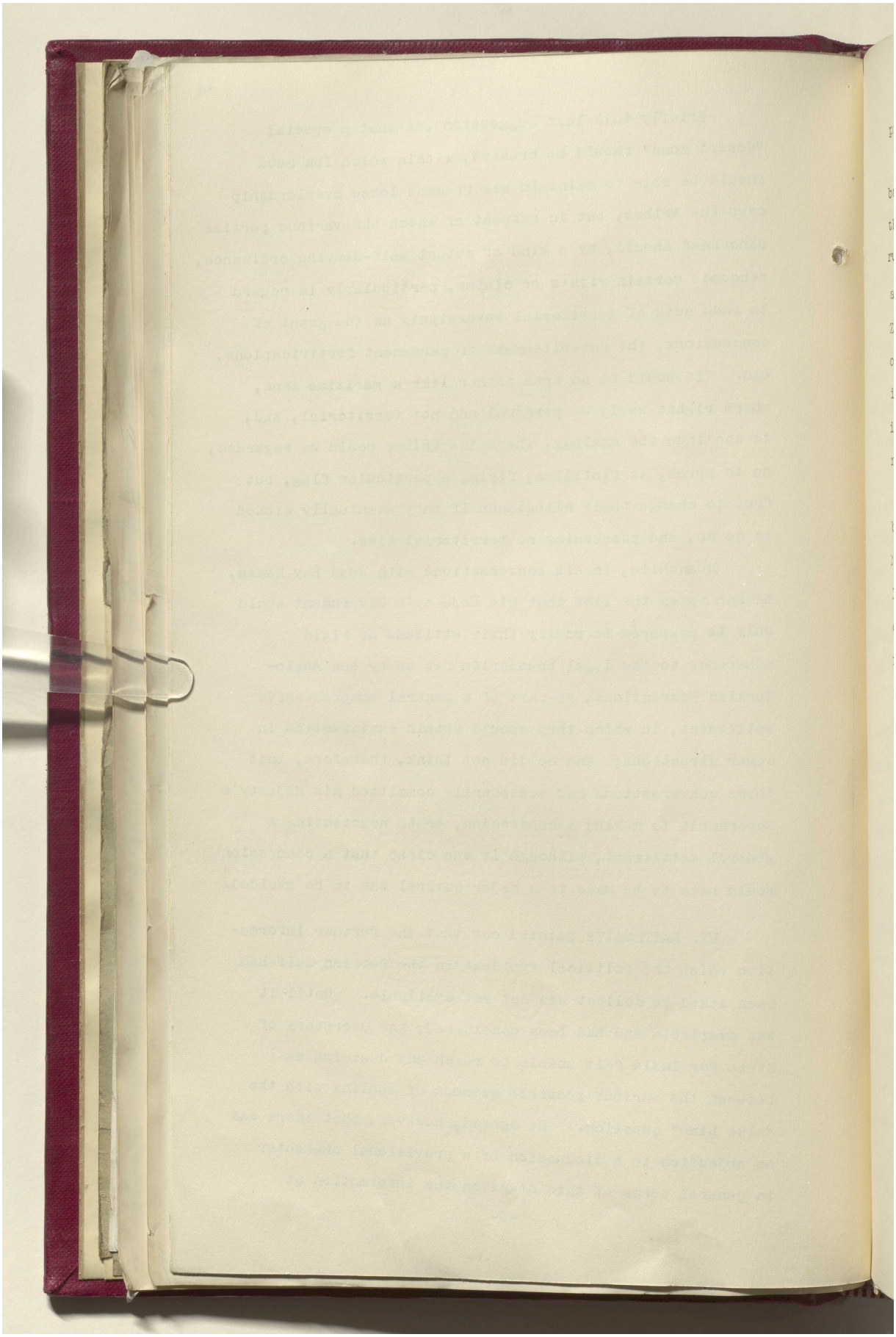

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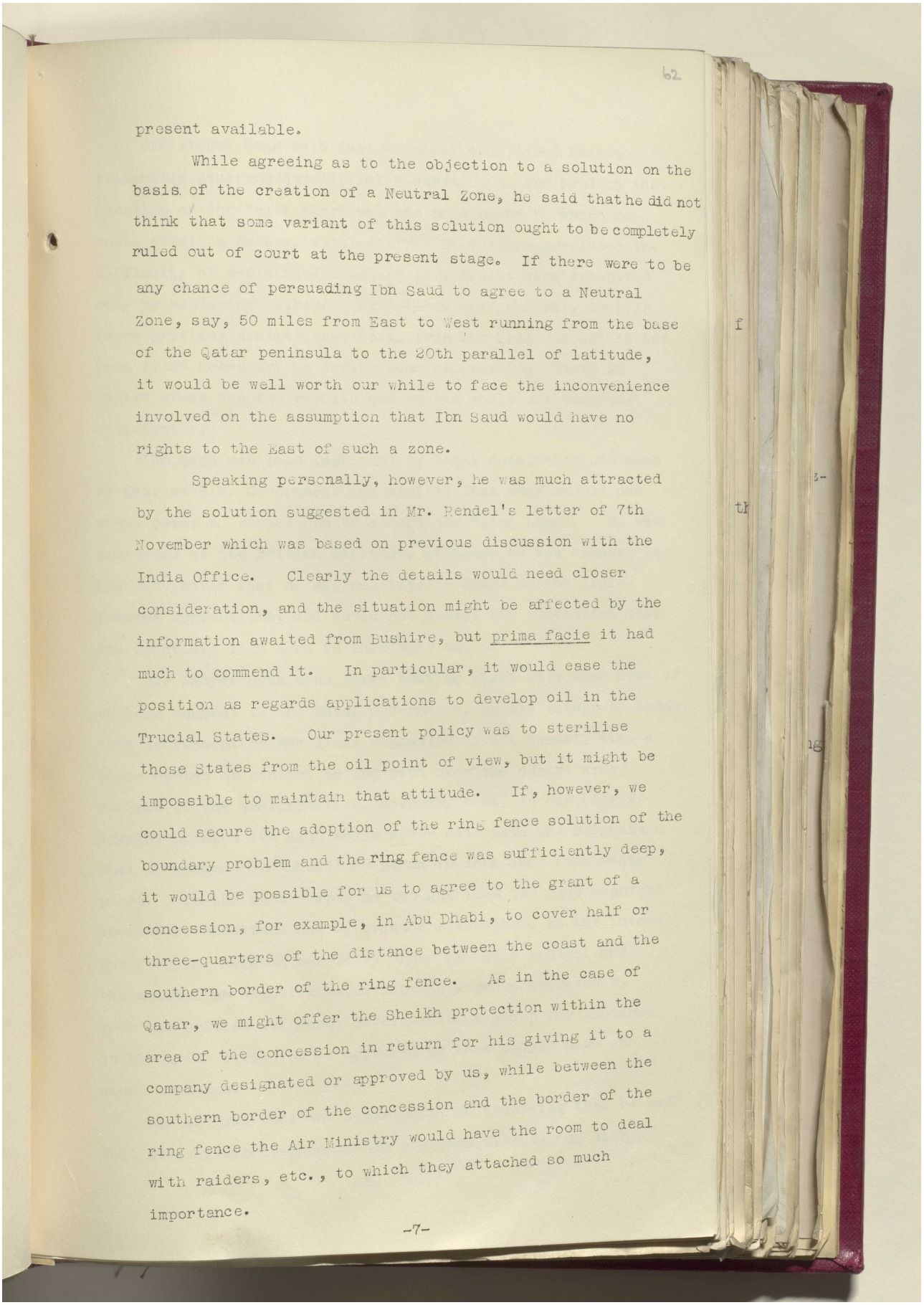

present available.

While agreeing as to the objection to a solution on the basis of the creation of a Neutral Zone, he said that he did not think that some variant of this solution ought to be completely ruled out of court at the present stage. If there were to be any chance of persuading Ibn Saud to agree to a Neutral Zone, say, 50 miles from East to West running from the base of the Qatar peninsula to the 20th parallel of latitude, it would be well worth our while to face the inconvenience involved on the assumption that Ibn Saud would have no rights to the East of such a zone.

Speaking personally, however, he was much attracted by the solution suggested in Mr. Rendel's letter of 7th November which was based on previous discussion with the India Office. Clearly the details would need closer consideration, and the situation might be affected by the information awaited from Bushire, but prima facie it had much to commend it. In particular, it would ease the position as regards applications to develop oil in the Trucial States. Our present policy was to sterilise those States from the oil point of view, but it might be impossible to maintain that attitude. If, however, we could secure the adoption of the ring fence solution of the boundary problem and the ring fence was sufficiently deep, it would be possible for us to agree to the grant of a concession, for example, in Abu Dhabi, to cover half or three-quarters of the distance between the coast and the southern border of the ring fence. As in the case of Qatar, we might offer the Sheikh protection within the area of the concession in return for his giving it to a company designated or approved by us, while between the southern border of the concession and the border of the ring fence the Air Ministry would have the room to deal with raiders, etc., to which they attached so much importance.

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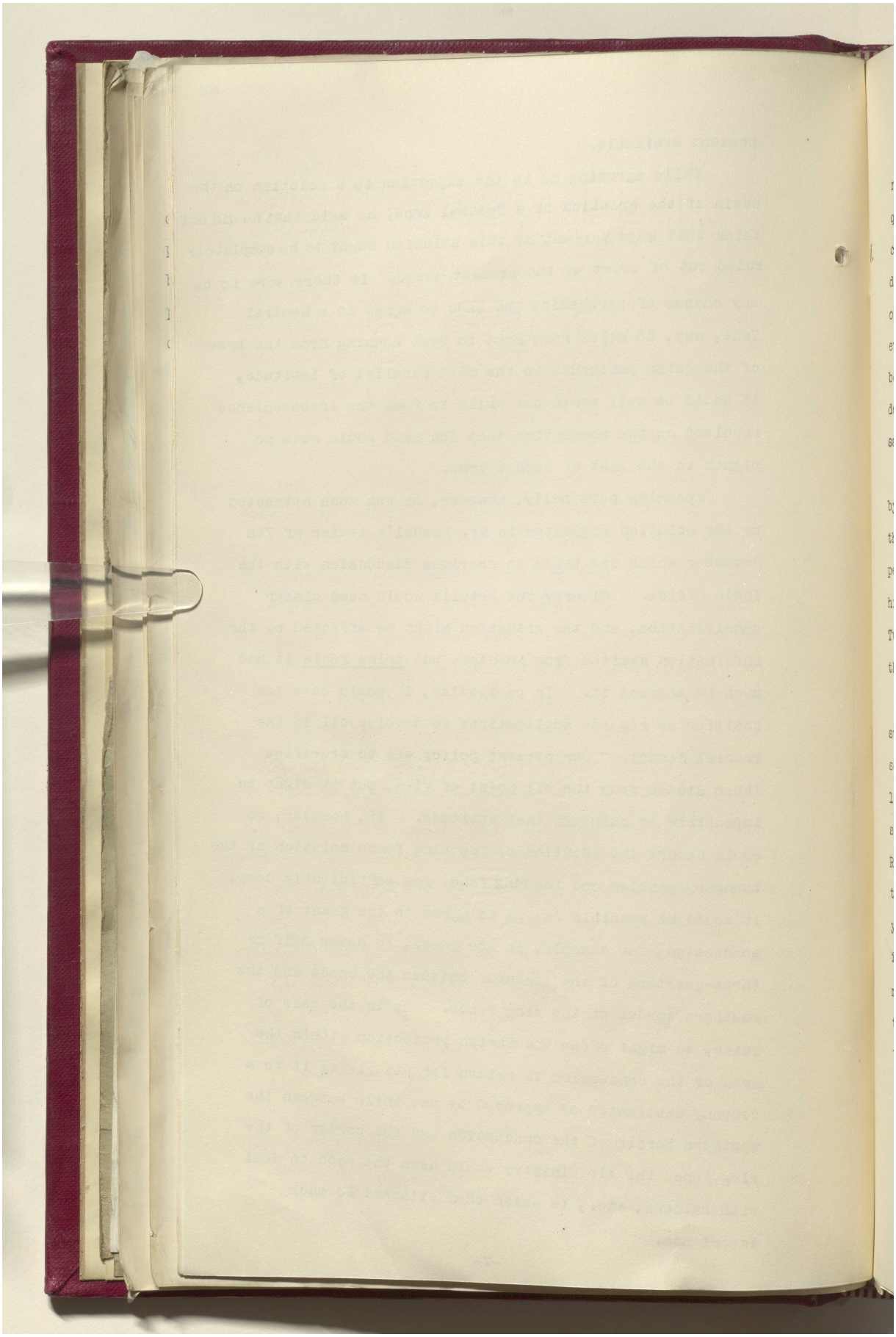

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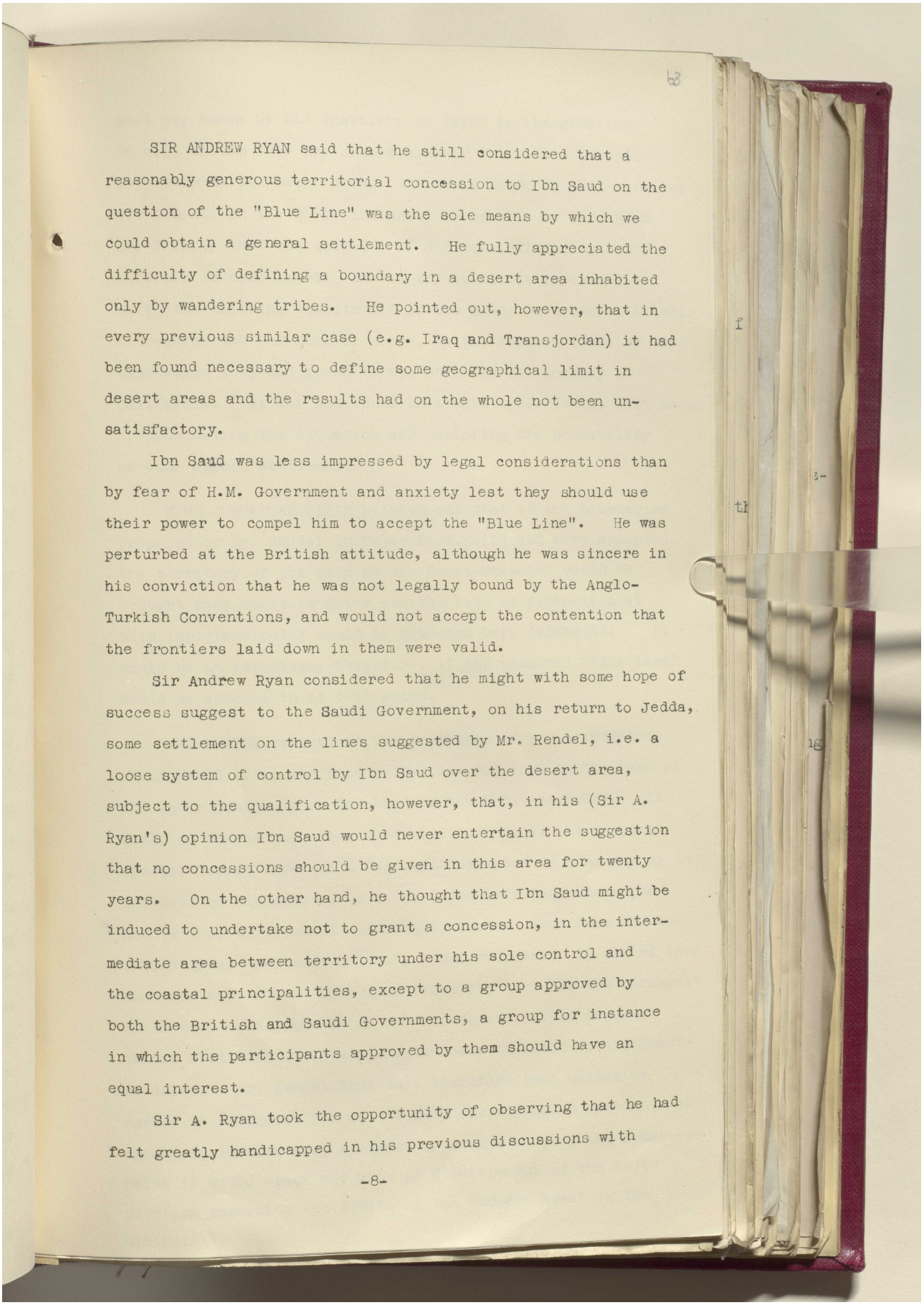

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SIR ANDREW RYAN said that he still considered that a reasonably generous territorial concession to Ibn Saud on the question of the "Blue Line" was the sole means by which we could obtain a general settlement. He fully appreciated the difficulty of defining a boundary in a desert area inhabited only by wandering tribes. He pointed out, however, that in every previous similar case (e.g. Iraq and Transjordan) it had been found necessary to define some geographical limit in desert areas and the results had on the whole not been unsatisfactory.

Ibn Saud was less impressed by legal considerations than by fear of H.M. Government and anxiety lest they should use their power to compel him to accept the "Blue Line". He was perturbed at the British attitude, although he was sincere in his conviction that he was not legally bound by the Anglo-Turkish Conventions, and would not accept the contention that the frontiers laid down in them were valid.

Sir Andrew Ryan considered that he might with some hope of success suggest to the Saudi Government, on his return to Jedda, some settlement on the lines suggested by Mr. Rendel, i.e. a loose system of control by Ibn Saud over the desert area, subject to the qualification, however, that, in his (Sir A. Ryan's) opinion Ibn Saud would never entertain the suggestion that no concessions should be given in this area for twenty years. On the other hand, he thought that Ibn Saud might be induced to undertake not to grant a concession, in the intermediate area between territory under his sole control and the coastal principalities, except to a group approved by both the British and Saudi Governments, a group for instance in which the participants approved by them should have an equal interest.

Sir A. Ryan took the opportunity of observing that he had felt greatly handicapped in his previous discussions with

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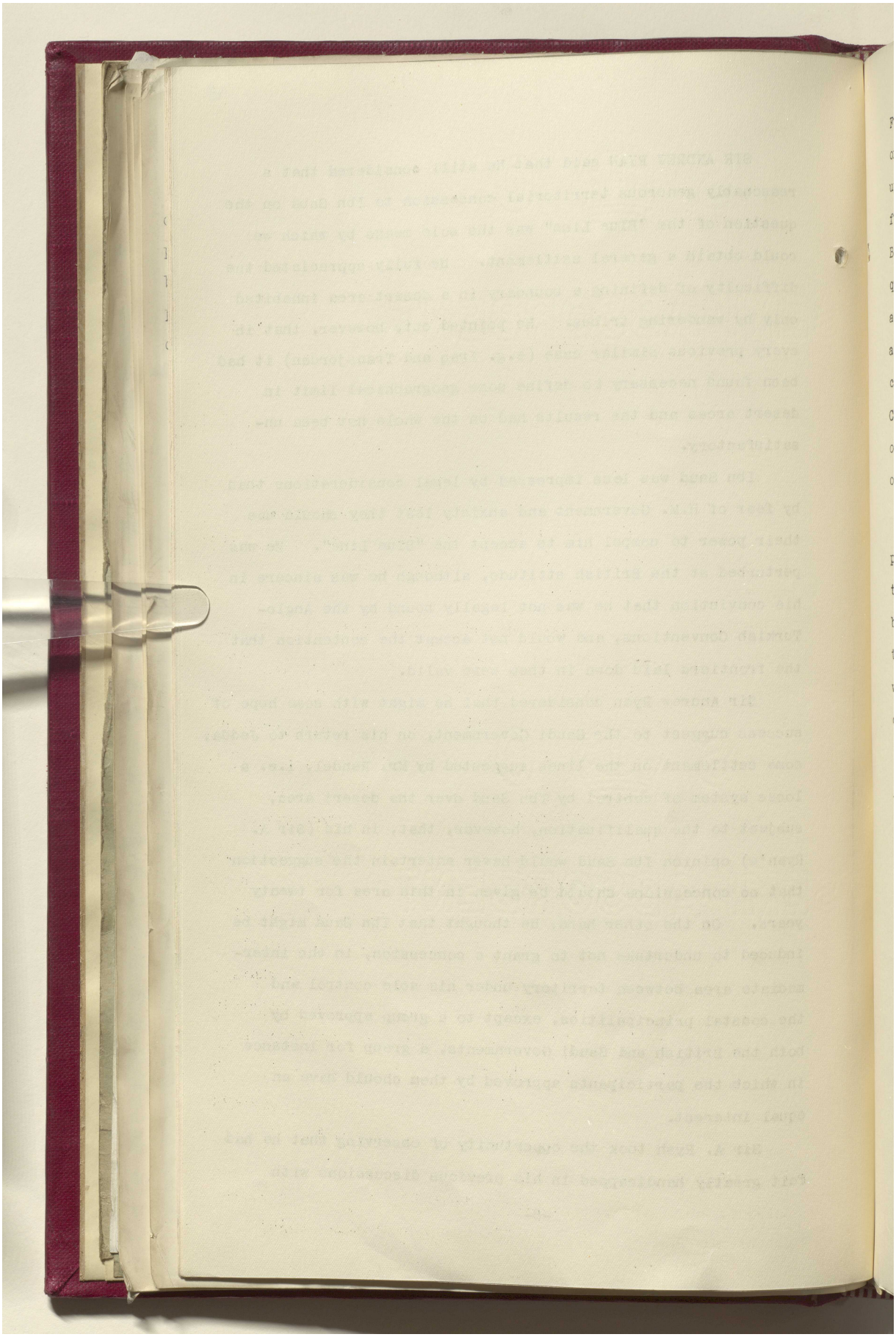

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Fuad Bey Hamza by his inability to refer to the question of oil, unless Fuad Bey should himself bring this question up, which he had never done. He would like, if only speaking for himself in the first instance, to be able to tell Fuad Bey frankly that the question of oil was influencing every question in east Arabia, and to try to elicit information as to the existing commitments of the Saudi Government, notably as regards the territorial scope, on the eastern side, of the concession they had given to the Standard Oil Company of California. He was convinced that this would be the best means of elucidating the situation and exploring the possibility of some agreed settlement.

WING COMMANDER PIRIE pointed out that if the boundaries proposed by Mr. Rendel in Paper No.M.E.(O) 162 were accepted, the territory of Ibn Saud at the Dohat-es-Salwa would be brought very close to Qatar and the task of protection at this important point would be rendered very difficult. It would be an advantage, therefore, if the original "Blue Line" could be adhered to at this point.

MR. RENDEL recognised the drawbacks of any arrangement which would bring Ibn Saud's frontier so close to the base of the Qatar peninsula as the head of the Dohat-es-Salwa. It would of course have been most satisfactory if the proposed special desert area could have been extended in some way up to the Gulf of Bahrein, so as to keep the territory under Ibn Saud's full territorial sovereignty further away from the so-called Qatar "protection line". Unfortunately, it was at this northern end of the "Blue Line" that Ibn Saud had the strongest claim to a re-adjustment of the boundaries, since several Akhwan settlements already existed near the head of the Dohat-es-Salwa. Mr. Rendel felt sure therefore that unless we agreed to recognise Ibn Saud's full territorial sovereignty as extending in this area at least up to the head of the Dohat-es-Salwa it would wreck any hope of a settlement of the major question regarding the limits of the "desert area" in the hinterland.

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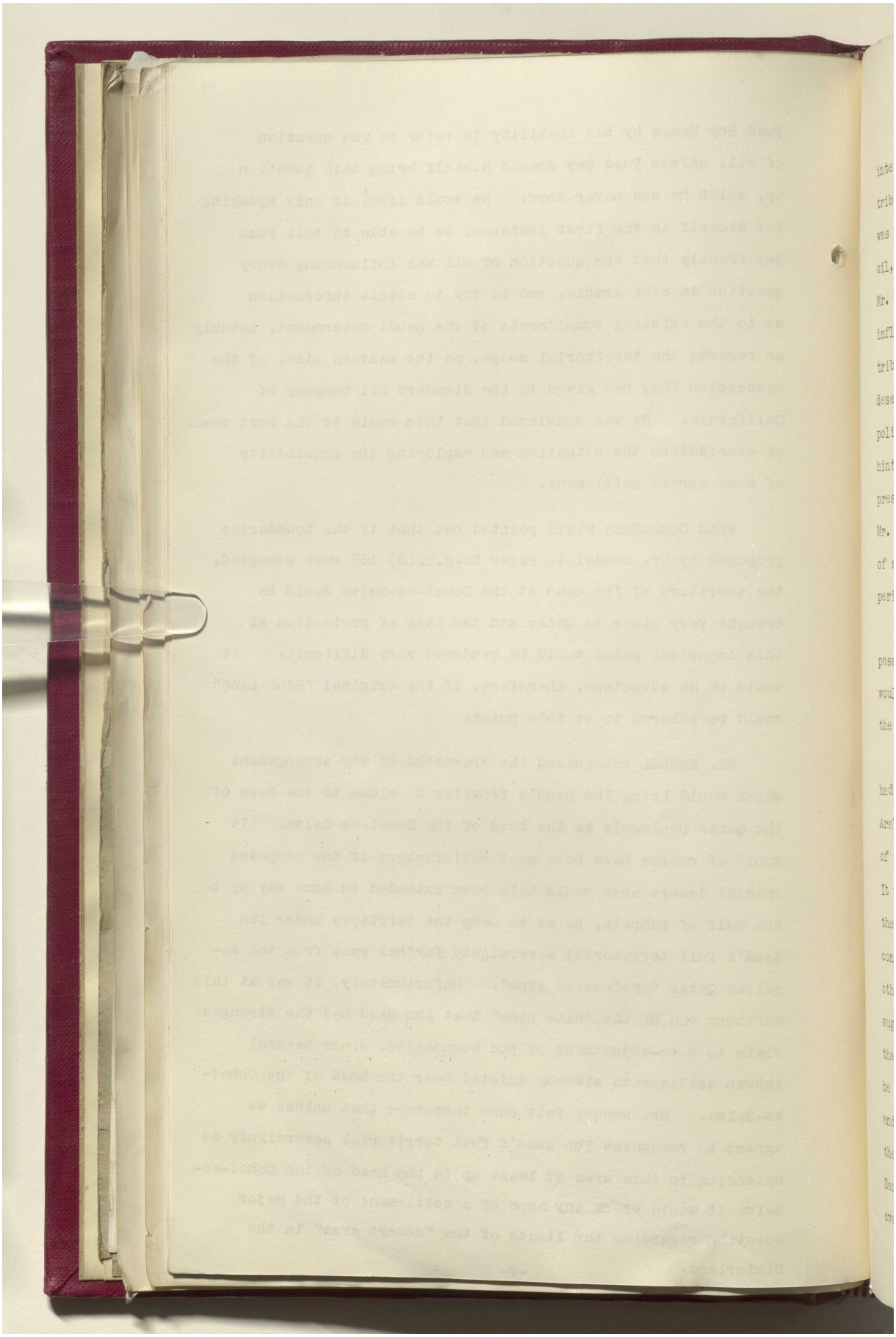

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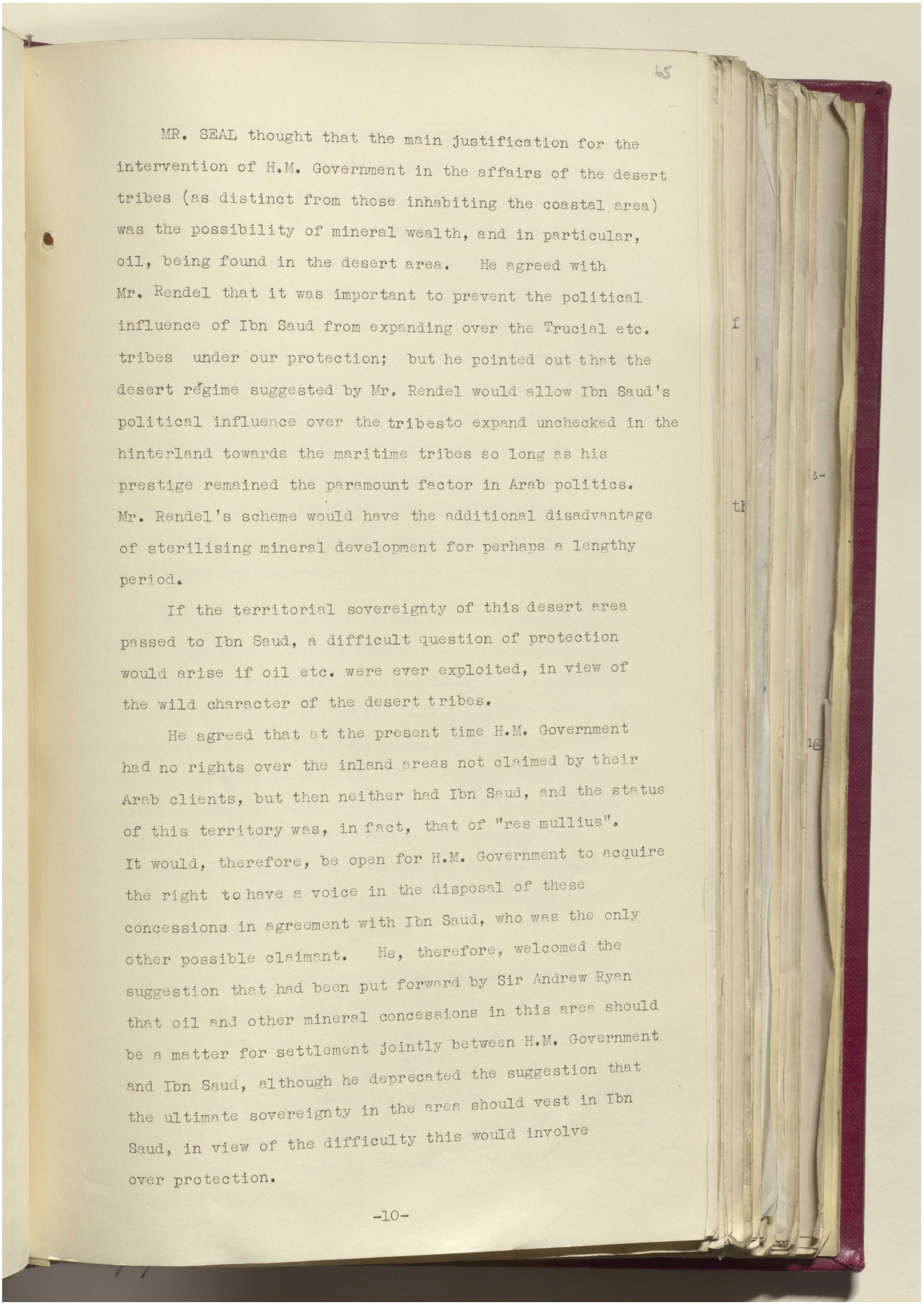

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MR. SEAL thought that the main justification for the intervention of H.M. Government in the affairs of the desert tribes (as distinct from those inhabiting the coastal area) was the possibility of mineral wealth, and in particular, oil, being found in the desert area. He agreed with Mr. Rendel that it was important to prevent the political influence of Ibn Saud from expanding over the Trucial etc. tribes under our protection; but he pointed out that the desert régime suggested by Mr. Rendel would allow Ibn Saud's political influence over the tribesto expand unchecked in the hinterland towards the maritime tribes so long as his prestige remained the paramount factor in Arab politics. Mr. Rendel's scheme would have the additional disadvantage of sterilising mineral development for perhaps a lengthy period.

If the territorial sovereignty of this desert area passed to Ibn Saud, a difficult question of protection would arise if oil etc. were ever exploited, in view of the wild character of the desert tribes.

He agreed that at the present time H.M. Government had no rights over the inland areas not claimed by their Arab clients, but then neither had Ibn Saud, and the status of this territory was, in fact, that of "res mullius". It would, therefore, be open for H.M. Government to acquire the right to have a voice in the disposal of these concessions in agreement with Ibn Saud, who was the only other possible claimant. He, therefore, welcomed the suggestion that had been put forward by Sir Andrew Ryan that oil and other mineral concessions in this area should be a matter for settlement jointly between H.M. Government and Ibn Saud, although he deprecated the suggestion that the ultimate sovereignty in the area should vest in Ibn Saud, in view of the difficulty this would involve over protection.

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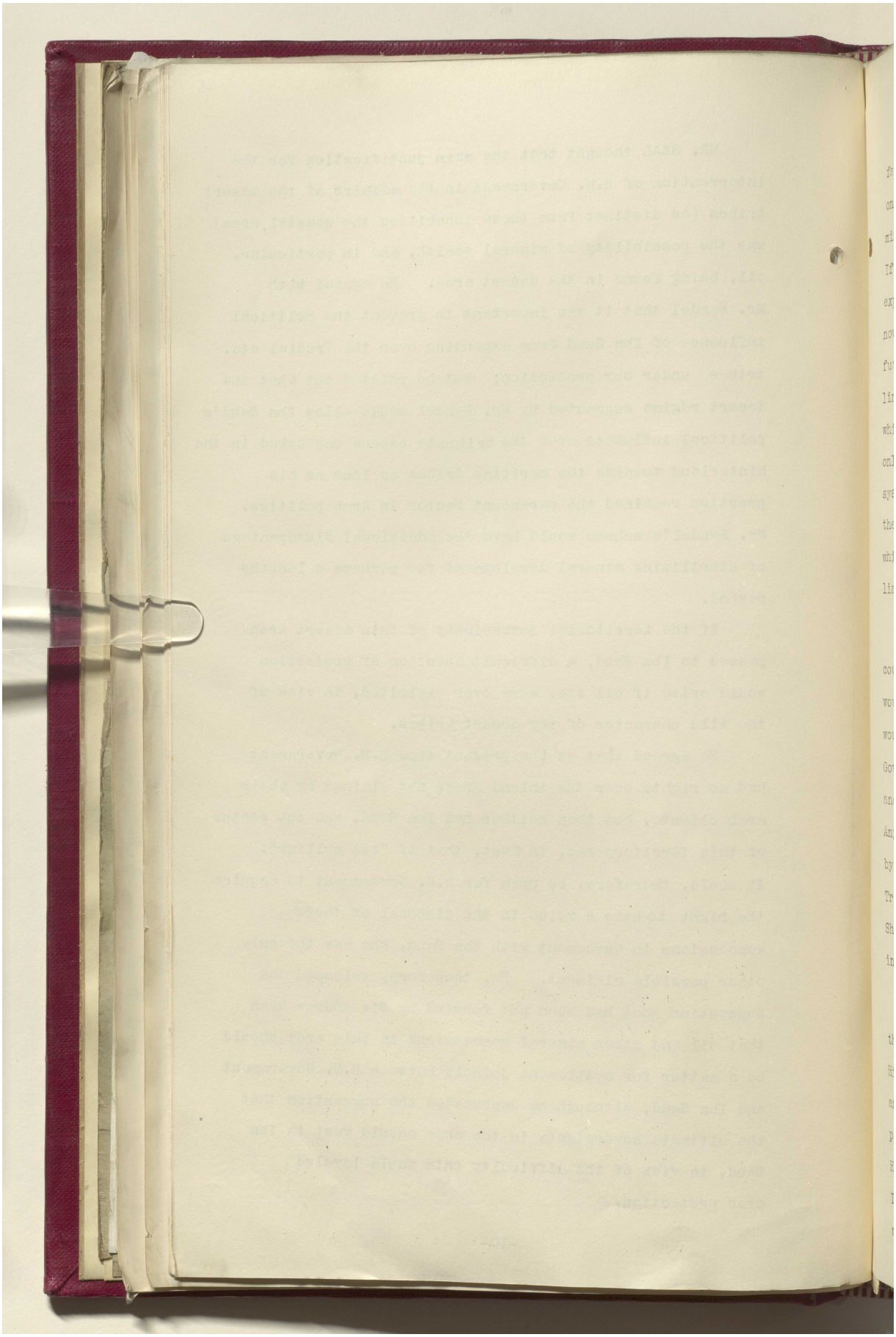

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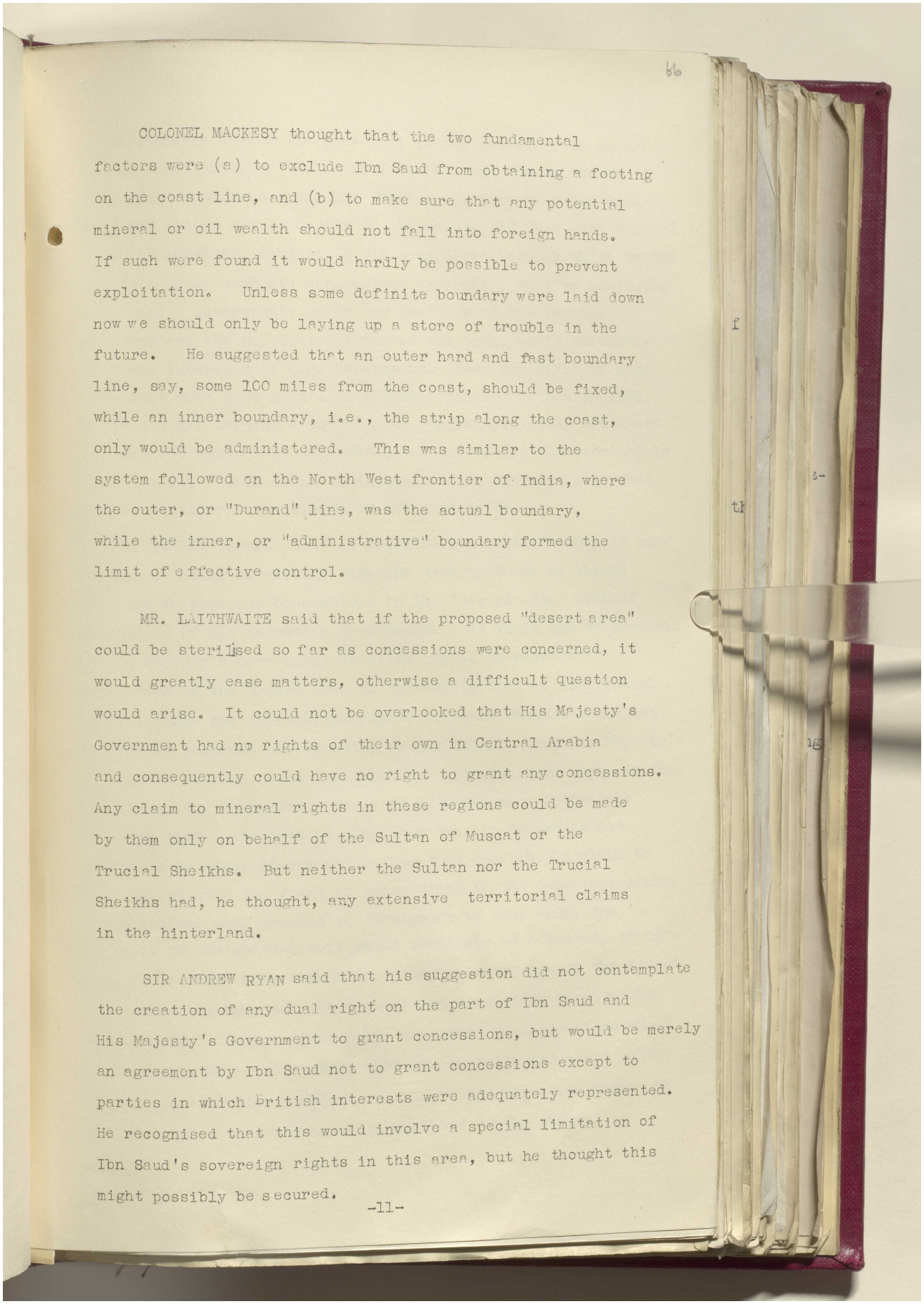

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COLONEL MACKESY thought that the two fundamental factors were (a) to exclude Ibn Saud from obtaining a footing on the coast line, and (b) to make sure that any potential mineral or oil wealth should not fall into foreign hands. If such were found it would hardly be possible to prevent exploitation. Unless some definite boundary were laid down now we should only be laying up a store of trouble in the future. He suggested that an outer hard and fast boundary line, say, some 100 miles from the coast, should be fixed, while an inner boundary, i.e., the strip along the coast, only would be administered. This was similar to the system followed on the North West frontier of India, where the outer, or "Durand" line, was the actual boundary, while the inner, or "administrative" boundary formed the limit of effective control.

MR. LAITHWAITE said that if the proposed "desert area" could be sterilised so far as concessions were concerned, it would greatly ease matters, otherwise a difficult question would arise. It could not be overlooked that His Majesty's Government had no rights of their own in Central Arabia and consequently could have no right to grant any concessions. Any claim to mineral rights in these regions could be made by them only on behalf of the Sultan of Muscat or the Trucial Sheikhs. But neither the Sultan nor the Trucial Sheikhs had, he thought, any extensive territorial claims in the hinterland.

SIR ANDREW RYAN said that his suggestion did not contemplate the creation of any dual right on the part of Ibn Saud and His Majesty's Government to grant concessions, but would be merely an agreement by Ibn Saud not to grant concessions except to parties in which British interests were adequately represented. He recognised that this would involve a special limitation of Ibn Saud's sovereign rights in this area, but he thought this might possibly be secured.

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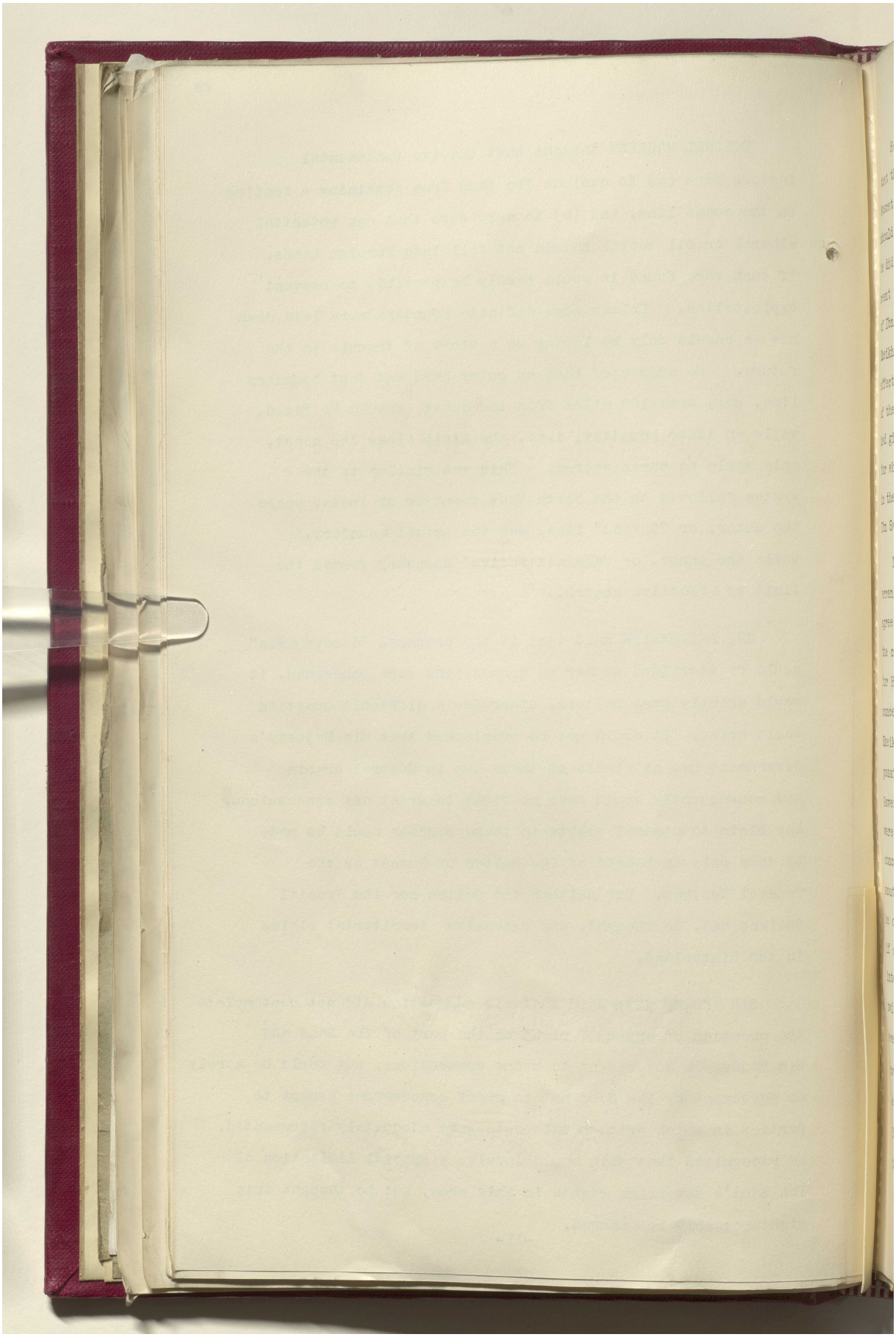

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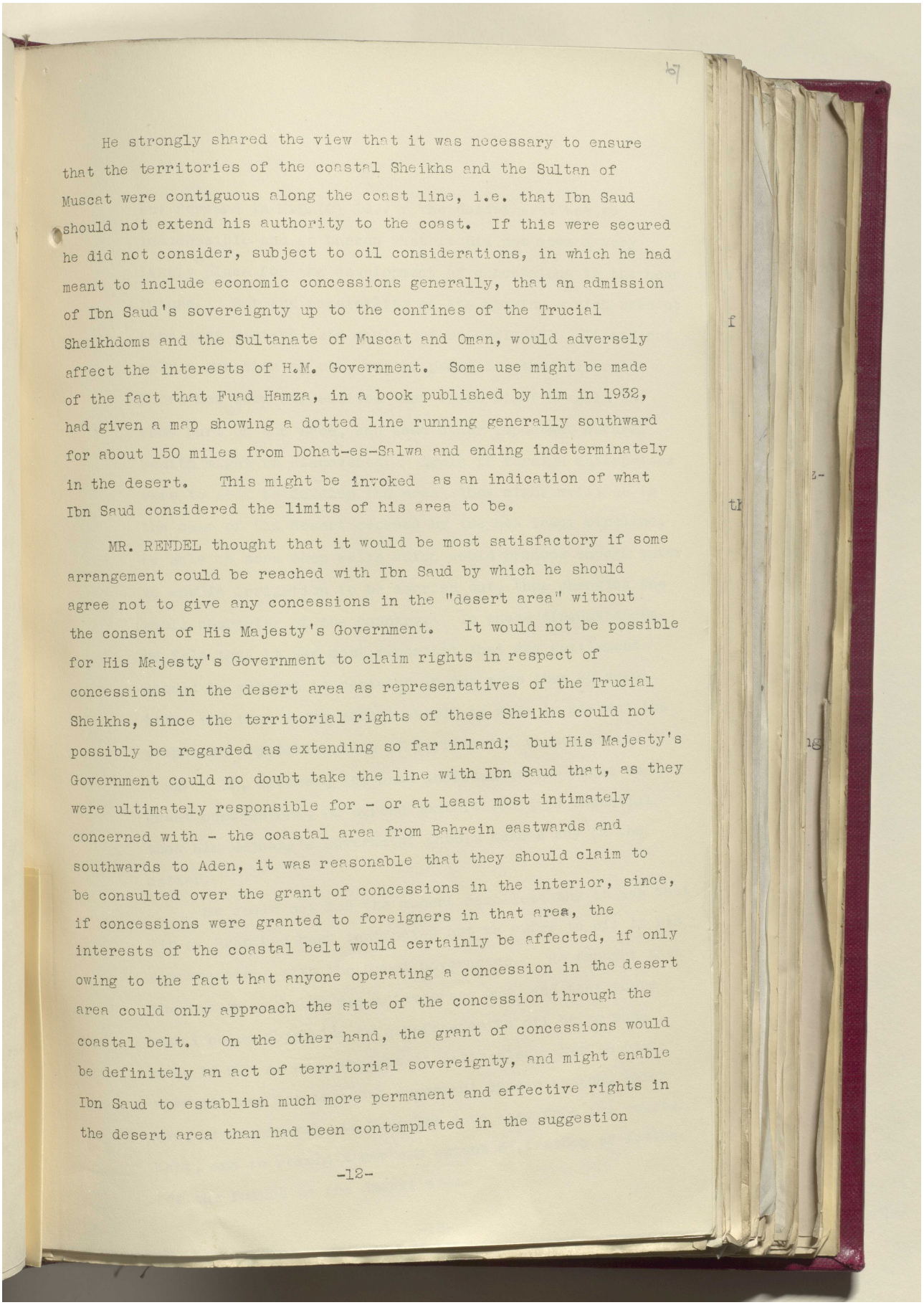

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He strongly shared the view that it was necessary to ensure that the territories of the coastal Sheikhs and the Sultan of Muscat were contiguous along the coast line, i.e. that Ibn Saud should not extend his authority to the coast. If this were secured he did not consider, subject to oil considerations, in which he had meant to include economic concessions generally, that an admission of Ibn Saud's sovereignty up to the confines of the Trucial Sheikhdoms and the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman, would adversely affect the interests of H.M. Government. Some use might be made of the fact that Fuad Hamza, in a book published by him in 1932, had given a map showing a dotted line running generally southward for about 150 miles from Dohat-es-Salwa and ending indeterminately in the desert. This might be invoked as an indication of what Ibn Saud considered the limits of his area to be.

MR. RENDEL thought that it would be most satisfactory if some arrangement could be reached with Ibn Saud by which he should agree not to give any concessions in the "desert area" without the consent of His Majesty's Government. It would not be possible for His Majesty's Government to claim rights in respect of concessions in the desert area as representatives of the Trucial Sheikhs, since the territorial rights of these Sheikhs could not possibly be regarded as extending so far inland; but His Majesty's Government could no doubt take the line with Ibn Saud that, as they were ultimately responsible for - or at least most intimately concerned with - the coastal area from Bahrein eastwards and southwards to Aden, it was reasonable that they should claim to be consulted over the grant of concessions in the interior, since, if concessions were granted to foreigners in that area, the interests of the coastal belt would certainly be affected, if only owing to the fact that anyone operating a concession in the desert area could only approach the site of the concession through the coastal belt. On the other hand, the grant of concessions would be definitely an act of territorial sovereignty, and might enable Ibn Saud to establish much more permanent and effective rights in the desert area than had been contemplated in the suggestion

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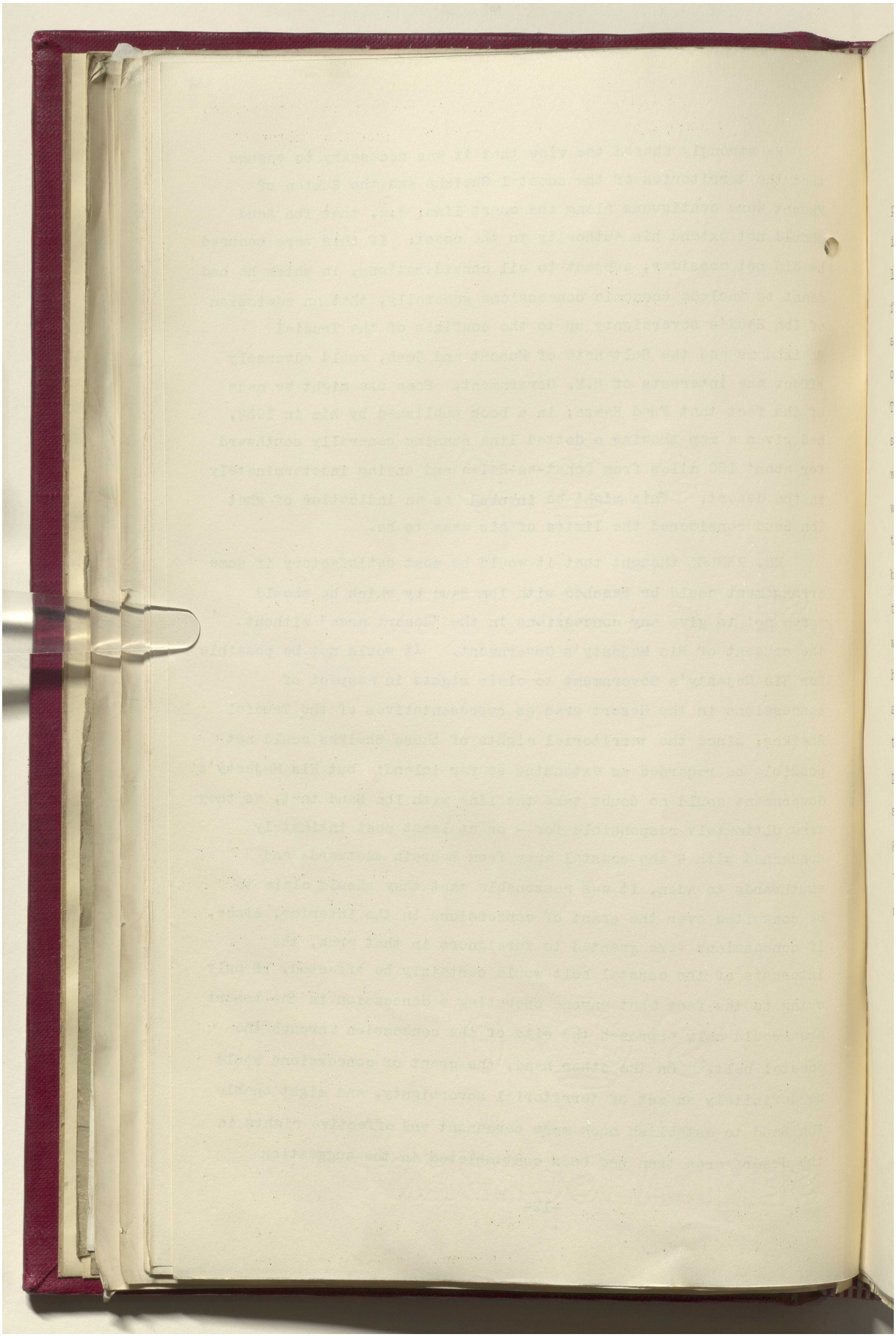

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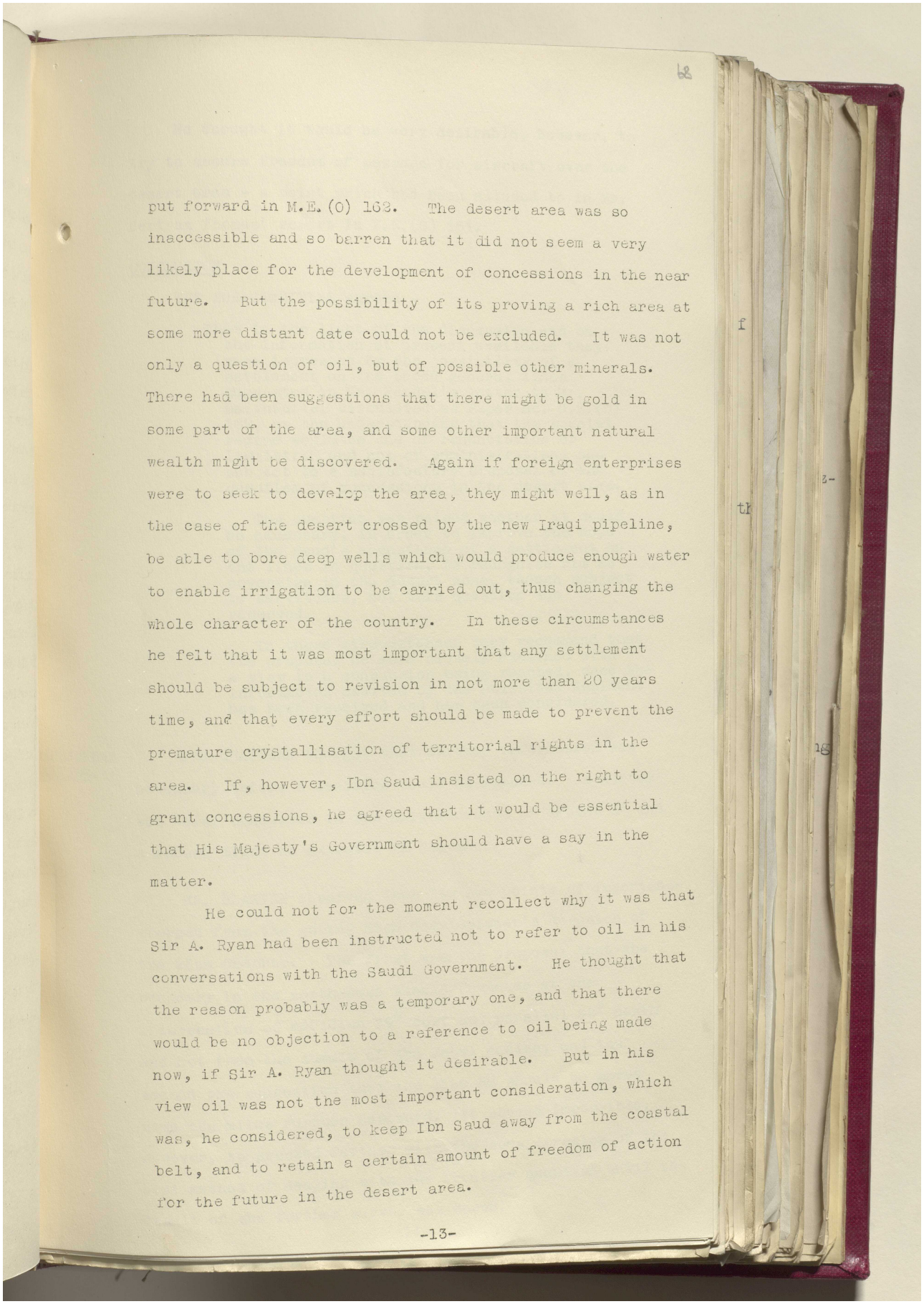

put forward in M.E.(O) 163. The desert area was so inaccessible and so barren that it did not seem a very likely place for the development of concessions in the near future. But the possibility of its proving a rich area at some more distant date could not be excluded. It was not only a question of oil, but of possible other minerals. There had been suggestions that there might be gold in some part of the area, and some other important natural wealth might be discovered. Again if foreign enterprises were to seek to develop the area, they might well, as in the case of the desert crossed by the new Iraqi pipeline, be able to bore deep wells which would produce enough water to enable irrigation to be carried out, thus changing the whole character of the country. In these circumstances he felt that it was most important that any settlement should be subject to revision in not more than 20 years time, and that every effort should be made to prevent the premature crystallisation of territorial rights in the area. If, however, Ibn Saud insisted on the right to grant concessions, he agreed that it would be essential that His Majesty's Government should have a say in the matter.

He could not for the moment recollect why it was that Sir A. Ryan had been instructed not to refer to oil in his conversations with the Saudi Government. He thought that the reason probably was a temporary one, and that there would be no objection to a reference to oil being made now, if Sir A. Ryan thought it desirable. But in his view oil was not the most important consideration, which was, he considered, to keep Ibn Saud away from the coastal belt, and to retain a certain amount of freedom of action for the future in the desert area.

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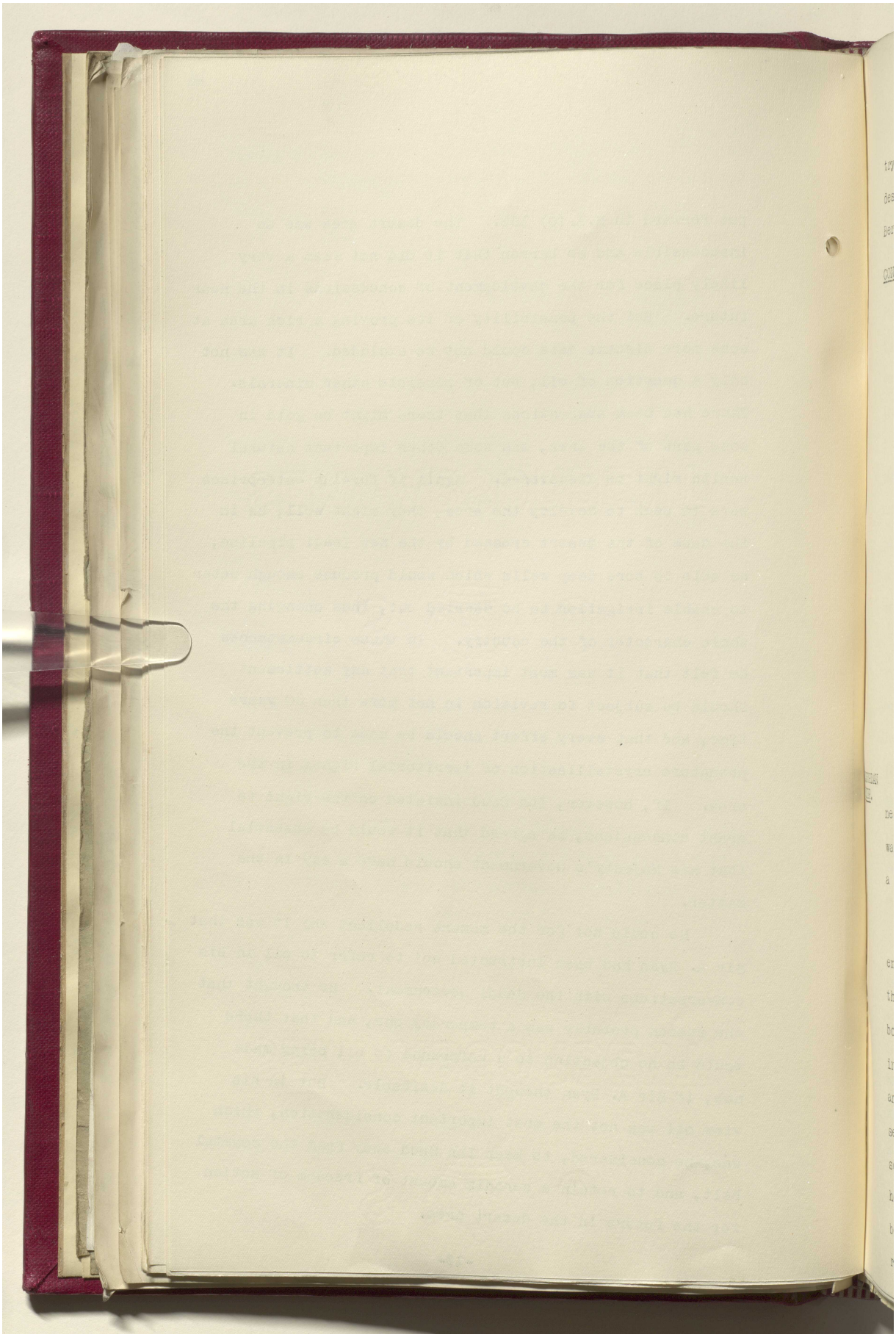

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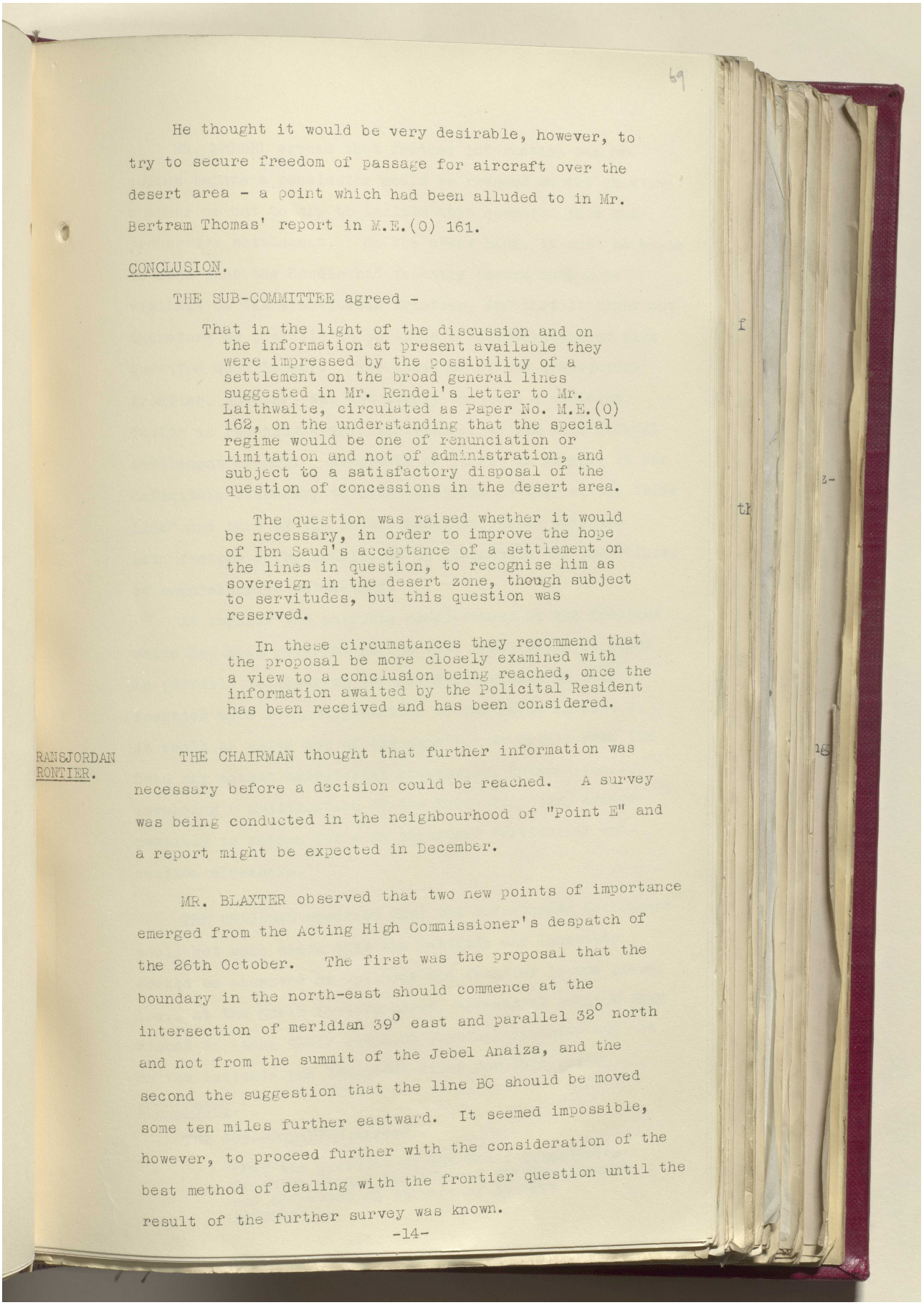

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He thought it would be very desirable, however, to try to secure freedom of passage for aircraft over the desert area - a point which had been alluded to in Mr. Bertram Thomas' report in M.E.(O) 161.

CONCLUSION.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE agreed -

That in the light of the discussion and on the information at present available they were impressed by the possibility of a settlement on the broad general lines suggested in Mr. Rendel's letter to Mr. Laithwaite, circulated as Paper No. M.E.(O) 162, on the understanding that the special regime would be one of renunciation or limitation and not of administration, and subject to a satisfactory disposal of the question of concessions in the desert area.

The question was raised whether it would be necessary, in order to improve the hope of Ibn Saud's acceptance of a settlement on the lines in question, to recognise him as sovereign in the desert zone, though subject to servitudes, but this question was reserved.

In these circumstances they recommend that the proposal be more closely examined with a view to a conclusion being reached, once the information awaited by the Policital Resident has been received and has been considered.

RANSJORDAN RONTIER.

THE CHAIRMAN thought that further information was necessary before a decision could be reached. A survey was being conducted in the neighbourhood of "Point E" and a report might be expected in December.

MR. BLAXTER observed that two new points of importance emerged from the Acting High Commissioner's despatch of the 26th October. The first was the proposal that the boundary in the north-east should commence at the intersection of meridian 39° east and parallel 32° north and not from the summit of the Jebel Anaiza, and the second the suggestion that the line BC should be moved some ten miles further eastward. It seemed impossible, however, to proceed further with the consideration of the best method of dealing with the frontier question until the result of the further survey was known.

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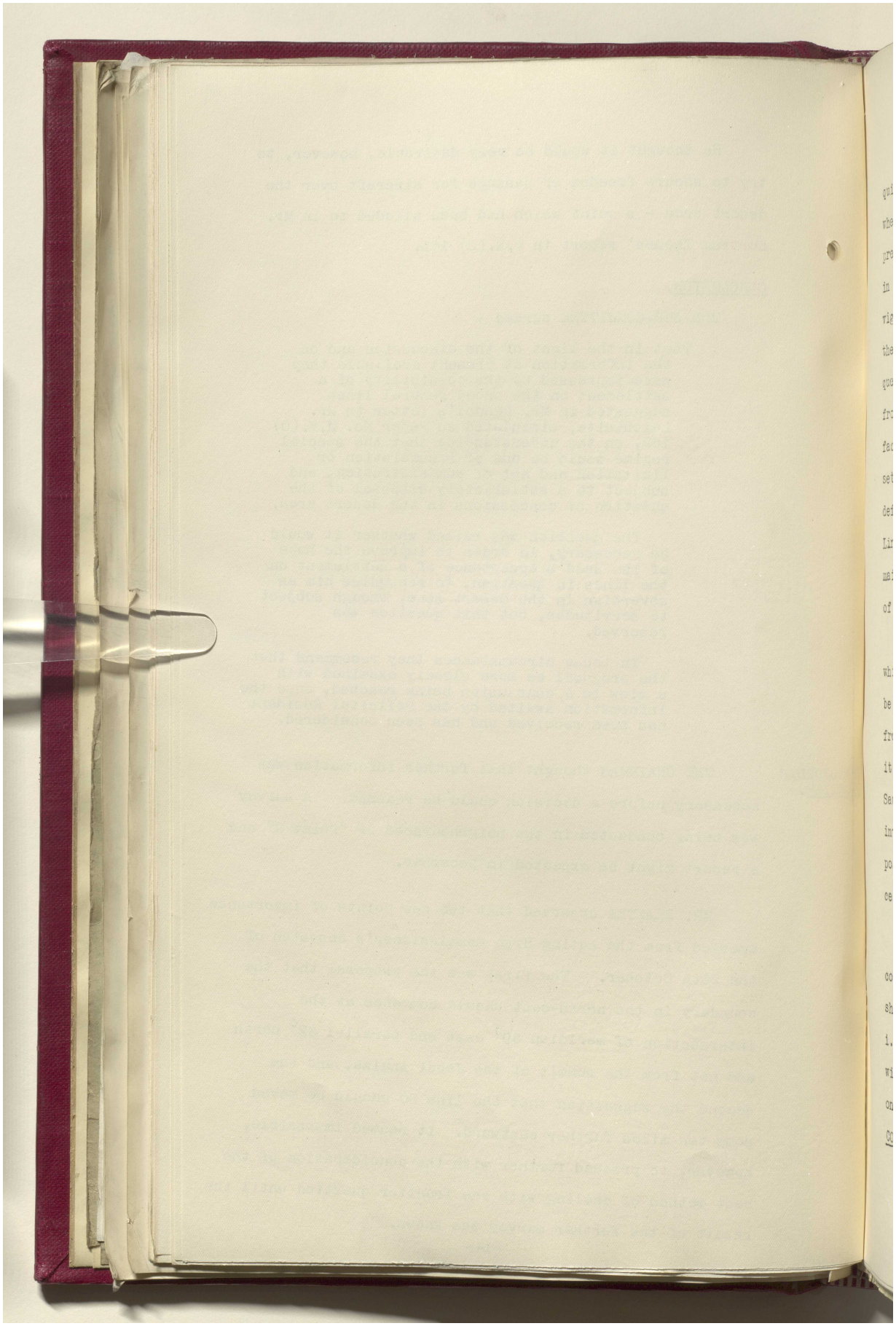

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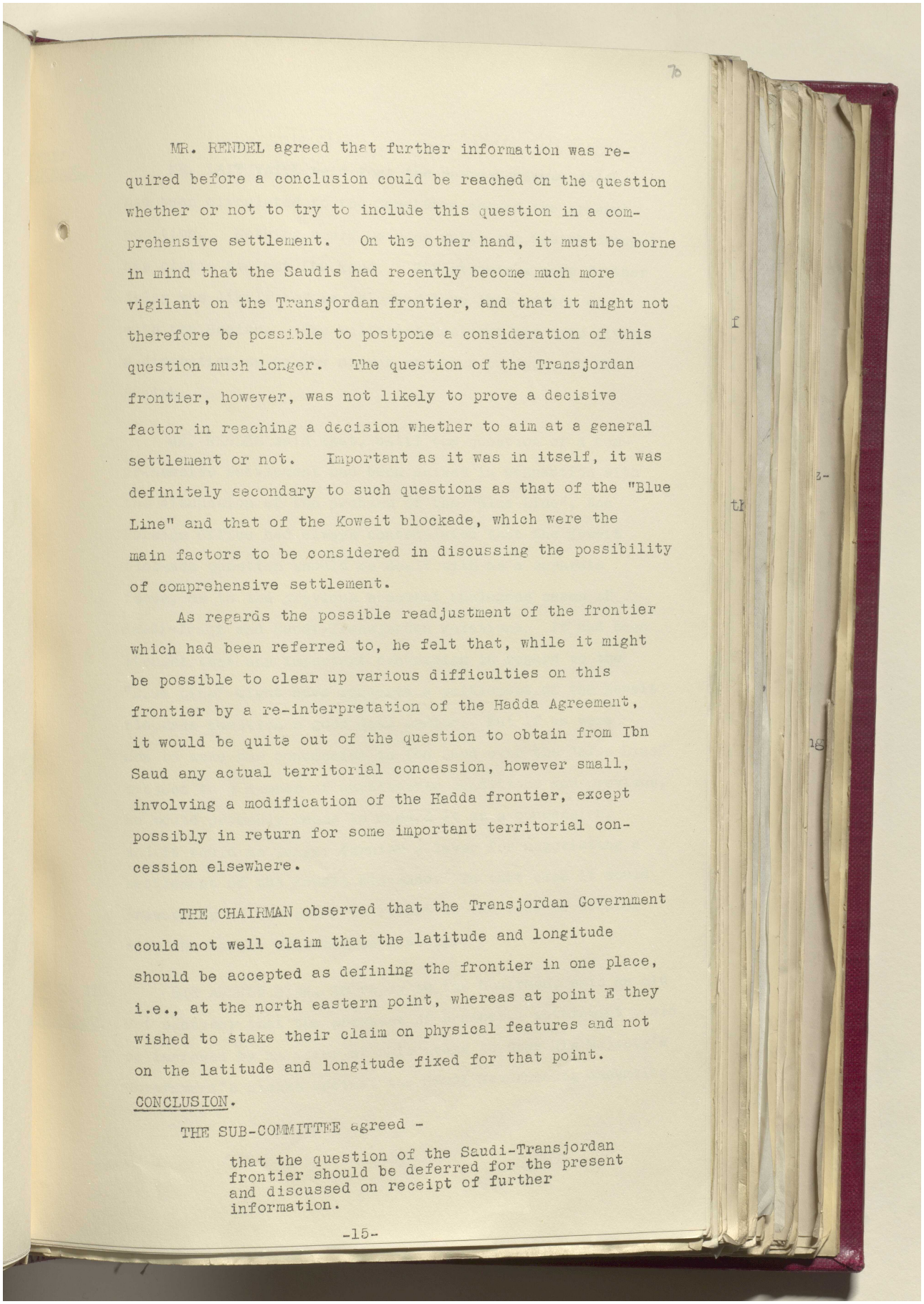

MR. RENDEL agreed that further information was required before a conclusion could be reached on the question whether or not to try to include this question in a comprehensive settlement. On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that the Saudis had recently become much more vigilant on the Transjordan frontier, and that it might not therefore be possible to postpone a consideration of this question much longer. The question of the Transjordan frontier, however, was not likely to prove a decisive factor in reaching a decision whether to aim at a general settlement or not. Important as it was in itself, it was definitely secondary to such questions as that of the "Blue Line" and that of the Koweit blockade, which were the main factors to be considered in discussing the possibility of comprehensive settlement.

As regards the possible readjustment of the frontier which had been referred to, he felt that, while it might be possible to clear up various difficulties on this frontier by a re-interpretation of the Hadda Agreement, it would be quite out of the question to obtain from Ibn Saud any actual territorial concession, however small, involving a modification of the Hadda frontier, except possibly in return for some important territorial concession elsewhere.

THE CHAIRMAN observed that the Transjordan Government could not well claim that the latitude and longitude should be accepted as defining the frontier in one place, i.e., at the north eastern point, whereas at point E they wished to stake their claim on physical features and not on the latitude and longitude fixed for that point.

CONCLUSION.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE agreed -

that the question of the Saudi-Transjordan frontier should be deferred for the present and discussed on receipt of further information.

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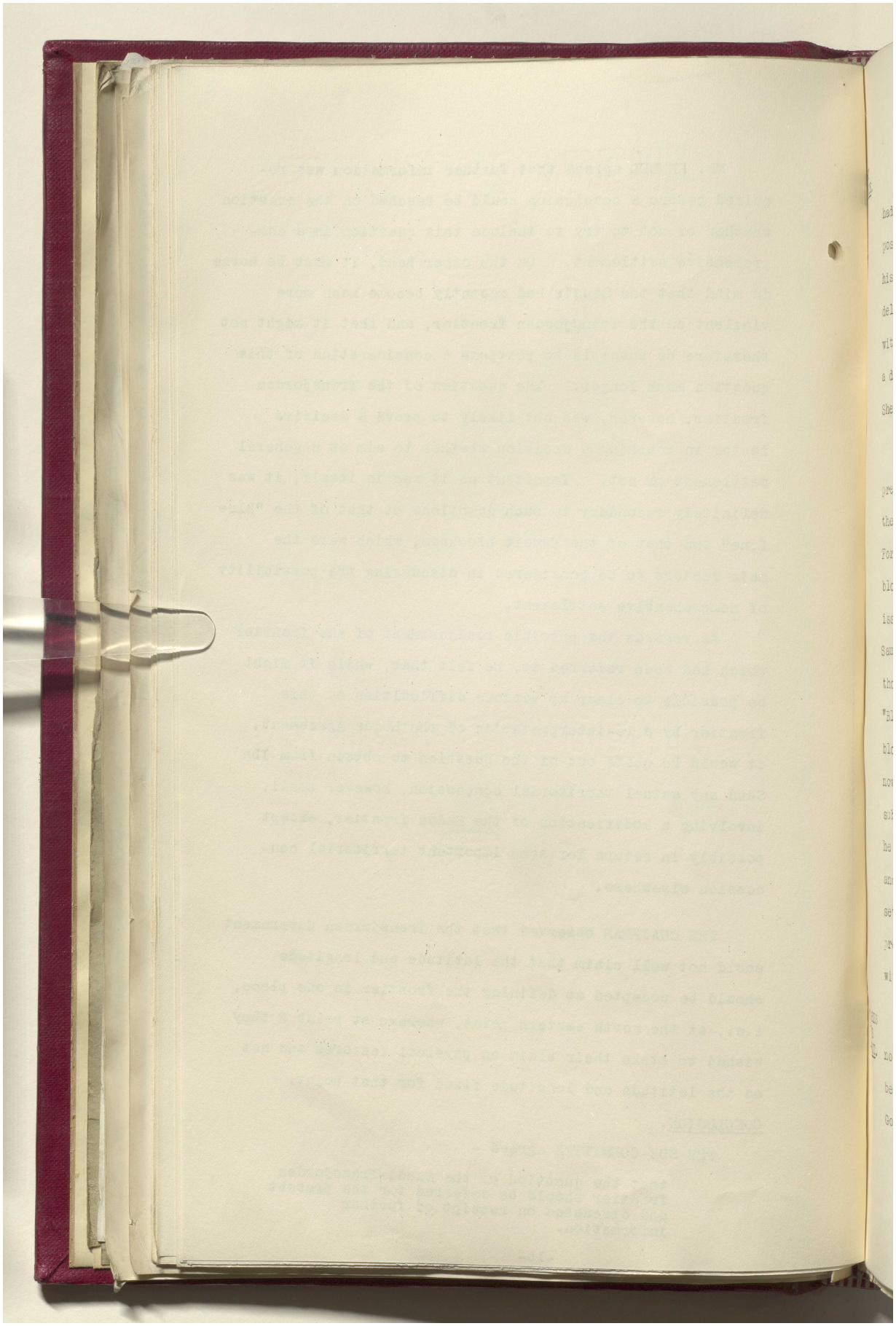

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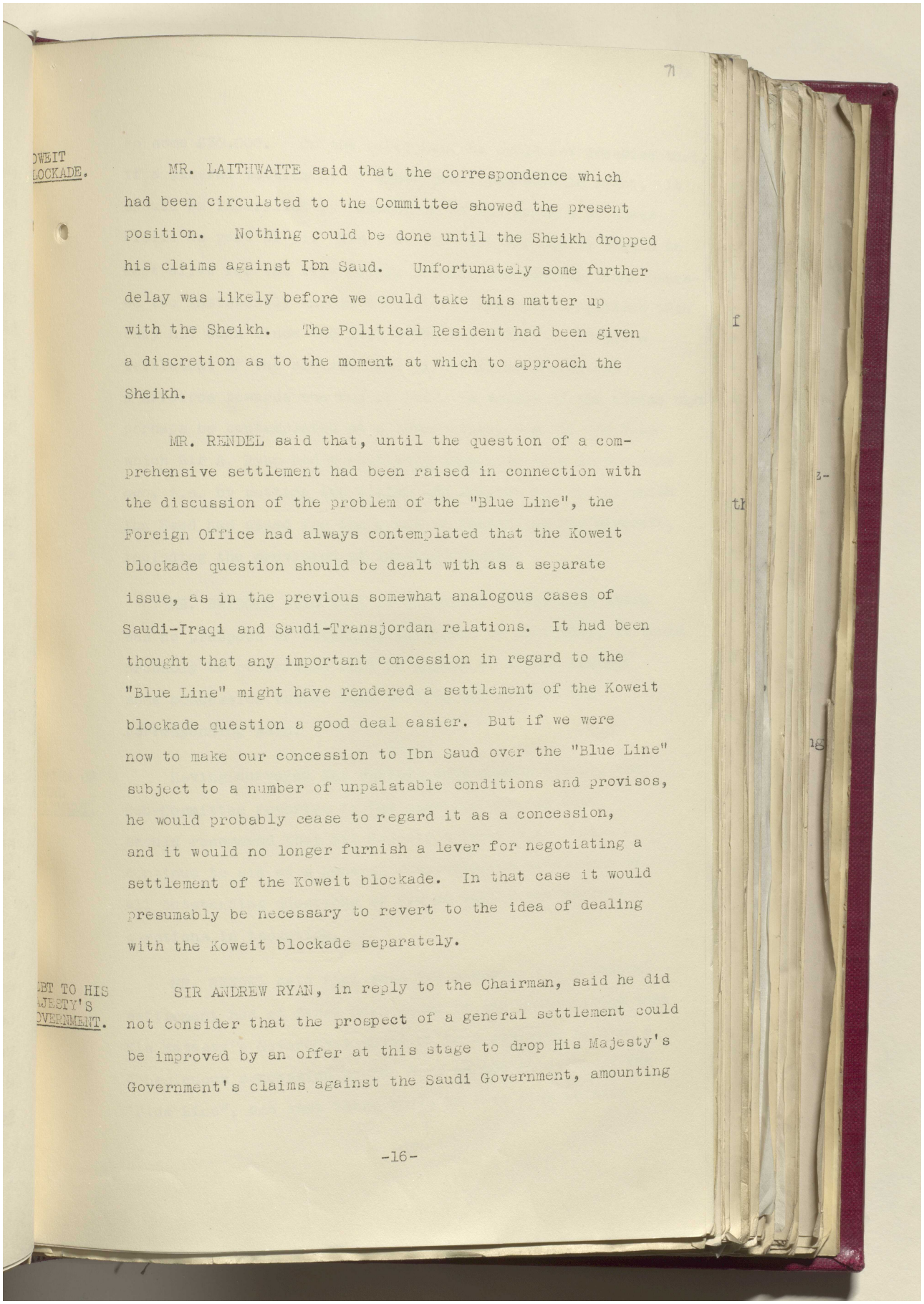

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LOCKADE.

MR. LAITHWAITE said that the correspondence which had been circulated to the Committee showed the present position. Nothing could be done until the Sheikh dropped his claims against Ibn Saud. Unfortunately some further delay was likely before we could take this matter up with the Sheikh. The Political Resident had been given a discretion as to the moment at which to approach the Sheikh.

MR. RENDEL said that, until the question of a comprehensive settlement had been raised in connection with the discussion of the problem of the "Blue Line", the Foreign Office had always contemplated that the Koweit blockade question should be dealt with as a separate issue, as in the previous somewhat analogous cases of Saudi-Iraqi and Saudi-Transjordan relations. It had been thought that any important concession in regard to the "Blue Line" might have rendered a settlement of the Koweit blockade question a good deal easier. But if we were now to make our concession to Ibn Saud over the "Blue Line" subject to a number of unpalatable conditions and provisos, he would probably cease to regard it as a concession, and it would no longer furnish a lever for negotiating a settlement of the Koweit blockade. In that case it would presumably be necessary to revert to the idea of dealing with the Koweit blockade separately.

EBT TO HIS
AJESTY'S
OVERNMENT.

SIR ANDREW RYAN, in reply to the Chairman, said he did not consider that the prospect of a general settlement could be improved by an offer at this stage to drop His Majesty's Government's claims against the Saudi Government, amounting

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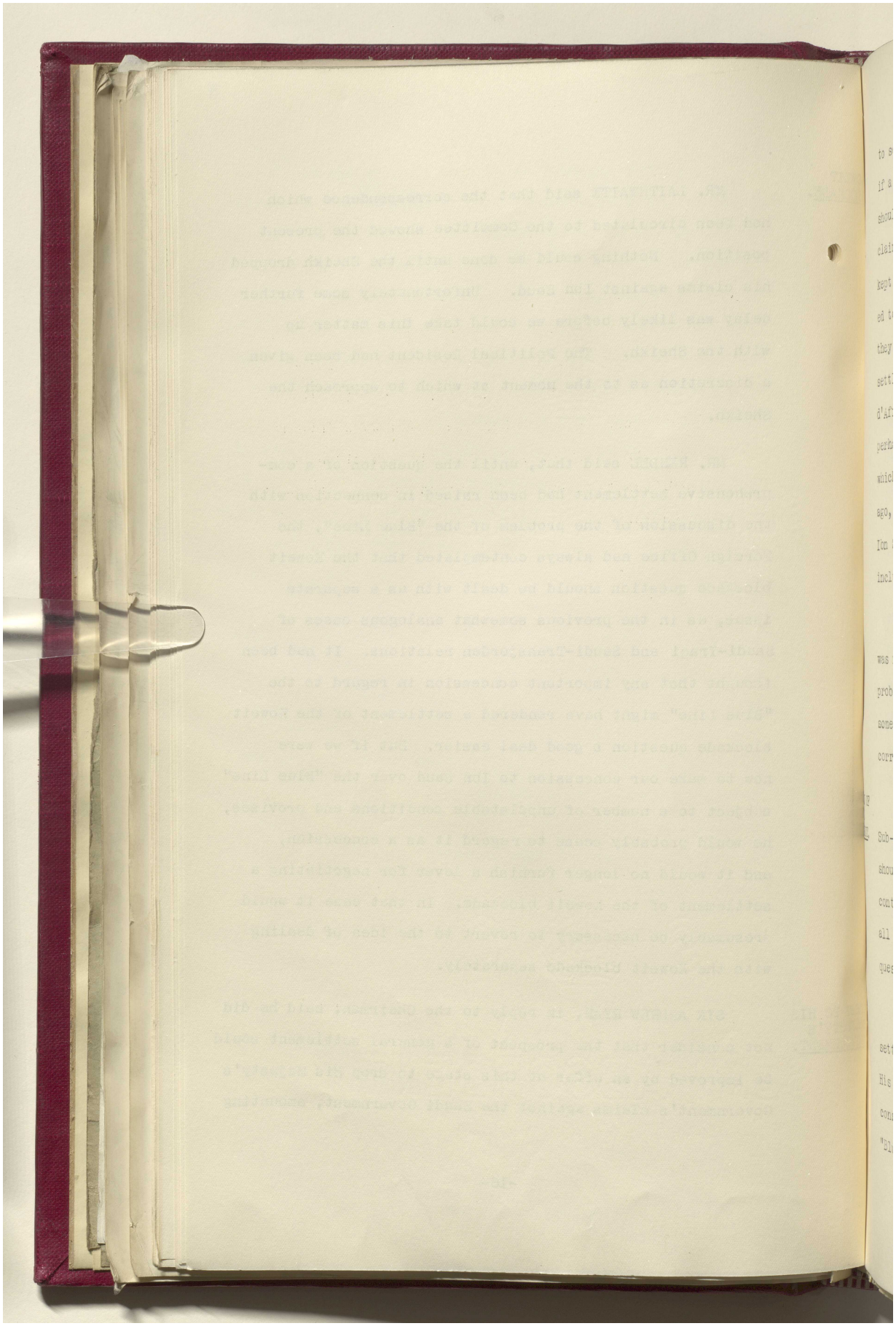

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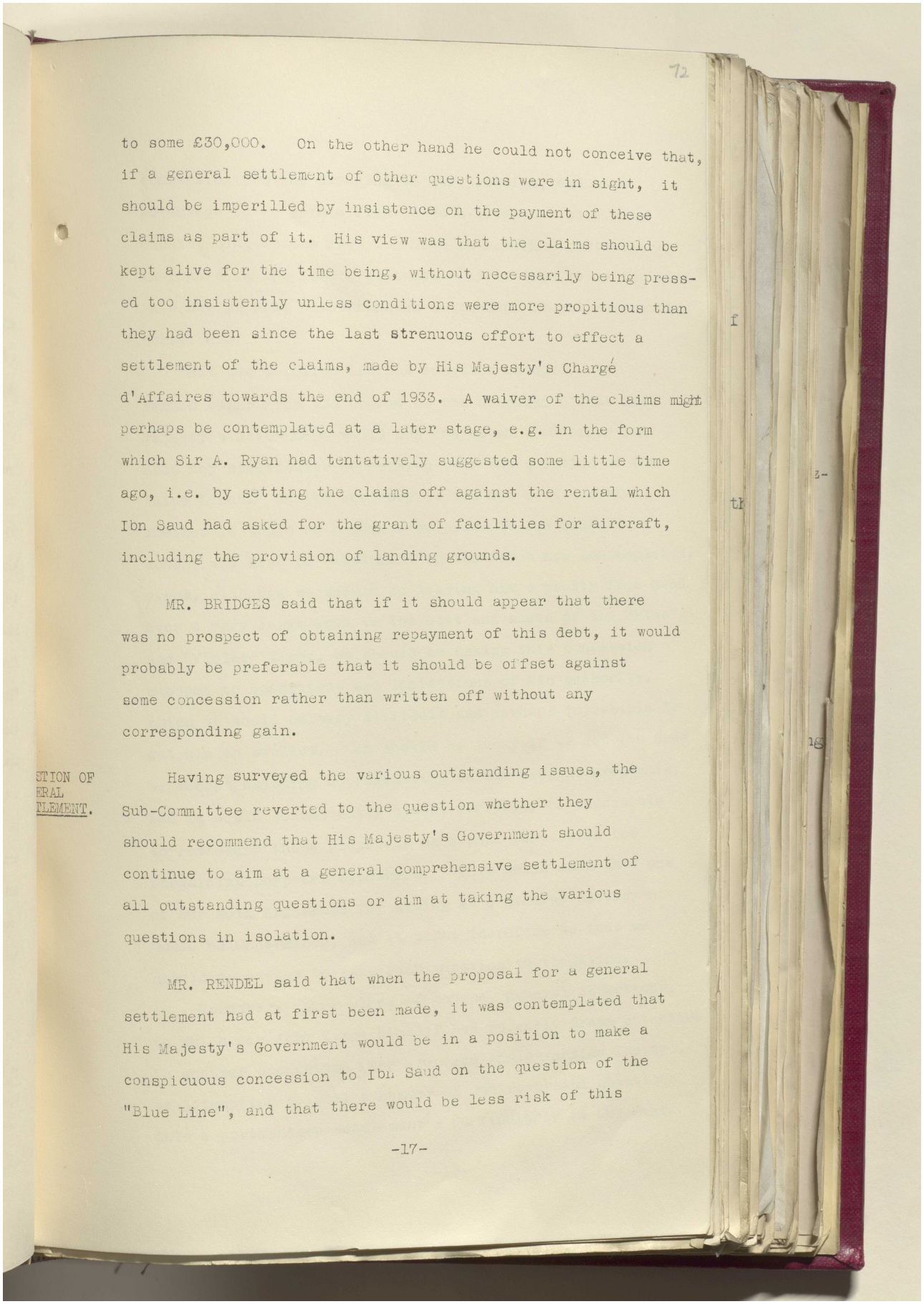

to some £30,000. On the other hand he could not conceive that, if a general settlement of other questions were in sight, it should be imperilled by insistence on the payment of these claims as part of it. His view was that the claims should be kept alive for the time being, without necessarily being pressed too insistently unless conditions were more propitious than they had been since the last strenuous effort to effect a settlement of the claims, made by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires towards the end of 1933. A waiver of the claims might perhaps be contemplated at a later stage, e.g. in the form which Sir A. Ryan had tentatively suggested some little time ago, i.e. by setting the claims off against the rental which Ibn Saud had asked for the grant of facilities for aircraft, including the provision of landing grounds.

MR. BRIDGES said that if it should appear that there was no prospect of obtaining repayment of this debt, it would probably be preferable that it should be offset against some concession rather than written off without any corresponding gain.

STION OF ERAL TLEMENT.

Having surveyed the various outstanding issues, the Sub-Committee reverted to the question whether they should recommend that His Majesty's Government should continue to aim at a general comprehensive settlement of all outstanding questions or aim at taking the various questions in isolation.

MR. RENDEL said that when the proposal for a general settlement had at first been made, it was contemplated that His Majesty's Government would be in a position to make a conspicuous concession to Ibn Saud on the question of the "Blue Line", and that there would be less risk of this

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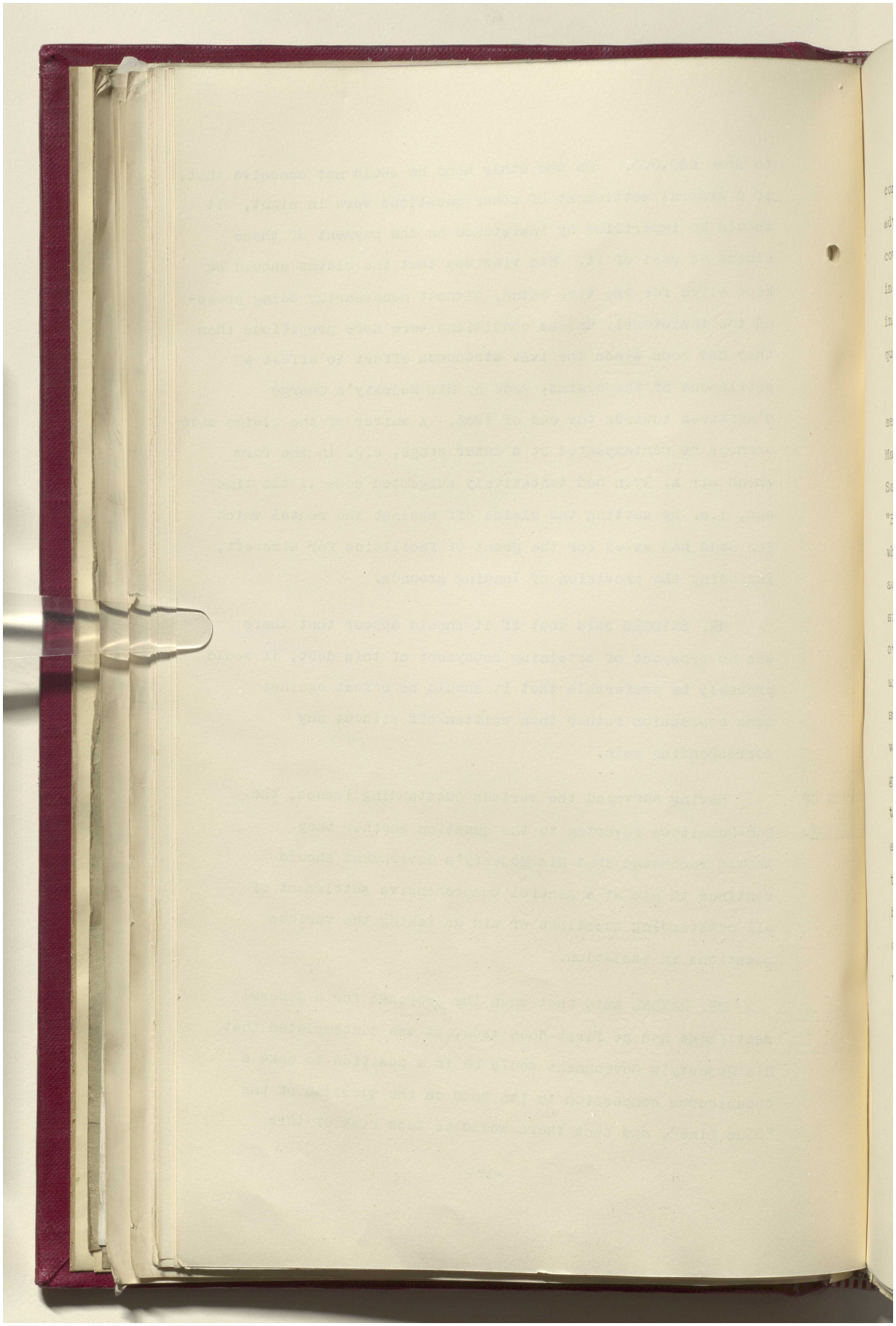

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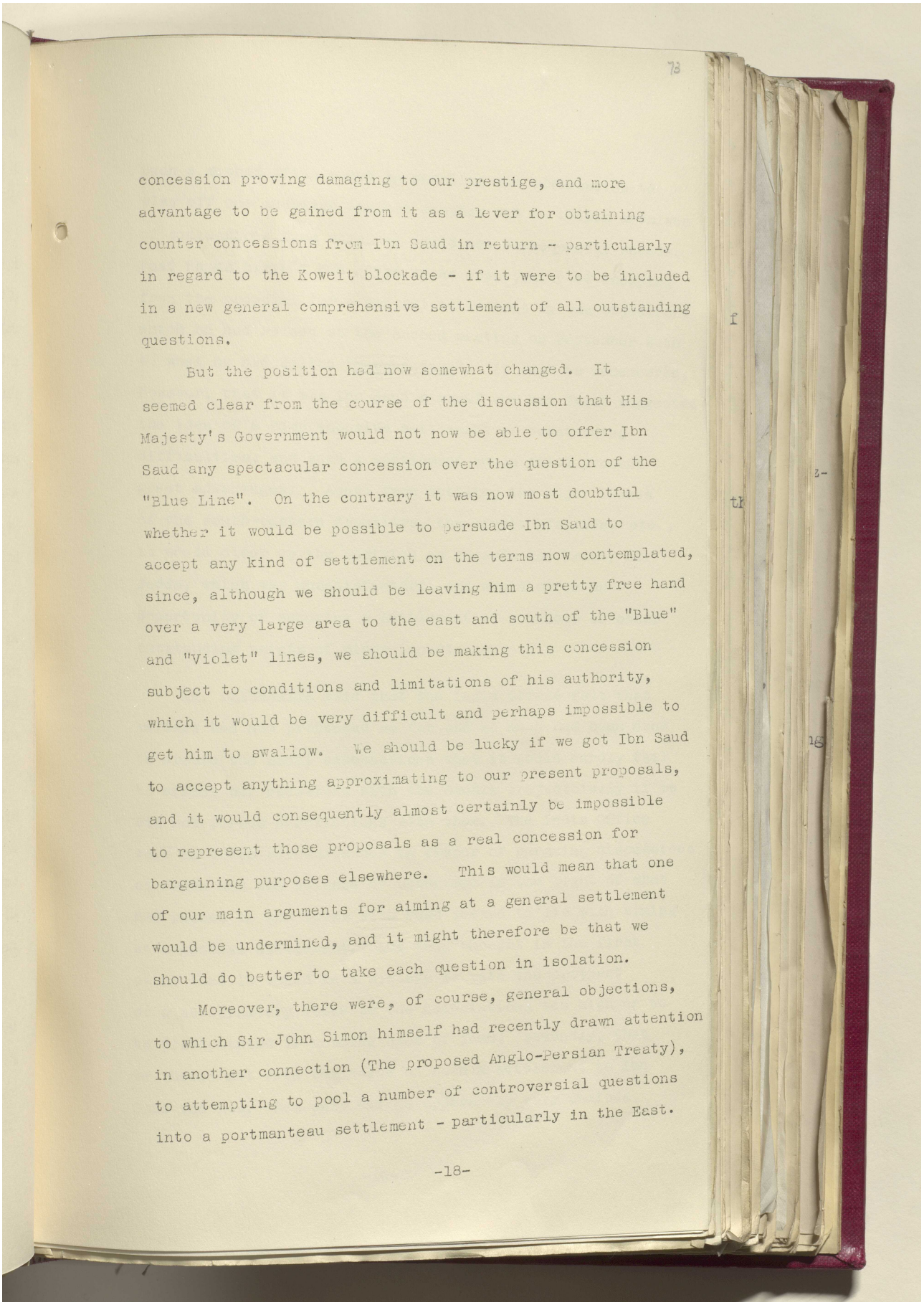

concession proving damaging to our prestige, and more advantage to be gained from it as a lever for obtaining counter concessions from Ibn Saud in return - particularly in regard to the Koweit blockade - if it were to be included in a new general comprehensive settlement of all outstanding questions.

But the position had now somewhat changed. It seemed clear from the course of the discussion that His Majesty's Government would not now be able to offer Ibn Saud any spectacular concession over the question of the "Blue Line". On the contrary it was now most doubtful whether it would be possible to persuade Ibn Saud to accept any kind of settlement on the terms now contemplated, since, although we should be leaving him a pretty free hand over a very large area to the east and south of the "Blue" and "Violet" lines, we should be making this concession subject to conditions and limitations of his authority, which it would be very difficult and perhaps impossible to get him to swallow. We should be lucky if we got Ibn Saud to accept anything approximating to our present proposals, and it would consequently almost certainly be impossible to represent those proposals as a real concession for bargaining purposes elsewhere. This would mean that one of our main arguments for aiming at a general settlement would be undermined, and it might therefore be that we should do better to take each question in isolation.

Moreover, there were, of course, general objections, to which Sir John Simon himself had recently drawn attention in another connection (The proposed Anglo-Persian Treaty), to attempting to pool a number of controversial questions into a portmanteau settlement - particularly in the East.

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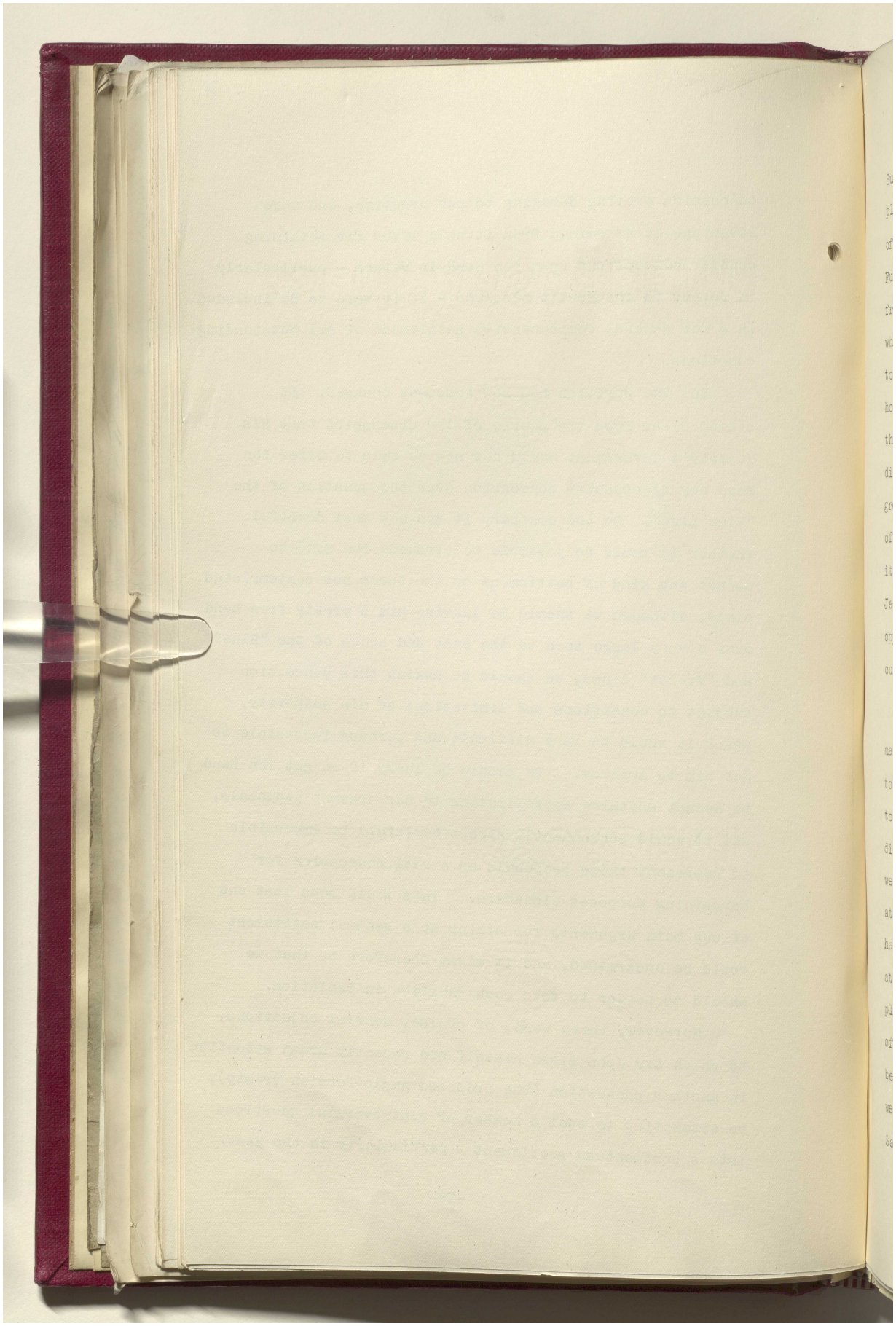

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Such a method often ended in enabling our adversaries to play off one question against another and to obtain promises of concessions from which we could not subsequently recede. Fuad Hamza himself had given us an opportunity of escaping from the proposal for a general settlement by the objections which he had raised at the second meeting on September 20th to what he had called "marchandage". It must be remembered, however, that it was Ibn Saud himself who had first suggested the idea of a comprehensive settlement of outstanding difficulties, and such a settlement would still present great advantages. Apart from settling the major issues of the south-eastern frontiers, the Koweit blockade, etc., it would clear up the position as regards the Treaty of Jedda, which was unsatisfactory, and would offer an opportunity of securing a settlement of a number of other outstanding points of minor importance.

MR. LAITHWAITE said that the India Office felt that matters had now proceeded so far and so much had been done to arouse the Saudi expectations that it could hardly fail to affect our relations sith the Saudis prejudicially if we did not pursue negotiations with them. The India Office were in these circumstances in favour of pursuing discussions at Jedda and the balance of advantage in the light of what had passed in the talks with Fuad seemed to lie with aiming at a general settlement. But they thought in the first place that it would be a mistake to rate the prospect of a satisfactory issue to the negotiations too high or to be disappointed if nothing came of them; secondly, that we should not rate the value of such a settlement to Ibn Saud too low. Not only was he apparently very anxious

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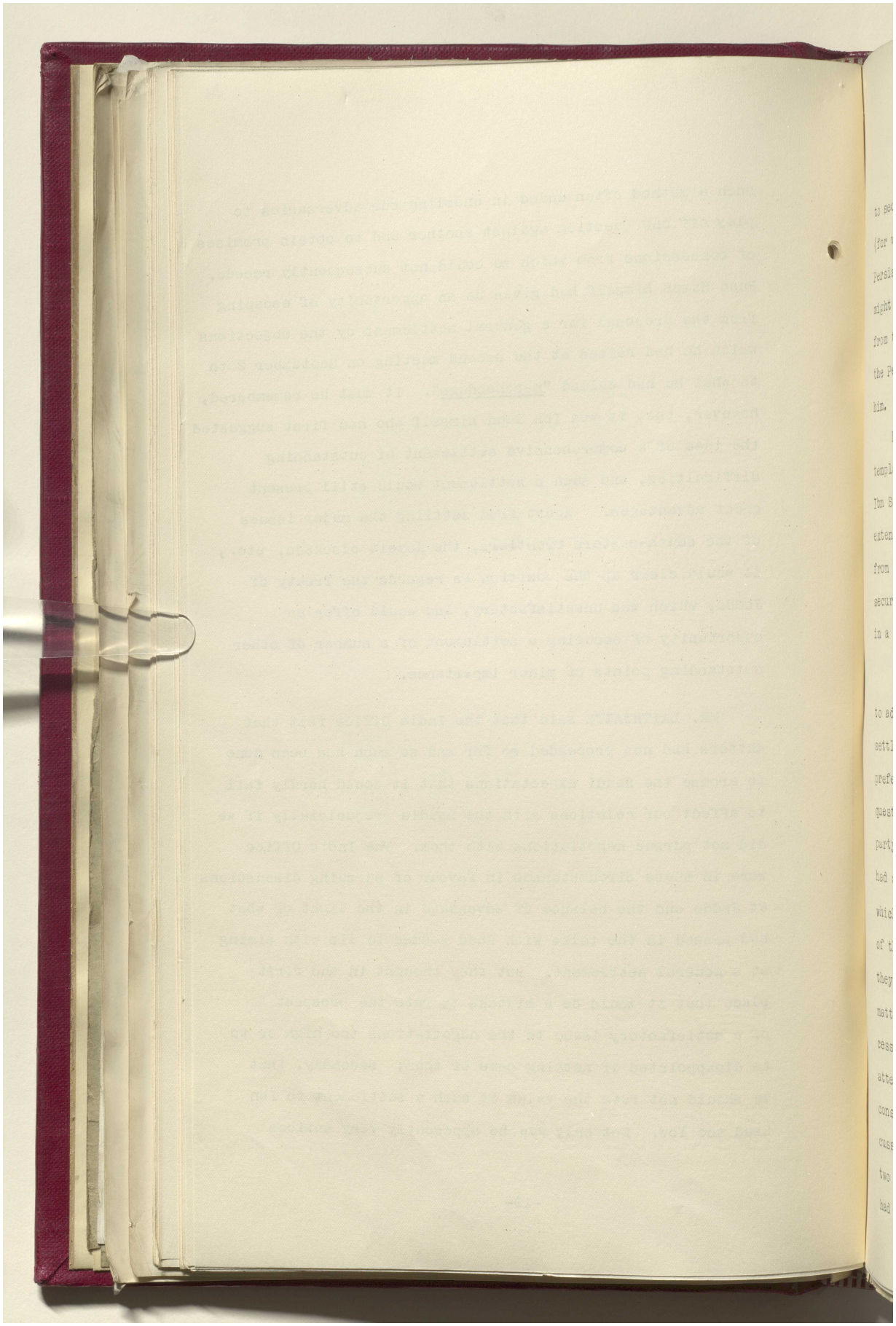

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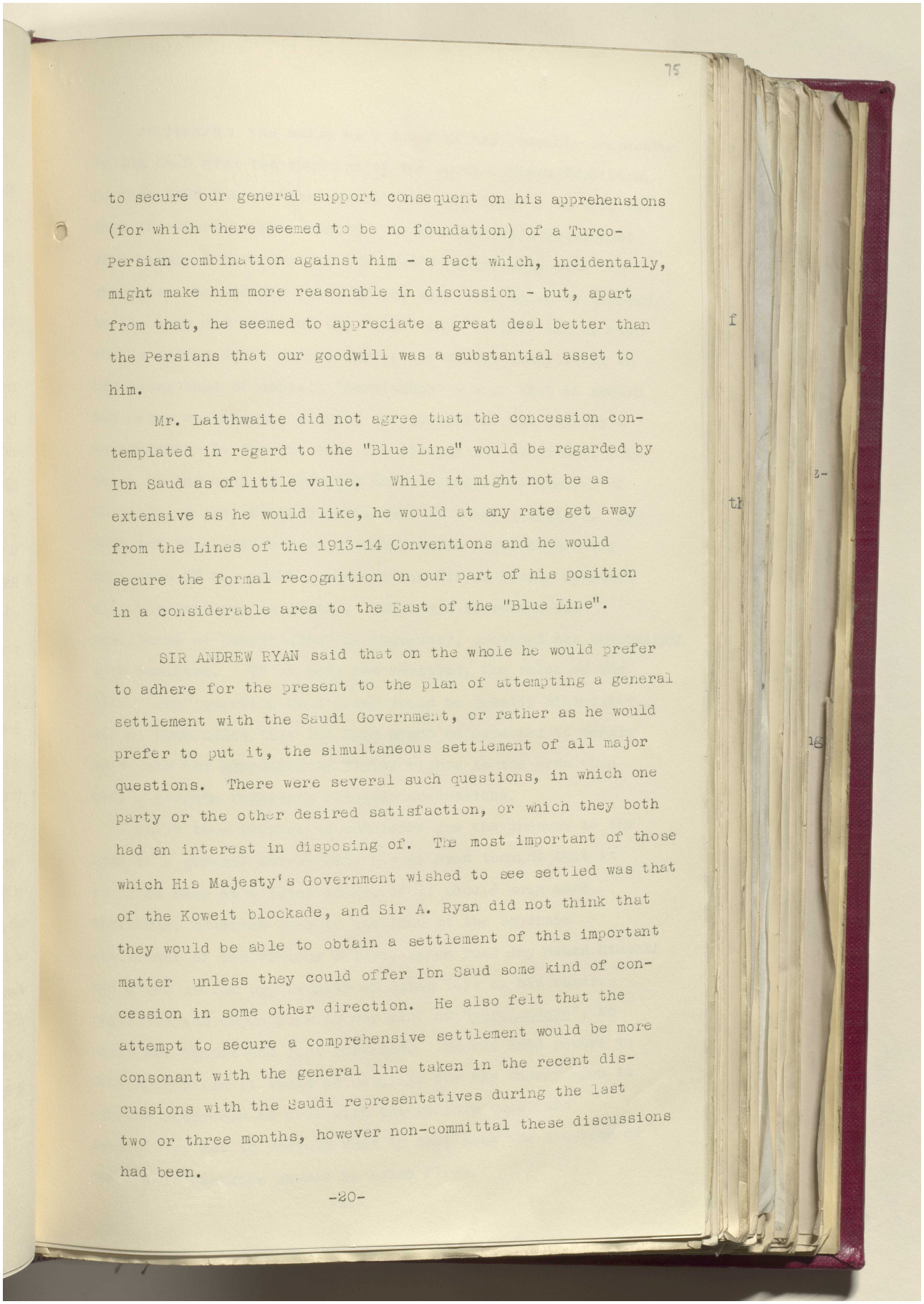

to secure our general support consequent on his apprehensions (for which there seemed to be no foundation) of a Turco-Persian combination against him - a fact which, incidentally, might make him more reasonable in discussion - but, apart from that, he seemed to appreciate a great deal better than the Persians that our goodwill was a substantial asset to him.

Mr. Laithwaite did not agree that the concession contemplated in regard to the "Blue Line" would be regarded by Ibn Saud as of little value. While it might not be as extensive as he would like, he would at any rate get away from the Lines of the 1913-14 Conventions and he would secure the formal recognition on our part of his position in a considerable area to the East of the "Blue Line".

SIR ANDREW RYAN said that on the whole he would prefer to adhere for the present to the plan of attempting a general settlement with the Saudi Government, or rather as he would prefer to put it, the simultaneous settlement of all major questions. There were several such questions, in which one party or the other desired satisfaction, or which they both had an interest in disposing of. The most important of those which His Majesty's Government wished to see settled was that of the Koweit blockade, and Sir A. Ryan did not think that they would be able to obtain a settlement of this important matter unless they could offer Ibn Saud some kind of concession in some other direction. He also felt that the attempt to secure a comprehensive settlement would be more consonant with the general line taken in the recent discussions with the Saudi representatives during the last two or three months, however non-committal these discussions had been.

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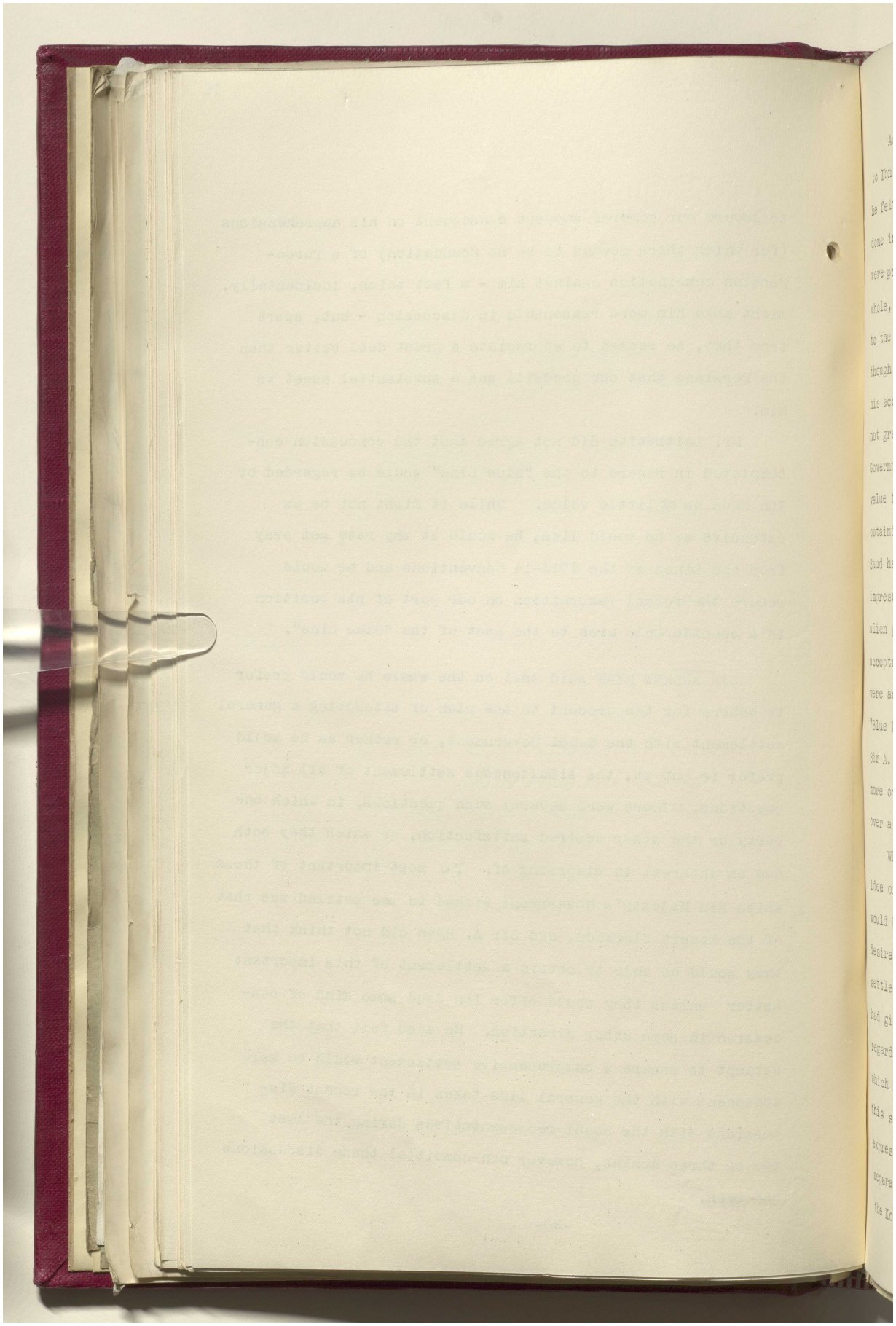

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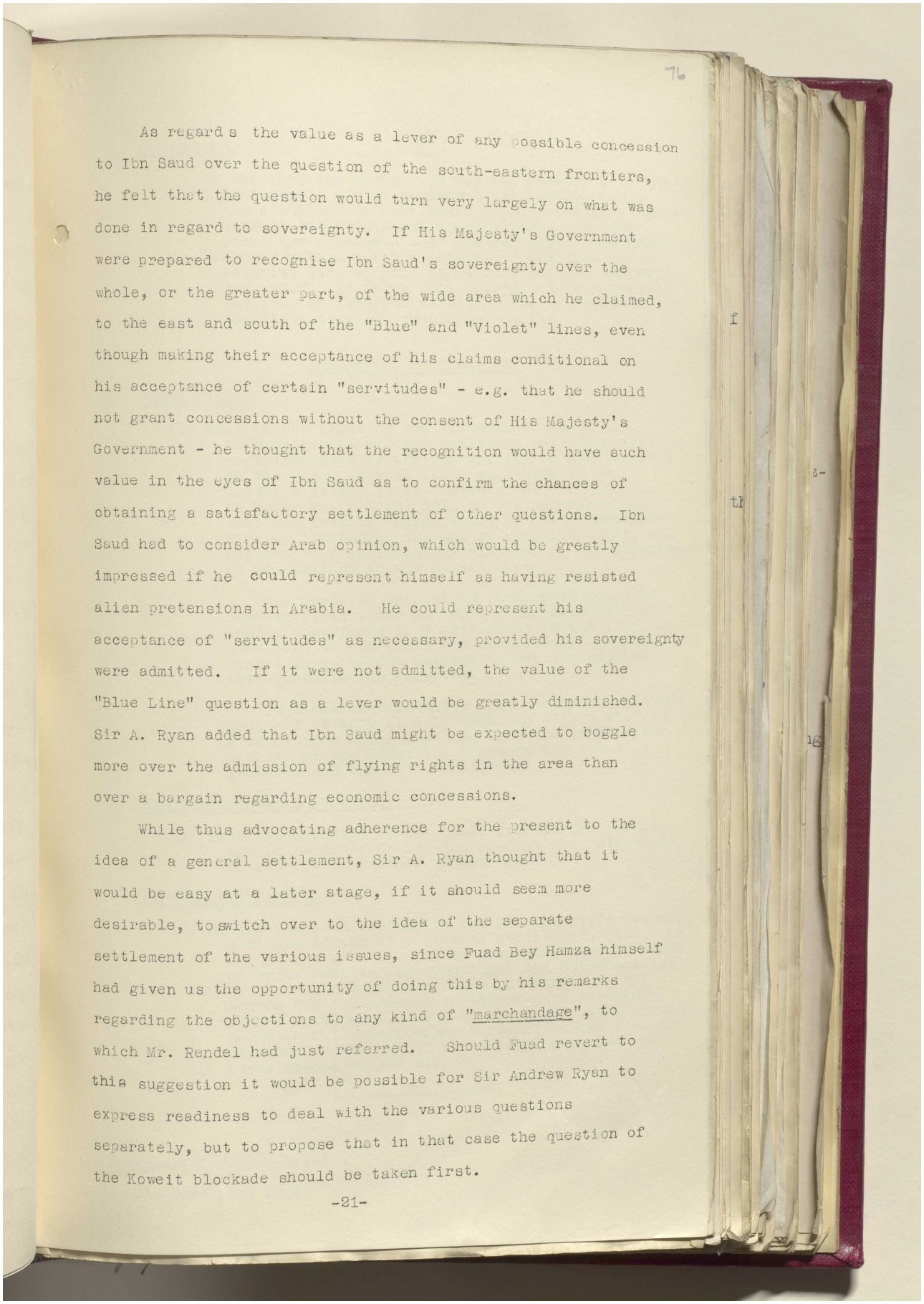

As regards the value as a lever of any possible concession to Ibn Saud over the question of the south-eastern frontiers, he felt that the question would turn very largely on what was done in regard to sovereignty. If His Majesty's Government were prepared to recognise Ibn Saud's sovereignty over the whole, or the greater part, of the wide area which he claimed, to the east and south of the "Blue" and "Violet" lines, even though making their acceptance of his claims conditional on his acceptance of certain "servitudes" - e.g. that he should not grant concessions without the consent of His Majesty's Government - he thought that the recognition would have such value in the eyes of Ibn Saud as to confirm the chances of obtaining a satisfactory settlement of other questions. Ibn Saud had to consider Arab opinion, which would be greatly impressed if he could represent himself as having resisted alien pretensions in Arabia. He could represent his acceptance of "servitudes" as necessary, provided his sovereignty were admitted. If it were not admitted, the value of the "Blue Line" question as a lever would be greatly diminished. Sir A. Ryan added that Ibn Saud might be expected to boggle more over the admission of flying rights in the area than over a bargain regarding economic concessions.

While thus advocating adherence for the present to the idea of a general settlement, Sir A. Ryan thought that it would be easy at a later stage, if it should seem more desirable, to switch over to the idea of the separate settlement of the various issues, since Fuad Bey Hamza himself had given us the opportunity of doing this by his remarks regarding the objections to any kind of "marchandage", to which Mr. Rendel had just referred. Should Fuad revert to this suggestion it would be possible for Sir Andrew Ryan to express readiness to deal with the various questions separately, but to propose that in that case the question of the Koweit blockade should be taken first.

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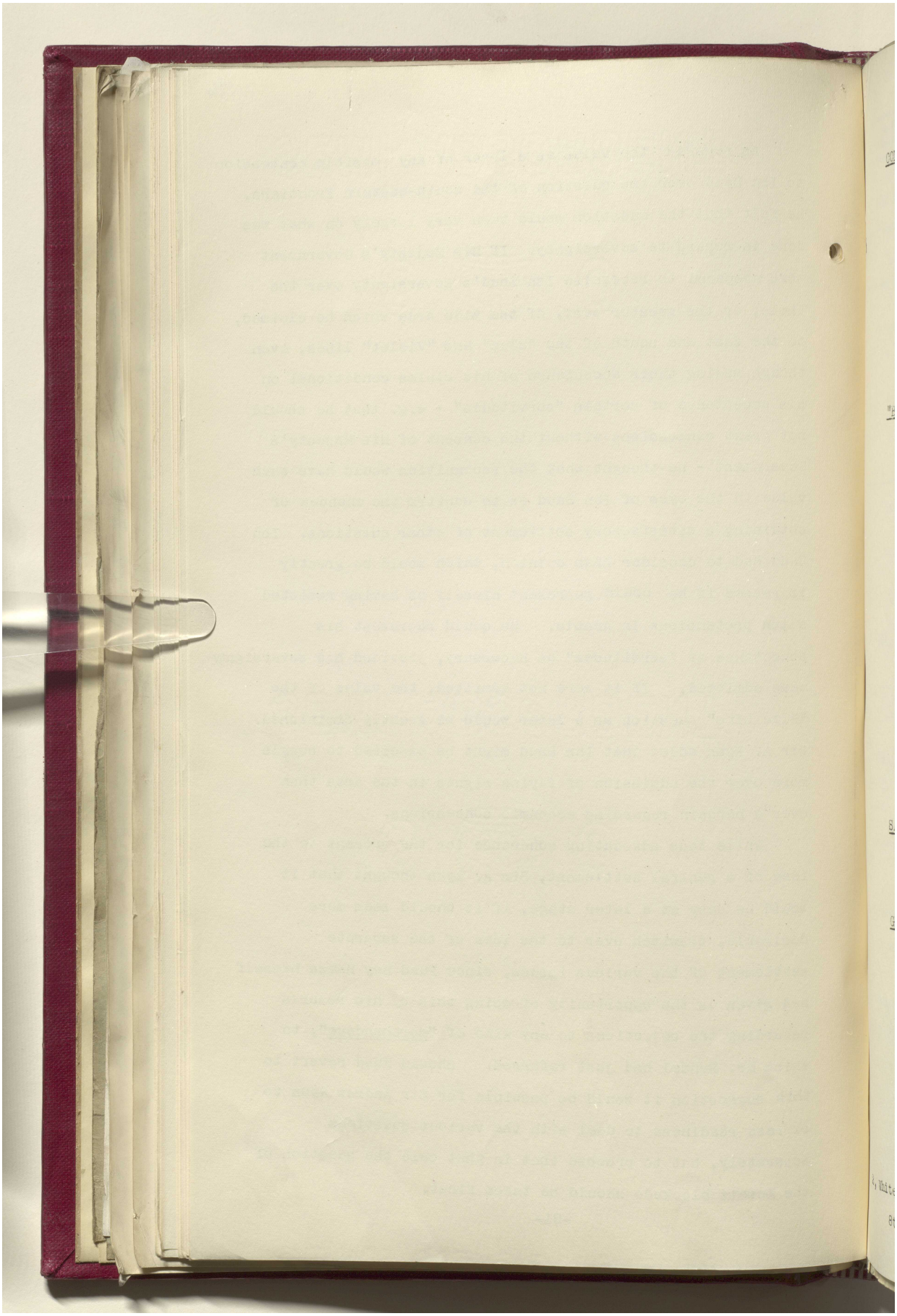

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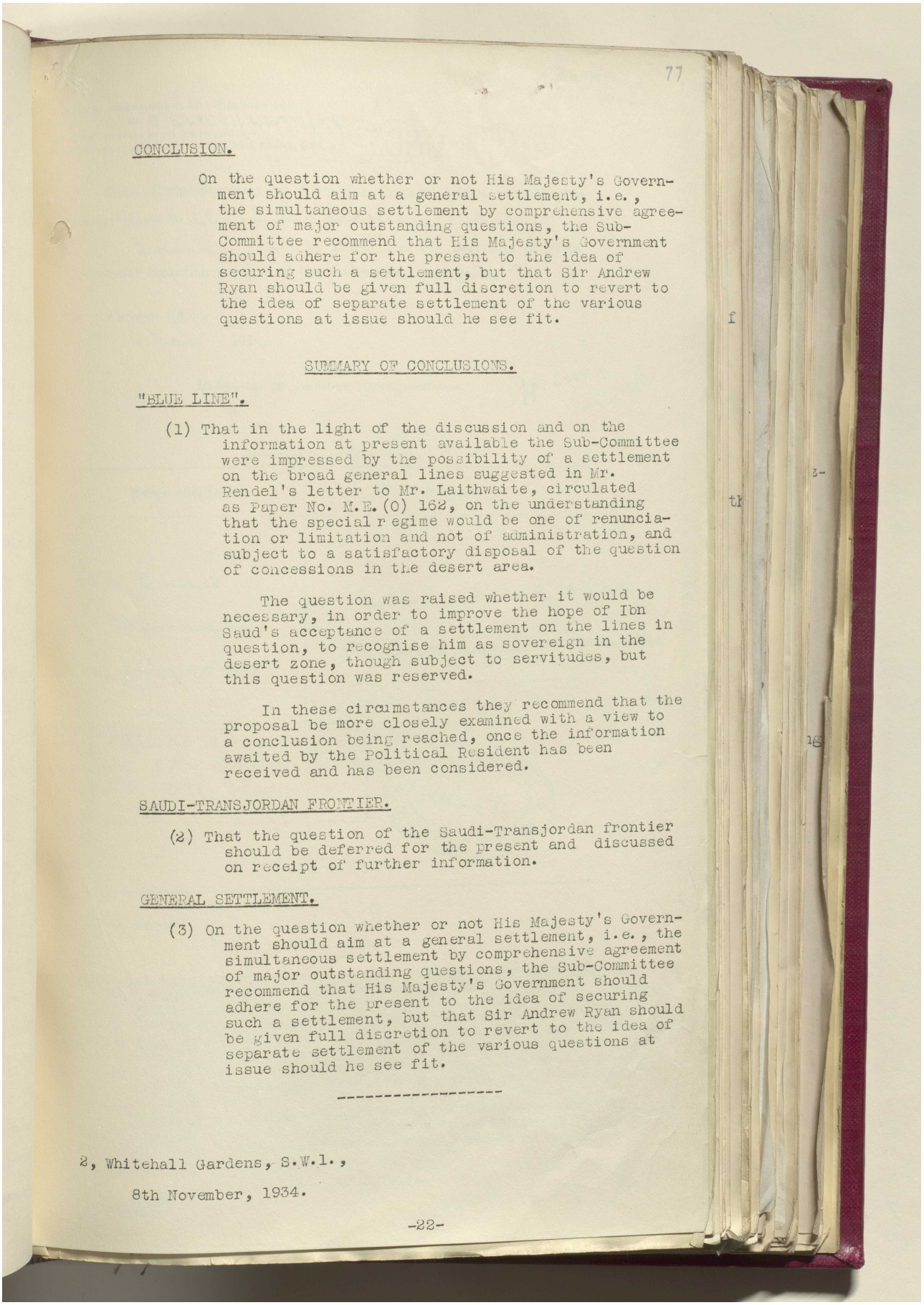

CONCLUSION.

On the question whether or not His Majesty's Government should aim at a general settlement, i.e., the simultaneous settlement by comprehensive agreement of major outstanding questions, the Sub-Committee recommend that His Majesty's Government should adhere for the present to the idea of securing such a settlement, but that Sir Andrew Ryan should be given full discretion to revert to the idea of separate settlement of the various questions at issue should he see fit.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

"BLUE LINE".

(1) That in the light of the discussion and on the information at present available the Sub-Committee were impressed by the possibility of a settlement on the broad general lines suggested in Mr. Rendel's letter to Mr. Laithwaite, circulated as Paper No. M.E.(O) 162, on the understanding that the special regime would be one of renunciation or limitation and not of administration, and subject to a satisfactory disposal of the question of concessions in the desert area.

The question was raised whether it would be necessary, in order to improve the hope of Ibn Saud's acceptance of a settlement on the lines in question, to recognise him as sovereign in the desert zone, though subject to servitudes, but this question was reserved.

In these circumstances they recommend that the proposal be more closely examined with a view to a conclusion being reached, once the information awaited by the Political Resident has been received and has been considered.

SAUDI-TRANSJORDAN FRONTIER.

(2) That the question of the Saudi-Transjordan frontier should be deferred for the present and discussed on receipt of further information.

GENERAL SETTLEMENT.

(3) On the question whether or not His Majesty's Government should aim at a general settlement, i.e., the simultaneous settlement by comprehensive agreement of major outstanding questions, the Sub-Committee recommend that His Majesty's Government should adhere for the present to the idea of securing such a settlement, but that Sir Andrew Ryan should be given full discretion to revert to the idea of separate settlement of the various questions at issue should he see fit.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.,

8th November, 1934.

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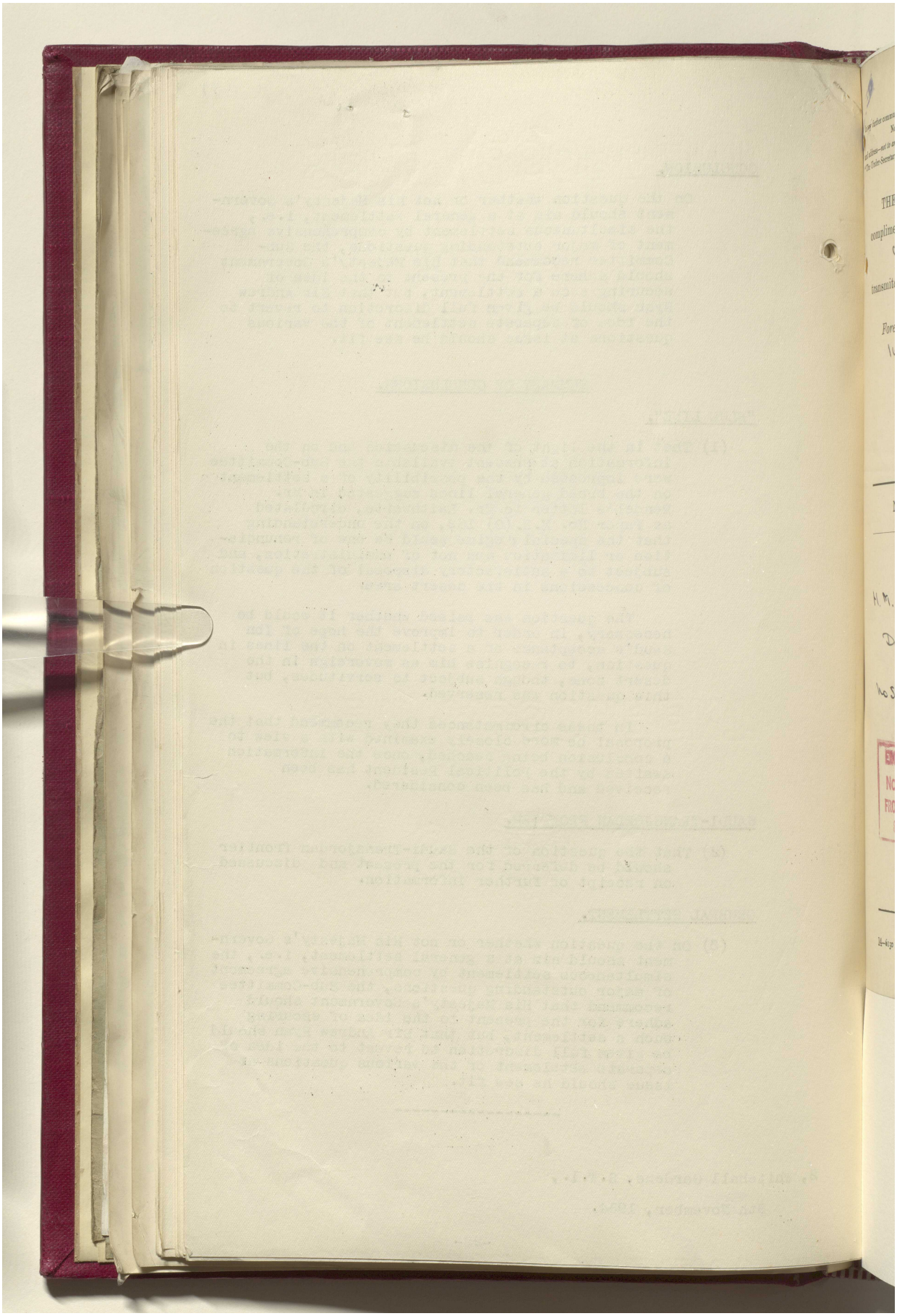

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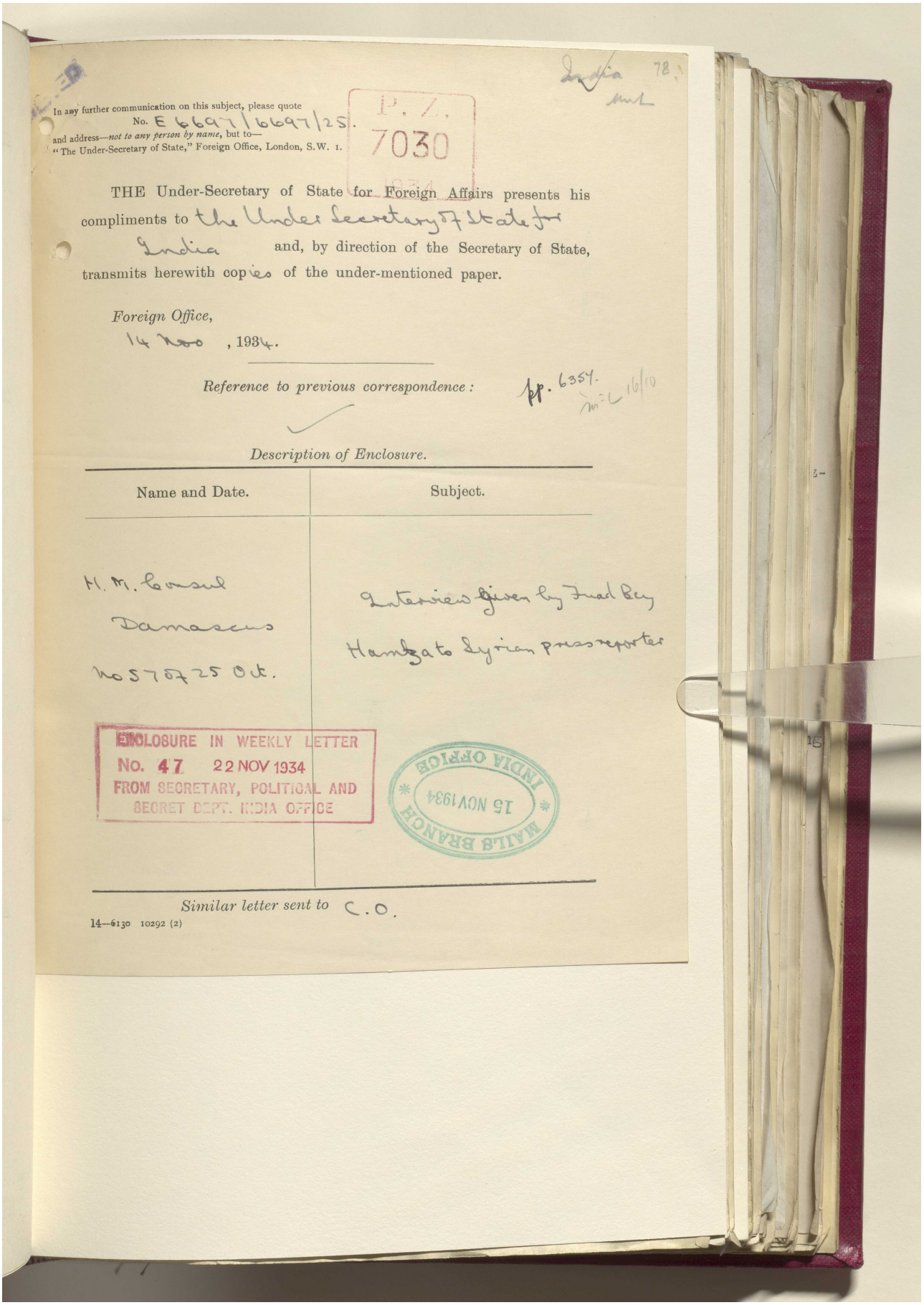

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P. Z. 7030 1934

India 78

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
14 Nov , 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence: pp. 6354. M=L 16/10

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H. M. Consul Damascus No 570 25 Oct.	Interview given by Fuad Bey Hamza to Syrian pressreporter

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. 47 22 NOV 1934 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

INDIA OFFICE MAILS BRANCH 15 NOV 1934

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—6130 10292 (2)

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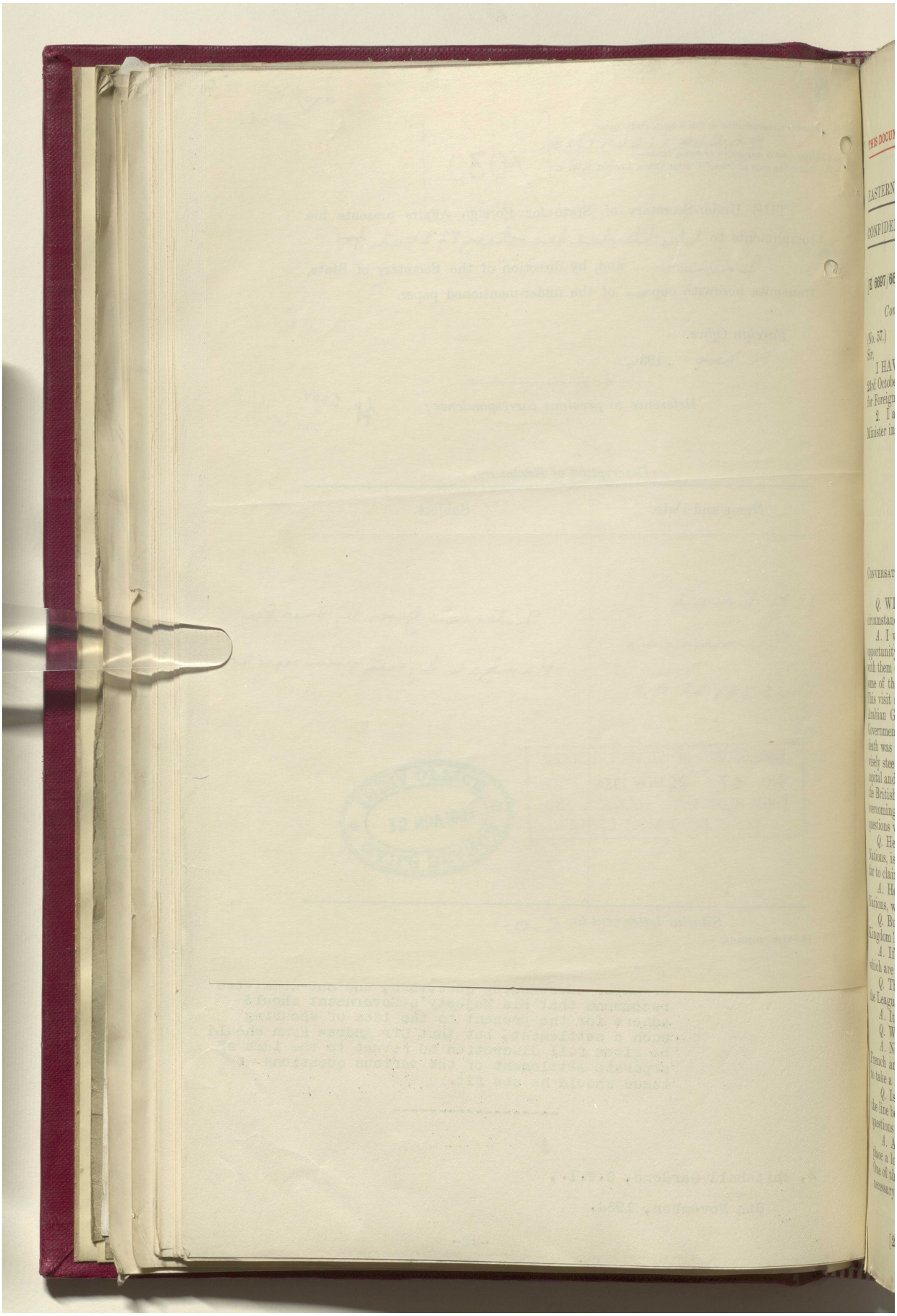

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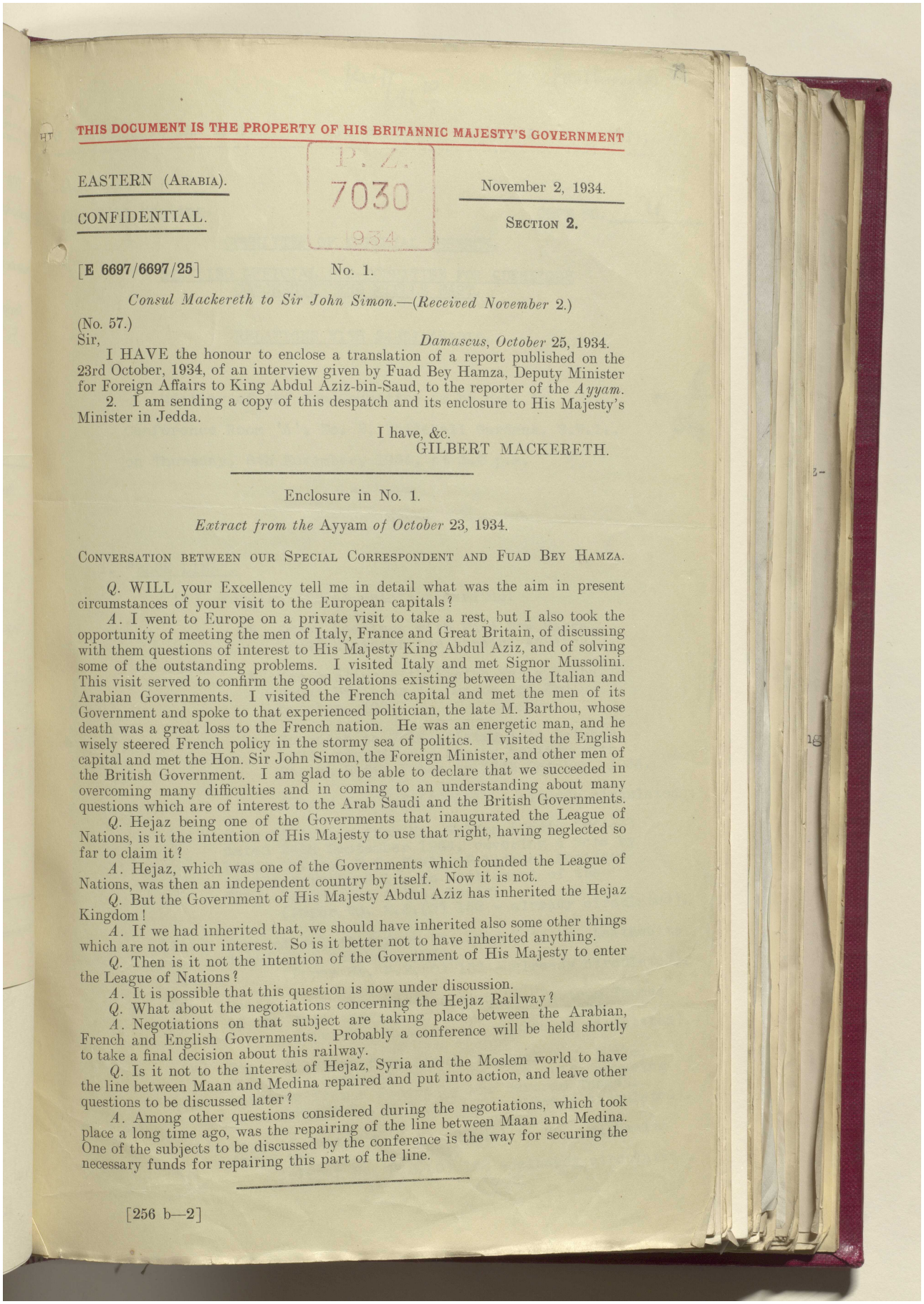

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P. Z.
7030
1934

EASTERN (ARABIA).

CONFIDENTIAL.

November 2, 1934.

SECTION 2.

[E 6697/6697/25] No. 1.

Consul Mackereth to Sir John Simon.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 57.)

Sir, *Damascus, October* 25, 1934.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a translation of a report published on the 23rd October, 1934, of an interview given by Fuad Bey Hamza, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs to King Abdul Aziz-bin-Saud, to the reporter of the *Ayyam*.

2. I am sending a copy of this despatch and its enclosure to His Majesty's Minister in Jedda.

I have, &c.
GILBERT MACKERETH.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Extract from the Ayyam *of October* 23, 1934.

CONVERSATION BETWEEN OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AND FUAD BEY HAMZA.

Q. WILL your Excellency tell me in detail what was the aim in present circumstances of your visit to the European capitals?

A. I went to Europe on a private visit to take a rest, but I also took the opportunity of meeting the men of Italy, France and Great Britain, of discussing with them questions of interest to His Majesty King Abdul Aziz, and of solving some of the outstanding problems. I visited Italy and met Signor Mussolini. This visit served to confirm the good relations existing between the Italian and Arabian Governments. I visited the French capital and met the men of its Government and spoke to that experienced politician, the late M. Barthou, whose death was a great loss to the French nation. He was an energetic man, and he wisely steered French policy in the stormy sea of politics. I visited the English capital and met the Hon. Sir John Simon, the Foreign Minister, and other men of the British Government. I am glad to be able to declare that we succeeded in overcoming many difficulties and in coming to an understanding about many questions which are of interest to the Arab Saudi and the British Governments.

Q. Hejaz being one of the Governments that inaugurated the League of Nations, is it the intention of His Majesty to use that right, having neglected so far to claim it?

A. Hejaz, which was one of the Governments which founded the League of Nations, was then an independent country by itself. Now it is not.

Q. But the Government of His Majesty Abdul Aziz has inherited the Hejaz Kingdom!

A. If we had inherited that, we should have inherited also some other things which are not in our interest. So is it better not to have inherited anything.

Q. Then is it not the intention of the Government of His Majesty to enter the League of Nations?

A. It is possible that this question is now under discussion.

Q. What about the negotiations concerning the Hejaz Railway?

A. Negotiations on that subject are taking place between the Arabian, French and English Governments. Probably a conference will be held shortly to take a final decision about this railway.

Q. Is it not to the interest of Hejaz, Syria and the Moslem world to have the line between Maan and Medina repaired and put into action, and leave other questions to be discussed later?

A. Among other questions considered during the negotiations, which took place a long time ago, was the repairing of the line between Maan and Medina. One of the subjects to be discussed by the conference is the way for securing the necessary funds for repairing this part of the line.

[256 b—2]

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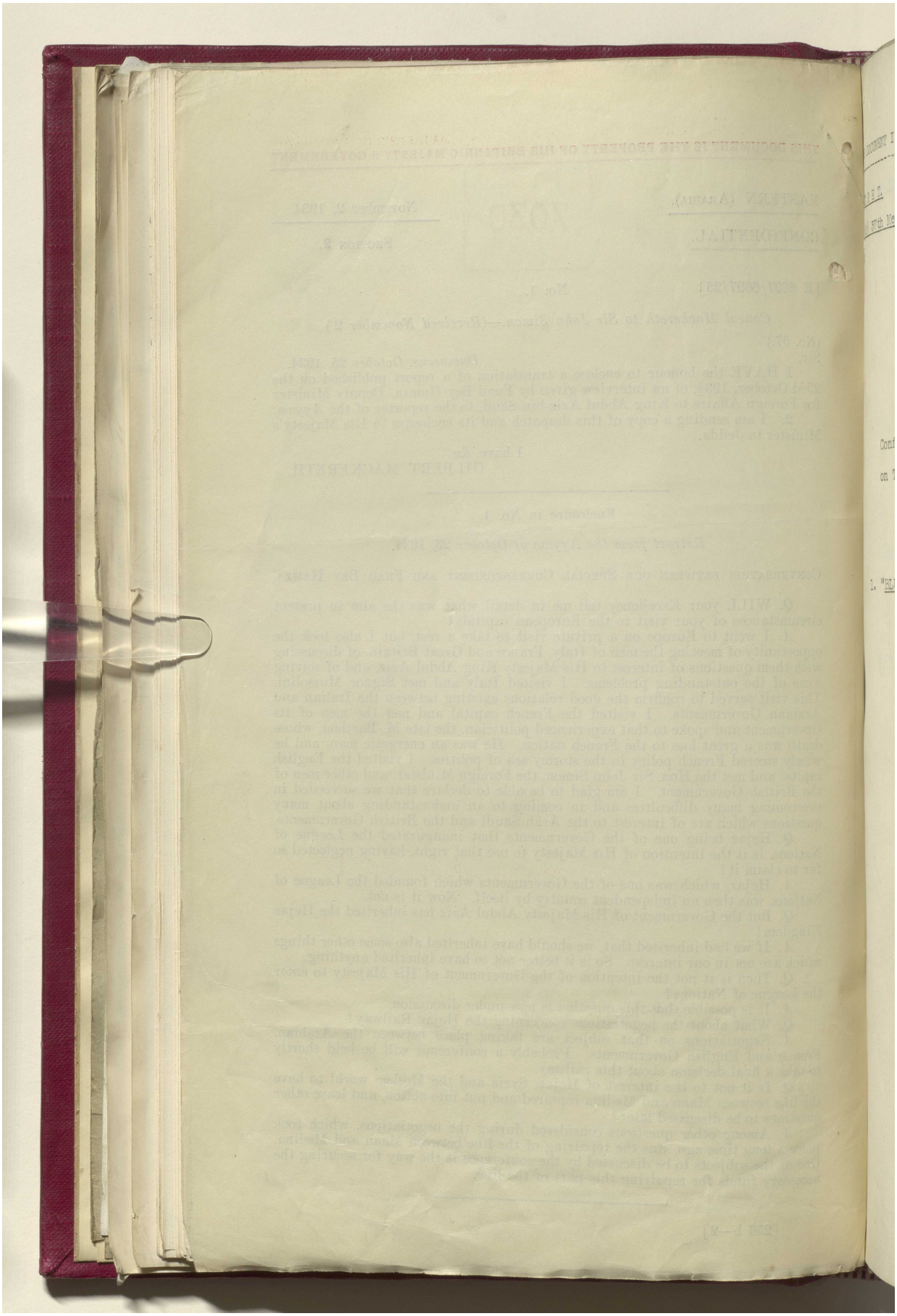

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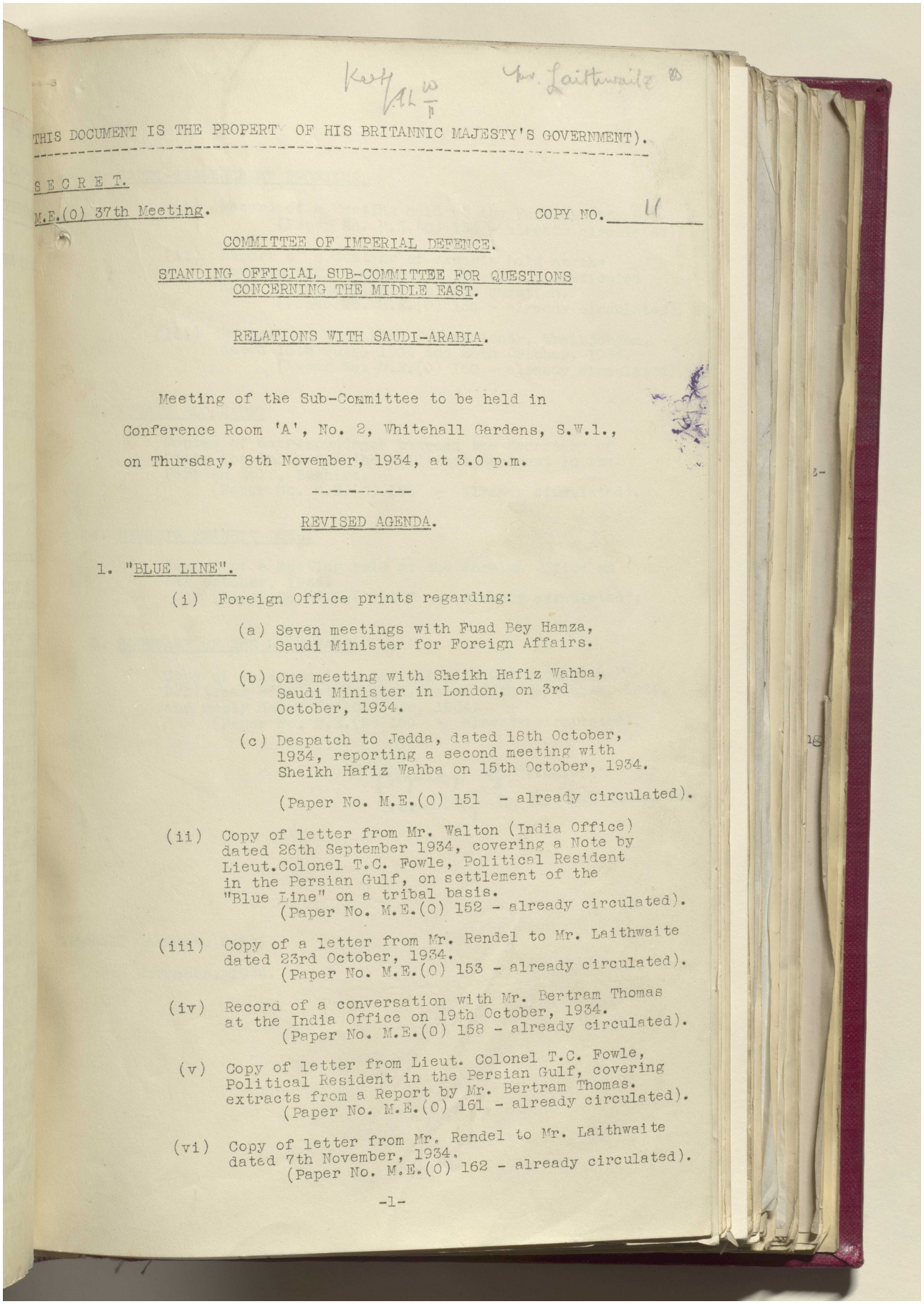

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S E C R E T.

M.E.(O) 37th Meeting. COPY NO. 11

COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

STANDING OFFICIAL SUB-COMMITTEE FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST.

RELATIONS WITH SAUDI-ARABIA.

Meeting of the Sub-Committee to be held in Conference Room 'A', No. 2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1., on Thursday, 8th November, 1934, at 3.0 p.m.

REVISED AGENDA.

1. "BLUE LINE".

(i) Foreign Office prints regarding:

(a) Seven meetings with Fuad Bey Hamza, Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(b) One meeting with Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, Saudi Minister in London, on 3rd October, 1934.

(c) Despatch to Jedda, dated 18th October, 1934, reporting a second meeting with Sheikh Hafiz Wahba on 15th October, 1934.

(Paper No. M.E.(O) 151 - already circulated).

(ii) Copy of letter from Mr. Walton (India Office) dated 26th September 1934, covering a Note by Lieut.Colonel T.C. Fowle, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, on settlement of the "Blue Line" on a tribal basis.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 152 - already circulated).

(iii) Copy of a letter from Mr. Rendel to Mr. Laithwaite dated 23rd October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 153 - already circulated).

(iv) Record of a conversation with Mr. Bertram Thomas at the India Office on 19th October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 158 - already circulated).

(v) Copy of letter from Lieut. Colonel T.C. Fowle, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, covering extracts from a Report by Mr. Bertram Thomas.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 161 - already circulated).

(vi) Copy of letter from Mr. Rendel to Mr. Laithwaite dated 7th November, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 162 - already circulated).

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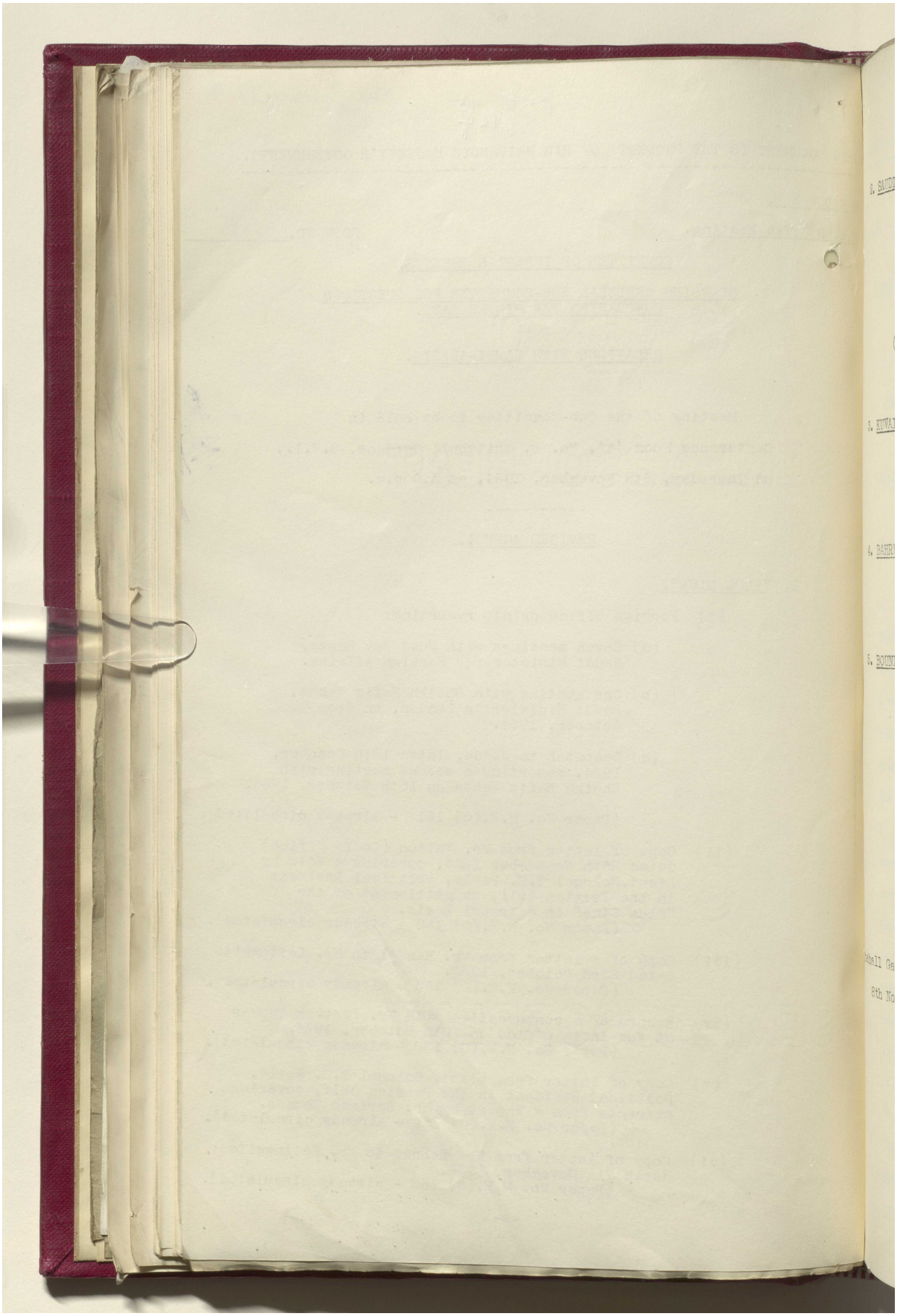

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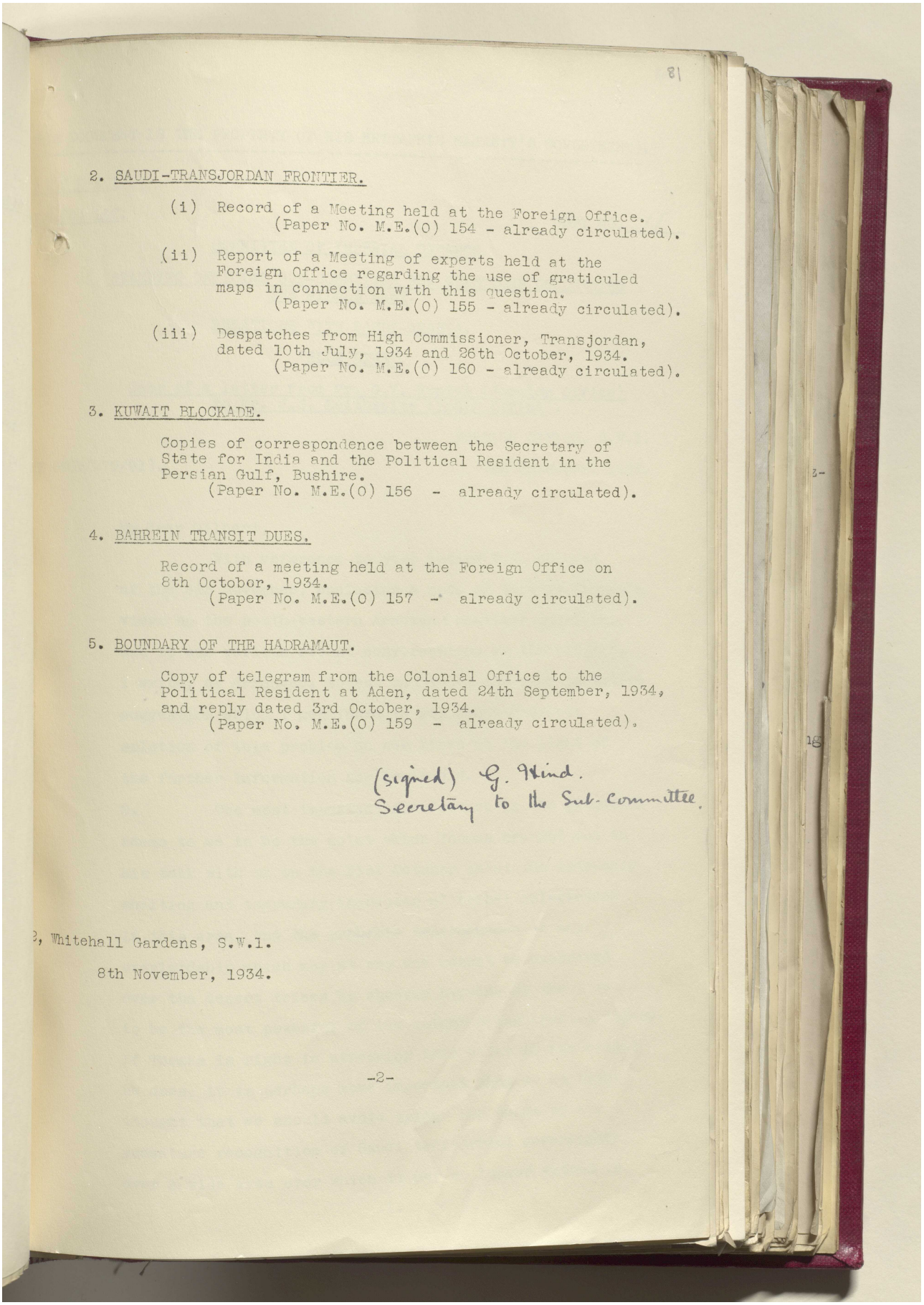

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2. SAUDI-TRANSJORDAN FRONTIER.

(i) Record of a Meeting held at the Foreign Office.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 154 - already circulated).

(ii) Report of a Meeting of experts held at the Foreign Office regarding the use of graticuled maps in connection with this question.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 155 - already circulated).

(iii) Despatches from High Commissioner, Transjordan, dated 10th July, 1934 and 26th October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 160 - already circulated).

3. KUWAIT BLOCKADE.

Copies of correspondence between the Secretary of State for India and the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 156 - already circulated).

4. BAHREIN TRANSIT DUES.

Record of a meeting held at the Foreign Office on 8th October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 157 - already circulated).

5. BOUNDARY OF THE HADRAMAUT.

Copy of telegram from the Colonial Office to the Political Resident at Aden, dated 24th September, 1934, and reply dated 3rd October, 1934.
(Paper No. M.E.(O) 159 - already circulated).

(signed) G. Hind.
Secretary to the Sub-Committee.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

8th November, 1934.

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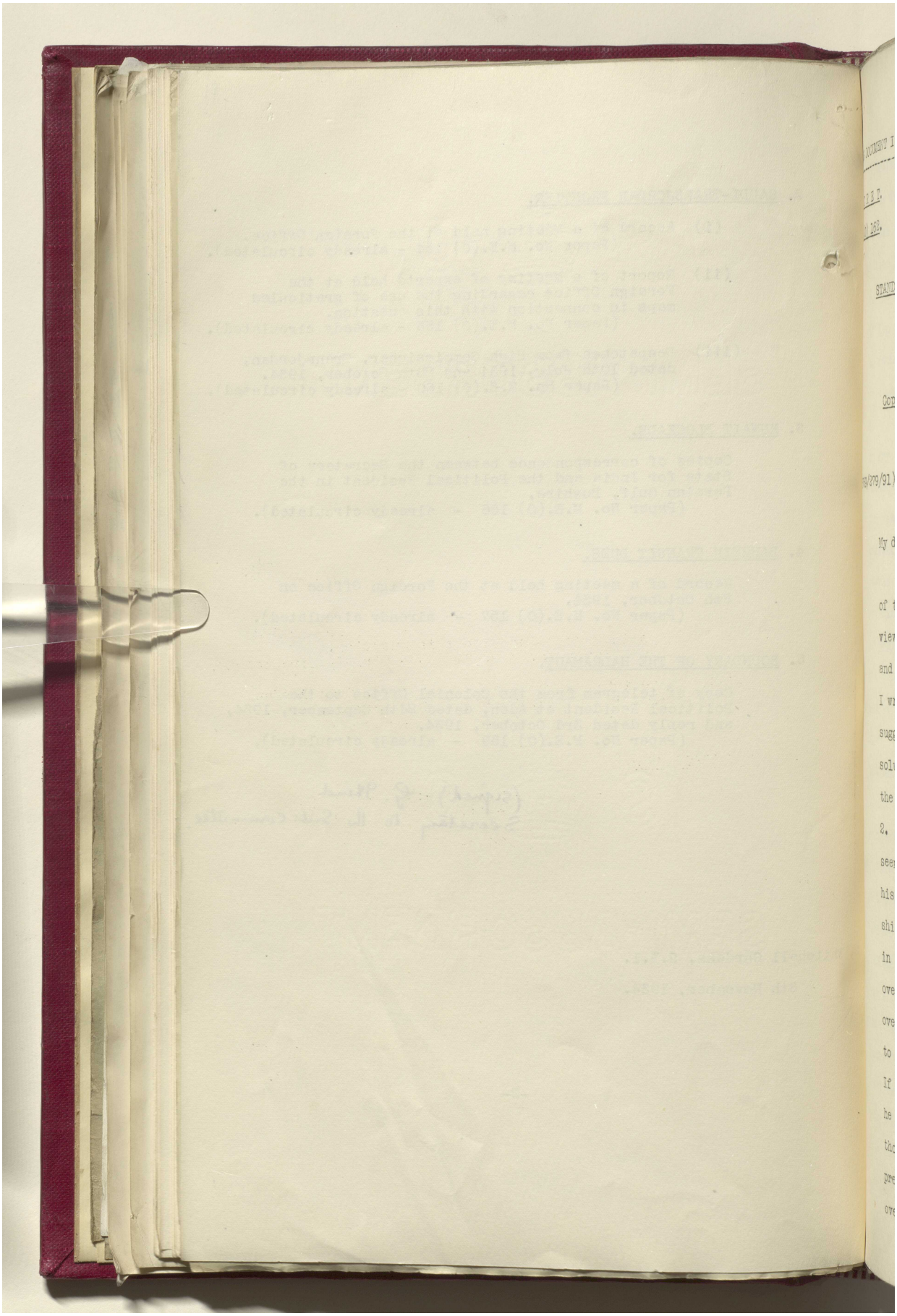

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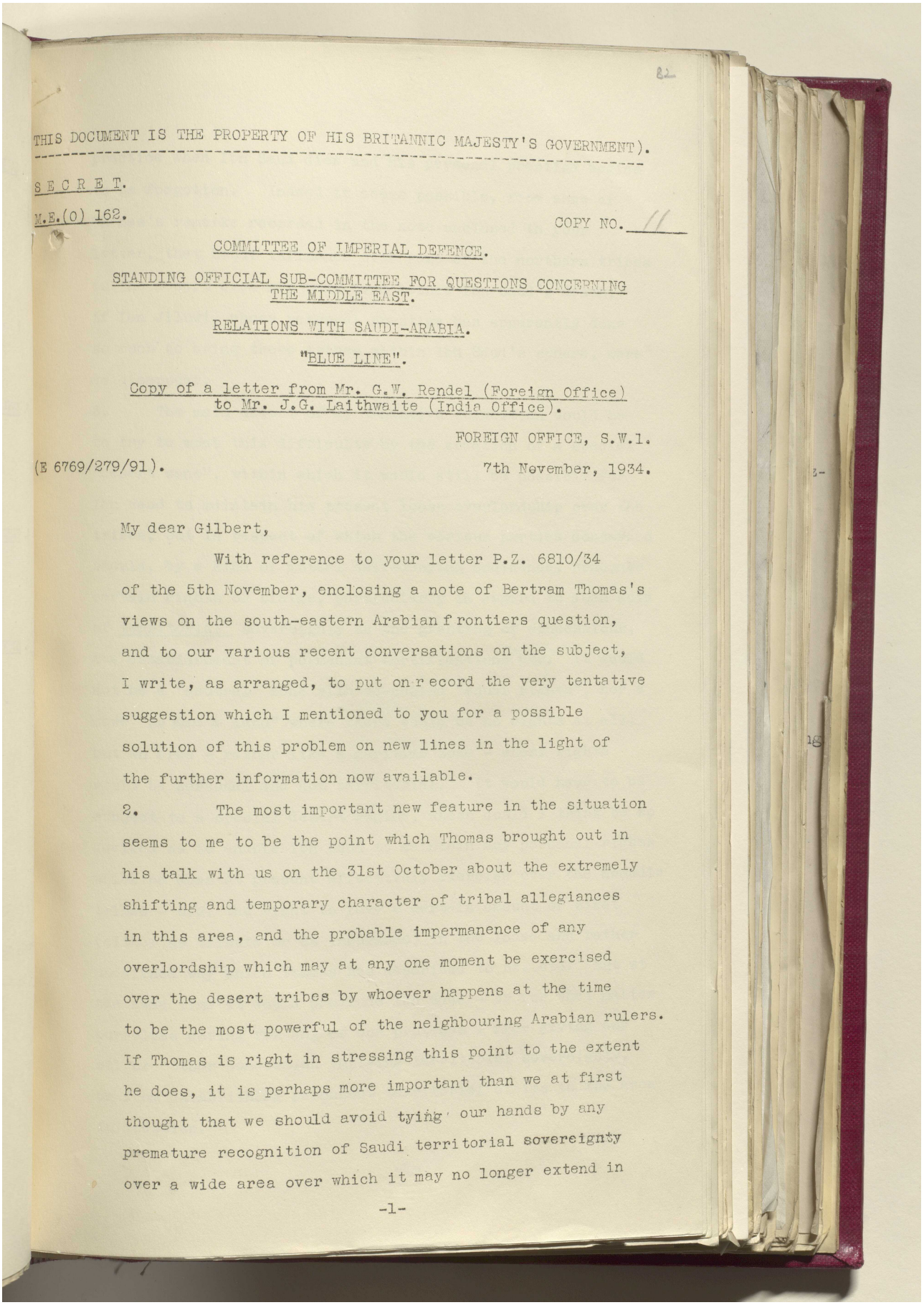

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S E C R E T.

M.E.(O) 162.

COPY NO. //

COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

STANDING OFFICIAL SUB-COMMITTEE FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST.

RELATIONS WITH SAUDI-ARABIA.

"BLUE LINE".

Copy of a letter from Mr. G.W. Rendel (Foreign Office) to Mr. J.G. Laithwaite (India Office).

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(E 6769/279/91). 7th November, 1934.

My dear Gilbert,

With reference to your letter P.Z. 6810/34 of the 5th November, enclosing a note of Bertram Thomas's views on the south-eastern Arabian frontiers question, and to our various recent conversations on the subject, I write, as arranged, to put on record the very tentative suggestion which I mentioned to you for a possible solution of this problem on new lines in the light of the further information now available.

2. The most important new feature in the situation seems to me to be the point which Thomas brought out in his talk with us on the 31st October about the extremely shifting and temporary character of tribal allegiances in this area, and the probable impermanence of any overlordship which may at any one moment be exercised over the desert tribes by whoever happens at the time to be the most powerful of the neighbouring Arabian rulers. If Thomas is right in stressing this point to the extent he does, it is perhaps more important than we at first thought that we should avoid tying our hands by any premature recognition of Saudi territorial sovereignty over a wide area over which it may no longer extend in

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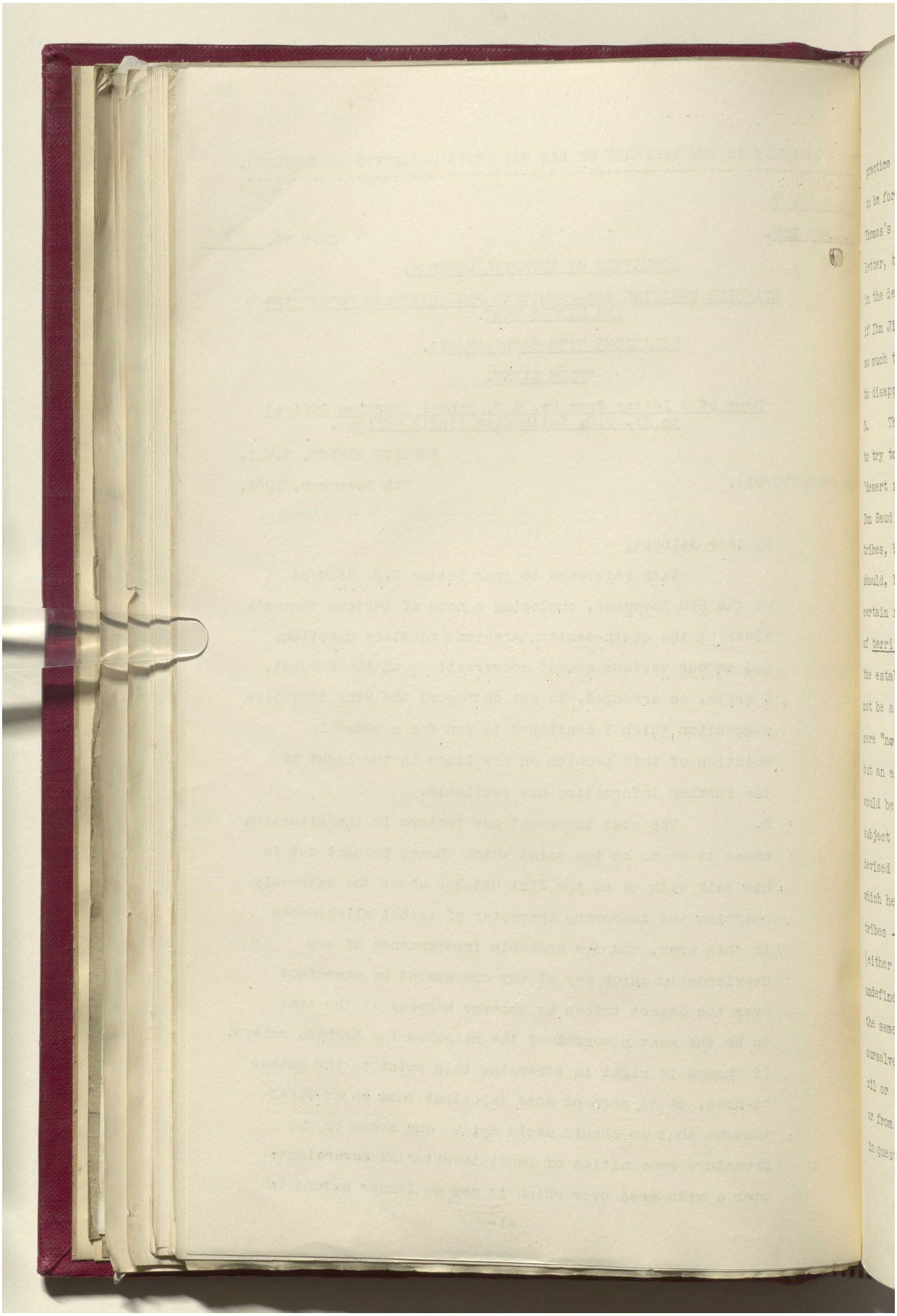

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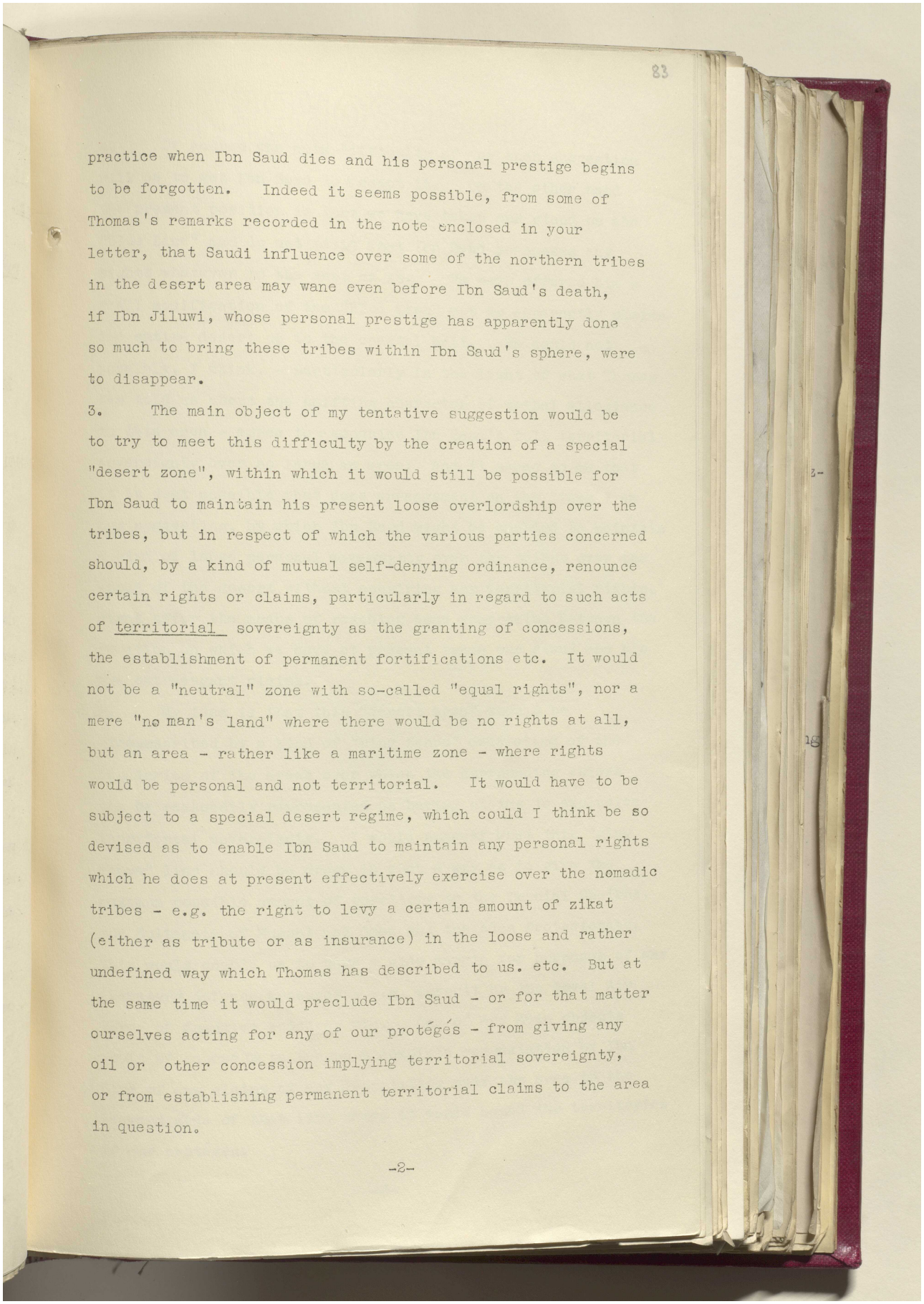

practice when Ibn Saud dies and his personal prestige begins to be forgotten. Indeed it seems possible, from some of Thomas's remarks recorded in the note enclosed in your letter, that Saudi influence over some of the northern tribes in the desert area may wane even before Ibn Saud's death, if Ibn Jiluwi, whose personal prestige has apparently done so much to bring these tribes within Ibn Saud's sphere, were to disappear.

3. The main object of my tentative suggestion would be to try to meet this difficulty by the creation of a special "desert zone", within which it would still be possible for Ibn Saud to maintain his present loose overlordship over the tribes, but in respect of which the various parties concerned should, by a kind of mutual self-denying ordinance, renounce certain rights or claims, particularly in regard to such acts of territorial sovereignty as the granting of concessions, the establishment of permanent fortifications etc. It would not be a "neutral" zone with so-called "equal rights", nor a mere "no man's land" where there would be no rights at all, but an area - rather like a maritime zone - where rights would be personal and not territorial. It would have to be subject to a special desert régime, which could I think be so devised as to enable Ibn Saud to maintain any personal rights which he does at present effectively exercise over the nomadic tribes - e.g. the right to levy a certain amount of zikat (either as tribute or as insurance) in the loose and rather undefined way which Thomas has described to us. etc. But at the same time it would preclude Ibn Saud - or for that matter ourselves acting for any of our protégés - from giving any oil or other concession implying territorial sovereignty, or from establishing permanent territorial claims to the area in question.

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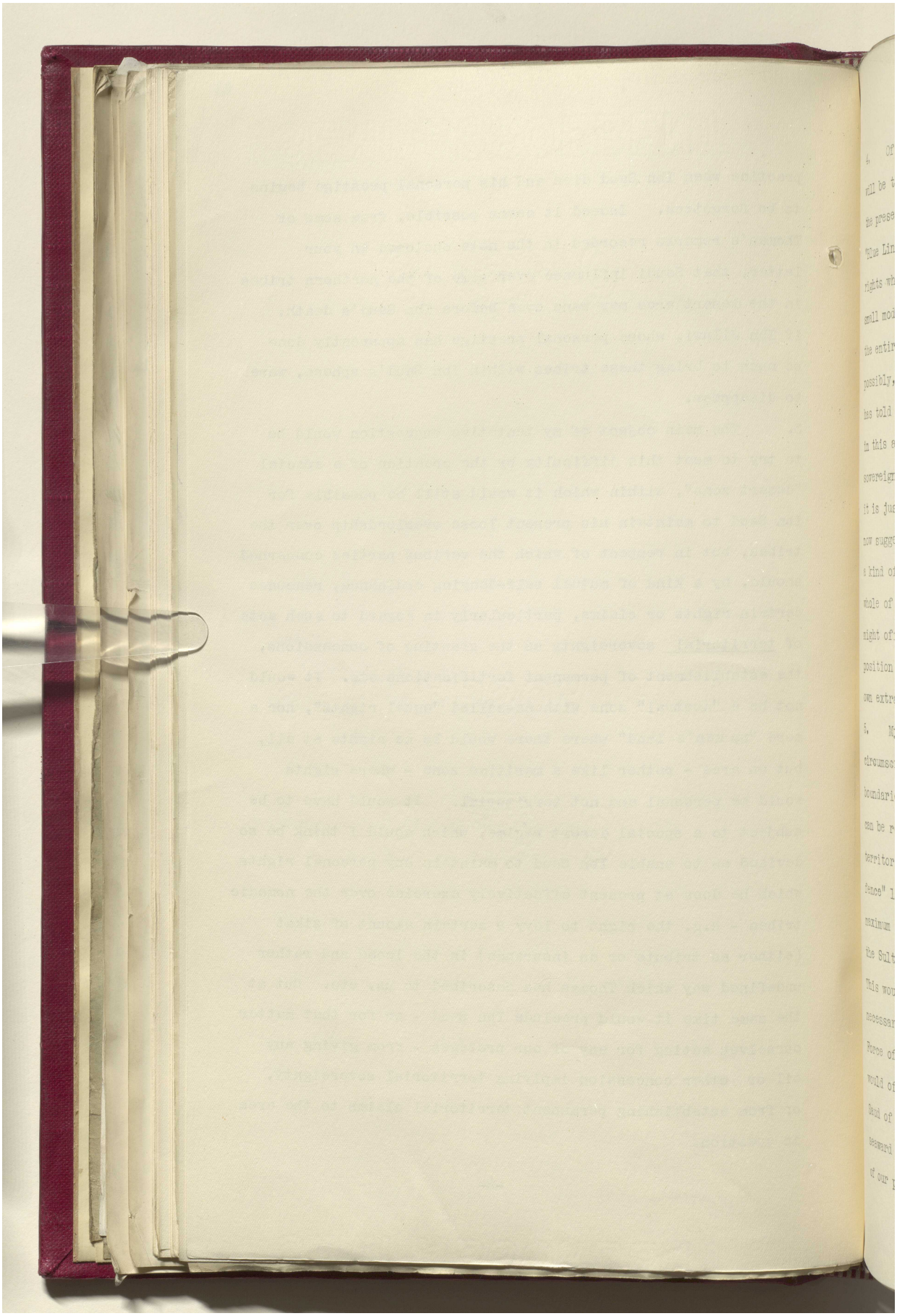

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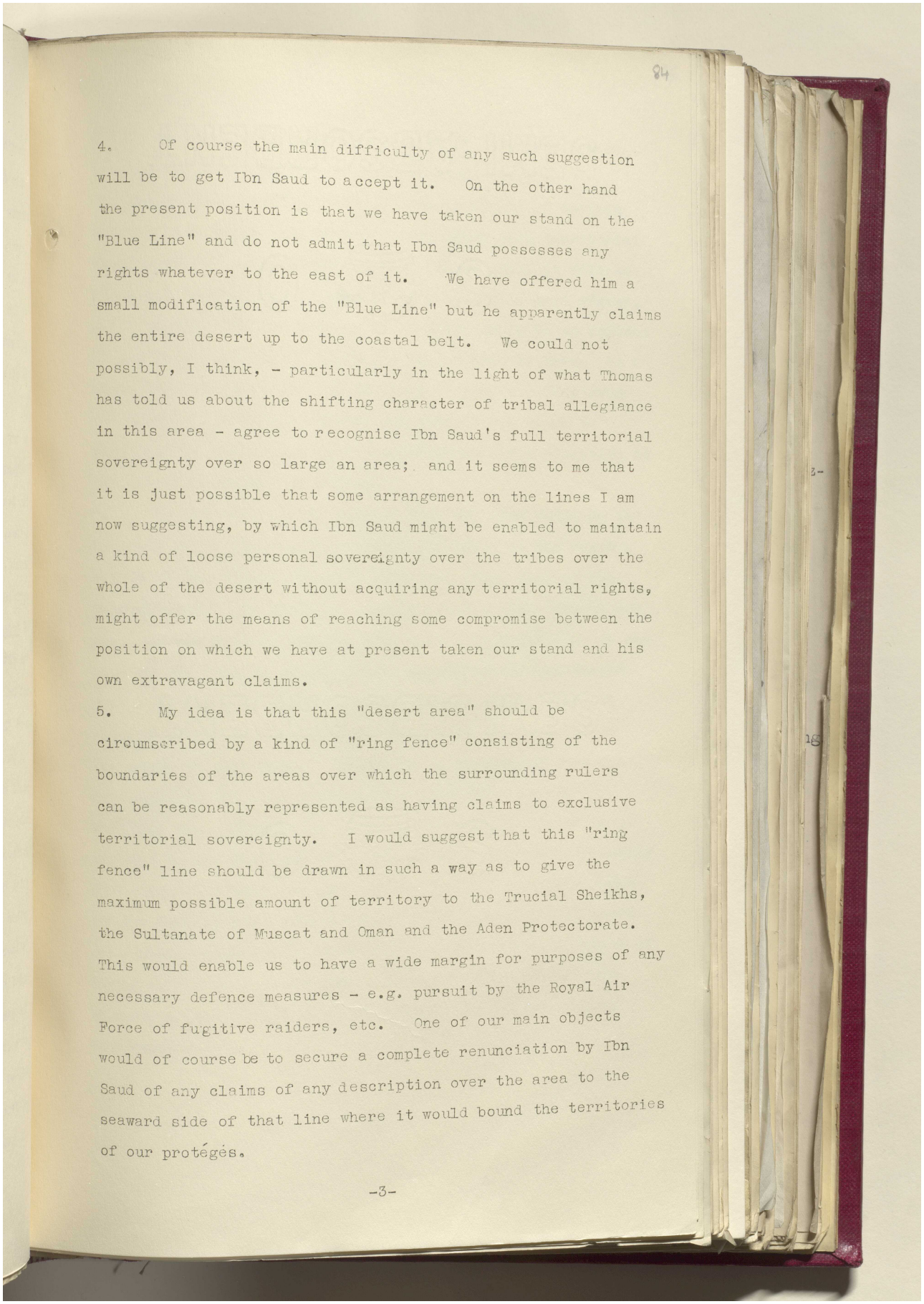

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4. Of course the main difficulty of any such suggestion will be to get Ibn Saud to accept it. On the other hand the present position is that we have taken our stand on the "Blue Line" and do not admit that Ibn Saud possesses any rights whatever to the east of it. We have offered him a small modification of the "Blue Line" but he apparently claims the entire desert up to the coastal belt. We could not possibly, I think, - particularly in the light of what Thomas has told us about the shifting character of tribal allegiance in this area - agree to recognise Ibn Saud's full territorial sovereignty over so large an area; and it seems to me that it is just possible that some arrangement on the lines I am now suggesting, by which Ibn Saud might be enabled to maintain a kind of loose personal sovereignty over the tribes over the whole of the desert without acquiring any territorial rights, might offer the means of reaching some compromise between the position on which we have at present taken our stand and his own extravagant claims.

5. My idea is that this "desert area" should be circumscribed by a kind of "ring fence" consisting of the boundaries of the areas over which the surrounding rulers can be reasonably represented as having claims to exclusive territorial sovereignty. I would suggest that this "ring fence" line should be drawn in such a way as to give the maximum possible amount of territory to the Trucial Sheikhs, the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman and the Aden Protectorate. This would enable us to have a wide margin for purposes of any necessary defence measures - e.g. pursuit by the Royal Air Force of fugitive raiders, etc. One of our main objects would of course be to secure a complete renunciation by Ibn Saud of any claims of any description over the area to the seaward side of that line where it would bound the territories of our protégés.

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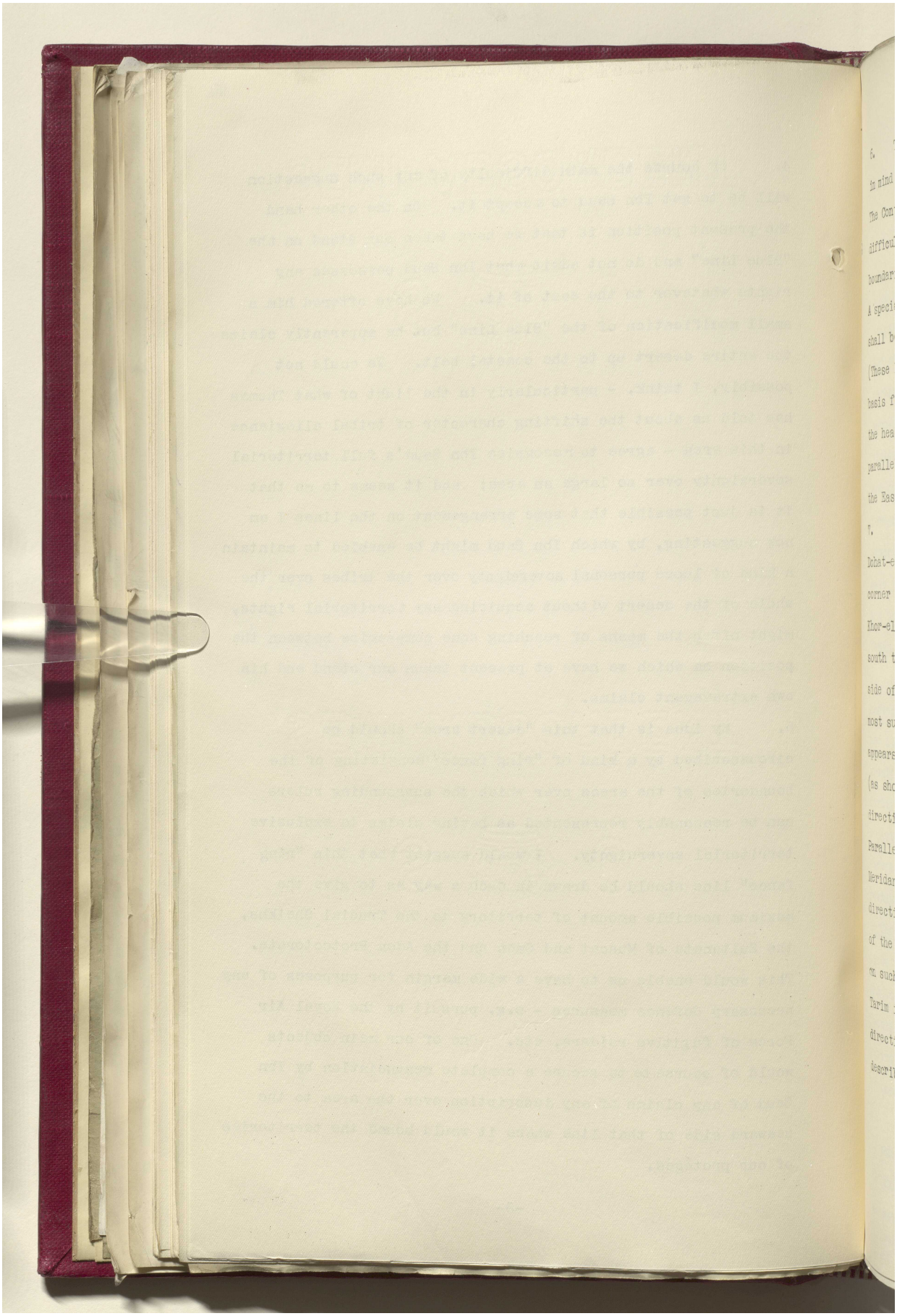

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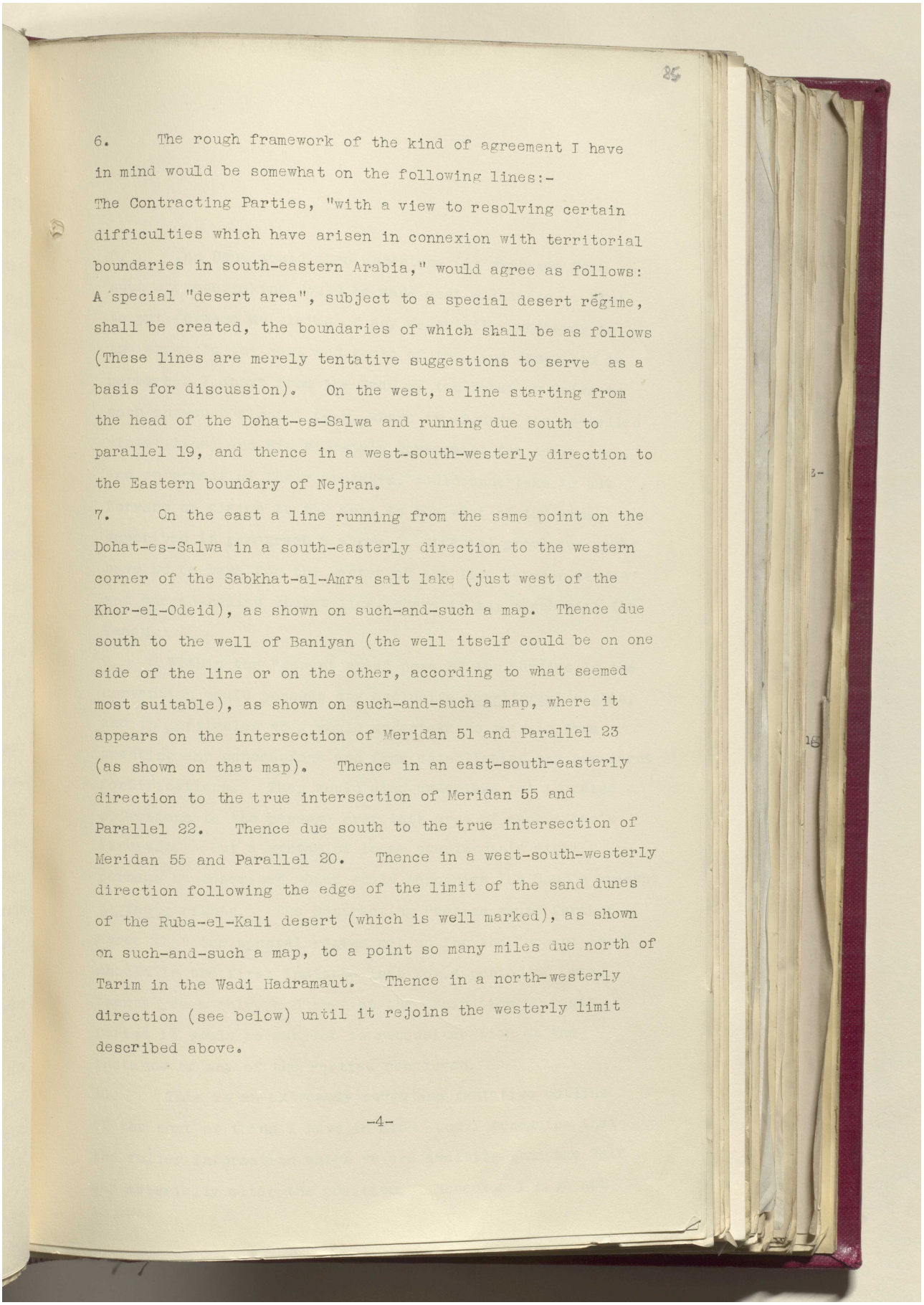

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6. The rough framework of the kind of agreement I have in mind would be somewhat on the following lines:-
The Contracting Parties, "with a view to resolving certain difficulties which have arisen in connexion with territorial boundaries in south-eastern Arabia," would agree as follows:
A special "desert area", subject to a special desert régime, shall be created, the boundaries of which shall be as follows (These lines are merely tentative suggestions to serve as a basis for discussion). On the west, a line starting from the head of the Dohat-es-Salwa and running due south to parallel 19, and thence in a west-south-westerly direction to the Eastern boundary of Nejran.

7. On the east a line running from the same point on the Dohat-es-Salwa in a south-easterly direction to the western corner of the Sabkhat-al-Amra salt lake (just west of the Khor-el-Odeid), as shown on such-and-such a map. Thence due south to the well of Baniyan (the well itself could be on one side of the line or on the other, according to what seemed most suitable), as shown on such-and-such a map, where it appears on the intersection of Meridan 51 and Parallel 23 (as shown on that map). Thence in an east-south-easterly direction to the true intersection of Meridan 55 and Parallel 22. Thence due south to the true intersection of Meridan 55 and Parallel 20. Thence in a west-south-westerly direction following the edge of the limit of the sand dunes of the Ruba-el-Kali desert (which is well marked), as shown on such-and-such a map, to a point so many miles due north of Tarim in the Wadi Hadramaut. Thence in a north-westerly direction (see below) until it rejoins the westerly limit described above.

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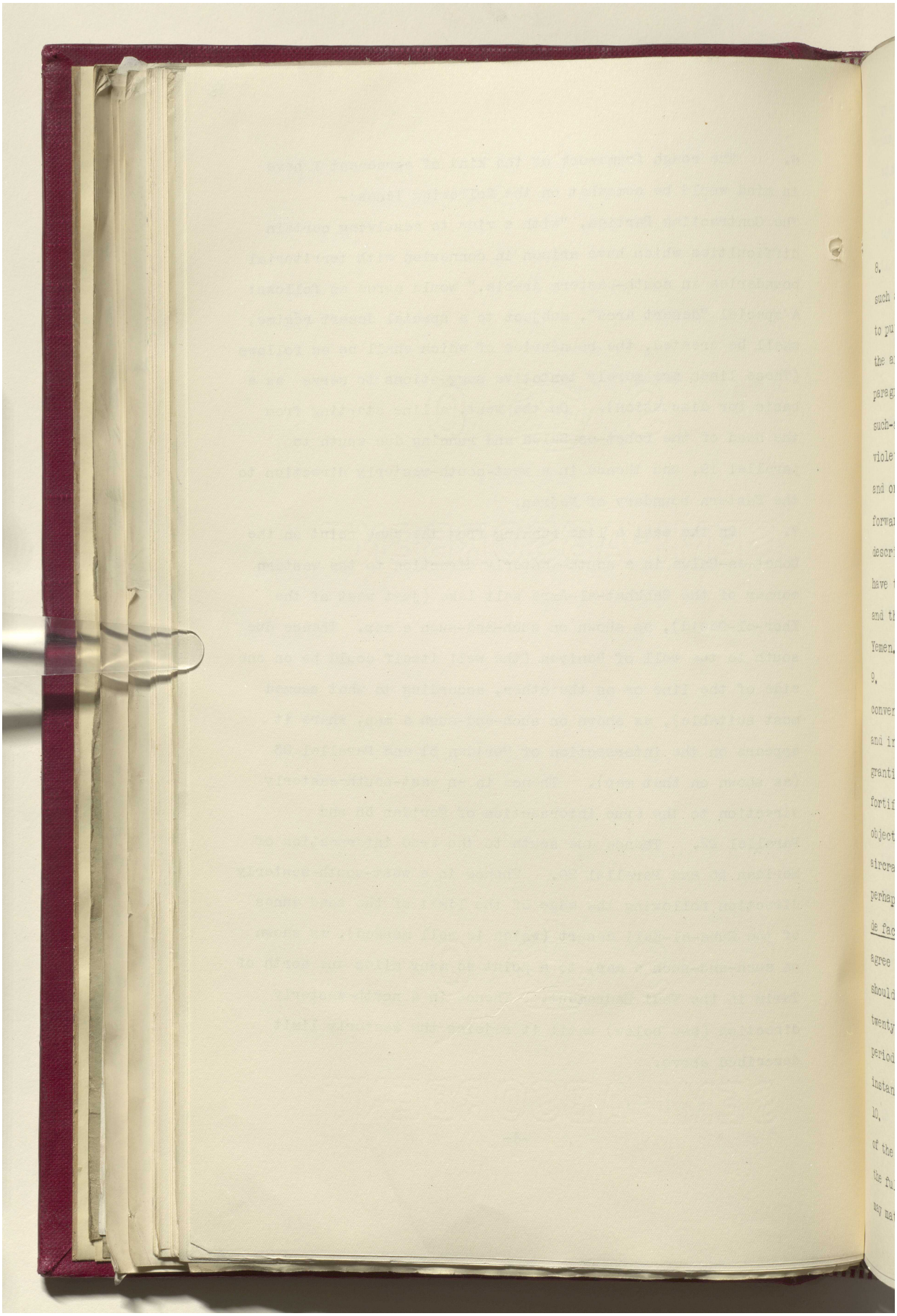

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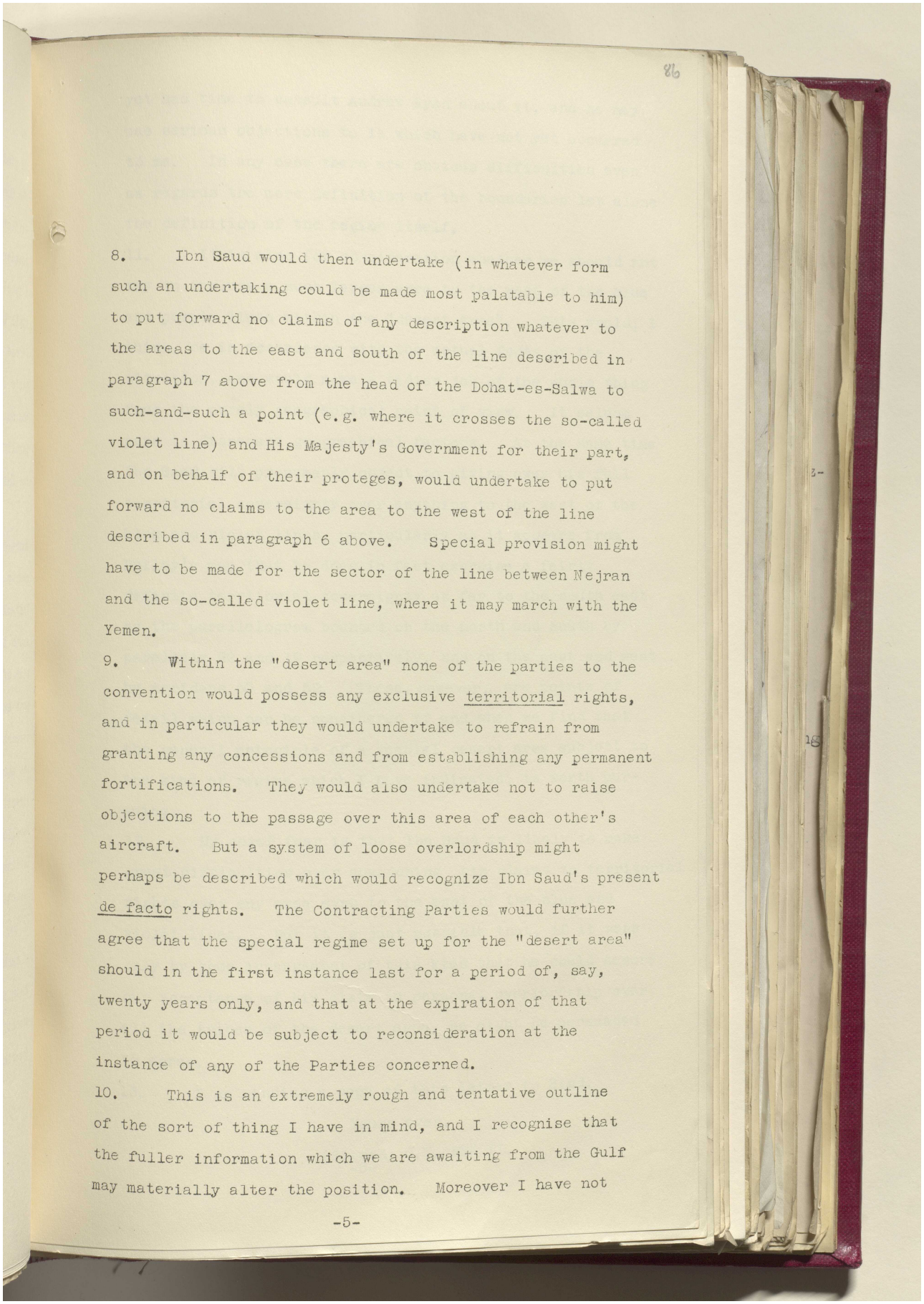

8. Ibn Saud would then undertake (in whatever form such an undertaking could be made most palatable to him) to put forward no claims of any description whatever to the areas to the east and south of the line described in paragraph 7 above from the head of the Dohat-es-Salwa to such-and-such a point (e.g. where it crosses the so-called violet line) and His Majesty's Government for their part, and on behalf of their proteges, would undertake to put forward no claims to the area to the west of the line described in paragraph 6 above. Special provision might have to be made for the sector of the line between Nejran and the so-called violet line, where it may march with the Yemen.

9. Within the "desert area" none of the parties to the convention would possess any exclusive territorial rights, and in particular they would undertake to refrain from granting any concessions and from establishing any permanent fortifications. They would also undertake not to raise objections to the passage over this area of each other's aircraft. But a system of loose overlordship might perhaps be described which would recognize Ibn Saud's present de facto rights. The Contracting Parties would further agree that the special regime set up for the "desert area" should in the first instance last for a period of, say, twenty years only, and that at the expiration of that period it would be subject to reconsideration at the instance of any of the Parties concerned.

10. This is an extremely rough and tentative outline of the sort of thing I have in mind, and I recognise that the fuller information which we are awaiting from the Gulf may materially alter the position. Moreover I have not

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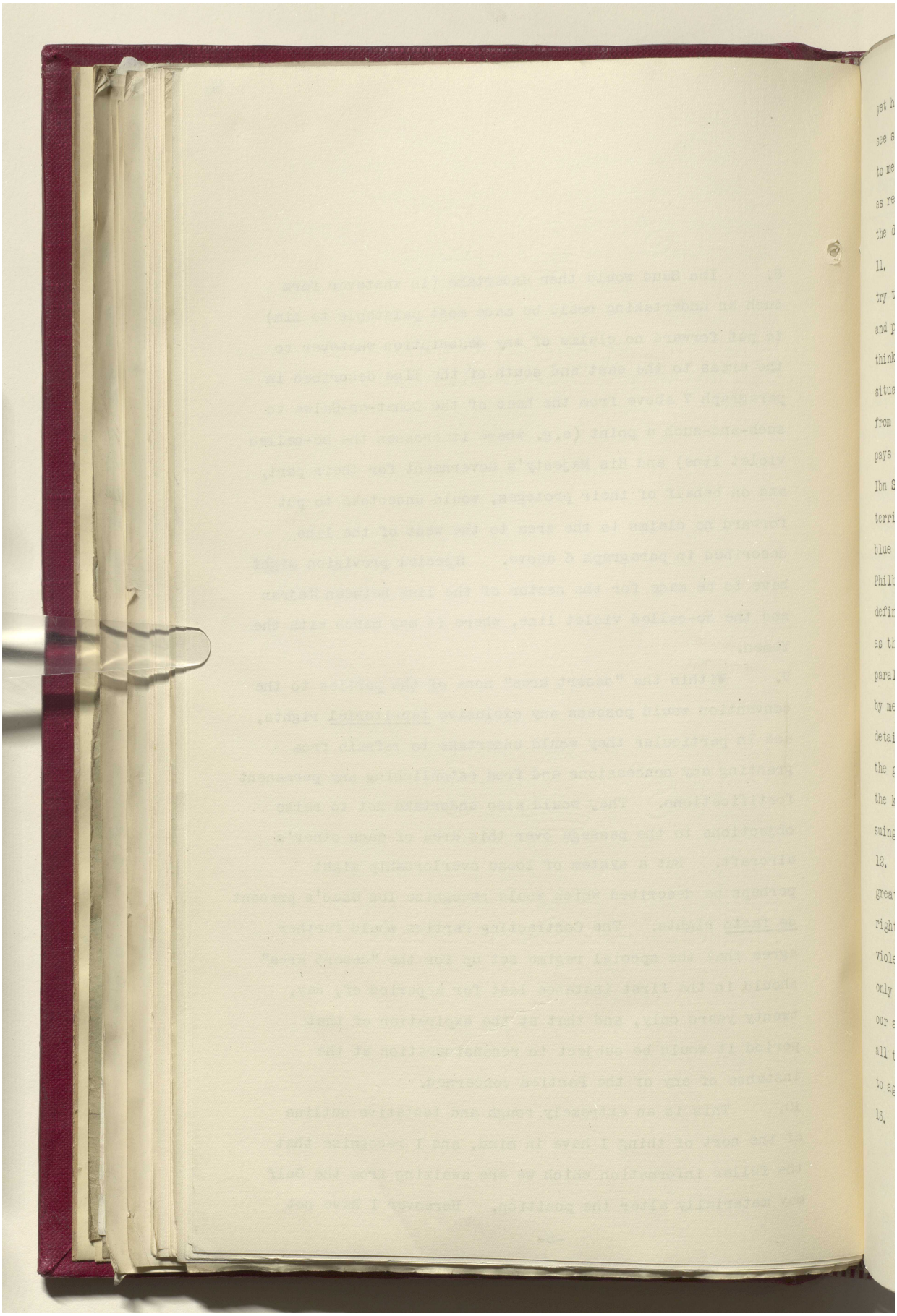

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yet had time to consult Andrew Ryan about it, and he may see serious objections to it which have not yet occurred to me. In any case there are obvious difficulties even as regards the mere definition of the boundaries let alone the definition of the regime itself.

11. It is also for consideration whether we should not try to include a much larger area to the west of the blue and purple lines within the "desert area". This would, I think, be in accordance with the actual facts of the situation, and would make a tidier job of the whole thing from the purely geographical point of view. It seldom pays to disregard geographical factors. At the same time Ibn Saud will presumably object to giving away his full territorial sovereignty over anything to the west of the blue and violet lines, particularly as it appears from Philby's map that he does in fact exercise a fairly definite territorial sovereignty as far to the south east as the parallelogram bounded on the north and south by parallels 22 and 19 respectively, and on the east and west by meridans 50 and 52. These, however, are points of detail which can be considered if and when we find that the general principle of a special desert area subject to the kind of regime which I have indicated, is worth pursuing.

12. My chief fear is that Ibn Saud is likely to make great difficulties over abandoning his claims to territorial rights over any area even to the east of the blue and violet lines. But it is just possible that, if it were only by some arrangement of this kind that he could secure our acceptance of his claim to personal overlordship over all the tribes of the desert area, he might be persuaded to agree.

13. I am sending a copy of this letter to Hind.

Yours ever,

(Signed) G.W. RENDEL.

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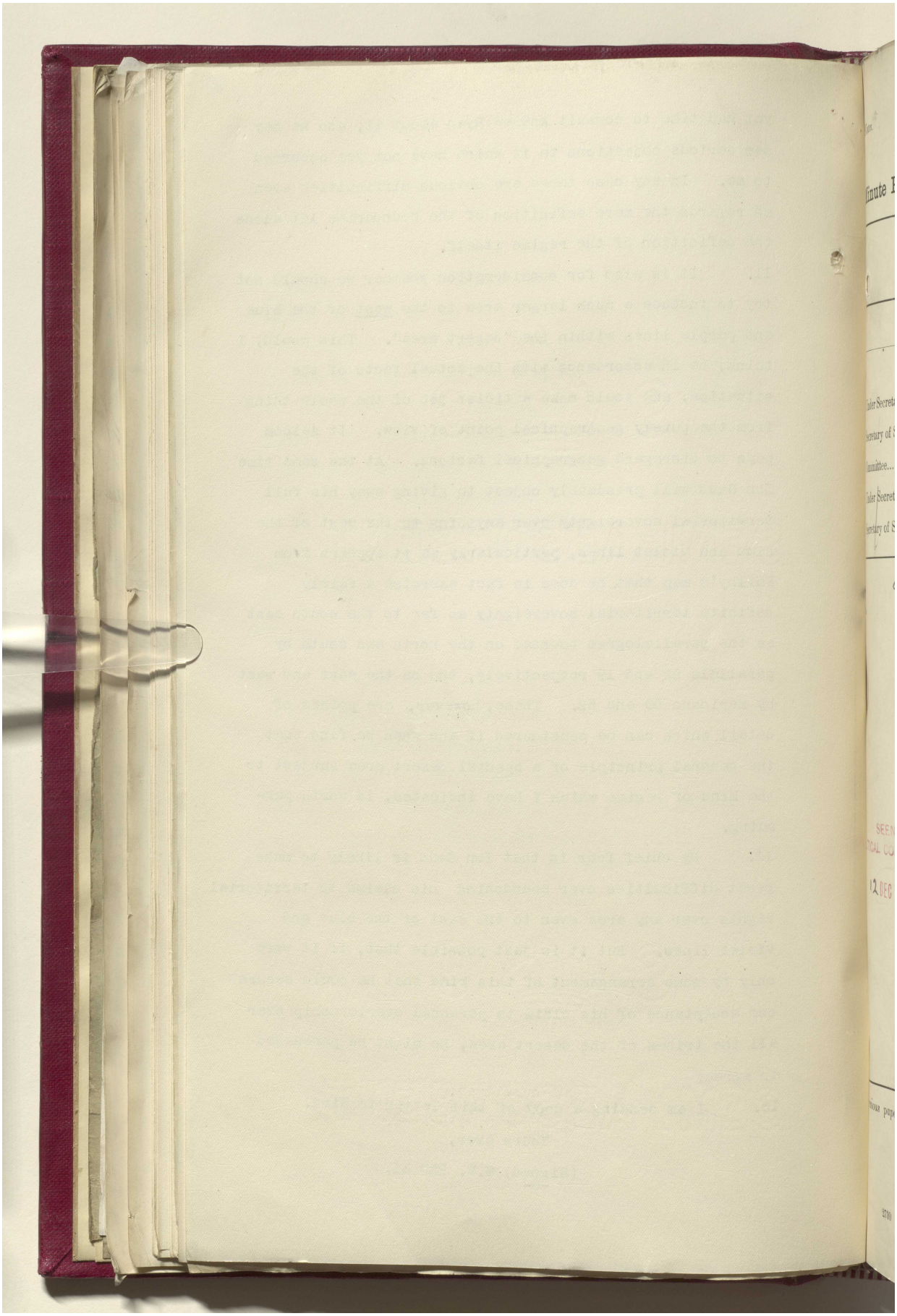

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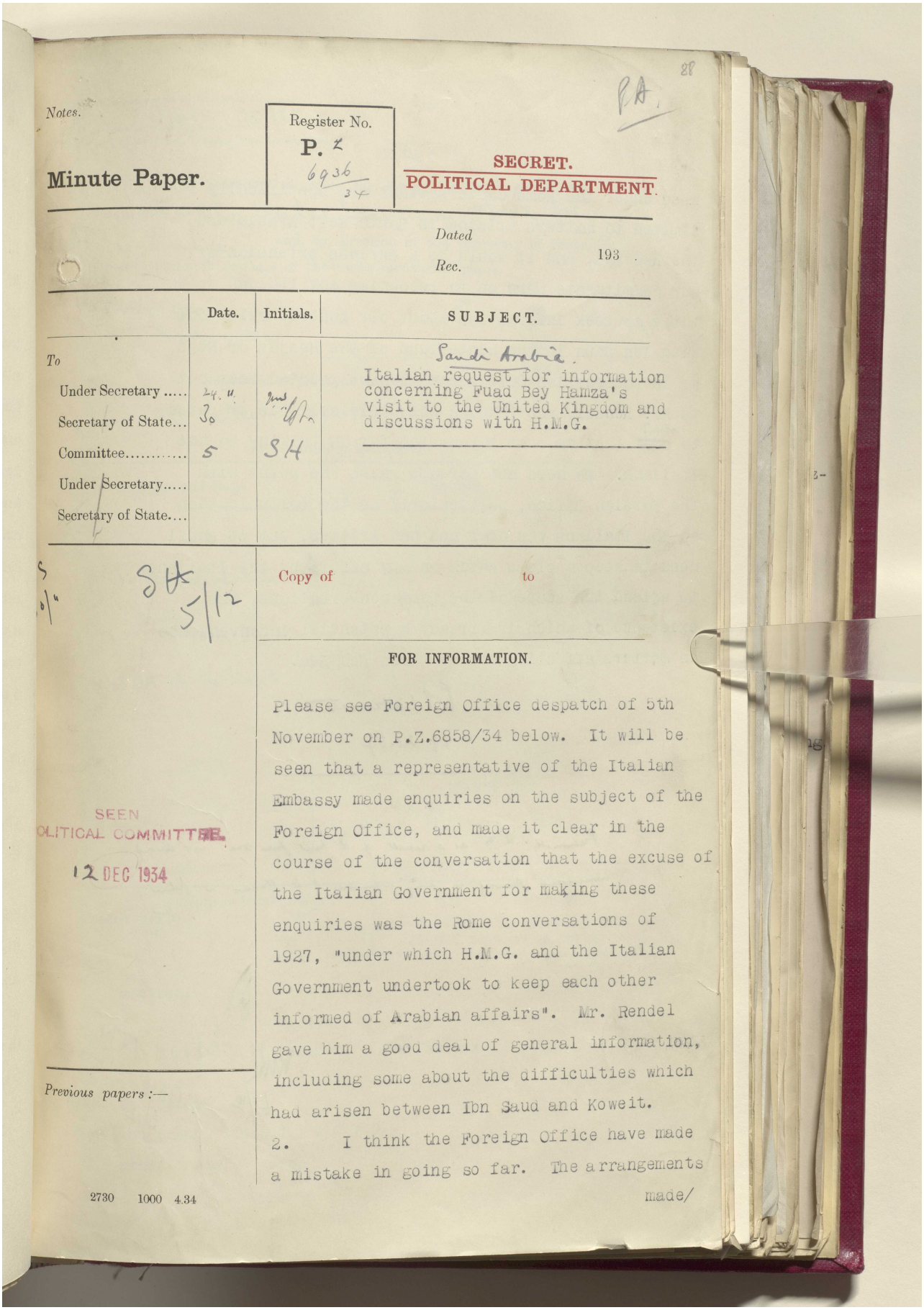

Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P. Z 6936/34

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 193

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Saudi Arabia. Italian request for information concerning Fuad Bey Hamza's visit to the United Kingdom and discussions with H.M.G.
Under Secretary	24. 11.		
Secretary of State...	30		
Committee.....	5	SH	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State....			

S SH 5/12

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

Please see Foreign Office despatch of 5th November on P.Z.6858/34 below. It will be seen that a representative of the Italian Embassy made enquiries on the subject of the Foreign Office, and made it clear in the course of the conversation that the excuse of the Italian Government for making these enquiries was the Rome conversations of 1927, "under which H.M.G. and the Italian Government undertook to keep each other informed of Arabian affairs". Mr. Rendel gave him a good deal of general information, including some about the difficulties which had arisen between Ibn Saud and Koweit.

2. I think the Foreign Office have made a mistake in going so far. The arrangements made/

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE. 12 DEC 1934

Previous papers :—

2730 1000 4.34

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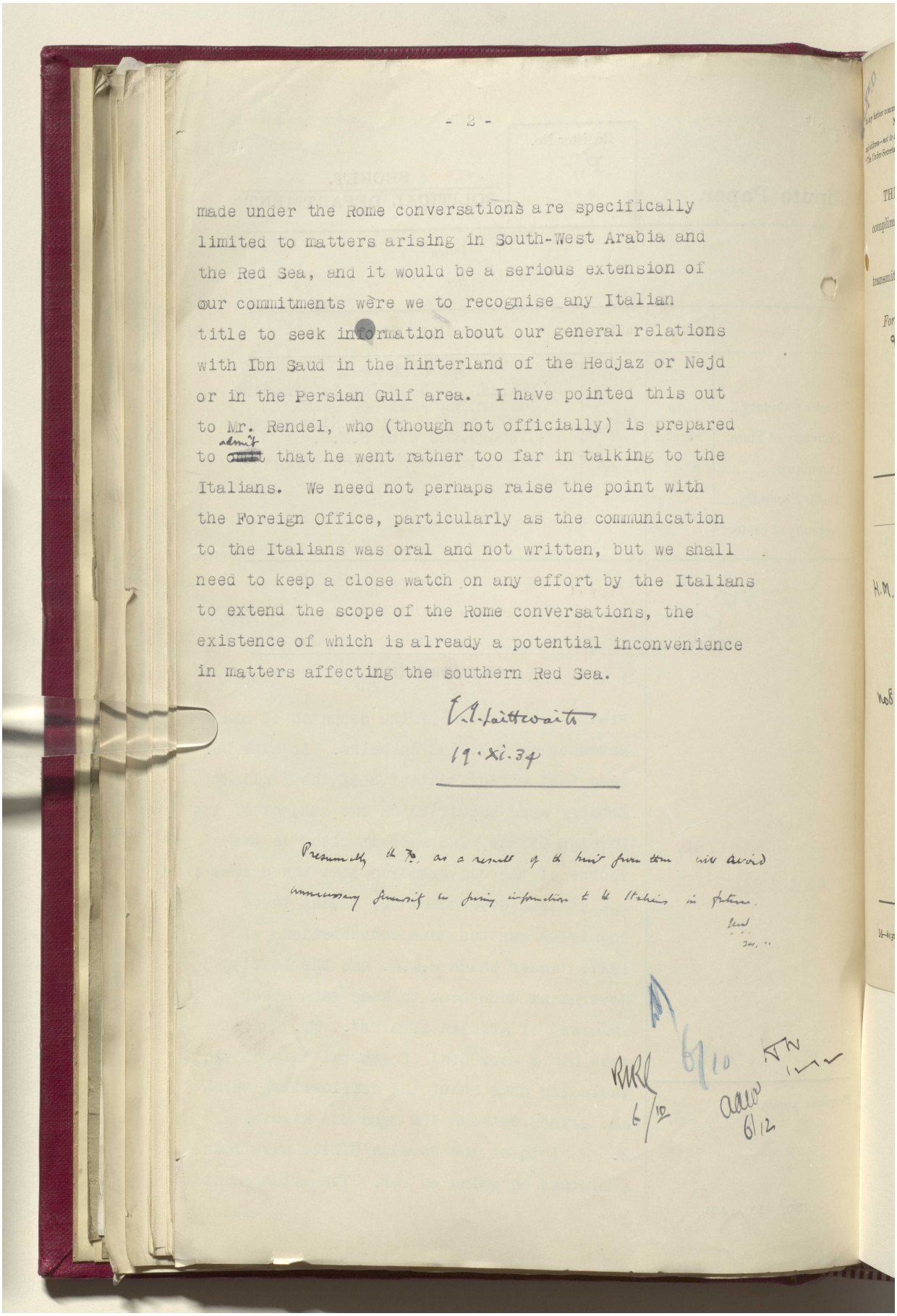

made under the Rome conversations are specifically limited to matters arising in South-West Arabia and the Red Sea, and it would be a serious extension of our commitments were we to recognise any Italian title to seek information about our general relations with Ibn Saud in the hinterland of the Hedjaz or Nejd or in the Persian Gulf area. I have pointed this out to Mr. Rendel, who (though not officially) is prepared to ~~omit~~ admit that he went rather too far in talking to the Italians. We need not perhaps raise the point with the Foreign Office, particularly as the communication to the Italians was oral and not written, but we shall need to keep a close watch on any effort by the Italians to extend the scope of the Rome conversations, the existence of which is already a potential inconvenience in matters affecting the southern Red Sea.

V. A. Laithwaite
19.xi.34

Presumably the F.O., as a result of the hint given them will avoid unnecessary generosity in giving information to the Italians in future.
[illegible]
[illegible]

RWR 6/10
6/10
aaw 6/12

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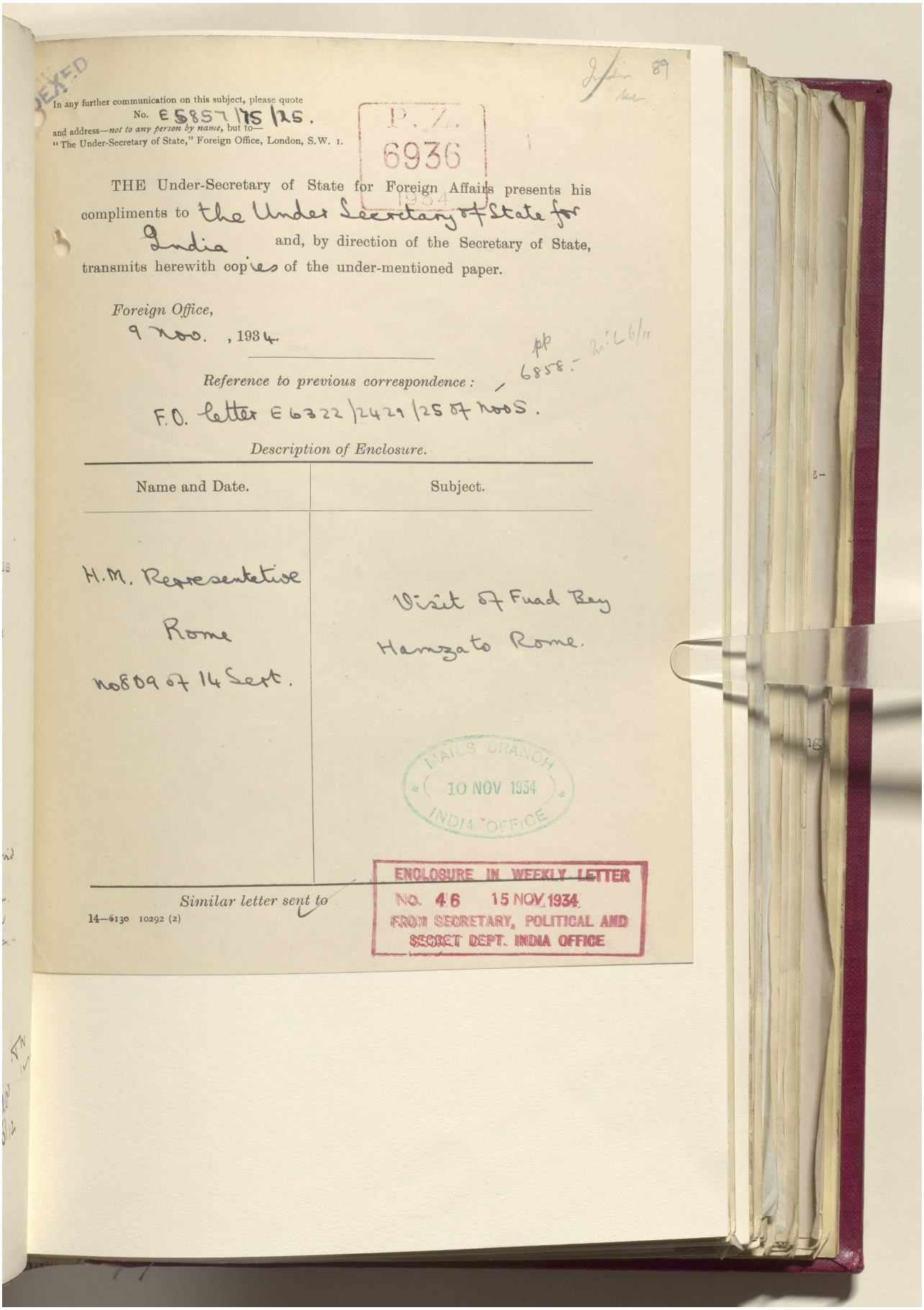

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 5857/15/25.
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P. Z. 6936 1934

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
9 Nov. , 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence :
F.O. letter E 6322/2429/25 of 7 Nov.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Representative Rome no 809 of 14 Sept.	Visit of Fuad Bey Hamza to Rome.

MAILS BRANCH 10 NOV 1934 INDIA OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER NO. 46 15 NOV 1934 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

14—6130 10292 (2)

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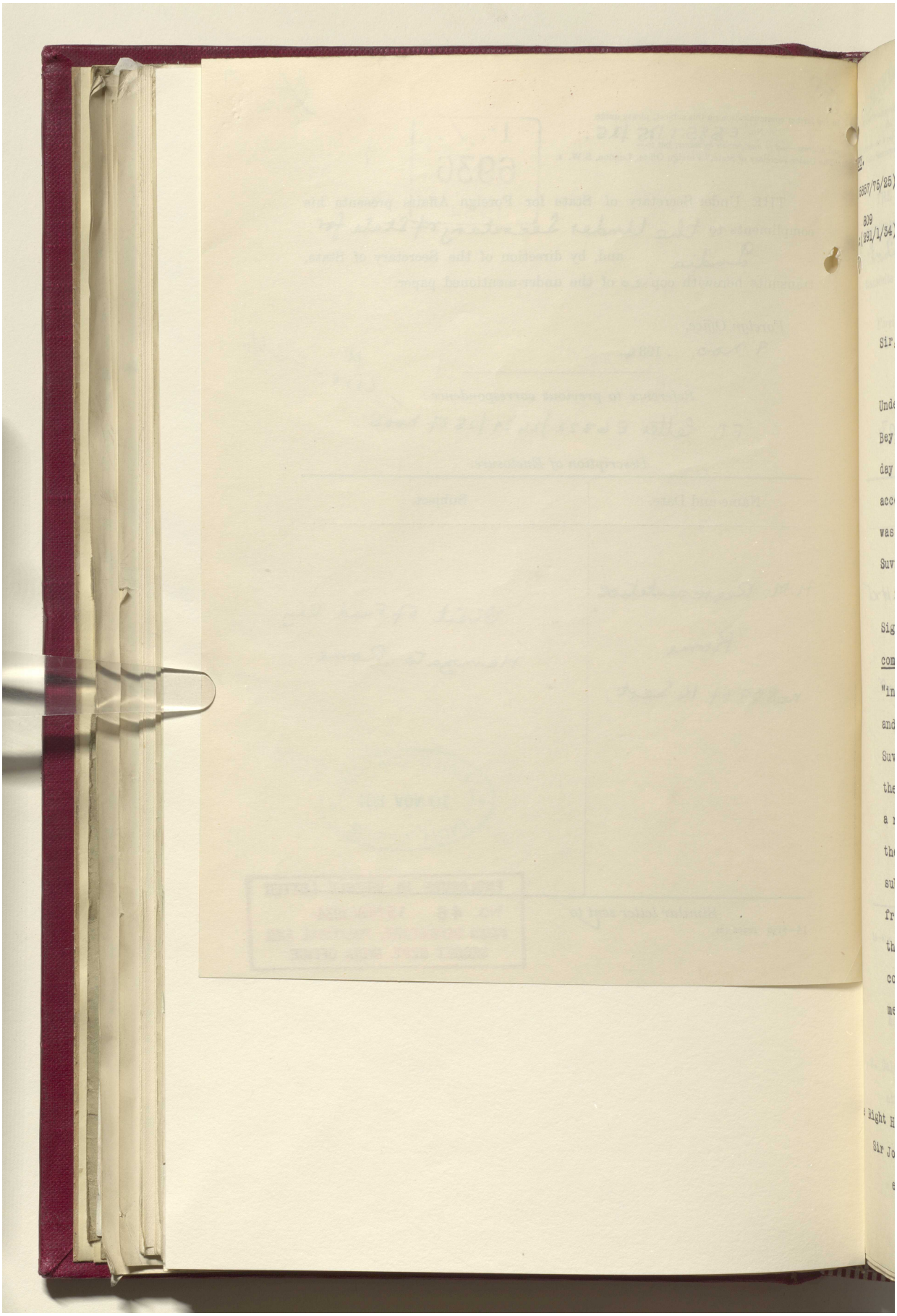

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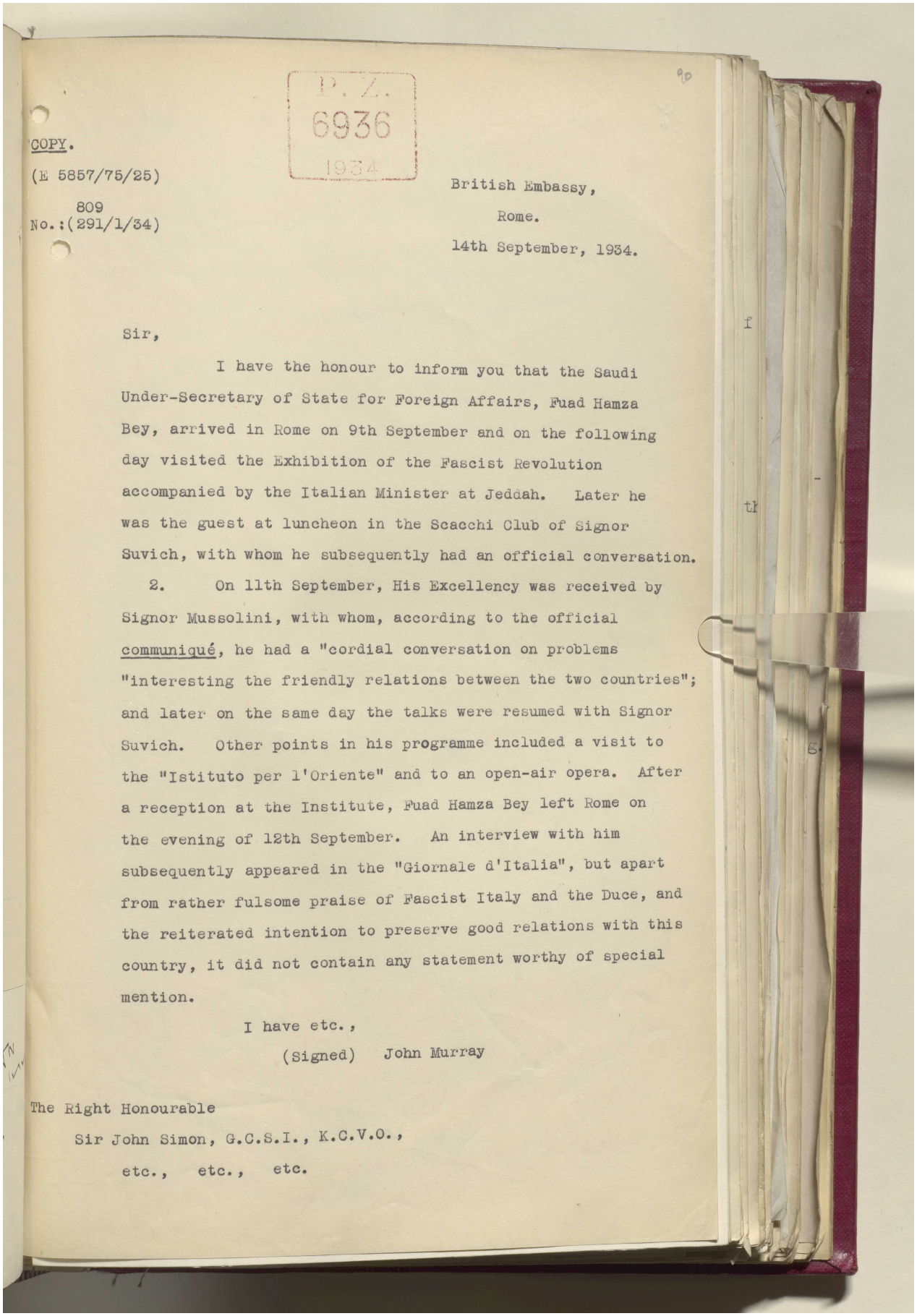

P. Z.
6936
1934

90

COPY.

(E 5857/75/25)

809
No.:(291/1/34)

British Embassy,
Rome.
14th September, 1934.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Saudi Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Fuad Hamza Bey, arrived in Rome on 9th September and on the following day visited the Exhibition of the Fascist Revolution accompanied by the Italian Minister at Jeddah. Later he was the guest at luncheon in the Scacchi Club of Signor Suvich, with whom he subsequently had an official conversation.

2. On 11th September, His Excellency was received by Signor Mussolini, with whom, according to the official communiqué, he had a "cordial conversation on problems "interesting the friendly relations between the two countries"; and later on the same day the talks were resumed with Signor Suvich. Other points in his programme included a visit to the "Istituto per l'Oriente" and to an open-air opera. After a reception at the Institute, Fuad Hamza Bey left Rome on the evening of 12th September. An interview with him subsequently appeared in the "Giornale d'Italia", but apart from rather fulsome praise of Fascist Italy and the Duce, and the reiterated intention to preserve good relations with this country, it did not contain any statement worthy of special mention.

I have etc.,
(Signed) John Murray

The Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.

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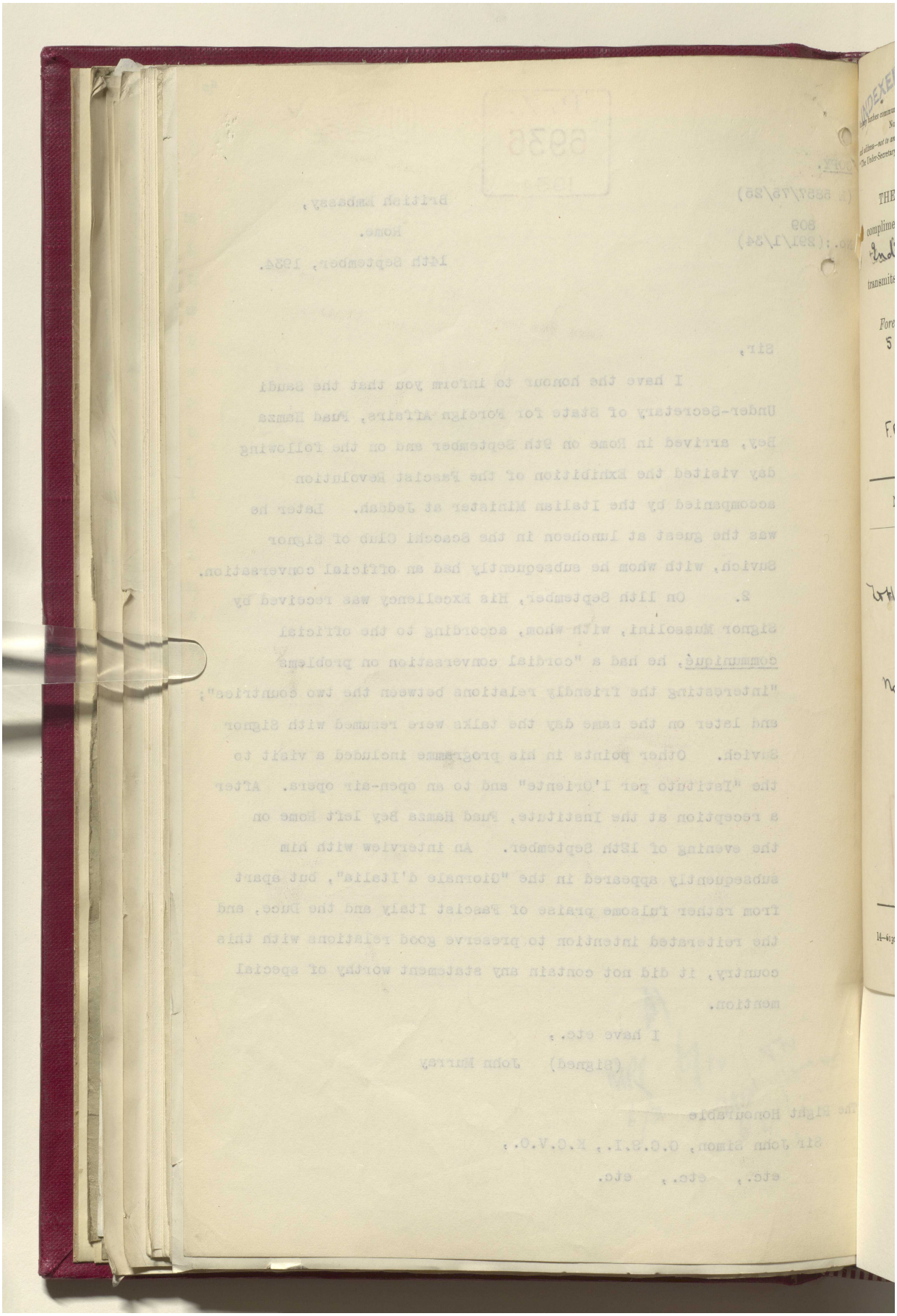

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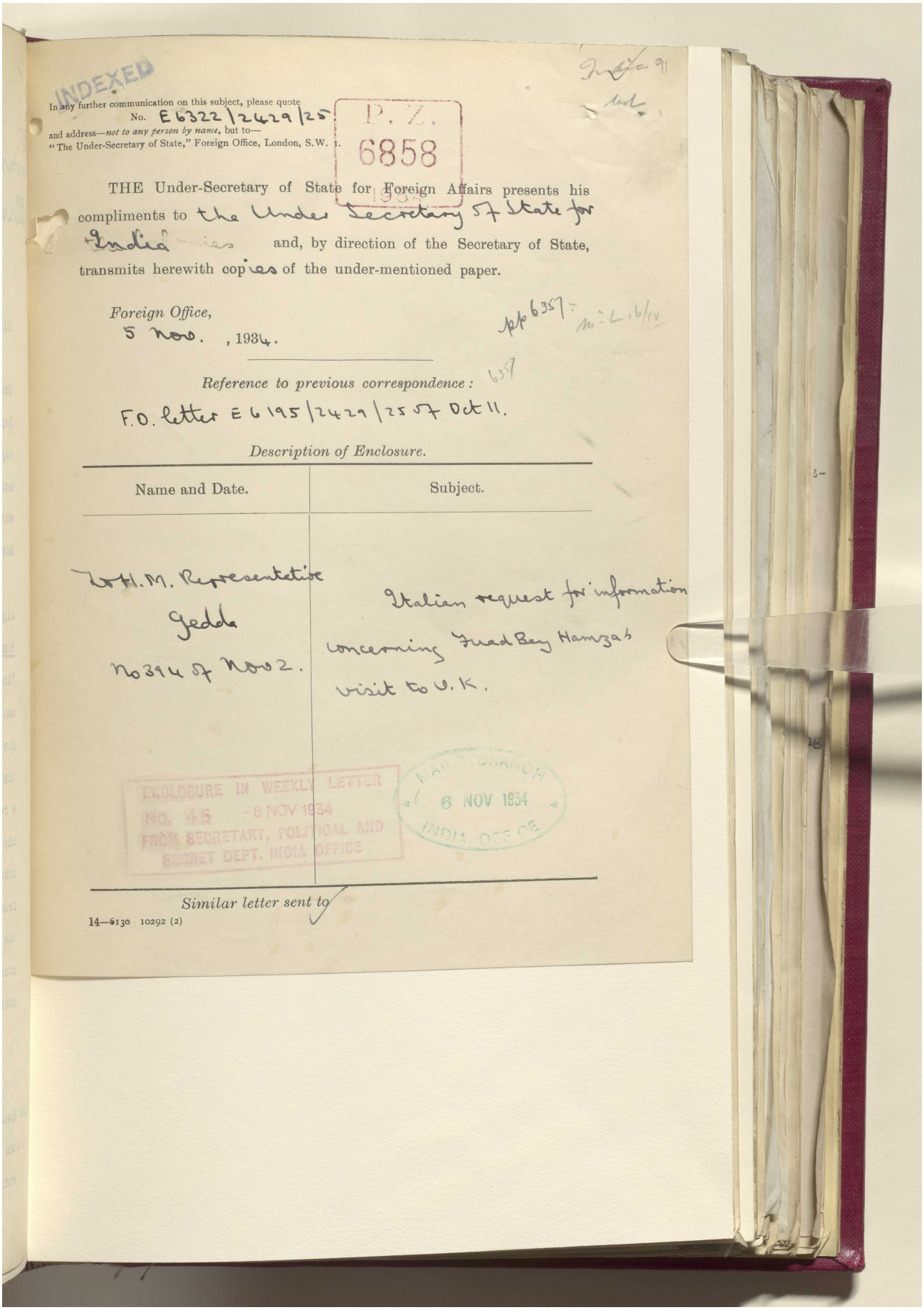

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 6322/2429/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P. Z.
6858
1934

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
5 Nov. , 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence :
F.O. letter E 6195/2429/25 of Oct 11.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Representative Jedda No 394 of Nov 2.	Italian request for information concerning Fuad Bey Hamza's visit to U.K.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. 45 - 8 NOV 1934
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH
6 NOV 1934
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

14—6130 10292 (2)

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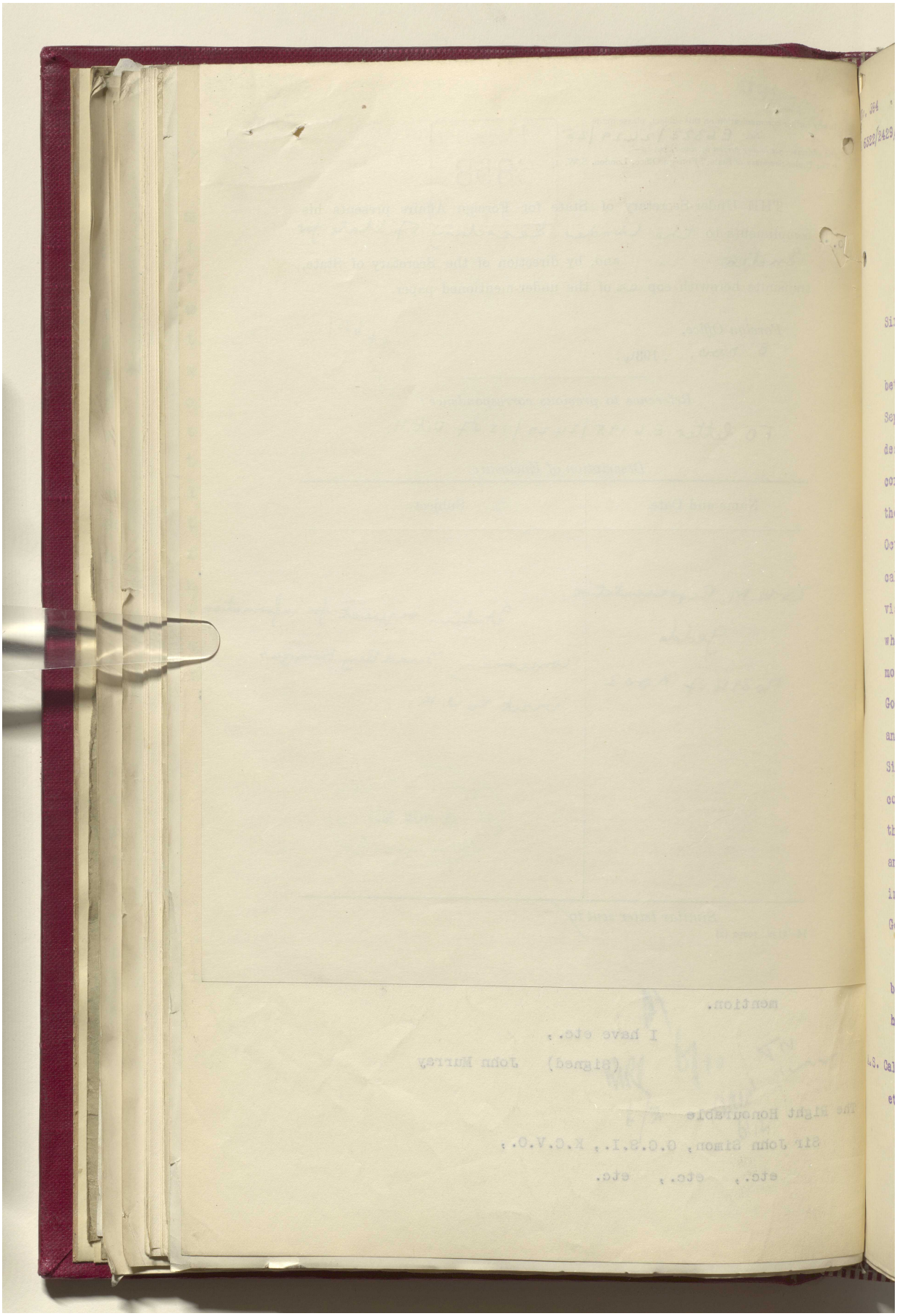

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No. 394
(E 6322/2429/25)

P. Z.
6858
1934

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
2nd November, 1934.

Sir,

With reference to the summary of the conversations between this department and Fuad Bey Hamza from the 19th September to the 25th (a copy of which was enclosed in my despatch No. 367 of the 11th October), and to previous correspondence regarding the visit of Fuad Bey Hamza to the United Kingdom, I have to inform you that on the 10th October the First Secretary of the Italian Embassy in London called at the Foreign Office and referred to Fuad Bey's visit. Signor Fracassi said that the Italian Government, who were greatly interested in all Arabian affairs, would be most grateful for any information which His Majesty's Government felt able to give them as to this visit and as to any political discussions which had taken place. Although Signor Fracassi did not begin by directly invoking the conclusions of the Rome Conversations of 1927, he made it clear that those conclusions, under which His Majesty's Government and the Italian Government undertook to keep each other informed about Arabian affairs, constituted the Italian Government's excuse for making this enquiry.

2. Signor Fracassi was informed that Fuad Bey had indeed been in London and had had some quite informal conversations here. It was understood, however, that he had also been to

/Rome

A.S. Calvert, Esq.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Jedda.

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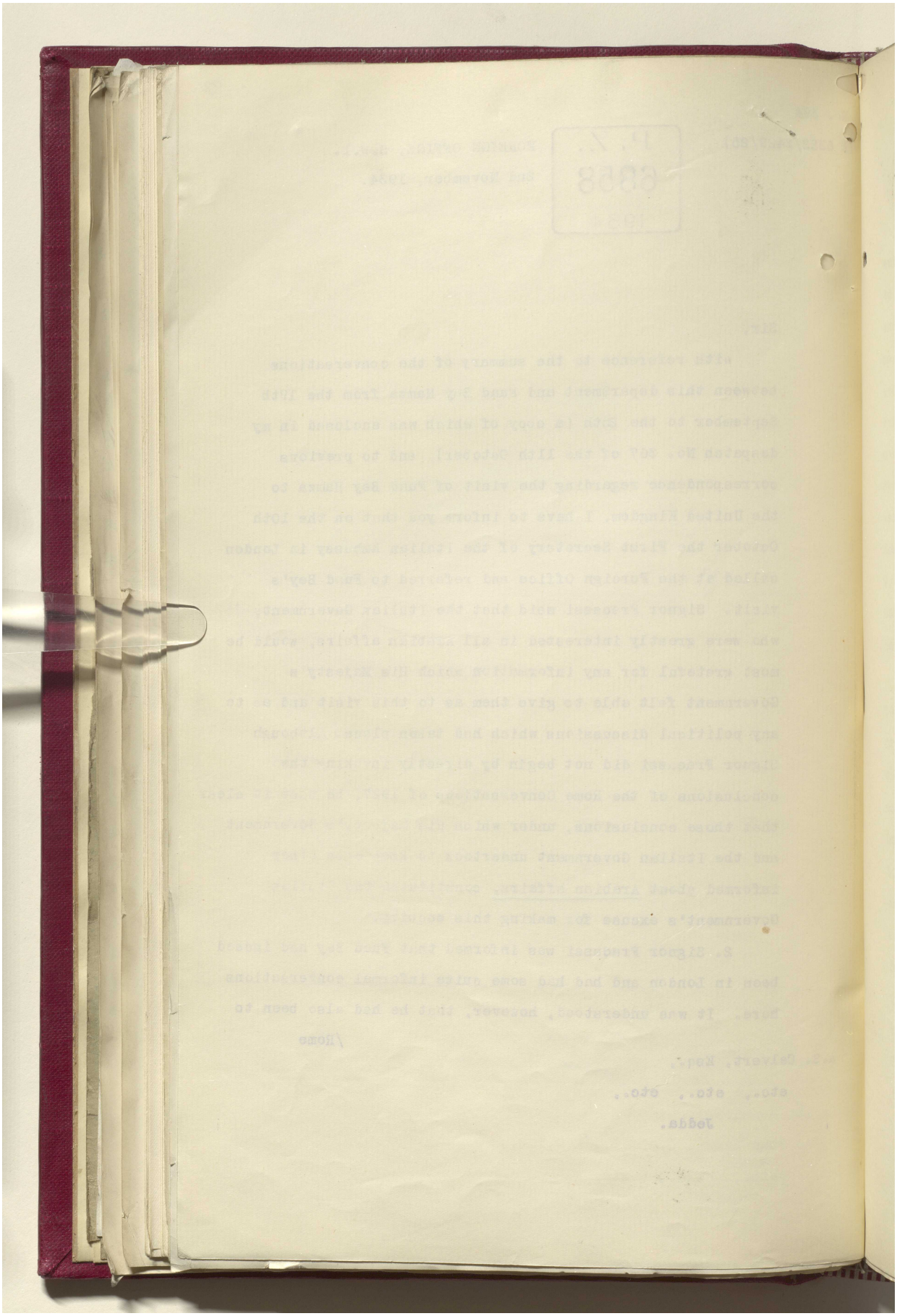

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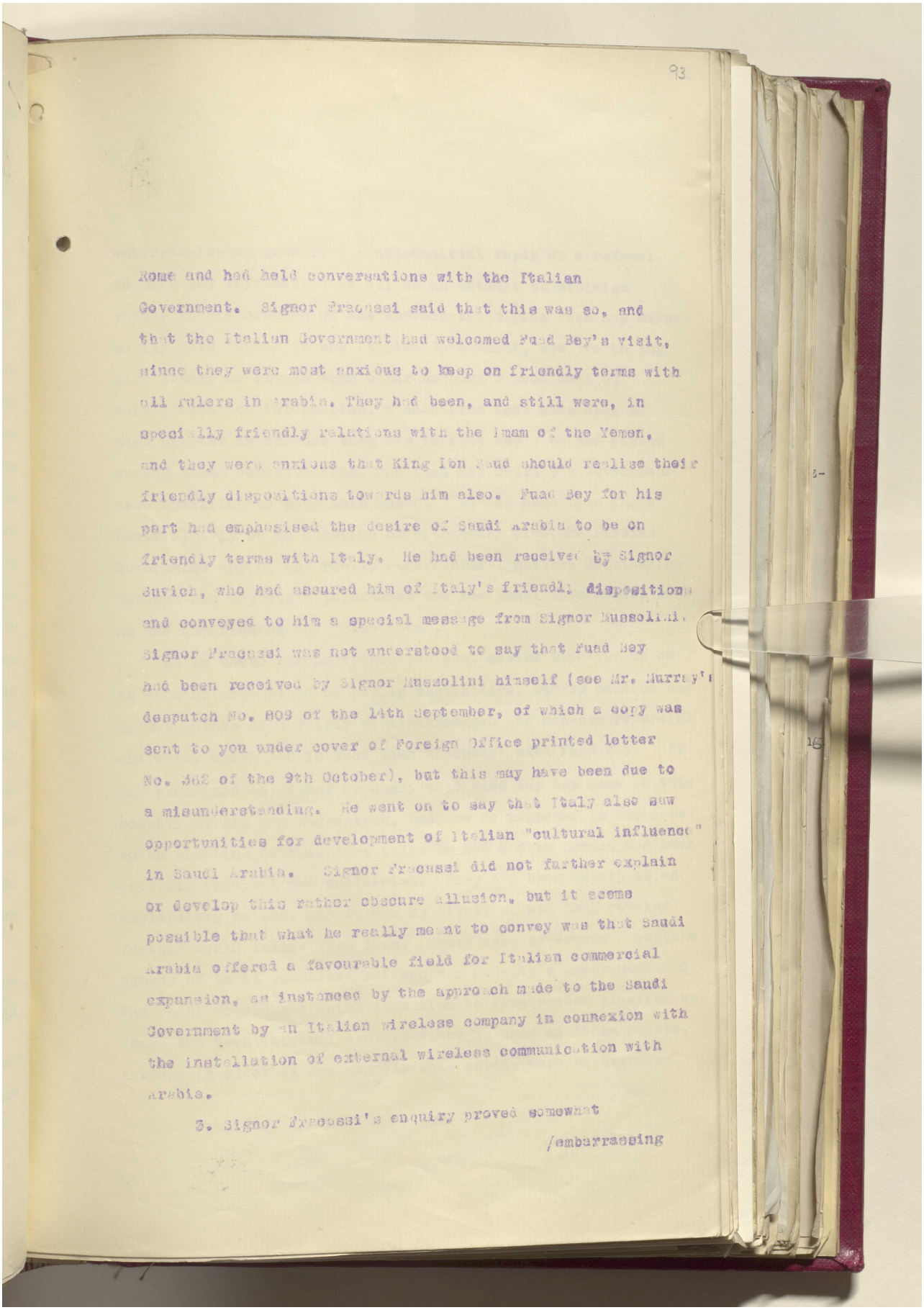

Rome and had held conversations with the Italian Government. Signor Fracassi said that this was so, and that the Italian Government had welcomed Fuad Bey's visit, since they were most anxious to keep on friendly terms with all rulers in Arabia. They had been, and still were, in specially friendly relations with the Imam of the Yemen, and they were anxious that King Ibn Saud should realise their friendly dispositions towards him also. Fuad Bey for his part had emphasised the desire of Saudi Arabia to be on friendly terms with Italy. He had been received by Signor Suvich, who had assured him of Italy's friendly dispositions and conveyed to him a special message from Signor Mussolini. Signor Fracassi was not understood to say that Fuad Bey had been received by Signor Mussolini himself (see Mr. Murray's despatch No. 809 of the 14th September, of which a copy was sent to you under cover of Foreign Office printed letter No. 382 of the 9th October), but this may have been due to a misunderstanding. He went on to say that Italy also saw opportunities for development of Italian "cultural influence" in Saudi Arabia. Signor Fracassi did not further explain or develop this rather obscure allusion, but it seems possible that what he really meant to convey was that Saudi Arabia offered a favourable field for Italian commercial expansion, as instanced by the approach made to the Saudi Government by an Italian wireless company in connexion with the installation of external wireless communication with Arabia.

5. Signor Fracassi's enquiry proved somewhat

/embarrassing

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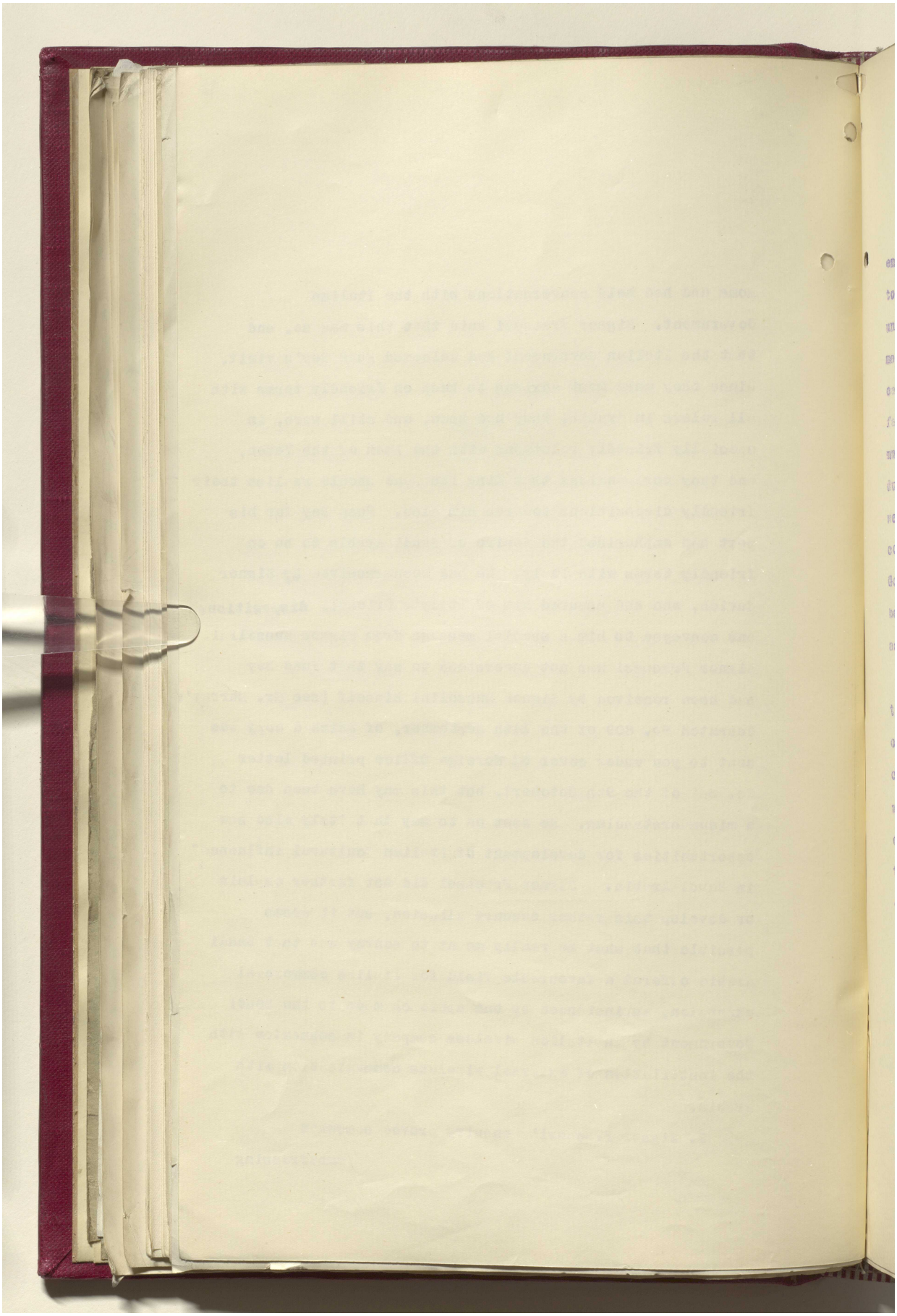

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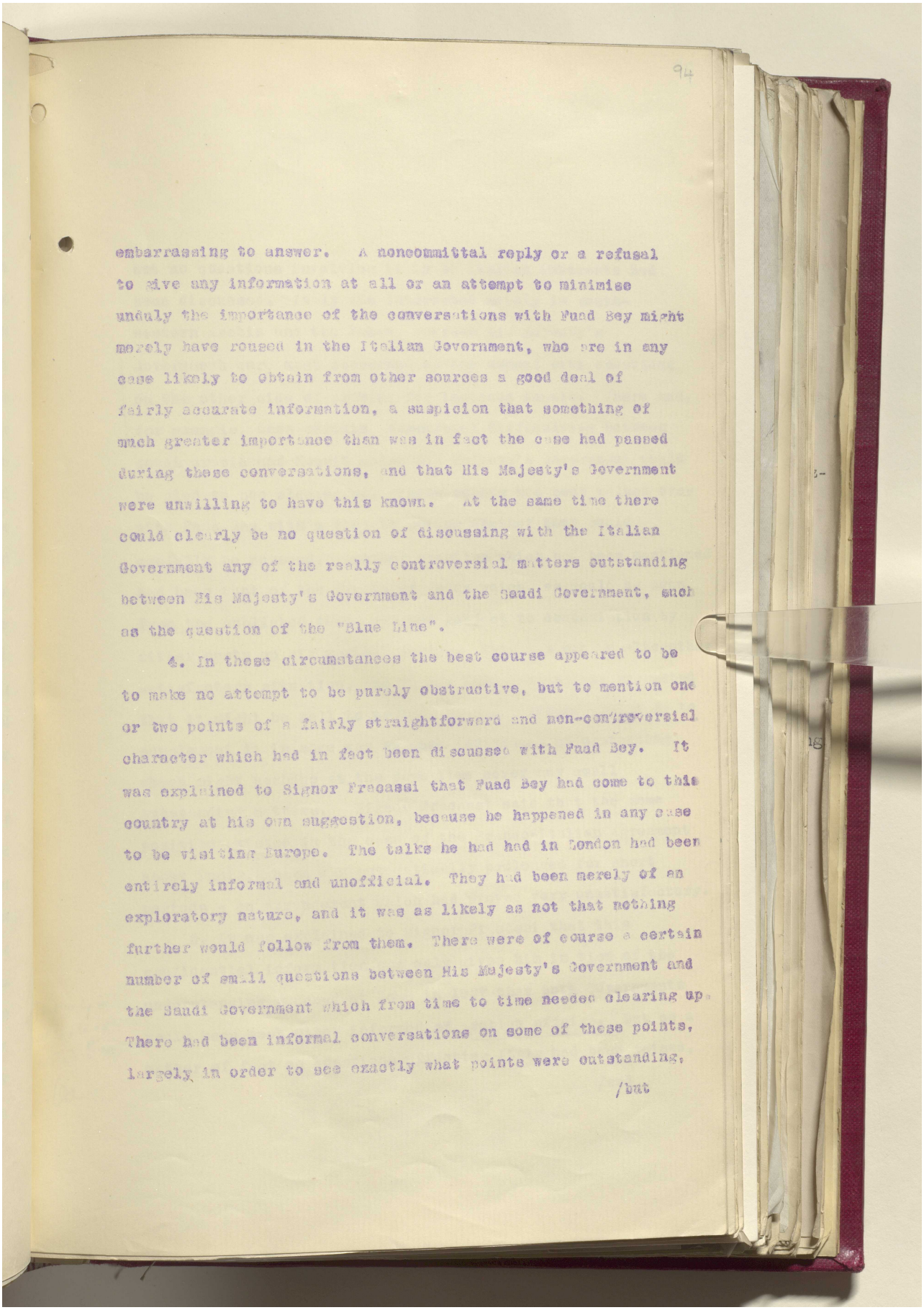

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embarrassing to answer. A noncommittal reply or a refusal to give any information at all or an attempt to minimise unduly the importance of the conversations with Fuad Bey might merely have roused in the Italian Government, who are in any case likely to obtain from other sources a good deal of fairly accurate information, a suspicion that something of much greater importance than was in fact the case had passed during these conversations, and that His Majesty's Government were unwilling to have this known. At the same time there could clearly be no question of discussing with the Italian Government any of the really controversial matters outstanding between His Majesty's Government and the Saudi Government, such as the question of the "Blue Line".

4. In these circumstances the best course appeared to be to make no attempt to be purely obstructive, but to mention one or two points of a fairly straightforward and non-controversial character which had in fact been discussed with Fuad Bey. It was explained to Signor Frecassi that Fuad Bey had come to this country at his own suggestion, because he happened in any case to be visiting Europe. The talks he had had in London had been entirely informal and unofficial. They had been merely of an exploratory nature, and it was as likely as not that nothing further would follow from them. There were of course a certain number of small questions between His Majesty's Government and the Saudi Government which from time to time needed clearing up. There had been informal conversations on some of these points, largely in order to see exactly what points were outstanding,

/but

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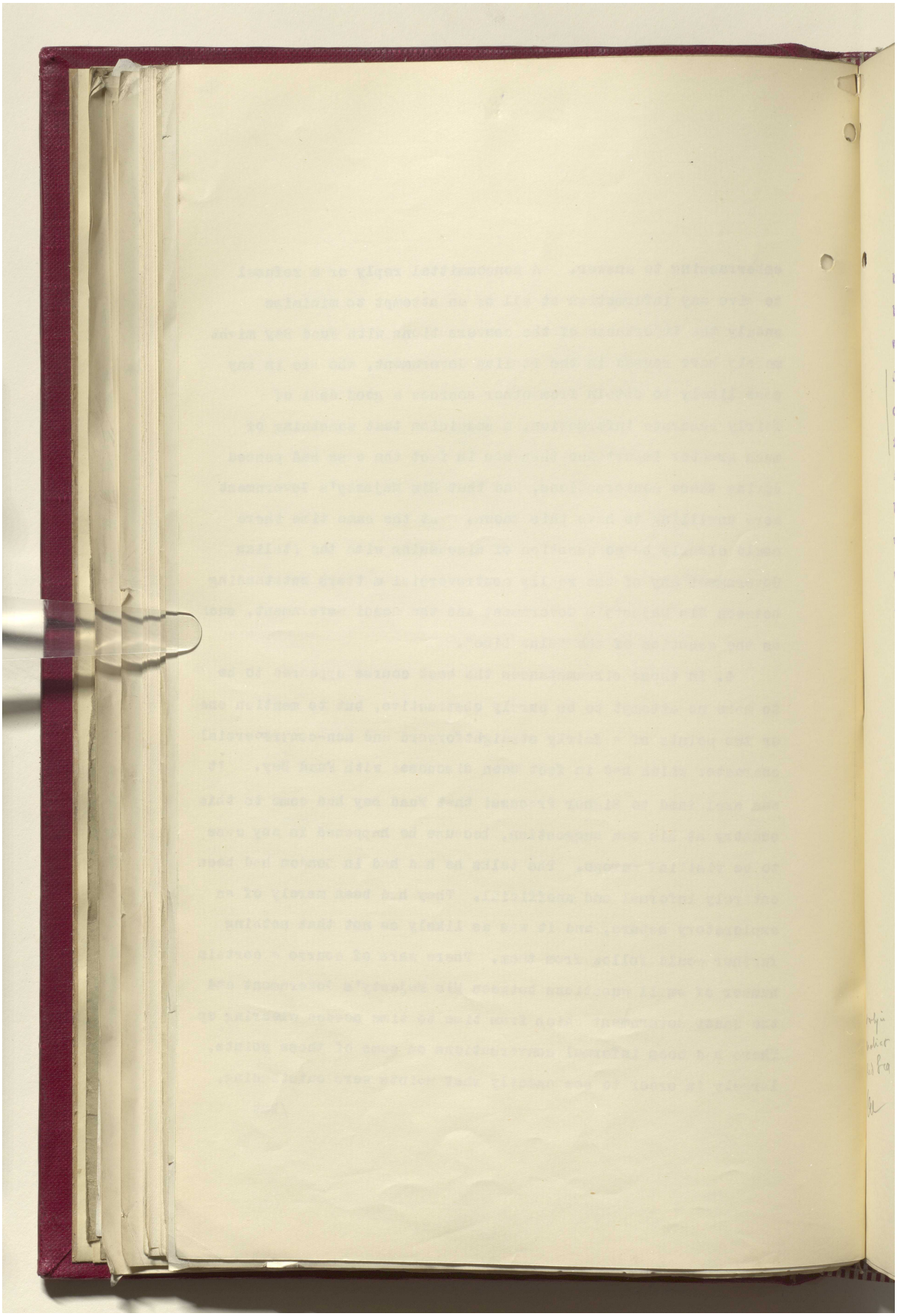

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but no questions involving Italy or Italian interests had been discussed. Italy was interested mainly in south-western Arabia and the Yemen, whereas His Majesty's Government were most concerned at the moment with questions on the other side of Arabia, for instance Koweit. There had, for example, been certain commercial difficulties between Saudi Arabia and Koweit which His Majesty's Government would be glad to see cleared up. These points had been talked over with Fuad Bey with a view to seeing whether they could usefully be pursued. Another question which had been mentioned had been that of the Treaty of Jedda which, as could be seen from the published text, was now subject to denunciation by either party on six months' notice. This was not an altogether satisfactory situation, and it had been tentatively suggested that it might be well to prolong it for a longer period or to supplement it in some way by some additional understanding which might perhaps at the same time cover any small outstanding matters. Signor Pracassi said that the same position existed in the case of the Franco-Italian Agreement about Tunis, which was automatically prolonged for short periods - an arrangement which had proved very unsatisfactory.

5. It was explained to Signor Pracassi that this confidential information was only given him in view of the understanding reached at Rome in 1927 that both Governments would keep each other informed of Arabian affairs. But as a matter of fact no questions affecting Italy had been raised,

/and

But only in practice the Red Sea

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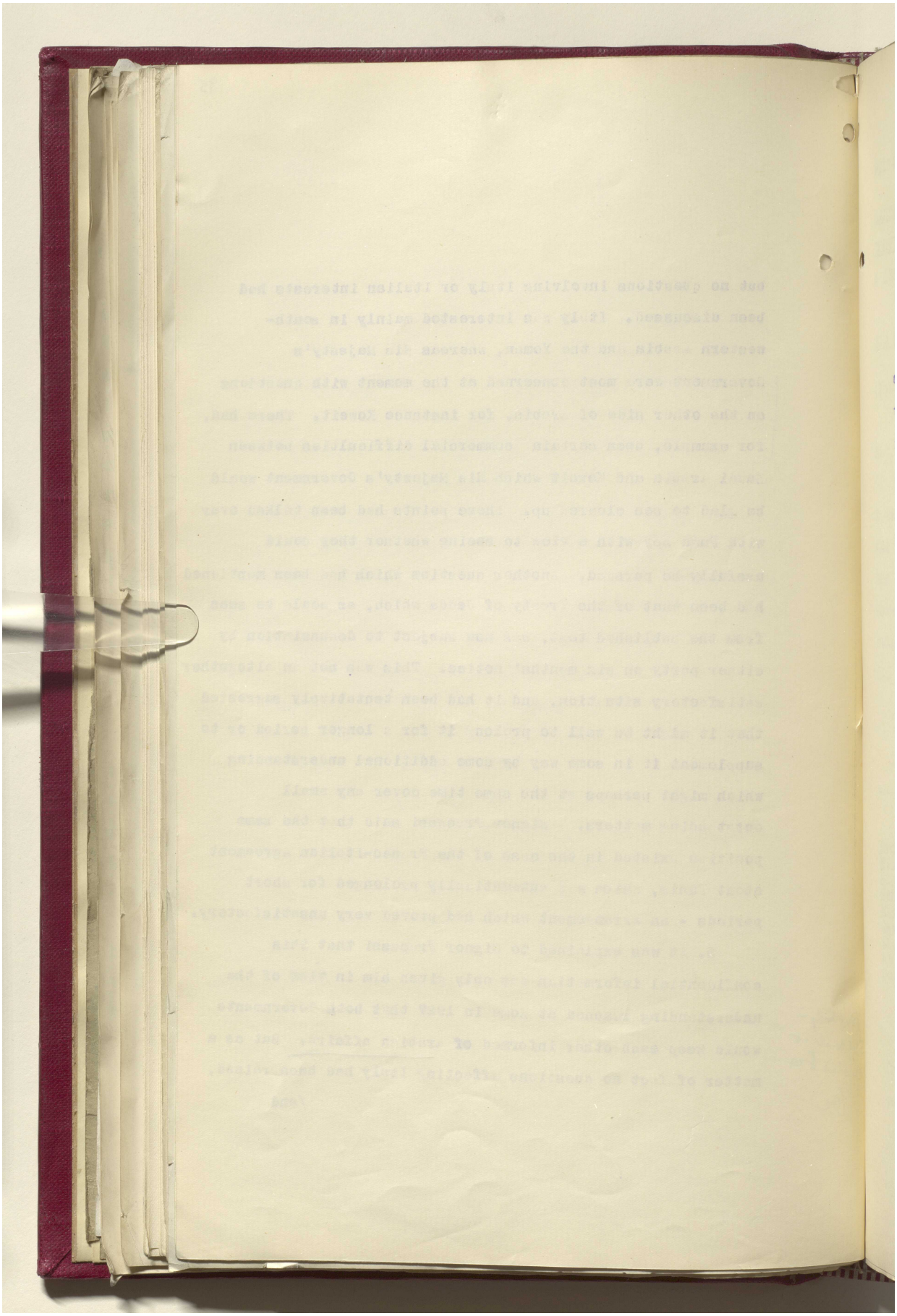

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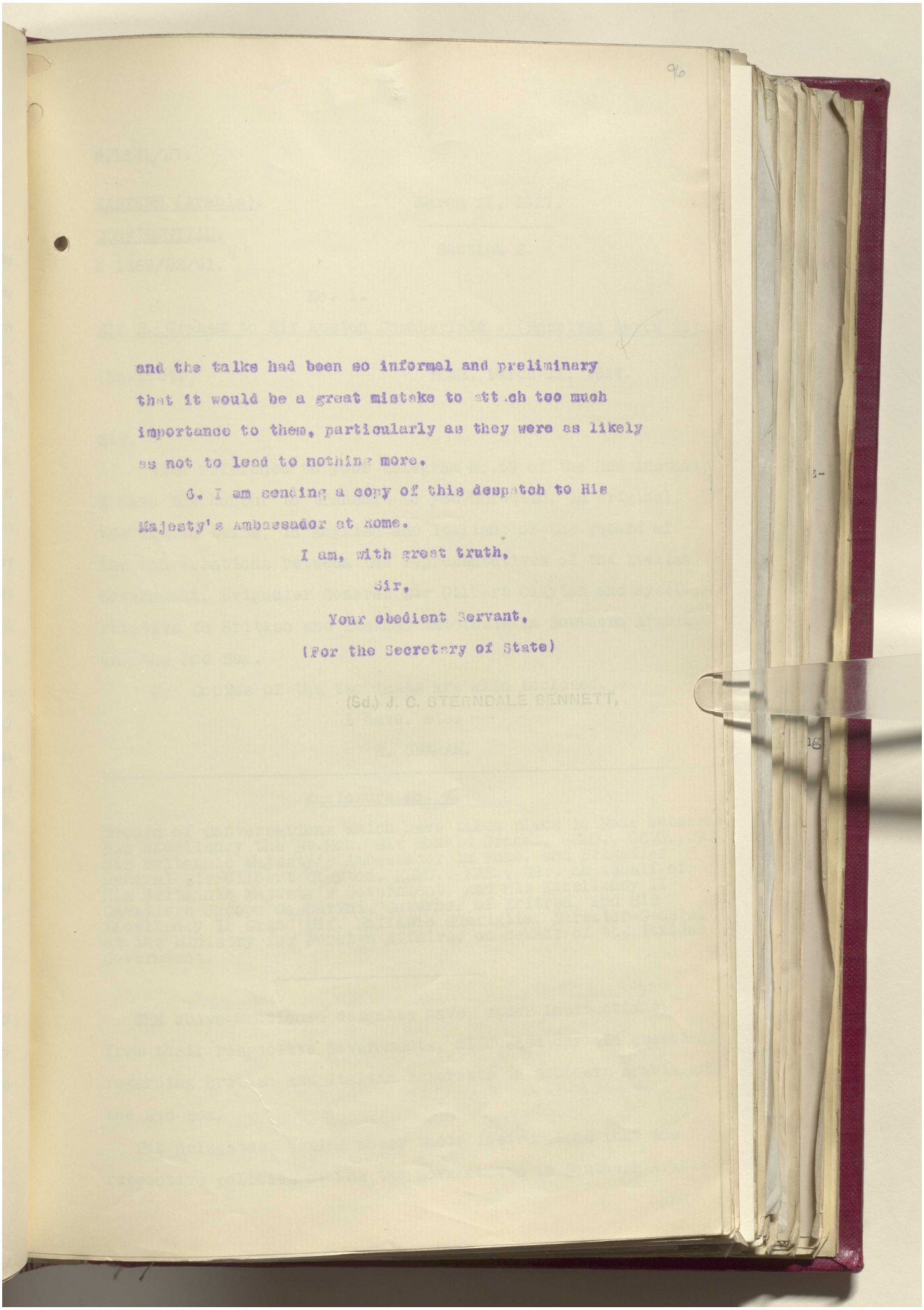

and the talks had been so informal and preliminary that it would be a great mistake to attach too much importance to them, particularly as they were as likely as not to lead to nothing more.

6. I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome.

I am, with great truth,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

(Sd.) J. C. STERNDALE BENNETT.

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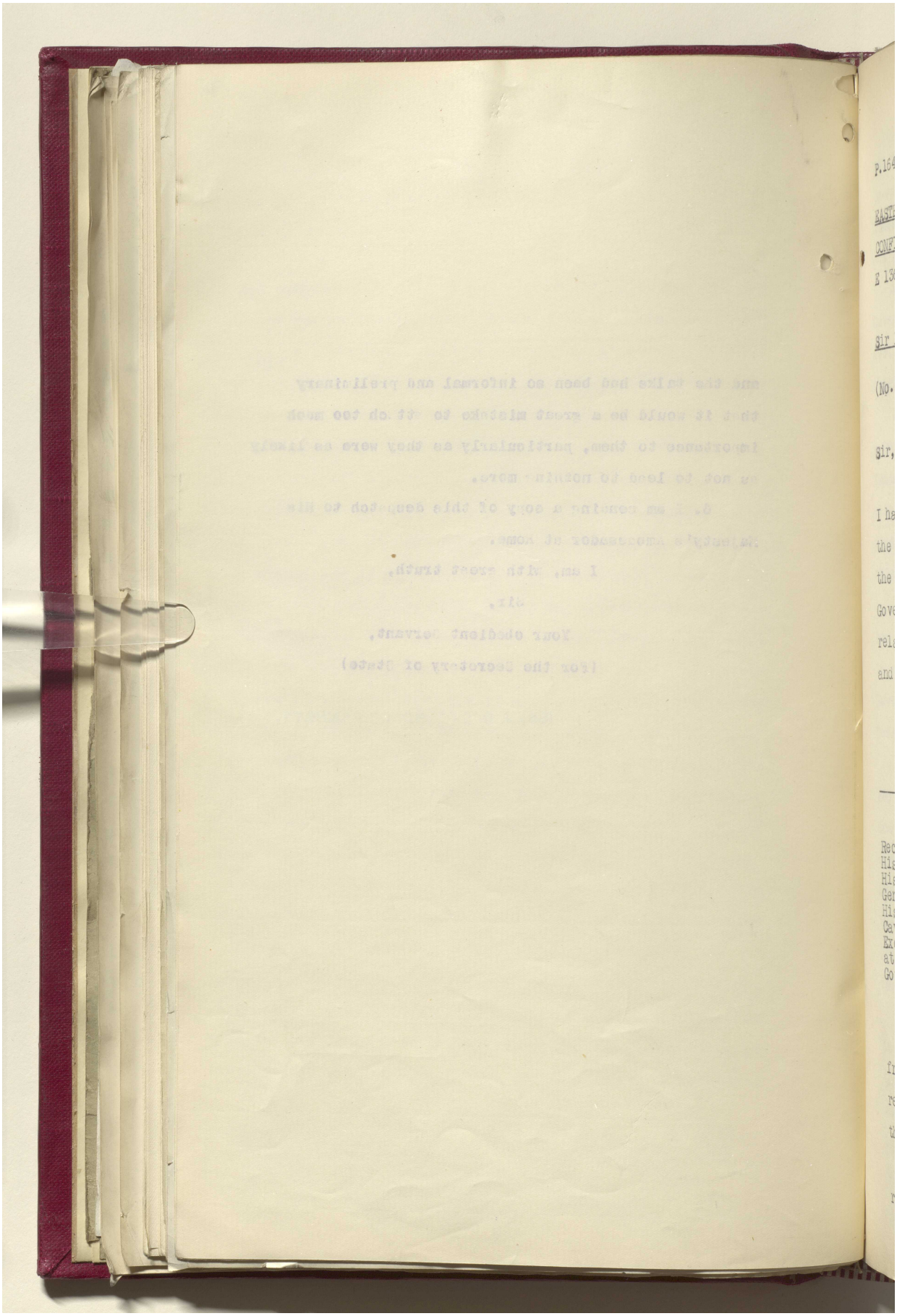

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P.1641/27.

EASTERN (Arabia). March 21, 1927.

CONFIDENTIAL.

E 1369/22/91. Section 2.

No. 1.

Sir R. Graham to Sir Austen Chamberlain.- (Received March 21).

(No.195). ROME, March 11, 1927.

Sir,

With reference to your telegram No.59 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, in original, the signed texts, in English and Italian, of the record of the conversations between the representatives of the Italian Government, Brigadier General Sir Gilbert Clayton and myself, relative to British and Italian interests in Southern Arabia and the Red Sea.

2. Copies of the two texts are also enclosed.

I have, etc.

R. GRAHAM.

Enclosure No. 1.

Record of Conversations which have taken place in Rome between His Excellency the Rt.Hon. Sir Ronald Graham, GCMG., GCVO., CB., His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador in Rome, and Brigadier General Sir Gilbert Clayton, KCMG., KBE., CB., on behalf of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and His Excellency Il Cavaliere Jacopo Gasparini, Governor of Eritrea, and His Excellency Il Grand'Uff. Raffaele Guariglia, Director-General at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Italian Government.

THE above-mentioned delegates have, under instructions, from their respective Governments, discussed certain questions regarding British and Italian interests in Southern Arabia and the Red Sea.

The delegates, acting under their instructions that the respective policies of the two Governments in Southern Arabia

and/

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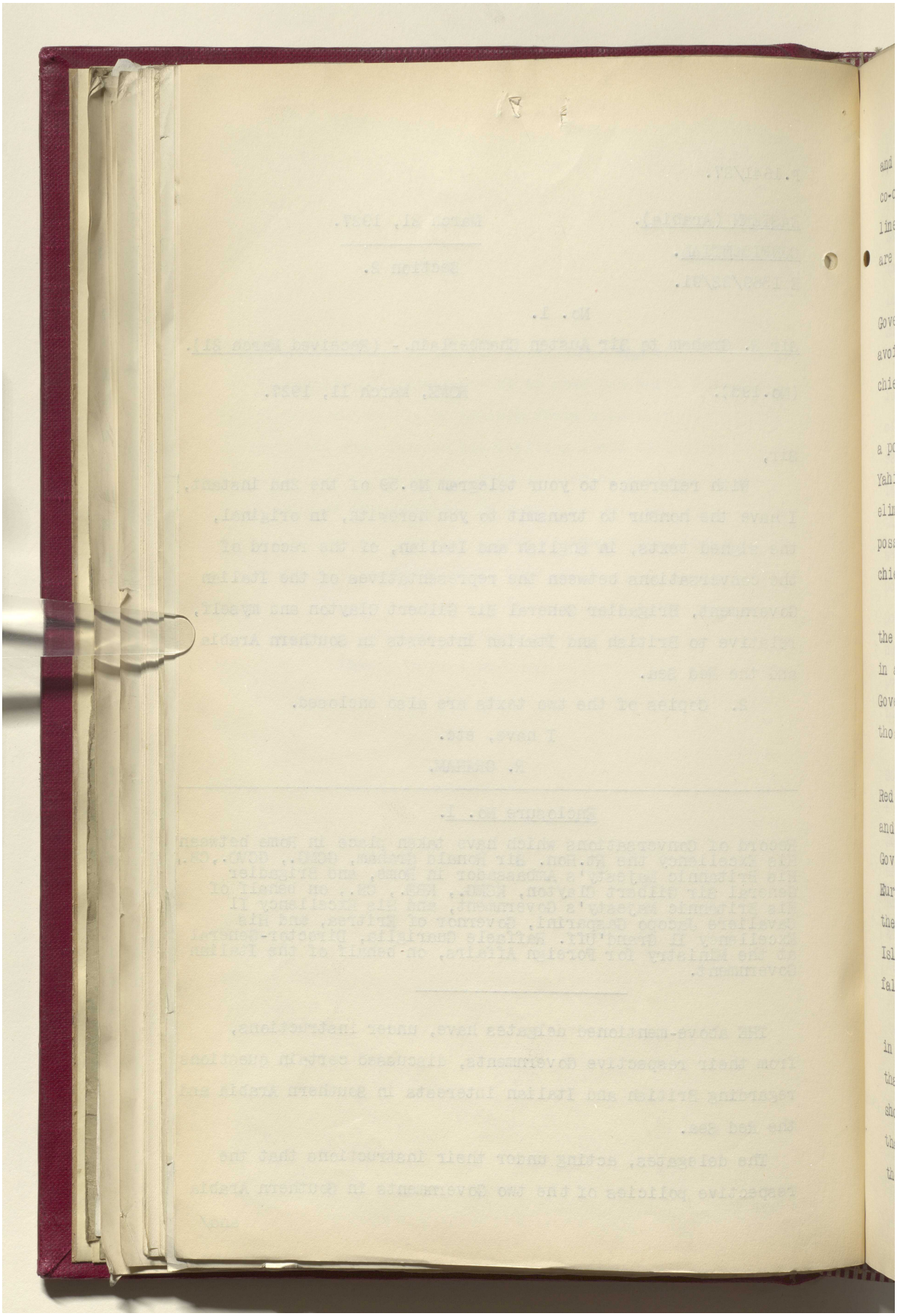

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and the Red Sea should be pursued in a spirit of friendly co-operation and developed on parallel though independent lines, have reached the conclusion that their Governments are in agreement on the following points:-

1. That it is in the common interest of the two Governments to pursue a policy of pacification in order to avoid so far as possible conflicts between the various Arab chiefs.

2. That such influence as the two Governments may be in a position to exercise respectively with Ibn Saud, the Imam Yahia and the Idrisi of Asir, should be directed towards eliminating causes of conflict in order to arrive, if possible, at pacific and friendly settlements between those chiefs.

3. That while continuing to exert their influence in the cause of peace, the two Governments should not intervene in any conflict which, despite the efforts of the two Governments towards pacification, may break out between those chiefs.

4. That the guiding principle in British policy in the Red Sea is the security of imperial communications with India and the East. For this purpose His Britannic Majesty's Government regard it as a vital imperial interest that no European Power should establish itself on the Arabian shore of the Red Sea, and more particularly on Kamaran or the Farsan Islands, and that neither Kamaran nor the Farsan Islands shall fall into the hands of an unfriendly Arab ruler.

That, on the other hand, it is the interest of Italy, in view of her possessions on the western coast of the Red Sea, that no European Power should establish itself on the Arabian shore of the Red Sea, or on Kamaran or the Farsan Islands, and that neither Kamaran nor the Farsan Islands should fall into the hands of an unfriendly Arab ruler.

5/

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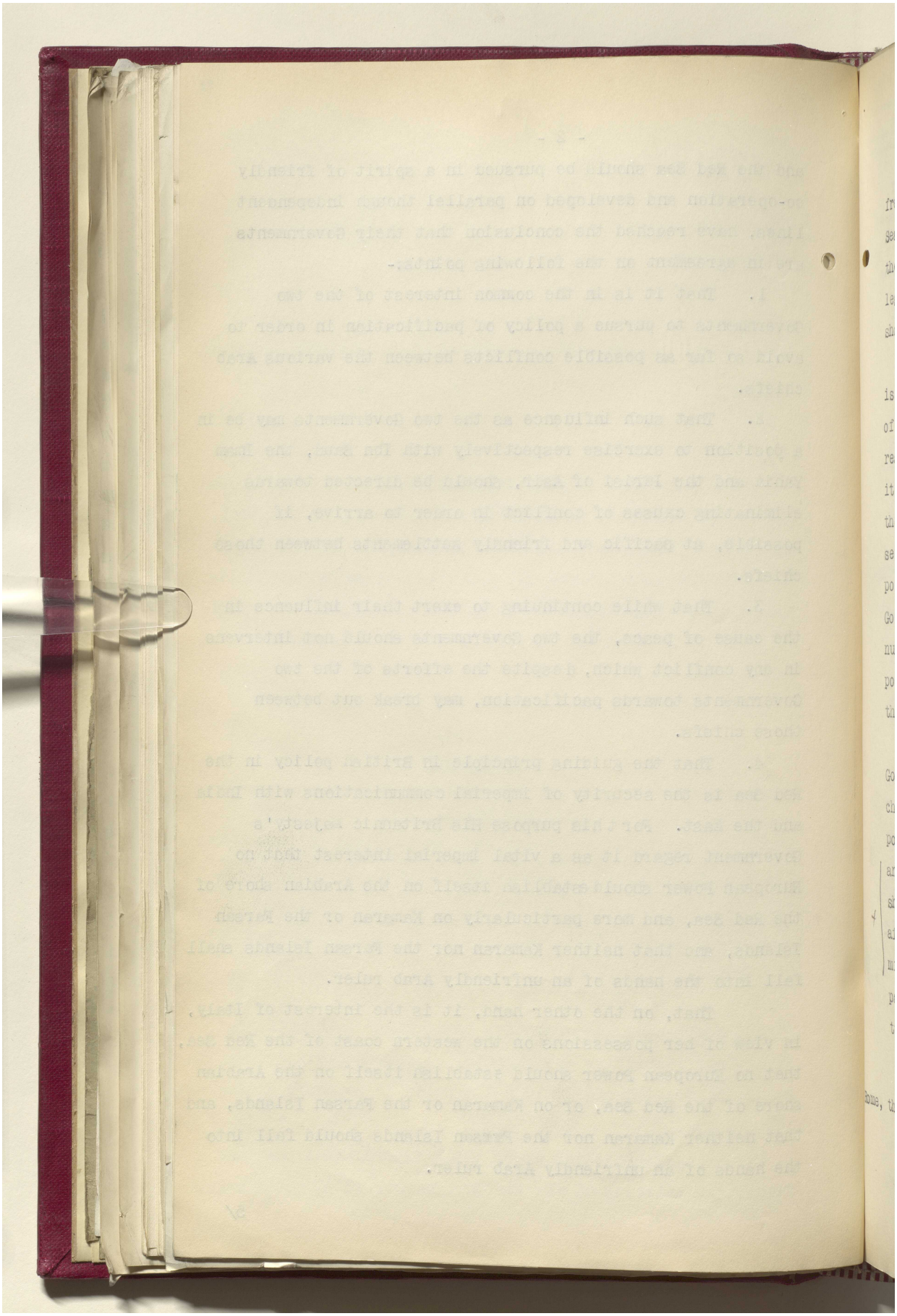

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5. That there should be economic and commercial freedom on the Arabian coast and the islands of the Red Sea for citizens and subjects of the two countries and that the protection which such citizens and subjects may legitimately expect from their respective Governments should not assume a political character or complexion.

6. That the presence of British officials at Kamaran is solely for the purpose of securing the sanitary service of the pilgrimage to Mecca, but that for administrative reasons His Britannic Majesty's Government do not consider it possible at present to agree to the Italian request for the participation of an Italian doctor in the quarantine service. But since the Italian Government maintain their point of view in this matter, His Britannic Majesty's Government are disposed to reconsider the question when the number of pilgrims originating in Italian colonies or possessions increases to such an extent as better to justify the presence of an Italian doctor.

7. That it is in the common interest of the two Governments to use their respective influence with the Arab chiefs in such a manner as to safeguard as far as may be possible the mutual interests of Italy and Great Britain, and that, therefore, it is desirable that the two Governments should maintain close touch with each other in all questions affecting the Red Sea and Southern Arabia, in order to avoid misunderstandings between them or misapprehensions on the part of the Arab chiefs in regard to the policies which the two Governments intend to follow in the above-mentioned areas.

RONALD GRAHAM.
GILBERT CLAYTON.

GASPARINI.
GUARIGLIA.

Rome, the 7th day of February, 1927.

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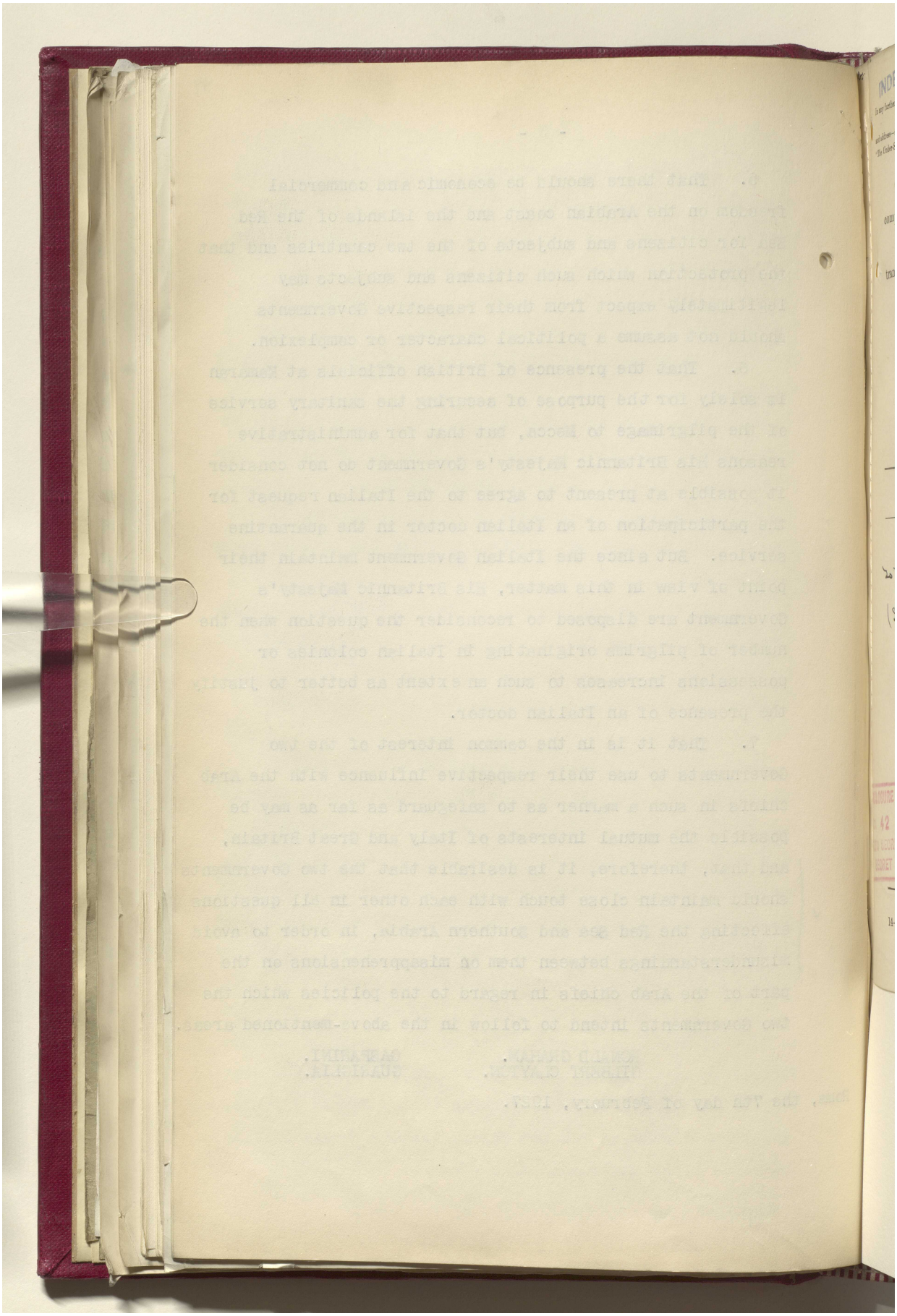

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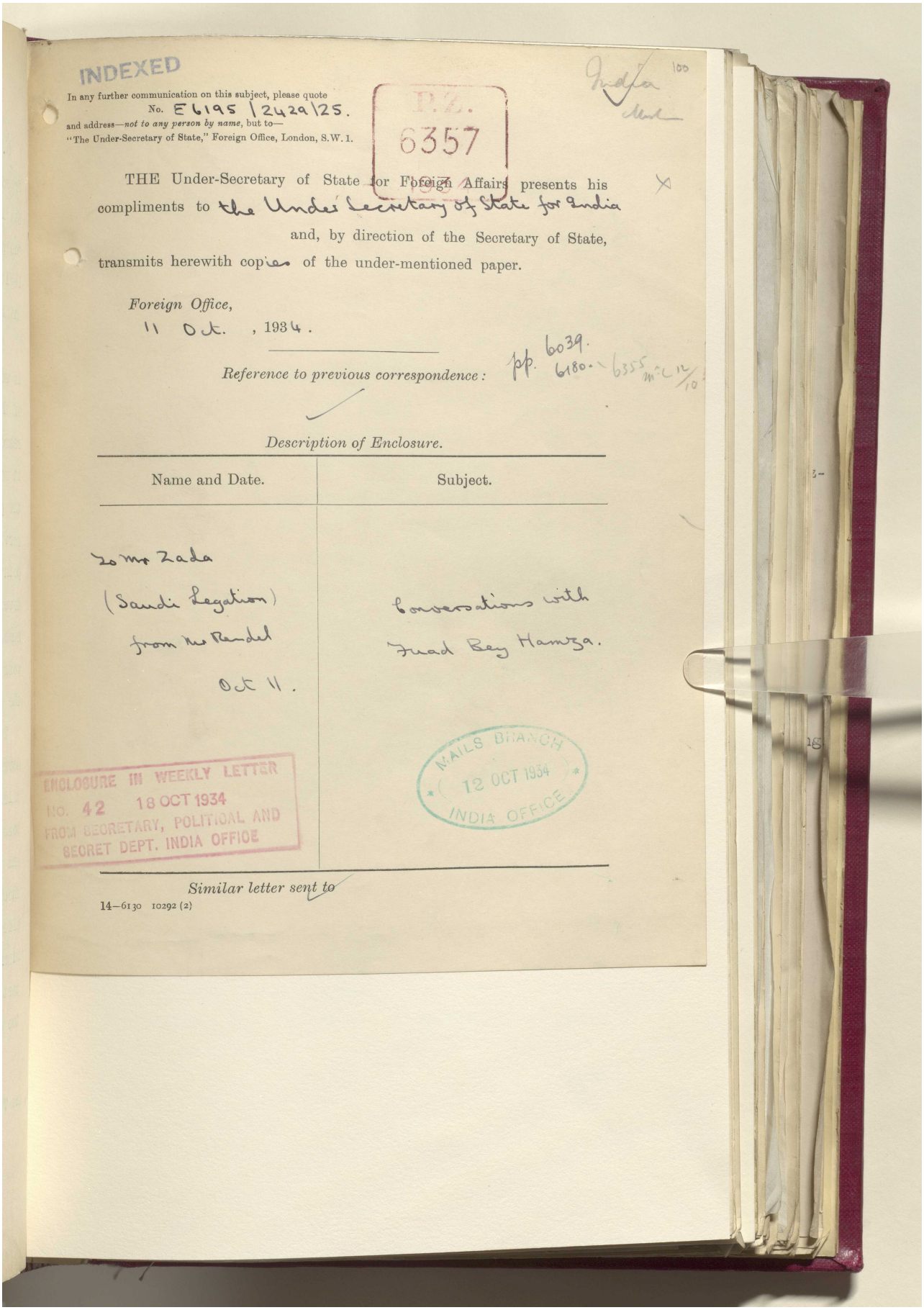

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 6195 / 2429 / 25.
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 6357

India 100

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
11 Oct. , 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence: pp. 6039. 6180. ~ 6355 m²C 12/10

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Mr Zada (Saudi Legation) from Mr Rendel Oct 11.	Conversations with Fuad Bey Hamza.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER NO. 42 18 OCT 1934 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH 12 OCT 1934 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

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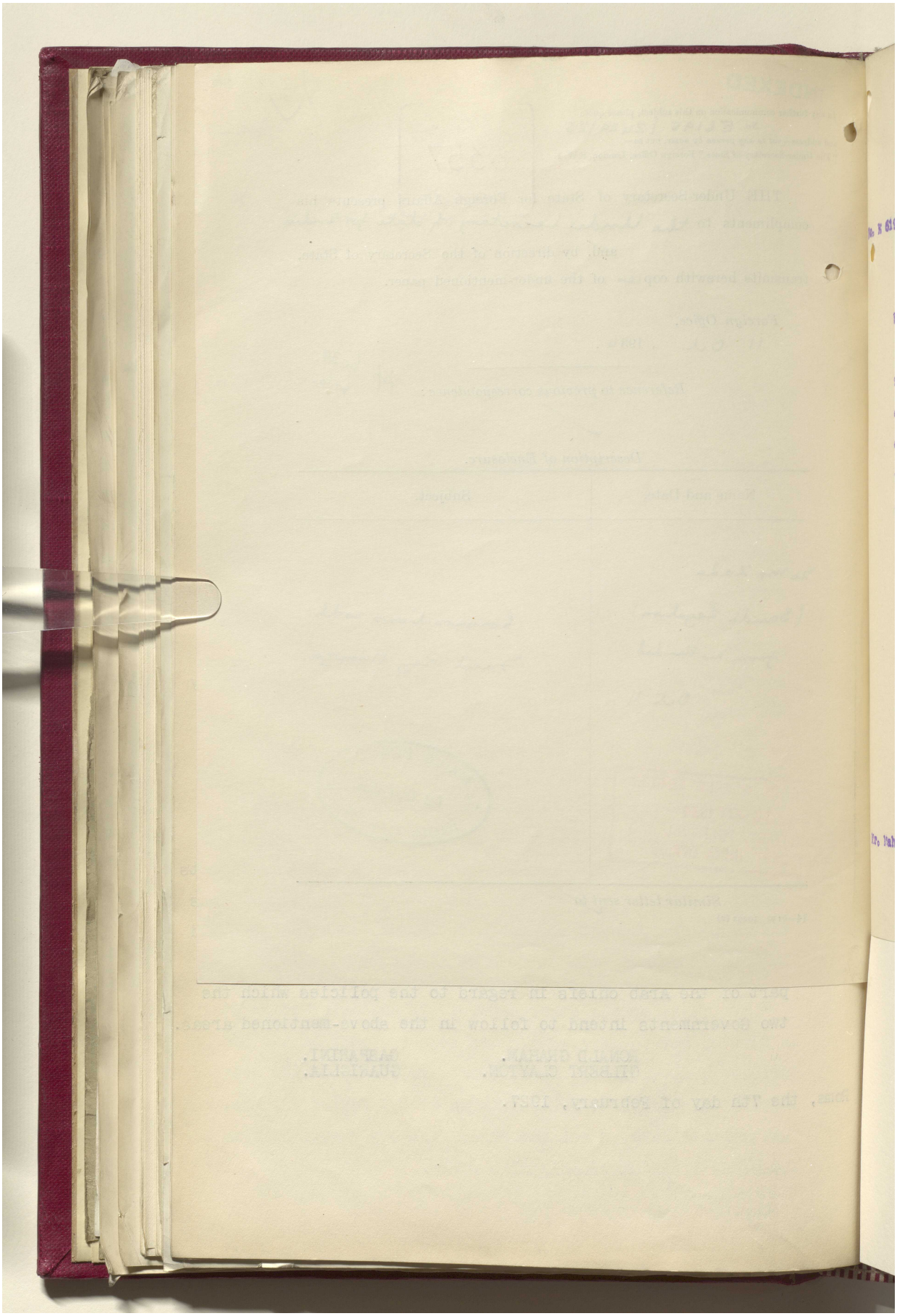

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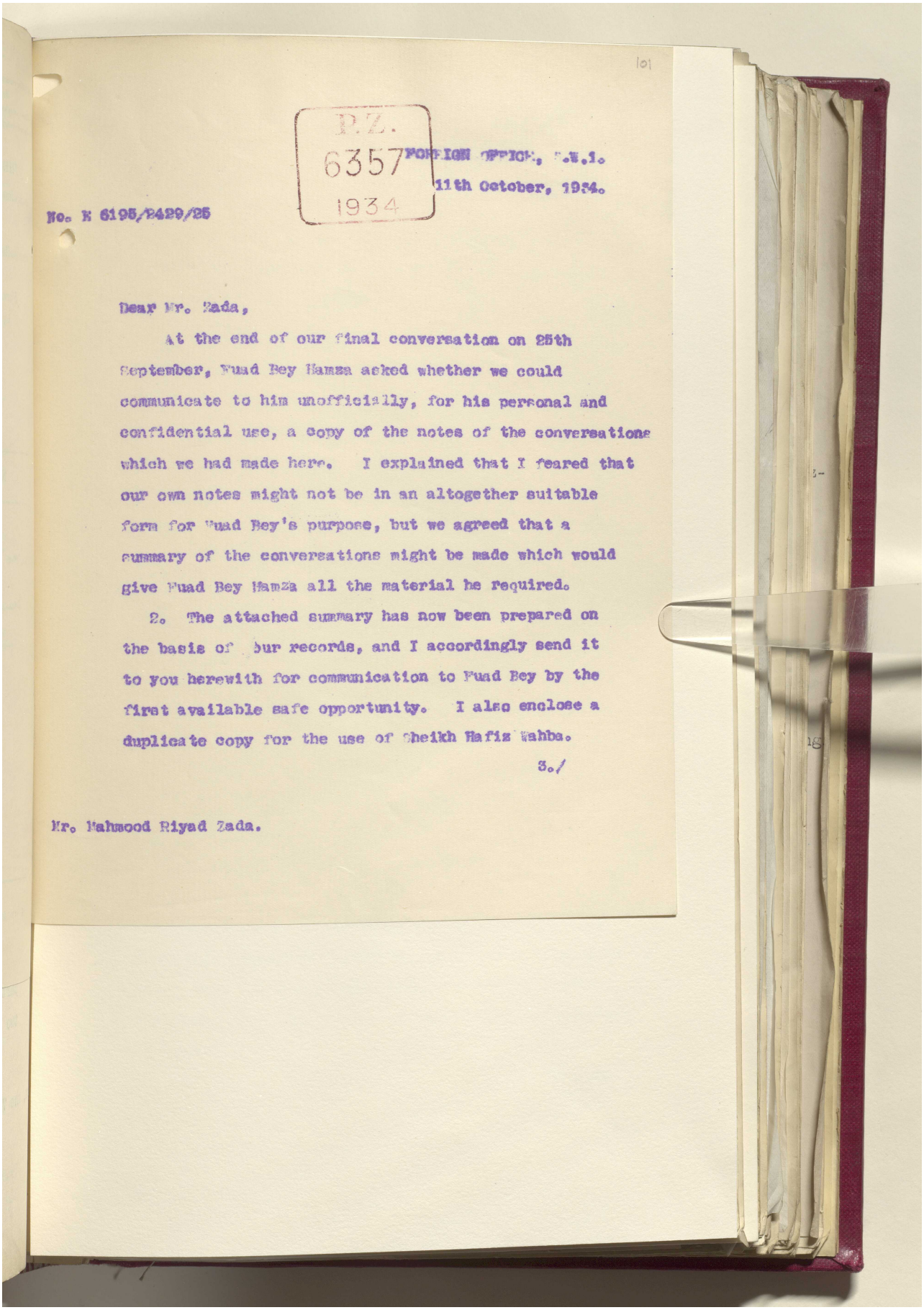

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P.Z. 6357 1934

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
11th October, 1934.

No. K 6195/2429/25

Dear Mr. Zada,

At the end of our final conversation on 25th September, Fuad Bey Hamza asked whether we could communicate to him unofficially, for his personal and confidential use, a copy of the notes of the conversations which we had made here. I explained that I feared that our own notes might not be in an altogether suitable form for Fuad Bey's purpose, but we agreed that a summary of the conversations might be made which would give Fuad Bey Hamza all the material he required.

2. The attached summary has now been prepared on the basis of our records, and I accordingly send it to you herewith for communication to Fuad Bey by the first available safe opportunity. I also enclose a duplicate copy for the use of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba.

3./

Mr. Mahmood Riyad Zada.

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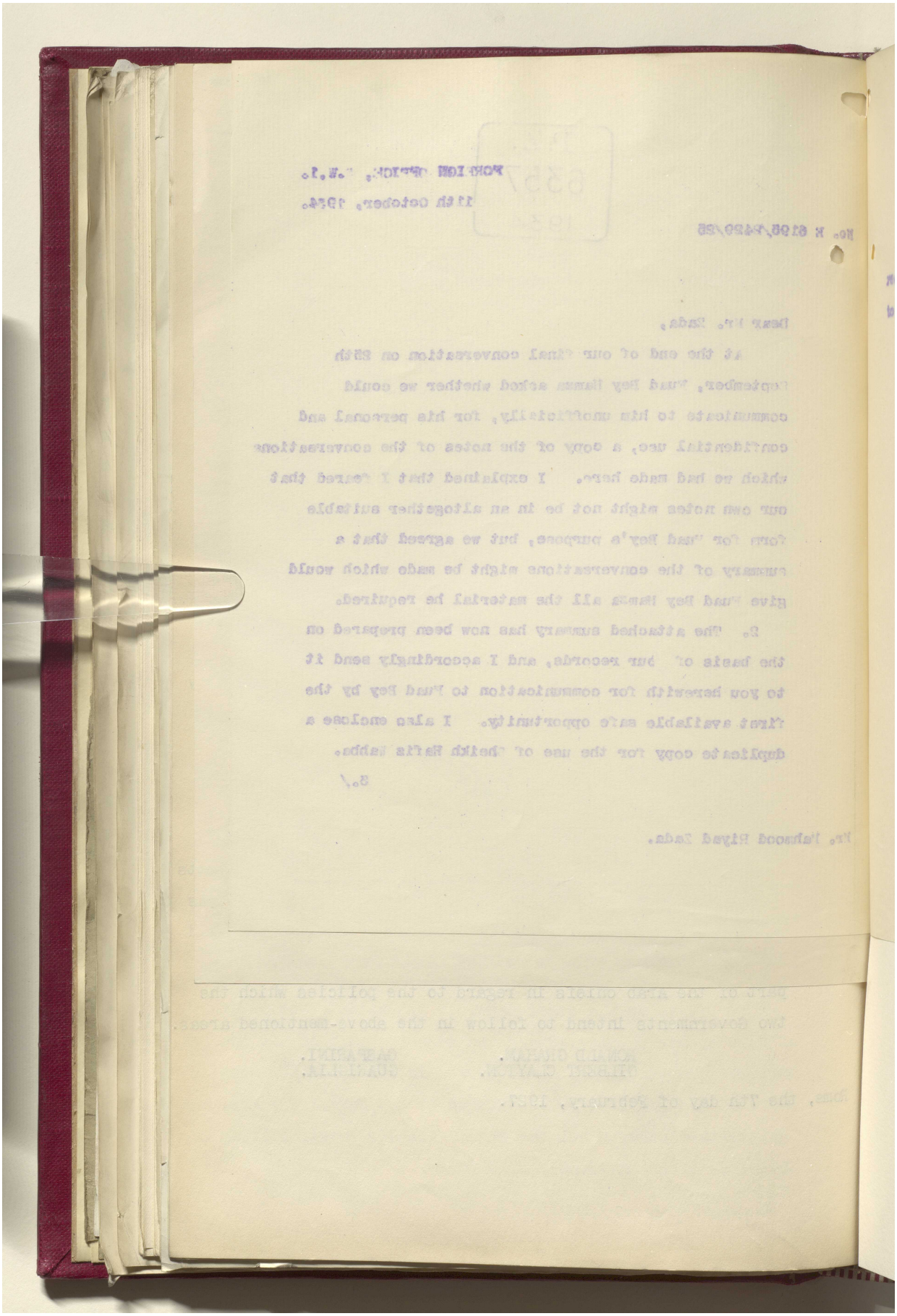

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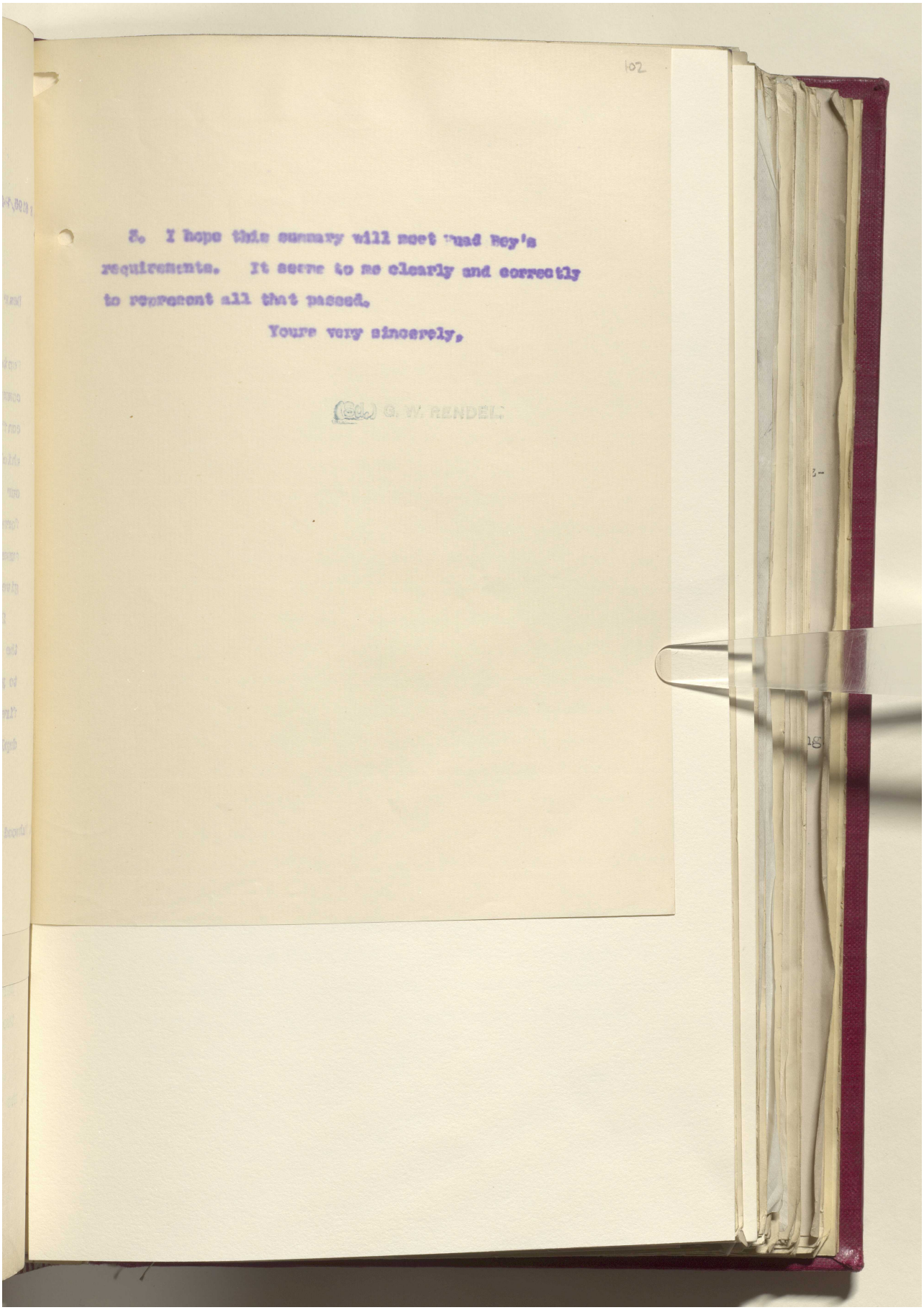

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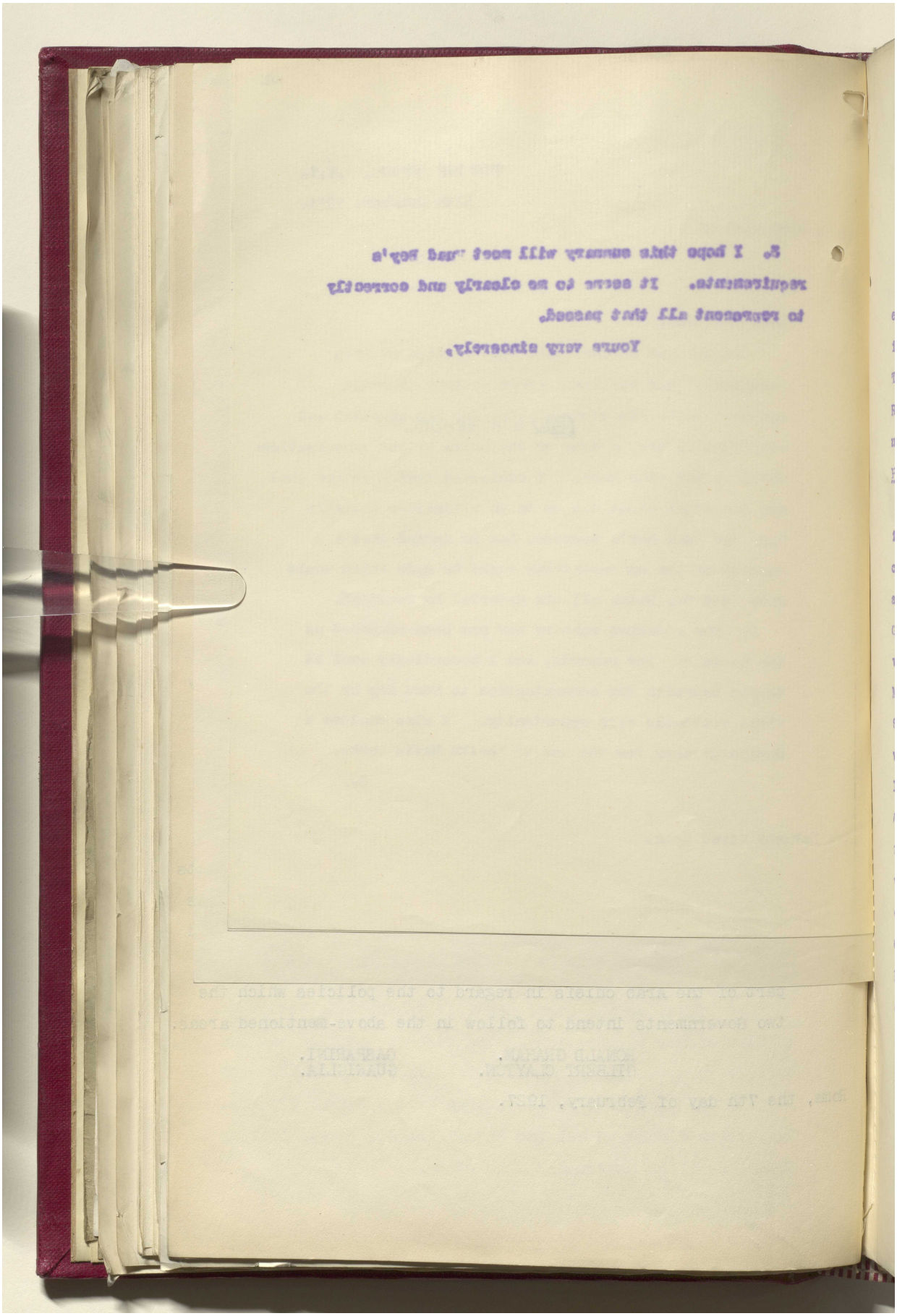
8. I hope this summary will meet Fuad Bey's requirements. It seems to me clearly and correctly to represent all that passed.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sd.) G. W. RENDEL



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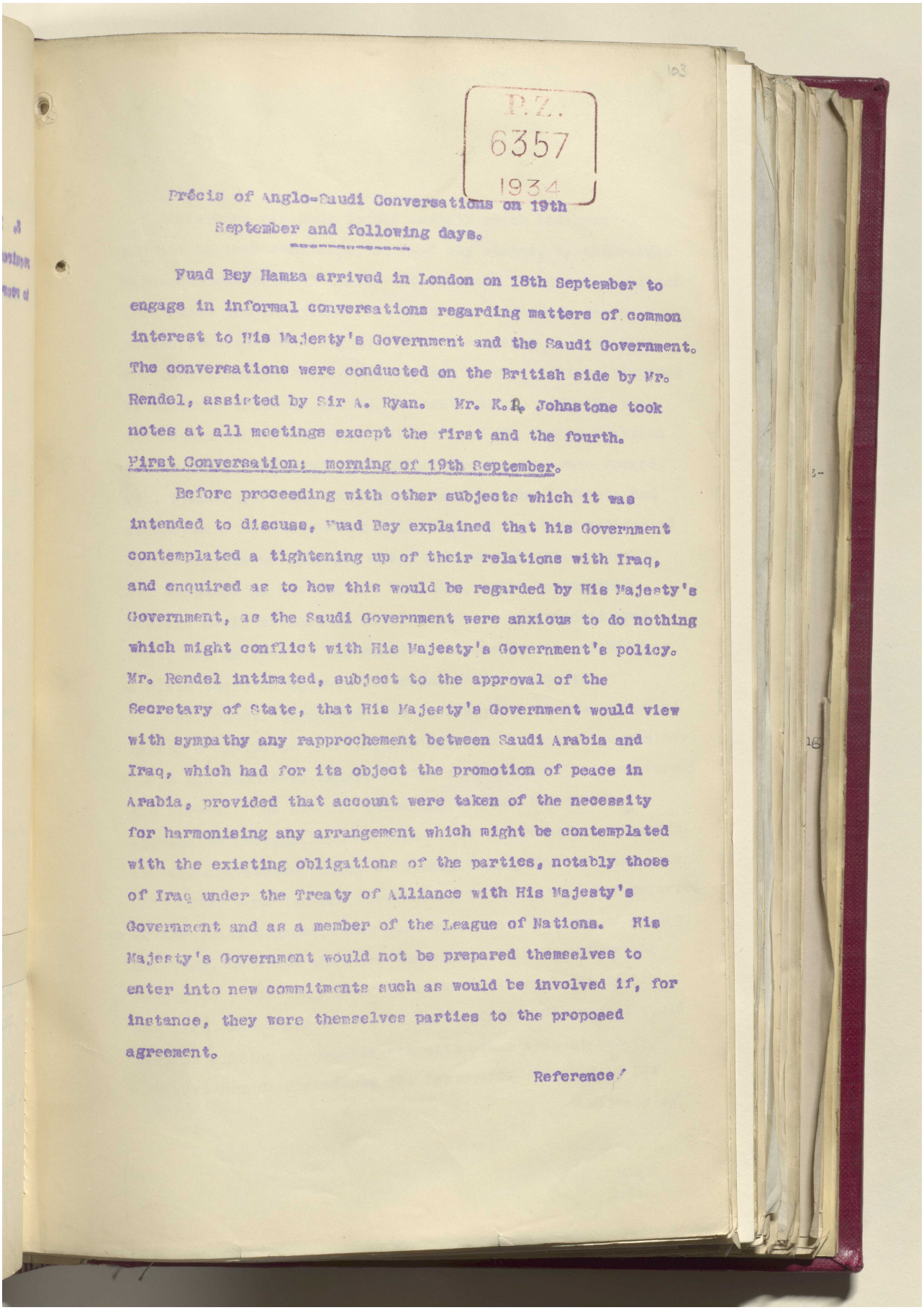

P.Z.
6357
1934

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Précis of Anglo-Saudi Conversations on 19th September and following days.

Fuad Bey Hamza arrived in London on 18th September to engage in informal conversations regarding matters of common interest to His Majesty's Government and the Saudi Government. The conversations were conducted on the British side by Mr. Rendel, assisted by Sir A. Ryan. Mr. K.P. Johnstone took notes at all meetings except the first and the fourth.

First Conversation: morning of 19th September.

Before proceeding with other subjects which it was intended to discuss, Fuad Bey explained that his Government contemplated a tightening up of their relations with Iraq, and enquired as to how this would be regarded by His Majesty's Government, as the Saudi Government were anxious to do nothing which might conflict with His Majesty's Government's policy. Mr. Rendel intimated, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, that His Majesty's Government would view with sympathy any rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, which had for its object the promotion of peace in Arabia, provided that account were taken of the necessity for harmonising any arrangement which might be contemplated with the existing obligations of the parties, notably those of Iraq under the Treaty of Alliance with His Majesty's Government and as a member of the League of Nations. His Majesty's Government would not be prepared themselves to enter into new commitments such as would be involved if, for instance, they were themselves parties to the proposed agreement.

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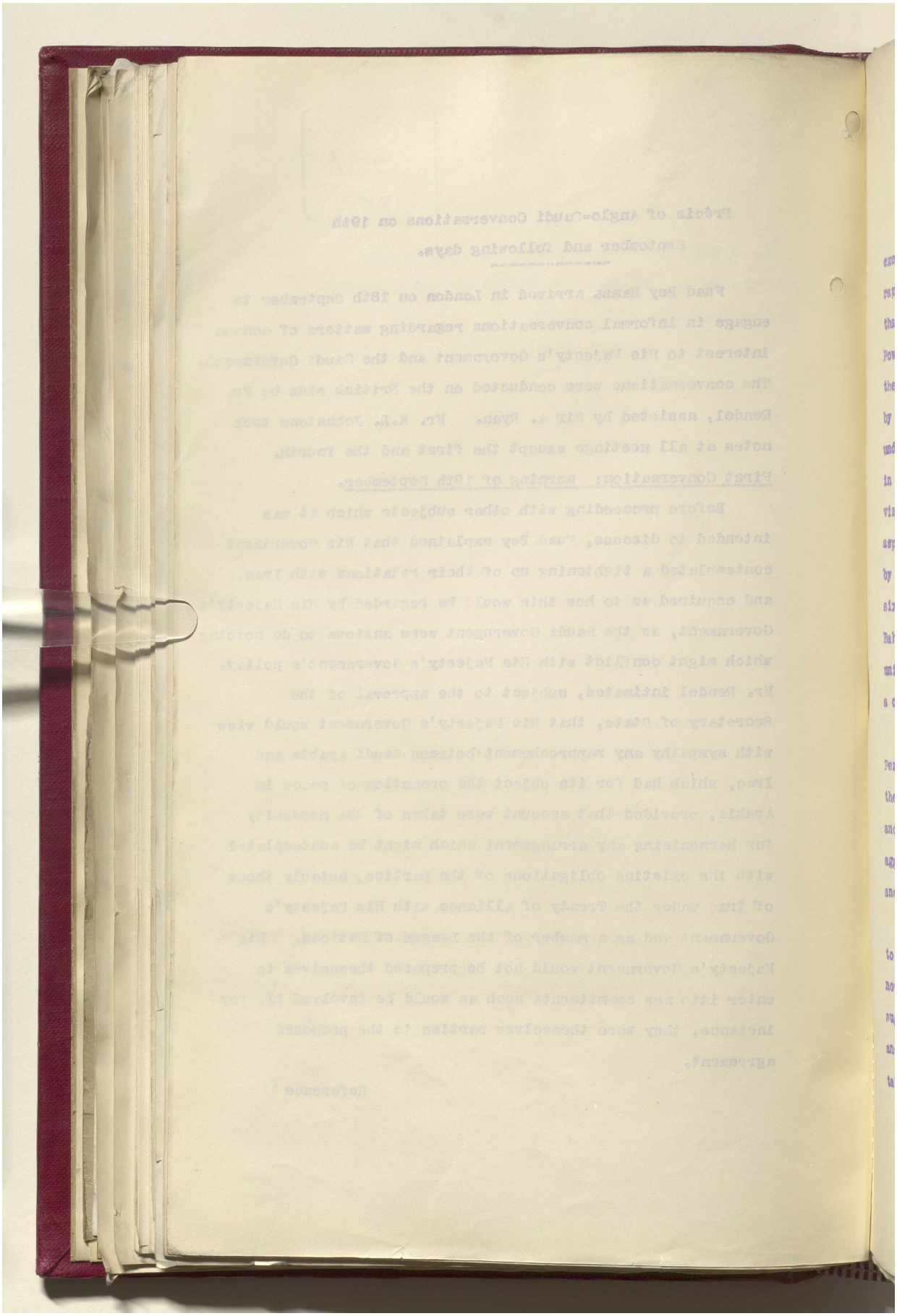

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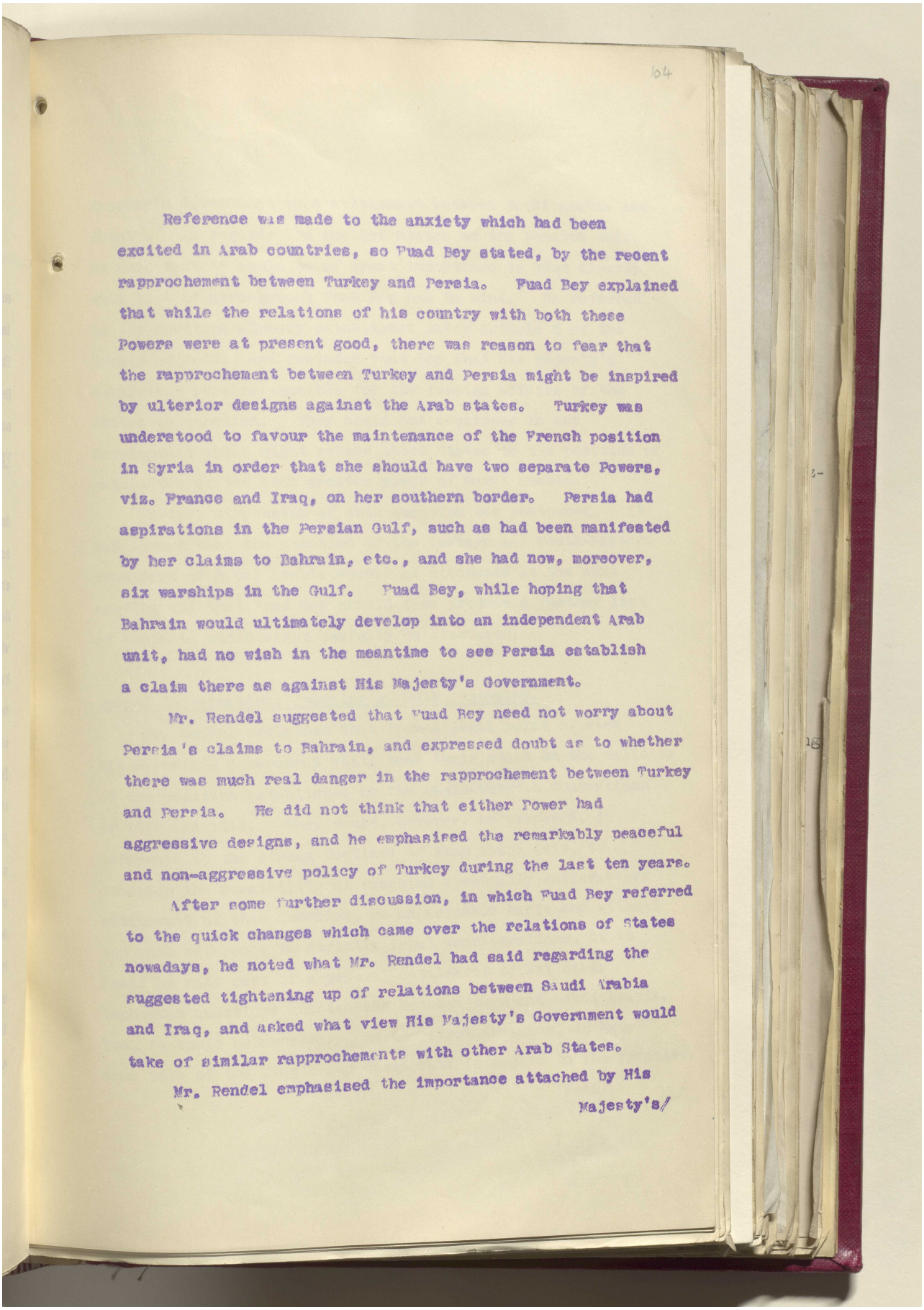

Reference was made to the anxiety which had been excited in Arab countries, so Fuad Bey stated, by the recent rapprochement between Turkey and Persia. Fuad Bey explained that while the relations of his country with both these Powers were at present good, there was reason to fear that the rapprochement between Turkey and Persia might be inspired by ulterior designs against the Arab states. Turkey was understood to favour the maintenance of the French position in Syria in order that she should have two separate Powers, viz. France and Iraq, on her southern border. Persia had aspirations in the Persian Gulf, such as had been manifested by her claims to Bahrain, etc., and she had now, moreover, six warships in the Gulf. Fuad Bey, while hoping that Bahrain would ultimately develop into an independent Arab unit, had no wish in the meantime to see Persia establish a claim there as against His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Rendel suggested that Fuad Bey need not worry about Persia's claims to Bahrain, and expressed doubt as to whether there was much real danger in the rapprochement between Turkey and Persia. He did not think that either Power had aggressive designs, and he emphasised the remarkably peaceful and non-aggressive policy of Turkey during the last ten years.

After some further discussion, in which Fuad Bey referred to the quick changes which came over the relations of States nowadays, he noted what Mr. Rendel had said regarding the suggested tightening up of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and asked what view His Majesty's Government would take of similar rapprochements with other Arab States.

Mr. Rendel emphasised the importance attached by His

Majesty's/

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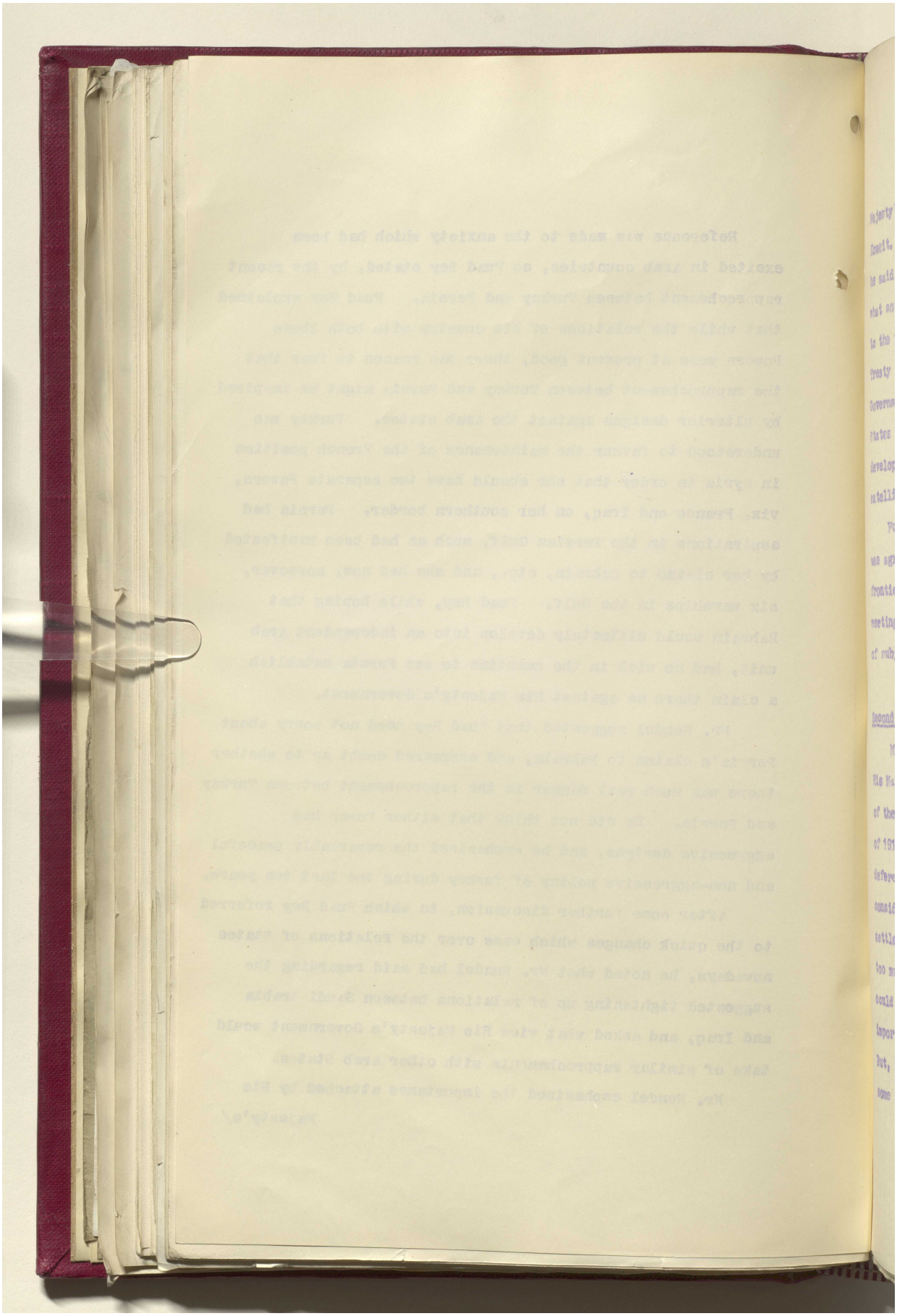

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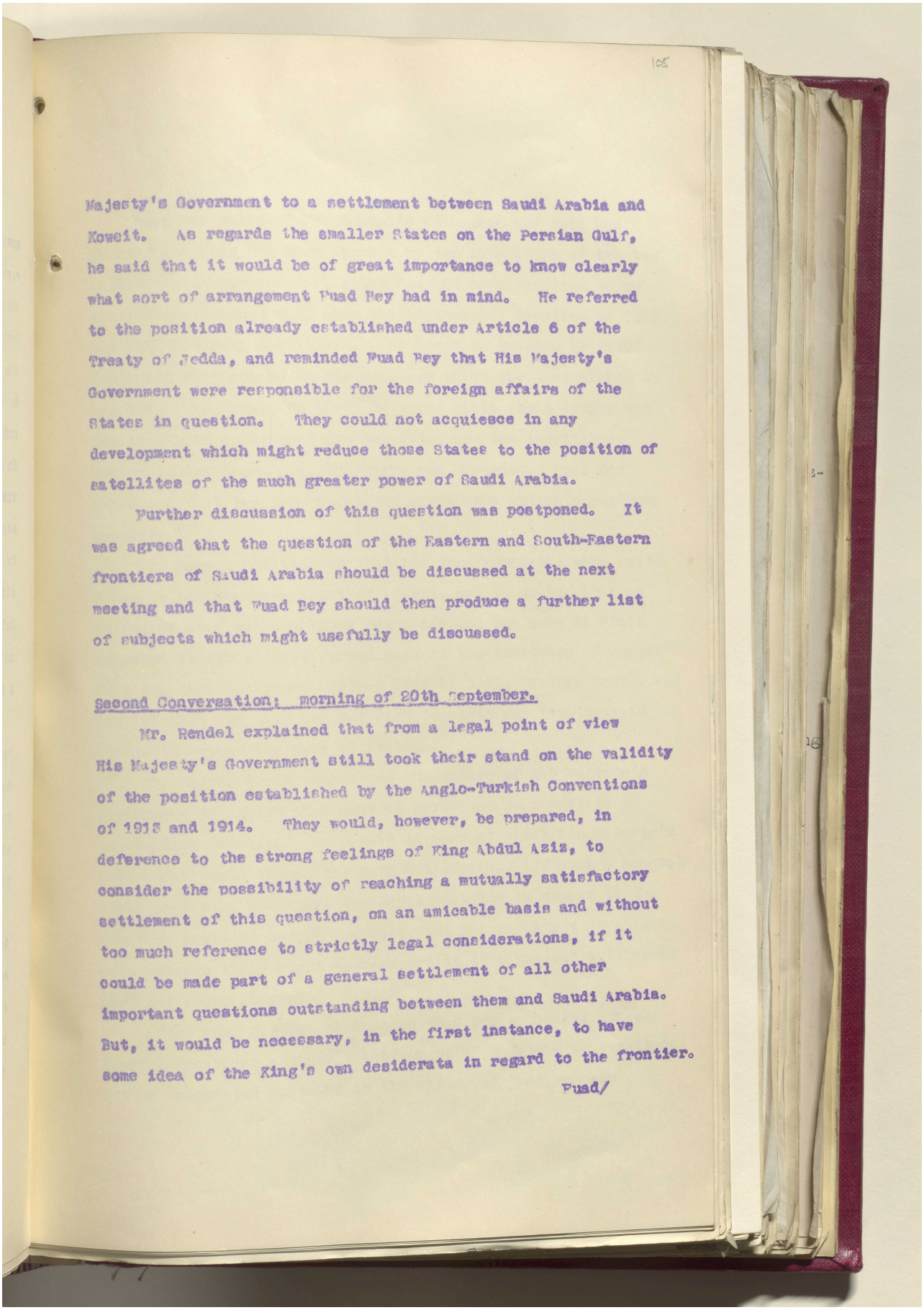

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Majesty's Government to a settlement between Saudi Arabia and Koweit. As regards the smaller States on the Persian Gulf, he said that it would be of great importance to know clearly what sort of arrangement Fuad Bey had in mind. He referred to the position already established under Article 6 of the Treaty of Jedda, and reminded Fuad Bey that His Majesty's Government were responsible for the foreign affairs of the States in question. They could not acquiesce in any development which might reduce those States to the position of satellites of the much greater power of Saudi Arabia.

Further discussion of this question was postponed. It was agreed that the question of the Eastern and South-Eastern frontiers of Saudi Arabia should be discussed at the next meeting and that Fuad Bey should then produce a further list of subjects which might usefully be discussed.

Second Conversation: morning of 20th September.

Mr. Rendel explained that from a legal point of view His Majesty's Government still took their stand on the validity of the position established by the Anglo-Turkish Conventions of 1913 and 1914. They would, however, be prepared, in deference to the strong feelings of King Abdul Aziz, to consider the possibility of reaching a mutually satisfactory settlement of this question, on an amicable basis and without too much reference to strictly legal considerations, if it could be made part of a general settlement of all other important questions outstanding between them and Saudi Arabia. But, it would be necessary, in the first instance, to have some idea of the King's own desiderata in regard to the frontier.

Fuad/

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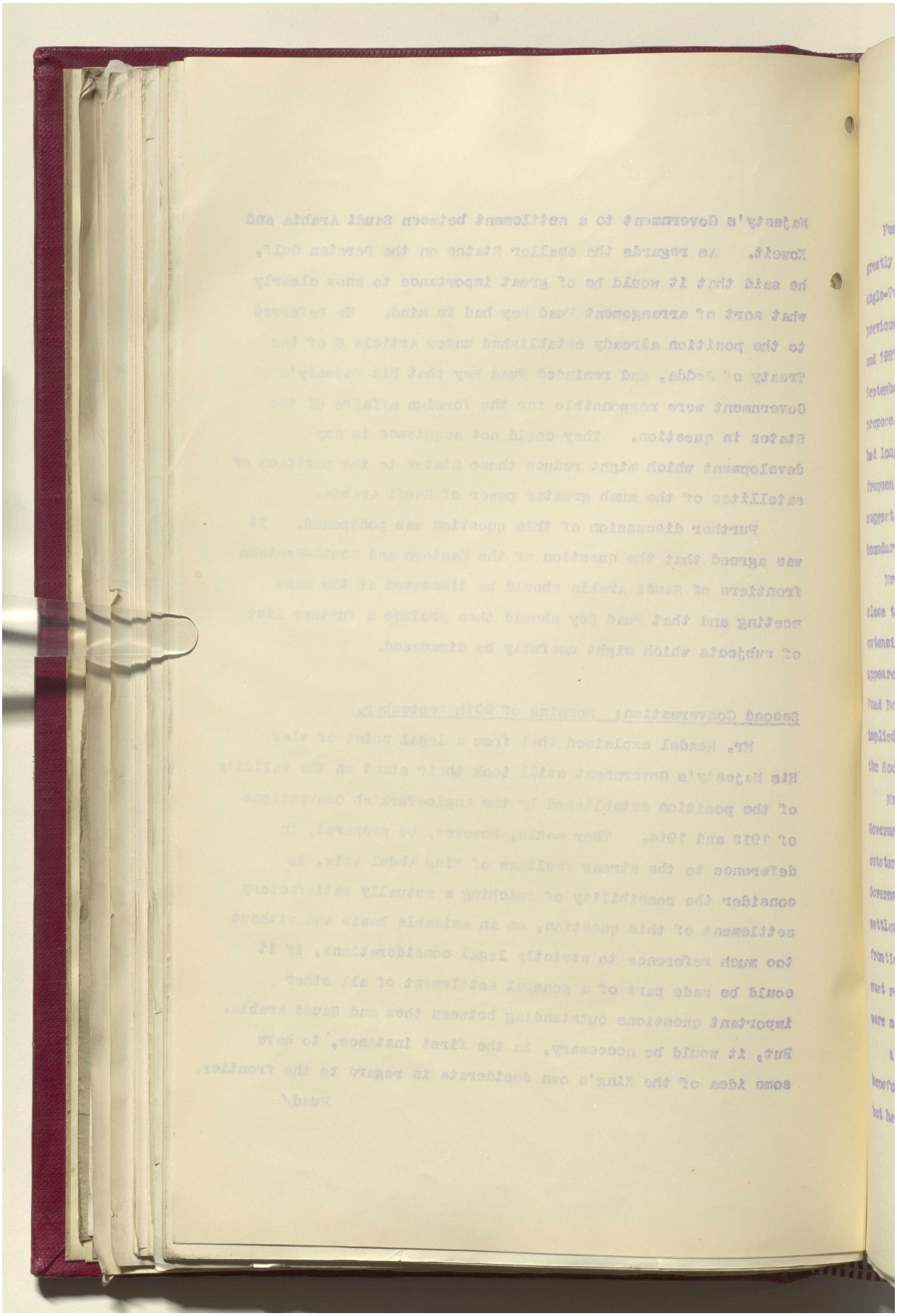

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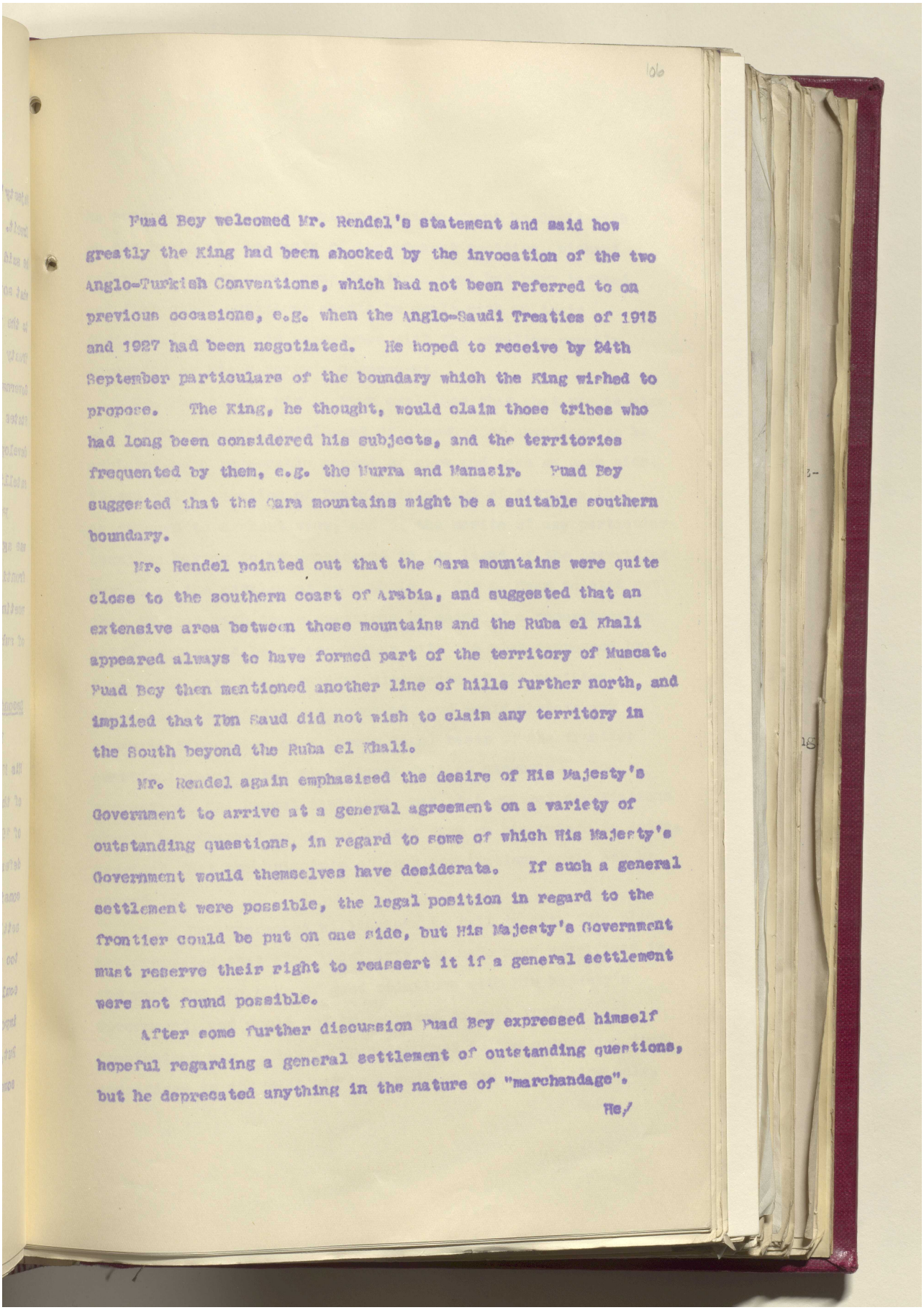

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Fuad Bey welcomed Mr. Rendel's statement and said how greatly the King had been shocked by the invocation of the two Anglo-Turkish Conventions, which had not been referred to on previous occasions, e.g. when the Anglo-Saudi Treaties of 1915 and 1927 had been negotiated. He hoped to receive by 24th September particulars of the boundary which the King wished to propose. The King, he thought, would claim those tribes who had long been considered his subjects, and the territories frequented by them, e.g. the Murra and Manasir. Fuad Bey suggested that the Qara mountains might be a suitable southern boundary.

Mr. Rendel pointed out that the Qara mountains were quite close to the southern coast of Arabia, and suggested that an extensive area between those mountains and the Ruba el Khali appeared always to have formed part of the territory of Muscat. Fuad Bey then mentioned another line of hills further north, and implied that Ibn Saud did not wish to claim any territory in the South beyond the Ruba el Khali.

Mr. Rendel again emphasised the desire of His Majesty's Government to arrive at a general agreement on a variety of outstanding questions, in regard to some of which His Majesty's Government would themselves have desiderata. If such a general settlement were possible, the legal position in regard to the frontier could be put on one side, but His Majesty's Government must reserve their right to reassert it if a general settlement were not found possible.

After some further discussion Fuad Bey expressed himself hopeful regarding a general settlement of outstanding questions, but he deprecated anything in the nature of "marchandage".

He/

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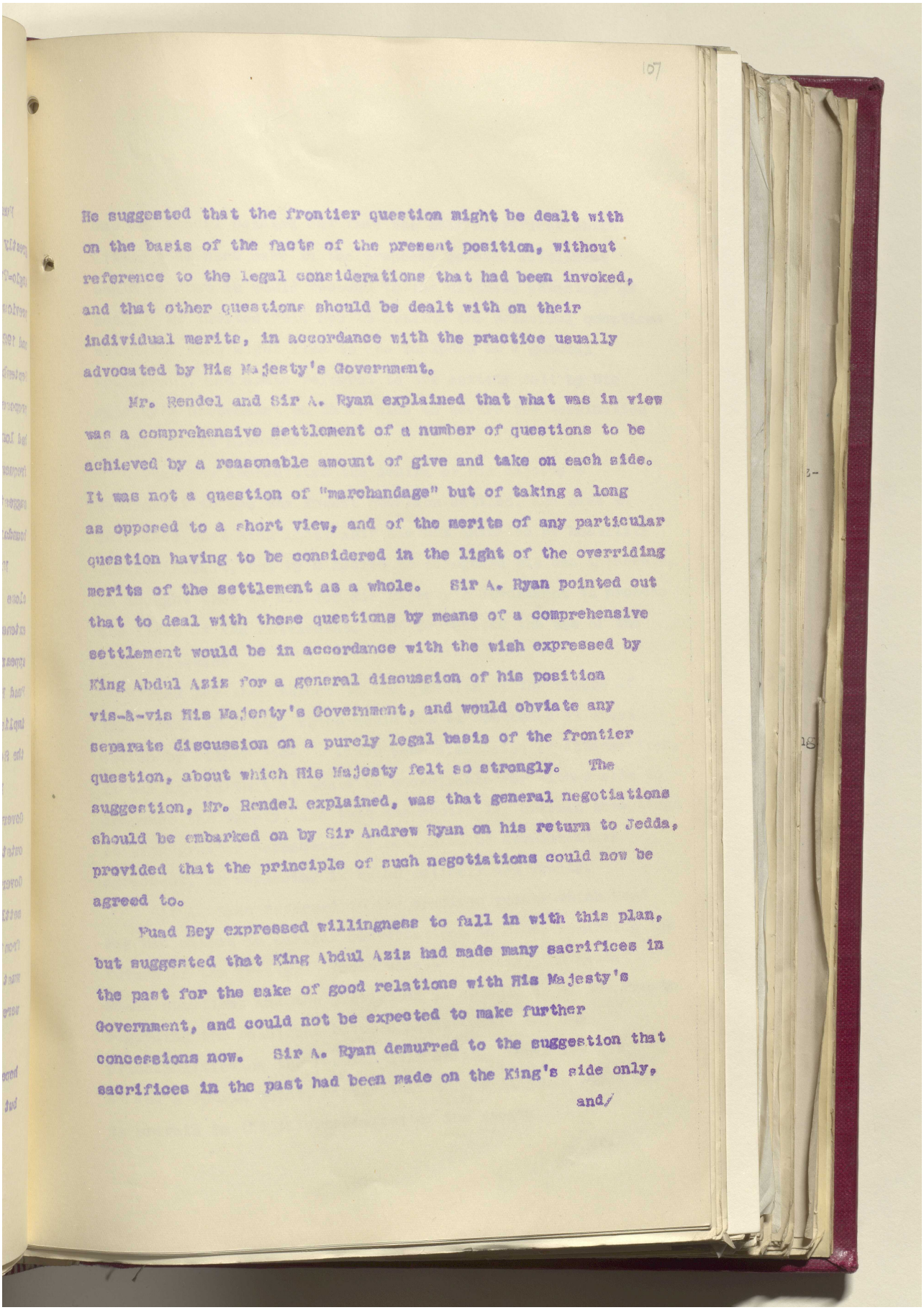

He suggested that the frontier question might be dealt with on the basis of the facts of the present position, without reference to the legal considerations that had been invoked, and that other questions should be dealt with on their individual merits, in accordance with the practice usually advocated by His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Rendel and Sir A. Ryan explained that what was in view was a comprehensive settlement of a number of questions to be achieved by a reasonable amount of give and take on each side. It was not a question of "marchandage" but of taking a long as opposed to a short view, and of the merits of any particular question having to be considered in the light of the overriding merits of the settlement as a whole. Sir A. Ryan pointed out that to deal with these questions by means of a comprehensive settlement would be in accordance with the wish expressed by King Abdul Aziz for a general discussion of his position vis-à-vis His Majesty's Government, and would obviate any separate discussion on a purely legal basis of the frontier question, about which His Majesty felt so strongly. The suggestion, Mr. Rendel explained, was that general negotiations should be embarked on by Sir Andrew Ryan on his return to Jedda, provided that the principle of such negotiations could now be agreed to.

Fuad Bey expressed willingness to fall in with this plan, but suggested that King Abdul Aziz had made many sacrifices in the past for the sake of good relations with His Majesty's Government, and could not be expected to make further concessions now. Sir A. Ryan demurred to the suggestion that sacrifices in the past had been made on the King's side only,

and/

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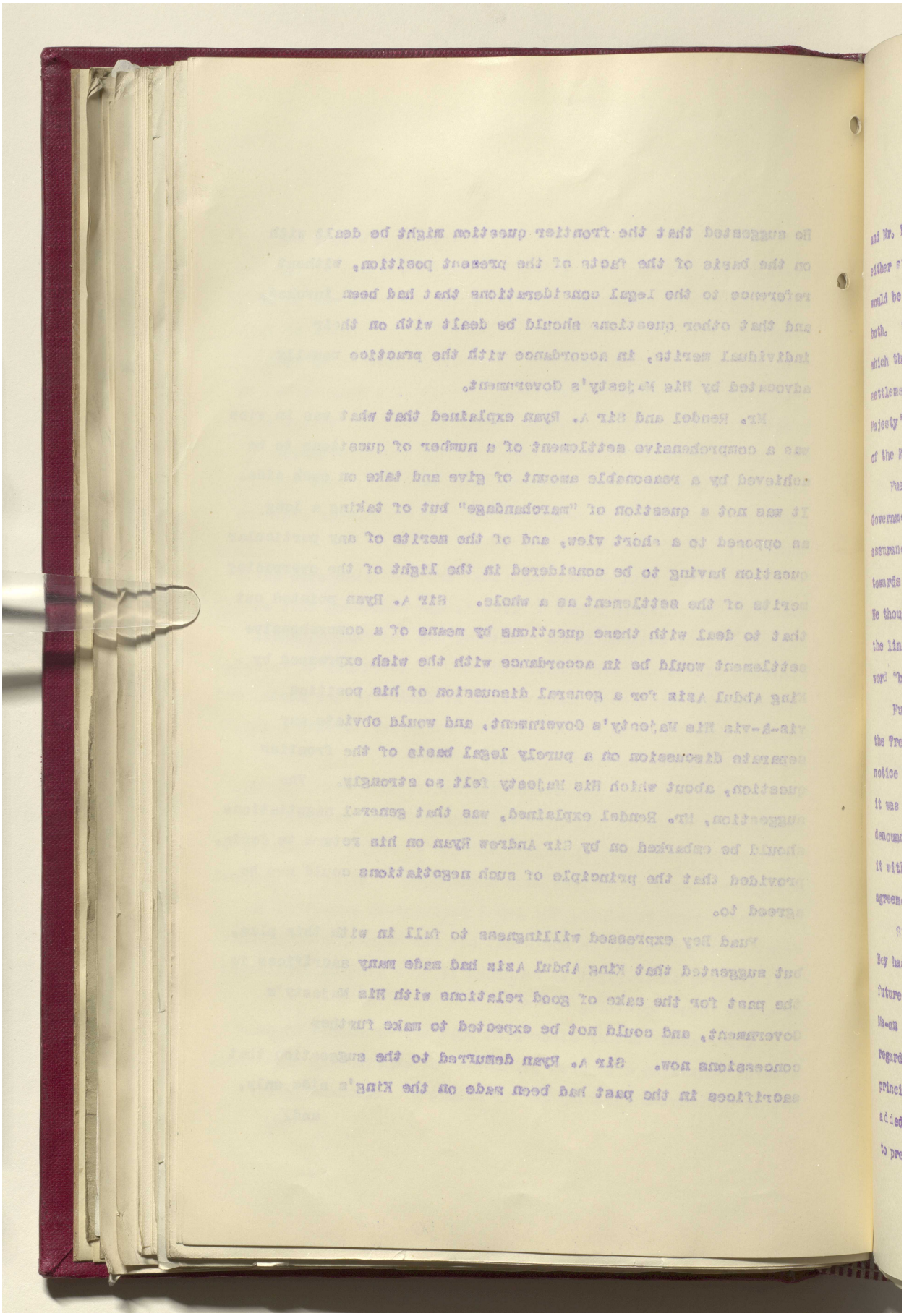

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and Mr. Rendel pointed out that the only sacrifices which either side need make in the proposed general settlement would be such as would redound to the ultimate advantage of both. He invited Fuad Bey to outline the principal questions which the King might like to see included in a general settlement, and again referred to the anxiety felt by His Majesty's Government on their side to secure the termination of the Koweit Blockade.

Fuad Bey appreciated the desire of His Majesty's Government to see the Koweit question settled, and gave an assurance that King Abdul Aziz was not animated by hostility towards Koweit, but by a desire to safeguard his own interests. He thought that it was for His Majesty's Government to propose the lines of the settlement. He deprecated the use of the word "blockade".

Fuad Bey then turned to the question of the future of the Treaty of Jedda, which could now be denounced at short notice by either side. After some discussion of alternatives, it was agreed that it would be undesirable for either side to denounce the Treaty, and that the choice lay between investing it with greater permanence by some kind of supplementary agreement, or replacing it by an entirely new Treaty.

Sir A. Ryan referred to the specific points which Fuad Bey had raised in earlier conversations in Jedda regarding the future of the Treaty. These were:- Slavery, the Aqaba Ma-an question, and the provisions in Article 6 of the Treaty regarding the relations between Saudi Arabia and the principalities on the Persian Gulf coast. Fuad Bey now added a fourth point, namely that of the language which was to prevail in the interpretation of the Treaty.

Mr./

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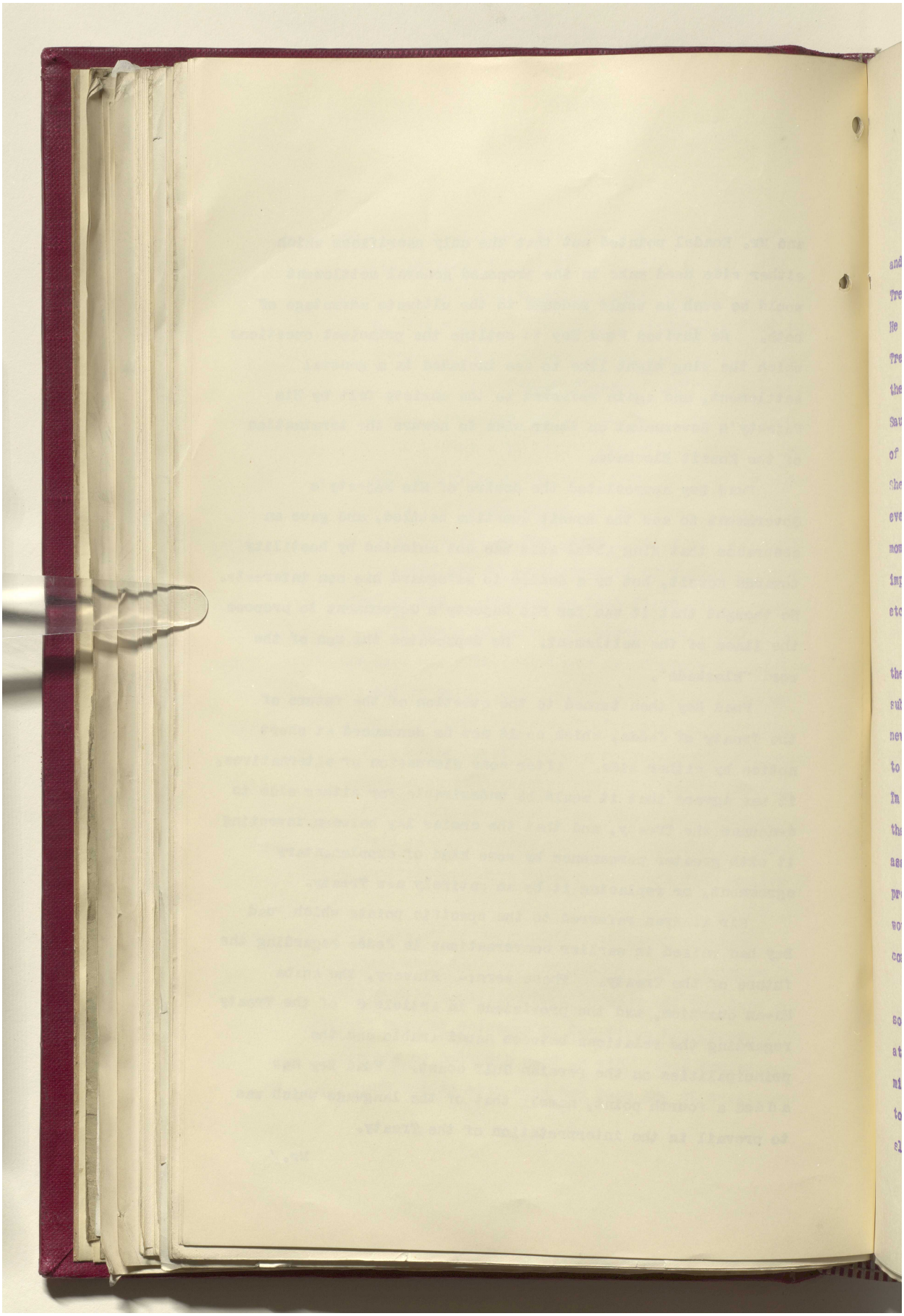

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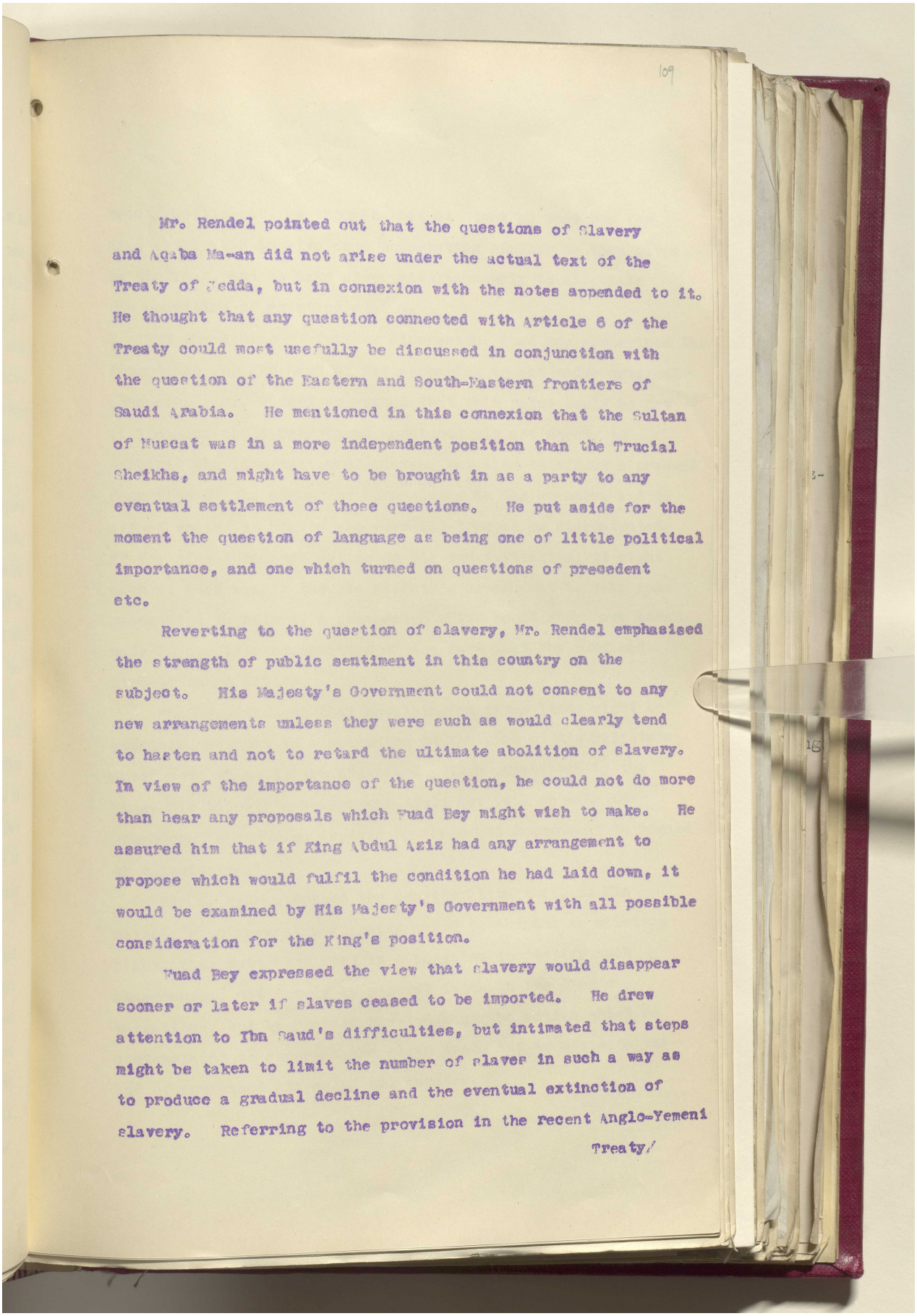

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Mr. Rendel pointed out that the questions of Slavery and Aqaba Ma-an did not arise under the actual text of the Treaty of Jedda, but in connexion with the notes appended to it. He thought that any question connected with Article 6 of the Treaty could most usefully be discussed in conjunction with the question of the Eastern and South-Eastern frontiers of Saudi Arabia. He mentioned in this connexion that the Sultan of Muscat was in a more independent position than the Trucial Sheikhs, and might have to be brought in as a party to any eventual settlement of those questions. He put aside for the moment the question of language as being one of little political importance, and one which turned on questions of precedent etc.

Reverting to the question of slavery, Mr. Rendel emphasised the strength of public sentiment in this country on the subject. His Majesty's Government could not consent to any new arrangements unless they were such as would clearly tend to hasten and not to retard the ultimate abolition of slavery. In view of the importance of the question, he could not do more than hear any proposals which Fuad Bey might wish to make. He assured him that if King Abdul Aziz had any arrangement to propose which would fulfil the condition he had laid down, it would be examined by His Majesty's Government with all possible consideration for the King's position.

Fuad Bey expressed the view that slavery would disappear sooner or later if slaves ceased to be imported. He drew attention to Ibn Saud's difficulties, but intimated that steps might be taken to limit the number of slaves in such a way as to produce a gradual decline and the eventual extinction of slavery. Referring to the provision in the recent Anglo-Yemeni

Treaty/

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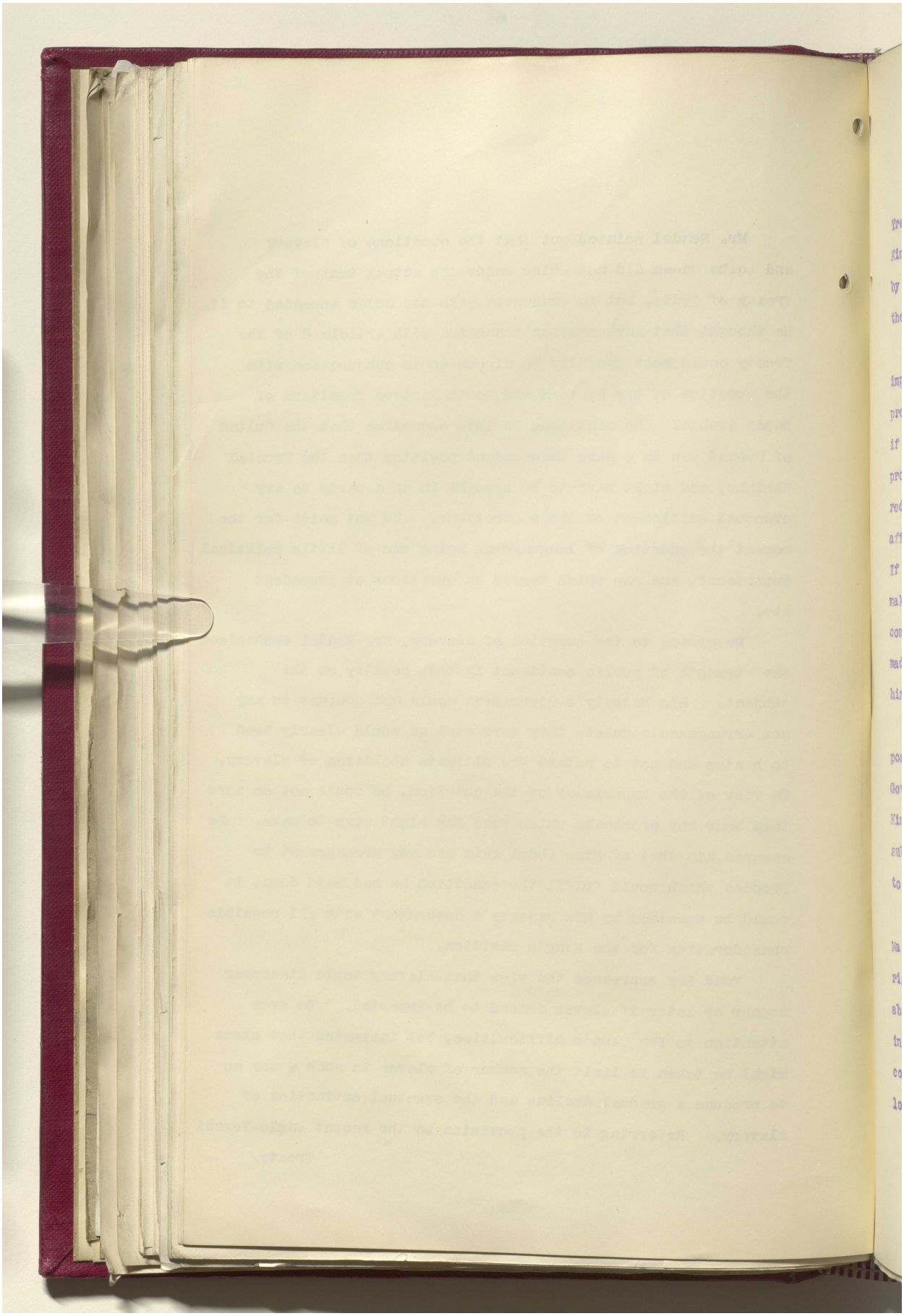

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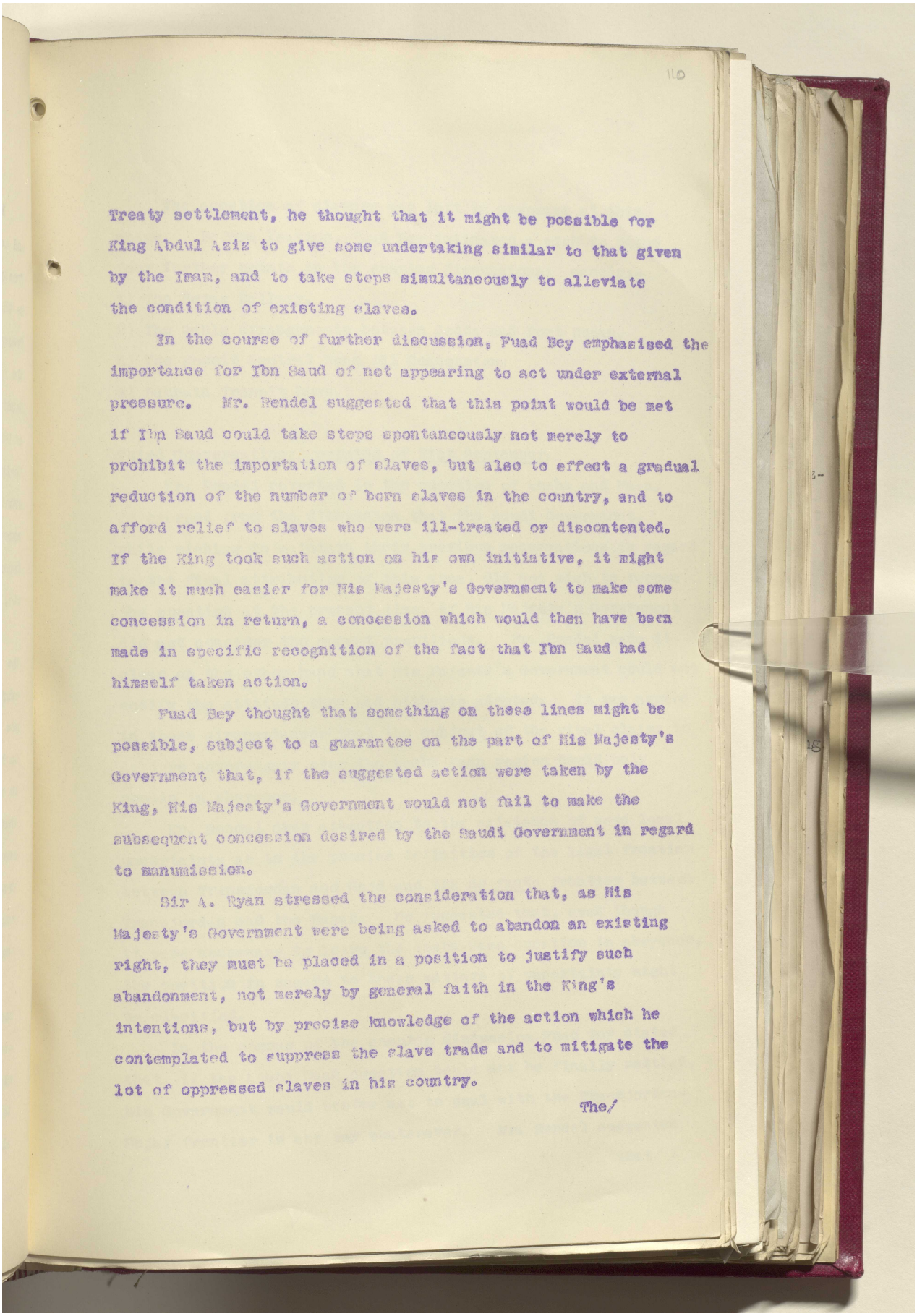

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Treaty settlement, he thought that it might be possible for King Abdul Aziz to give some undertaking similar to that given by the Imam, and to take steps simultaneously to alleviate the condition of existing slaves.

In the course of further discussion, Fuad Bey emphasised the importance for Ibn Saud of not appearing to act under external pressure. Mr. Rendel suggested that this point would be met if Ibn Saud could take steps spontaneously not merely to prohibit the importation of slaves, but also to effect a gradual reduction of the number of born slaves in the country, and to afford relief to slaves who were ill-treated or discontented. If the King took such action on his own initiative, it might make it much easier for His Majesty's Government to make some concession in return, a concession which would then have been made in specific recognition of the fact that Ibn Saud had himself taken action.

Fuad Bey thought that something on these lines might be possible, subject to a guarantee on the part of His Majesty's Government that, if the suggested action were taken by the King, His Majesty's Government would not fail to make the subsequent concession desired by the Saudi Government in regard to manumission.

Sir A. Ryan stressed the consideration that, as His Majesty's Government were being asked to abandon an existing right, they must be placed in a position to justify such abandonment, not merely by general faith in the King's intentions, but by precise knowledge of the action which he contemplated to suppress the slave trade and to mitigate the lot of oppressed slaves in his country.

The/

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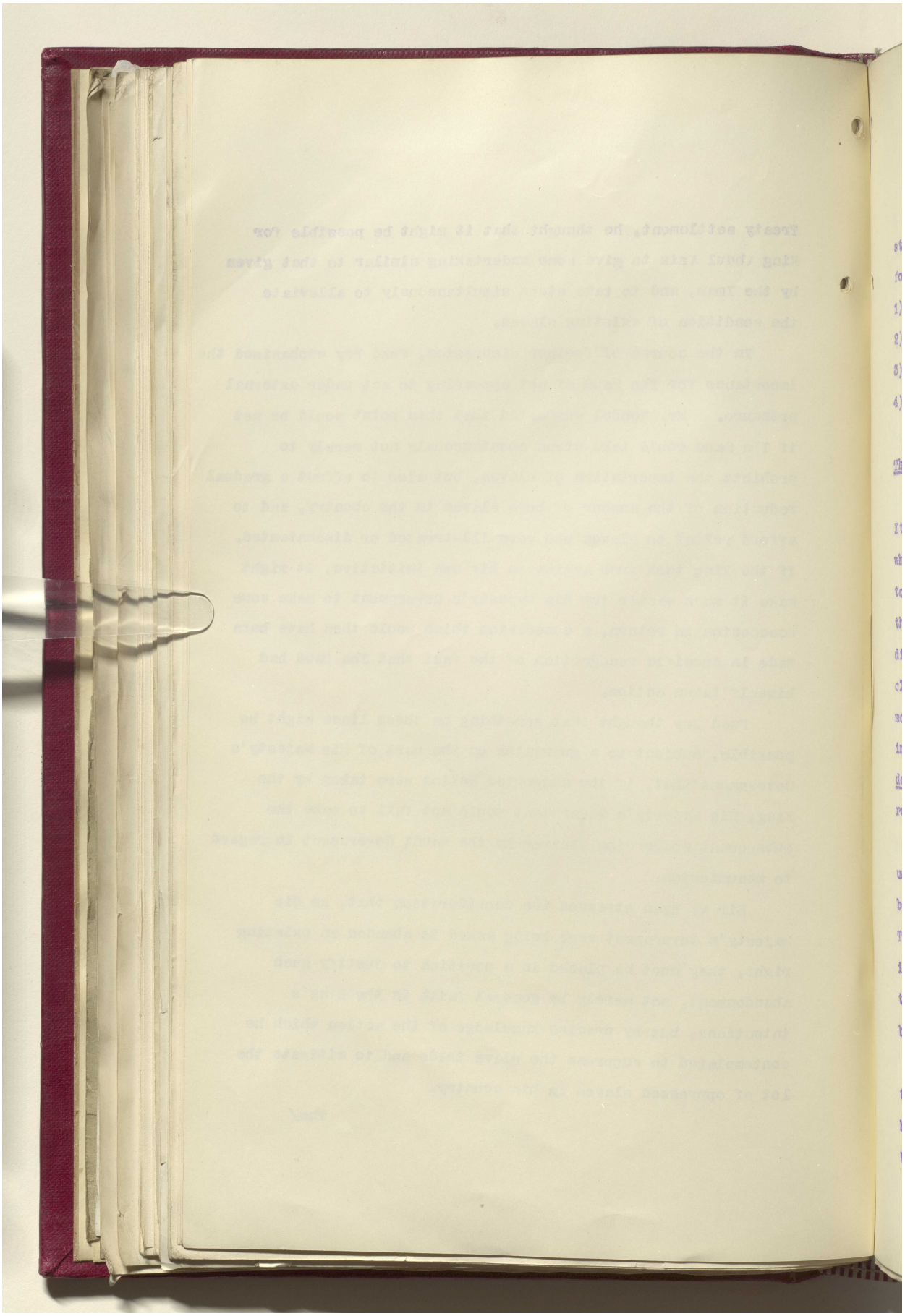

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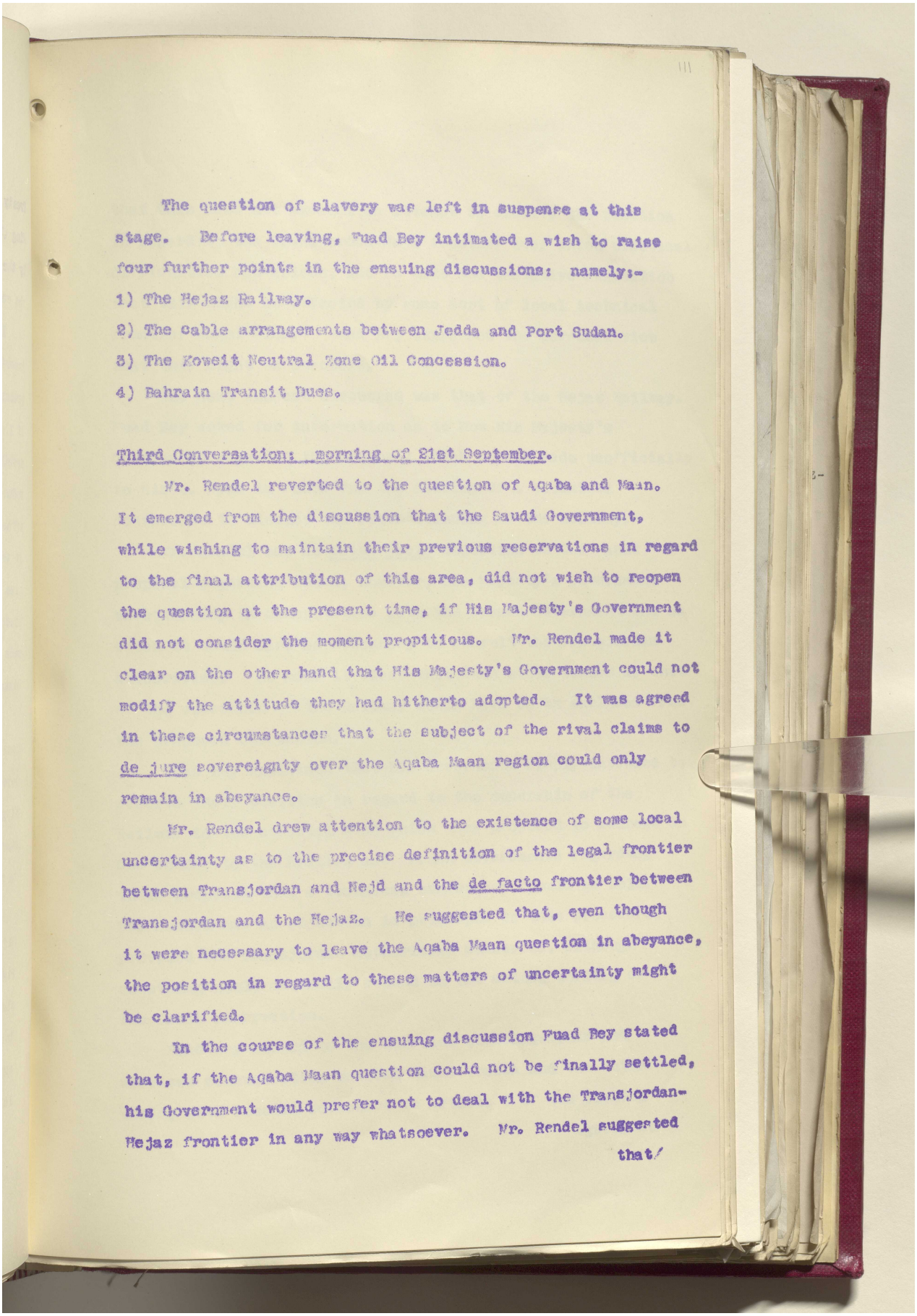

The question of slavery was left in suspense at this stage. Before leaving, Fuad Bey intimated a wish to raise four further points in the ensuing discussions: namely:-

1) The Hejaz Railway.
2) The Cable arrangements between Jedda and Port Sudan.
3) The Koweit Neutral Zone Oil Concession.
4) Bahrain Transit Dues.

Third Conversation: morning of 21st September.

Mr. Rendel reverted to the question of Aqaba and Maan. It emerged from the discussion that the Saudi Government, while wishing to maintain their previous reservations in regard to the final attribution of this area, did not wish to reopen the question at the present time, if His Majesty's Government did not consider the moment propitious. Mr. Rendel made it clear on the other hand that His Majesty's Government could not modify the attitude they had hitherto adopted. It was agreed in these circumstances that the subject of the rival claims to de jure sovereignty over the Aqaba Maan region could only remain in abeyance.

Mr. Rendel drew attention to the existence of some local uncertainty as to the precise definition of the legal frontier between Transjordan and Nejd and the de facto frontier between Transjordan and the Hejaz. He suggested that, even though it were necessary to leave the Aqaba Maan question in abeyance, the position in regard to these matters of uncertainty might be clarified.

In the course of the ensuing discussion Fuad Bey stated that, if the Aqaba Maan question could not be finally settled, his Government would prefer not to deal with the Transjordan-Hejaz frontier in any way whatsoever. Mr. Rendel suggested

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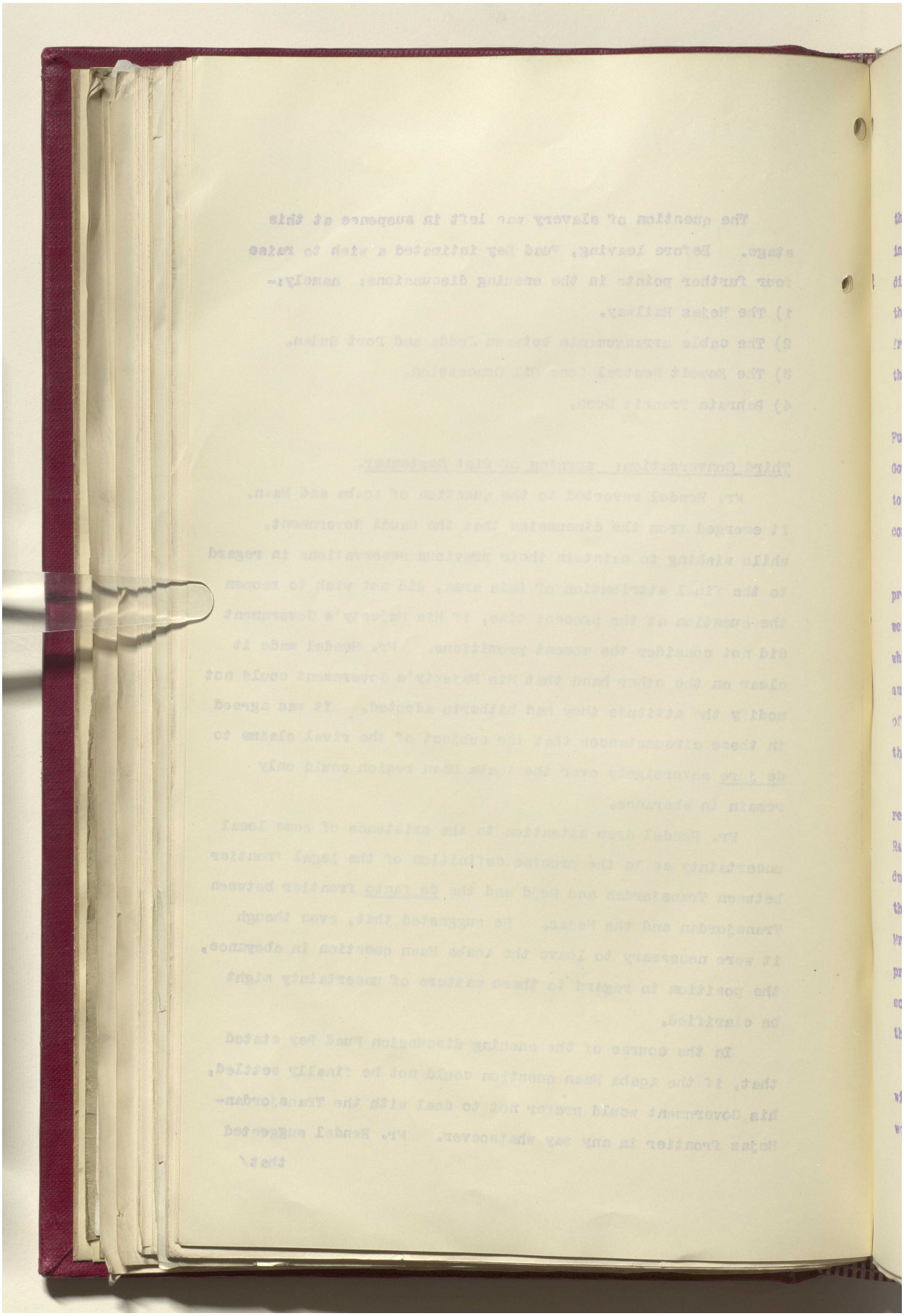

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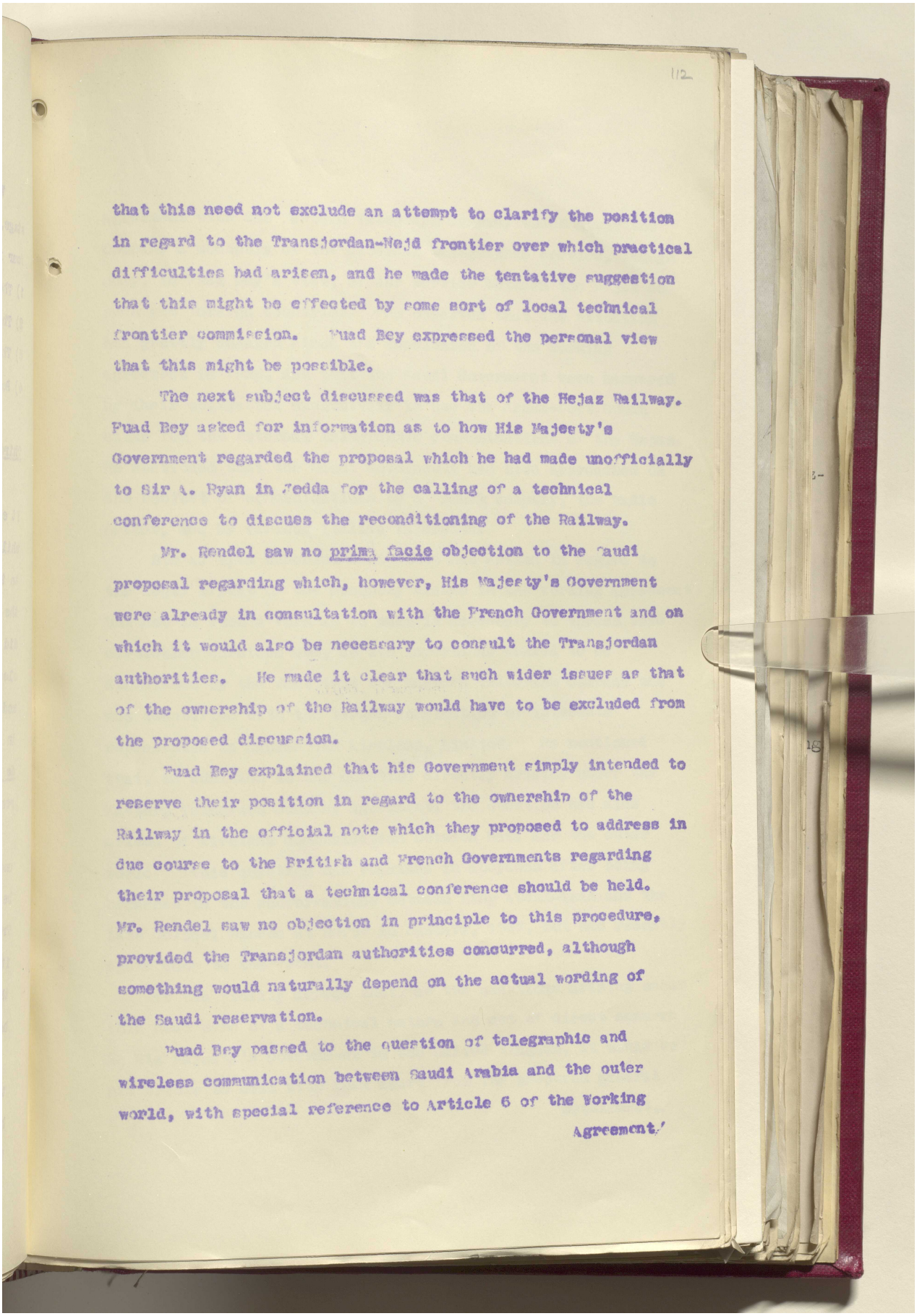

that this need not exclude an attempt to clarify the position in regard to the Transjordan-Nejd frontier over which practical difficulties had arisen, and he made the tentative suggestion that this might be effected by some sort of local technical frontier commission. Fuad Bey expressed the personal view that this might be possible.

The next subject discussed was that of the Hejaz Railway. Fuad Bey asked for information as to how His Majesty's Government regarded the proposal which he had made unofficially to Sir A. Ryan in Jedda for the calling of a technical conference to discuss the reconditioning of the Railway.

Mr. Rendel saw no prima facie objection to the Saudi proposal regarding which, however, His Majesty's Government were already in consultation with the French Government and on which it would also be necessary to consult the Transjordan authorities. He made it clear that such wider issues as that of the ownership of the Railway would have to be excluded from the proposed discussion.

Fuad Bey explained that his Government simply intended to reserve their position in regard to the ownership of the Railway in the official note which they proposed to address in due course to the British and French Governments regarding their proposal that a technical conference should be held. Mr. Rendel saw no objection in principle to this procedure, provided the Transjordan authorities concurred, although something would naturally depend on the actual wording of the Saudi reservation.

Fuad Bey passed to the question of telegraphic and wireless communication between Saudi Arabia and the outer world, with special reference to Article 6 of the Working Agreement.'

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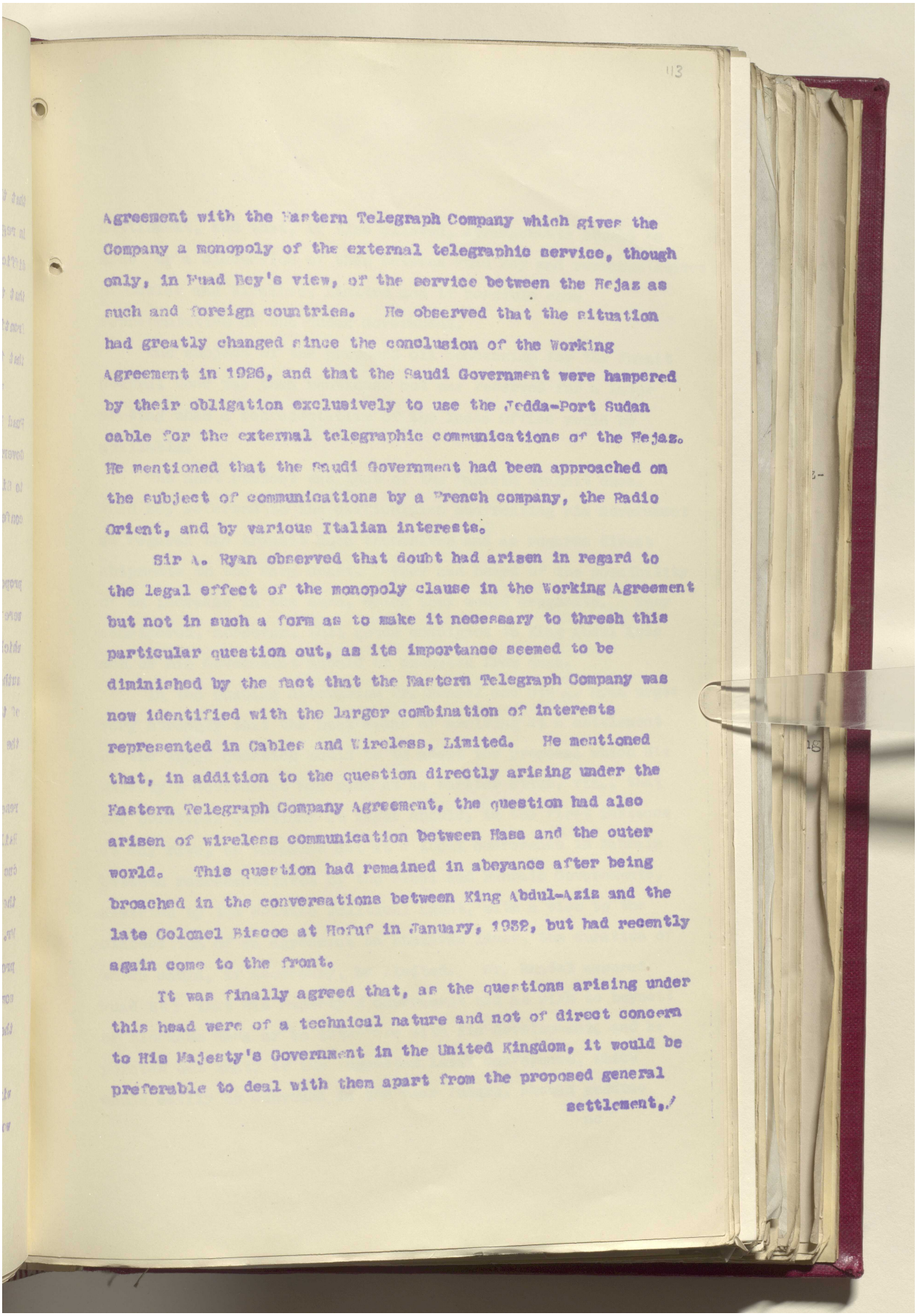

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Agreement with the Eastern Telegraph Company which gives the Company a monopoly of the external telegraphic service, though only, in Fuad Bey's view, of the service between the Hejaz as such and foreign countries. He observed that the situation had greatly changed since the conclusion of the Working Agreement in 1926, and that the Saudi Government were hampered by their obligation exclusively to use the Jedda-Port Sudan cable for the external telegraphic communications of the Hejaz. He mentioned that the Saudi Government had been approached on the subject of communications by a French company, the Radio Orient, and by various Italian interests.

Sir A. Ryan observed that doubt had arisen in regard to the legal effect of the monopoly clause in the Working Agreement but not in such a form as to make it necessary to thresh this particular question out, as its importance seemed to be diminished by the fact that the Eastern Telegraph Company was now identified with the larger combination of interests represented in Cables and Wireless, Limited. He mentioned that, in addition to the question directly arising under the Eastern Telegraph Company Agreement, the question had also arisen of wireless communication between Hasa and the outer world. This question had remained in abeyance after being broached in the conversations between King Abdul-Aziz and the late Colonel Biscoe at Hofuf in January, 1932, but had recently again come to the front.

It was finally agreed that, as the questions arising under this head were of a technical nature and not of direct concern to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, it would be preferable to deal with them apart from the proposed general

settlement./

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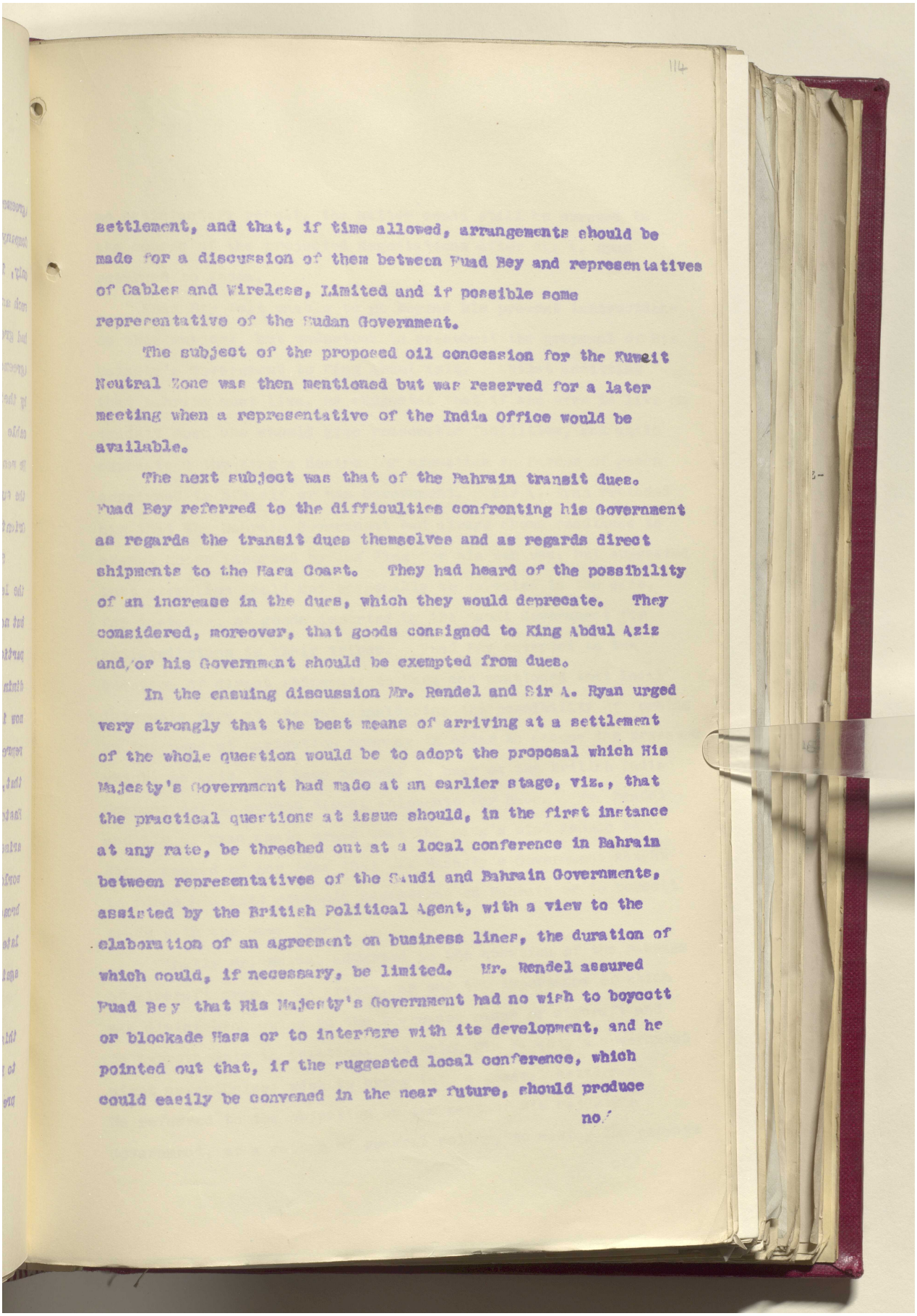

settlement, and that, if time allowed, arrangements should be made for a discussion of them between Fuad Bey and representatives of Cables and Wireless, Limited and if possible some representative of the Sudan Government.

The subject of the proposed oil concession for the Kuweit Neutral Zone was then mentioned but was reserved for a later meeting when a representative of the India Office would be available.

The next subject was that of the Bahrain transit dues. Fuad Bey referred to the difficulties confronting his Government as regards the transit dues themselves and as regards direct shipments to the Hasa Coast. They had heard of the possibility of an increase in the dues, which they would deprecate. They considered, moreover, that goods consigned to King Abdul Aziz and/or his Government should be exempted from dues.

In the ensuing discussion Mr. Rendel and Sir A. Ryan urged very strongly that the best means of arriving at a settlement of the whole question would be to adopt the proposal which His Majesty's Government had made at an earlier stage, viz., that the practical questions at issue should, in the first instance at any rate, be threshed out at a local conference in Bahrain between representatives of the Saudi and Bahrain Governments, assisted by the British Political Agent, with a view to the elaboration of an agreement on business lines, the duration of which could, if necessary, be limited. Mr. Rendel assured Fuad Bey that His Majesty's Government had no wish to boycott or blockade Hasa or to interfere with its development, and he pointed out that, if the suggested local conference, which could easily be convened in the near future, should produce

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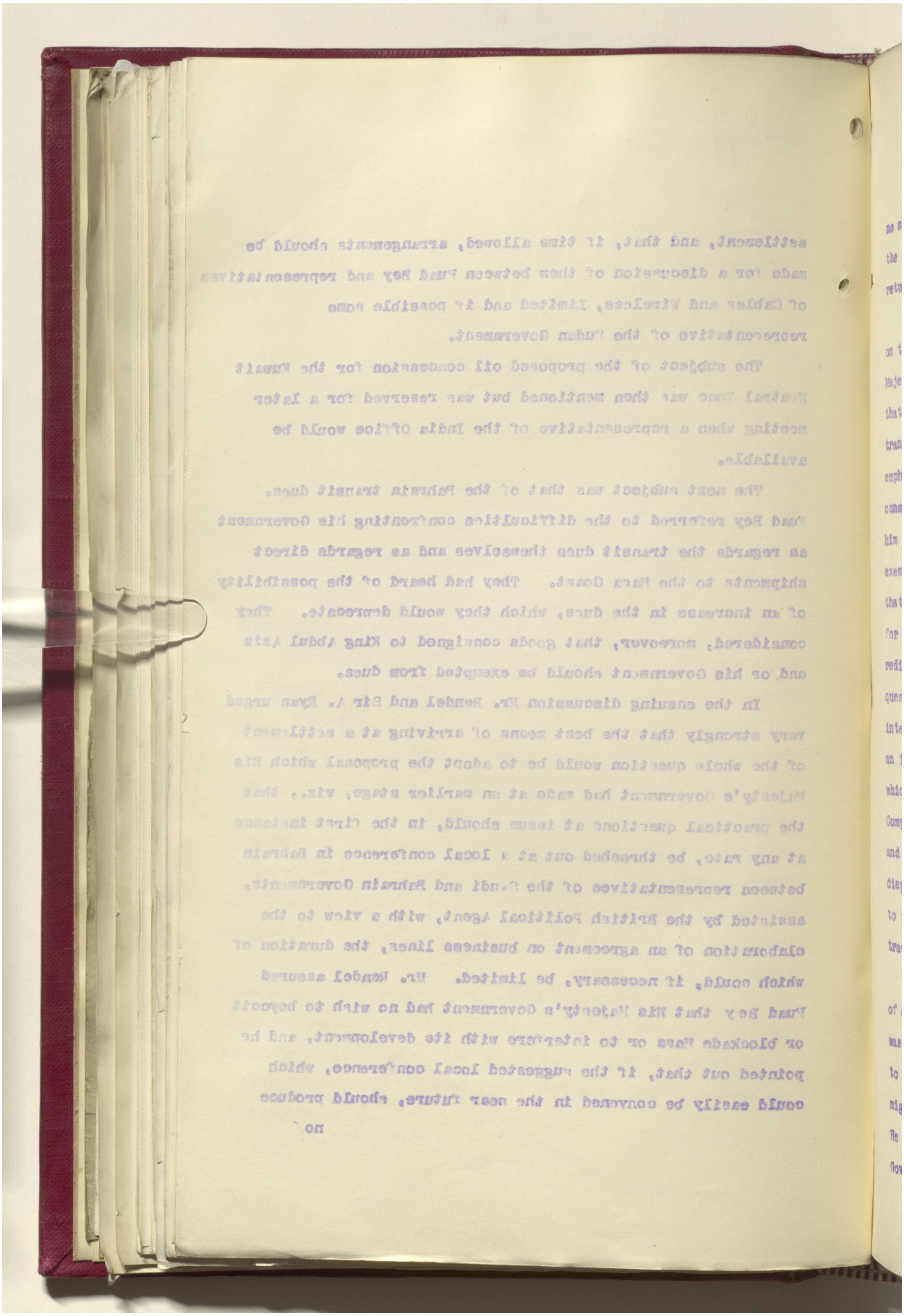

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no satisfactory result, the matter could still be pursued in the course of the projected negotiations after Sir A. Ryan returned to Jedda.

Fuad Bey felt unable to go beyond his present instructions on this subject, but undertook to re-submit the proposal of His Majesty's Government to King Abdul Aziz. Whilst admitting that Bahrain must live, he suggested that if she were to live on transit dues she should give reasonable facilities, and again emphasised the King's desire for exemption in favour of goods consigned to himself or his Government. Sir A. Ryan reminded him that the Bahrain Government had always shown readiness to exempt goods imported by the King for his own use, but suggested that exemption could not reasonably be expected in the case, for instance, of goods imported by the Saudi Government for redistribution to their tribes. Fuad Bey reverted to the question of direct shipments to Hasa and mentioned that local interests were at present considering the possibility of forming an independent navigation company in order to escape the pressure which, he said, had been brought to bear on the British India Company not to accept direct shipments for Hasa. Mr. Rendel and Sir A. Ryan again urged that the King's mind should be dispossessed of any idea that His Majesty's Government sought to force him into economic dependence on Bahrain or to boycott trade with the Hasa Coast.

Finally Mr. Rendel adverted to the question of the passage of aircraft over Saudi Arabia, as one the importance of which was diminishing owing to the increased range of aircraft and to improvements in aviation, but which His Majesty's Government might nevertheless wish to bring into a general settlement. He referred to the objection on the part of His Majesty's Government, as a matter of general policy, to making the passage

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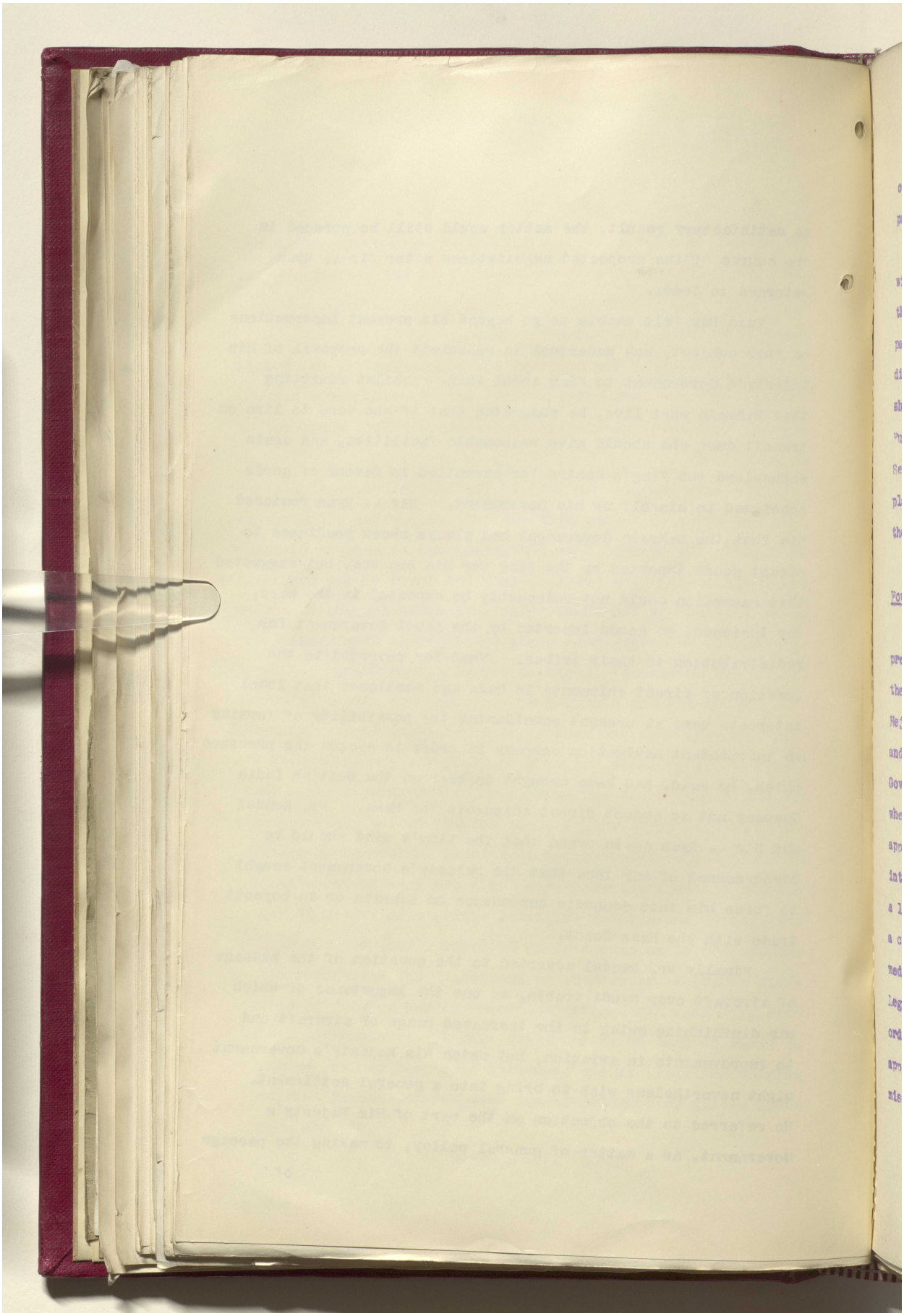

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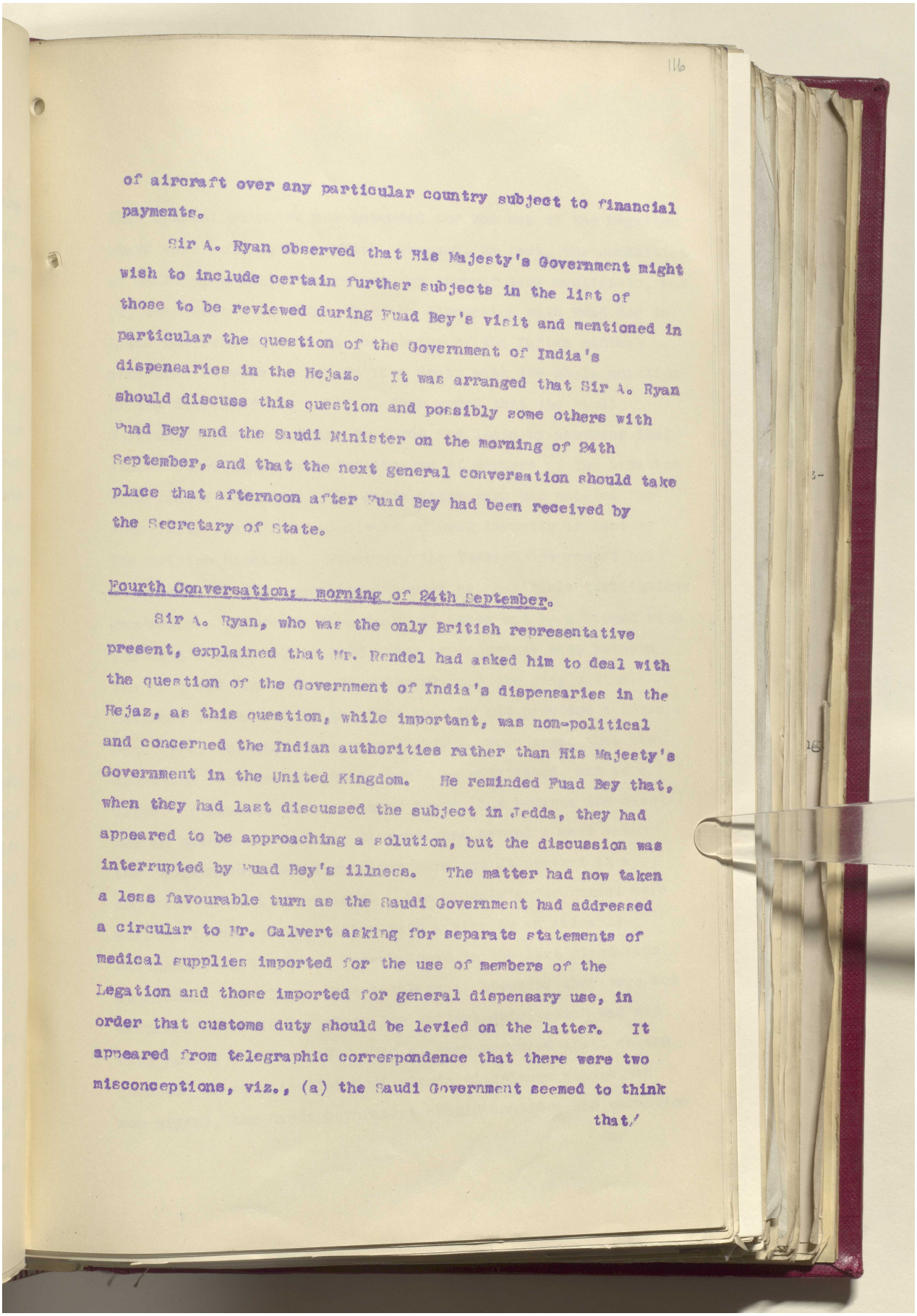

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of aircraft over any particular country subject to financial payments.

Sir A. Ryan observed that His Majesty's Government might wish to include certain further subjects in the list of those to be reviewed during Fuad Bey's visit and mentioned in particular the question of the Government of India's dispensaries in the Hejaz. It was arranged that Sir A. Ryan should discuss this question and possibly some others with Fuad Bey and the Saudi Minister on the morning of 24th September, and that the next general conversation should take place that afternoon after Fuad Bey had been received by the Secretary of State.

Fourth Conversation: morning of 24th September.

Sir A. Ryan, who was the only British representative present, explained that Mr. Rendel had asked him to deal with the question of the Government of India's dispensaries in the Hejaz, as this question, while important, was non-political and concerned the Indian authorities rather than His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. He reminded Fuad Bey that, when they had last discussed the subject in Jedda, they had appeared to be approaching a solution, but the discussion was interrupted by Fuad Bey's illness. The matter had now taken a less favourable turn as the Saudi Government had addressed a circular to Mr. Calvert asking for separate statements of medical supplies imported for the use of members of the Legation and those imported for general dispensary use, in order that customs duty should be levied on the latter. It appeared from telegraphic correspondence that there were two misconceptions, viz., (a) the Saudi Government seemed to think that/

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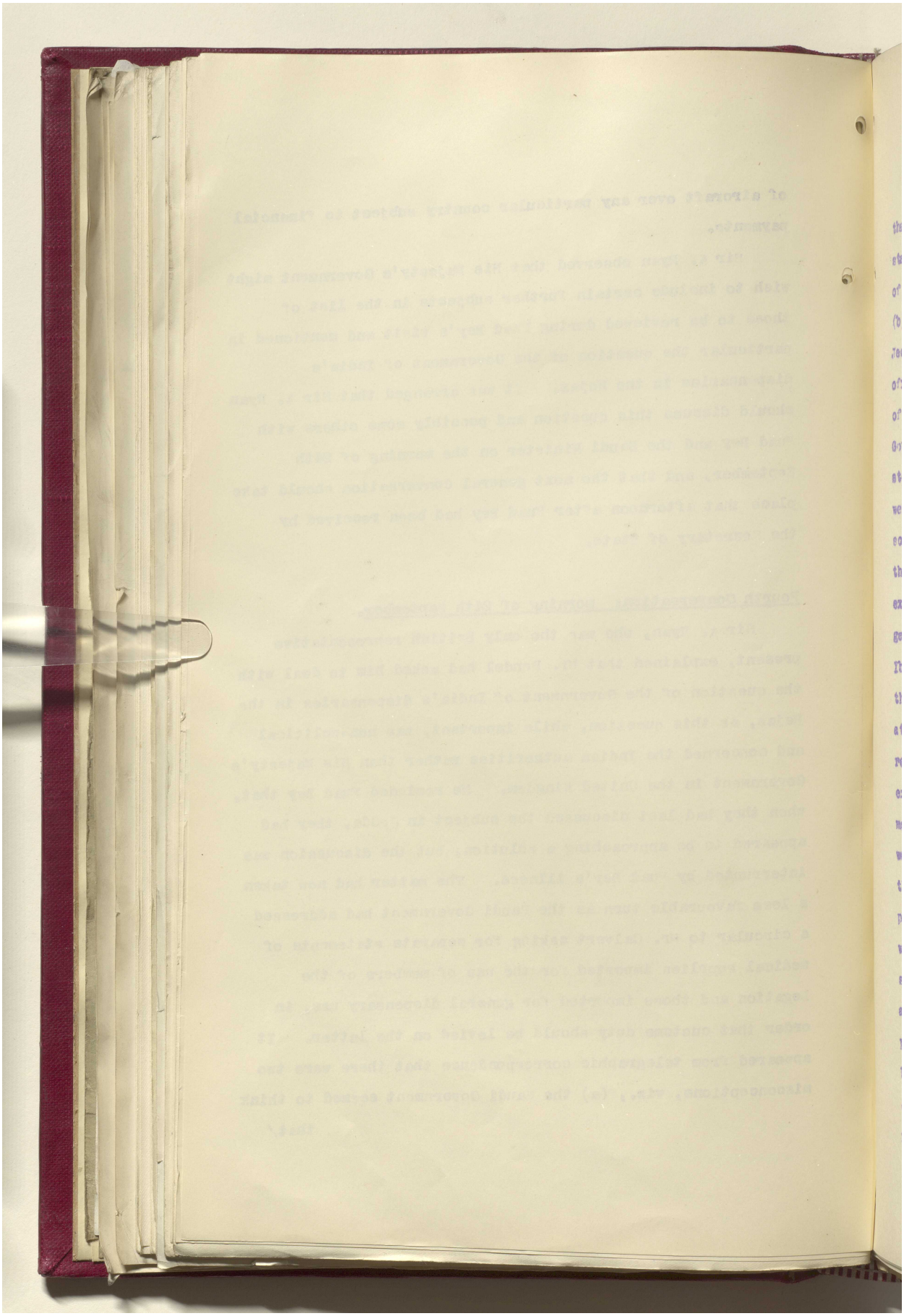

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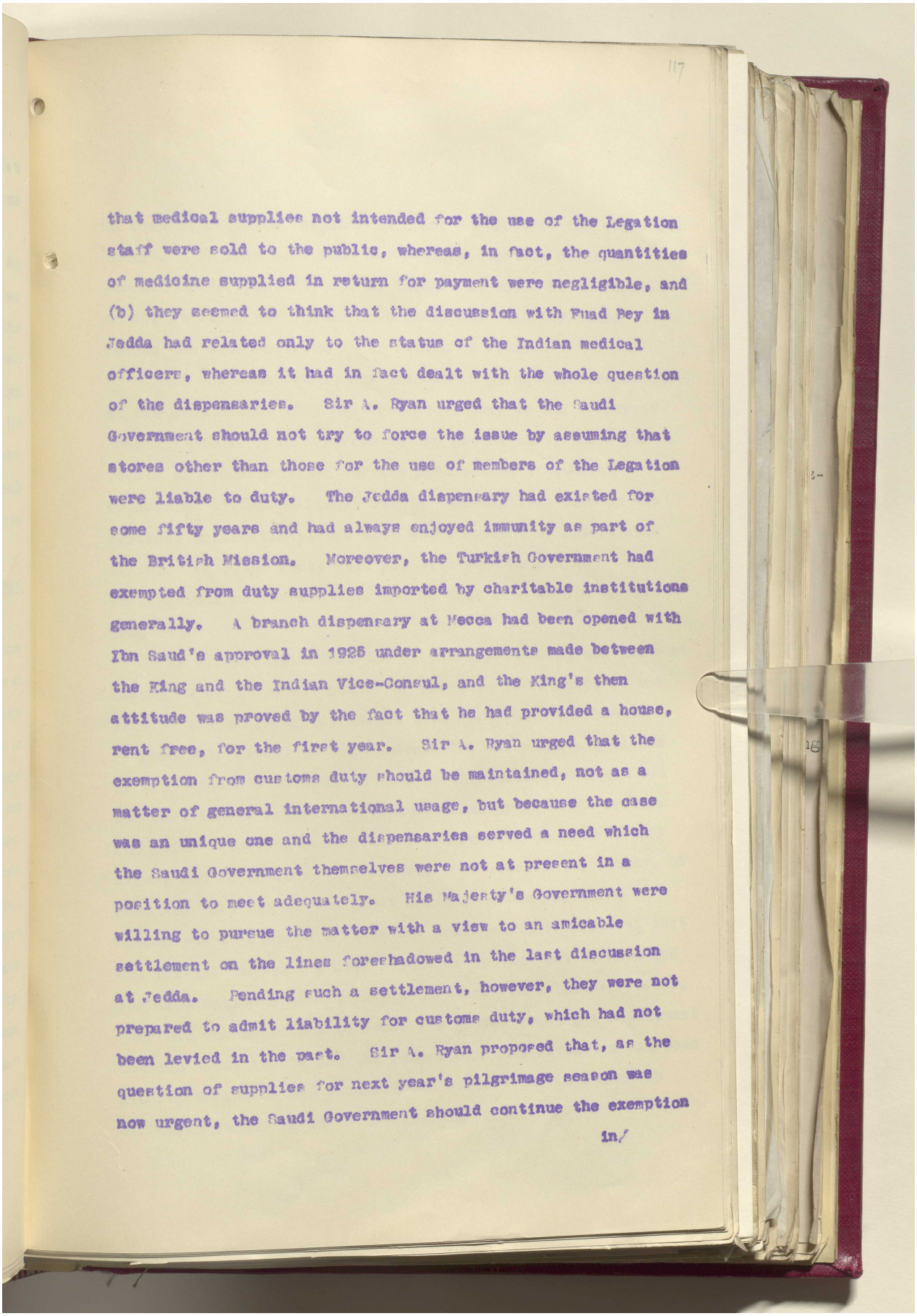

that medical supplies not intended for the use of the Legation staff were sold to the public, whereas, in fact, the quantities of medicine supplied in return for payment were negligible, and (b) they seemed to think that the discussion with Fuad Bey in Jedda had related only to the status of the Indian medical officers, whereas it had in fact dealt with the whole question of the dispensaries. Sir A. Ryan urged that the Saudi Government should not try to force the issue by assuming that stores other than those for the use of members of the Legation were liable to duty. The Jedda dispensary had existed for some fifty years and had always enjoyed immunity as part of the British Mission. Moreover, the Turkish Government had exempted from duty supplies imported by charitable institutions generally. A branch dispensary at Mecca had been opened with Ibn Saud's approval in 1925 under arrangements made between the King and the Indian Vice-Consul, and the King's then attitude was proved by the fact that he had provided a house, rent free, for the first year. Sir A. Ryan urged that the exemption from customs duty should be maintained, not as a matter of general international usage, but because the case was an unique one and the dispensaries served a need which the Saudi Government themselves were not at present in a position to meet adequately. His Majesty's Government were willing to pursue the matter with a view to an amicable settlement on the lines foreshadowed in the last discussion at Jedda. Pending such a settlement, however, they were not prepared to admit liability for customs duty, which had not been levied in the past. Sir A. Ryan proposed that, as the question of supplies for next year's pilgrimage season was now urgent, the Saudi Government should continue the exemption

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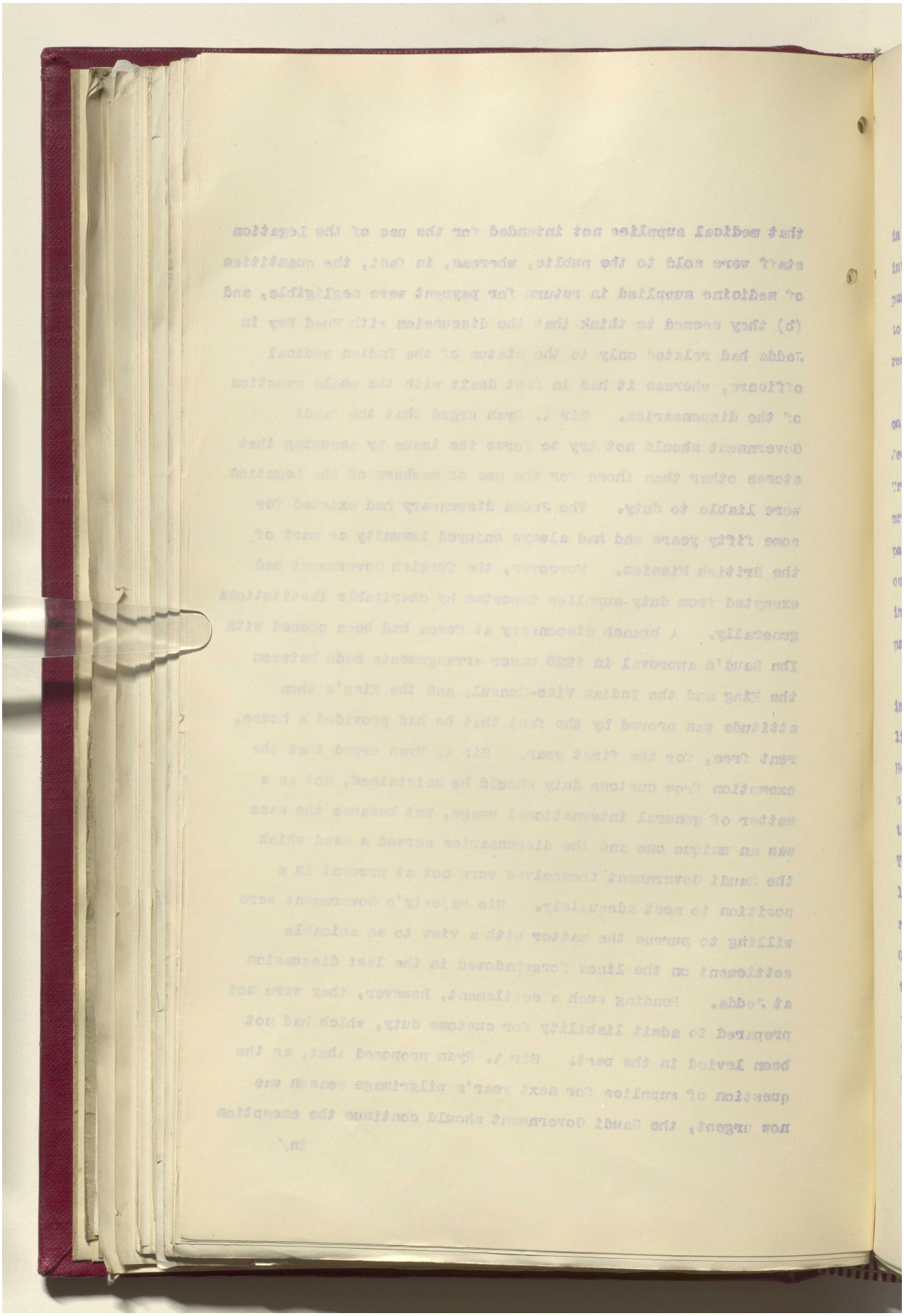

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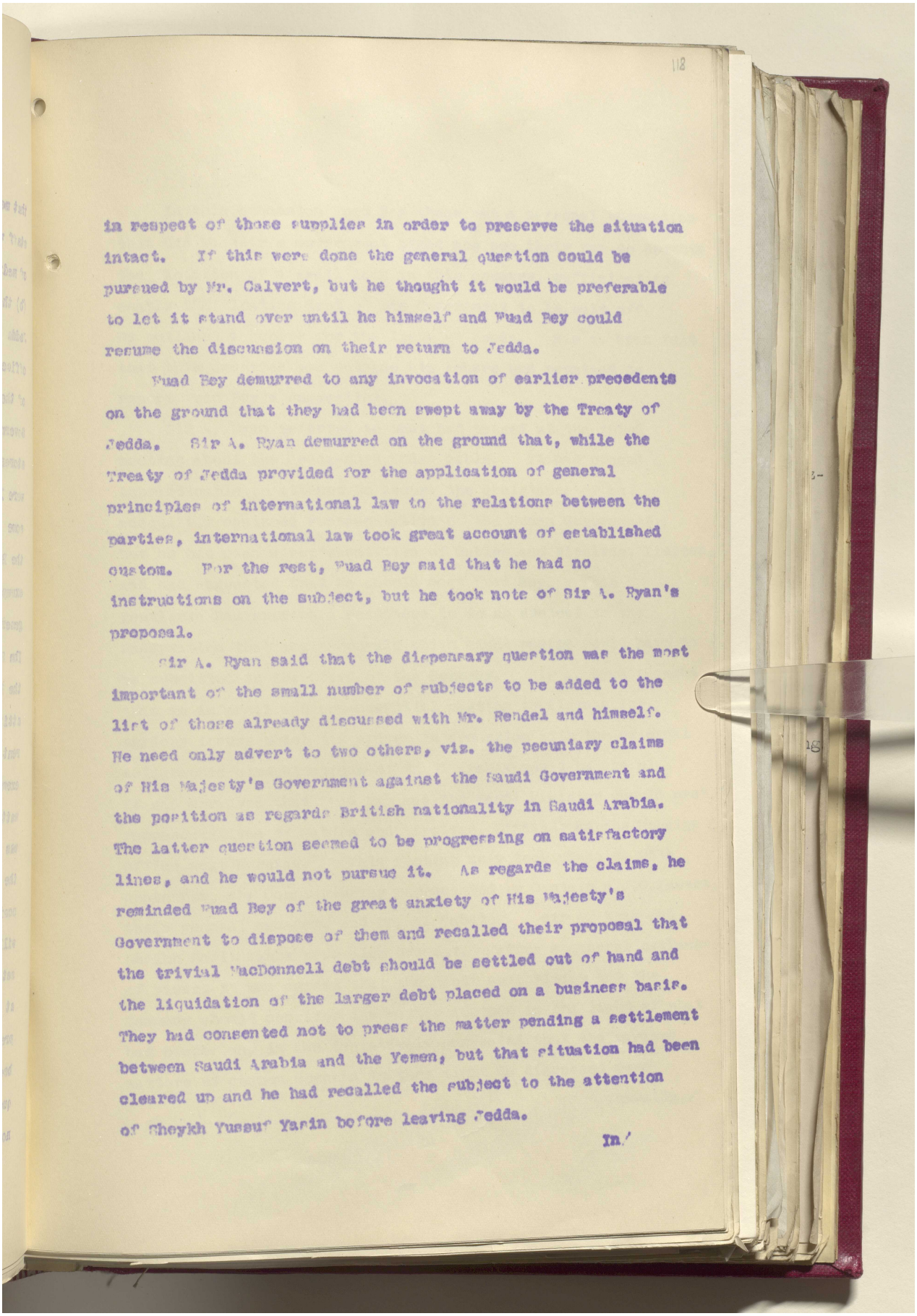

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in respect of those supplies in order to preserve the situation intact. If this were done the general question could be pursued by Mr. Calvert, but he thought it would be preferable to let it stand over until he himself and Fuad Bey could resume the discussion on their return to Jedda.

Fuad Bey demurred to any invocation of earlier precedents on the ground that they had been swept away by the Treaty of Jedda. Sir A. Ryan demurred on the ground that, while the Treaty of Jedda provided for the application of general principles of international law to the relations between the parties, international law took great account of established custom. For the rest, Fuad Bey said that he had no instructions on the subject, but he took note of Sir A. Ryan's proposal.

Sir A. Ryan said that the dispensary question was the most important of the small number of subjects to be added to the list of those already discussed with Mr. Rendel and himself. He need only advert to two others, viz. the pecuniary claims of His Majesty's Government against the Saudi Government and the position as regards British nationality in Saudi Arabia. The latter question seemed to be progressing on satisfactory lines, and he would not pursue it. As regards the claims, he reminded Fuad Bey of the great anxiety of His Majesty's Government to dispose of them and recalled their proposal that the trivial MacDonnell debt should be settled out of hand and the liquidation of the larger debt placed on a business basis. They had consented not to press the matter pending a settlement between Saudi Arabia and the Yemen, but that situation had been cleared up and he had recalled the subject to the attention of Shaykh Yussuf Yasin before leaving Jedda.

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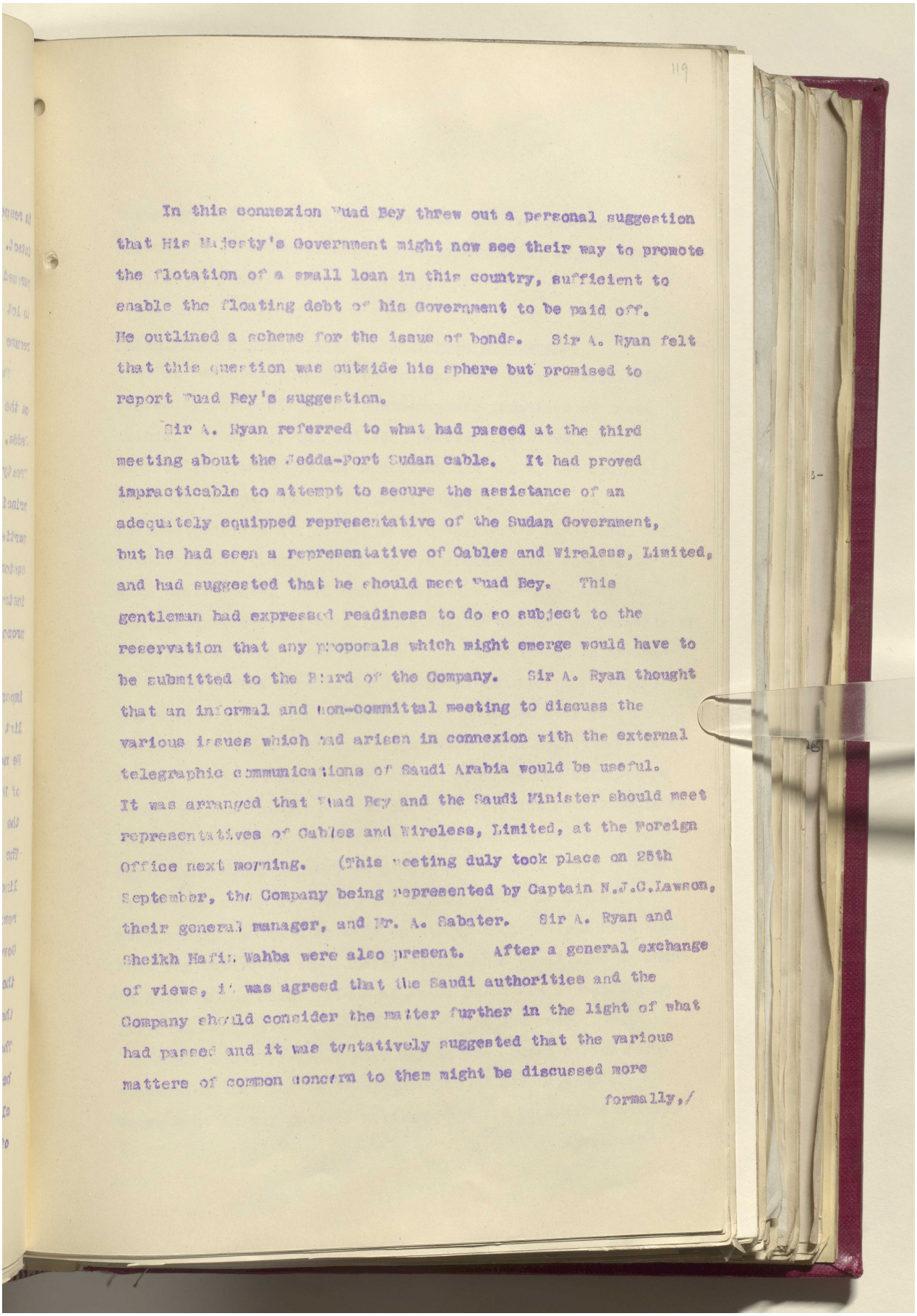

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In this connexion Fuad Bey threw out a personal suggestion that His Majesty's Government might now see their way to promote the flotation of a small loan in this country, sufficient to enable the floating debt of his Government to be paid off. He outlined a scheme for the issue of bonds. Sir A. Ryan felt that this question was outside his sphere but promised to report Fuad Bey's suggestion.

Sir A. Ryan referred to what had passed at the third meeting about the Jedda-Port Sudan cable. It had proved impracticable to attempt to secure the assistance of an adequately equipped representative of the Sudan Government, but he had seen a representative of Cables and Wireless, Limited, and had suggested that he should meet Fuad Bey. This gentleman had expressed readiness to do so subject to the reservation that any proposals which might emerge would have to be submitted to the Board of the Company. Sir A. Ryan thought that an informal and non-committal meeting to discuss the various issues which had arisen in connexion with the external telegraphic communications of Saudi Arabia would be useful. It was arranged that Fuad Bey and the Saudi Minister should meet representatives of Cables and Wireless, Limited, at the Foreign Office next morning. (This meeting duly took place on 25th September, the Company being represented by Captain N.J.C.Lawson, their general manager, and Mr. A. Sabater. Sir A. Ryan and Sheikh Hafiz Wahba were also present. After a general exchange of views, it was agreed that the Saudi authorities and the Company should consider the matter further in the light of what had passed and it was tentatively suggested that the various matters of common concern to them might be discussed more

formally,/

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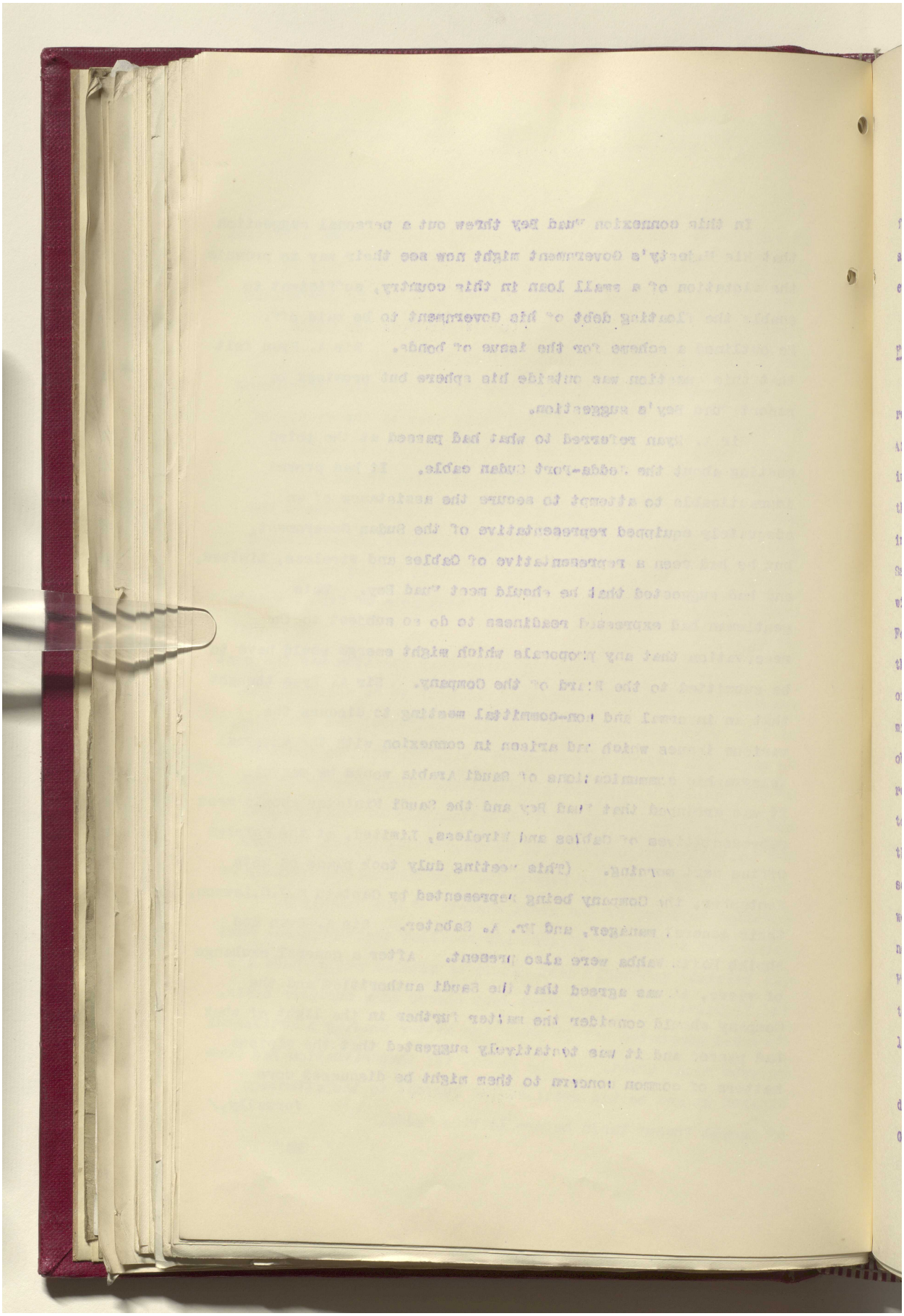

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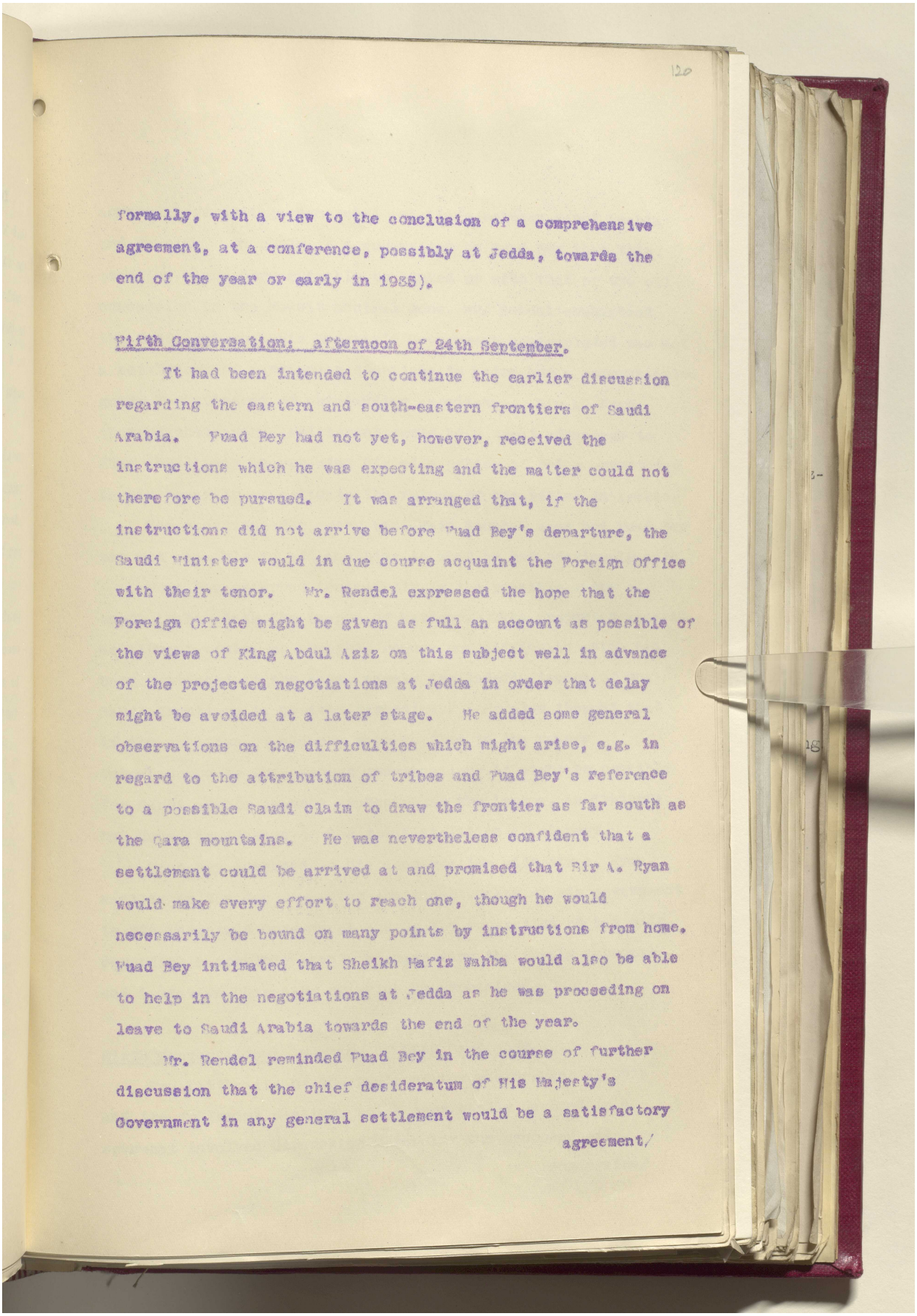

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formally, with a view to the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement, at a conference, possibly at Jedda, towards the end of the year or early in 1935).

Fifth Conversation: afternoon of 24th September.

It had been intended to continue the earlier discussion regarding the eastern and south-eastern frontiers of Saudi Arabia. Fuad Bey had not yet, however, received the instructions which he was expecting and the matter could not therefore be pursued. It was arranged that, if the instructions did not arrive before Fuad Bey's departure, the Saudi Minister would in due course acquaint the Foreign Office with their tenor. Mr. Rendel expressed the hope that the Foreign Office might be given as full an account as possible of the views of King Abdul Aziz on this subject well in advance of the projected negotiations at Jedda in order that delay might be avoided at a later stage. He added some general observations on the difficulties which might arise, e.g. in regard to the attribution of tribes and Fuad Bey's reference to a possible Saudi claim to draw the frontier as far south as the Qara mountains. He was nevertheless confident that a settlement could be arrived at and promised that Sir A. Ryan would make every effort to reach one, though he would necessarily be bound on many points by instructions from home. Fuad Bey intimated that Sheikh Hafiz Wahba would also be able to help in the negotiations at Jedda as he was proceeding on leave to Saudi Arabia towards the end of the year.

Mr. Rendel reminded Fuad Bey in the course of further discussion that the chief desideratum of His Majesty's Government in any general settlement would be a satisfactory

agreement/

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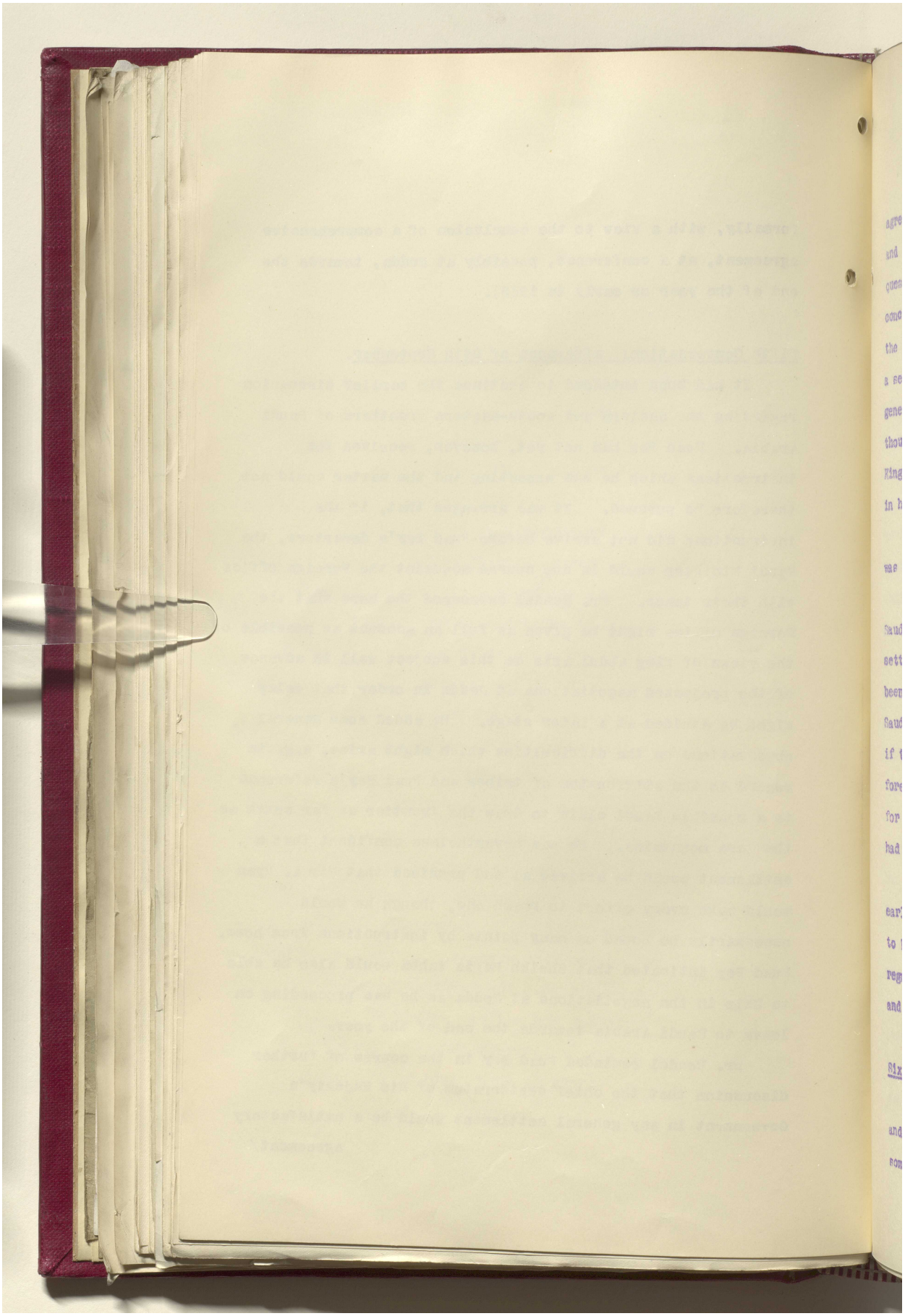

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agreement regarding commercial relations between Saudi Arabia and Koweit. In reply to a suggestion by Fuad Bey that this question might more suitably be linked up with that of the oil concession in the Koweit neutral zone, Mr. Rendel emphasised the fact that what His Majesty's Government contemplated was not a settlement of particular questions in pairs but a comprehensive general settlement of outstanding questions. Sir A. Ryan thought that such a settlement would be a great advantage to King Abdul Aziz in pursuing his wise policy of doing everything in his power to consolidate the future of his régime in Arabia.

The question of slavery was again touched upon but Fuad Bey was not yet able to add anything to what he had previously said.

Fuad Bey referred tentatively to the possible entry of Saudi Arabia into the League of Nations. The projected general settlement would, he thought, remove one difficulty which had been mentioned in the past, namely the indefiniteness of the Saudi frontiers in certain directions. He also thought that if the question of slavery were settled in the manner foreshadowed in the present conversations it might be possible for Saudi Arabia to seek admission to the League, as Ethiopia had done, in advance of the total abolition of slavery.

Fuad Bey adverted to his conversation with Sir A. Ryan earlier in the day regarding the indebtedness of his government to His Majesty's Government and to the suggestion he had made regarding a possible loan - a suggestion the purely personal and tentative character of which he emphasised.

Sixth Conversation: morning of 25th September.

Mr. Laithwaite of the India Office was present at this and the following meeting, which were wholly devoted to a somewhat involved discussion regarding the proposed oil

concession/

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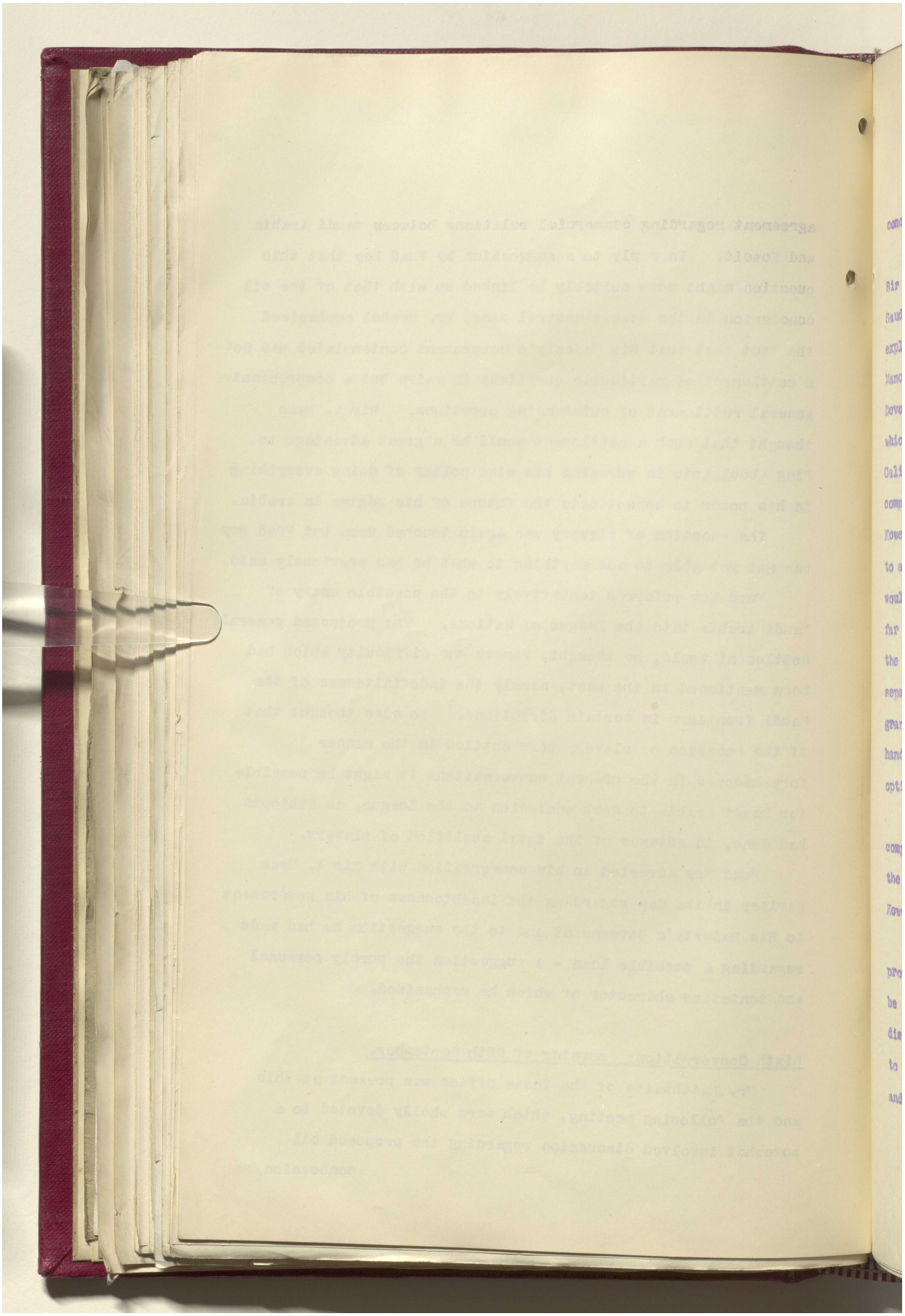

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concession in the Koweit Neutral Zone.

Fuad Bey referred to what had passed between him and Sir A. Ryan in Jedda on this subject, to the anxiety of the Saudi Government to see the oil resources of the Neutral Zone exploited and to the approach made to them by Mr. Ydlibi of Manchester on behalf of a British group, the Arabian Development Syndicate. He explained the effect of the option which his Government had given to the Standard Oil Company of California when granting the Hasa oil concession to that company. It provided, inter alia, that if the Sheikh of Koweit should agree to the grant of the Neutral Zone concession to any other party on specified terms, the Standard Oil Company would have a preferential right to take up the concession, so far as the rights of the Saudi Government were concerned, on the same terms. He agreed that there was no question of separate shares in the concession and that it could only be granted jointly by Ibn Saud and the Sheikh of Koweit, but the hands of the Saudi Government were tied to the extent of the option as regards their own rights.

Mr. Rendel pointed out that the situation was greatly complicated by the action of the Saudi Government in granting the option in advance of any agreement with the Sheikh of Koweit.

Fuad Bey admitted that it might have been preferable to proceed otherwise but suggested that the situation must now be faced as one of practical fact. The difficulty would disappear if the Sheikh agreed to the concession being granted to an applicant such as the Arabian Development Syndicate and the Standard Oil Company refused to take it up within

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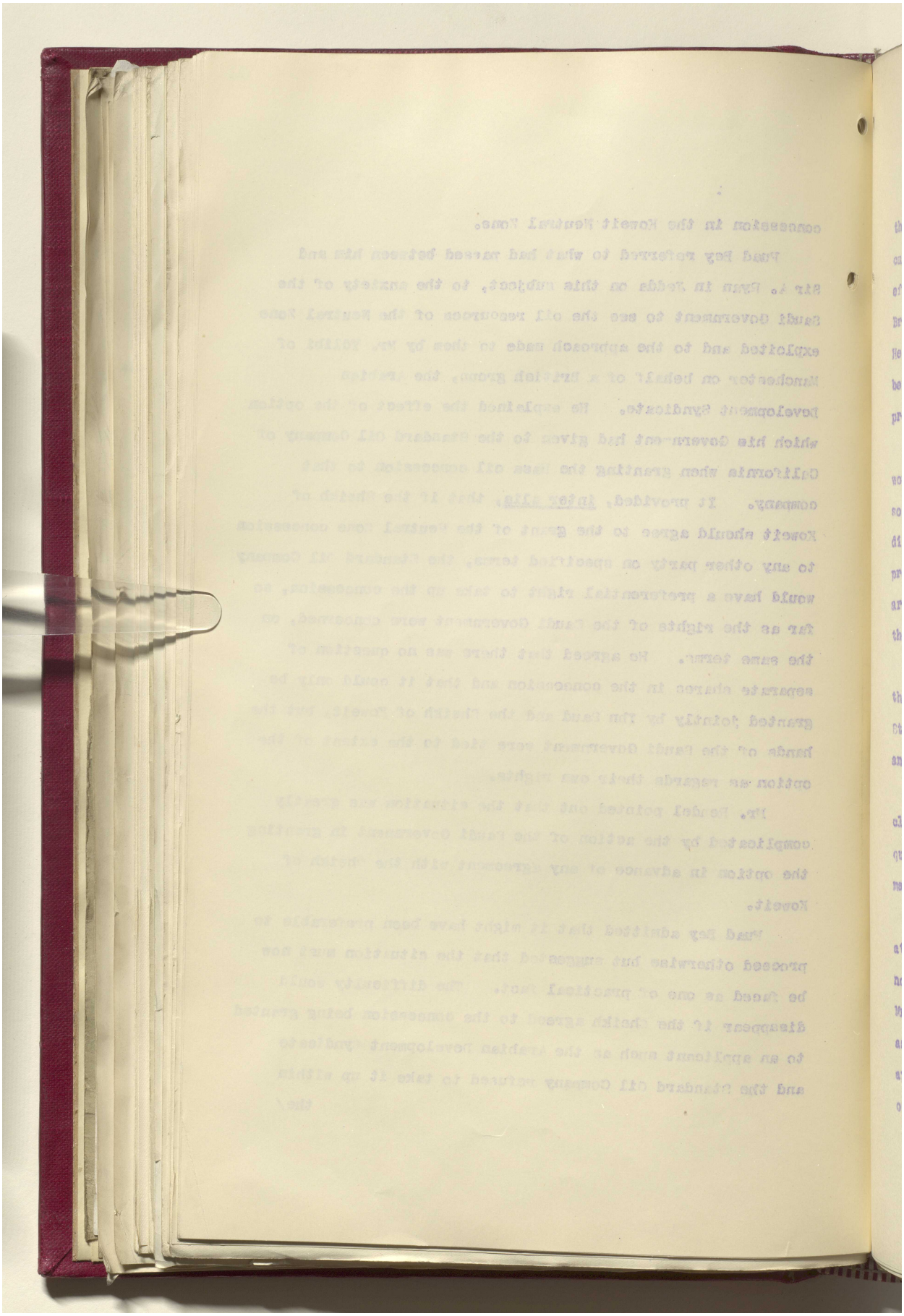

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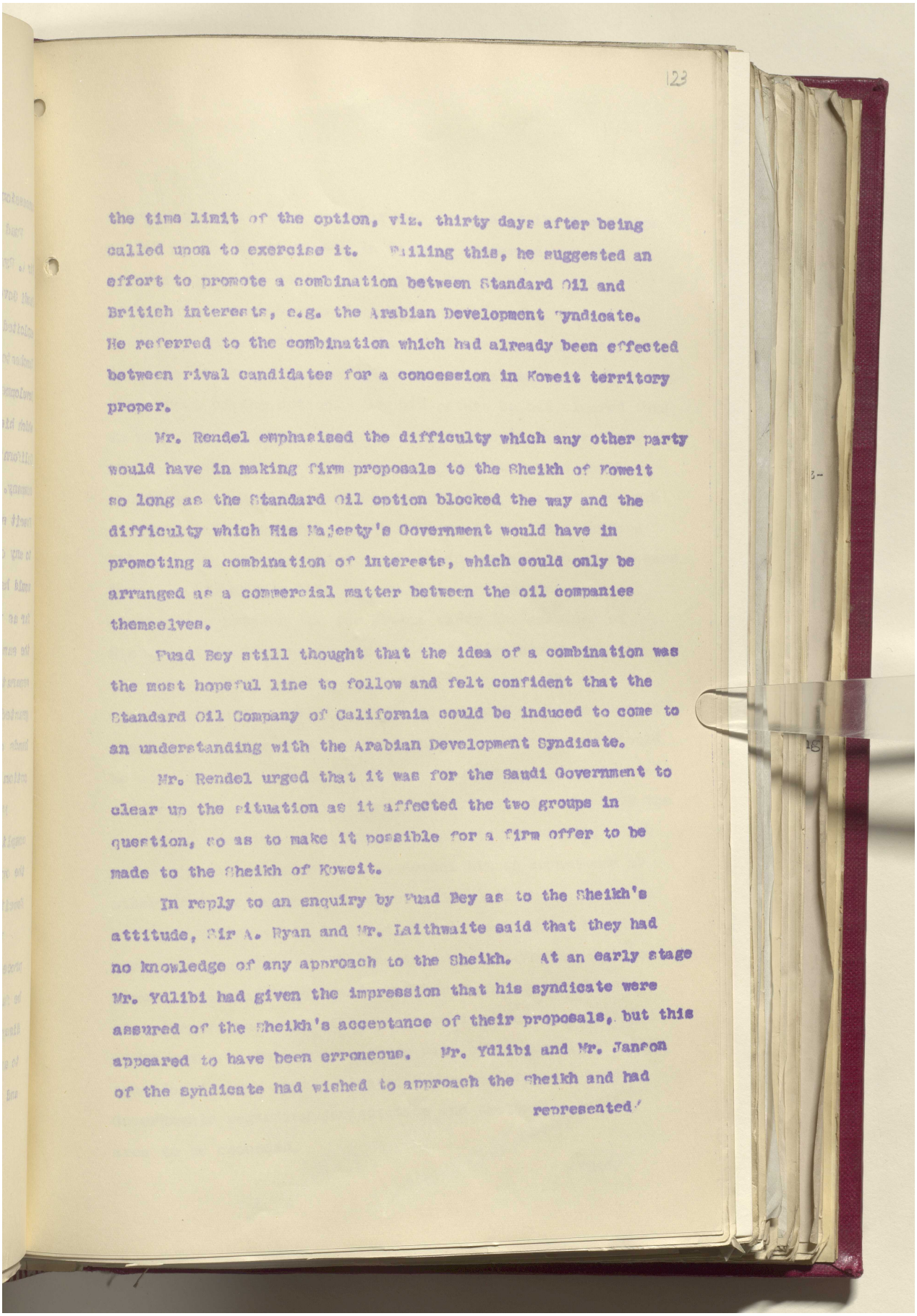

the time limit of the option, viz. thirty days after being called upon to exercise it. Failing this, he suggested an effort to promote a combination between Standard Oil and British interests, e.g. the Arabian Development Syndicate. He referred to the combination which had already been effected between rival candidates for a concession in Koweit territory proper.

Mr. Rendel emphasised the difficulty which any other party would have in making firm proposals to the Sheikh of Koweit so long as the Standard Oil option blocked the way and the difficulty which His Majesty's Government would have in promoting a combination of interests, which could only be arranged as a commercial matter between the oil companies themselves.

Fuad Bey still thought that the idea of a combination was the most hopeful line to follow and felt confident that the Standard Oil Company of California could be induced to come to an understanding with the Arabian Development Syndicate.

Mr. Rendel urged that it was for the Saudi Government to clear up the situation as it affected the two groups in question, so as to make it possible for a firm offer to be made to the Sheikh of Koweit.

In reply to an enquiry by Fuad Bey as to the Sheikh's attitude, Sir A. Ryan and Mr. Laithwaite said that they had no knowledge of any approach to the Sheikh. At an early stage Mr. Ydlibi had given the impression that his syndicate were assured of the Sheikh's acceptance of their proposals, but this appeared to have been erroneous. Mr. Ydlibi and Mr. Janson of the syndicate had wished to approach the Sheikh and had represented

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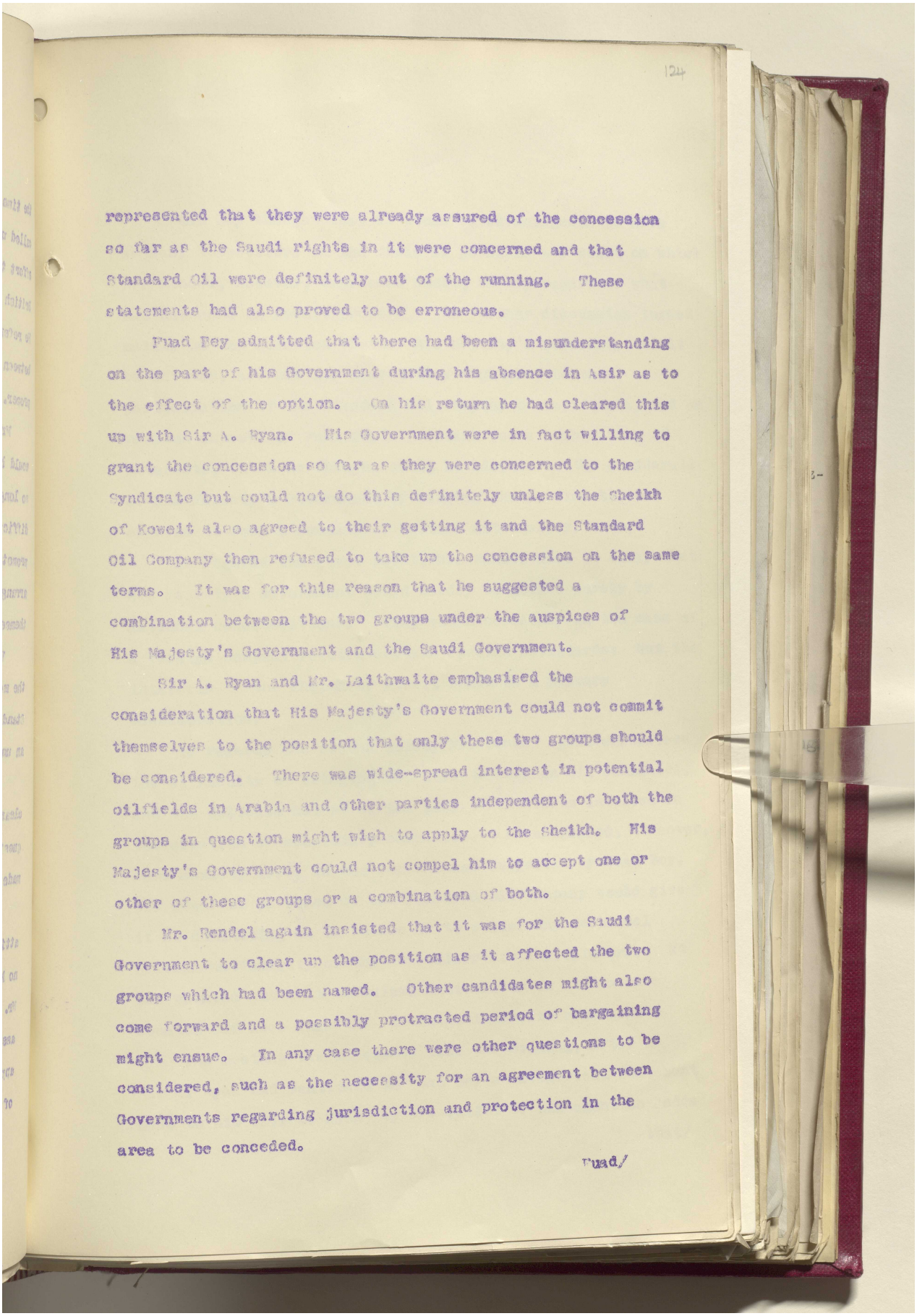

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represented that they were already assured of the concession so far as the Saudi rights in it were concerned and that Standard Oil were definitely out of the running. These statements had also proved to be erroneous.

Fuad Bey admitted that there had been a misunderstanding on the part of his Government during his absence in Asir as to the effect of the option. On his return he had cleared this up with Sir A. Ryan. His Government were in fact willing to grant the concession so far as they were concerned to the Syndicate but could not do this definitely unless the Sheikh of Koweit also agreed to their getting it and the Standard Oil Company then refused to take up the concession on the same terms. It was for this reason that he suggested a combination between the two groups under the auspices of His Majesty's Government and the Saudi Government.

Sir A. Ryan and Mr. Laithwaite emphasised the consideration that His Majesty's Government could not commit themselves to the position that only these two groups should be considered. There was wide-spread interest in potential oilfields in Arabia and other parties independent of both the groups in question might wish to apply to the Sheikh. His Majesty's Government could not compel him to accept one or other of these groups or a combination of both.

Mr. Rendel again insisted that it was for the Saudi Government to clear up the position as it affected the two groups which had been named. Other candidates might also come forward and a possibly protracted period of bargaining might ensue. In any case there were other questions to be considered, such as the necessity for an agreement between Governments regarding jurisdiction and protection in the area to be conceded.

Fuad/

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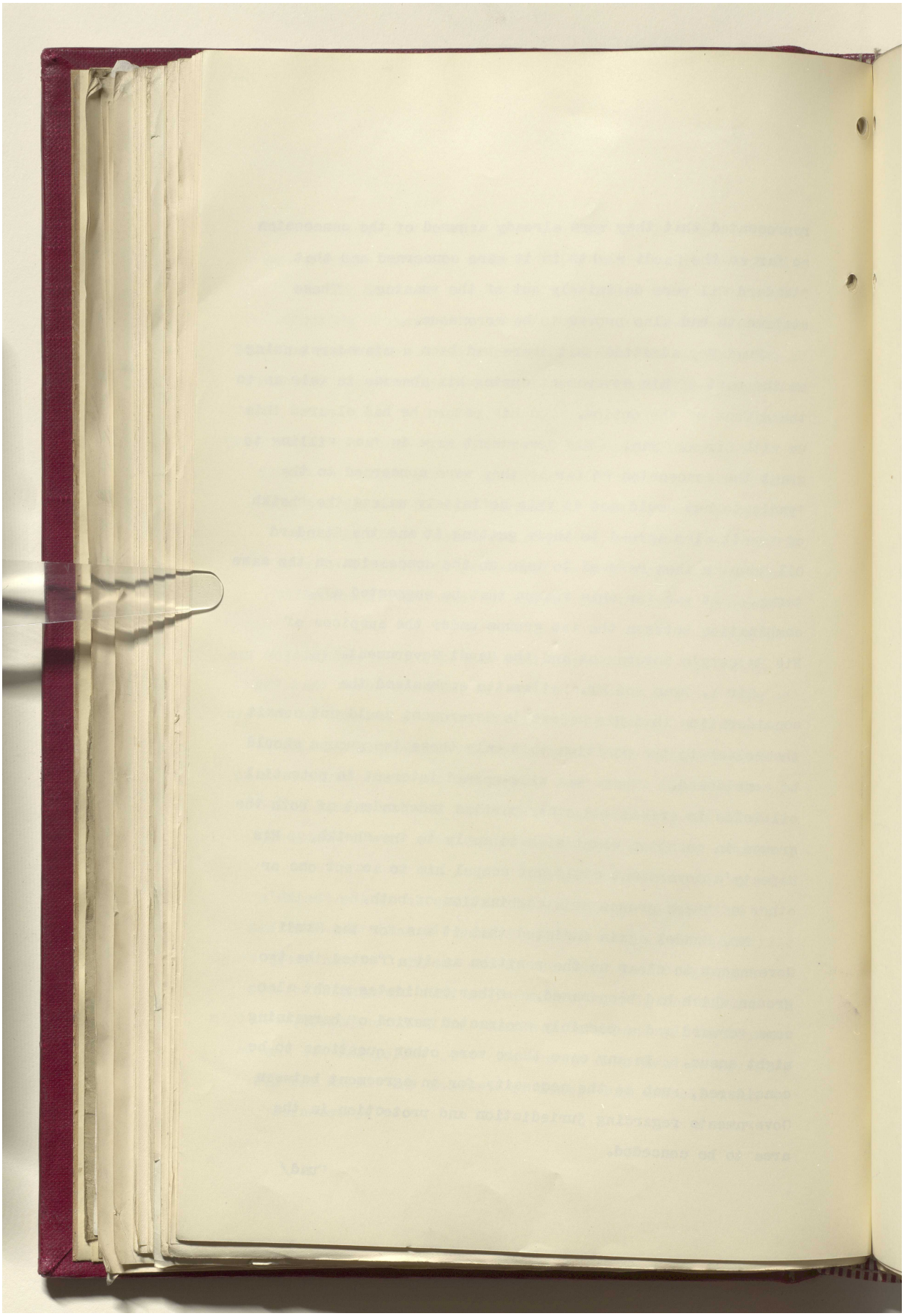

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Fuad Bey thought that it would be advantageous to have as many competitors in the field as possible - a point on which Mr. Rendel, however, expressed doubt, having regard to what had happened in Koweit proper. The further discussion turned mainly on the question whether His Majesty's Government would be adverse, as Fuad Bey feared they might be, to the participation of the Standard Oil Company of California, and on various aspects of Fuad Bey's proposal for a combination of interests, which he thought could be adapted to the desiderata of His Majesty's Government by causing the parties to the combine to form a company of British nationality.

As regards the first point, Mr. Rendel made it clear that His Majesty's Government could hardly be guided purely by national considerations. They would certainly in the case of a foreign company require certain special safeguards; but the interests of the Sheikh of Koweit would be a primary consideration.

As regards the second point, Mr. Rendel again emphasised the difficulty of bringing pressure to bear on oil companies, and the delicate nature of the play of interests involved in the creation of subsidiary companies. He expressed, moreover, some anxiety lest, in the combination suggested by Fuad Bey, the powerful position of the Standard Oil Company would give it so dominating an influence as to render any technical British nationality of the subsidiary company illusory. It was pointed out that technical nationality in such a case counted for less than the financial interests represented.

The meeting was adjourned till the evening, after Sir A. Ryan had mentioned to Fuad Bey a categorical statement made to him (Sir A. Ryan) by Mr. Yelibi or his agent in Jedda that/

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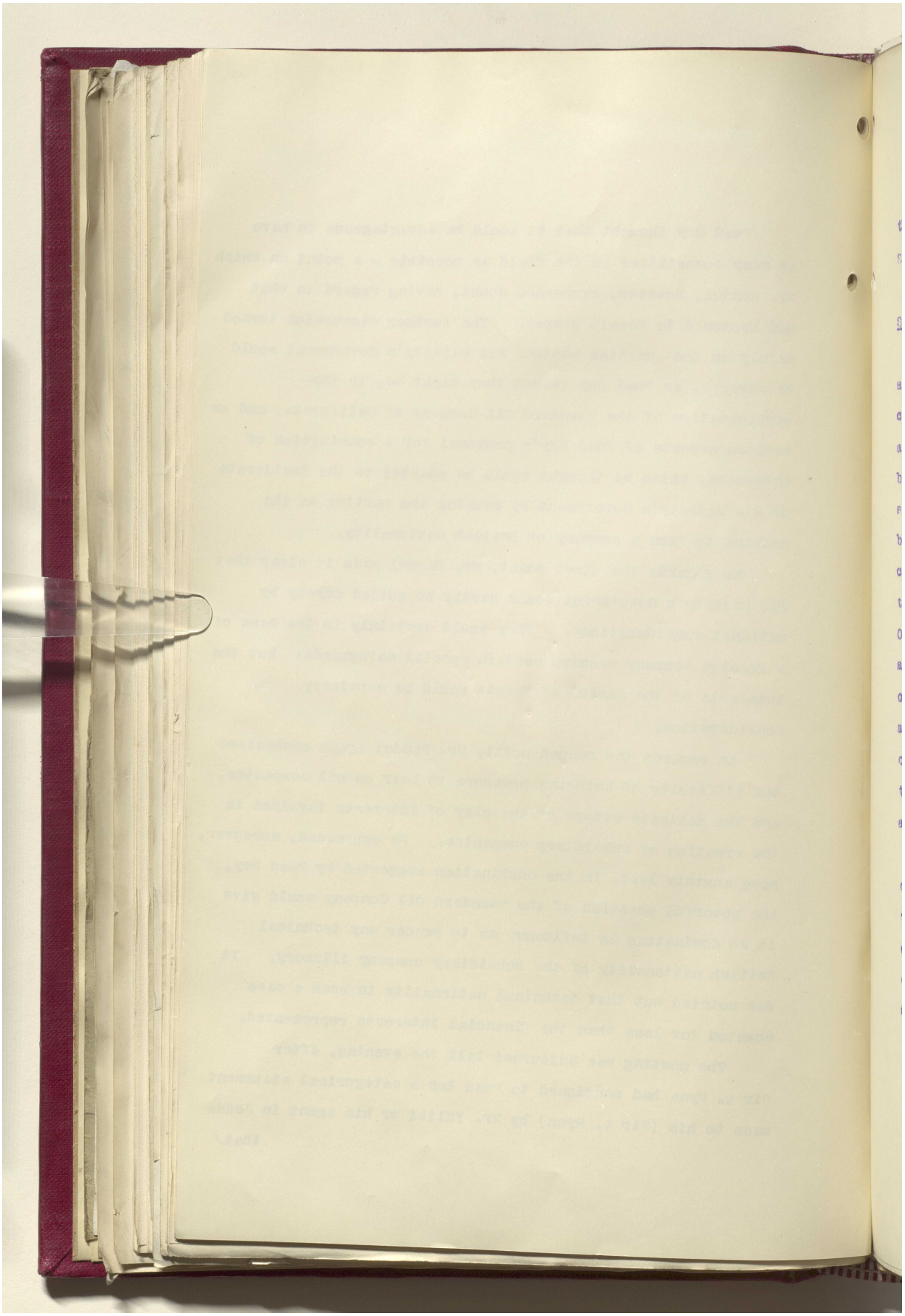

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that their syndicate would in no circumstances work with the Standard Oil Company of California.

Seventh and last conversation: afternoon of 25th September.

Mr. Rendel summed up the main results of the discussion at the sixth meeting, with special reference to the difficulties created by the Standard Oil option. Some discussion ensued as to the likelihood of other oil companies being tempted to bid for the concession. It was pointed out on the British side that, apart from the difficulty of bringing pressure to bear on oil companies, the companies themselves might be cautious, having regard to the large number of areas which the major companies already had to draw upon. The Standard Oil Company of California were themselves engaged in the Hasa area and it might well be their present interest to use their option not as a means of hastening the exploitation of the adjoining Neutral Zone area but merely as a means of excluding other interests from it for the time being. It looked as though it would be so difficult for any other company to make a firm offer that a deadlock might be reached.

Sir A. Ryan referred to the fact that the Standard Oil option applied to a large area of Saudi territory in which the Neutral Zone had been included and had been (somewhat oddly) described as the "so-called" Neutral Zone. He threw out a personal and tentative suggestion that the Saudi Government might induce Standard Oil to waive the option so far as the Neutral Zone was concerned by enlarging the area in some other direction by the addition of purely Saudi territory.

Wuad Bey did not pursue this suggestion but put forward, also/

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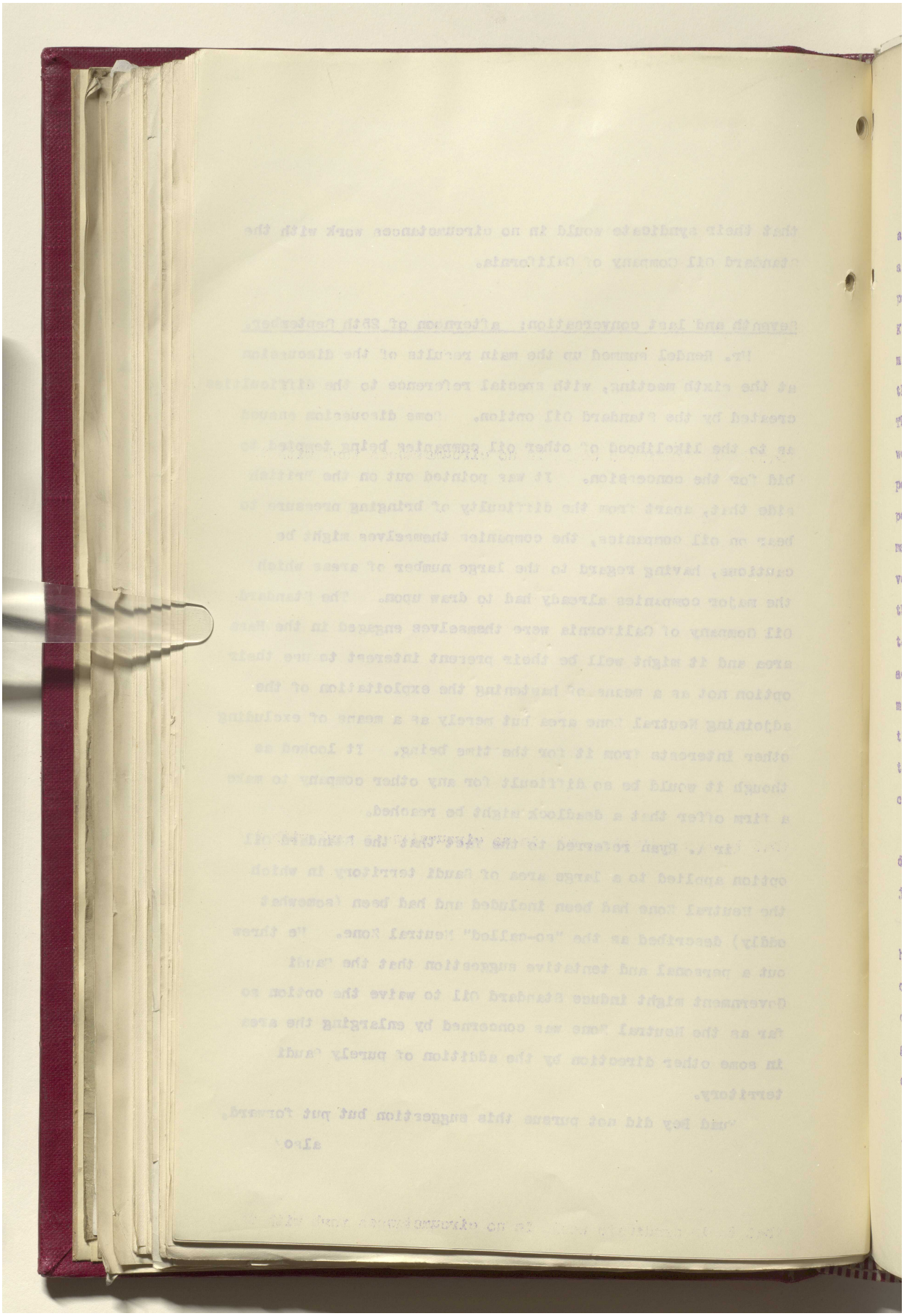

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also quite personally and unofficially, the suggestion that, as a last resort, the Neutral Zone might be divided into two parts which would form integral portions of the territory of King Abdul Aziz and the Sheikh of Koweit respectively or which might possibly be separate for oil purposes only, subject to the maintenance of the present condominium for other purposes. The British representatives thought that the latter alternative would not be practicable but they did not exclude the possibility of a complete partition and felt that it might perhaps have advantages from certain points of view. They made it clear, however, that any such suggestion would require very careful consideration. It would be necessary to review the reasons for which the zone had been originally created and to consider the effect of such a division as regards tribes accustomed to range over the area in the course of their migrations. It was agreed that Mr. Laithwaite should obtain the views of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and of the Political Agent at Koweit, who were at present in this country.

Fuad Bey explained that he had made the suggestion under discussion only as a last resort. He would still prefer a joint concession.

Mr. Rendel then summed up the various suggestions which had emerged in the course of the discussion and the conversations were concluded with expressions of satisfaction on both sides that it had been possible to explore so much ground with a view to a general settlement of the questions discussed.

It was arranged that a précis of the notes taken in the course of the discussions should be prepared for communication.

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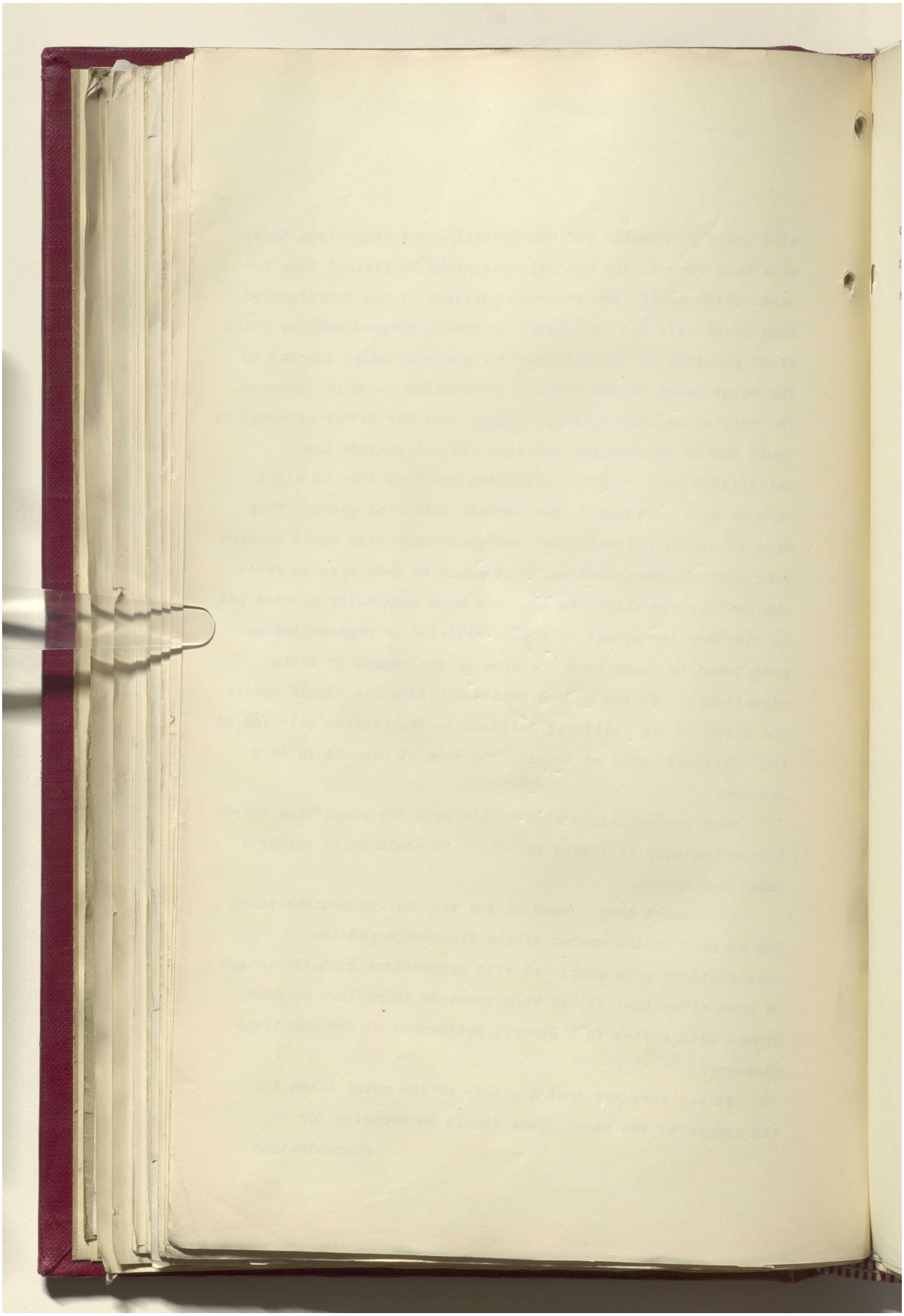

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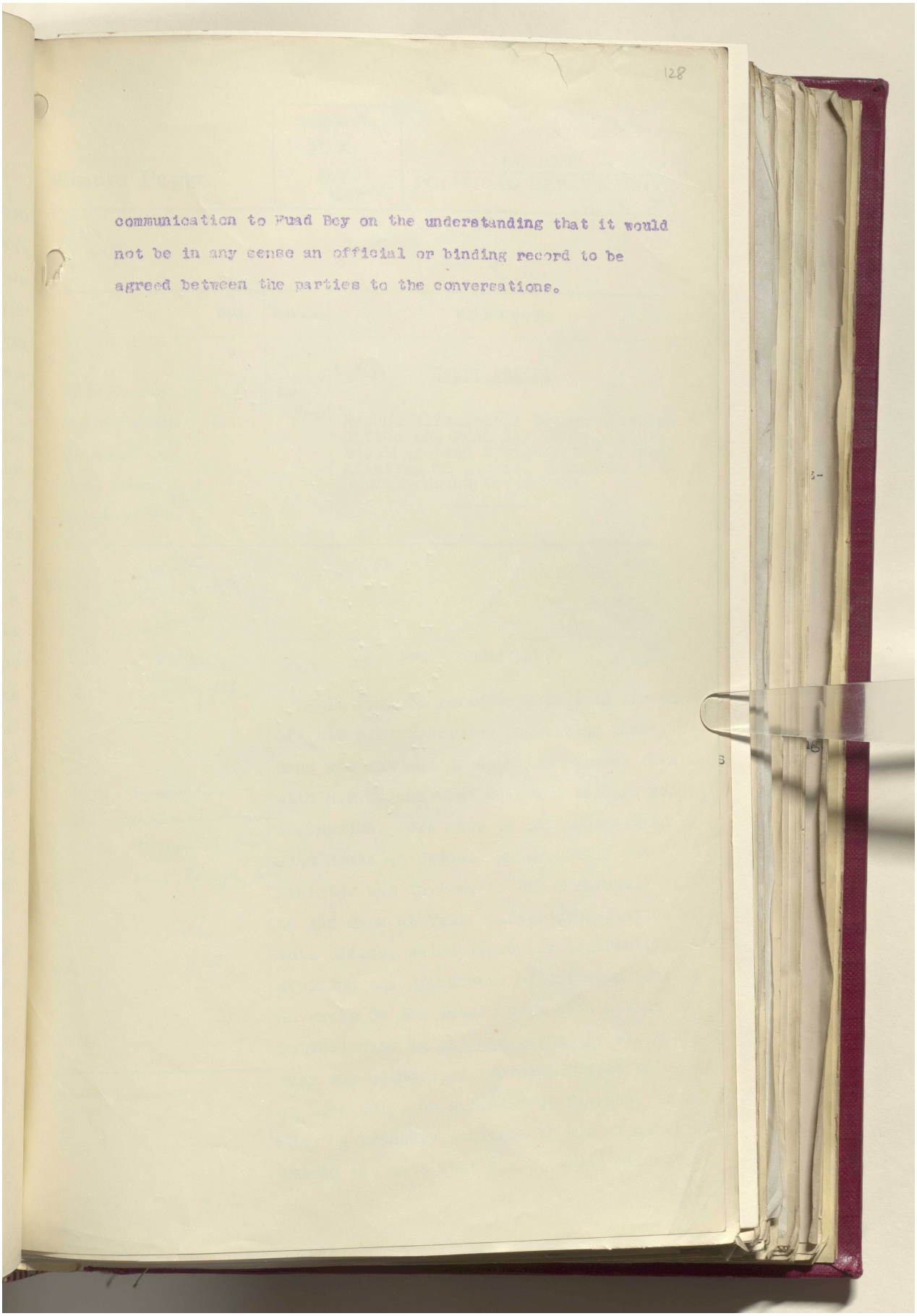

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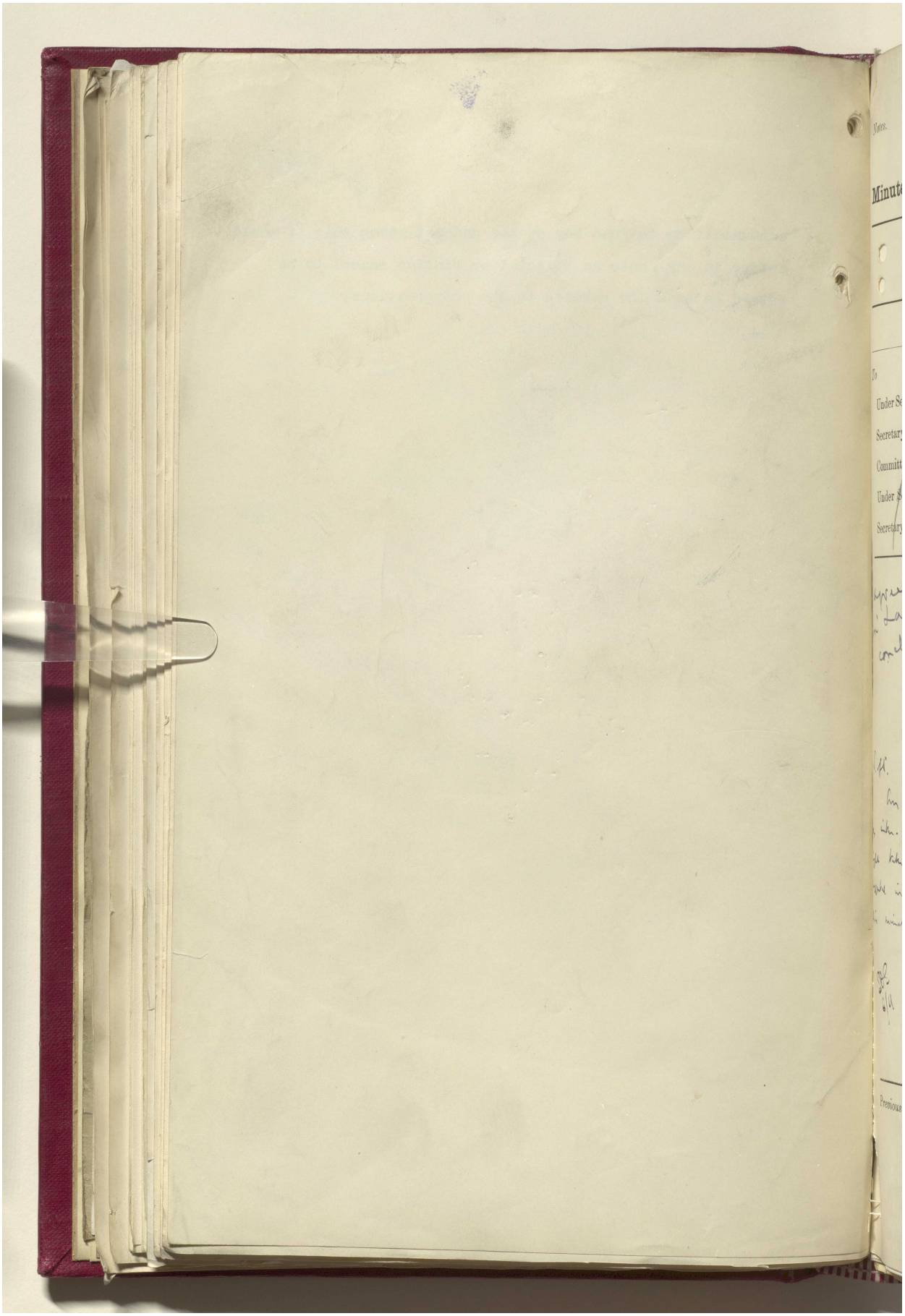
communication to Fuad Bey on the understanding that it would not be in any sense an official or binding record to be agreed between the parties to the conversations.



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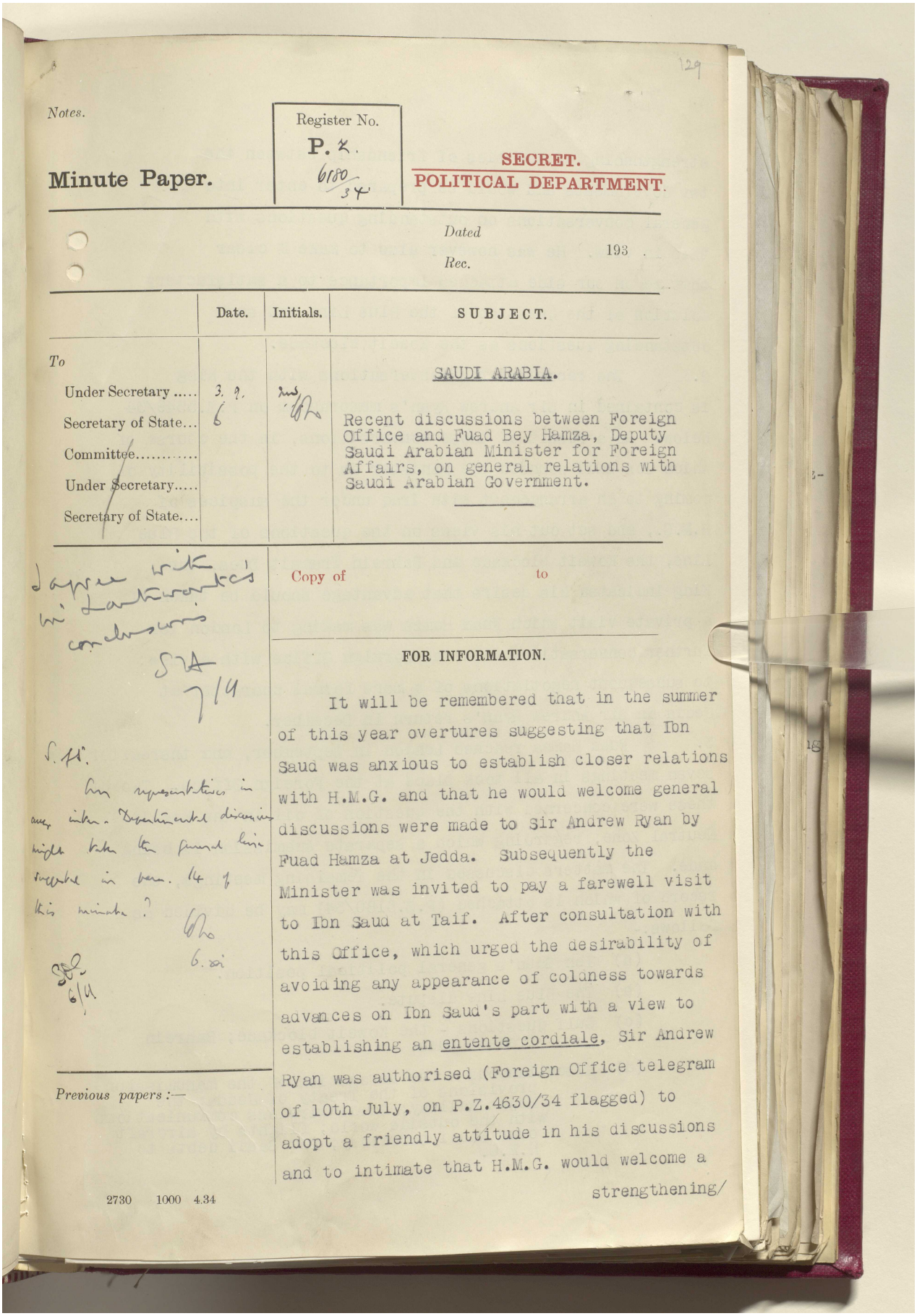

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P. 2. 6180/34

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 193

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			SAUDI ARABIA.
Under Secretary	3. 9.		Recent discussions between Foreign Office and Fuad Bey Hamza, Deputy Saudi Arabian Minister for Foreign Affairs, on general relations with Saudi Arabian Government.
Secretary of State...	6		
Committee.....			
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State....			

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FOR INFORMATION.

It will be remembered that in the summer of this year overtures suggesting that Ibn Saud was anxious to establish closer relations with H.M.G. and that he would welcome general discussions were made to Sir Andrew Ryan by Fuad Hamza at Jedda. Subsequently the Minister was invited to pay a farewell visit to Ibn Saud at Taif. After consultation with this Office, which urged the desirability of avoiding any appearance of coldness towards advances on Ibn Saud's part with a view to establishing an entente cordiale, Sir Andrew Ryan was authorised (Foreign Office telegram of 10th July, on P.Z.4630/34 flagged) to adopt a friendly attitude in his discussions and to intimate that H.M.G. would welcome a strengthening/

Previous papers :—

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strengthening of the ties of friendship between the two Governments and would be prepared to enter into general conversations on outstanding questions with this in view. He was however also to make it clear that we on our side attached importance to a satisfactory solution of the question of the Blue Line and such outstanding questions as the Koweit blockade.

2. The record of the conversations with the King is contained in Sir Andrew Ryan's memorandum on P.Z.5549/34 below. As a result of those conversations, in the course of which Ibn Saud sounded the Minister as to the possibility of coming to an arrangement with Iraq under the auspices of H.M.G., and set out his views on the questions of the Blue Line, the Koweit blockade and Bahrein Transit Dues, the King indicated his desire that advantage should be taken of a private visit which Fuad Hamza was making to London for further conversations with the Foreign Office with a view to subsequent negotiations of a more formal character at Jedda on Sir Andrew Ryan's return in December.

3. Fuad Hamza reached London in September, and thereafter seven meetings in all took place at the Foreign Office. Two of these were concerned with the question of oil in the Koweit Neutral Zone, regarding which a separate submission is being made. The matters discussed in the remaining meetings, the record of which is attached (P.Z.6180/34) may be divided as follows:-

(a) Ibn Saud's general political position.

(b) The Blue Line dispute.

(c) Gulf questions - the Koweit blockade; Bahrein Transit Dues.

(d) Miscellaneous - the abrogation of the manumission provisions of the Treaty of Jedda; the Hejaz Railway; Saudi wireless communications with the outside world; flights by aircraft over Saudi territory; the Saudi debts to H.M.G.

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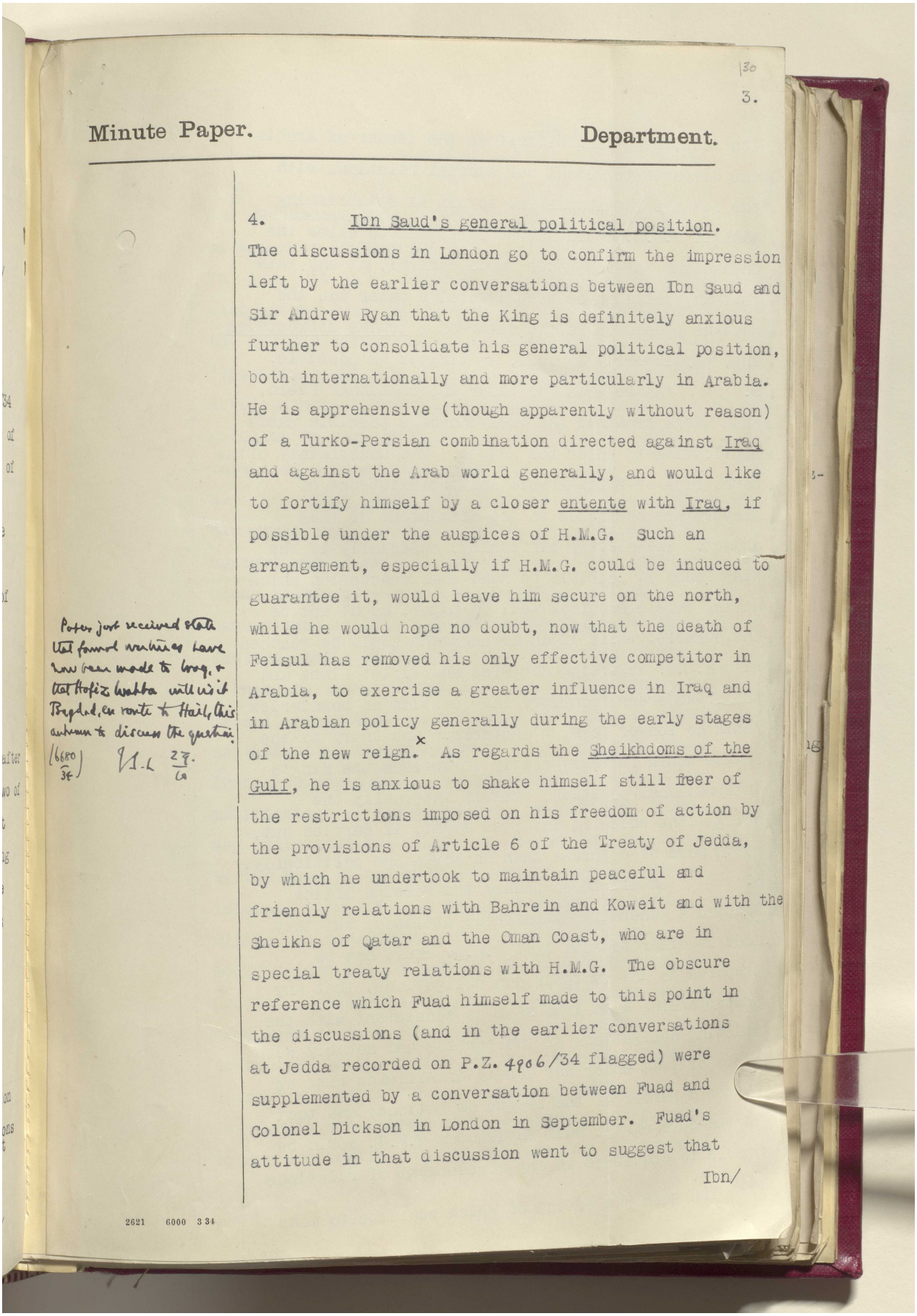

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4. Ibn Saud's general political position.

The discussions in London go to confirm the impression left by the earlier conversations between Ibn Saud and Sir Andrew Ryan that the King is definitely anxious further to consolidate his general political position, both internationally and more particularly in Arabia. He is apprehensive (though apparently without reason) of a Turko-Persian combination directed against Iraq and against the Arab world generally, and would like to fortify himself by a closer entente with Iraq, if possible under the auspices of H.M.G. Such an arrangement, especially if H.M.G. could be induced to guarantee it, would leave him secure on the north, while he would hope no doubt, now that the death of Feisul has removed his only effective competitor in Arabia, to exercise a greater influence in Iraq and in Arabian policy generally during the early stages of the new reign.[x] As regards the Sheikhdoms of the Gulf, he is anxious to shake himself still freer of the restrictions imposed on his freedom of action by the provisions of Article 6 of the Treaty of Jedda, by which he undertook to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with Bahrein and Koweit and with the Sheikhs of Qatar and the Oman Coast, who are in special treaty relations with H.M.G. The obscure reference which Fuad himself made to this point in the discussions (and in the earlier conversations at Jedda recorded on P.Z. 4906/34 flagged) were supplemented by a conversation between Fuad and Colonel Dickson in London in September. Fuad's attitude in that discussion went to suggest that

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Papers just received state that formal overtures have now been made to Iraq, & that Hafiz Wahba will visit Bagdad, en route to Hail, this autumn to discuss the question. (6680/34) [illegible] 27/10

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Ibn Saud, regarding himself as the leader of Arabia, was disposed to resent our special relations with the coastal Sheikhdoms and to aim at establishing ~~that~~ (if H.M.G. could not be persuaded to allow the Sheikhdoms to fall under Saudi control,) at any rate that any relations between a foreign power and the Sheikhs should be in the nature of a régime d'exception and, particularly by land, as limited as possible.

5. As regards the wider international field, Fuad Hamza broached the question of a possible Saudi application to enter the League. The uncertainty of the boundaries of Saudi Arabia and the existence of slavery are obstacles to the attainment of this object. The slavery difficulty, especially if the King found it possible to make some concession which at any rate would look well on paper, might not be insuperable; while if an arrangement could be reached with H.M.G. regarding the Blue and Violet Lines and the Transjordan Frontier, the question of boundaries would no longer form an obstacle. And entry to the League would further greatly strengthen the King's international position, even if internally the obligations which it involved might, if carried out, prove more of a burden than an advantage politically.

6. On all these points the Foreign Office adopted a generally sympathetic attitude, but they made it clear to Fuad that H.M.G. would not be prepared to add to their own obligations; that any understanding with Iraq must be consistent with the existing obligations of the parties and notably with those of Iraq under her Treaty of Alliance with us and as a Member of the League of Nations; and that in the case of the Gulf Sheikhdoms H.M.G. would be unable to acquiesce in any development of relations with Ibn Saud the effect of which would be to make

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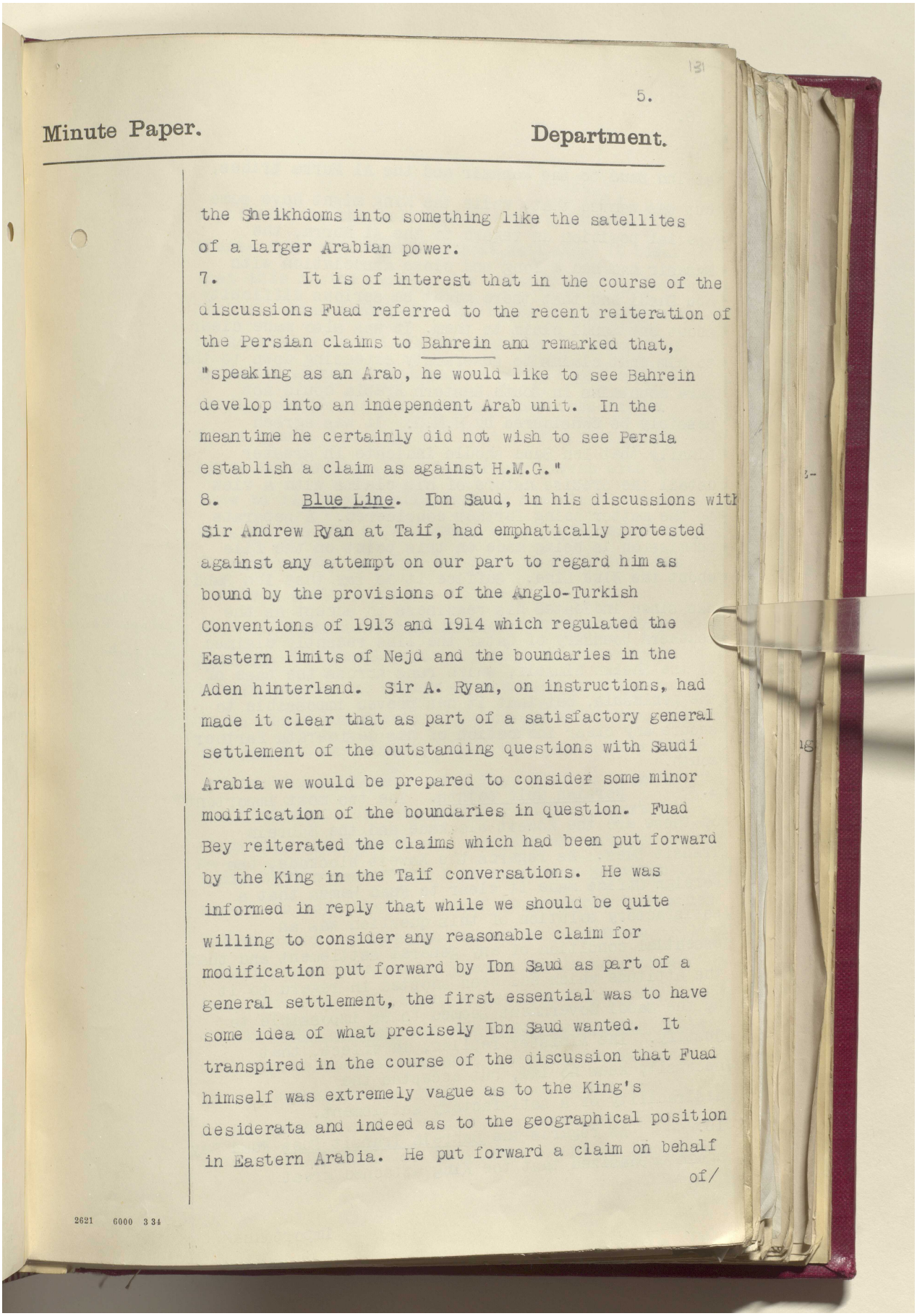

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the Sheikhdoms into something like the satellites of a larger Arabian power.

7. It is of interest that in the course of the discussions Fuad referred to the recent reiteration of the Persian claims to Bahrein and remarked that, "speaking as an Arab, he would like to see Bahrein develop into an independent Arab unit. In the meantime he certainly did not wish to see Persia establish a claim as against H.M.G."

8. Blue Line. Ibn Saud, in his discussions with Sir Andrew Ryan at Taif, had emphatically protested against any attempt on our part to regard him as bound by the provisions of the Anglo-Turkish Conventions of 1913 and 1914 which regulated the Eastern limits of Nejd and the boundaries in the Aden hinterland. Sir A. Ryan, on instructions, had made it clear that as part of a satisfactory general settlement of the outstanding questions with Saudi Arabia we would be prepared to consider some minor modification of the boundaries in question. Fuad Bey reiterated the claims which had been put forward by the King in the Taif conversations. He was informed in reply that while we should be quite willing to consider any reasonable claim for modification put forward by Ibn Saud as part of a general settlement, the first essential was to have some idea of what precisely Ibn Saud wanted. It transpired in the course of the discussion that Fuad himself was extremely vague as to the King's desiderata and indeed as to the geographical position in Eastern Arabia. He put forward a claim on behalf

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of Ibn Saud to the Manasir and the Al Murra tribes, but was warned that, while the King might have some special position in regard to the Al Murra, the Manasir had had a long and close association with Abu Dhabi and that there might be serious difficulty about any Saudi claim to them. It was also made clear to him that claims to suzerainty extending down to the Qara mountains in South Eastern Arabia could not possibly be considered by H.M.G. It was agreed finally that Ibn Saud should indicate in greater detail the precise nature of his claims with a view to the matter being further considered. A separate submission is being made on this point on the file about the Blue Line. Suffice it to say that Ibn Saud has since indicated his readiness to accept* as the southern boundary of Qatar the line recently claimed by the Sheikh himself, which runs across the base of the peninsula, but that it has proved impossible to secure any clear indication of his desiderata farther south.

9. Persian Gulf points. The two most important of these are the Koweit blockade and the Bahrein Transit Dues. As regards the Koweit blockade, the Foreign Office made it clear to Fuad Hamza that a satisfactory solution of this question was an essential condition of any general settlement and that the attitude which had been adopted in regard to it by the Saudi Government seemed to us impossible to justify. The Minister replied, in effect, that necessity knew no law, but accepted the desirability of a satisfactory settlement.

10. As regards the Bahrein Transit Dues Fuad Bey again emphasized that the King attached great

importance/

* It is doubtful whether we could agree to this as the Saudi frontier. The RAF would need space to the south of it

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importance to the solution of this question. (Sir Andrew Ryan's conversations at Taif make it clear that this is the case). The Foreign Office, however, took the line (which is that which has consistently been pressed by this Office and the Government of India) that this was a matter which could only satisfactorily be discussed, at any rate in the first place, locally, but that if Ibn Saud would agree to the despatch of representatives with a view to discussion all possible assistance would be given on our side. Fuad, with great reluctance, finally agreed to urge Ibn Saud to reconsider his attitude on this point.

11. Miscellaneous points. On the question of slavery, the Saudis are very anxious to secure the abrogation of the rights of manumission which we enjoy under the Treaty of Jedda and which they regard - perhaps not unnaturally -as a derogation from their international status. Fuad Bey referred, however, to the real difficulties, partly religious, partly economic, involved in any sweeping declaration on ~~the~~ slavery point by Ibn Saud. The Foreign Office gave him little reason to hope that we should be prepared to abandon our right of manumission unless some definite undertaking in regard to slavery could be secured from the King. The minor questions of the reopening of the Hejaz Railway and the Jedda-Port Sudan cable call for no special comment; nor does the warning given by the Foreign Office that we should probably in the near future be anxious to reach some understanding with the Saudi Government in regard to flights/

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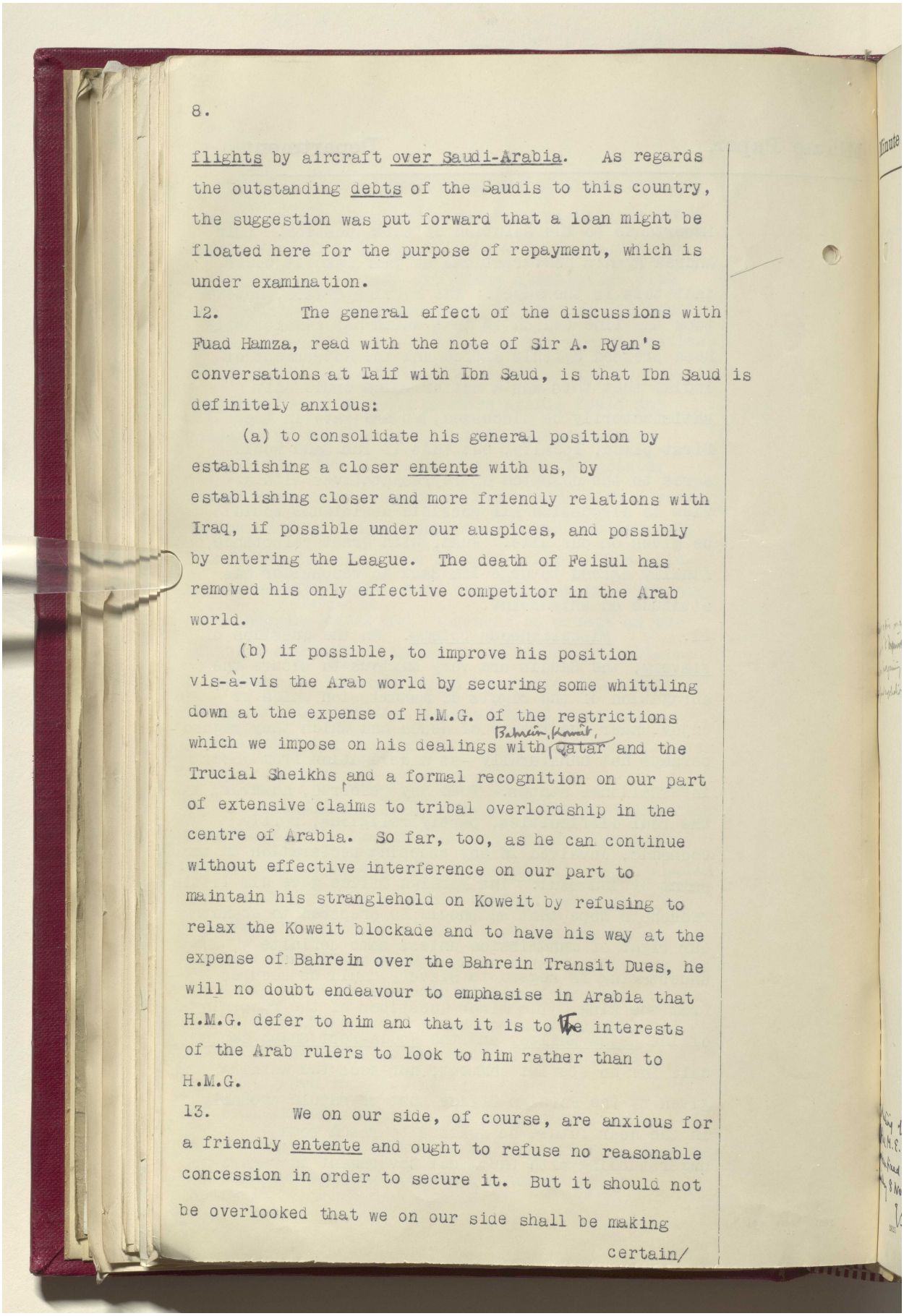

flights by aircraft over Saudi-Arabia. As regards the outstanding debts of the Saudis to this country, the suggestion was put forward that a loan might be floated here for the purpose of repayment, which is under examination.

12. The general effect of the discussions with Fuad Hamza, read with the note of Sir A. Ryan's conversations at Taif with Ibn Saud, is that Ibn Saud is definitely anxious:

(a) to consolidate his general position by establishing a closer entente with us, by establishing closer and more friendly relations with Iraq, if possible under our auspices, and possibly by entering the League. The death of Feisul has removed his only effective competitor in the Arab world.

(b) if possible, to improve his position vis-à-vis the Arab world by securing some whittling down at the expense of H.M.G. of the restrictions which we impose on his dealings with Bahrein, Kuwait, Qatar and the Trucial Sheikhs and a formal recognition on our part of extensive claims to tribal overlordship in the centre of Arabia. So far, too, as he can continue without effective interference on our part to maintain his stranglehold on Koweit by refusing to relax the Koweit blockade and to have his way at the expense of Bahrein over the Bahrein Transit Dues, he will no doubt endeavour to emphasise in Arabia that H.M.G. defer to him and that it is to the interests of the Arab rulers to look to him rather than to H.M.G.

13. We on our side, of course, are anxious for a friendly entente and ought to refuse no reasonable concession in order to secure it. But it should not be overlooked that we on our side shall be making

certain/

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certain concessions in any settlement; and that our goodwill is worth a great deal to Ibn Saud (he appreciates that much better than do the Persians). In these circumstances, it is important in any negotiations not to allow ourselves to be manoeuvred out of our special position vis-à-vis the Arab rulers of the Persian Gulf, to acquiesce in Ibn Saud's claims to a general Arab hegemony or to accept exaggerated territorial claims on his part. We can meet him up to a point in regard to the Blue Line, and possibly over matters such as the Bahrein Transit Dues and the Hejaz Railway. But he on his side must meet us over the Koweit blockade; he must at any rate agree to local discussion of the Bahrein Transit Dues, and he must be content with concessions over the Blue Line which will keep him well away from the coast and will be consistent with the legitimate and historical claims of our protégés. It is unfortunate that the petty and tiresome question of the development of oil in the Koweit Neutral Zone may prejudicially affect the discussions, but this cannot be helped. The Saudis are themselves responsible for the present impasse; it is not in any special degree to our interest to help them out of it, and the negotiations which have now been initiated by the I.P.C. with a view to securing the elimination of the Standard Oil from Hasa and Bahrein, or at any rate to securing some participation in their marketing or exploiting operations, are an additional argument so far as we are concerned for delay.

14. I understand that the Foreign Office will raise in the immediate future the question whether in the/

effect of this may ... be to deprive us of ... of our bargaining assets in the general negotiations

A meeting of the ...icial M.E. Cttee. has ...w been fixed for ...nday 8 Novr.
[illegible]

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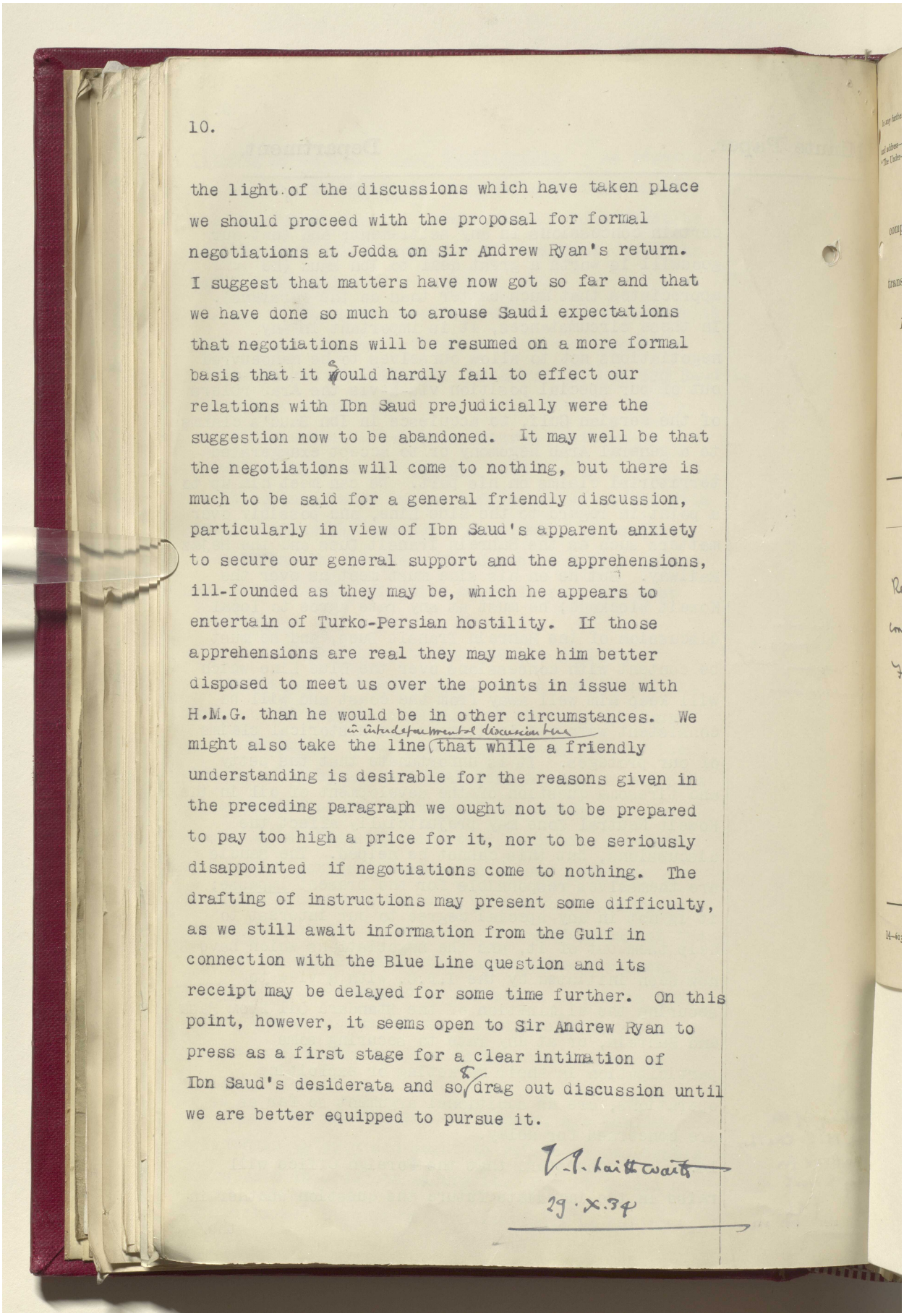

the light of the discussions which have taken place we should proceed with the proposal for formal negotiations at Jedda on Sir Andrew Ryan's return. I suggest that matters have now got so far and that we have done so much to arouse Saudi expectations that negotiations will be resumed on a more formal basis that it would hardly fail to effect our relations with Ibn Saud prejudicially were the suggestion now to be abandoned. It may well be that the negotiations will come to nothing, but there is much to be said for a general friendly discussion, particularly in view of Ibn Saud's apparent anxiety to secure our general support and the apprehensions, ill-founded as they may be, which he appears to entertain of Turko-Persian hostility. If those apprehensions are real they may make him better disposed to meet us over the points in issue with H.M.G. than he would be in other circumstances. We might also take the line in interdepartmental discussions that while a friendly understanding is desirable for the reasons given in the preceding paragraph we ought not to be prepared to pay too high a price for it, nor to be seriously disappointed if negotiations come to nothing. The drafting of instructions may present some difficulty, as we still await information from the Gulf in connection with the Blue Line question and its receipt may be delayed for some time further. On this point, however, it seems open to Sir Andrew Ryan to press as a first stage for a clear intimation of Ibn Saud's desiderata and so drag out discussion until we are better equipped to pursue it.

V. Laithwaite
29.X.34

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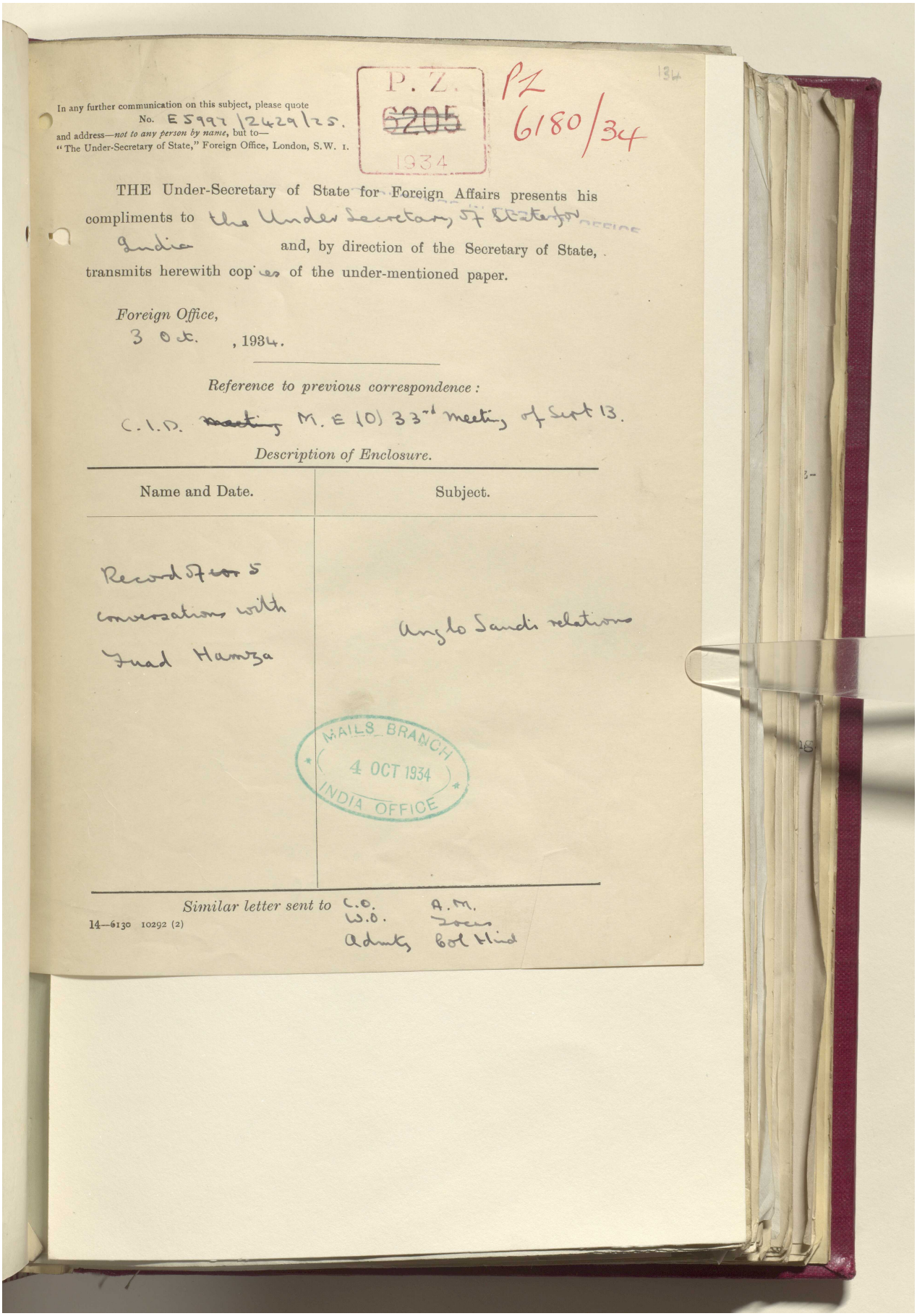

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 5992/2429/25.
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P. Z. 5205 1934

PZ 6180/34

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
3 Oct. , 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence:

C.I.D. ~~meeting~~ M.E (0) 33rd meeting of Sept 13.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Record of conversation with Fuad Hamza	Anglo Saudi relations

MAILS BRANCH 4 OCT 1934 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O. A.M. W.O. Foreign Admty Bol Hind

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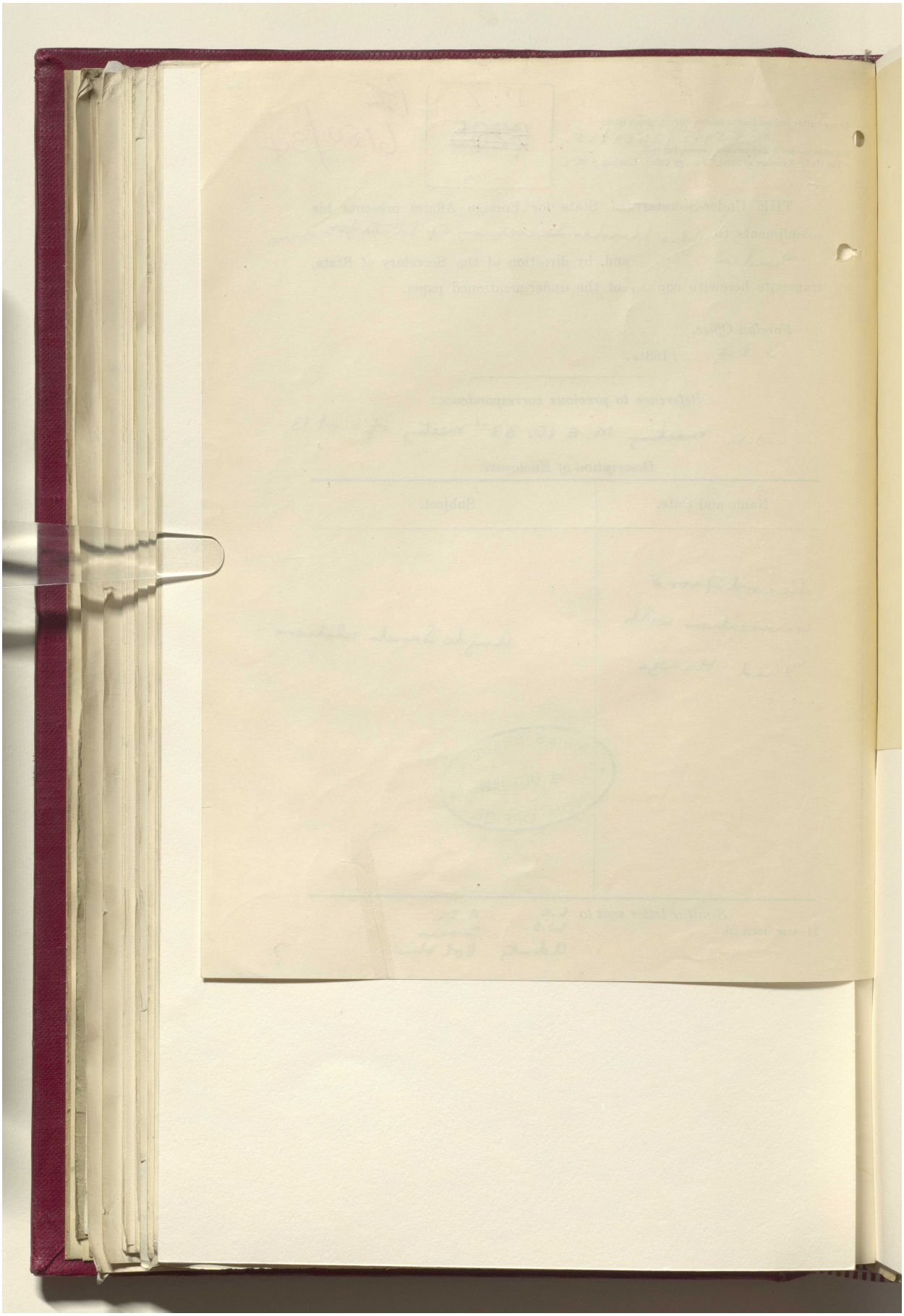

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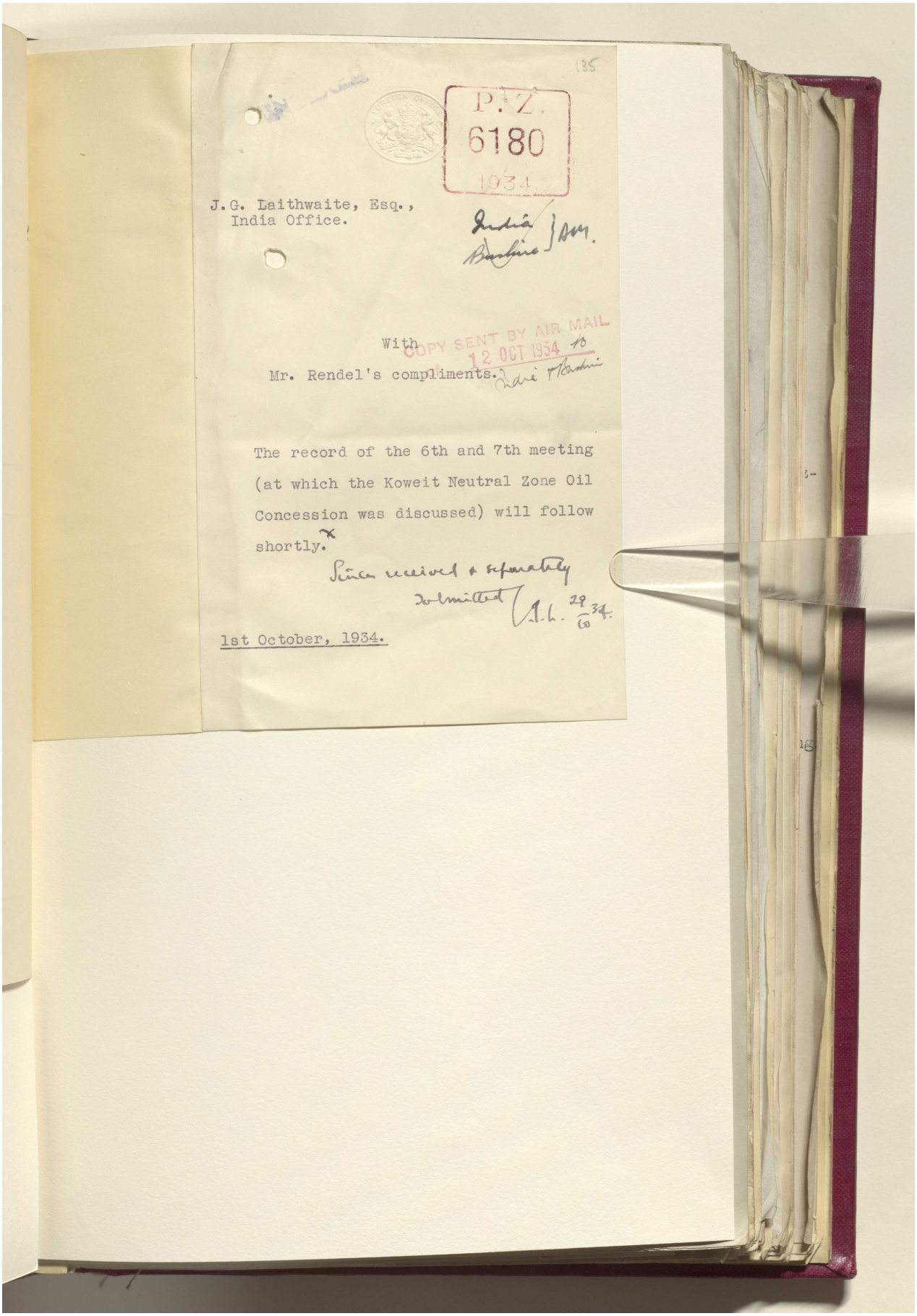

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P.Z.
6180
1934

J.G. Laithwaite, Esq.,
India Office.

India
Bushire } AM.

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL
12 OCT 1934

With
Mr. Rendel's compliments.

India & Bushire

The record of the 6th and 7th meeting (at which the Koweit Neutral Zone Oil Concession was discussed) will follow shortly.

Since received & separately submitted
J.L. 29/10 34.

1st October, 1934.

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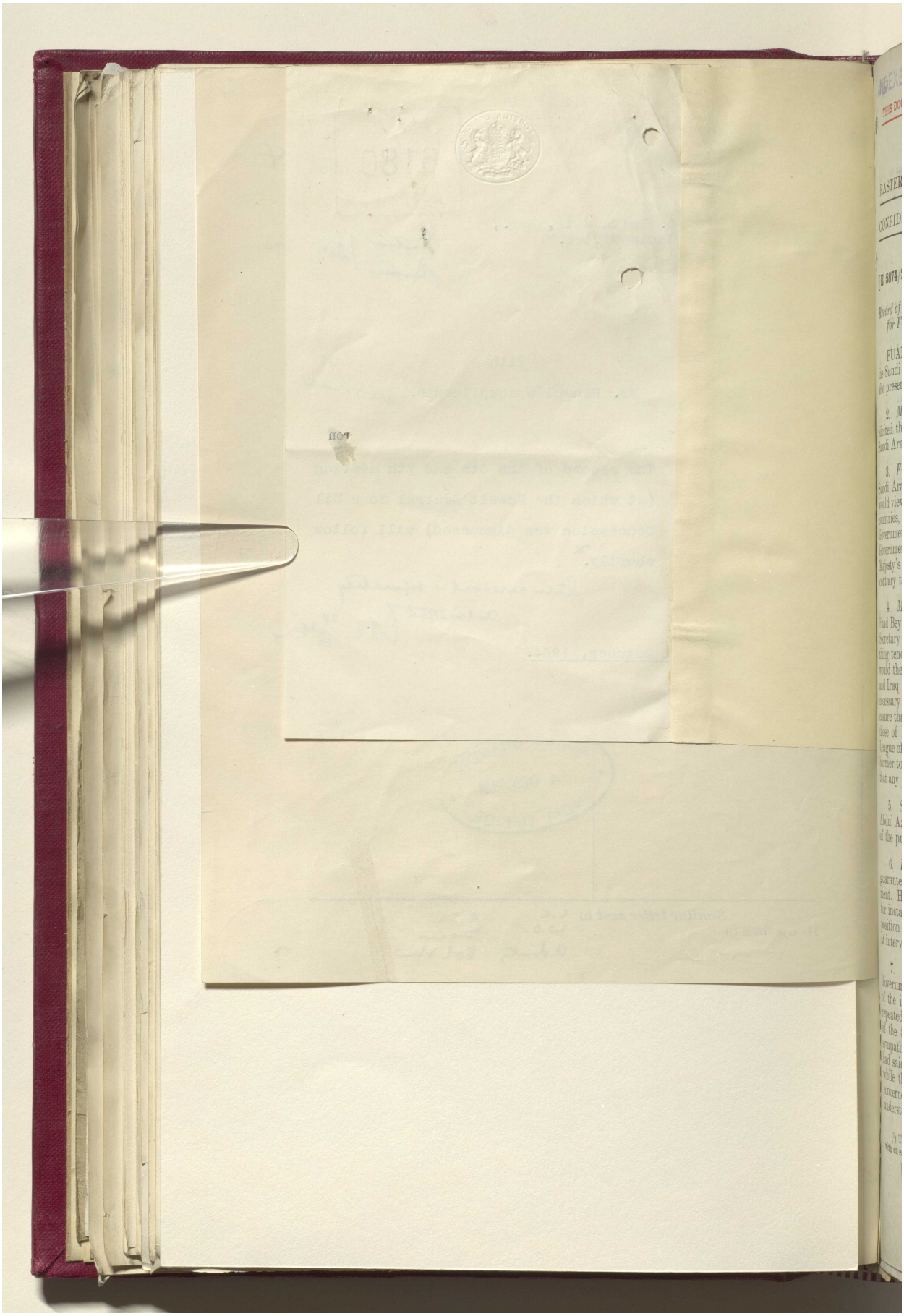

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INDEXED

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P. Z. 6180 1934

EASTERN (ARABIA).

CONFIDENTIAL.

September 19, 1934.

SECTION 1.

[E 5874/2429/25] No. 1.

Record of First Meeting with Fuad Bey Hamza (Deputy Saudi Arabian Minister for Foreign Affairs), held at the Foreign Office on September 19, 1934.

FUAD BEY HAMZA called on Mr. Rendel this morning accompanied by the Saudi Arabian Minister in London, Sheikh Hafiz Wahba. Sir A. Ryan was also present, except at the beginning of the conversation.

2. *Mr. Rendel* drew Fuad Bey out on the subjects he wished to discuss, and elicited the fact that he regarded the question of the south-eastern f[illegible]tier of Saudi Arabia as being of special importance.

3. *Fuad Bey* dealt first, however, with the question of the relations between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. He wished to know how His Majesty's Government would view a tightening up of those relations in the common interest of two Arab countries, both of which were on specially friendly terms with His Majesty's Government. His Government had not made any definite approach to the Iraqi Government, but they had the possibility in view, always provided that His Majesty's Government saw no objection. They did not wish to do anything contrary to His Majesty's Government's policy.

4. *Mr. Rendel* said that he would like to have a clearer view of what Fuad Bey had in mind. Speaking generally, and subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, he said that His Majesty's Government would welcome anything tending to promote concord and prosperity between the Arab States, and would therefore view with sympathy any rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iraq which had for its object the promotion of peace in Arabia. It would be necessary to consider carefully the nature of any proposed understanding, to ensure that it was consonant with the existing obligations of the parties, notably those of Iraq under her Treaty of Alliance with us and as a member of the League of Nations. He did not think, however, that such obligations would be a barrier to a closer understanding between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and considered that any points which might arise could be covered by suitable drafting.(1)

5. *Sir A. Ryan* concurred, adding, however, that he thought King Abdul Aziz had rather more in view and sought some sort of a British guarantee of the proposed Saudi–Iraq understanding.

6. *Fuad Bey* said that this was a misconception. The King did not seek a guarantee, but wished merely to ascertain the attitude of His Majesty's Government. He went on to ask what kind of understanding would be suitable, whether, for instance, His Majesty's Government would be a party to it or whether their position would be merely that of a third Power, which would be kept informed at intervals of what was passing and would take a sympathetic interest.

7. *Mr. Rendel* explained, on the one hand, the objections of His Majesty's Government to assuming any new obligations, and, on the other, the undesirability of the indefinite multiplication of instruments having no real meaning. He repeated, again reminding Fuad Bey that he was speaking subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, that His Majesty's Government would view with sympathy a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, subject to what he had said about the need for harmonising it with existing obligations, but that, while they would be glad to receive such information as the parties directly concerned might give them, they would prefer not to be themselves parties to the understanding arrived at.

(1) This question has already been fully considered by the Foreign Office legal advisers in connexion with an earlier proposal for a Perso-Iraqi non-aggression pact.

[206 t—1]

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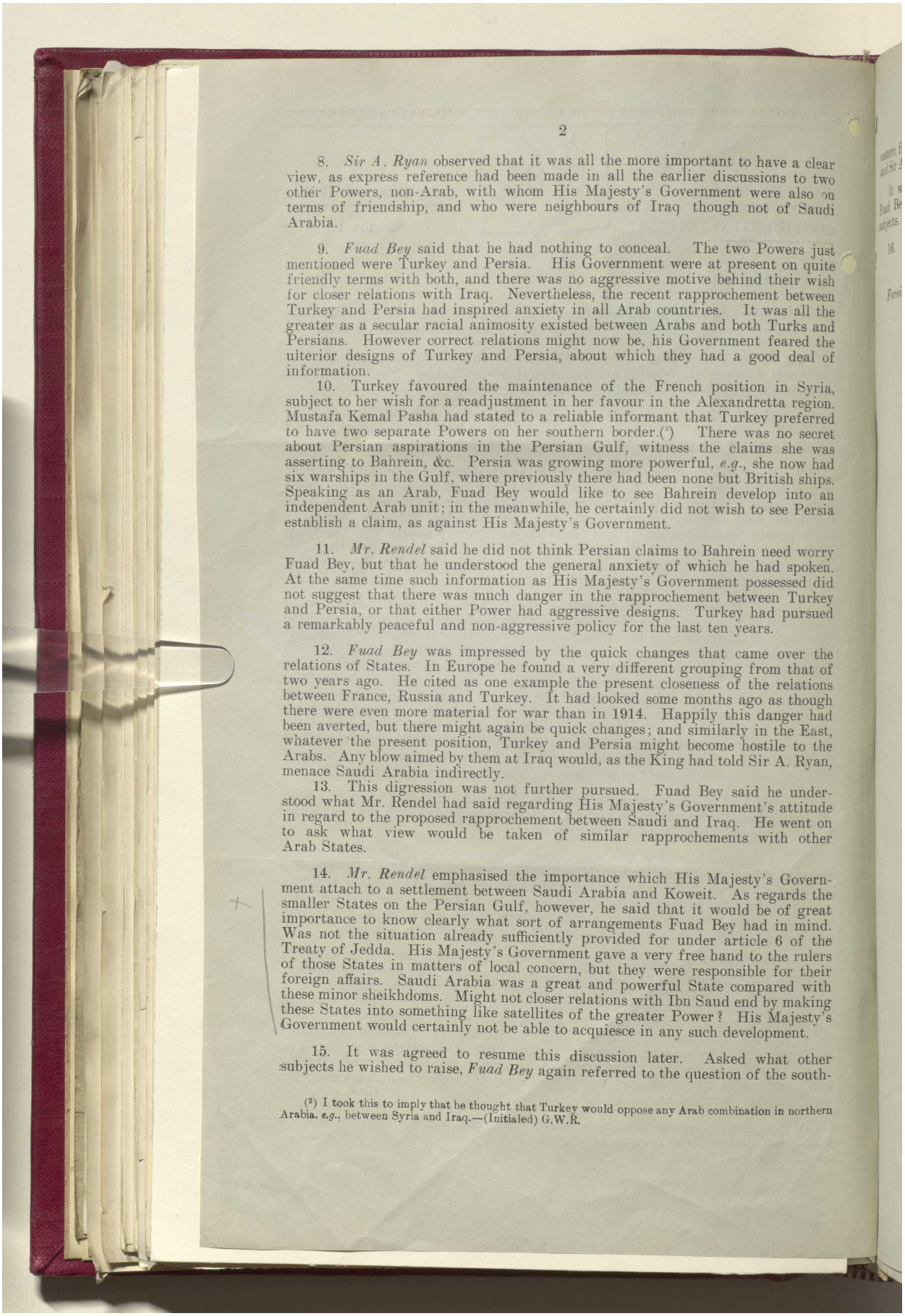

8. *Sir A. Ryan* observed that it was all the more important to have a clear view, as express reference had been made in all the earlier discussions to two other Powers, non-Arab, with whom His Majesty's Government were also on terms of friendship, and who were neighbours of Iraq though not of Saudi Arabia.

9. *Fuad Bey* said that he had nothing to conceal. The two Powers just mentioned were Turkey and Persia. His Government were at present on quite friendly terms with both, and there was no aggressive motive behind their wish for closer relations with Iraq. Nevertheless, the recent rapprochement between Turkey and Persia had inspired anxiety in all Arab countries. It was all the greater as a secular racial animosity existed between Arabs and both Turks and Persians. However correct relations might now be, his Government feared the ulterior designs of Turkey and Persia, about which they had a good deal of information.

10. Turkey favoured the maintenance of the French position in Syria, subject to her wish for a readjustment in her favour in the Alexandretta region. Mustafa Kemal Pasha had stated to a reliable informant that Turkey preferred to have two separate Powers on her southern border.(2) There was no secret about Persian aspirations in the Persian Gulf, witness the claims she was asserting to Bahrein, &c. Persia was growing more powerful, *e.g.*, she now had six warships in the Gulf, where previously there had been none but British ships. Speaking as an Arab, Fuad Bey would like to see Bahrein develop into an independent Arab unit; in the meanwhile, he certainly did not wish to see Persia establish a claim, as against His Majesty's Government.

11. *Mr. Rendel* said he did not think Persian claims to Bahrein need worry Fuad Bey, but that he understood the general anxiety of which he had spoken. At the same time such information as His Majesty's Government possessed did not suggest that there was much danger in the rapprochement between Turkey and Persia, or that either Power had aggressive designs. Turkey had pursued a remarkably peaceful and non-aggressive policy for the last ten years.

12. *Fuad Bey* was impressed by the quick changes that came over the relations of States. In Europe he found a very different grouping from that of two years ago. He cited as one example the present closeness of the relations between France, Russia and Turkey. It had looked some months ago as though there were even more material for war than in 1914. Happily this danger had been averted, but there might again be quick changes; and similarly in the East, whatever the present position, Turkey and Persia might become hostile to the Arabs. Any blow aimed by them at Iraq would, as the King had told Sir A. Ryan, menace Saudi Arabia indirectly.

13. This digression was not further pursued. Fuad Bey said he understood what Mr. Rendel had said regarding His Majesty's Government's attitude in regard to the proposed rapprochement between Saudi and Iraq. He went on to ask what view would be taken of similar rapprochements with other Arab States.

14. *Mr. Rendel* emphasised the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to a settlement between Saudi Arabia and Koweit. As regards the smaller States on the Persian Gulf, however, he said that it would be of great importance to know clearly what sort of arrangements Fuad Bey had in mind. Was not the situation already sufficiently provided for under article 6 of the Treaty of Jedda. His Majesty's Government gave a very free hand to the rulers of those States in matters of local concern, but they were responsible for their foreign affairs. Saudi Arabia was a great and powerful State compared with these minor sheikhdoms. Might not closer relations with Ibn Saud end by making these States into something like satellites of the greater Power? His Majesty's Government would certainly not be able to acquiesce in any such development.

15. It was agreed to resume this discussion later. Asked what other subjects he wished to raise, *Fuad Bey* again referred to the question of the south-

(2) I took this to imply that he thought that Turkey would oppose any Arab combination in northern Arabia, *e.g.*, between Syria and Iraq.—(Initialed) G.W.R.

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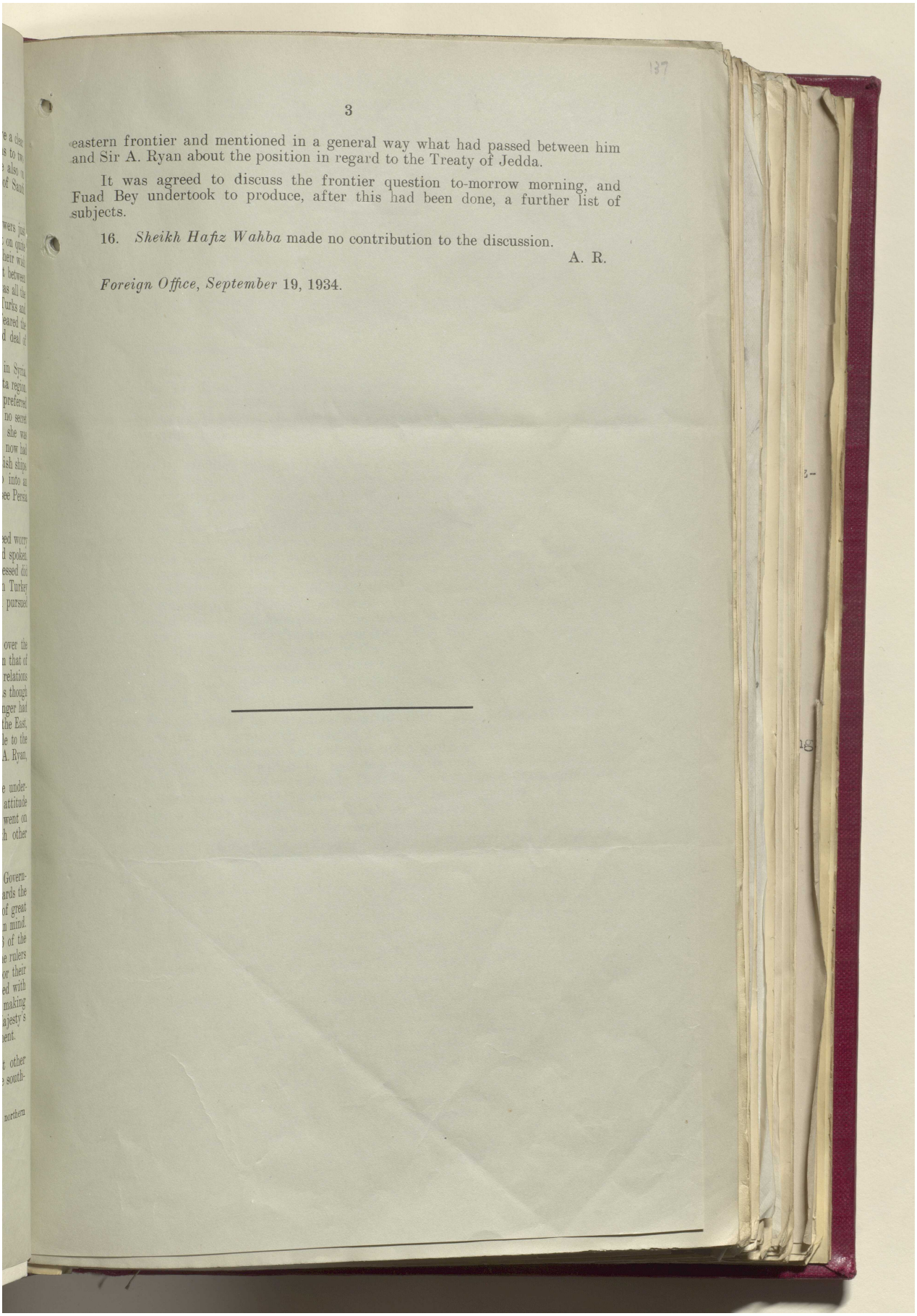

eastern frontier and mentioned in a general way what had passed between him and Sir A. Ryan about the position in regard to the Treaty of Jedda.

It was agreed to discuss the frontier question to-morrow morning, and Fuad Bey undertook to produce, after this had been done, a further list of subjects.

16. *Sheikh Hafiz Wahba* made no contribution to the discussion.

A. R.

Foreign Office, September 19, 1934.

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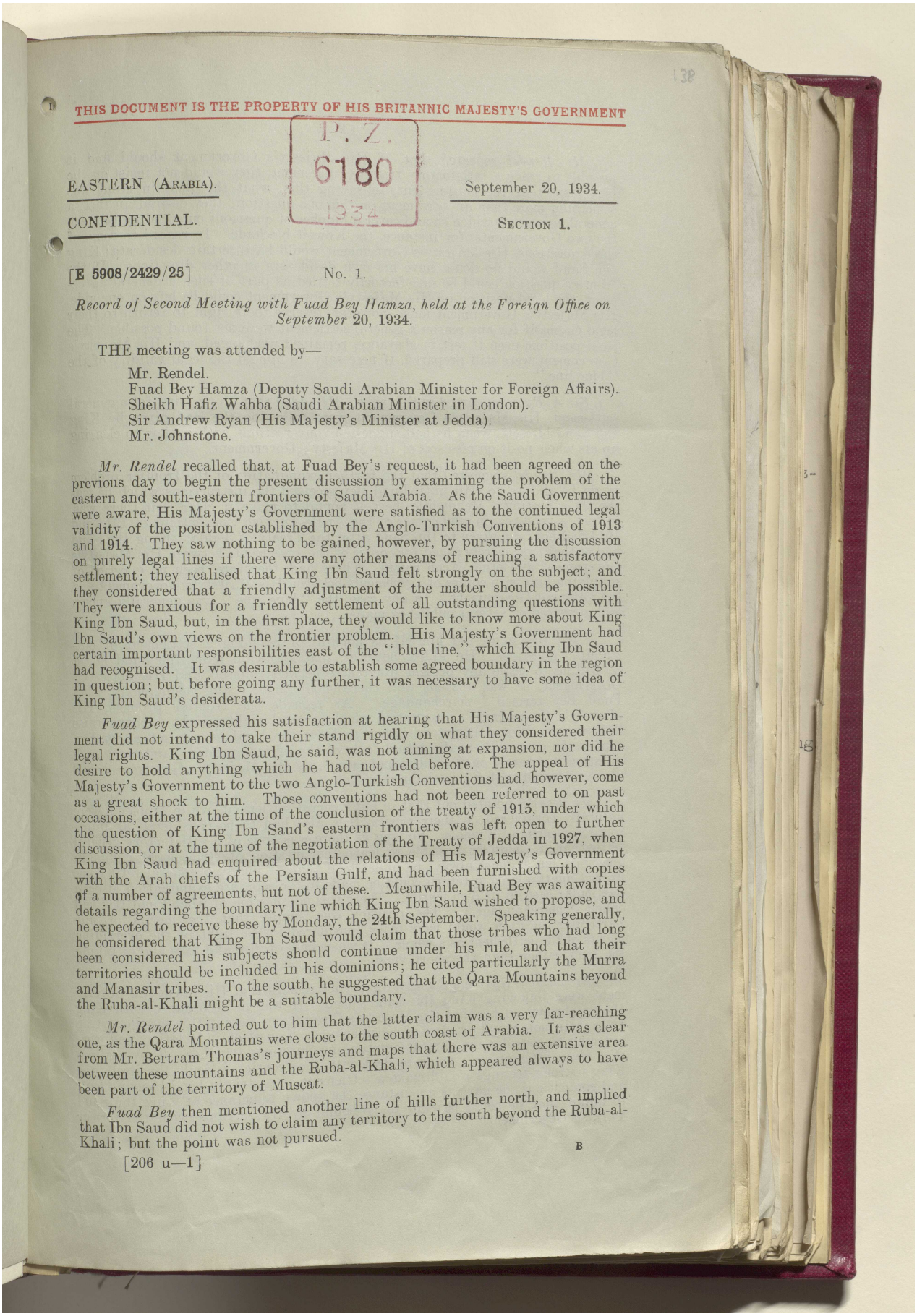

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P. Z. 6180 1934

EASTERN (ARABIA).

CONFIDENTIAL.

September 20, 1934.

SECTION 1.

[E 5908/2429/25] No. 1.

Record of Second Meeting with Fuad Bey Hamza, held at the Foreign Office on September 20, 1934.

THE meeting was attended by—

Mr. Rendel.
Fuad Bey Hamza (Deputy Saudi Arabian Minister for Foreign Affairs).
Sheikh Hafiz Wahba (Saudi Arabian Minister in London).
Sir Andrew Ryan (His Majesty's Minister at Jedda).
Mr. Johnstone.

Mr. Rendel recalled that, at Fuad Bey's request, it had been agreed on the previous day to begin the present discussion by examining the problem of the eastern and south-eastern frontiers of Saudi Arabia. As the Saudi Government were aware, His Majesty's Government were satisfied as to the continued legal validity of the position established by the Anglo-Turkish Conventions of 1913 and 1914. They saw nothing to be gained, however, by pursuing the discussion on purely legal lines if there were any other means of reaching a satisfactory settlement; they realised that King Ibn Saud felt strongly on the subject; and they considered that a friendly adjustment of the matter should be possible. They were anxious for a friendly settlement of all outstanding questions with King Ibn Saud, but, in the first place, they would like to know more about King Ibn Saud's own views on the frontier problem. His Majesty's Government had certain important responsibilities east of the "blue line," which King Ibn Saud had recognised. It was desirable to establish some agreed boundary in the region in question; but, before going any further, it was necessary to have some idea of King Ibn Saud's desiderata.

Fuad Bey expressed his satisfaction at hearing that His Majesty's Government did not intend to take their stand rigidly on what they considered their legal rights. King Ibn Saud, he said, was not aiming at expansion, nor did he desire to hold anything which he had not held before. The appeal of His Majesty's Government to the two Anglo-Turkish Conventions had, however, come as a great shock to him. Those conventions had not been referred to on past occasions, either at the time of the conclusion of the treaty of 1915, under which the question of King Ibn Saud's eastern frontiers was left open to further discussion, or at the time of the negotiation of the Treaty of Jedda in 1927, when King Ibn Saud had enquired about the relations of His Majesty's Government with the Arab chiefs of the Persian Gulf, and had been furnished with copies of a number of agreements, but not of these. Meanwhile, Fuad Bey was awaiting details regarding the boundary line which King Ibn Saud wished to propose, and he expected to receive these by Monday, the 24th September. Speaking generally, he considered that King Ibn Saud would claim that those tribes who had long been considered his subjects should continue under his rule, and that their territories should be included in his dominions; he cited particularly the Murra and Manasir tribes. To the south, he suggested that the Qara Mountains beyond the Ruba-al-Khali might be a suitable boundary.

Mr. Rendel pointed out to him that the latter claim was a very far-reaching one, as the Qara Mountains were close to the south coast of Arabia. It was clear from Mr. Bertram Thomas's journeys and maps that there was an extensive area between these mountains and the Ruba-al-Khali, which appeared always to have been part of the territory of Muscat.

Fuad Bey then mentioned another line of hills further north, and implied that Ibn Saud did not wish to claim any territory to the south beyond the Ruba-al-Khali; but the point was not pursued.

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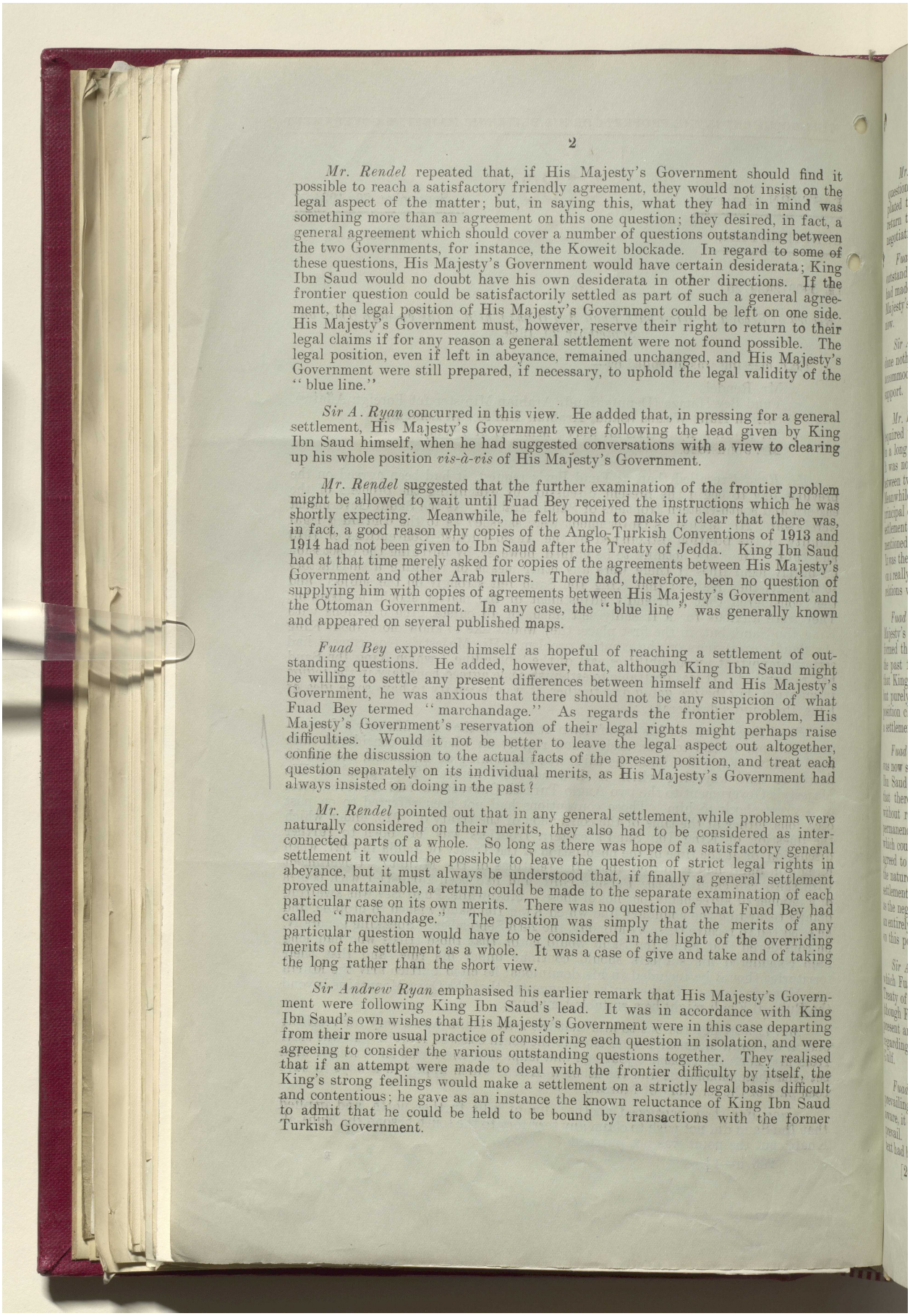

Mr. Rendel repeated that, if His Majesty's Government should find it possible to reach a satisfactory friendly agreement, they would not insist on the legal aspect of the matter; but, in saying this, what they had in mind was something more than an agreement on this one question; they desired, in fact, a general agreement which should cover a number of questions outstanding between the two Governments, for instance, the Koweit blockade. In regard to some of these questions, His Majesty's Government would have certain desiderata; King Ibn Saud would no doubt have his own desiderata in other directions. If the frontier question could be satisfactorily settled as part of such a general agreement, the legal position of His Majesty's Government could be left on one side. His Majesty's Government must, however, reserve their right to return to their legal claims if for any reason a general settlement were not found possible. The legal position, even if left in abeyance, remained unchanged, and His Majesty's Government were still prepared, if necessary, to uphold the legal validity of the "blue line."

Sir A. Ryan concurred in this view. He added that, in pressing for a general settlement, His Majesty's Government were following the lead given by King Ibn Saud himself, when he had suggested conversations with a view to clearing up his whole position *vis-à-vis* of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Rendel suggested that the further examination of the frontier problem might be allowed to wait until Fuad Bey received the instructions which he was shortly expecting. Meanwhile, he felt bound to make it clear that there was, in fact, a good reason why copies of the Anglo-Turkish Conventions of 1913 and 1914 had not been given to Ibn Saud after the Treaty of Jedda. King Ibn Saud had at that time merely asked for copies of the agreements between His Majesty's Government and other Arab rulers. There had, therefore, been no question of supplying him with copies of agreements between His Majesty's Government and the Ottoman Government. In any case, the "blue line" was generally known and appeared on several published maps.

Fuad Bey expressed himself as hopeful of reaching a settlement of outstanding questions. He added, however, that, although King Ibn Saud might be willing to settle any present differences between himself and His Majesty's Government, he was anxious that there should not be any suspicion of what Fuad Bey termed "marchandage." As regards the frontier problem, His Majesty's Government's reservation of their legal rights might perhaps raise difficulties. Would it not be better to leave the legal aspect out altogether, confine the discussion to the actual facts of the present position, and treat each question separately on its individual merits, as His Majesty's Government had always insisted on doing in the past?

Mr. Rendel pointed out that in any general settlement, while problems were naturally considered on their merits, they also had to be considered as interconnected parts of a whole. So long as there was hope of a satisfactory general settlement it would be possible to leave the question of strict legal rights in abeyance, but it must always be understood that, if finally a general settlement proved unattainable, a return could be made to the separate examination of each particular case on its own merits. There was no question of what Fuad Bey had called "marchandage." The position was simply that the merits of any particular question would have to be considered in the light of the overriding merits of the settlement as a whole. It was a case of give and take and of taking the long rather than the short view.

Sir Andrew Ryan emphasised his earlier remark that His Majesty's Government were following King Ibn Saud's lead. It was in accordance with King Ibn Saud's own wishes that His Majesty's Government were in this case departing from their more usual practice of considering each question in isolation, and were agreeing to consider the various outstanding questions together. They realised that if an attempt were made to deal with the frontier difficulty by itself, the King's strong feelings would make a settlement on a strictly legal basis difficult and contentious; he gave as an instance the known reluctance of King Ibn Saud to admit that he could be held to be bound by transactions with the former Turkish Government.

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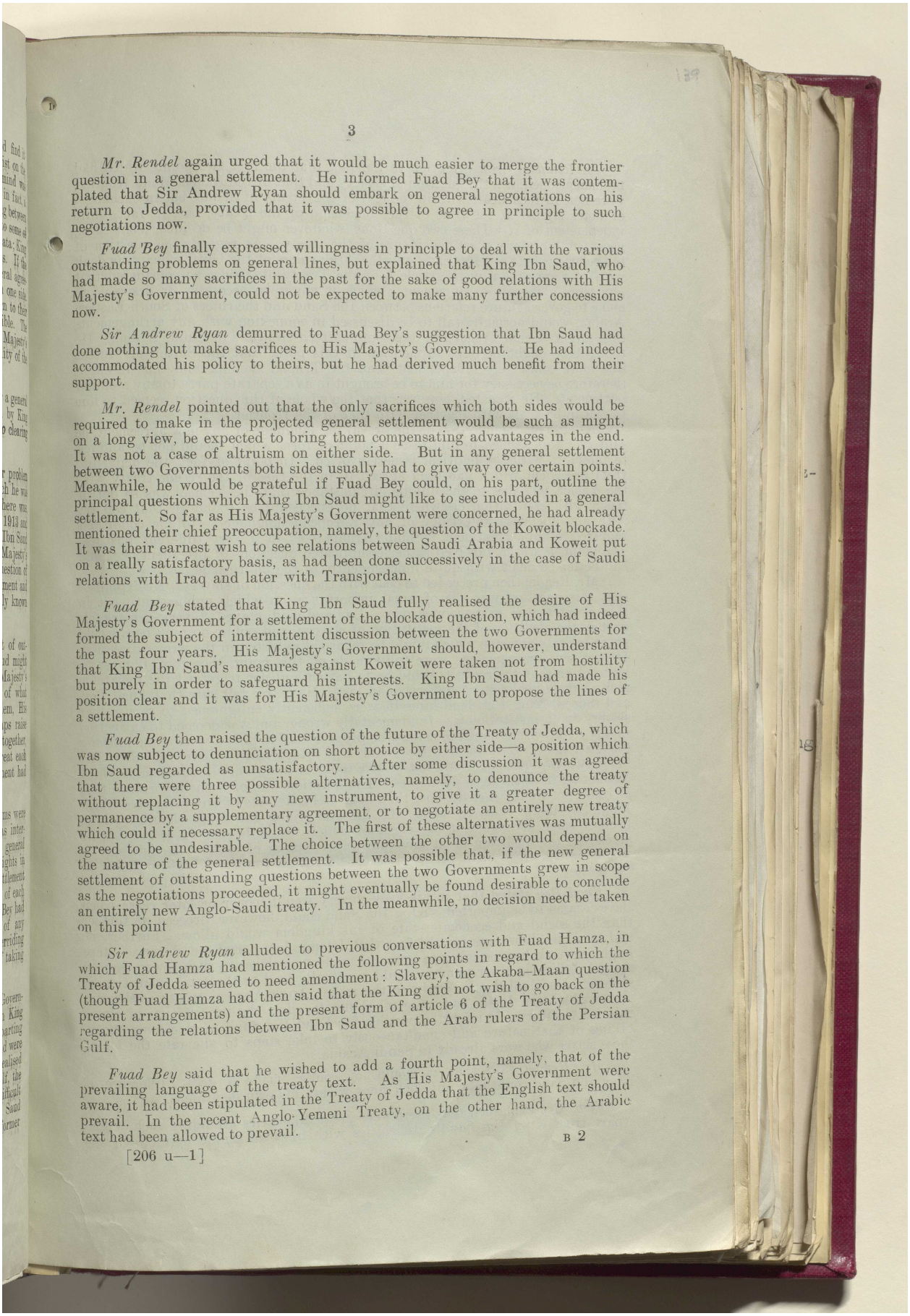

Mr. Rendel again urged that it would be much easier to merge the frontier question in a general settlement. He informed Fuad Bey that it was contemplated that Sir Andrew Ryan should embark on general negotiations on his return to Jedda, provided that it was possible to agree in principle to such negotiations now.

Fuad Bey finally expressed willingness in principle to deal with the various outstanding problems on general lines, but explained that King Ibn Saud, who had made so many sacrifices in the past for the sake of good relations with His Majesty's Government, could not be expected to make many further concessions now.

Sir Andrew Ryan demurred to Fuad Bey's suggestion that Ibn Saud had done nothing but make sacrifices to His Majesty's Government. He had indeed accommodated his policy to theirs, but he had derived much benefit from their support.

Mr. Rendel pointed out that the only sacrifices which both sides would be required to make in the projected general settlement would be such as might, on a long view, be expected to bring them compensating advantages in the end. It was not a case of altruism on either side. But in any general settlement between two Governments both sides usually had to give way over certain points. Meanwhile, he would be grateful if Fuad Bey could, on his part, outline the principal questions which King Ibn Saud might like to see included in a general settlement. So far as His Majesty's Government were concerned, he had already mentioned their chief preoccupation, namely, the question of the Koweit blockade. It was their earnest wish to see relations between Saudi Arabia and Koweit put on a really satisfactory basis, as had been done successively in the case of Saudi relations with Iraq and later with Transjordan.

Fuad Bey stated that King Ibn Saud fully realised the desire of His Majesty's Government for a settlement of the blockade question, which had indeed formed the subject of intermittent discussion between the two Governments for the past four years. His Majesty's Government should, however, understand that King Ibn Saud's measures against Koweit were taken not from hostility but purely in order to safeguard his interests. King Ibn Saud had made his position clear and it was for His Majesty's Government to propose the lines of a settlement.

Fuad Bey then raised the question of the future of the Treaty of Jedda, which was now subject to denunciation on short notice by either side—a position which Ibn Saud regarded as unsatisfactory. After some discussion it was agreed that there were three possible alternatives, namely, to denounce the treaty without replacing it by any new instrument, to give it a greater degree of permanence by a supplementary agreement, or to negotiate an entirely new treaty which could if necessary replace it. The first of these alternatives was mutually agreed to be undesirable. The choice between the other two would depend on the nature of the general settlement. It was possible that, if the new general settlement of outstanding questions between the two Governments grew in scope as the negotiations proceeded, it might eventually be found desirable to conclude an entirely new Anglo-Saudi treaty. In the meanwhile, no decision need be taken on this point

Sir Andrew Ryan alluded to previous conversations with Fuad Hamza, in which Fuad Hamza had mentioned the following points in regard to which the Treaty of Jedda seemed to need amendment: Slavery, the Akaba–Maan question (though Fuad Hamza had then said that the King did not wish to go back on the present arrangements) and the present form of article 6 of the Treaty of Jedda regarding the relations between Ibn Saud and the Arab rulers of the Persian Gulf.

Fuad Bey said that he wished to add a fourth point, namely, that of the prevailing language of the treaty text. As His Majesty's Government were aware, it had been stipulated in the Treaty of Jedda that the English text should prevail. In the recent Anglo-Yemeni Treaty, on the other hand, the Arabic text had been allowed to prevail.

[206 u—1]

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Mr. Rendel drew attention to the fact that the first two points which had been mentioned, *i.e.*, the question of slavery and that of the Akaba–Maan frontier, were not, in fact, dealt with in the text of the Treaty of Jedda, but in exchanges of notes signed at the time of the conclusion of the treaty, but, in fact, quite independent of it. These two questions, whatever might be decided about them, need not therefore affect the future of the treaty. As regards the question of the relations between Ibn Saud and the Arab rulers of the Gulf, which was dealt with in a general way in article 6 of the Treaty of Jedda, he considered that any more elaborate arrangements, which it might be necessary or desirable to make to govern future relations between Ibn Saud and the rulers of South-Eastern Arabia, would normally fall to be discussed in connexion with any arrangements that might be made regarding the south-eastern frontiers of Saudi Arabia. He thought he ought perhaps to mention at this point that the Sultan of Muscat was more completely independent than the Trucial sheikhs, and that it might therefore be necessary for him to be brought in as a separate party to any eventual settlement. He repeated, however, that the whole of this question seemed to him to fall to be dealt with together with that of the frontier.

As regards the question of the prevailing language of any new agreement, he said that this seemed to him to be a point of form which should not be allowed to interfere with the political issues involved. In point of fact, the departure from precedent which had been agreed to in the case of the recent treaty with the Yemen was due to the unique circumstance that the Yemen was so out of touch with civilisation elsewhere that no one could be found in that country with any adequate knowledge of any European language. Unique conditions required unique treatment. Saudi Arabia was in a very different position. The point, however, involved rather complicated questions of precedent, &c., and had better be dealt with quite independently of the political issues.

Mr. Rendel then proceeded to deal with the question of slavery. He explained that this question was one of great importance, on which public sentiment in this country was extremely strong. England had played a very remarkable part in the abolition of the institution of slavery, and public opinion here would never tolerate any step which might be regarded as a step in the wrong direction. If any new arrangements were to be made on this point, therefore, it must be quite clear that their effect would be to hasten and not to retard the inevitable and ultimate abolition of slavery as an institution. He felt sure that Fuad Bey, and indeed King Ibn Saud himself, were sufficiently enlightened to realise that slavery an an institution was fundamentally wrong, and was doomed to extinction in any country that hoped to make true progress and to play a worthy part among the nations of the world. He could say categorically, therefore, that His Majesty's Government would not be able to agree to any new arrangement which did not fit in with these principles. The question was of such importance that he could not in any case do more than hear and take note of any proposals which Fuad Bey might wish to make. If, however, King Ibn Saud should wish to propose some arrangement the effect of which would be not to retard but to accelerate the abolition or at any rate the reduction of slavery, he felt sure it would be examined with all possible consideration for the King's position in the matter.

Fuad Bey stated that in his view slavery would sooner or later cease when slaves ceased to be imported. King Ibn Saud could, however, proceed no further than the social and economic state of his kingdom would allow. Further, he had to make allowances for the fact that Islamic law permitted slavery. Steps might, nevertheless, be taken to limit the number of slaves in such a way that an annual decline in their number would eventually lead to the total extinction of slavery. He alluded once again to the recent Anglo-Yemeni treaty settlement, under which the Imam had undertaken not to allow the importation of slaves into his territory. It might be possible for King Ibn Saud to give some undertaking of that nature and simultaneously to take steps to alleviate the lot of those slaves who were already in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Rendel said that it would, of course, make a great difference if King Ibn Saud could take any such steps within his own dominions.

Fuad Bey explained that there were great difficulties attending such action. Apart from King Ibn Saud's difficulties with his own public opinion, it was

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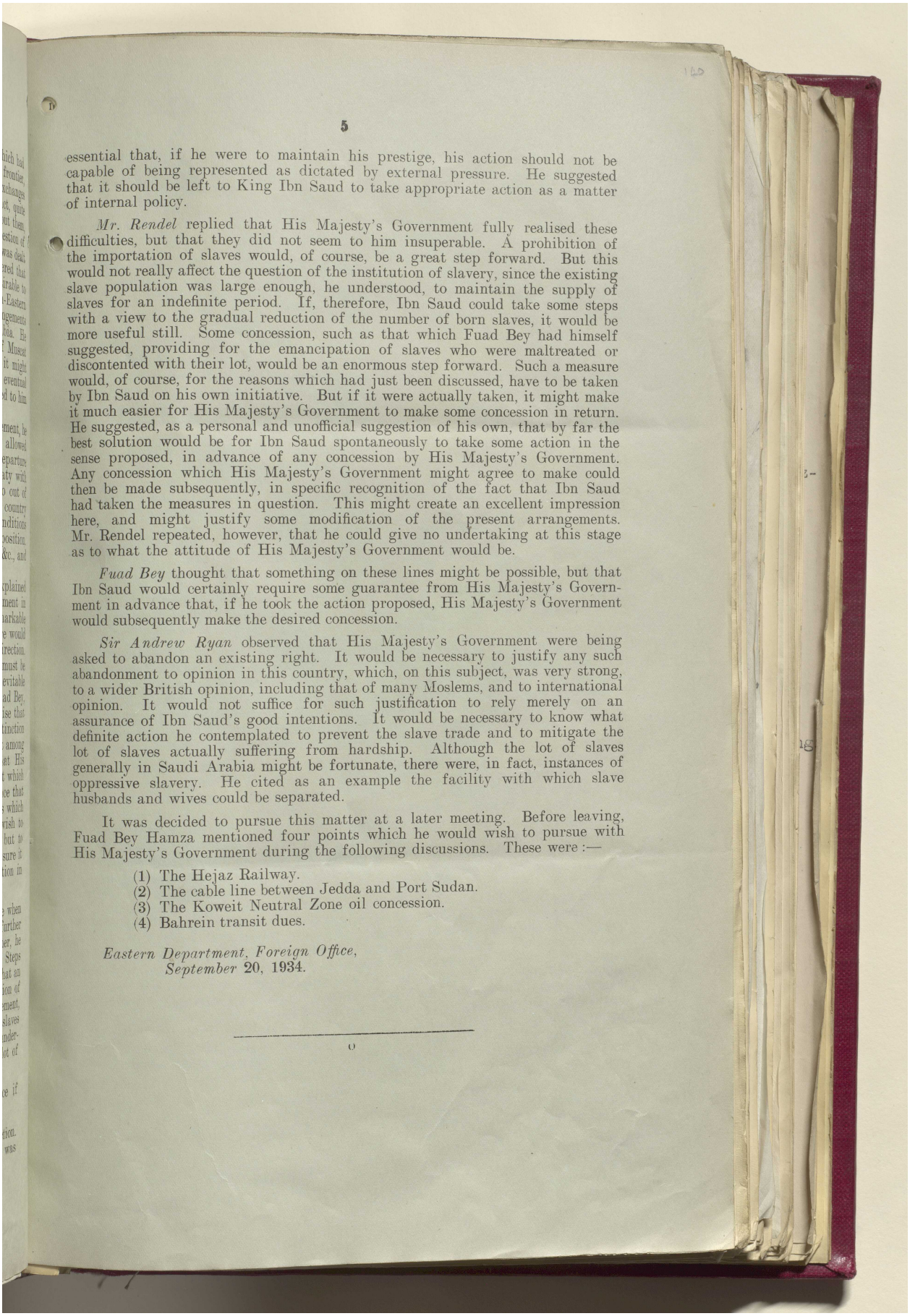

essential that, if he were to maintain his prestige, his action should not be capable of being represented as dictated by external pressure. He suggested that it should be left to King Ibn Saud to take appropriate action as a matter of internal policy.

Mr. Rendel replied that His Majesty's Government fully realised these difficulties, but that they did not seem to him insuperable. A prohibition of the importation of slaves would, of course, be a great step forward. But this would not really affect the question of the institution of slavery, since the existing slave population was large enough, he understood, to maintain the supply of slaves for an indefinite period. If, therefore, Ibn Saud could take some steps with a view to the gradual reduction of the number of born slaves, it would be more useful still. Some concession, such as that which Fuad Bey had himself suggested, providing for the emancipation of slaves who were maltreated or discontented with their lot, would be an enormous step forward. Such a measure would, of course, for the reasons which had just been discussed, have to be taken by Ibn Saud on his own initiative. But if it were actually taken, it might make it much easier for His Majesty's Government to make some concession in return. He suggested, as a personal and unofficial suggestion of his own, that by far the best solution would be for Ibn Saud spontaneously to take some action in the sense proposed, in advance of any concession by His Majesty's Government. Any concession which His Majesty's Government might agree to make could then be made subsequently, in specific recognition of the fact that Ibn Saud had taken the measures in question. This might create an excellent impression here, and might justify some modification of the present arrangements. Mr. Rendel repeated, however, that he could give no undertaking at this stage as to what the attitude of His Majesty's Government would be.

Fuad Bey thought that something on these lines might be possible, but that Ibn Saud would certainly require some guarantee from His Majesty's Government in advance that, if he took the action proposed, His Majesty's Government would subsequently make the desired concession.

Sir Andrew Ryan observed that His Majesty's Government were being asked to abandon an existing right. It would be necessary to justify any such abandonment to opinion in this country, which, on this subject, was very strong, to a wider British opinion, including that of many Moslems, and to international opinion. It would not suffice for such justification to rely merely on an assurance of Ibn Saud's good intentions. It would be necessary to know what definite action he contemplated to prevent the slave trade and to mitigate the lot of slaves actually suffering from hardship. Although the lot of slaves generally in Saudi Arabia might be fortunate, there were, in fact, instances of oppressive slavery. He cited as an example the facility with which slave husbands and wives could be separated.

It was decided to pursue this matter at a later meeting. Before leaving, Fuad Bey Hamza mentioned four points which he would wish to pursue with His Majesty's Government during the following discussions. These were :—

(1) The Hejaz Railway.
(2) The cable line between Jedda and Port Sudan.
(3) The Koweit Neutral Zone oil concession.
(4) Bahrein transit dues.

Eastern Department, Foreign Office,
September 20, 1934.

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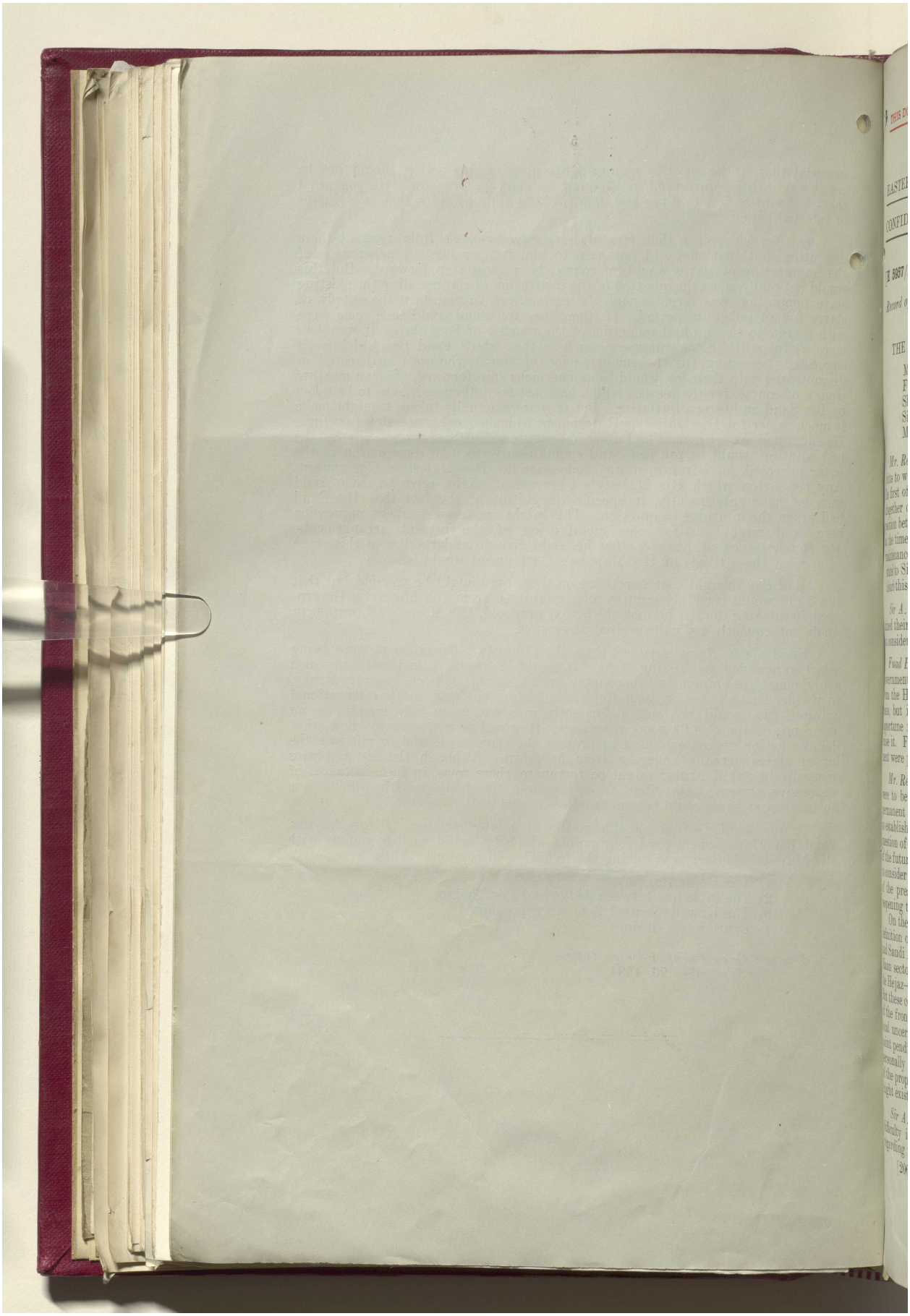

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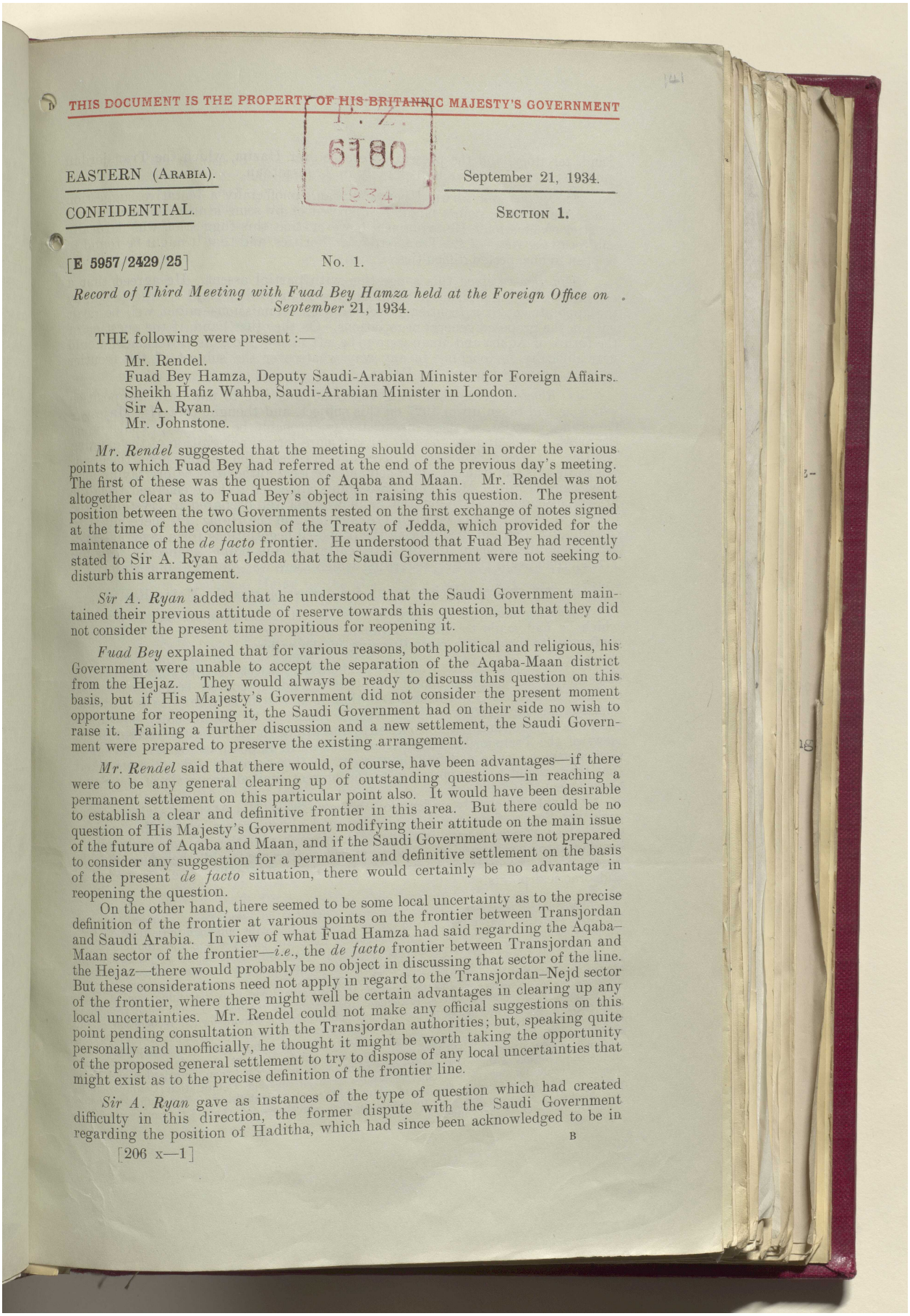

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P. Z. 6180 1934

EASTERN (ARABIA). September 21, 1934.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 5957/2429/25] No. 1.

Record of Third Meeting with Fuad Bey Hamza held at the Foreign Office on September 21, 1934.

THE following were present :—

Mr. Rendel.
Fuad Bey Hamza, Deputy Saudi-Arabian Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, Saudi-Arabian Minister in London.
Sir A. Ryan.
Mr. Johnstone.

Mr. Rendel suggested that the meeting should consider in order the various points to which Fuad Bey had referred at the end of the previous day's meeting. The first of these was the question of Aqaba and Maan. Mr. Rendel was not altogether clear as to Fuad Bey's object in raising this question. The present position between the two Governments rested on the first exchange of notes signed at the time of the conclusion of the Treaty of Jedda, which provided for the maintenance of the *de facto* frontier. He understood that Fuad Bey had recently stated to Sir A. Ryan at Jedda that the Saudi Government were not seeking to disturb this arrangement.

Sir A. Ryan added that he understood that the Saudi Government maintained their previous attitude of reserve towards this question, but that they did not consider the present time propitious for reopening it.

Fuad Bey explained that for various reasons, both political and religious, his Government were unable to accept the separation of the Aqaba-Maan district from the Hejaz. They would always be ready to discuss this question on this basis, but if His Majesty's Government did not consider the present moment opportune for reopening it, the Saudi Government had on their side no wish to raise it. Failing a further discussion and a new settlement, the Saudi Government were prepared to preserve the existing arrangement.

Mr. Rendel said that there would, of course, have been advantages—if there were to be any general clearing up of outstanding questions—in reaching a permanent settlement on this particular point also. It would have been desirable to establish a clear and definitive frontier in this area. But there could be no question of His Majesty's Government modifying their attitude on the main issue of the future of Aqaba and Maan, and if the Saudi Government were not prepared to consider any suggestion for a permanent and definitive settlement on the basis of the present *de facto* situation, there would certainly be no advantage in reopening the question.

On the other hand, there seemed to be some local uncertainty as to the precise definition of the frontier at various points on the frontier between Transjordan and Saudi Arabia. In view of what Fuad Hamza had said regarding the Aqaba–Maan sector of the frontier—*i.e.*, the *de facto* frontier between Transjordan and the Hejaz—there would probably be no object in discussing that sector of the line. But these considerations need not apply in regard to the Transjordan–Nejd sector of the frontier, where there might well be certain advantages in clearing up any local uncertainties. Mr. Rendel could not make any official suggestions on this point pending consultation with the Transjordan authorities; but, speaking quite personally and unofficially, he thought it might be worth taking the opportunity of the proposed general settlement to try to dispose of any local uncertainties that might exist as to the precise definition of the frontier line.

Sir A. Ryan gave as instances of the type of question which had created difficulty in this direction, the former dispute with the Saudi Government regarding the position of Haditha, which had since been acknowledged to be in

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Saudi territory, and the present difference over Hazim, which the Transjordan authorities considered as indisputably in Transjordan.

Mr. Rendel put forward personally and unofficially a tentative suggestion that some of these points might be disposed of by some kind of local technical frontier commission. He explained, however, that this suggestion was naturally subject to the views of the Transjordan authorities, and that it might be found to be open to unexpected difficulties.

Fuad Bey received this suggestion with partial assent. He agreed that a clarification of the position in regard to the Transjordan–Nejd frontier—*e.g.*, by the appointment of a frontier or delimitation commission—might well be dealt with in the proposed general negotiations. On the other hand, if the question of the future of Aqaba and Maan were to be left in abeyance, his Government would have difficulty in touching in any way whatsoever the subject of the frontier between Transjordan and the Hejaz.

Mr. Rendel agreed that King Ibn Saud was free to maintain the position which he had taken up in 1927 on this subject, and thought that His Majesty's Government would, in these circumstances, probably be content to continue on the present basis, and not to press for any more formal recognition of the existing frontier. It would, however, be necessary to consult the various departments of His Majesty's Government concerned and the local authorities before saying anything more definite. Meanwhile, two points appeared to have emerged from the present discussion: (1) King Ibn Saud was not yet prepared to crystallise the present *de facto* frontier between Transjordan and the Hejaz; (2) there might be certain advantages in including in the proposed negotiations for a general settlement some arrangement for the clarification of any points connected with the Transjordan–Nejd frontier, regarding which there was any local uncertainty.(1)

The next subject which came up for discussion was the Hejaz Railway.

Fuad Bey enquired the views of His Majesty's Government on the proposal which he had made to Sir A. Ryan at Jedda for the calling of a technical conference to discuss the reconditioning of the railway.

It was explained that at first sight His Majesty's Government had no objection to the Saudi proposal, but that it had, of course, been necessary to consult the French Government, and that it was still necessary to consult the Transjordan authorities. There seemed likely to be no difficulty so far as the French Government were concerned, and although, pending the receipt of the views of the Transjordan authorities, it was still impossible for His Majesty's Government to make a definite statement on this point, it did not seem likely that there would be any objection to the present limited proposals of the Saudi Government.

It should be clearly understood, however, that His Majesty's Government could not depart from the attitude they had always taken up on this subject, *i.e.*, that such wider issues as that of the ownership of the railway could not be brought into the discussion. The proposed conference could, therefore, only be agreed to on the clear understanding that it should confine itself to technical and practical points.

(1) *Confidential Footnote.*—The uncertainties regarding the Transjordan frontiers to which Mr. Rendel referred are, in fact, due to the inaccuracy of the maps on which those frontiers were originally plotted. As a result of this inaccuracy there are places where the frontiers are in doubt, to an extent of as much as 20 miles. His Majesty's Government appear to have good legal grounds for maintaining their own interpretation of the frontier, but the matter has never been cleared up with the Saudi Government. The suggestions made at this meeting were intended to leave the door open for a settlement of this question, which is becoming one of some importance, as part of any general settlement that might be reached. It had been recognised from the first that it was likely to prove impossible to obtain a more formal recognition of the *de facto* frontier between Transjordan and the Hejaz, and that any attempt to redefine this *de facto* frontier might be a very delicate matter. On the other hand, the alignment of the eastern part of the frontier (which is one of the main points in doubt) depends to a great extent on the true position of the southern terminal point of the frontier between Transjordan and Nejd, which it would be one of the objects of any Transjordan-Nejd Delimitation Commission to establish. The delimitation of the Transjordan–Nejd frontier might thus in effect suffice to enable His Majesty's Government also to establish the correctness of their interpretation of the Transjordan–Hejaz *de facto* line.

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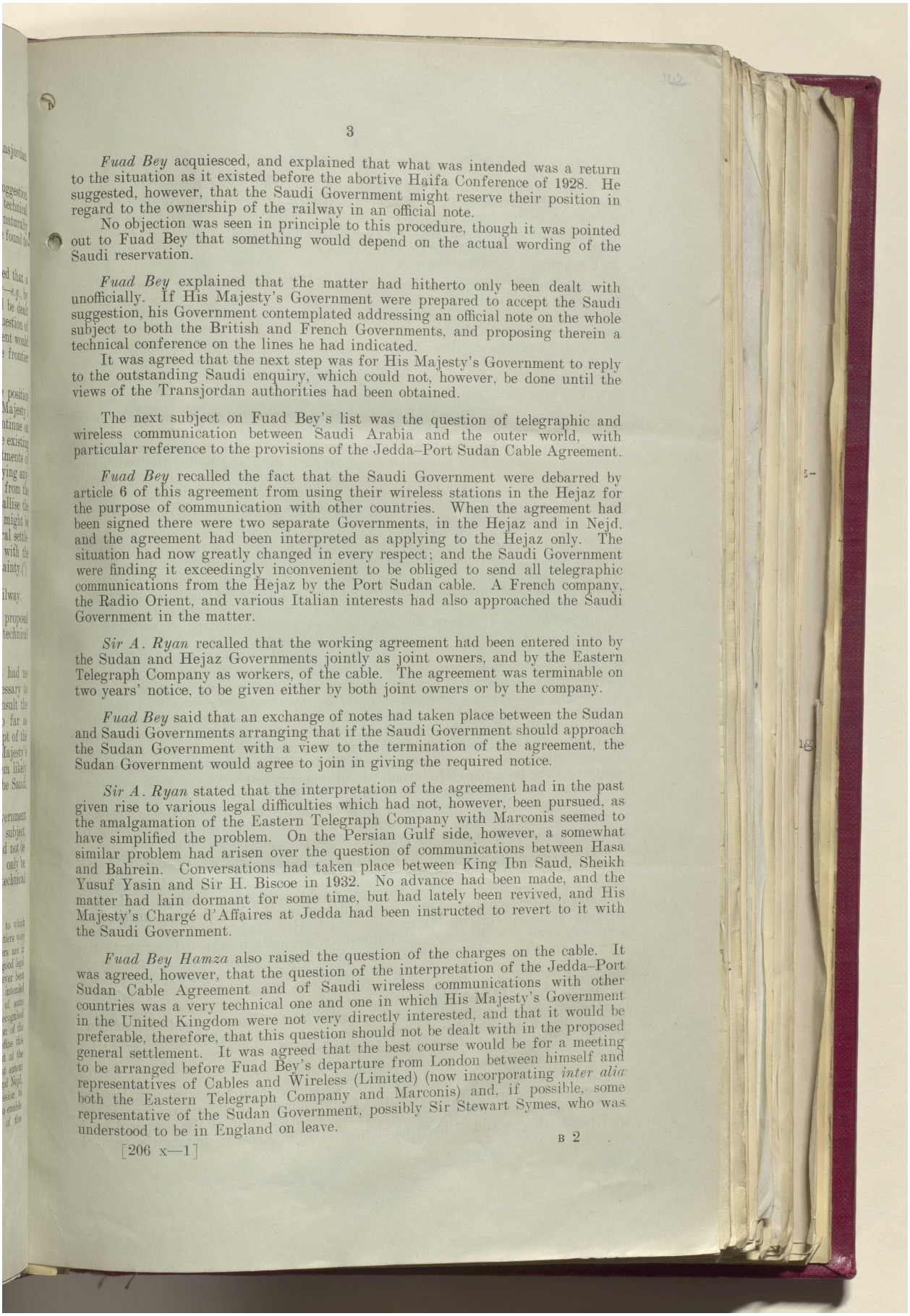

Fuad Bey acquiesced, and explained that what was intended was a return to the situation as it existed before the abortive Haifa Conference of 1928. He suggested, however, that the Saudi Government might reserve their position in regard to the ownership of the railway in an official note.

No objection was seen in principle to this procedure, though it was pointed out to Fuad Bey that something would depend on the actual wording of the Saudi reservation.

Fuad Bey explained that the matter had hitherto only been dealt with unofficially. If His Majesty's Government were prepared to accept the Saudi suggestion, his Government contemplated addressing an official note on the whole subject to both the British and French Governments, and proposing therein a technical conference on the lines he had indicated.

It was agreed that the next step was for His Majesty's Government to reply to the outstanding Saudi enquiry, which could not, however, be done until the views of the Transjordan authorities had been obtained.

The next subject on Fuad Bey's list was the question of telegraphic and wireless communication between Saudi Arabia and the outer world, with particular reference to the provisions of the Jedda–Port Sudan Cable Agreement.

Fuad Bey recalled the fact that the Saudi Government were debarred by article 6 of this agreement from using their wireless stations in the Hejaz for the purpose of communication with other countries. When the agreement had been signed there were two separate Governments, in the Hejaz and in Nejd, and the agreement had been interpreted as applying to the Hejaz only. The situation had now greatly changed in every respect; and the Saudi Government were finding it exceedingly inconvenient to be obliged to send all telegraphic communications from the Hejaz by the Port Sudan cable. A French company, the Radio Orient, and various Italian interests had also approached the Saudi Government in the matter.

Sir A. Ryan recalled that the working agreement had been entered into by the Sudan and Hejaz Governments jointly as joint owners, and by the Eastern Telegraph Company as workers, of the cable. The agreement was terminable on two years' notice, to be given either by both joint owners or by the company.

Fuad Bey said that an exchange of notes had taken place between the Sudan and Saudi Governments arranging that if the Saudi Government should approach the Sudan Government with a view to the termination of the agreement, the Sudan Government would agree to join in giving the required notice.

Sir A. Ryan stated that the interpretation of the agreement had in the past given rise to various legal difficulties which had not, however, been pursued, as the amalgamation of the Eastern Telegraph Company with Marconis seemed to have simplified the problem. On the Persian Gulf side, however, a somewhat similar problem had arisen over the question of communications between Hasa and Bahrein. Conversations had taken place between King Ibn Saud, Sheikh Yusuf Yasin and Sir H. Biscoe in 1932. No advance had been made, and the matter had lain dormant for some time, but had lately been revived, and His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Jedda had been instructed to revert to it with the Saudi Government.

Fuad Bey Hamza also raised the question of the charges on the cable. It was agreed, however, that the question of the interpretation of the Jedda–Port Sudan Cable Agreement and of Saudi wireless communications with other countries was a very technical one and one in which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom were not very directly interested, and that it would be preferable, therefore, that this question should not be dealt with in the proposed general settlement. It was agreed that the best course would be for a meeting to be arranged before Fuad Bey's departure from London between himself and representatives of Cables and Wireless (Limited) (now incorporating *inter alia* both the Eastern Telegraph Company and Marconis) and, if possible, some representative of the Sudan Government, possibly Sir Stewart Symes, who was understood to be in England on leave.

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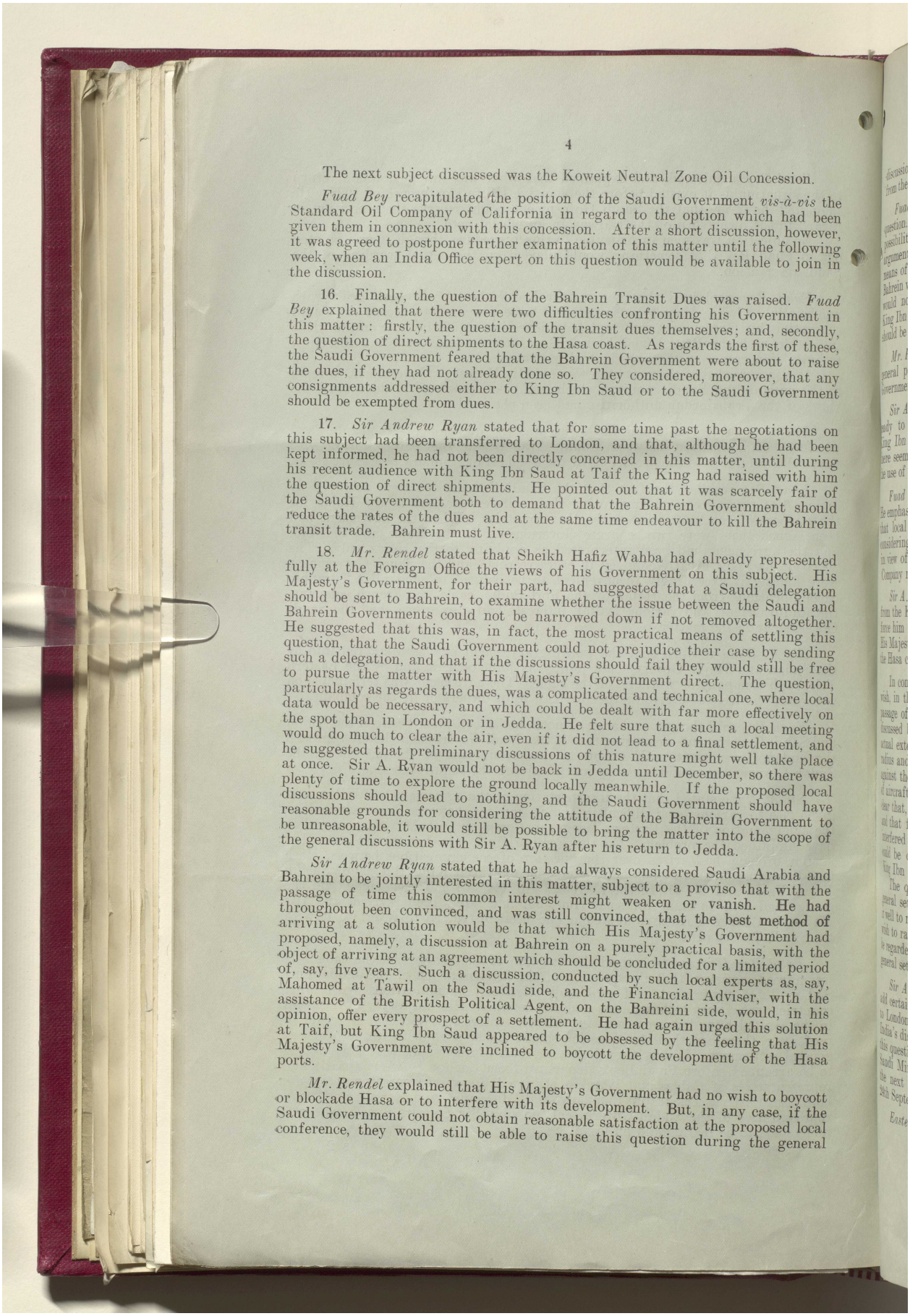

The next subject discussed was the Koweit Neutral Zone Oil Concession.

Fuad Bey recapitulated the position of the Saudi Government *vis-à-vis* the Standard Oil Company of California in regard to the option which had been given them in connexion with this concession. After a short discussion, however, it was agreed to postpone further examination of this matter until the following week, when an India Office expert on this question would be available to join in the discussion.

16. Finally, the question of the Bahrein Transit Dues was raised. *Fuad Bey* explained that there were two difficulties confronting his Government in this matter: firstly, the question of the transit dues themselves; and, secondly, the question of direct shipments to the Hasa coast. As regards the first of these, the Saudi Government feared that the Bahrein Government were about to raise the dues, if they had not already done so. They considered, moreover, that any consignments addressed either to King Ibn Saud or to the Saudi Government should be exempted from dues.

17. *Sir Andrew Ryan* stated that for some time past the negotiations on this subject had been transferred to London, and that, although he had been kept informed, he had not been directly concerned in this matter, until during his recent audience with King Ibn Saud at Taif the King had raised with him the question of direct shipments. He pointed out that it was scarcely fair of the Saudi Government both to demand that the Bahrein Government should reduce the rates of the dues and at the same time endeavour to kill the Bahrein transit trade. Bahrein must live.

18. *Mr. Rendel* stated that Sheikh Hafiz Wahba had already represented fully at the Foreign Office the views of his Government on this subject. His Majesty's Government, for their part, had suggested that a Saudi delegation should be sent to Bahrein, to examine whether the issue between the Saudi and Bahrein Governments could not be narrowed down if not removed altogether. He suggested that this was, in fact, the most practical means of settling this question, that the Saudi Government could not prejudice their case by sending such a delegation, and that if the discussions should fail they would still be free to pursue the matter with His Majesty's Government direct. The question, particularly as regards the dues, was a complicated and technical one, where local data would be necessary, and which could be dealt with far more effectively on the spot than in London or in Jedda. He felt sure that such a local meeting would do much to clear the air, even if it did not lead to a final settlement, and he suggested that preliminary discussions of this nature might well take place at once. Sir A. Ryan would not be back in Jedda until December, so there was plenty of time to explore the ground locally meanwhile. If the proposed local discussions should lead to nothing, and the Saudi Government should have reasonable grounds for considering the attitude of the Bahrein Government to be unreasonable, it would still be possible to bring the matter into the scope of the general discussions with Sir A. Ryan after his return to Jedda.

Sir Andrew Ryan stated that he had always considered Saudi Arabia and Bahrein to be jointly interested in this matter, subject to a proviso that with the passage of time this common interest might weaken or vanish. He had throughout been convinced, and was still convinced, that the best method of arriving at a solution would be that which His Majesty's Government had proposed, namely, a discussion at Bahrein on a purely practical basis, with the object of arriving at an agreement which should be concluded for a limited period of, say, five years. Such a discussion, conducted by such local experts as, say, Mahomed at Tawil on the Saudi side, and the Financial Adviser, with the assistance of the British Political Agent, on the Bahreini side, would, in his opinion, offer every prospect of a settlement. He had again urged this solution at Taif, but King Ibn Saud appeared to be obsessed by the feeling that His Majesty's Government were inclined to boycott the development of the Hasa ports.

Mr. Rendel explained that His Majesty's Government had no wish to boycott or blockade Hasa or to interfere with its development. But, in any case, if the Saudi Government could not obtain reasonable satisfaction at the proposed local conference, they would still be able to raise this question during the general

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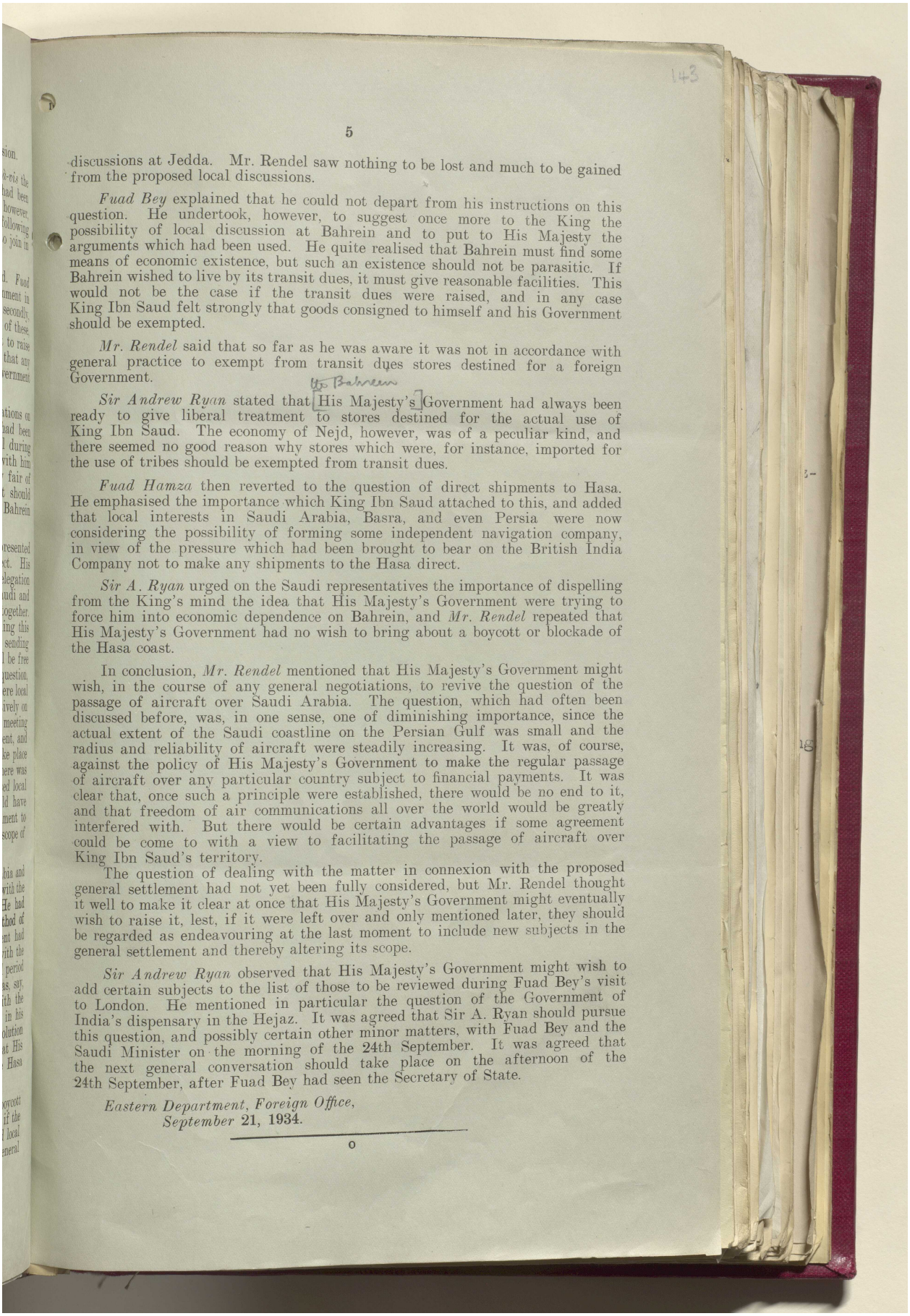

discussions at Jedda. Mr. Rendel saw nothing to be lost and much to be gained from the proposed local discussions.

Fuad Bey explained that he could not depart from his instructions on this question. He undertook, however, to suggest once more to the King the possibility of local discussion at Bahrein and to put to His Majesty the arguments which had been used. He quite realised that Bahrein must find some means of economic existence, but such an existence should not be parasitic. If Bahrein wished to live by its transit dues, it must give reasonable facilities. This would not be the case if the transit dues were raised, and in any case King Ibn Saud felt strongly that goods consigned to himself and his Government should be exempted.

Mr. Rendel said that so far as he was aware it was not in accordance with general practice to exempt from transit dues stores destined for a foreign Government.

Sir Andrew Ryan stated that His Majesty's Government had always been ready to give liberal treatment to stores destined for the actual use of King Ibn Saud. The economy of Nejd, however, was of a peculiar kind, and there seemed no good reason why stores which were, for instance, imported for the use of tribes should be exempted from transit dues.

Fuad Hamza then reverted to the question of direct shipments to Hasa. He emphasised the importance which King Ibn Saud attached to this, and added that local interests in Saudi Arabia, Basra, and even Persia were now considering the possibility of forming some independent navigation company, in view of the pressure which had been brought to bear on the British India Company not to make any shipments to the Hasa direct.

Sir A. Ryan urged on the Saudi representatives the importance of dispelling from the King's mind the idea that His Majesty's Government were trying to force him into economic dependence on Bahrein, and *Mr. Rendel* repeated that His Majesty's Government had no wish to bring about a boycott or blockade of the Hasa coast.

In conclusion, *Mr. Rendel* mentioned that His Majesty's Government might wish, in the course of any general negotiations, to revive the question of the passage of aircraft over Saudi Arabia. The question, which had often been discussed before, was, in one sense, one of diminishing importance, since the actual extent of the Saudi coastline on the Persian Gulf was small and the radius and reliability of aircraft were steadily increasing. It was, of course, against the policy of His Majesty's Government to make the regular passage of aircraft over any particular country subject to financial payments. It was clear that, once such a principle were established, there would be no end to it, and that freedom of air communications all over the world would be greatly interfered with. But there would be certain advantages if some agreement could be come to with a view to facilitating the passage of aircraft over King Ibn Saud's territory.

The question of dealing with the matter in connexion with the proposed general settlement had not yet been fully considered, but Mr. Rendel thought it well to make it clear at once that His Majesty's Government might eventually wish to raise it, lest, if it were left over and only mentioned later, they should be regarded as endeavouring at the last moment to include new subjects in the general settlement and thereby altering its scope.

Sir Andrew Ryan observed that His Majesty's Government might wish to add certain subjects to the list of those to be reviewed during Fuad Bey's visit to London. He mentioned in particular the question of the Government of India's dispensary in the Hejaz. It was agreed that Sir A. Ryan should pursue this question, and possibly certain other minor matters, with Fuad Bey and the Saudi Minister on the morning of the 24th September. It was agreed that the next general conversation should take place on the afternoon of the 24th September, after Fuad Bey had seen the Secretary of State.

Eastern Department, Foreign Office,
September 21, 1934.

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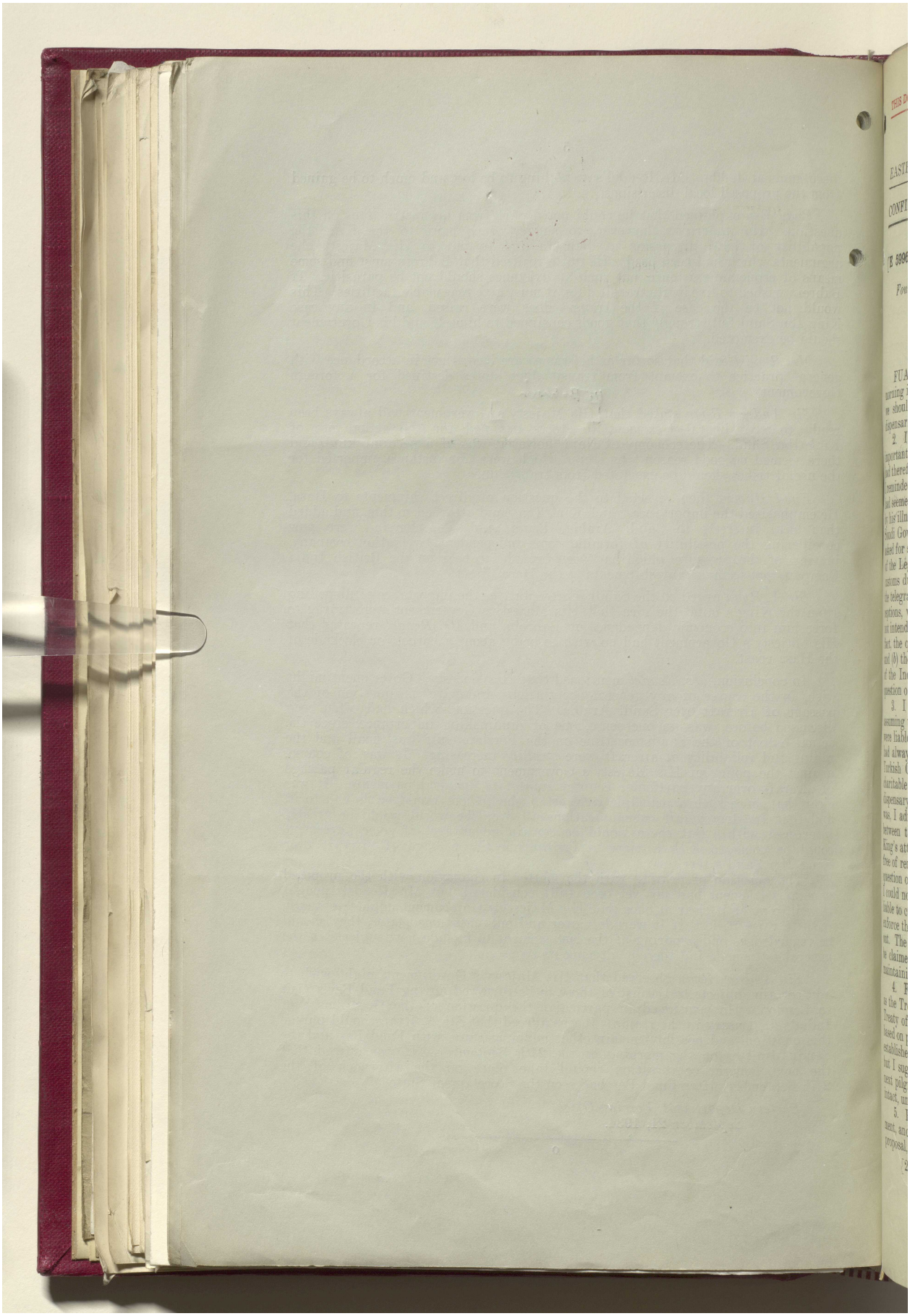

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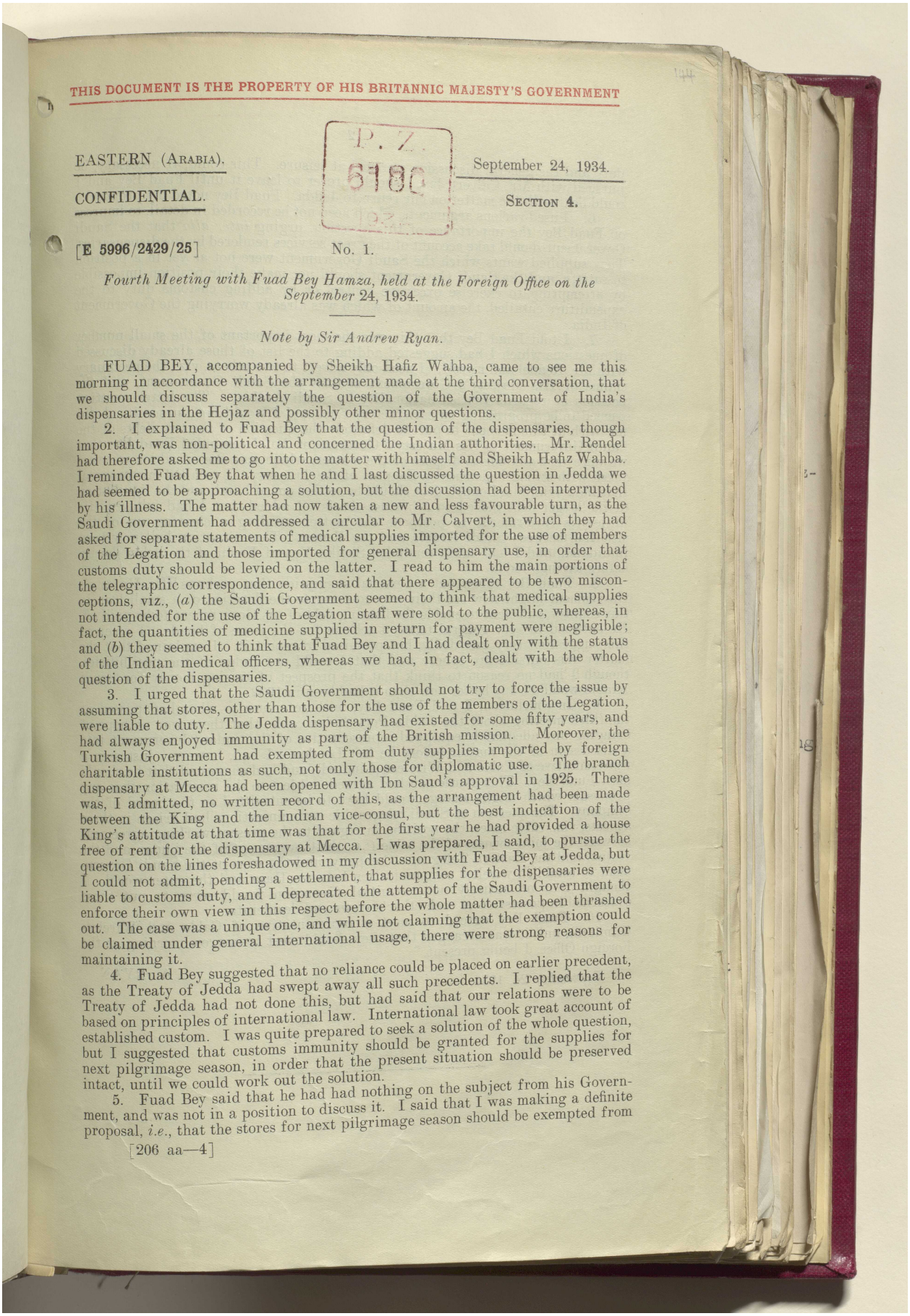

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P. Z.
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EASTERN (ARABIA).

CONFIDENTIAL.

September 24, 1934.

SECTION 4.

[E 5996/2429/25]

No. 1.

Fourth Meeting with Fuad Bey Hamza, held at the Foreign Office on the September 24, 1934.

Note by Sir Andrew Ryan.

FUAD BEY, accompanied by Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, came to see me this morning in accordance with the arrangement made at the third conversation, that we should discuss separately the question of the Government of India's dispensaries in the Hejaz and possibly other minor questions.

2. I explained to Fuad Bey that the question of the dispensaries, though important, was non-political and concerned the Indian authorities. Mr. Rendel had therefore asked me to go into the matter with himself and Sheikh Hafiz Wahba. I reminded Fuad Bey that when he and I last discussed the question in Jedda we had seemed to be approaching a solution, but the discussion had been interrupted by his illness. The matter had now taken a new and less favourable turn, as the Saudi Government had addressed a circular to Mr. Calvert, in which they had asked for separate statements of medical supplies imported for the use of members of the Legation and those imported for general dispensary use, in order that customs duty should be levied on the latter. I read to him the main portions of the telegraphic correspondence, and said that there appeared to be two misconceptions, viz., (*a*) the Saudi Government seemed to think that medical supplies not intended for the use of the Legation staff were sold to the public, whereas, in fact, the quantities of medicine supplied in return for payment were negligible; and (*b*) they seemed to think that Fuad Bey and I had dealt only with the status of the Indian medical officers, whereas we had, in fact, dealt with the whole question of the dispensaries.

3. I urged that the Saudi Government should not try to force the issue by assuming that stores, other than those for the use of the members of the Legation, were liable to duty. The Jedda dispensary had existed for some fifty years, and had always enjoyed immunity as part of the British mission. Moreover, the Turkish Government had exempted from duty supplies imported by foreign charitable institutions as such, not only those for diplomatic use. The branch dispensary at Mecca had been opened with Ibn Saud's approval in 1925. There was, I admitted, no written record of this, as the arrangement had been made between the King and the Indian vice-consul, but the best indication of the King's attitude at that time was that for the first year he had provided a house free of rent for the dispensary at Mecca. I was prepared, I said, to pursue the question on the lines foreshadowed in my discussion with Fuad Bey at Jedda, but I could not admit, pending a settlement, that supplies for the dispensaries were liable to customs duty, and I deprecated the attempt of the Saudi Government to enforce their own view in this respect before the whole matter had been thrashed out. The case was a unique one, and while not claiming that the exemption could be claimed under general international usage, there were strong reasons for maintaining it.

4. Fuad Bey suggested that no reliance could be placed on earlier precedent, as the Treaty of Jedda had swept away all such precedents. I replied that the Treaty of Jedda had not done this, but had said that our relations were to be based on principles of international law. International law took great account of established custom. I was quite prepared to seek a solution of the whole question, but I suggested that customs immunity should be granted for the supplies for next pilgrimage season, in order that the present situation should be preserved intact, until we could work out the solution.

5. Fuad Bey said that he had had nothing on the subject from his Government, and was not in a position to discuss it. I said that I was making a definite proposal, *i.e.*, that the stores for next pilgrimage season should be exempted from

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duty and the general discussion pursued at leisure. This could, if necessary, be pursued with Mr. Calvert, but I should prefer to leave it until Fuad Bey and I could deal with the matter on our reurn to Jedda. Fuad Bey noted my proposal.

6. I used various arguments, which need not be recorded in detail, to impress on Fuad Bey the importance of this question, urging *inter alia* that the Saudi Government should take account of the great services rendered by the dispensaries. They supplied wants which the Saudi Government were not as yet in a position to satisfy, and the Saudi Government should not make their position impossible by attempting to exercise excessive control or by adding customs duty to the expenditure entailed, the amount of which was already worrying the Government of India.

7. I told Fuad Bey that this was the most important of the small number of questions which I had suggested adding to the list of those already discussed with Mr. Rendel and myself. I need only advert to two others, viz., the pecuniary claims of His Majesty's Government against the Saudi Government, and the position as regards British nationality in Saudi Arabia. The latter question seemed to be progressing on satisfactory lines and I would not pursue it. I did not wish at this moment to pursue definitely the question of the two debts of the Saudi Government to His Majesty's Government, but I reminded Fuad Bey that we were very anxious to dispose of the matter, which was one on which we were faced with strong insistence on the part of the Treasury. I recalled our proposal that the trivial MacDonnell debt should be settled out of hand, and the liquidation of the larger debt placed on a business basis. I added that I had induced His Majesty's Government to postpone the matter pending a clearing up of the situation between Saudi Arabia and the Yemen. That situation had now been liquidated, and I had again reminded Sheikh Yussuf Yasin of the debts shortly before leaving Jedda.

8. Fuad Bey threw out a personal suggestion that perhaps His Majesty's Government might now see their way to promote the flotation of a small loan in this country, sufficient to enable the floating debt of his Government to be paid off. He outlined in very general terms a scheme for the issue of bonds. I received this suggestion very guardedly, but promised to report it. I explained that the matter was outside my sphere and that I could not judge of the possibilities, though I had no reason to think that the prospect of raising money for Saudi Arabia would be any better now than it had been in 1932.

9. In conclusion, I told Fuad Bey, with reference to what had passed at the third meeting about the Jedda–Port Sudan cable, that there was no hope of bringing any adequately equipped representative of the Sudan Government into a discussion of the matter before he left London. I had, however, just seen a representative of Cable and Wireless (Limited), and had suggested that he should meet Fuad Bey. This gentleman had agreed, subject to the reservation that any proposals which might emerge would have to be submitted to the board of the company. The question of Saudi telegraphic communications had arisen in three aspects, viz., cable rates, the position in regard to the present working agreement between the joint owners of the cable (*i.e.*, the Government of the Sudan and the Hejaz) and the Eastern Telegraph Company, and the wish of the Saudi Government to establish wireless communication between Hasa and the outer world. I thought that an entirely non-committal discussion would serve to put those concerned in possession of each other's views and desiderata.

10. Fuad Bey agreed to meet a representative of Cable and Wireless (Limited), and it was arranged that they should meet to-morrow morning at the Foreign Office, I being present.

September 24, 1934.

A. RYAN.

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EASTERN (ARABIA).

CONFIDENTIAL.

September 24, 1934.

SECTION 1.

[E 5997/2429/25] No. 1.

Summary of Discussion at Fifth Meeting with Fuad Bey Hamza, held at the Foreign Office on September 24, 1934.

IT had originally been arranged to continue at this meeting the discussion begun at the second meeting (E 5908) regarding the eastern and south-eastern frontiers of Saudi Arabia. The instructions which Fuad Bey had been expecting in regard to this question had not, however, arrived, and it was not possible to make any further progress with it. It was arranged that, if these instructions did not arrive before Fuad Bey's departure from England, Sheikh Hafiz would, on their receipt, acquaint the Foreign Office with their tenor.

2. Mr. Rendel asked that the Foreign Office might be given as full an account as possible of King Ibn Saud's views on the frontier problem well in advance of the opening of the proposed negotiations at Jedda. This would save a good deal of delay and reference home when the negotiations began. He added that he did not wish to begin by seeming over-optimistic with regard to the negotiations over this particular question. There were certain to be many points in regard to which the two sides would not see eye to eye. For instance, Fuad Bey had at the second meeting mentioned the Murra and Manasir as tribes which King Ibn Saud was likely to claim as his subjects. So far as the Murra were concerned, there was perhaps some reason to consider that they were closely connected with Saudi Arabia. The Manasir, on the other hand, seemed to be of more doubtful allegiance, and were stated to be largely dependent on the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi. Again, Fuad Bey had mentioned a claim as far south as the Qara Mountains. His Majesty's Government would certainly not be able to agree to anything so extensive. He mentioned these points to show that all would not necessarily be plain sailing. He was confident, however, that a friendly and reasonable settlement could be reached, and Sir A. Ryan would certainly make every effort to reach one, though he would necessarily be bound on many points by his instructions from home. Fuad Bey stated that Sheikh Hafiz Wahba would also be available to help in the negotiations in Jedda, since he was proceeding on leave to Saudi Arabia at the end of the year.

3. In the discussion which followed, an opportunity was taken to remind Fuad Bey that the chief desideratum on the side of His Majesty's Government in any general settlement would be a satisfactory settlement as regards commercial relations between Saudi Arabia and Koweit. Fuad Bey suggested at one point that it might be better to balance this question against the problem of the oil concession in the Koweit Neutral Zone, rather than against that of the south-eastern frontier. He was, however, given no encouragement to pursue this line of thought. Sir Andrew Ryan observed that a general settlement should be of the greatest advantage to King Ibn Saud in pursuit of his policy of consolidating his régime in Arabia.

4. The question of slavery was again touched upon, but it was clear that Fuad Bey was not in a position to add anything more precise to what he had previously said regarding the possibility of such action by Ibn Saud as would justify His Majesty's Government in renouncing their present right of manumission.

5. At the close of the meeting Fuad Bey mentioned that his Government might perhaps feel inclined, during the forthcoming negotiations, to raise once more the question of the possible entry of Saudi Arabia into the League of Nations. The proposed general settlement would remove one of the factors which had in the past been considered a possible obstacle to the admission of Saudi Arabia to the League, namely, that country's lack of fixed frontiers. Mr. Rendel reminded Fuad Bey that the existence of slavery in Saudi Arabia had also in the past been mentioned as a possible obstacle. Fuad Bey replied that this question also was to be discussed during the negotiations, and if, as

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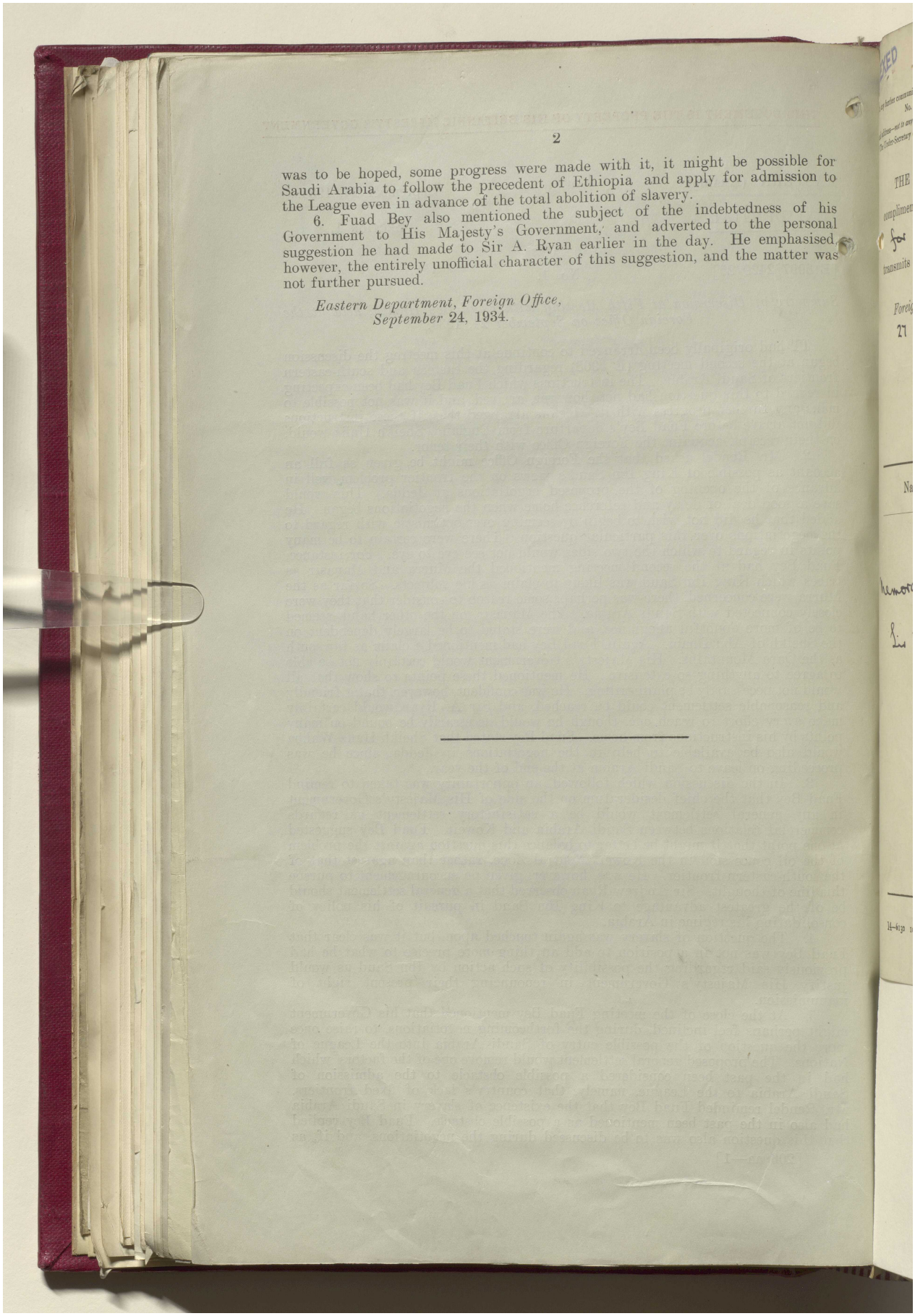

was to be hoped, some progress were made with it, it might be possible for Saudi Arabia to follow the precedent of Ethiopia and apply for admission to the League even in advance of the total abolition of slavery.

6. Fuad Bey also mentioned the subject of the indebtedness of his Government to His Majesty's Government, and adverted to the personal suggestion he had made to Sir A. Ryan earlier in the day. He emphasised, however, the entirely unofficial character of this suggestion, and the matter was not further pursued.

Eastern Department, Foreign Office,
September 24, 1934.

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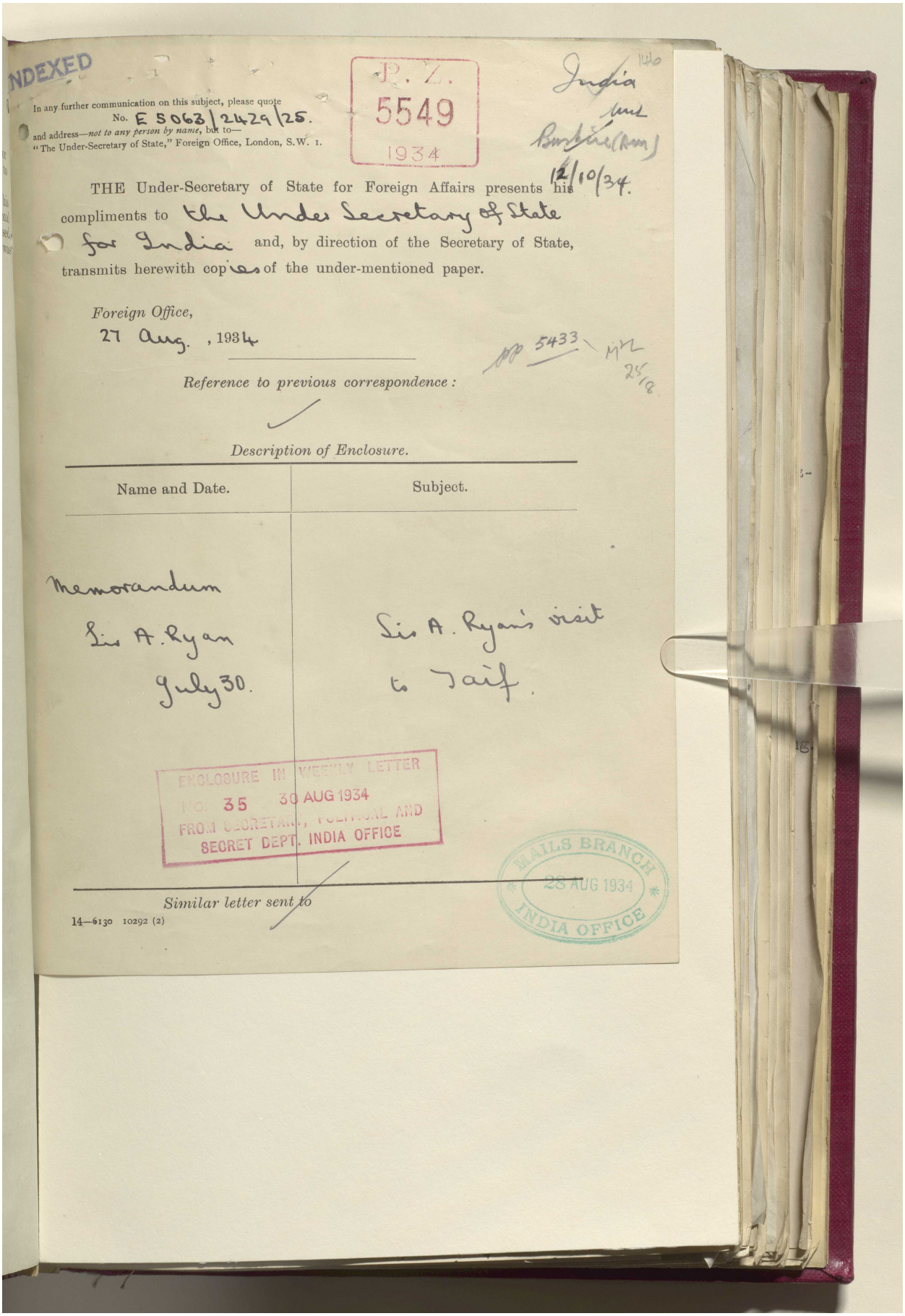

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 5063/2429/25.
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P. Z. 5549 1934

India and Burma (Arm)
12/10/34.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
27 Aug. , 1934

App 5433 MPL 25/8

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Memorandum Sir A. Ryan July 30.	Sir A. Ryan's visit to Taif.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. 35 30 AUG 1934
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH 28 AUG 1934 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

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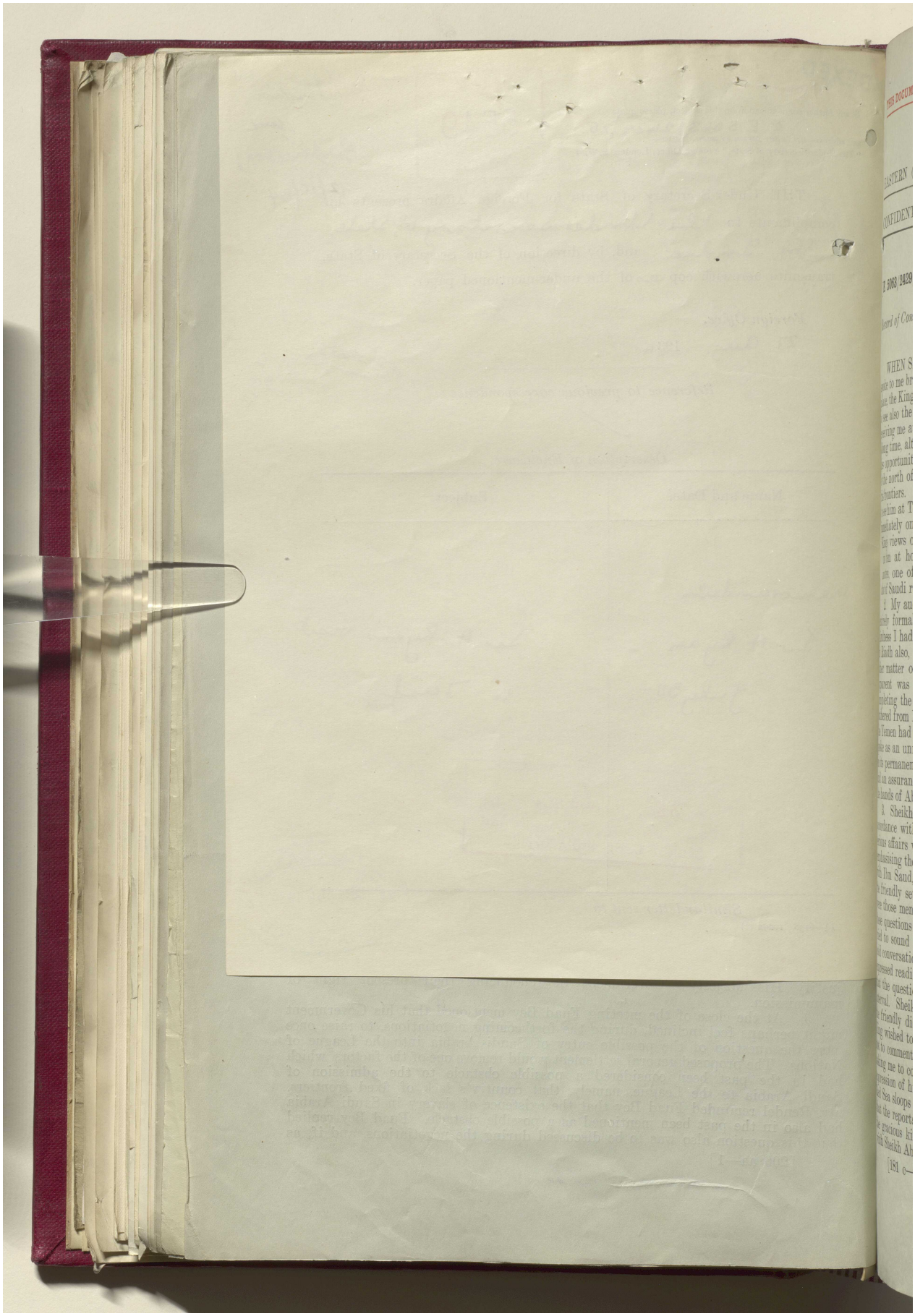

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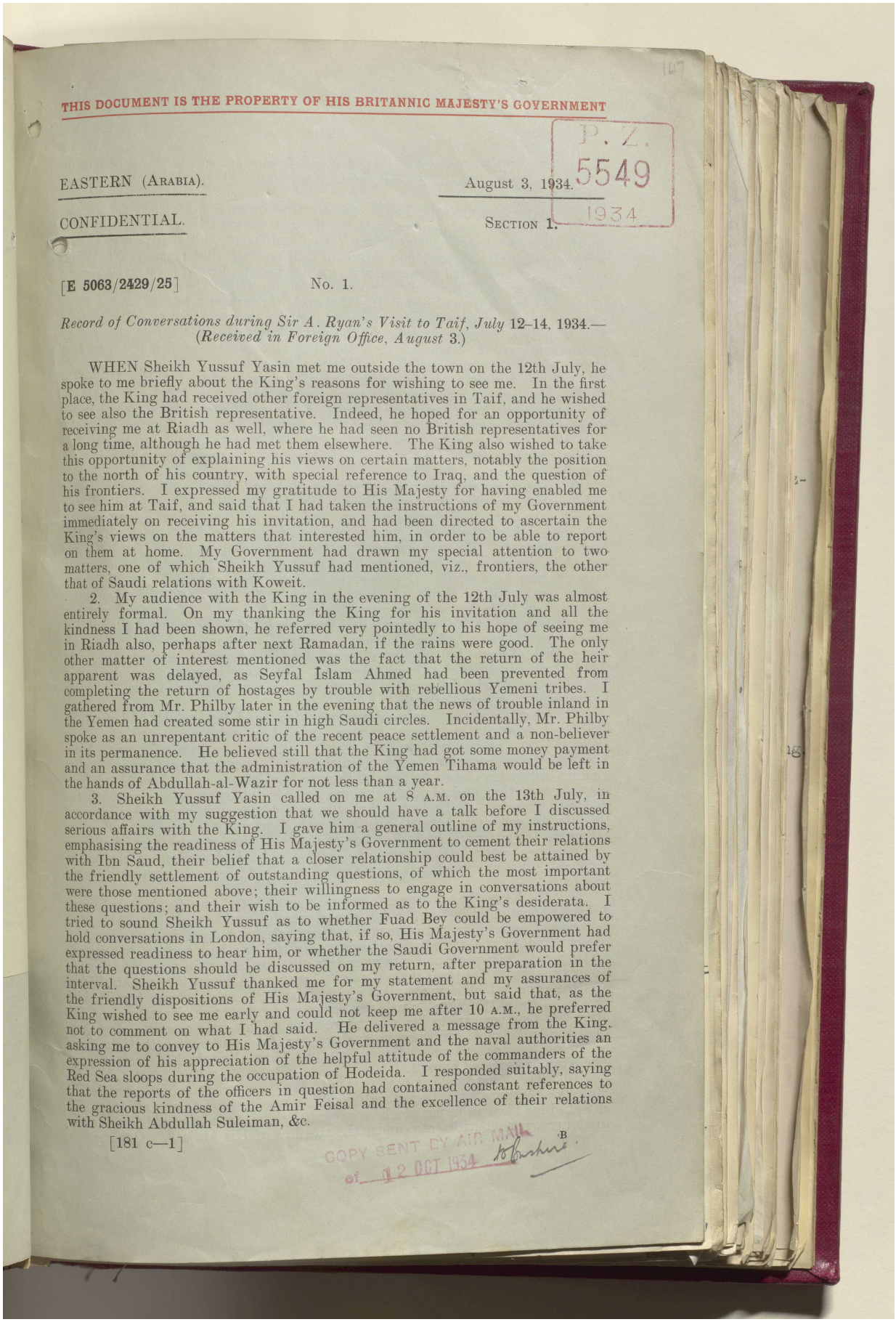

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P. Z.
5549
1934

EASTERN (ARABIA). August 3, 1934.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 5063/2429/25] No. 1.

Record of Conversations during Sir A. Ryan's Visit to Taif, July 12–14, 1934.—
(*Received in Foreign Office, August* 3.)

WHEN Sheikh Yussuf Yasin met me outside the town on the 12th July, he spoke to me briefly about the King's reasons for wishing to see me. In the first place, the King had received other foreign representatives in Taif, and he wished to see also the British representative. Indeed, he hoped for an opportunity of receiving me at Riadh as well, where he had seen no British representatives for a long time, although he had met them elsewhere. The King also wished to take this opportunity of explaining his views on certain matters, notably the position to the north of his country, with special reference to Iraq, and the question of his frontiers. I expressed my gratitude to His Majesty for having enabled me to see him at Taif, and said that I had taken the instructions of my Government immediately on receiving his invitation, and had been directed to ascertain the King's views on the matters that interested him, in order to be able to report on them at home. My Government had drawn my special attention to two matters, one of which Sheikh Yussuf had mentioned, viz., frontiers, the other that of Saudi relations with Koweit.

2. My audience with the King in the evening of the 12th July was almost entirely formal. On my thanking the King for his invitation and all the kindness I had been shown, he referred very pointedly to his hope of seeing me in Riadh also, perhaps after next Ramadan, if the rains were good. The only other matter of interest mentioned was the fact that the return of the heir apparent was delayed, as Seyfal Islam Ahmed had been prevented from completing the return of hostages by trouble with rebellious Yemeni tribes. I gathered from Mr. Philby later in the evening that the news of trouble inland in the Yemen had created some stir in high Saudi circles. Incidentally, Mr. Philby spoke as an unrepentant critic of the recent peace settlement and a non-believer in its permanence. He believed still that the King had got some money payment and an assurance that the administration of the Yemen Tihama would be left in the hands of Abdullah-al-Wazir for not less than a year.

3. Sheikh Yussuf Yasin called on me at 8 A.M. on the 13th July, in accordance with my suggestion that we should have a talk before I discussed serious affairs with the King. I gave him a general outline of my instructions, emphasising the readiness of His Majesty's Government to cement their relations with Ibn Saud, their belief that a closer relationship could best be attained by the friendly settlement of outstanding questions, of which the most important were those mentioned above; their willingness to engage in conversations about these questions; and their wish to be informed as to the King's desiderata. I tried to sound Sheikh Yussuf as to whether Fuad Bey could be empowered to hold conversations in London, saying that, if so, His Majesty's Government had expressed readiness to hear him, or whether the Saudi Government would prefer that the questions should be discussed on my return, after preparation in the interval. Sheikh Yussuf thanked me for my statement and my assurances of the friendly dispositions of His Majesty's Government, but said that, as the King wished to see me early and could not keep me after 10 A.M., he preferred not to comment on what I had said. He delivered a message from the King, asking me to convey to His Majesty's Government and the naval authorities an expression of his appreciation of the helpful attitude of the commanders of the Red Sea sloops during the occupation of Hodeida. I responded suitably, saying that the reports of the officers in question had contained constant references to the gracious kindness of the Amir Feisal and the excellence of their relations with Sheikh Abdullah Suleiman, &c.

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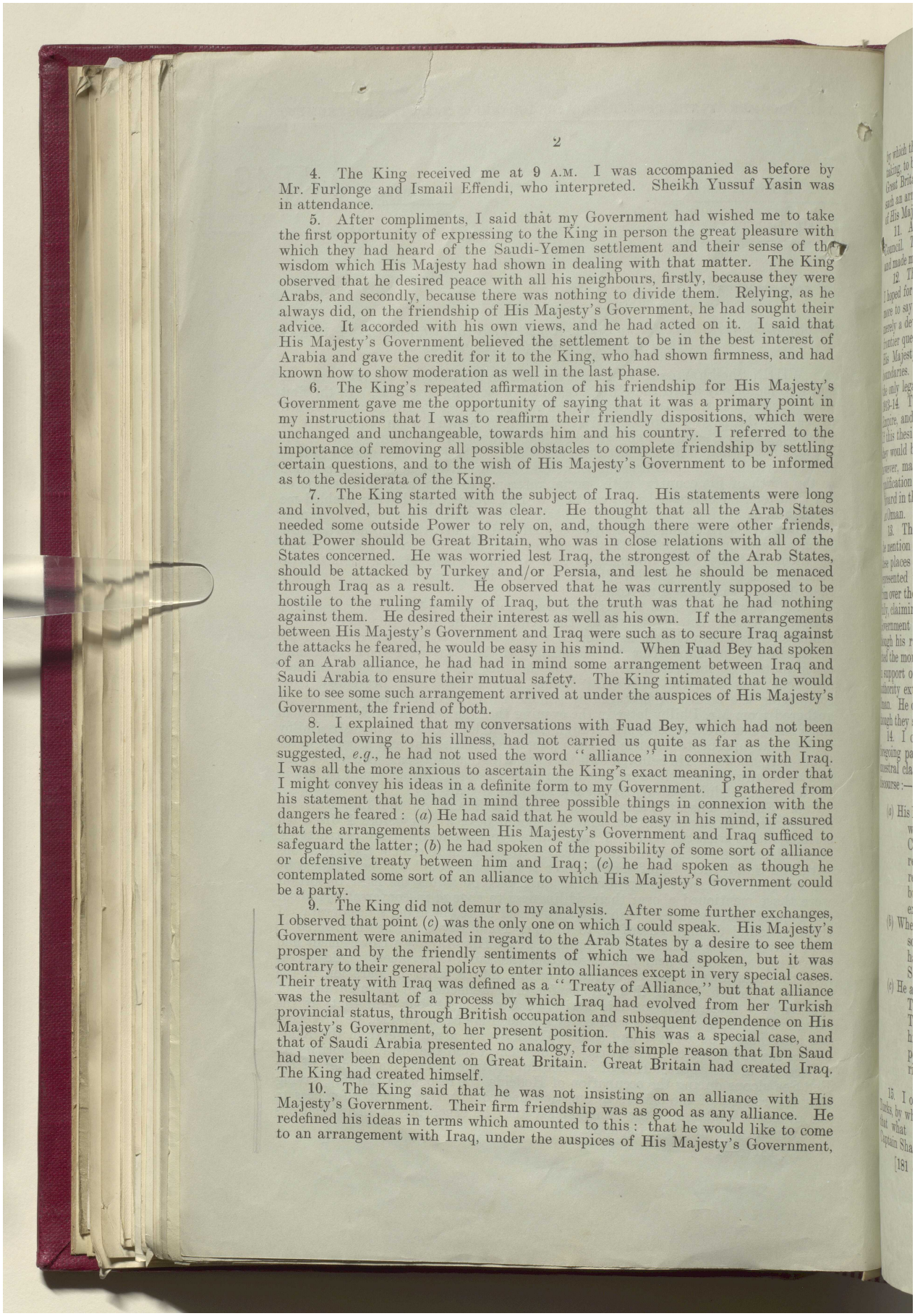

4. The King received me at 9 A.M. I was accompanied as before by Mr. Furlonge and Ismail Effendi, who interpreted. Sheikh Yussuf Yasin was in attendance.

5. After compliments, I said that my Government had wished me to take the first opportunity of expressing to the King in person the great pleasure with which they had heard of the Saudi-Yemen settlement and their sense of the wisdom which His Majesty had shown in dealing with that matter. The King observed that he desired peace with all his neighbours, firstly, because they were Arabs, and secondly, because there was nothing to divide them. Relying, as he always did, on the friendship of His Majesty's Government, he had sought their advice. It accorded with his own views, and he had acted on it. I said that His Majesty's Government believed the settlement to be in the best interest of Arabia and gave the credit for it to the King, who had shown firmness, and had known how to show moderation as well in the last phase.

6. The King's repeated affirmation of his friendship for His Majesty's Government gave me the opportunity of saying that it was a primary point in my instructions that I was to reaffirm their friendly dispositions, which were unchanged and unchangeable, towards him and his country. I referred to the importance of removing all possible obstacles to complete friendship by settling certain questions, and to the wish of His Majesty's Government to be informed as to the desiderata of the King.

7. The King started with the subject of Iraq. His statements were long and involved, but his drift was clear. He thought that all the Arab States needed some outside Power to rely on, and, though there were other friends, that Power should be Great Britain, who was in close relations with all of the States concerned. He was worried lest Iraq, the strongest of the Arab States, should be attacked by Turkey and/or Persia, and lest he should be menaced through Iraq as a result. He observed that he was currently supposed to be hostile to the ruling family of Iraq, but the truth was that he had nothing against them. He desired their interest as well as his own. If the arrangements between His Majesty's Government and Iraq were such as to secure Iraq against the attacks he feared, he would be easy in his mind. When Fuad Bey had spoken of an Arab alliance, he had had in mind some arrangement between Iraq and Saudi Arabia to ensure their mutual safety. The King intimated that he would like to see some such arrangement arrived at under the auspices of His Majesty's Government, the friend of both.

8. I explained that my conversations with Fuad Bey, which had not been completed owing to his illness, had not carried us quite as far as the King suggested, *e.g.*, he had not used the word "alliance" in connexion with Iraq. I was all the more anxious to ascertain the King's exact meaning, in order that I might convey his ideas in a definite form to my Government. I gathered from his statement that he had in mind three possible things in connexion with the dangers he feared: (*a*) He had said that he would be easy in his mind, if assured that the arrangements between His Majesty's Government and Iraq sufficed to safeguard the latter; (*b*) he had spoken of the possibility of some sort of alliance or defensive treaty between him and Iraq; (*c*) he had spoken as though he contemplated some sort of an alliance to which His Majesty's Government could be a party.

9. The King did not demur to my analysis. After some further exchanges, I observed that point (*c*) was the only one on which I could speak. His Majesty's Government were animated in regard to the Arab States by a desire to see them prosper and by the friendly sentiments of which we had spoken, but it was contrary to their general policy to enter into alliances except in very special cases. Their treaty with Iraq was defined as a "Treaty of Alliance," but that alliance was the resultant of a process by which Iraq had evolved from her Turkish provincial status, through British occupation and subsequent dependence on His Majesty's Government, to her present position. This was a special case, and that of Saudi Arabia presented no analogy, for the simple reason that Ibn Saud had never been dependent on Great Britain. Great Britain had created Iraq. The King had created himself.

10. The King said that he was not insisting on an alliance with His Majesty's Government. Their firm friendship was as good as any alliance. He redefined his ideas in terms which amounted to this: that he would like to come to an arrangement with Iraq, under the auspices of His Majesty's Government,

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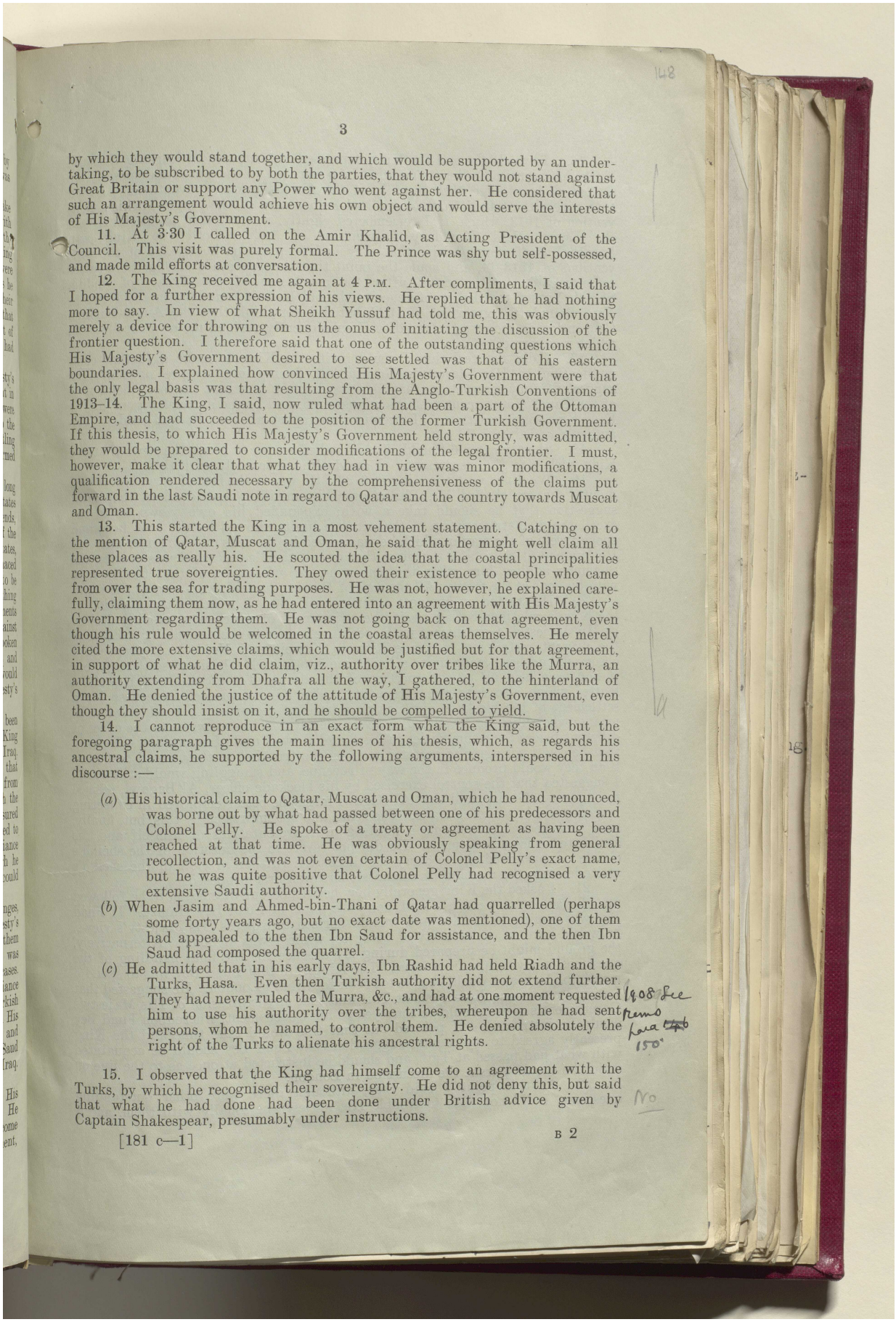

by which they would stand together, and which would be supported by an undertaking, to be subscribed to by both the parties, that they would not stand against Great Britain or support any Power who went against her. He considered that such an arrangement would achieve his own object and would serve the interests of His Majesty's Government.

11. At 3·30 I called on the Amir Khalid, as Acting President of the Council. This visit was purely formal. The Prince was shy but self-possessed, and made mild efforts at conversation.

12. The King received me again at 4 P.M. After compliments, I said that I hoped for a further expression of his views. He replied that he had nothing more to say. In view of what Sheikh Yussuf had told me, this was obviously merely a device for throwing on us the onus of initiating the discussion of the frontier question. I therefore said that one of the outstanding questions which His Majesty's Government desired to see settled was that of his eastern boundaries. I explained how convinced His Majesty's Government were that the only legal basis was that resulting from the Anglo-Turkish Conventions of 1913–14. The King, I said, now ruled what had been a part of the Ottoman Empire, and had succeeded to the position of the former Turkish Government. If this thesis, to which His Majesty's Government held strongly, was admitted, they would be prepared to consider modifications of the legal frontier. I must, however, make it clear that what they had in view was minor modifications, a qualification rendered necessary by the comprehensiveness of the claims put forward in the last Saudi note in regard to Qatar and the country towards Muscat and Oman.

13. This started the King in a most vehement statement. Catching on to the mention of Qatar, Muscat and Oman, he said that he might well claim all these places as really his. He scouted the idea that the coastal principalities represented true sovereignties. They owed their existence to people who came from over the sea for trading purposes. He was not, however, he explained carefully, claiming them now, as he had entered into an agreement with His Majesty's Government regarding them. He was not going back on that agreement, even though his rule would be welcomed in the coastal areas themselves. He merely cited the more extensive claims, which would be justified but for that agreement, in support of what he did claim, viz., authority over tribes like the Murra, an authority extending from Dhafra all the way, I gathered, to the hinterland of Oman. He denied the justice of the attitude of His Majesty's Government, even though they should insist on it, and he should be compelled to yield.

14. I cannot reproduce in an exact form what the King said, but the foregoing paragraph gives the main lines of his thesis, which, as regards his ancestral claims, he supported by the following arguments, interspersed in his discourse :—

(*a*) His historical claim to Qatar, Muscat and Oman, which he had renounced, was borne out by what had passed between one of his predecessors and Colonel Pelly. He spoke of a treaty or agreement as having been reached at that time. He was obviously speaking from general recollection, and was not even certain of Colonel Pelly's exact name, but he was quite positive that Colonel Pelly had recognised a very extensive Saudi authority.

(*b*) When Jasim and Ahmed-bin-Thani of Qatar had quarrelled (perhaps some forty years ago, but no exact date was mentioned), one of them had appealed to the then Ibn Saud for assistance, and the then Ibn Saud had composed the quarrel.

(*c*) He admitted that in his early days, Ibn Rashid had held Riadh and the Turks, Hasa. Even then Turkish authority did not extend further. They had never ruled the Murra, &c., and had at one moment requested him to use his authority over the tribes, whereupon he had sent persons, whom he named, to control them. He denied absolutely the right of the Turks to alienate his ancestral rights.

15. I observed that the King had himself come to an agreement with the Turks, by which he recognised their sovereignty. He did not deny this, but said that what he had done had been done under British advice given by Captain Shakespear, presumably under instructions.

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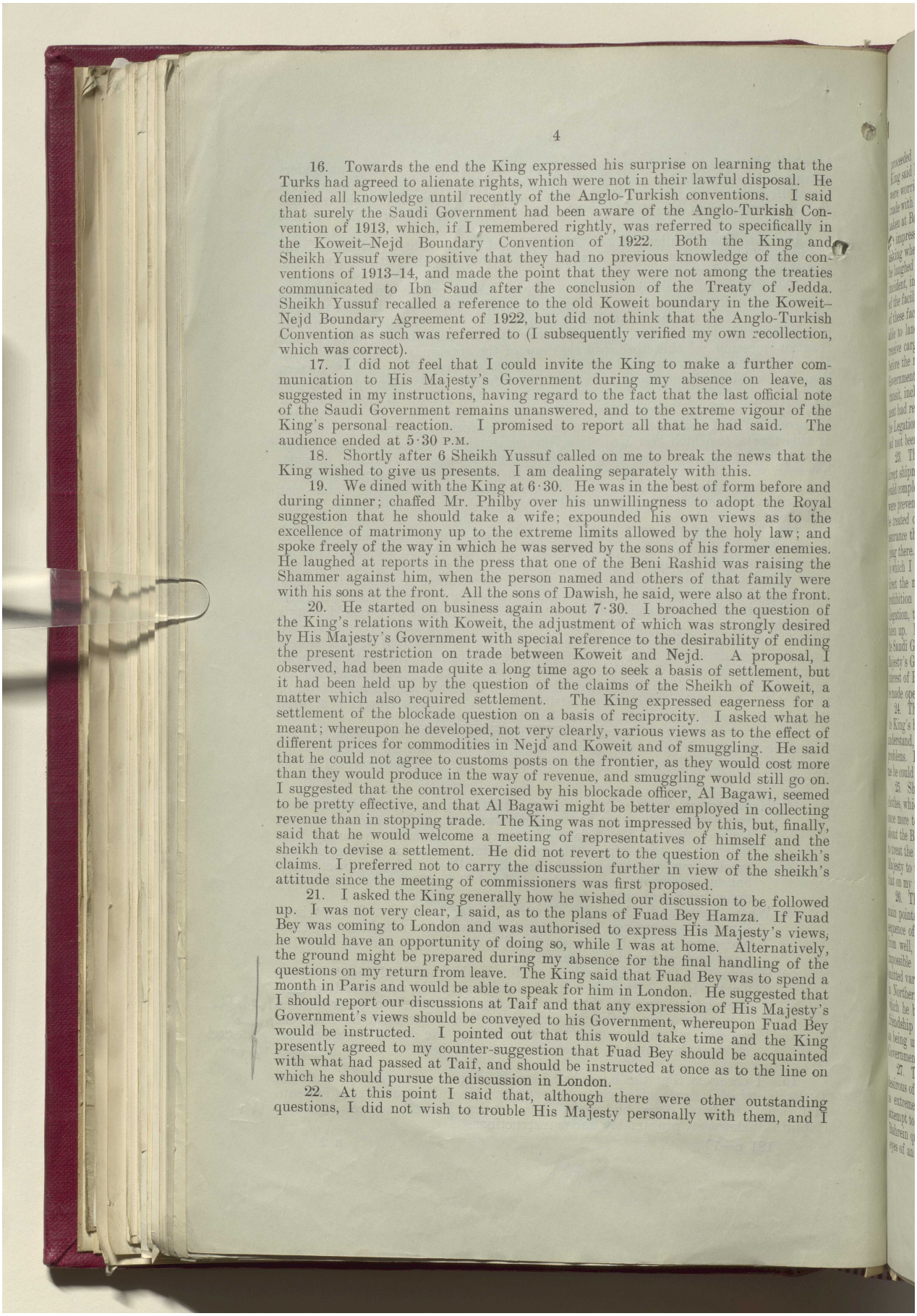

16. Towards the end the King expressed his surprise on learning that the Turks had agreed to alienate rights, which were not in their lawful disposal. He denied all knowledge until recently of the Anglo-Turkish conventions. I said that surely the Saudi Government had been aware of the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1913, which, if I remembered rightly, was referred to specifically in the Koweit–Nejd Boundary Convention of 1922. Both the King and Sheikh Yussuf were positive that they had no previous knowledge of the conventions of 1913–14, and made the point that they were not among the treaties communicated to Ibn Saud after the conclusion of the Treaty of Jedda. Sheikh Yussuf recalled a reference to the old Koweit boundary in the Koweit–Nejd Boundary Agreement of 1922, but did not think that the Anglo-Turkish Convention as such was referred to (I subsequently verified my own recollection, which was correct).

17. I did not feel that I could invite the King to make a further communication to His Majesty's Government during my absence on leave, as suggested in my instructions, having regard to the fact that the last official note of the Saudi Government remains unanswered, and to the extreme vigour of the King's personal reaction. I promised to report all that he had said. The audience ended at 5·30 P.M.

18. Shortly after 6 Sheikh Yussuf called on me to break the news that the King wished to give us presents. I am dealing separately with this.

19. We dined with the King at 6·30. He was in the best of form before and during dinner; chaffed Mr. Philby over his unwillingness to adopt the Royal suggestion that he should take a wife; expounded his own views as to the excellence of matrimony up to the extreme limits allowed by the holy law; and spoke freely of the way in which he was served by the sons of his former enemies. He laughed at reports in the press that one of the Beni Rashid was raising the Shammer against him, when the person named and others of that family were with his sons at the front. All the sons of Dawish, he said, were also at the front.

20. He started on business again about 7·30. I broached the question of the King's relations with Koweit, the adjustment of which was strongly desired by His Majesty's Government with special reference to the desirability of ending the present restriction on trade between Koweit and Nejd. A proposal, I observed, had been made quite a long time ago to seek a basis of settlement, but it had been held up by the question of the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit, a matter which also required settlement. The King expressed eagerness for a settlement of the blockade question on a basis of reciprocity. I asked what he meant; whereupon he developed, not very clearly, various views as to the effect of different prices for commodities in Nejd and Koweit and of smuggling. He said that he could not agree to customs posts on the frontier, as they would cost more than they would produce in the way of revenue, and smuggling would still go on. I suggested that the control exercised by his blockade officer, Al Bagawi, seemed to be pretty effective, and that Al Bagawi might be better employed in collecting revenue than in stopping trade. The King was not impressed by this, but, finally, said that he would welcome a meeting of representatives of himself and the sheikh to devise a settlement. He did not revert to the question of the sheikh's claims. I preferred not to carry the discussion further in view of the sheikh's attitude since the meeting of commissioners was first proposed.

21. I asked the King generally how he wished our discussion to be followed up. I was not very clear, I said, as to the plans of Fuad Bey Hamza. If Fuad Bey was coming to London and was authorised to express His Majesty's views, he would have an opportunity of doing so, while I was at home. Alternatively, the ground might be prepared during my absence for the final handling of the questions on my return from leave. The King said that Fuad Bey was to spend a month in Paris and would be able to speak for him in London. He suggested that I should report our discussions at Taif and that any expression of His Majesty's Government's views should be conveyed to his Government, whereupon Fuad Bey would be instructed. I pointed out that this would take time and the King presently agreed to my counter-suggestion that Fuad Bey should be acquainted with what had passed at Taif, and should be instructed at once as to the line on which he should pursue the discussion in London.

22. At this point I said that, although there were other outstanding questions, I did not wish to trouble His Majesty personally with them, and I

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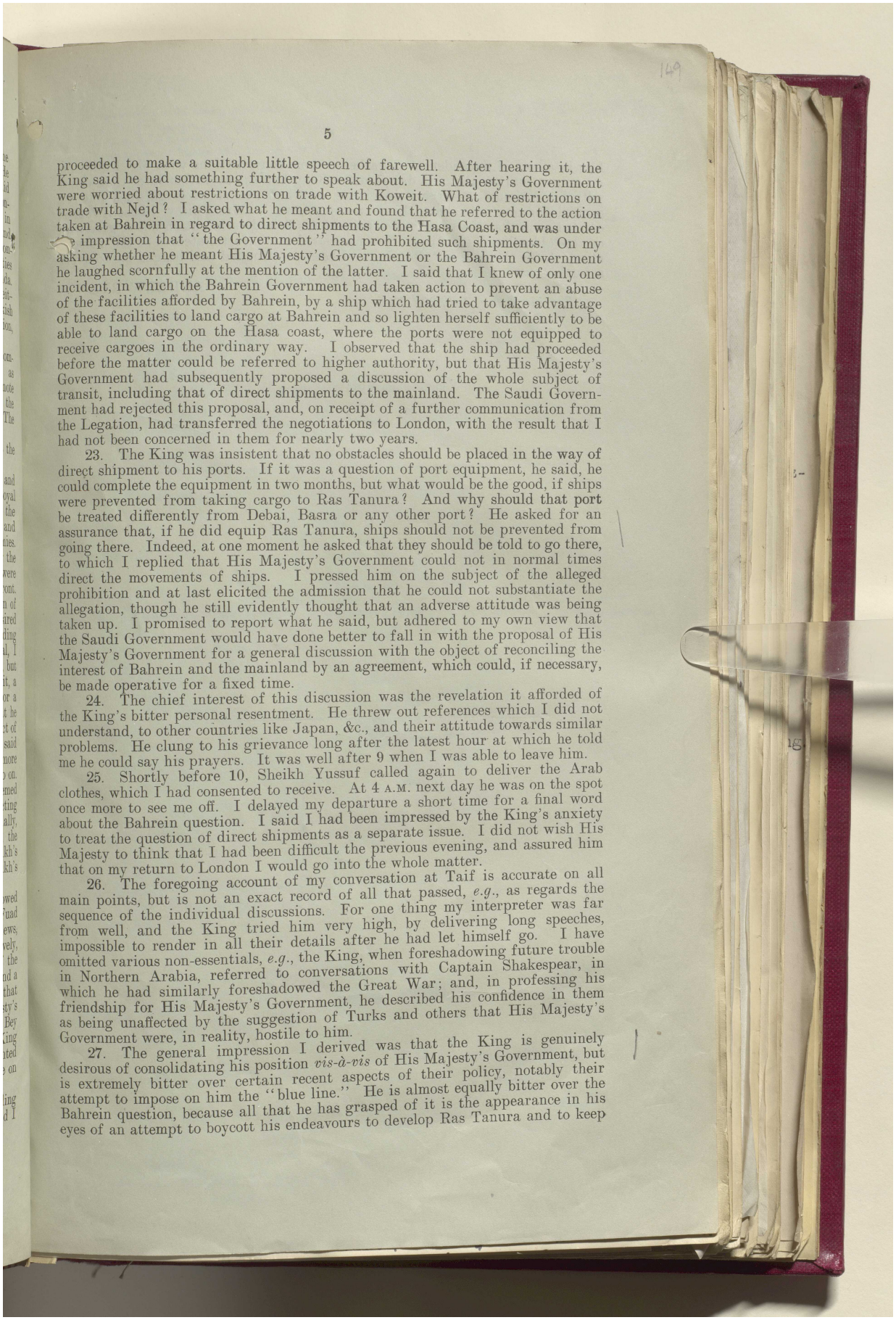

proceeded to make a suitable little speech of farewell. After hearing it, the King said he had something further to speak about. His Majesty's Government were worried about restrictions on trade with Koweit. What of restrictions on trade with Nejd? I asked what he meant and found that he referred to the action taken at Bahrein in regard to direct shipments to the Hasa Coast, and was under the impression that "the Government" had prohibited such shipments. On my asking whether he meant His Majesty's Government or the Bahrein Government he laughed scornfully at the mention of the latter. I said that I knew of only one incident, in which the Bahrein Government had taken action to prevent an abuse of the facilities afforded by Bahrein, by a ship which had tried to take advantage of these facilities to land cargo at Bahrein and so lighten herself sufficiently to be able to land cargo on the Hasa coast, where the ports were not equipped to receive cargoes in the ordinary way. I observed that the ship had proceeded before the matter could be referred to higher authority, but that His Majesty's Government had subsequently proposed a discussion of the whole subject of transit, including that of direct shipments to the mainland. The Saudi Government had rejected this proposal, and, on receipt of a further communication from the Legation, had transferred the negotiations to London, with the result that I had not been concerned in them for nearly two years.

23. The King was insistent that no obstacles should be placed in the way of direct shipment to his ports. If it was a question of port equipment, he said, he could complete the equipment in two months, but what would be the good, if ships were prevented from taking cargo to Ras Tanura? And why should that port be treated differently from Debai, Basra or any other port? He asked for an assurance that, if he did equip Ras Tanura, ships should not be prevented from going there. Indeed, at one moment he asked that they should be told to go there, to which I replied that His Majesty's Government could not in normal times direct the movements of ships. I pressed him on the subject of the alleged prohibition and at last elicited the admission that he could not substantiate the allegation, though he still evidently thought that an adverse attitude was being taken up. I promised to report what he said, but adhered to my own view that the Saudi Government would have done better to fall in with the proposal of His Majesty's Government for a general discussion with the object of reconciling the interest of Bahrein and the mainland by an agreement, which could, if necessary, be made operative for a fixed time.

24. The chief interest of this discussion was the revelation it afforded of the King's bitter personal resentment. He threw out references which I did not understand, to other countries like Japan, &c., and their attitude towards similar problems. He clung to his grievance long after the latest hour at which he told me he could say his prayers. It was well after 9 when I was able to leave him.

25. Shortly before 10, Sheikh Yussuf called again to deliver the Arab clothes, which I had consented to receive. At 4 A.M. next day he was on the spot once more to see me off. I delayed my departure a short time for a final word about the Bahrein question. I said I had been impressed by the King's anxiety to treat the question of direct shipments as a separate issue. I did not wish His Majesty to think that I had been difficult the previous evening, and assured him that on my return to London I would go into the whole matter.

26. The foregoing account of my conversation at Taif is accurate on all main points, but is not an exact record of all that passed, *e.g.*, as regards the sequence of the individual discussions. For one thing my interpreter was far from well, and the King tried him very high, by delivering long speeches, impossible to render in all their details after he had let himself go. I have omitted various non-essentials, *e.g.*, the King, when foreshadowing future trouble in Northern Arabia, referred to conversations with Captain Shakespear, in which he had similarly foreshadowed the Great War; and, in professing his friendship for His Majesty's Government, he described his confidence in them as being unaffected by the suggestion of Turks and others that His Majesty's Government were, in reality, hostile to him.

27. The general impression I derived was that the King is genuinely desirous of consolidating his position *vis-à-vis* of His Majesty's Government, but is extremely bitter over certain recent aspects of their policy, notably their attempt to impose on him the "blue line." He is almost equally bitter over the Bahrein question, because all that he has grasped of it is the appearance in his eyes of an attempt to boycott his endeavours to develop Ras Tanura and to keep

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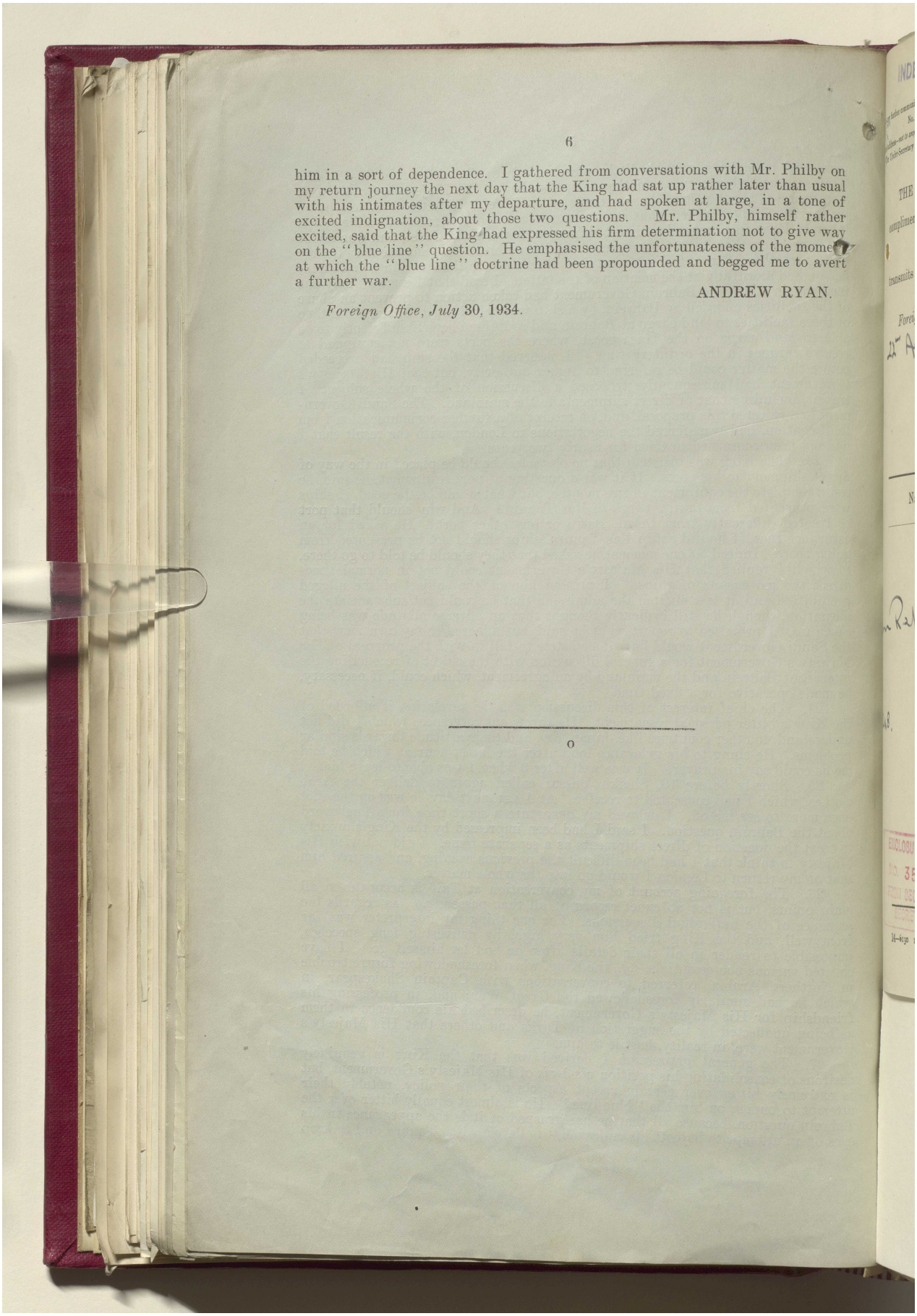

him in a sort of dependence. I gathered from conversations with Mr. Philby on my return journey the next day that the King had sat up rather later than usual with his intimates after my departure, and had spoken at large, in a tone of excited indignation, about those two questions. Mr. Philby, himself rather excited, said that the King had expressed his firm determination not to give way on the "blue line" question. He emphasised the unfortunateness of the moment at which the "blue line" doctrine had been propounded and begged me to avert a further war.

ANDREW RYAN.

Foreign Office, July 30, 1934.

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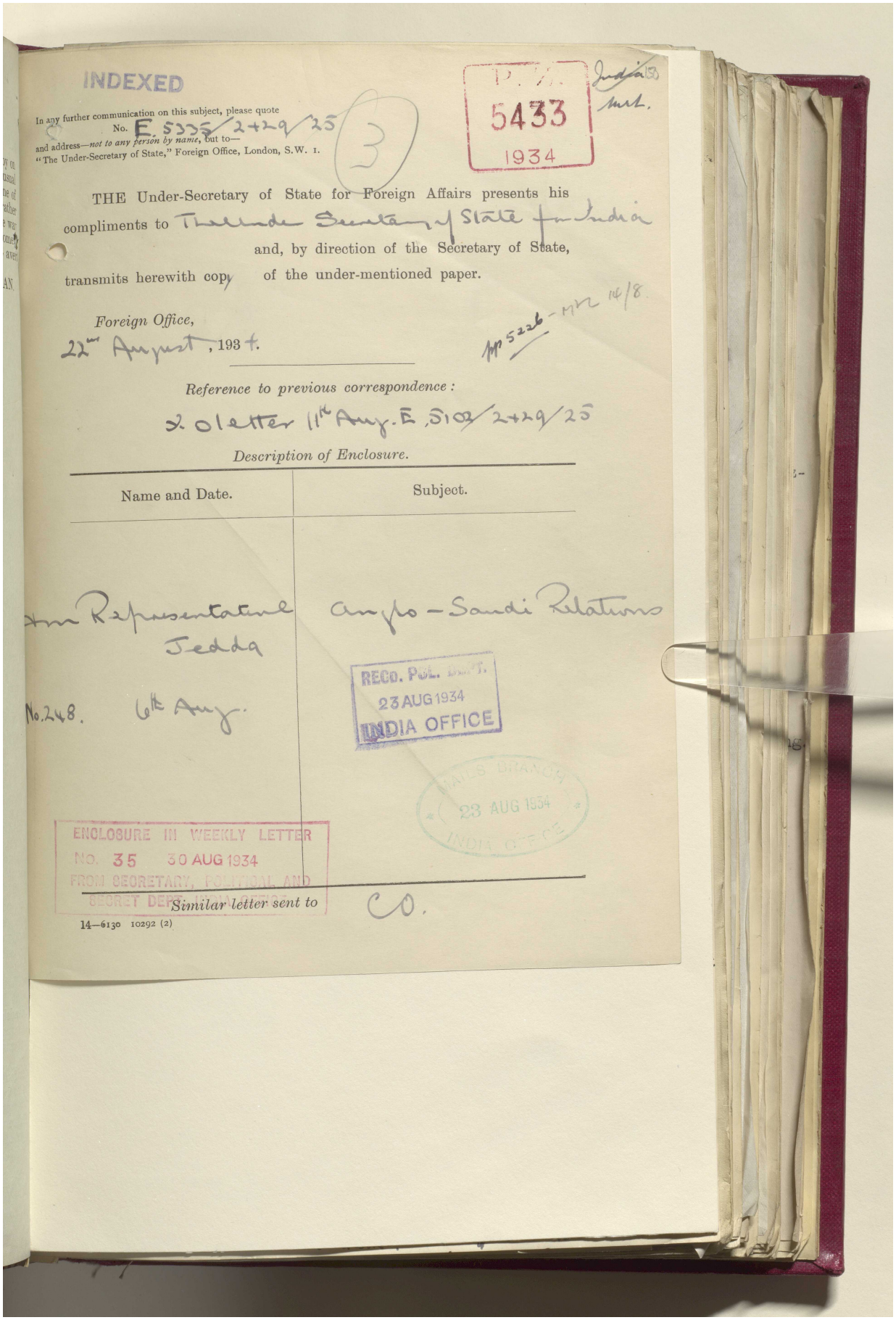

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P. Z. 5433 1934

India 153 Mark.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
22nd August, 1934.

MP 5226-MR 14/8

Reference to previous correspondence:
2 letter 11th Aug. E 5103/2429/25

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Jeddah Representative No. 248. 6th Aug.	Anglo-Saudi Relations

RECD. POL. DEPT. 23 AUG 1934 INDIA OFFICE

FOREIGN OFFICE 23 AUG 1934 INDIA OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. 35 30 AUG 1934 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT.

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—6130 10292 (2)

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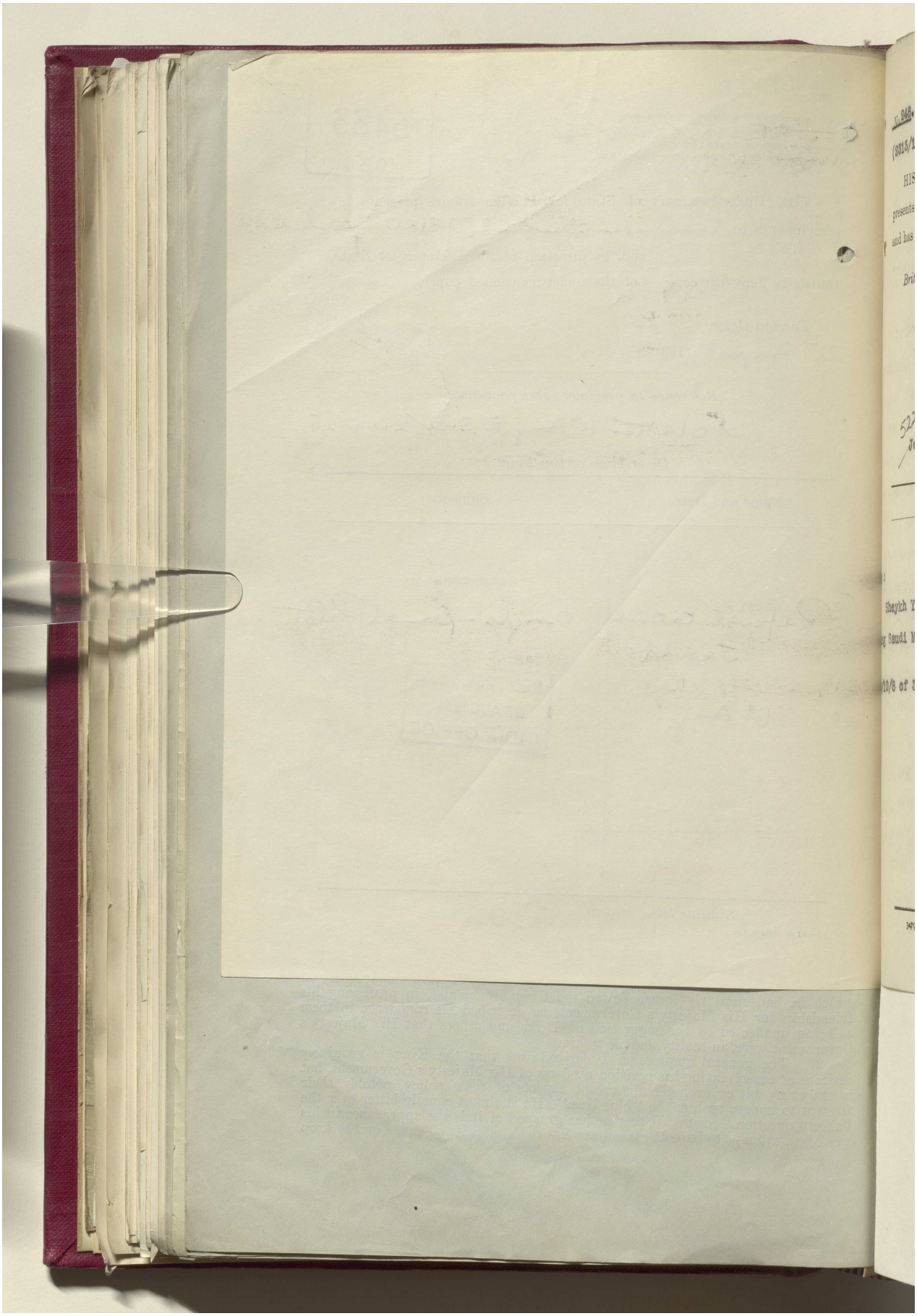

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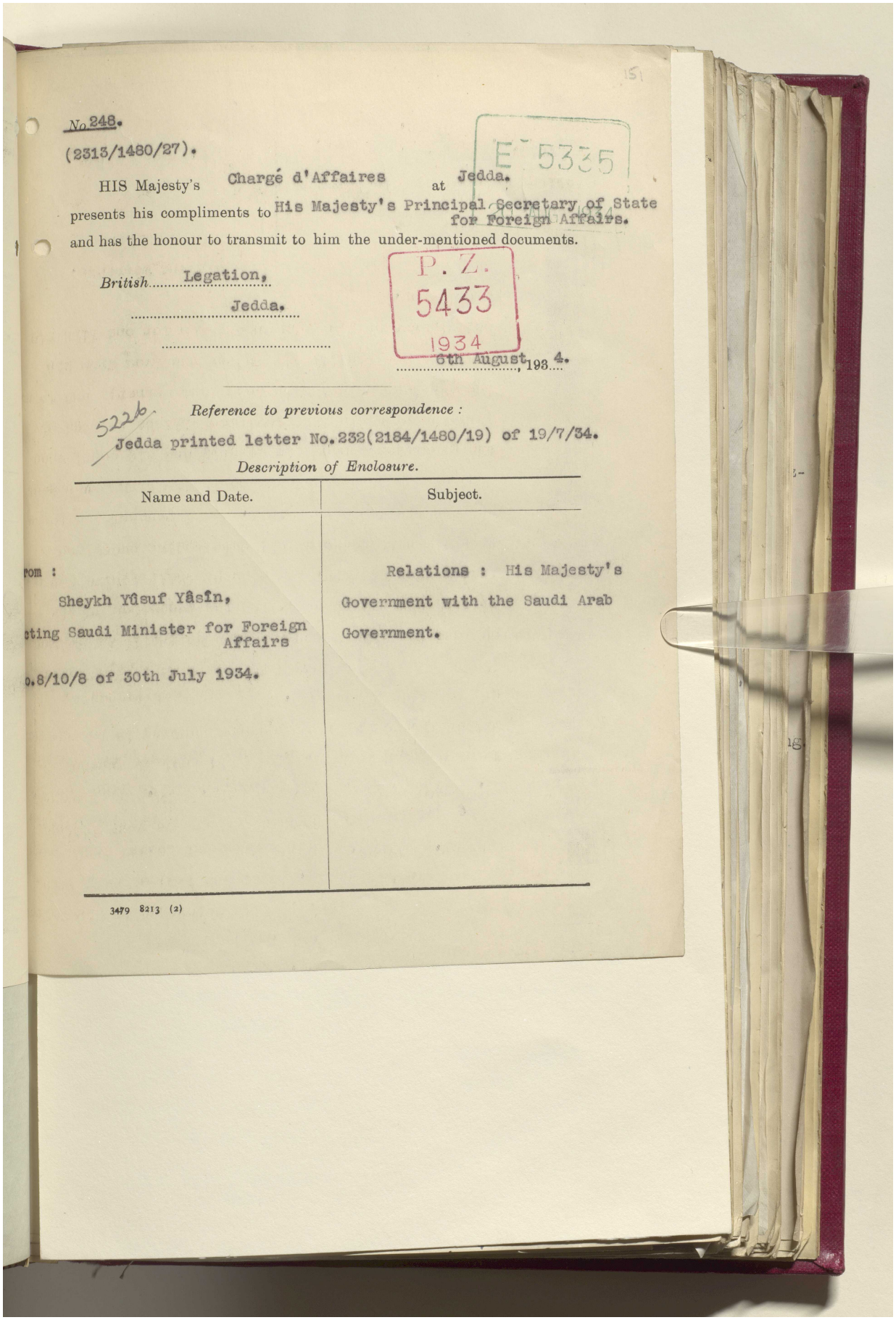

No. 248.
(2313/1480/27).

HIS Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Jedda.
presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Legation,
Jedda.

6th August, 1934.

E 5335

P. Z.
5433
1934

5226

Reference to previous correspondence :
Jedda printed letter No.232(2184/1480/19) of 19/7/34.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
rom : Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsîn, cting Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs o.8/10/8 of 30th July 1934.	Relations : His Majesty's Government with the Saudi Arab Government.

3479 8213 (2)

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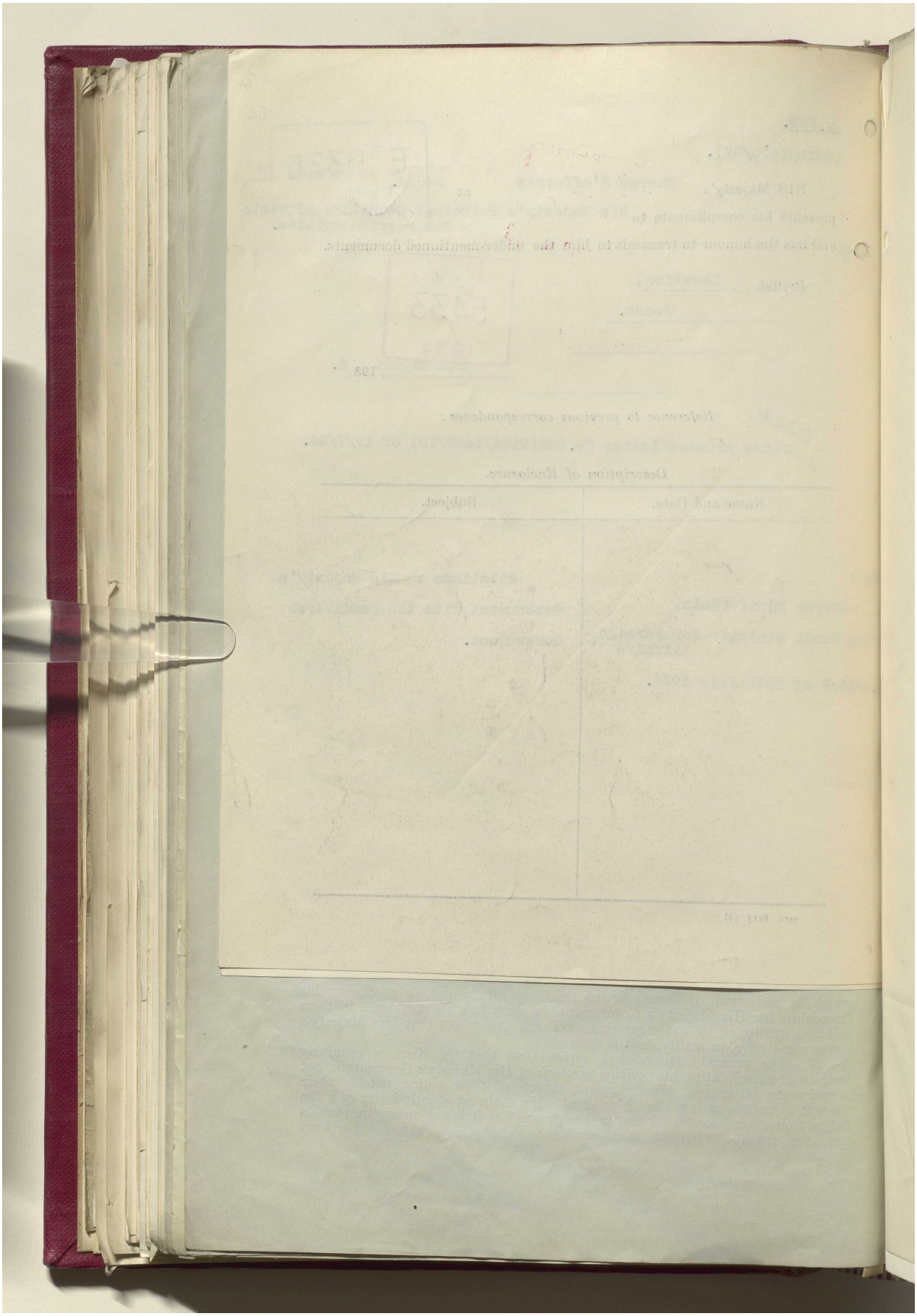

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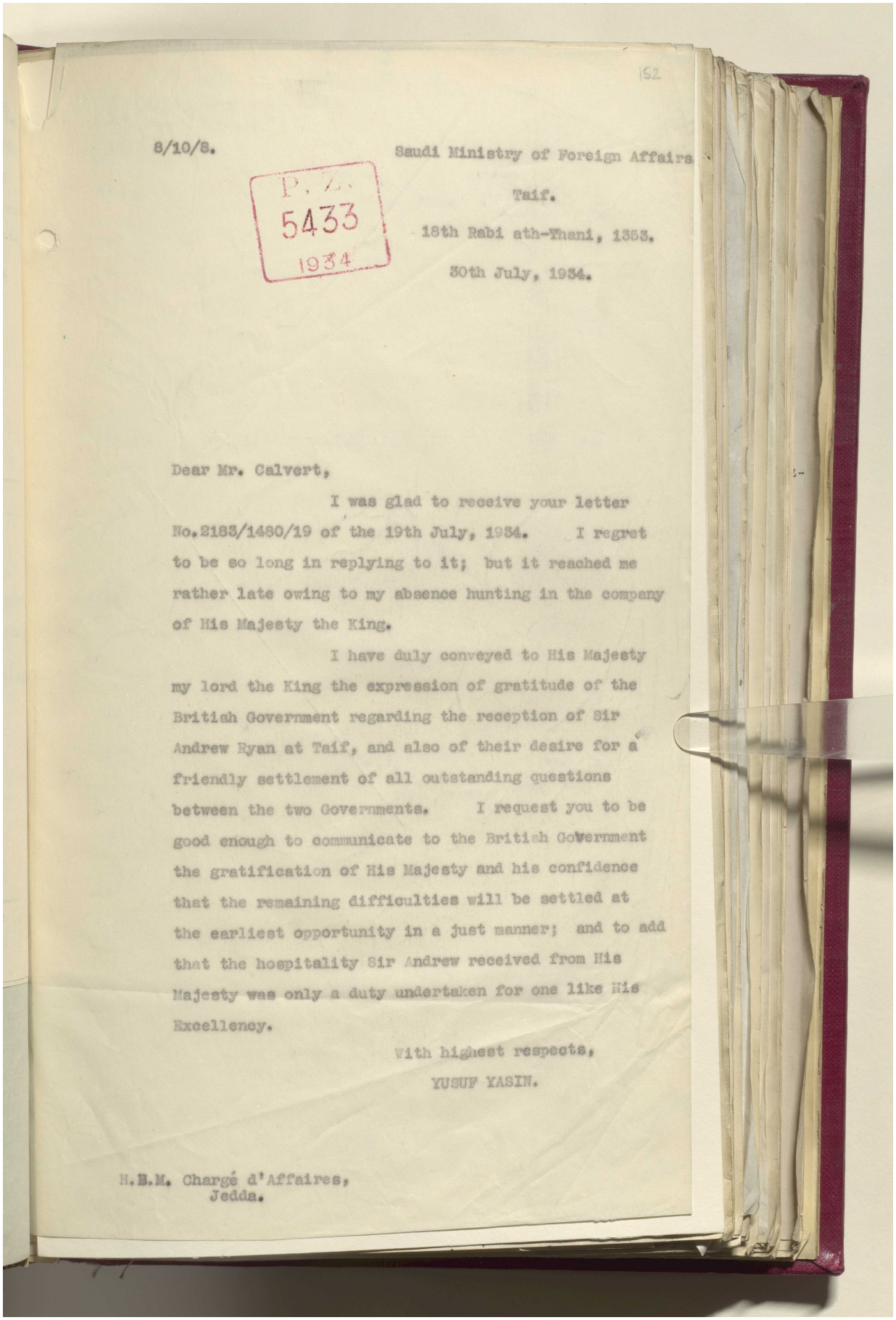

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8/10/8.

P. Z. 5433 1934

Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Taif.

18th Rabi ath-Thani, 1353.

30th July, 1934.

Dear Mr. Calvert,

I was glad to receive your letter No.2183/1480/19 of the 19th July, 1934. I regret to be so long in replying to it; but it reached me rather late owing to my absence hunting in the company of His Majesty the King.

I have duly conveyed to His Majesty my lord the King the expression of gratitude of the British Government regarding the reception of Sir Andrew Ryan at Taif, and also of their desire for a friendly settlement of all outstanding questions between the two Governments. I request you to be good enough to communicate to the British Government the gratification of His Majesty and his confidence that the remaining difficulties will be settled at the earliest opportunity in a just manner; and to add that the hospitality Sir Andrew received from His Majesty was only a duty undertaken for one like His Excellency.

With highest respects,

YUSUF YASIN.

H.B.M. Chargé d'Affaires,
Jedda.

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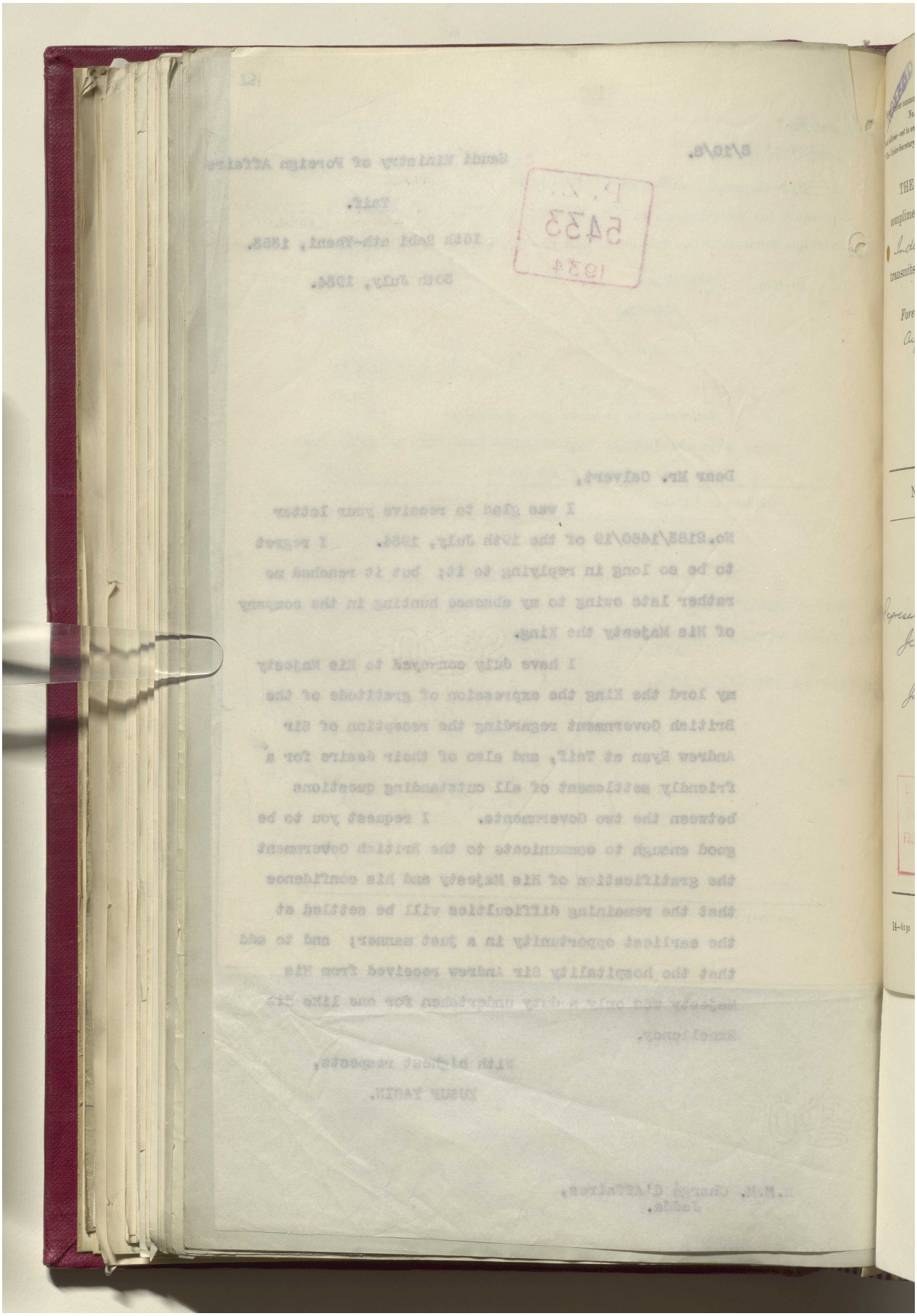

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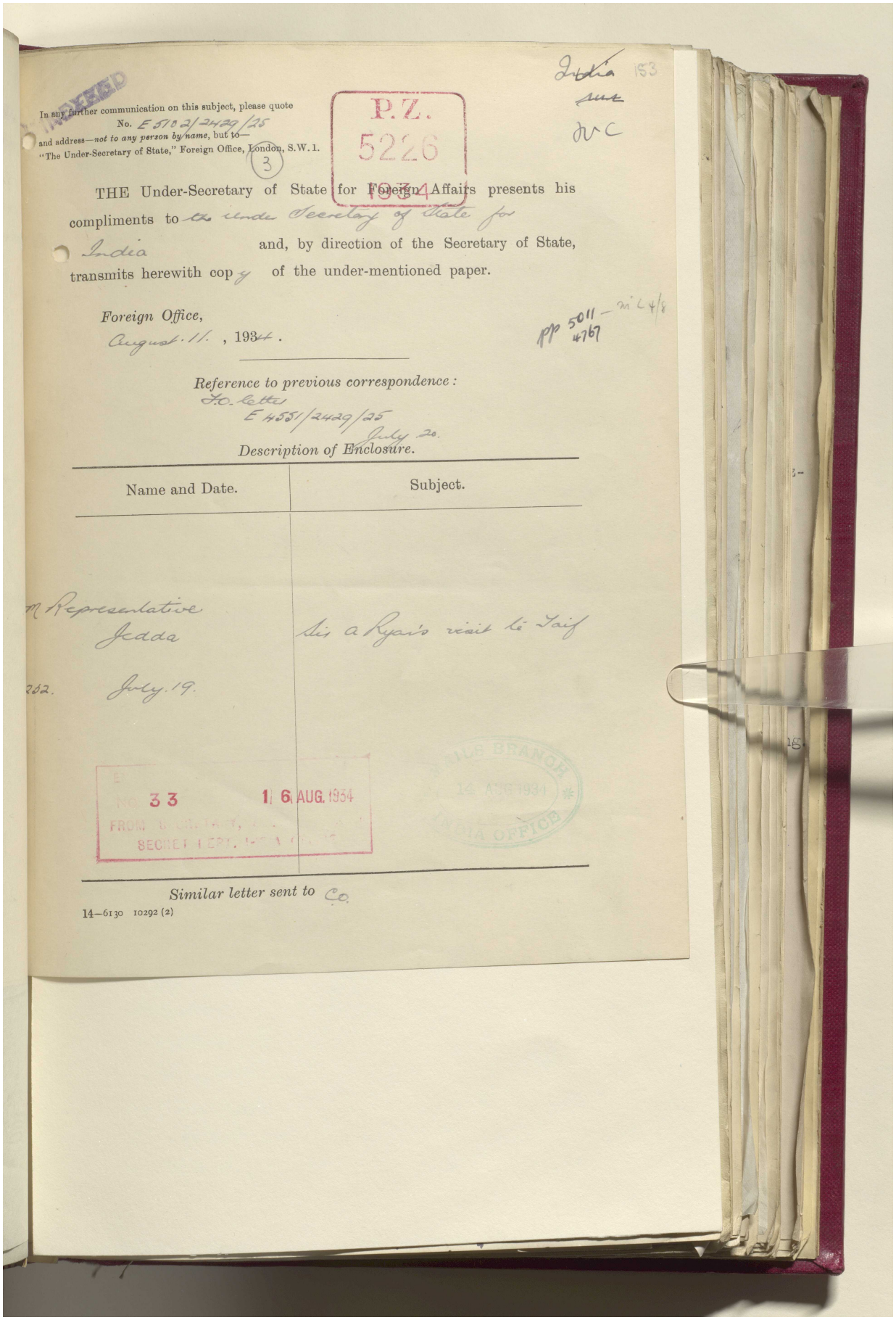

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 5102/2429/25 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

P.Z. 5226 1934

India 153

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
August 11, 1934.

PP 5011 – 4767

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. letter E 4551/2429/25 July 20.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Representative Jedda July 19.	Sir A Ryan's visit to Taif

E No. 33 16 AUG. 1934 FROM SECRET DEPT.

INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co.

14—6130 10292 (2)

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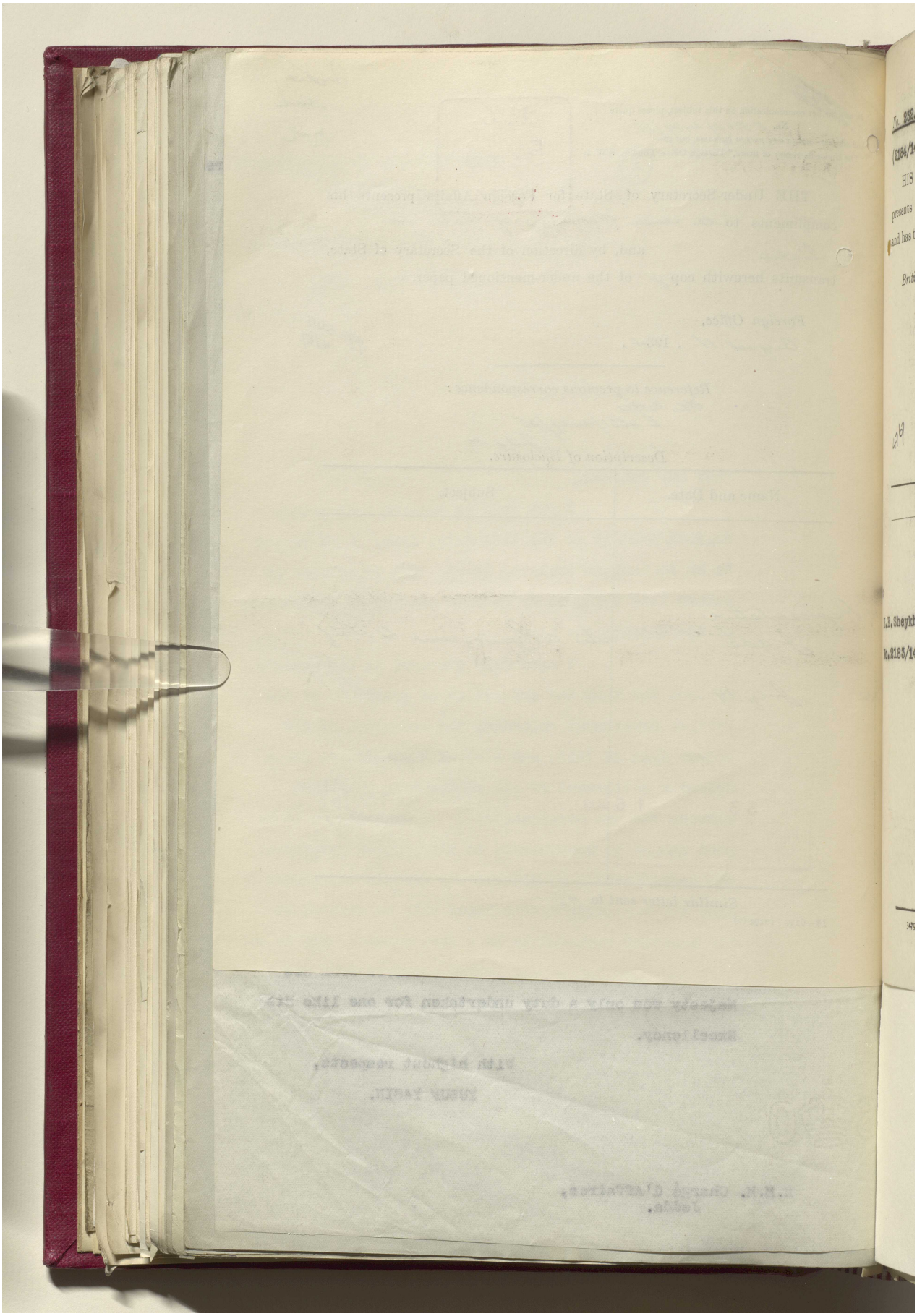

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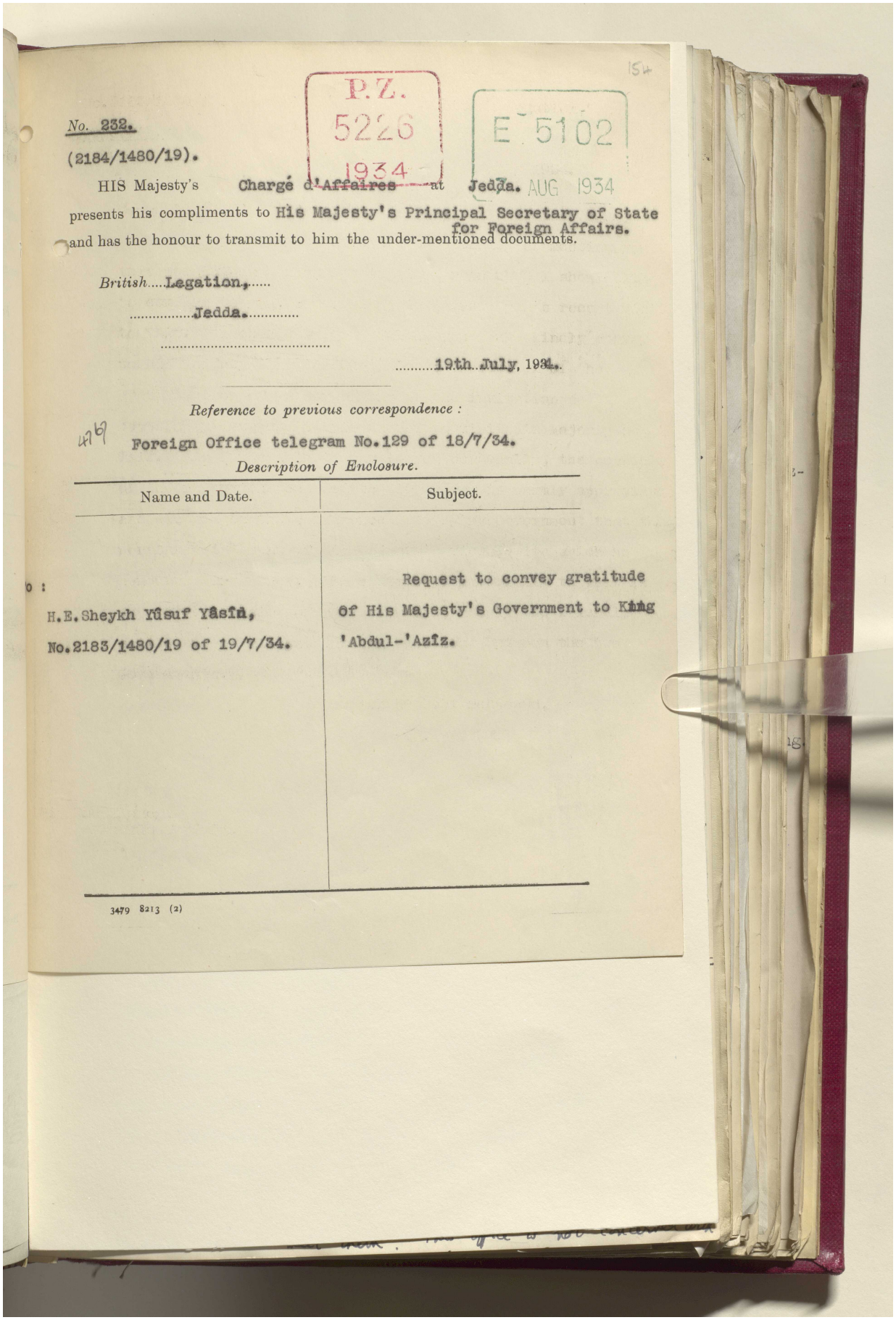

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P.Z. 5226 1934

E 5102 AUG 1934

No. 232.

(2184/1480/19).

HIS Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Jedda. presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British....Legation,.....

.....Jedda.....

.....

.....19th July, 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Foreign Office telegram No.129 of 18/7/34.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.E.Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsîn, No.2183/1480/19 of 19/7/34.	Request to convey gratitude of His Majesty's Government to King 'Abdul-'Azîz.

3479 8213 (2)

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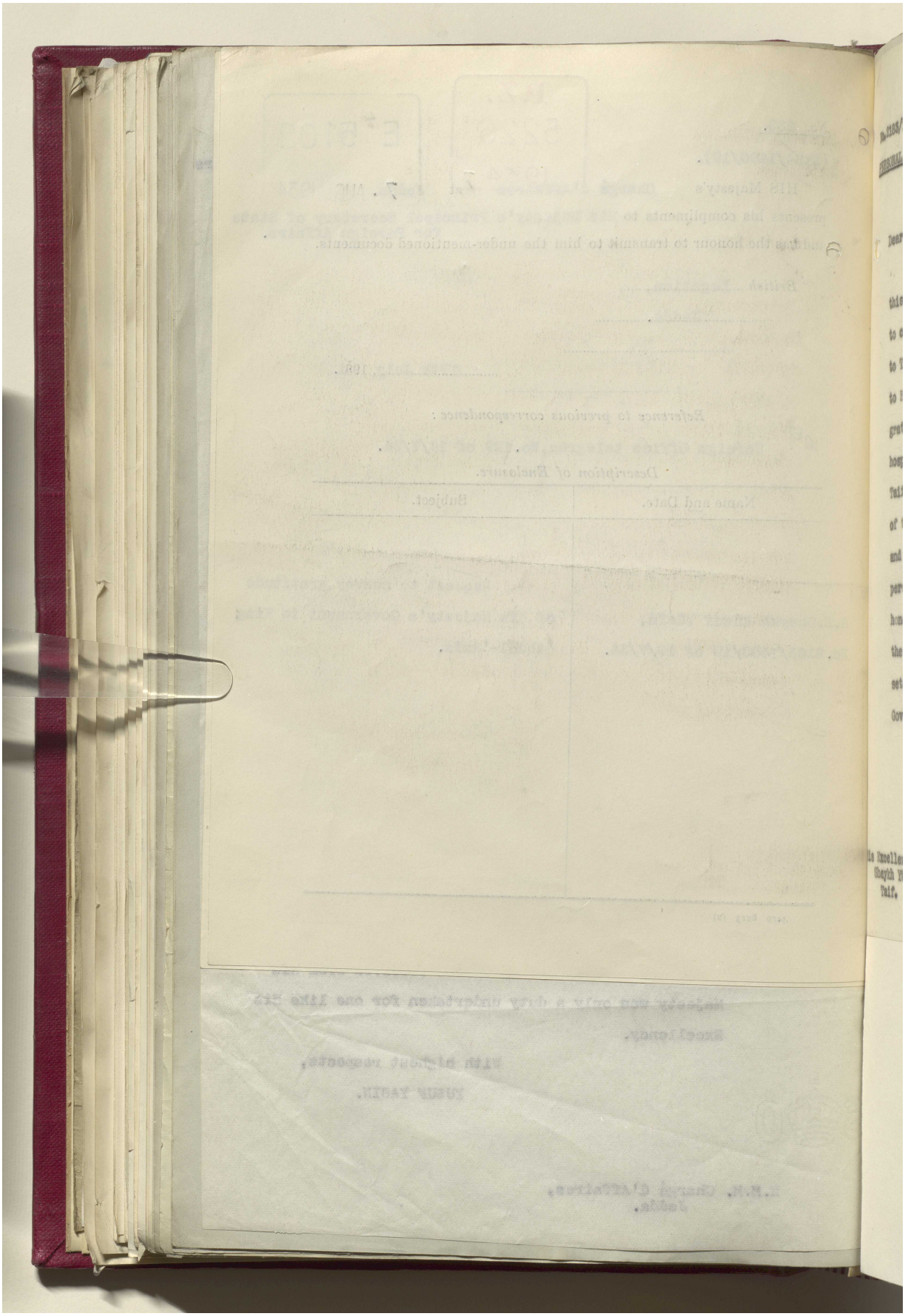

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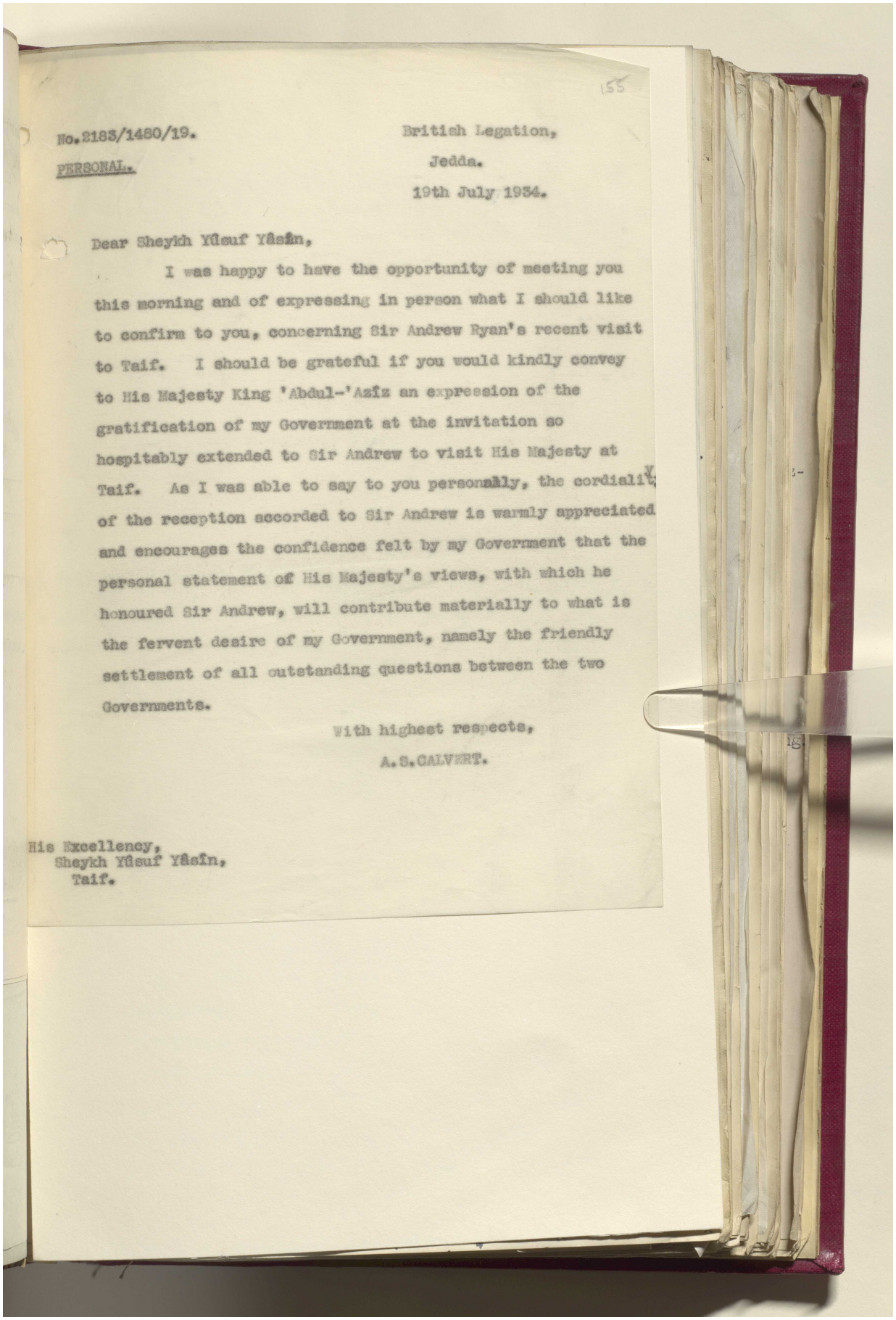


No.2183/1480/19.

PERSONAL.

British Legation,
Jedda.
19th July 1934.

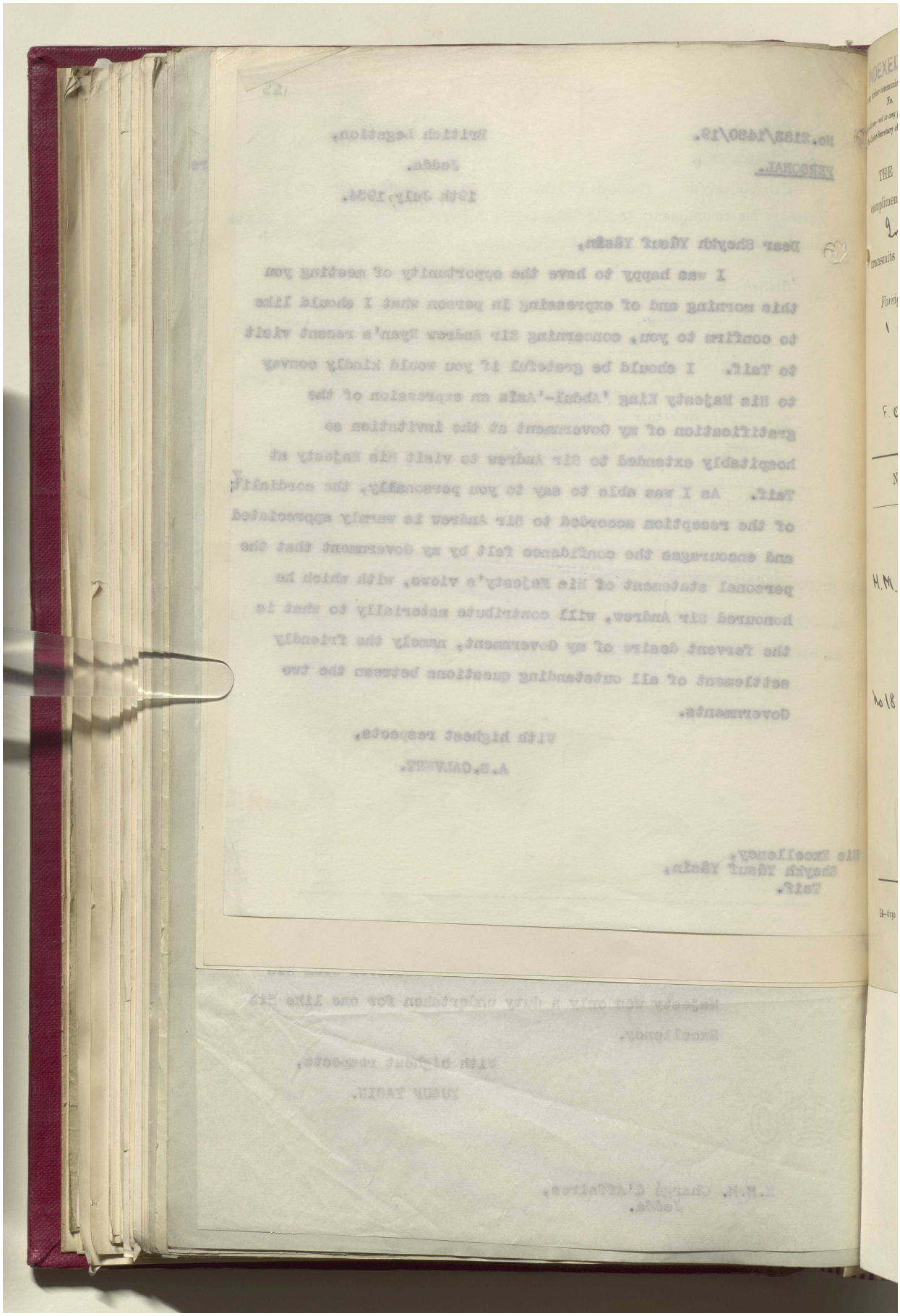
Dear Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsîn,

I was happy to have the opportunity of meeting you this morning and of expressing in person what I should like to confirm to you, concerning Sir Andrew Ryan's recent visit to Taif. I should be grateful if you would kindly convey to His Majesty King 'Abdul-'Azîz an expression of the gratification of my Government at the invitation so hospitably extended to Sir Andrew to visit His Majesty at Taif. As I was able to say to you personally, the cordiality of the reception accorded to Sir Andrew is warmly appreciated and encourages the confidence felt by my Government that the personal statement of His Majesty's views, with which he honoured Sir Andrew, will contribute materially to what is the fervent desire of my Government, namely the friendly settlement of all outstanding questions between the two Governments.

With highest respects,

A.S.CALVERT.

His Excellency,
Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsîn,
Taif.



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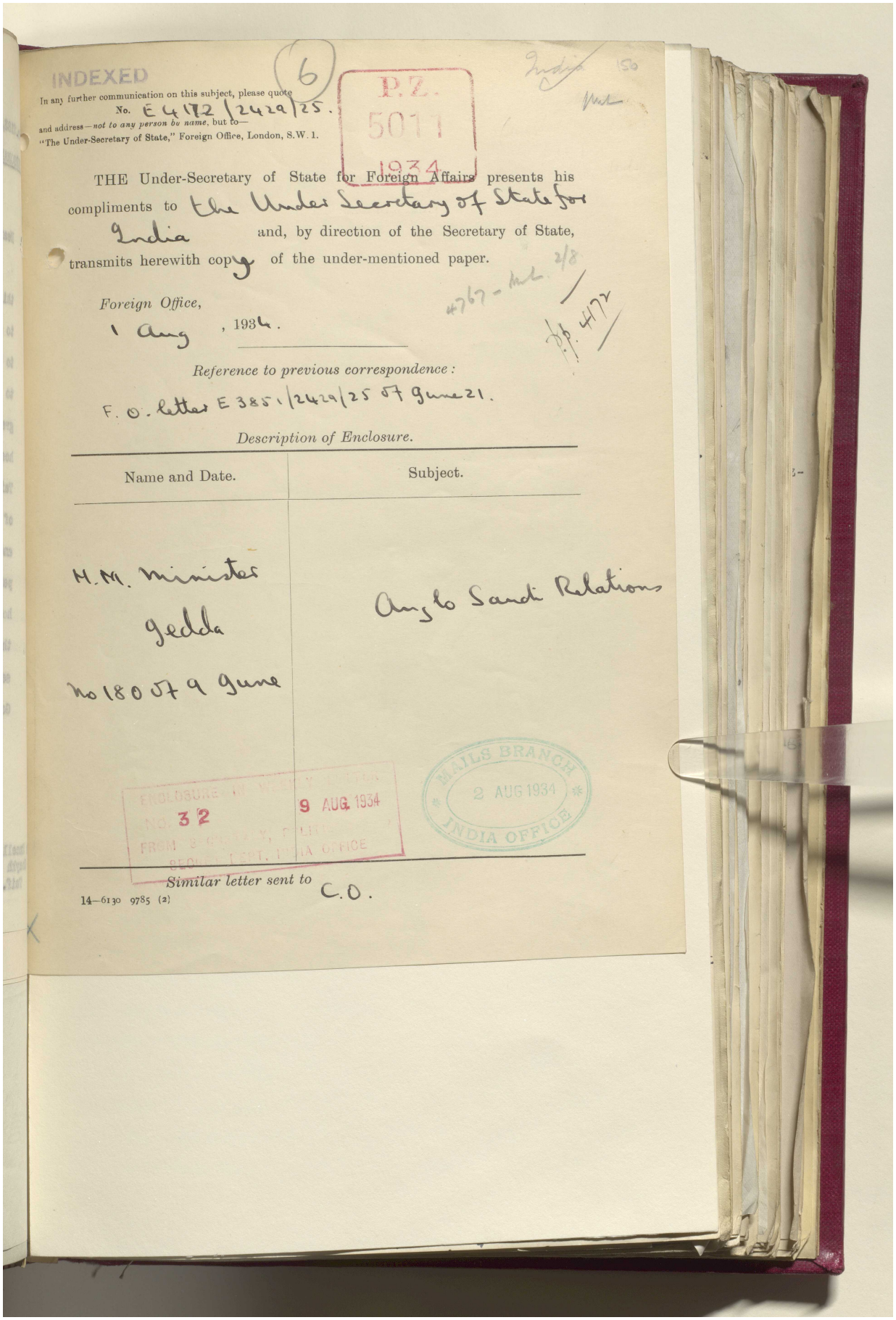

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(6)

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No. E 4172/2429/25.
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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 5011 1934

India 150

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
1 Aug, 1934.

4767 - Mt. 2/8

pp. 4172

Reference to previous correspondence:

F. O. letter E 3851/2429/25 of June 21.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Minister Jedda No 180 of 9 June	Anglo Saudi Relations

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 32
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL SECRET. DEPT. INDIA OFFICE
9 AUG. 1934

MAILS BRANCH
2 AUG 1934
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—6130 9785 (2)

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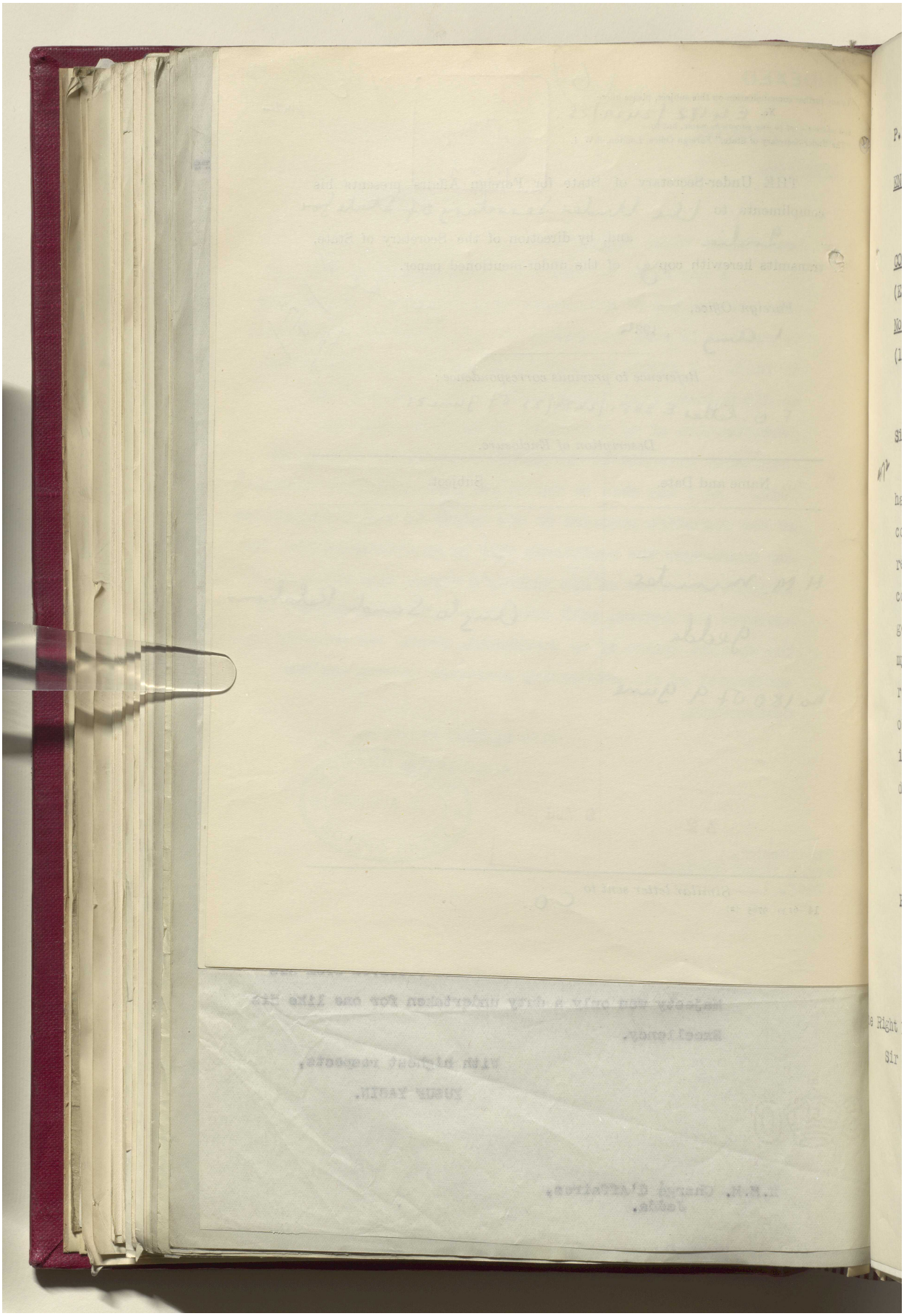

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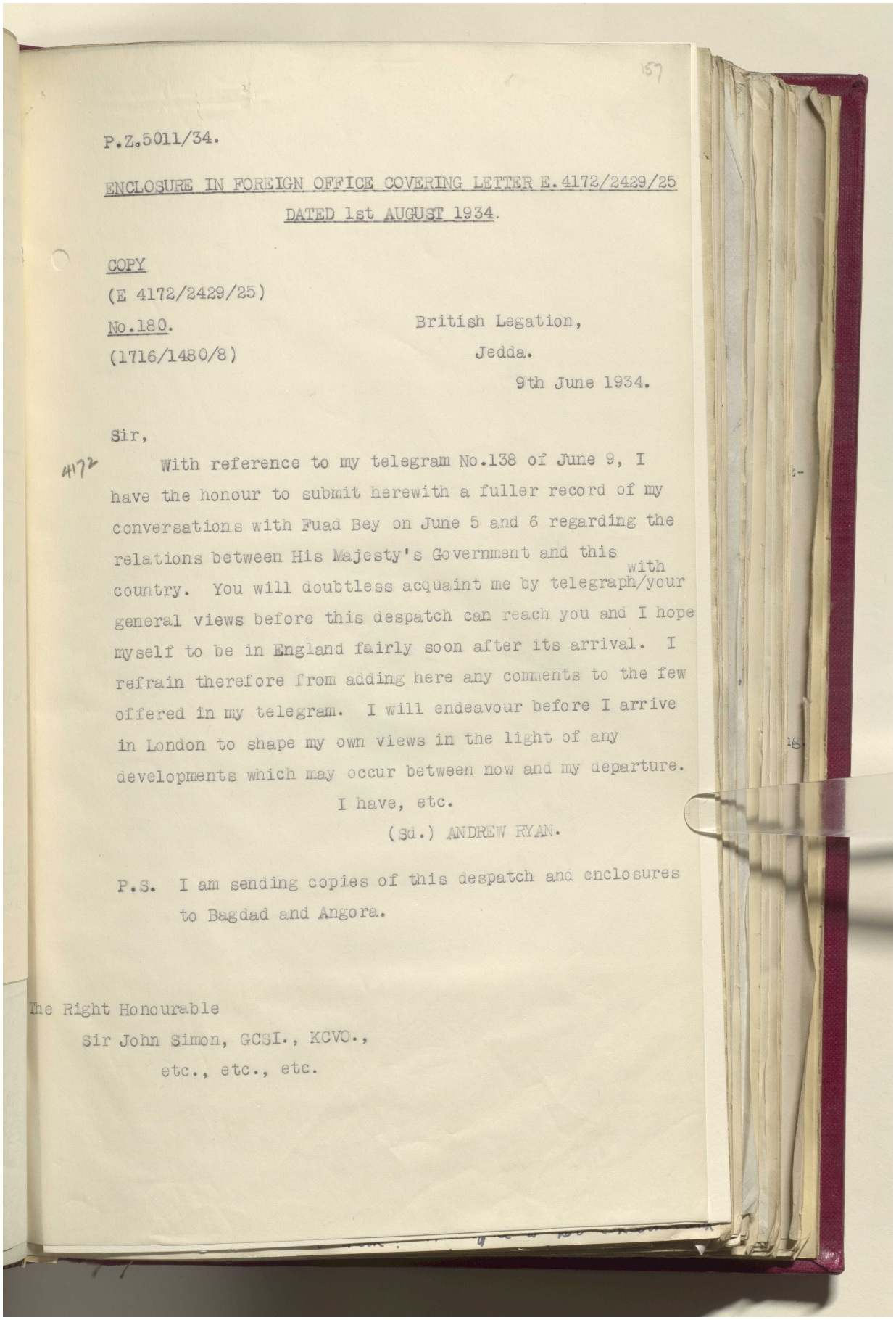

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P.Z.5011/34.

ENCLOSURE IN FOREIGN OFFICE COVERING LETTER E.4172/2429/25 DATED 1st AUGUST 1934.

COPY
(E 4172/2429/25)
No.180.
(1716/1480/8)

British Legation,
Jedda.
9th June 1934.

Sir,

4172 With reference to my telegram No.138 of June 9, I have the honour to submit herewith a fuller record of my conversations with Fuad Bey on June 5 and 6 regarding the relations between His Majesty's Government and this country. You will doubtless acquaint me by telegraph with your general views before this despatch can reach you and I hope myself to be in England fairly soon after its arrival. I refrain therefore from adding here any comments to the few offered in my telegram. I will endeavour before I arrive in London to shape my own views in the light of any developments which may occur between now and my departure.

I have, etc.
(Sd.) ANDREW RYAN.

P.S. I am sending copies of this despatch and enclosures to Bagdad and Angora.

The Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, GCSI., KCVO.,
etc., etc., etc.

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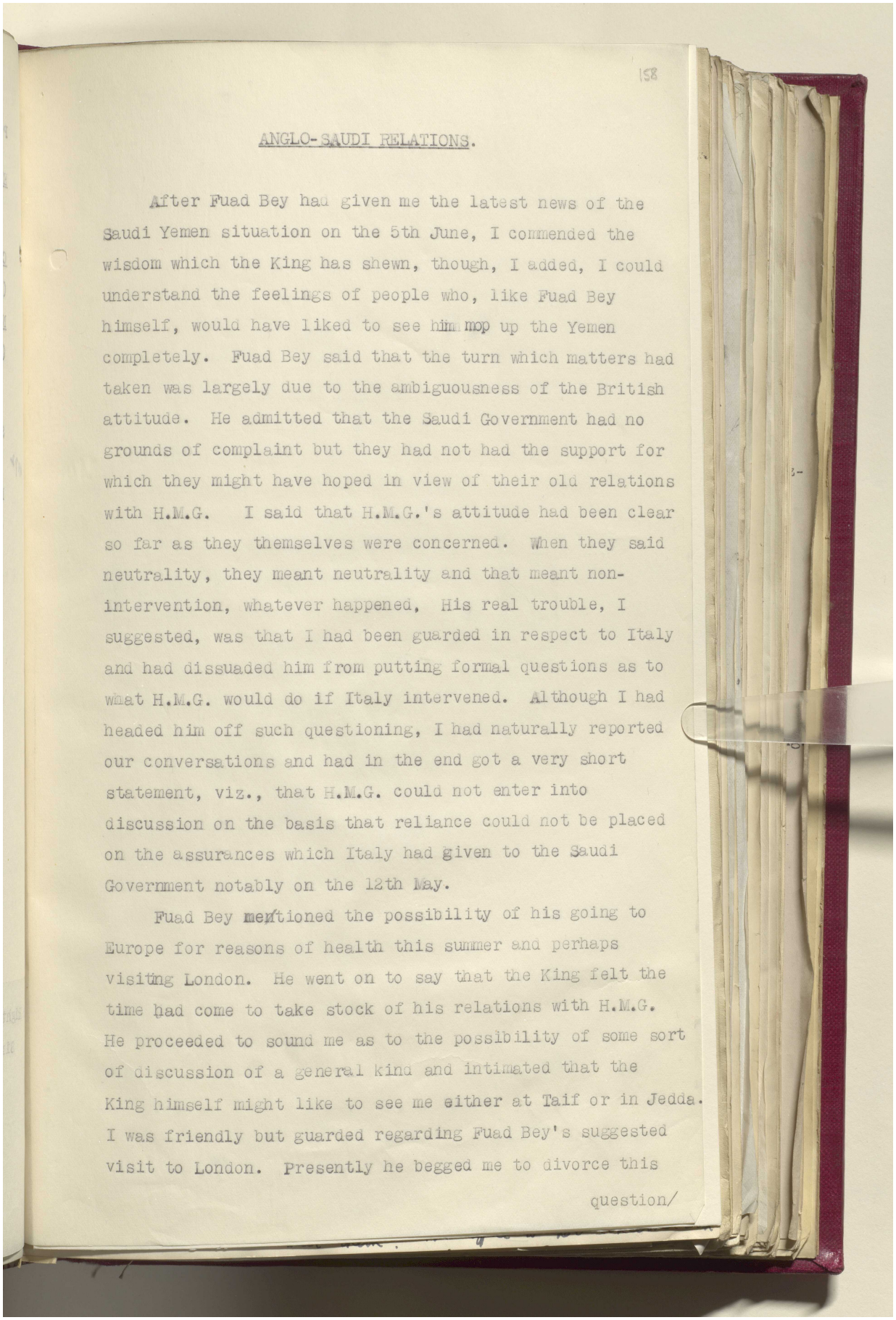

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ANGLO-SAUDI RELATIONS.

After Fuad Bey had given me the latest news of the Saudi Yemen situation on the 5th June, I commended the wisdom which the King has shewn, though, I added, I could understand the feelings of people who, like Fuad Bey himself, would have liked to see him mop up the Yemen completely. Fuad Bey said that the turn which matters had taken was largely due to the ambiguousness of the British attitude. He admitted that the Saudi Government had no grounds of complaint but they had not had the support for which they might have hoped in view of their old relations with H.M.G. I said that H.M.G.'s attitude had been clear so far as they themselves were concerned. When they said neutrality, they meant neutrality and that meant non-intervention, whatever happened. His real trouble, I suggested, was that I had been guarded in respect to Italy and had dissuaded him from putting formal questions as to what H.M.G. would do if Italy intervened. Although I had headed him off such questioning, I had naturally reported our conversations and had in the end got a very short statement, viz., that H.M.G. could not enter into discussion on the basis that reliance could not be placed on the assurances which Italy had given to the Saudi Government notably on the 12th May.

Fuad Bey mentioned the possibility of his going to Europe for reasons of health this summer and perhaps visiting London. He went on to say that the King felt the time had come to take stock of his relations with H.M.G. He proceeded to sound me as to the possibility of some sort of discussion of a general kind and intimated that the King himself might like to see me either at Taif or in Jedda. I was friendly but guarded regarding Fuad Bey's suggested visit to London. Presently he begged me to divorce this

question/

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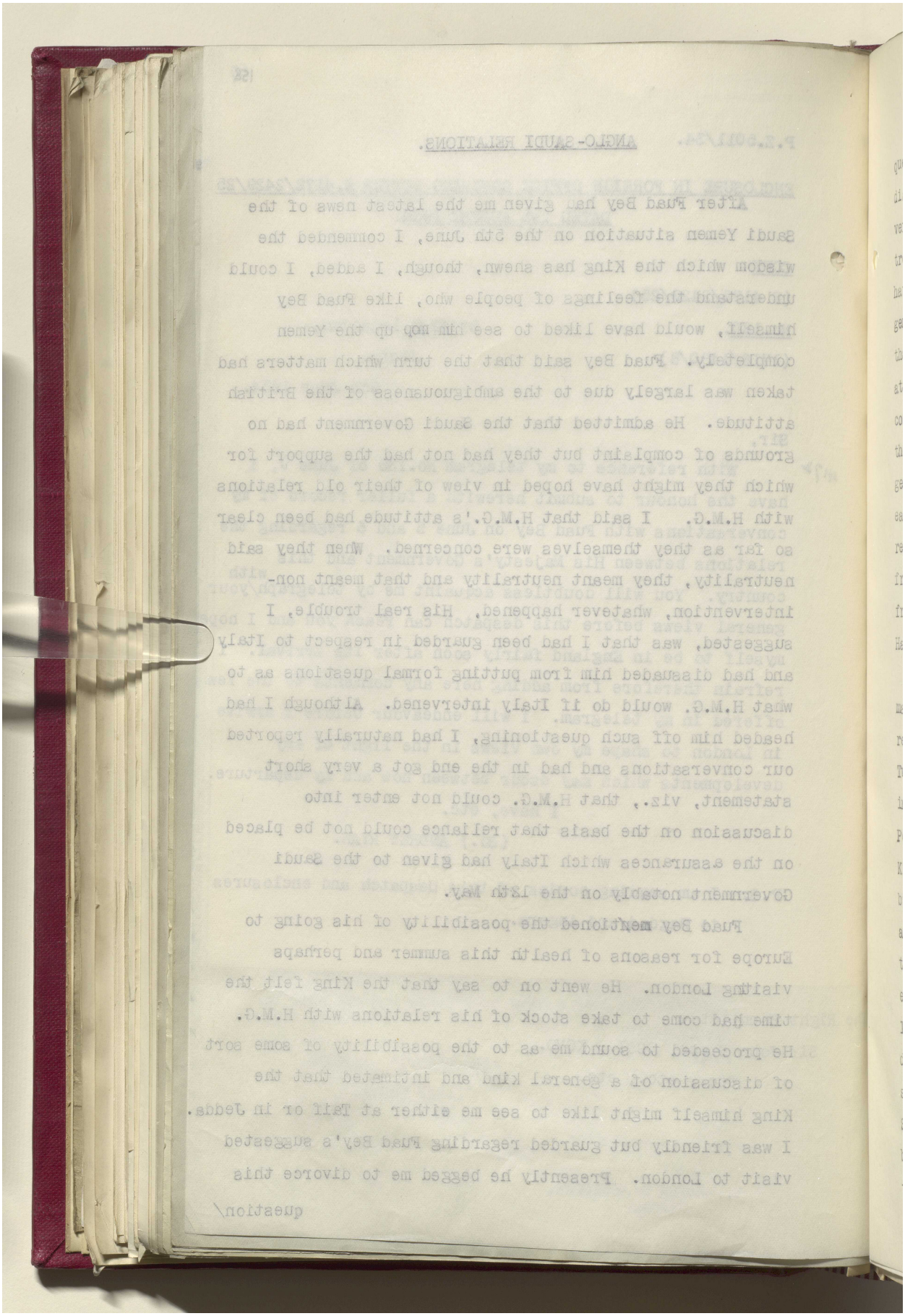

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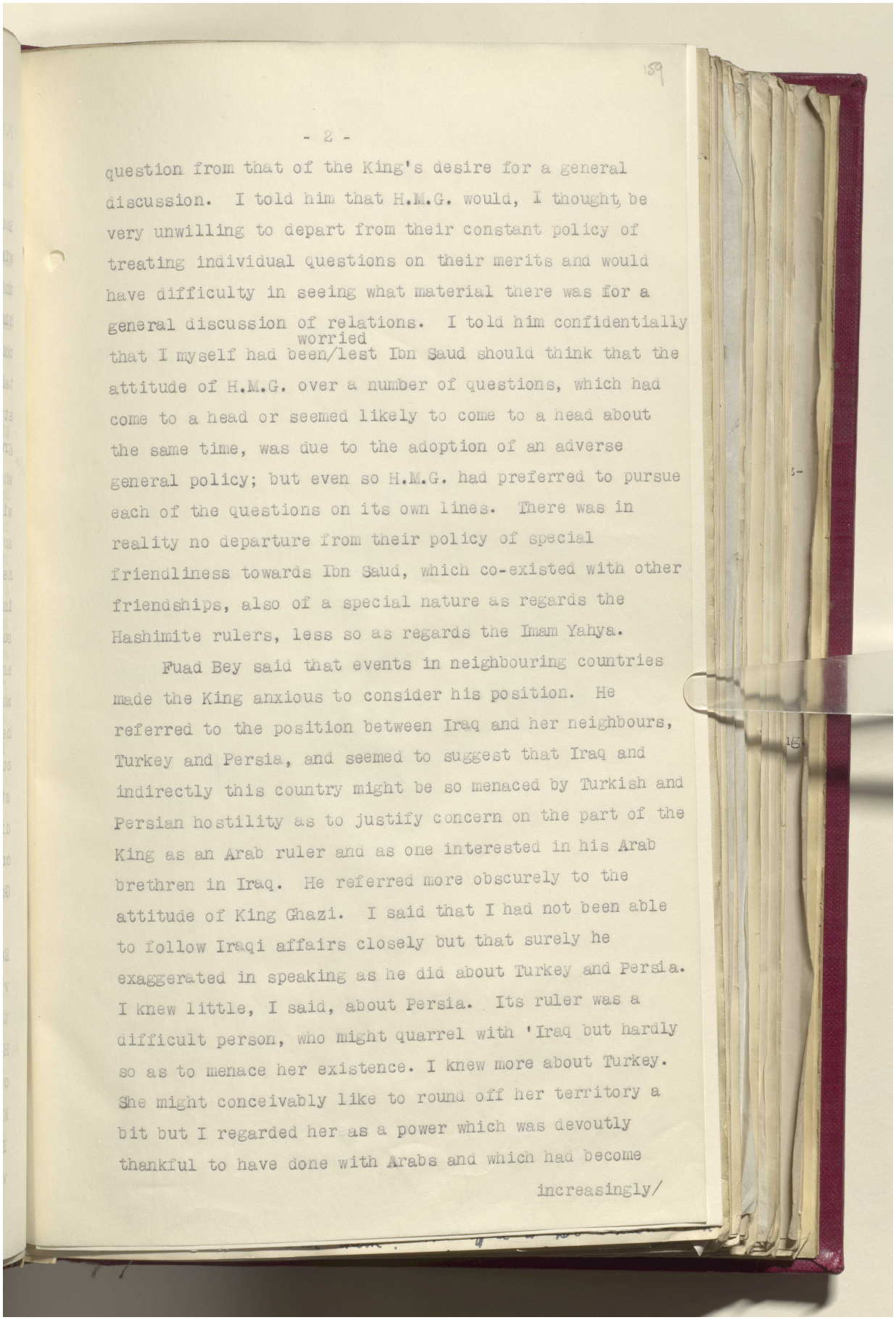

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question from that of the King's desire for a general discussion. I told him that H.M.G. would, I thought, be very unwilling to depart from their constant policy of treating individual questions on their merits and would have difficulty in seeing what material there was for a general discussion of relations. I told him confidentially that I myself had been worried lest Ibn Saud should think that the attitude of H.M.G. over a number of questions, which had come to a head or seemed likely to come to a head about the same time, was due to the adoption of an adverse general policy; but even so H.M.G. had preferred to pursue each of the questions on its own lines. There was in reality no departure from their policy of special friendliness towards Ibn Saud, which co-existed with other friendships, also of a special nature as regards the Hashimite rulers, less so as regards the Imam Yahya.

Fuad Bey said that events in neighbouring countries made the King anxious to consider his position. He referred to the position between Iraq and her neighbours, Turkey and Persia, and seemed to suggest that Iraq and indirectly this country might be so menaced by Turkish and Persian hostility as to justify concern on the part of the King as an Arab ruler and as one interested in his Arab brethren in Iraq. He referred more obscurely to the attitude of King Ghazi. I said that I had not been able to follow Iraqi affairs closely but that surely he exaggerated in speaking as he did about Turkey and Persia. I knew little, I said, about Persia. Its ruler was a difficult person, who might quarrel with 'Iraq but hardly so as to menace her existence. I knew more about Turkey. She might conceivably like to round off her territory a bit but I regarded her as a power which was devoutly thankful to have done with Arabs and which had become

increasingly/

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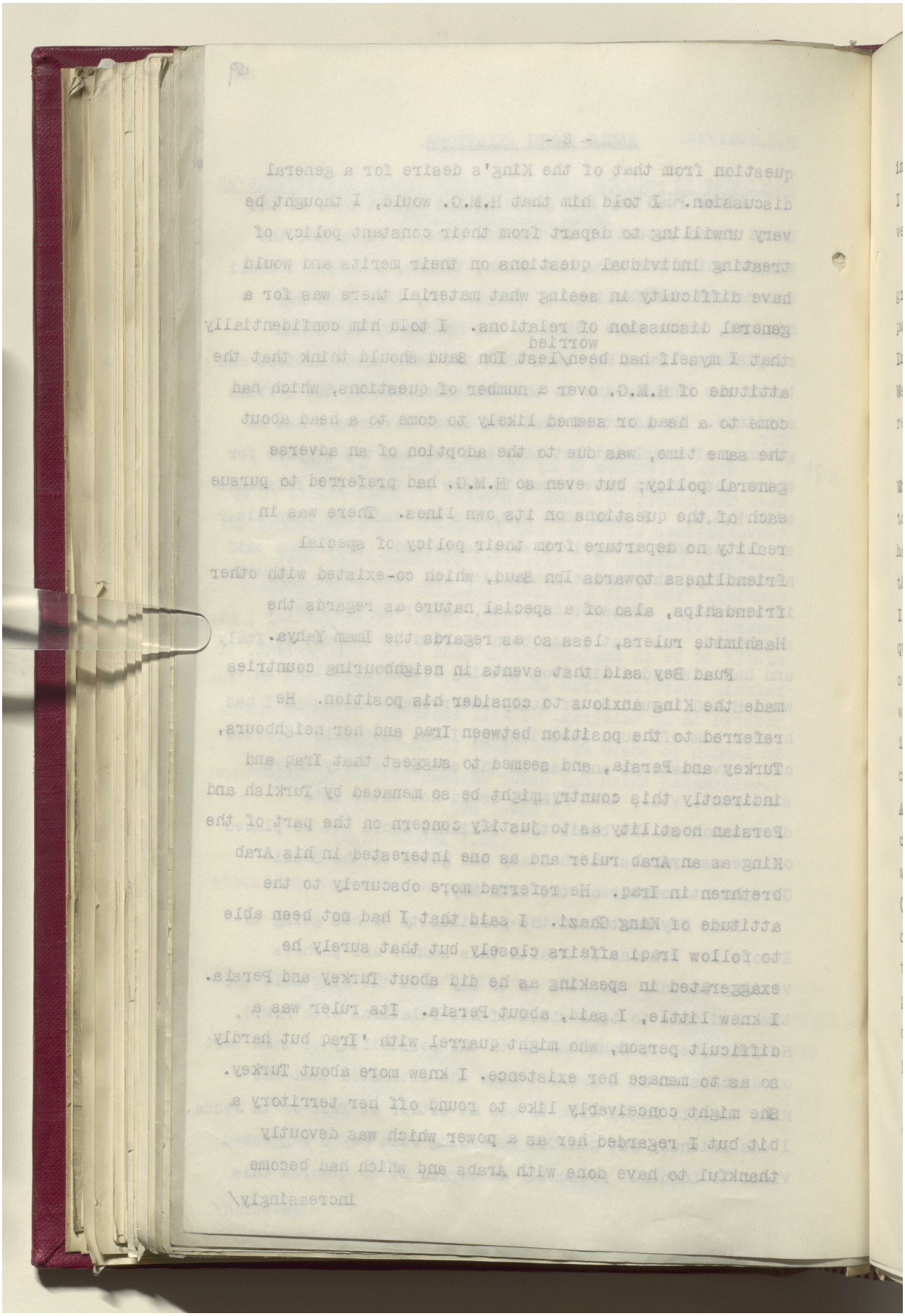

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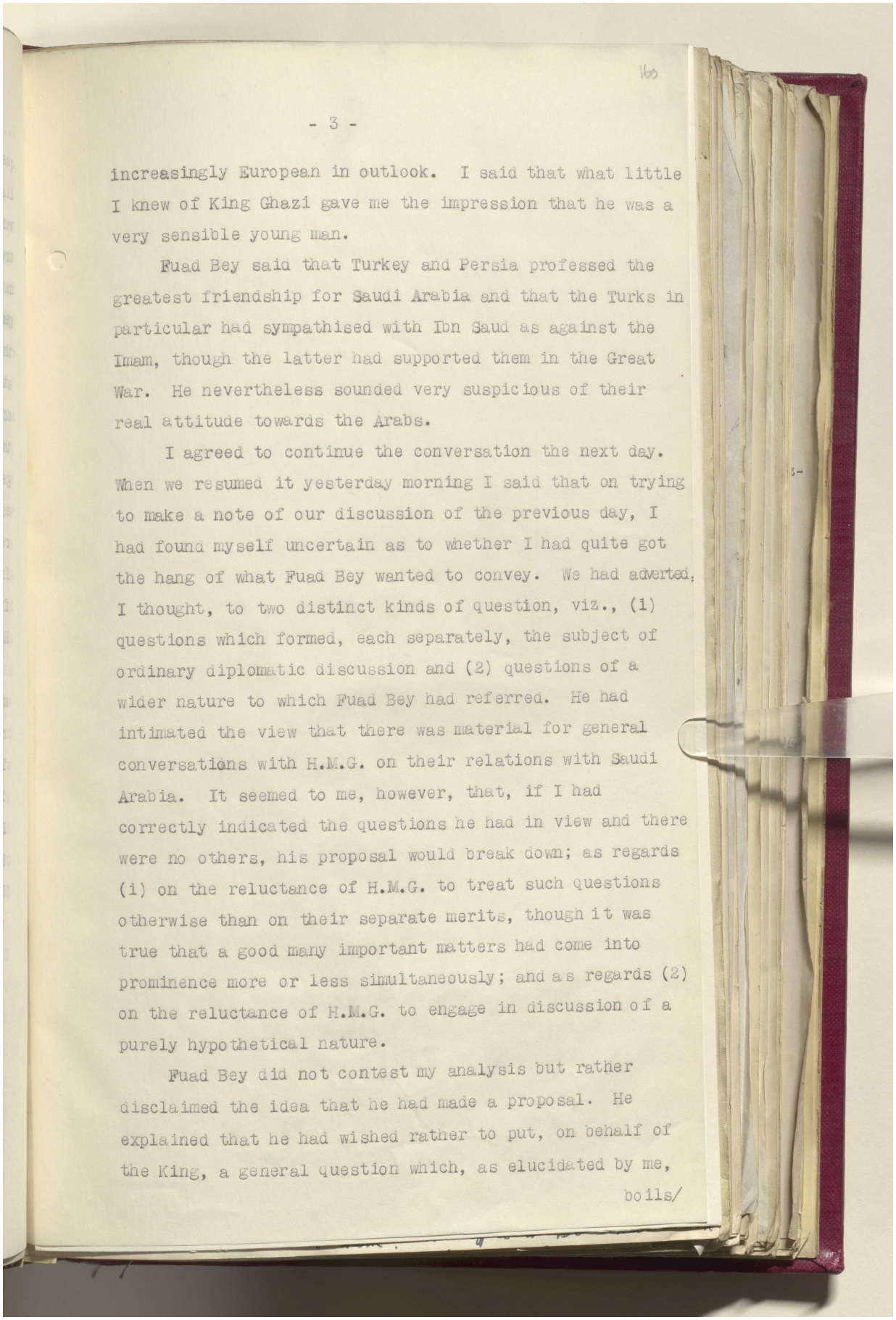

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increasingly European in outlook. I said that what little I knew of King Ghazi gave me the impression that he was a very sensible young man.

Fuad Bey said that Turkey and Persia professed the greatest friendship for Saudi Arabia and that the Turks in particular had sympathised with Ibn Saud as against the Imam, though the latter had supported them in the Great War. He nevertheless sounded very suspicious of their real attitude towards the Arabs.

I agreed to continue the conversation the next day. When we resumed it yesterday morning I said that on trying to make a note of our discussion of the previous day, I had found myself uncertain as to whether I had quite got the hang of what Fuad Bey wanted to convey. We had adverted, I thought, to two distinct kinds of question, viz., (i) questions which formed, each separately, the subject of ordinary diplomatic discussion and (2) questions of a wider nature to which Fuad Bey had referred. He had intimated the view that there was material for general conversations with H.M.G. on their relations with Saudi Arabia. It seemed to me, however, that, if I had correctly indicated the questions he had in view and there were no others, his proposal would break down; as regards (i) on the reluctance of H.M.G. to treat such questions otherwise than on their separate merits, though it was true that a good many important matters had come into prominence more or less simultaneously; and as regards (2) on the reluctance of H.M.G. to engage in discussion of a purely hypothetical nature.

Fuad Bey did not contest my analysis but rather disclaimed the idea that he had made a proposal. He explained that he had wished rather to put, on behalf of the King, a general question which, as elucidated by me,

boils/

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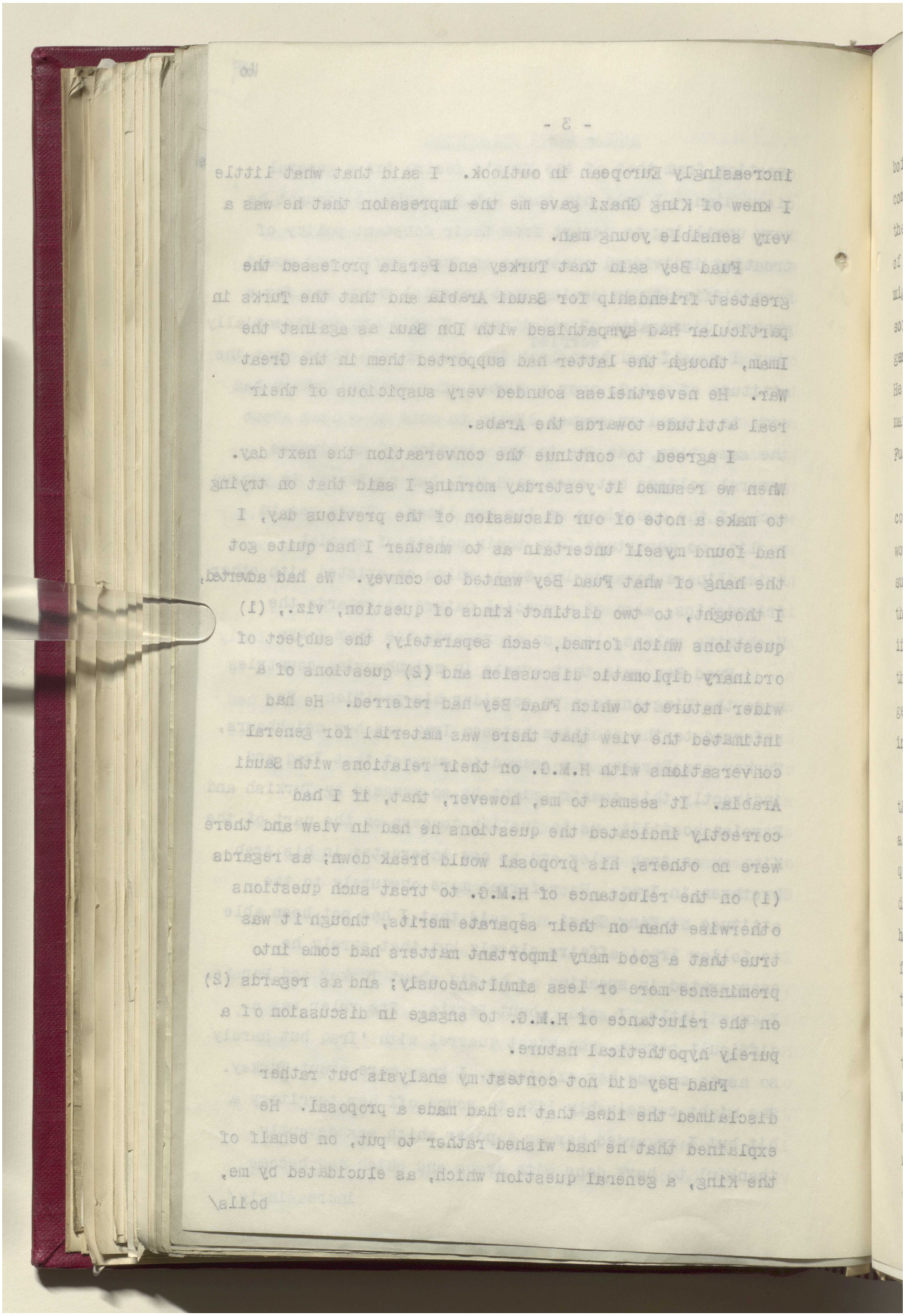

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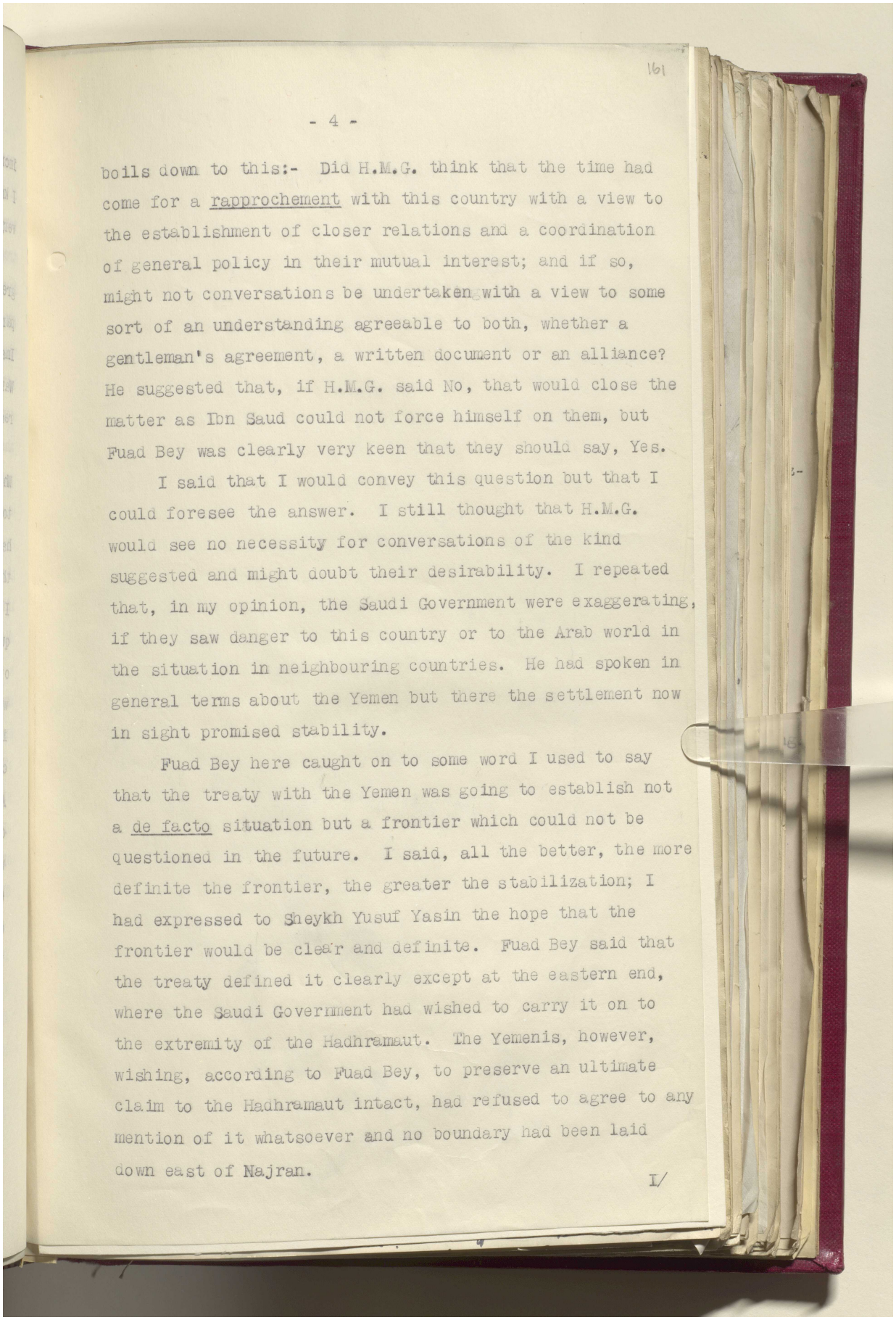

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boils down to this:- Did H.M.G. think that the time had come for a rapprochement with this country with a view to the establishment of closer relations and a coordination of general policy in their mutual interest; and if so, might not conversations be undertaken with a view to some sort of an understanding agreeable to both, whether a gentleman's agreement, a written document or an alliance? He suggested that, if H.M.G. said No, that would close the matter as Ibn Saud could not force himself on them, but Fuad Bey was clearly very keen that they should say, Yes.

I said that I would convey this question but that I could foresee the answer. I still thought that H.M.G. would see no necessity for conversations of the kind suggested and might doubt their desirability. I repeated that, in my opinion, the Saudi Government were exaggerating, if they saw danger to this country or to the Arab world in the situation in neighbouring countries. He had spoken in general terms about the Yemen but there the settlement now in sight promised stability.

Fuad Bey here caught on to some word I used to say that the treaty with the Yemen was going to establish not a de facto situation but a frontier which could not be questioned in the future. I said, all the better, the more definite the frontier, the greater the stabilization; I had expressed to Sheykh Yusuf Yasin the hope that the frontier would be clear and definite. Fuad Bey said that the treaty defined it clearly except at the eastern end, where the Saudi Government had wished to carry it on to the extremity of the Hadhramaut. The Yemenis, however, wishing, according to Fuad Bey, to preserve an ultimate claim to the Hadhramaut intact, had refused to agree to any mention of it whatsoever and no boundary had been laid down east of Najran.

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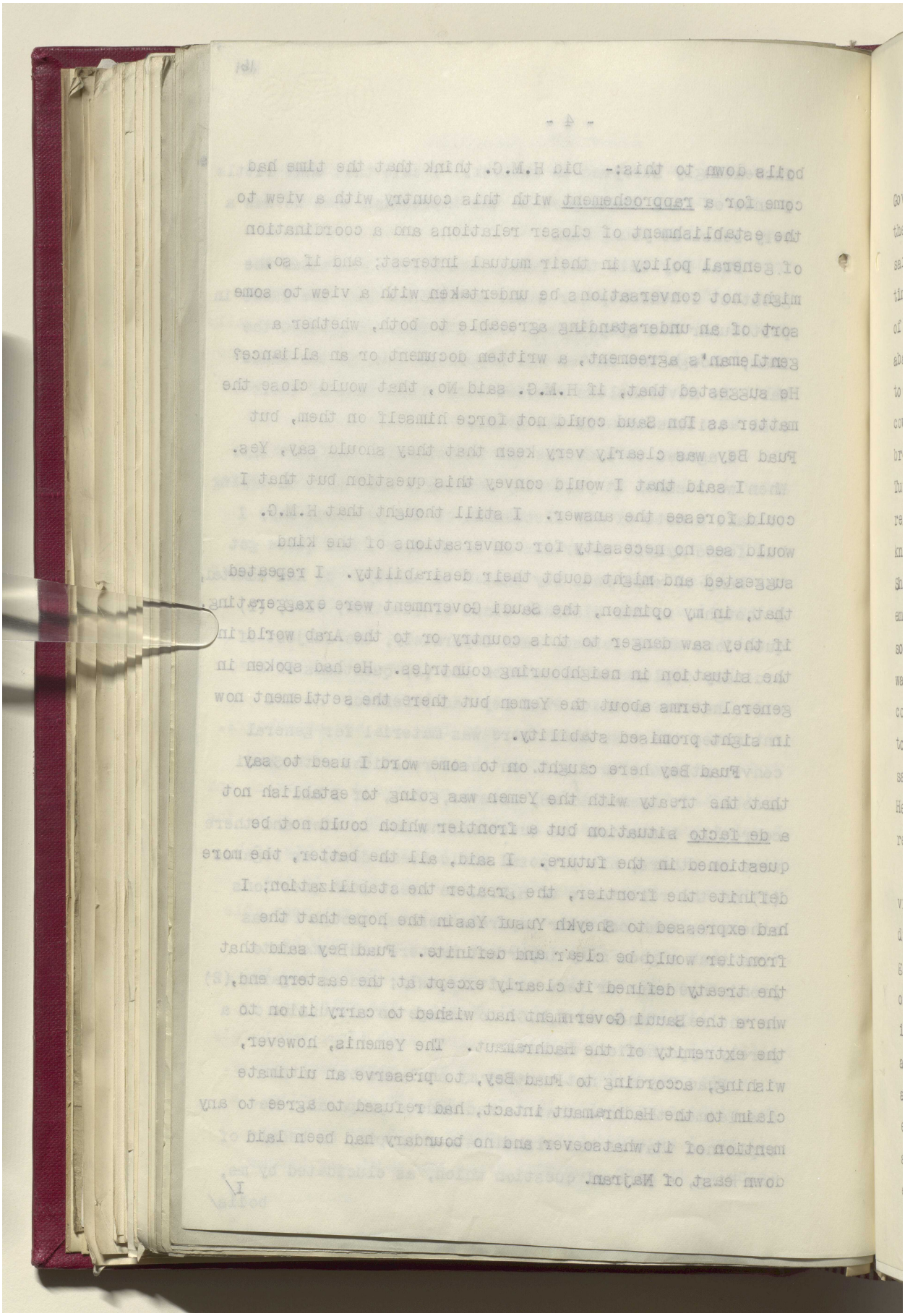

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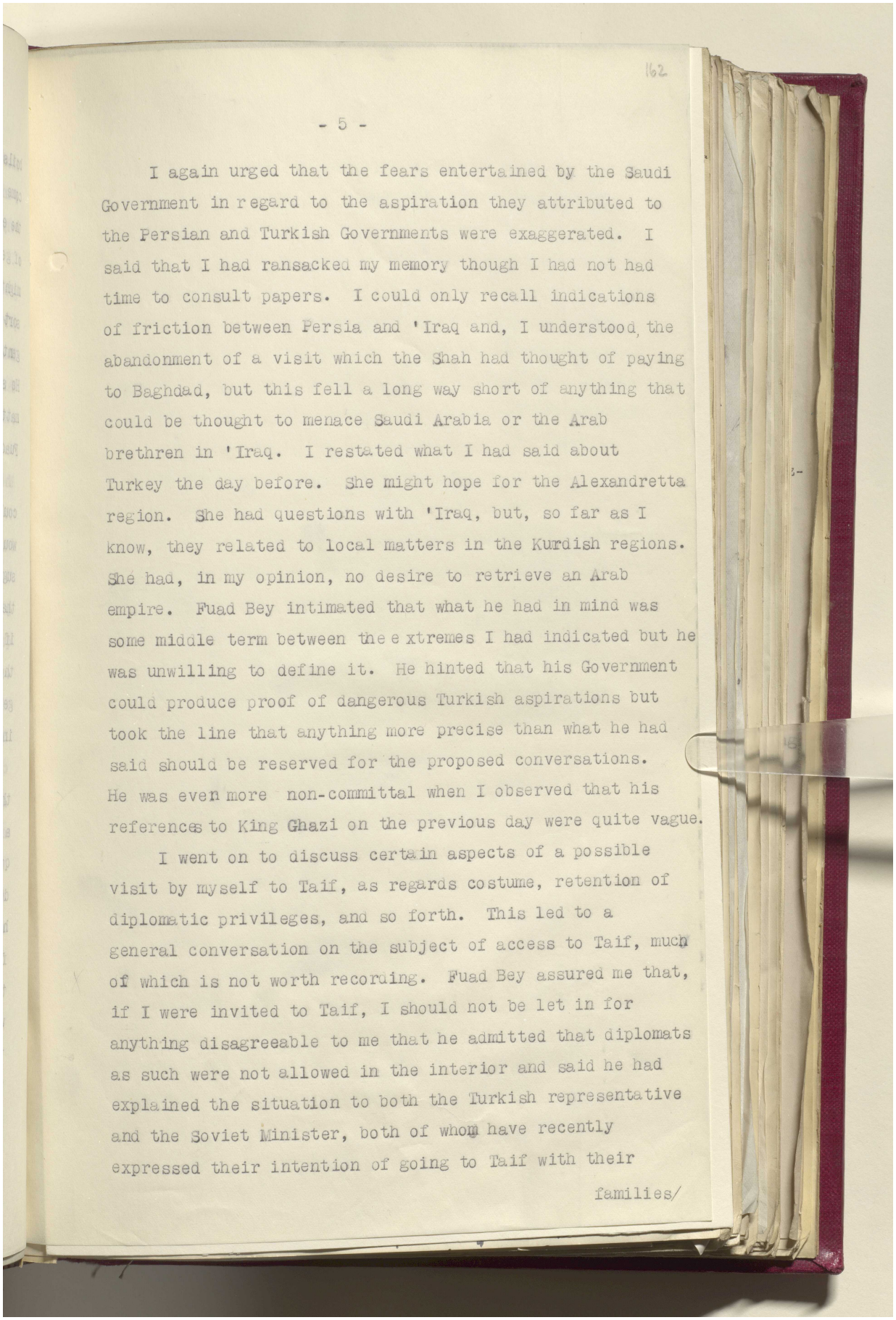

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I again urged that the fears entertained by the Saudi Government in regard to the aspiration they attributed to the Persian and Turkish Governments were exaggerated. I said that I had ransacked my memory though I had not had time to consult papers. I could only recall indications of friction between Persia and 'Iraq and, I understood, the abandonment of a visit which the Shah had thought of paying to Baghdad, but this fell a long way short of anything that could be thought to menace Saudi Arabia or the Arab brethren in 'Iraq. I restated what I had said about Turkey the day before. She might hope for the Alexandretta region. She had questions with 'Iraq, but, so far as I know, they related to local matters in the Kurdish regions. She had, in my opinion, no desire to retrieve an Arab empire. Fuad Bey intimated that what he had in mind was some middle term between the extremes I had indicated but he was unwilling to define it. He hinted that his Government could produce proof of dangerous Turkish aspirations but took the line that anything more precise than what he had said should be reserved for the proposed conversations. He was even more non-committal when I observed that his references to King Ghazi on the previous day were quite vague.

I went on to discuss certain aspects of a possible visit by myself to Taif, as regards costume, retention of diplomatic privileges, and so forth. This led to a general conversation on the subject of access to Taif, much of which is not worth recording. Fuad Bey assured me that, if I were invited to Taif, I should not be let in for anything disagreeable to me that he admitted that diplomats as such were not allowed in the interior and said he had explained the situation to both the Turkish representative and the Soviet Minister, both of whom have recently expressed their intention of going to Taif with their

families/

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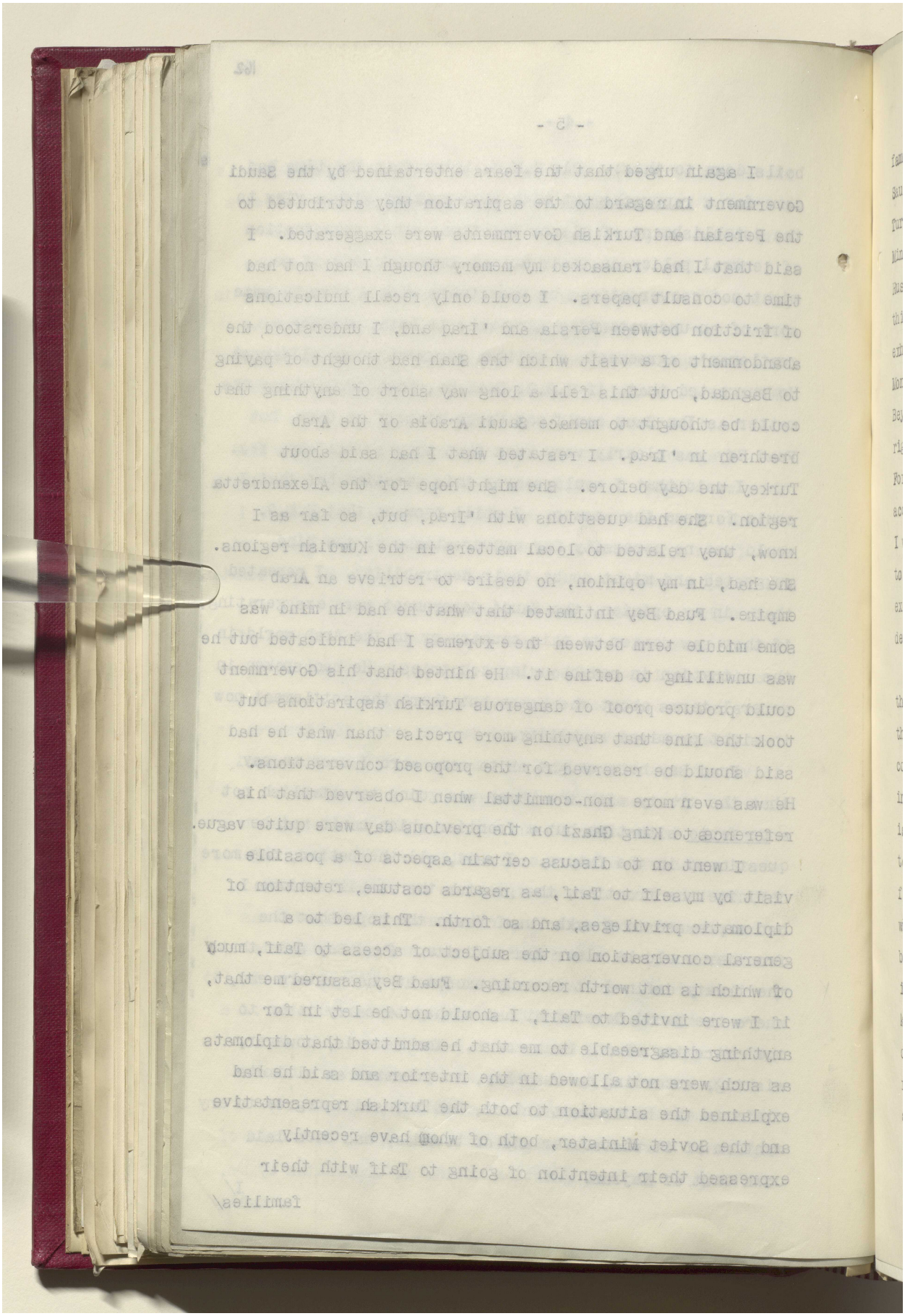

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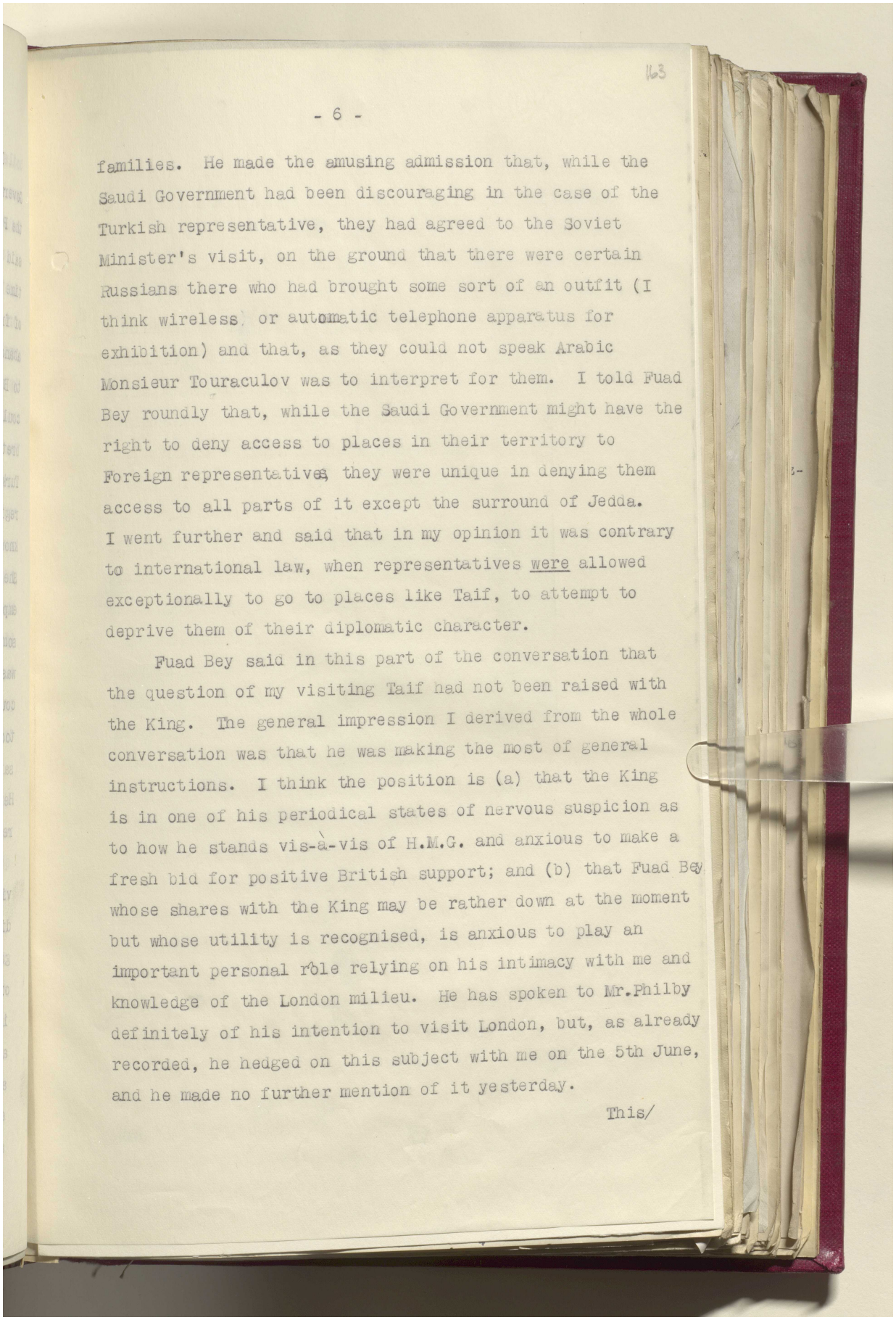

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families. He made the amusing admission that, while the Saudi Government had been discouraging in the case of the Turkish representative, they had agreed to the Soviet Minister's visit, on the ground that there were certain Russians there who had brought some sort of an outfit (I think wireless or automatic telephone apparatus for exhibition) and that, as they could not speak Arabic Monsieur Touraculov was to interpret for them. I told Fuad Bey roundly that, while the Saudi Government might have the right to deny access to places in their territory to Foreign representatives, they were unique in denying them access to all parts of it except the surround of Jedda. I went further and said that in my opinion it was contrary to international law, when representatives were allowed exceptionally to go to places like Taif, to attempt to deprive them of their diplomatic character.

Fuad Bey said in this part of the conversation that the question of my visiting Taif had not been raised with the King. The general impression I derived from the whole conversation was that he was making the most of general instructions. I think the position is (a) that the King is in one of his periodical states of nervous suspicion as to how he stands vis-à-vis of H.M.G. and anxious to make a fresh bid for positive British support; and (b) that Fuad Bey whose shares with the King may be rather down at the moment but whose utility is recognised, is anxious to play an important personal rôle relying on his intimacy with me and knowledge of the London milieu. He has spoken to Mr.Philby definitely of his intention to visit London, but, as already recorded, he hedged on this subject with me on the 5th June, and he made no further mention of it yesterday.

This/

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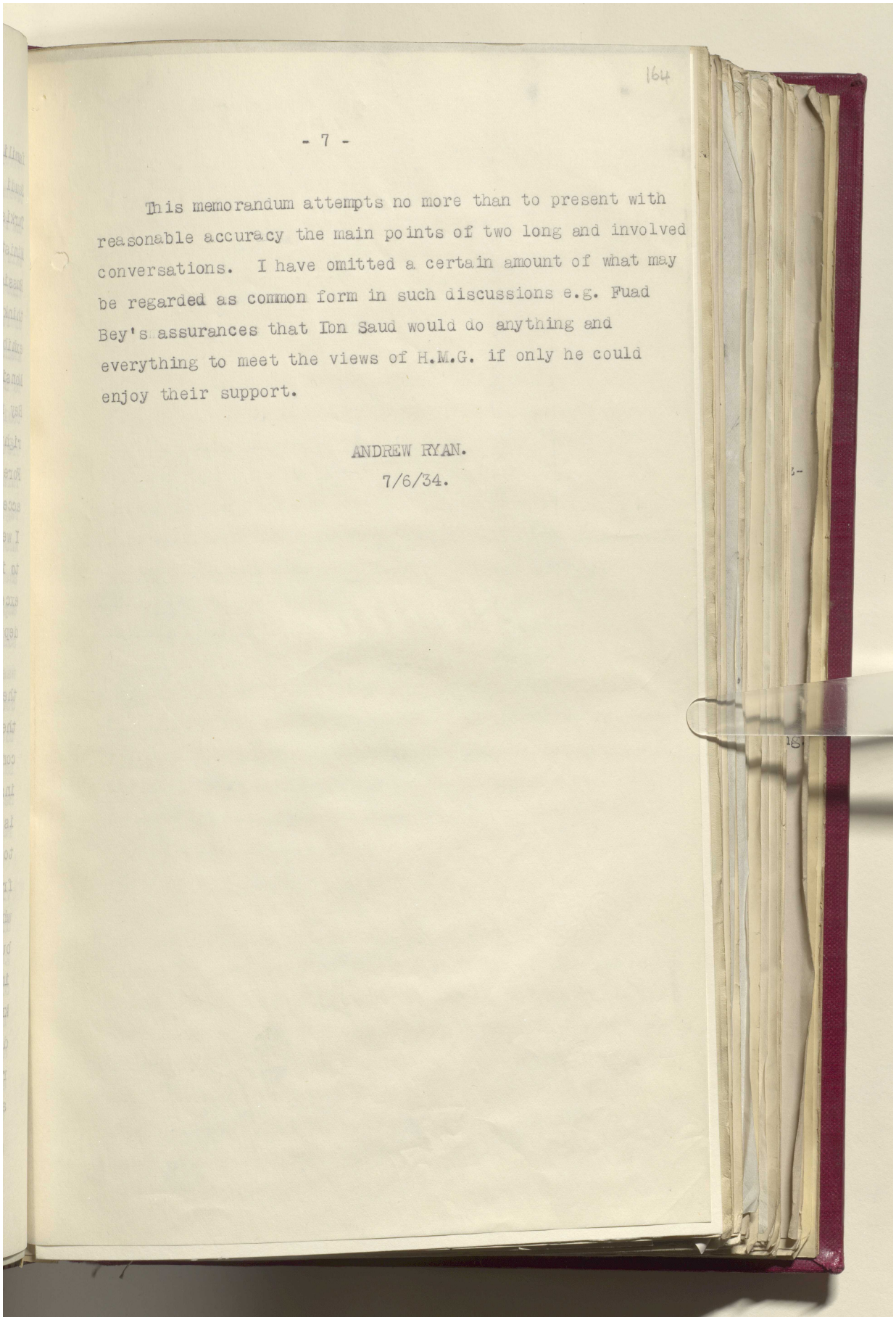

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This memorandum attempts no more than to present with reasonable accuracy the main points of two long and involved conversations. I have omitted a certain amount of what may be regarded as common form in such discussions e.g. Fuad Bey's assurances that Ibn Saud would do anything and everything to meet the views of H.M.G. if only he could enjoy their support.

ANDREW RYAN.
7/6/34.

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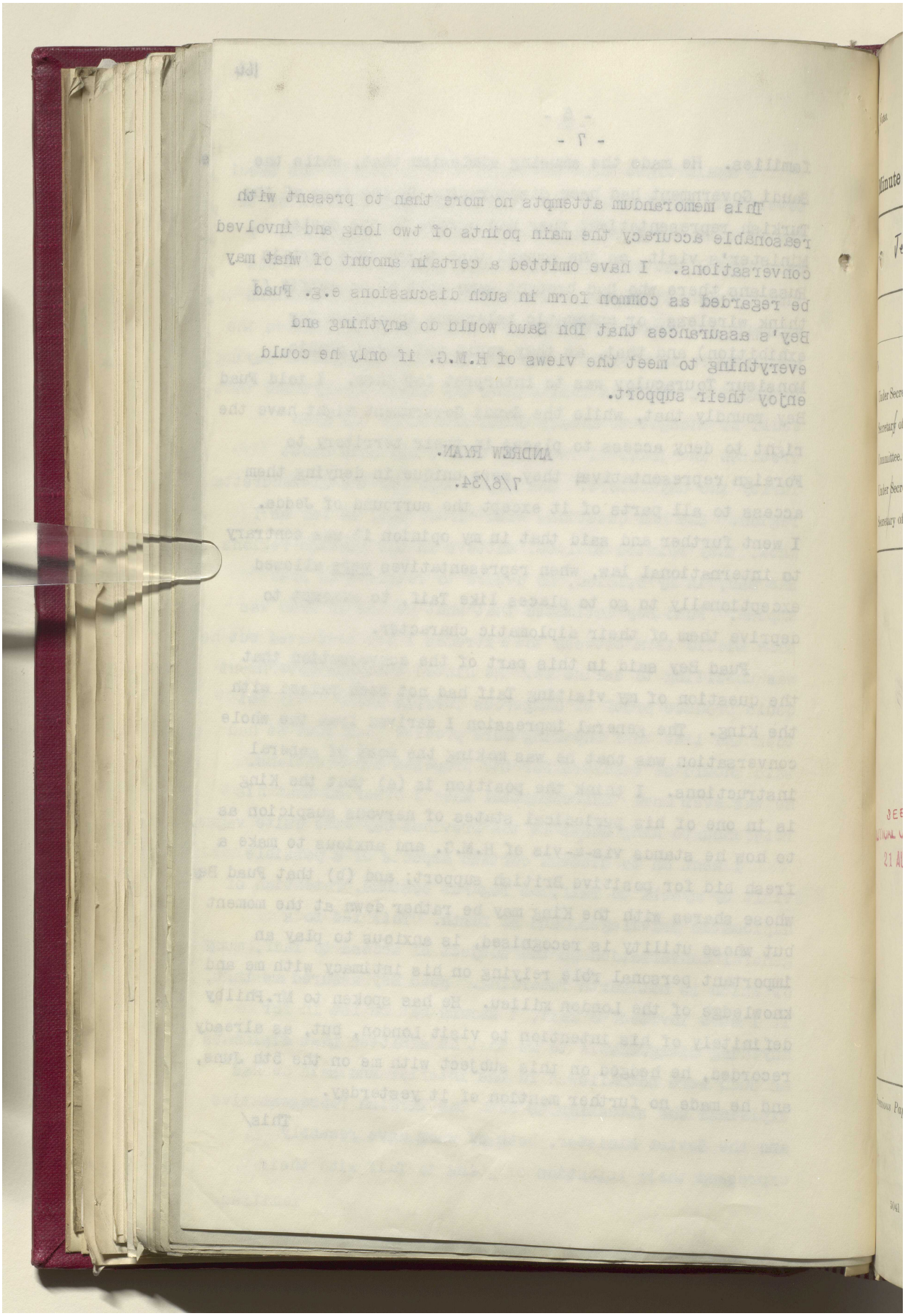

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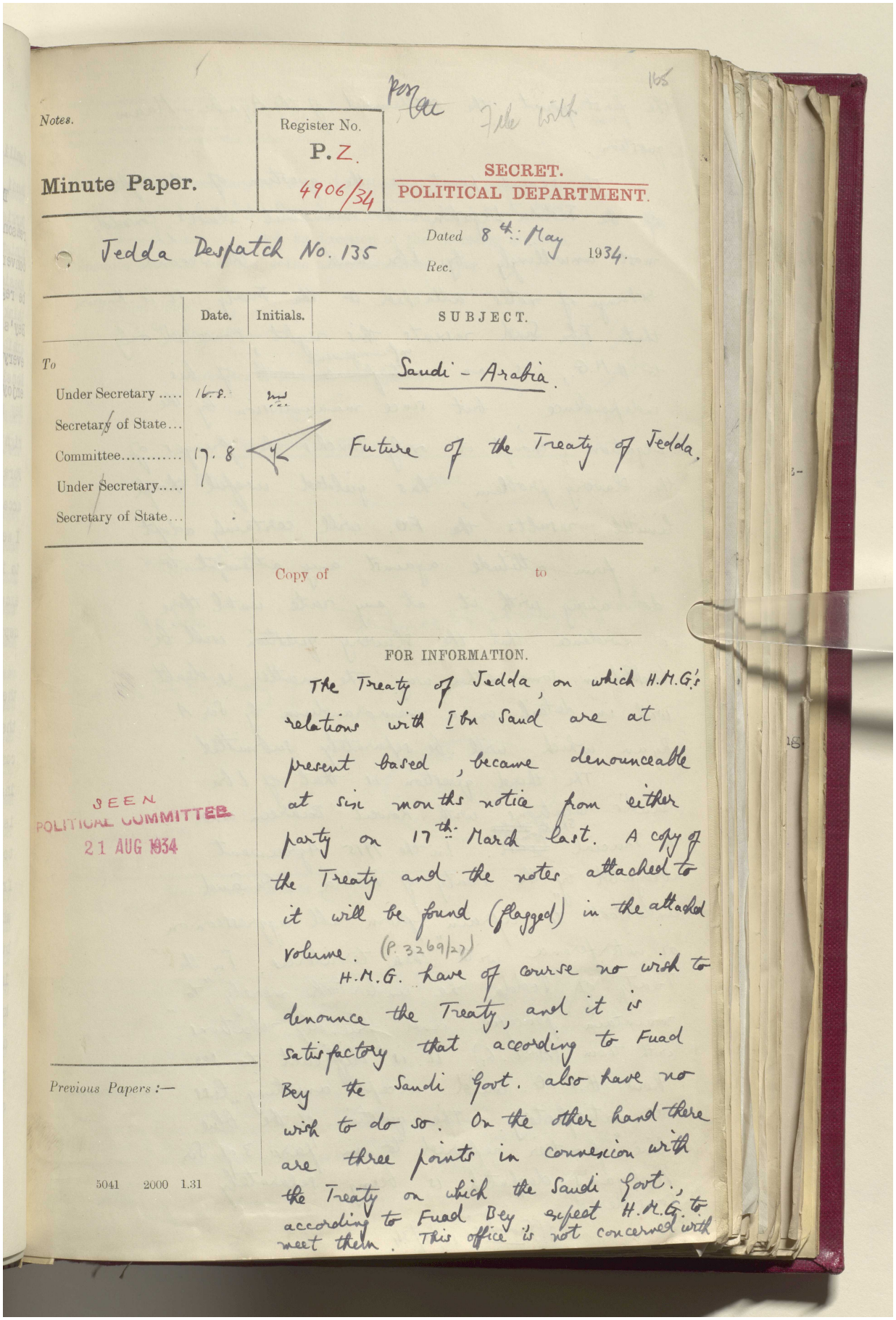

Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P.Z. 4906/34

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Jedda Despatch No. 135 Dated 8th May 1934. Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Saudi - Arabia.
Under Secretary	16.8.		
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	17.8		Future of the Treaty of Jedda.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

The Treaty of Jedda, on which H.M.G.'s relations with Ibn Saud are at present based, became denounceable at six months notice from either party on 17th March last. A copy of the Treaty and the notes attached to it will be found (flagged) in the attached volume. (P. 3269/27)

H.M.G. have of course no wish to denounce the Treaty, and it is satisfactory that according to Fuad Bey the Saudi Govt. also have no wish to do so. On the other hand there are three points in connexion with the Treaty on which the Saudi Govt., according to Fuad Bey, expect H.M.G. to meet them. This office is not concerned with

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE 21 AUG 1934

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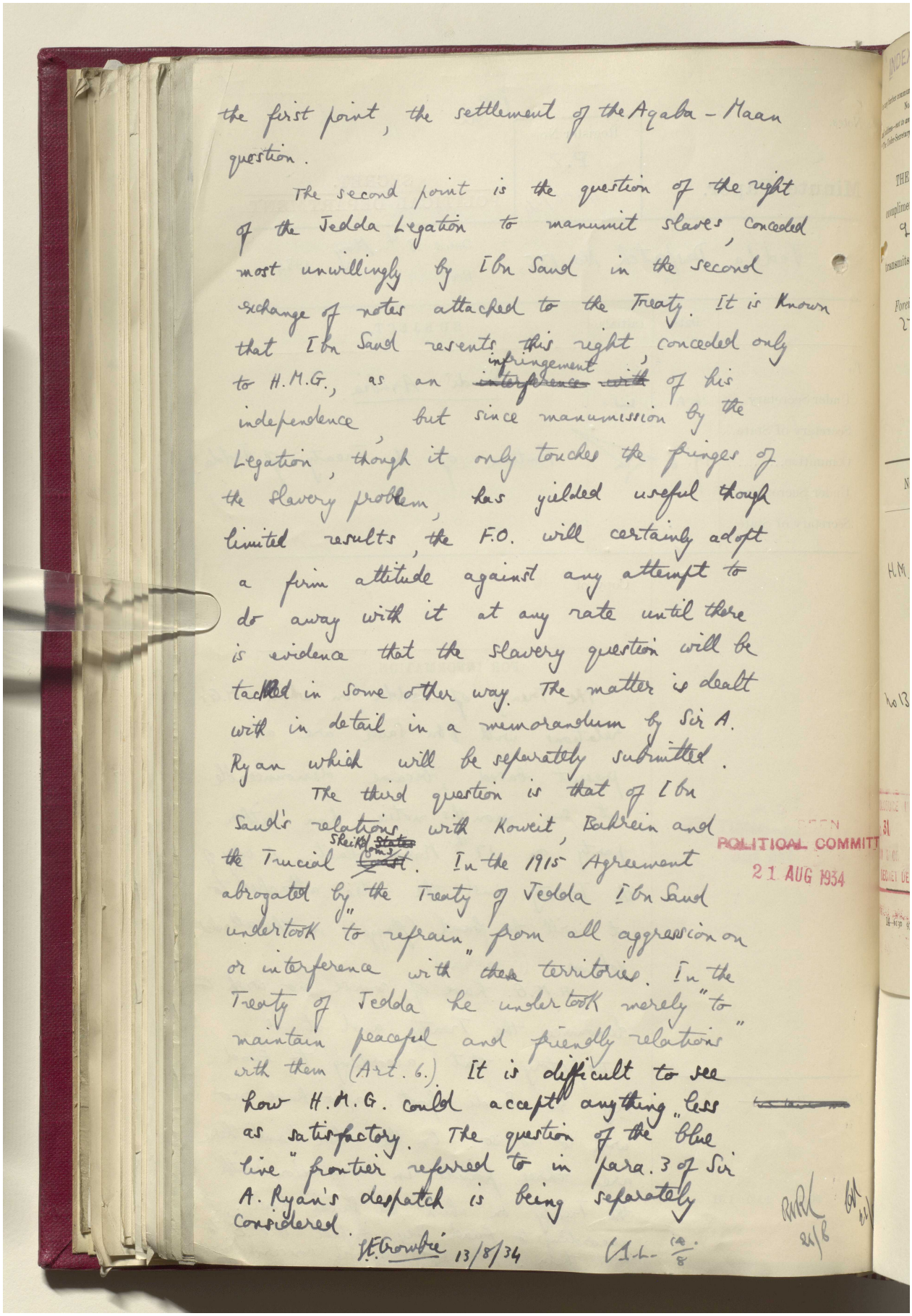

the first point, the settlement of the Aqaba - Maan question.

The second point is the question of the right of the Jedda Legation to manumit slaves, conceded most unwillingly by Ibn Saud in the second exchange of notes attached to the Treaty. It is known that Ibn Saud resents this right, conceded only to H.M.G., as an ~~interference with~~ infringement of his independence, but since manumission by the Legation, though it only touches the fringes of the slavery problem, has yielded useful though limited results, the F.O. will certainly adopt a firm attitude against any attempt to do away with it at any rate until there is evidence that the slavery question will be tackled in some other way. The matter is dealt with in detail in a memorandum by Sir A. Ryan which will be separately submitted.

The third question is that of Ibn Saud's relations with Koweit, Bahrein and the Trucial ~~States~~ Sheikhs. In the 1915 Agreement abrogated by the Treaty of Jedda Ibn Saud undertook "to refrain from all aggression on or interference with these territories. In the Treaty of Jedda he undertook merely "to maintain peaceful and friendly relations" with them (Art. 6.) It is difficult to see how H.M.G. could accept anything less as satisfactory. The question of the "blue line" frontier referred to in para. 3 of Sir A. Ryan's despatch is being separately considered.

H.R. Crombie 13/8/34

POLITICAL COMMITT
21 AUG 1934

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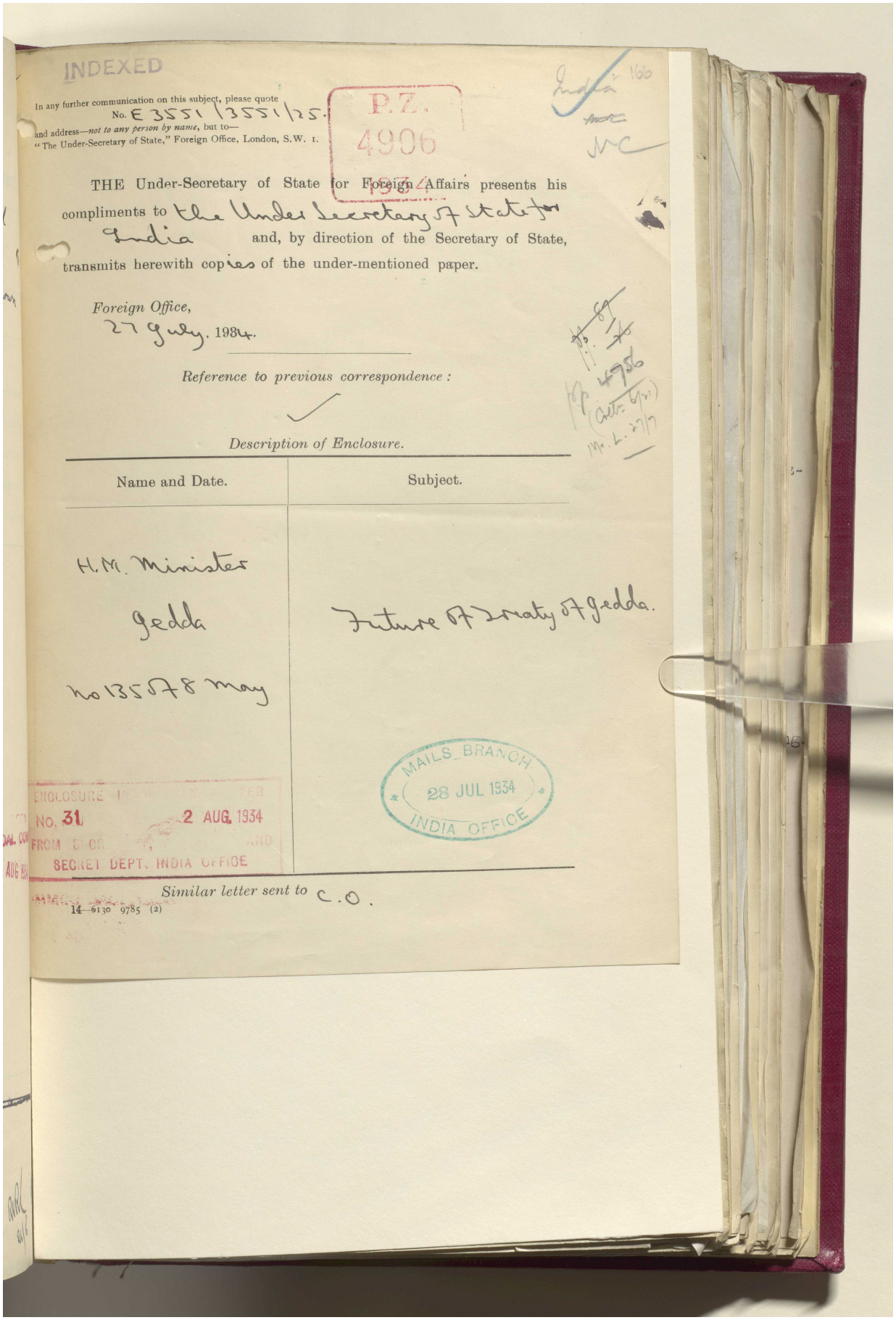

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 4906 1934

India 166

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
27 July. 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Minister Jedda no 135 of 8 May	Future of Treaty of Jedda.

ENCLOSURE IN [illegible] LETTER No. 31 2 AUG. 1934 FROM [illegible] AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH 28 JUL 1934 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O.

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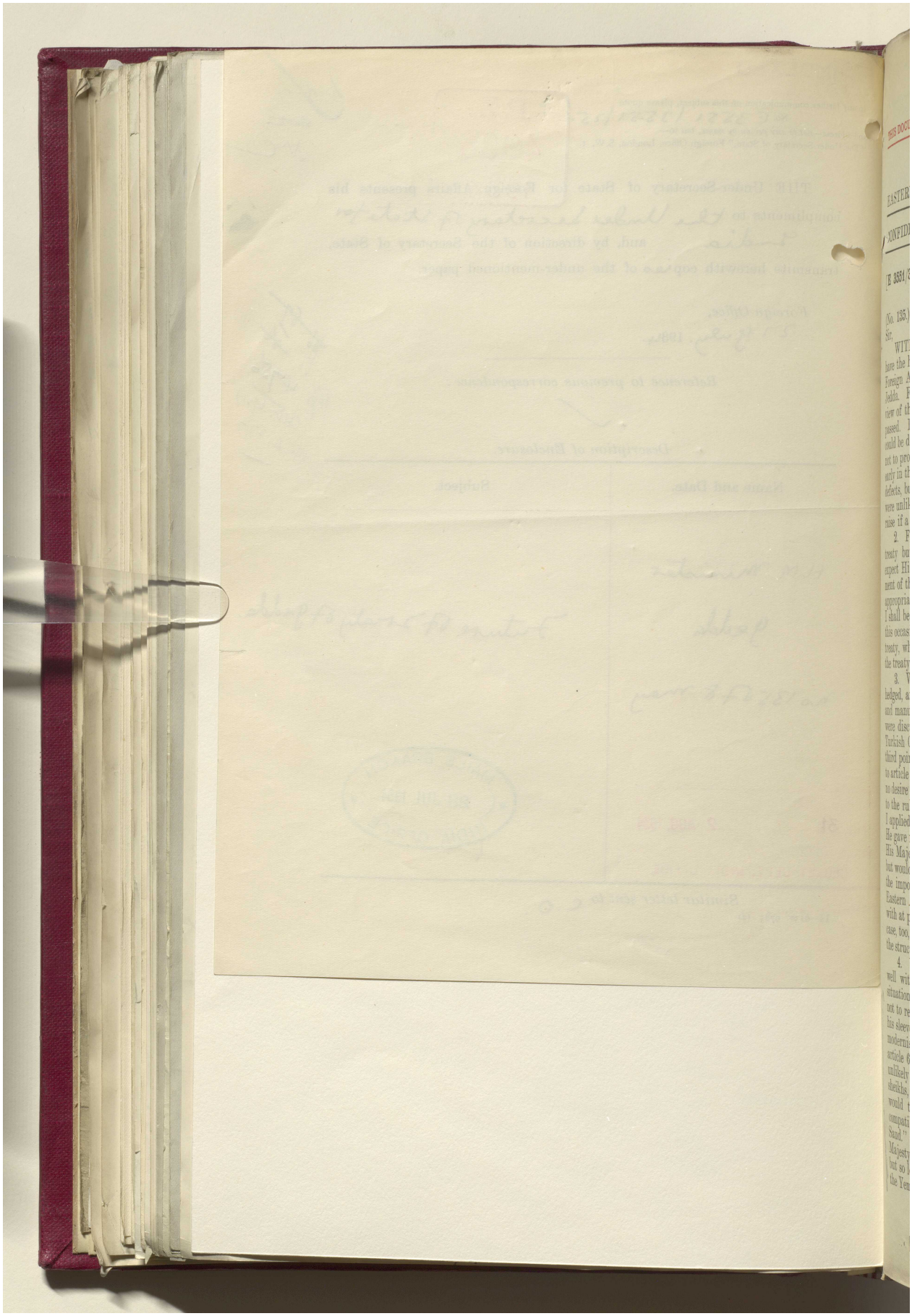

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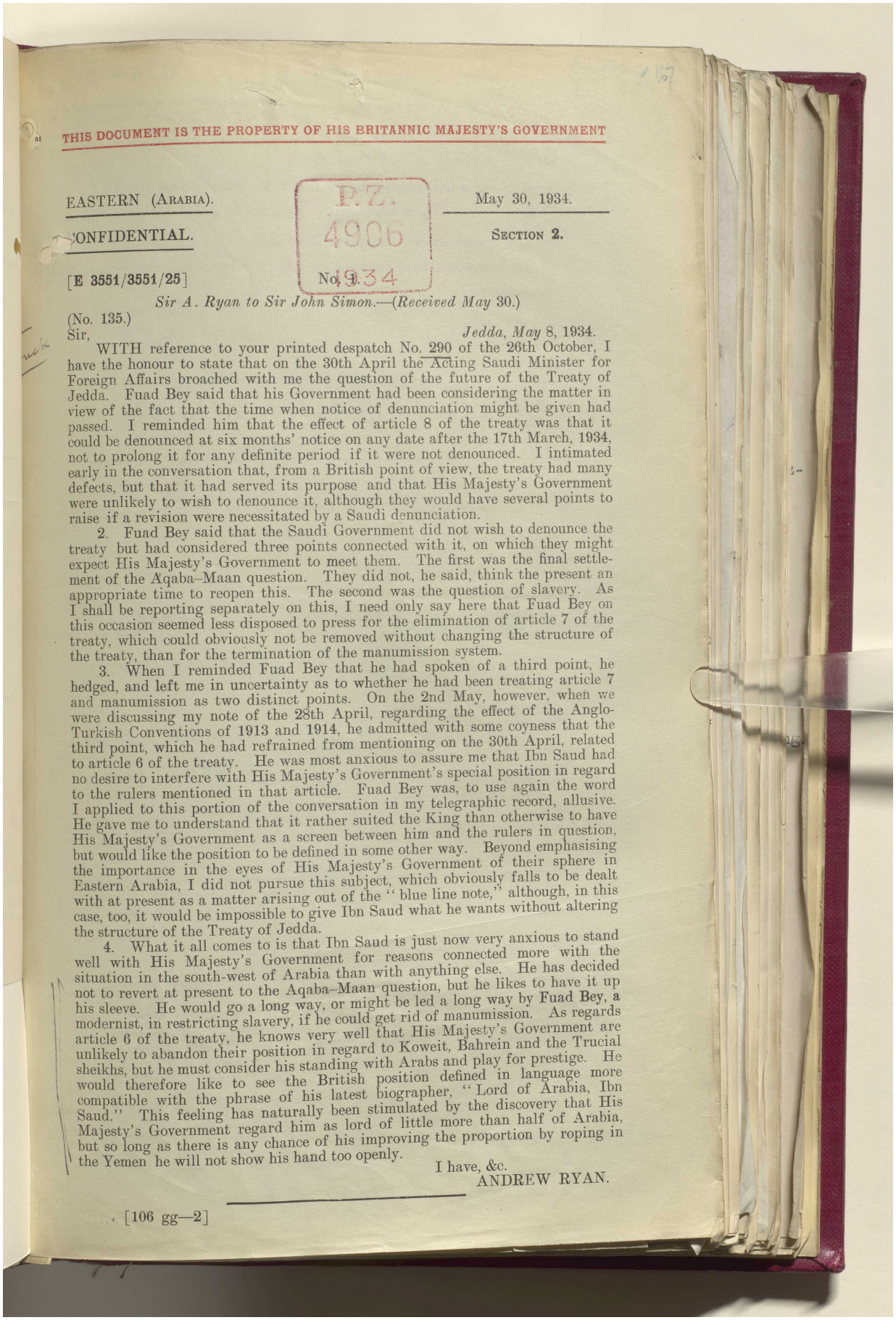

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CONFIDENTIAL.

P.Z. 4906 1934

May 30, 1934.

SECTION 2.

[E 3551/3551/25] No. 9.

Sir A. Ryan to Sir John Simon.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 135.)

Sir, *Jedda, May 8, 1934.*

WITH reference to your printed despatch No. 290 of the 26th October, I have the honour to state that on the 30th April the Acting Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs broached with me the question of the future of the Treaty of Jedda. Fuad Bey said that his Government had been considering the matter in view of the fact that the time when notice of denunciation might be given had passed. I reminded him that the effect of article 8 of the treaty was that it could be denounced at six months' notice on any date after the 17th March, 1934, not to prolong it for any definite period if it were not denounced. I intimated early in the conversation that, from a British point of view, the treaty had many defects, but that it had served its purpose and that His Majesty's Government were unlikely to wish to denounce it, although they would have several points to raise if a revision were necessitated by a Saudi denunciation.

2. Fuad Bey said that the Saudi Government did not wish to denounce the treaty but had considered three points connected with it, on which they might expect His Majesty's Government to meet them. The first was the final settlement of the Aqaba–Maan question. They did not, he said, think the present an appropriate time to reopen this. The second was the question of slavery. As I shall be reporting separately on this, I need only say here that Fuad Bey on this occasion seemed less disposed to press for the elimination of article 7 of the treaty, which could obviously not be removed without changing the structure of the treaty, than for the termination of the manumission system.

3. When I reminded Fuad Bey that he had spoken of a third point, he hedged, and left me in uncertainty as to whether he had been treating article 7 and manumission as two distinct points. On the 2nd May, however, when we were discussing my note of the 28th April, regarding the effect of the Anglo-Turkish Conventions of 1913 and 1914, he admitted with some coyness that the third point, which he had refrained from mentioning on the 30th April, related to article 6 of the treaty. He was most anxious to assure me that Ibn Saud had no desire to interfere with His Majesty's Government's special position in regard to the rulers mentioned in that article. Fuad Bey was, to use again the word I applied to this portion of the conversation in my telegraphic record, allusive. He gave me to understand that it rather suited the King than otherwise to have His Majesty's Government as a screen between him and the rulers in question, but would like the position to be defined in some other way. Beyond emphasising the importance in the eyes of His Majesty's Government of their sphere in Eastern Arabia, I did not pursue this subject, which obviously falls to be dealt with at present as a matter arising out of the "blue line note," although, in this case, too, it would be impossible to give Ibn Saud what he wants without altering the structure of the Treaty of Jedda.

4. What it all comes to is that Ibn Saud is just now very anxious to stand well with His Majesty's Government for reasons connected more with the situation in the south-west of Arabia than with anything else. He has decided not to revert at present to the Aqaba–Maan question, but he likes to have it up his sleeve. He would go a long way, or might be led a long way by Fuad Bey, a modernist, in restricting slavery, if he could get rid of manumission. As regards article 6 of the treaty, he knows very well that His Majesty's Government are unlikely to abandon their position in regard to Koweit, Bahrein and the Trucial sheikhs, but he must consider his standing with Arabs and play for prestige. He would therefore like to see the British position defined in language more compatible with the phrase of his latest biographer, "Lord of Arabia, Ibn Saud." This feeling has naturally been stimulated by the discovery that His Majesty's Government regard him as lord of little more than half of Arabia, but so long as there is any chance of his improving the proportion by roping in the Yemen he will not show his hand too openly.

I have, &c.
ANDREW RYAN.

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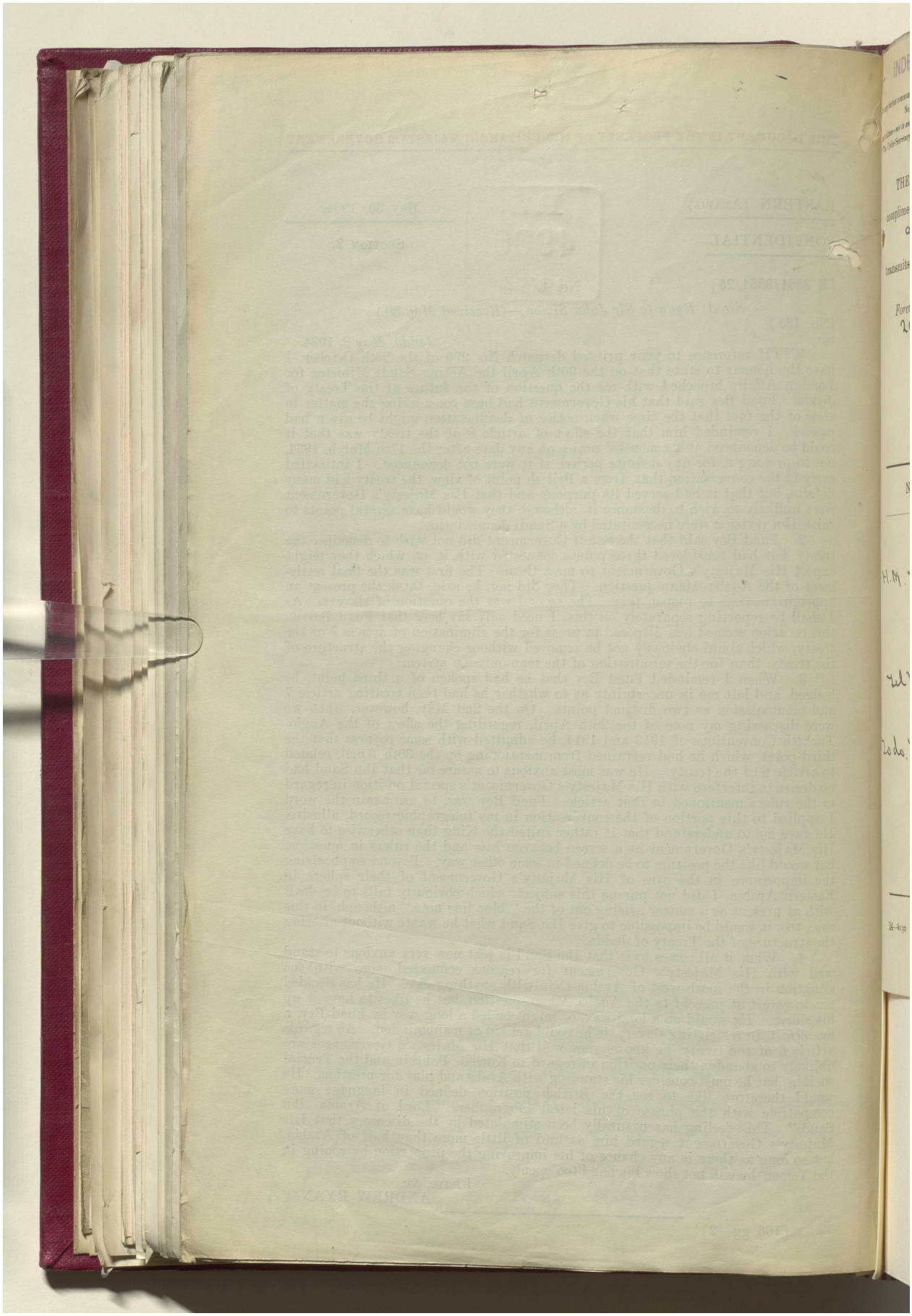

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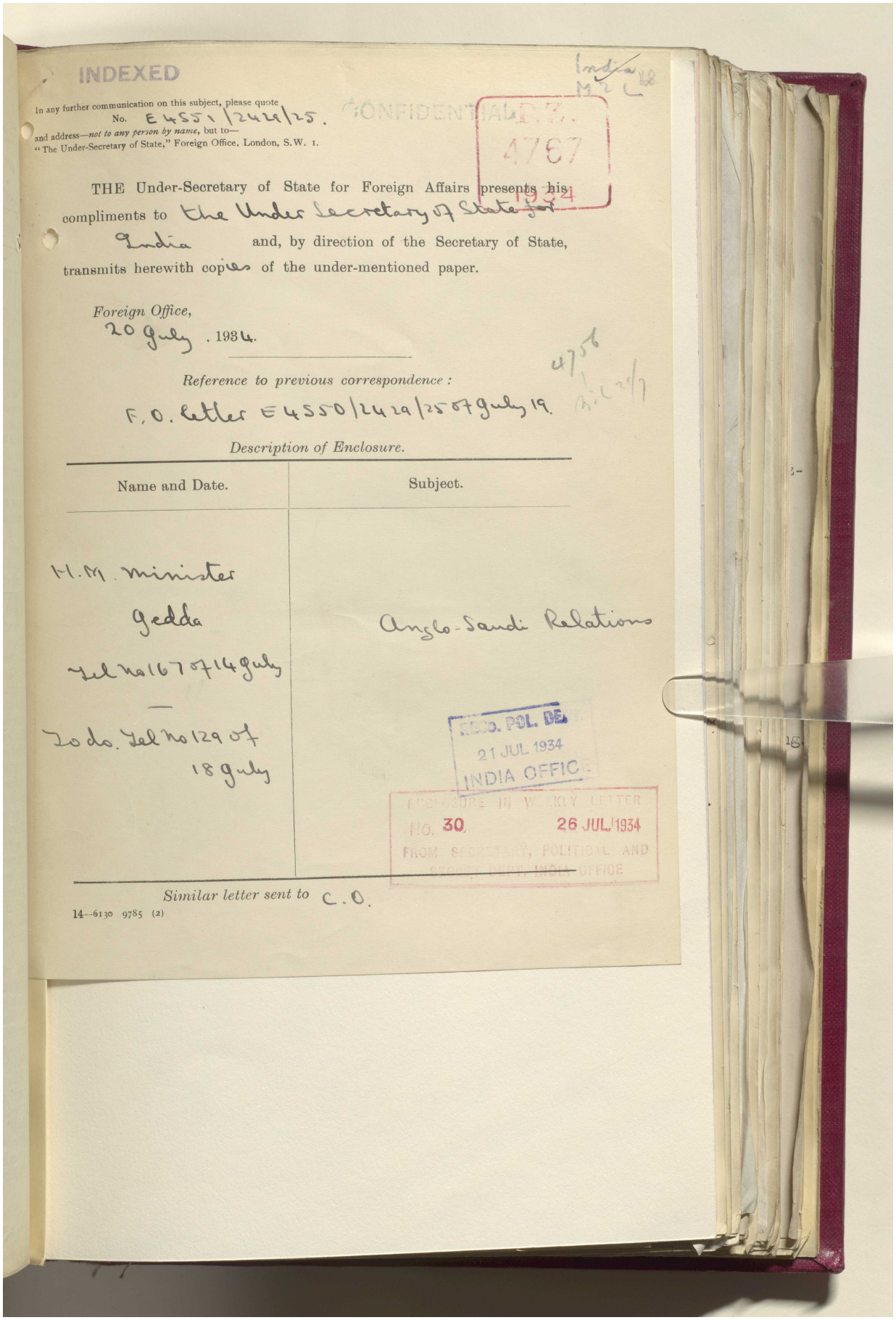

INDEXED

India M 2 C

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 4551/2429/25.
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL F.O. 4787 1934

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
20 July, 1934.

4756

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. letter E 4550/2429/25 7 July 19.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. minister Jedda Tel No 167 of 14 July — 20 do. Tel No 129 of 18 July	Anglo-Saudi Relations

RECD. POL. DEP. 21 JUL 1934 INDIA OFFIC

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. 30 26 JUL 1934 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND [illegible] INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—6130 9785 (2)

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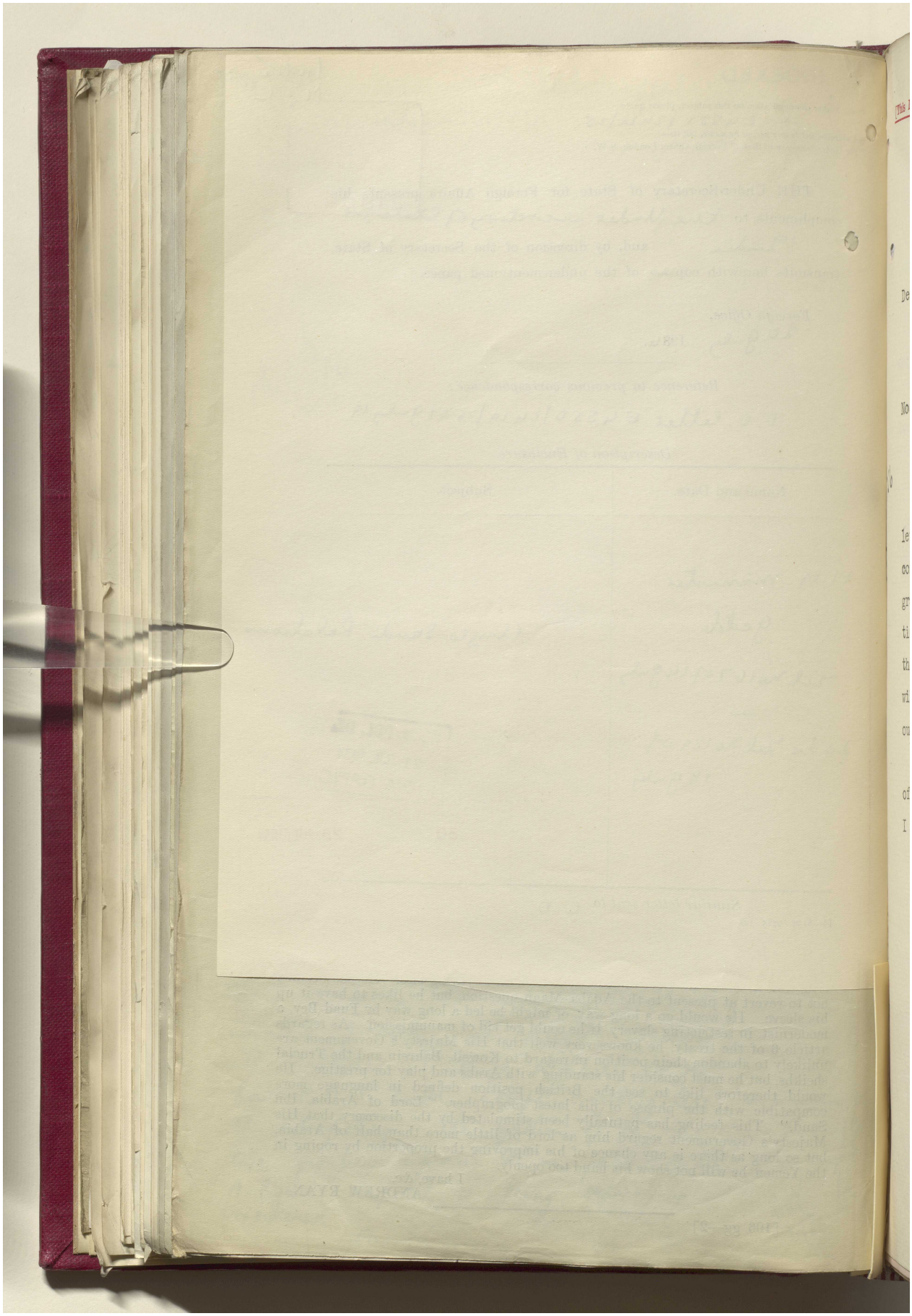

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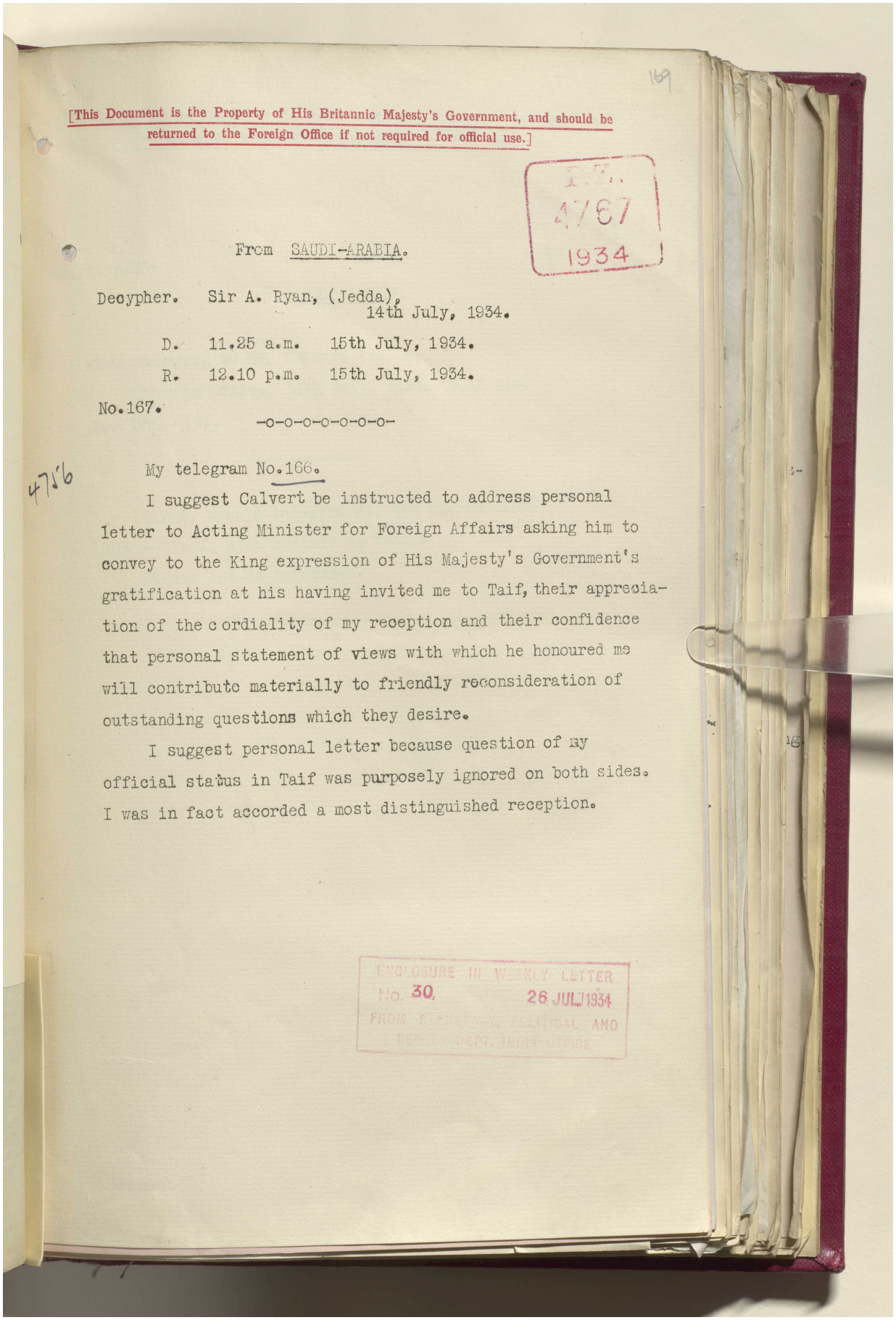

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E. 4767 1934

From SAUDI-ARABIA.

Decypher. Sir A. Ryan, (Jedda), 14th July, 1934.

D. 11.25 a.m. 15th July, 1934.

R. 12.10 p.m. 15th July, 1934.

No.167.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

4756

My telegram No.166.

I suggest Calvert be instructed to address personal letter to Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs asking him to convey to the King expression of His Majesty's Government's gratification at his having invited me to Taif, their appreciation of the cordiality of my reception and their confidence that personal statement of views with which he honoured me will contribute materially to friendly reconsideration of outstanding questions which they desire.

I suggest personal letter because question of my official status in Taif was purposely ignored on both sides. I was in fact accorded a most distinguished reception.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. 30 26 JUL 1934 FROM POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

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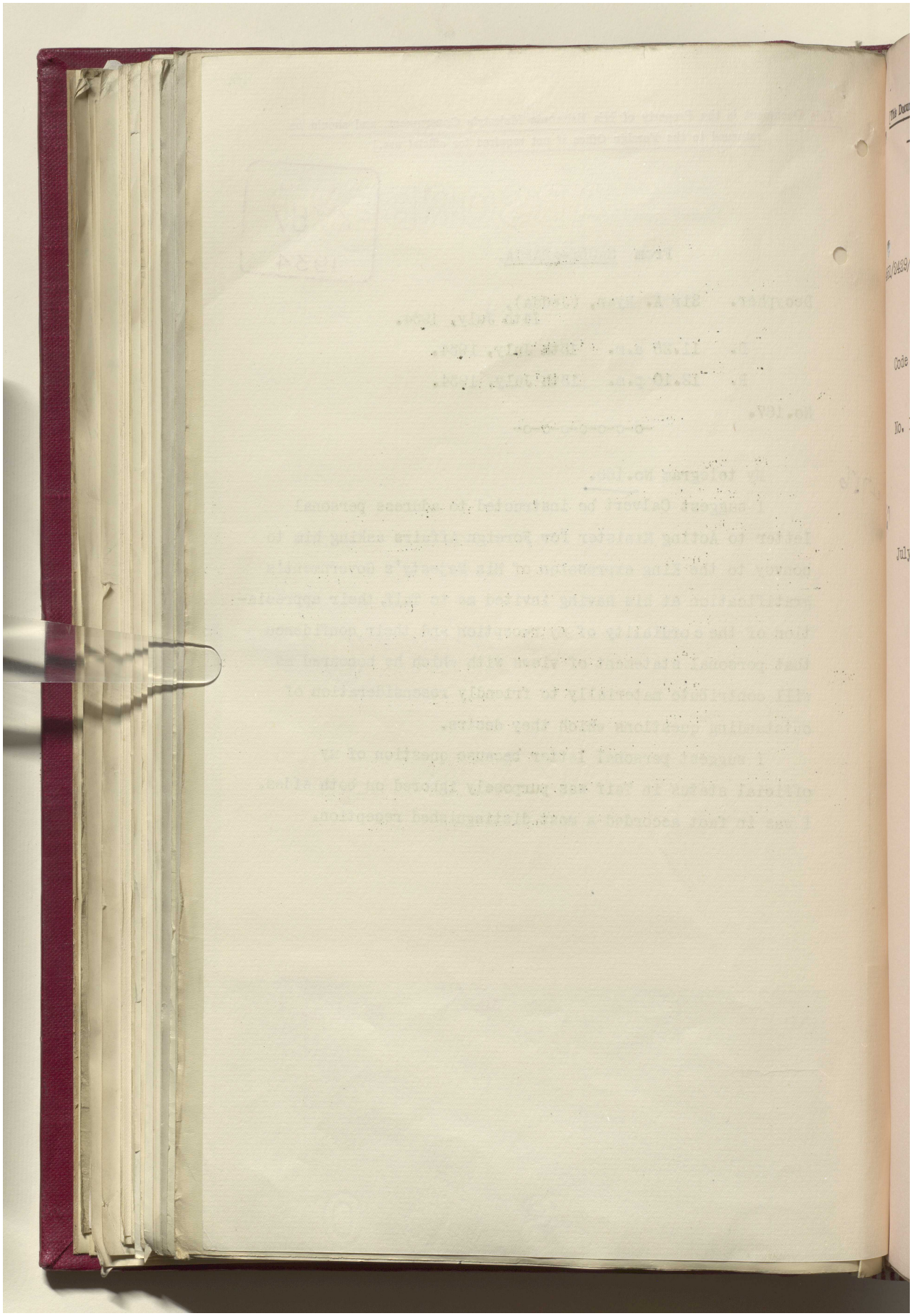

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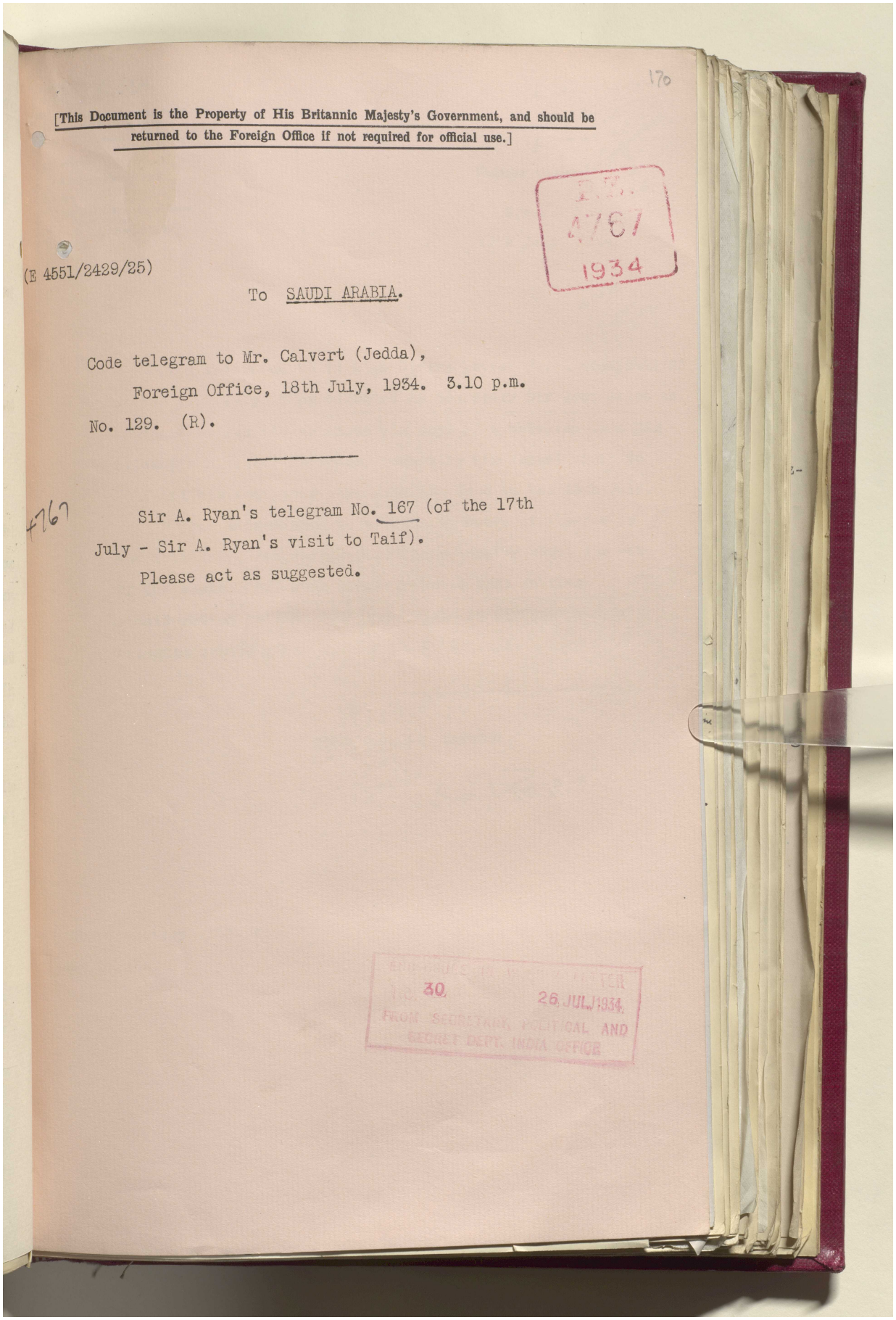

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E.T. 4767 1934

(E 4551/2429/25)

To SAUDI ARABIA.

Code telegram to Mr. Calvert (Jedda),
Foreign Office, 18th July, 1934. 3.10 p.m.
No. 129. (R).

4767

Sir A. Ryan's telegram No. 167 (of the 17th July - Sir A. Ryan's visit to Taif).
Please act as suggested.

30 26 JUL 1934 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

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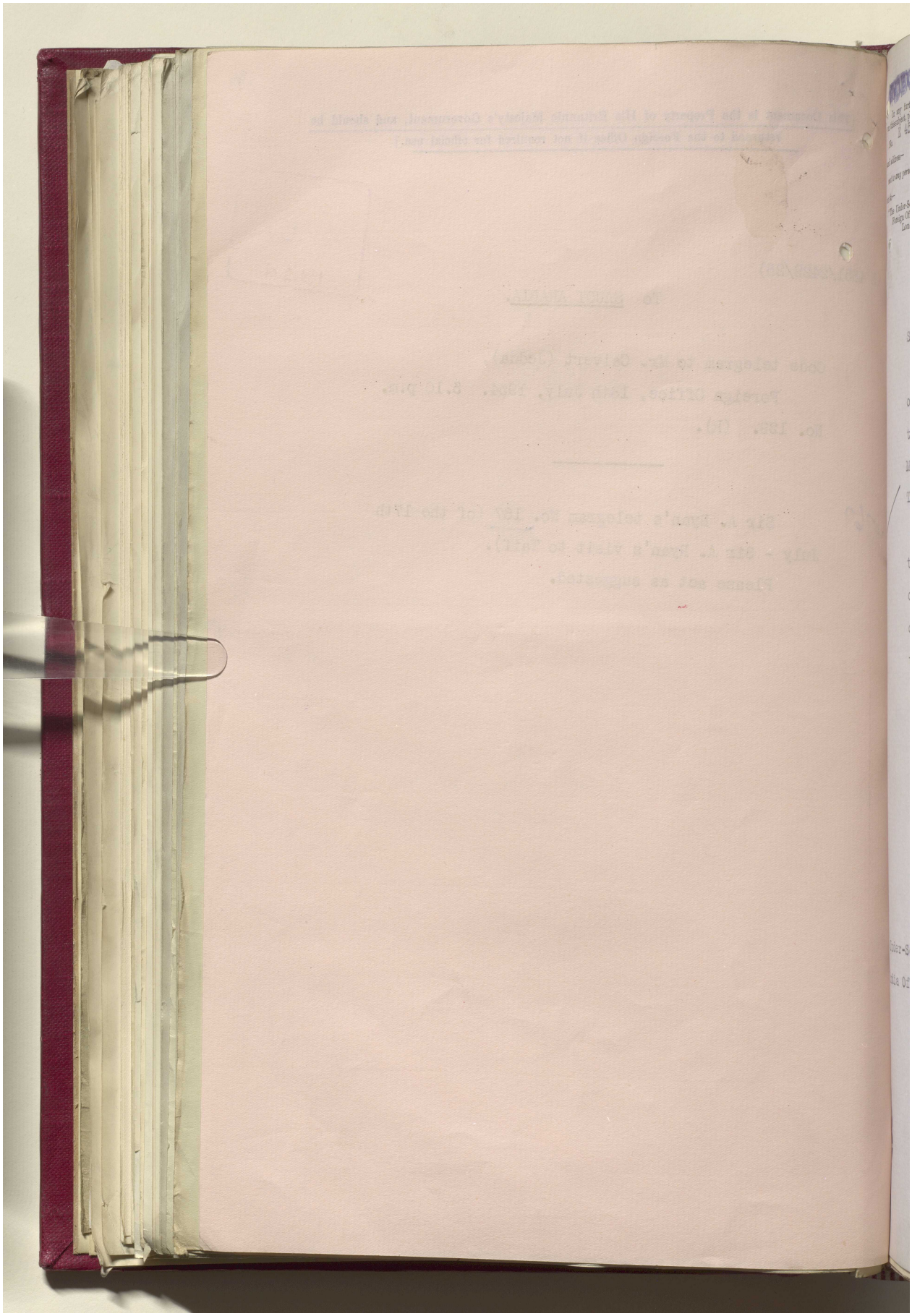

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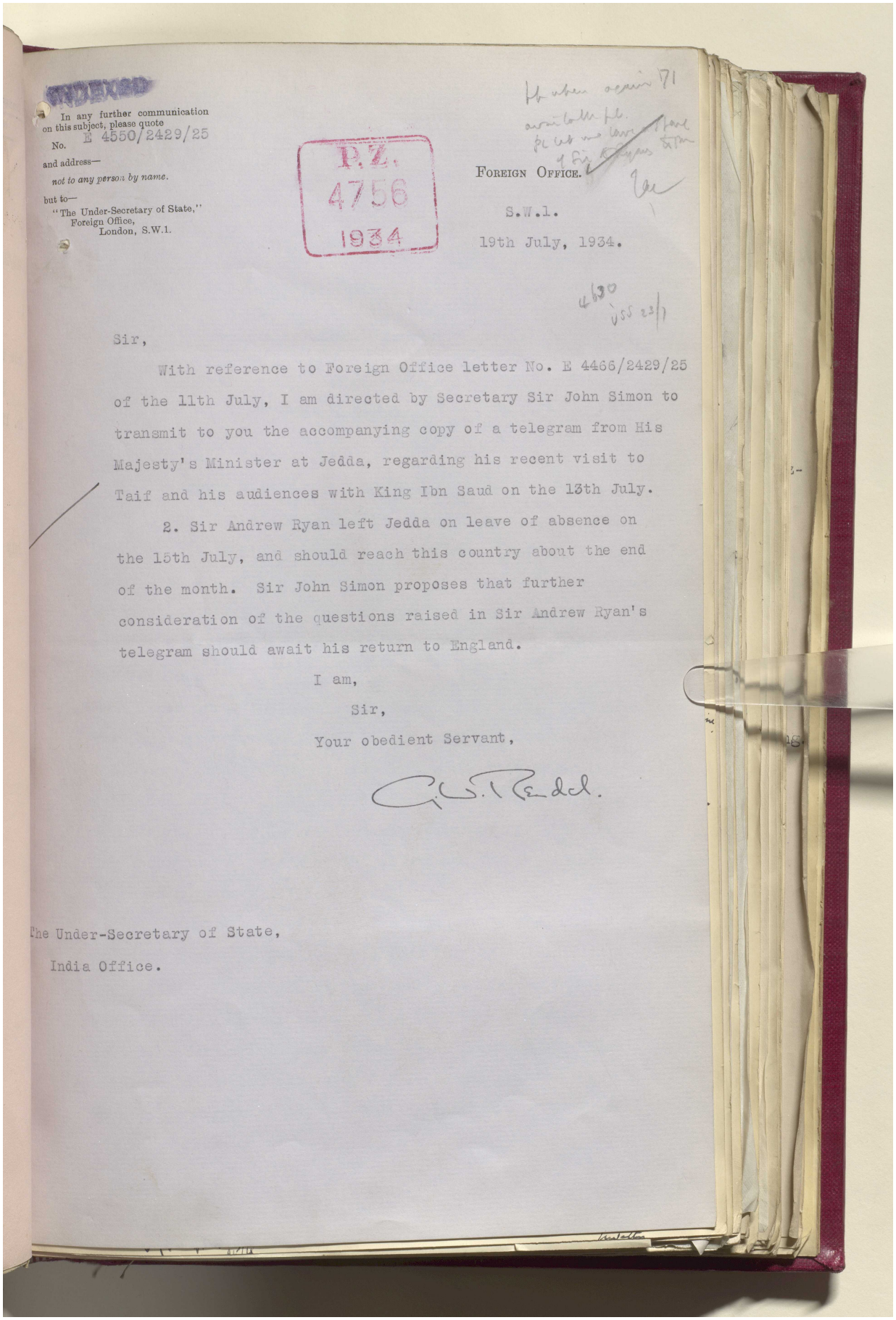

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but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

P.Z. 4756 1934

FOREIGN OFFICE.

S.W.1.

19th July, 1934.

Sir,

With reference to Foreign Office letter No. E 4466/2429/25 of the 11th July, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Jedda, regarding his recent visit to Taif and his audiences with King Ibn Saud on the 13th July.

2. Sir Andrew Ryan left Jedda on leave of absence on the 15th July, and should reach this country about the end of the month. Sir John Simon proposes that further consideration of the questions raised in Sir Andrew Ryan's telegram should await his return to England.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

G. W. Rendel.

The Under-Secretary of State,
India Office.

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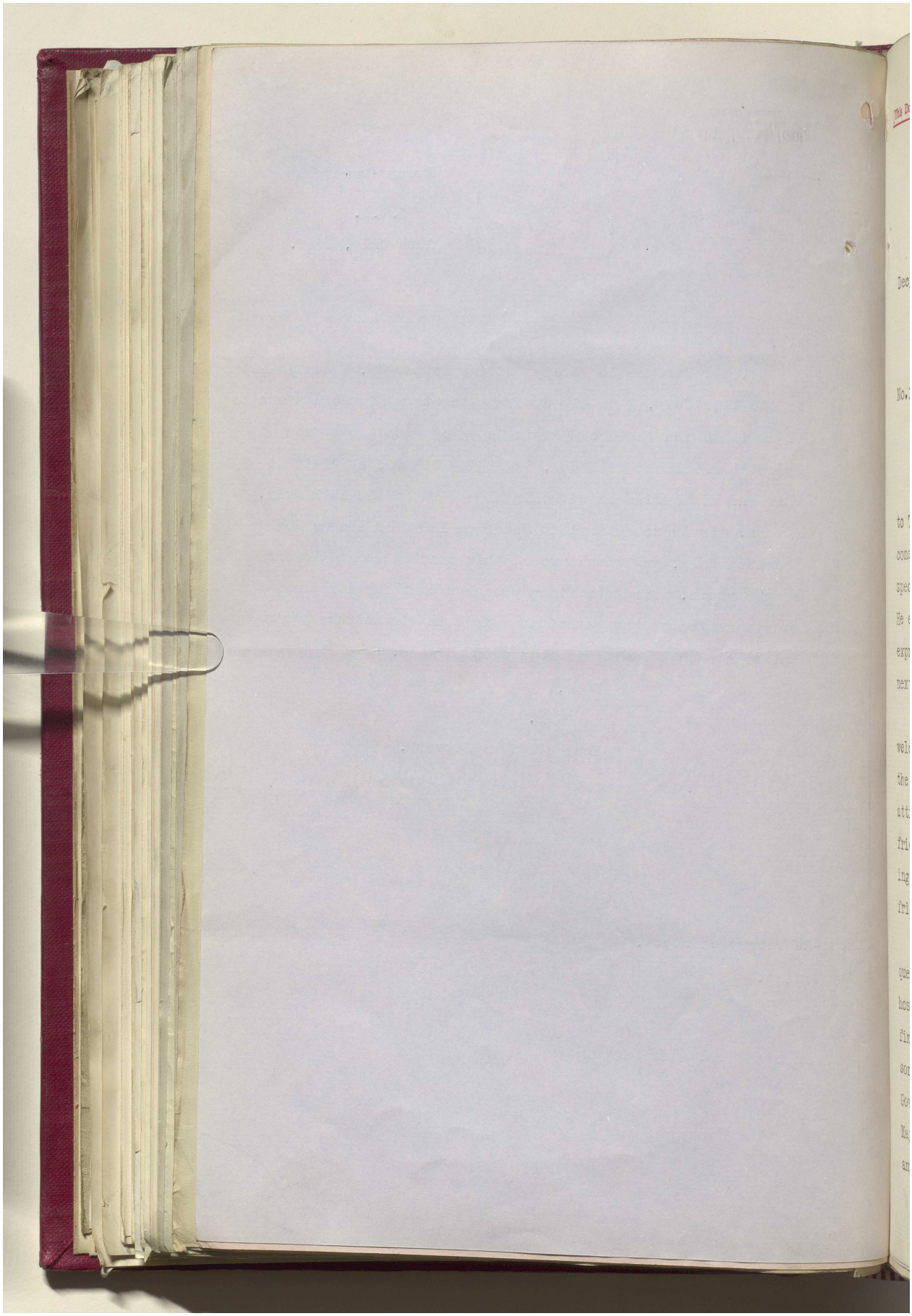

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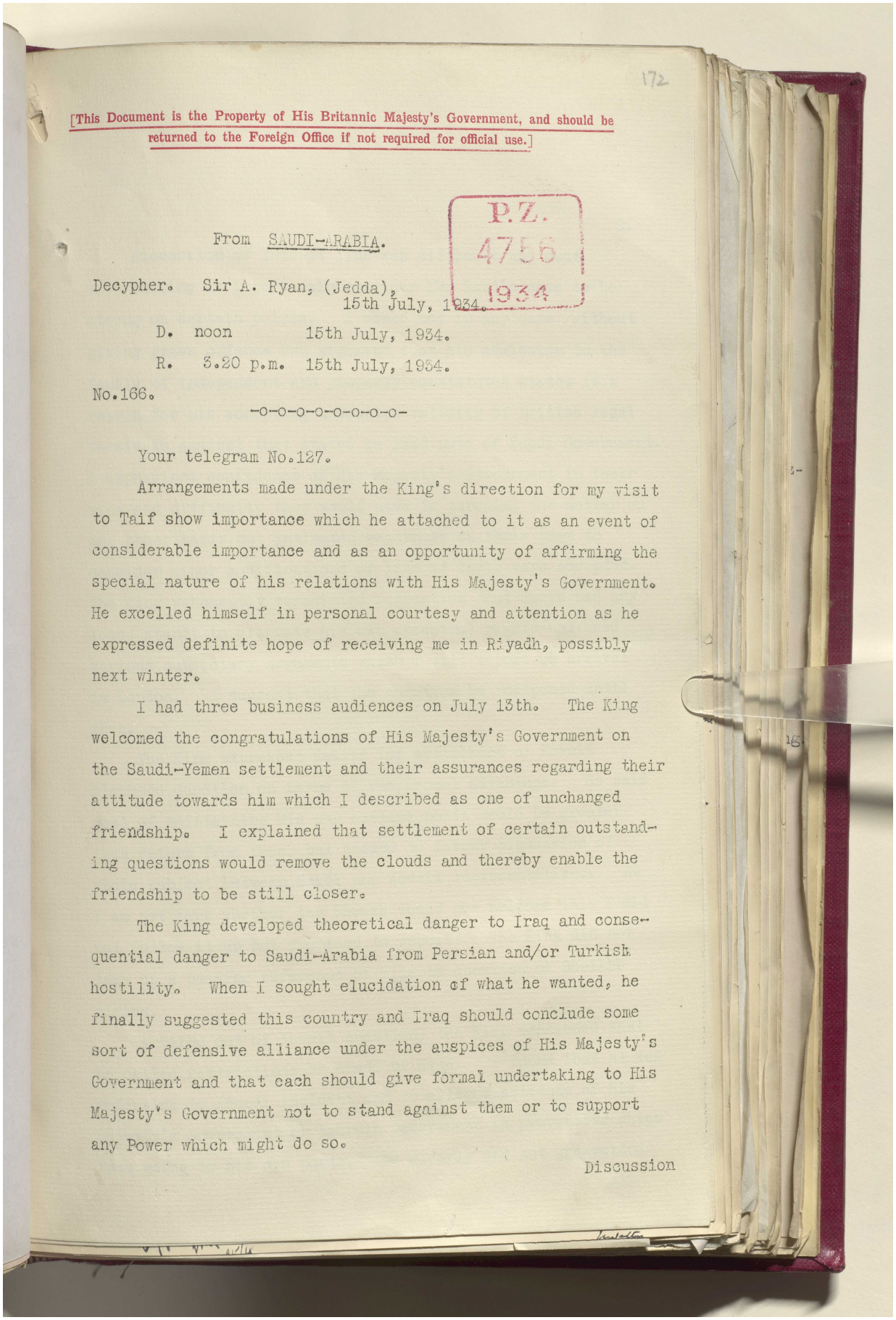

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P.Z. 4756 1934

From SAUDI-ARABIA.

Decypher. Sir A. Ryan, (Jedda), 15th July, 1934.

D. noon 15th July, 1934.

R. 3.20 p.m. 15th July, 1934.

No.166.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Your telegram No.127.

Arrangements made under the King's direction for my visit to Taif show importance which he attached to it as an event of considerable importance and as an opportunity of affirming the special nature of his relations with His Majesty's Government. He excelled himself in personal courtesy and attention as he expressed definite hope of receiving me in Riyadh, possibly next winter.

I had three business audiences on July 13th. The King welcomed the congratulations of His Majesty's Government on the Saudi-Yemen settlement and their assurances regarding their attitude towards him which I described as one of unchanged friendship. I explained that settlement of certain outstanding questions would remove the clouds and thereby enable the friendship to be still closer.

The King developed theoretical danger to Iraq and consequential danger to Saudi-Arabia from Persian and/or Turkish hostility. When I sought elucidation of what he wanted, he finally suggested this country and Iraq should conclude some sort of defensive alliance under the auspices of His Majesty's Government and that each should give formal undertaking to His Majesty's Government not to stand against them or to support any Power which might do so.

Discussion

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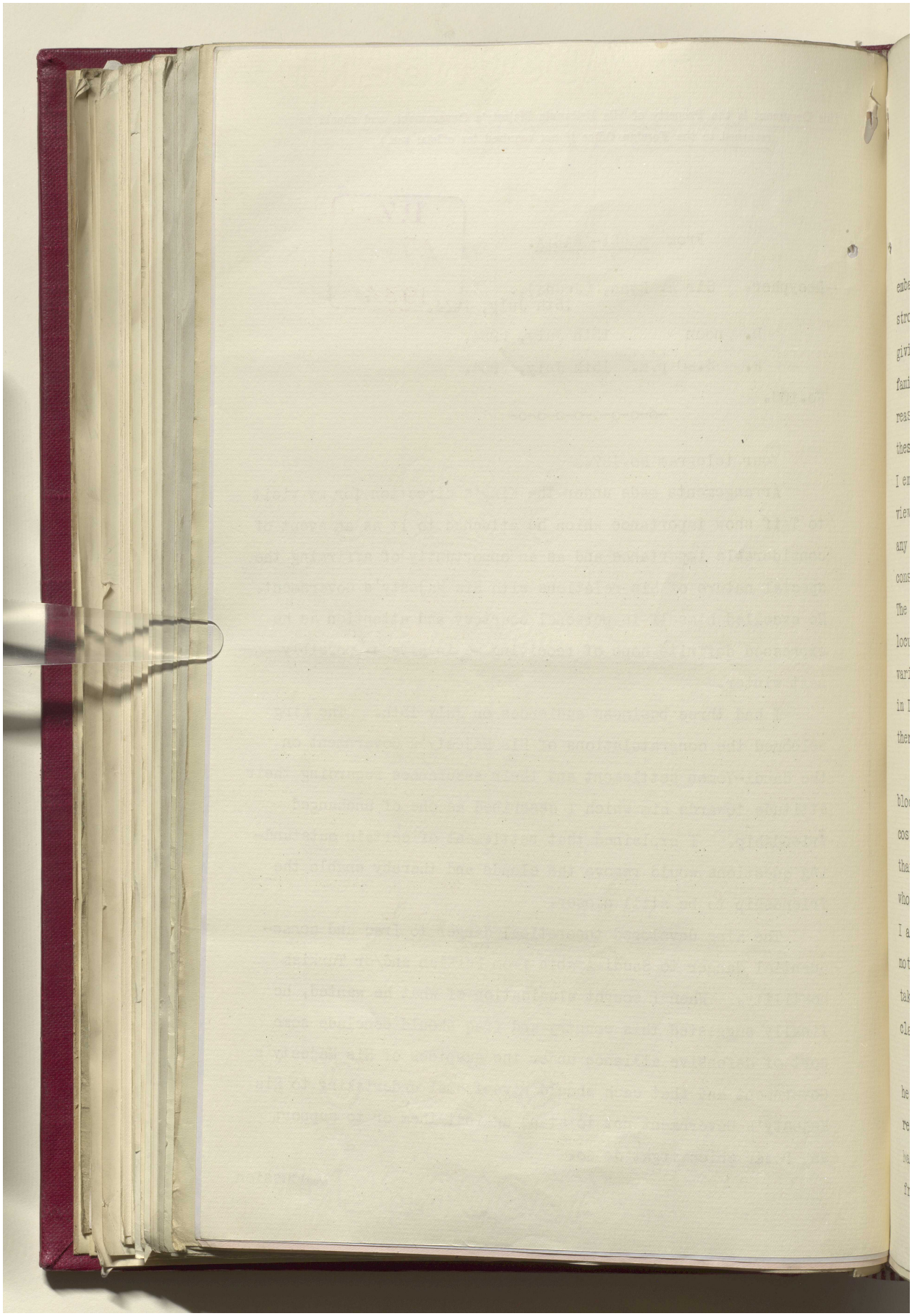

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Discussion of 1913-14 line was difficult and most embarrassing as I personally consider Ibn Saud's case to be strong on certain points. I could not in any case without giving grave offence use argument that his admission to the family of independent and properly constituted States is a reason for his accepting undoubted validity of British legal thesis as against that stated in last note of Saudi Government. I emphasised confidence of His Majesty's Government in their view and difficulty they would have in pursuing the matter on any other basis but intimated readiness on their part to consider minor modifications of line if basis were accepted. The King vehemently repudiated suggestion that Turks had any locus standi to alienate his own ancestral rights and used various subsidiary arguments which I will report on arrival in London. I suggest that the question be postponed until then.

The King expressed desire for settlement of Koweit blockade question on terms of reciprocal advantage. He said cost of maintaining his own customs posts would be greater than return from them, but seemed to favour discussion of whole subject between Saudi and Koweit representatives. As I am not sure whether the Sheikh would now welcome this I did not follow it up but promised to report. The King did not take up a passing reference of mine to question of Sheikh's claims.

Arising out of Koweit question, the King mentioned what he called restrictions on trade of Nejd. I found that he was referring to Ahmedi incident and to alleged attitude of His Majesty's Government or Bahrein Government in preventing ships from going to his own ports. He clearly did not understand all

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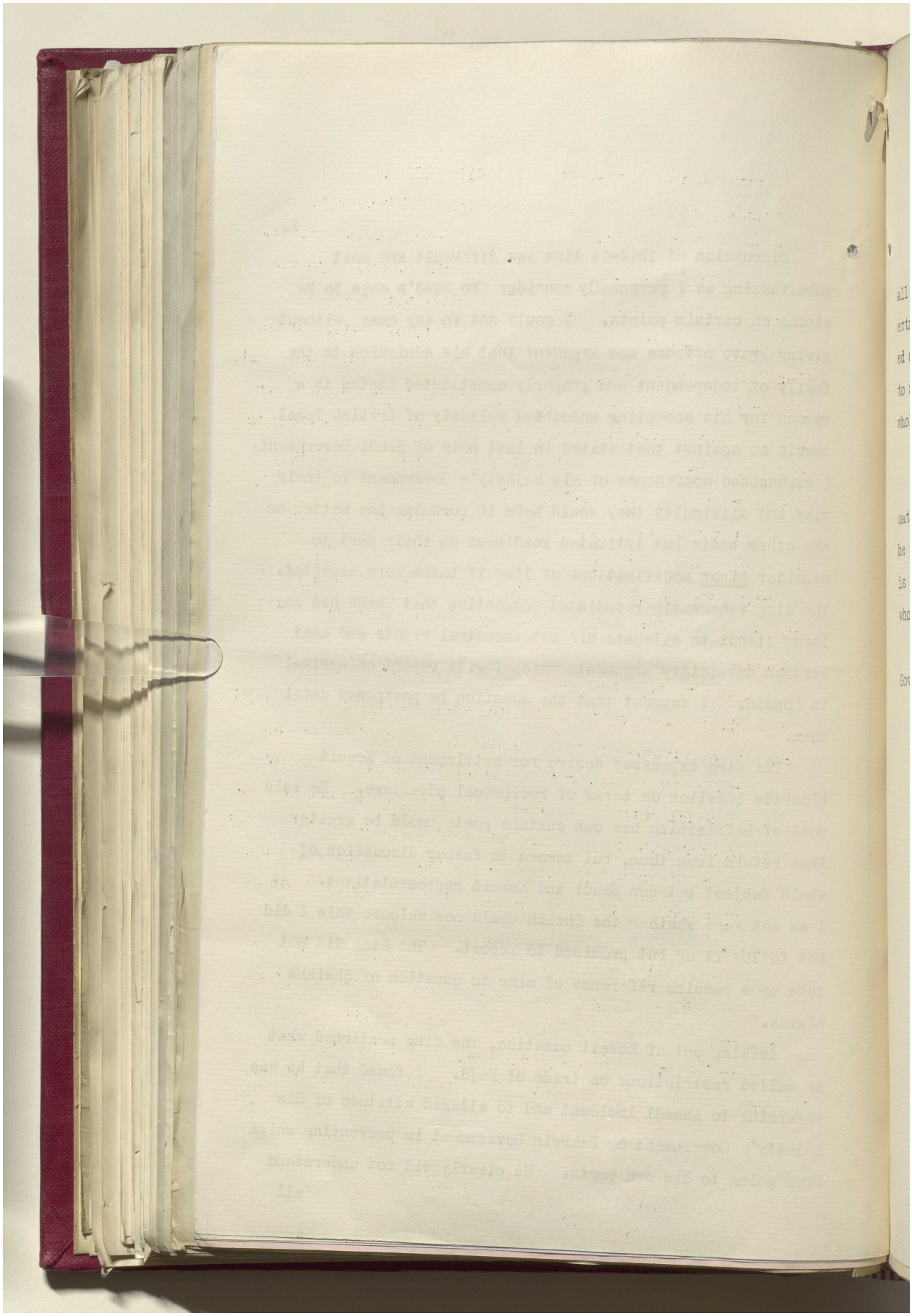

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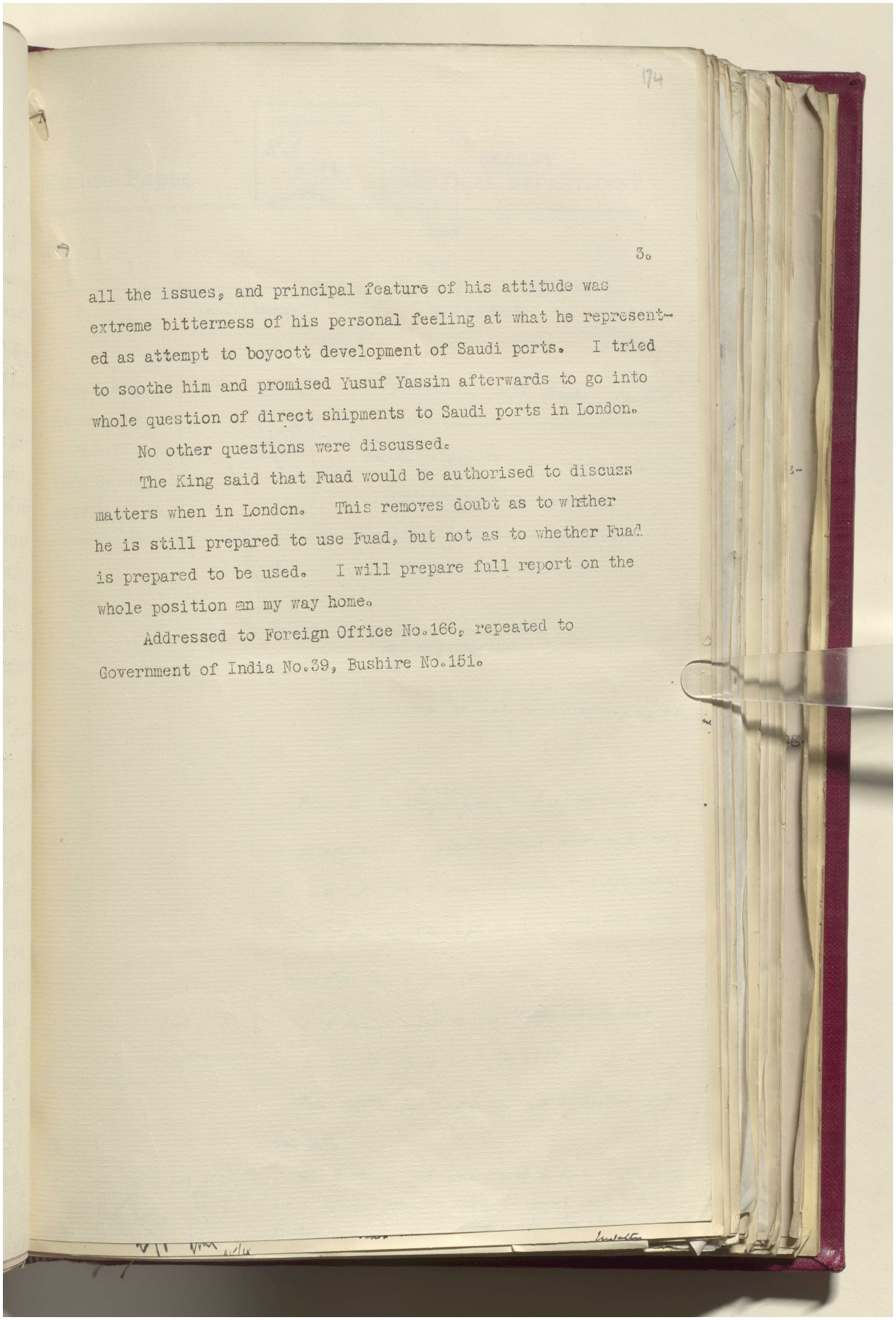

all the issues, and principal feature of his attitude was extreme bitterness of his personal feeling at what he represented as attempt to boycott development of Saudi ports. I tried to soothe him and promised Yusuf Yassin afterwards to go into whole question of direct shipments to Saudi ports in London.

No other questions were discussed.

The King said that Fuad would be authorised to discuss matters when in London. This removes doubt as to whether he is still prepared to use Fuad, but not as to whether Fuad is prepared to be used. I will prepare full report on the whole position on my way home.

Addressed to Foreign Office No.166, repeated to Government of India No.39, Bushire No.151.

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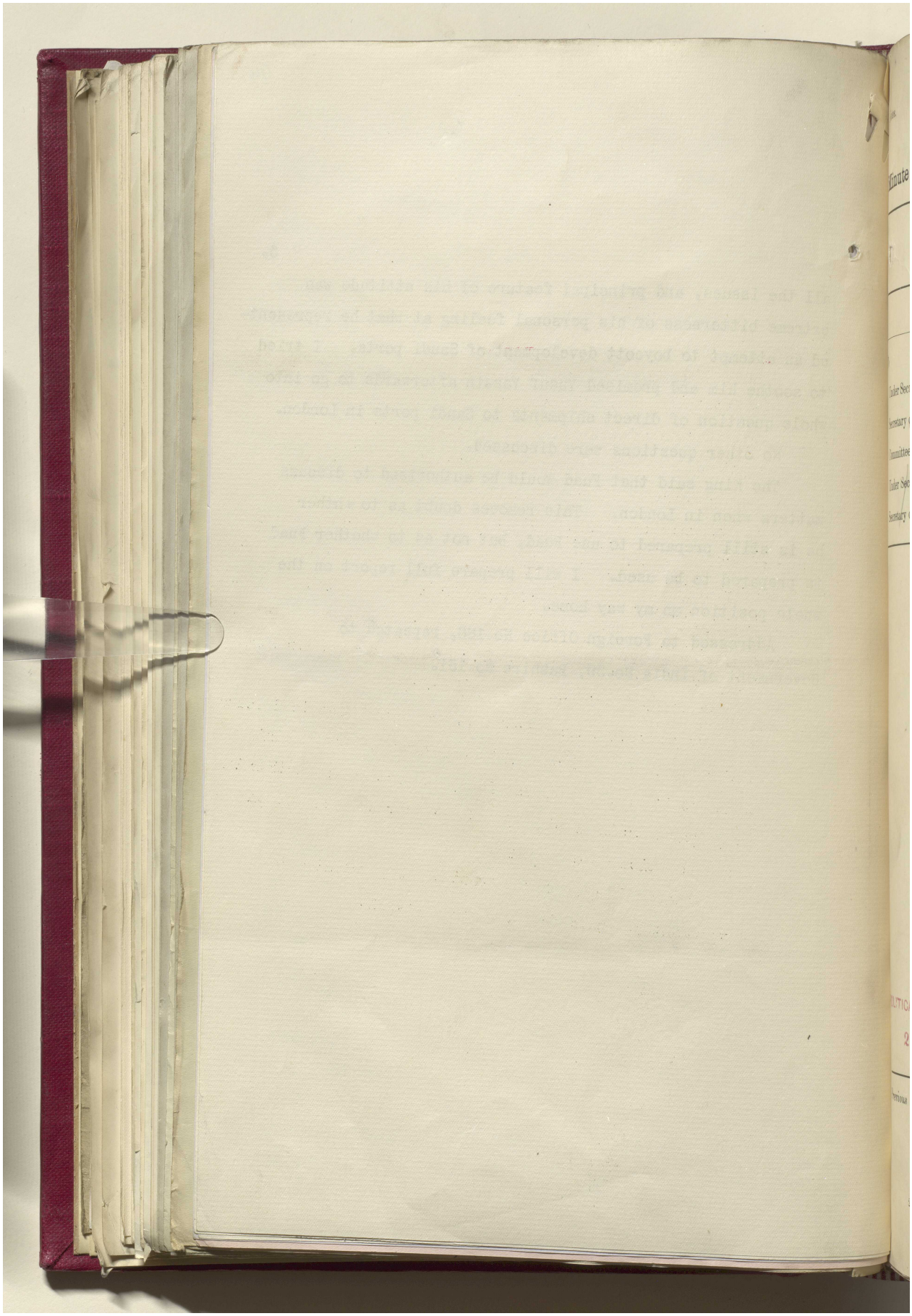

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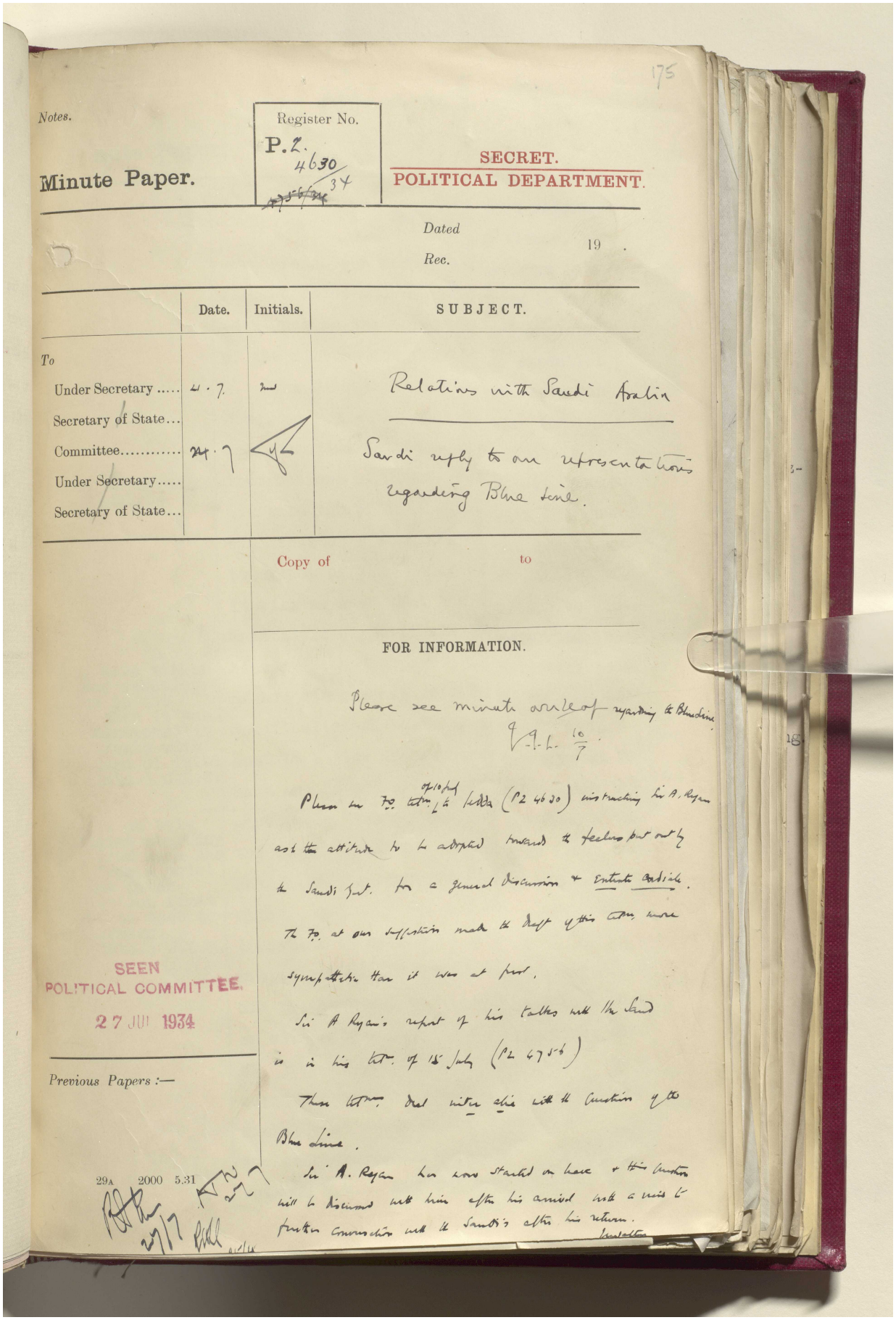

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No.
P.2.
4630/34

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	4.7.	[illegible]	Relations with Saudi Arabia
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	24.7	[illegible]	Saudi reply to our representations regarding Blue Line.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

Please see minute overleaf regarding the Blue Line.
[illegible] 10/7

Please see F.O. tel. of 10 July to Jedda (P2 4630) instructing Sir A. Ryan ask the attitude to be adopted towards the feelers put out by the Saudi Govt. for a general discussion & entente cordiale.

The F.O. at our suggestion made the draft of this tel. more sympathetic than it was at first.

Sir A Ryan's report of his talks with the Saud is in his tel. of 15 July (P2 4756)

These tel. deal inter alia with the question of the Blue Line.

Sir A. Ryan has now started on leave & this question will be discussed with him after his arrival with a view to further conversation with the Saudi's after his return.

[illegible]

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
27 JUL 1934

Previous Papers :—

29A 2000 5.31

[illegible] 27/7

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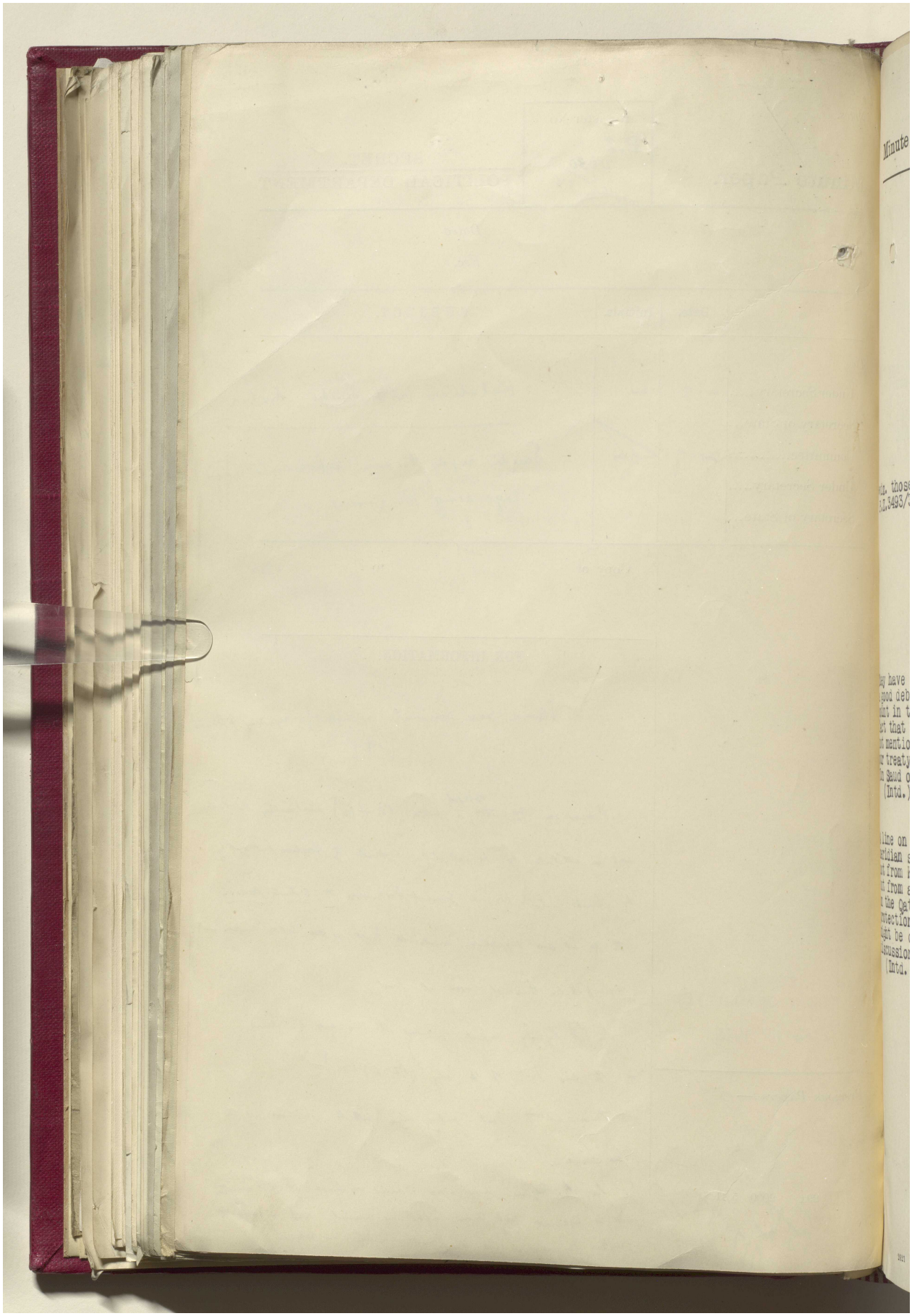

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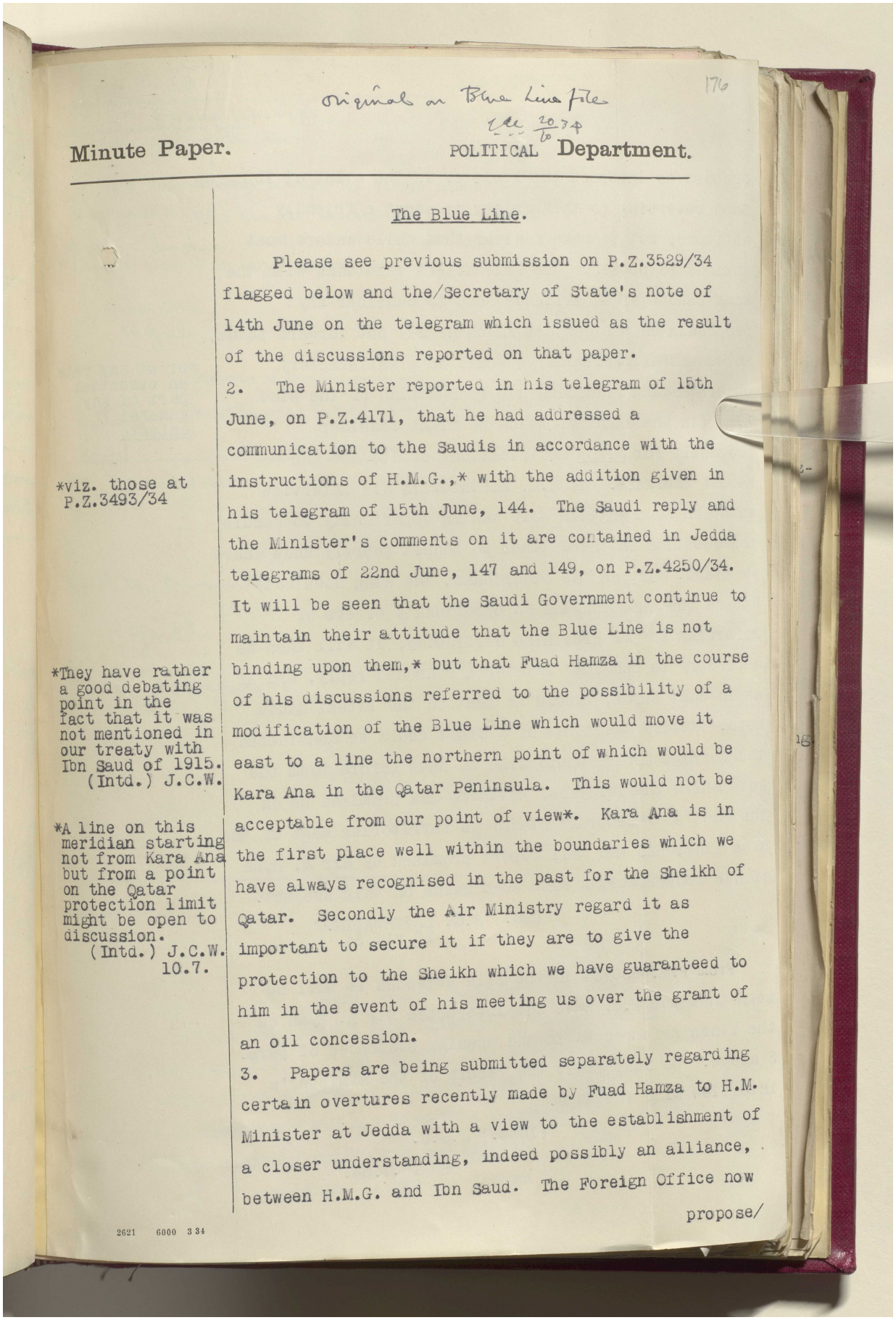

Original on Blue Line file
20/10 34

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Minute Paper. POLITICAL Department.

The Blue Line.

Please see previous submission on P.Z.3529/34 flagged below and the/Secretary of State's note of 14th June on the telegram which issued as the result of the discussions reported on that paper.

2. The Minister reported in his telegram of 15th June, on P.Z.4171, that he had addressed a communication to the Saudis in accordance with the instructions of H.M.G.,* with the addition given in his telegram of 15th June, 144. The Saudi reply and the Minister's comments on it are contained in Jedda telegrams of 22nd June, 147 and 149, on P.Z.4250/34. It will be seen that the Saudi Government continue to maintain their attitude that the Blue Line is not binding upon them,* but that Fuad Hamza in the course of his discussions referred to the possibility of a modification of the Blue Line which would move it east to a line the northern point of which would be Kara Ana in the Qatar Peninsula. This would not be acceptable from our point of view*. Kara Ana is in the first place well within the boundaries which we have always recognised in the past for the Sheikh of Qatar. Secondly the Air Ministry regard it as important to secure it if they are to give the protection to the Sheikh which we have guaranteed to him in the event of his meeting us over the grant of an oil concession.

3. Papers are being submitted separately regarding certain overtures recently made by Fuad Hamza to H.M. Minister at Jedda with a view to the establishment of a closer understanding, indeed possibly an alliance, between H.M.G. and Ibn Saud. The Foreign Office now propose/

*viz. those at P.Z.3493/34

*They have rather a good debating point in the fact that it was not mentioned in our treaty with Ibn Saud of 1915. (Intd.) J.C.W.

*A line on this meridian starting not from Kara Ana but from a point on the Qatar protection limit might be open to discussion. (Intd.) J.C.W. 10.7.

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propose to instruct the Minister in the event of Ibn Saud reverting to this matter to adopt a friendly attitude, but to make it clear that while we are most anxious to preserve the friendliest relations with the King (short of an alliance) and to consider any proposals on the subject which he may put forward to us, an essential preliminary* would be a satisfactory understanding regarding his recognition of the Blue Line (in the light of which we might consider proposals for minor modifications of it) and the Koweit blockade. If H.M. Minister in his interview with Ibn Saud on 12th July has an opportunity to handle the question on these lines we should shortly know where we stand. If, on the other hand, the King does not broach the question and no opportunity offers of referring to the Blue Line difficulty, it will then be necessary to consider whether a reasoned reply, and if so in what terms, should be sent to the latest Saudi note. Before the terms of a draft could be considered the Foreign Office would like to have before them the note which the Political Resident has promised us on Ibn Saud's "ancestral" claims to territories east of the Blue Line, and the full report promised by Sir A, Ryan of his conversations with Fuad Hamza on this subject.

*or at any rate an essential part of any general entente
J.C.W.

(Sd.) J.G. LAITHWAITE.
10.vii.34.

From P.Z.4630/34 in the file attached it will be seen that the F.O. have now instructed Sir A. Ryan on the lines referred to in the opening sentences of para. 3 above. We must await the result of the Minister's interview with Ibn Saud.

(Intd.) J.G.L.

16.7.34.

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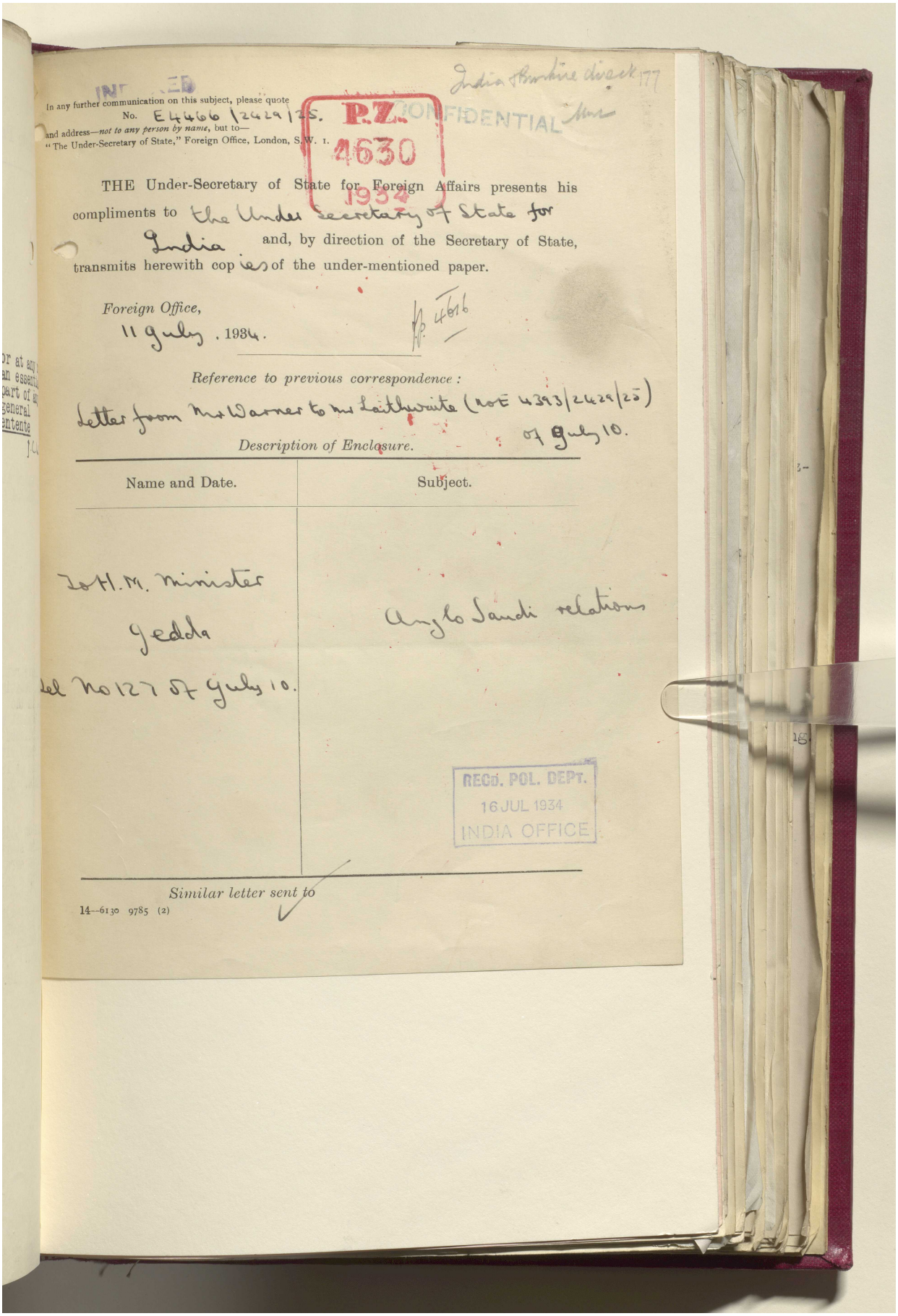

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 4466 /2429/25.
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 4630 1934

India Office direct 177

CONFIDENTIAL

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
11 July, 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Letter from Mr Warner to Mr Laithwaite (No E 4393/2429/25) of 9 July 10.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To H.M. Minister Jedda tel No 127 of July 10.	Anglo Saudi relations

REGD. POL. DEPT. 16 JUL 1934 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

14—6130 9785 (2)

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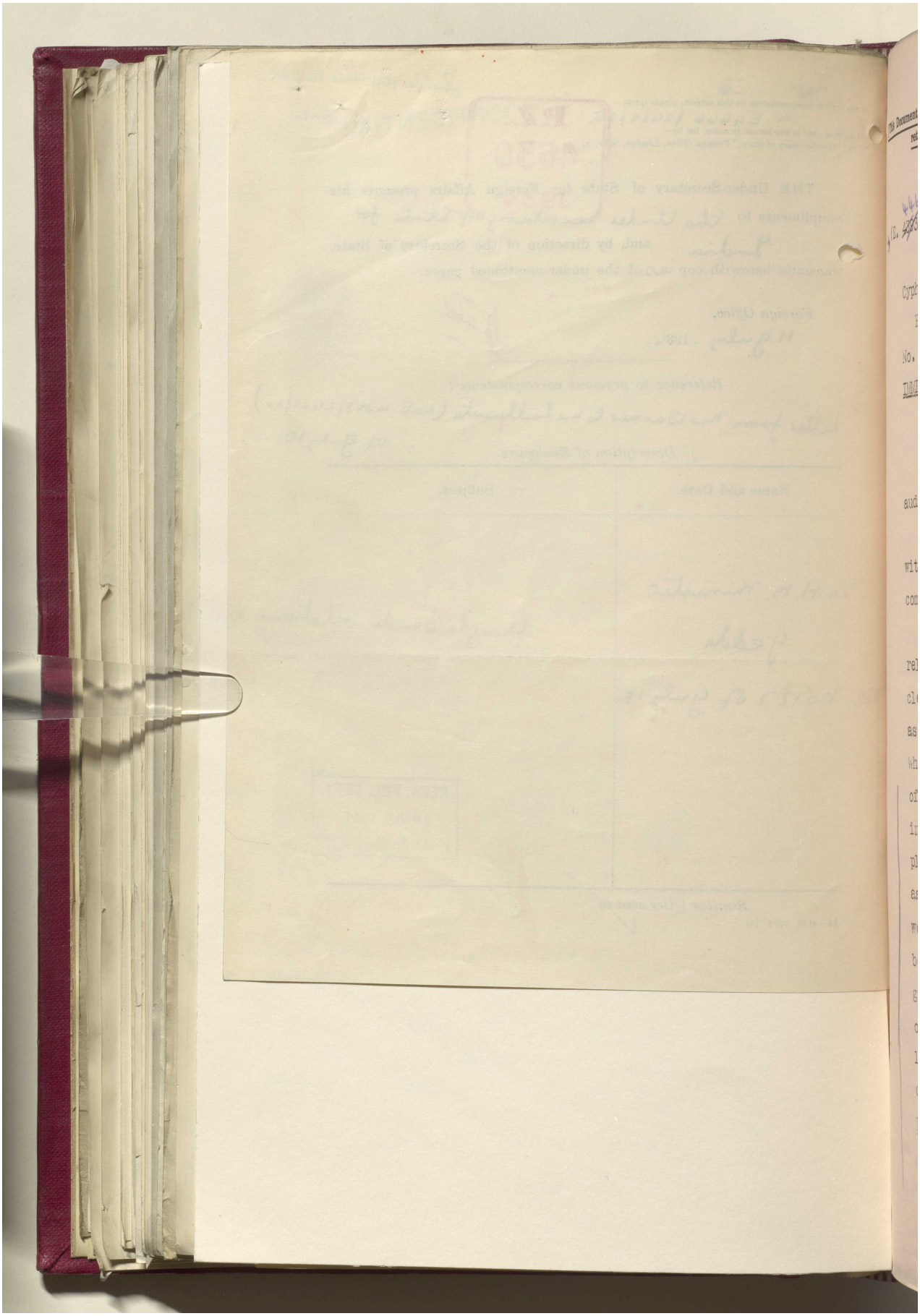

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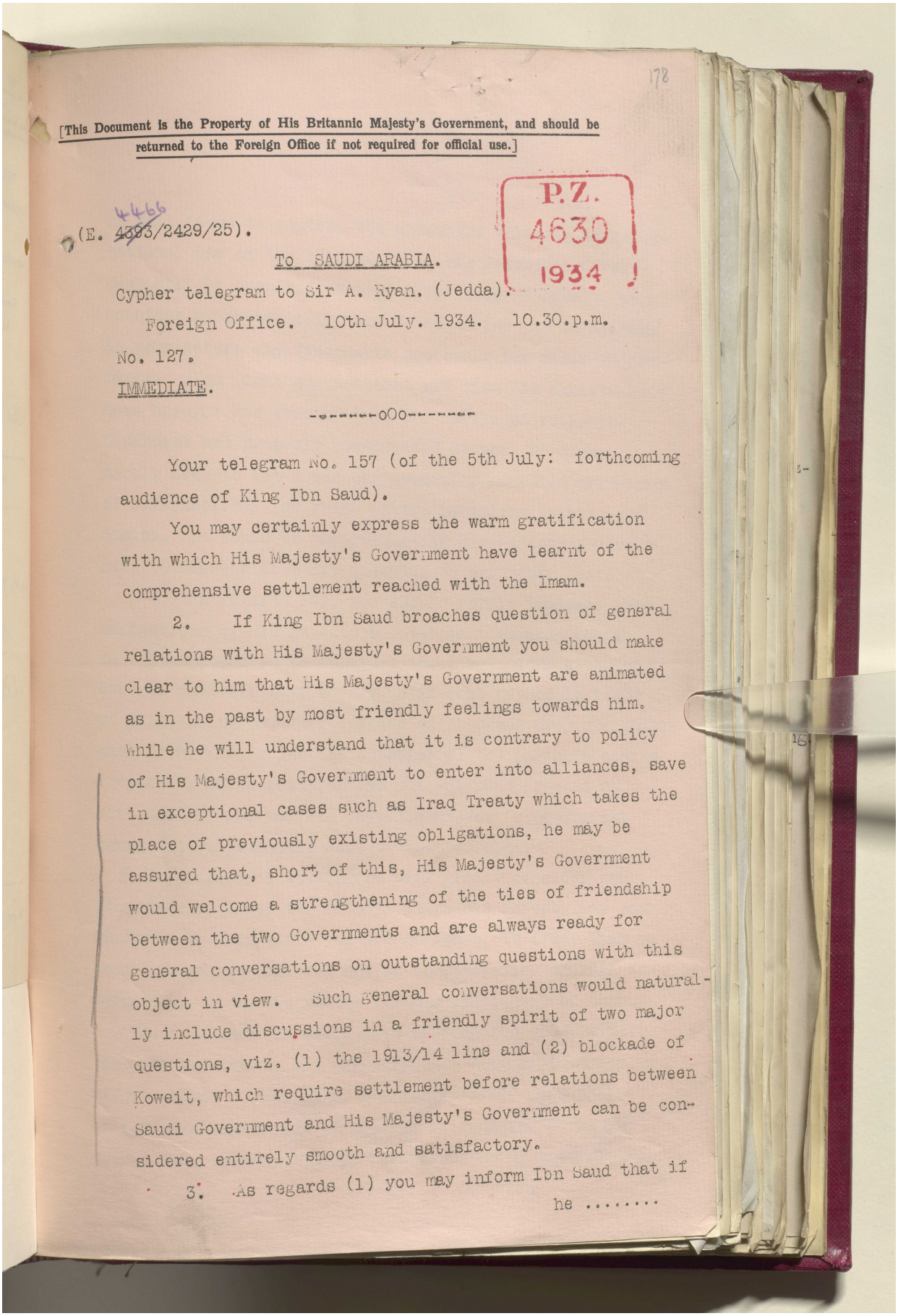

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P.Z. 4630 1934

(E. 4466 ~~4393~~/2429/25).

To SAUDI ARABIA.

Cypher telegram to Sir A. Ryan. (Jedda).

Foreign Office. 10th July. 1934. 10.30.p.m.

No. 127.

IMMEDIATE.

---oOo---

Your telegram No. 157 (of the 5th July: forthcoming audience of King Ibn Saud).

You may certainly express the warm gratification with which His Majesty's Government have learnt of the comprehensive settlement reached with the Imam.

2. If King Ibn Saud broaches question of general relations with His Majesty's Government you should make clear to him that His Majesty's Government are animated as in the past by most friendly feelings towards him. While he will understand that it is contrary to policy of His Majesty's Government to enter into alliances, save in exceptional cases such as Iraq Treaty which takes the place of previously existing obligations, he may be assured that, short of this, His Majesty's Government would welcome a strengthening of the ties of friendship between the two Governments and are always ready for general conversations on outstanding questions with this object in view. Such general conversations would naturally include discussions in a friendly spirit of two major questions, viz. (1) the 1913/14 line and (2) blockade of Koweit, which require settlement before relations between Saudi Government and His Majesty's Government can be considered entirely smooth and satisfactory.

3. As regards (1) you may inform Ibn Saud that if he .....

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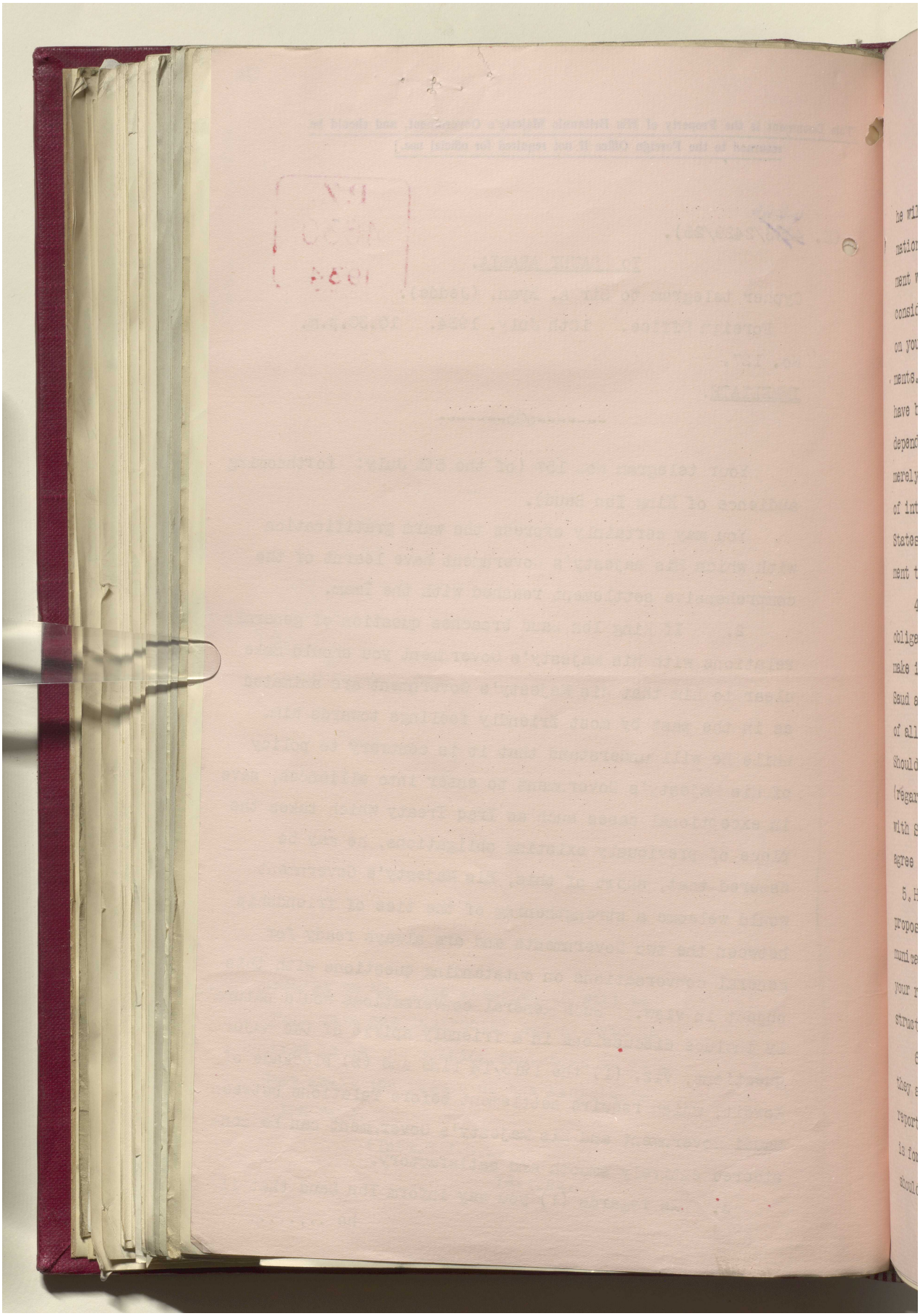

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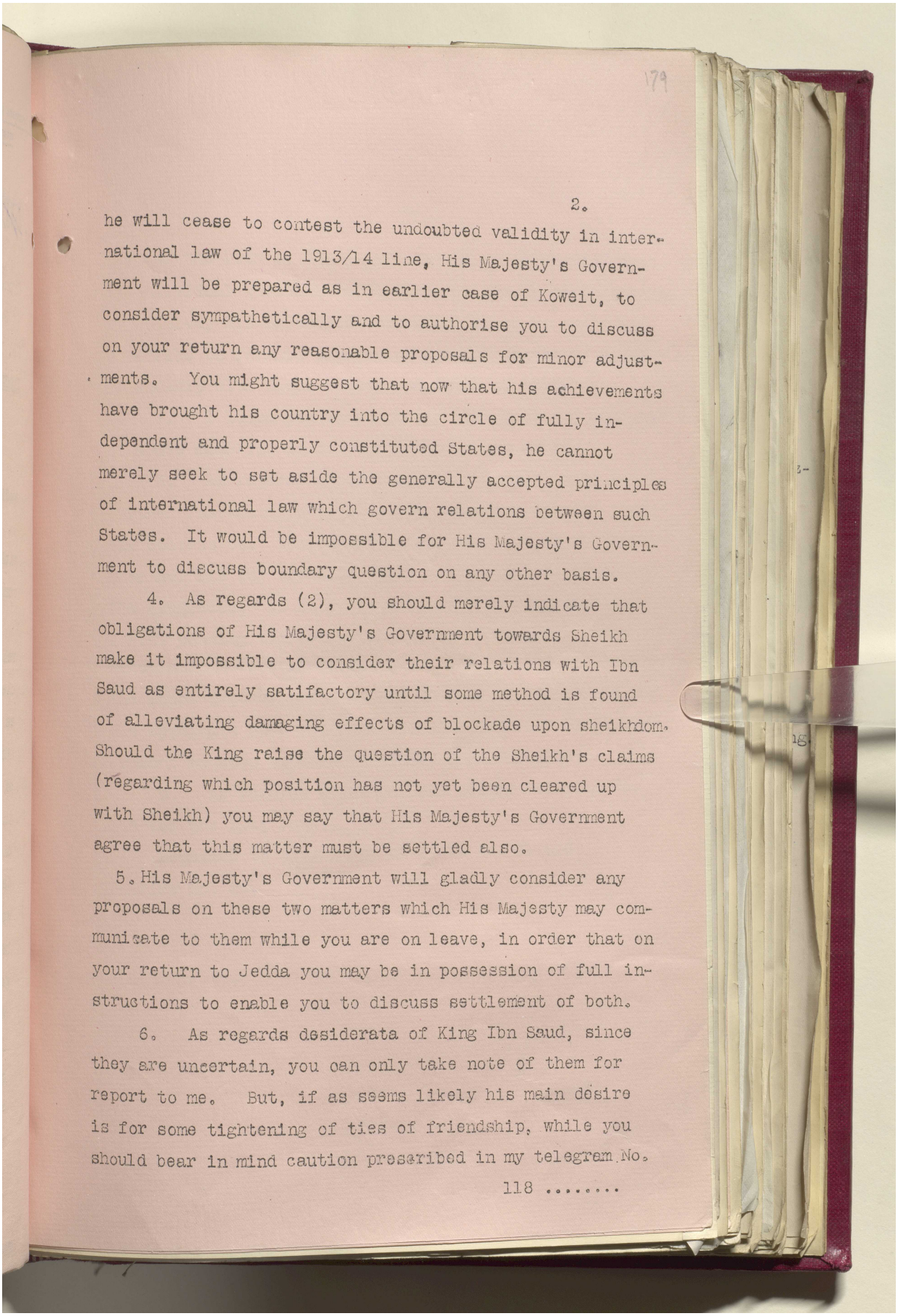

he will cease to contest the undoubted validity in international law of the 1913/14 line, His Majesty's Government will be prepared as in earlier case of Koweit, to consider sympathetically and to authorise you to discuss on your return any reasonable proposals for minor adjustments. You might suggest that now that his achievements have brought his country into the circle of fully independent and properly constituted States, he cannot merely seek to set aside the generally accepted principles of international law which govern relations between such States. It would be impossible for His Majesty's Government to discuss boundary question on any other basis.

4. As regards (2), you should merely indicate that obligations of His Majesty's Government towards Sheikh make it impossible to consider their relations with Ibn Saud as entirely satifactory until some method is found of alleviating damaging effects of blockade upon sheikhdom. Should the King raise the question of the Sheikh's claims (regarding which position has not yet been cleared up with Sheikh) you may say that His Majesty's Government agree that this matter must be settled also.

5. His Majesty's Government will gladly consider any proposals on these two matters which His Majesty may communicate to them while you are on leave, in order that on your return to Jedda you may be in possession of full instructions to enable you to discuss settlement of both.

6. As regards desiderata of King Ibn Saud, since they are uncertain, you can only take note of them for report to me. But, if as seems likely his main desire is for some tightening of ties of friendship, while you should bear in mind caution prescribed in my telegram No.

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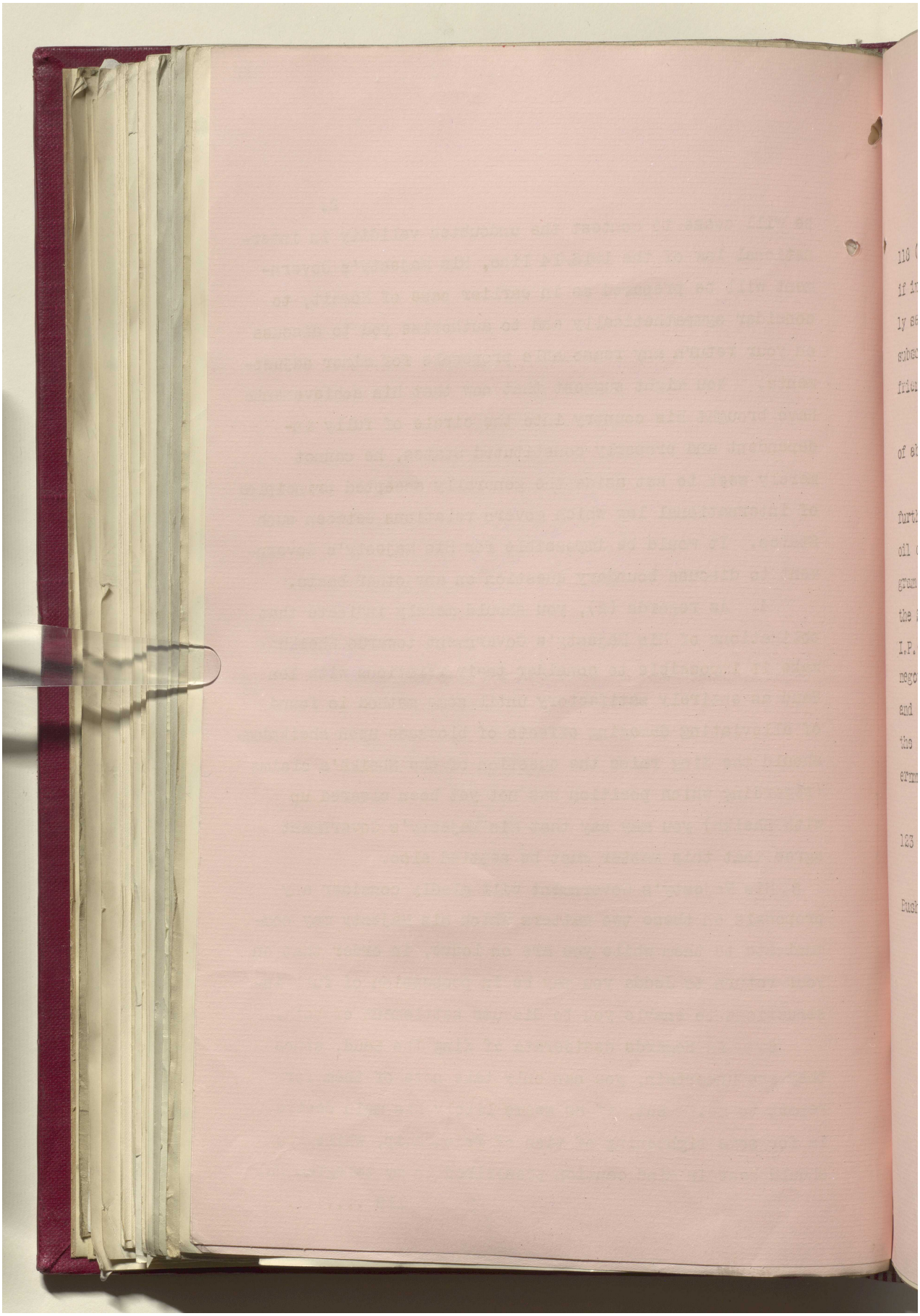

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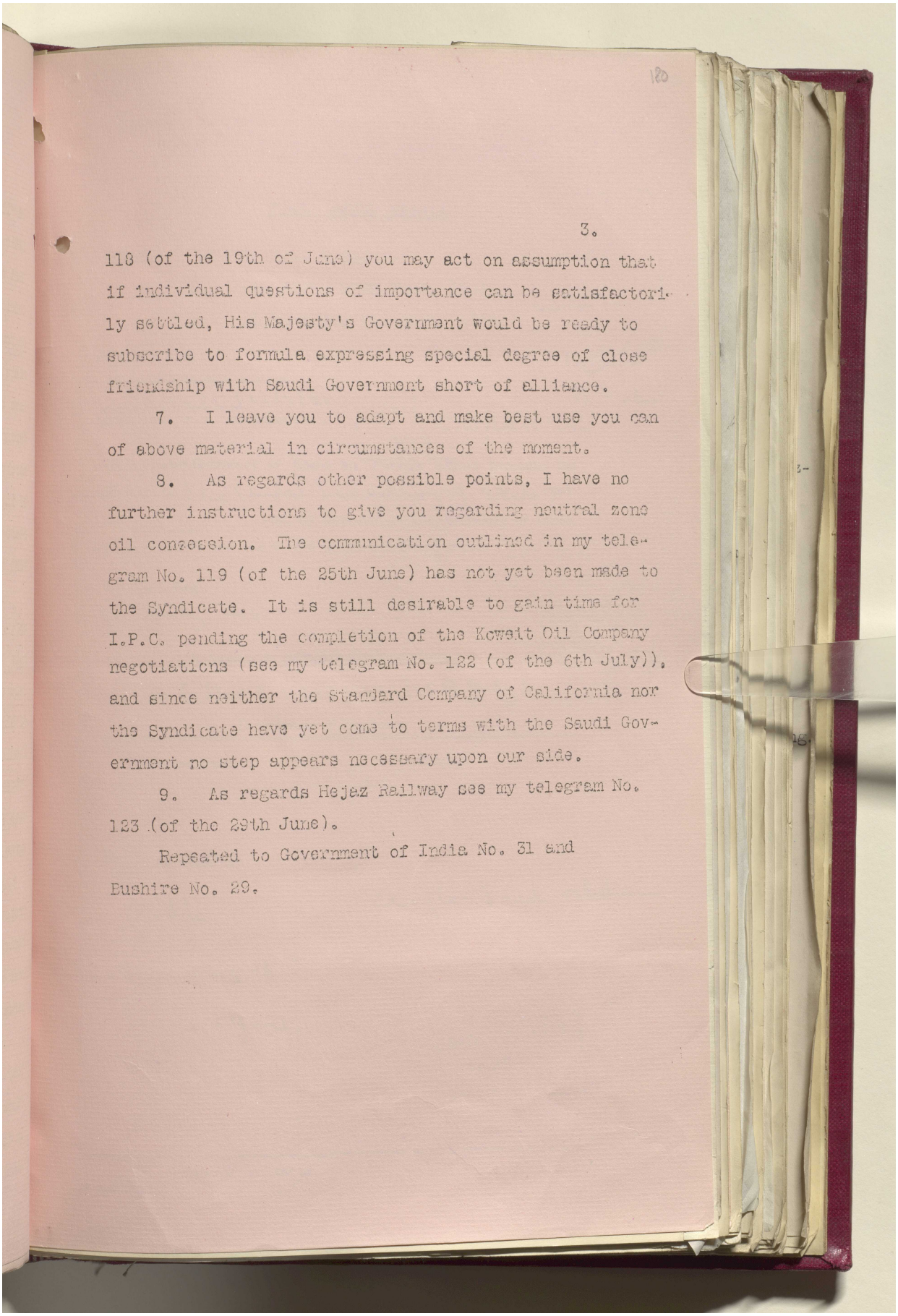

118 (of the 19th of June) you may act on assumption that if individual questions of importance can be satisfactorily settled, His Majesty's Government would be ready to subscribe to formula expressing special degree of close friendship with Saudi Government short of alliance.

7. I leave you to adapt and make best use you can of above material in circumstances of the moment.

8. As regards other possible points, I have no further instructions to give you regarding neutral zone oil concession. The communication outlined in my telegram No. 119 (of the 25th June) has not yet been made to the Syndicate. It is still desirable to gain time for I.P.C. pending the completion of the Koweit Oil Company negotiations (see my telegram No. 122 (of the 6th July)), and since neither the Standard Company of California nor the Syndicate have yet come to terms with the Saudi Government no step appears necessary upon our side.

9. As regards Hejaz Railway see my telegram No. 123 (of the 29th June).

Repeated to Government of India No. 31 and Bushire No. 29.

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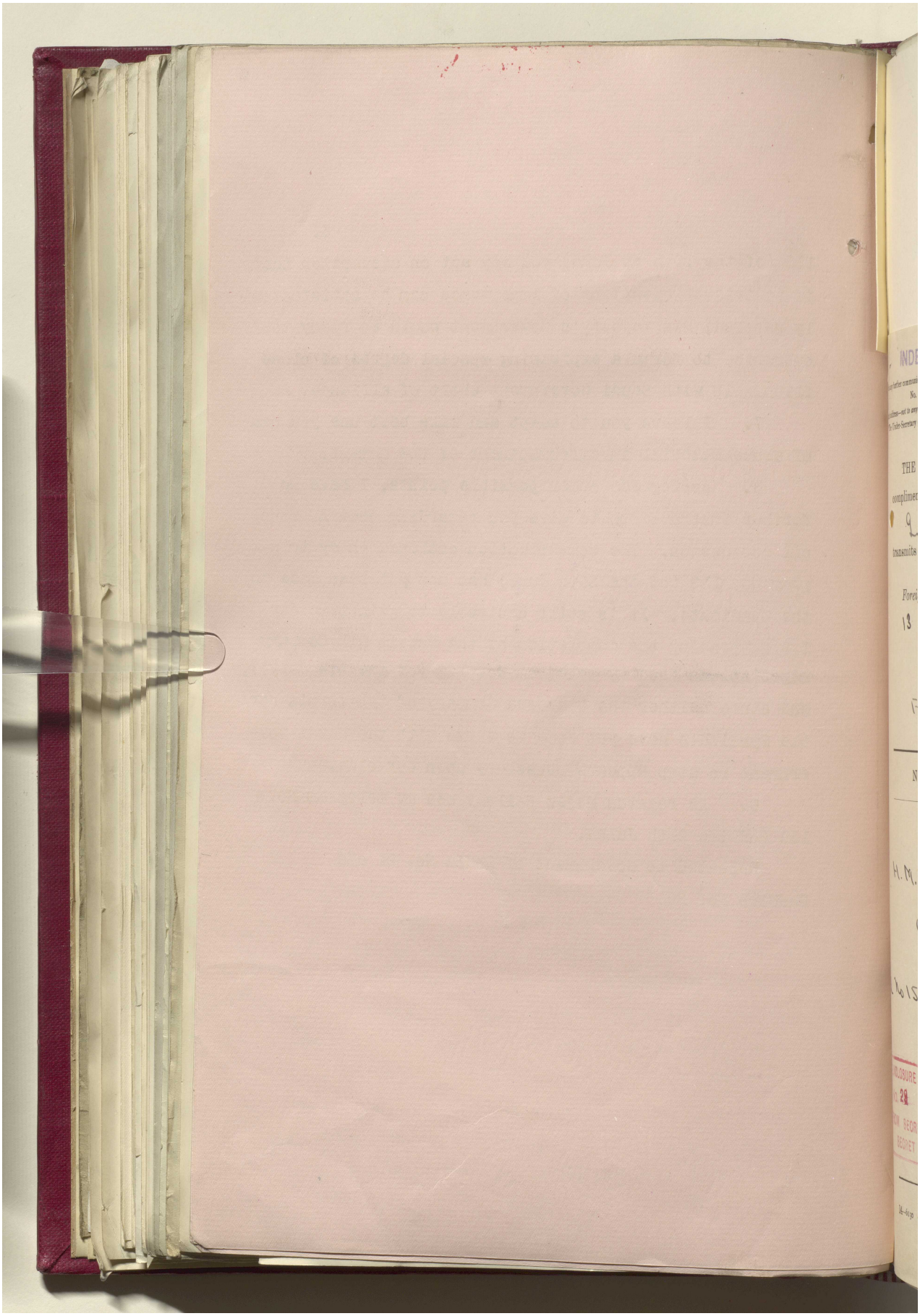

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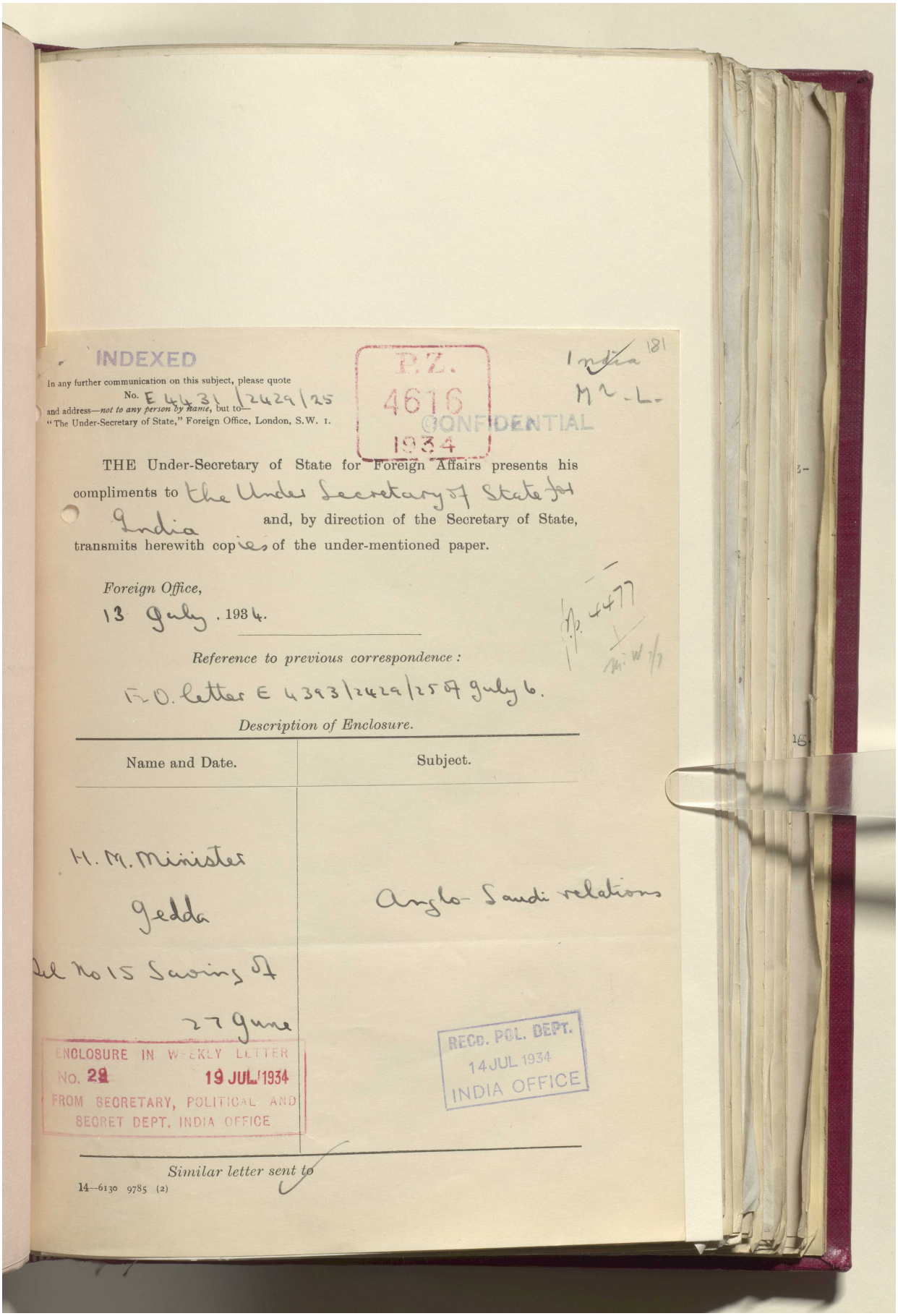

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 4431/2429/25 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to— "The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

R.Z. 4616 1934

CONFIDENTIAL

India 181 M²-L-

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
13 July . 1934.

Reference to previous correspondence :
F.O. letter E 4393/2429/25 of July 6.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H. M. Minister Jedda No 15 Saving of 27 June	Anglo-Saudi relations

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. 29 19 JUL. 1934 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

RECD. POL. DEPT. 14 JUL 1934 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

14—6130 9785 (2)

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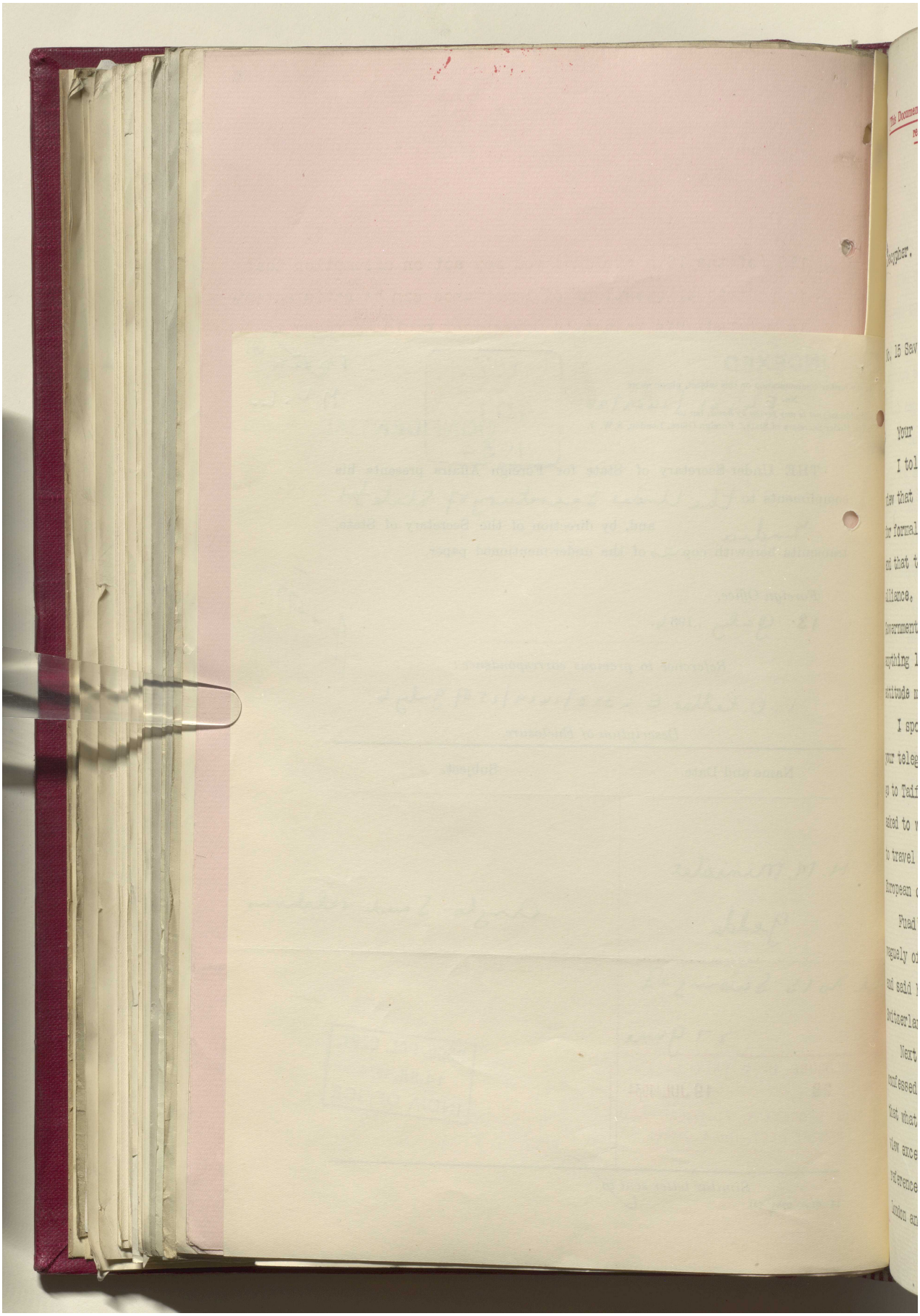

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From SAUDI ARABIA.

P.Z. 4616 1934

Decypher. Sir A. Ryan (Jedda).
D. (By Post) 27th June, 1934.
R. 11.30 a.m., 9th July, 1934.

No. 15 Saving.

::::::::::::::::

172 Your telegram No. 118.

I told Fuad on June 23rd that your reply confirmed my view that His Majesty's Government would not be prepared for formal "conversations" on lines which King had in mind and that they had definitely ruled out any idea of an alliance. I stressed sympathetic attitude of His Majesty's Government towards Ibn Saud but also their desire to avoid anything likely to create hopes which their subsequent attitude might falsify.

I spoke generally on lines of paragraphs 2 and 3 of your telegram under reference. I expressed readiness to go to Taif to see Ibn Saud provided I were not expressly asked to waive my diplomatic status, and would be willing to travel in Arab dress provided I were allowed to wear European clothes at actual audience.

Fuad's reaction was quite colourless. He spoke vaguely of possibility of entirely private visit to England and said he would be going in any case to Italy, France, Switzerland and probably to Germany for a cure.

Next day Fuad said he had reported to the King but confessed to great personal disappointment. I admitted that what I had said was discouraging from Saudi point of view except part based on paragraph 3 of your telegram under reference. I pointed out that he would be welcome in London and that restriction of informality would not preclude ...

FROM THE SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

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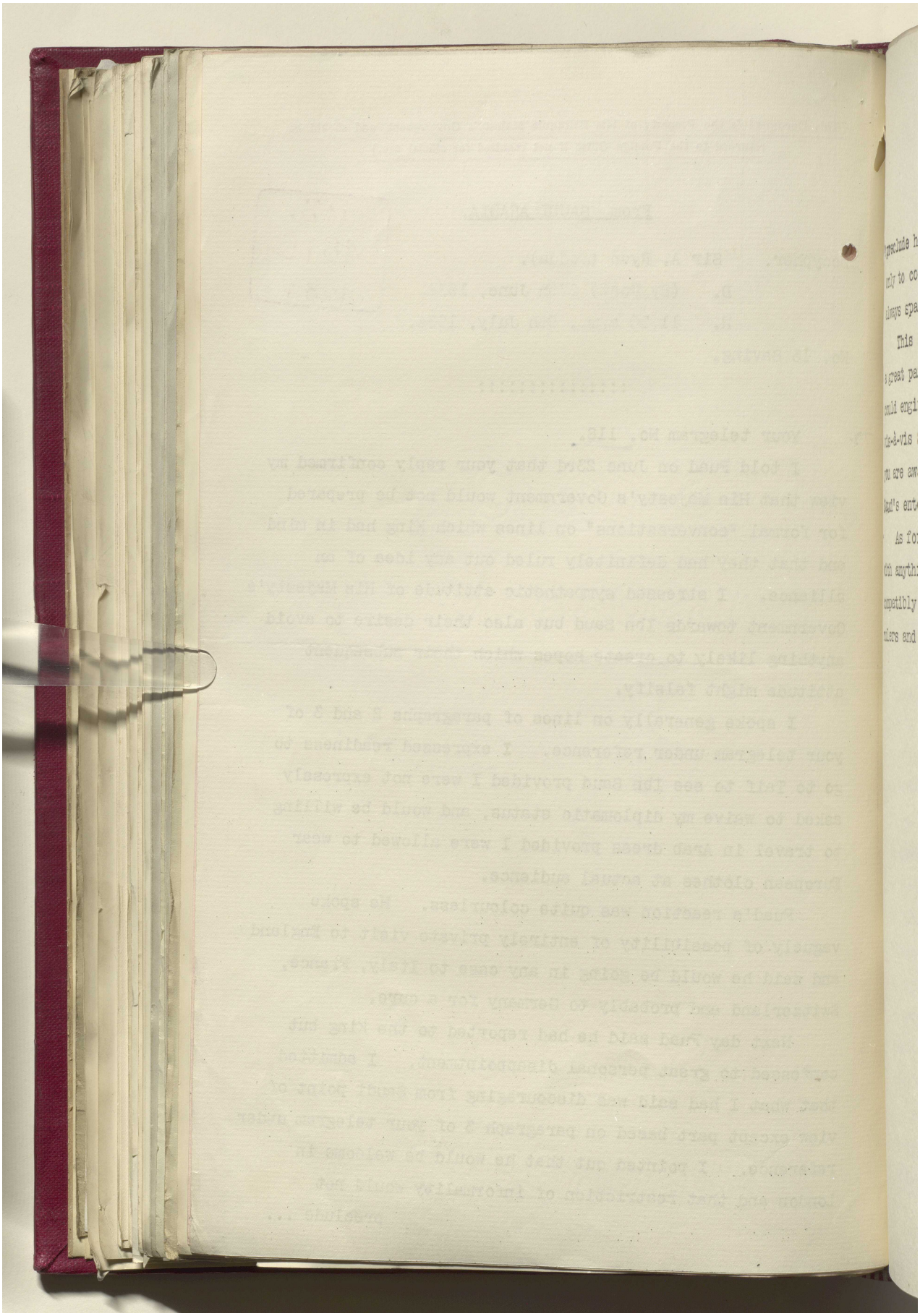

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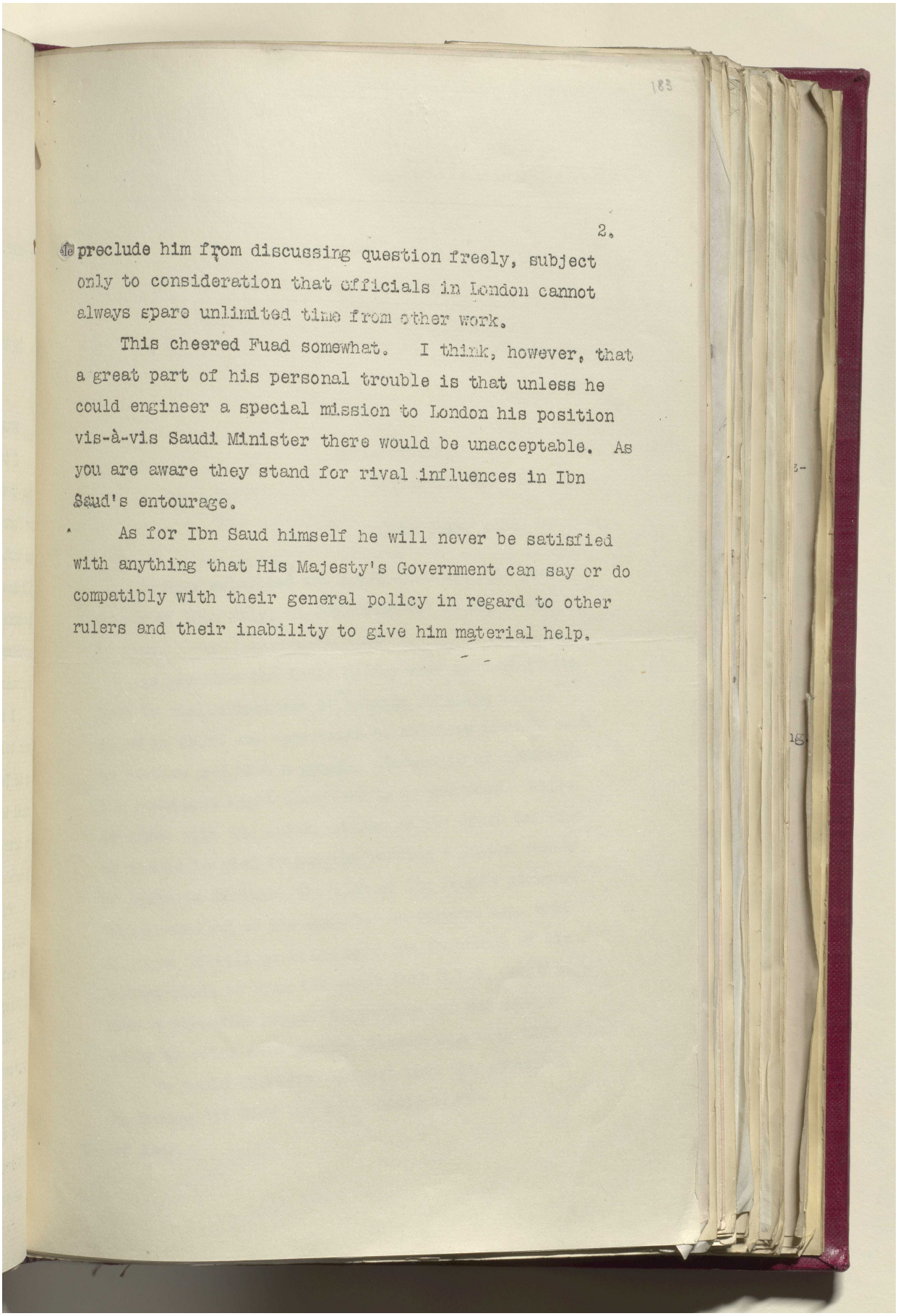

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2.

preclude him from discussing question freely, subject only to consideration that officials in London cannot always spare unlimited time from other work.

This cheered Fuad somewhat. I think, however, that a great part of his personal trouble is that unless he could engineer a special mission to London his position vis-à-vis Saudi Minister there would be unacceptable. As you are aware they stand for rival influences in Ibn Saud's entourage.

As for Ibn Saud himself he will never be satisfied with anything that His Majesty's Government can say or do compatibly with their general policy in regard to other rulers and their inability to give him material help.

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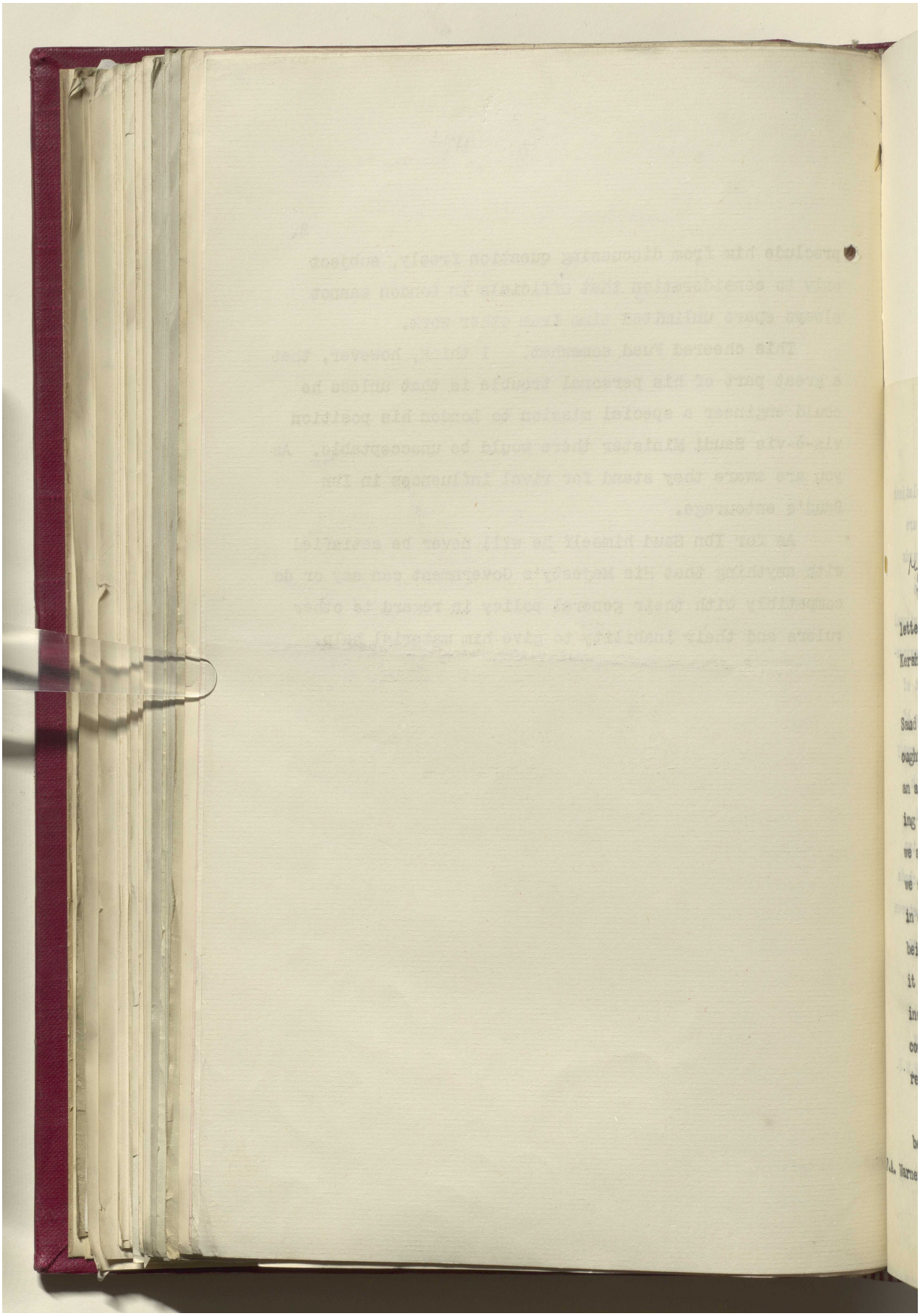

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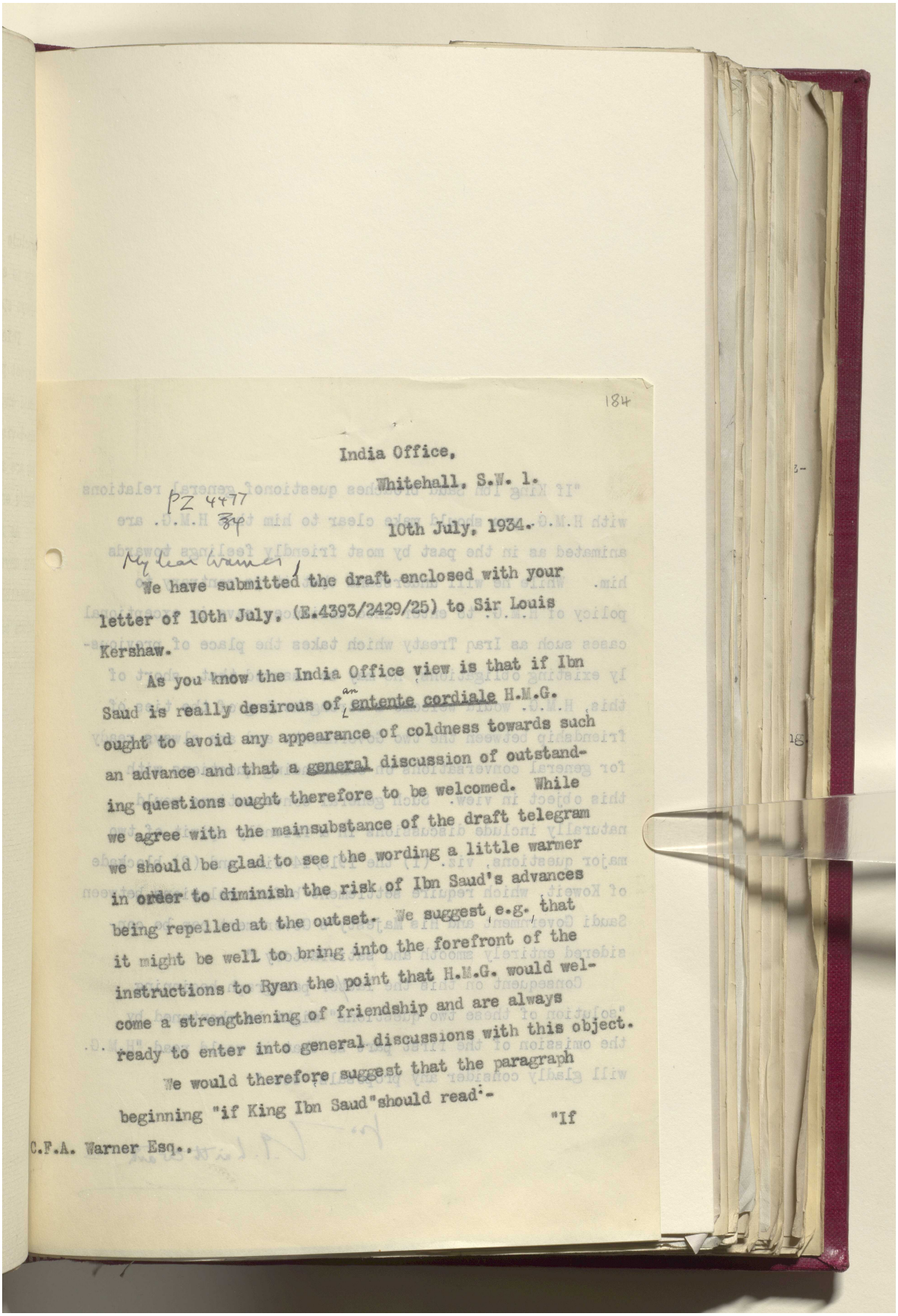

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India Office,

Whitehall, S.W. 1.

PZ 4477

10th July, 1934.

My dear Warner,

We have submitted the draft enclosed with your letter of 10th July, (E.4393/2429/25) to Sir Louis Kershaw.

As you know the India Office view is that if Ibn Saud is really desirous of an entente cordiale H.M.G. ought to avoid any appearance of coldness towards such an advance and that a general discussion of outstanding questions ought therefore to be welcomed. While we agree with the mainsubstance of the draft telegram we should be glad to see the wording a little warmer in order to diminish the risk of Ibn Saud's advances being repelled at the outset. We suggest, e.g. that it might be well to bring into the forefront of the instructions to Ryan the point that H.M.G. would welcome a strengthening of friendship and are always ready to enter into general discussions with this object.

We would therefore suggest that the paragraph beginning "if King Ibn Saud" should read:-

"If

C.F.A. Warner Esq..

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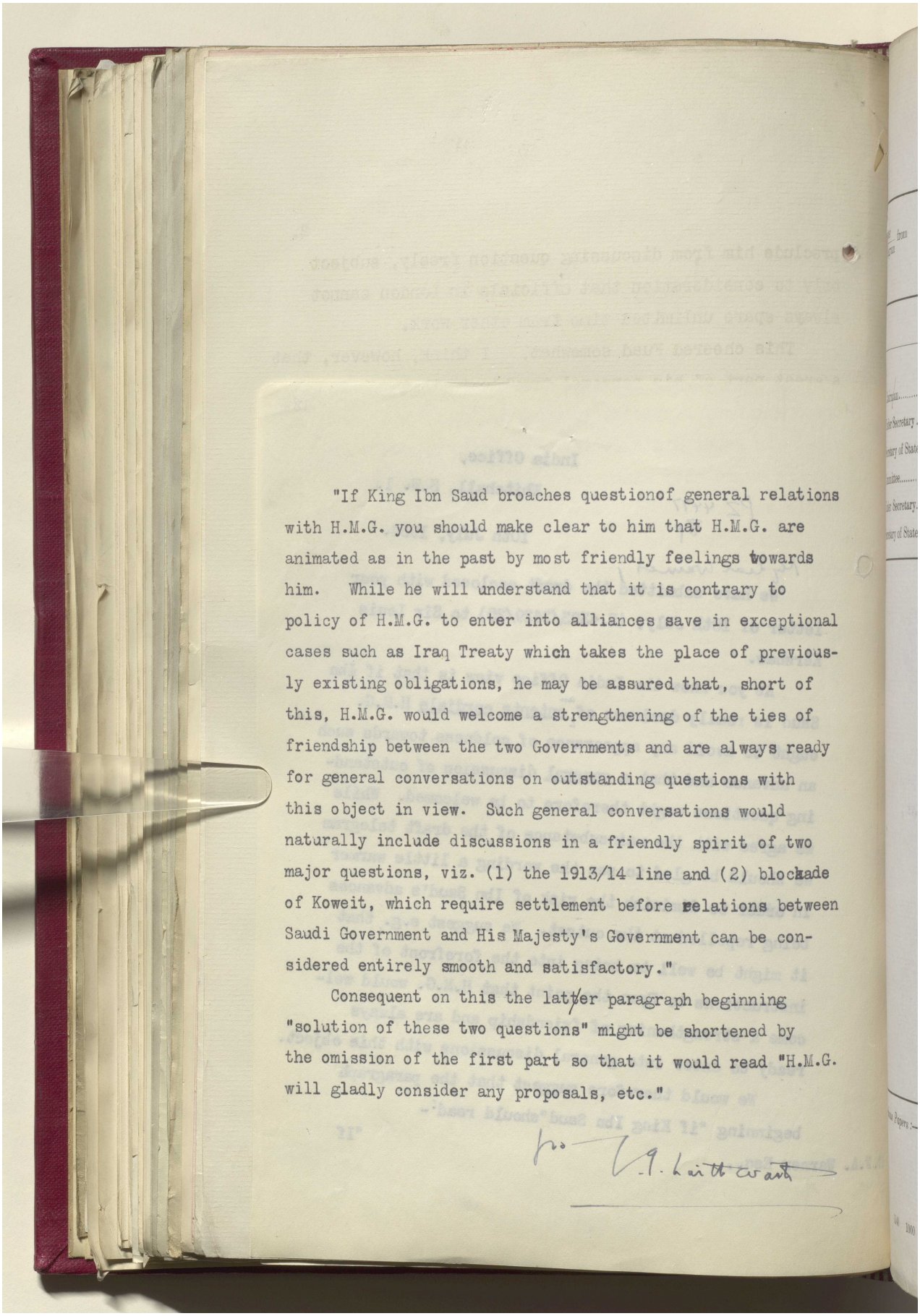

"If King Ibn Saud broaches questionof general relations with H.M.G. you should make clear to him that H.M.G. are animated as in the past by most friendly feelings towards him. While he will understand that it is contrary to policy of H.M.G. to enter into alliances save in exceptional cases such as Iraq Treaty which takes the place of previously existing obligations, he may be assured that, short of this, H.M.G. would welcome a strengthening of the ties of friendship between the two Governments and are always ready for general conversations on outstanding questions with this object in view. Such general conversations would naturally include discussions in a friendly spirit of two major questions, viz. (1) the 1913/14 line and (2) blockade of Koweit, which require settlement before relations between Saudi Government and His Majesty's Government can be considered entirely smooth and satisfactory."

Consequent on this the latter paragraph beginning "solution of these two questions" might be shortened by the omission of the first part so that it would read "H.M.G. will gladly consider any proposals, etc."

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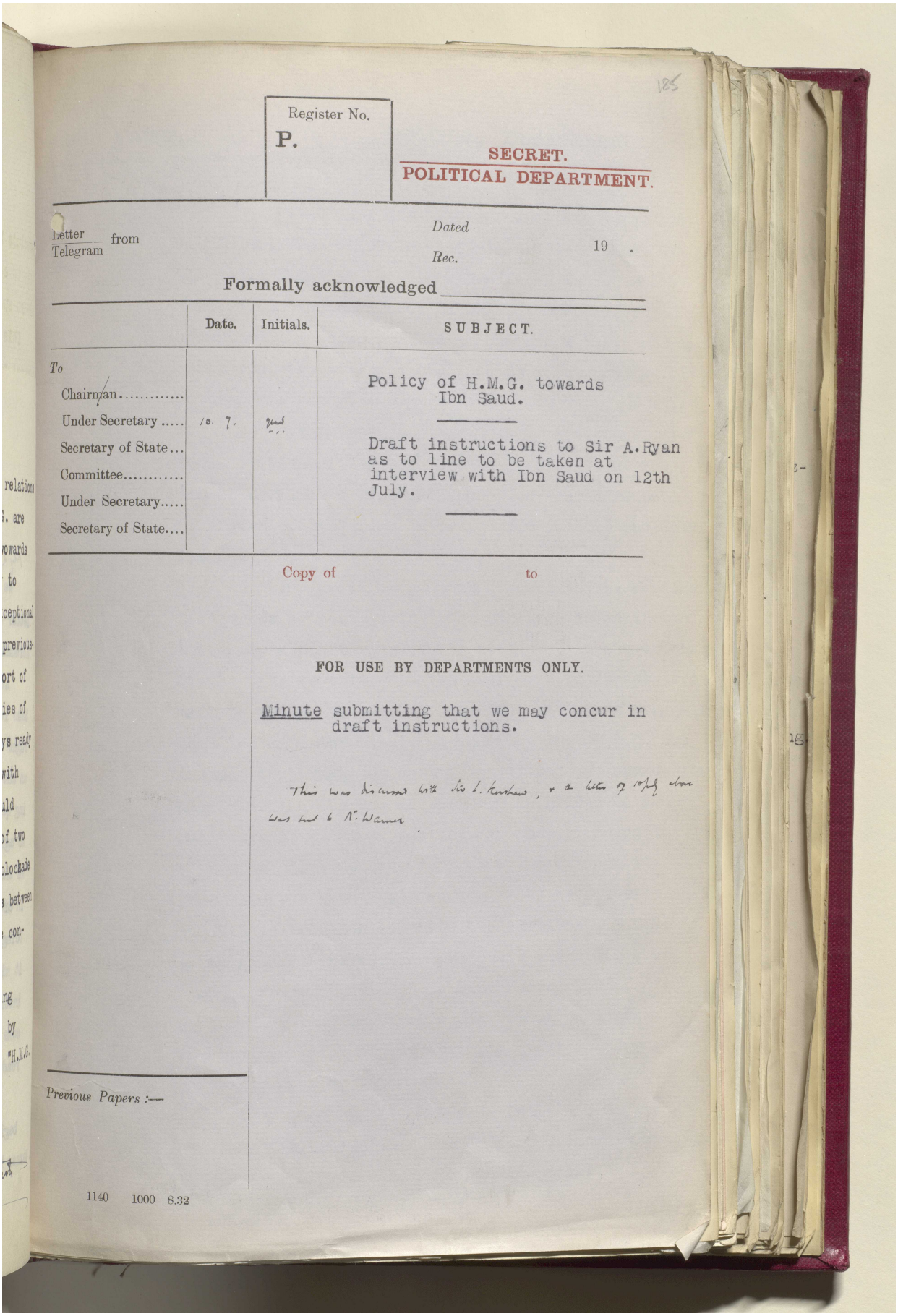

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Register No.
P.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter / Telegram from

Dated

Rec. 19 .

Formally acknowledged

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Policy of H.M.G. towards Ibn Saud.
Chairman.....			
Under Secretary	10. 7.	[illegible]	Draft instructions to Sir A. Ryan as to line to be taken at interview with Ibn Saud on 12th July.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....			
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State....			

Copy of to

FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.

Minute submitting that we may concur in draft instructions.

This was discussed with Sir L. Kershaw, & the letter of 10 July above was sent to Mr. Warner.

Previous Papers :—

1140 1000 8.32

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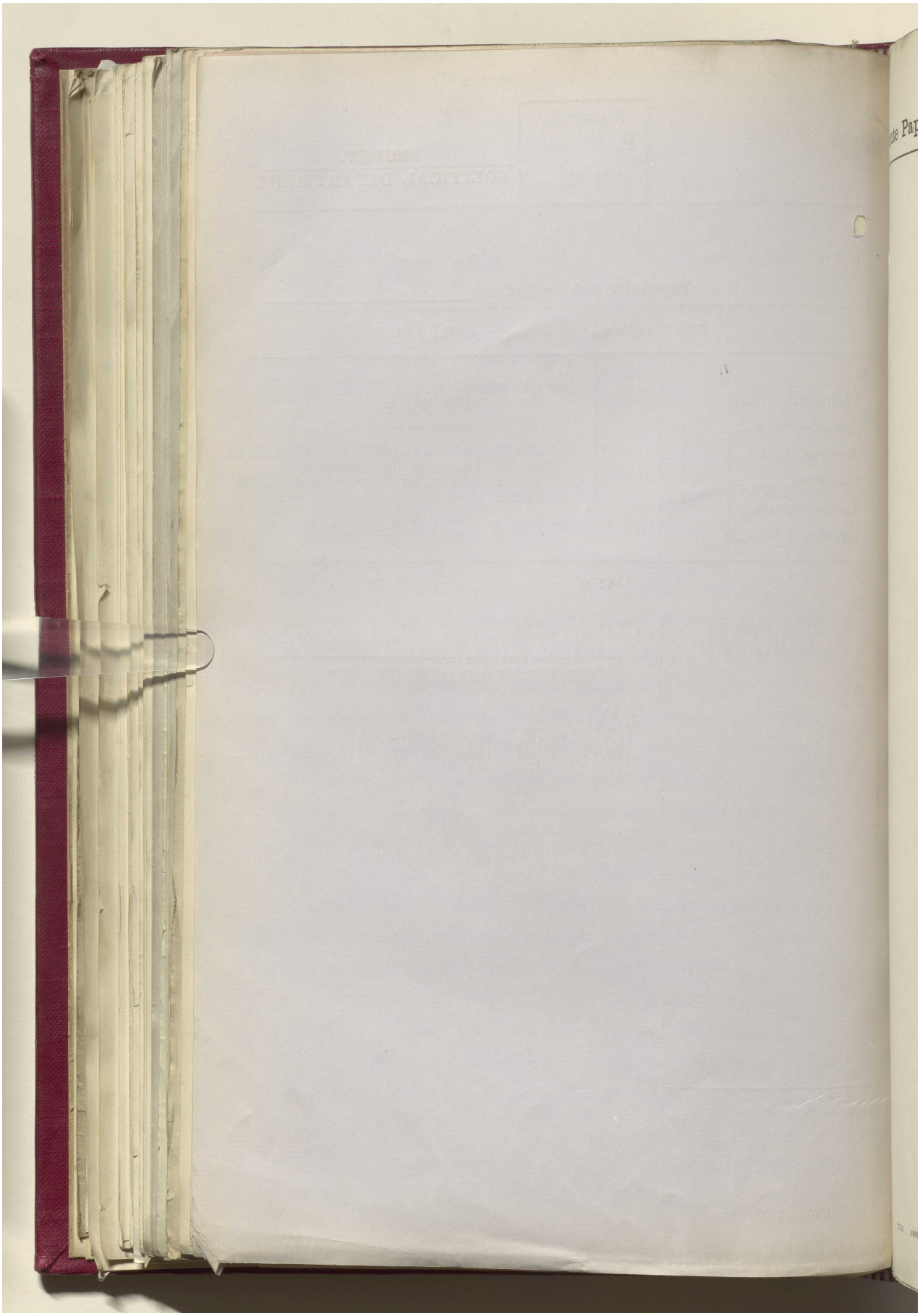

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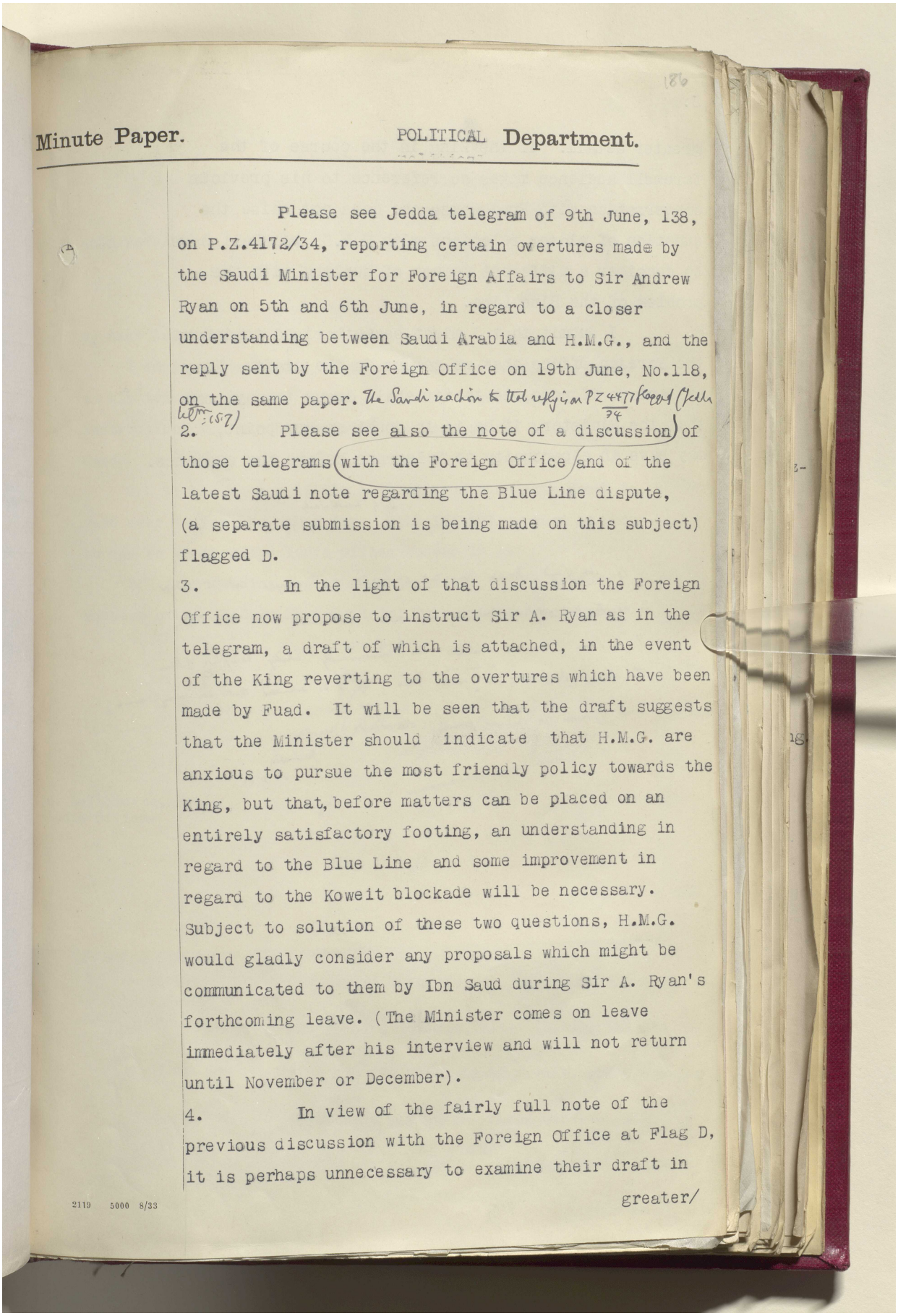

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Minute Paper. POLITICAL Department.

Please see Jedda telegram of 9th June, 138, on P.Z.4172/34, reporting certain overtures made by the Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs to Sir Andrew Ryan on 5th and 6th June, in regard to a closer understanding between Saudi Arabia and H.M.G., and the reply sent by the Foreign Office on 19th June, No.118, on the same paper. The Saudi reaction to that reply is on PZ 4477/34 flagged (Jedda letter 15.7)

2. Please see also the note of a discussion of those telegrams with the Foreign Office and of the latest Saudi note regarding the Blue Line dispute, (a separate submission is being made on this subject) flagged D.

3. In the light of that discussion the Foreign Office now propose to instruct Sir A. Ryan as in the telegram, a draft of which is attached, in the event of the King reverting to the overtures which have been made by Fuad. It will be seen that the draft suggests that the Minister should indicate that H.M.G. are anxious to pursue the most friendly policy towards the King, but that, before matters can be placed on an entirely satisfactory footing, an understanding in regard to the Blue Line and some improvement in regard to the Koweit blockade will be necessary. Subject to solution of these two questions, H.M.G. would gladly consider any proposals which might be communicated to them by Ibn Saud during Sir A. Ryan's forthcoming leave. (The Minister comes on leave immediately after his interview and will not return until November or December).

4. In view of the fairly full note of the previous discussion with the Foreign Office at Flag D, it is perhaps unnecessary to examine their draft in greater/

2119 5000 8/33

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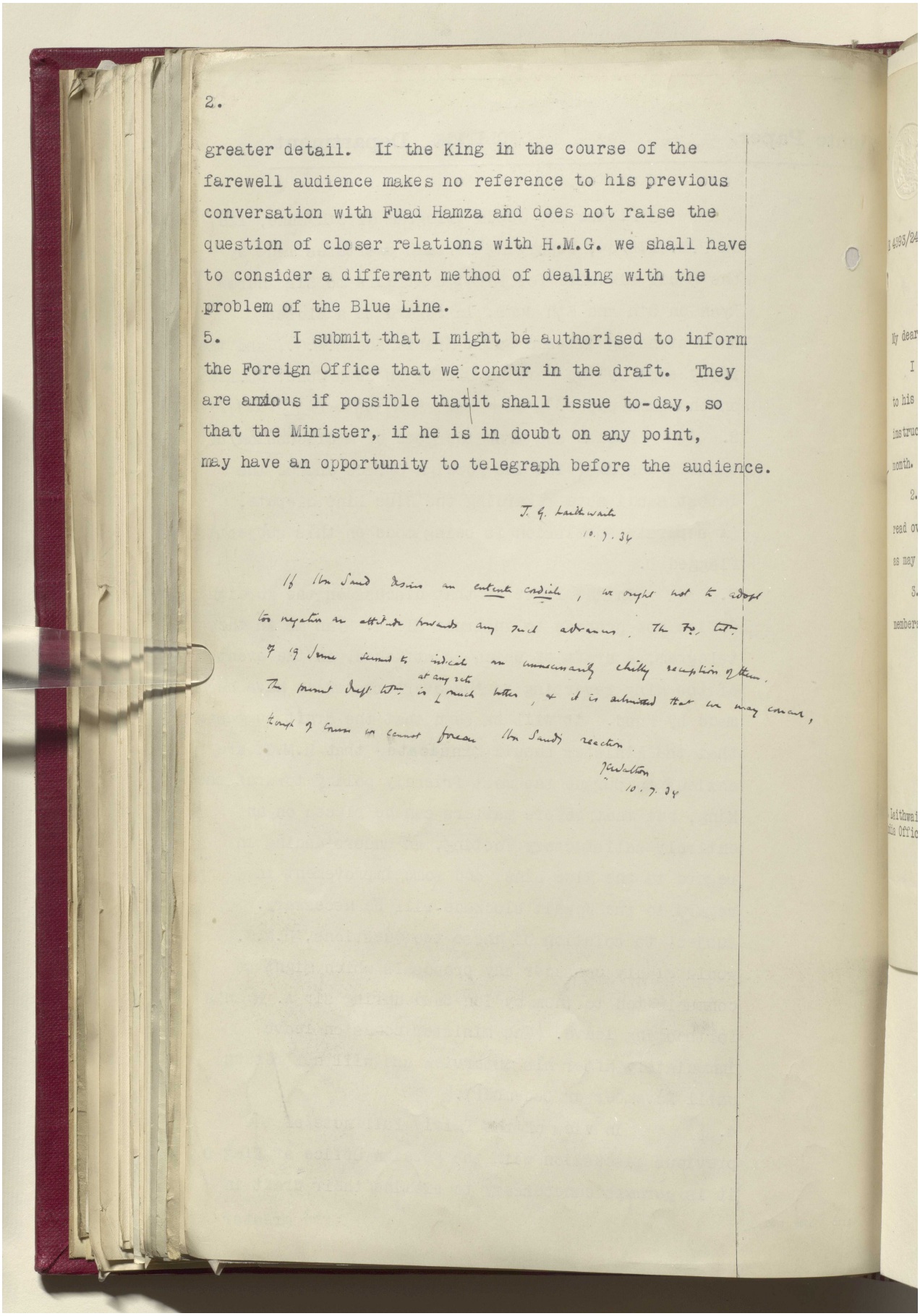

2.

greater detail. If the King in the course of the farewell audience makes no reference to his previous conversation with Fuad Hamza and does not raise the question of closer relations with H.M.G. we shall have to consider a different method of dealing with the problem of the Blue Line.

5. I submit that I might be authorised to inform the Foreign Office that we concur in the draft. They are anxious if possible thatit shall issue to-day, so that the Minister, if he is in doubt on any point, may have an opportunity to telegraph before the audience.

J. G. Laithwaite
10.7.34

If Ibn Saud desires an entente cordiale, we ought not to adopt [illegible] negative attitude towards any such advances. The fact that [illegible] of 19 June seemed to indicate an unnecessarily chilly reception of them. The present draft telegram is at any rate much better, & it is admitted that we may concur, though of course we cannot foresee Ibn Saud's reaction.

J. Walton
10.7.34

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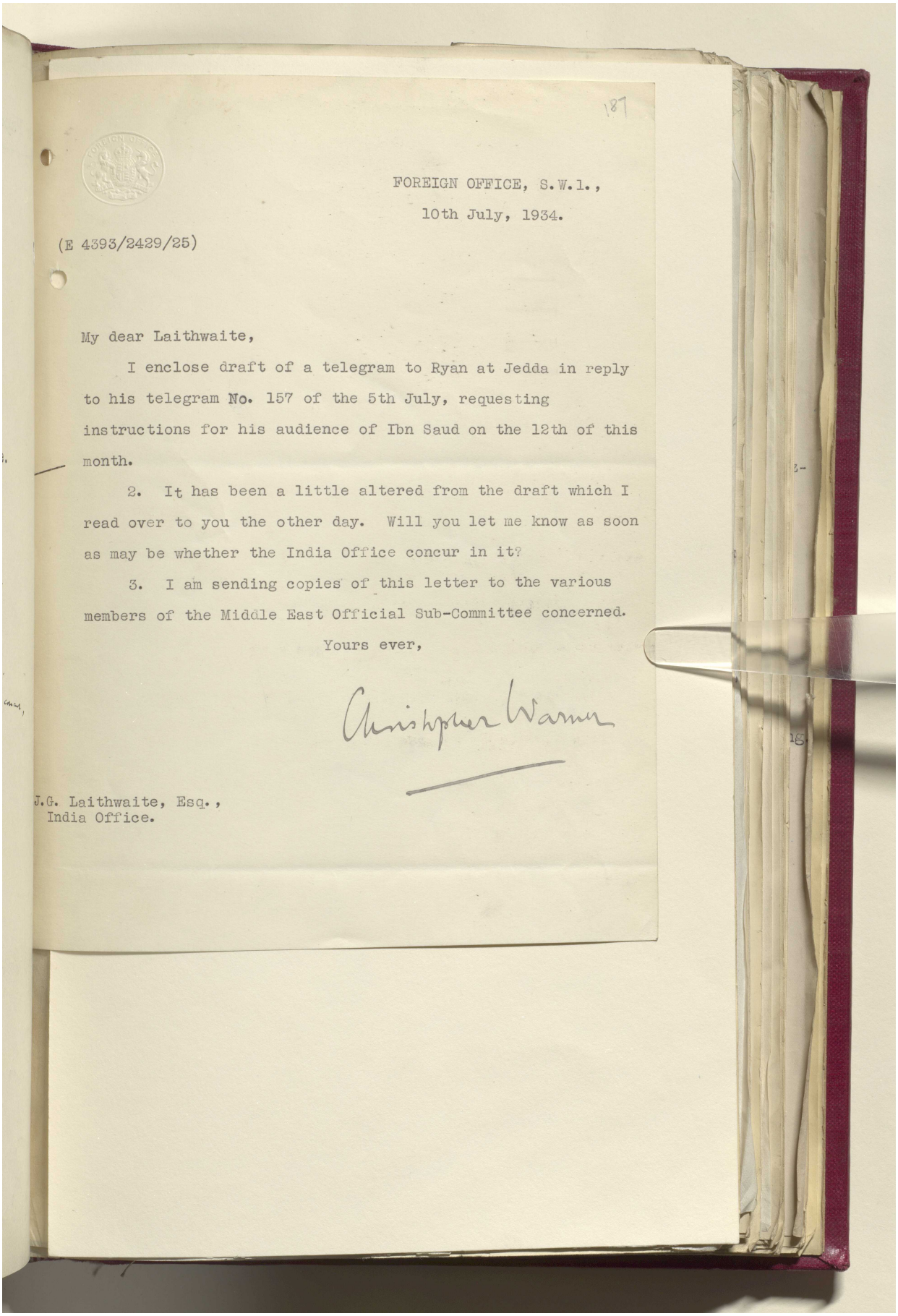

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.,
10th July, 1934.

(E 4393/2429/25)

My dear Laithwaite,

I enclose draft of a telegram to Ryan at Jedda in reply to his telegram No. 157 of the 5th July, requesting instructions for his audience of Ibn Saud on the 12th of this month.

2. It has been a little altered from the draft which I read over to you the other day. Will you let me know as soon as may be whether the India Office concur in it?

3. I am sending copies of this letter to the various members of the Middle East Official Sub-Committee concerned.

Yours ever,

Christopher Warner

J.G. Laithwaite, Esq.,
India Office.

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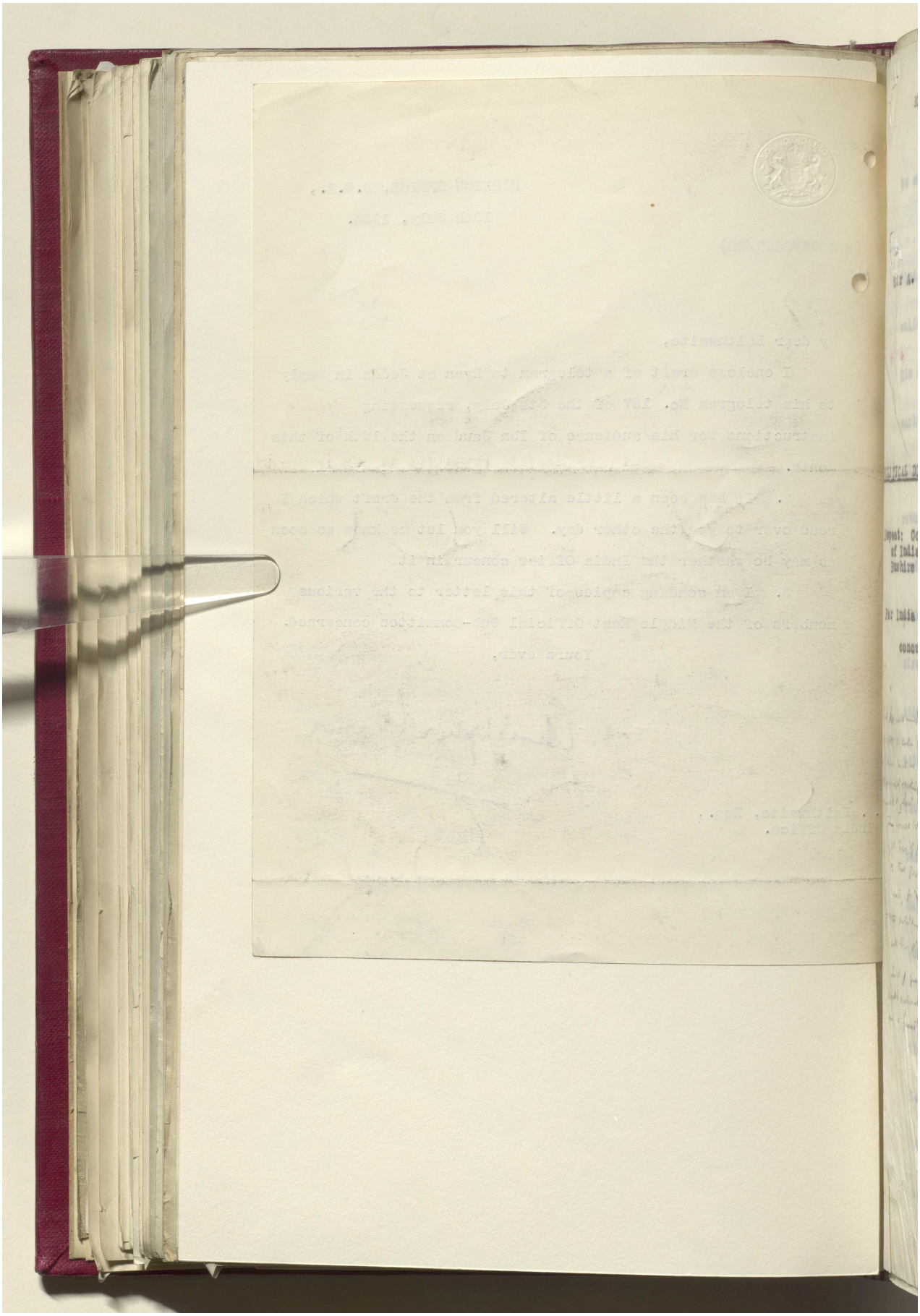

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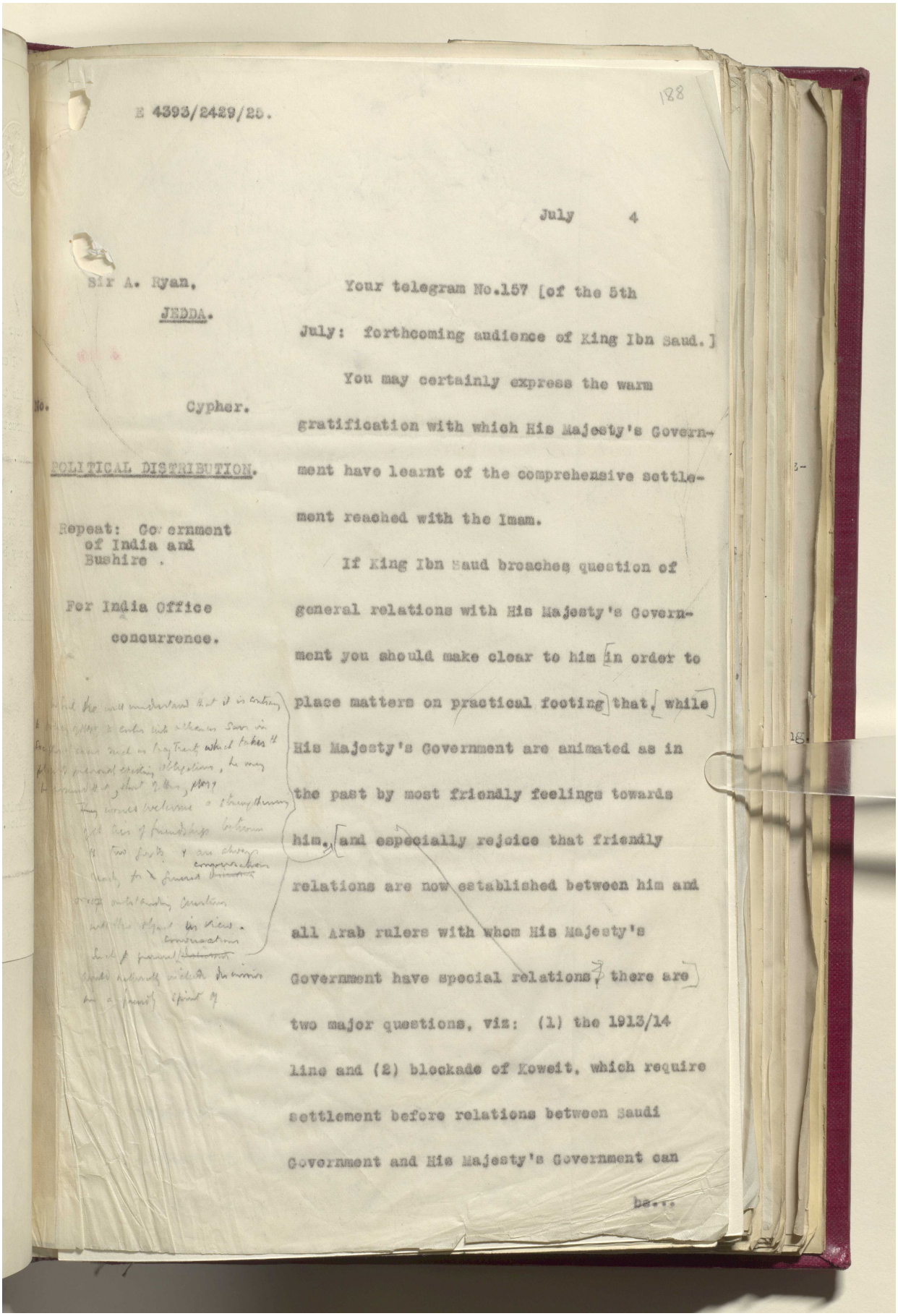

E 4393/2429/25.

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July 4

Sir A. Ryan,
JEDDA.

No. Cypher.

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION.

Repeat: Government of India and Bushire.

For India Office concurrence.

Your telegram No.157 [of the 5th July: forthcoming audience of King Ibn Saud.]

You may certainly express the warm gratification with which His Majesty's Government have learnt of the comprehensive settlement reached with the Imam.

If King Ibn Saud broaches question of general relations with His Majesty's Government you should make clear to him in order to place matters on practical footing that, while His Majesty's Government are animated as in the past by most friendly feelings towards him, and especially rejoice that friendly relations are now established between him and all Arab rulers with whom His Majesty's Government have special relations, there are two major questions, viz: (1) the 1913/14 line and (2) blockade of Koweit, which require settlement before relations between Saudi Government and His Majesty's Government can be...

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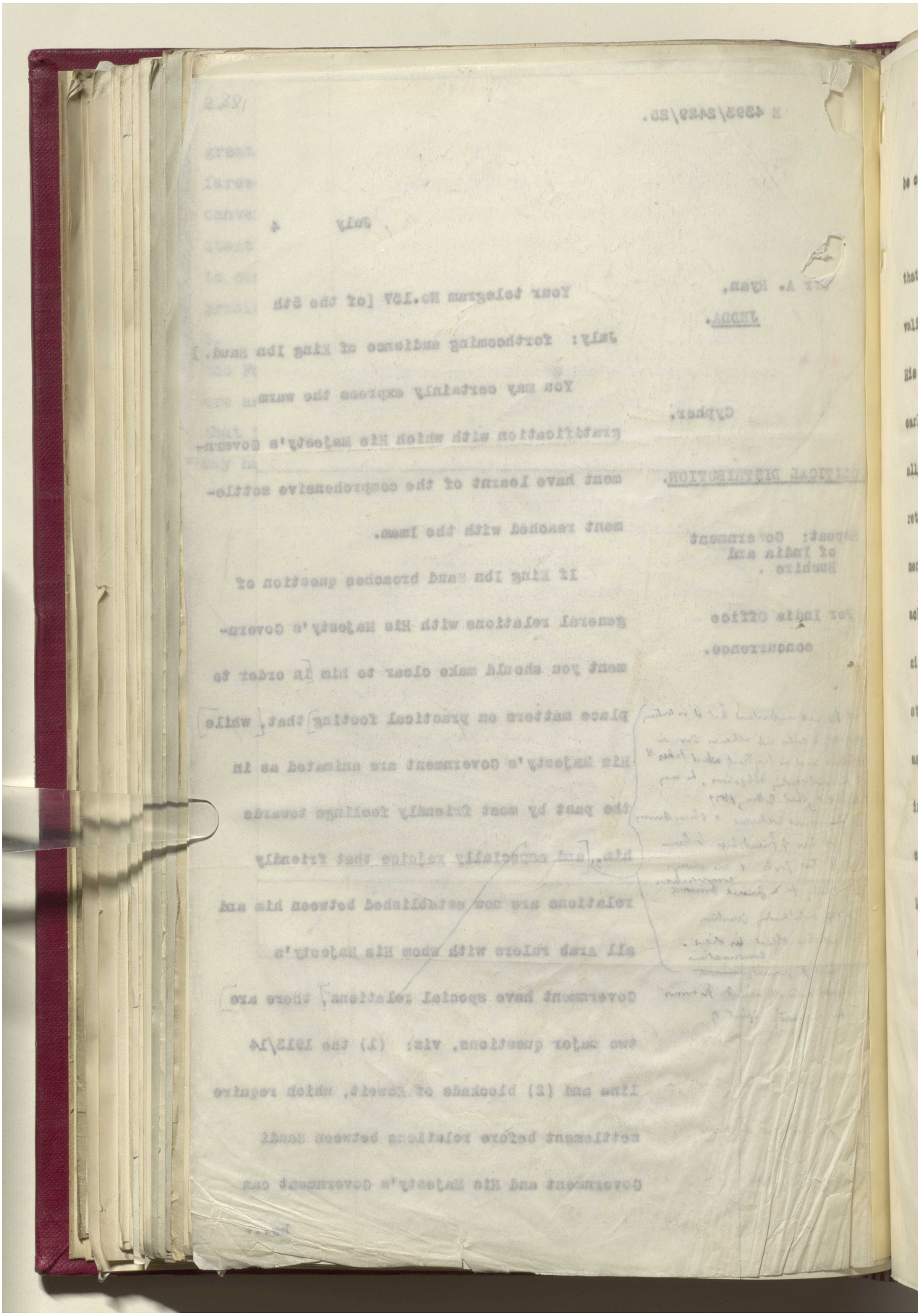

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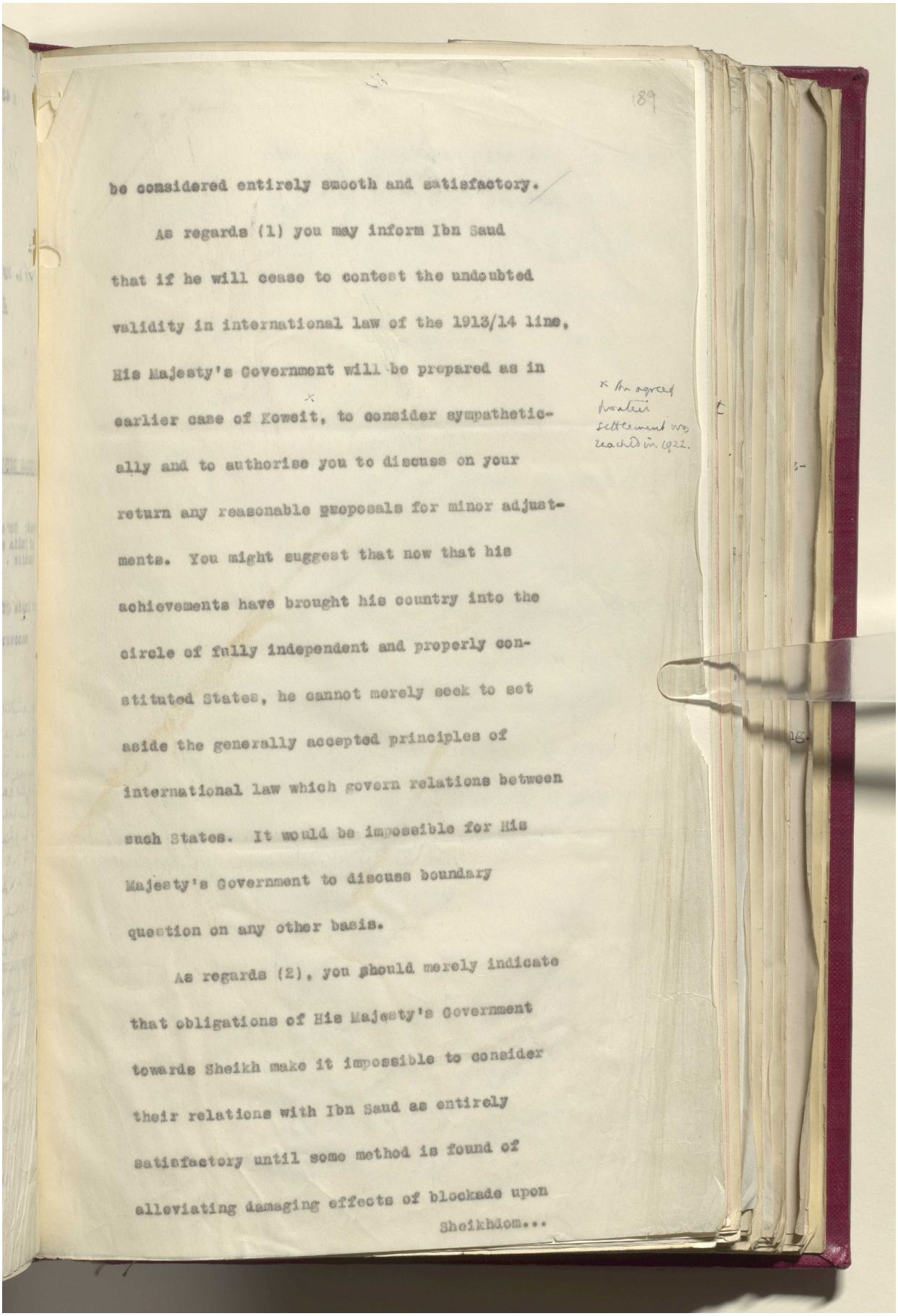

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be considered entirely smooth and satisfactory.

As regards (1) you may inform Ibn Saud that if he will cease to contest the undoubted validity in international law of the 1913/14 line, His Majesty's Government will be prepared as in earlier case of Koweit, to consider sympathetically and to authorise you to discuss on your return any reasonable proposals for minor adjustments. You might suggest that now that his achievements have brought his country into the circle of fully independent and properly constituted States, he cannot merely seek to set aside the generally accepted principles of international law which govern relations between such States. It would be impossible for His Majesty's Government to discuss boundary question on any other basis.

× An agreed frontier settlement was reached in 1922.

As regards (2), you should merely indicate that obligations of His Majesty's Government towards Sheikh make it impossible to consider their relations with Ibn Saud as entirely satisfactory until some method is found of alleviating damaging effects of blockade upon Sheikhdom...

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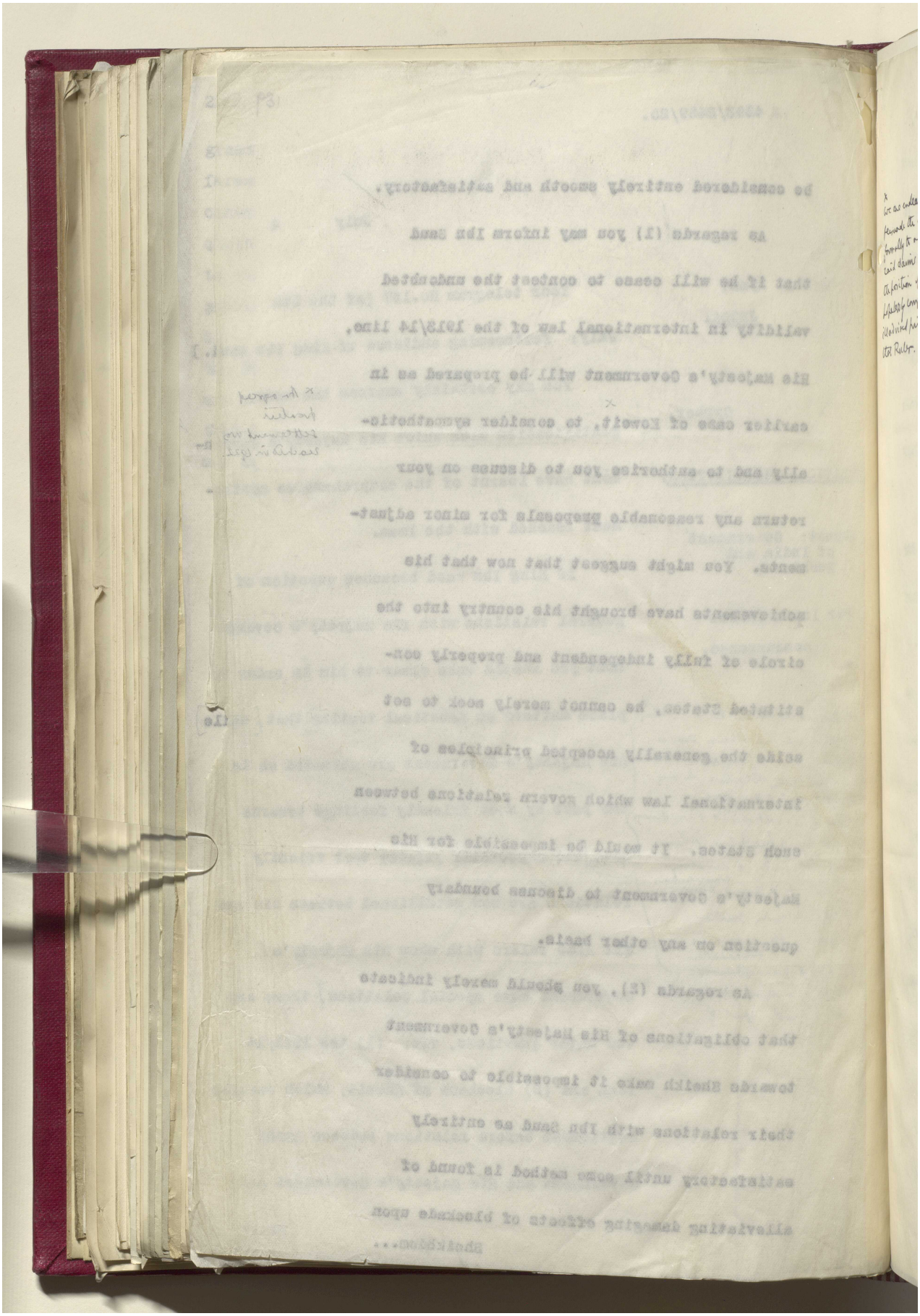

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Sheikhdom. Should the King raise the question of the Sheikh's claims (regarding which ~~settlement has not yet been reached~~ position has not yet been cleared up with Sheikh) you may say that His Majesty's Government agree that this matter must be settled also.

[Solution of these two questions must therefore be found in order that there may be real basis for that reassurance of close friendship which Ibn Saud is understood to desire from] His Majesty's Government [, who] will gladly consider any proposals on these two matters which His Majesty may communicate to them while you are on leave, in order that on your return to Jedda you may be in possession of full instructions to enable you to discuss settlement of both.

As regards desiderata of King Ibn Saud, since they are uncertain, you can only take note of them for report to me. But, if as seems likely his main desire is for some tightening of ties of friendship, while you should bear in mind caution prescribed in my telegram

No...

× We are endeavouring to persuade the Sheikh formally to abandon certain said claims of Ibn Saud the position of which he has hopelessly compromised by an ill-advised private letter to that Ruler.

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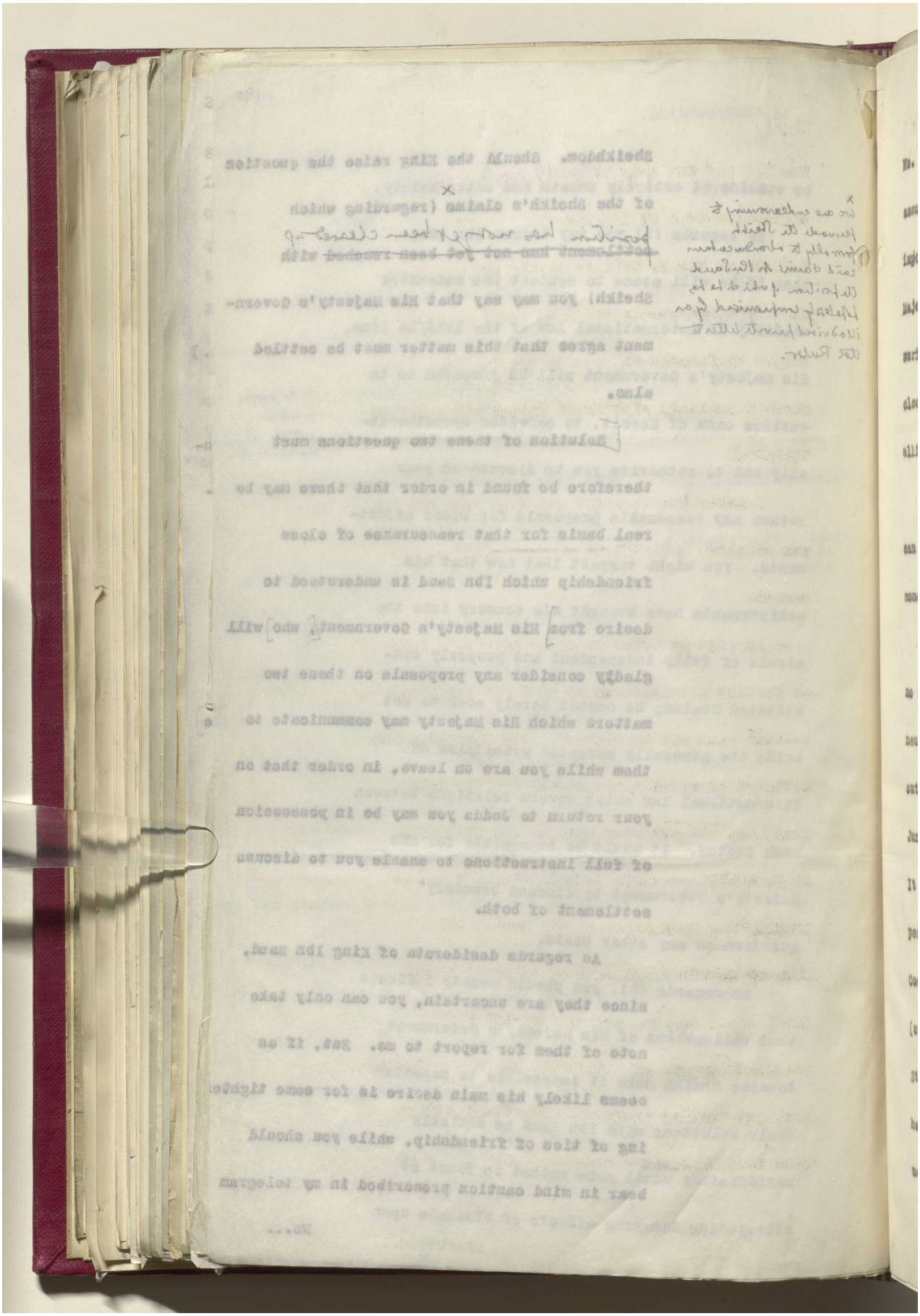

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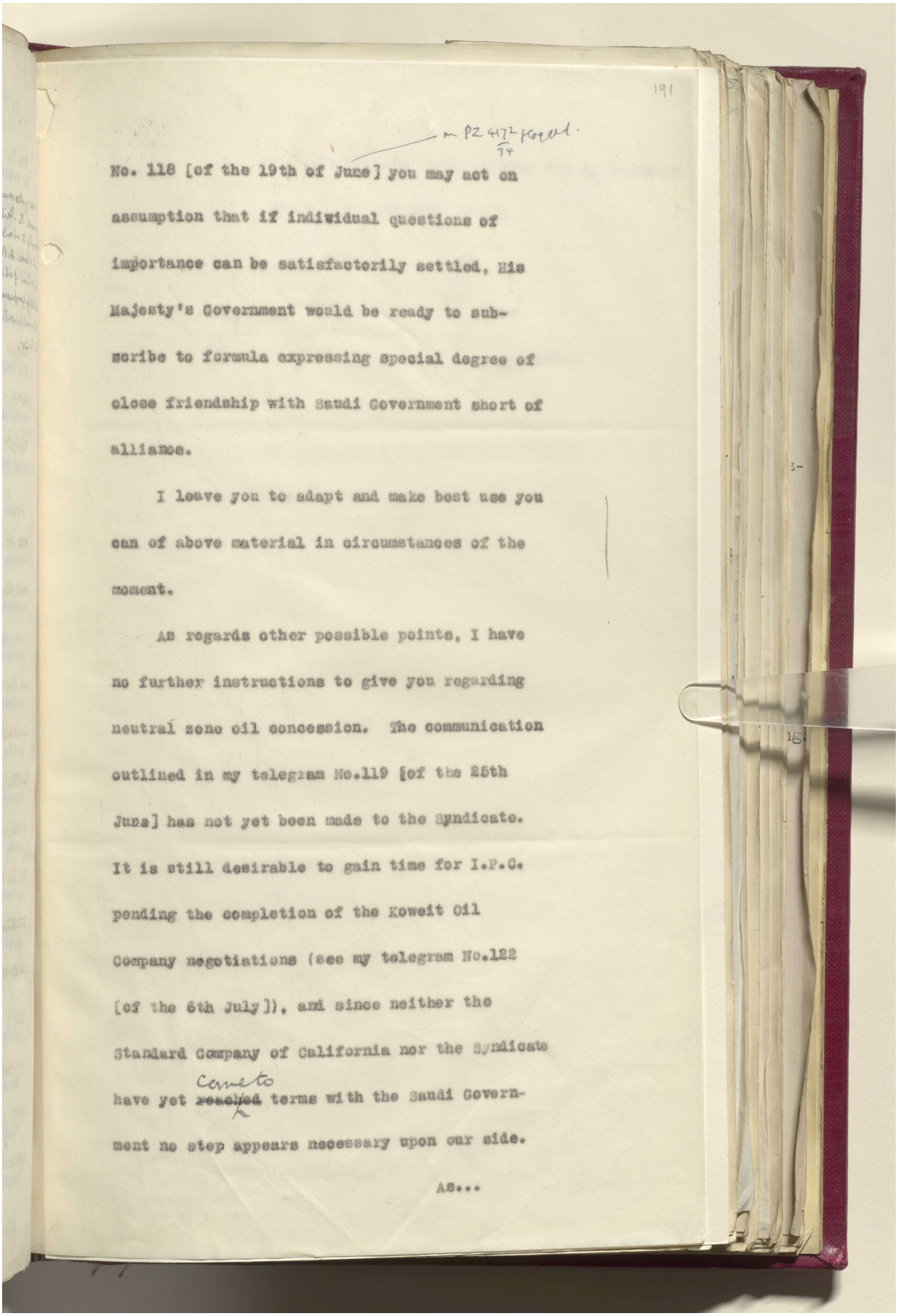

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m PZ 4172 Koweit.
34

No. 118 [of the 19th of June] you may act on assumption that if individual questions of importance can be satisfactorily settled, His Majesty's Government would be ready to subscribe to formula expressing special degree of close friendship with Saudi Government short of alliance.

I leave you to adapt and make best use you can of above material in circumstances of the moment.

As regards other possible points, I have no further instructions to give you regarding neutral zone oil concession. The communication outlined in my telegram No.119 [of the 25th June] has not yet been made to the Syndicate. It is still desirable to gain time for I.P.C. pending the completion of the Koweit Oil Company negotiations (see my telegram No.122 [of the 6th July]), and since neither the Standard Company of California nor the Syndicate have yet ~~resolved~~ Cornets terms with the Saudi Government no step appears necessary upon our side.

As...

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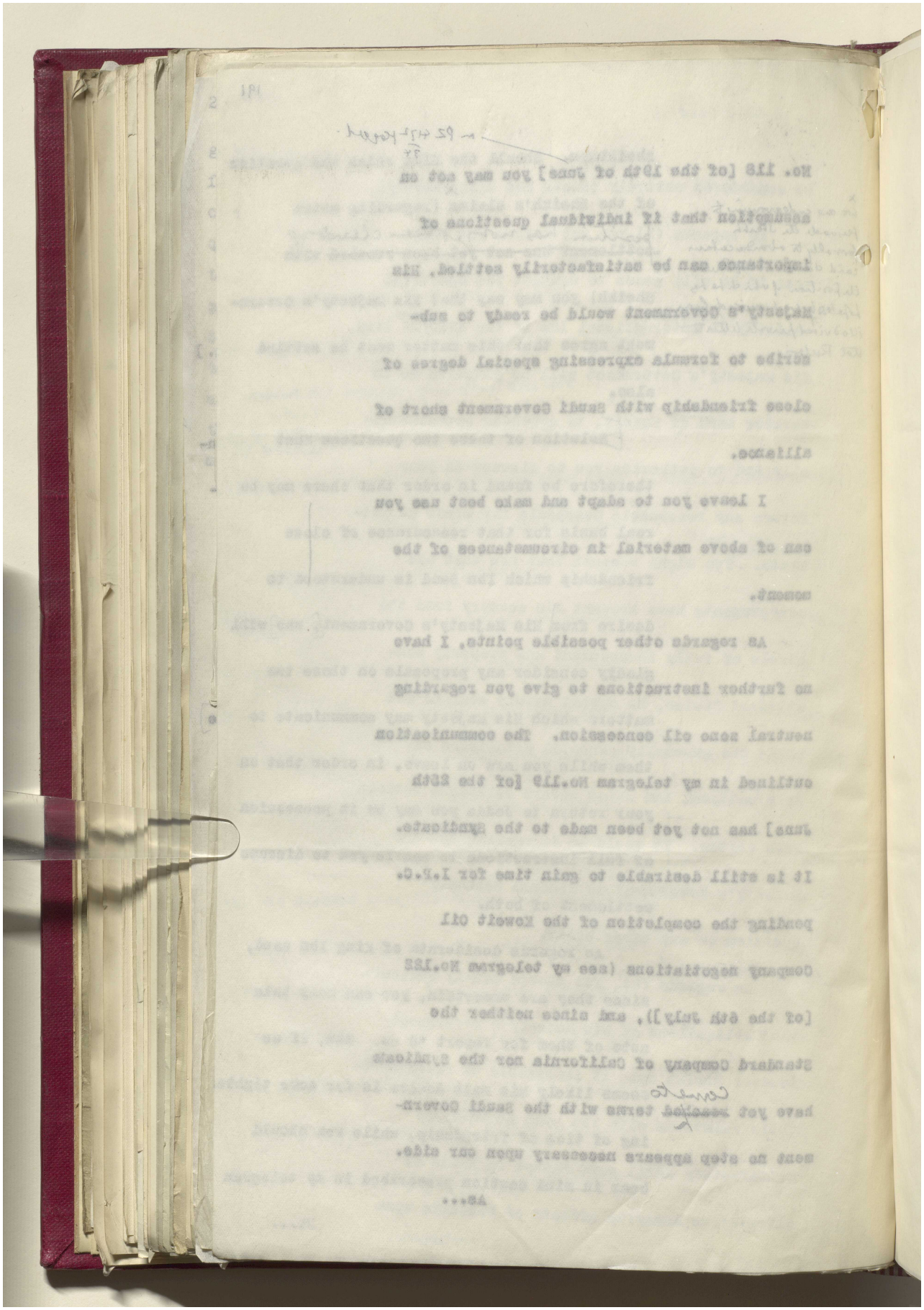

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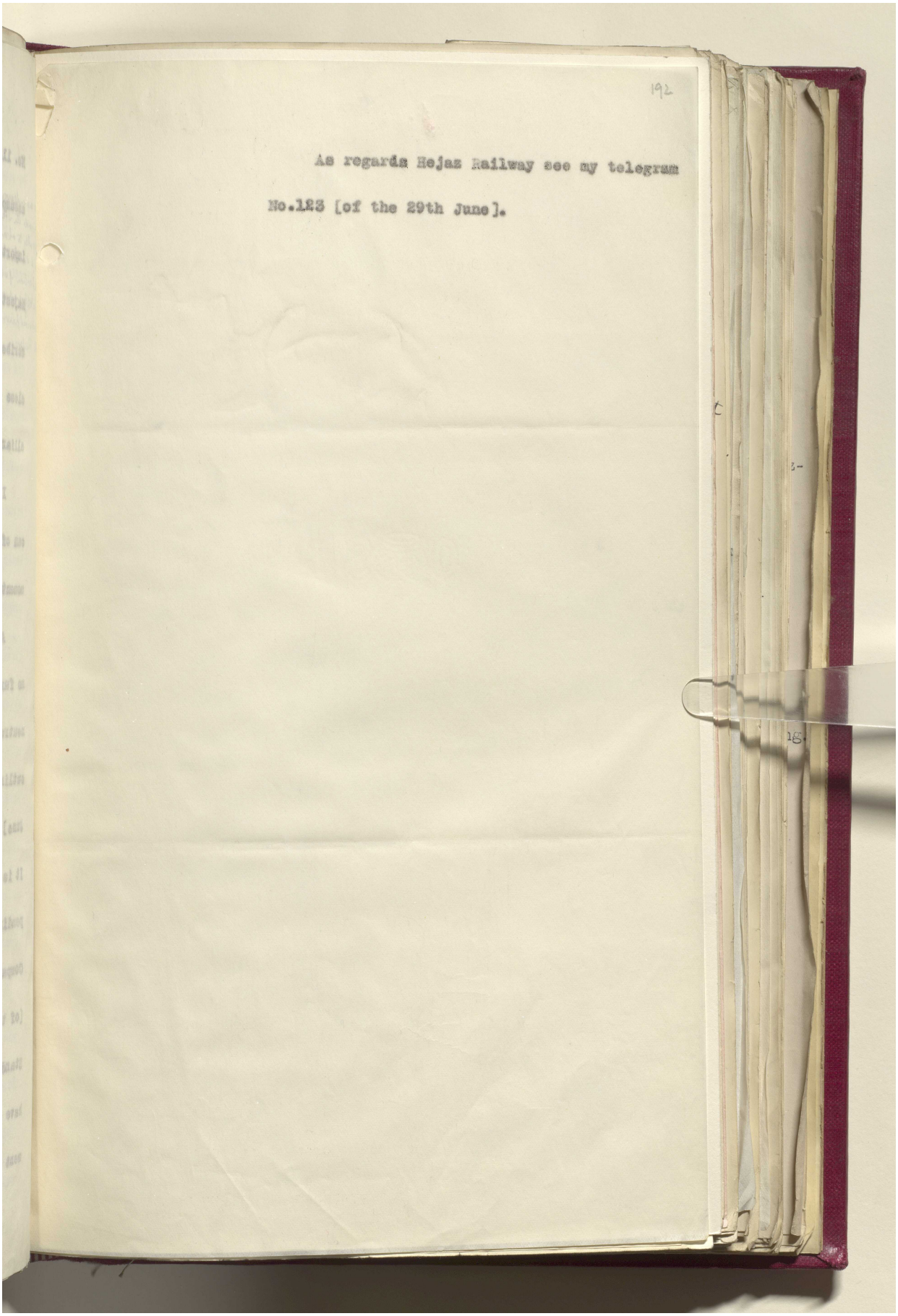
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As regards Hejaz Railway see my telegram
No.123 [of the 29th June].

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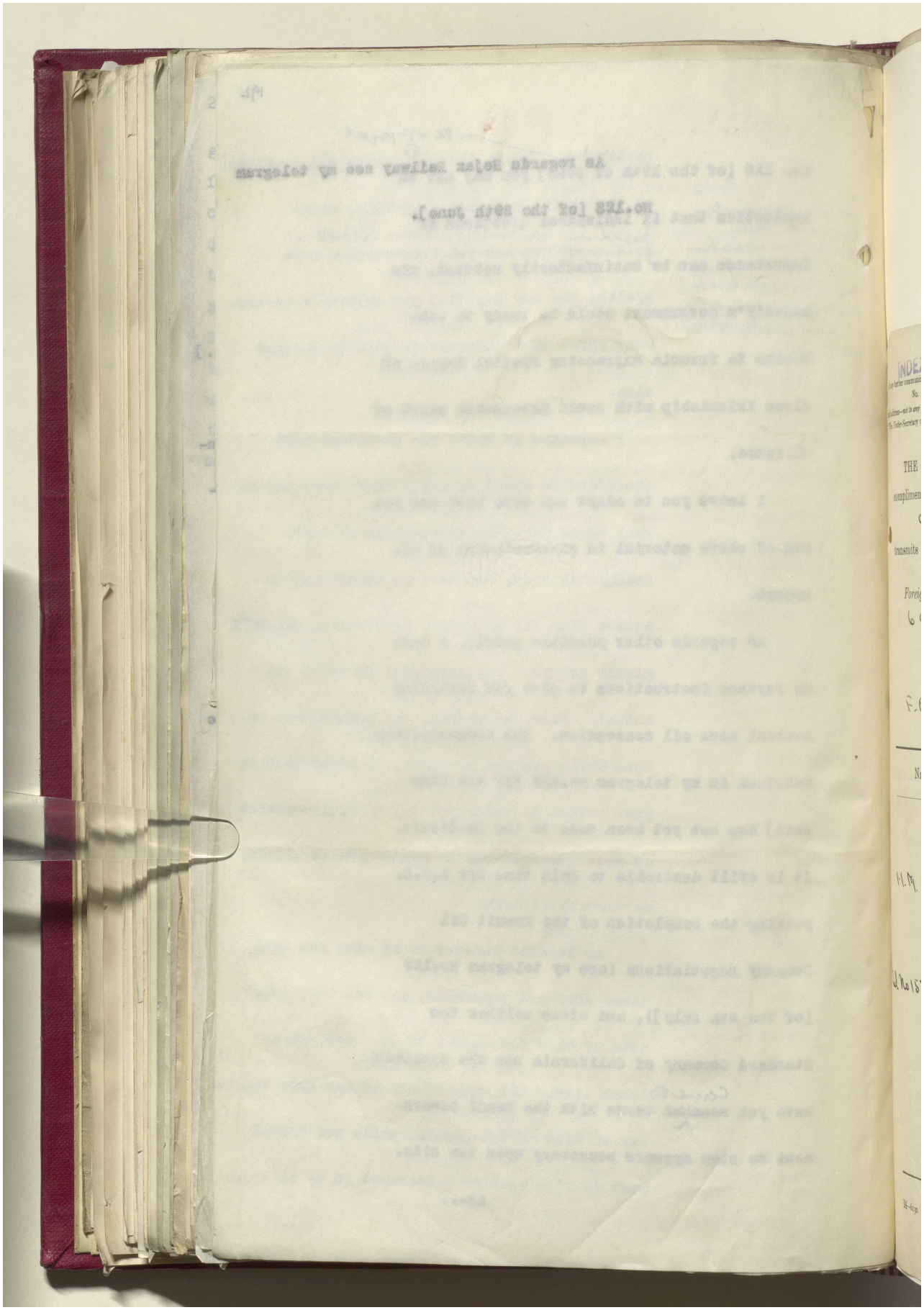

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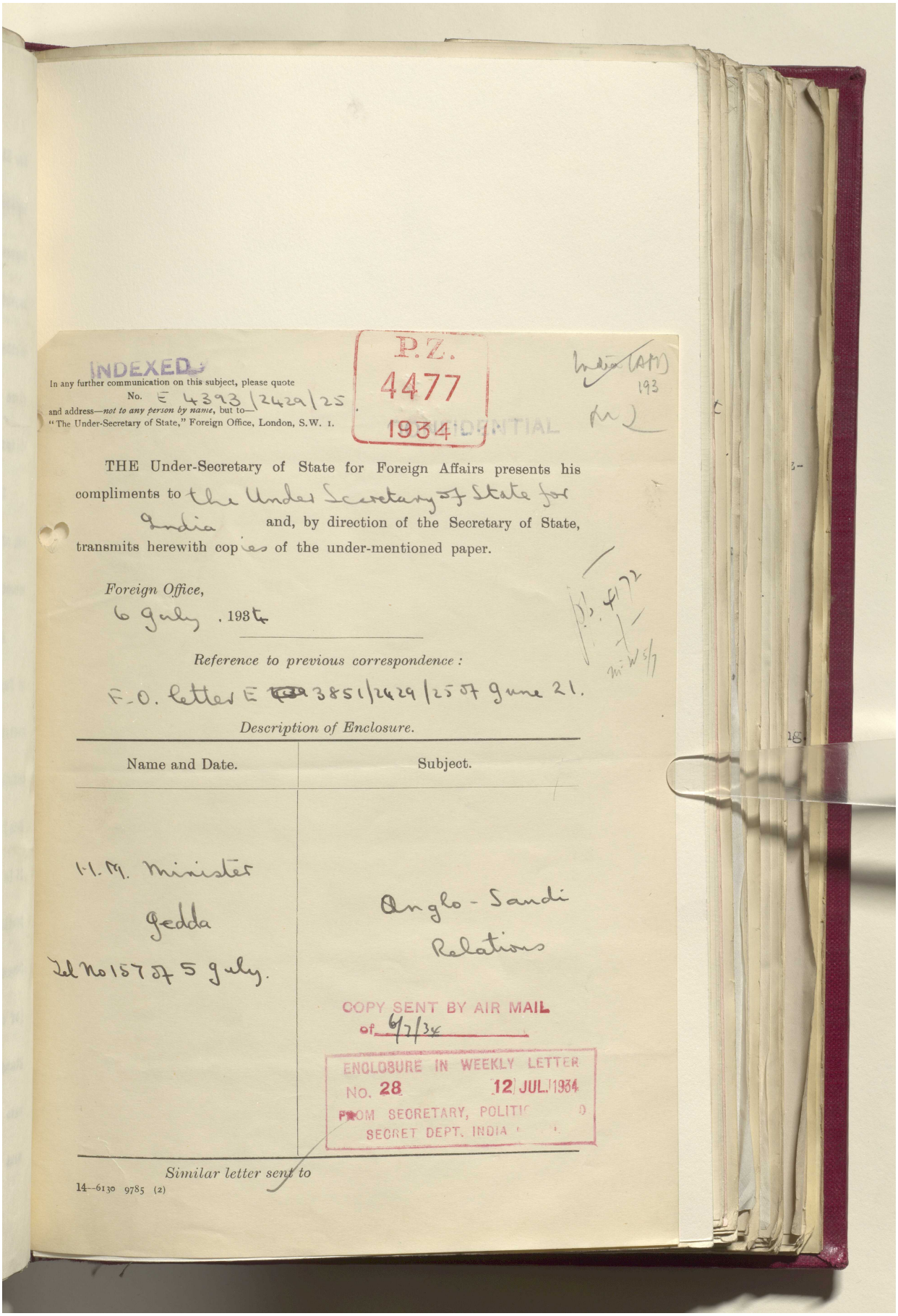

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 4393/2429/25 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 4477 1934

CONFIDENTIAL

India (APD) 193

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
6 July . 1934

Reference to previous correspondence :
F.O. letter E 3851/2429/25 of June 21.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Minister Jedda Tel No 157 of 5 July.	Anglo-Saudi Relations

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL of 6/7/34

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. 28 12 JUL 1934 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL & SECRET DEPT. INDIA

Similar letter sent to

14—6130 9785 (2)

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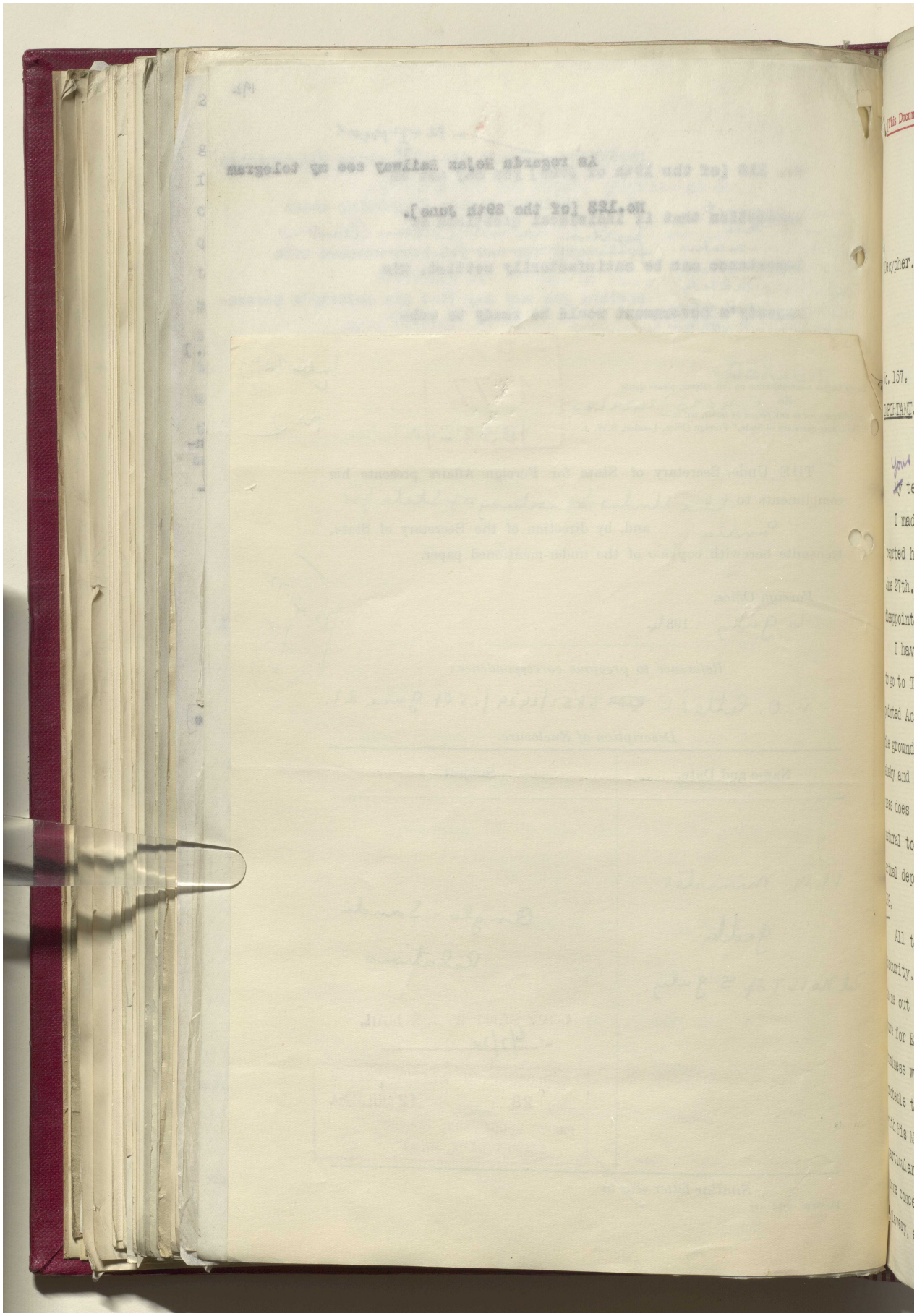

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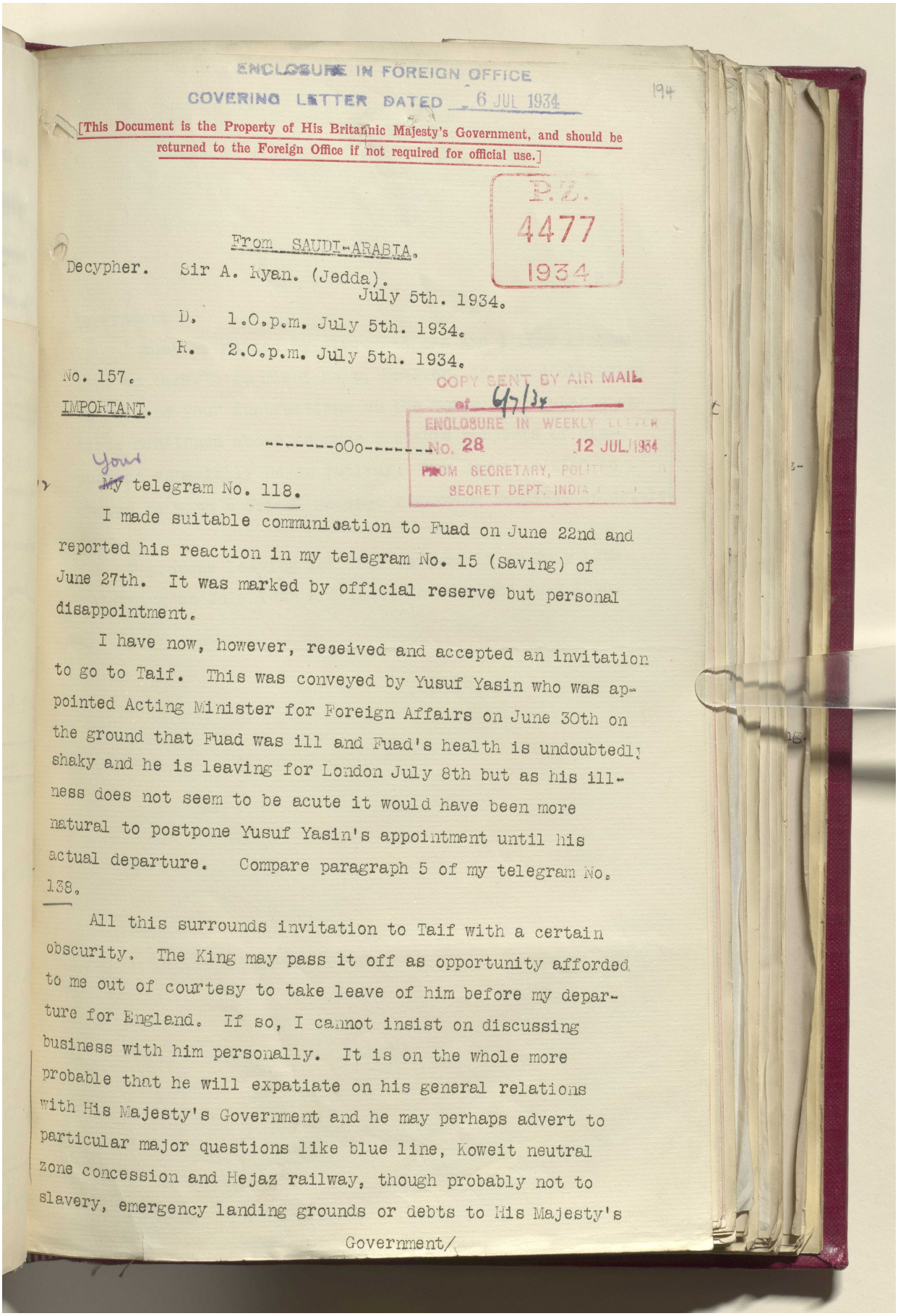

ENCLOSURE IN FOREIGN OFFICE
COVERING LETTER DATED 6 JUL 1934

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P.Z. 4477 1934

From SAUDI-ARABIA.

Decypher. Sir A. Kyan. (Jedda).
July 5th. 1934.
D. 1.0.p.m. July 5th. 1934.
R. 2.0.p.m. July 5th. 1934.

No. 157.
IMPORTANT.

COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL of 4/7/34
ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. 28 12 JUL 1934
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL & SECRET DEPT. INDIA

--------oOo--------

Your ~~My~~ telegram No. 118.

I made suitable communication to Fuad on June 22nd and reported his reaction in my telegram No. 15 (Saving) of June 27th. It was marked by official reserve but personal disappointment.

I have now, however, received and accepted an invitation to go to Taif. This was conveyed by Yusuf Yasin who was appointed Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs on June 30th on the ground that Fuad was ill and Fuad's health is undoubtedly shaky and he is leaving for London July 8th but as his illness does not seem to be acute it would have been more natural to postpone Yusuf Yasin's appointment until his actual departure. Compare paragraph 5 of my telegram No. 138.

All this surrounds invitation to Taif with a certain obscurity. The King may pass it off as opportunity afforded to me out of courtesy to take leave of him before my departure for England. If so, I cannot insist on discussing business with him personally. It is on the whole more probable that he will expatiate on his general relations with His Majesty's Government and he may perhaps advert to particular major questions like blue line, Koweit neutral zone concession and Hejaz railway, though probably not to slavery, emergency landing grounds or debts to His Majesty's

Government/

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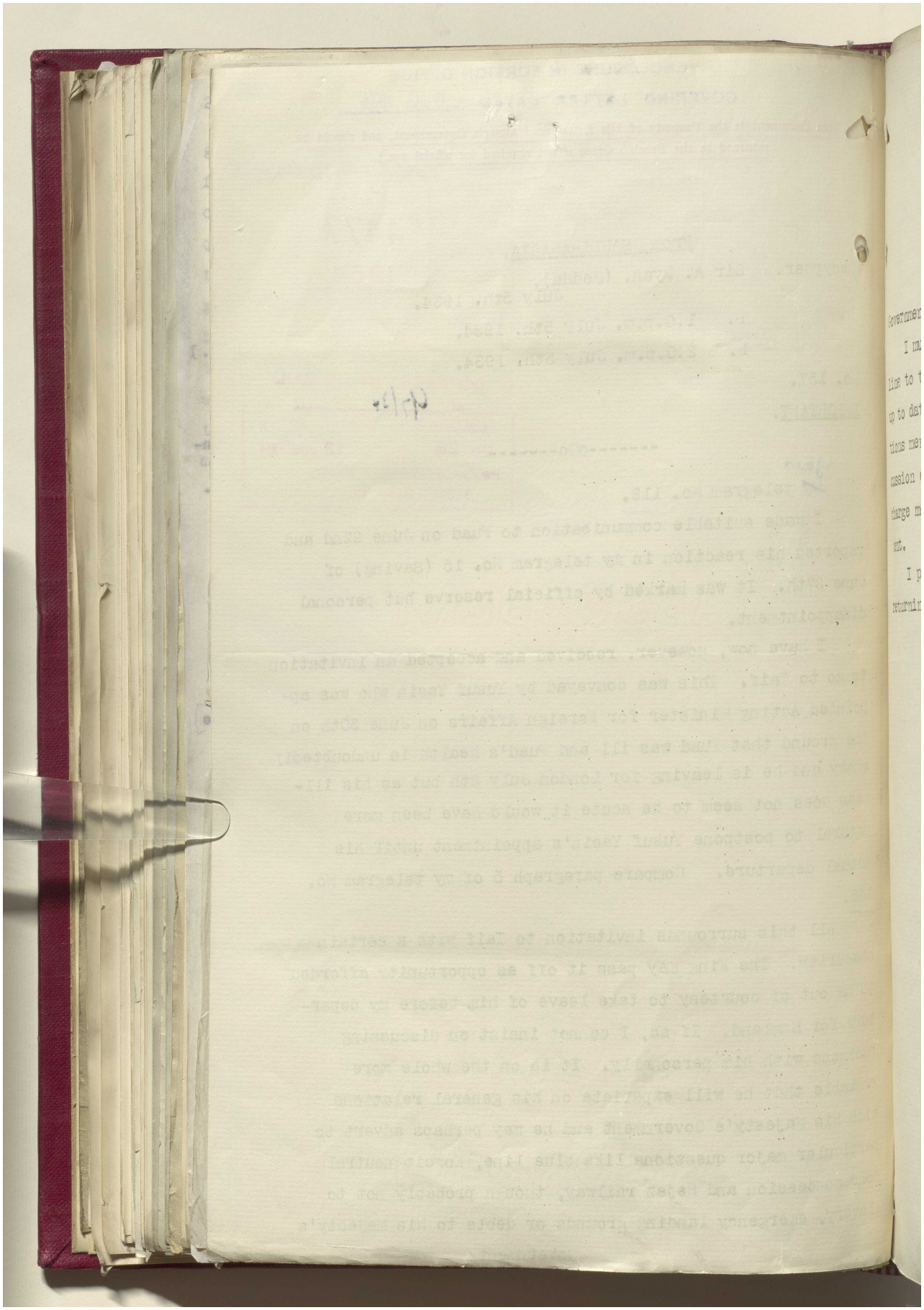

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Government .

I must be guided by circumstances and I know general line to take. It might help, however, if you could bring up to date your instructions on the three particular questions mentioned above as most probable subjects of discussion especially Hejaz railway. You may also wish to charge me with a formal message regarding Saudi-Yemen settlement.

I propose leaving for Taif very early on July 12th returning on July 14th and leave for England July 15th.

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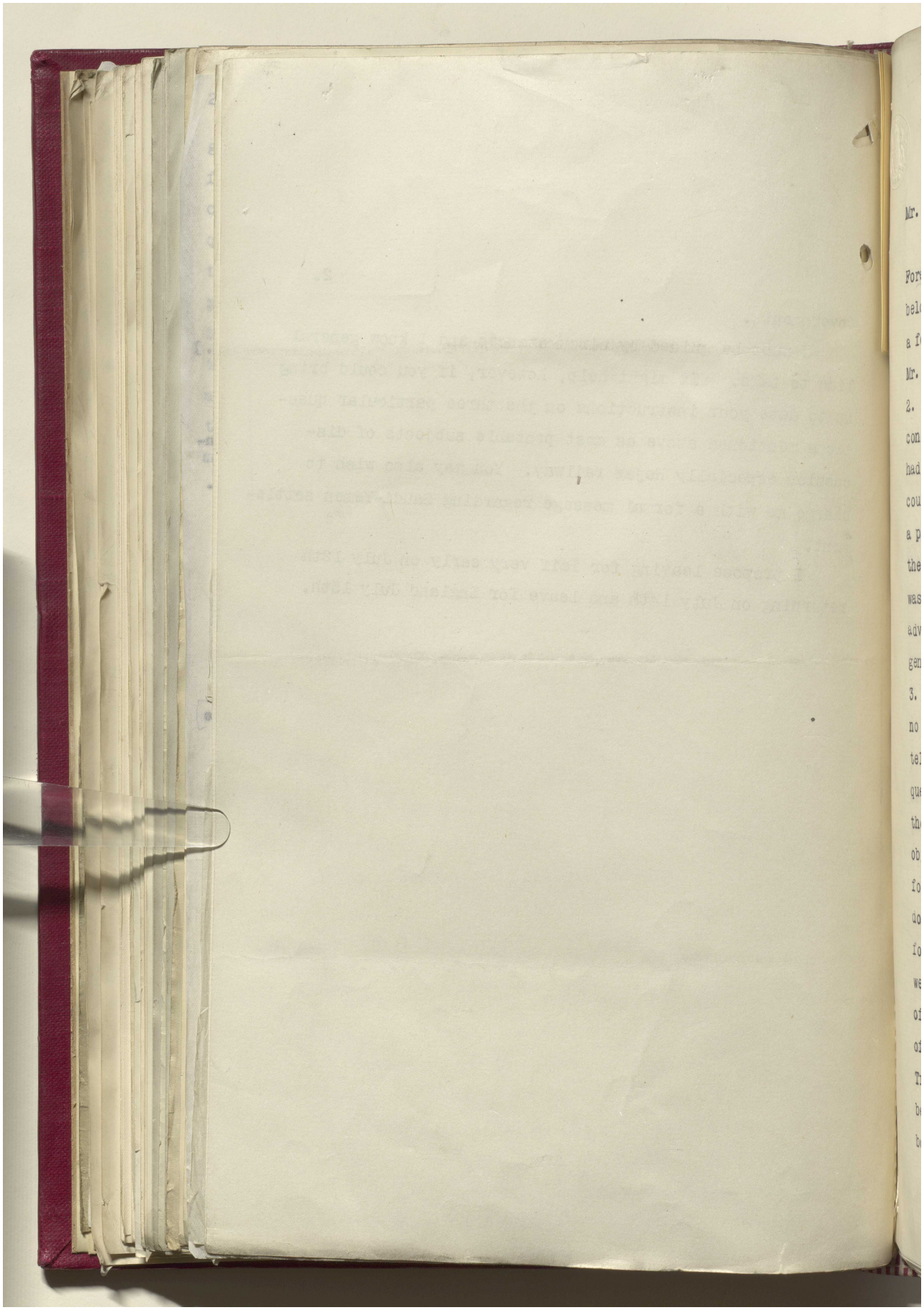

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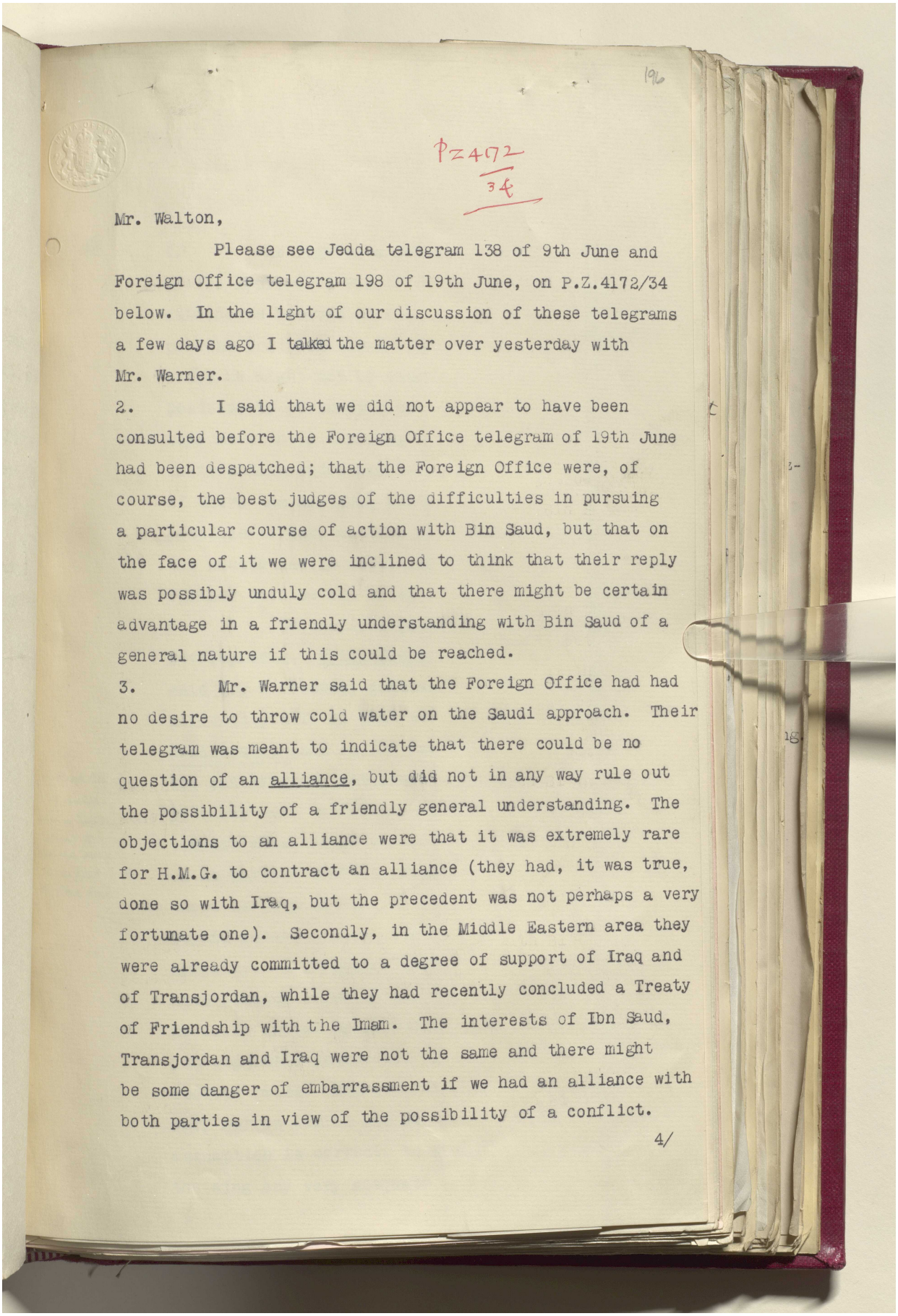

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P.Z.4172
34

Mr. Walton,

Please see Jedda telegram 138 of 9th June and Foreign Office telegram 198 of 19th June, on P.Z.4172/34 below. In the light of our discussion of these telegrams a few days ago I talked the matter over yesterday with Mr. Warner.

2. I said that we did not appear to have been consulted before the Foreign Office telegram of 19th June had been despatched; that the Foreign Office were, of course, the best judges of the difficulties in pursuing a particular course of action with Bin Saud, but that on the face of it we were inclined to think that their reply was possibly unduly cold and that there might be certain advantage in a friendly understanding with Bin Saud of a general nature if this could be reached.

3. Mr. Warner said that the Foreign Office had had no desire to throw cold water on the Saudi approach. Their telegram was meant to indicate that there could be no question of an alliance, but did not in any way rule out the possibility of a friendly general understanding. The objections to an alliance were that it was extremely rare for H.M.G. to contract an alliance (they had, it was true, done so with Iraq, but the precedent was not perhaps a very fortunate one). Secondly, in the Middle Eastern area they were already committed to a degree of support of Iraq and of Transjordan, while they had recently concluded a Treaty of Friendship with the Imam. The interests of Ibn Saud, Transjordan and Iraq were not the same and there might be some danger of embarrassment if we had an alliance with both parties in view of the possibility of a conflict.

4/

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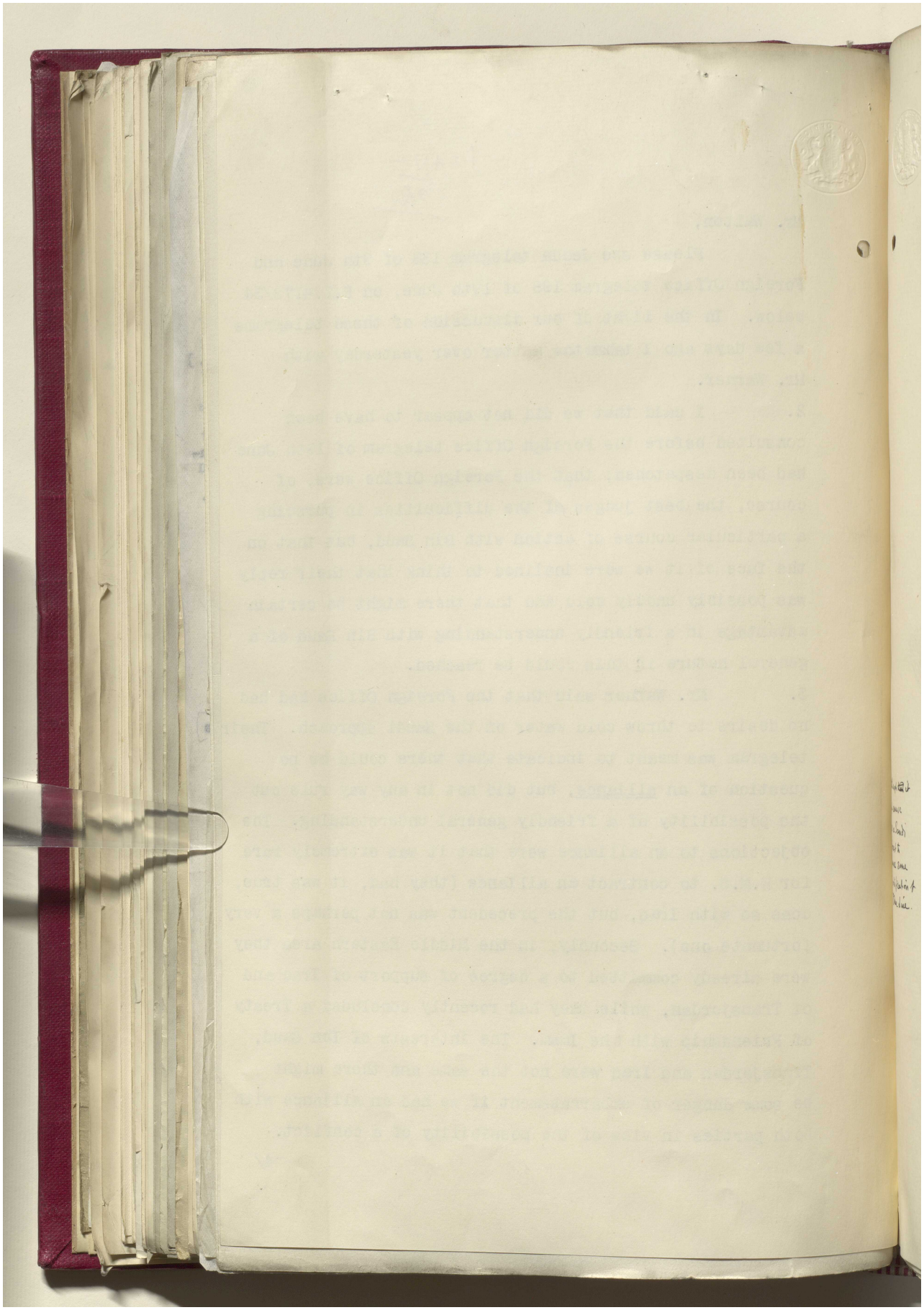

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4. As regards a friendly understanding, the Foreign Office approached Fuad's statements with some little diffidence because of the present uncertainty as to his precise position vis-à-vis the King, and the extent to which he might not be endeavouring to consolidate his own position by persuading us on his own initiative to make some move which the King would welcome. But the instructions which had been sent to Sir A. Ryan would, if there was anything behind Fuad's approach, make it possible to take matters further and see precisely what the Saudis had in mind. The matter could be considered further when we had their reply.

5. We shall, I gather, be kept in touch with any developments. Prima facie, there seems a good deal to be said for a friendly general understanding, though one difficulty will be that we have certain positive desiderata, such as the raising of the Koweit blockade, the satisfactory settlement of the Blue Line dispute×, and possibly such relatively minor questions as Bahrein transit dues, on which we should expect Ibn Saud to meet us as part of such an arrangement. On the other hand, there is very little, if anything, which we could give beyond rather general assurances of friendship and sympathy. A financial grant is out of the question: we have already rejected Saudi overtures for a loan. We could no doubt assist by providing instructors, or possibly (as you suggested yesterday) by supplying war material at reduced rates. But even here we could operate only within very narrow limits and it is questionable, if that assumption is correct, to what extent we could really give the King any very adequate quid pro quo. It might be

possible/

× although that it is of course also a Saudi interest to secure some modification of the Blue Line.

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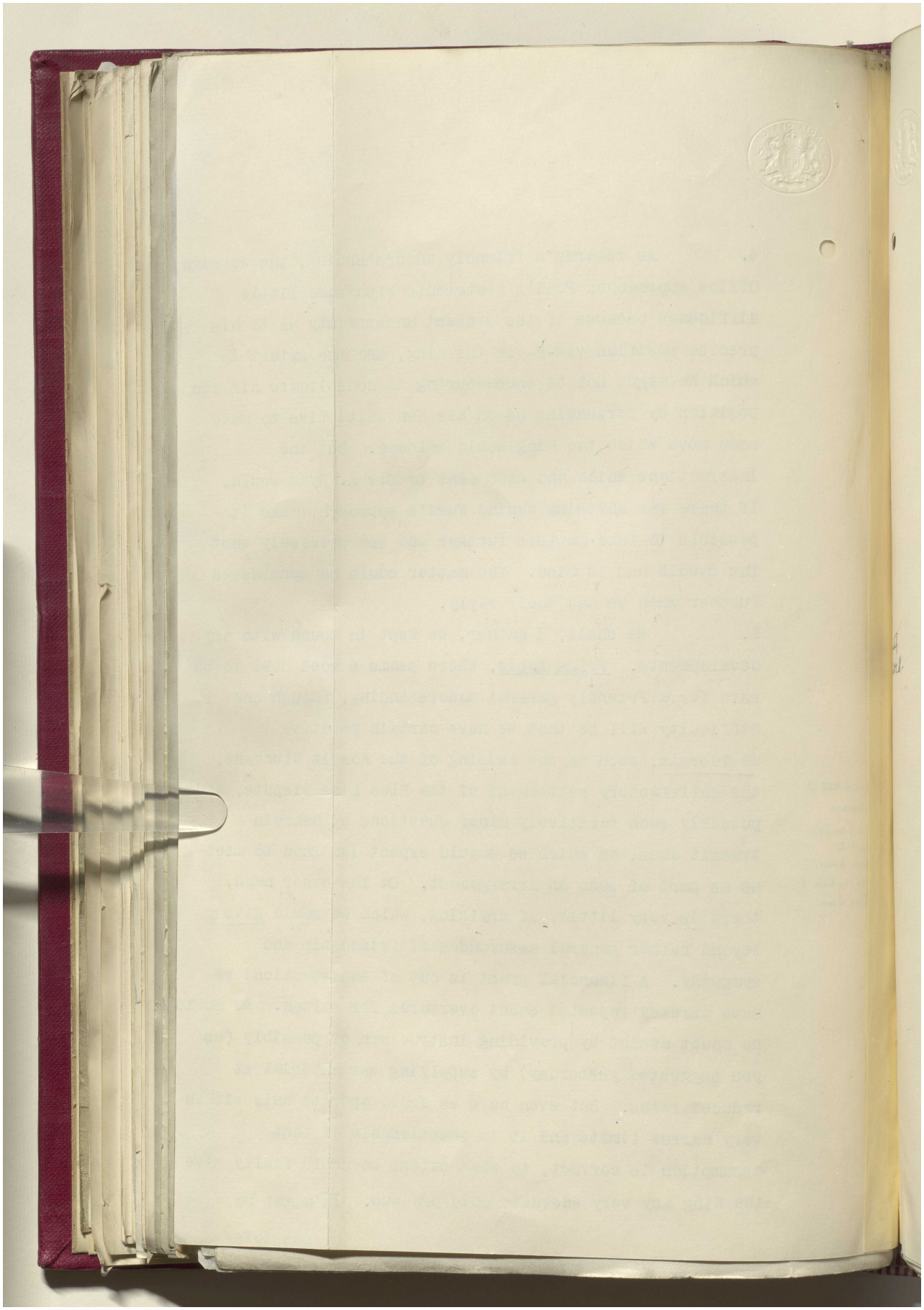

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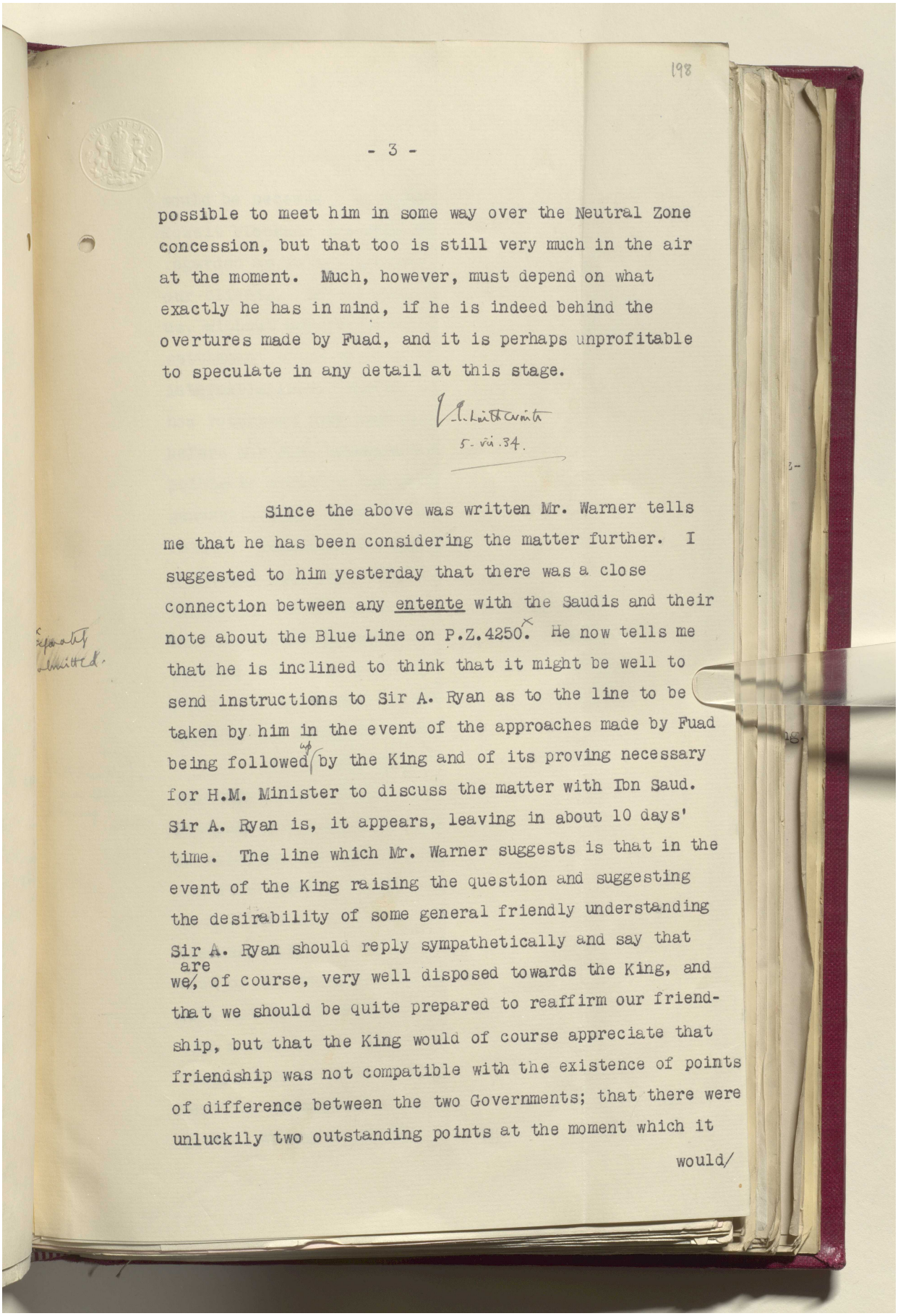

possible to meet him in some way over the Neutral Zone concession, but that too is still very much in the air at the moment. Much, however, must depend on what exactly he has in mind, if he is indeed behind the overtures made by Fuad, and it is perhaps unprofitable to speculate in any detail at this stage.

[signature]
5-vii.34.

Since the above was written Mr. Warner tells me that he has been considering the matter further. I suggested to him yesterday that there was a close connection between any entente with the Saudis and their note about the Blue Line on P.Z.4250. He now tells me that he is inclined to think that it might be well to send instructions to Sir A. Ryan as to the line to be taken by him in the event of the approaches made by Fuad being followed up by the King and of its proving necessary for H.M. Minister to discuss the matter with Ibn Saud. Sir A. Ryan is, it appears, leaving in about 10 days' time. The line which Mr. Warner suggests is that in the event of the King raising the question and suggesting the desirability of some general friendly understanding Sir A. Ryan should reply sympathetically and say that we are, of course, very well disposed towards the King, and that we should be quite prepared to reaffirm our friendship, but that the King would of course appreciate that friendship was not compatible with the existence of points of difference between the two Governments; that there were unluckily two outstanding points at the moment which it

would/

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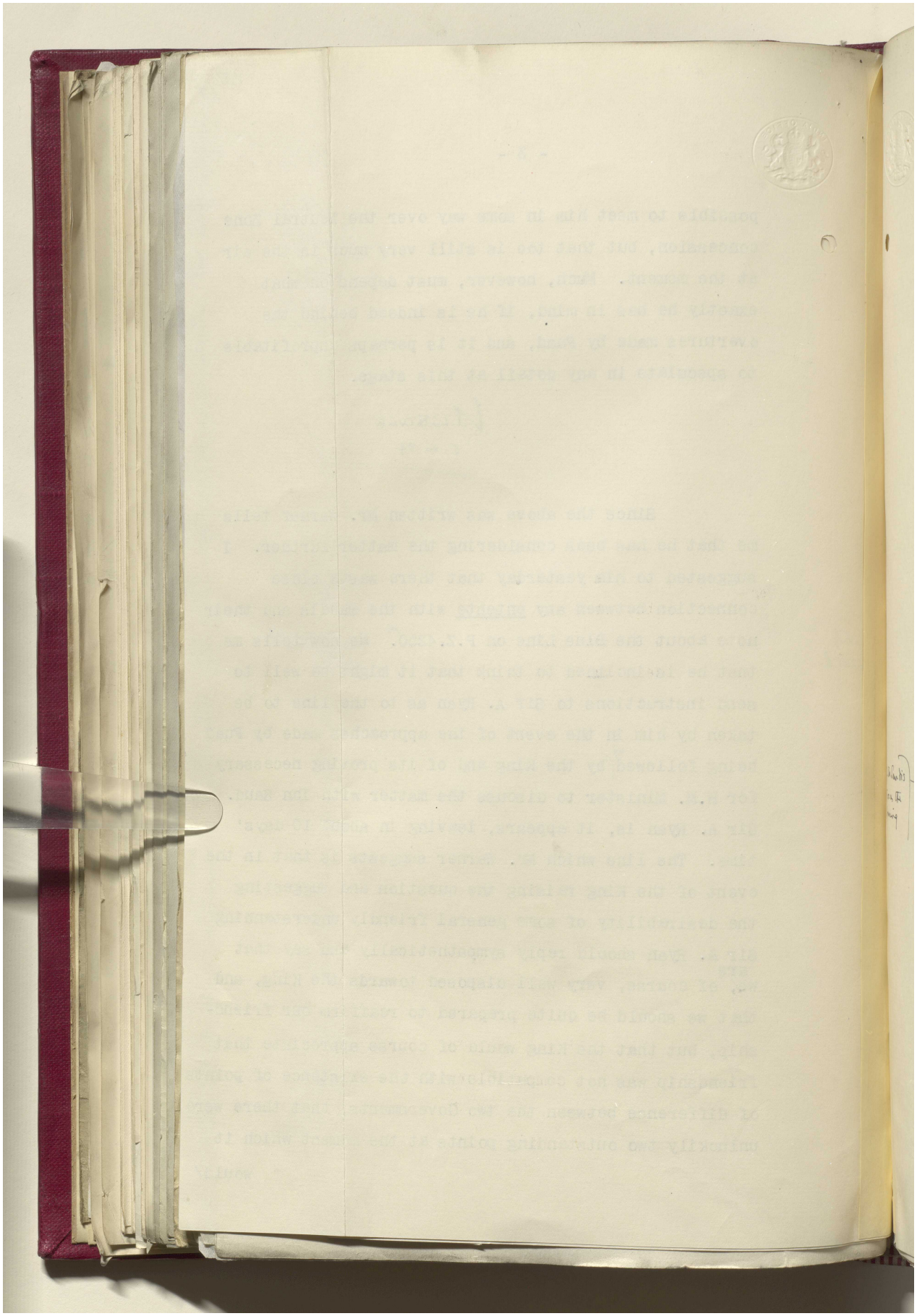

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would be necessary to dispose of. In the case of the Koweit blockade the King was applying pressure which we regarded as quite improper and unjustifiable to one of our clients. In the case of the Blue Line he was asking us, without any justification, to disregard a treaty settlement which was entirely binding legally and internationally. Sir A. Ryan might proceed that he was now returning home and would lay the King's remarks before Sir John Simon and H.M.G. The two particular points to which he had referred and the question generally might form the subject of discussion on his return. Meanwhile he was in a position to give the King a general assurance that our attitude towards him was friendly, but it would of course be understood that there must be no encroachment to the east of the Blue Line pending the results of any discussions which might take place and consequent on which details or some minor adjustments might be considered.

if Ar Sau bis give us the opening

On the whole, I think there is something to be said for this. It is desirable from our standpoint to postpone discussion as long as possible in the interests of allowing the Qatar oil negotiations to progress. On the other hand, it is becoming increasingly clear that we may have to come out into the open and offer discussion, before the end of the year at any rate, in view of the terms of the latest Saudi Note. Sir A. Ryan will not return till November and it will probably be some months after that before any outcome of general discussions between us can be hoped for. In the meantime considerable progress might well be made at Qatar. We may be asked at short notice to concur in

instructions/

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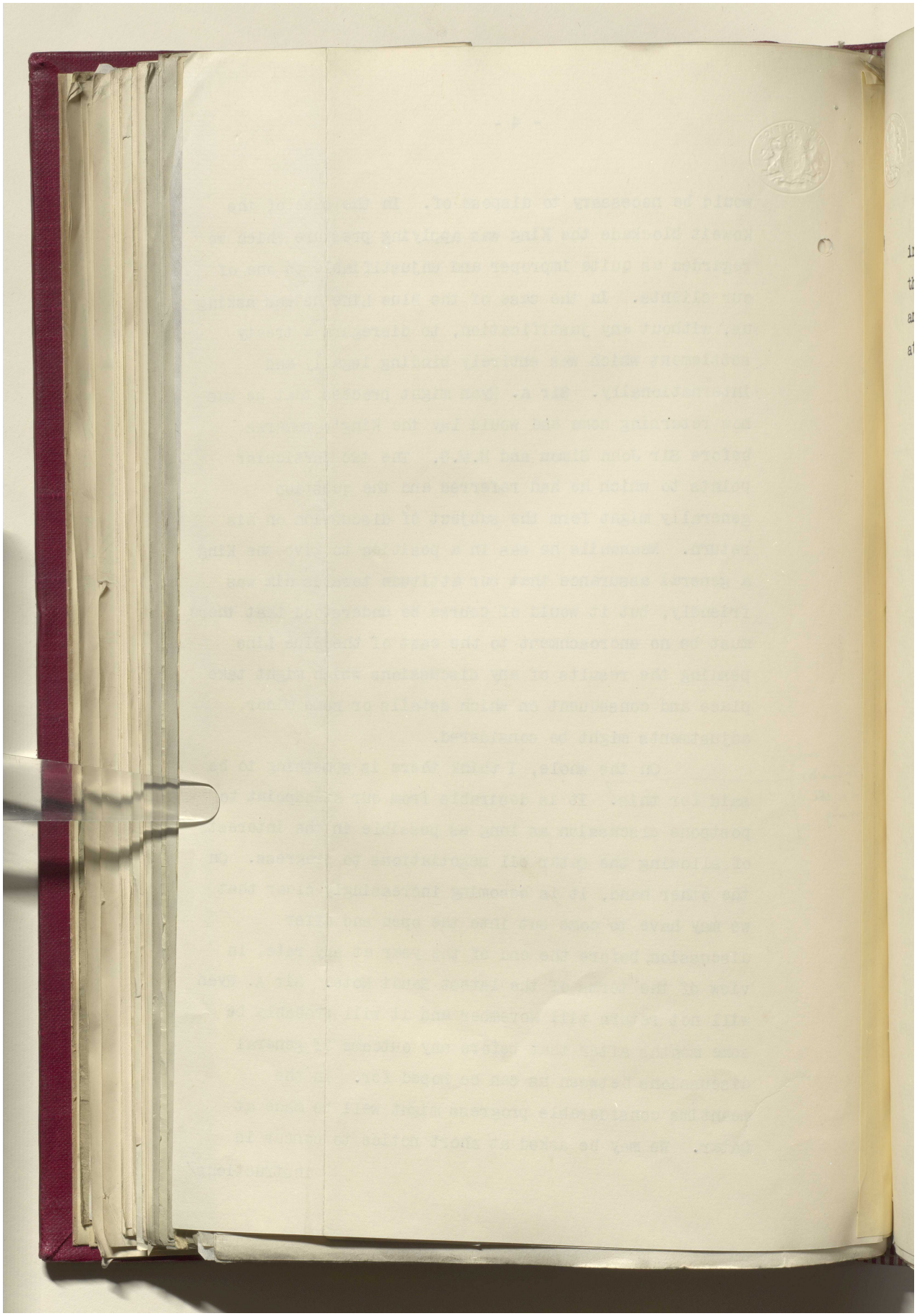

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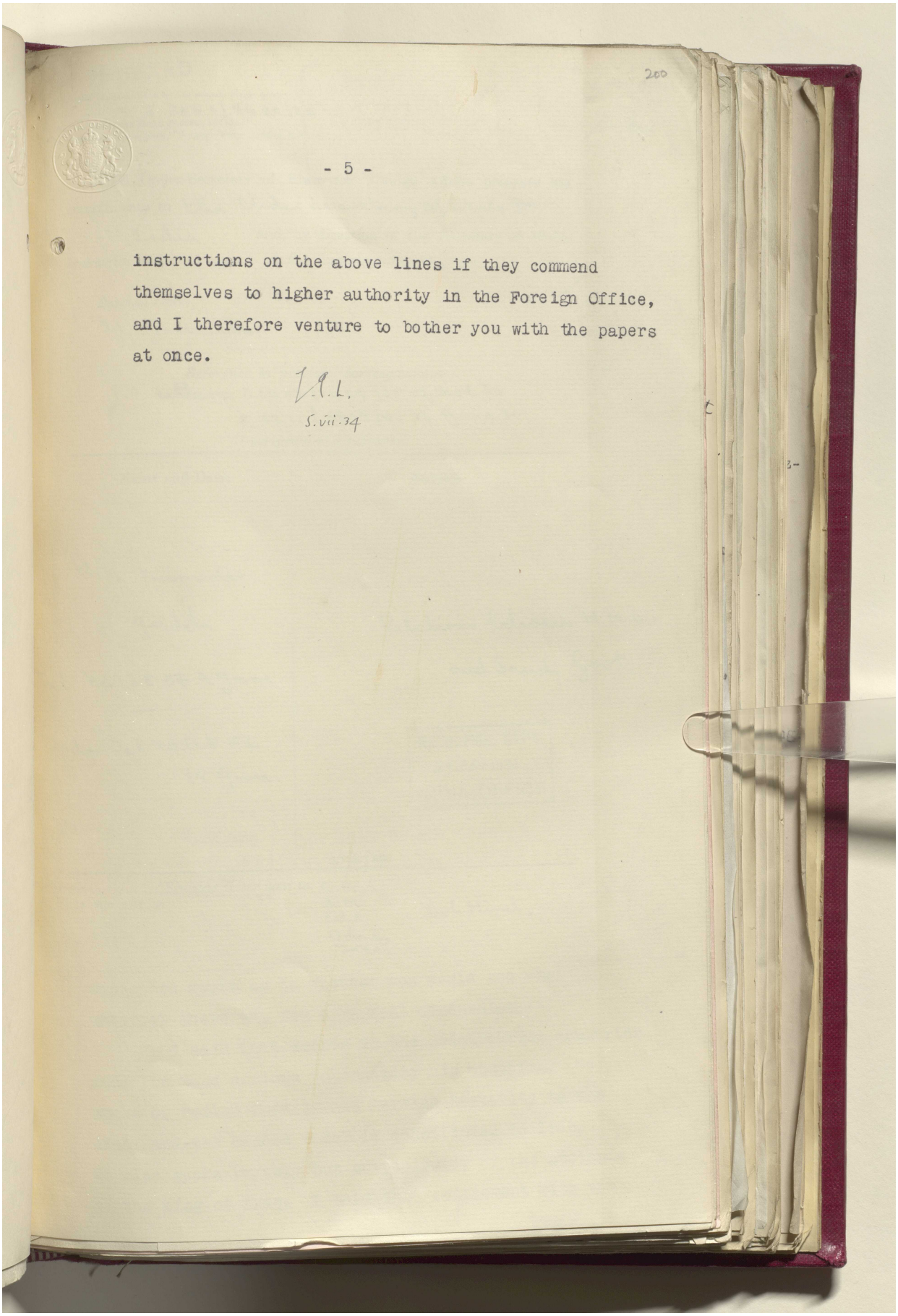

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instructions on the above lines if they commend themselves to higher authority in the Foreign Office, and I therefore venture to bother you with the papers at once.

L.P.L.
5.vii.34

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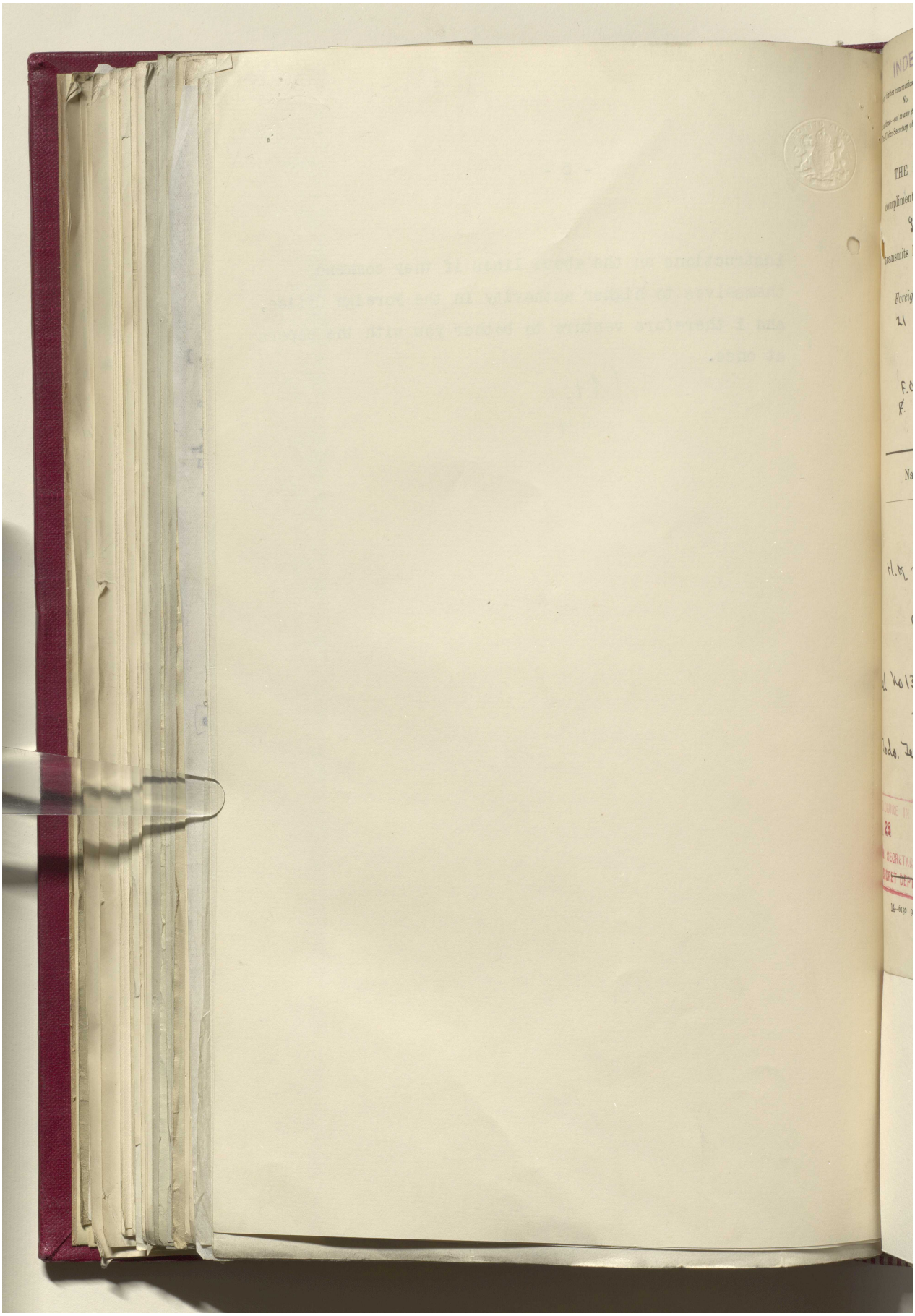

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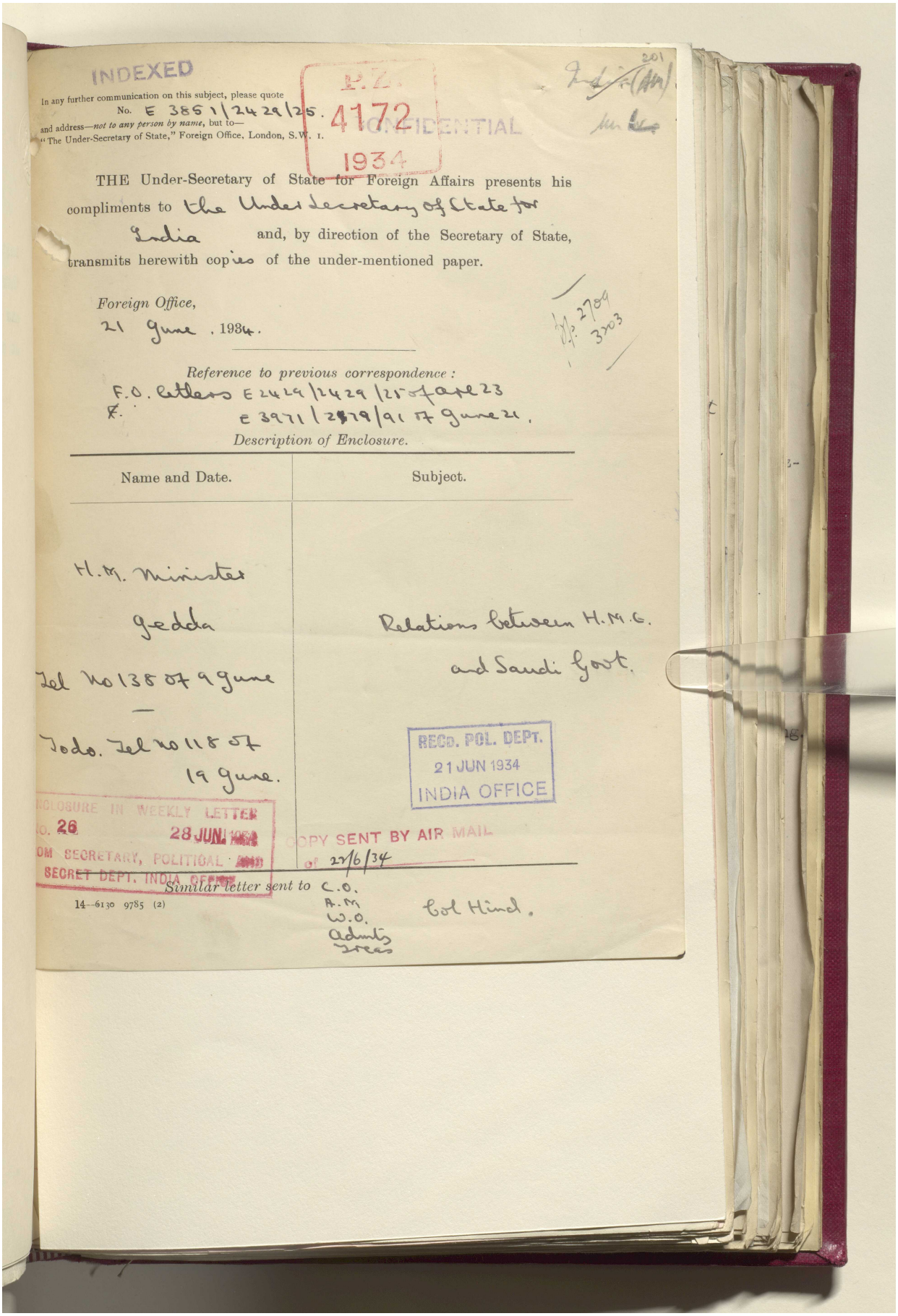

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 4172 1934

CONFIDENTIAL

201

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
21 June, 1934.

W. 2704 3203

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. Letters E 2429/2429/25 of 23 June
E 3971/2879/91 of 17 June 21.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Minister Jedda Tel No 135 of 9 June — Todo. Tel No 115 of 19 June.	Relations between H.M.G. and Saudi Govt.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 26
28 JUN 1934
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

RECD. POL. DEPT.
21 JUN 1934
INDIA OFFICE

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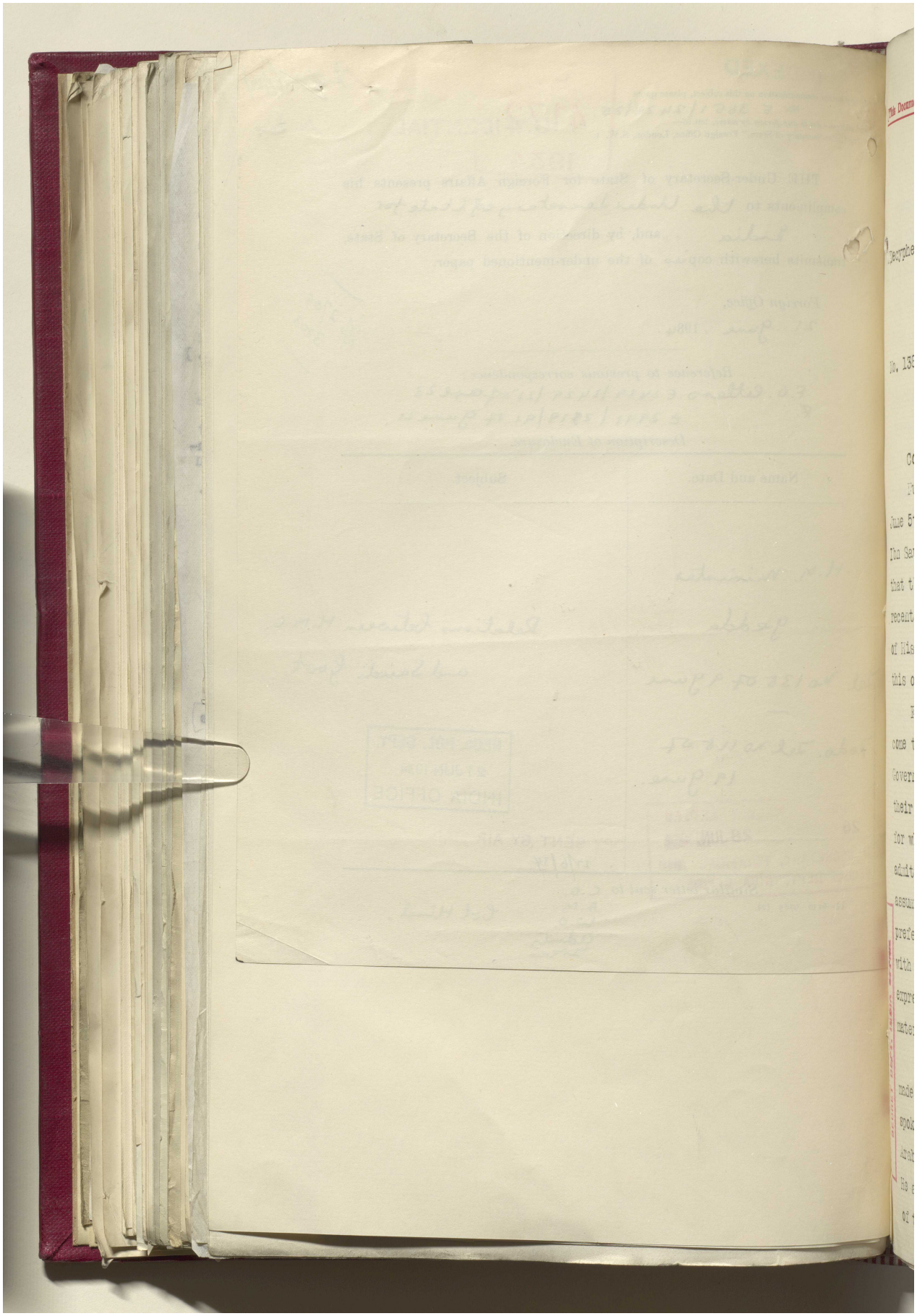

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F.O. 4172 1934

From SAUDI ARABIA.

Decypher. Sir A.Ryan (Jedda). 9th June, 1934.

D. 4.50 p.m. 9th June, 1934.

R. 6.30 p.m. 9th June, 1934.

No. 138.

2709 3103

xxxxxxxxx

Correspondence ending with your telegrams Nos.50 and 85.

Fuad engaged me in long conversations on June 5th and 6th regarding general relations between Ibn Saud and His Majesty's Government. While admitting that the former had no ground for complaint he attributed recent compromise with the Imam to the ambiguousness of His Majesty's Government's attitude. I contested this on obvious lines.

Fuad said that the King felt that the time had come to take stock of his relations with His Majesty's Government and sounded me as to the possibility of their consenting to a general discussion in preparation for which the King might like to see me himself. I admitted several major questions had assumed or were assuming importance but I reminded him of constant preference of His Majesty's Government for dealing with all such questions on their individual merits and expressed doubt as to whether you would see what material there was for a general discussion.

Fuad said that events in the neighbouring countries made Ibn Saud anxious to consider his position. He spoke of veiled Turkish and Persian hostility to the Arabs and the menace which it constituted to Iraq. He also spoke vaguely but suspiciously of the attitude of the King of Iraq. I said that settlement with the

Yemen ...

SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

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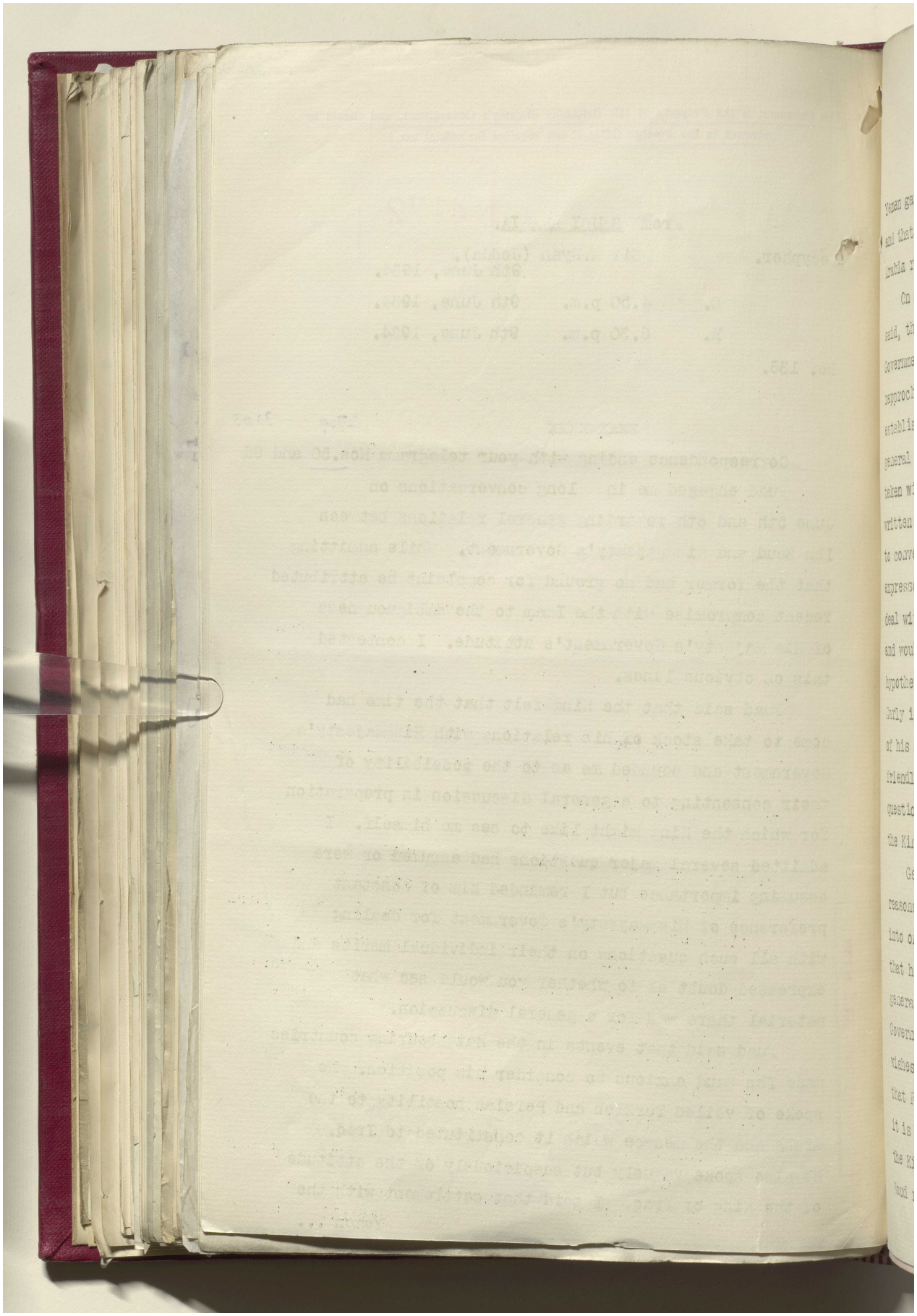

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Yemen gave promise of stable administrative direction and that fears of Turkish and Persian aggression in Arabia rested on no solid foundation that I could see.

On my pressing him as to what he was at, Fuad said, that the King sought the opinion of His Majesty's Government as to whether the time was ripe for a rapprochement with Saudi-Arabia with a view to establishment of closer relations and coordination of general policy. If so might not conversations be undertaken with a view to an understanding whether oral, written or in form of an alliance . I promised to convey this to His Majesty's Government but again expressed personal view that they would prefer to deal with definitely outstanding questions individually and would be averse from discussion of the more hypothetical contingencies to which he had referred. Early in the conversation Fuad spoke of the possibility of his visiting London this autumn. My re-action was friendly but guarded whereupon he begged me to divorce question of his visiting London from that raised by the King.

General impressions I derived were that for reasons indicated in correspondence, the King has got into one of his recurring states of suspicious anxiety; that he has authorised Fuad to attempt to promote general understanding of some sort with His Majesty's Government to whom he holds out hope of meeting their wishes on all points in return for their support; and that Fuad is making the most of his instructions, but it is perhaps to re-establish his changed credit with the King which may be somewhat shaken although Ibn Saud recognises his utility.

The ....

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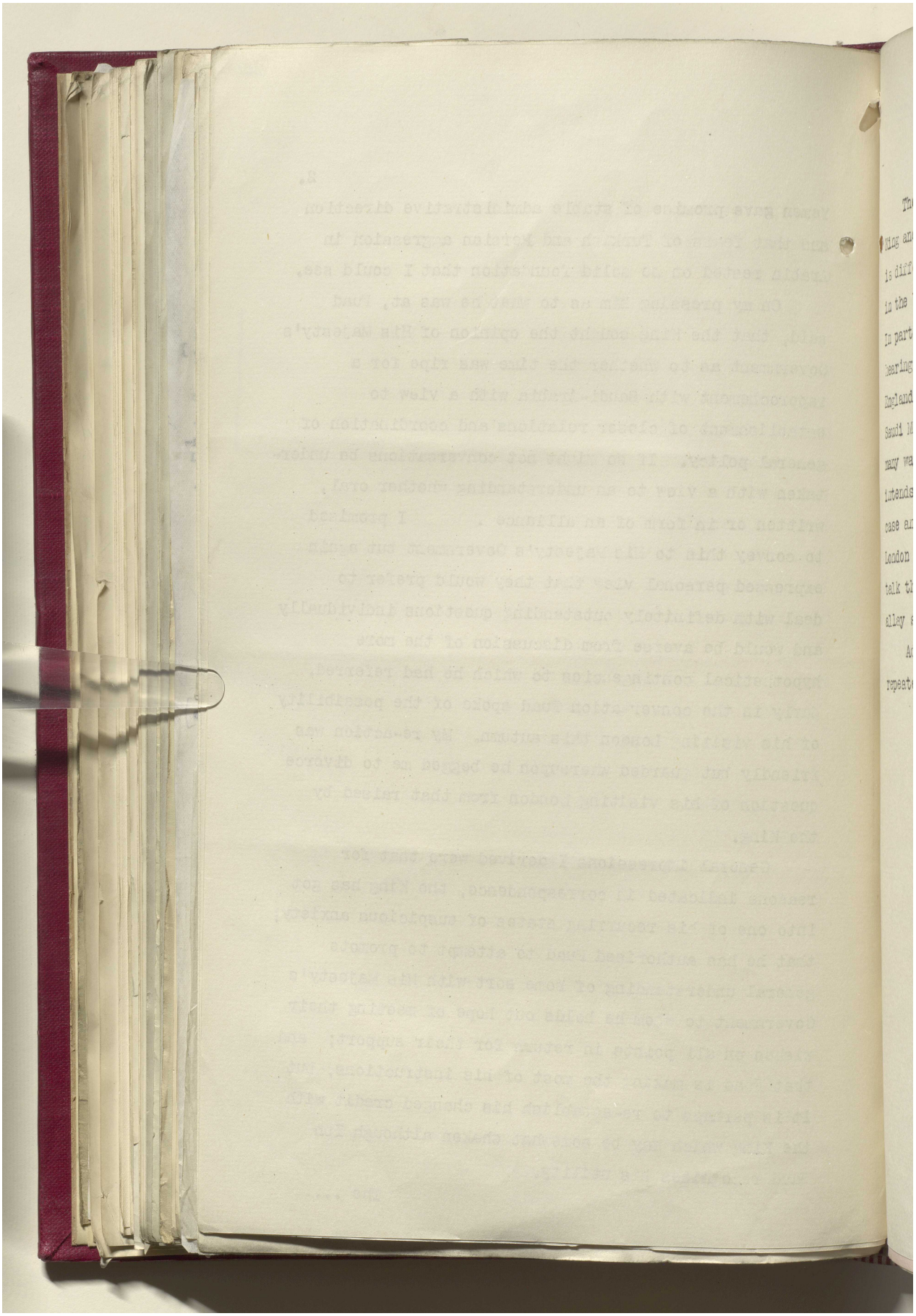

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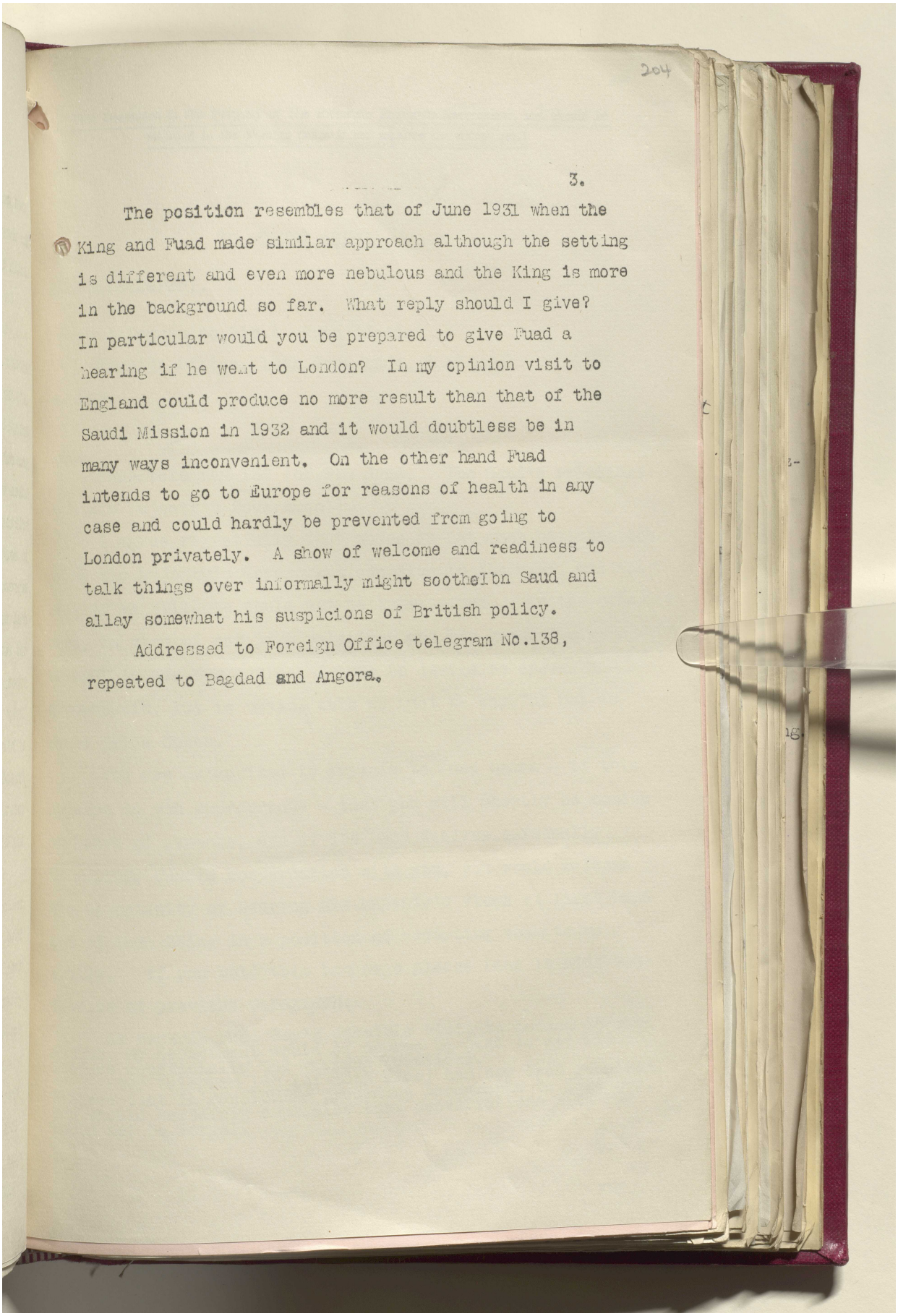

The position resembles that of June 1931 when the King and Fuad made similar approach although the setting is different and even more nebulous and the King is more in the background so far. What reply should I give? In particular would you be prepared to give Fuad a hearing if he went to London? In my opinion visit to England could produce no more result than that of the Saudi Mission in 1932 and it would doubtless be in many ways inconvenient. On the other hand Fuad intends to go to Europe for reasons of health in any case and could hardly be prevented from going to London privately. A show of welcome and readiness to talk things over informally might soothe Ibn Saud and allay somewhat his suspicions of British policy.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.138, repeated to Bagdad and Angora.

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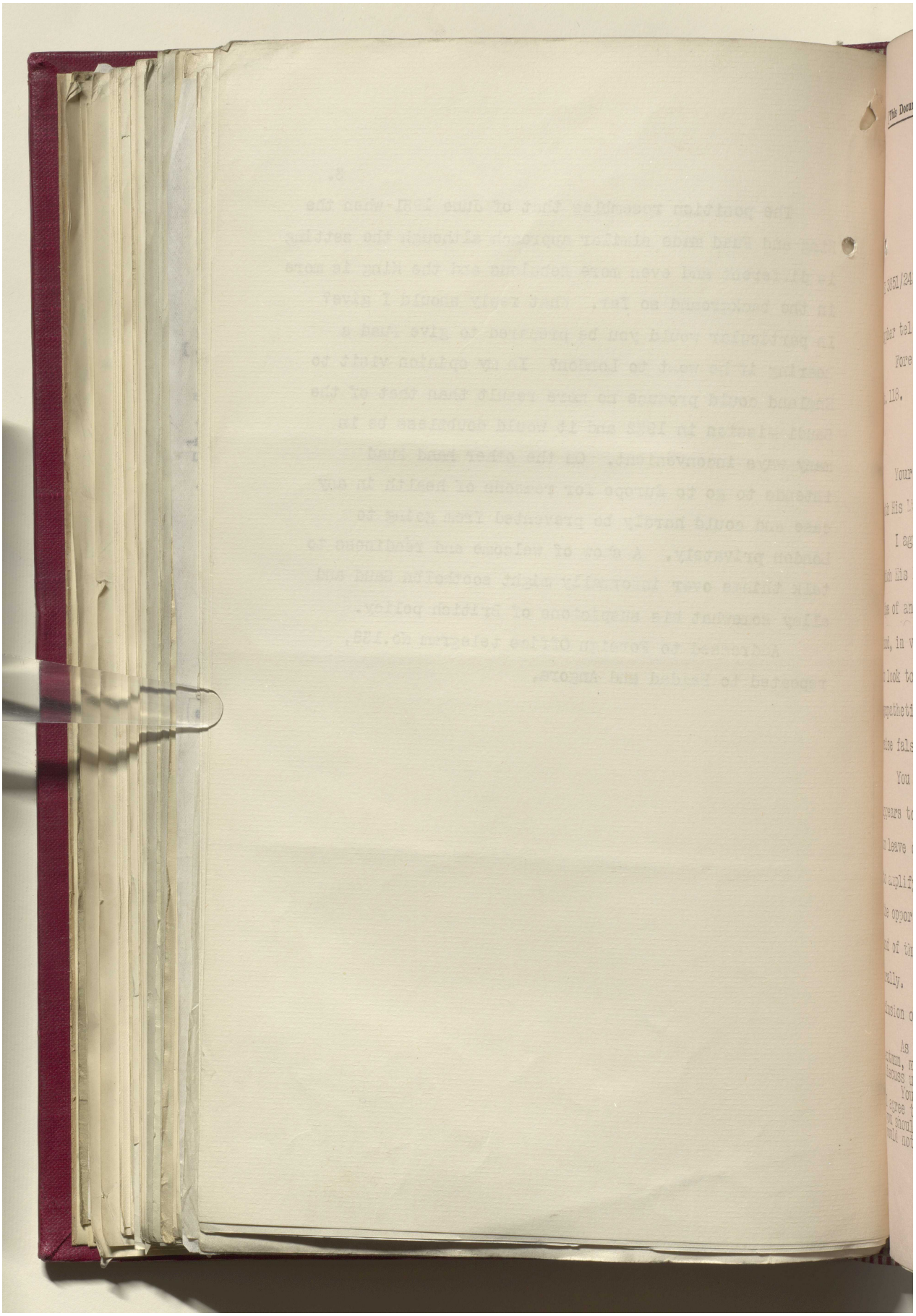

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P.Z. 4172 1934

To SAUDI ARABIA.

(E 3851/2429/25).

Cypher telegram to Sir A. Ryan (Jedda)

Foreign Office, 19th June 1934, 5.45 p.m.

No. 118.

- - -

Your telegram 138 (of 9th June. Ibn Saud's relations with His Majesty's Government).

I agree regretfully that there is not much satisfaction which His Majesty's Government can give to Ibn Saud, and the idea of an alliance could not be entertained. On the other hand, in view of our past relations and his general wish to look to use for advice, I have no desire to appear unsympathetic, but in saying this we must be careful not to raise false hopes.

You are authorised to explain to Fuad Hamza - if this appears to you appropriate - that you will shortly be coming on leave of absence, and if Ibn Saud desires personally to amplify Fuad's conversation with you, you would welcome the opportunity of hearing His Majesty's views at first hand and of thus being in a position of reporting them to me orally. If you hold this language please bear in mind conclusion of previous paragraph.

As regards Fuad Bey's possible visit to London in the autumn, my department would of course be glad to see him and discuss unofficially the various questions.

Your telegram 145 (of 15th June) has now been received. I agree that in mentioning preceding paragraphs to Fuad Bey, you should certainly emphasise that conversations with him would not be formal.

ENCLOSURE IN ... LETTER
NO. 26 28 JUN
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

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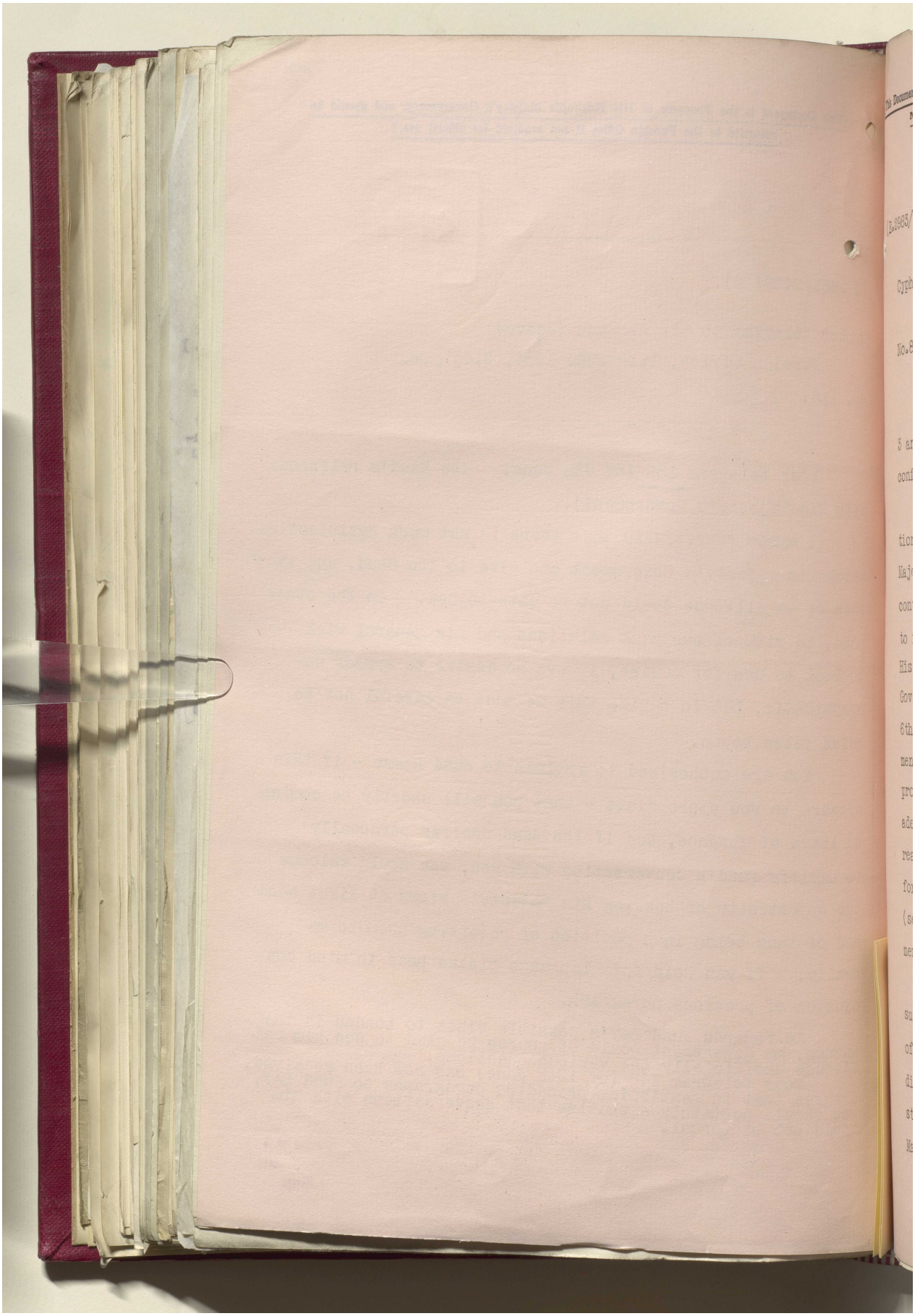

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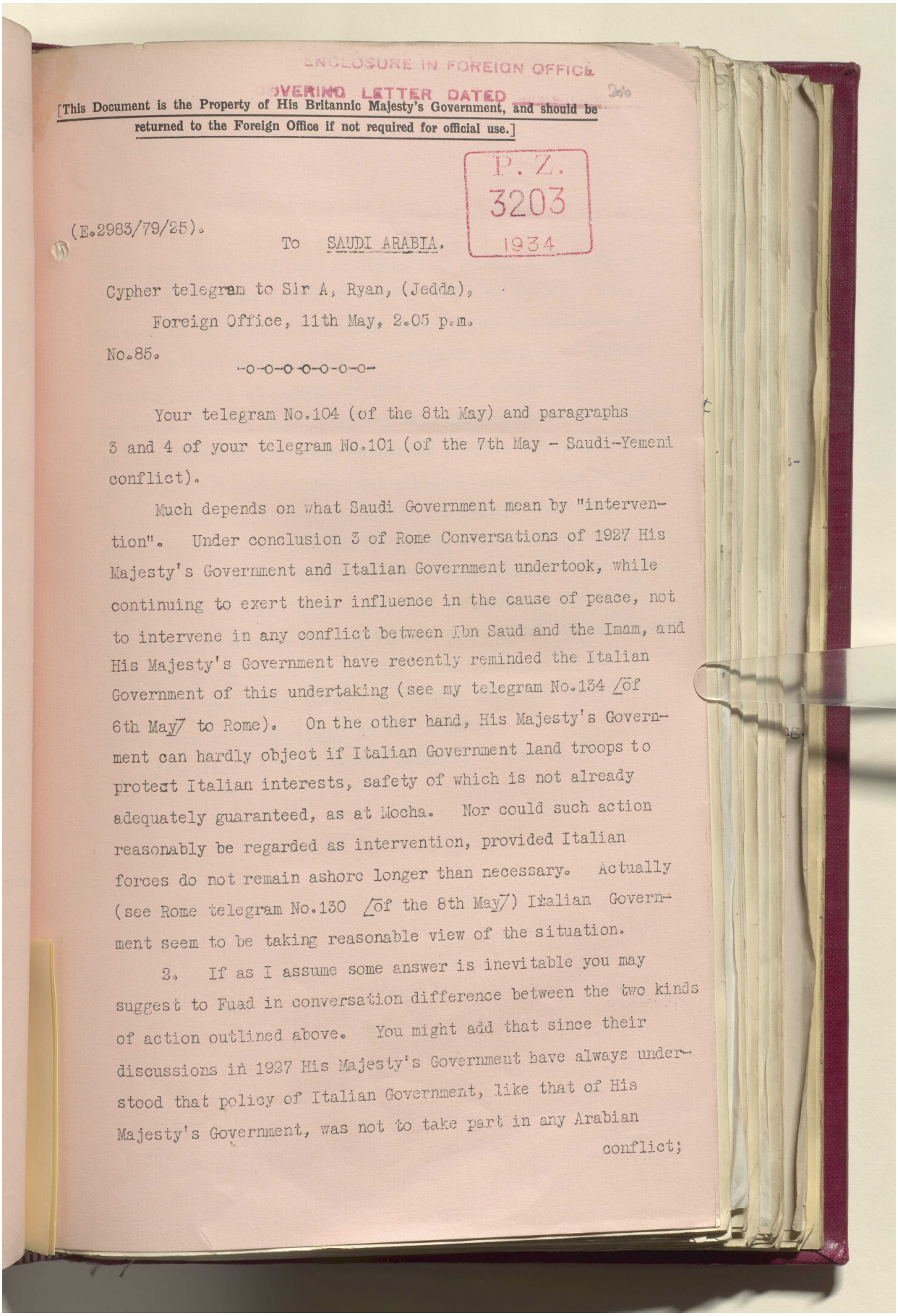

ENCLOSURE IN FOREIGN OFFICE
COVERING LETTER DATED

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P. Z.
3203
1934

(E.2983/79/25).

To SAUDI ARABIA.

Cypher telegram to Sir A. Ryan, (Jedda),
Foreign Office, 11th May, 2.05 p.m.
No.85.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Your telegram No.104 (of the 8th May) and paragraphs 3 and 4 of your telegram No.101 (of the 7th May - Saudi-Yemeni conflict).

Much depends on what Saudi Government mean by "intervention". Under conclusion 3 of Rome Conversations of 1927 His Majesty's Government and Italian Government undertook, while continuing to exert their influence in the cause of peace, not to intervene in any conflict between Ibn Saud and the Imam, and His Majesty's Government have recently reminded the Italian Government of this undertaking (see my telegram No.134 [of 6th May] to Rome). On the other hand, His Majesty's Government can hardly object if Italian Government land troops to protect Italian interests, safety of which is not already adequately guaranteed, as at Mocha. Nor could such action reasonably be regarded as intervention, provided Italian forces do not remain ashore longer than necessary. Actually (see Rome telegram No.130 [of the 8th May]) Italian Government seem to be taking reasonable view of the situation.

2. If as I assume some answer is inevitable you may suggest to Fuad in conversation difference between the two kinds of action outlined above. You might add that since their discussions in 1927 His Majesty's Government have always understood that policy of Italian Government, like that of His Majesty's Government, was not to take part in any Arabian conflict;

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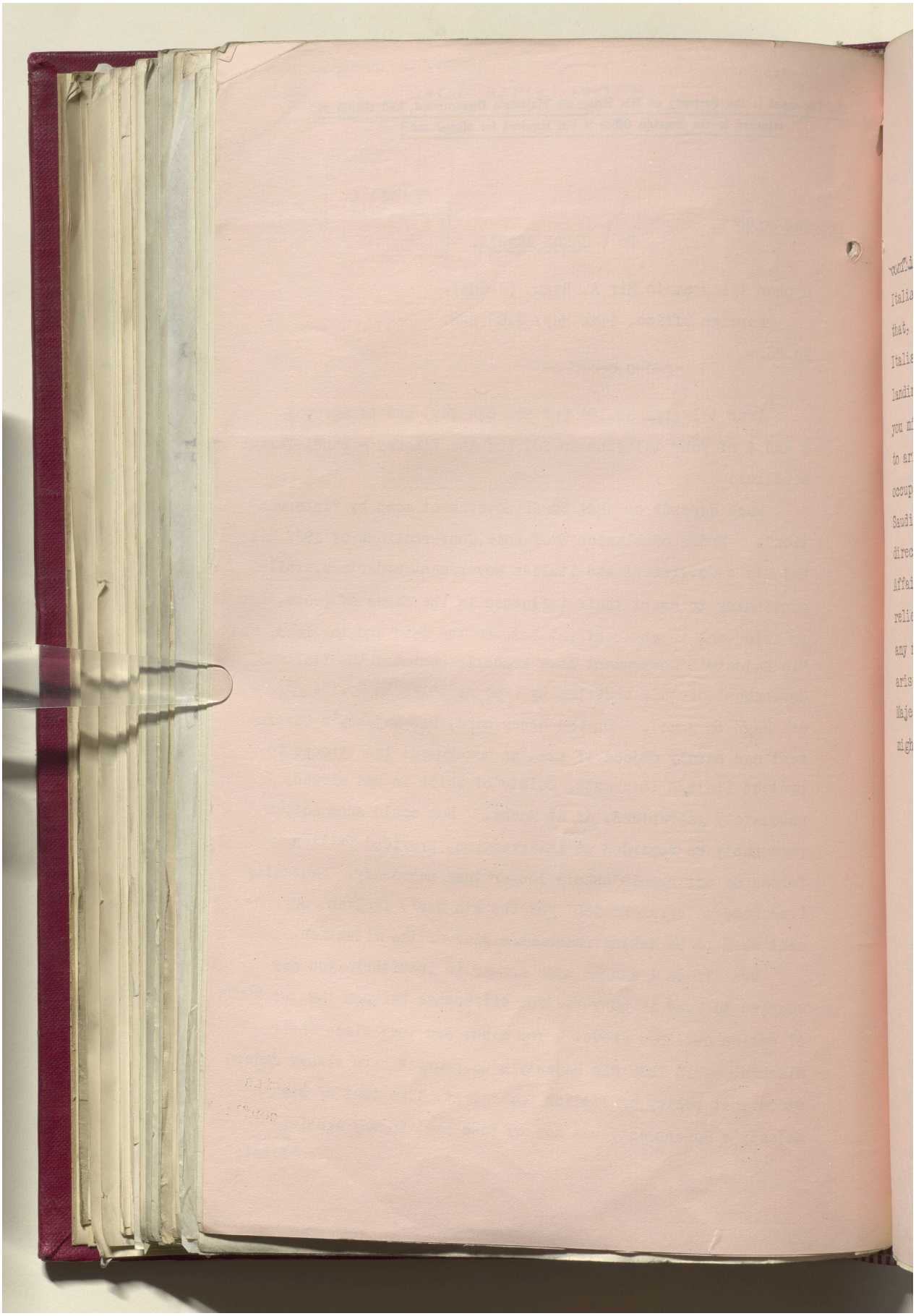

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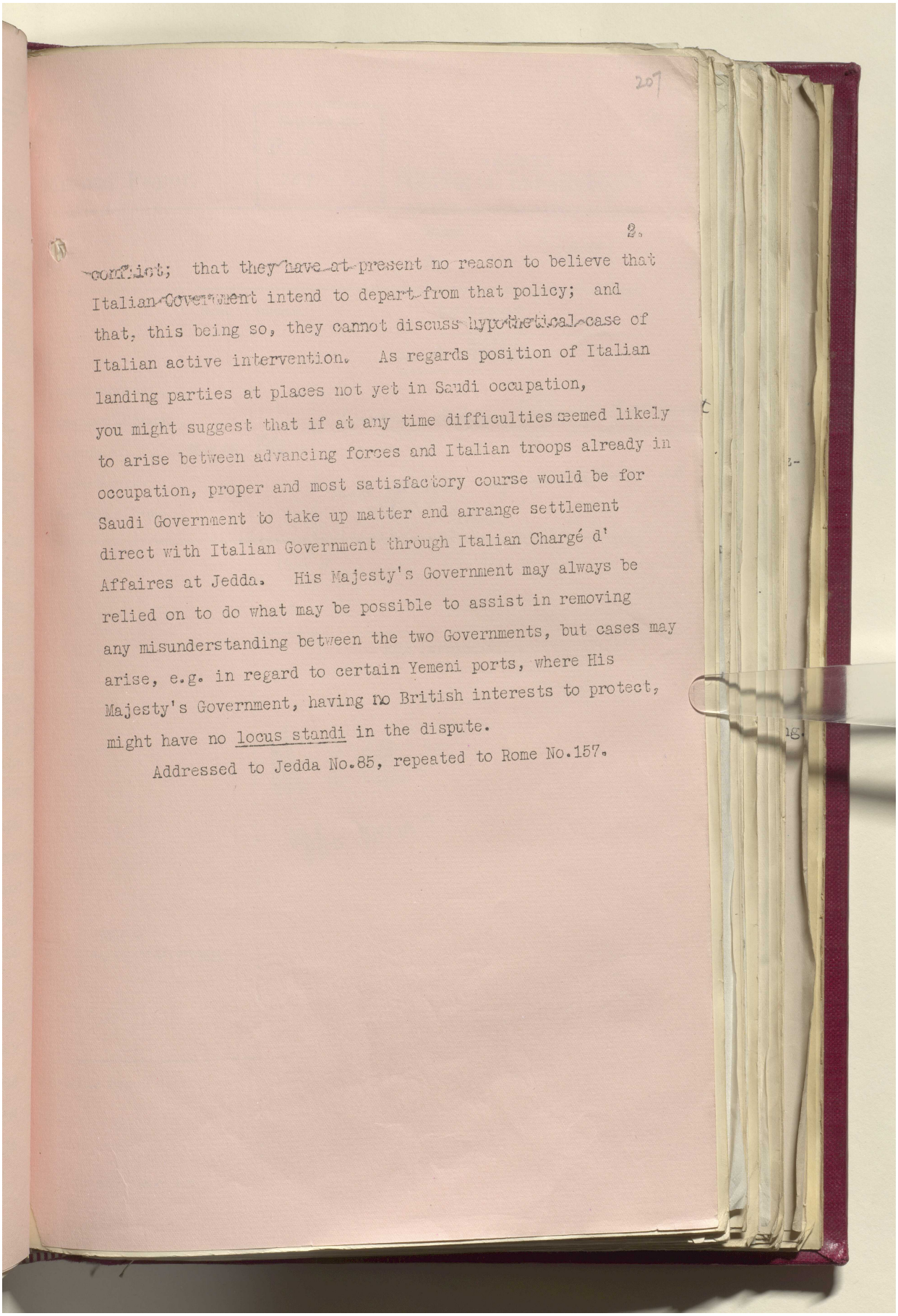

207

2.

conflict; that they have at present no reason to believe that Italian Government intend to depart from that policy; and that, this being so, they cannot discuss hypothetical case of Italian active intervention. As regards position of Italian landing parties at places not yet in Saudi occupation, you might suggest that if at any time difficulties seemed likely to arise between advancing forces and Italian troops already in occupation, proper and most satisfactory course would be for Saudi Government to take up matter and arrange settlement direct with Italian Government through Italian Chargé d' Affaires at Jedda. His Majesty's Government may always be relied on to do what may be possible to assist in removing any misunderstanding between the two Governments, but cases may arise, e.g. in regard to certain Yemeni ports, where His Majesty's Government, having no British interests to protect, might have no locus standi in the dispute.

Addressed to Jedda No.85, repeated to Rome No.157.

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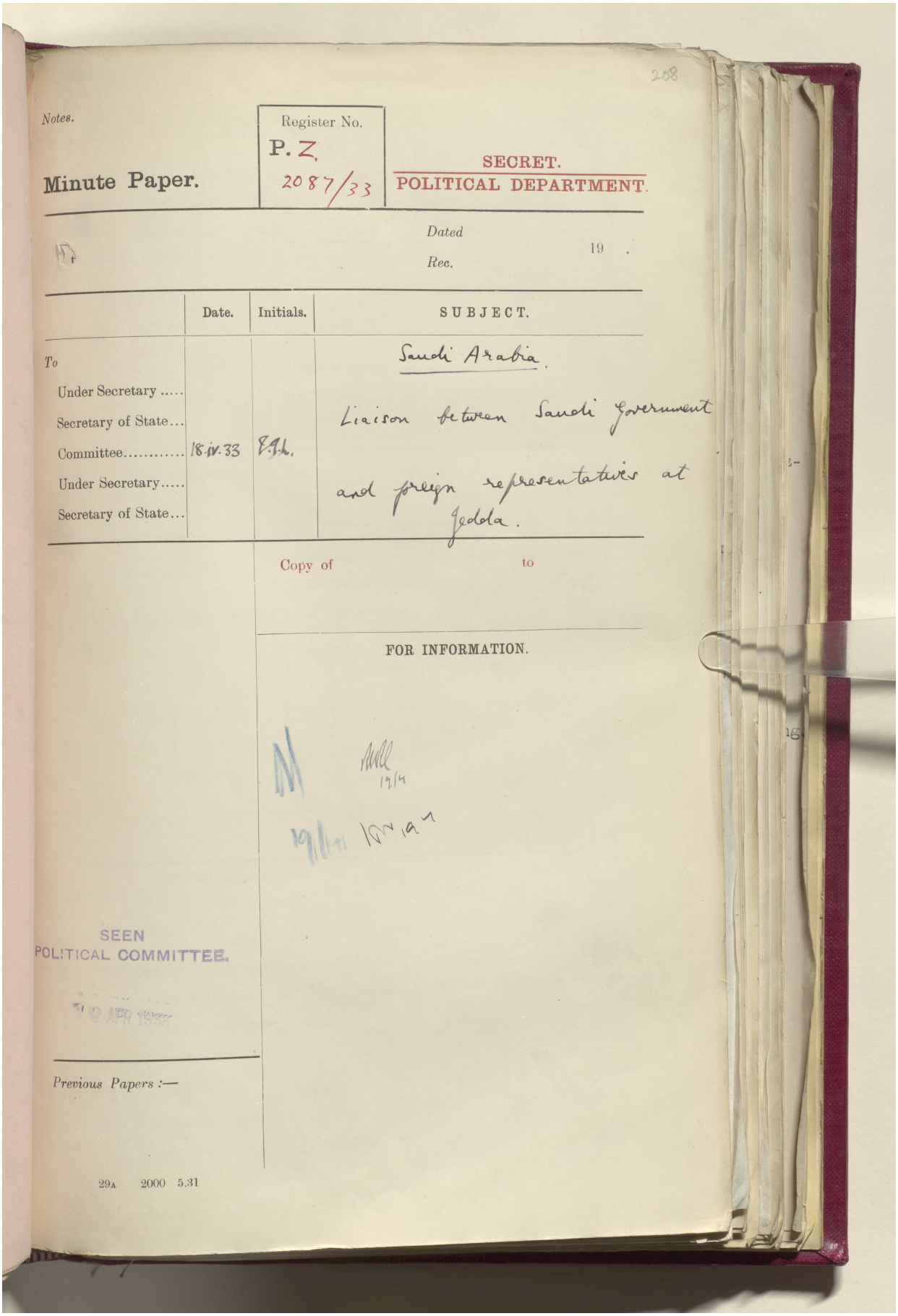

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No.
P. Z.
2087/33

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 19 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Saudi Arabia.
Under Secretary			
Secretary of State...			Liaison between Saudi Government
Committee.....	18.iv.33	F.A.L.	
Under Secretary.....			and foreign representatives at
Secretary of State...			Jedda.

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
10 APR 1933

Previous Papers :—

29A 2000 5.31

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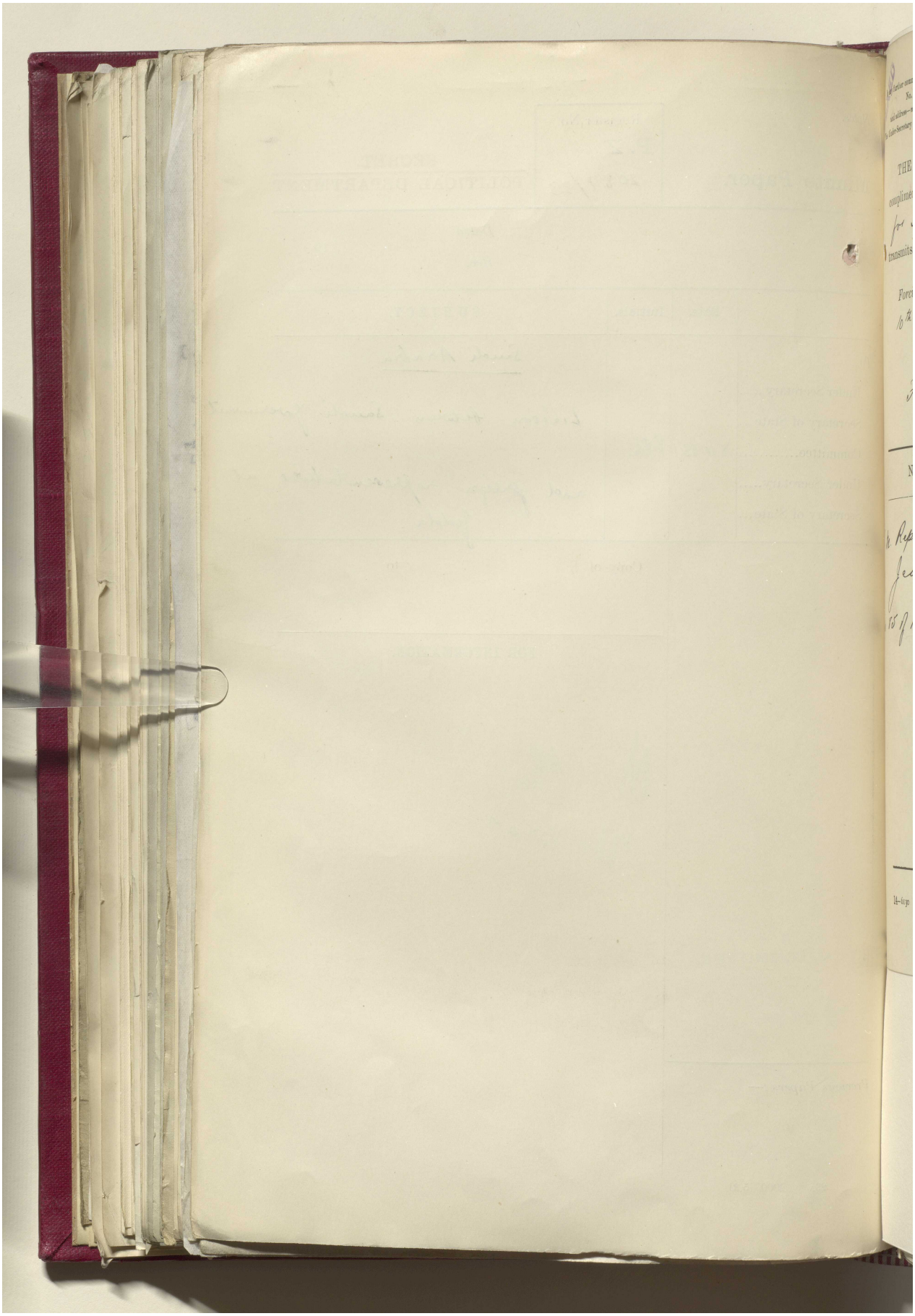

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India 209

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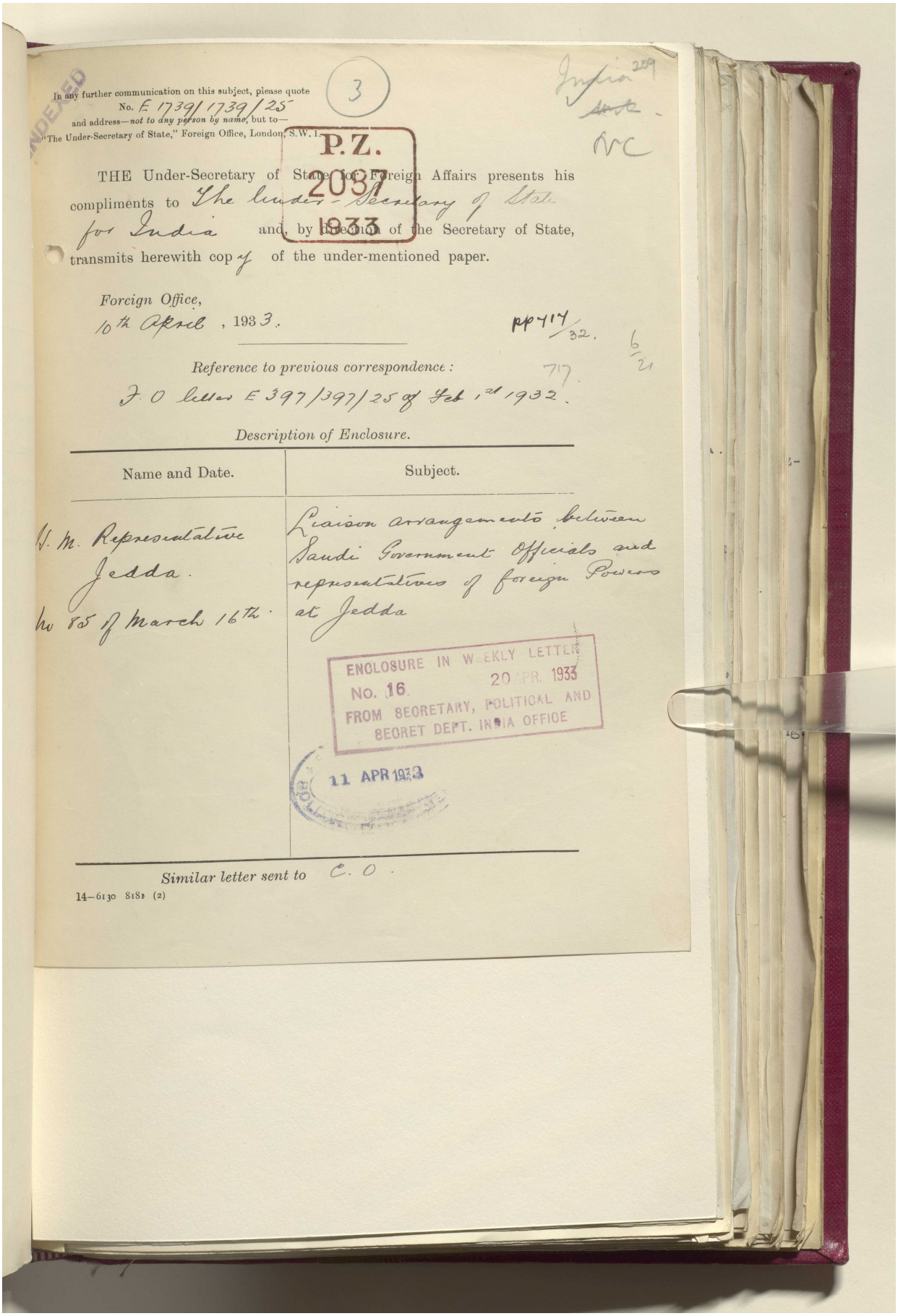

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 1739/1739/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

P.Z.
2037
1933

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
10th April, 1933.

pp 717/32.

6/21

717.

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O letter E 397/397/25 of Feb 1st 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H. M. Representative Jedda. No 85 of March 16th.	Liaison arrangements between Saudi Government Officials and representatives of foreign Powers at Jedda

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 16 20 APR. 1933
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

11 APR 1933

Similar letter sent to C. O.

14—6130 8181 (2)

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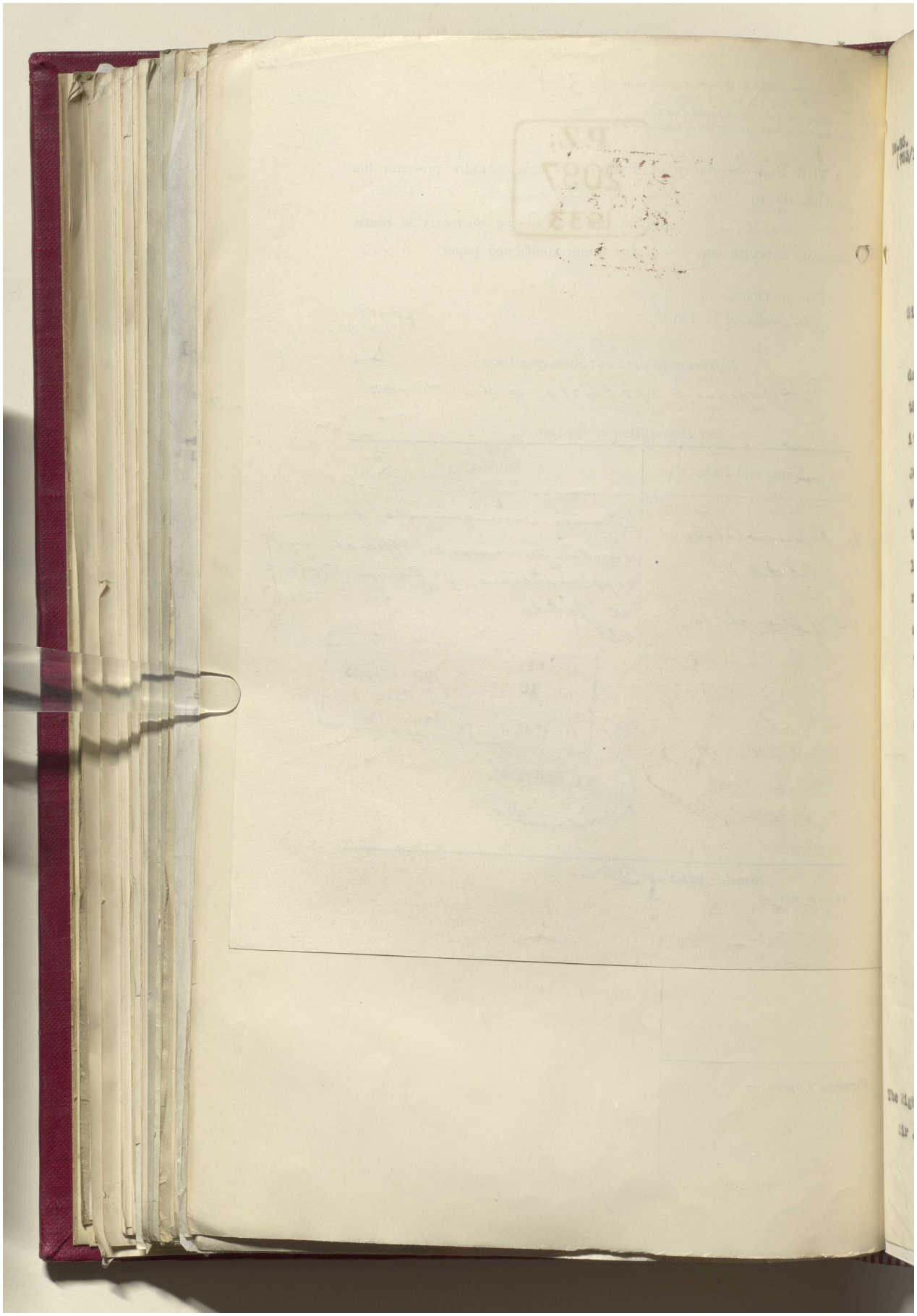

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E 1739
210
3 APR 1933

No.65.
(753/133/12)

P.Z.
2087
1933

British Legation,
Jedda.
16th March 1933.

Sir,

I have on many occasions during the last three years drawn attention to the difficulty created at this post by the fact that the Sa'ûdi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has its headquarters in Mecca and that the visits paid to Jedda by responsible members of the Ministry have been very irregular. As you are aware Sheykh Ali Taha, one of the assistants of the Governor of Jedda, was given early last year the post of Assistant Under-Secretary of State, resident in Jedda, but has practically never been able to serve any useful purpose in that capacity except as a transmitter of messages.

2. Some weeks ago Fuad Bey Hamza informed me that he had arranged to visit Jedda regularly every Saturday after Ramadhân ,i.e., roughly from the beginning of February. He has in fact been available in Jedda on the forenoon of most Saturdays since that date. The Ministry has now informed the foreign missions by a circular that the branch of the Ministry in Jedda will be open every Saturday for the reception of foreign representatives. The circular adds that the Under Secretary (or Deputy Minister, as Fuad Bey prefers to call himself) will be prepared in exceptional circumstances to visit Jedda at other times at the request of the representatives.

/3.

The Right Honourable,
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.

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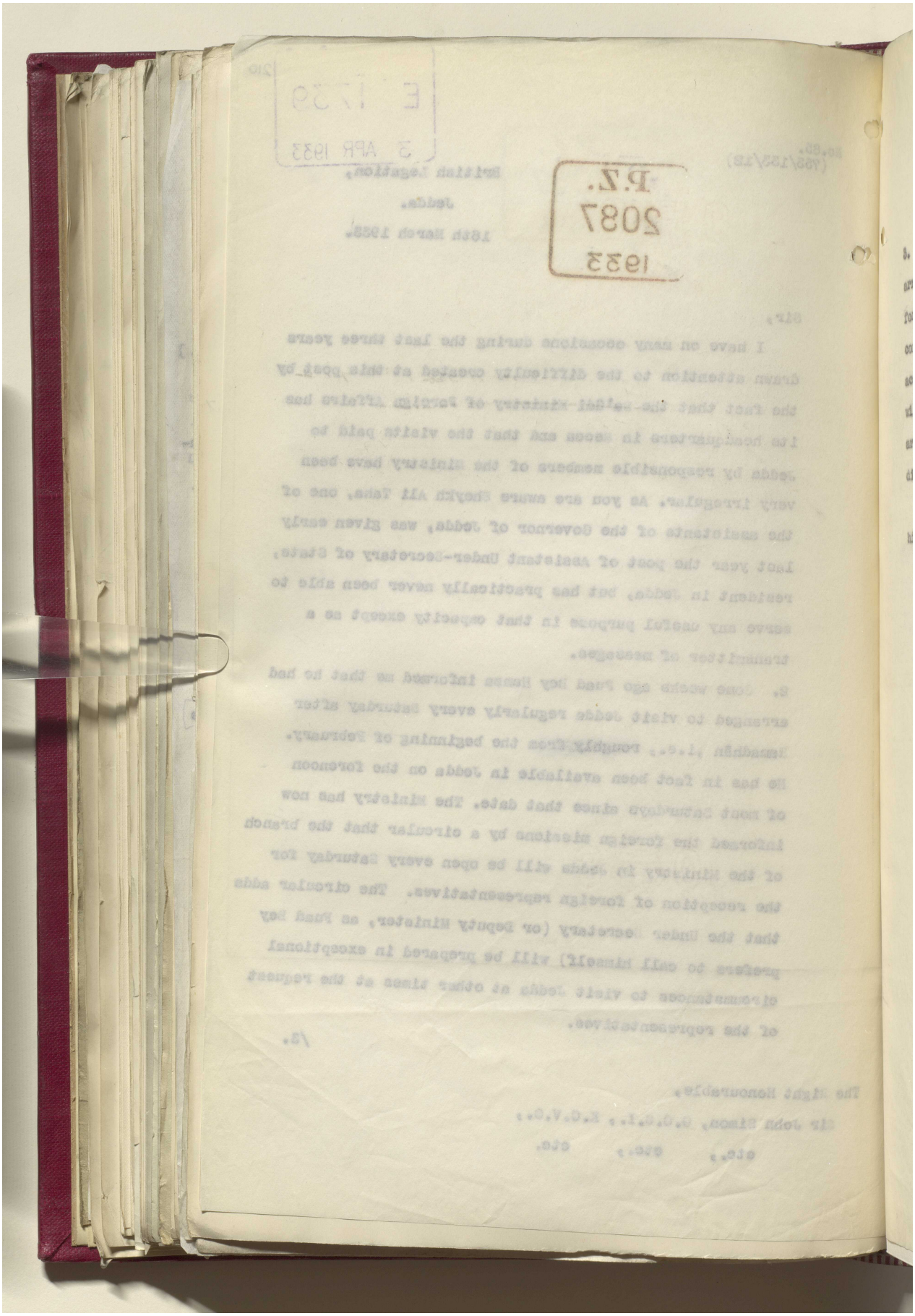

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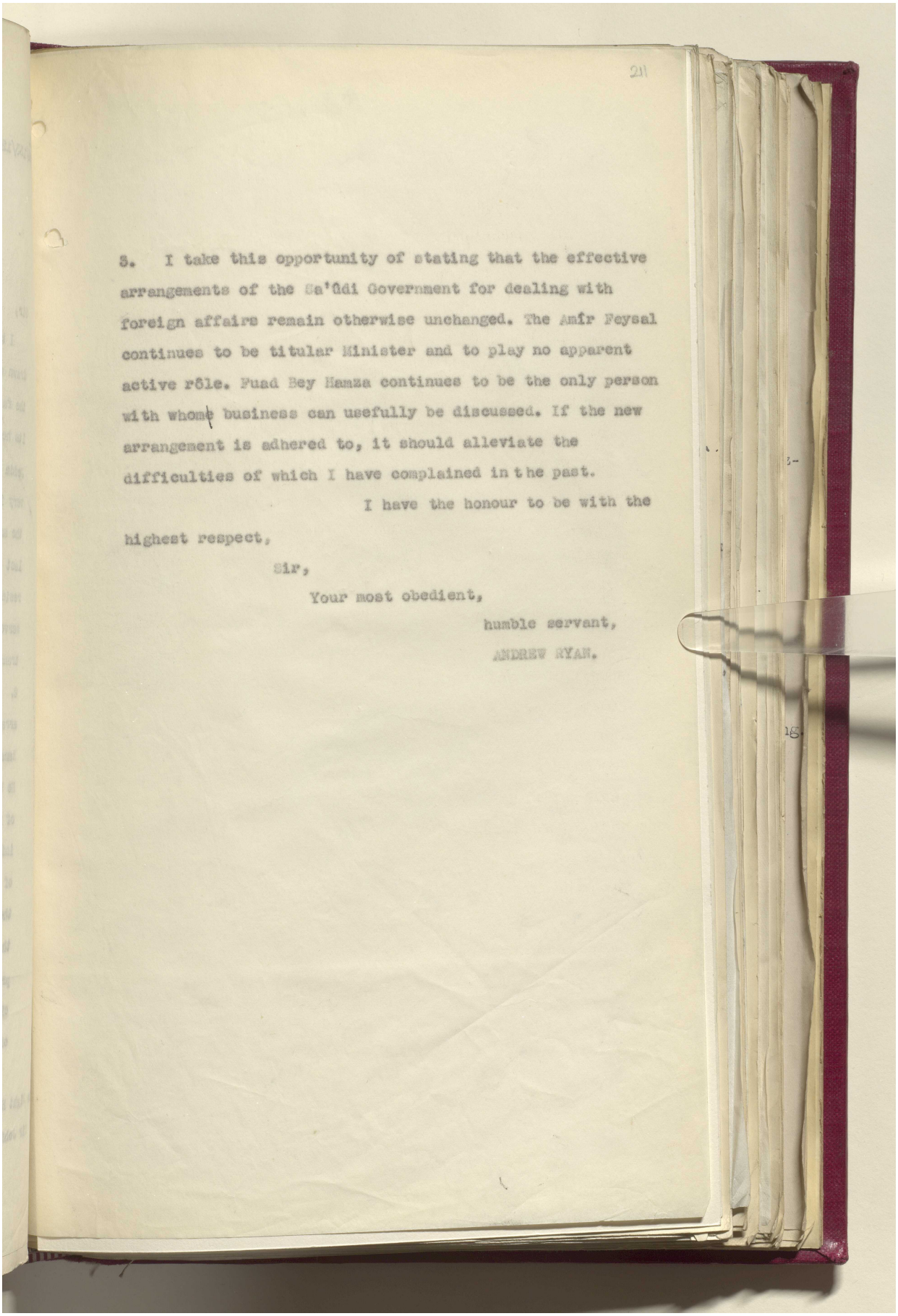

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3. I take this opportunity of stating that the effective arrangements of the Sa'ûdi Government for dealing with foreign affairs remain otherwise unchanged. The Amîr Feysal continues to be titular Minister and to play no apparent active rôle. Fuad Bey Hamza continues to be the only person with whom business can usefully be discussed. If the new arrangement is adhered to, it should alleviate the difficulties of which I have complained in the past.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

ANDREW RYAN.

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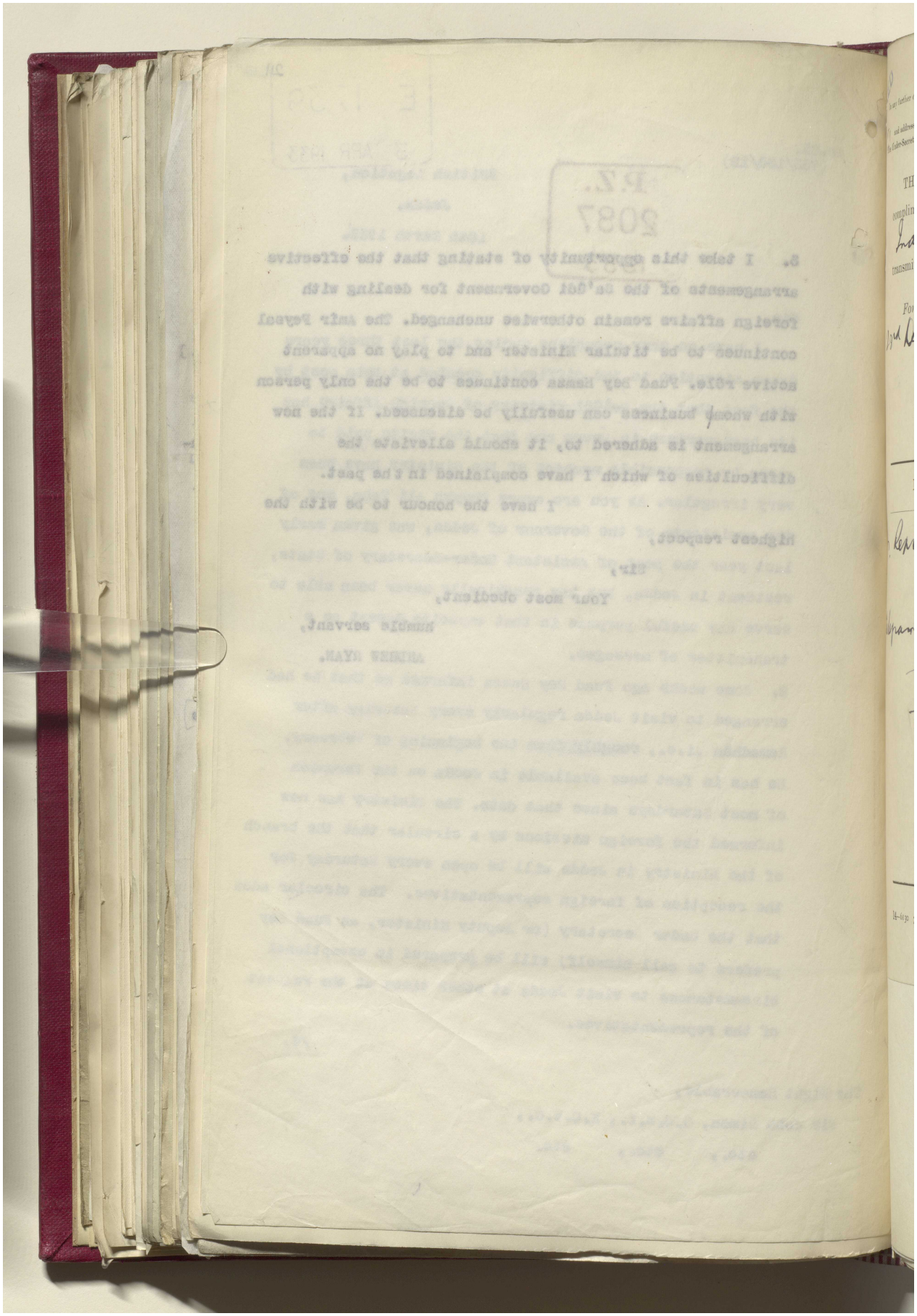

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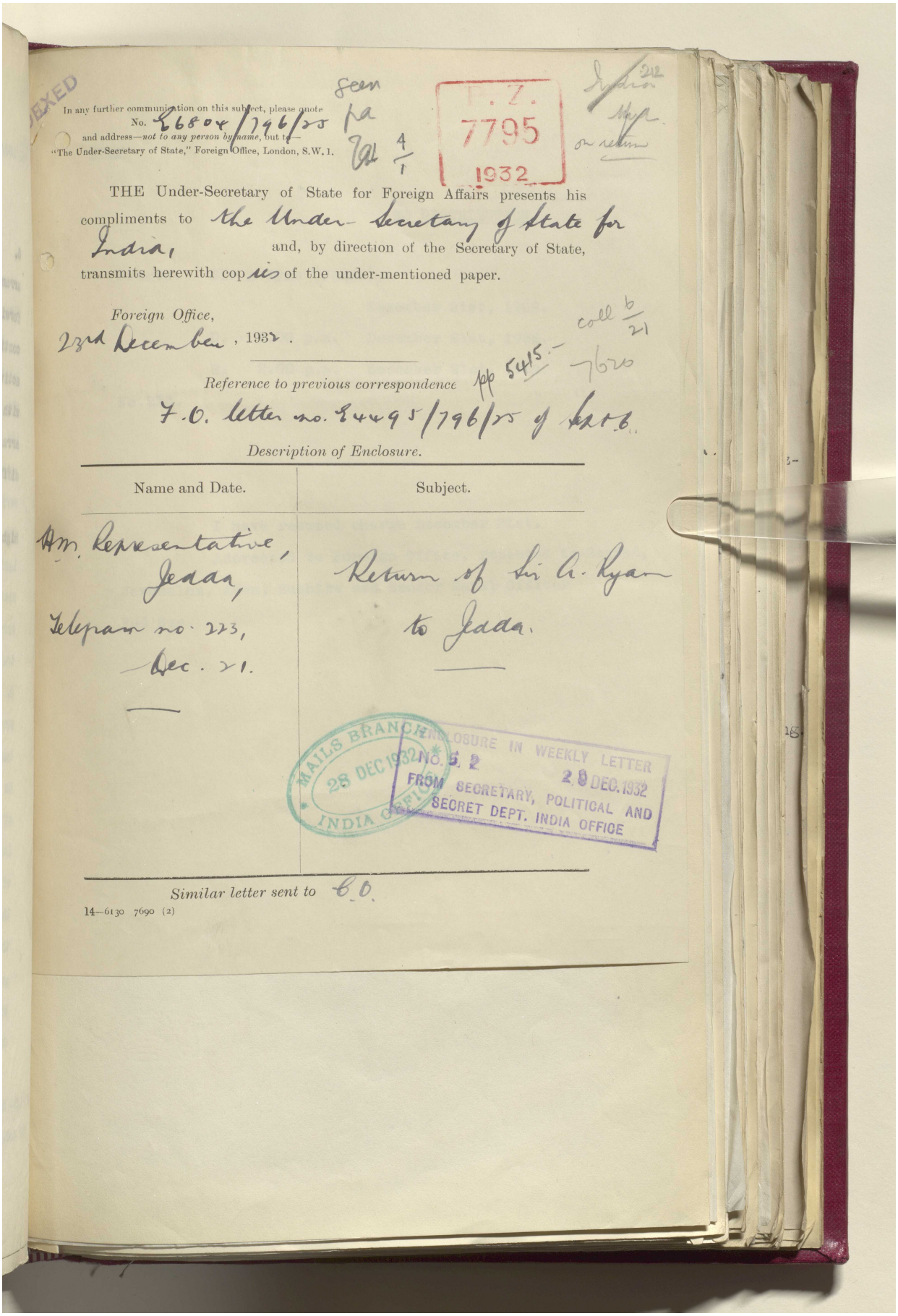

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

Seen pa 4/1

P.Z. 7795 1932

Indian 212 on return

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
23rd December, 1932.

coll 6/21

Reference to previous correspondence pp 5415.- 7620

F.O. letter no. E4495/796/25 of Sept 6.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Representative, Jedda, Telegram no. 223, Dec. 21.	Return of Sir A. Ryan to Jedda.

MAILS BRANCH 28 DEC 1932 INDIA OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER NO. 52 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE 29 DEC. 1932

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—6130 7690 (2)

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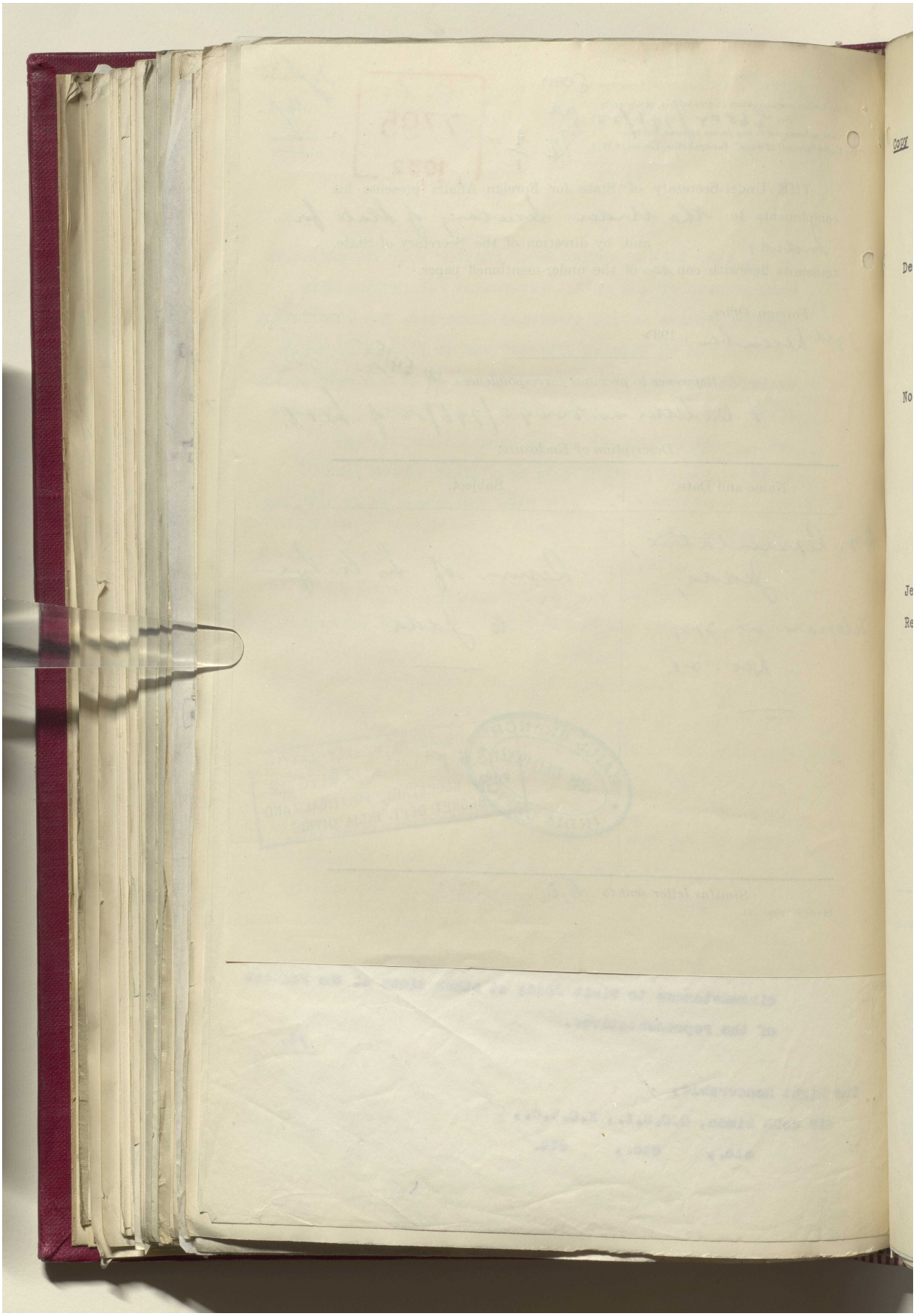

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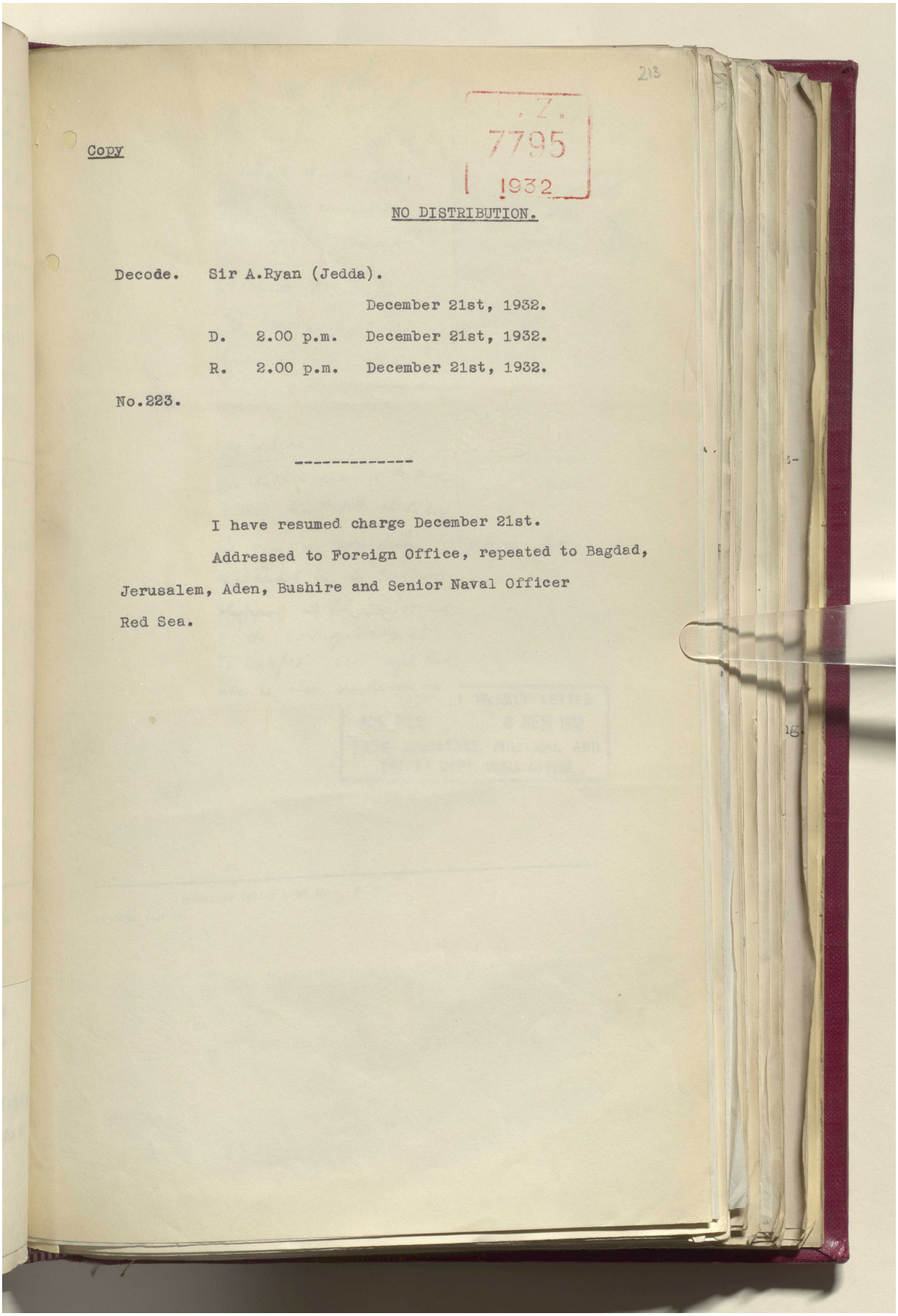

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I.O.
7795
1932

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir A.Ryan (Jedda).

December 21st, 1932.

D. 2.00 p.m. December 21st, 1932.

R. 2.00 p.m. December 21st, 1932.

No.223.

I have resumed charge December 21st.

Addressed to Foreign Office, repeated to Bagdad, Jerusalem, Aden, Bushire and Senior Naval Officer Red Sea.

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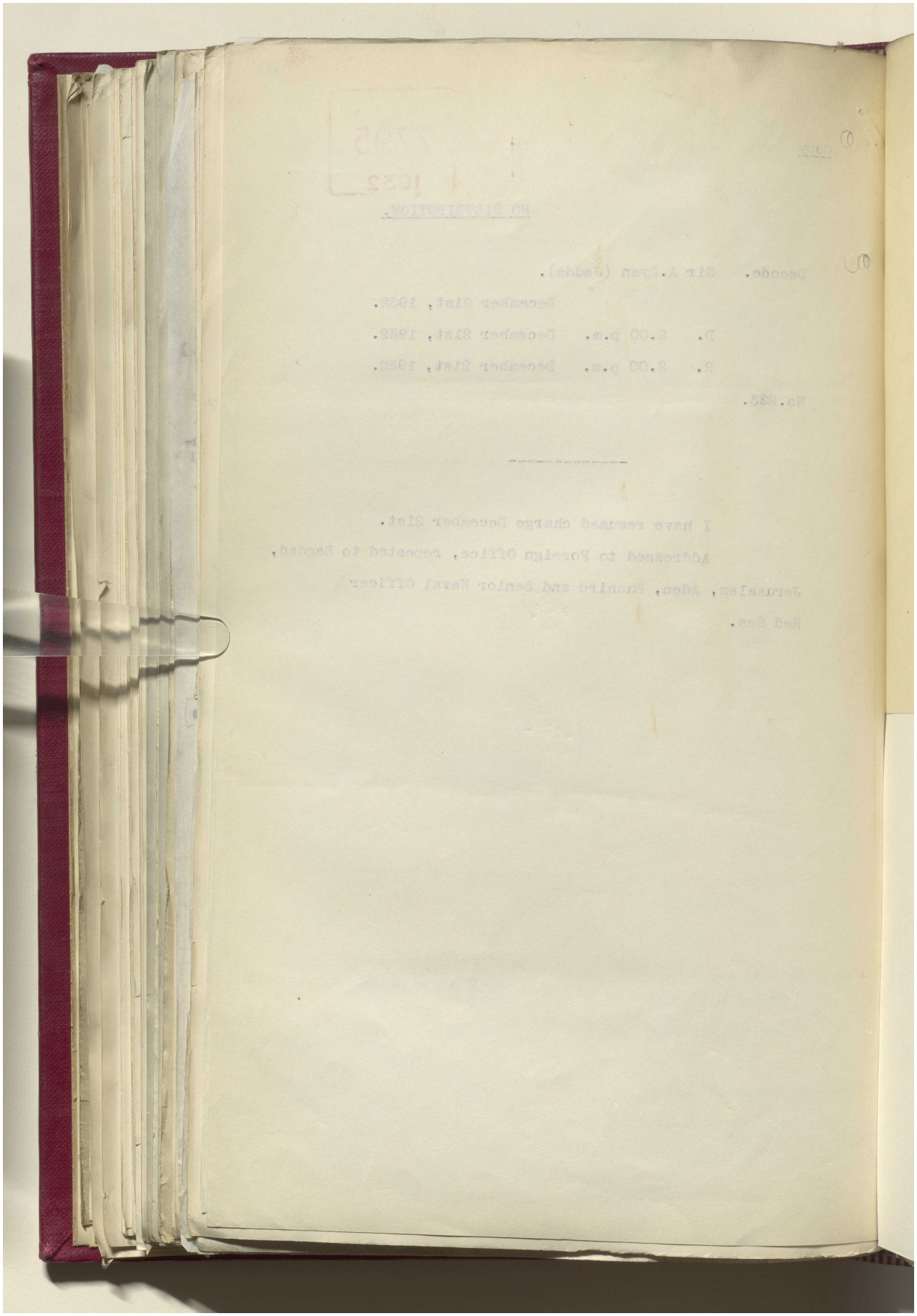

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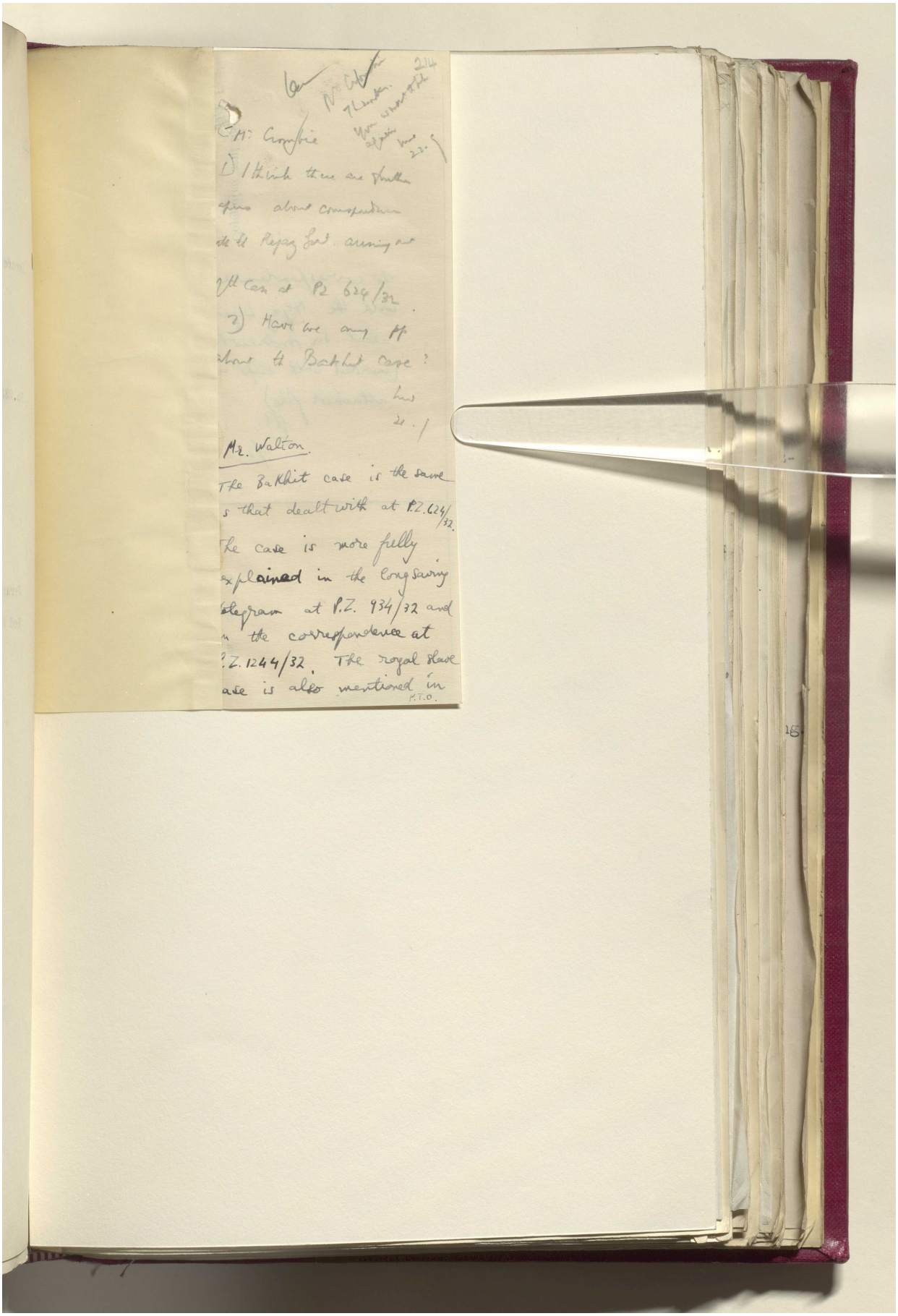

Mr. Walton.

The Bakhit case is the same as that dealt with at P.Z. 624/32. The case is more fully explained in the long saving telegram at P.Z. 934/32 and in the correspondence at P.Z. 1244/32. The royal slave case is also mentioned in

P.T.O.

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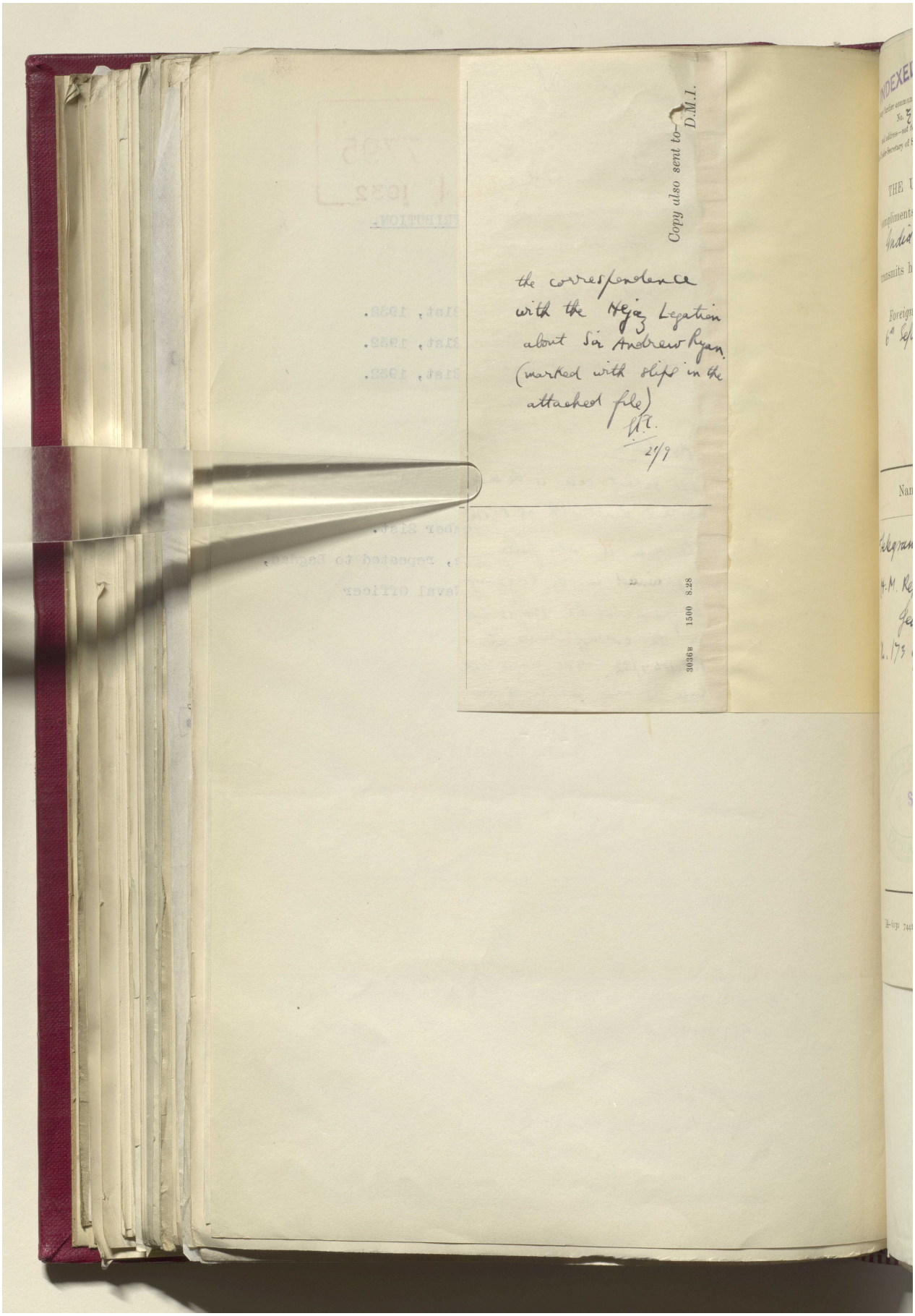

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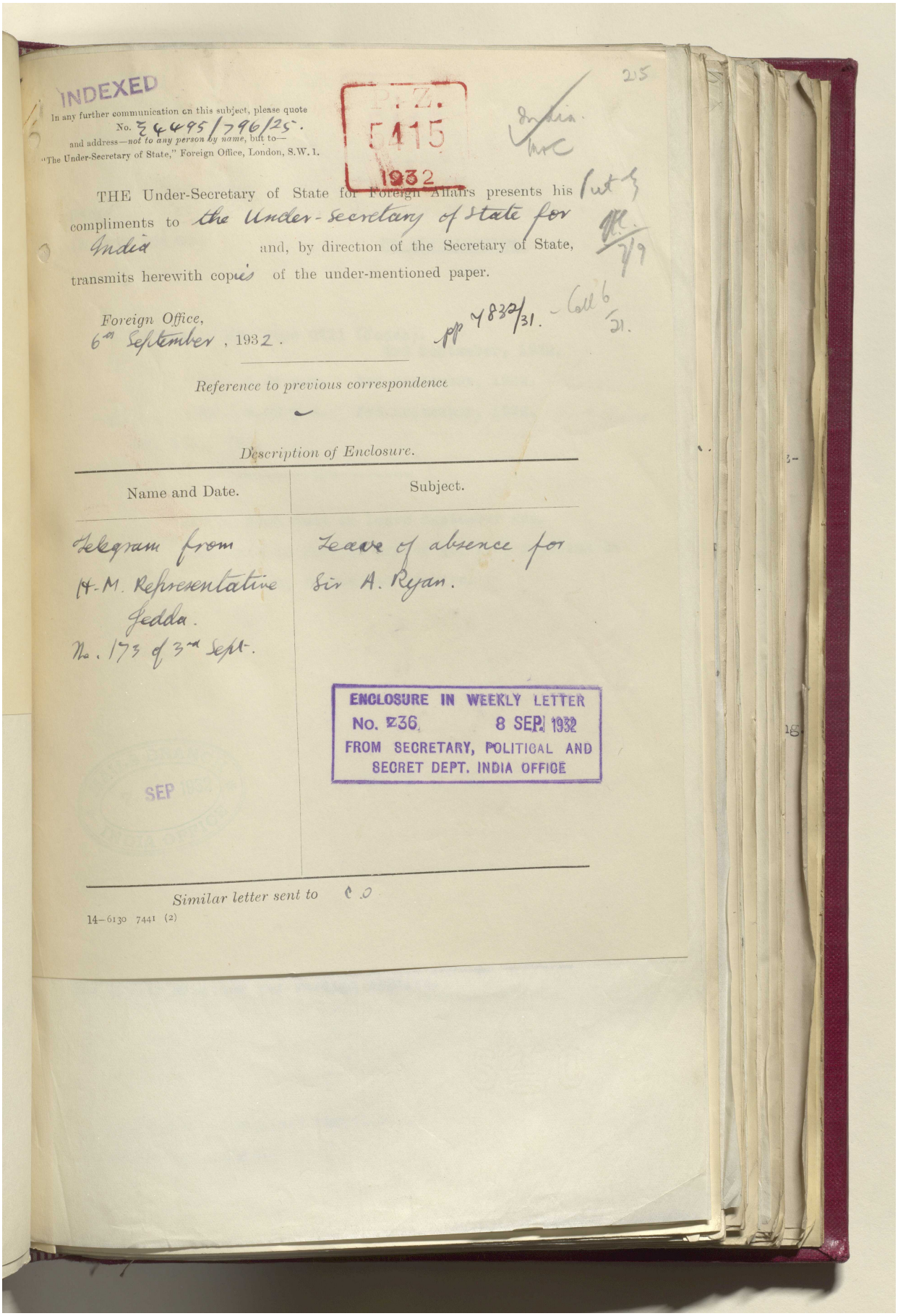

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

P.Z. 5415 1932

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India Office

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
6th September, 1932.

pp 4832/31. Coll 6/21.

Reference to previous correspondence

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Telegram from H.M. Representative Jedda. No. 173 of 3rd Sept.	Leave of absence for Sir A. Ryan.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. E36 8 SEP 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

SEP

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—6130 7441 (2)

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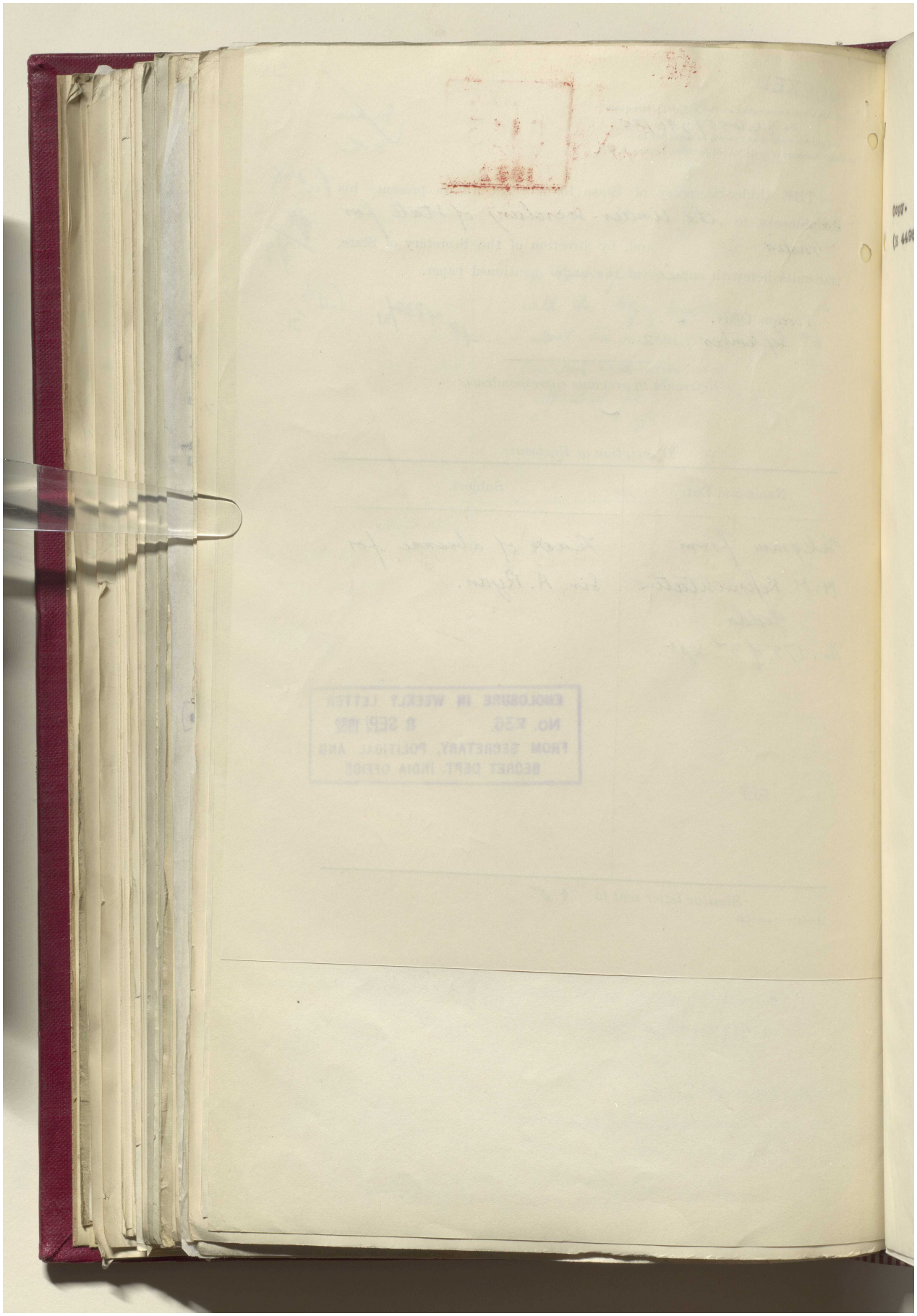

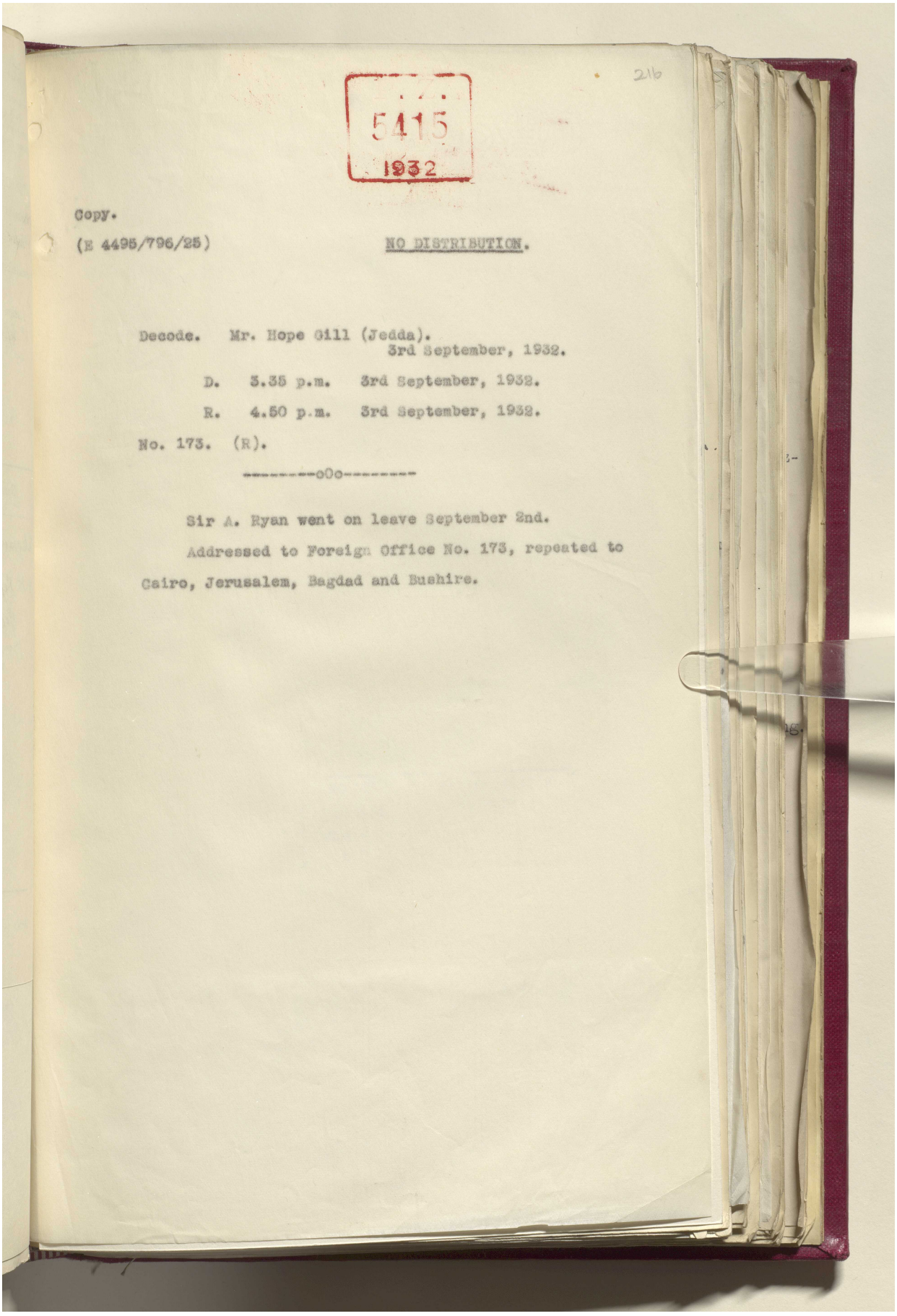

5415
1932

216

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(E 4495/796/25) NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Mr. Hope Gill (Jedda).
3rd September, 1932.

D. 5.35 p.m. 3rd September, 1932.

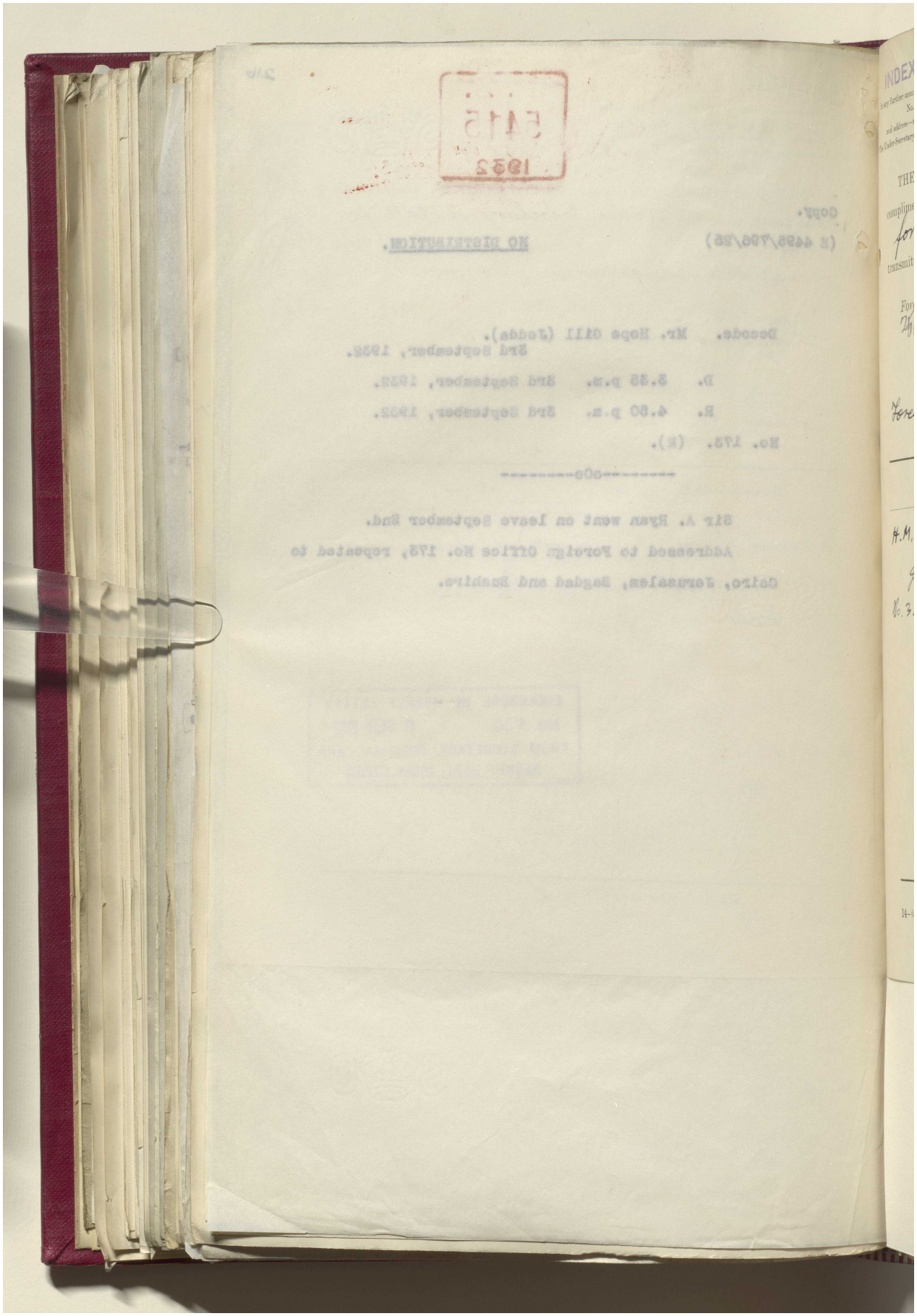
R. 4.50 p.m. 3rd September, 1932.

No. 173. (R).

---oOo---

Sir A. Ryan went on leave September 2nd.

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 173, repeated to Cairo, Jerusalem, Bagdad and Bushire.



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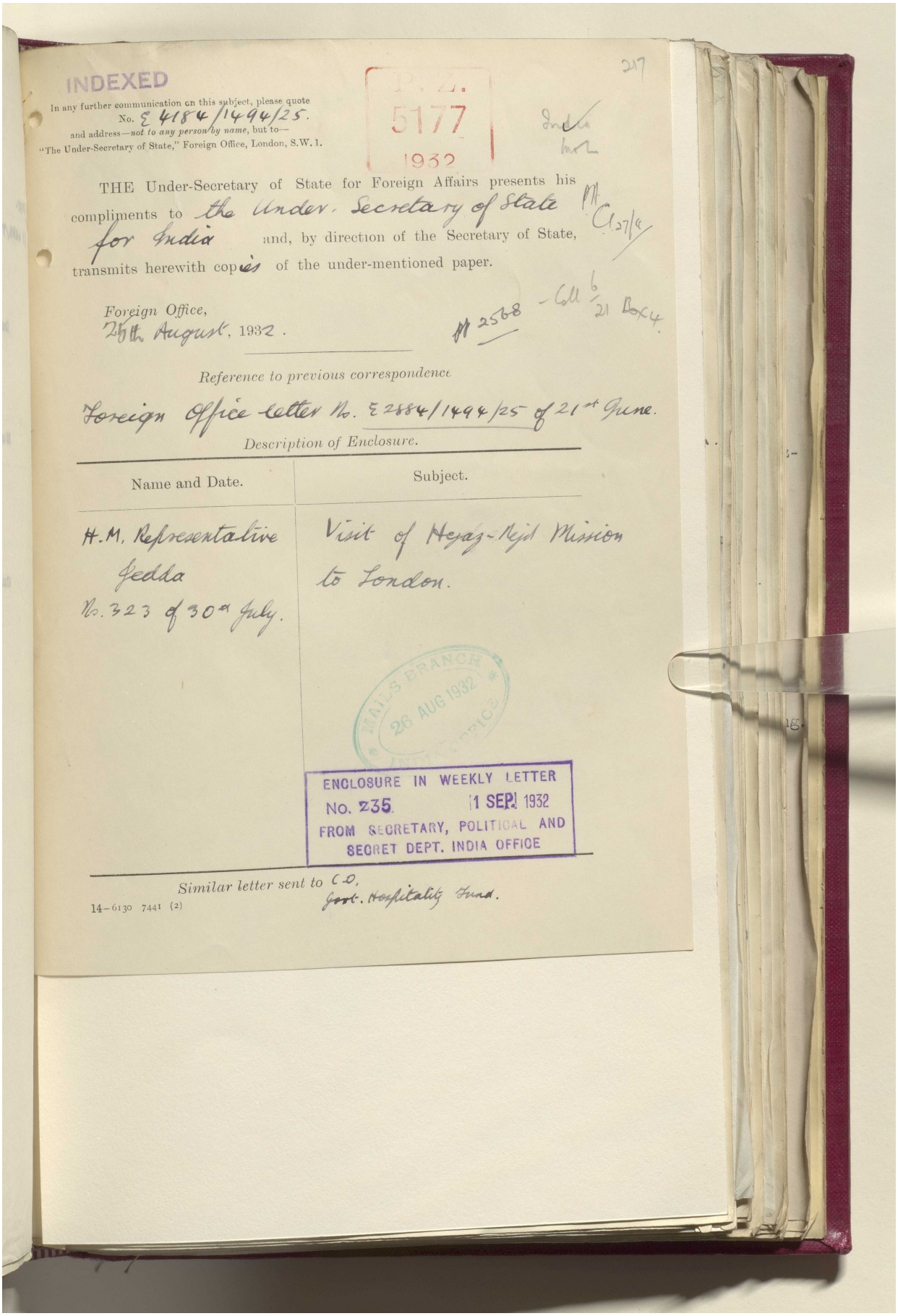

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

P.Z. 5177 1932

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
26th August, 1932.

M 2568

Coll 6/21 Box 4

Reference to previous correspondence

Foreign Office letter No. E 2584/1494/25 of 21st June.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Representative Jedda No. 323 of 30th July.	Visit of Hejaz-Nejd Mission to London.

MAILS BRANCH 26 AUG 1932 FOREIGN OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 235. [1 SEP] 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O., Govt. Hospitality Fund.

14–6130 7441 (2)

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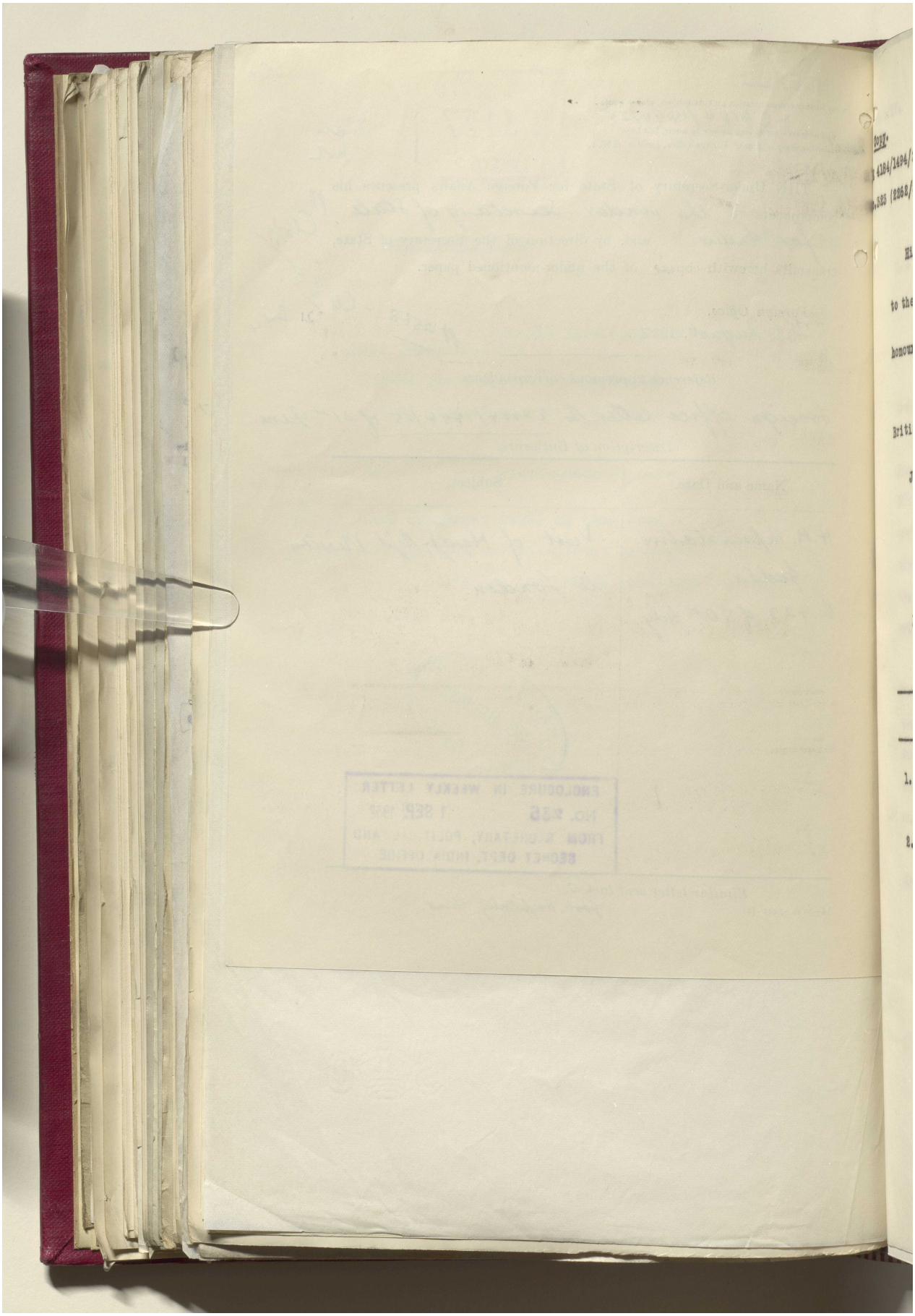

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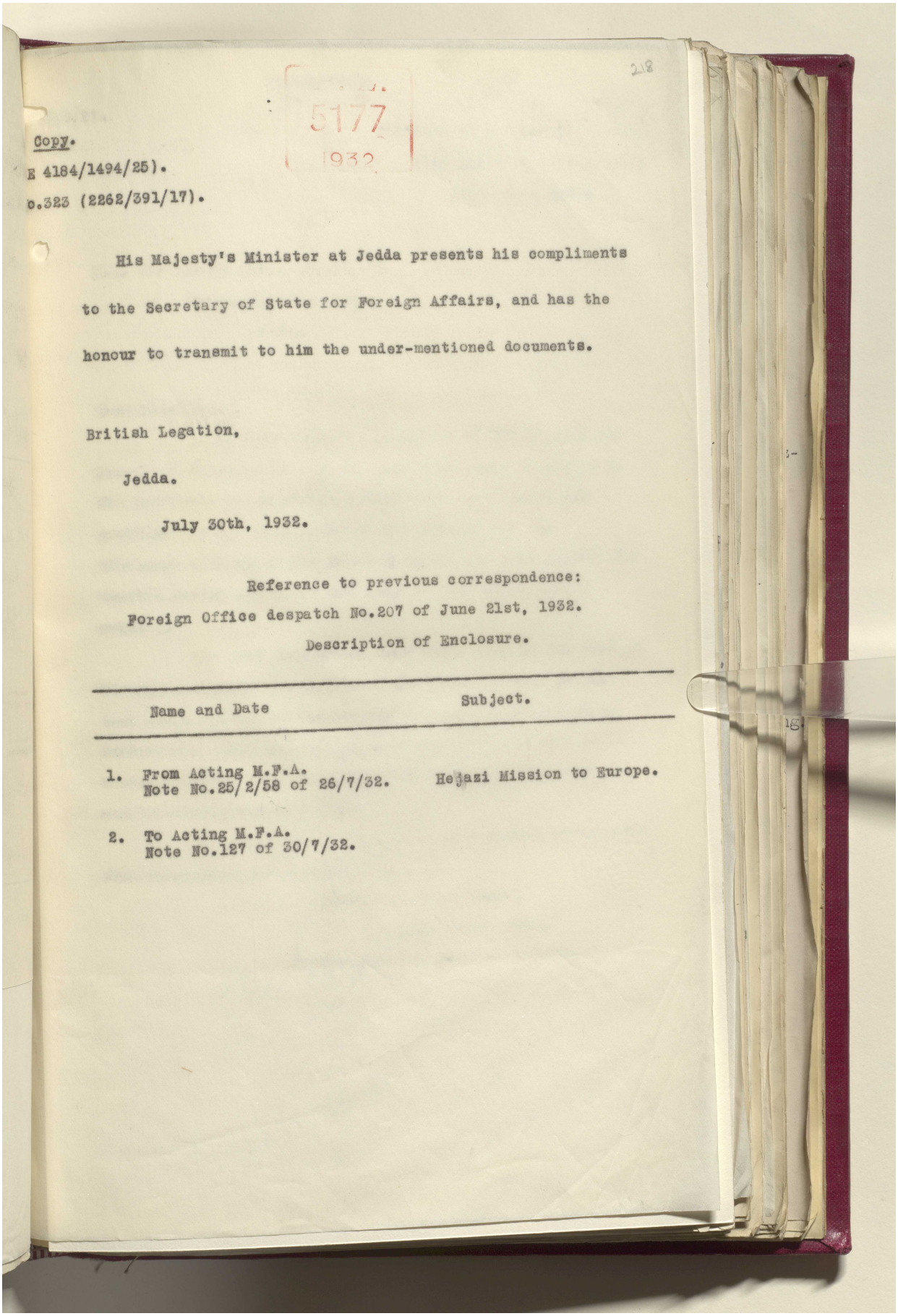

218

5177
1932

Copy.
E 4184/1494/25).
o.323 (2262/391/17).

His Majesty's Minister at Jedda presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Legation,
Jedda.
July 30th, 1932.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office despatch No.207 of June 21st, 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

	Name and Date	Subject.
1.	From Acting M.F.A. Note No.25/2/58 of 26/7/32.	Hejazi Mission to Europe.
2.	To Acting M.F.A. Note No.127 of 30/7/32.	

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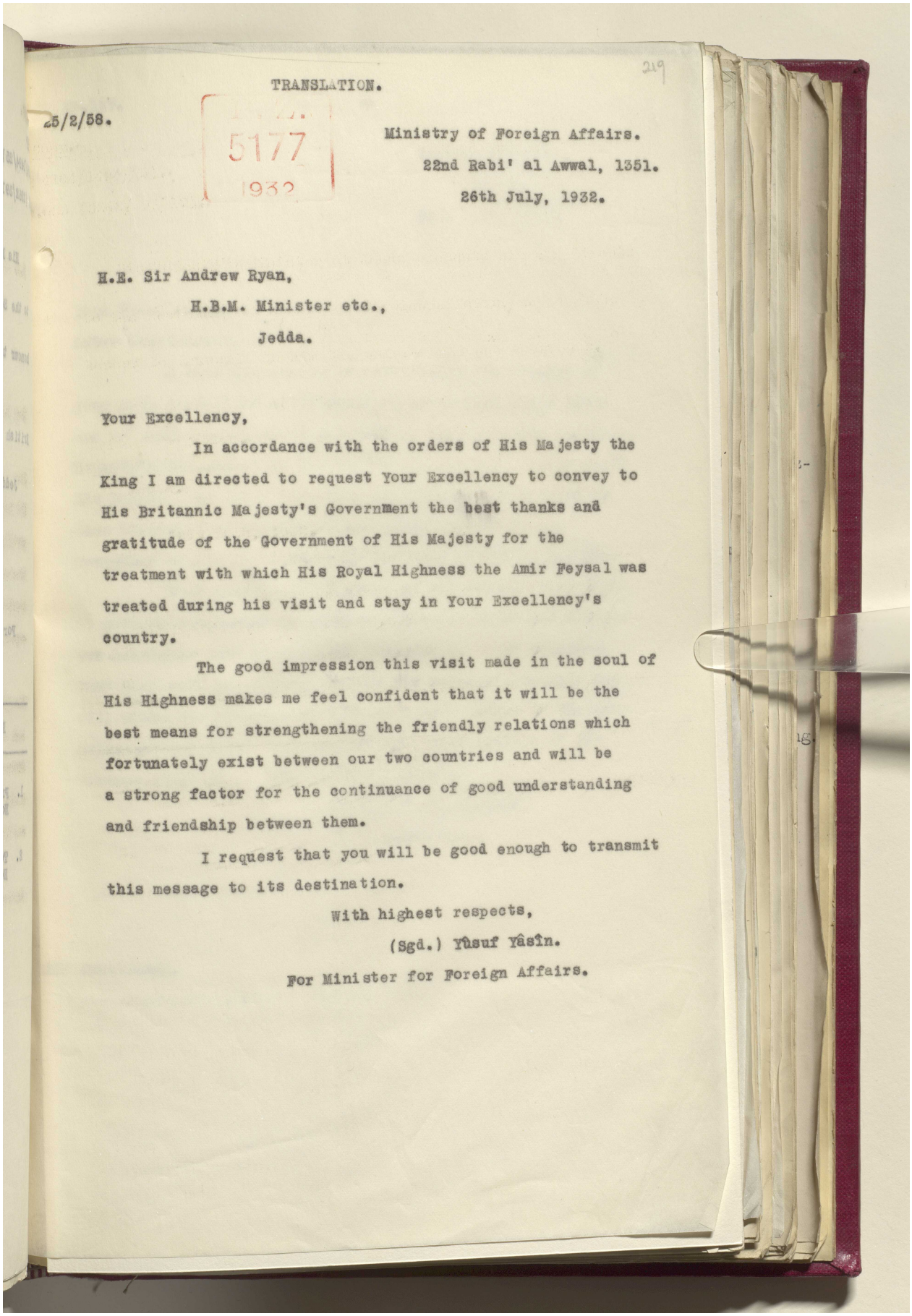

TRANSLATION.

219

25/2/58.

5177
1932

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
22nd Rabi' al Awwal, 1351.
26th July, 1932.

H.E. Sir Andrew Ryan,
H.B.M. Minister etc.,
Jedda.

Your Excellency,

In accordance with the orders of His Majesty the King I am directed to request Your Excellency to convey to His Britannic Majesty's Government the best thanks and gratitude of the Government of His Majesty for the treatment with which His Royal Highness the Amir Feysal was treated during his visit and stay in Your Excellency's country.

The good impression this visit made in the soul of His Highness makes me feel confident that it will be the best means for strengthening the friendly relations which fortunately exist between our two countries and will be a strong factor for the continuance of good understanding and friendship between them.

I request that you will be good enough to transmit this message to its destination.

With highest respects,

(Sgd.) Yûsuf Yâsîn.

For Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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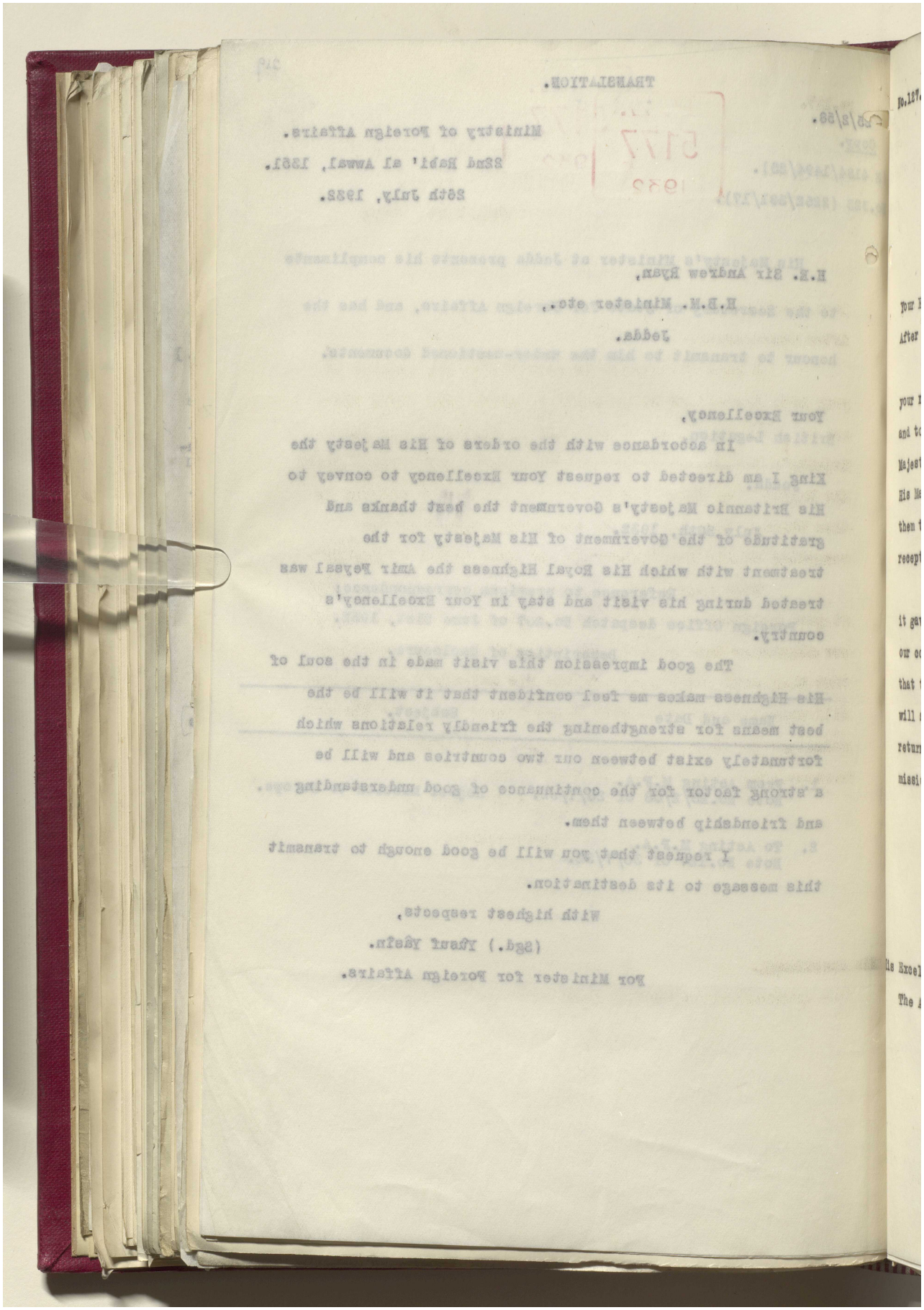

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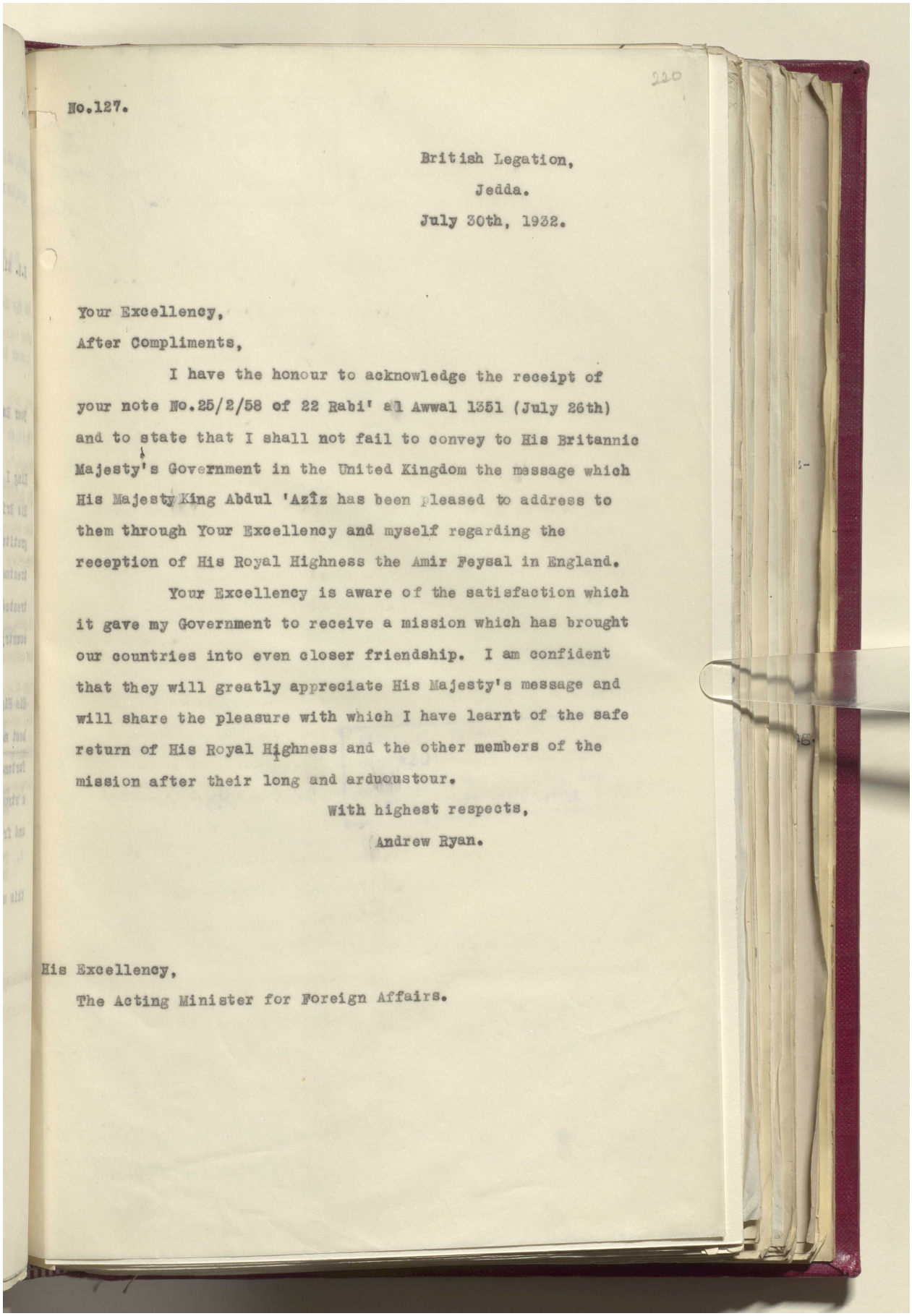

220

No.127.

British Legation,
Jedda.
July 30th, 1932.

Your Excellency,

After Compliments,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note No.25/2/58 of 22 Rabi' al Awwal 1351 (July 26th) and to state that I shall not fail to convey to His Britannic Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom the message which His Majesty King Abdul 'Azîz has been pleased to address to them through Your Excellency and myself regarding the reception of His Royal Highness the Amir Feysal in England.

Your Excellency is aware of the satisfaction which it gave my Government to receive a mission which has brought our countries into even closer friendship. I am confident that they will greatly appreciate His Majesty's message and will share the pleasure with which I have learnt of the safe return of His Royal Highness and the other members of the mission after their long and arduoustour.

With highest respects,

Andrew Ryan.

His Excellency,
The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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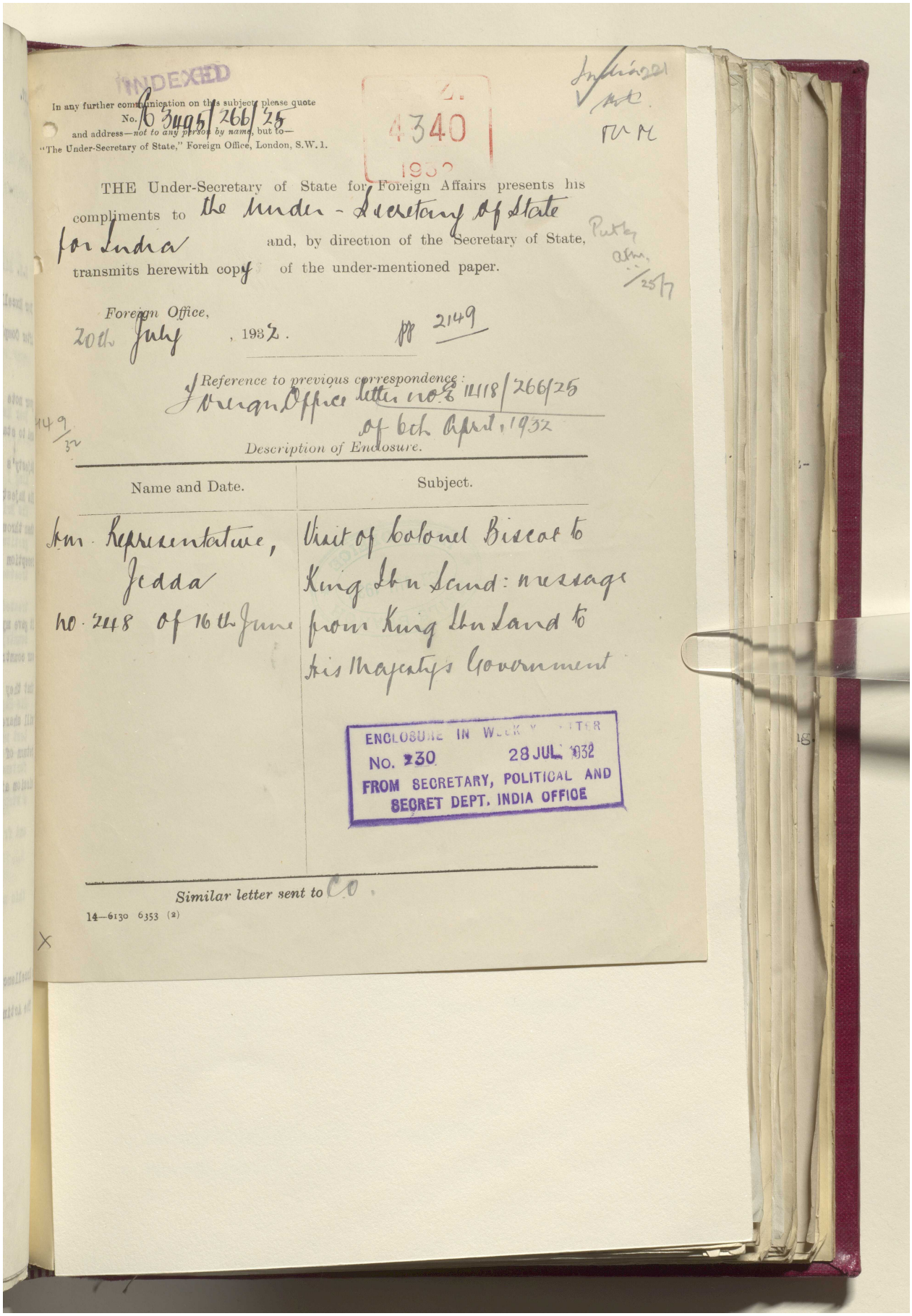

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject please quote No. E 3495/266/25 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

4340 1932

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office, 20th July, 1932. pp 2149

Reference to previous correspondence: Foreign Office letter no. E 1418/266/25 of 6th April, 1932

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Hm. Representative, Jedda No. 248 of 16th June	Visit of Colonel Biscoe to King Ibn Saud: message from King Ibn Saud to His Majesty's Government

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 230 28 JUL 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co.

14—6130 6353 (2)

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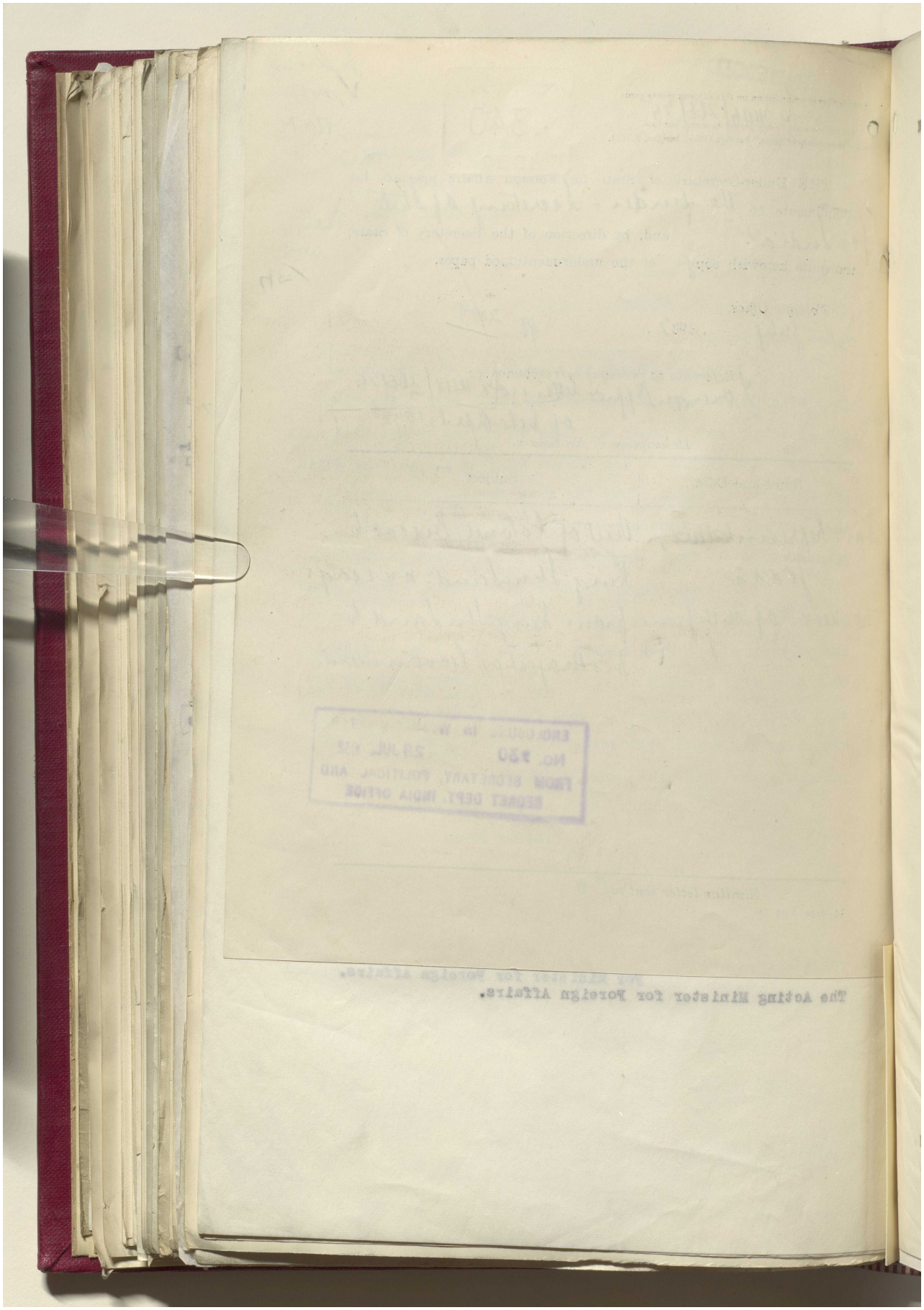

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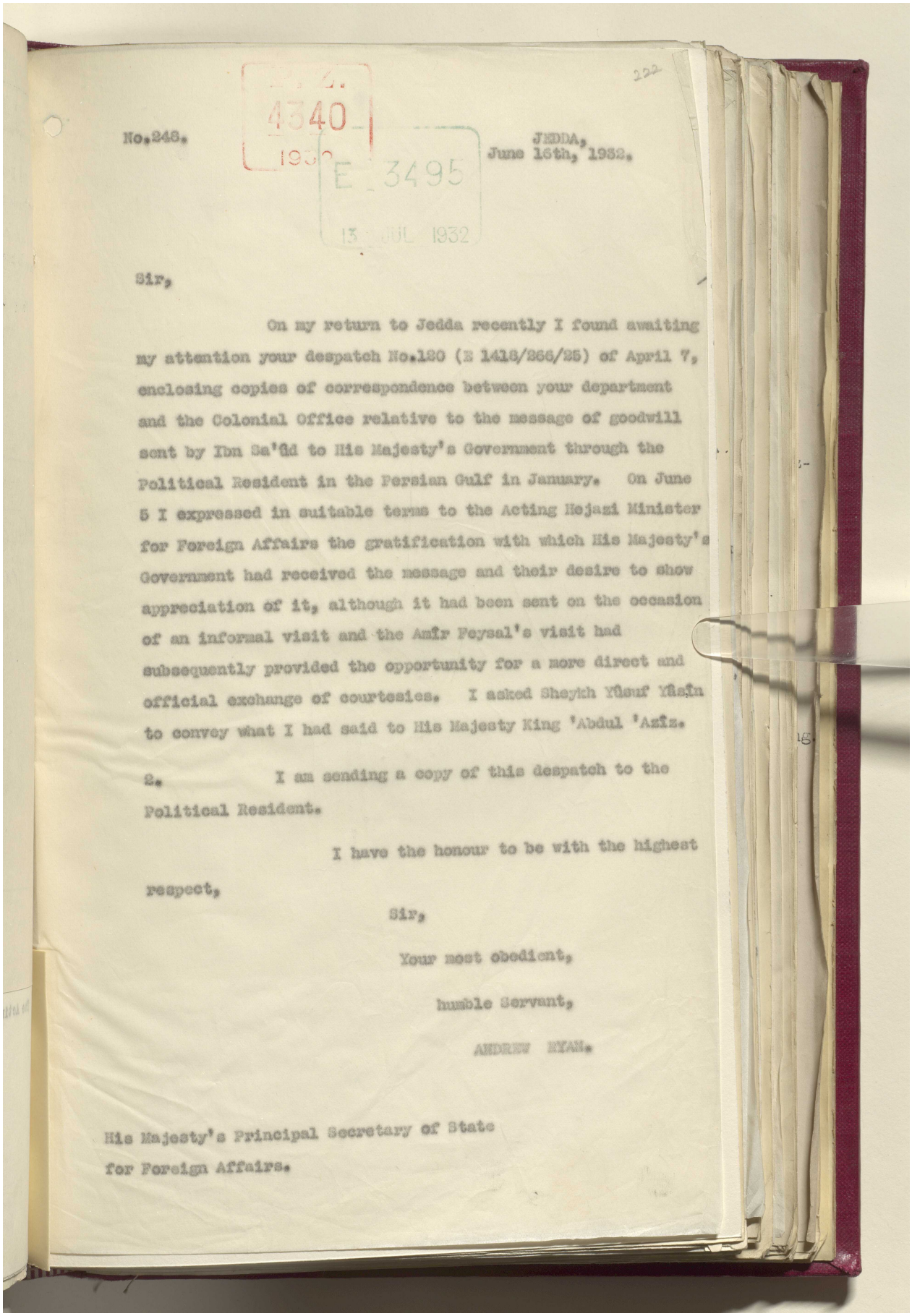

222

4340
1932
E 3495
13 JUL 1932

No.248. JEDDA, June 16th, 1932.

Sir,

On my return to Jedda recently I found awaiting my attention your despatch No.180 (E 1418/366/25) of April 7, enclosing copies of correspondence between your department and the Colonial Office relative to the message of goodwill sent by Ibn Sa'ûd to His Majesty's Government through the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf in January. On June 5 I expressed in suitable terms to the Acting Hejazi Minister for Foreign Affairs the gratification with which His Majesty's Government had received the message and their desire to show appreciation of it, although it had been sent on the occasion of an informal visit and the Amîr Feysal's visit had subsequently provided the opportunity for a more direct and official exchange of courtesies. I asked Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsîn to convey what I had said to His Majesty King 'Abdul 'Azîz.

2. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Political Resident.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

ANDREW RYAN.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

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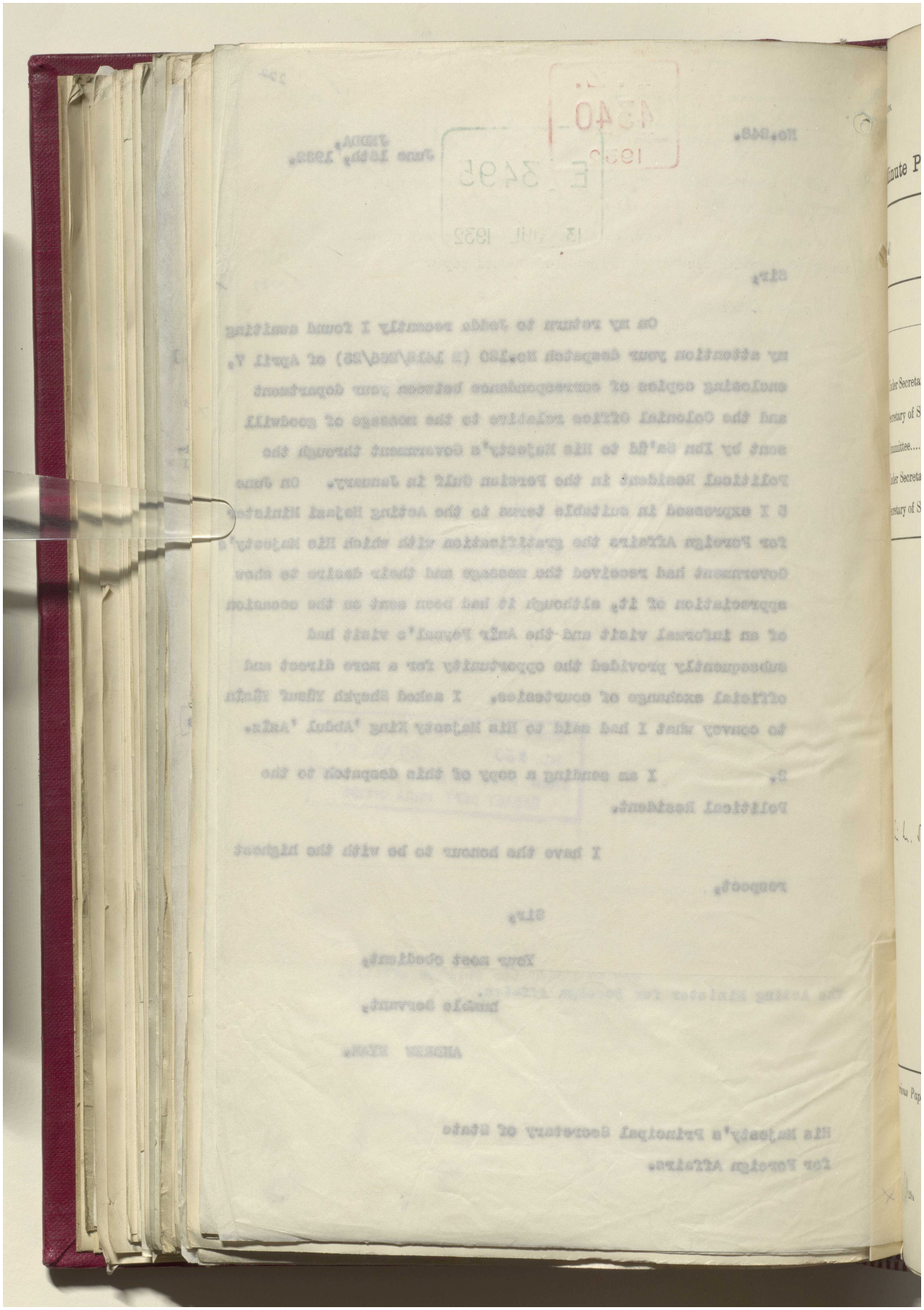

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No.
P. 2
4158/32

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	15.vii.32	T.A.L	Hejaz - Nejd
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	16	[illegible]	Return to Jedda of Sir Andrew Ryan.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

The strained relations which existed between the Minister & the Hejazis at the beginning of the year seem to have been forgotten.

A.F. Morley
15.7.32.

[illegible] 19/7

[illegible]
20/7

[illegible]
21/7

[illegible]
22/7

Previous Papers :—

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
22 JUL 1932

29A 2000 5.31

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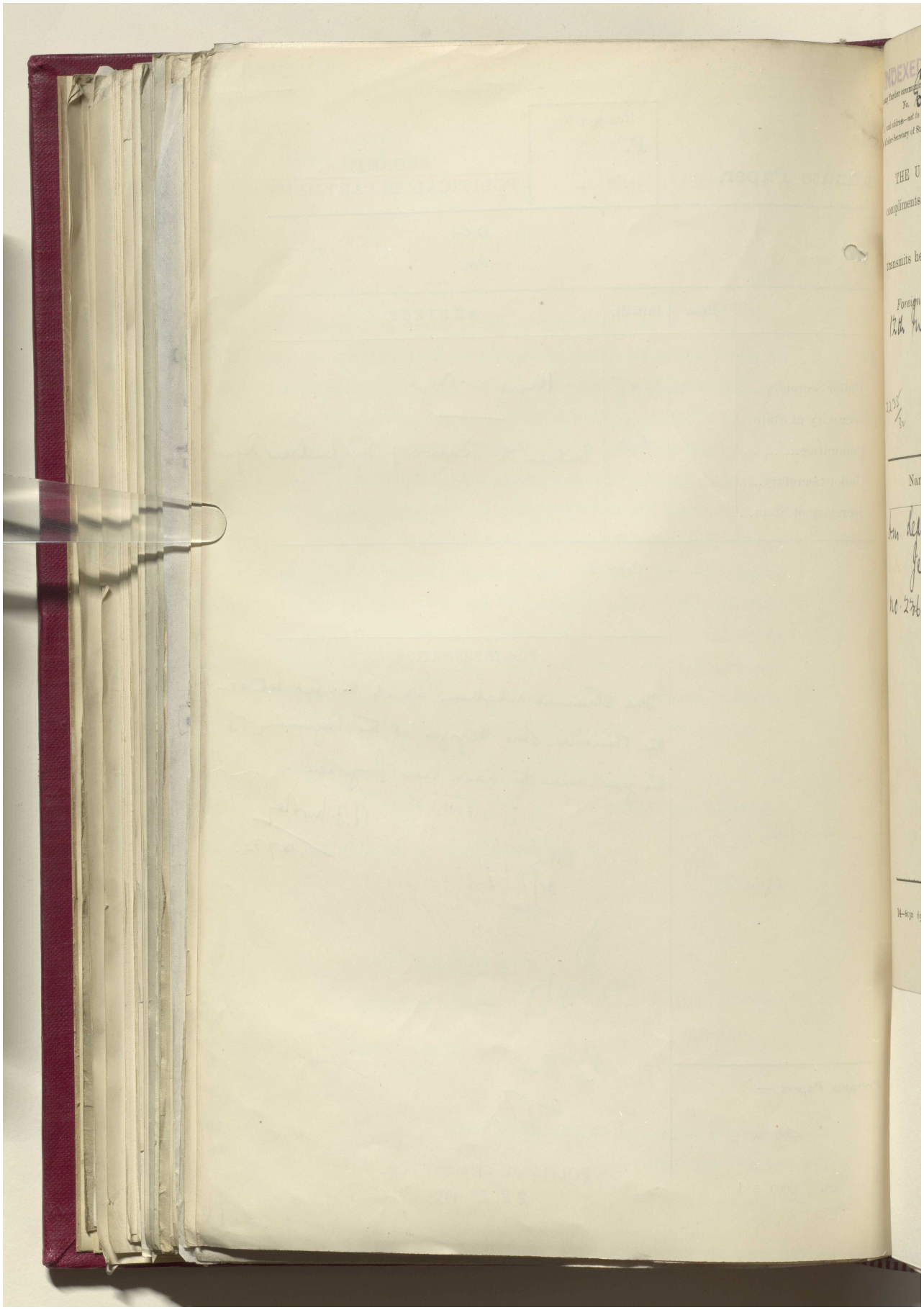

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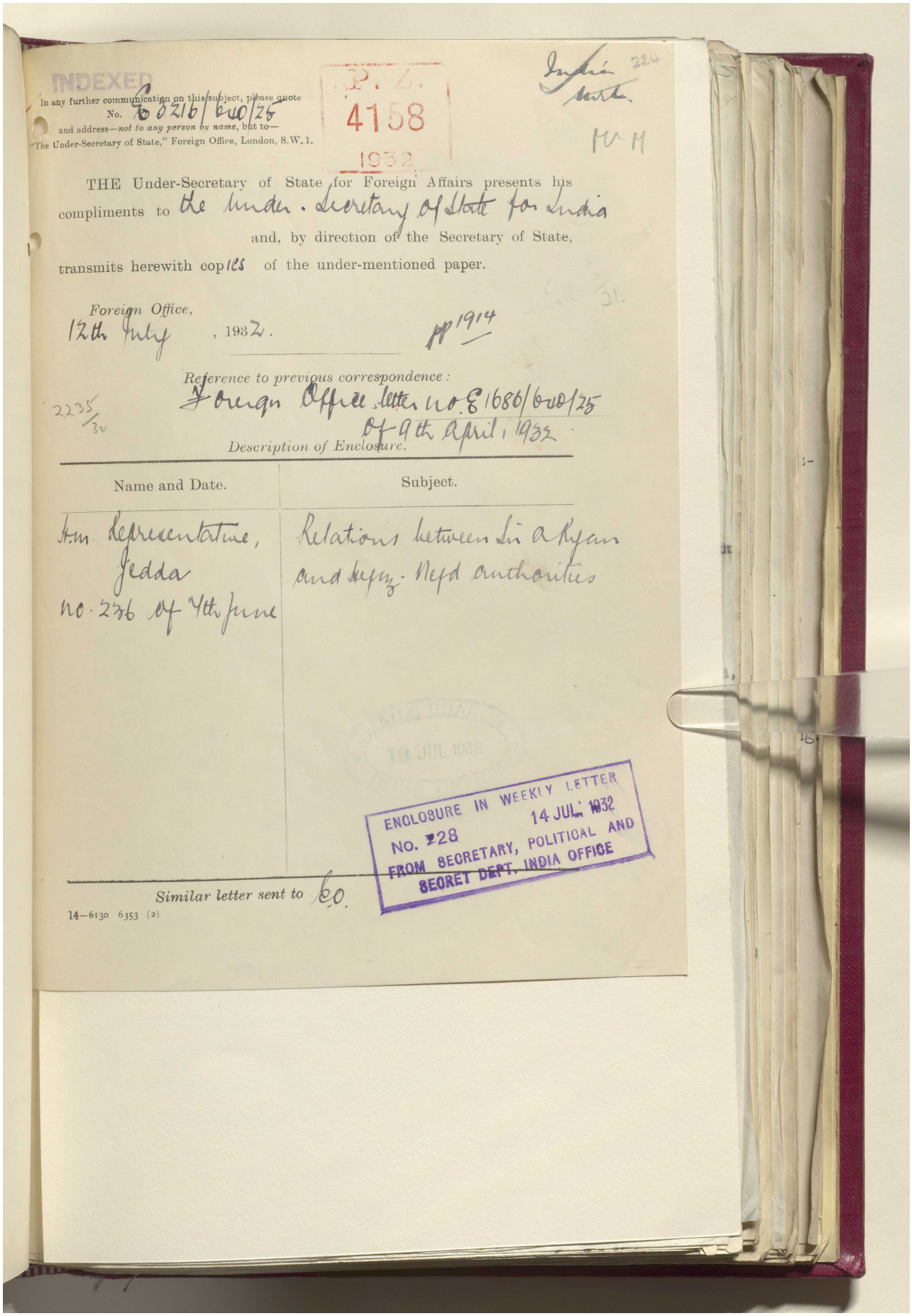

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 3216/640/25 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P. Z. 4158 1932

India Sect. 224

MM

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office, 12th July, 1932.

pp 1914

Reference to previous correspondence: Foreign Office letter no. E 1686/640/25 of 9th April, 1932

2235/32

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Representative, Jedda no. 236 of 7th June	Relations between Sir A Ryan and Hejaz-Nejd authorities

MAILS BRANCH 13 JUL 1932

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. 228 14 JUL 1932 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—6130 6353 (2)

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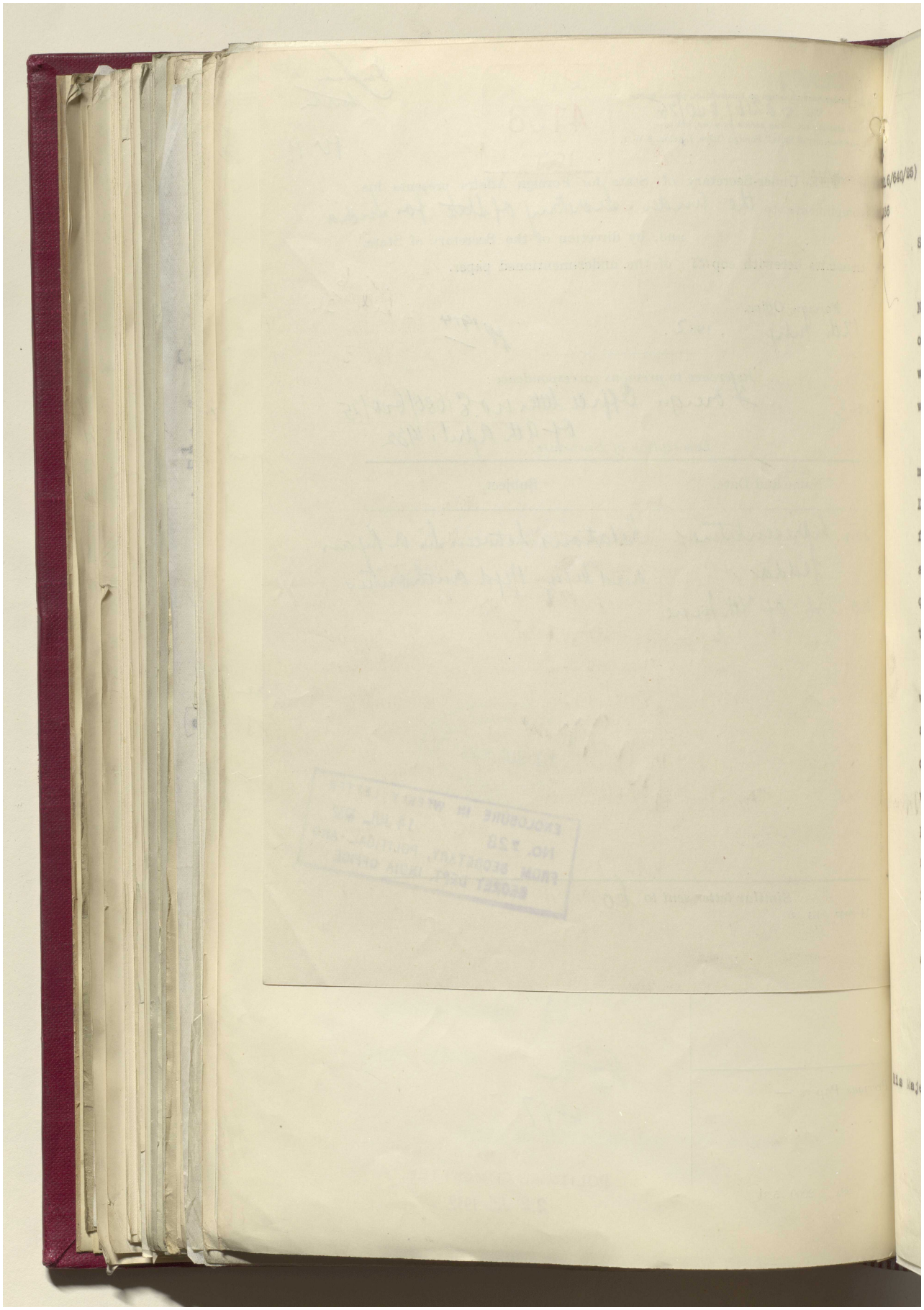

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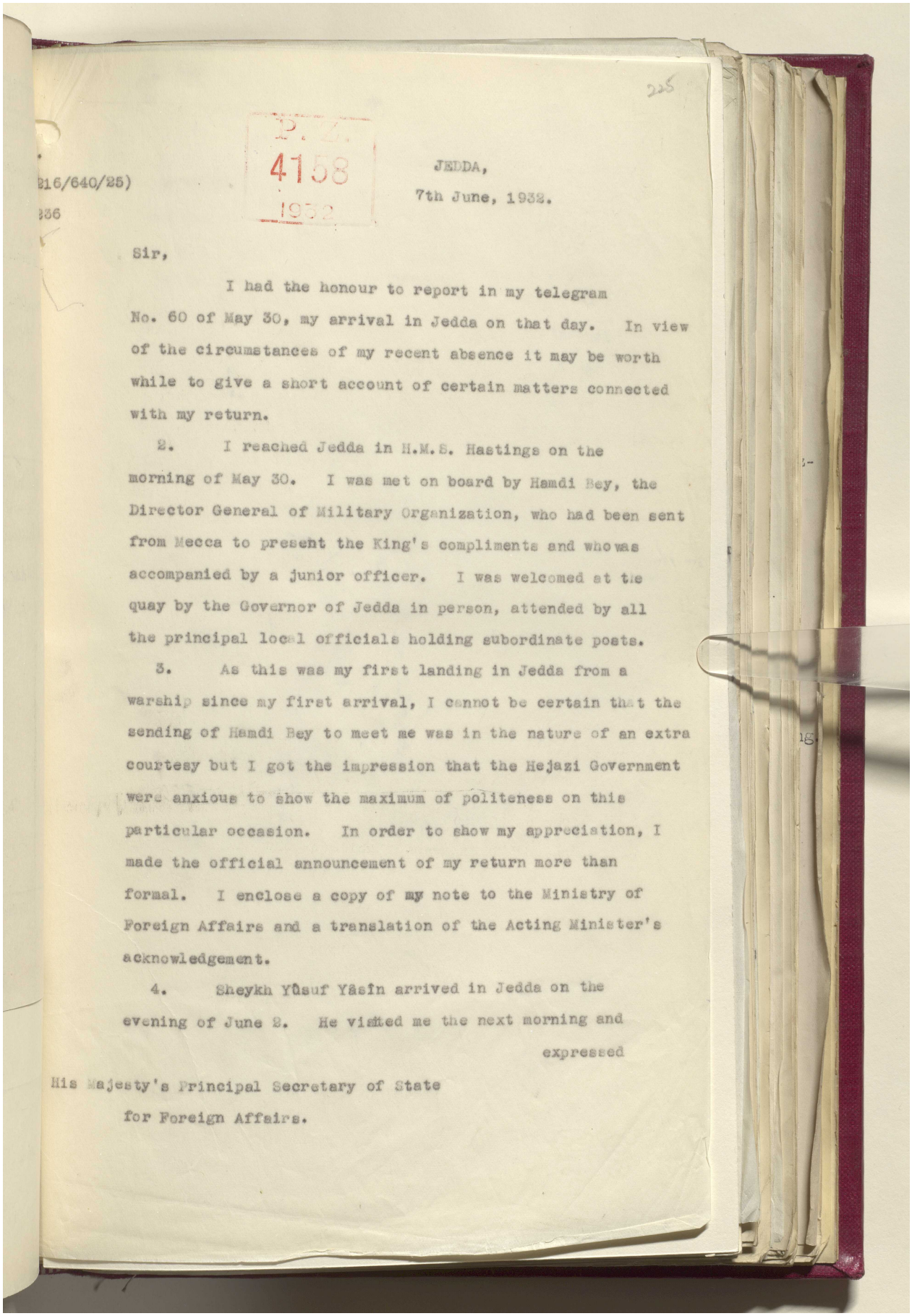

225

P.Z. 4158 1932

216/640/25)
336

JEDDA,
7th June, 1932.

Sir,

I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 60 of May 30, my arrival in Jedda on that day. In view of the circumstances of my recent absence it may be worth while to give a short account of certain matters connected with my return.

2. I reached Jedda in H.M.S. Hastings on the morning of May 30. I was met on board by Hamdi Bey, the Director General of Military Organization, who had been sent from Mecca to present the King's compliments and who was accompanied by a junior officer. I was welcomed at the quay by the Governor of Jedda in person, attended by all the principal local officials holding subordinate posts.

3. As this was my first landing in Jedda from a warship since my first arrival, I cannot be certain that the sending of Hamdi Bey to meet me was in the nature of an extra courtesy but I got the impression that the Hejazi Government were anxious to show the maximum of politeness on this particular occasion. In order to show my appreciation, I made the official announcement of my return more than formal. I enclose a copy of my note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a translation of the Acting Minister's acknowledgement.

4. Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsîn arrived in Jedda on the evening of June 2. He visited me the next morning and expressed

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

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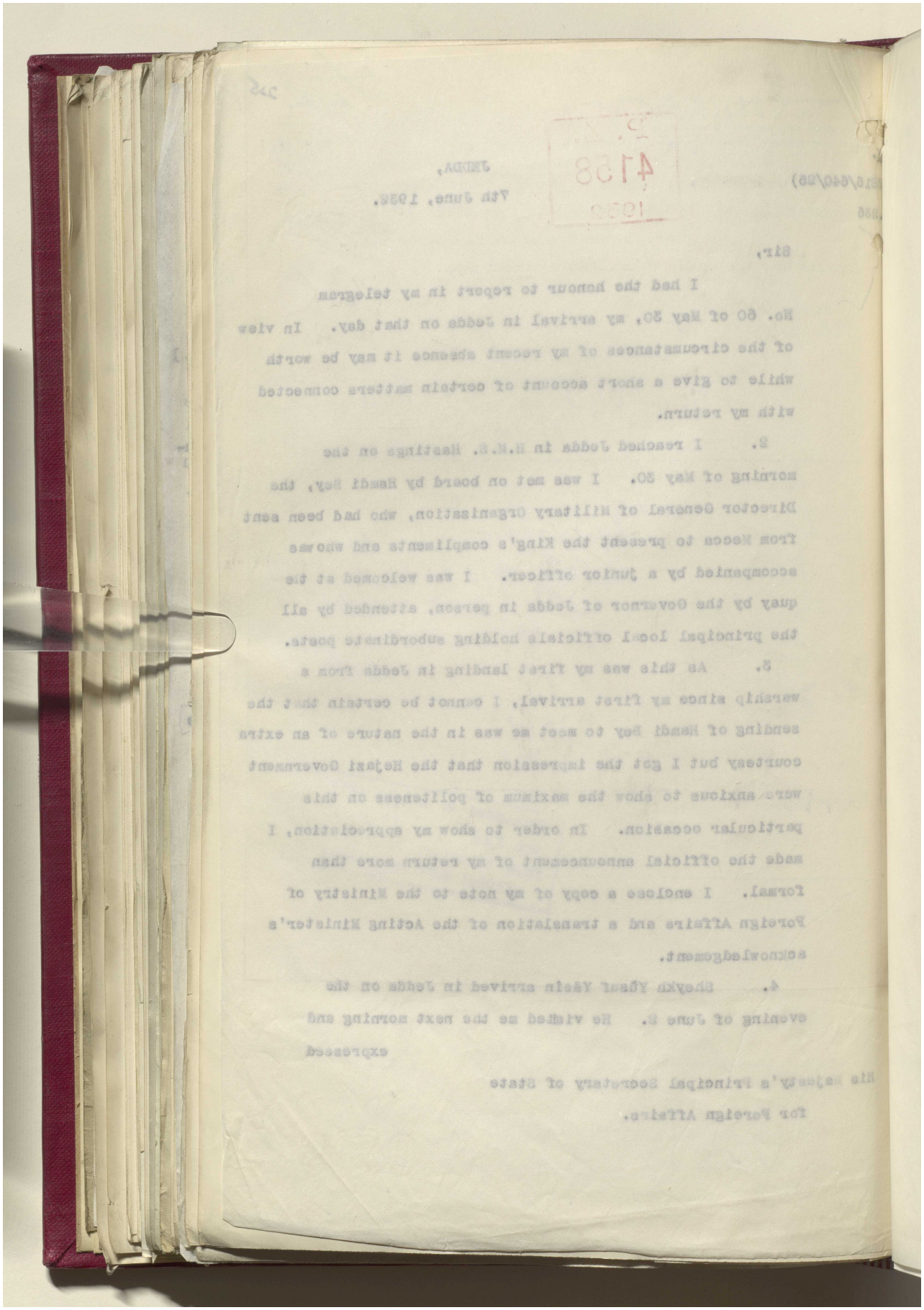

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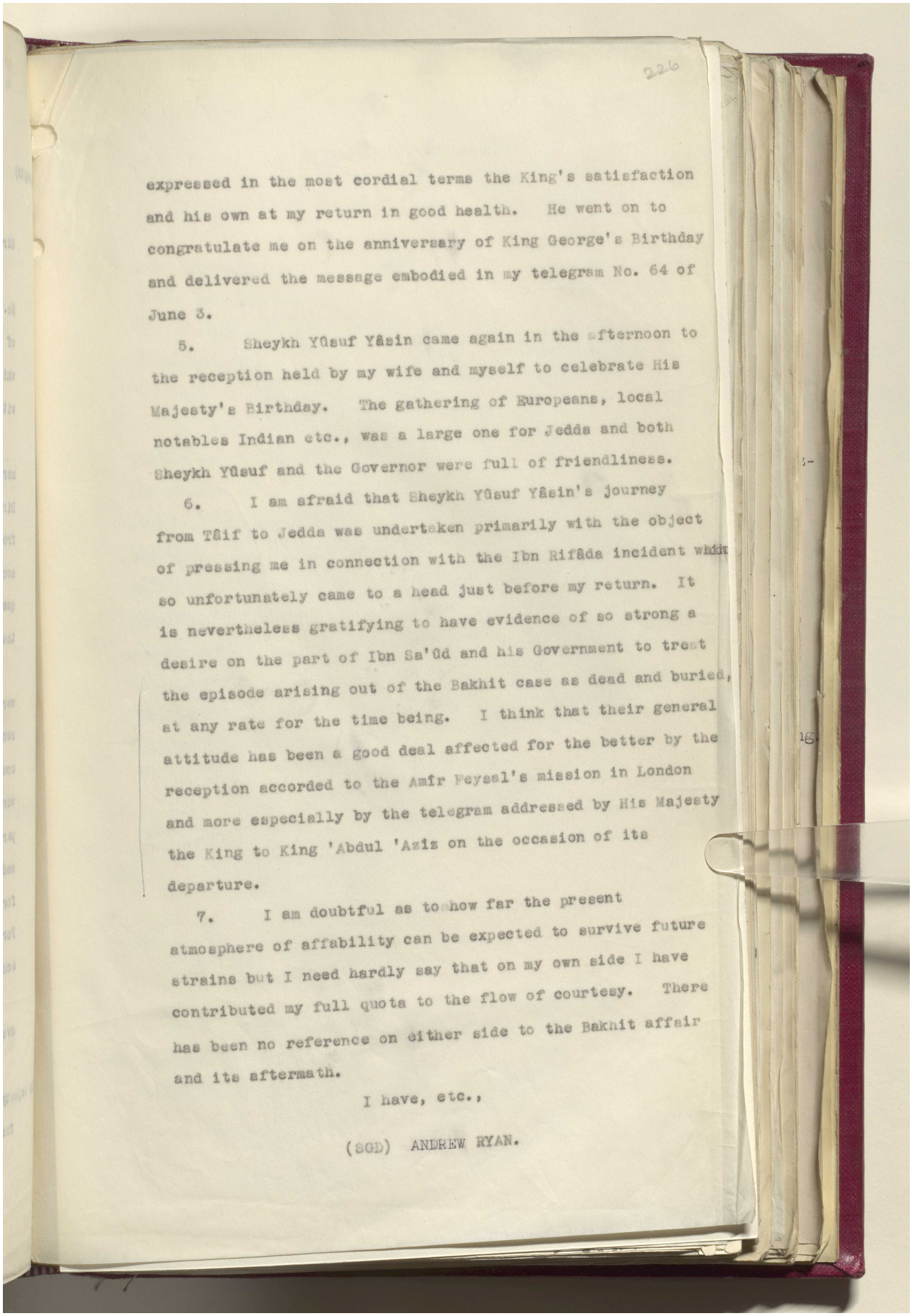

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expressed in the most cordial terms the King's satisfaction and his own at my return in good health. He went on to congratulate me on the anniversary of King George's Birthday and delivered the message embodied in my telegram No. 64 of June 3.

5. Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsin came again in the afternoon to the reception held by my wife and myself to celebrate His Majesty's Birthday. The gathering of Europeans, local notables Indian etc., was a large one for Jedda and both Sheykh Yûsuf and the Governor were full of friendliness.

6. I am afraid that Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsin's journey from Tâif to Jedda was undertaken primarily with the object of pressing me in connection with the Ibn Rifâda incident which so unfortunately came to a head just before my return. It is nevertheless gratifying to have evidence of so strong a desire on the part of Ibn Sa'ûd and his Government to treat the episode arising out of the Bakhit case as dead and buried, at any rate for the time being. I think that their general attitude has been a good deal affected for the better by the reception accorded to the Amîr Feysal's mission in London and more especially by the telegram addressed by His Majesty the King to King 'Abdul 'Aziz on the occasion of its departure.

7. I am doubtful as to how far the present atmosphere of affability can be expected to survive future strains but I need hardly say that on my own side I have contributed my full quota to the flow of courtesy. There has been no reference on either side to the Bakhit affair and its aftermath.

I have, etc.,

(SGD) ANDREW RYAN.

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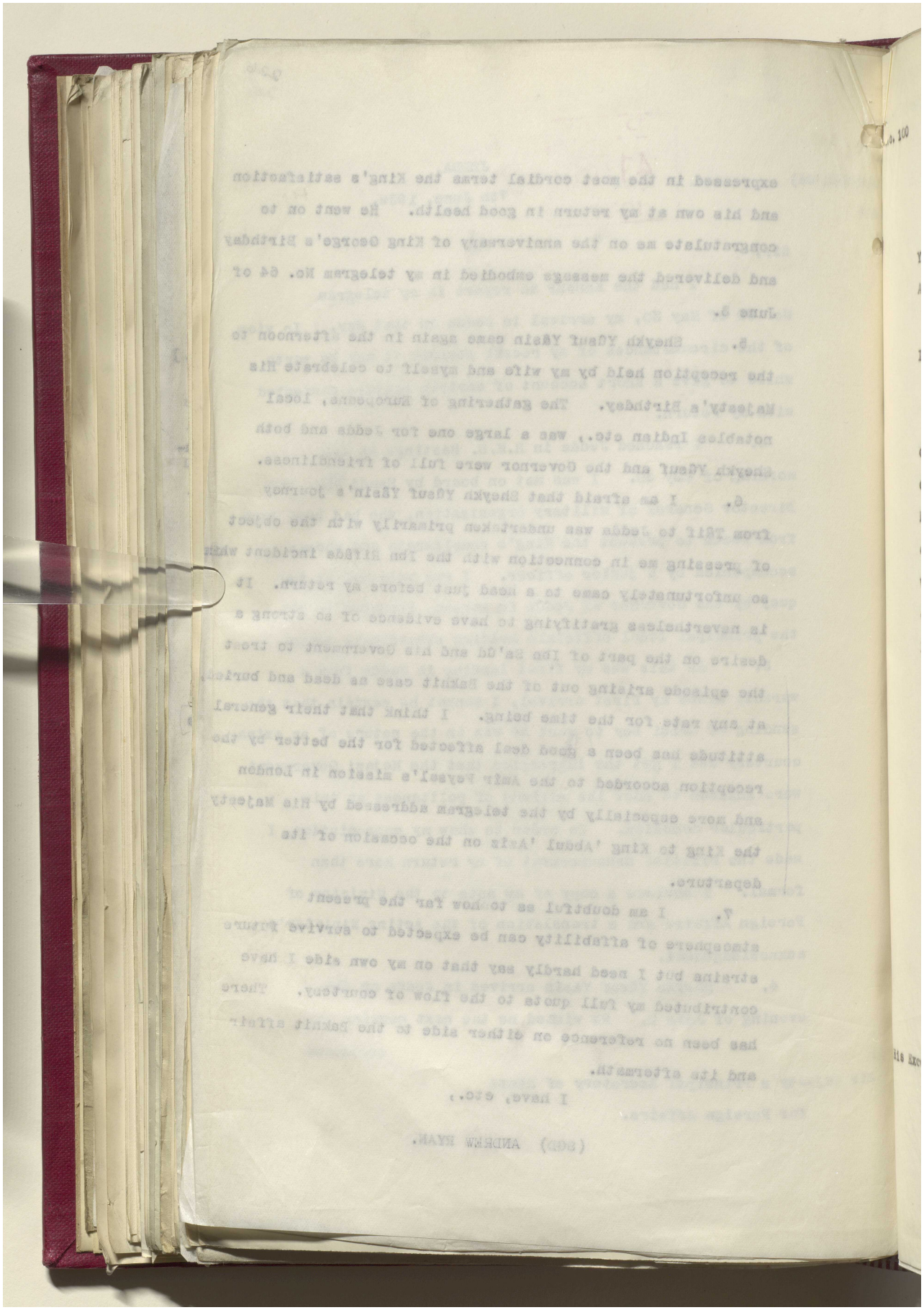

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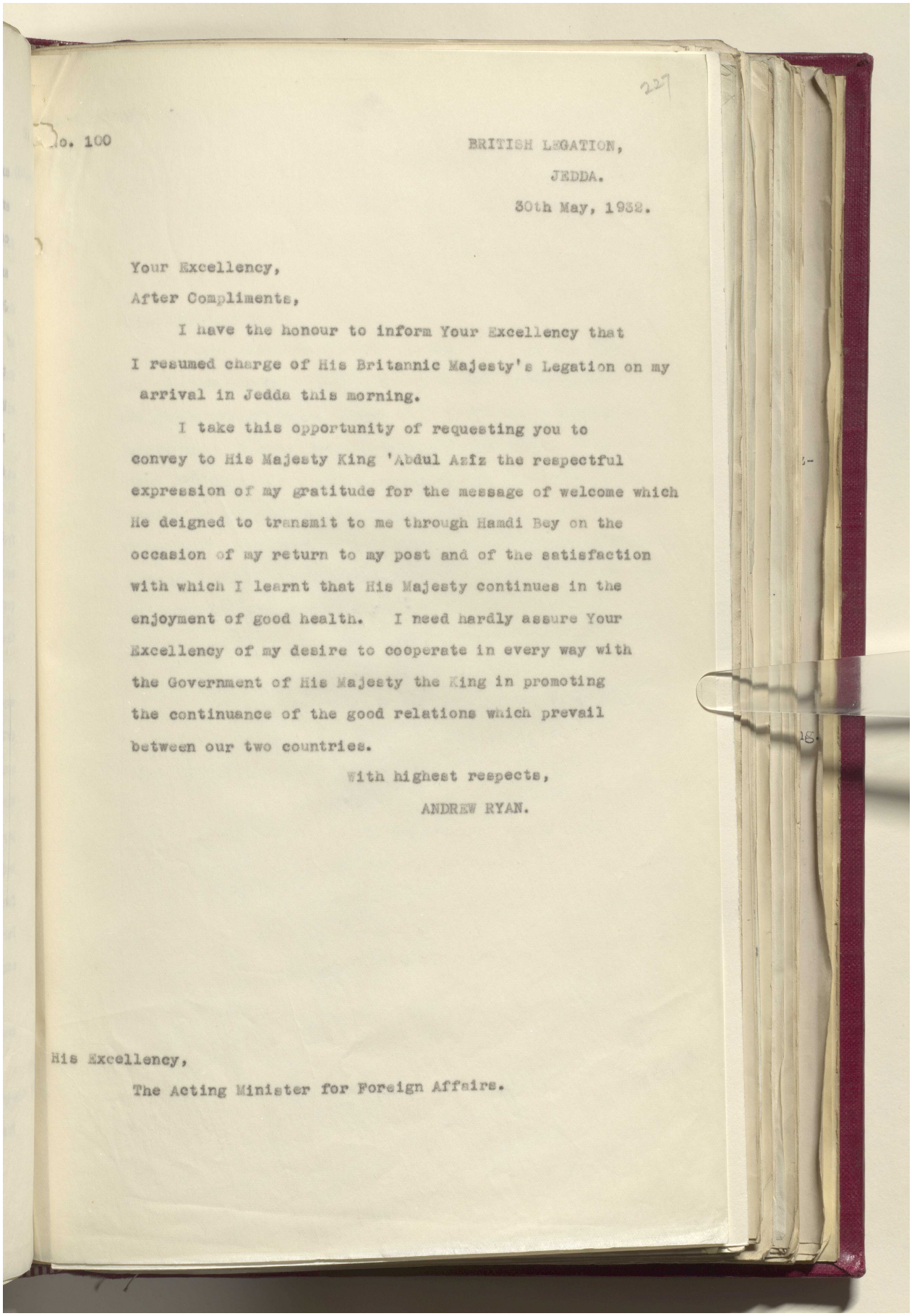

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No. 100

BRITISH LEGATION,
JEDDA.
30th May, 1932.

Your Excellency,

After Compliments,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I resumed charge of His Britannic Majesty's Legation on my arrival in Jedda this morning.

I take this opportunity of requesting you to convey to His Majesty King 'Abdul Aziz the respectful expression of my gratitude for the message of welcome which He deigned to transmit to me through Hamdi Bey on the occasion of my return to my post and of the satisfaction with which I learnt that His Majesty continues in the enjoyment of good health. I need hardly assure Your Excellency of my desire to cooperate in every way with the Government of His Majesty the King in promoting the continuance of the good relations which prevail between our two countries.

With highest respects,

ANDREW RYAN.

His Excellency,

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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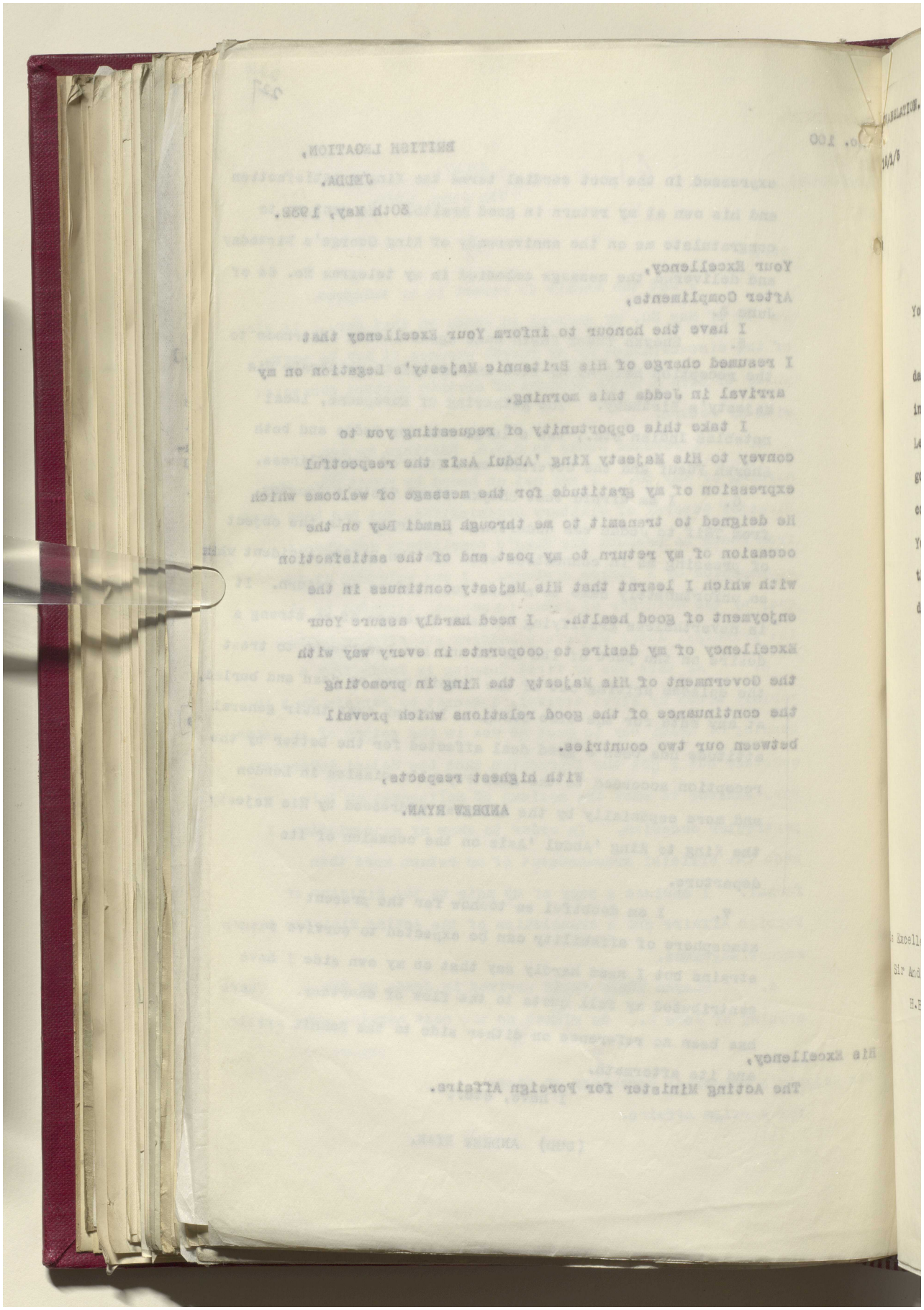

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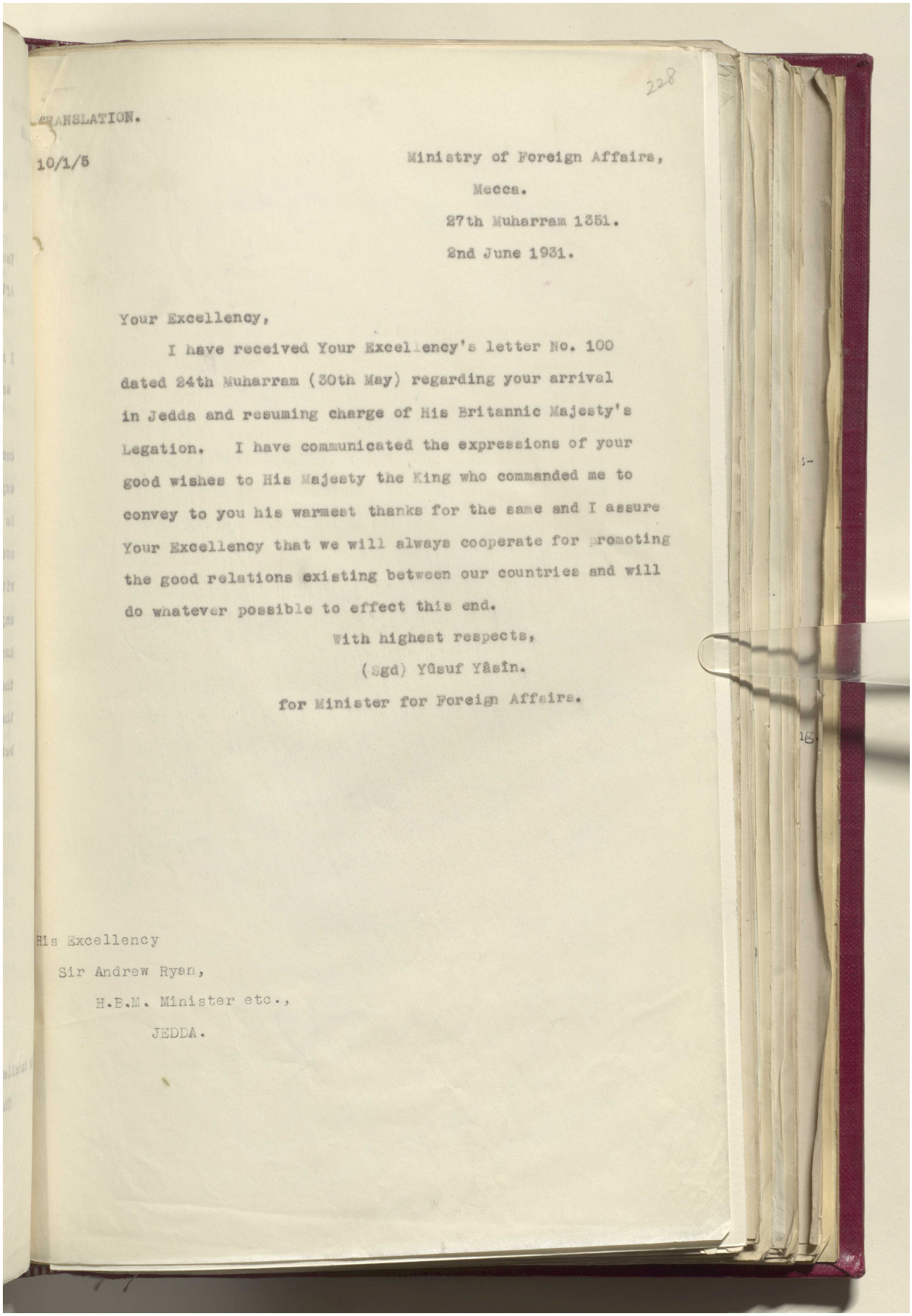

228

TRANSLATION.

10/1/5

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Mecca.
27th Muharram 1351.
2nd June 1931.

Your Excellency,

I have received Your Excellency's letter No. 100 dated 24th Muharram (30th May) regarding your arrival in Jedda and resuming charge of His Britannic Majesty's Legation. I have communicated the expressions of your good wishes to His Majesty the King who commanded me to convey to you his warmest thanks for the same and I assure Your Excellency that we will always cooperate for promoting the good relations existing between our countries and will do whatever possible to effect this end.

With highest respects,

(Sgd) Yûsuf Yâsîn.

for Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency
Sir Andrew Ryan,
H.B.M. Minister etc.,
JEDDA.

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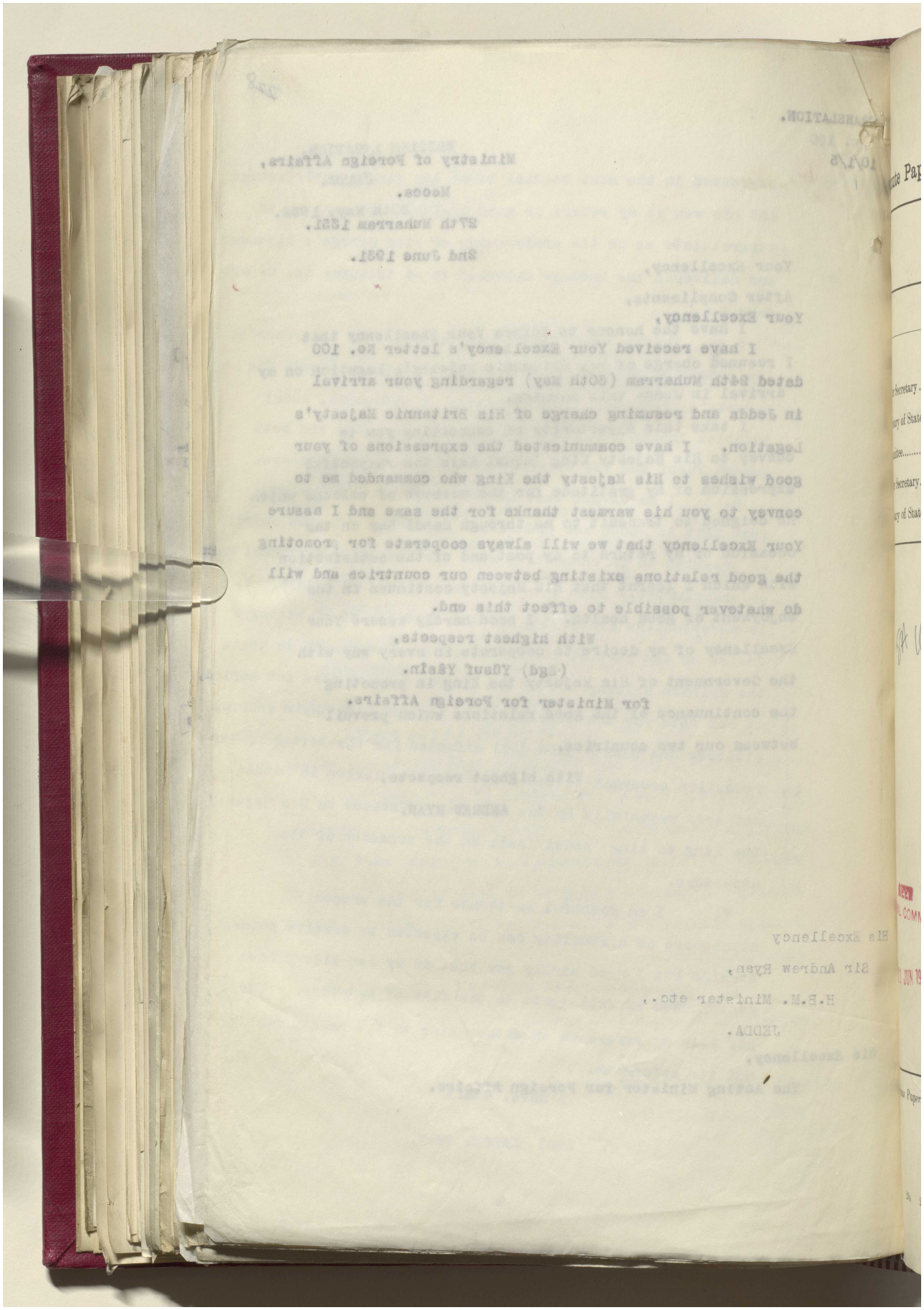

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...inute Paper.

Register No.
P. 2.
3252/32

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 19

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
Under Secretary	9.6.		Hejaz - Nejd
Secretary of State...	10		
Committee.....	16.		Visit of the Mission to England: discussions with the F.O.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of passage about Transjordan to file

FOR INFORMATION.

Although the Mission failed in their main object - to raise a loan privately or from H.M.G. - the F.O. consider the visit to have been satisfactory. The Emir Feisal & Fuad Bey Hamza were invested by Sir John Simon with an Hon. G.B.E. & K.B.E. respectively.

It will be observed that the Hejazis are willing to make with Transjordan arrangements similar to those made with Iraq and that they enquired what policy H.M.G. would advise them to follow vis-à-vis the Soviet; to the latter they received a non-committal answer. The Mission has since visited Moscow and it was reported by Mr. Hope-Gill (P.Z. 2941 already submitted) that according to M. Philby their object was to negotiate a commercial treaty there. A.J. Harley 21.6.32. P.T.O.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
21 JUN 1932

Previous Papers :—

29A 2000 5.31

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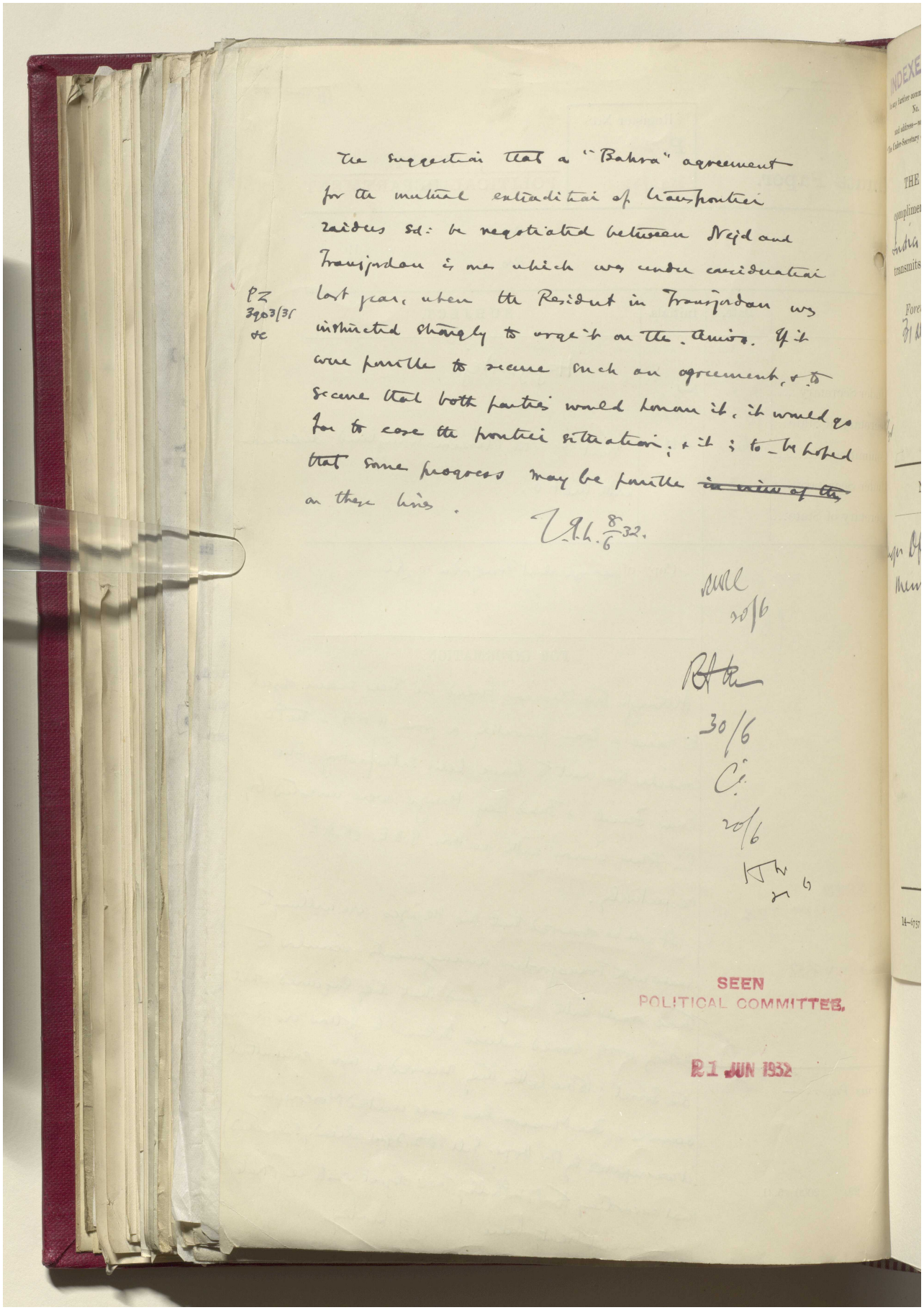

The suggestion that a "Bahra" agreement for the mutual extradition of transfrontier raiders sd: be negotiated between Nejd and Transjordan & one which was under consideration last year, when the Resident in Transjordan was instructed strongly to urge it on the Amir. If it were possible to secure such an agreement, & to secure that both parties would honour it, it would go far to ease the frontier situation; & it is to be hoped that some progress may be possible ~~in view of the~~ on these lines.

P.Z. 8/6/32.

PZ 3903/31 dc

30/6

30/6

20/6

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
21 JUN 1932

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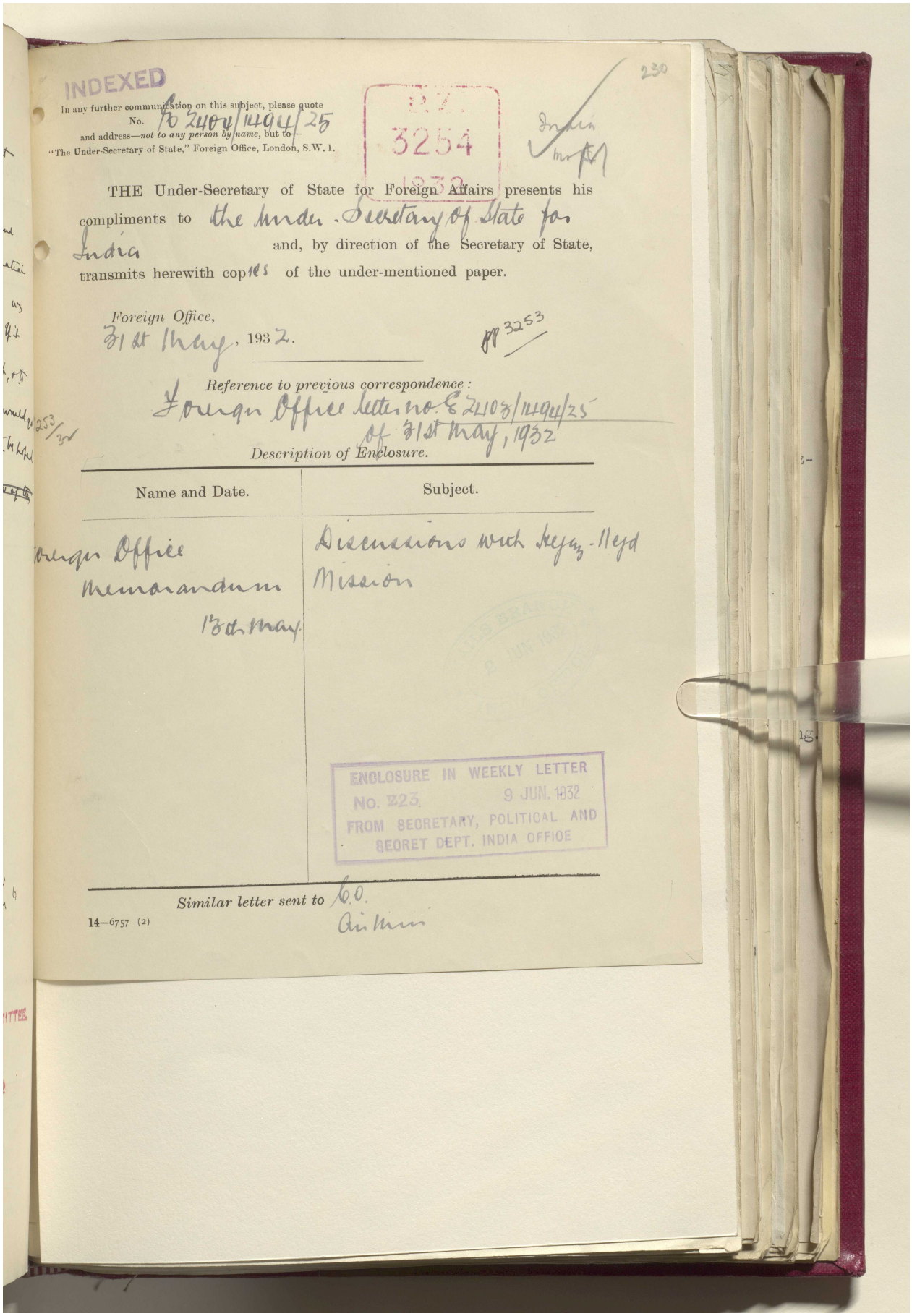

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 2404/1494/25
and address—*not to any person by name, but to*—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 3254 1932

230

India

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
31st May, 1932.

PP 3253

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 2403/1494/25 of 31st May, 1932

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Foreign Office Memorandum 13th May.	Discussions with Hejaz-Nejd Mission

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 223. 9 JUN. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O. Air Min.

14—6757 (2)

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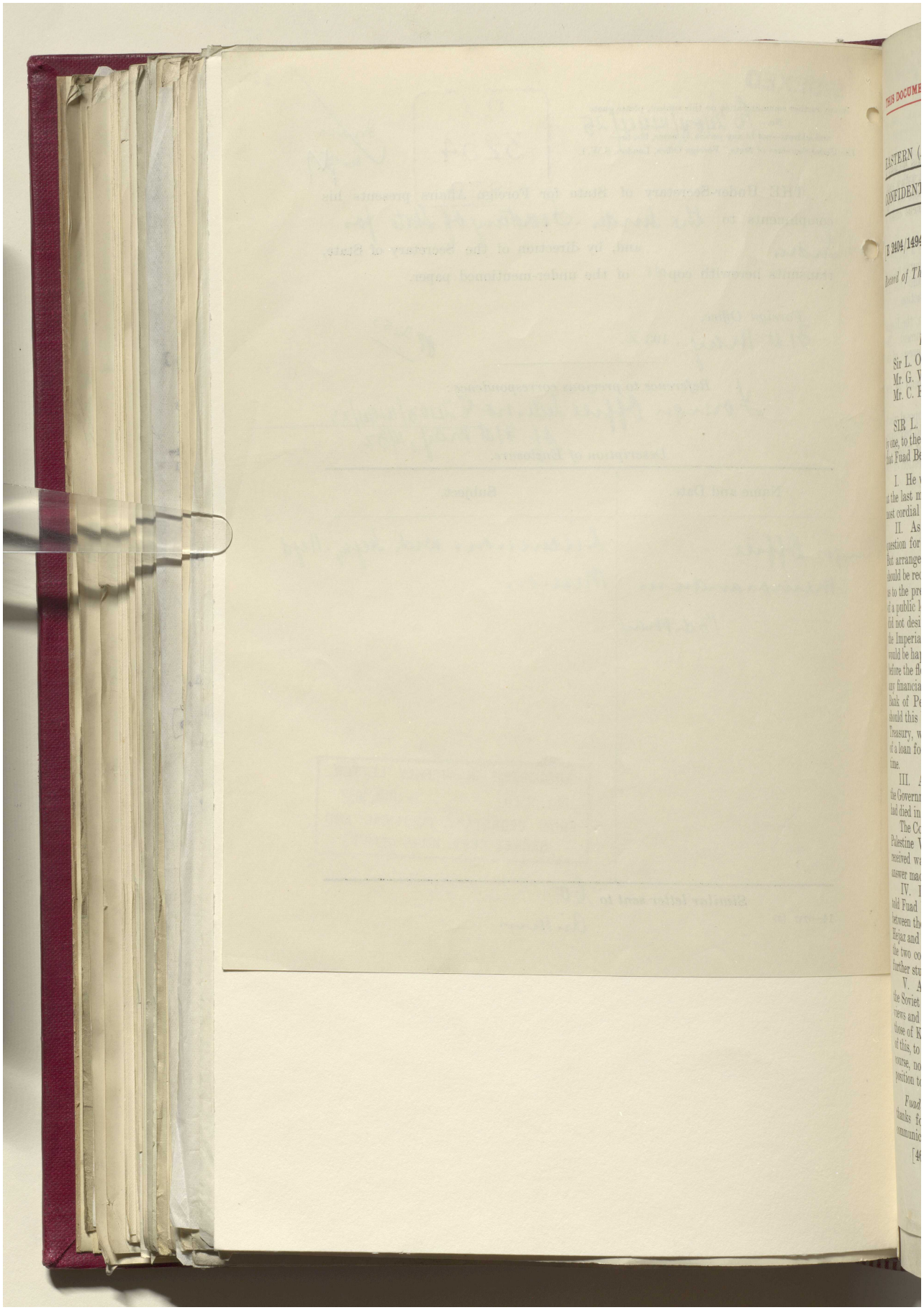

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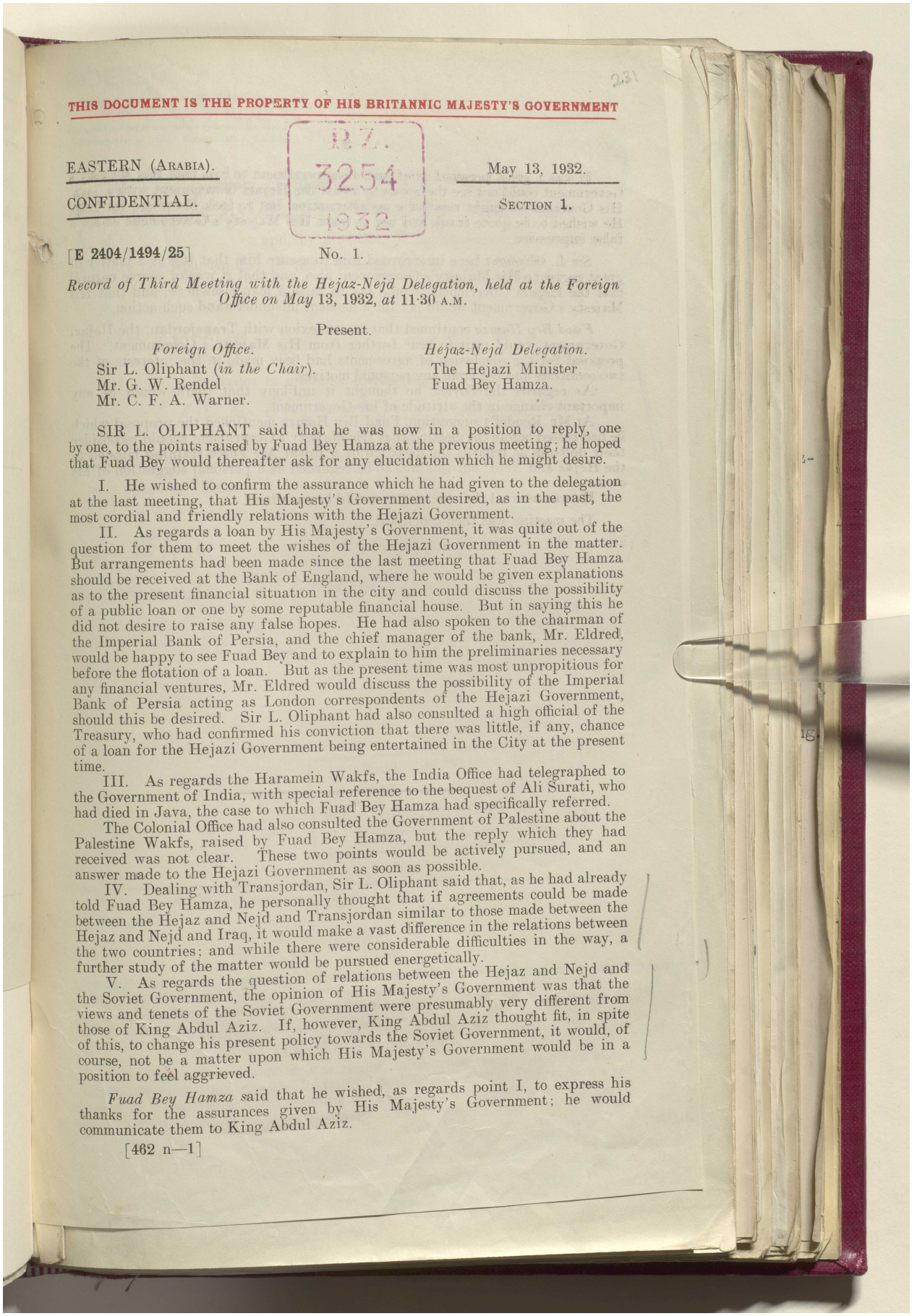

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P.Z. 3254 1932

EASTERN (ARABIA). May 13, 1932.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 2404/1494/25] No. 1.

Record of Third Meeting with the Hejaz-Nejd Delegation, held at the Foreign Office on May 13, 1932, at 11·30 A.M.

Present.

Foreign Office.	*Hejaz-Nejd Delegation.*
Sir L. Oliphant (*in the Chair*).	The Hejazi Minister.
Mr. G. W. Rendel	Fuad Bey Hamza.
Mr. C. F. A. Warner.	

SIR L. OLIPHANT said that he was now in a position to reply, one by one, to the points raised by Fuad Bey Hamza at the previous meeting; he hoped that Fuad Bey would thereafter ask for any elucidation which he might desire.

I. He wished to confirm the assurance which he had given to the delegation at the last meeting, that His Majesty's Government desired, as in the past, the most cordial and friendly relations with the Hejazi Government.

II. As regards a loan by His Majesty's Government, it was quite out of the question for them to meet the wishes of the Hejazi Government in the matter. But arrangements had been made since the last meeting that Fuad Bey Hamza should be received at the Bank of England, where he would be given explanations as to the present financial situation in the city and could discuss the possibility of a public loan or one by some reputable financial house. But in saying this he did not desire to raise any false hopes. He had also spoken to the chairman of the Imperial Bank of Persia, and the chief manager of the bank, Mr. Eldred, would be happy to see Fuad Bey and to explain to him the preliminaries necessary before the flotation of a loan. But as the present time was most unpropitious for any financial ventures, Mr. Eldred would discuss the possibility of the Imperial Bank of Persia acting as London correspondents of the Hejazi Government, should this be desired. Sir L. Oliphant had also consulted a high official of the Treasury, who had confirmed his conviction that there was little, if any, chance of a loan for the Hejazi Government being entertained in the City at the present time.

III. As regards the Haramein Wakfs, the India Office had telegraphed to the Government of India, with special reference to the bequest of Ali Surati, who had died in Java, the case to which Fuad Bey Hamza had specifically referred.

The Colonial Office had also consulted the Government of Palestine about the Palestine Wakfs, raised by Fuad Bey Hamza, but the reply which they had received was not clear. These two points would be actively pursued, and an answer made to the Hejazi Government as soon as possible.

IV. Dealing with Transjordan, Sir L. Oliphant said that, as he had already told Fuad Bey Hamza, he personally thought that if agreements could be made between the Hejaz and Nejd and Transjordan similar to those made between the Hejaz and Nejd and Iraq, it would make a vast difference in the relations between the two countries; and while there were considerable difficulties in the way, a further study of the matter would be pursued energetically.

V. As regards the question of relations between the Hejaz and Nejd and the Soviet Government, the opinion of His Majesty's Government was that the views and tenets of the Soviet Government were presumably very different from those of King Abdul Aziz. If, however, King Abdul Aziz thought fit, in spite of this, to change his present policy towards the Soviet Government, it would, of course, not be a matter upon which His Majesty's Government would be in a position to feel aggrieved.

Fuad Bey Hamza said that he wished, as regards point I, to express his thanks for the assurances given by His Majesty's Government; he would communicate them to King Abdul Aziz.

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It was a great personal grief and disappointment to him that His Majesty's Government could not see their way to assist the Hejazi Government with a loan. His Government might now have no alternative, but to look elsewhere for help. He wished to be quite frank and not to leave His Majesty's Government under a false impression.

Sir L. Oliphant here interrupted him to assure him that it was a matter of great regret to His Majesty's Government also, and that it was of course natural that the Hejazi Government should try to raise a loan elsewhere; and that His Majesty's Government would not for a moment misunderstand such action.

Fuad Bey Hamza continued that in connexion with Transjordan, the Hejazi Government would wait to hear further from His Majesty's Government. The proposal for the conclusion of agreements had been made in the interests of the two countries and not from any personal motives.

As regards the Soviet, he thought it unlikely that there would be any important change in the attitude of his Government.

At Mr. Rendel's suggestion, Fuad Bey Hamza mentioned the proposal which he had raised before the meeting that His Majesty's Government should reconsider their decision as regards the despatch of a Royal Air Force training mission to the Hejaz and Nejd; but this was to be regarded as a personal suggestion of his own.

He was assured that the matter would be examined.

The meeting was then concluded.

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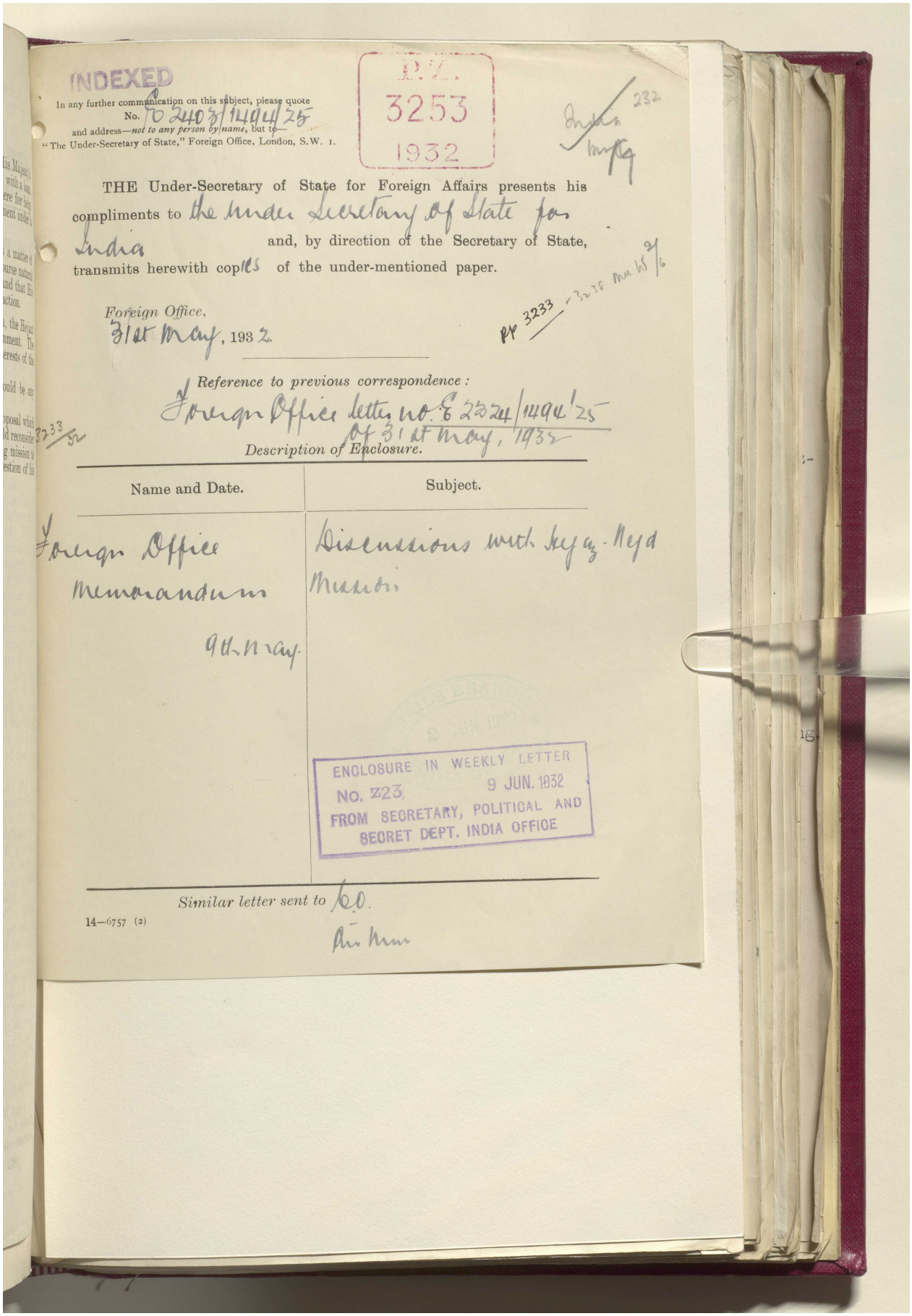

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 3253 1932

232

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
31st May, 1932.

pp 3233 - 3238 Mar WS 3/6

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 2324/1494/25 of 31st May, 1932

3233/32

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Foreign Office Memorandum 9th May.	Discussions with Hejaz-Nejd Mission.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. 223 9 JUN. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to India Office.

14—6757 (2)

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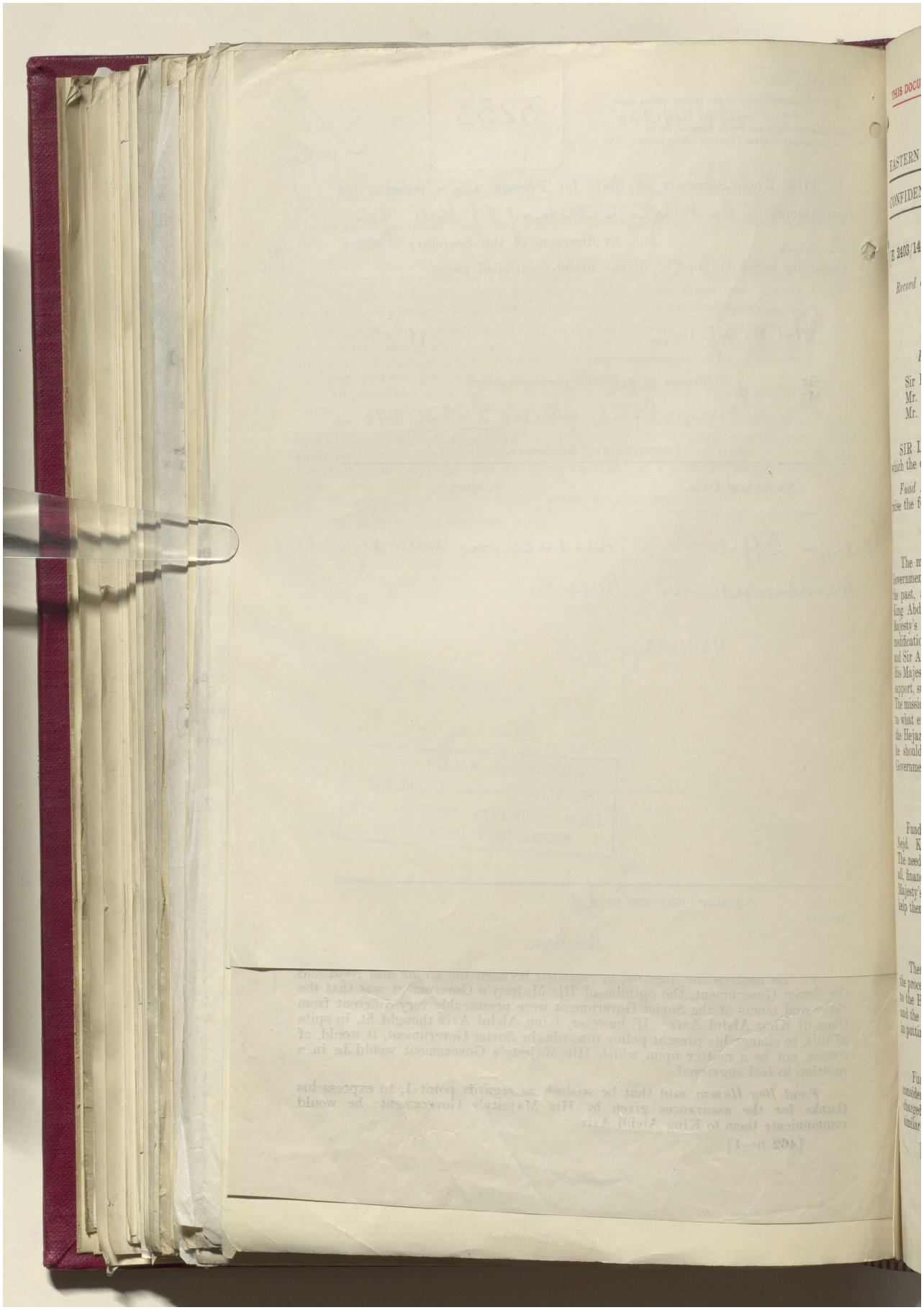

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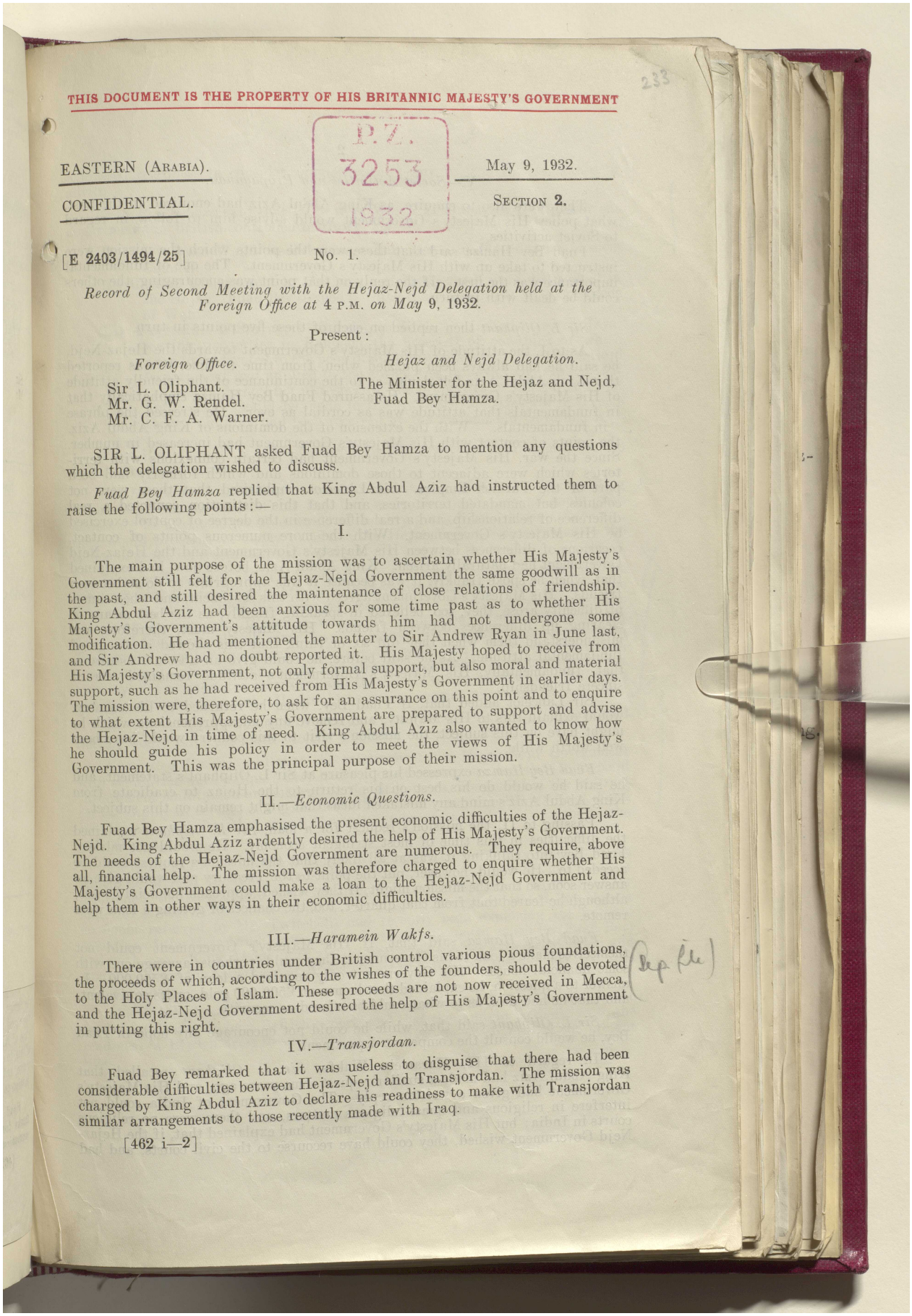

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P.Z.
3253
1932

EASTERN (ARABIA). May 9, 1932.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

[E 2403/1494/25] No. 1.

Record of Second Meeting with the Hejaz-Nejd Delegation held at the Foreign Office at 4 P.M. on May 9, 1932.

Present:

Foreign Office.	*Hejaz and Nejd Delegation.*
Sir L. Oliphant. Mr. G. W. Rendel. Mr. C. F. A. Warner.	The Minister for the Hejaz and Nejd, Fuad Bey Hamza.

SIR L. OLIPHANT asked Fuad Bey Hamza to mention any questions which the delegation wished to discuss.

Fuad Bey Hamza replied that King Abdul Aziz had instructed them to raise the following points:—

I.

The main purpose of the mission was to ascertain whether His Majesty's Government still felt for the Hejaz-Nejd Government the same goodwill as in the past, and still desired the maintenance of close relations of friendship. King Abdul Aziz had been anxious for some time past as to whether His Majesty's Government's attitude towards him had not undergone some modification. He had mentioned the matter to Sir Andrew Ryan in June last, and Sir Andrew had no doubt reported it. His Majesty hoped to receive from His Majesty's Government, not only formal support, but also moral and material support, such as he had received from His Majesty's Government in earlier days. The mission were, therefore, to ask for an assurance on this point and to enquire to what extent His Majesty's Government are prepared to support and advise the Hejaz-Nejd in time of need. King Abdul Aziz also wanted to know how he should guide his policy in order to meet the views of His Majesty's Government. This was the principal purpose of their mission.

II.—*Economic Questions.*

Fuad Bey Hamza emphasised the present economic difficulties of the Hejaz-Nejd. King Abdul Aziz ardently desired the help of His Majesty's Government. The needs of the Hejaz-Nejd Government are numerous. They require, above all, financial help. The mission was therefore charged to enquire whether His Majesty's Government could make a loan to the Hejaz-Nejd Government and help them in other ways in their economic difficulties.

III.—*Haramein Wakfs.*

There were in countries under British control various pious foundations, the proceeds of which, according to the wishes of the founders, should be devoted to the Holy Places of Islam. These proceeds are not now received in Mecca, and the Hejaz-Nejd Government desired the help of His Majesty's Government in putting this right.

IV.—*Transjordan.*

Fuad Bey remarked that it was useless to disguise that there had been considerable difficulties between Hejaz-Nejd and Transjordan. The mission was charged by King Abdul Aziz to declare his readiness to make with Transjordan similar arrangements to those recently made with Iraq.

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V.—*Soviet Activities and Propaganda.*

They were also to enquire, as King Abdul Aziz had enquired in the past, what policy His Majesty's Government would advise him to follow in regard to Soviet activities.

Fuad Bey Hamza said that these were the points which the mission were instructed to take up with His Majesty's Government. The one of fundamental importance was the first. If the reply on that point was encouraging, the others could be dealt with in turn.

Sir L. Oliphant then replied on each of these five points in turn.

As to I, the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards the Hejaz-Nejd, he said he had always been puzzled when, from time to time, it was reported that King Abdul Aziz felt doubts as to the continuance of the friendly attitude of His Majesty's Government. He assured Fuad Bey Hamza emphatically that in fundamentals that attitude was as cordial as ever. He stressed the phrase "in fundamentals." With the extension of the dominions of King Abdul Aziz, the points of contact with His Majesty's Government had increased in number. Since the war, His Majesty's Government had certain connexions with territories which were adjacent to those dominions and which formerly had been part of the Turkish Empire. Sir Lancelot emphasised that these were not colonies, but mandated territories, and that this distinction connoted a real difference of relationship, and a real difference in the degree of control exercised by His Majesty's Government. With the more numerous points of contact, occasions of differences between His Majesty's Government and the Hejaz-Nejd Government had naturally arisen. King Abdul Aziz, before now, had explained that, when he spoke frankly, it was because it was appropriate to do so between friends. His Majesty's Government agreed with this sentiment, and when causes of difficulty arose, they, too, believed in speaking frankly, as the best means of clearing up differences between friends. His Majesty must, therefore, not misunderstand them when they did so, or think that this showed a change of fundamental attitude. As he said before, he could give an absolute assurance that, fundamentally, His Majesty's Government's attitude remained one of sincere friendship.

Sir Lancelot added that, if Fuad Bey, when he returned to his country, would explain this to His Majesty, and remove any misapprehensions which he might have on this subject, the mission's visit to this country would have been well worth while.

Fuad Bey Hamza expressed his pleasure at Sir L. Oliphant's statement, and he said he would do his best on his return to the Hejaz to eradicate from King Abdul Aziz's mind any mistaken ideas that might remain on this subject.

Passing to II, the mission's request for a loan, *Sir L. Oliphant* explained the difficulties in this time of most stringent economy. He would not mislead Fuad Bey into thinking it was at all likely that the mission's request could be acceded to. He would, however, put the point to the Treasury and would give an answer soon, so that the mission might, if they wished, approach financial houses, although he feared that from that quarter, too, the chances of getting a loan were remote.

Fuad Bey Hamza said that, if His Majesty's Government could not themselves make a loan to his Government, they could, perhaps, arrange one with some financial houses. His Government only required a loan of £500,000. In answer to a question, he explained that he meant £500,000 gold, or its equivalent, and that he had data as to what could be offered as security.

Sir L. Oliphant said that, while he could not encourage any hope in Fuad Bey, he would consult the competent department.

In regard to III, Haramein Wakfs, *Sir L. Oliphant* recalled that King Abdul Aziz had made a similar request some years ago, and His Majesty's Government had given a written reply. The Government of India could not interfere in religious and quasi-religious matters, and there were no religious courts in India; but His Majesty's Government had explained that, if the Hejaz-Nejd Government wished, they could have recourse to the civil courts, and had

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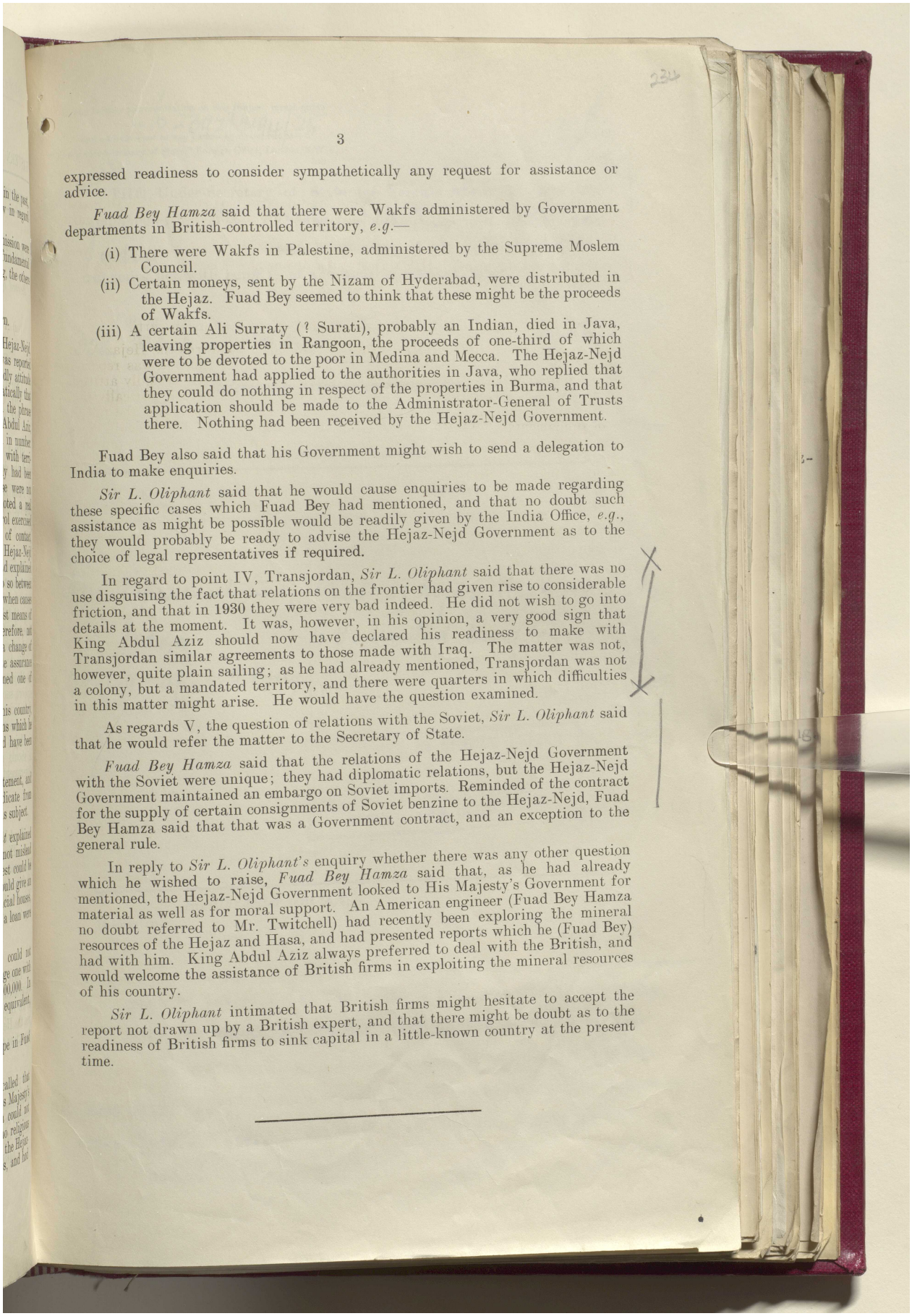

expressed readiness to consider sympathetically any request for assistance or advice.

Fuad Bey Hamza said that there were Wakfs administered by Government departments in British-controlled territory, *e.g.*—

(i) There were Wakfs in Palestine, administered by the Supreme Moslem Council.

(ii) Certain moneys, sent by the Nizam of Hyderabad, were distributed in the Hejaz. Fuad Bey seemed to think that these might be the proceeds of Wakfs.

(iii) A certain Ali Surraty (? Surati), probably an Indian, died in Java, leaving properties in Rangoon, the proceeds of one-third of which were to be devoted to the poor in Medina and Mecca. The Hejaz-Nejd Government had applied to the authorities in Java, who replied that they could do nothing in respect of the properties in Burma, and that application should be made to the Administrator-General of Trusts there. Nothing had been received by the Hejaz-Nejd Government.

Fuad Bey also said that his Government might wish to send a delegation to India to make enquiries.

Sir L. Oliphant said that he would cause enquiries to be made regarding these specific cases which Fuad Bey had mentioned, and that no doubt such assistance as might be possible would be readily given by the India Office, *e.g.*, they would probably be ready to advise the Hejaz-Nejd Government as to the choice of legal representatives if required.

In regard to point IV, Transjordan, *Sir L. Oliphant* said that there was no use disguising the fact that relations on the frontier had given rise to considerable friction, and that in 1930 they were very bad indeed. He did not wish to go into details at the moment. It was, however, in his opinion, a very good sign that King Abdul Aziz should now have declared his readiness to make with Transjordan similar agreements to those made with Iraq. The matter was not, however, quite plain sailing; as he had already mentioned, Transjordan was not a colony, but a mandated territory, and there were quarters in which difficulties in this matter might arise. He would have the question examined.

As regards V, the question of relations with the Soviet, *Sir L. Oliphant* said that he would refer the matter to the Secretary of State.

Fuad Bey Hamza said that the relations of the Hejaz-Nejd Government with the Soviet were unique; they had diplomatic relations, but the Hejaz-Nejd Government maintained an embargo on Soviet imports. Reminded of the contract for the supply of certain consignments of Soviet benzine to the Hejaz-Nejd, Fuad Bey Hamza said that that was a Government contract, and an exception to the general rule.

In reply to *Sir L. Oliphant's* enquiry whether there was any other question which he wished to raise, *Fuad Bey Hamza* said that, as he had already mentioned, the Hejaz-Nejd Government looked to His Majesty's Government for material as well as for moral support. An American engineer (Fuad Bey Hamza no doubt referred to Mr. Twitchell) had recently been exploring the mineral resources of the Hejaz and Hasa, and had presented reports which he (Fuad Bey) had with him. King Abdul Aziz always preferred to deal with the British, and would welcome the assistance of British firms in exploiting the mineral resources of his country.

Sir L. Oliphant intimated that British firms might hesitate to accept the report not drawn up by a British expert, and that there might be doubt as to the readiness of British firms to sink capital in a little-known country at the present time.

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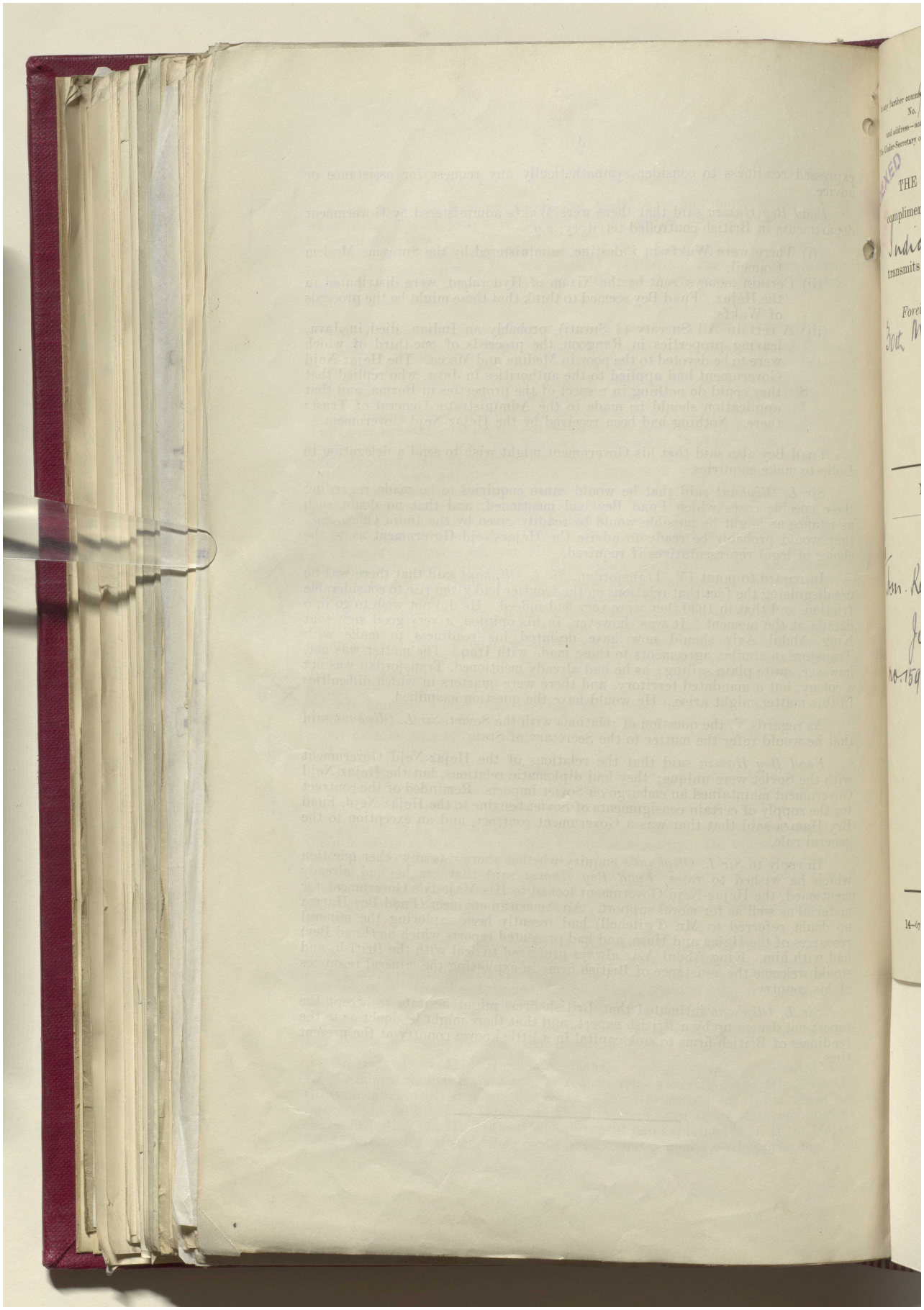

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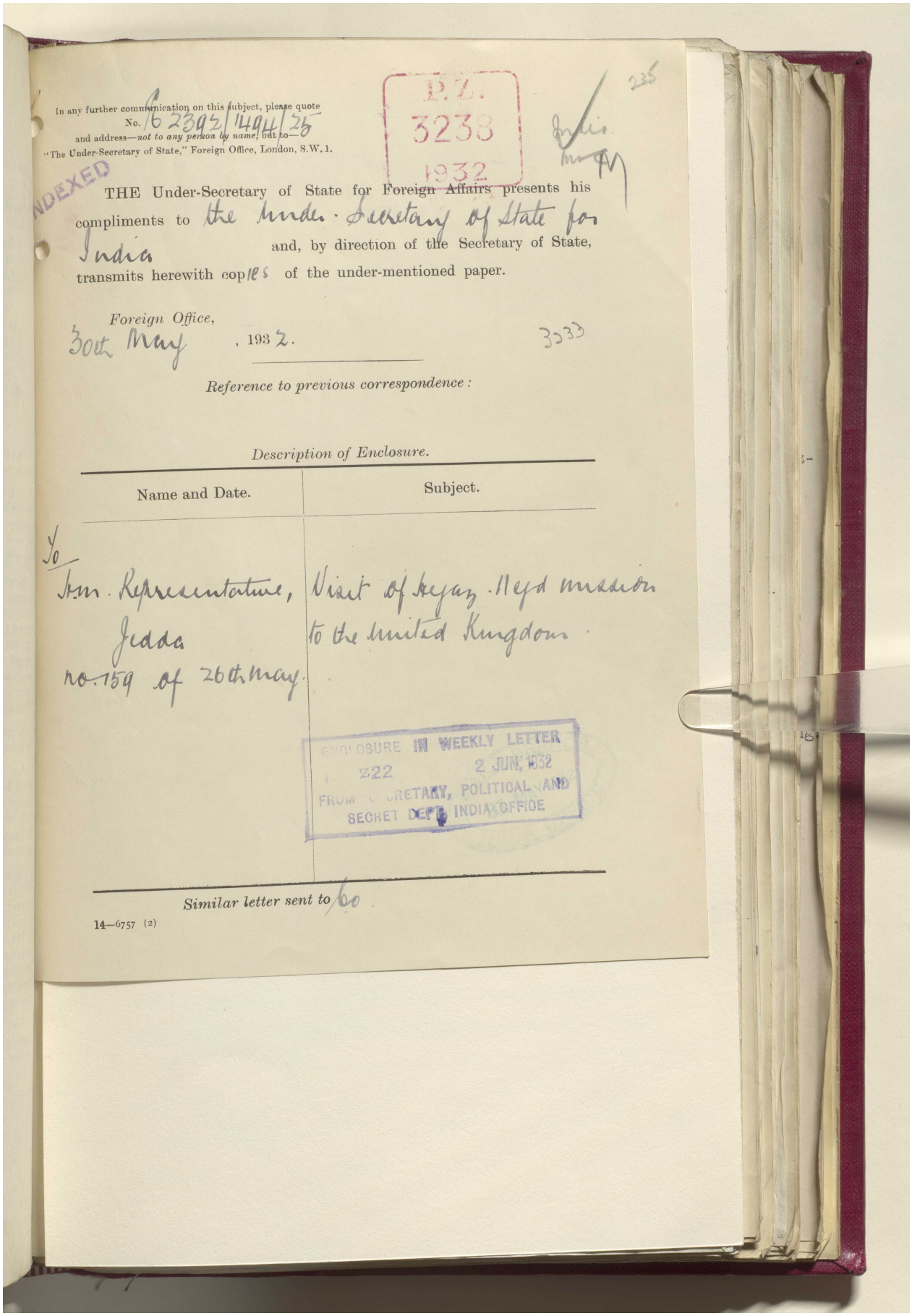

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No. E 2392/1494/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

P.Z. 3238 1932

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INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
30th May, 1932.

3233

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Jeddah Representative, Jeddah no. 159 of 26th May.	Visit of Hejaz-Nejd mission to the United Kingdom.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
222 2 JUN 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to India.

14—6757 (2)

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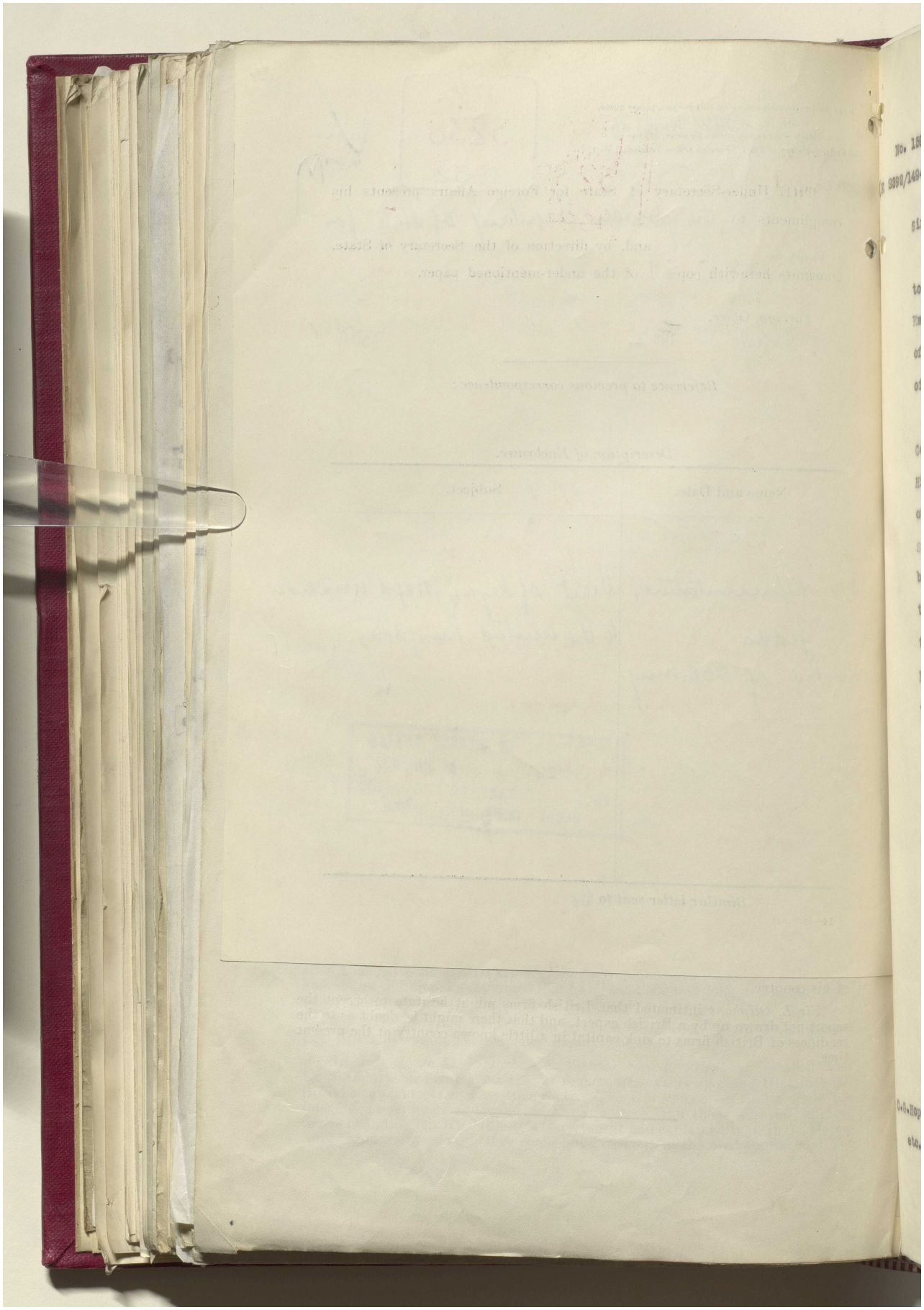

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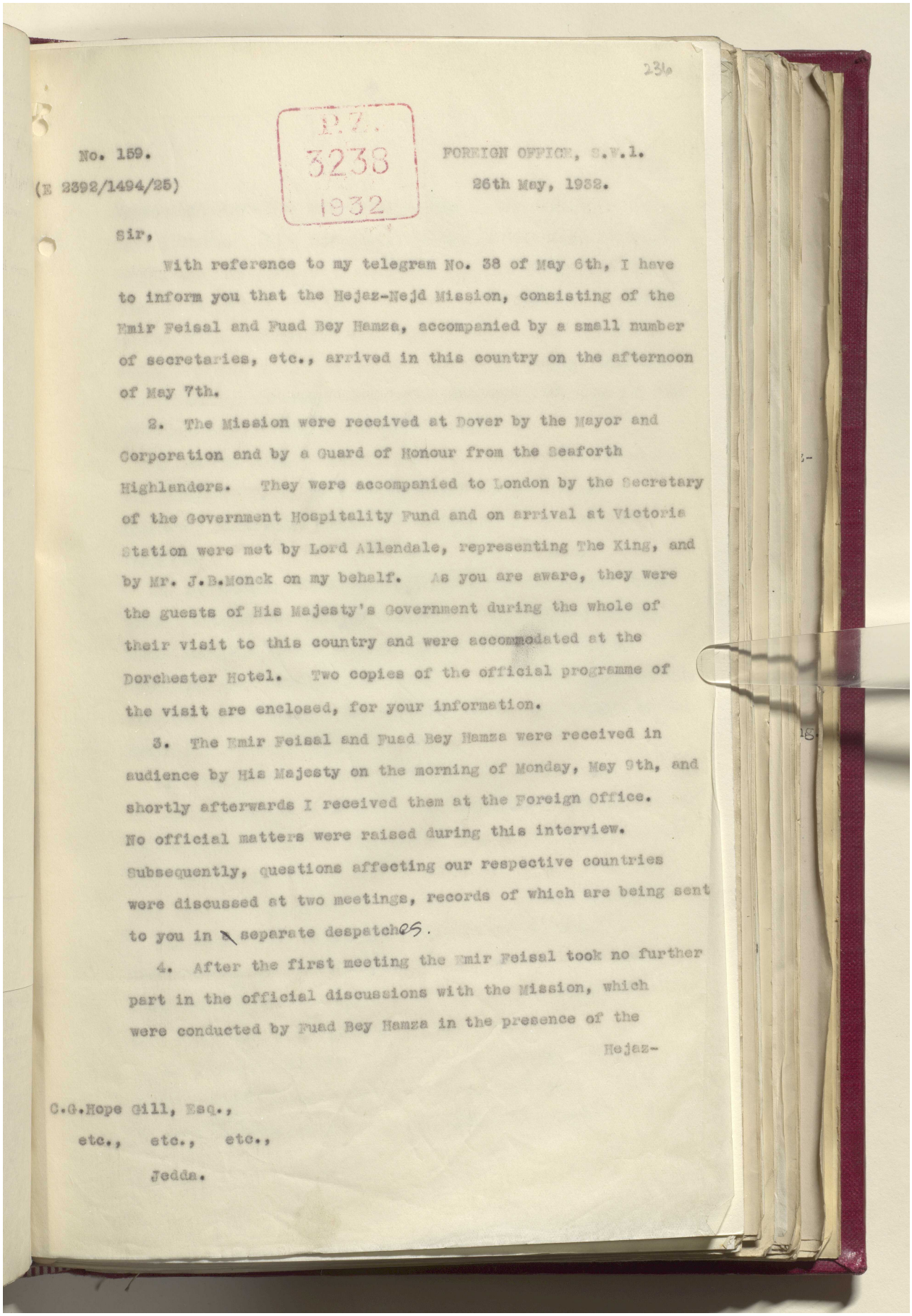

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P.Z. 3238 1932

No. 159.
(E 2892/1494/25)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
26th May, 1932.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 38 of May 6th, I have to inform you that the Hejaz-Nejd Mission, consisting of the Emir Feisal and Fuad Bey Hamza, accompanied by a small number of secretaries, etc., arrived in this country on the afternoon of May 7th.

2. The Mission were received at Dover by the Mayor and Corporation and by a Guard of Honour from the Seaforth Highlanders. They were accompanied to London by the Secretary of the Government Hospitality Fund and on arrival at Victoria Station were met by Lord Allendale, representing The King, and by Mr. J.B.Monck on my behalf. As you are aware, they were the guests of His Majesty's Government during the whole of their visit to this country and were accommodated at the Dorchester Hotel. Two copies of the official programme of the visit are enclosed, for your information.

3. The Emir Feisal and Fuad Bey Hamza were received in audience by His Majesty on the morning of Monday, May 9th, and shortly afterwards I received them at the Foreign Office. No official matters were raised during this interview. Subsequently, questions affecting our respective countries were discussed at two meetings, records of which are being sent to you in separate despatches.

4. After the first meeting the Emir Feisal took no further part in the official discussions with the Mission, which were conducted by Fuad Bey Hamza in the presence of the Hejaz-

C.G.Hope Gill, Esq.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Jedda.

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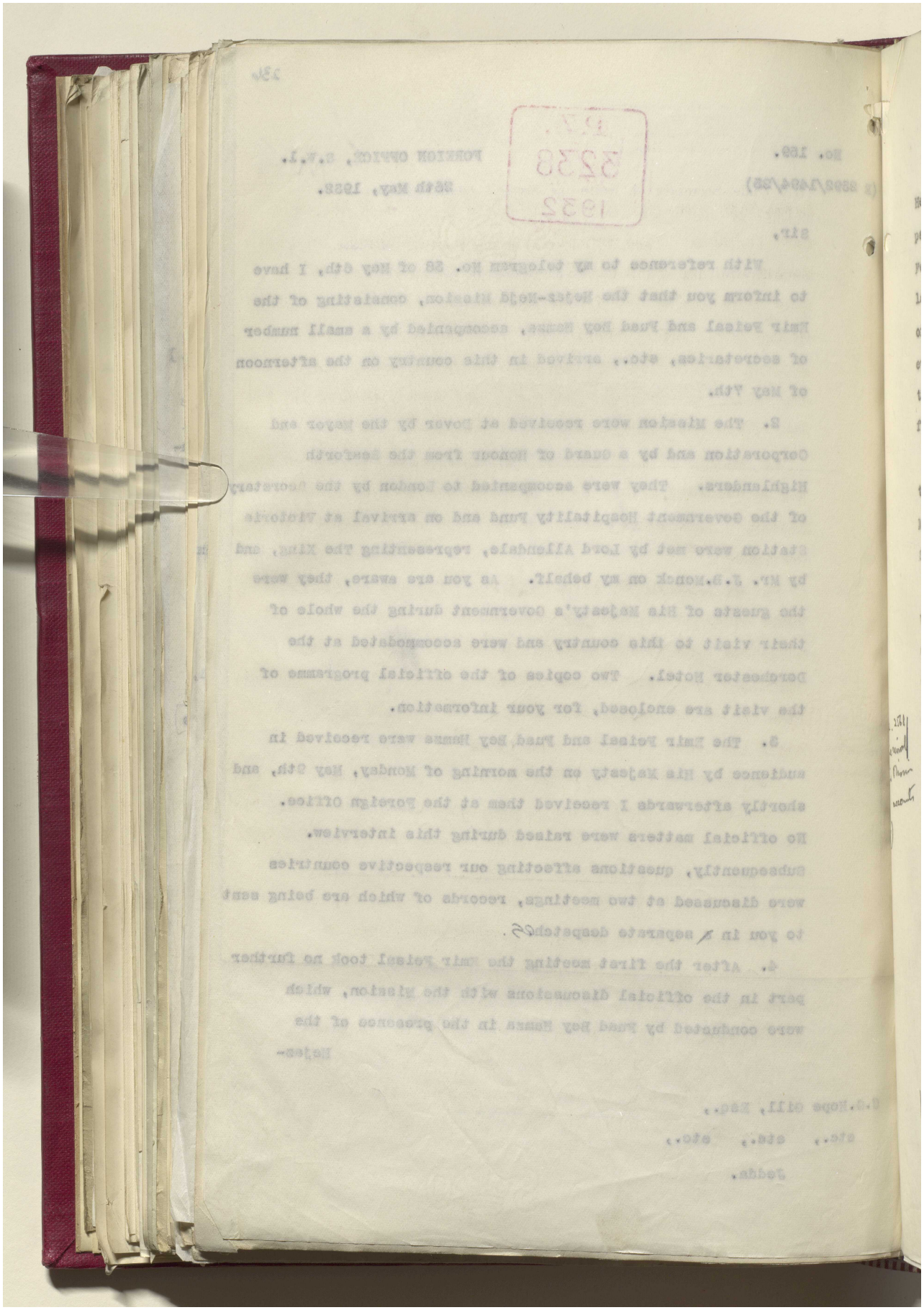

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Hejaz-Nejd Minister, Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, who took no active part therein. Fuad Bey Hamza, having to represent the Emir Feisal and the Hejaz-Nejd Government at the funeral of the late President of the French Republic in Paris on the morning of May 12th, was unable to attend the first Court on the evening of May 11th, but was present at the second Court on the following evening. The Emir, meanwhile, carried out the full programme arranged for the Mission.

5. On May 10th, I entertained the Mission at a dinner at the Foreign Office, to which were invited members of His Majesty's Government and senior officers of His Majesty's Services.

6. On Friday, May 13th, Fuad Bey Hamza and Sheikh Hafiz Wahba attended two further meetings at the Foreign Office, while the Emir in the morning visited Mr. R.E.L.Vaughan-Williams' stud farm of Arab horses at Leith Hill near Dorking, and, in the afternoon, was taken up for a short flight by the Royal Air Force at Hendon Aerodrome.

7. On Saturday, May 14th, by command of The King, I handed to the Emir and to Fuad Bey Hamza respectively the insignia of an Honorary G.B.E. and an Honorary K.B.E., which His Majesty had been graciously pleased to confer on them. Both the Emir and Fuad Bey were much gratified by these decorations.

8. There were no official entertainments during Whitsuntide, but the Secretary of the Government Hospitality Fund remained at the disposal of the Mission until Monday, May 16th, when they left by air for Holland.

9. Although the Mission failed in their main object, which was to obtain a loan either from His Majesty's Government or from private sources in this country, the visit may, in my

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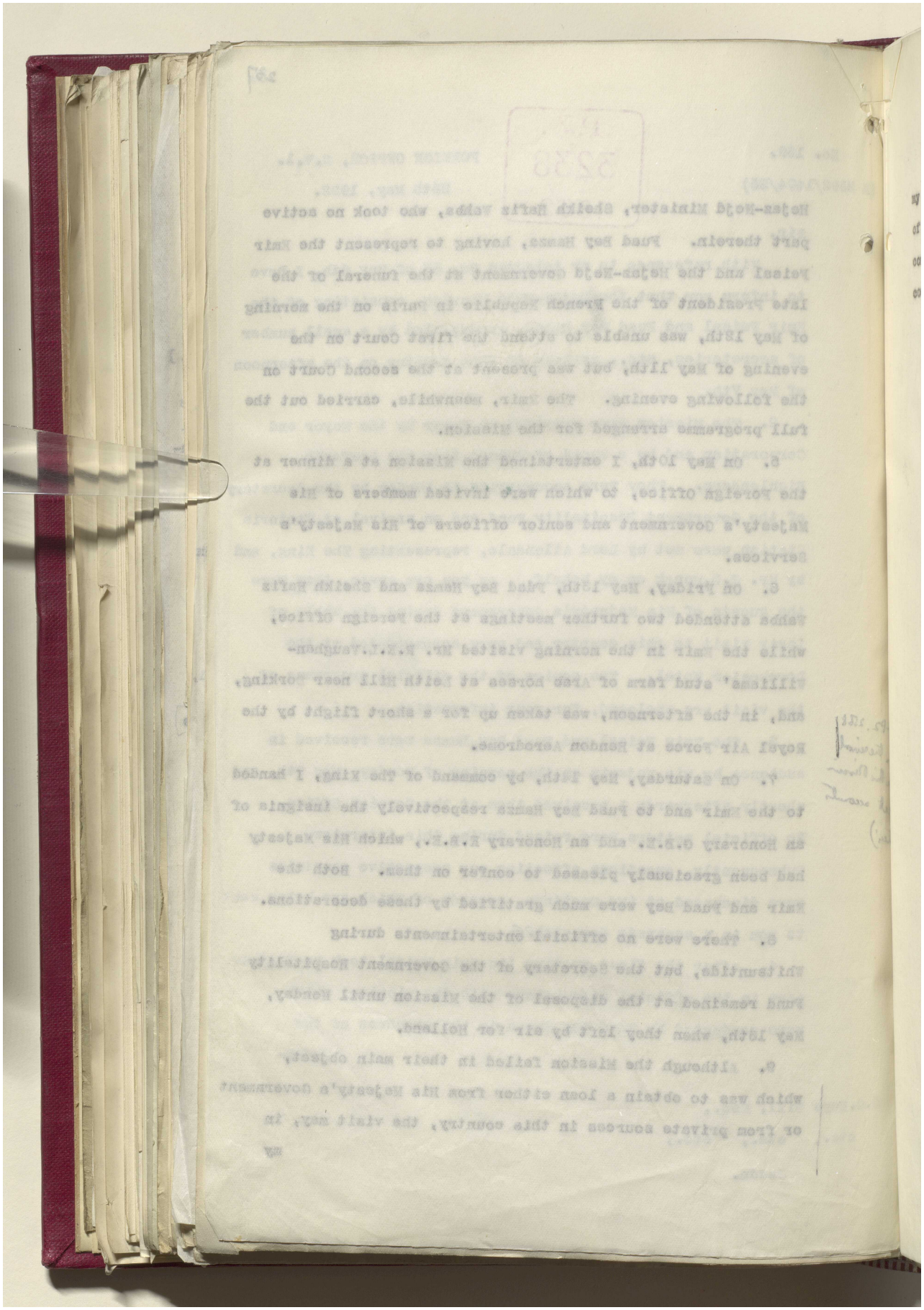

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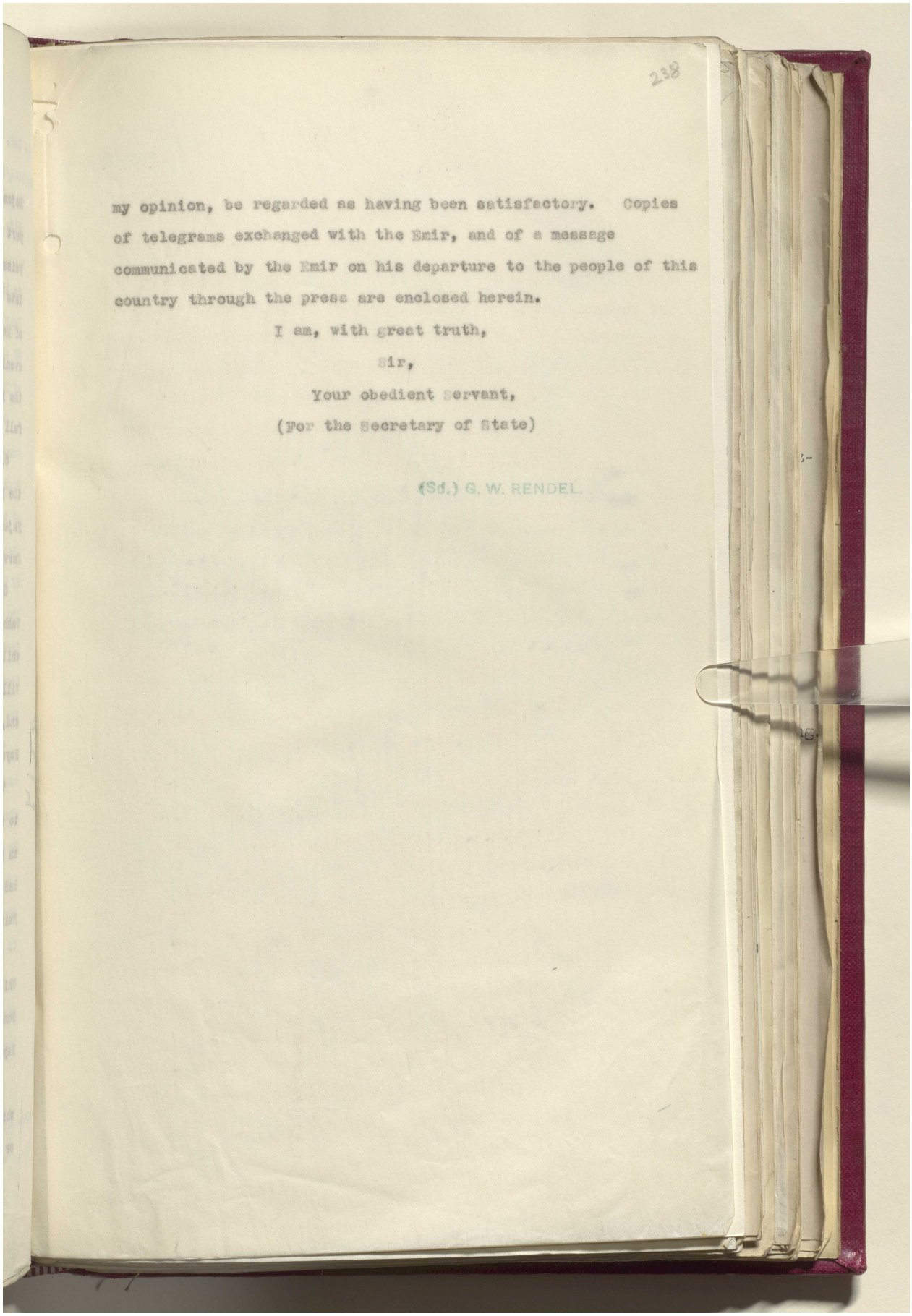

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my opinion, be regarded as having been satisfactory. Copies of telegrams exchanged with the Emir, and of a message communicated by the Emir on his departure to the people of this country through the press are enclosed herein.

I am, with great truth,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

(Sd.) G. W. RENDEL

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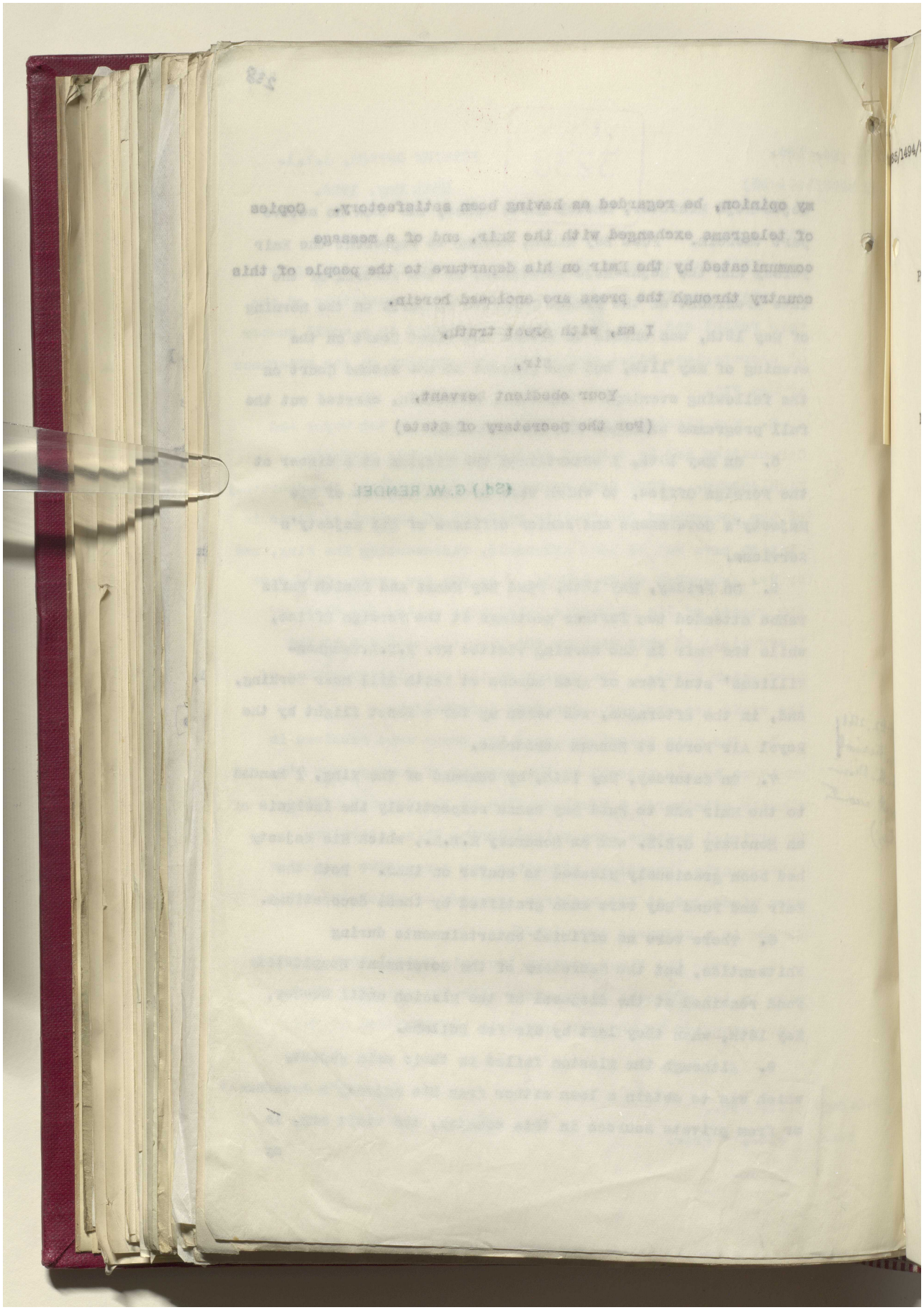

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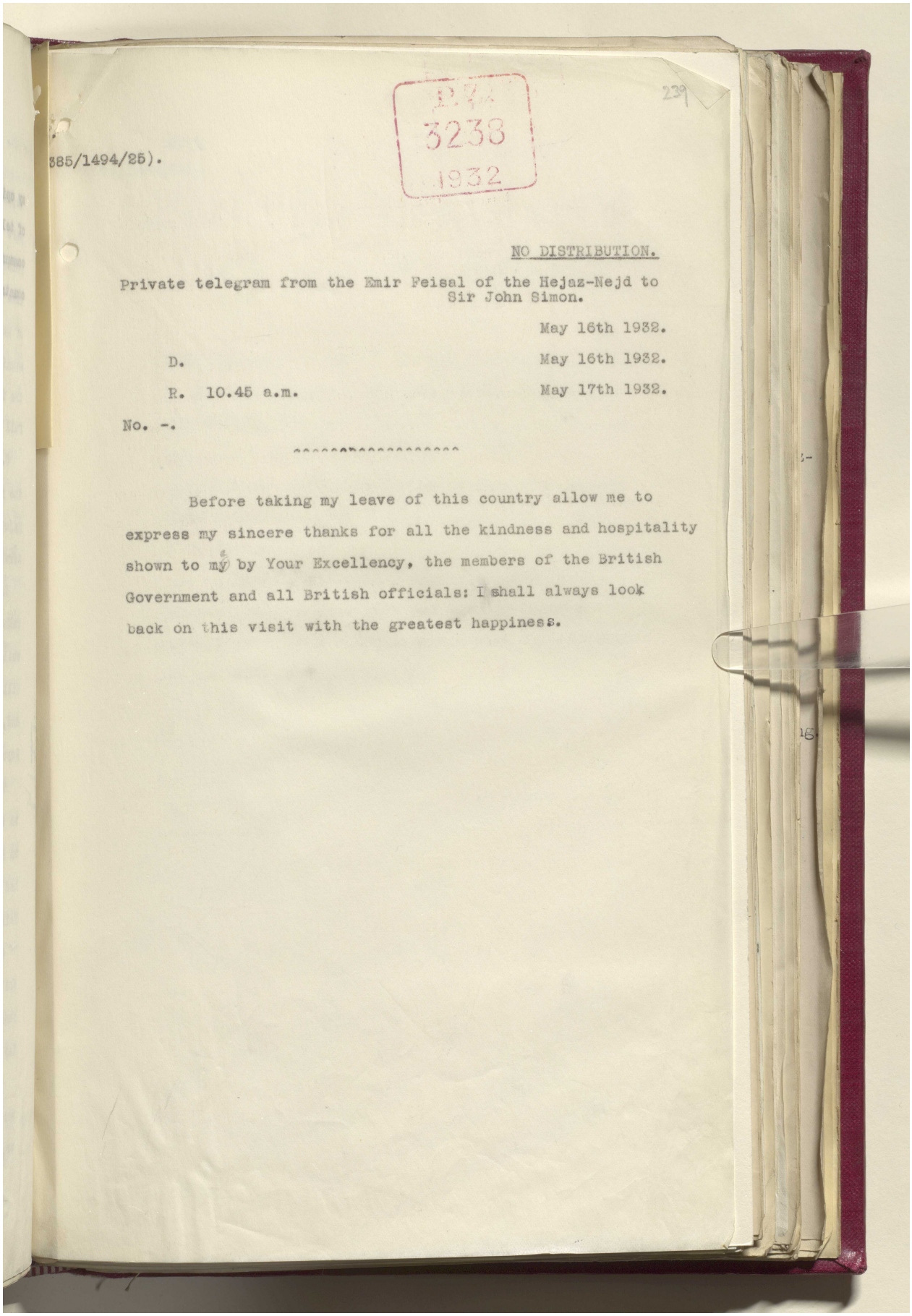

385/1494/25).

P.Z. 3238 1932

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NO DISTRIBUTION.

Private telegram from the Emir Feisal of the Hejaz-Nejd to Sir John Simon.

May 16th 1932.

D. May 16th 1932.

R. 10.45 a.m. May 17th 1932.

No. -.

Before taking my leave of this country allow me to express my sincere thanks for all the kindness and hospitality shown to my by Your Excellency, the members of the British Government and all British officials: I shall always look back on this visit with the greatest happiness.

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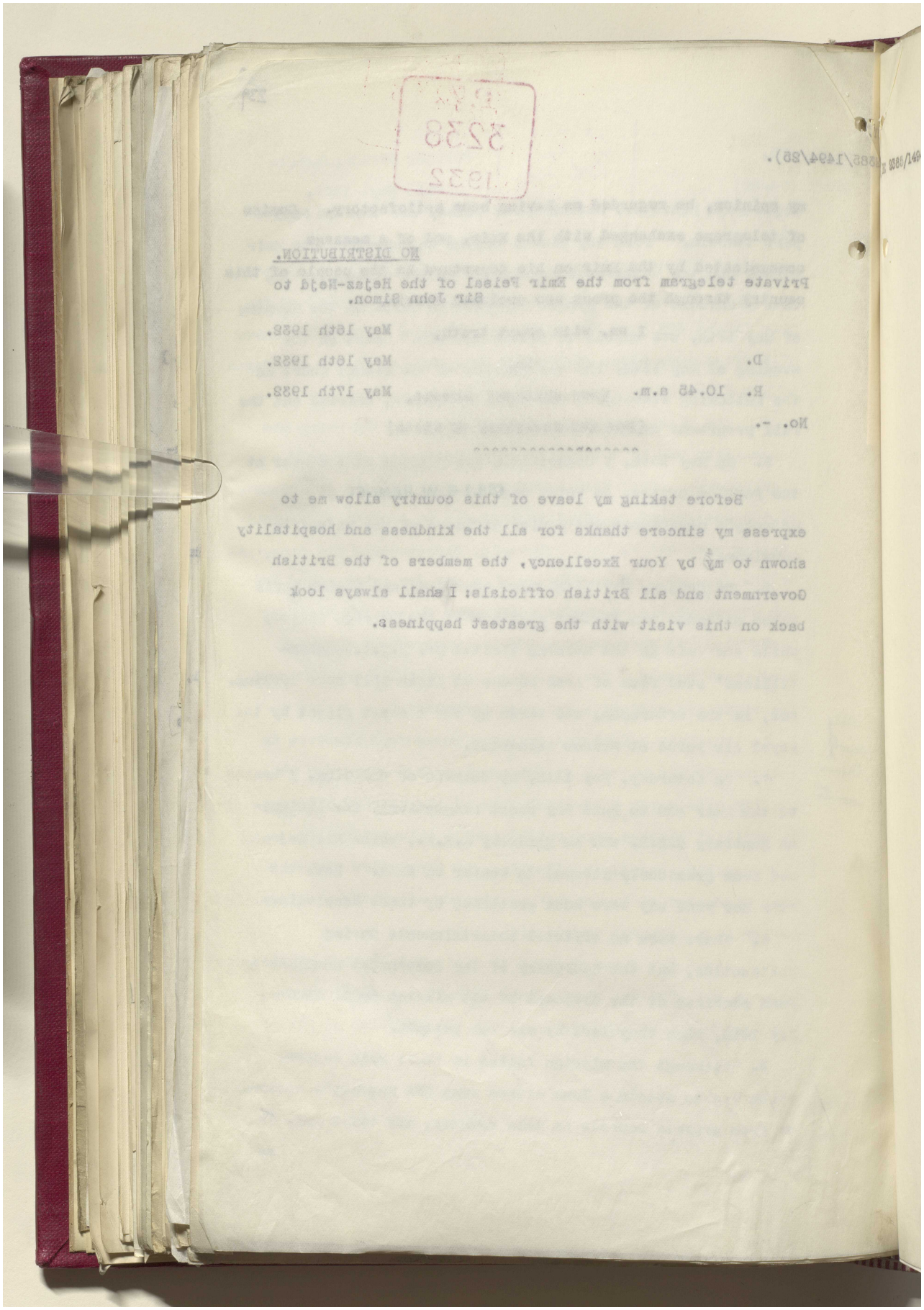

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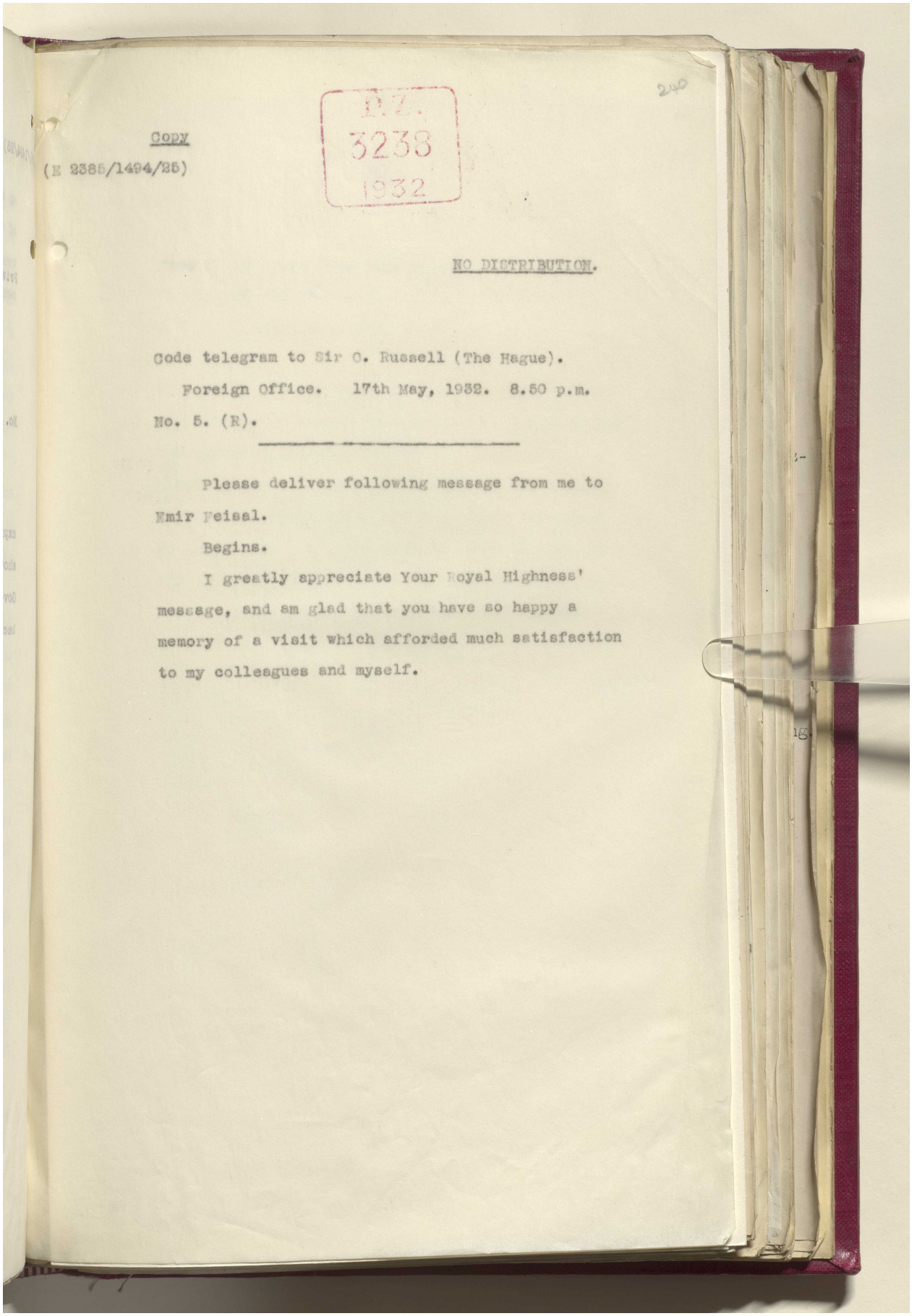

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(E 2385/1494/25)

F.Z.
3233
1932

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Sir C. Russell (The Hague).

Foreign Office. 17th May, 1932. 8.50 p.m.

No. 5. (E).

Please deliver following message from me to Emir Feisal.

Begins.

I greatly appreciate Your Royal Highness' message, and am glad that you have so happy a memory of a visit which afforded much satisfaction to my colleagues and myself.

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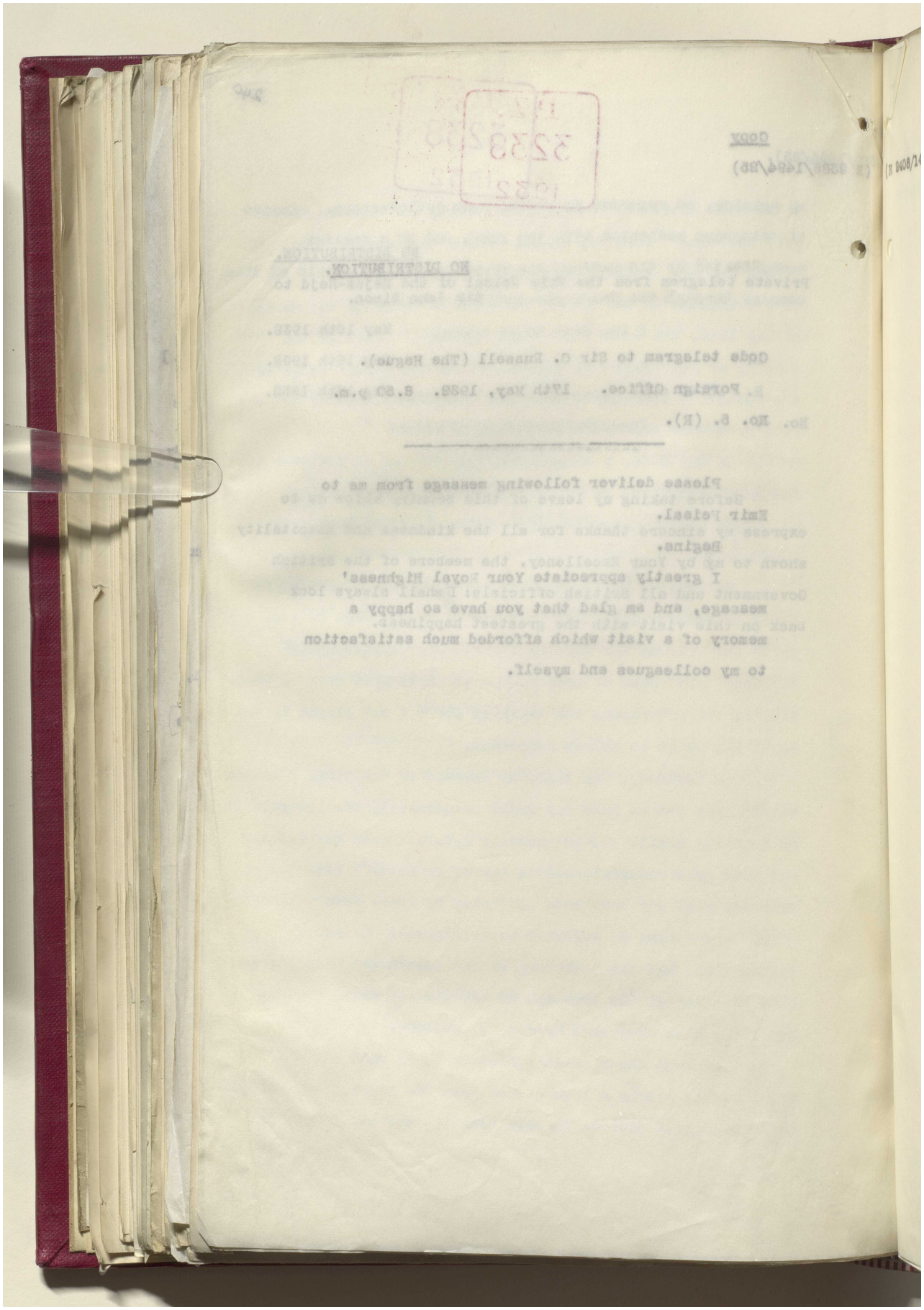

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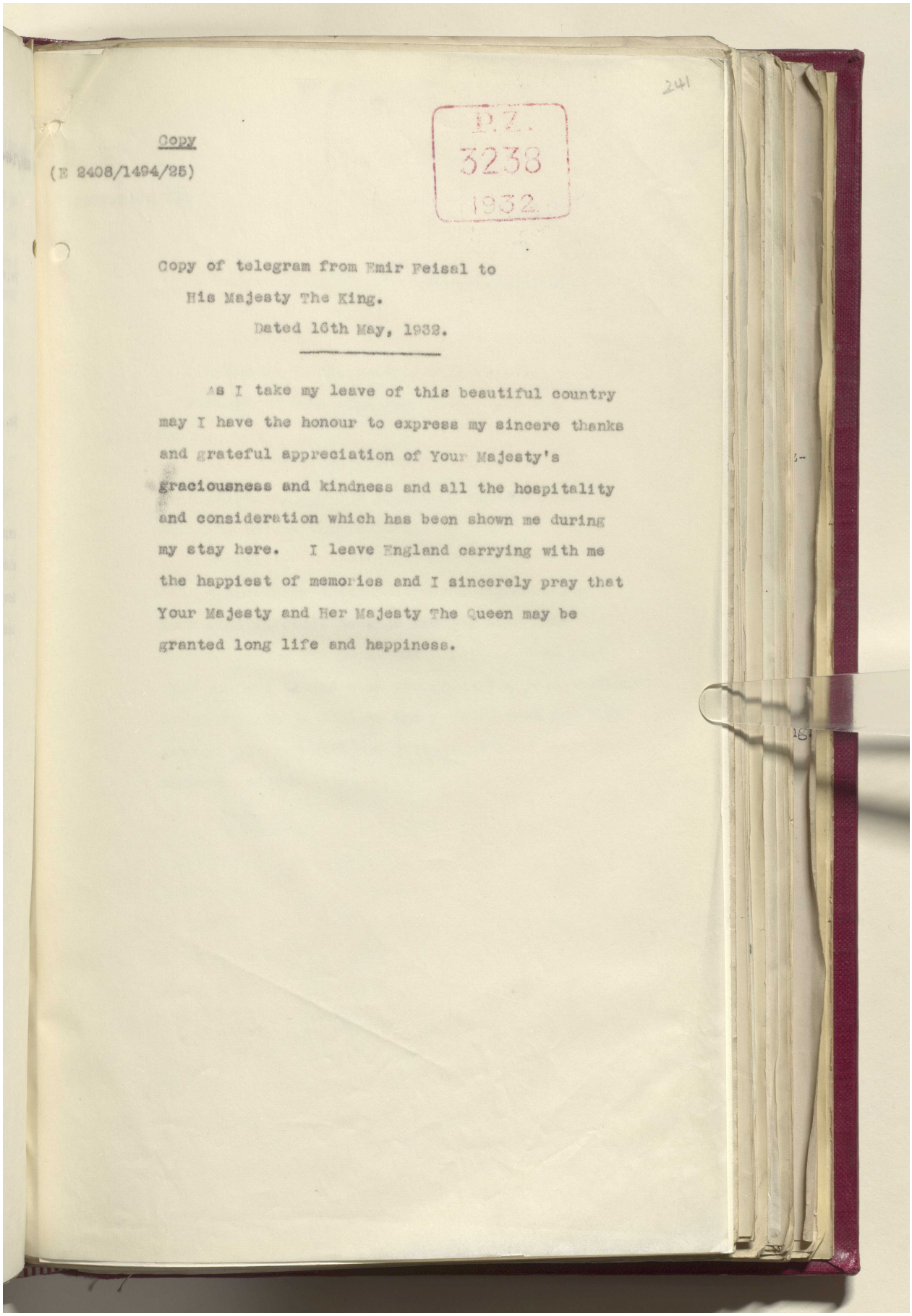

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P.Z.
3238
1932

Copy

(E 2408/1494/25)

Copy of telegram from Emir Feisal to
His Majesty The King.
Dated 16th May, 1932.

As I take my leave of this beautiful country may I have the honour to express my sincere thanks and grateful appreciation of Your Majesty's graciousness and kindness and all the hospitality and consideration which has been shown me during my stay here. I leave England carrying with me the happiest of memories and I sincerely pray that Your Majesty and Her Majesty The Queen may be granted long life and happiness.

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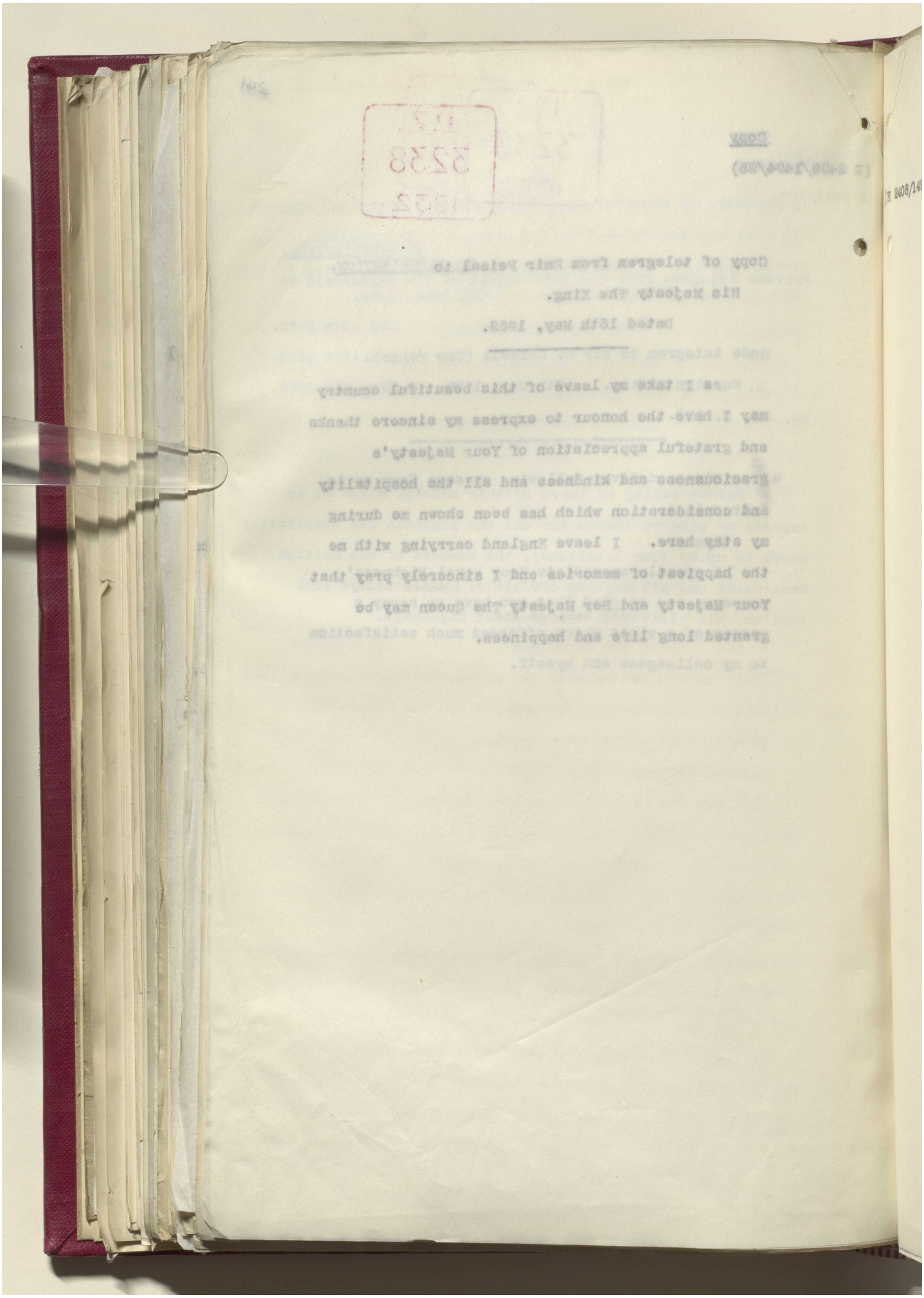

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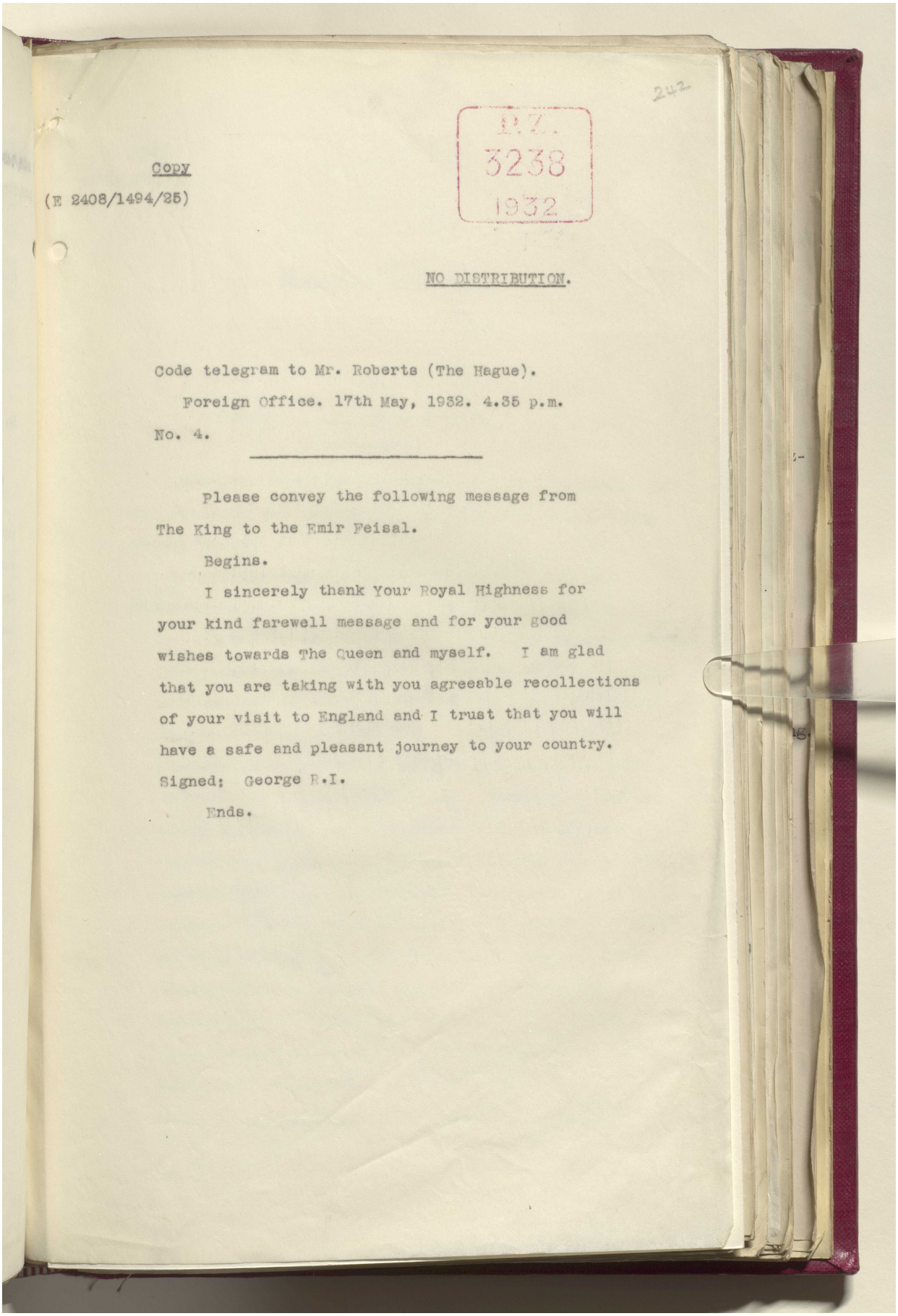

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P.Z.
3238
1932

Copy

(E 2408/1494/25)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Mr. Roberts (The Hague).

Foreign Office. 17th May, 1932. 4.35 p.m.

No. 4.

Please convey the following message from The King to the Emir Feisal.

Begins.

I sincerely thank Your Royal Highness for your kind farewell message and for your good wishes towards The Queen and myself. I am glad that you are taking with you agreeable recollections of your visit to England and I trust that you will have a safe and pleasant journey to your country.

Signed: George R.I.

Ends.

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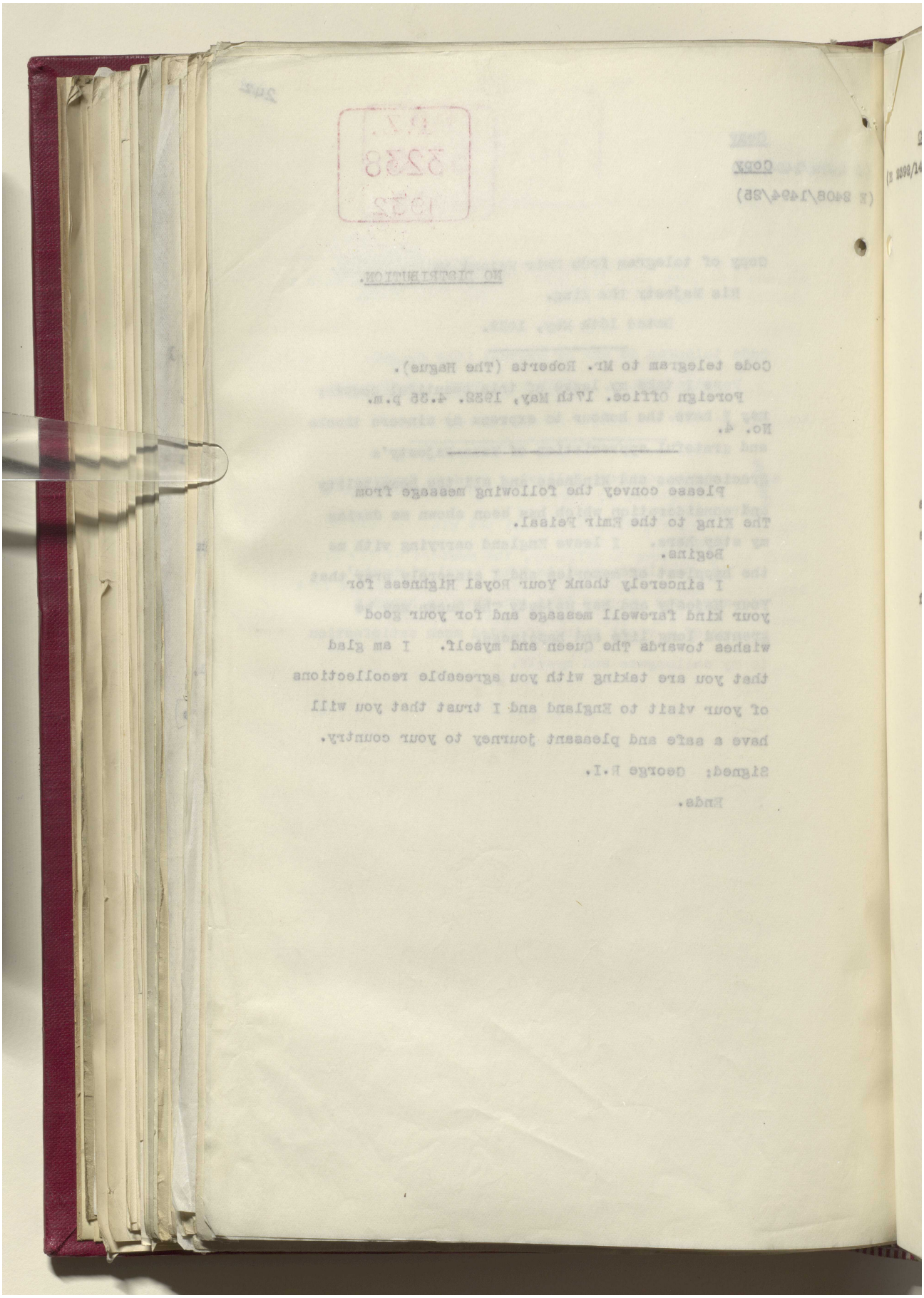

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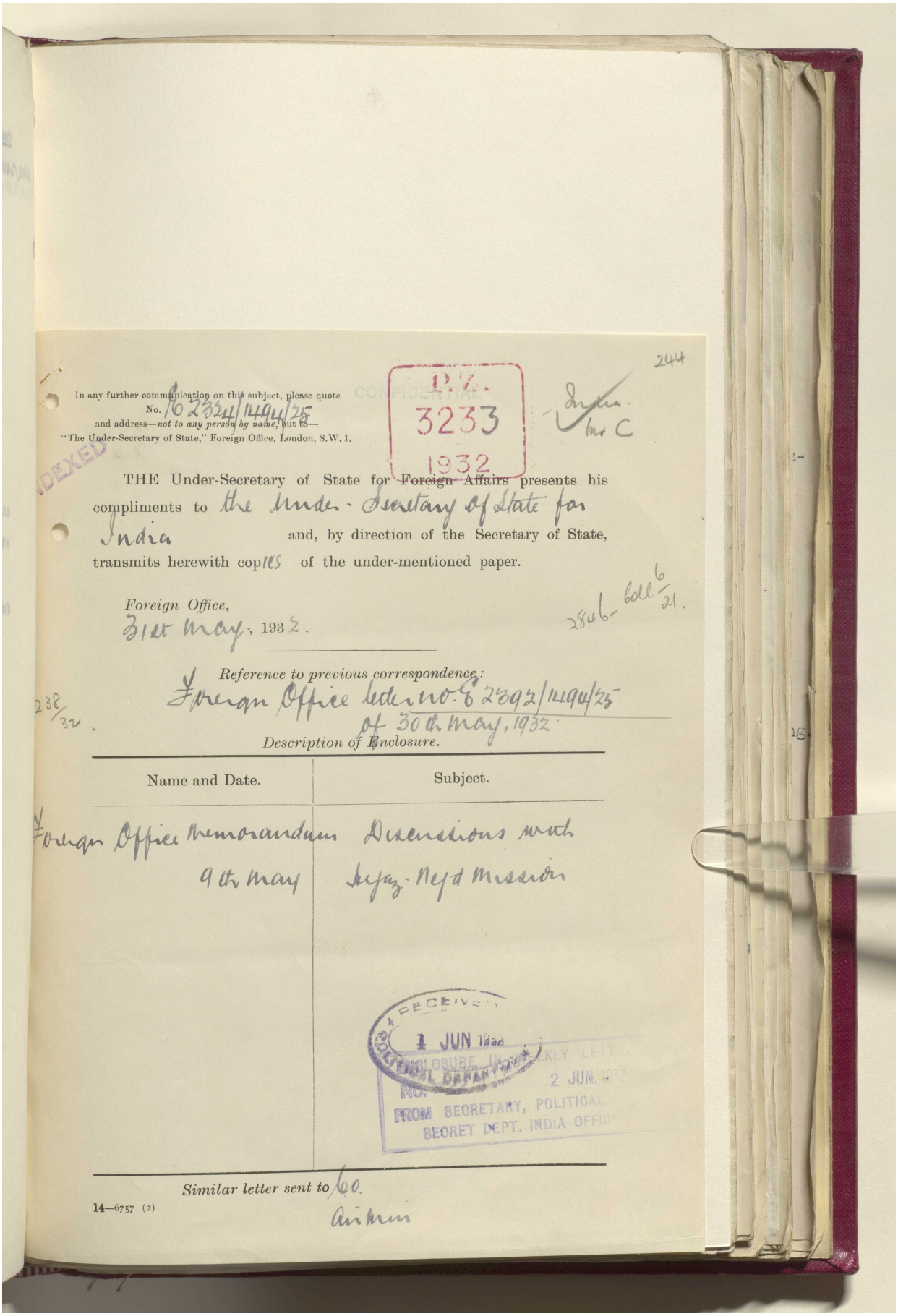

244

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No. E 2324/1494/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL

P.Z. 3233 1932

India. Mr C

INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
31st May, 1932.

2846 - Coll 6/21.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter No. E 2392/1494/25 of 30th May, 1932

238/32.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Foreign Office Memorandum 9th May	Discussions with Hejaz-Nejd Mission

RECEIVED 1 JUN 1932 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. 2 JUN 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co.
Air Min

14—6757 (2)

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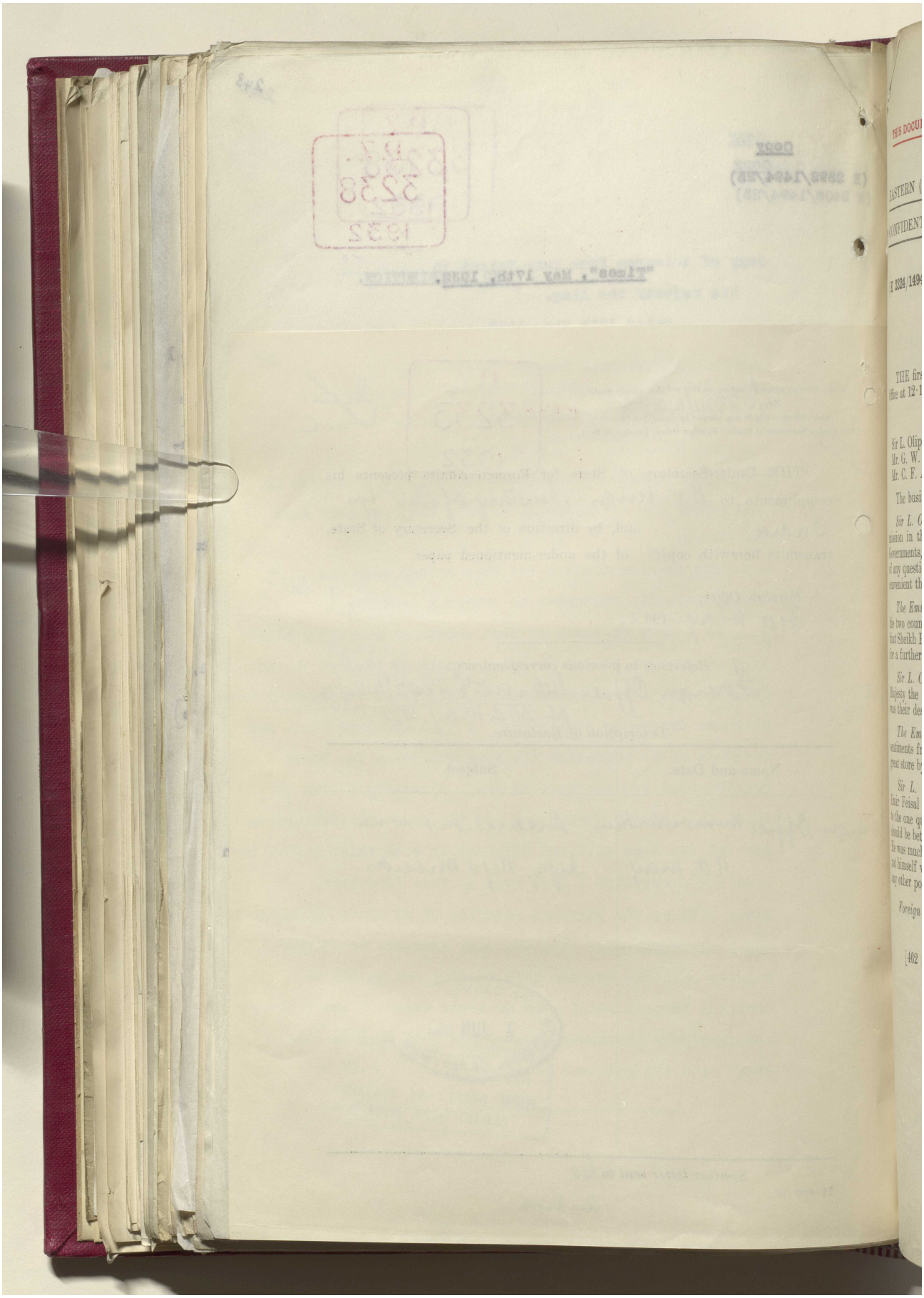

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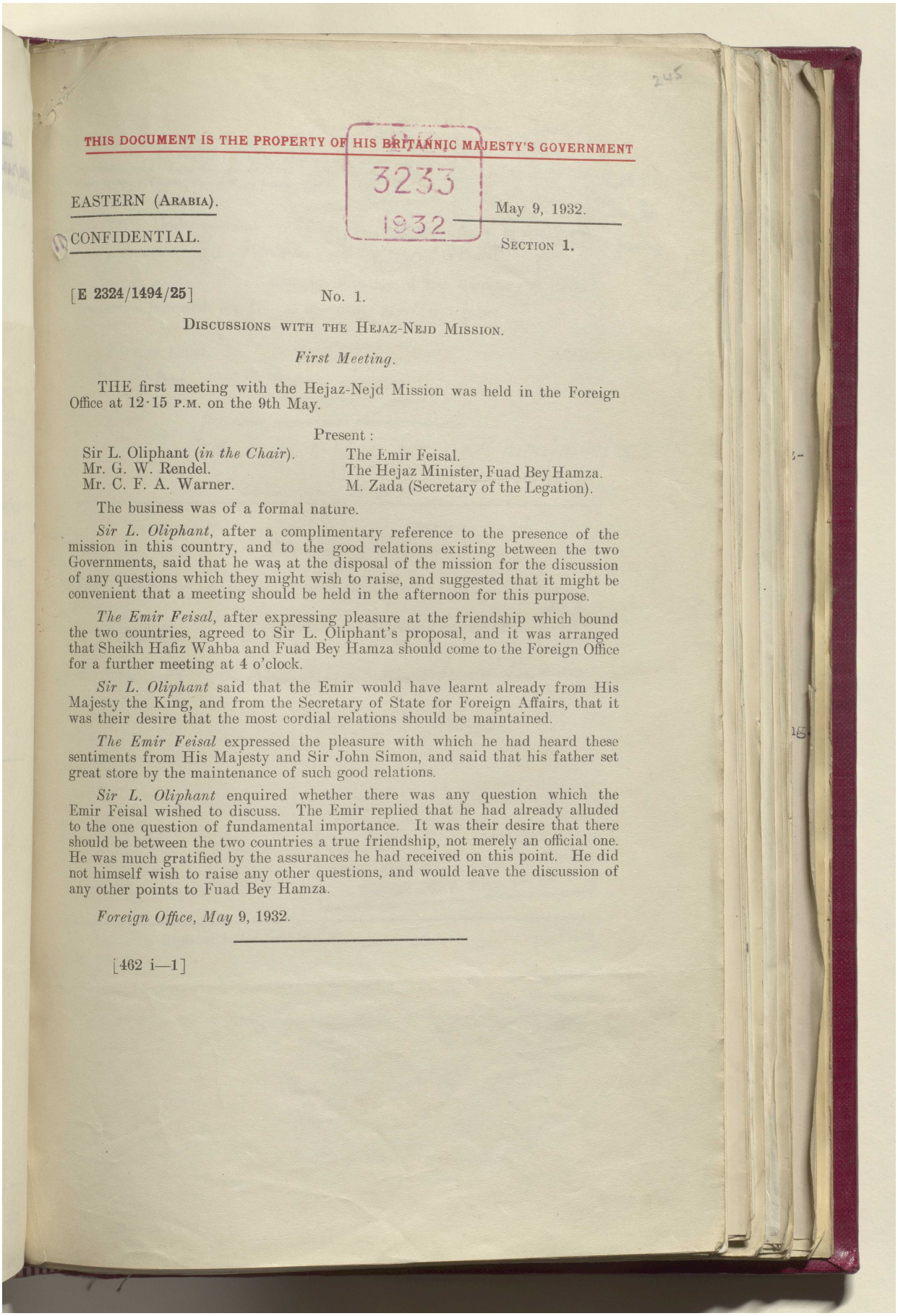

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3233
1932

EASTERN (ARABIA). May 9, 1932.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 2324/1494/25] No. 1.

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HEJAZ-NEJD MISSION.

First Meeting.

THE first meeting with the Hejaz-Nejd Mission was held in the Foreign Office at 12·15 P.M. on the 9th May.

Present :

Sir L. Oliphant (*in the Chair*).	The Emir Feisal.
Mr. G. W. Rendel.	The Hejaz Minister, Fuad Bey Hamza.
Mr. C. F. A. Warner.	M. Zada (Secretary of the Legation).

The business was of a formal nature.

Sir L. Oliphant, after a complimentary reference to the presence of the mission in this country, and to the good relations existing between the two Governments, said that he was at the disposal of the mission for the discussion of any questions which they might wish to raise, and suggested that it might be convenient that a meeting should be held in the afternoon for this purpose.

The Emir Feisal, after expressing pleasure at the friendship which bound the two countries, agreed to Sir L. Oliphant's proposal, and it was arranged that Sheikh Hafiz Wahba and Fuad Bey Hamza should come to the Foreign Office for a further meeting at 4 o'clock.

Sir L. Oliphant said that the Emir would have learnt already from His Majesty the King, and from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that it was their desire that the most cordial relations should be maintained.

The Emir Feisal expressed the pleasure with which he had heard these sentiments from His Majesty and Sir John Simon, and said that his father set great store by the maintenance of such good relations.

Sir L. Oliphant enquired whether there was any question which the Emir Feisal wished to discuss. The Emir replied that he had already alluded to the one question of fundamental importance. It was their desire that there should be between the two countries a true friendship, not merely an official one. He was much gratified by the assurances he had received on this point. He did not himself wish to raise any other questions, and would leave the discussion of any other points to Fuad Bey Hamza.

Foreign Office, May 9, 1932.

[462 i—1]

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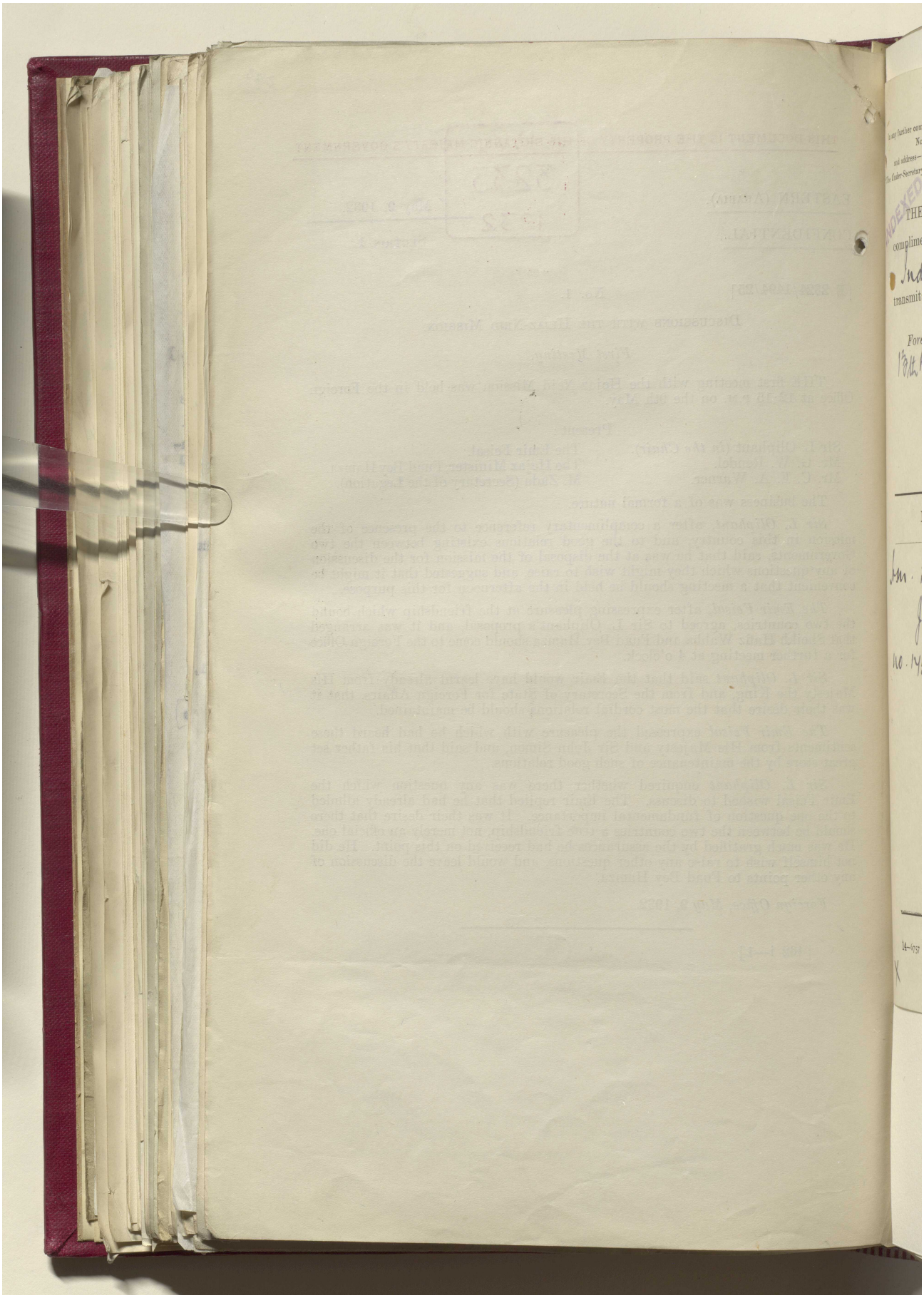

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

3

P.Z.
2846
1932

India
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18/5

INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
13th May, 1932.

2824

Coll 6/21

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 1494/1494/25-2118 of 4th April, 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Sm. Representative, Jedda no. 145 of 18th April	Arrangements in Hejaz-Nejd during absence of Emir Feisal and Fuad Bey on Mission to Europe.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 20 19 MAY 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to CO.

14—6757 (2)

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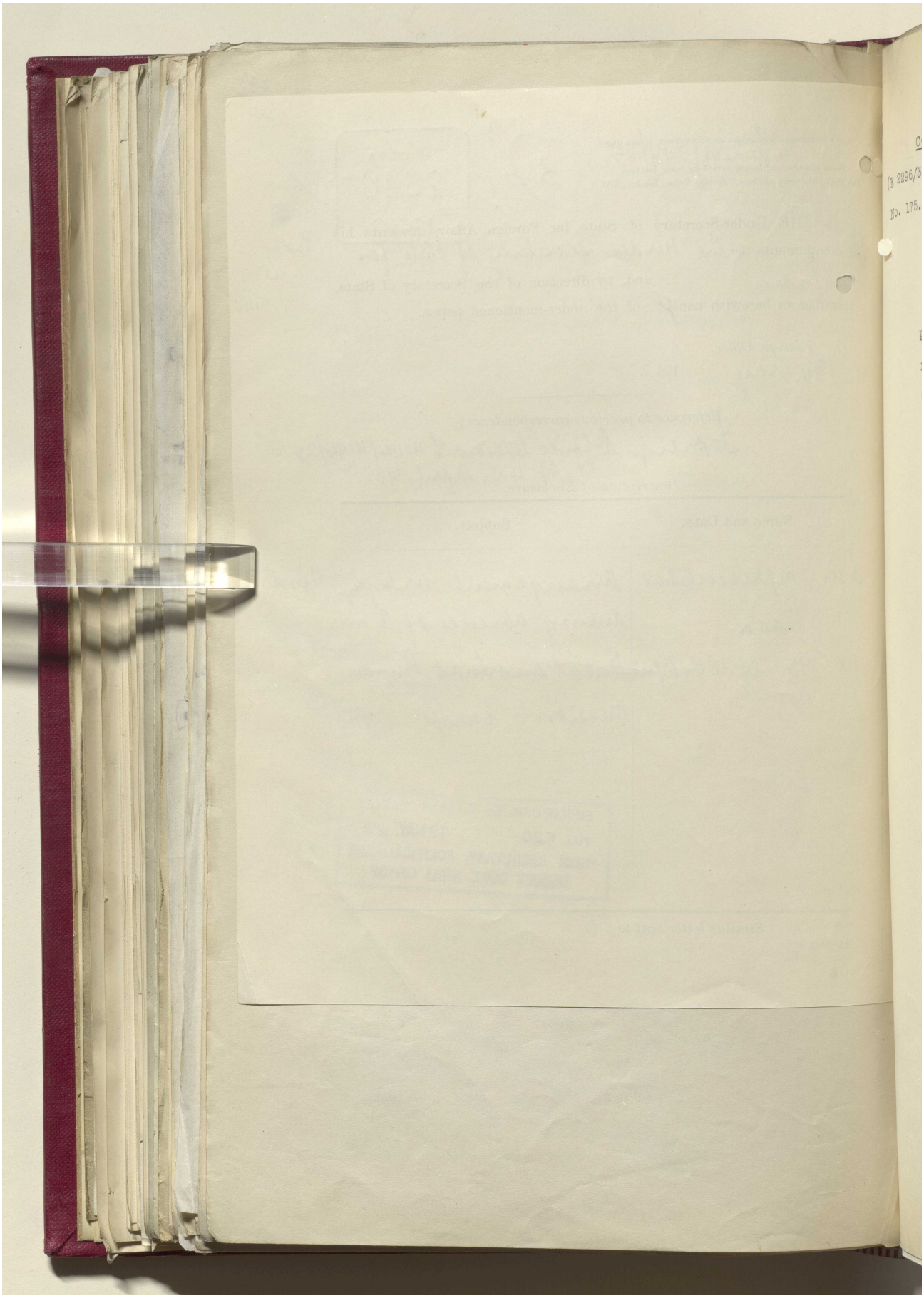

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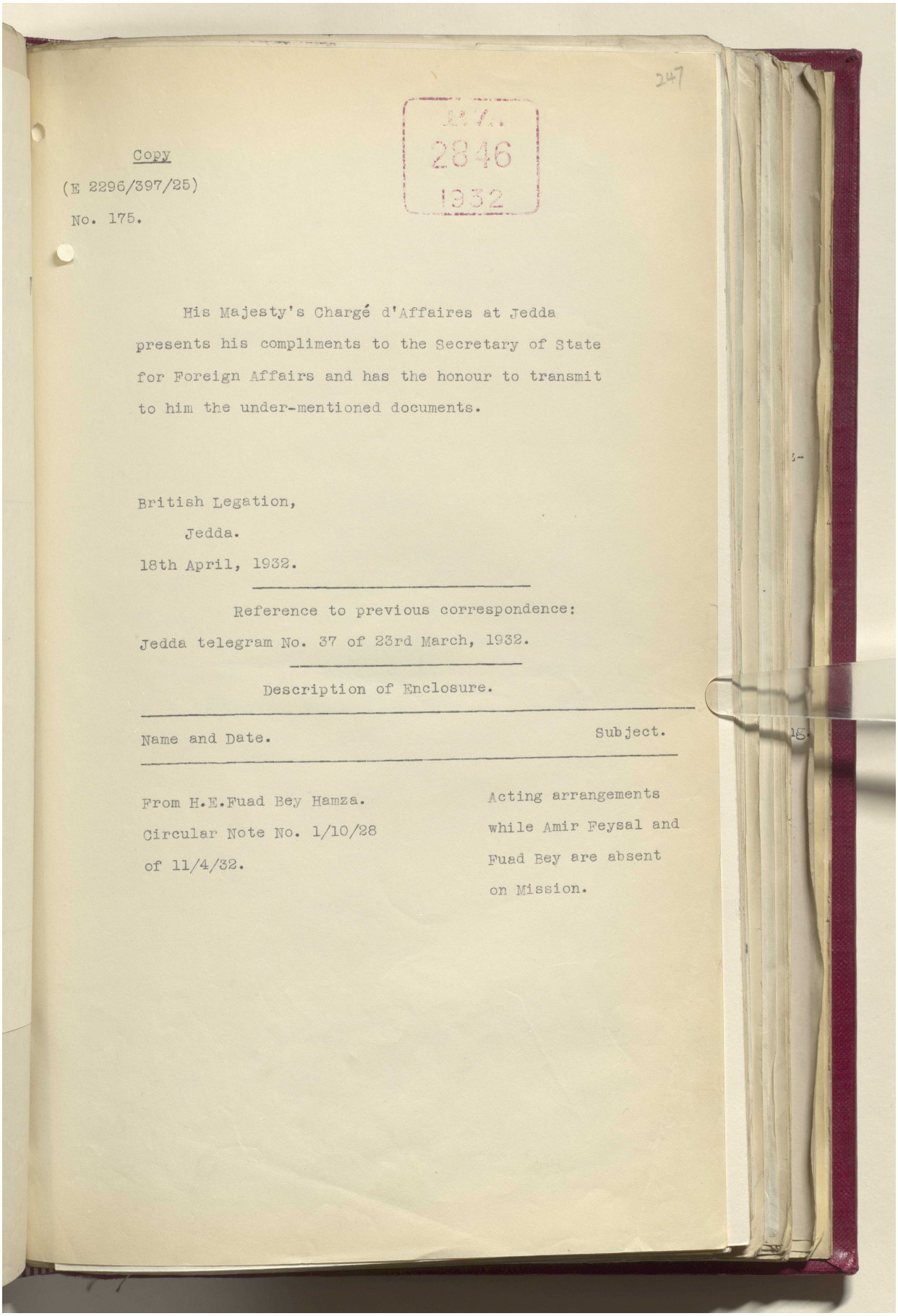

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P.Z. 2846 1932

Copy

(E 2296/397/25)

No. 175.

His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Jedda presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Legation,
Jedda.
18th April, 1932.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Jedda telegram No. 37 of 23rd March, 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From H.E.Fuad Bey Hamza. Circular Note No. 1/10/28 of 11/4/32.	Acting arrangements while Amir Feysal and Fuad Bey are absent on Mission.

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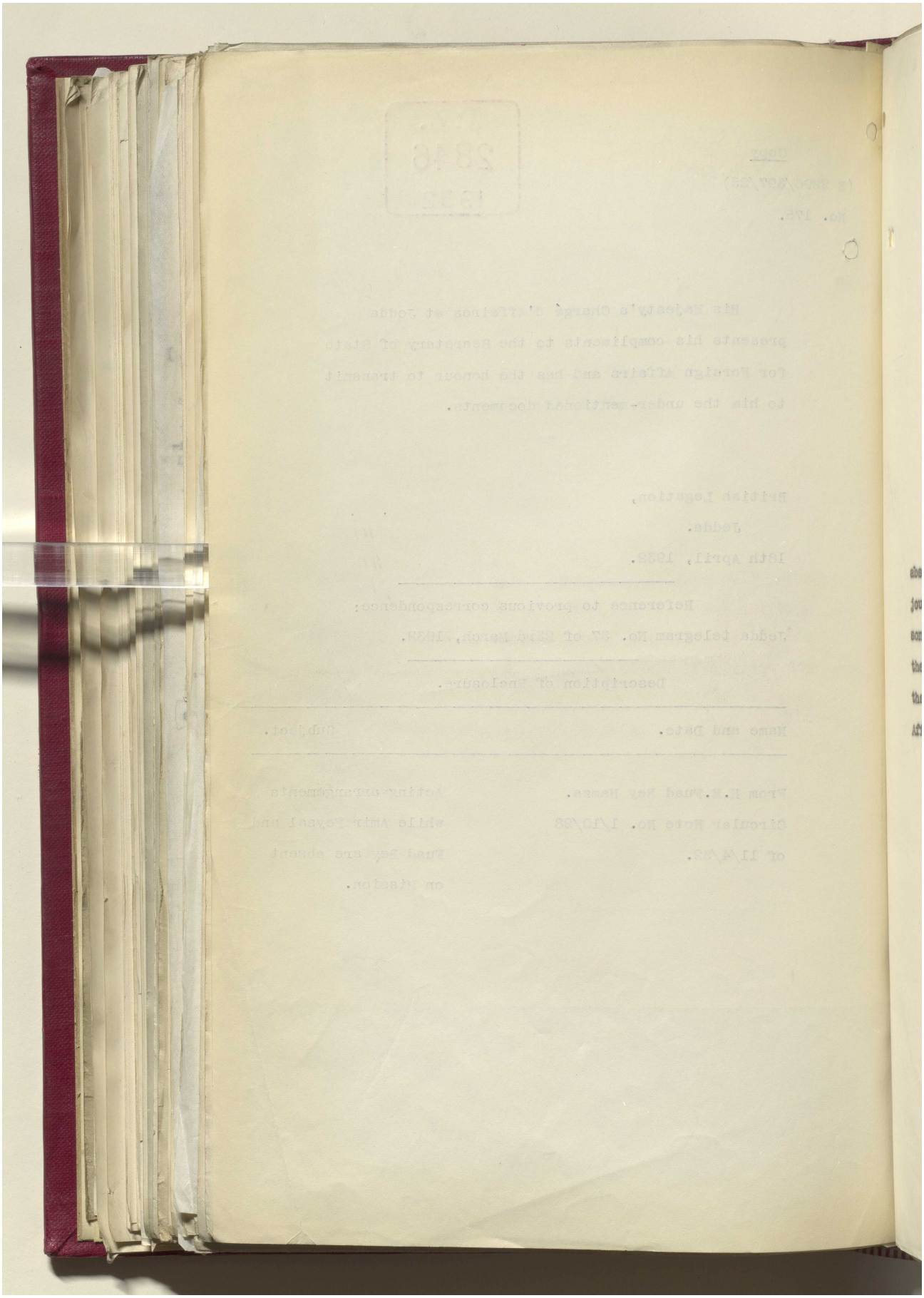

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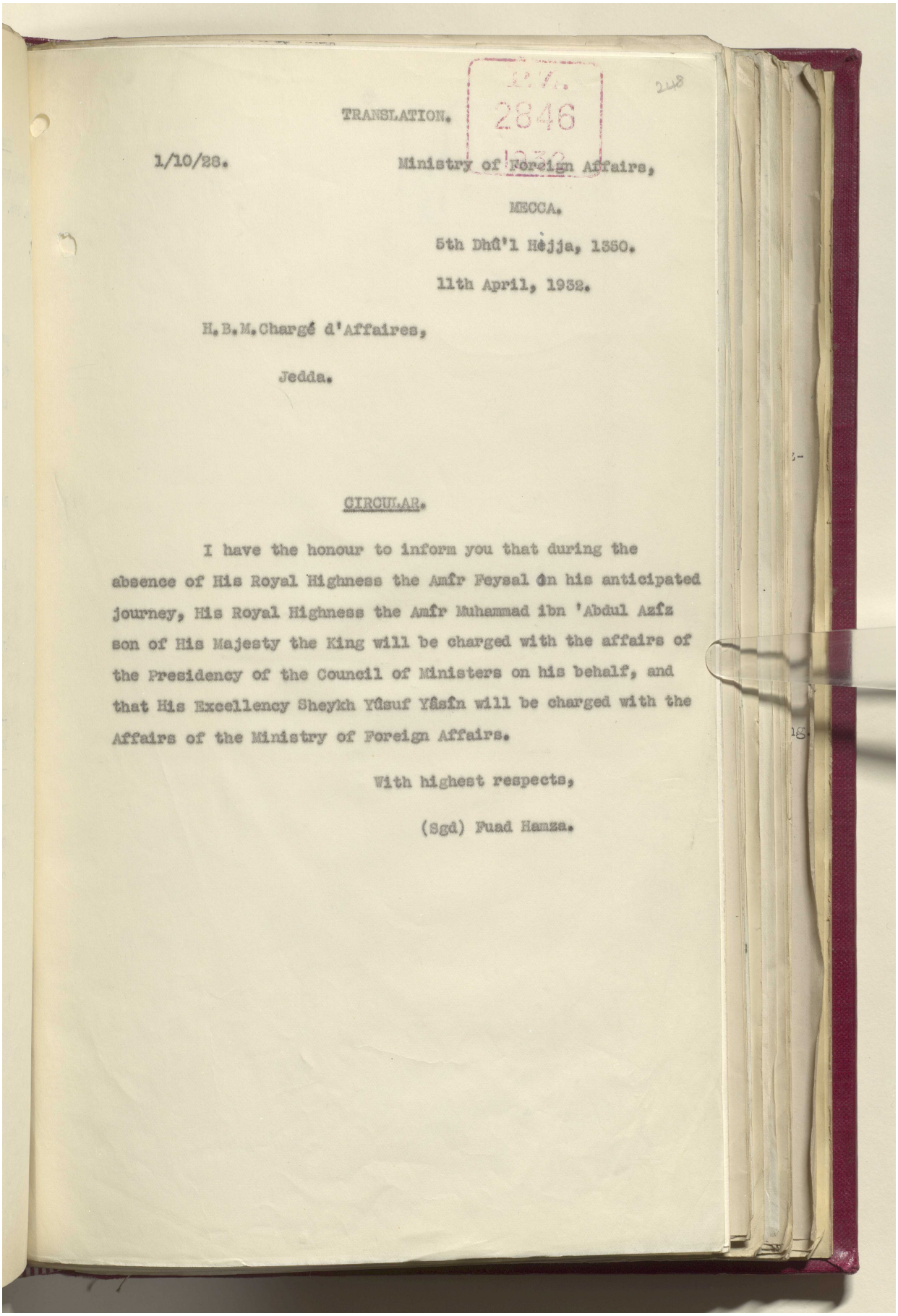

2846

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TRANSLATION.

1/10/28. Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

MECCA.

5th Dhû'l Hèjja, 1350.

11th April, 1932.

H.B.M.Chargé d'Affaires,

Jedda.

CIRCULAR.

I have the honour to inform you that during the absence of His Royal Highness the Amîr Feysal ûn his anticipated journey, His Royal Highness the Amîr Muhammad ibn 'Abdul Azîz son of His Majesty the King will be charged with the affairs of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on his behalf, and that His Excellency Sheykh Yûsuf Yâsîn will be charged with the Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With highest respects,

(Sgd) Fuad Hamza.

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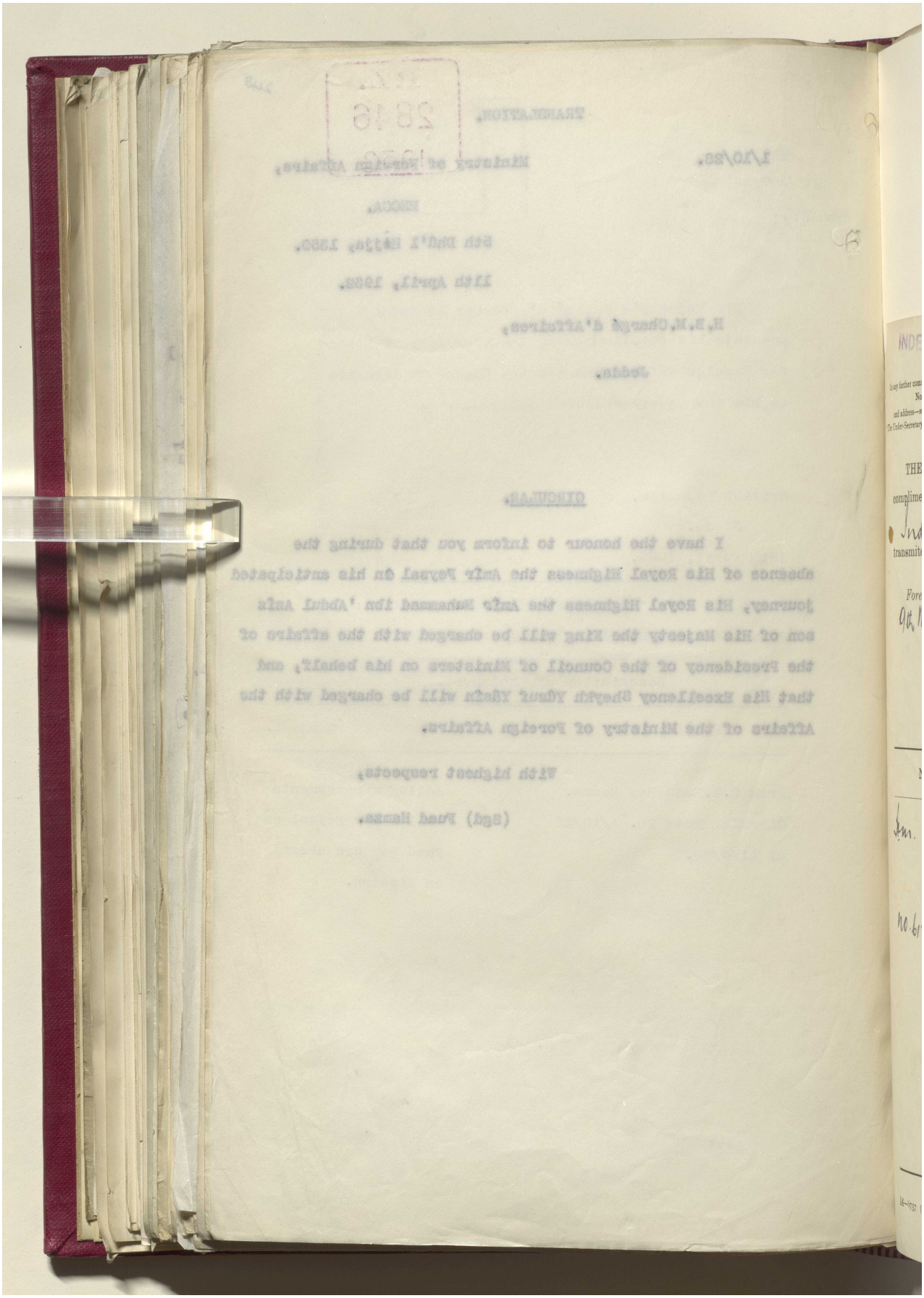

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Coll 6/21(1) 'Hejaz-Nejd: Relations with H.M.G.: Hejaz Legation in London and British Minister in Jeddah.' [249r] (508/914)

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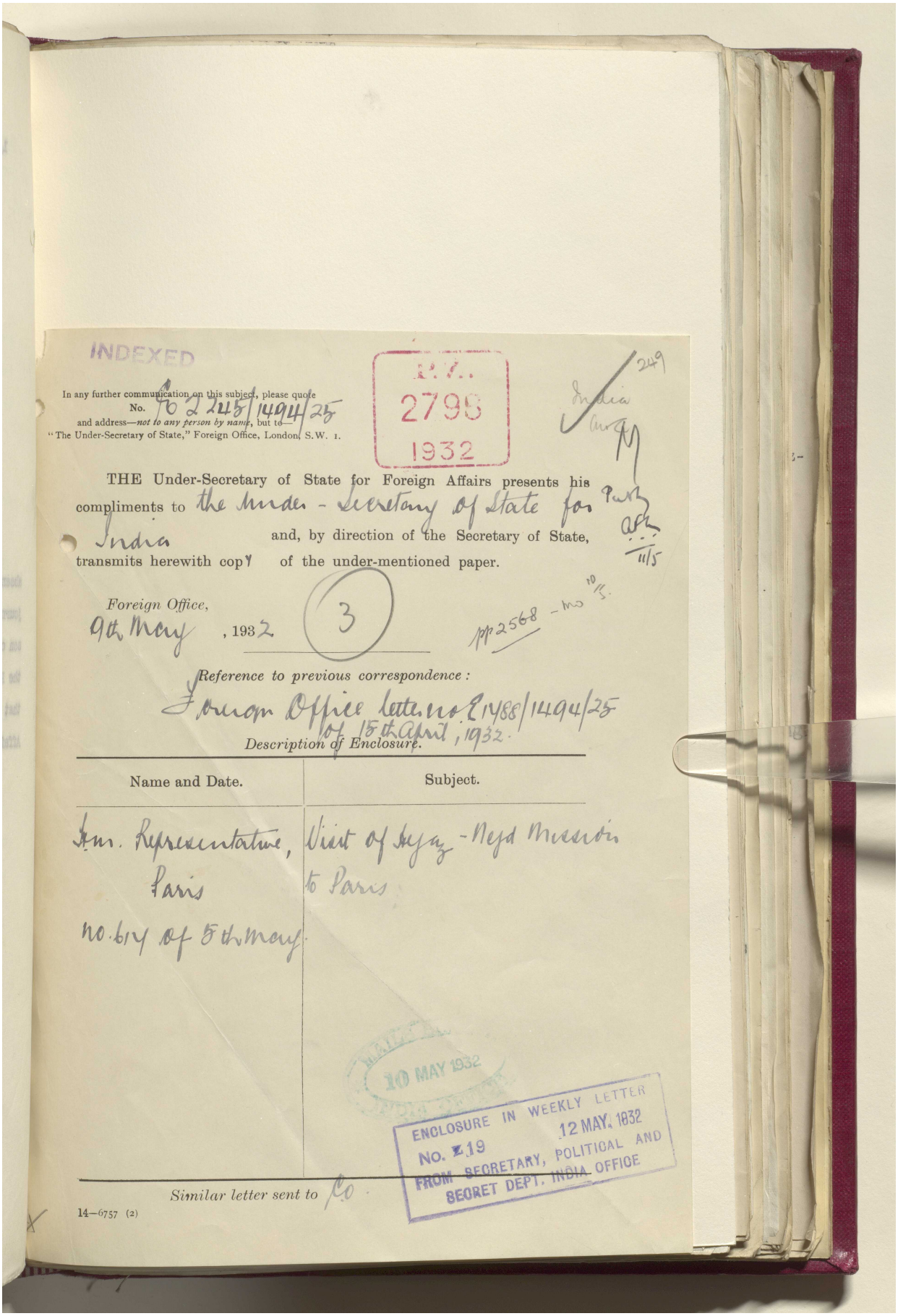

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P.Z. 2798 1932

249

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

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11/5

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
9th May, 1932

3

pp 2568 - mo 10/5.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E1488/1494/25 of 15th April, 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Representative, Paris no. 614 of 5th May	Visit of Hejaz-Nejd Mission to Paris

MAIL ... 10 MAY 1932

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 19 12 MAY 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co.

14—6757 (2)

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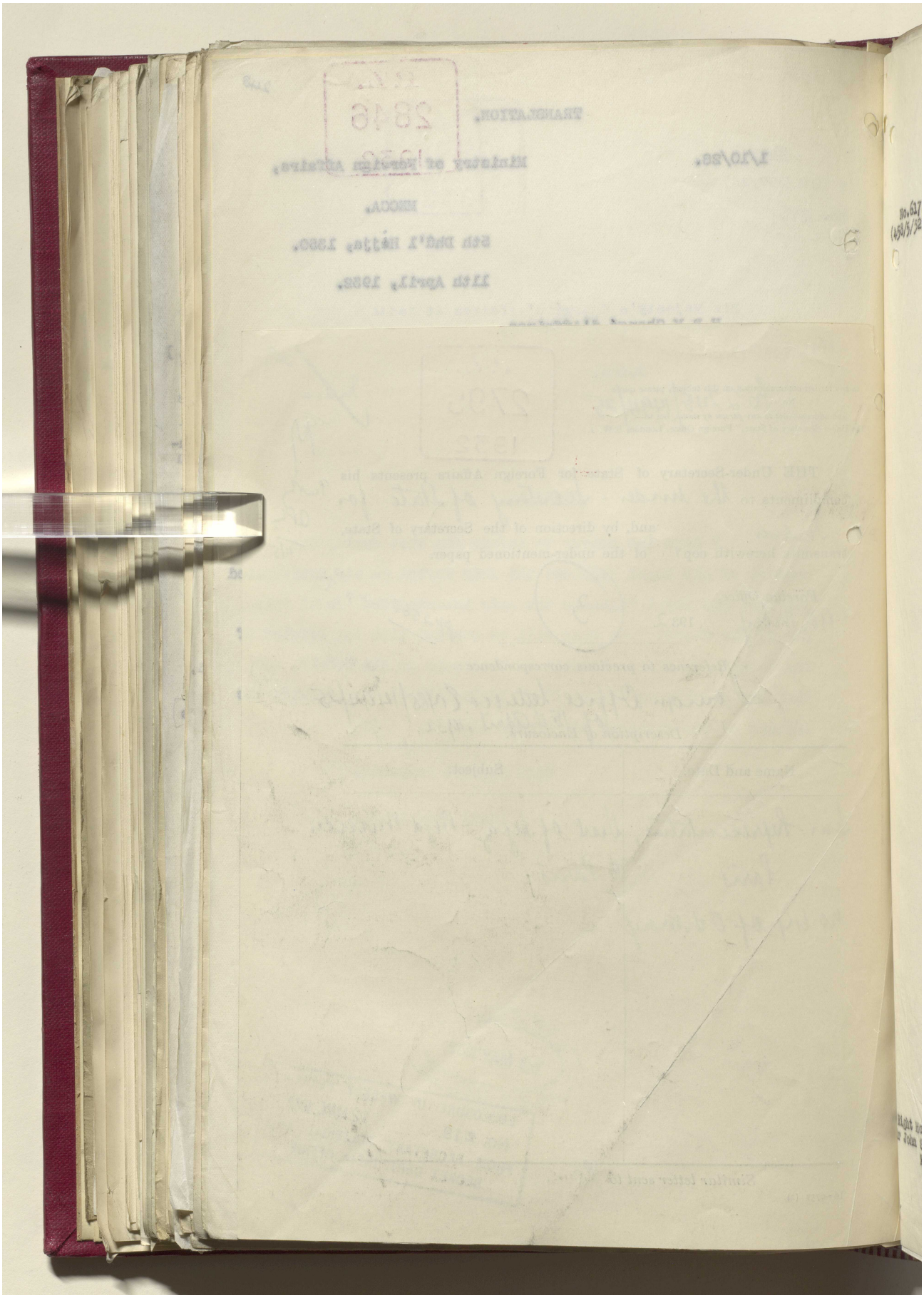

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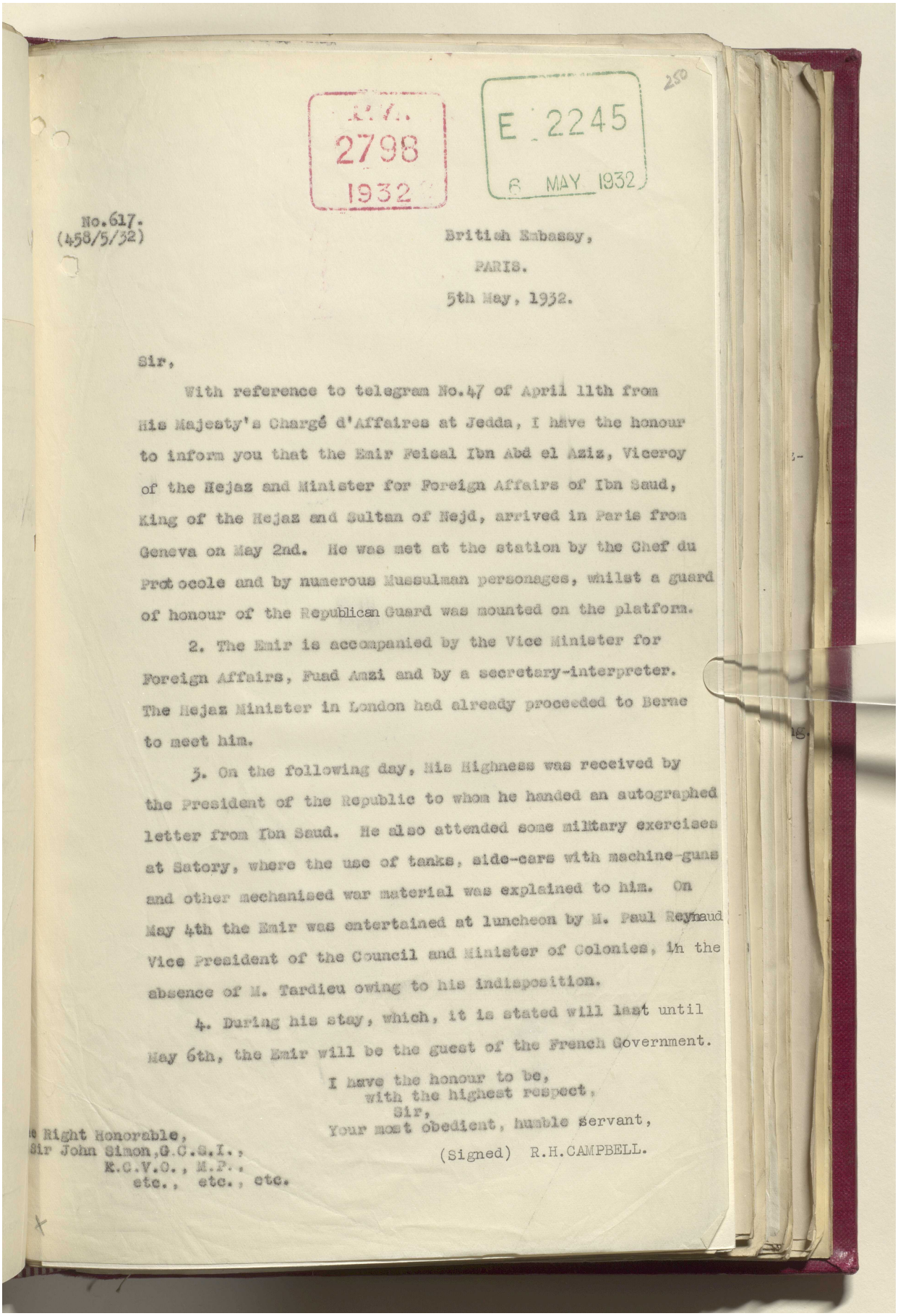

R.V.
2798
1932

E 2245
6 MAY 1932

250

No.617.
(458/5/32)

British Embassy,
PARIS.
5th May, 1932.

Sir,

With reference to telegram No.47 of April 11th from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Jedda, I have the honour to inform you that the Emir Feisal Ibn Abd el Aziz, Viceroy of the Hejaz and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ibn Saud, King of the Hejaz and Sultan of Nejd, arrived in Paris from Geneva on May 2nd. He was met at the station by the Chef du Protocole and by numerous Mussulman personages, whilst a guard of honour of the Republican Guard was mounted on the platform.

2. The Emir is accompanied by the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fuad Amzi and by a secretary-interpreter. The Hejaz Minister in London had already proceeded to Berne to meet him.

3. On the following day, His Highness was received by the President of the Republic to whom he handed an autographed letter from Ibn Saud. He also attended some military exercises at Satory, where the use of tanks, side-cars with machine-guns and other mechanised war material was explained to him. On May 4th the Emir was entertained at luncheon by M. Paul Reynaud Vice President of the Council and Minister of Colonies, in the absence of M. Tardieu owing to his indisposition.

4. During his stay, which, it is stated will last until May 6th, the Emir will be the guest of the French Government.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) R.H.CAMPBELL.

The Right Honorable,
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I.,
K.C.V.O., M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

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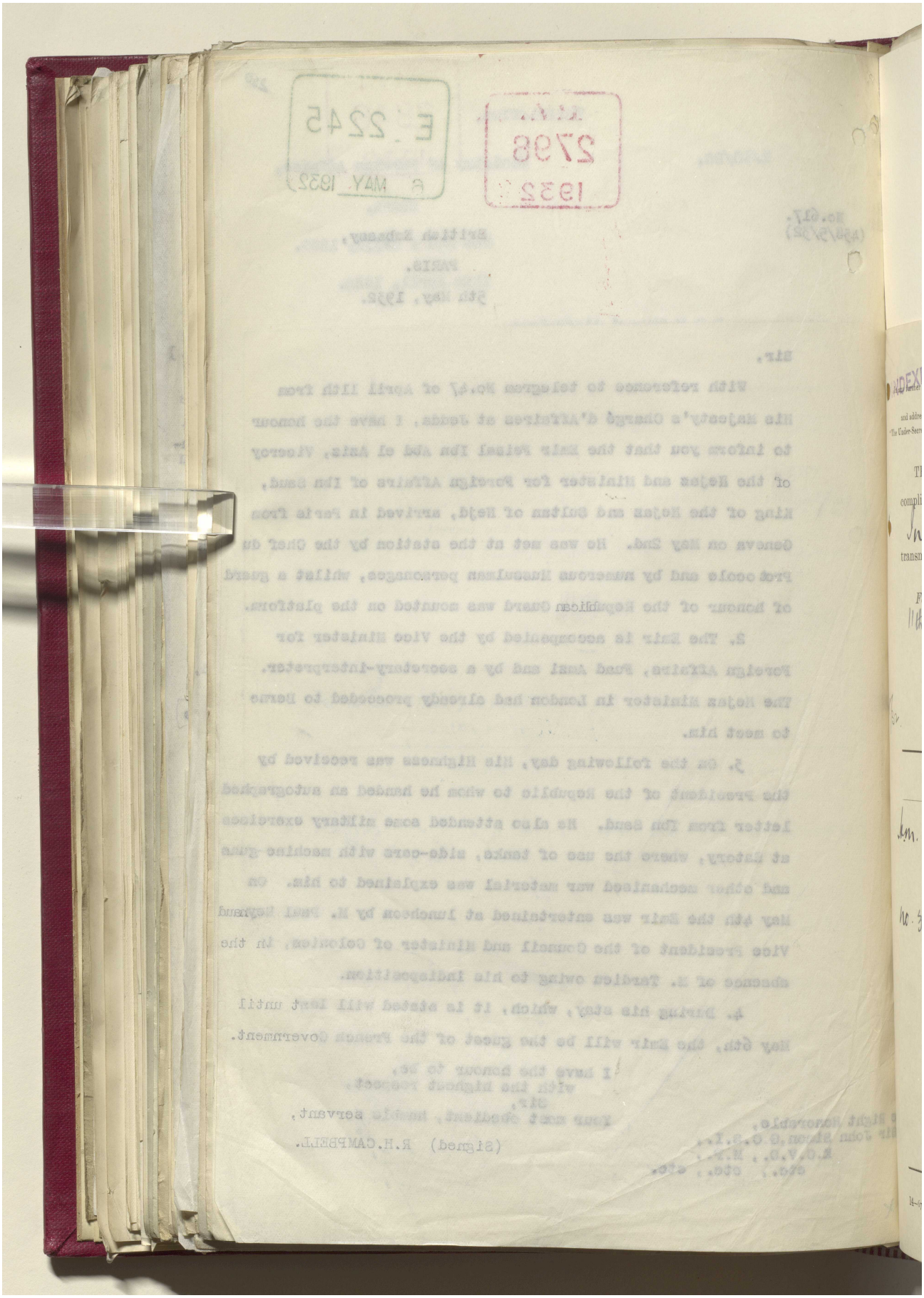

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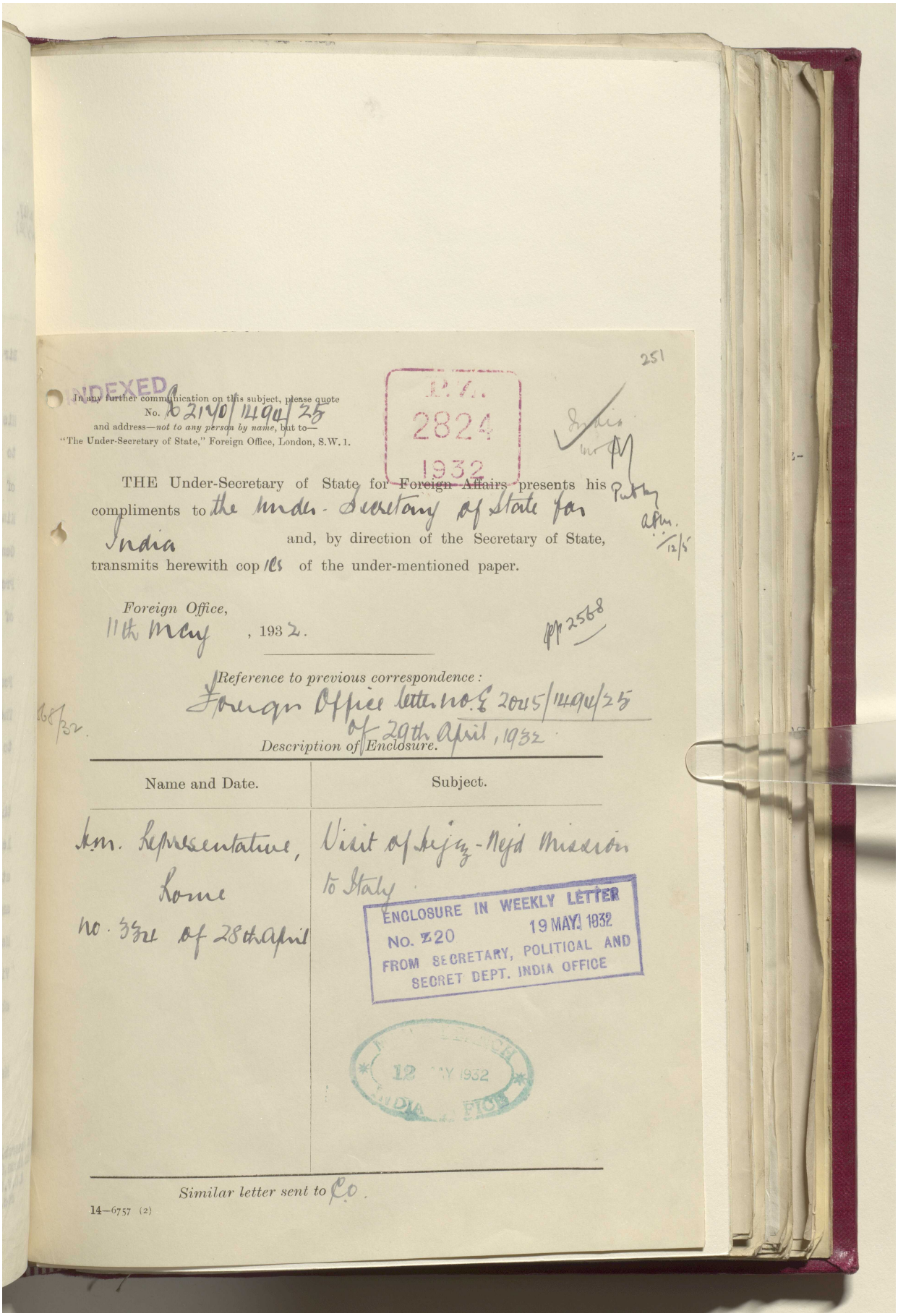

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 2140/1149/25 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to— "The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

P.Z. 2824 1932

251

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
11th May, 1932.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 2015/1149/25 of 29th April, 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Am. Representative, Rome no. 332 of 28th April	Visit of Hejaz-Nejd Mission to Italy.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. E 20 19 MAY 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

12 MAY 1932 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Egypt.

14—6757 (2)

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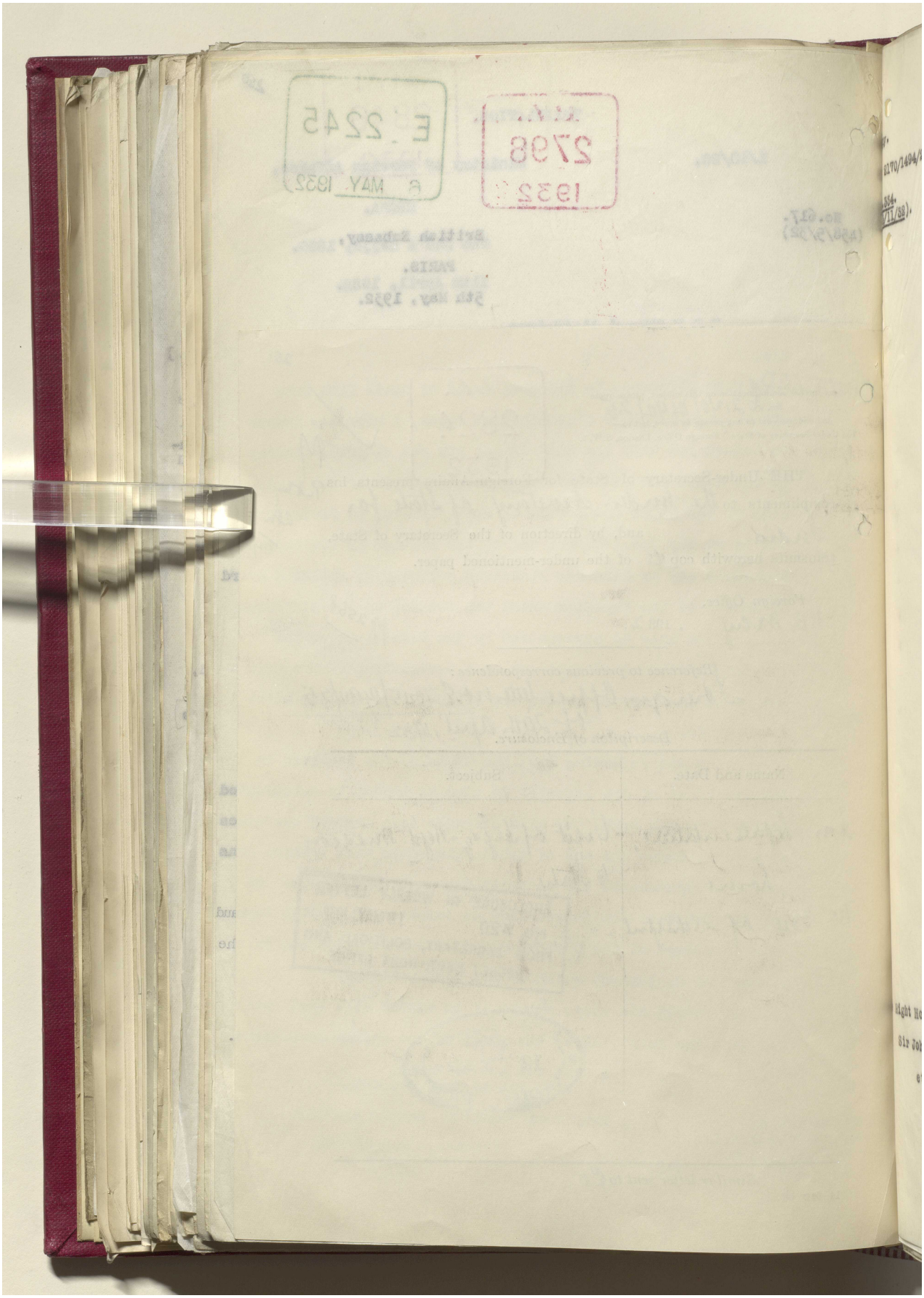

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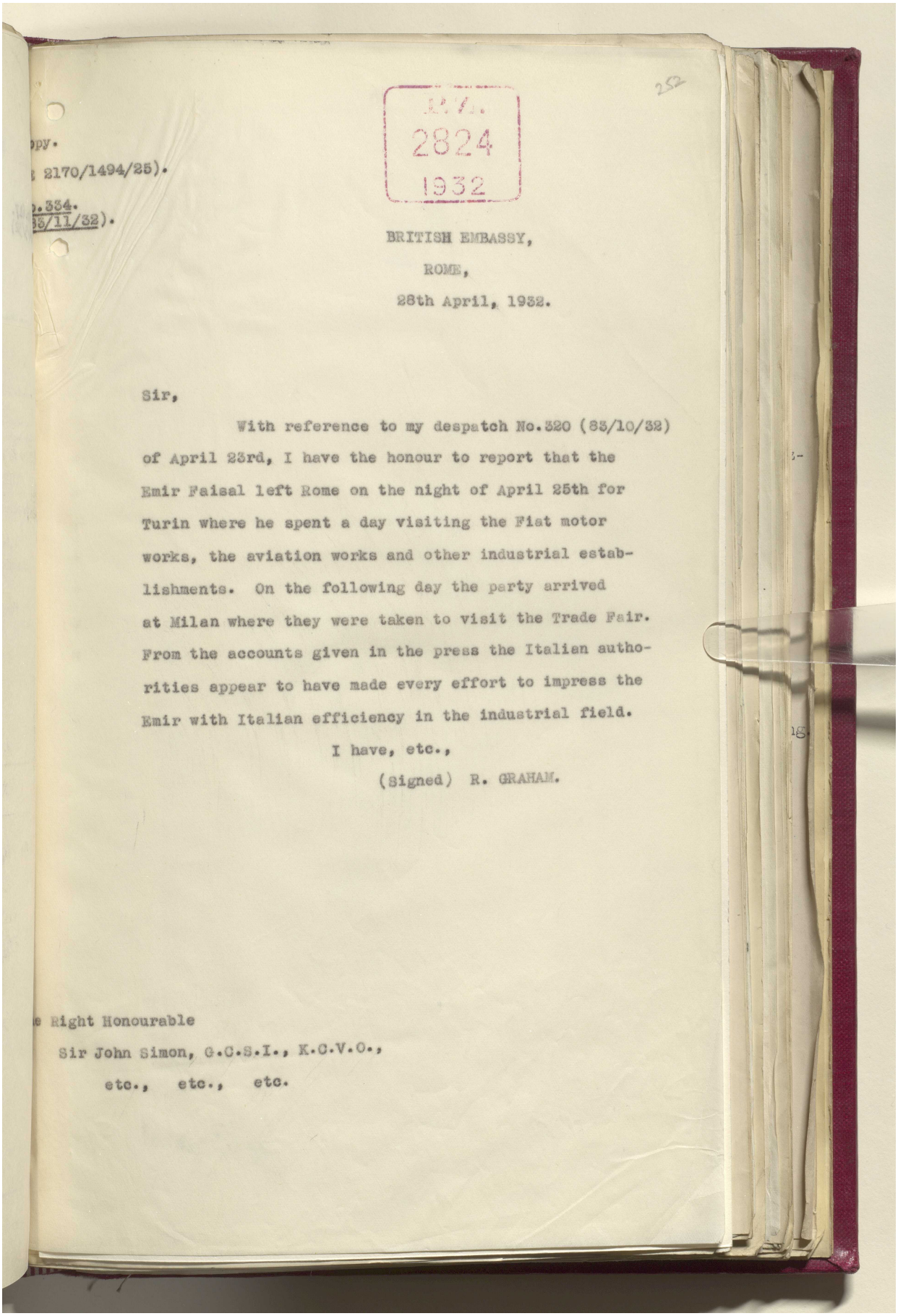

R.A.
2824
1932

252

ppy.
2170/1494/25).
.334.
35/11/32).

BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME,
28th April, 1932.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No.320 (35/10/32) of April 23rd, I have the honour to report that the Emir Faisal left Rome on the night of April 25th for Turin where he spent a day visiting the Fiat motor works, the aviation works and other industrial establishments. On the following day the party arrived at Milan where they were taken to visit the Trade Fair. From the accounts given in the press the Italian authorities appear to have made every effort to impress the Emir with Italian efficiency in the industrial field.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) R. GRAHAM.

e Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.

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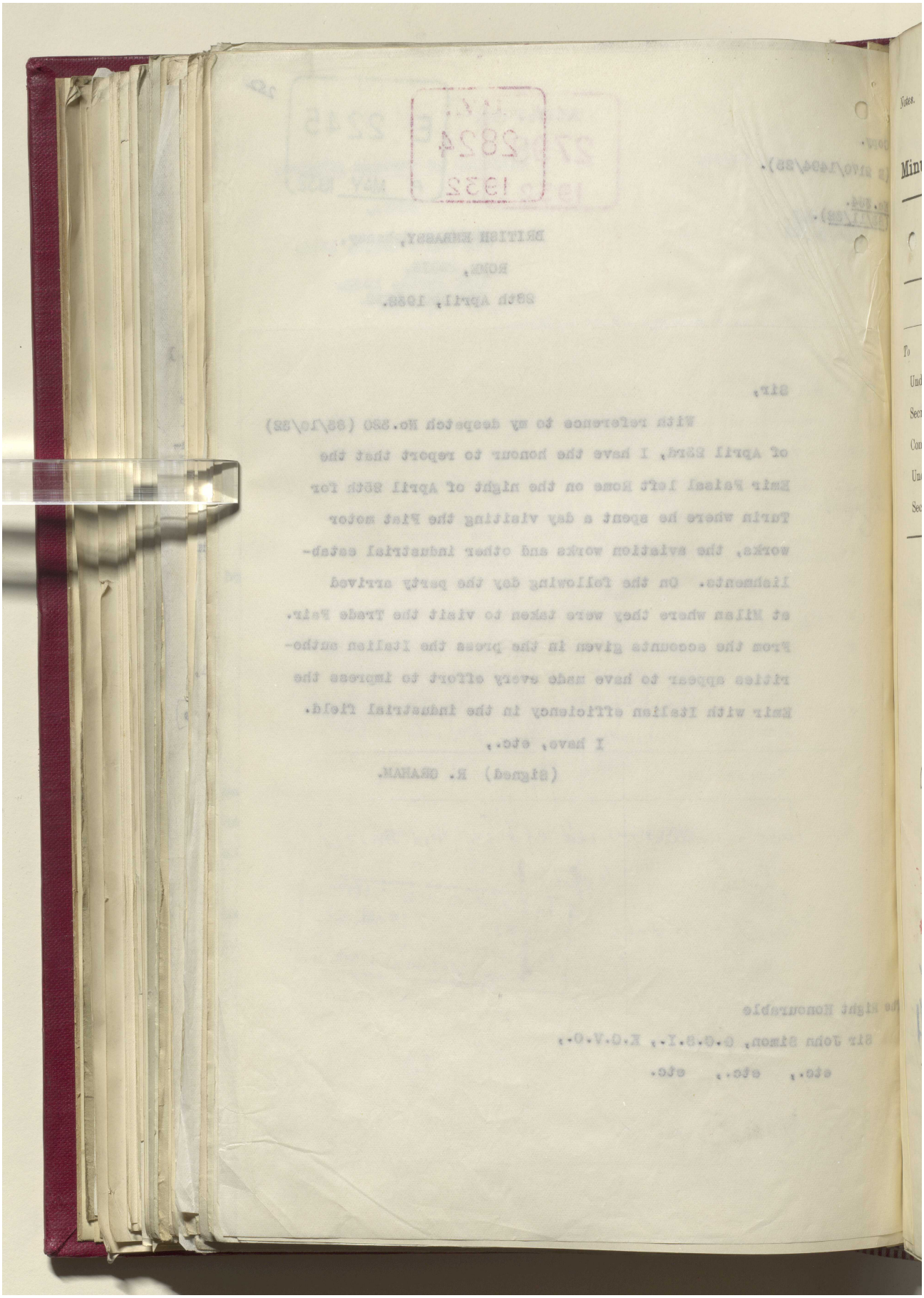

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Notes.

Register No. P. 2 2568/32

Minute Paper.

very SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 1932.
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Anglo-Hejaz: Relations
Under Secretary	2.5.	[illegible]	1) Closure of the Ryan incident.
Secretary of State...	4	[illegible]	2) Plans for the Hejaz Mission's visit.
Committee.....	x	x	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

1) The Foreign Office have communicated very confidentially copies of the notes exchanged with the Hejaz Legation to close the correspondence (referred to in the note on P.2. 1914/32 flagged below) which started with a virtual request from the Legation for Sir Andrew Ryan's recall.

Hafiz Wahba has written quite a good letter in the circumstances, and has decently clothed what seems in effect to be a "climb-down" on the part of his Government. The

Sir M. Seban
MD 4/5

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
9 MAY 1932

Previous Papers:

C. 9/5

5041 2000 1.31

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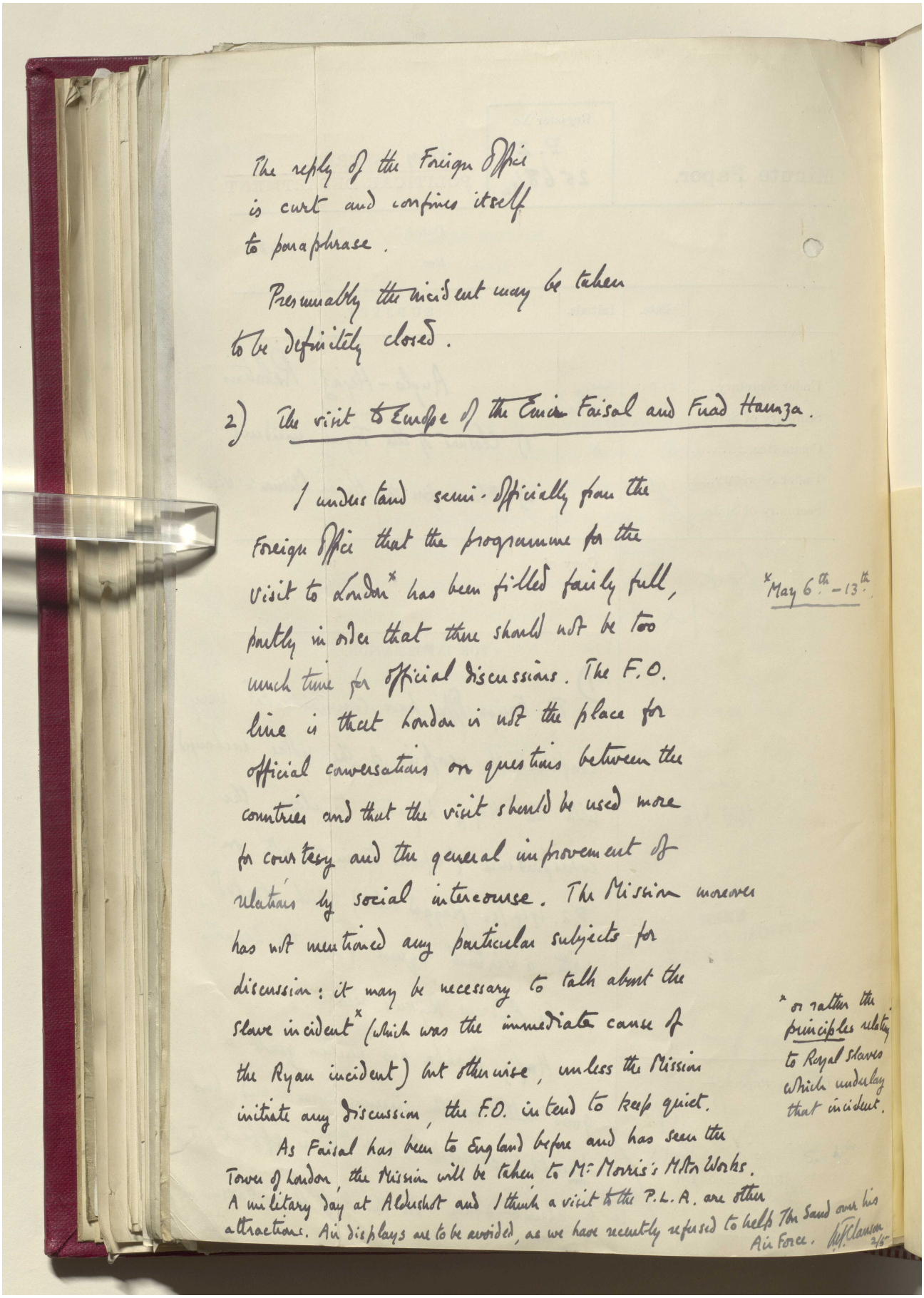

The reply of the Foreign Office is curt and confines itself to paraphrase.

Presumably the incident may be taken to be definitely closed.

2) The visit to Europe of the Emir Faisal and Fuad Hamza.

I understand semi-officially from the Foreign Office that the programme for the visit to London* has been filled fairly full, partly in order that there should not be too much time for official discussions. The F.O. line is that London is not the place for official conversations on questions between the countries and that the visit should be used more for courtesy and the general improvement of relations by social intercourse. The Mission moreover has not mentioned any particular subjects for discussion: it may be necessary to talk about the slave incident* (which was the immediate cause of the Ryan incident) but otherwise, unless the Mission initiate any discussion, the F.O. intend to keep quiet.

As Faisal has been to England before and has seen the Tower of London, the Mission will be taken to Mr Morris's Motor Works. A military day at Aldershot and I think a visit to the P.L.A. are other attractions. Air displays are to be avoided, as we have recently refused to help Ibn Saud over his Air Force. A.F. Clanson 2/5

*May 6th – 13th.

* or rather the principles relating to Royal slaves which underlay that incident.

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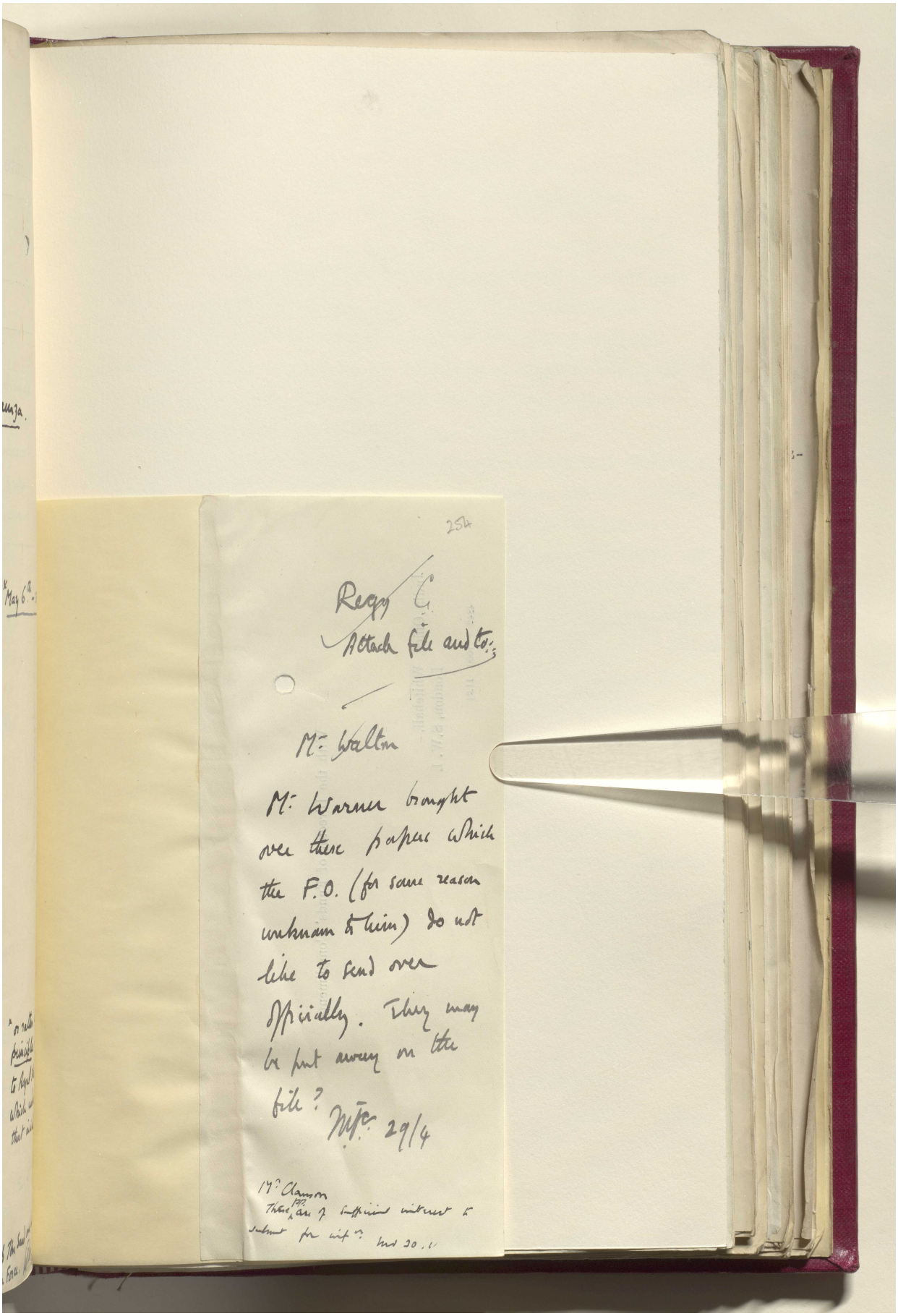

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Regy C.
Attach file and to:

Mr Walton

Mr Warner brought over these papers which the F.O. (for some reason unknown to him) do not like to send over officially. They may be put away on the file?

Mfc. 29/4

Mr Clanson
These pp. are of sufficient interest to submit for info. [illegible]

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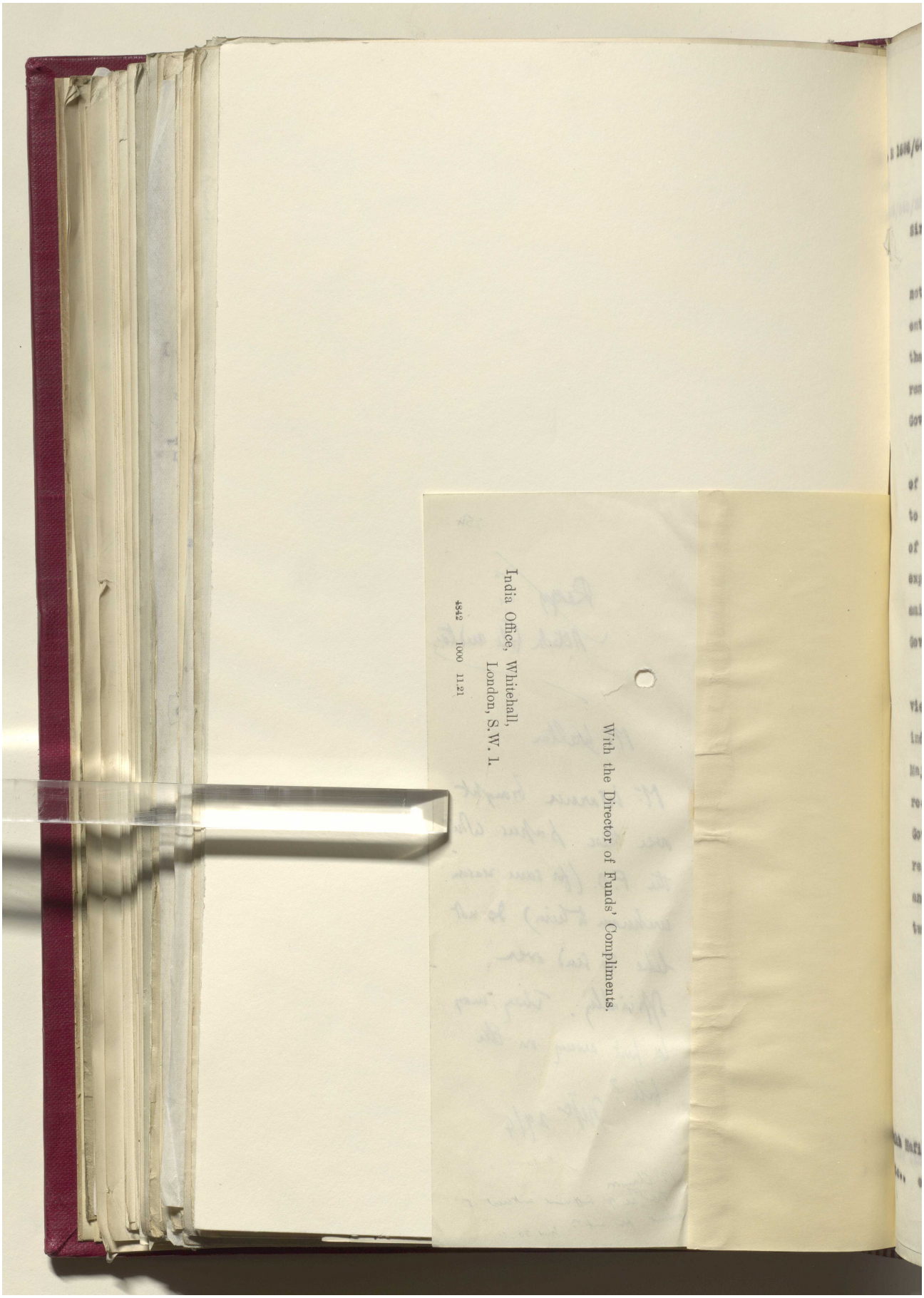

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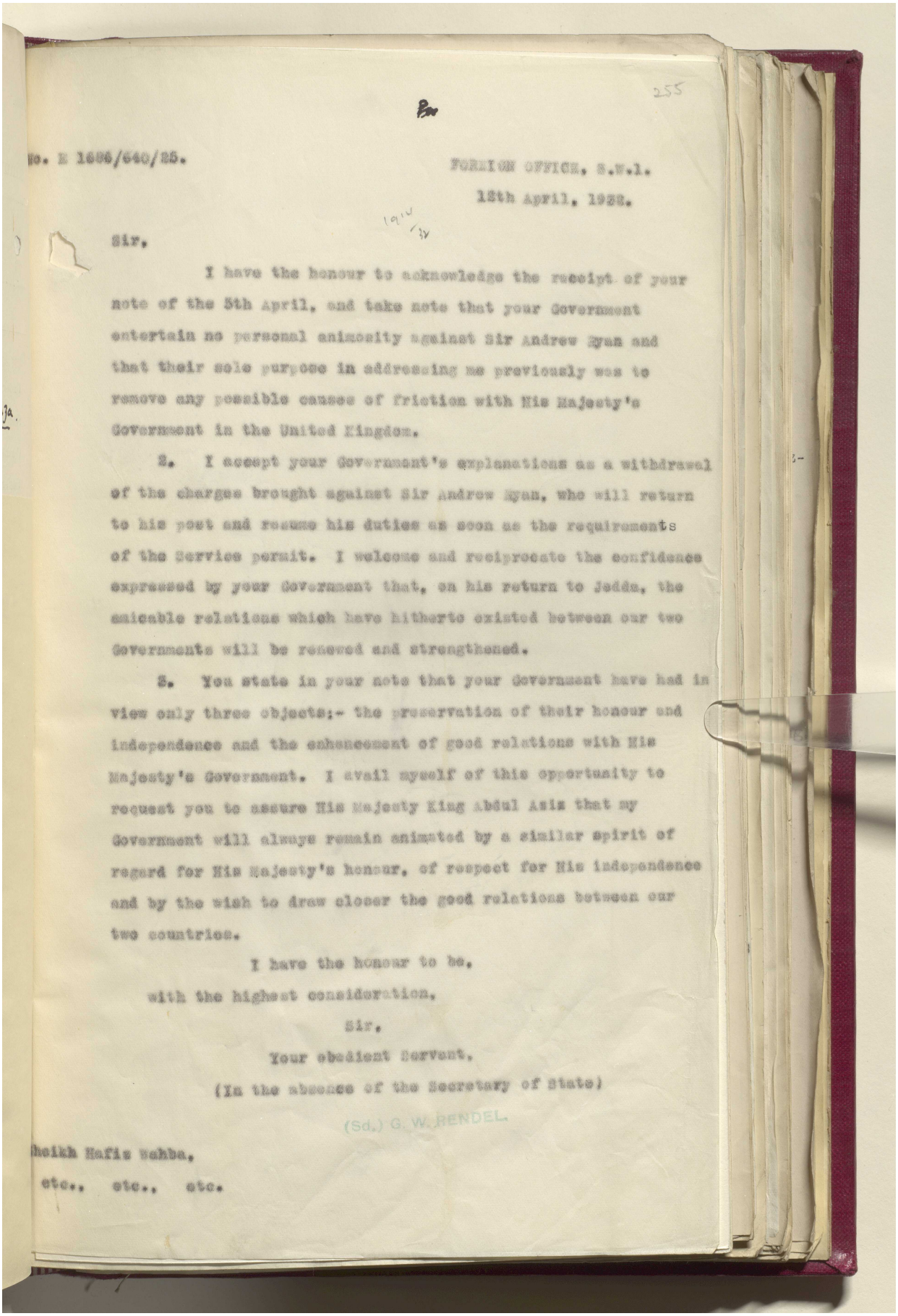

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Bw

No. E 1896/640/25.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

12th April, 1926.

1914 / 34

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 5th April, and take note that your Government entertain no personal animosity against Sir Andrew Ryan and that their sole purpose in addressing me previously was to remove any possible causes of friction with His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

2. I accept your Government's explanations as a withdrawal of the charges brought against Sir Andrew Ryan, who will return to his post and resume his duties as soon as the requirements of the Service permit. I welcome and reciprocate the confidence expressed by your Government that, on his return to Jedda, the amicable relations which have hitherto existed between our two Governments will be renewed and strengthened.

3. You state in your note that your Government have had in view only three objects:- the preservation of their honour and independence and the enhancement of good relations with His Majesty's Government. I avail myself of this opportunity to request you to assure His Majesty King Abdul Aziz that my Government will always remain animated by a similar spirit of regard for His Majesty's honour, of respect for His independence and by the wish to draw closer the good relations between our two countries.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest consideration,

Sir,

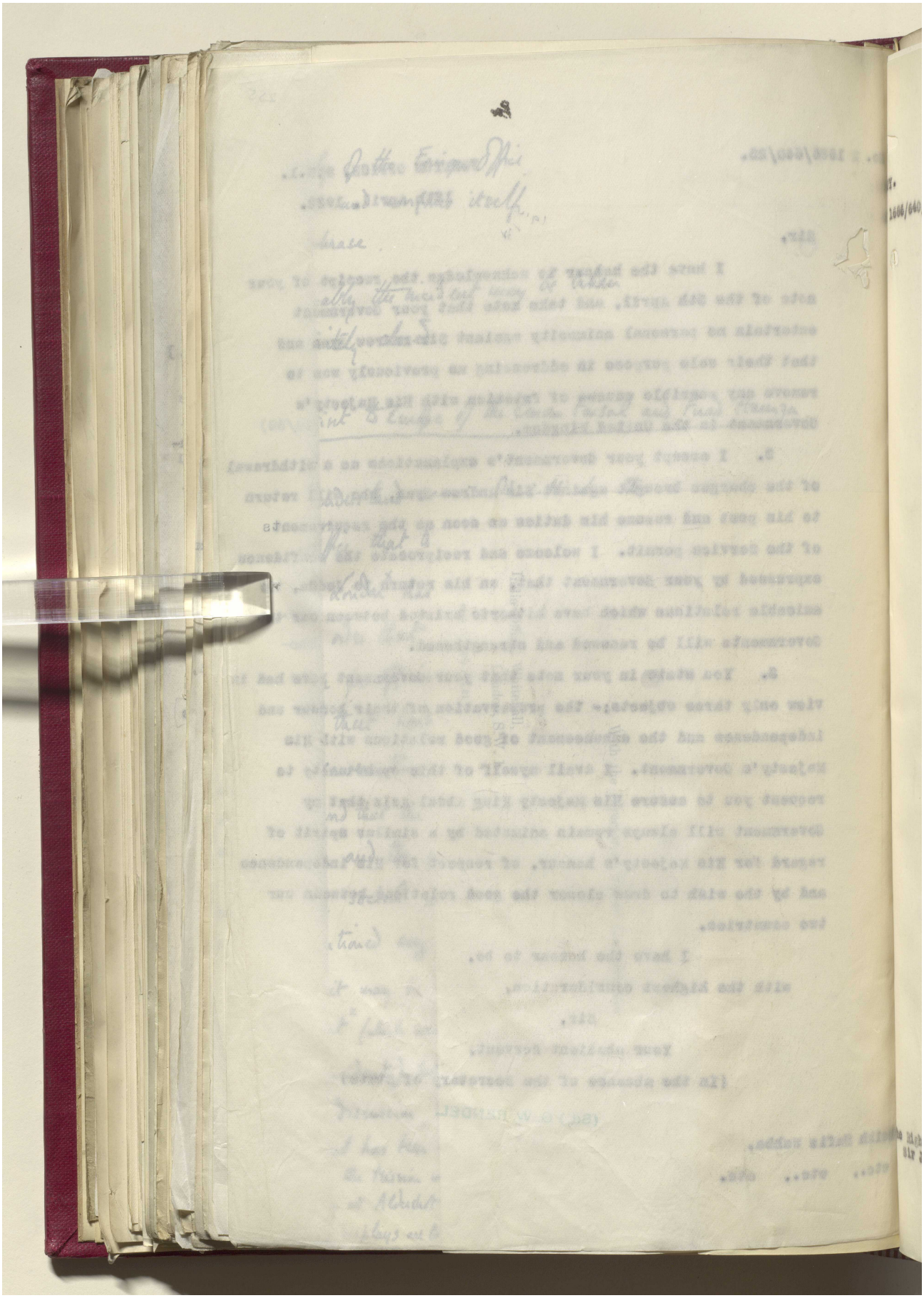
Your obedient Servant,

(In the absence of the Secretary of State)

(Sd.) G. W. RENDEL.

Sheikh Hafiz Wahba,

etc., etc., etc.



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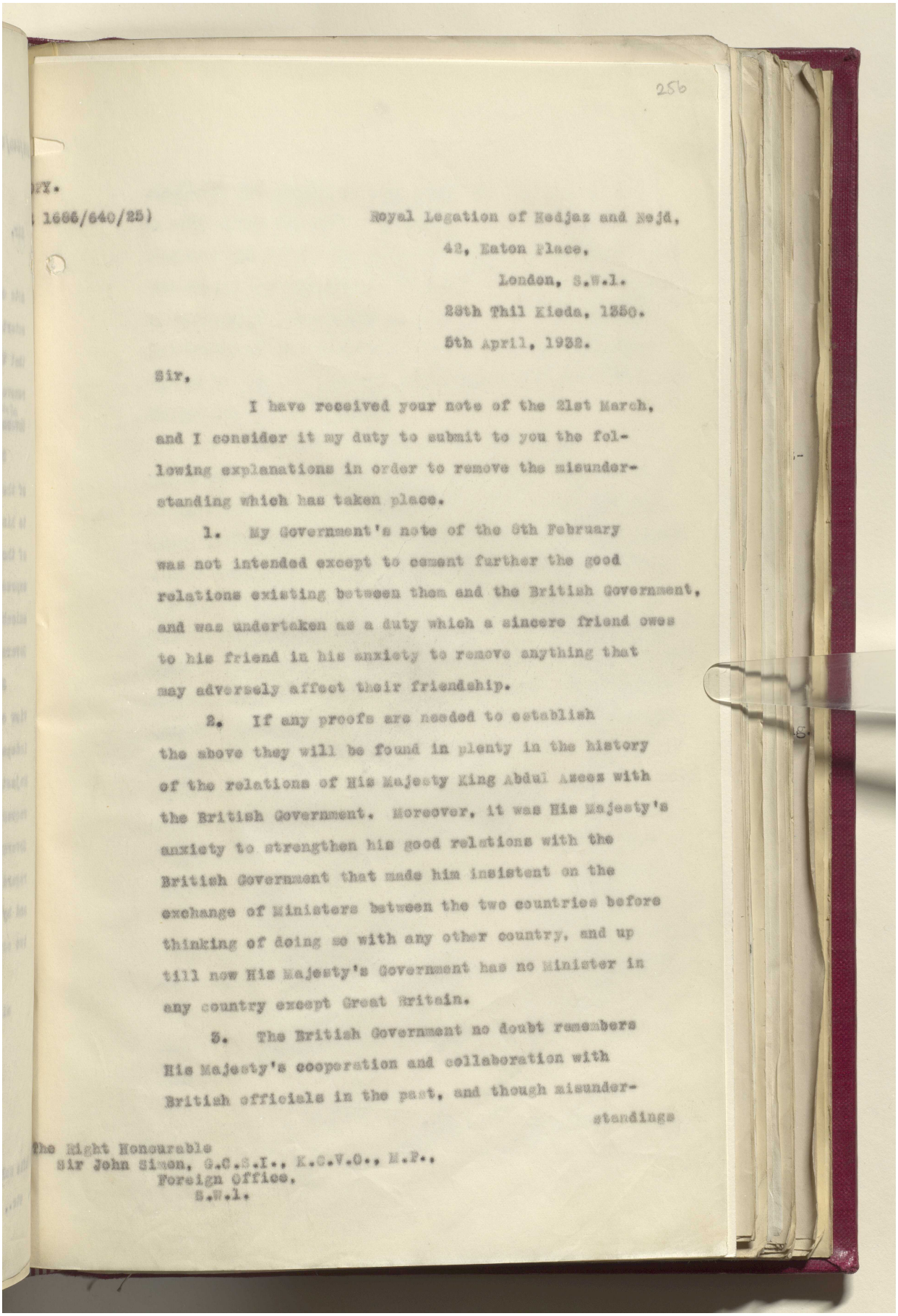

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FY.

1666/640/25)

Royal Legation of Hedjaz and Nejd,
42, Eaton Place,
London, S.W.1.
28th Thil Kieda, 1350.
5th April, 1932.

Sir,

I have received your note of the 21st March, and I consider it my duty to submit to you the following explanations in order to remove the misunderstanding which has taken place.

1. My Government's note of the 6th February was not intended except to cement further the good relations existing between them and the British Government, and was undertaken as a duty which a sincere friend owes to his friend in his anxiety to remove anything that may adversely affect their friendship.

2. If any proofs are needed to establish the above they will be found in plenty in the history of the relations of His Majesty King Abdul Azees with the British Government. Moreover, it was His Majesty's anxiety to strengthen his good relations with the British Government that made him insistent on the exchange of Ministers between the two countries before thinking of doing so with any other country, and up till now His Majesty's Government has no Minister in any country except Great Britain.

3. The British Government no doubt remembers His Majesty's cooperation and collaboration with British officials in the past, and though misunder-

standings

The Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., M.P.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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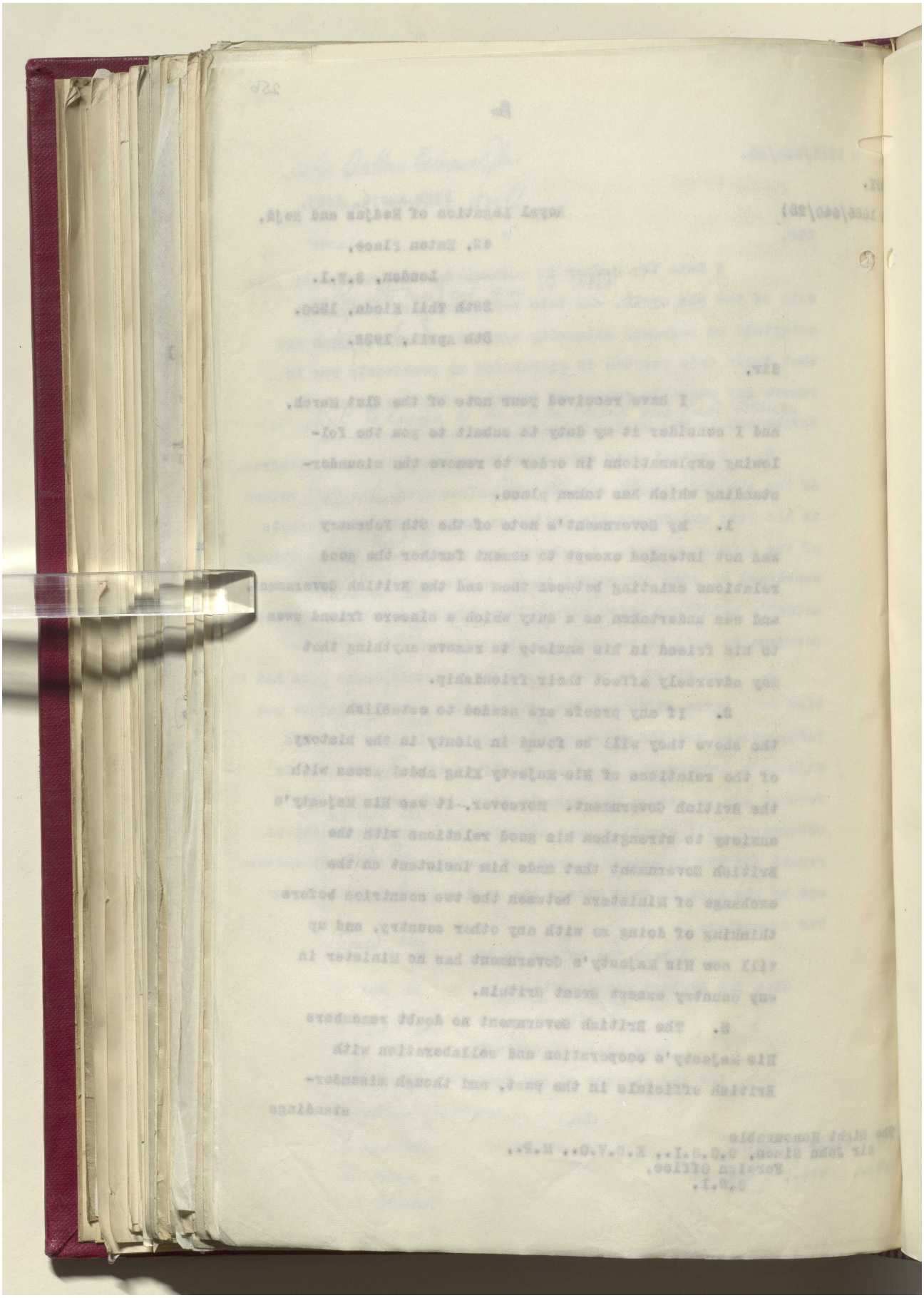

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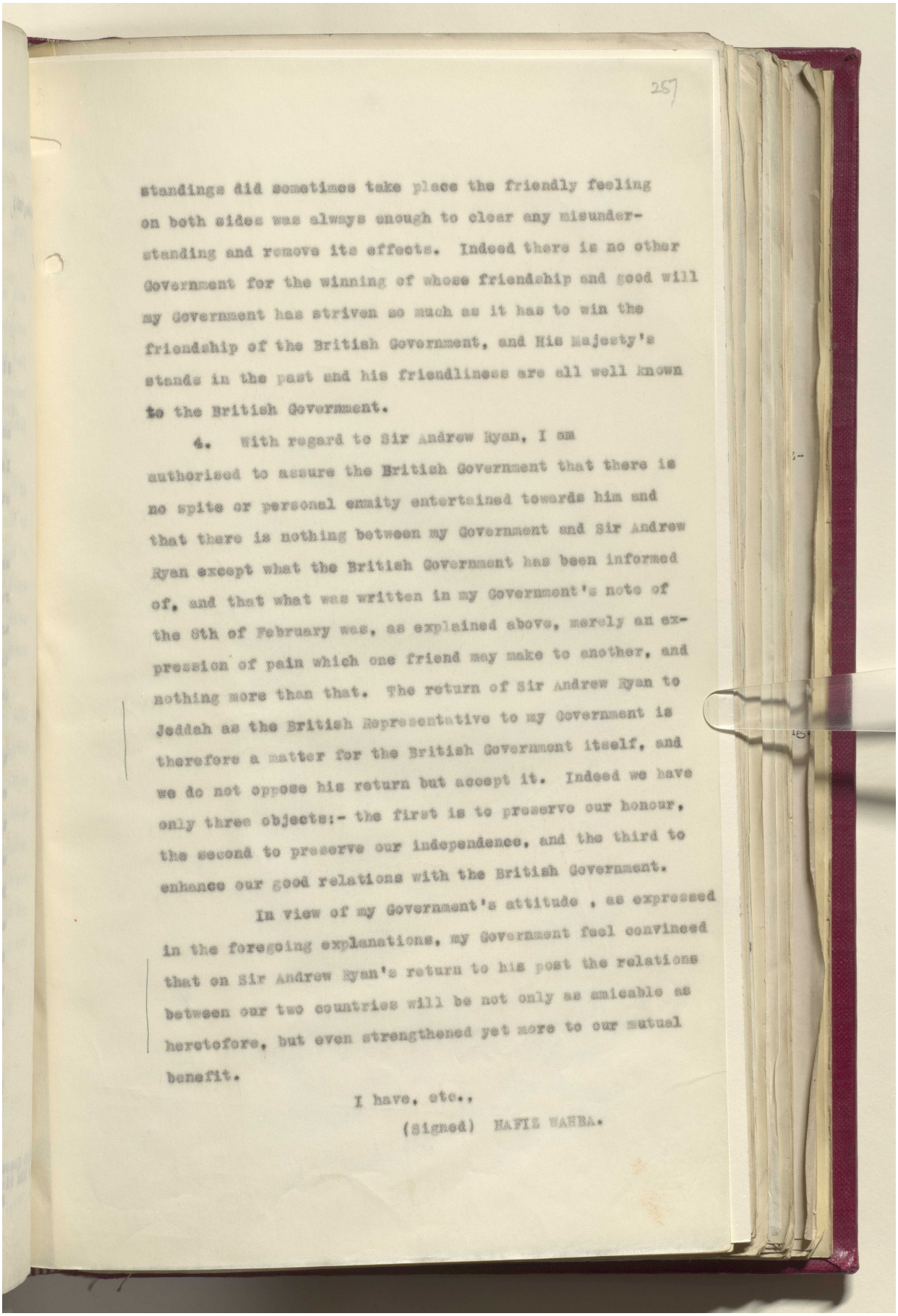

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standings did sometimes take place the friendly feeling on both sides was always enough to clear any misunderstanding and remove its effects. Indeed there is no other Government for the winning of whose friendship and good will my Government has striven so much as it has to win the friendship of the British Government, and His Majesty's stands in the past and his friendliness are all well known to the British Government.

4. With regard to Sir Andrew Ryan, I am authorised to assure the British Government that there is no spite or personal enmity entertained towards him and that there is nothing between my Government and Sir Andrew Ryan except what the British Government has been informed of, and that what was written in my Government's note of the 8th of February was, as explained above, merely an expression of pain which one friend may make to another, and nothing more than that. The return of Sir Andrew Ryan to Jeddah as the British Representative to my Government is therefore a matter for the British Government itself, and we do not oppose his return but accept it. Indeed we have only three objects:- the first is to preserve our honour, the second to preserve our independence, and the third to enhance our good relations with the British Government.

In view of my Government's attitude , as expressed in the foregoing explanations, my Government feel convinced that on Sir Andrew Ryan's return to his post the relations between our two countries will be not only as amicable as heretofore, but even strengthened yet more to our mutual benefit.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) HAFIZ WAHBA.

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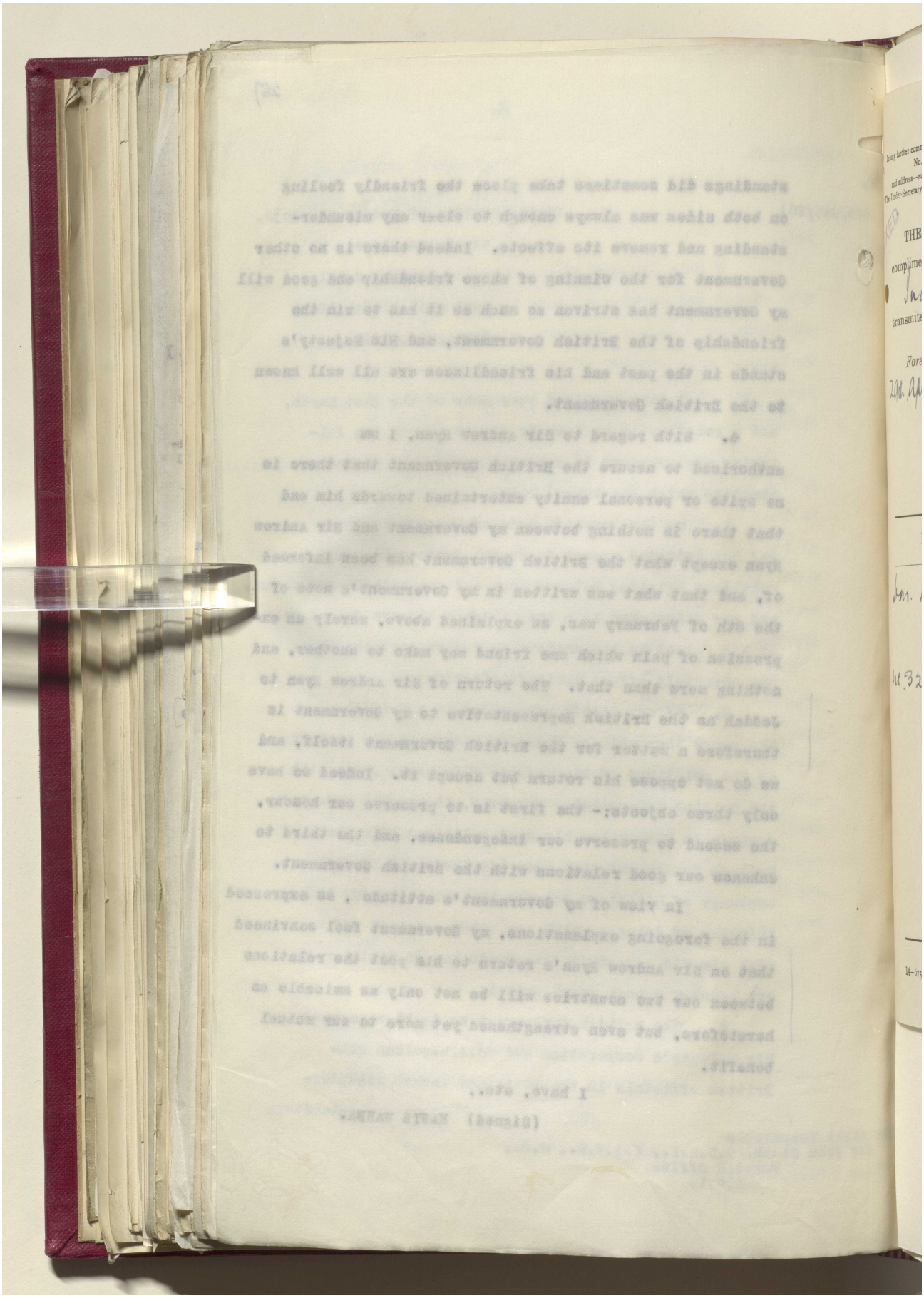

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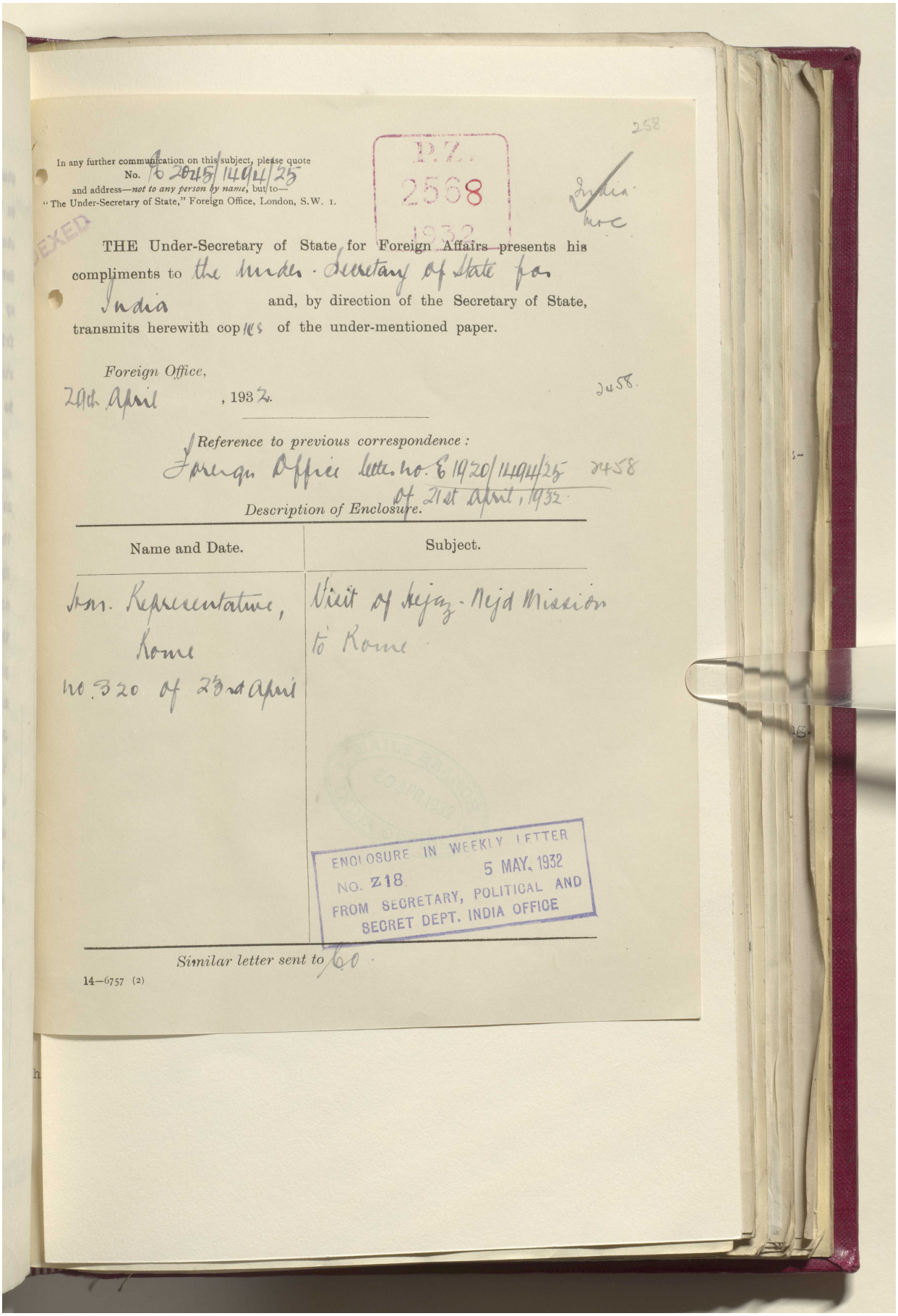

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No. E 2045/1494/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 2568 1932

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India

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
29th April, 1932.

2458.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 1920/1494/25 2458 of 21st April, 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Ital. Representative, Rome no. 320 of 23rd April	Visit of Hejaz-Nejd Mission to Rome.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. Z18 5 MAY, 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to India.

14—6757 (2)

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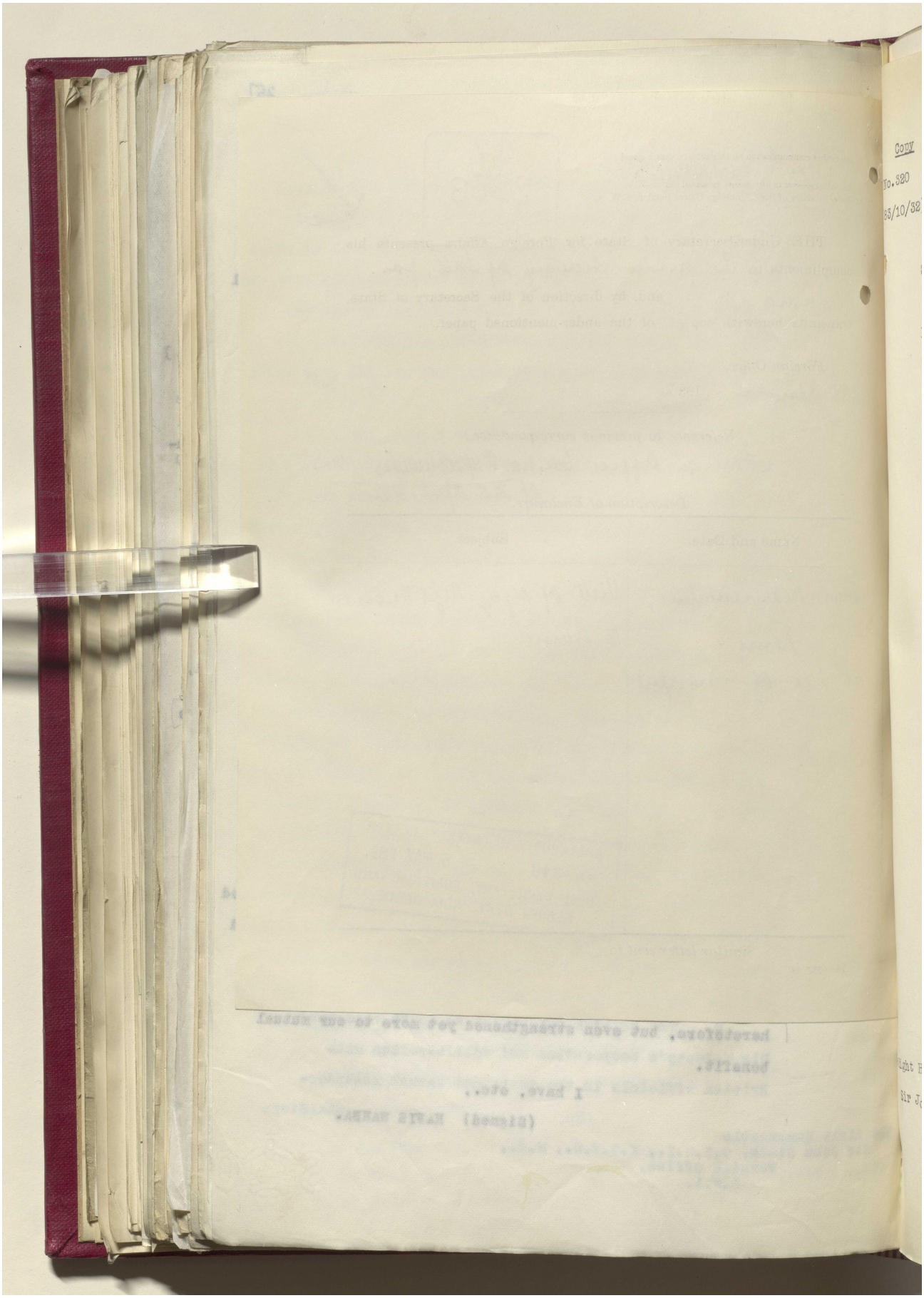

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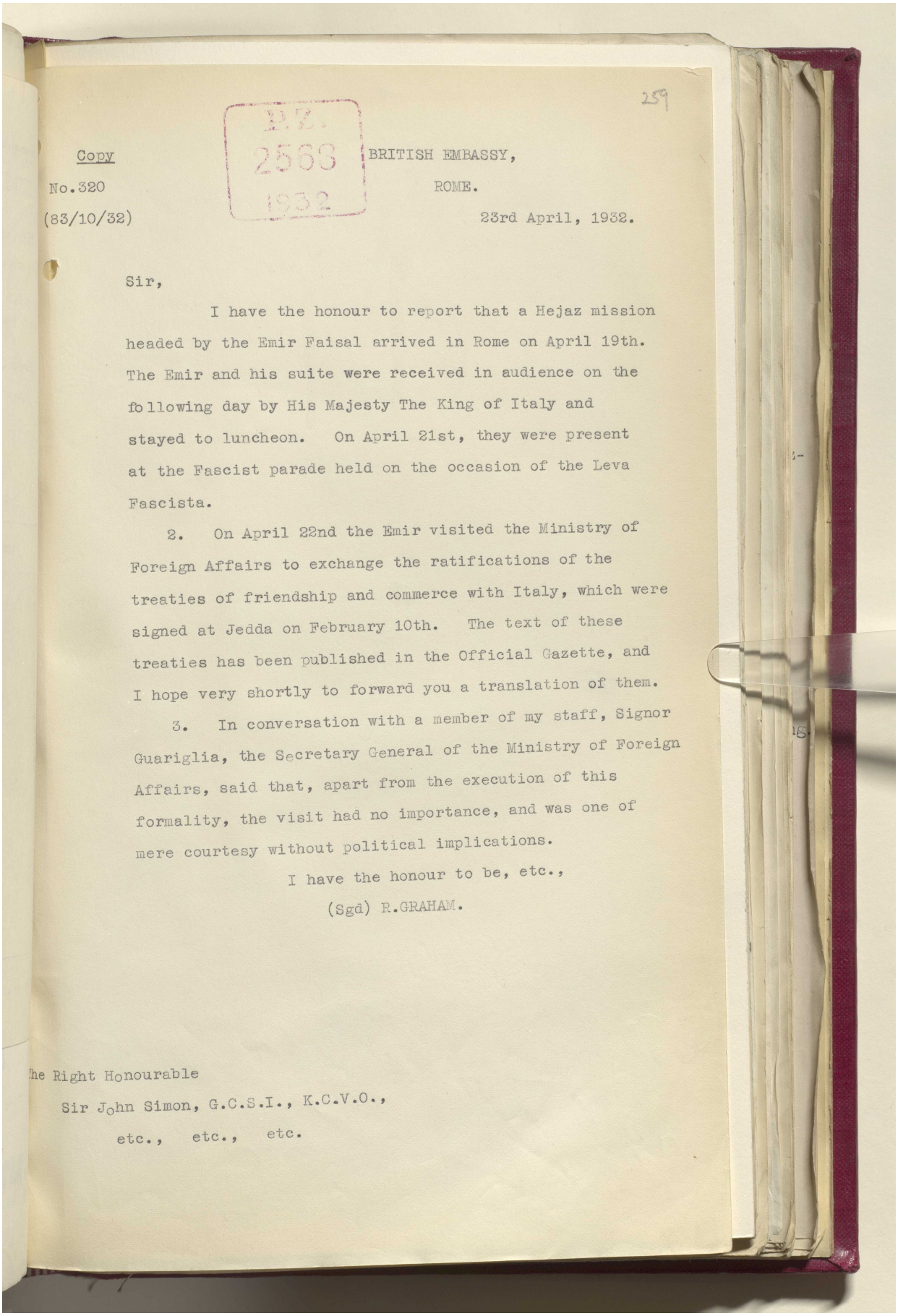

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P.Z. 2568 1932

Copy

No.320

(83/10/32)

BRITISH EMBASSY,

ROME.

23rd April, 1932.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that a Hejaz mission headed by the Emir Faisal arrived in Rome on April 19th. The Emir and his suite were received in audience on the following day by His Majesty The King of Italy and stayed to luncheon. On April 21st, they were present at the Fascist parade held on the occasion of the Leva Fascista.

2. On April 22nd the Emir visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to exchange the ratifications of the treaties of friendship and commerce with Italy, which were signed at Jedda on February 10th. The text of these treaties has been published in the Official Gazette, and I hope very shortly to forward you a translation of them.

3. In conversation with a member of my staff, Signor Guariglia, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that, apart from the execution of this formality, the visit had no importance, and was one of mere courtesy without political implications.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Sgd) R.GRAHAM.

he Right Honourable

Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,

etc., etc., etc.

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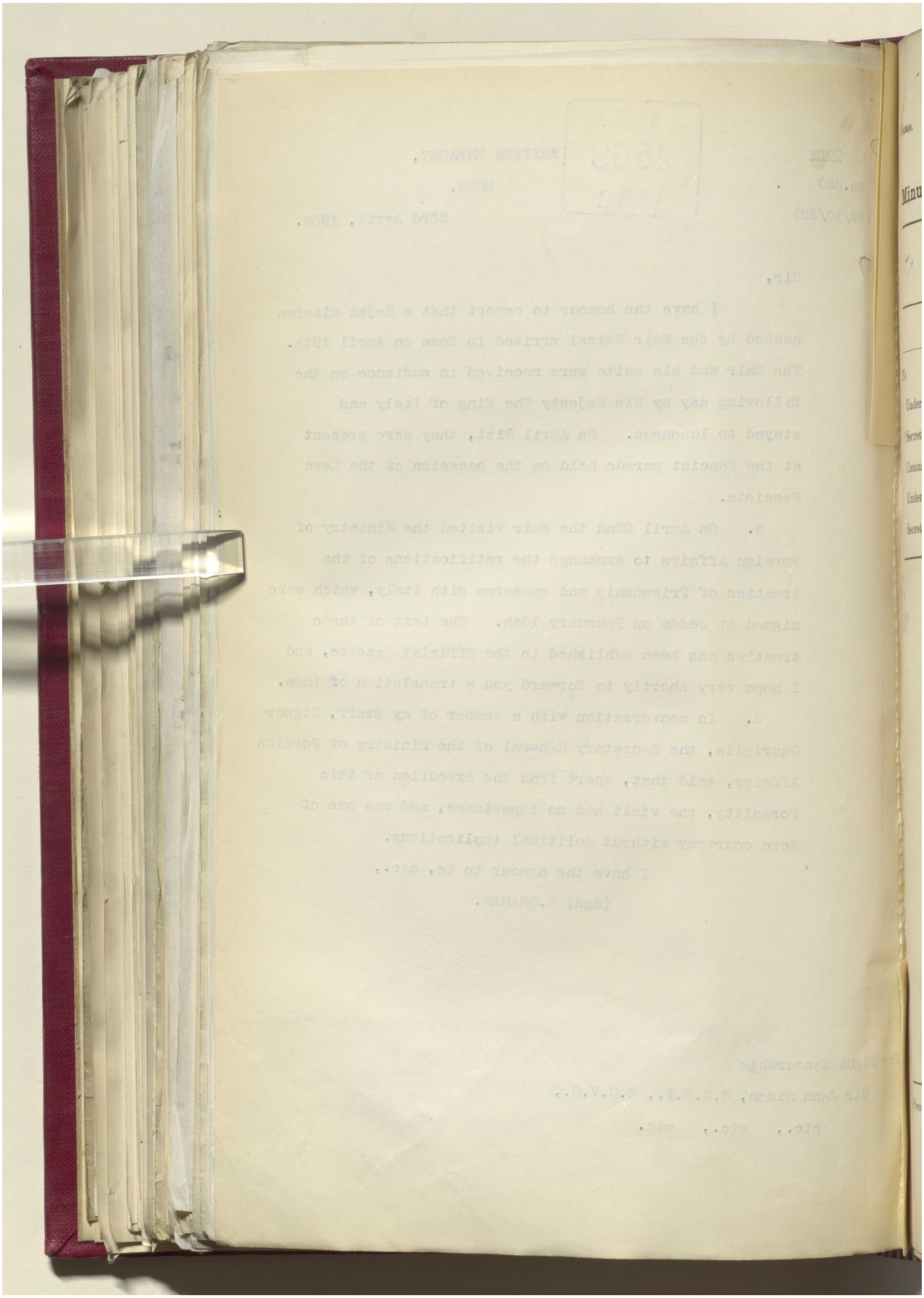

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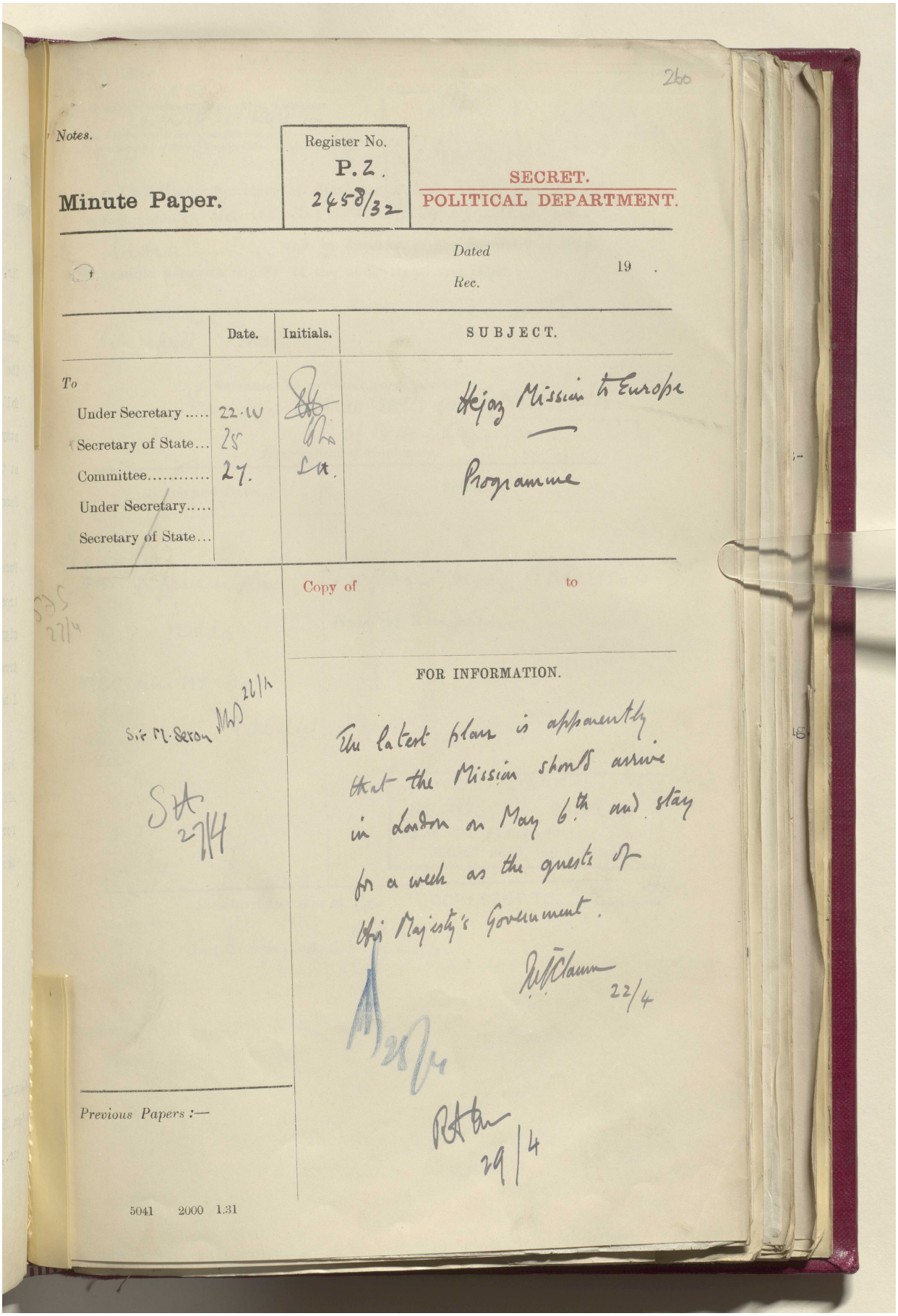

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P.Z. 2458/32

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz Mission to Europe — Programme
Under Secretary	22.IV		
Secretary of State...	25		
Committee.....	27.		
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

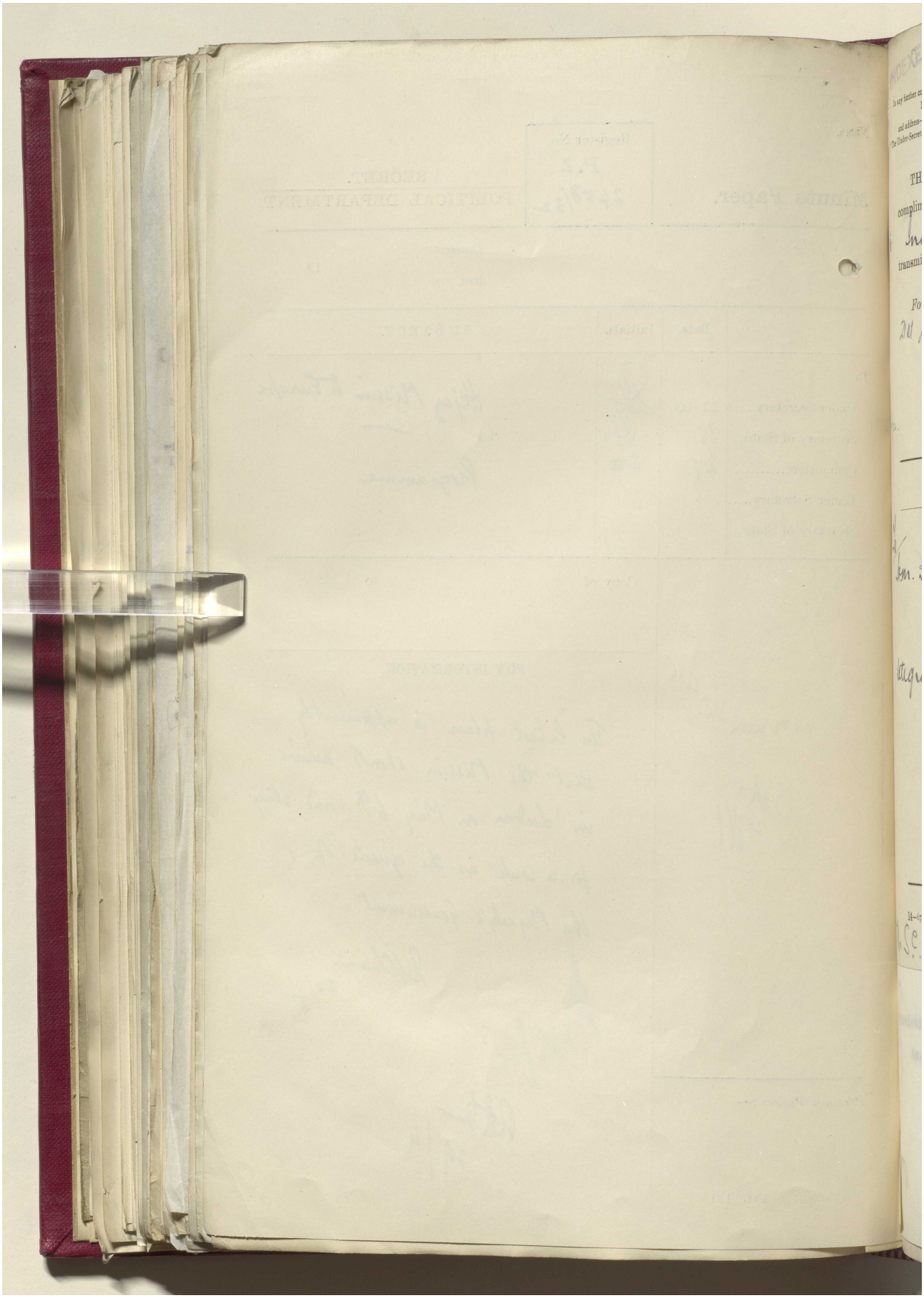
The latest plans is apparently that the Mission should arrive in London on May 6th and stay for a week as the guests of His Majesty's Government.

22/4

29/4

Previous Papers :—

5041 2000 1.31



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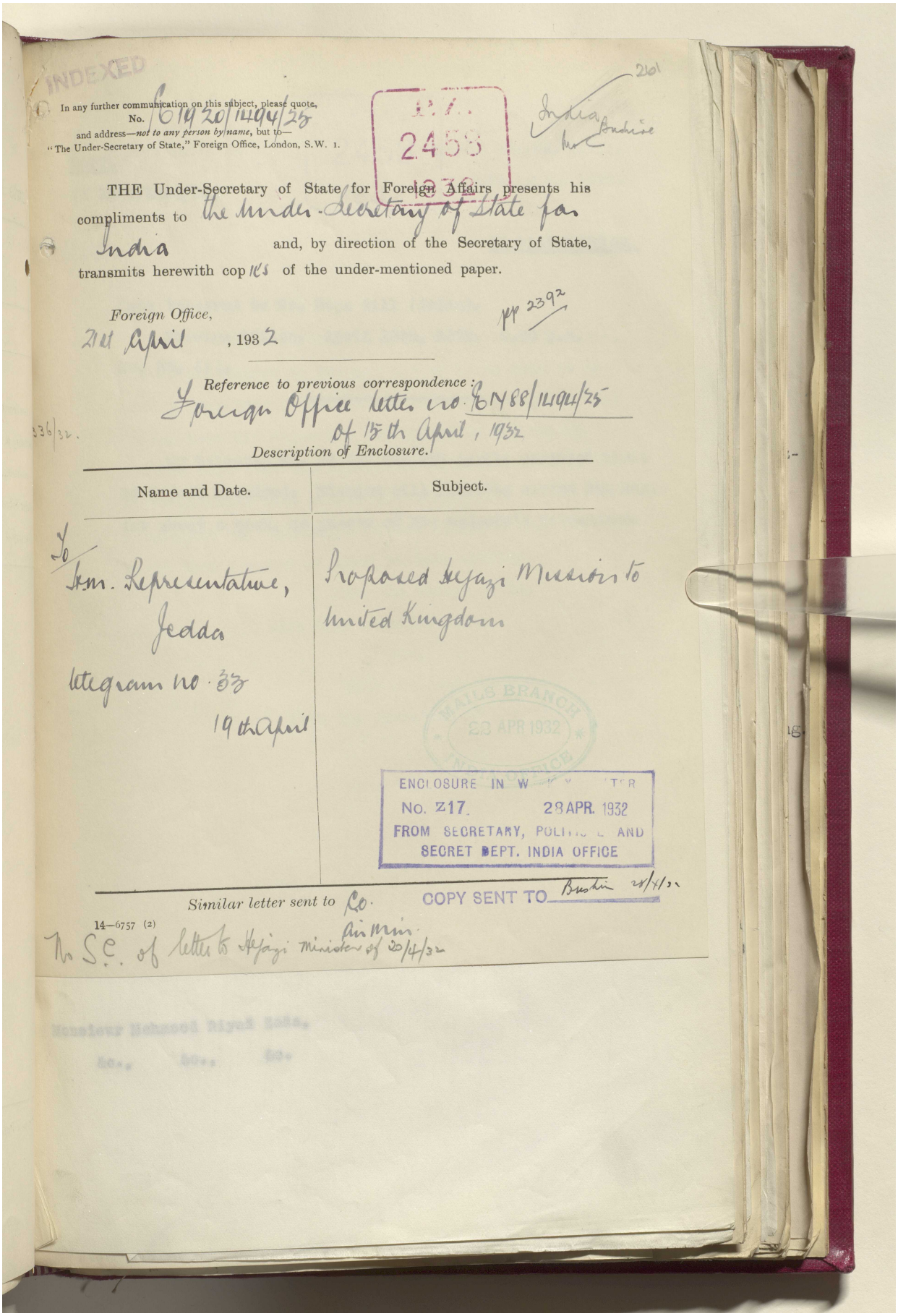

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No. E 1920/1494/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 2458 1932

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India
Bushire
Mr

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
21st April, 1932

pp 2392

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 1488/1494/25 of 15th April, 1932

336/32.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To H.M. Representative, Jedda Telegram no. 33 19th April	Proposed Hejazi Mission to United Kingdom

MAILS BRANCH 23 APR 1932 INDIA OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN W[illegible] [illegible]TER
No. Z17. 28 APR. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co. Air Min.

COPY SENT TO Bushire 28/4/32

14—6757 (2)

No. S.C. of letter to Hejazi Minister of 20/4/32

Monsieur Mohamed Riyad Zada,
&c., &c., &c.

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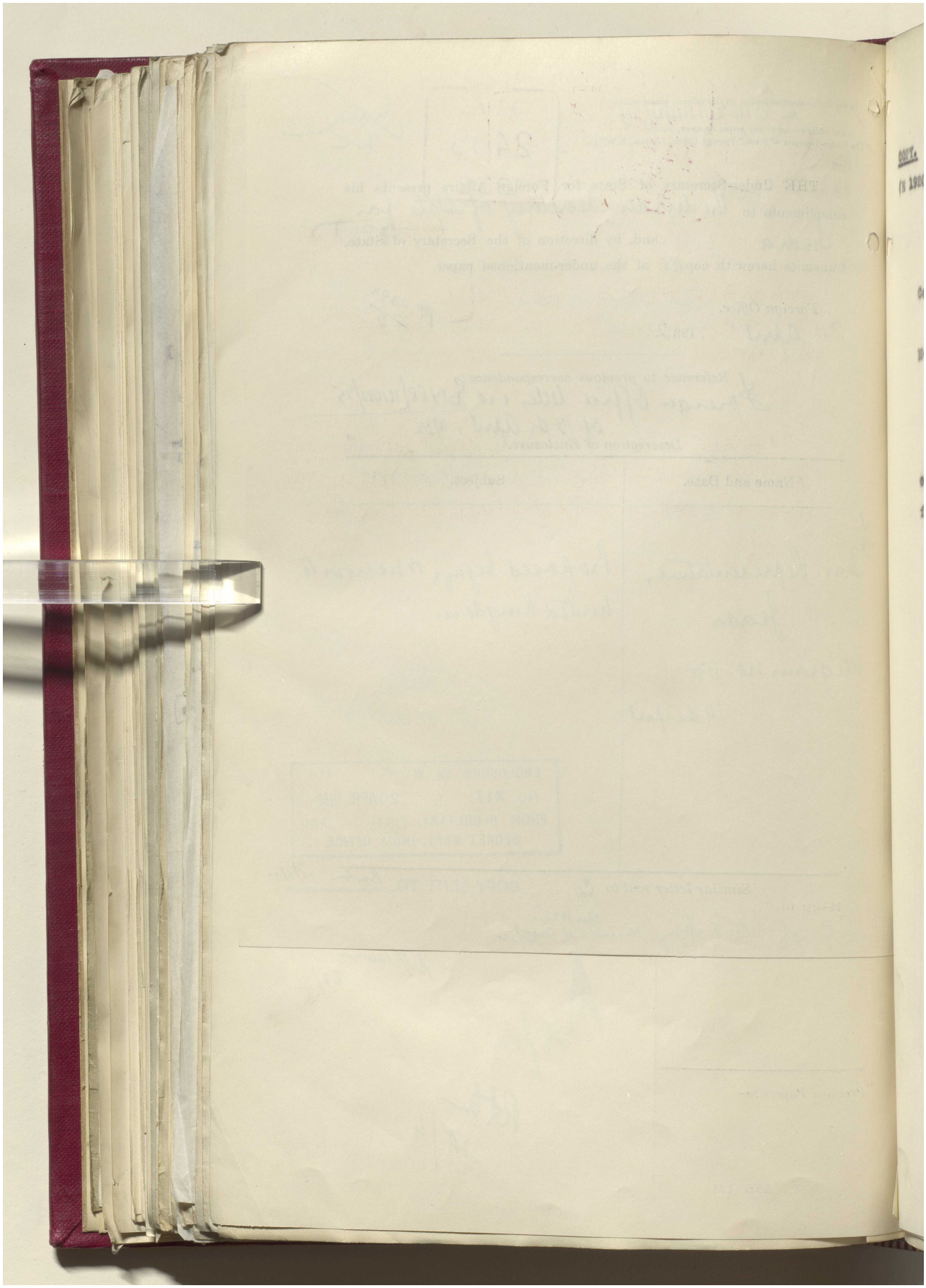

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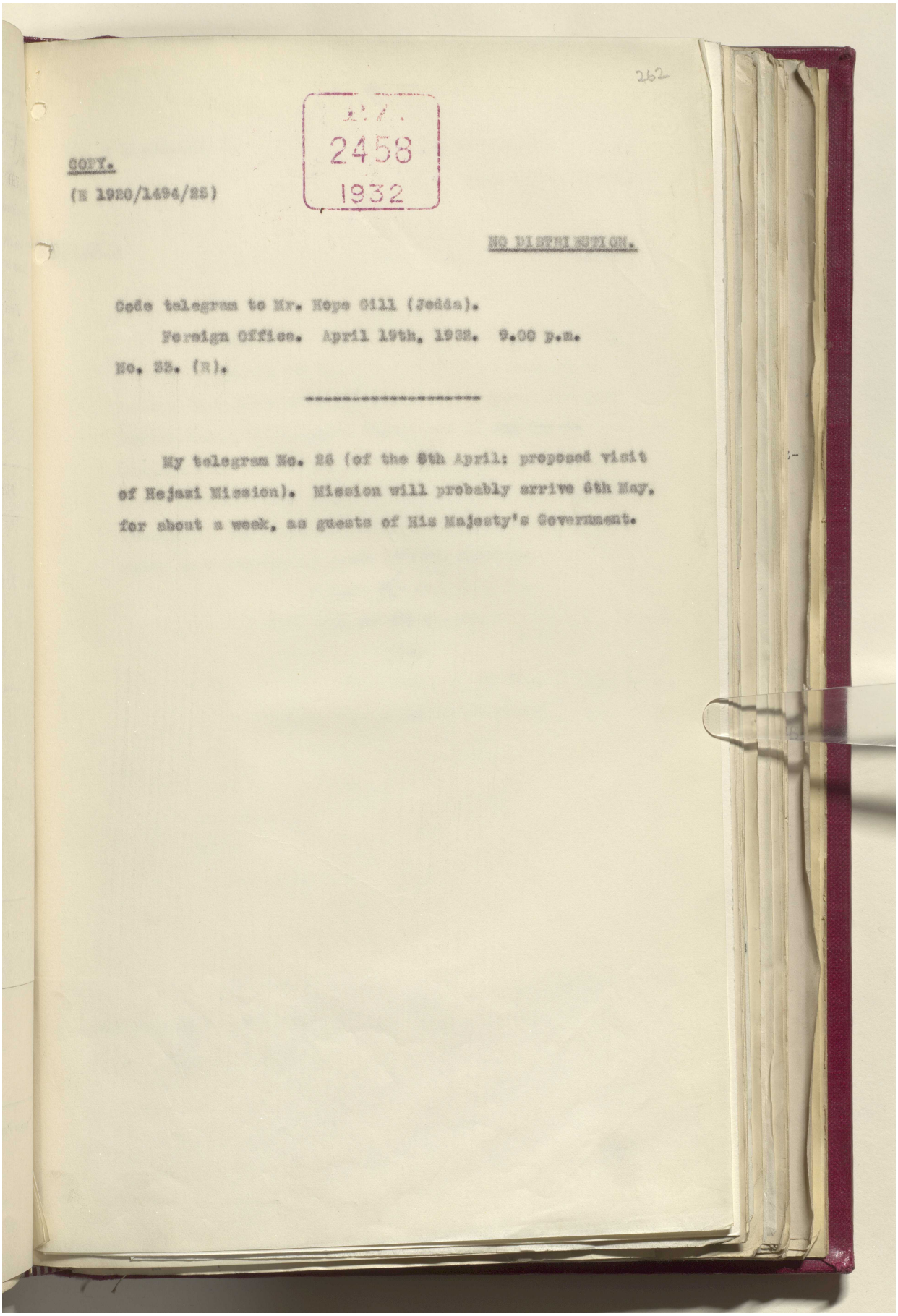

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E 7.
2458
1932

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(E 1920/1494/25)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Mr. Hope Gill (Jedda).
Foreign Office. April 19th, 1932. 9.00 p.m.
No. 33. (R).

My telegram No. 26 (of the 8th April: proposed visit of Hejazi Mission). Mission will probably arrive 6th May, for about a week, as guests of His Majesty's Government.

Reference: IOR/L/PS/12/2087. Copyright for this page: Open Government Licence
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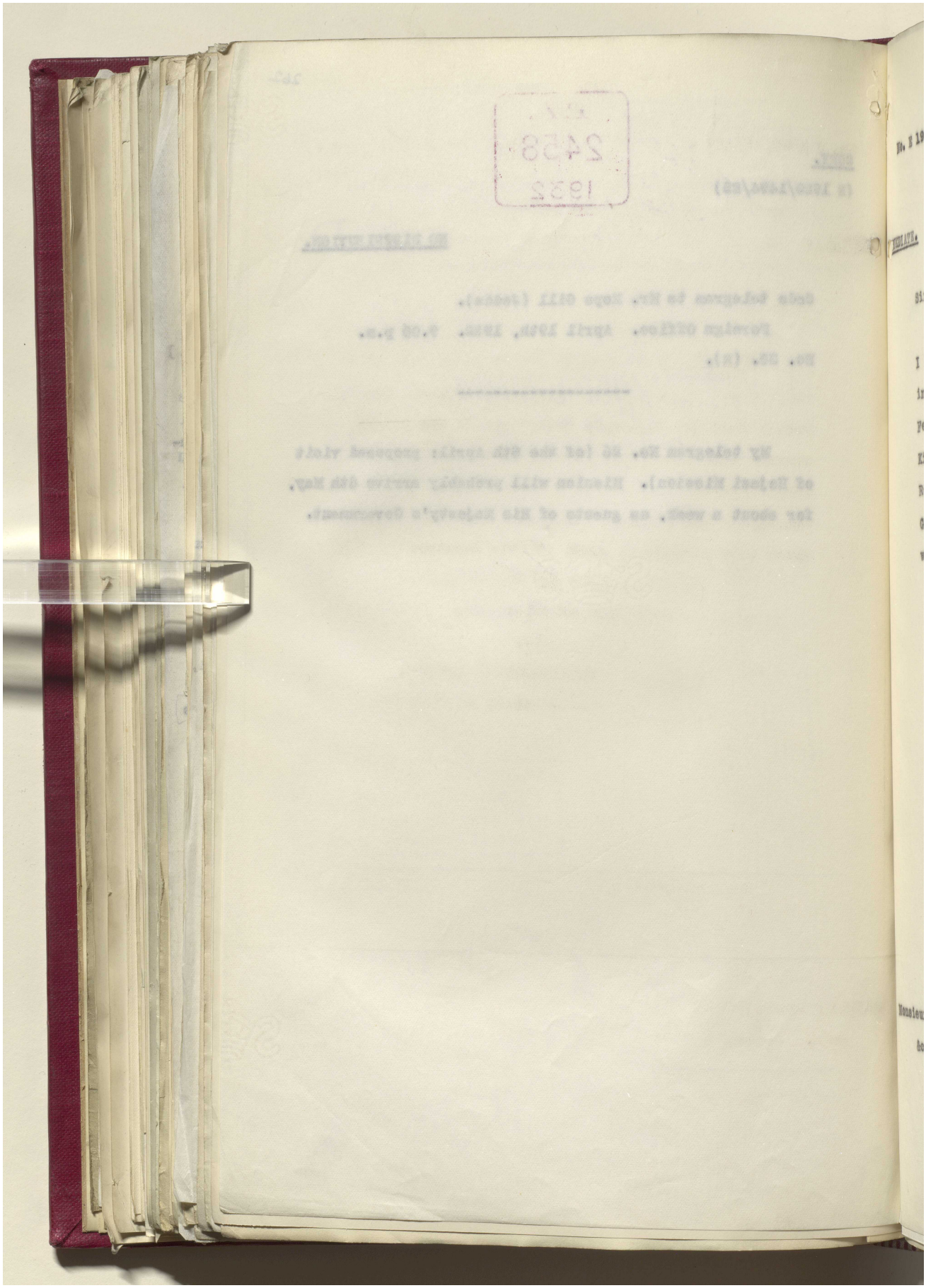

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263

No. E 1920/1494/25.

2458
1932

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
20th April, 1932.

MEDIATE.

Sir,

With reference to my note of the 12th April, I have the honour to request you to be so good as to inform your Government and His Royal Highness the Amir Feisal that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom hope that the Hejaz-Nejd Mission headed by His Royal Highness will accept the hospitality of His Majesty's Government and be their official guests during the week which they propose to spend in this country.

I have the honour to be,
with high consideration,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(For the Secretary of State)

(Sd.) G. W. RENDEL.

Monsieur Mahmood Riyad Zada,
&c., &c., &c.

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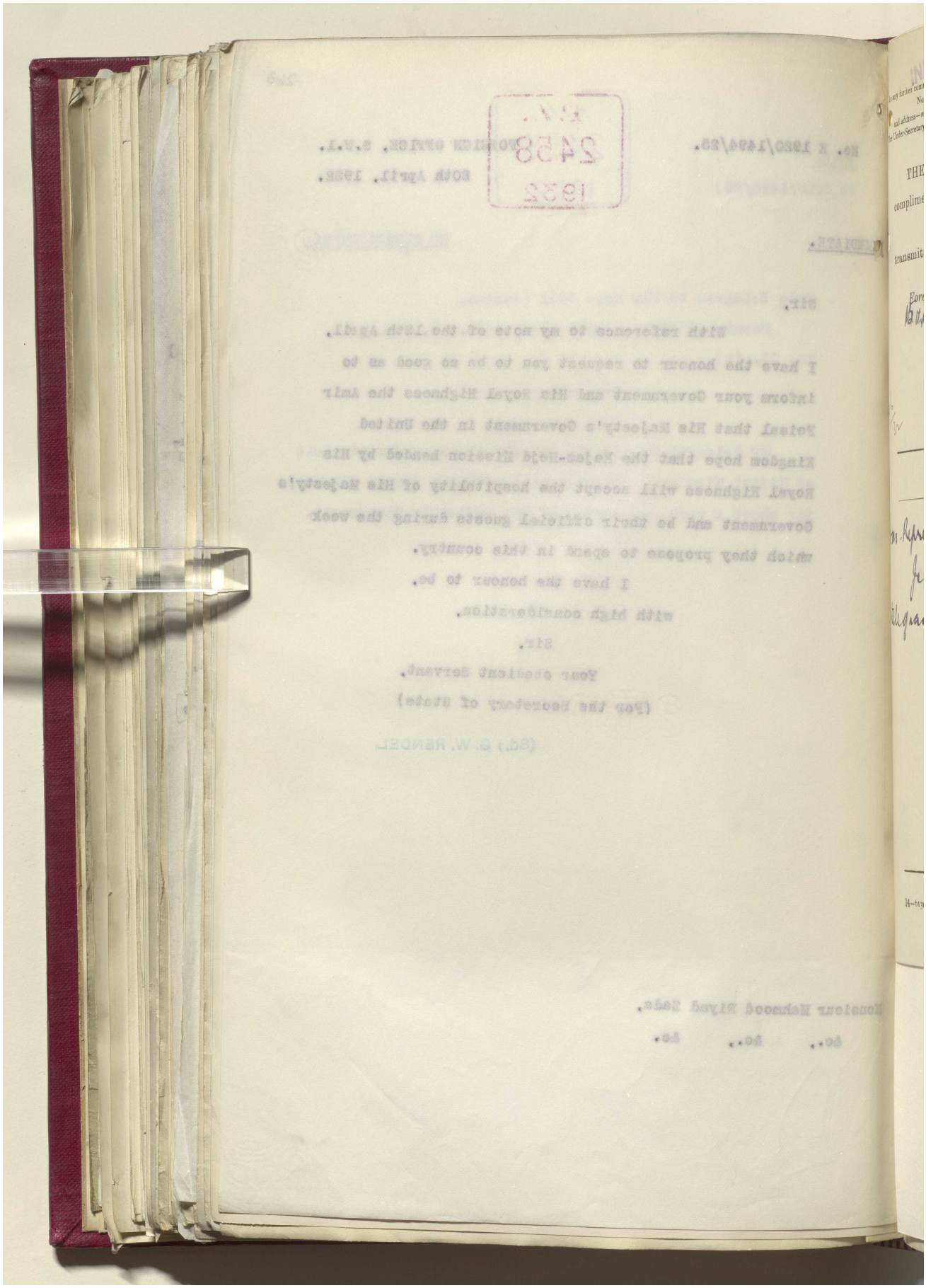

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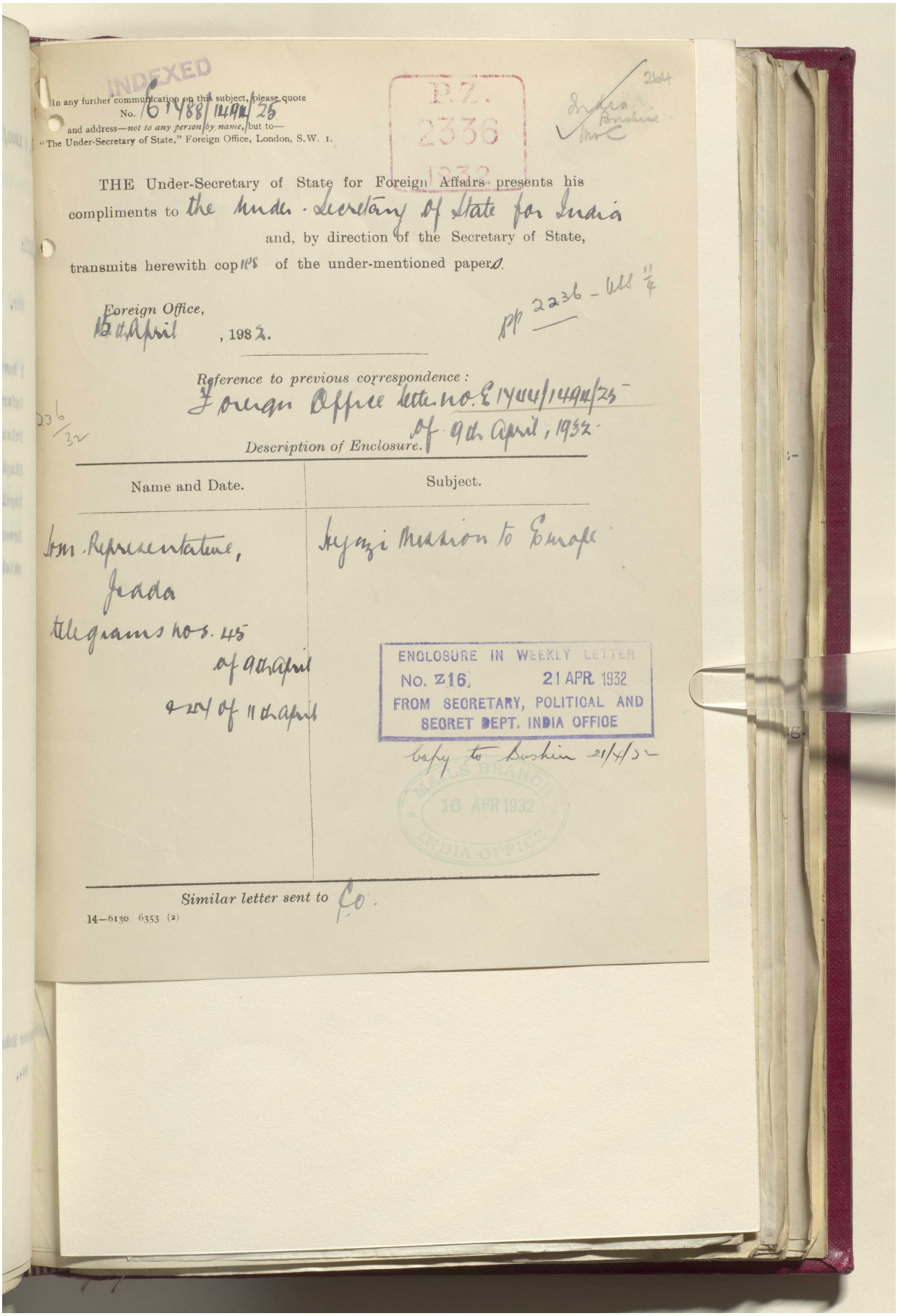

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 1488/1494/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 2336 1932

264
India Bushire Misc

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
15th April, 1932.

pp 2236 - Vol II/4

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 1404/1494/25 of 9th April, 1932.

D 36/32

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Hm. Representative, Jeddah telegrams nos. 45 of 9th April & 224 of 11th April	Hejazi Mission to Europe

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. Z 16. 21 APR. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

copy to Bushire 21/4/32

MAILS BRANCH 16 APR 1932 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co.

14—6130 6353 (2)

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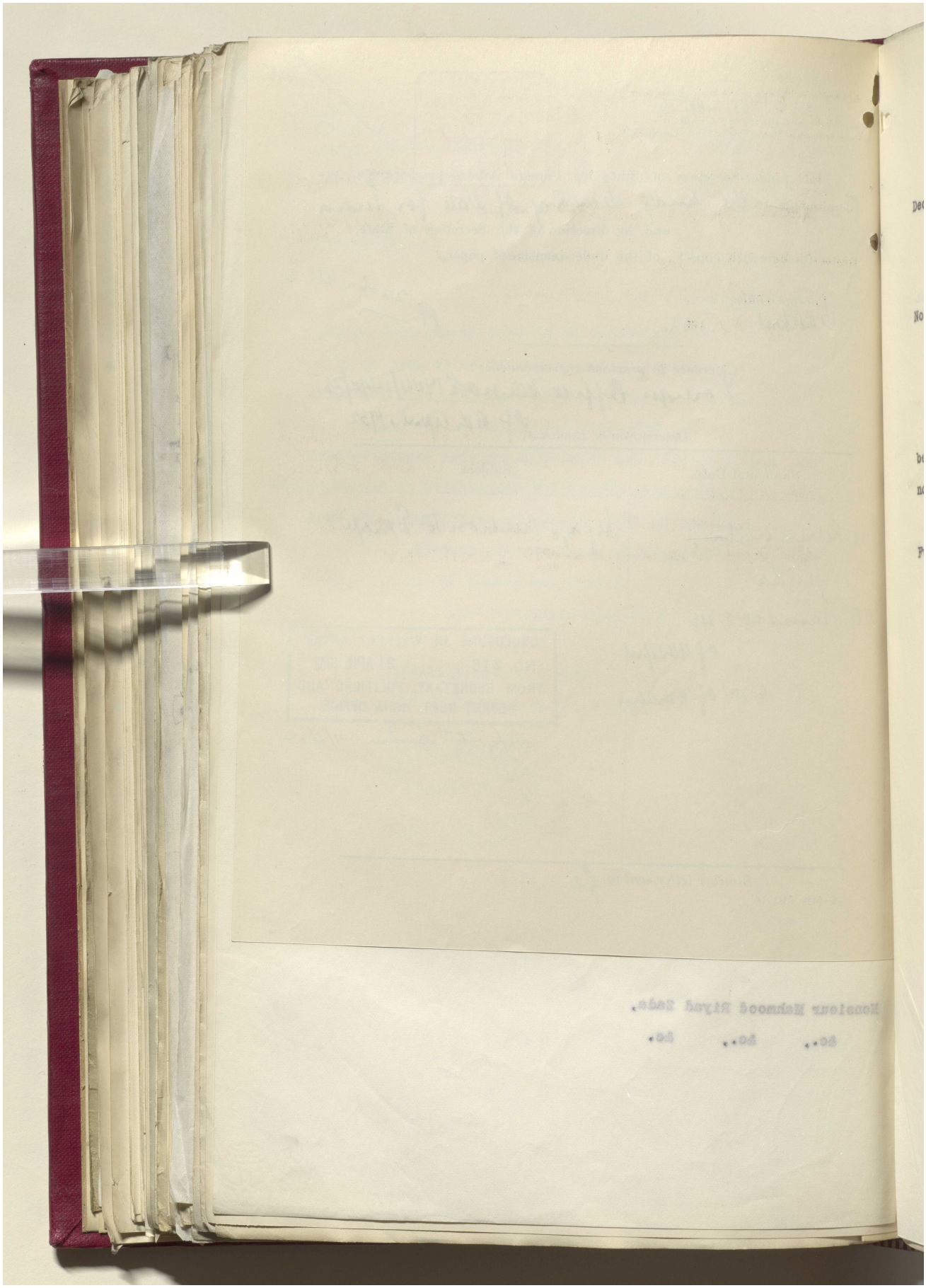

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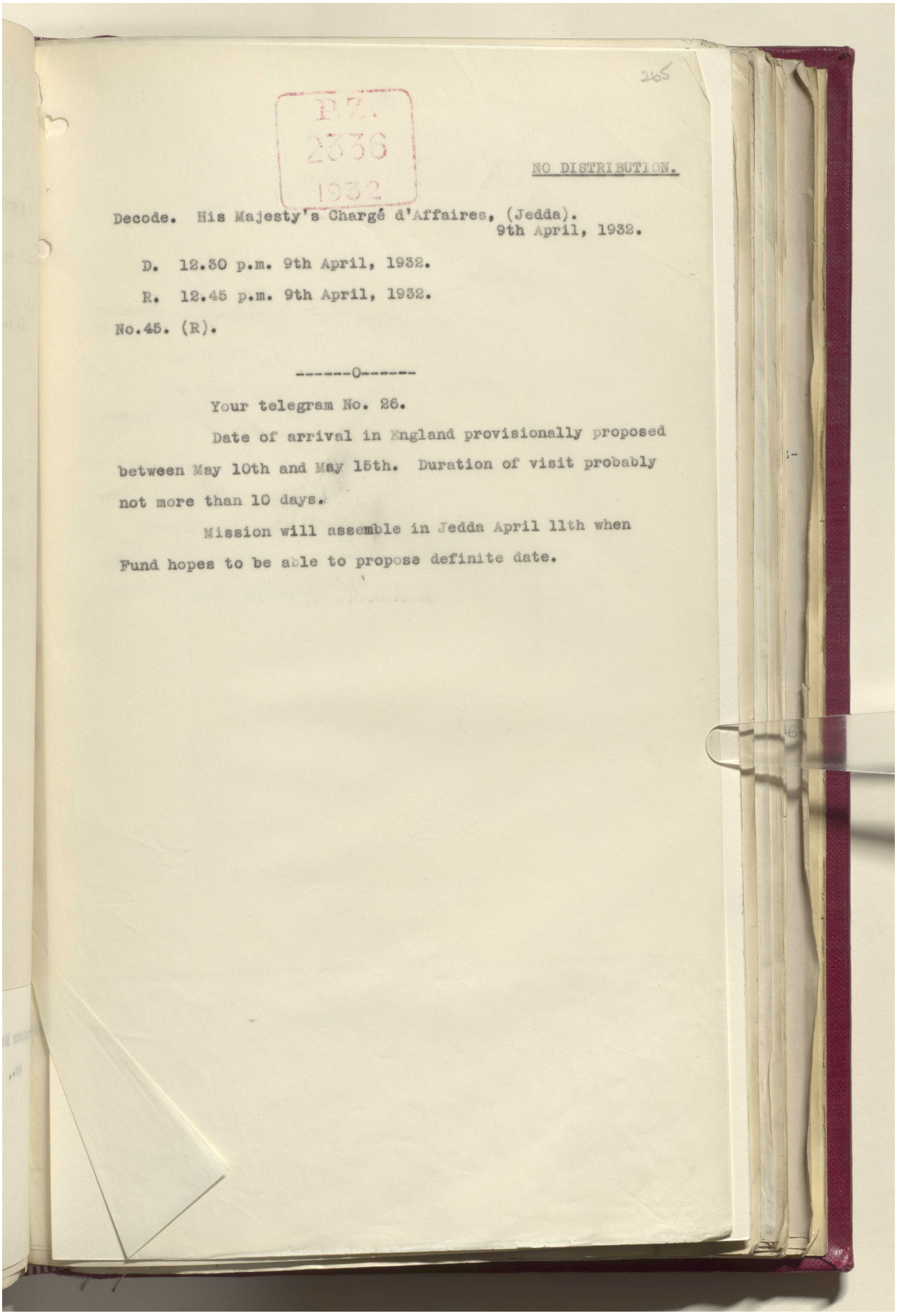

265

P.Z. 2336 1932

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, (Jedda).
9th April, 1932.

D. 12.30 p.m. 9th April, 1932.

R. 12.45 p.m. 9th April, 1932.

No.45. (R).

------O------

Your telegram No. 26.

Date of arrival in England provisionally proposed between May 10th and May 15th. Duration of visit probably not more than 10 days.

Mission will assemble in Jedda April 11th when Fund hopes to be able to propose definite date.

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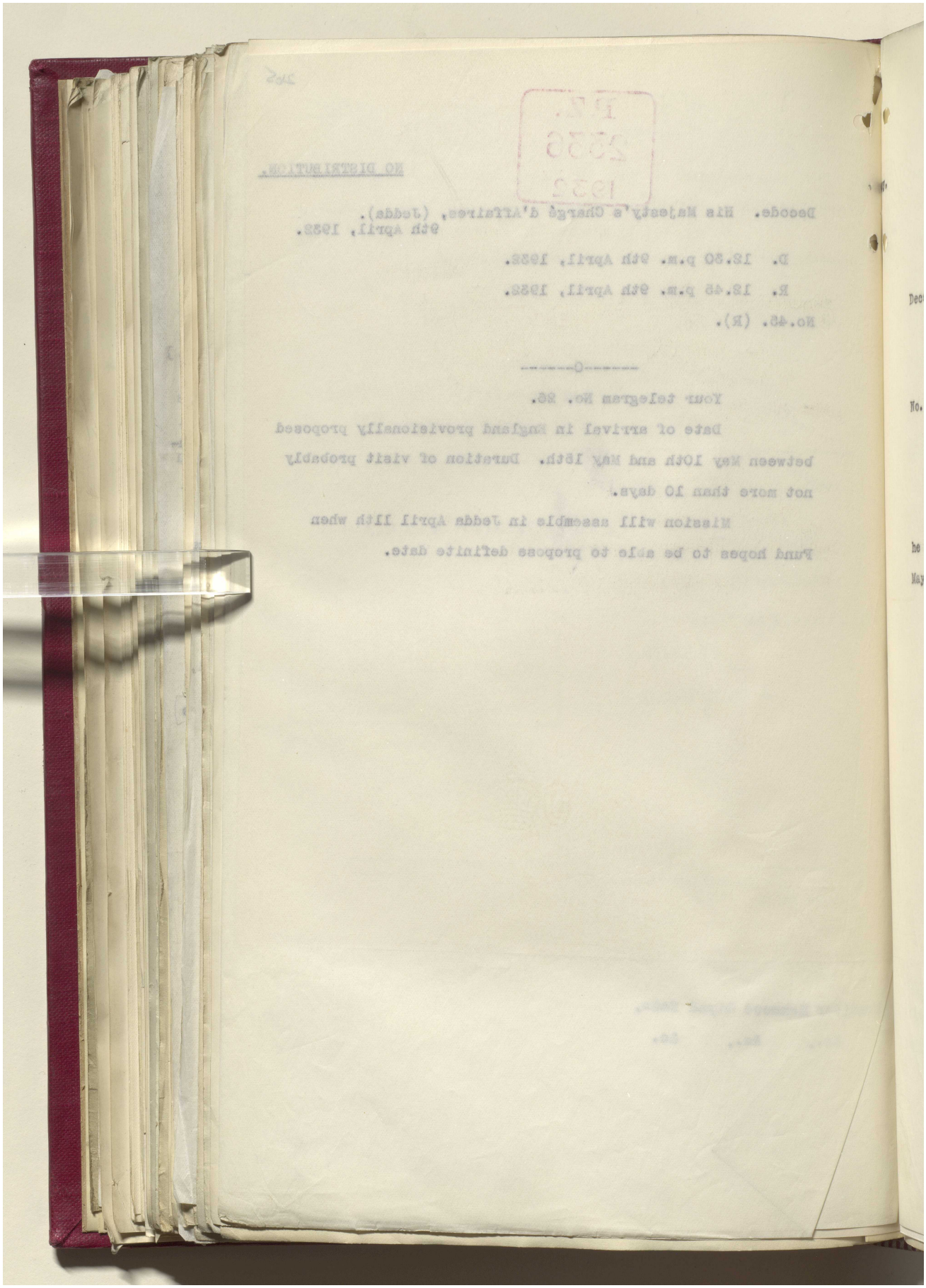

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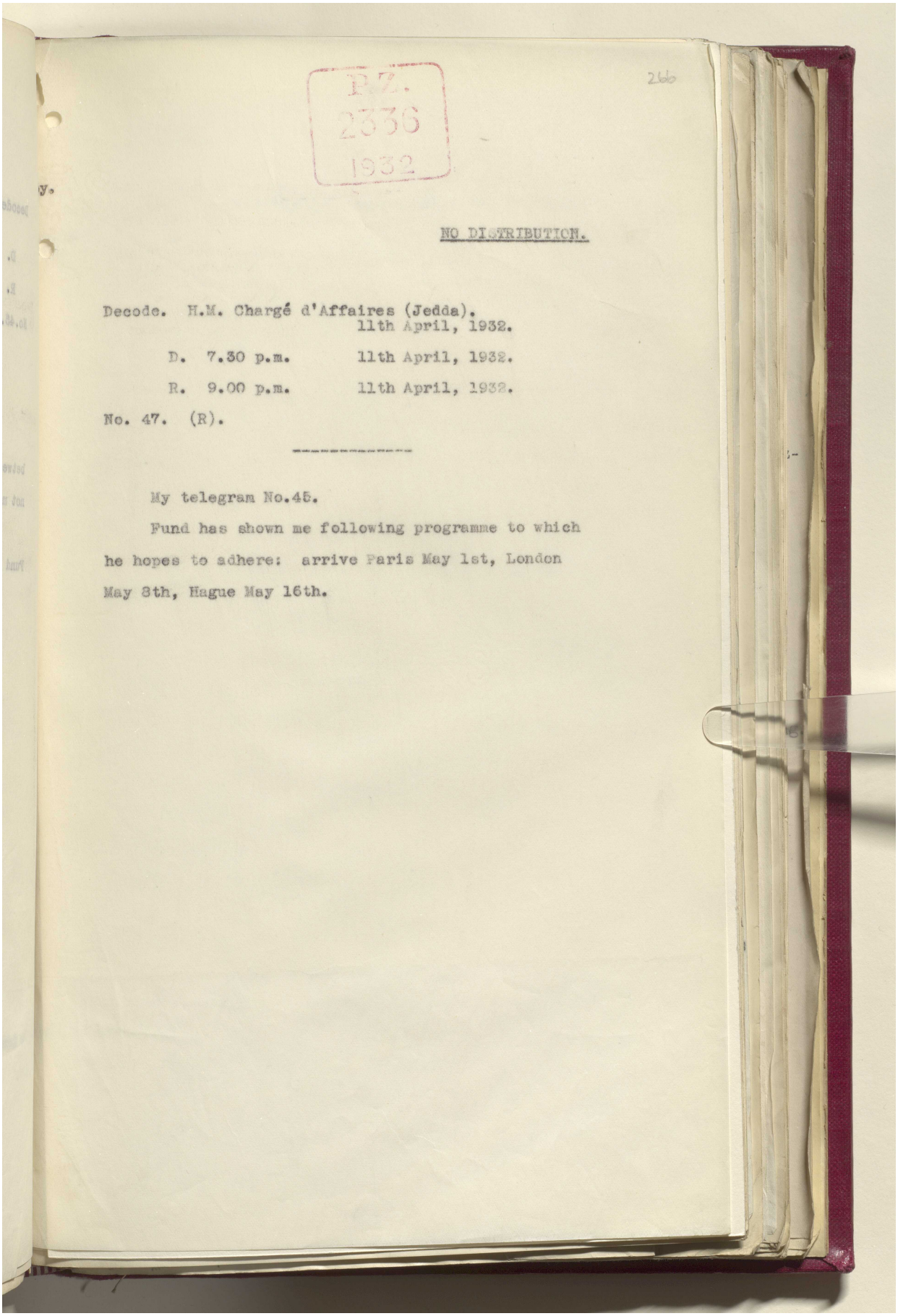

P.Z.
2336
1932

266

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. H.M. Chargé d'Affaires (Jedda).
11th April, 1932.

D. 7.30 p.m. 11th April, 1932.

R. 9.00 p.m. 11th April, 1932.

No. 47. (R).

My telegram No.45.

Fund has shown me following programme to which he hopes to adhere: arrive Paris May 1st, London May 8th, Hague May 16th.

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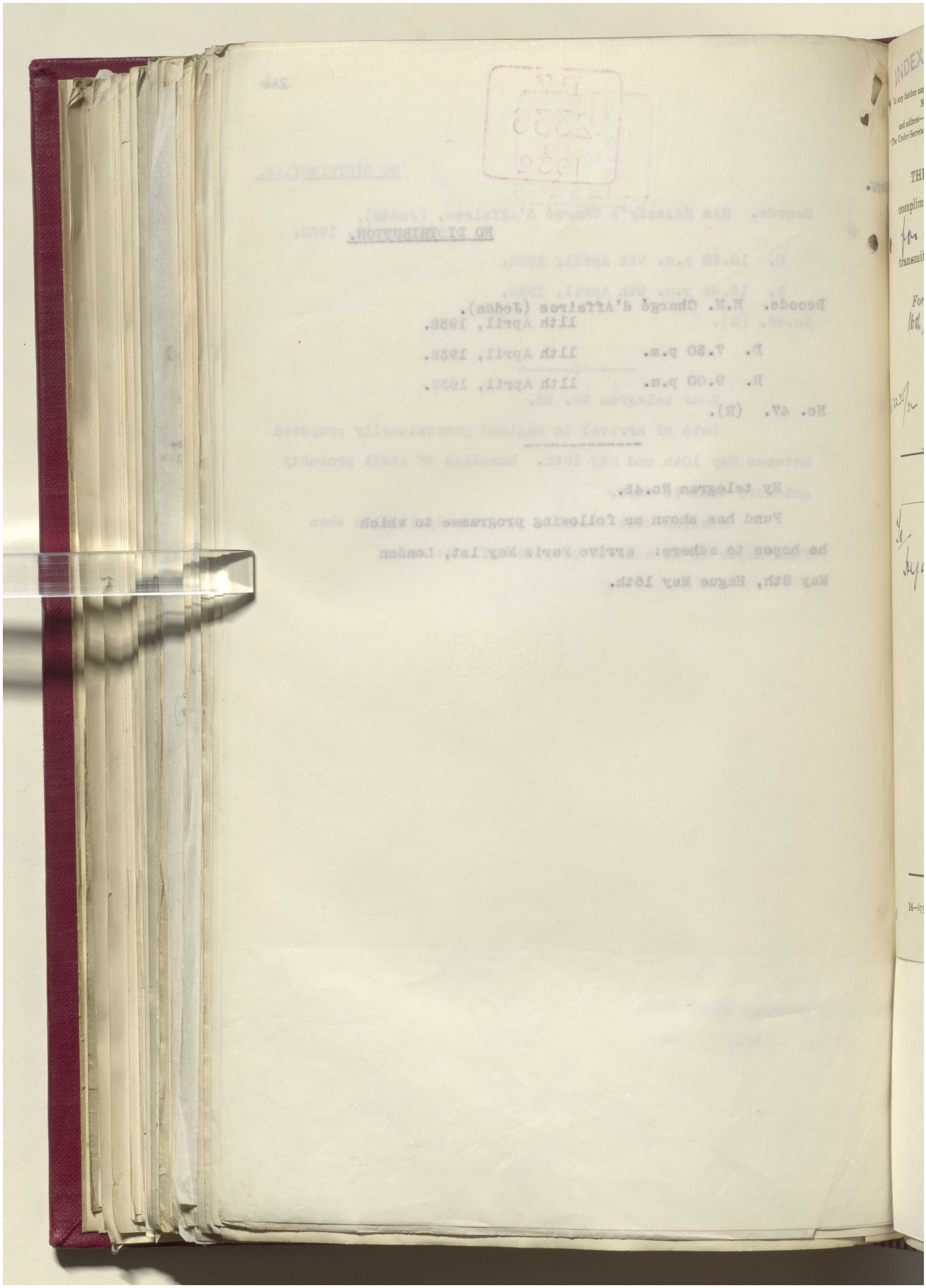

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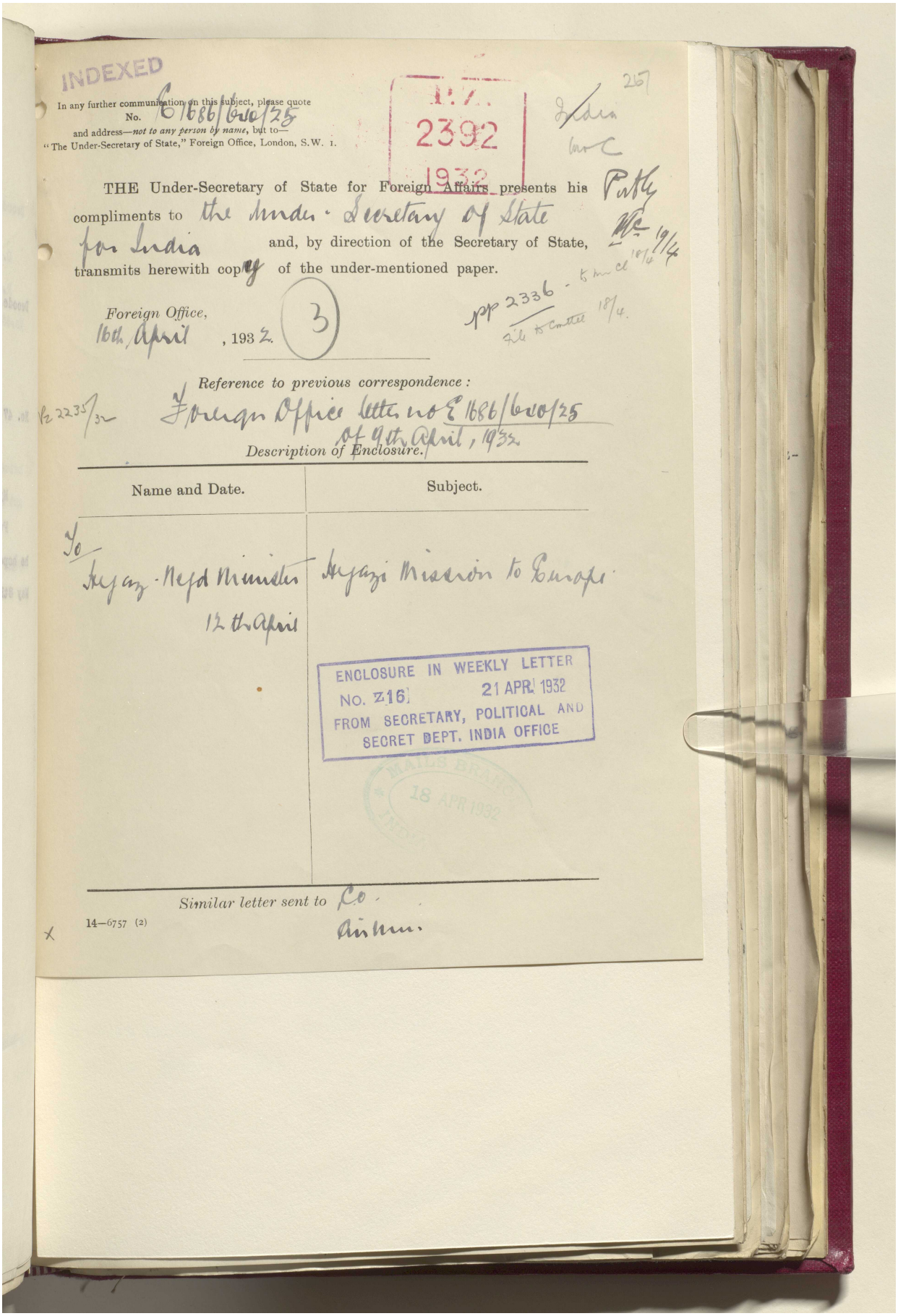

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 1686/650/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 2392 1932

267

India
Mr C

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Publy
19/4

pp 2336 - to Mr Cl 18/4
File to Cmttee 18/4.

Foreign Office,
16th April, 1932.

3

Reference to previous correspondence:

Pz 2235/32

Foreign Office letter no E 1686/650/25 of 9th April, 1932

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Hejaz-Nejd Minister 12th April	Hejazi Mission to Europe

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. Z16 21 APR 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH
18 APR 1932
INDIA

Similar letter sent to Co.
Air Min.

14—6757 (2)

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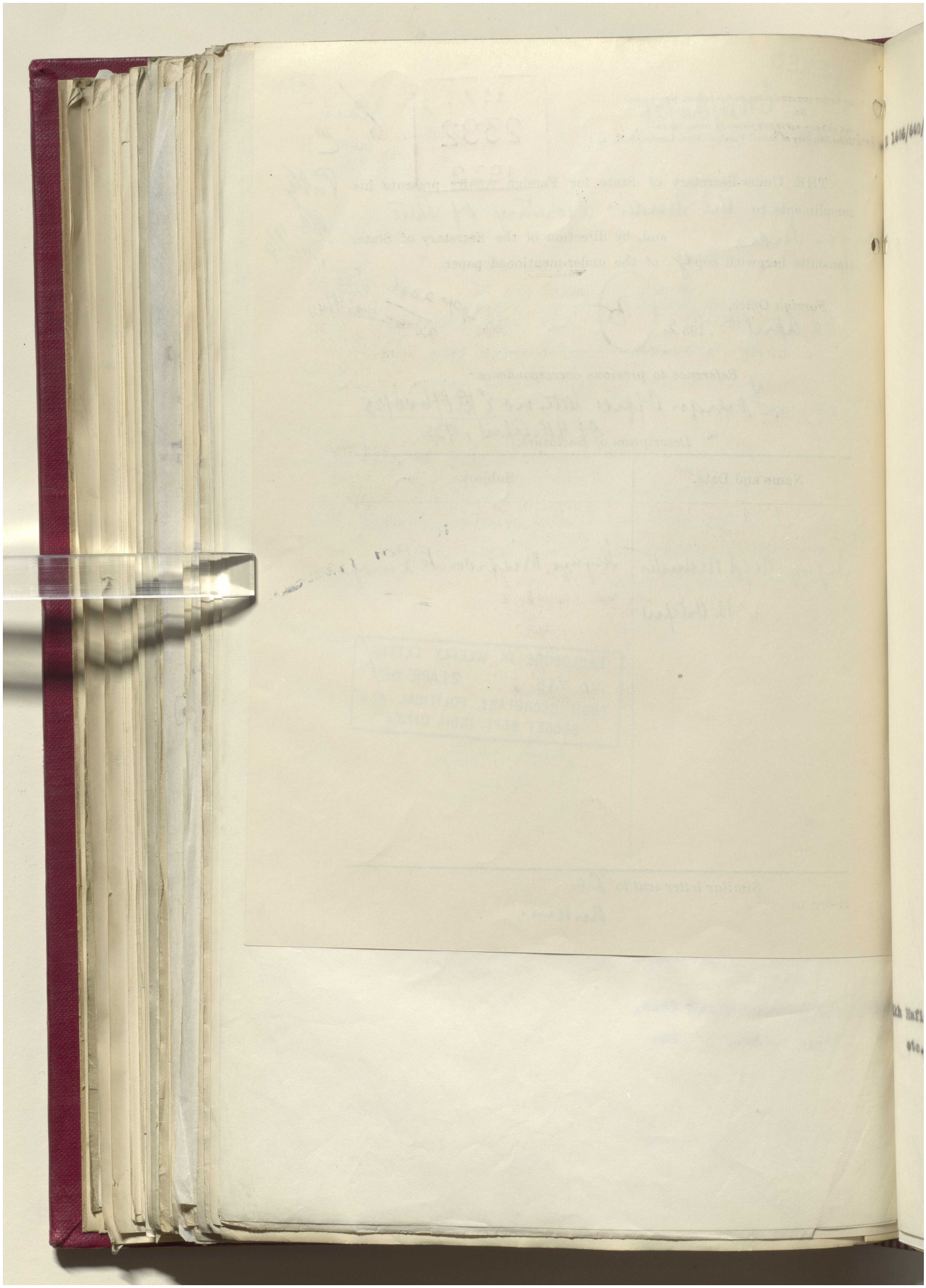
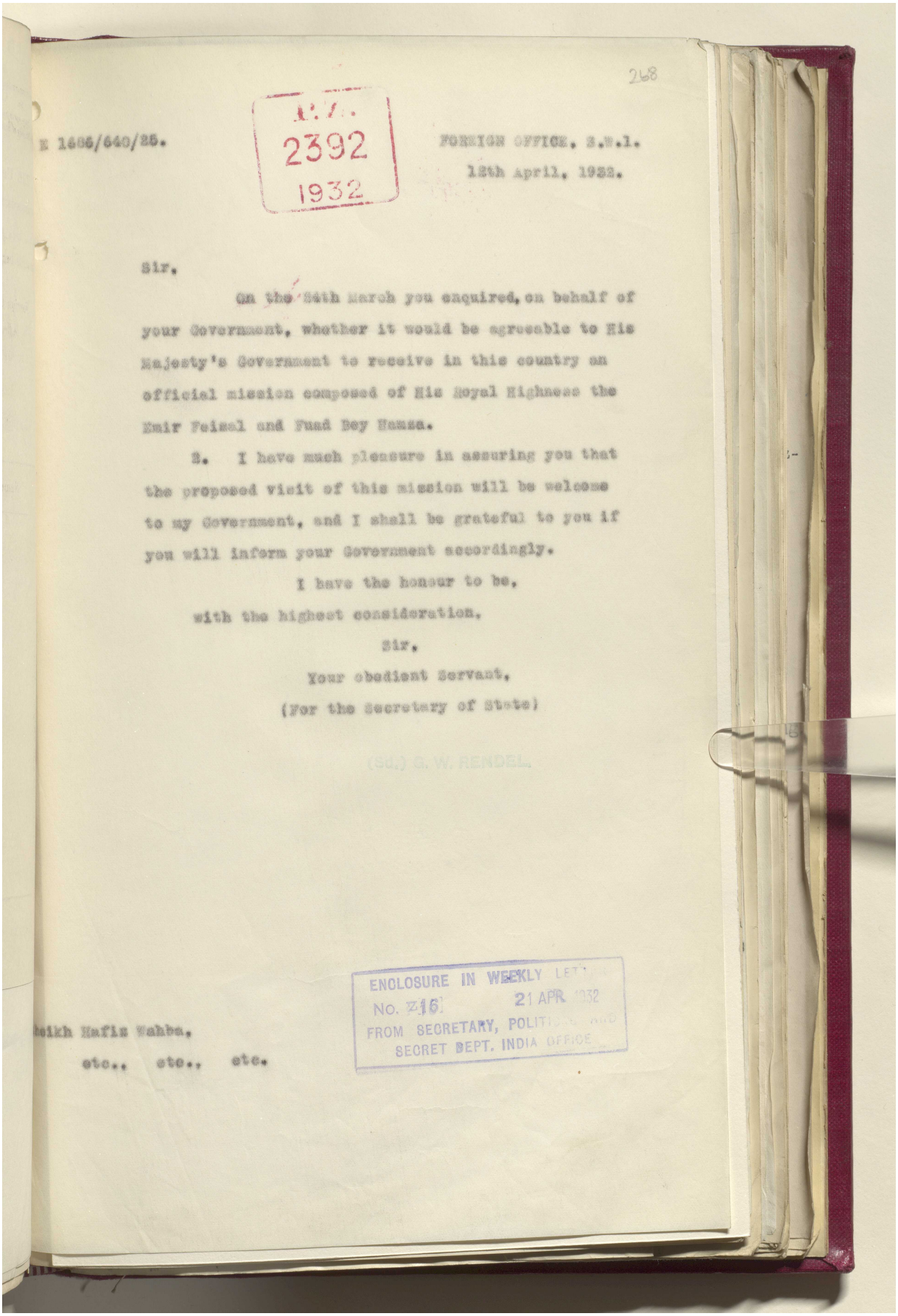




268

E 1686/640/25.

I.O. 2392 1932

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
12th April, 1932.

Sir,

On the 24th March you enquired, on behalf of your Government, whether it would be agreeable to His Majesty's Government to receive in this country an official mission composed of His Royal Highness the Emir Feisal and Fuad Bey Hamza.

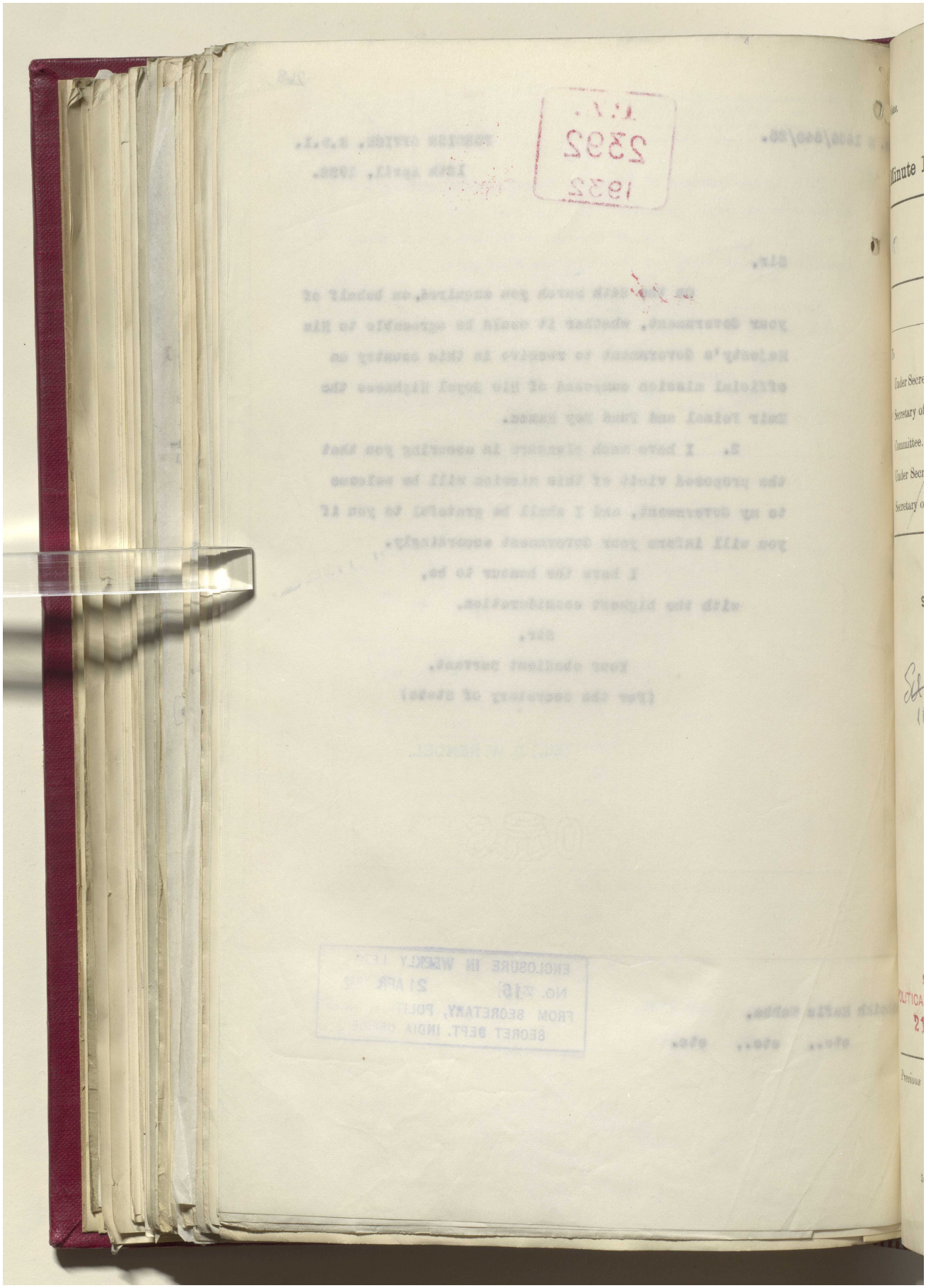
2. I have much pleasure in assuring you that the proposed visit of this mission will be welcome to my Government, and I shall be grateful to you if you will inform your Government accordingly.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest consideration,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(For the Secretary of State)

(Sd.) G. W. RENDEL.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 216 21 APR 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Sheikh Hafiz Wahba,
etc., etc., etc.



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Notes.

Register No.
P.2
2236/32 etc

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz.
Under Secretary	11. 4	[illegible]	
× Secretary of State...	14	[illegible]	
Committee.....	16.	L.H.	1) Despatch of Mission under Emir Faisal to tour Europe.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			2) Settlement of trouble over Sir A. Ryan.

Copy of to

Sir M. Seton
MS 14/4

Sd 16/4

FOR INFORMATION.

Ibn Saud's sudden decision to send a Mission to Europe (the itinerary is probably Rome, Geneva, Paris, London, Hague, Berlin, Warsaw, Moscow, Angora, Tehran) may have been the result of mature consideration, but its precipitate announcement was perhaps a device to delay Sir A. Ryan's return to Jeddah, as Mr Hope Gill suggests.

Whatever the connection, if any, between the 'Ryan dispute' and the Mission, the general result appears to be satisfactory. The

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
21 APR 1932

Previous Papers :—

5041 2000 1.31

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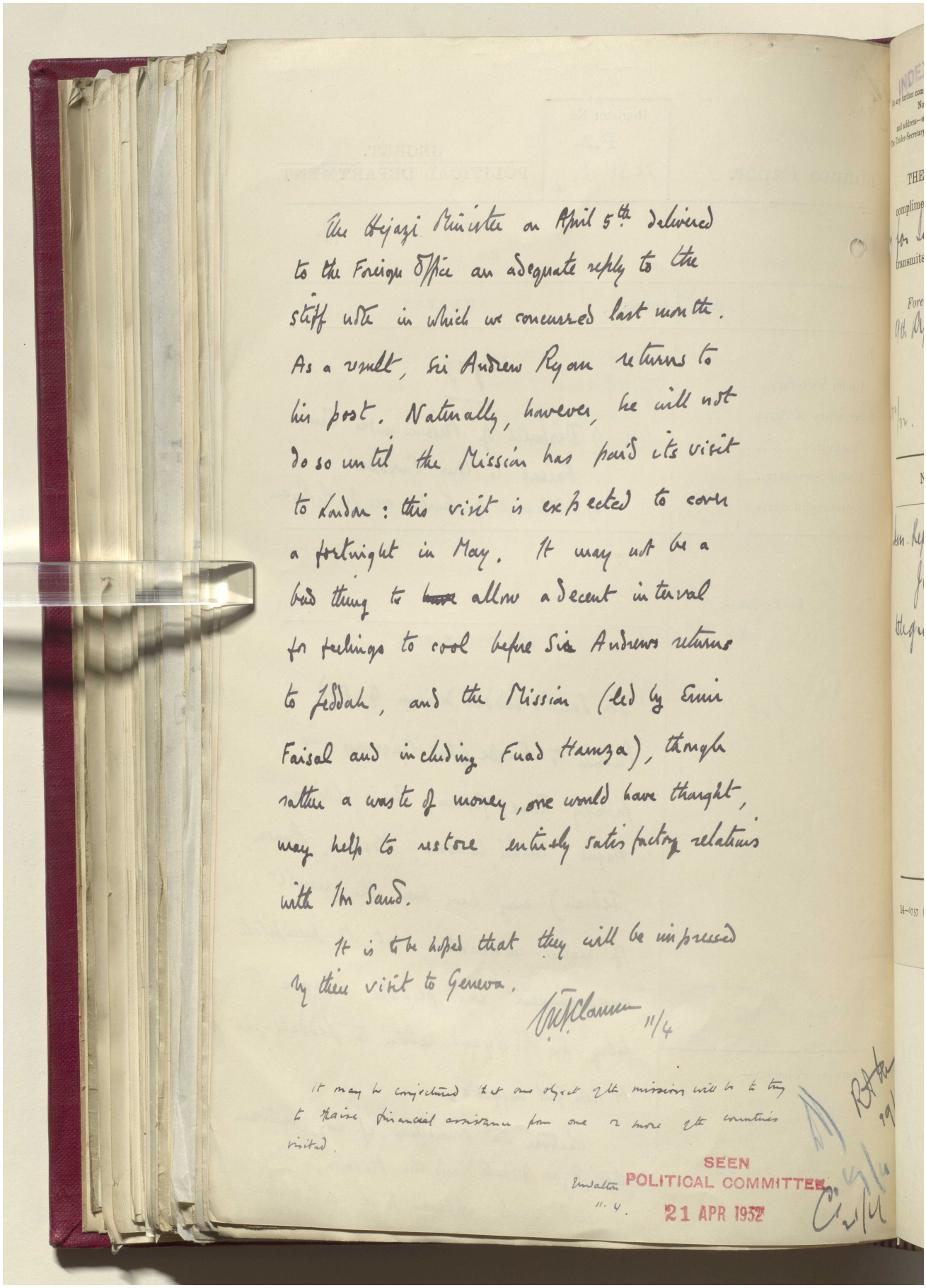

The Hejazi Minister on April 5th delivered to the Foreign Office an adequate reply to the stiff note in which we concurred last month. As a result, Sir Andrew Ryan returns to his post. Naturally, however, he will not do so until the Mission has paid its visit to London: this visit is expected to cover a fortnight in May. It may not be a bad thing to ~~have~~ allow a decent interval for feelings to cool before Sir Andrews returns to Jeddah, and the Mission (led by Emir Faisal and including Fuad Hamza), though rather a waste of money, one would have thought, may help to restore entirely satisfactory relations with Ibn Saud.

It is to be hoped that they will be impressed by their visit to Geneva.

[signature] 11/4

It may be conjectured that one object of the mission will be to try to raise financial assistance from one or more of the countries visited.

Emdalton
11. 4.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
21 APR 1932

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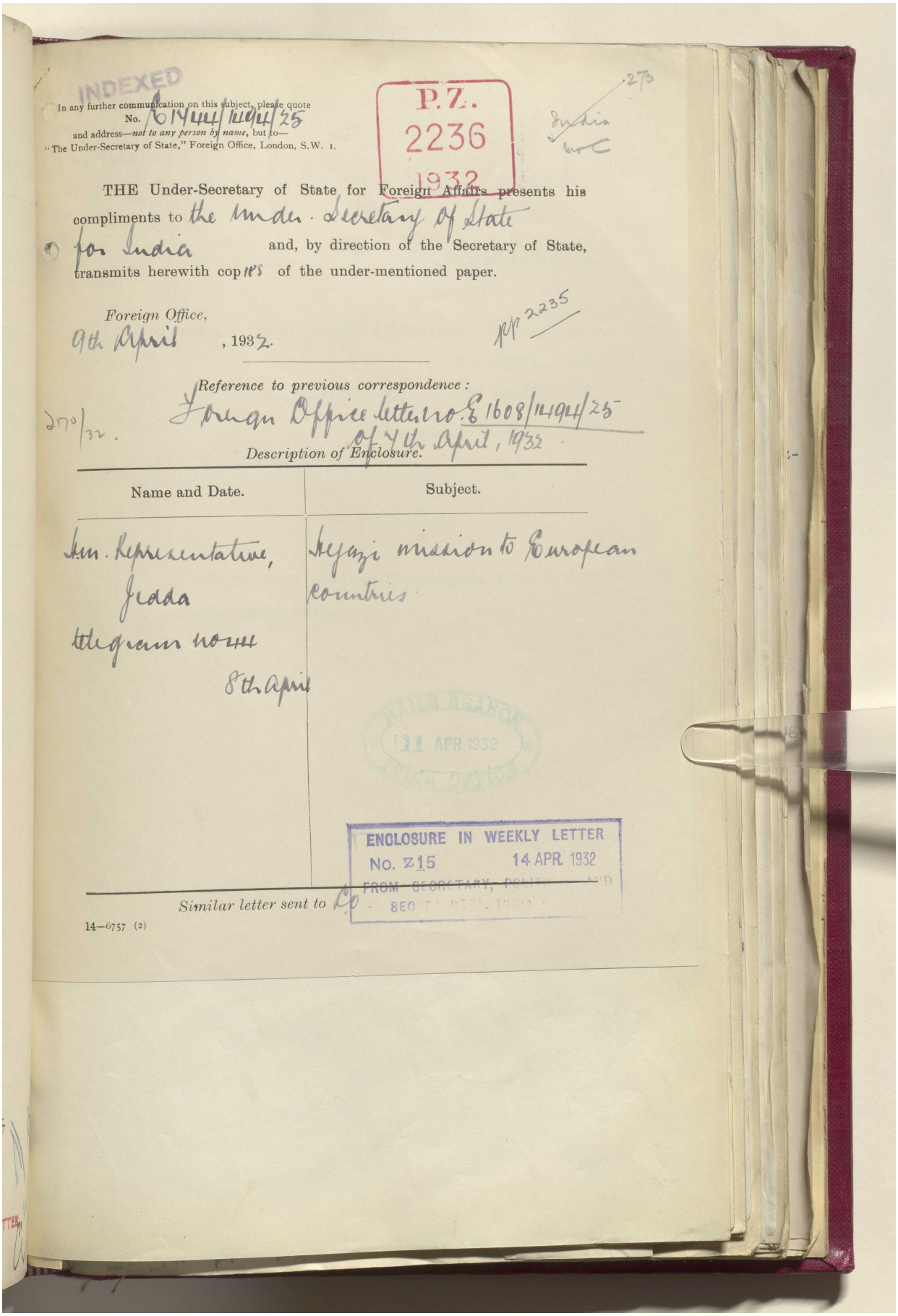

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No. E 1444/1444/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 2236 1932

270

India

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith cop ies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
9th April, 1932.

pp 2235

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 1608/1444/25 of 4th April, 1932.

270/32.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Am. Representative, Jedda telegram no. 111 8th April	Hejazi mission to European countries.

INDIA BRANCH 11 APR 1932

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. Z15 14 APR. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT., INDIA

Similar letter sent to L.P.

14—6757 (2)

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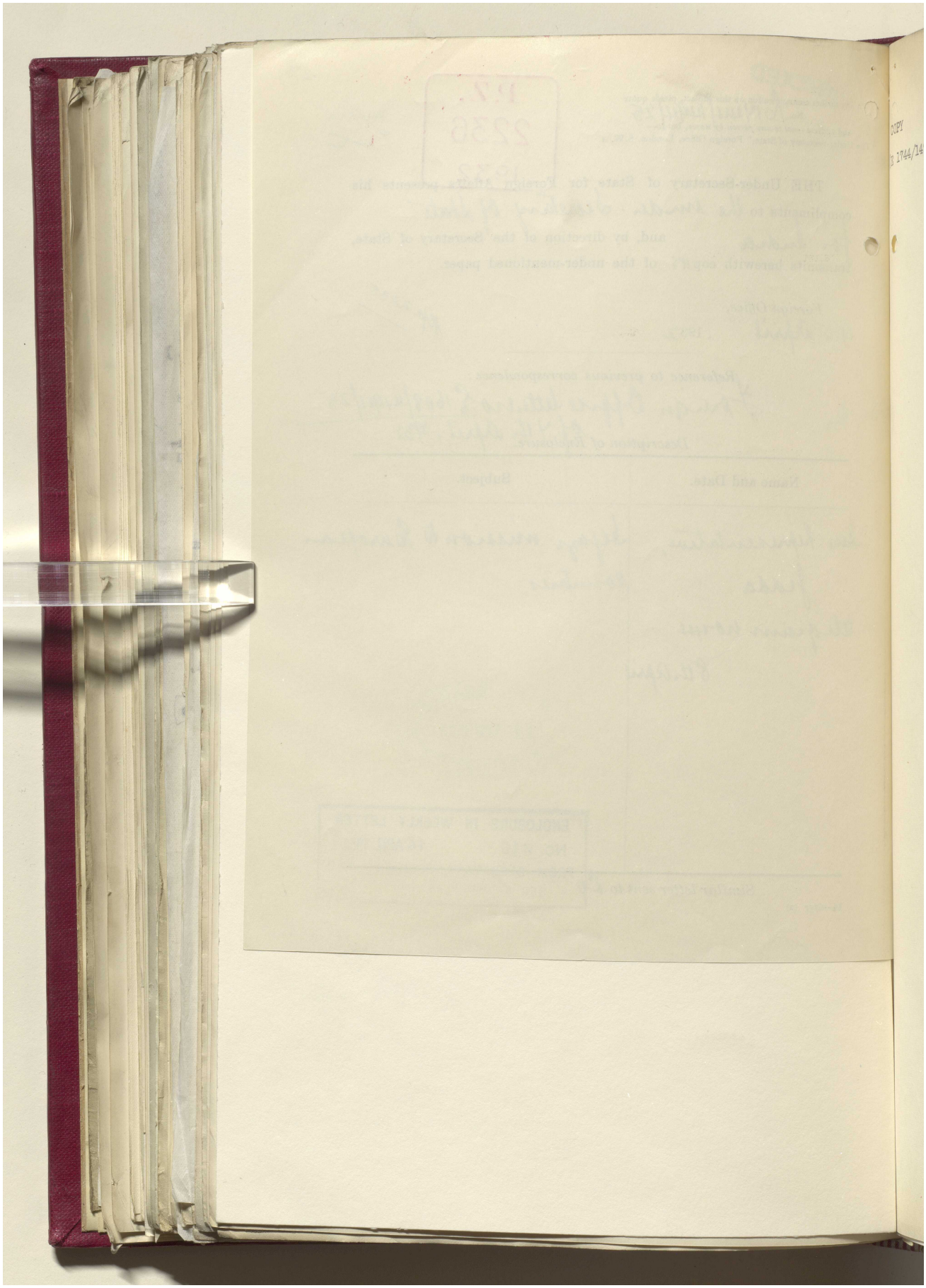

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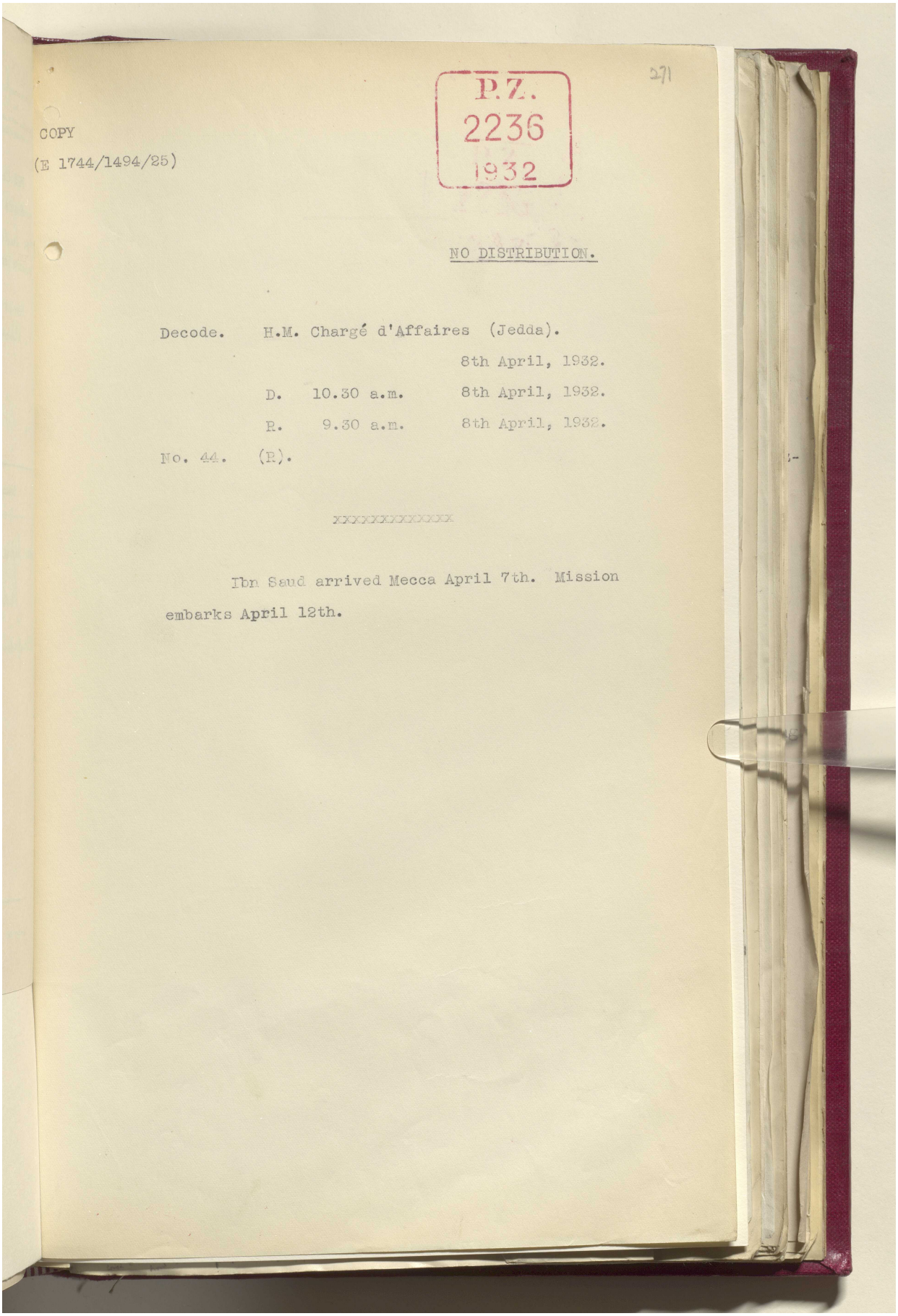

271

P.Z.
2236
1932

COPY
(E 1744/1494/25)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. H.M. Chargé d'Affaires (Jedda).

8th April, 1932.

D. 10.30 a.m. 8th April, 1932.

R. 9.30 a.m. 8th April, 1932.

No. 44. (R).

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Ibn Saud arrived Mecca April 7th. Mission embarks April 12th.

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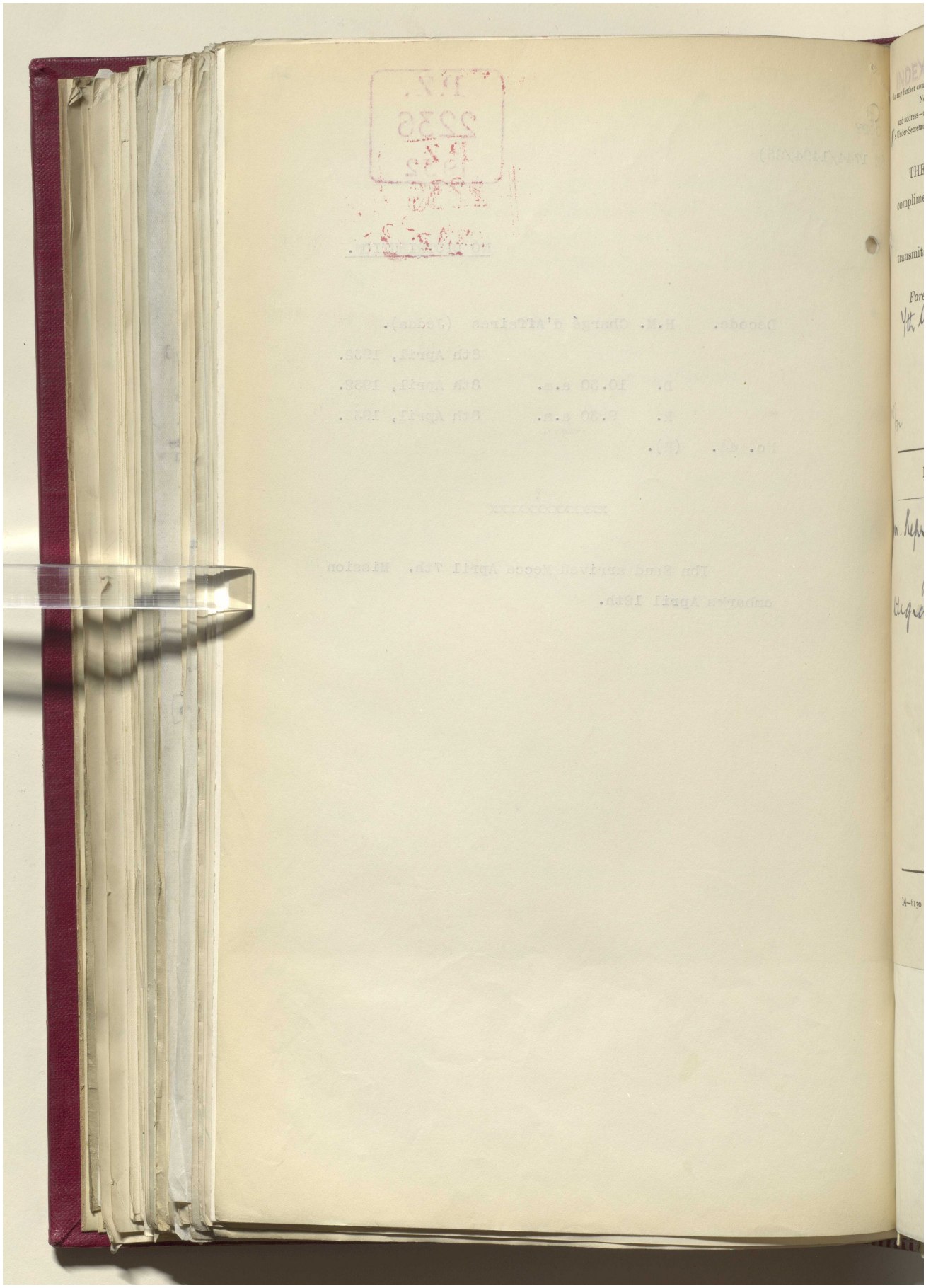

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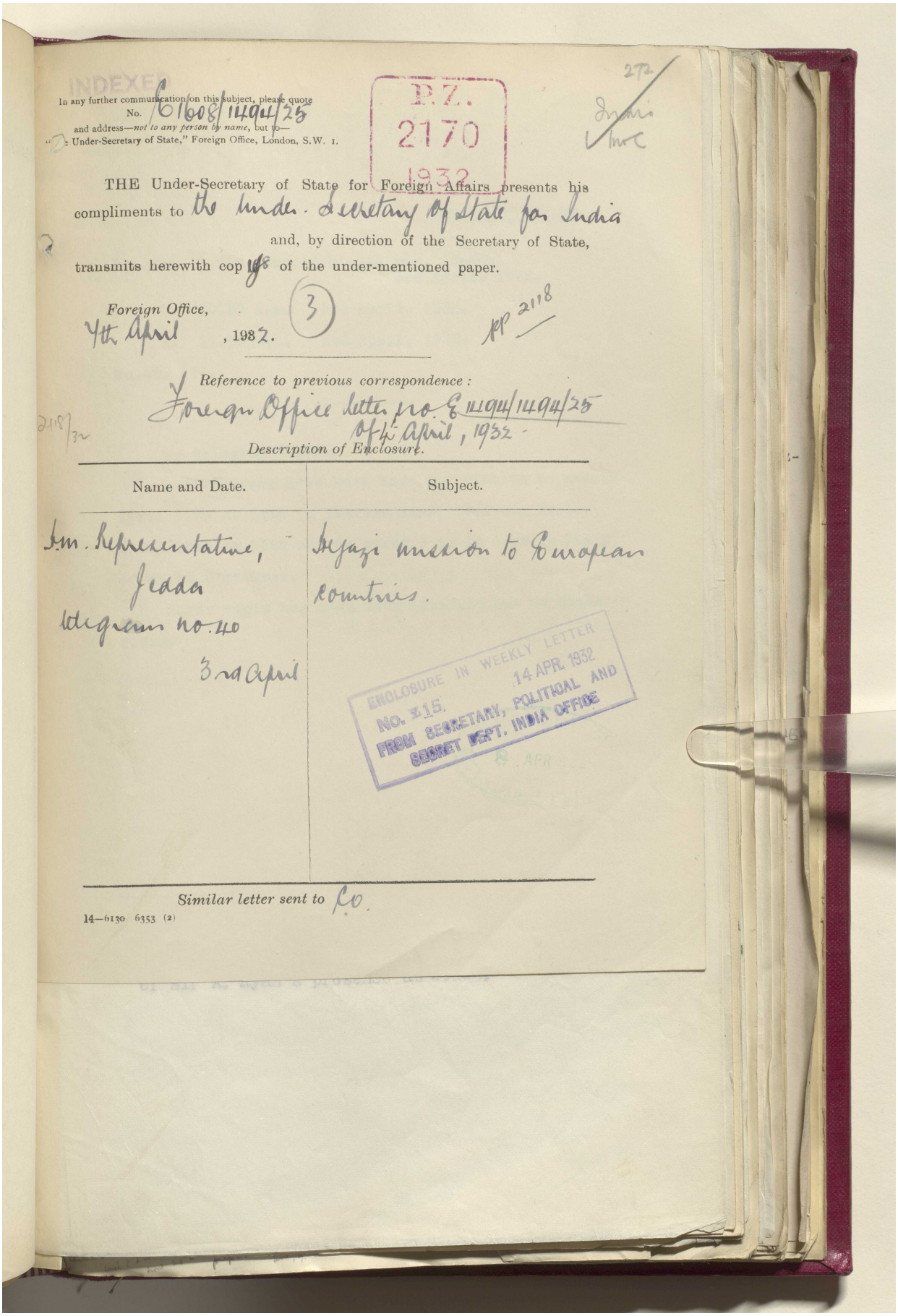

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 2170 1932

272

India Office

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
4th April, 1932.

3

pp 2118

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 11494/11494/25 of 4th April, 1932.

2118/32

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Hm. Representative, Jedda telegram no. 40 3rd April	Hejazi mission to European countries.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 315.
14 APR 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—6130 6353 (2)

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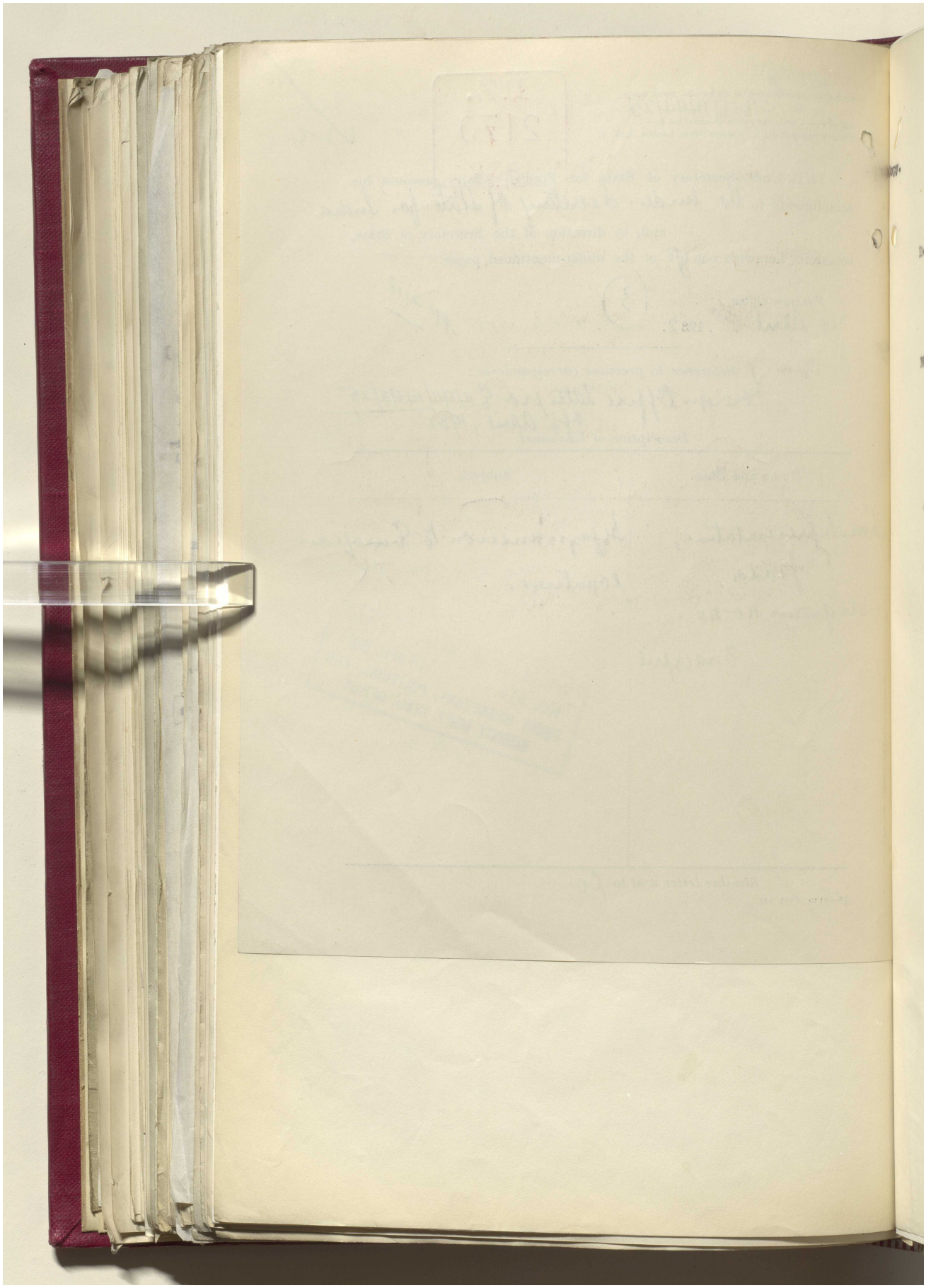

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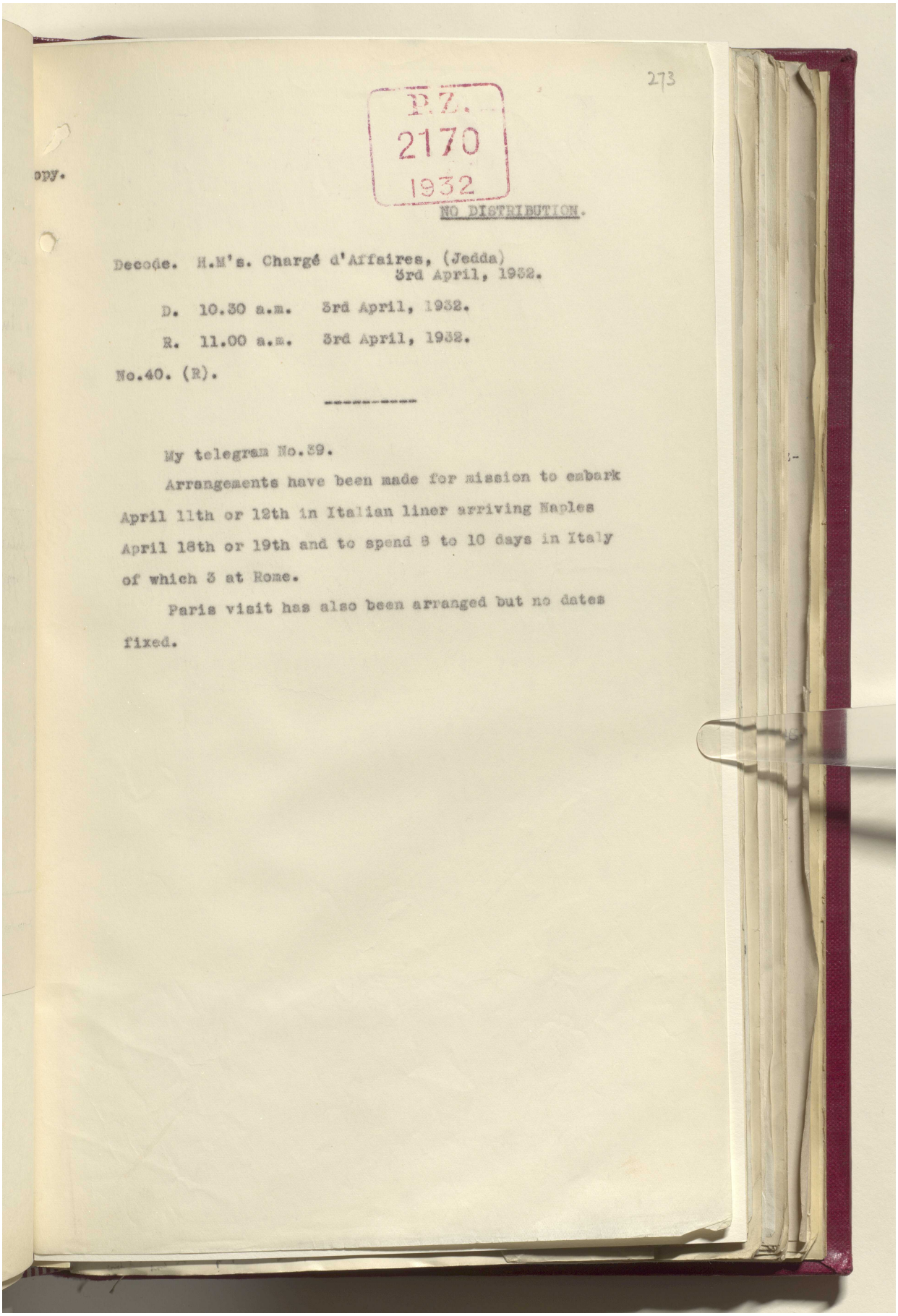

273

E.Z.
2170
1932

opy.

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. H.M's. Chargé d'Affaires, (Jedda)
3rd April, 1932.

D. 10.30 a.m. 3rd April, 1932.

R. 11.00 a.m. 3rd April, 1932.

No.40. (R).

My telegram No.39.

Arrangements have been made for mission to embark April 11th or 12th in Italian liner arriving Naples April 18th or 19th and to spend 8 to 10 days in Italy of which 3 at Rome.

Paris visit has also been arranged but no dates fixed.

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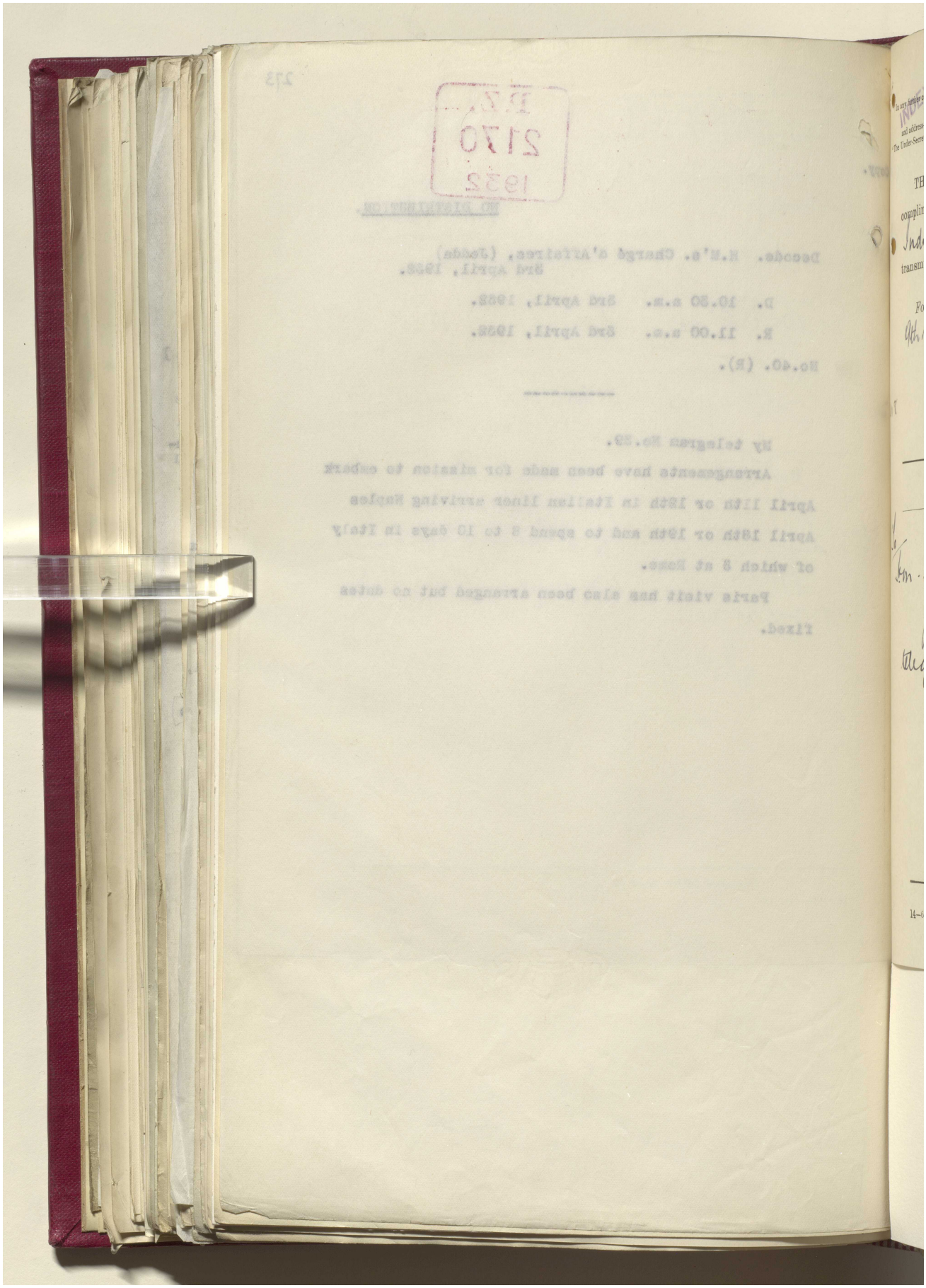

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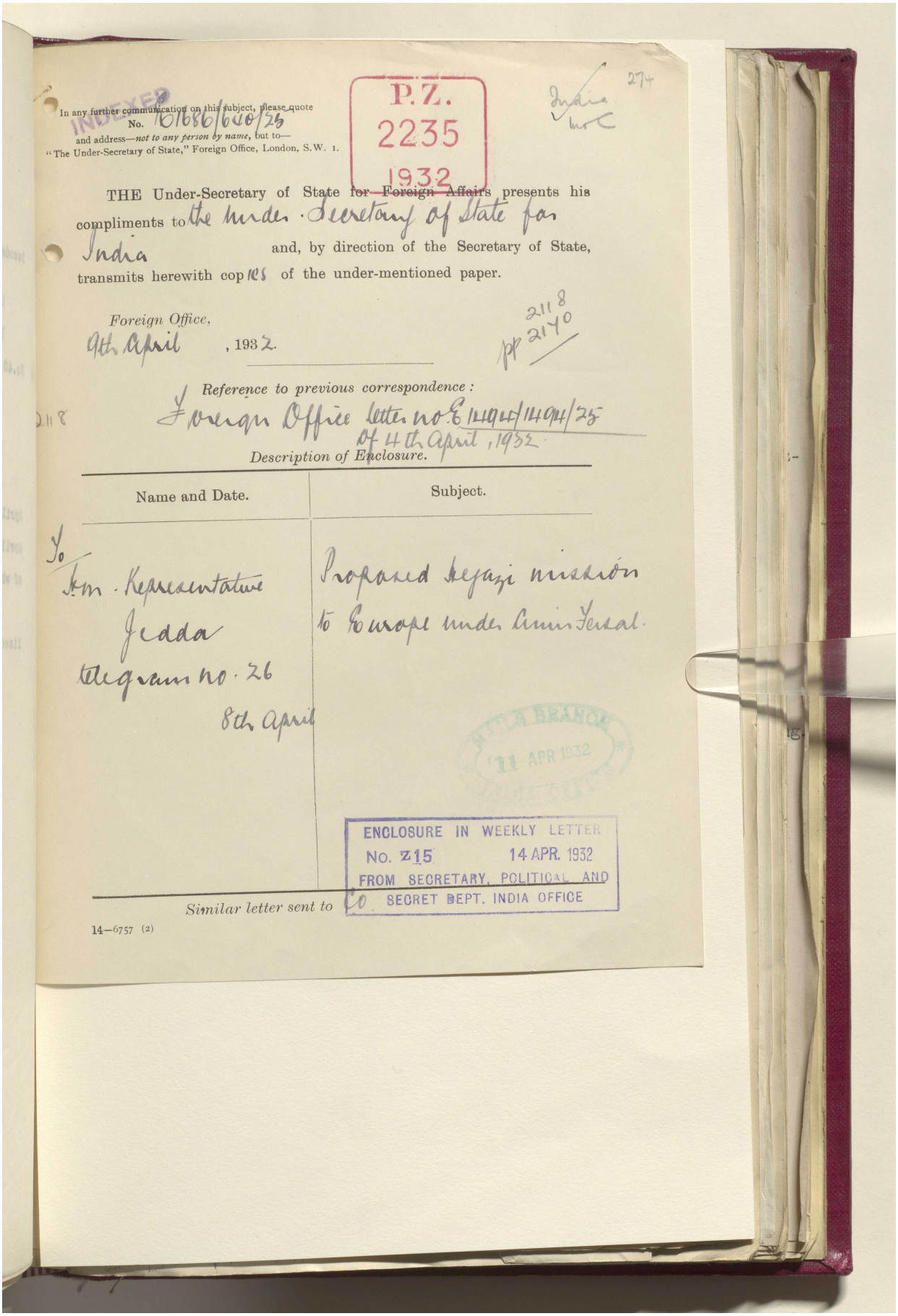

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E1686/630/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

INDEXED

P.Z. 2235 1932

274

India Office

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
9th April, 1932.

2118 pp 2140

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 1149/1149/25 of 4th April, 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Actg. Representative Jedda telegram no. 26 8th April	Proposed Hejazi mission to Europe under Amin Fersal.

INDIA BRANCH 11 APR 1932

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. Z15 14 APR. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co.

14—6757 (2)

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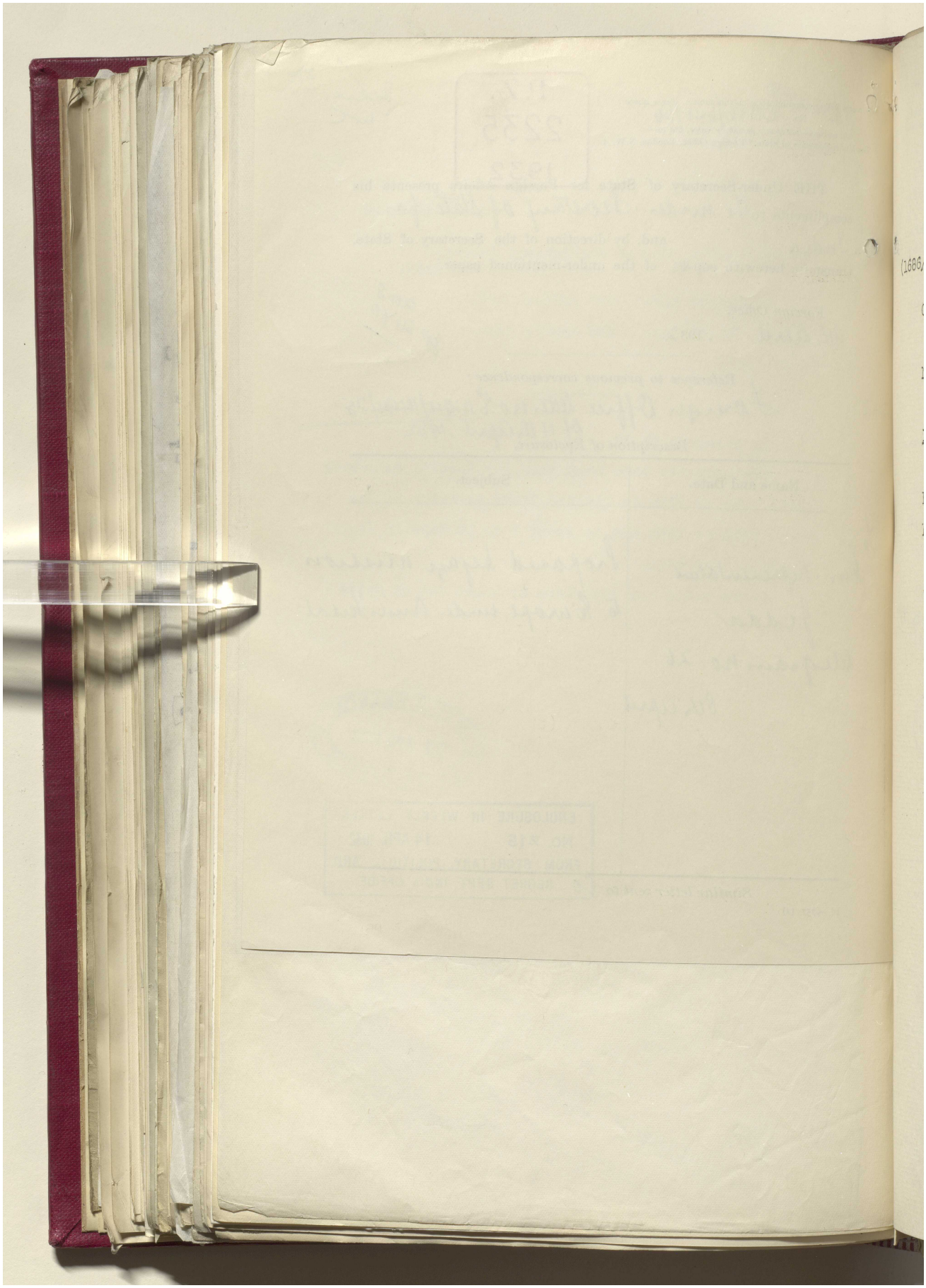

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2235
1932

NO DISTRIBUTION

(1686/640/25).

Code telegram to Mr. Hope Gill (Jedda).

Foreign Office, 8th April 1932. 7.10 p.m.

No. 26. (R).

IMPORTANT.

My telegram No. 23 (of April 2nd: proposed Hejaz-Nejd Mission to England and question of Sir A. Ryan's return to Jedda).

Hejaz-Nejd Minister on April 5th delivered reply to my note of March 21st. I consider it adequate and Sir A. Ryan will therefore return to Jedda after visit of Hejaz-Nejd Mission to this country. Above is for your own information.

Your telegram No. 43 (of 7th April). You may inform Hejaz-Nejd Government that His Majesty's Government will be glad to receive Mission here. Please telegraph proposed date and duration of visit as soon as possible.

Confidential. I have made it clear to Hejaz Minister that it must be definitely understood that there must be no attempt by Mission to reopen question of Sir A. Ryan's presence at Jedda.

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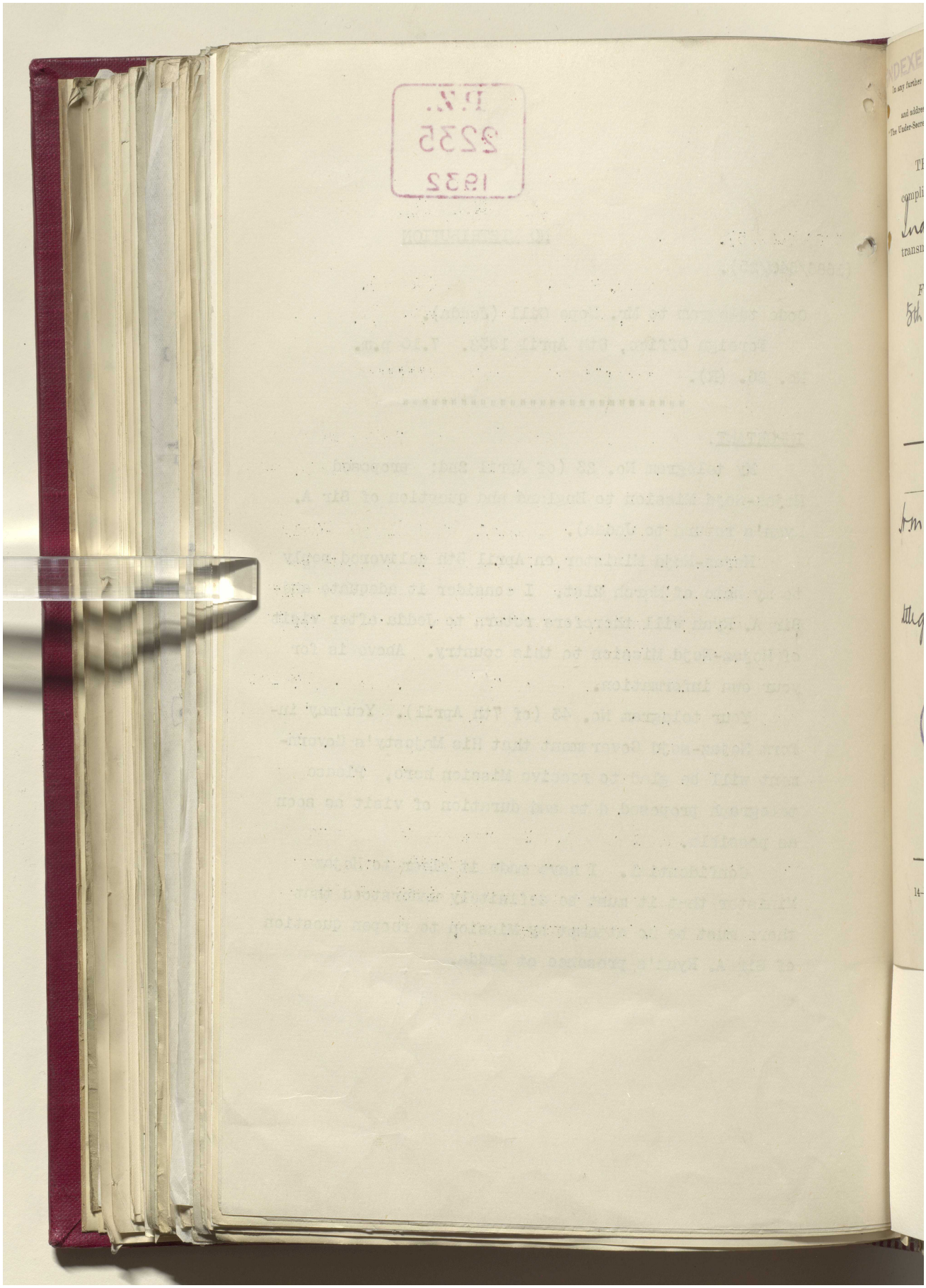

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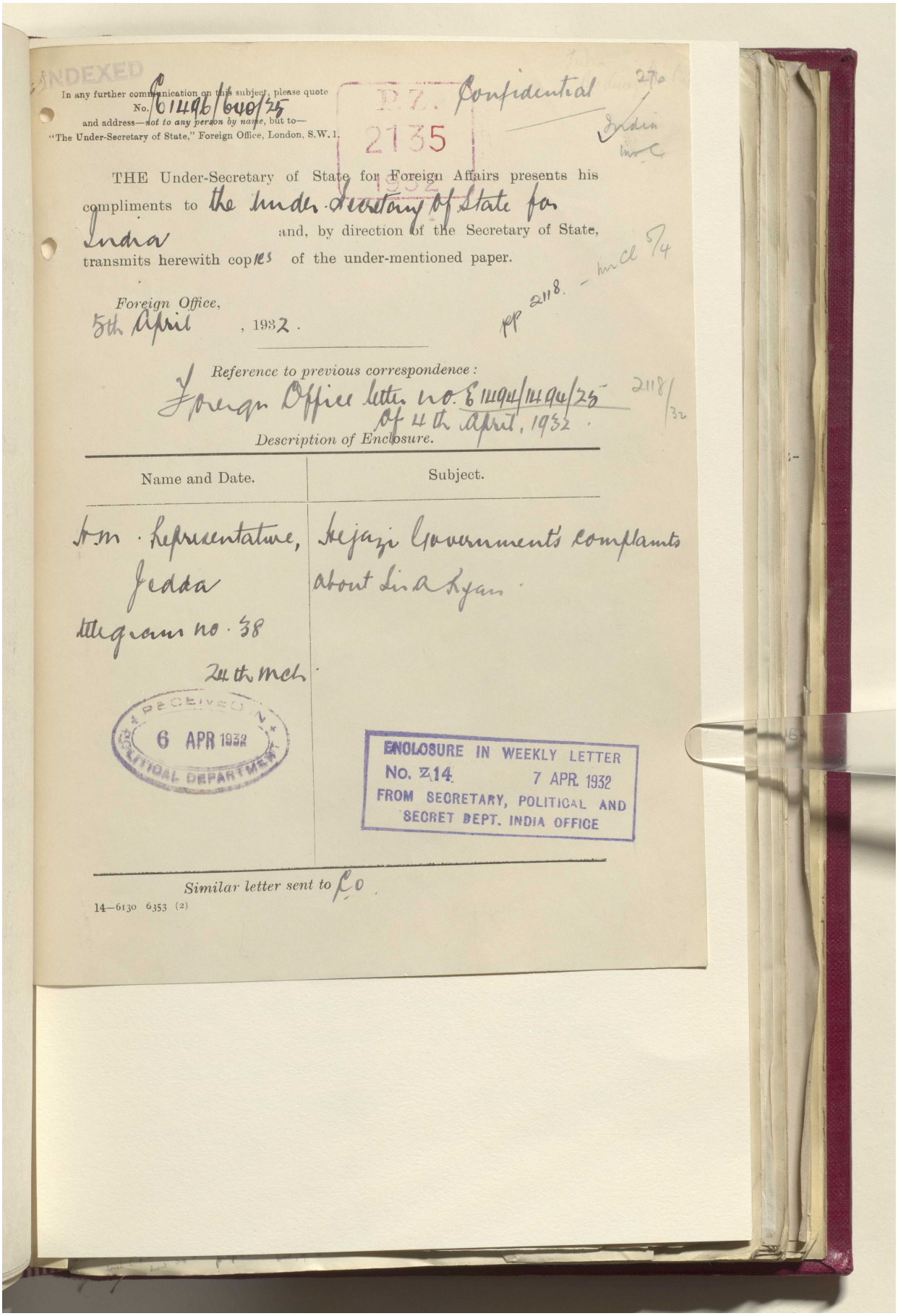

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 1149/6/25
and address—not to any person by name, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

P.Z. 2135 1932

Confidential

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
5th April, 1932.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 1149/1149/25 of 4th April, 1932.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Representative, Jedda telegram no. 38 24th March.	Hejazi Government's complaints about Sir A. Ryan.

RECEIVED 6 APR 1932 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. Z 14 7 APR. 1932 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to F.O.

14—6130 6353 (2)

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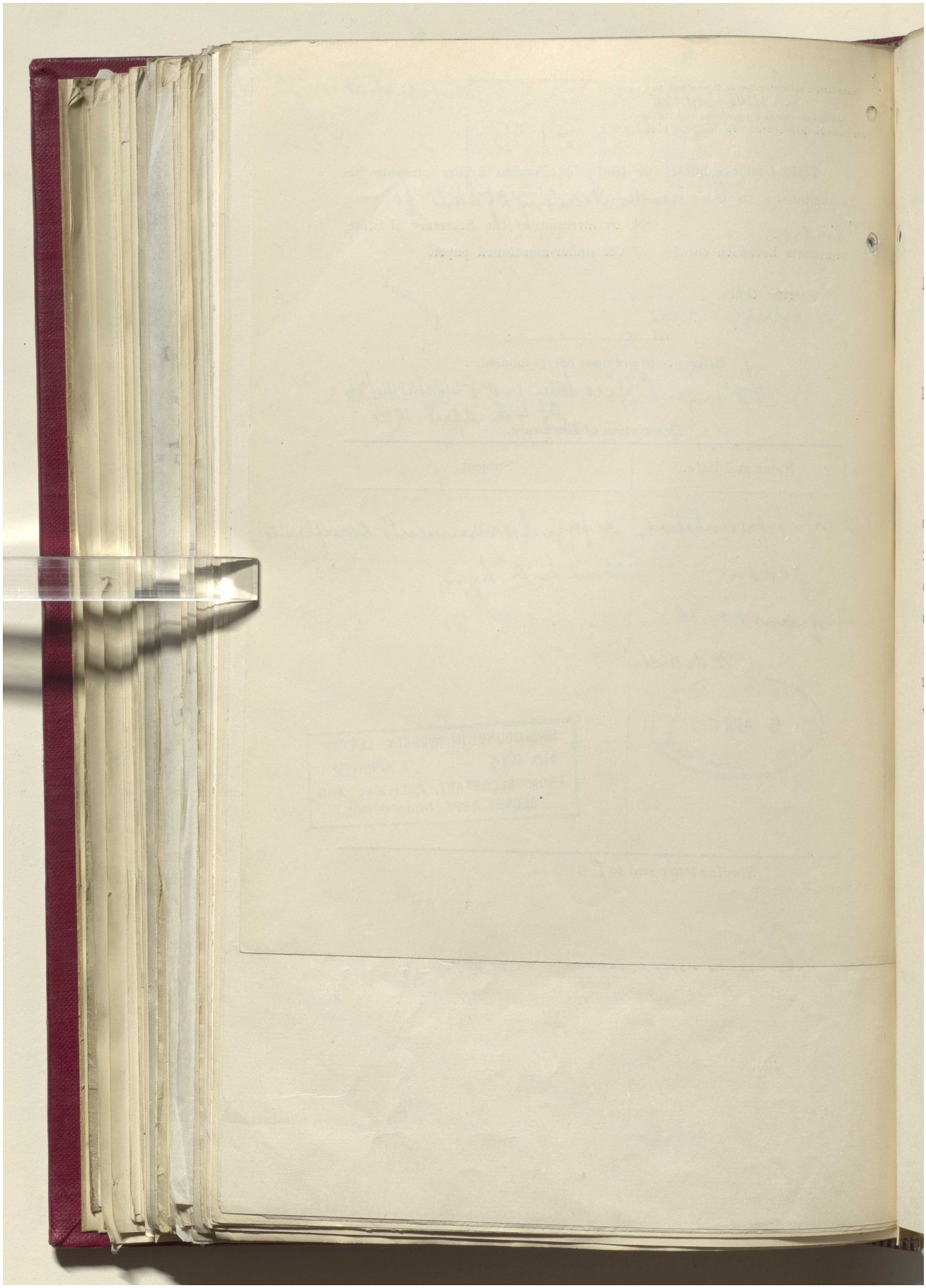

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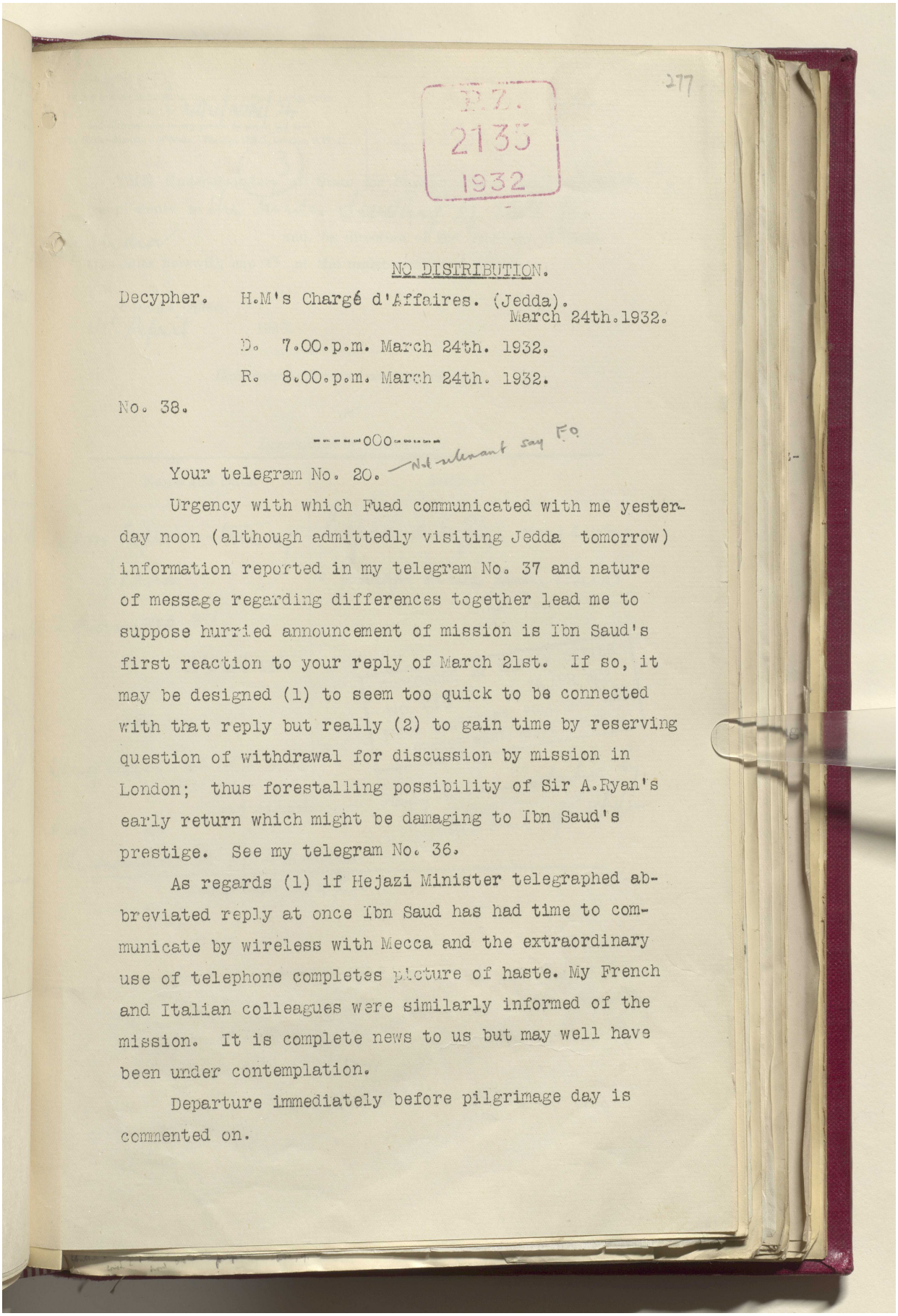

277

F.Z. 2135 1932

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decypher. H.M's Chargé d'Affaires. (Jedda).
March 24th.1932.

D. 7.00.p.m. March 24th. 1932.

R. 8.00.p.m. March 24th. 1932.

No. 38.

-----oOo-----

Not relevant say F.O.

Your telegram No. 20.

Urgency with which Fuad communicated with me yesterday noon (although admittedly visiting Jedda tomorrow) information reported in my telegram No. 37 and nature of message regarding differences together lead me to suppose hurried announcement of mission is Ibn Saud's first reaction to your reply of March 21st. If so, it may be designed (1) to seem too quick to be connected with that reply but really (2) to gain time by reserving question of withdrawal for discussion by mission in London; thus forestalling possibility of Sir A.Ryan's early return which might be damaging to Ibn Saud's prestige. See my telegram No. 36.

As regards (1) if Hejazi Minister telegraphed abbreviated reply at once Ibn Saud has had time to communicate by wireless with Mecca and the extraordinary use of telephone completes picture of haste. My French and Italian colleagues were similarly informed of the mission. It is complete news to us but may well have been under contemplation.

Departure immediately before pilgrimage day is commented on.

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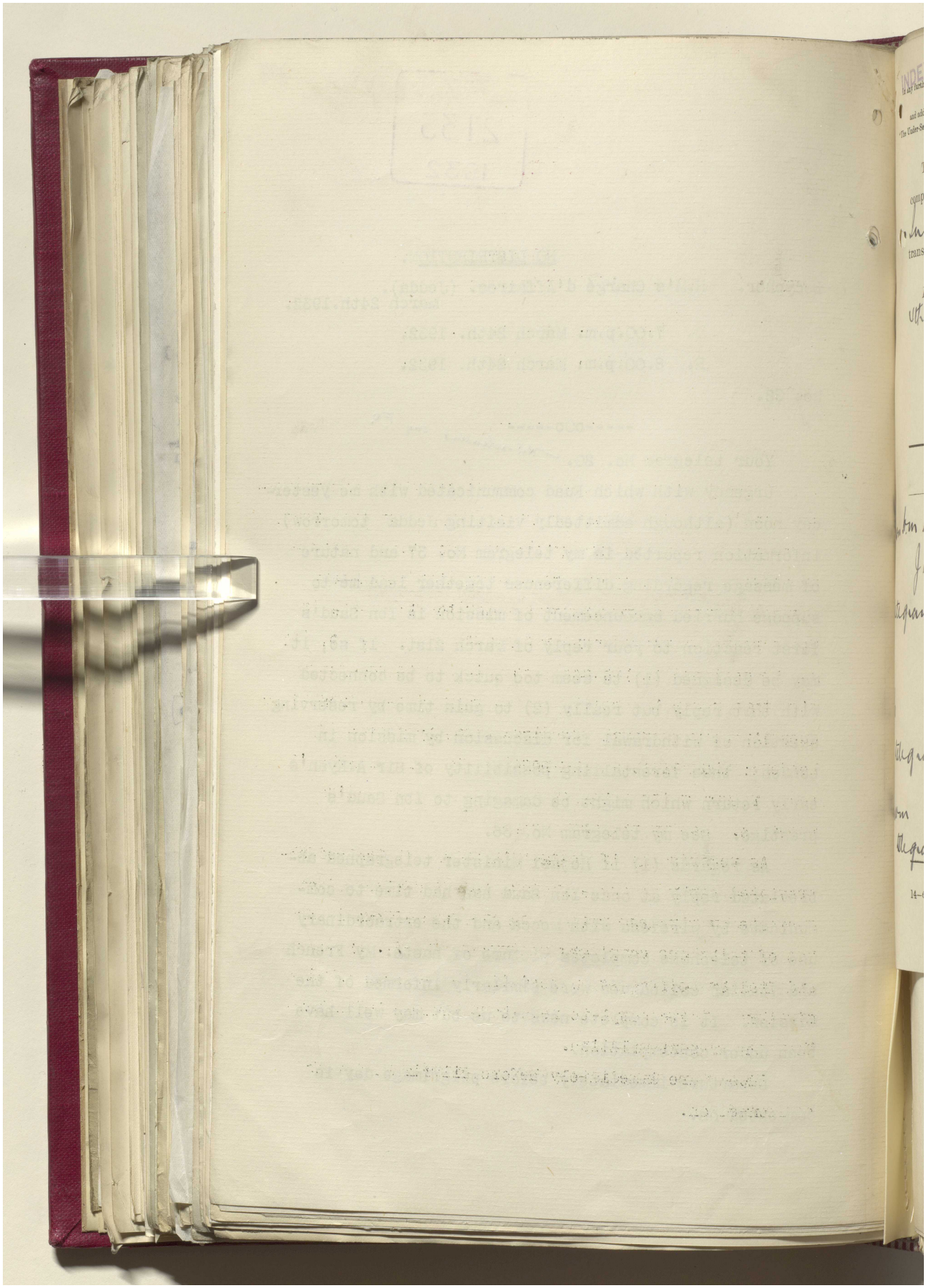

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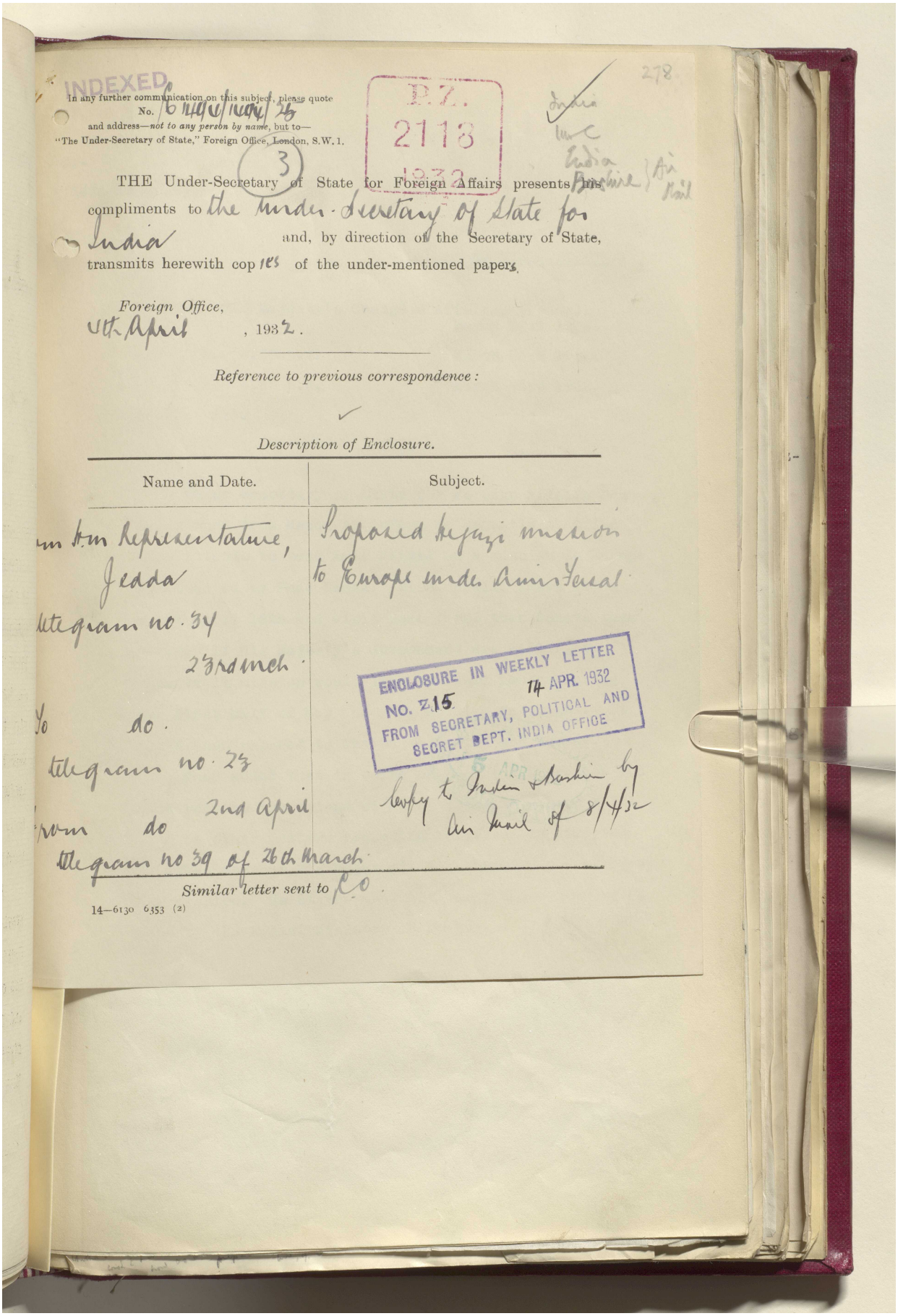

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No. 6 1494/1494/25
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 2118 1932

(3)

India
Mr C
India
Bushire } Air Mail

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned papers.

Foreign Office,
4th April, 1932.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
...m H.M. Representative, Jedda	Proposed Hejazi mission to Europe under Amir Faisal
telegram no. 34 23rd March	
To do. telegram no. 23 2nd April	
From do telegram no 39 of 26th March	

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. Z 15 14 APR. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Copy to India & Bushire by Air Mail of 8/4/32

Similar letter sent to P.O.

14—6130 6353 (2)

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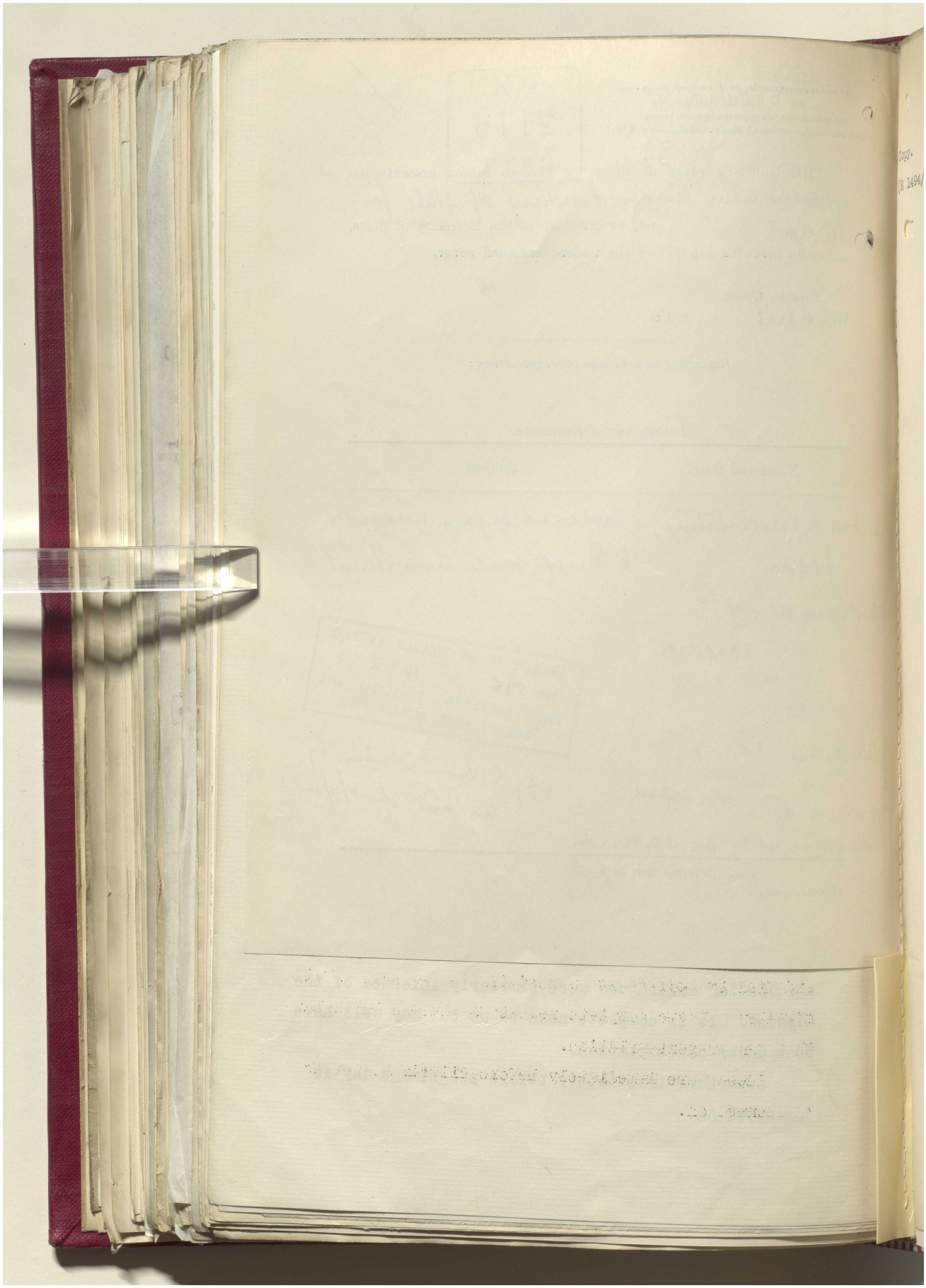

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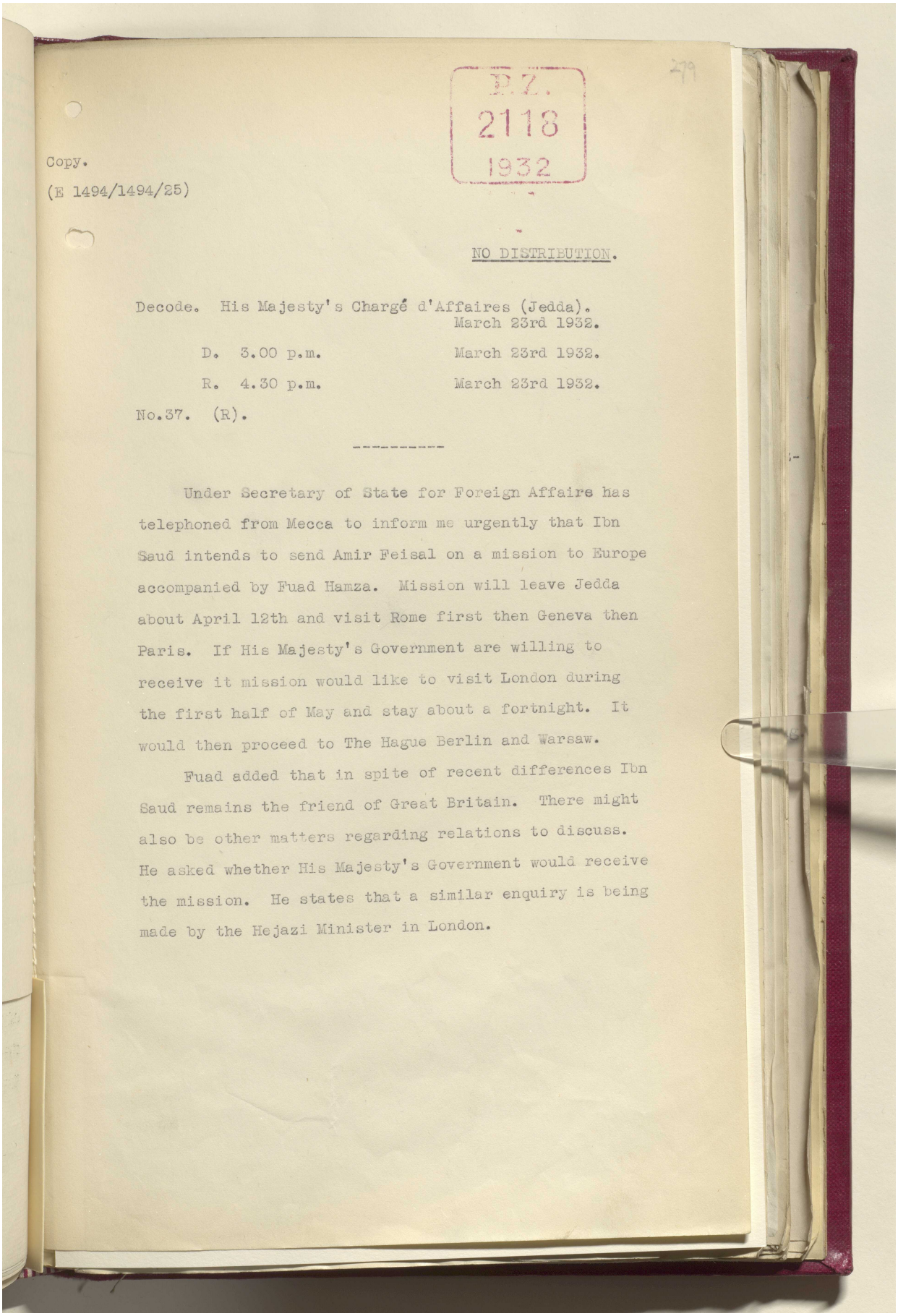

P.Z.
2118
1932

279

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(E 1494/1494/25)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires (Jedda).
March 23rd 1932.

D. 3.00 p.m. March 23rd 1932.

R. 4.30 p.m. March 23rd 1932.

No.37. (R).

Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affaire has telephoned from Mecca to inform me urgently that Ibn Saud intends to send Amir Feisal on a mission to Europe accompanied by Fuad Hamza. Mission will leave Jedda about April 12th and visit Rome first then Geneva then Paris. If His Majesty's Government are willing to receive it mission would like to visit London during the first half of May and stay about a fortnight. It would then proceed to The Hague Berlin and Warsaw.

Fuad added that in spite of recent differences Ibn Saud remains the friend of Great Britain. There might also be other matters regarding relations to discuss. He asked whether His Majesty's Government would receive the mission. He states that a similar enquiry is being made by the Hejazi Minister in London.

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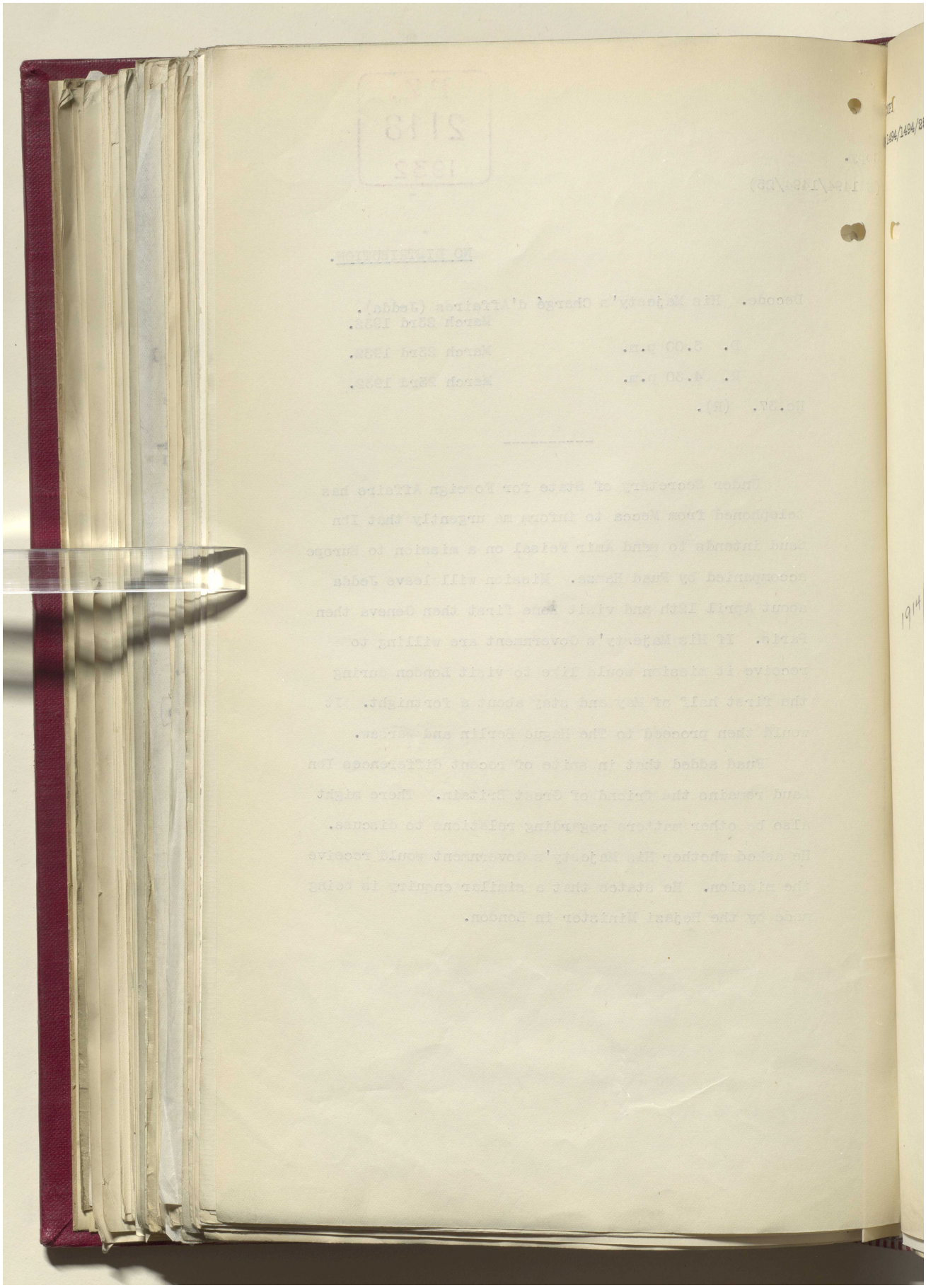

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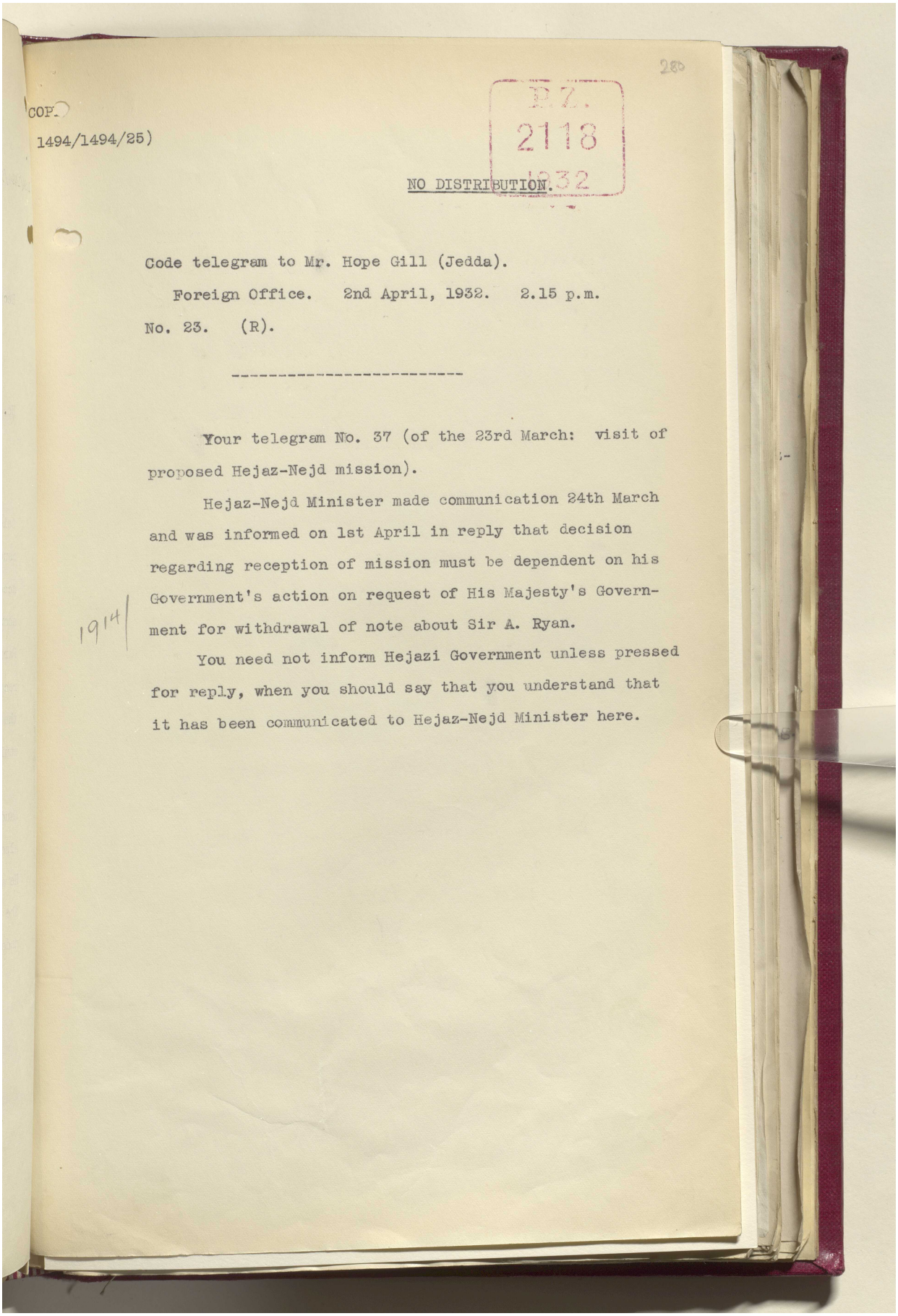

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1494/1494/25)

P.Z. 2118 1932

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Mr. Hope Gill (Jedda).

Foreign Office. 2nd April, 1932. 2.15 p.m.

No. 23. (R).

Your telegram No. 37 (of the 23rd March: visit of proposed Hejaz-Nejd mission).

Hejaz-Nejd Minister made communication 24th March and was informed on 1st April in reply that decision regarding reception of mission must be dependent on his Government's action on request of His Majesty's Government for withdrawal of note about Sir A. Ryan.

1914

You need not inform Hejazi Government unless pressed for reply, when you should say that you understand that it has been communicated to Hejaz-Nejd Minister here.

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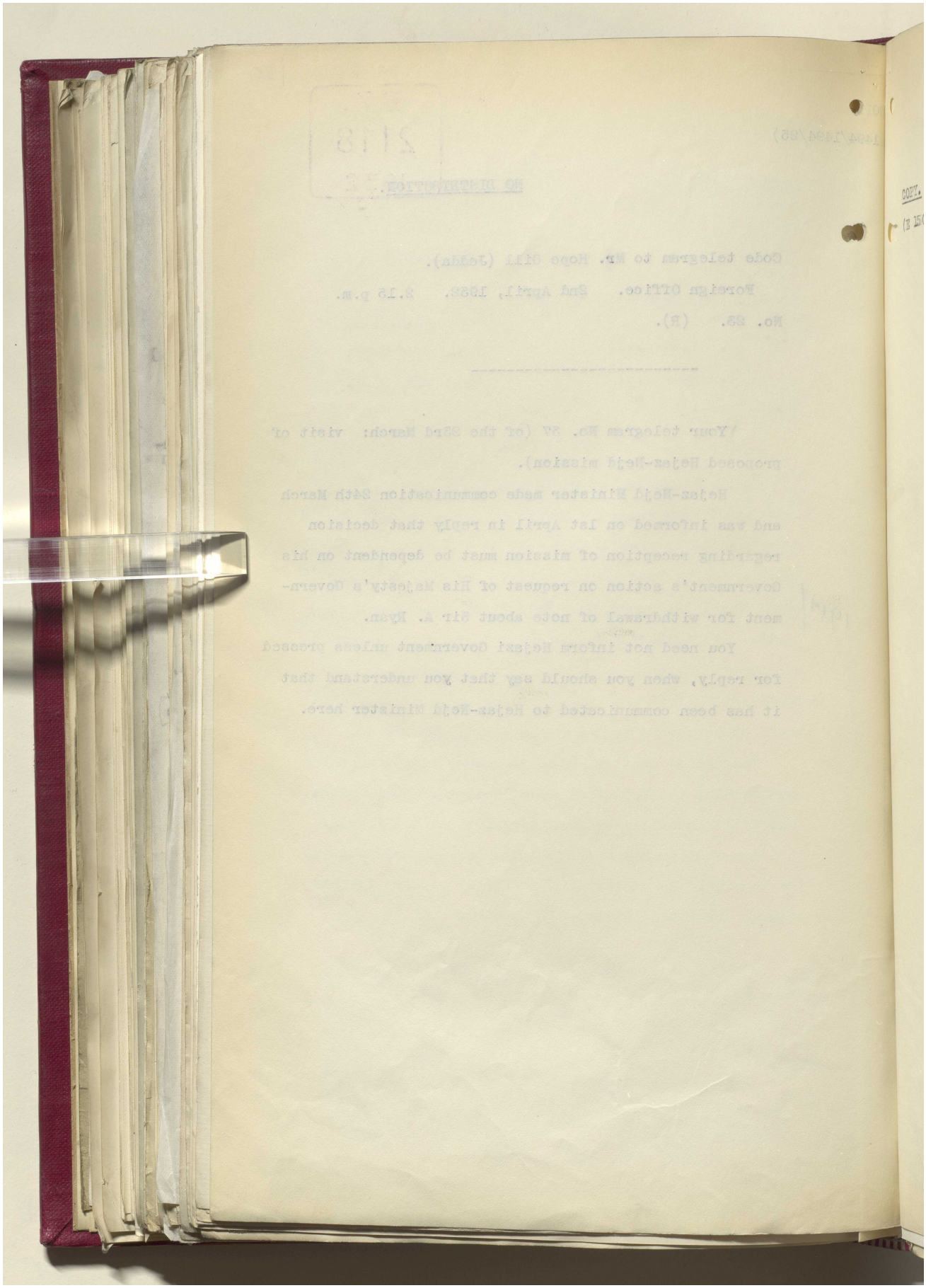

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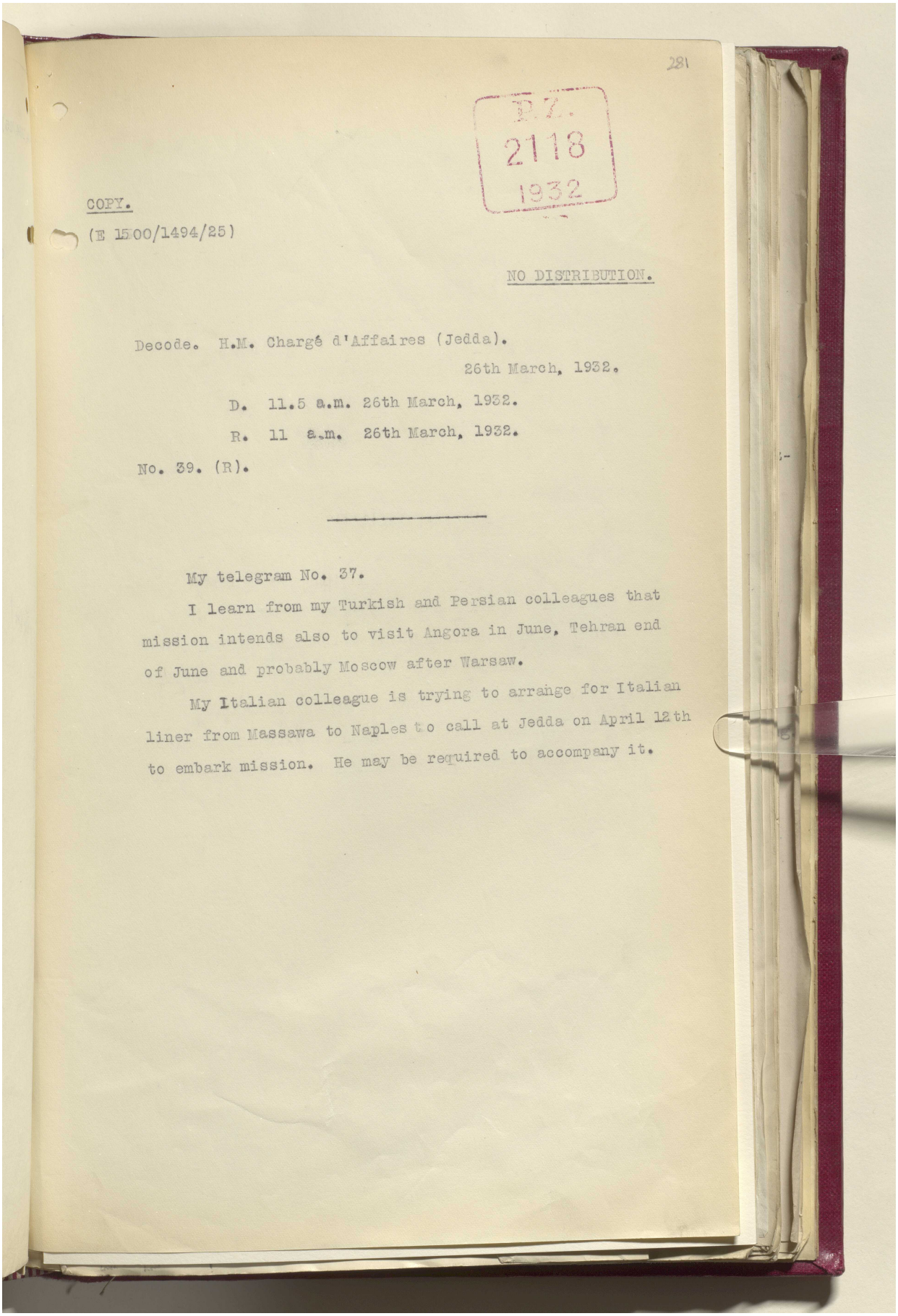

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F.Z.
2118
1932

COPY.

(E 1500/1494/25)

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Decode. H.M. Chargé d'Affaires (Jedda).

26th March, 1932.

D. 11.5 a.m. 26th March, 1932.

R. 11 a.m. 26th March, 1932.

No. 39. (R).

My telegram No. 37.

I learn from my Turkish and Persian colleagues that mission intends also to visit Angora in June, Tehran end of June and probably Moscow after Warsaw.

My Italian colleague is trying to arrange for Italian liner from Massawa to Naples to call at Jedda on April 12th to embark mission. He may be required to accompany it.

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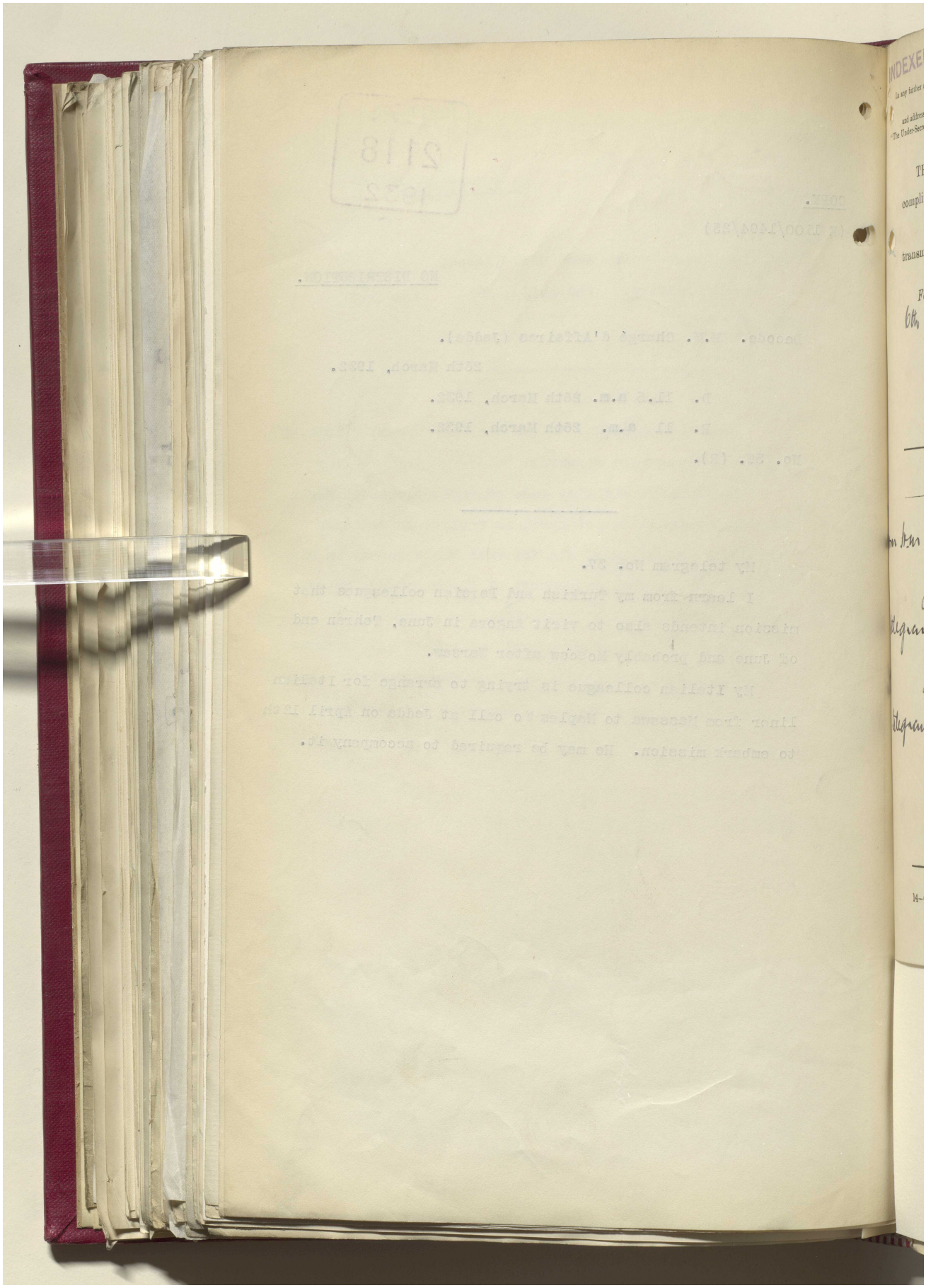

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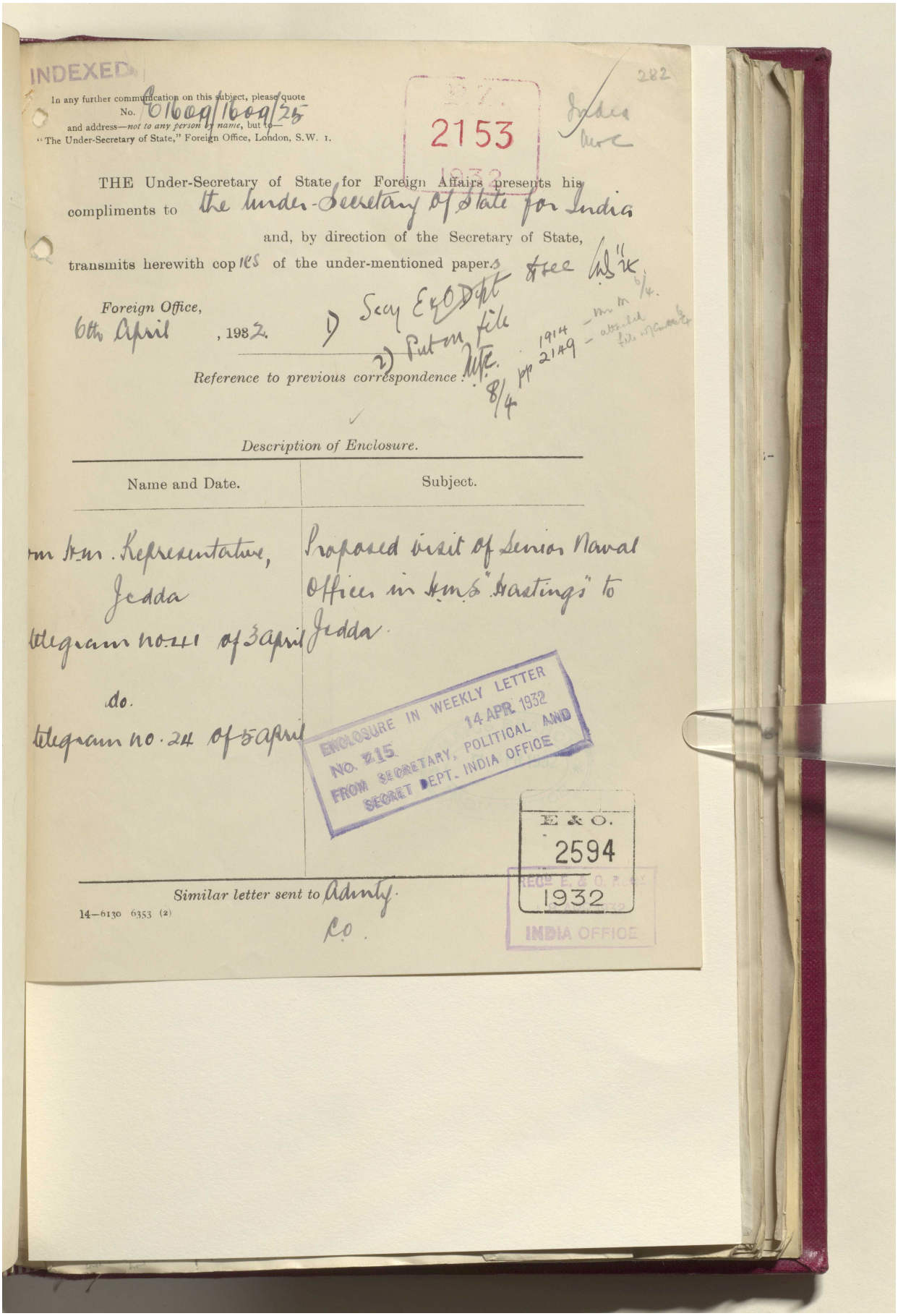

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

2153
1932

Indian
Mec

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned papers. & see [illegible]

Foreign Office,
6th April, 1932.

1) Secy E&O Dept
2) Put on file
[illegible] 8/4

Reference to previous correspondence: 1914 – [illegible] 6/4.
pp 2149 – attached file [illegible]

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
[illegible]m H.M. Representative, Jedda telegram no. 41 of 3 April	Proposed visit of Senior Naval Officer in H.M.S. "Hastings" to Jedda.
do. telegram no. 24 of 5 April	

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 215 14 APR 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

E & O.
2594
REC'D E. & O. REGY
1932
INDIA OFFICE

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C.O.

14—6130 6353 (2)

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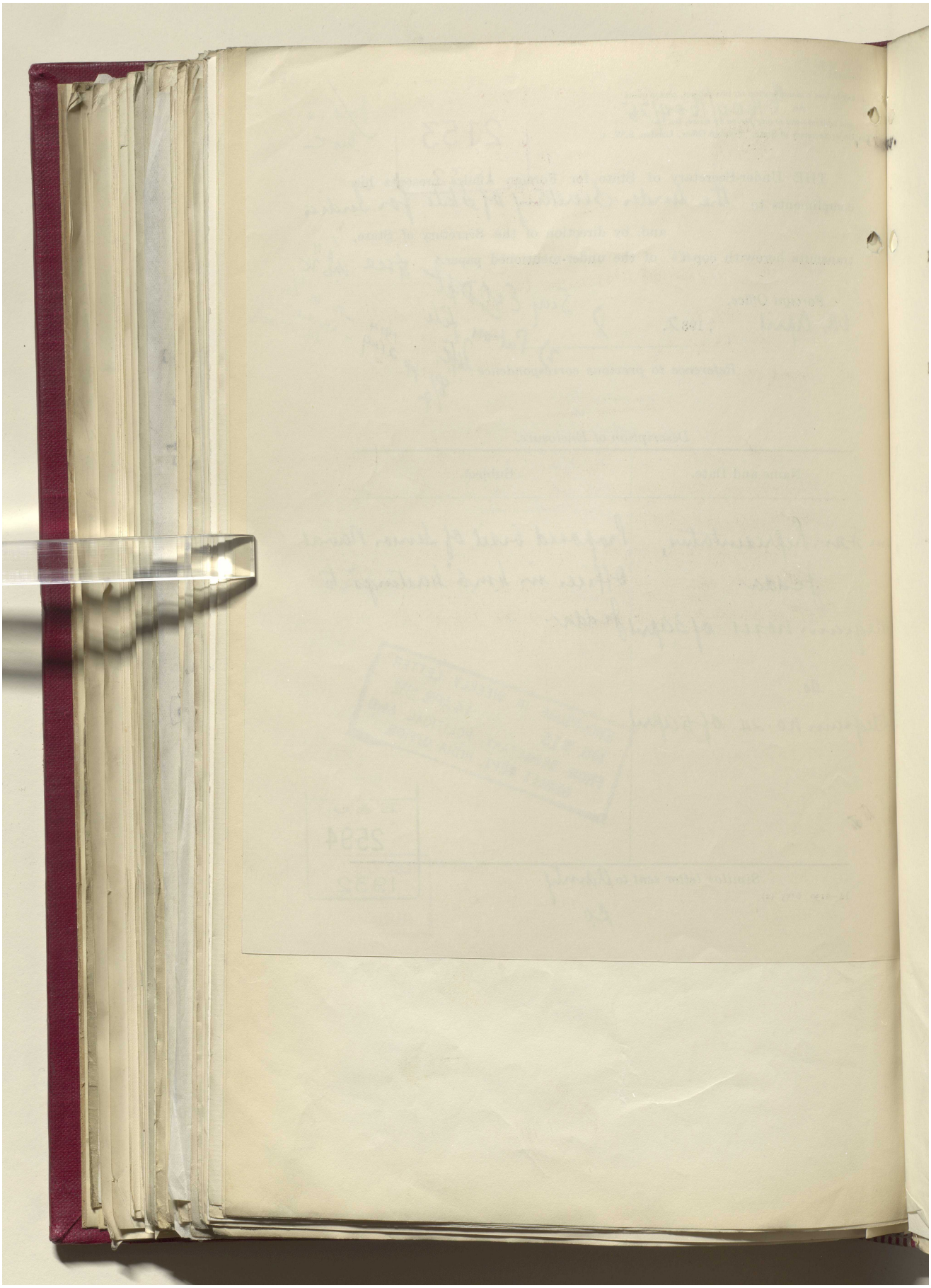

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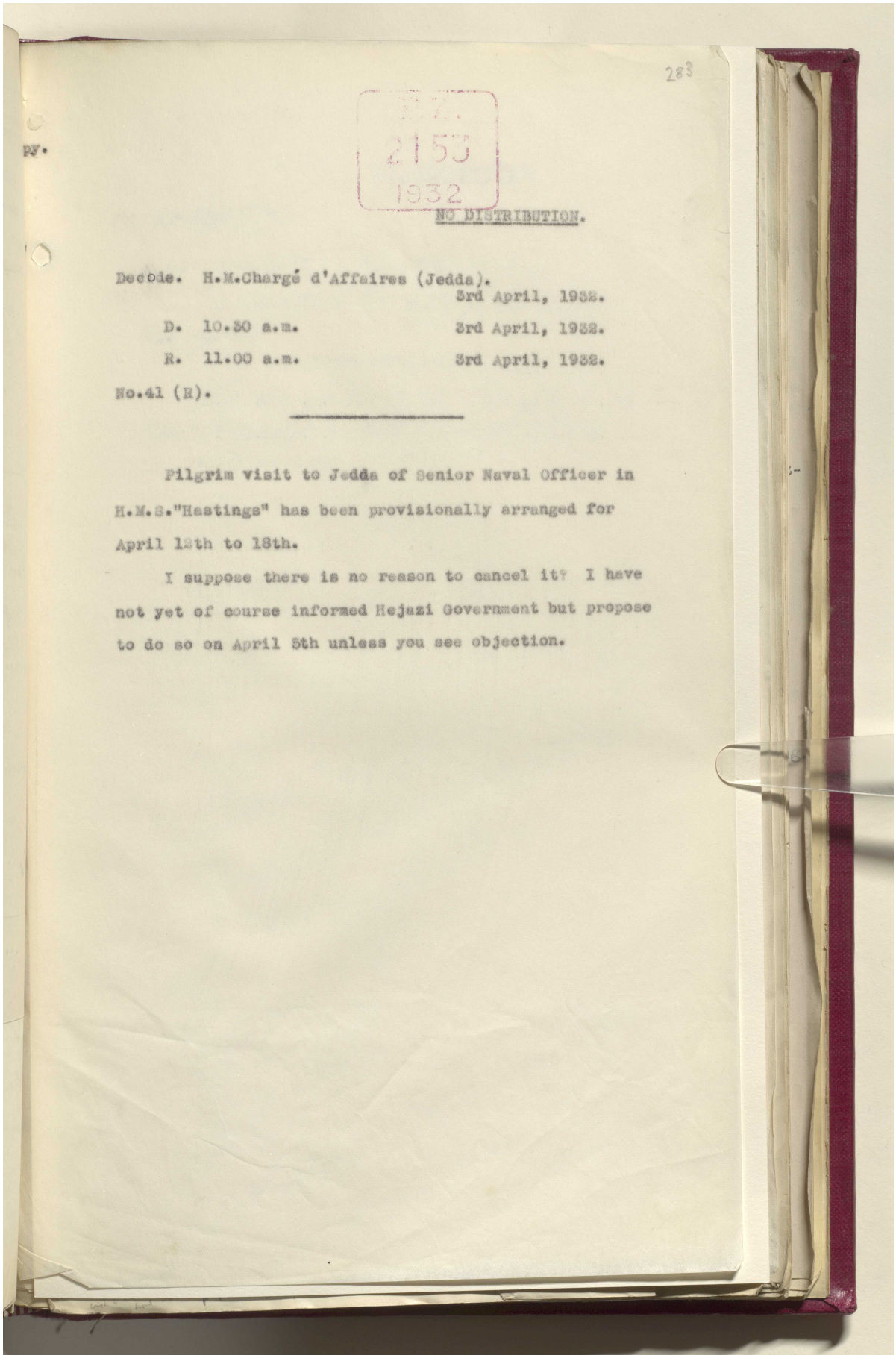

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py.

F.O. 2153 1932

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Decode. H.M.Chargé d'Affaires (Jedda).
3rd April, 1932.

D. 10.30 a.m. 3rd April, 1932.

R. 11.00 a.m. 3rd April, 1932.

No.41 (R).

Pilgrim visit to Jedda of Senior Naval Officer in H.M.S."Hastings" has been provisionally arranged for April 13th to 18th.

I suppose there is no reason to cancel it? I have not yet of course informed Hejazi Government but propose to do so on April 5th unless you see objection.

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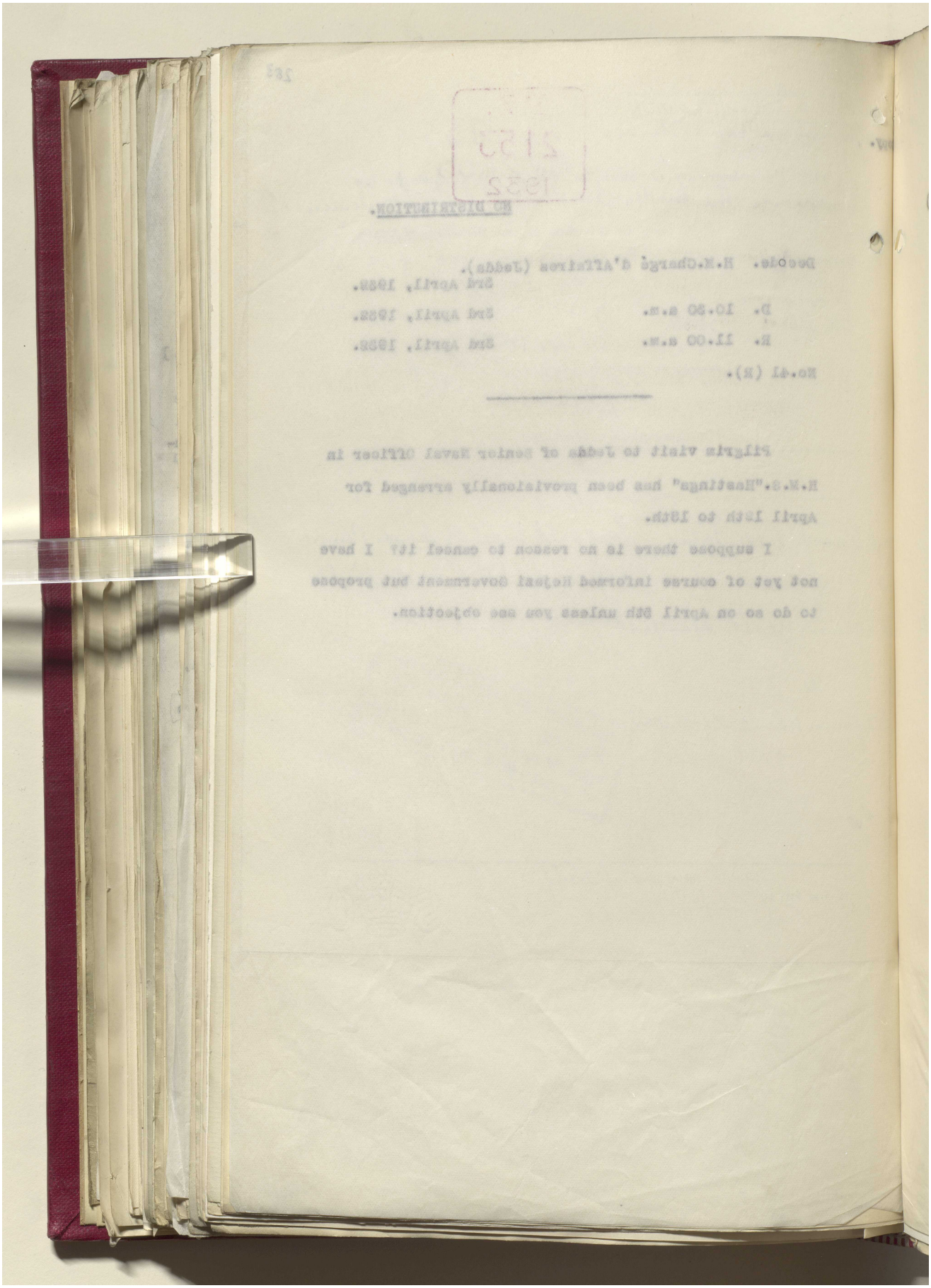

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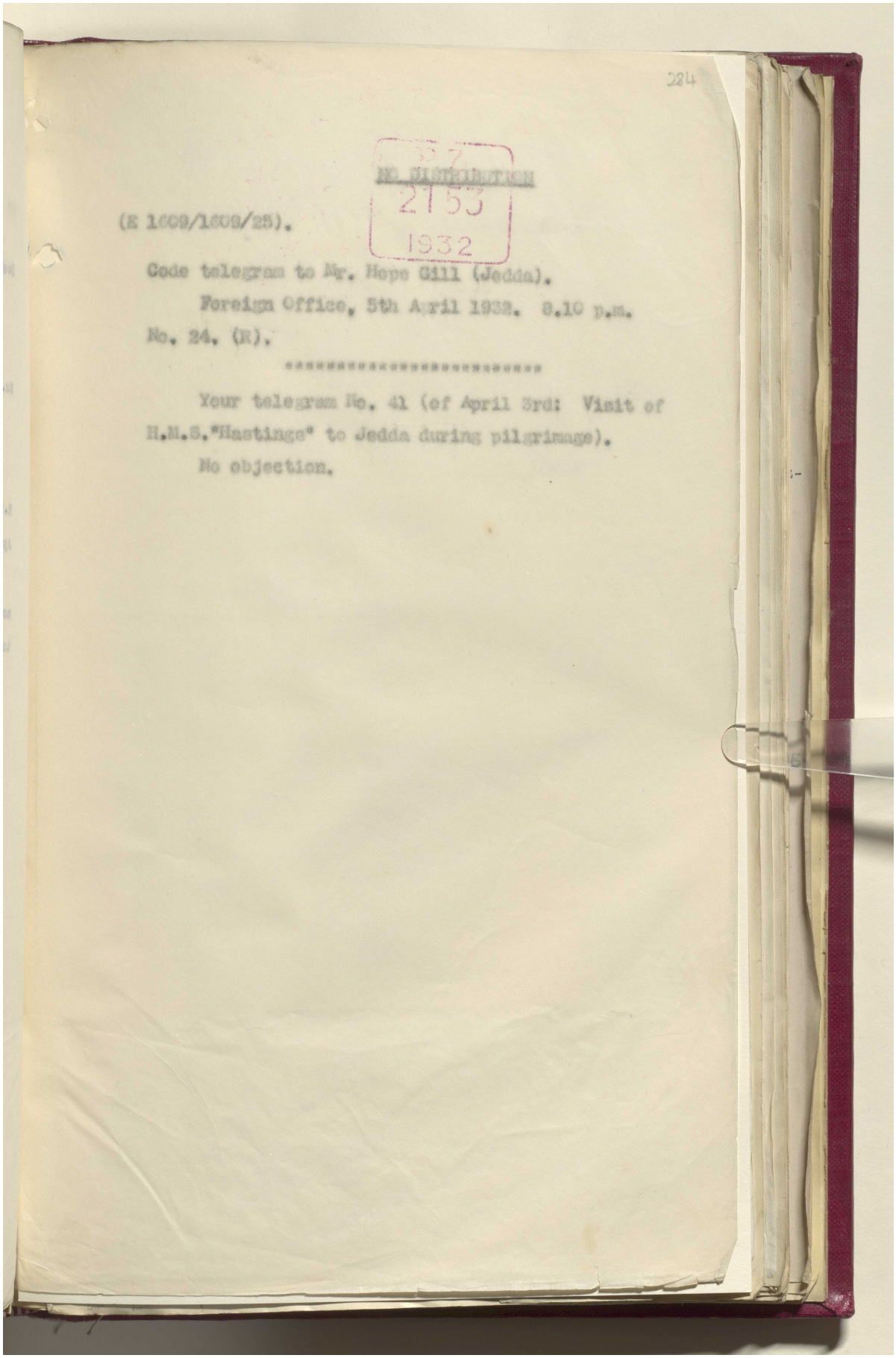

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2153
1932

(E 1009/1009/25).

Code telegram to Mr. Hope Gill (Jedda).

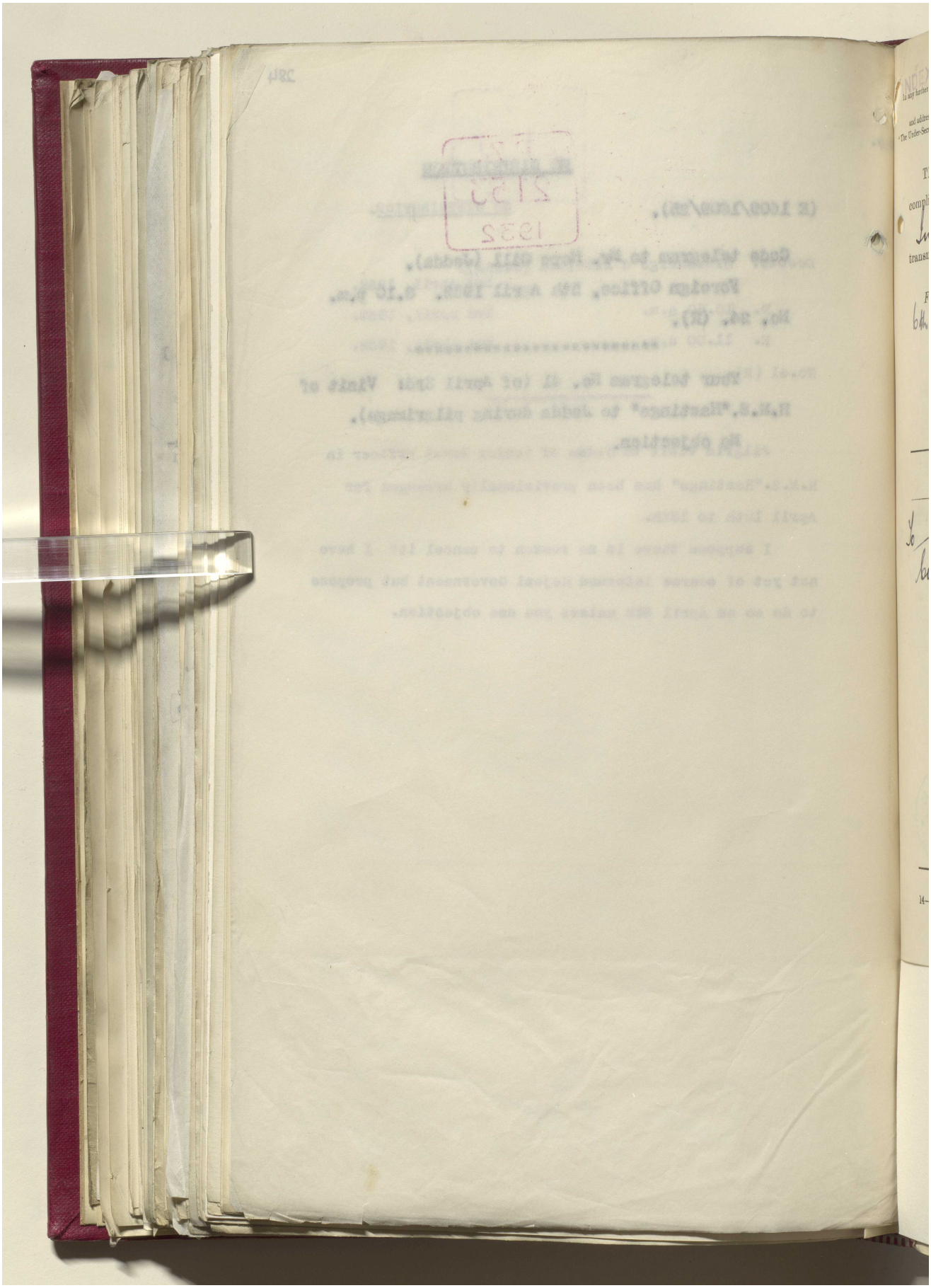
Foreign Office, 5th April 1932. 8.10 p.m.

No. 24. (R).

****

Your telegram No. 41 (of April 3rd: Visit of H.M.S."Hastings" to Jedda during pilgrimage).

No objection.



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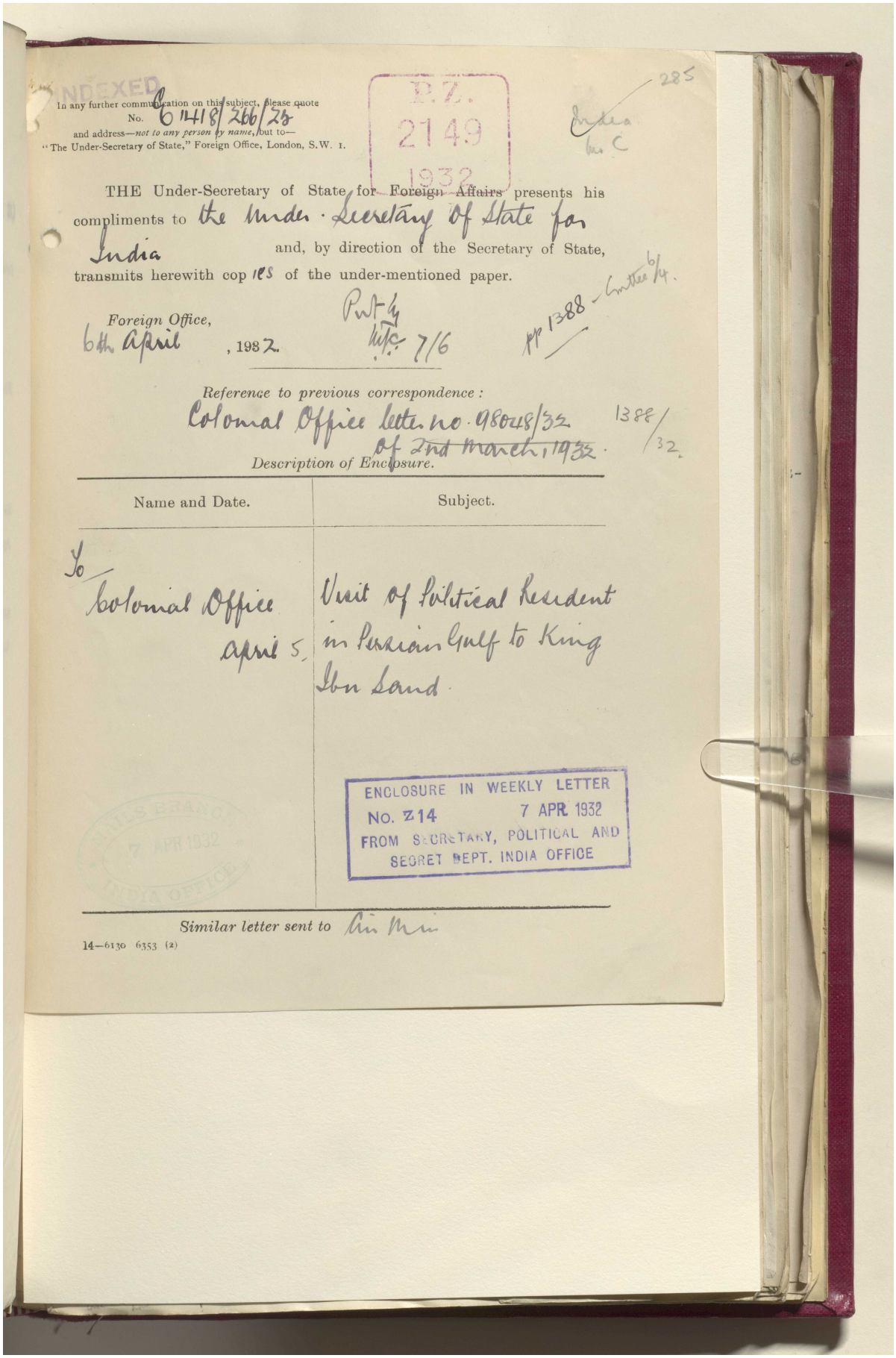

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 2149 1932

285
India
Mr C

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
6th April, 1932.

Pwt 4
Mtg 7/6

pp 1388 - Cuttee 6/4.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Colonial Office letter no. 98048/32 of 2nd March, 1932.
1388/32

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Colonial Office April 5.	Visit of Political Resident in Persian Gulf to King Ibn Saud.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. Z14 7 APR 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

7 APR 1932 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Air Min

14—6130 6353 (2)

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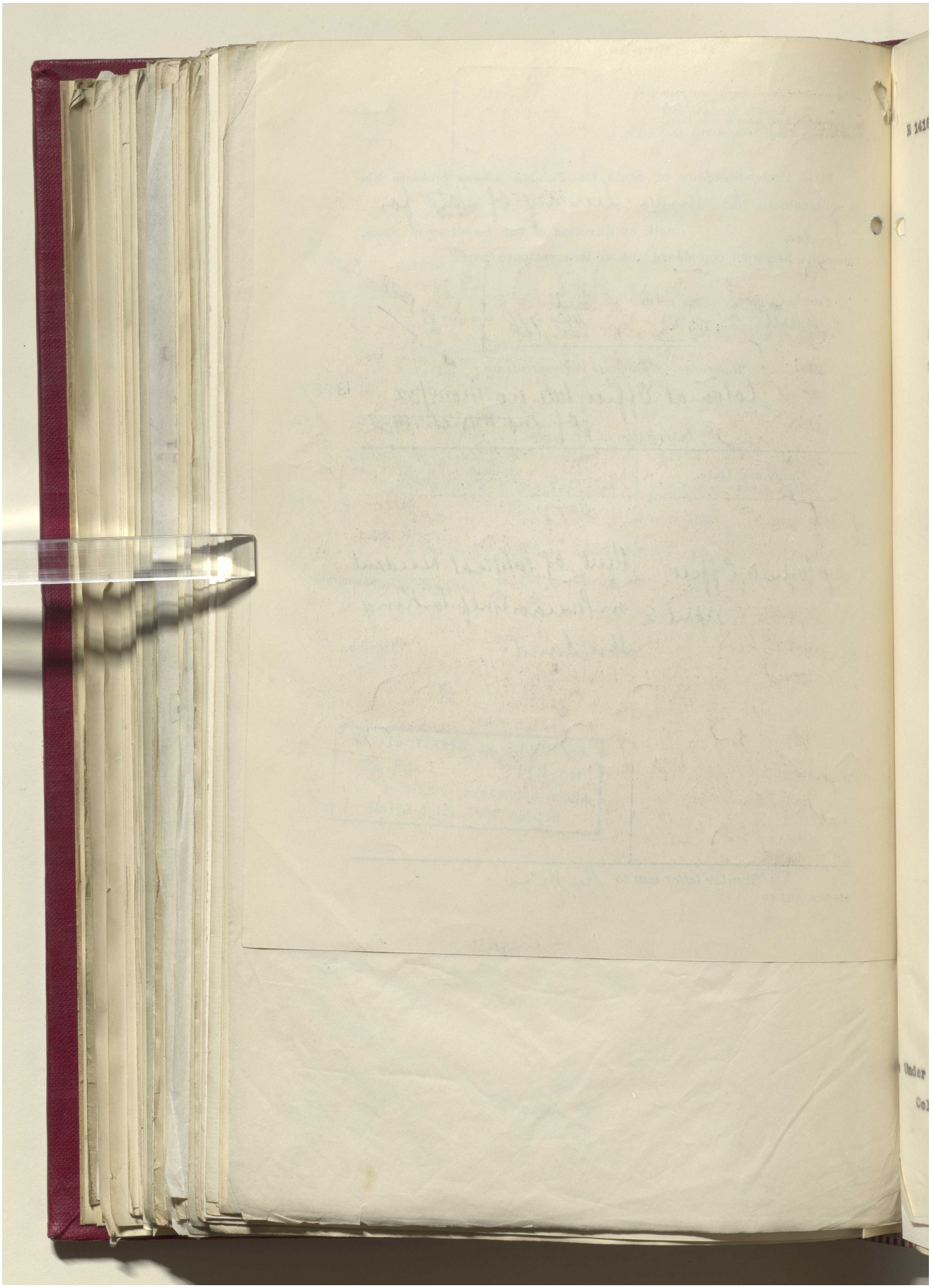

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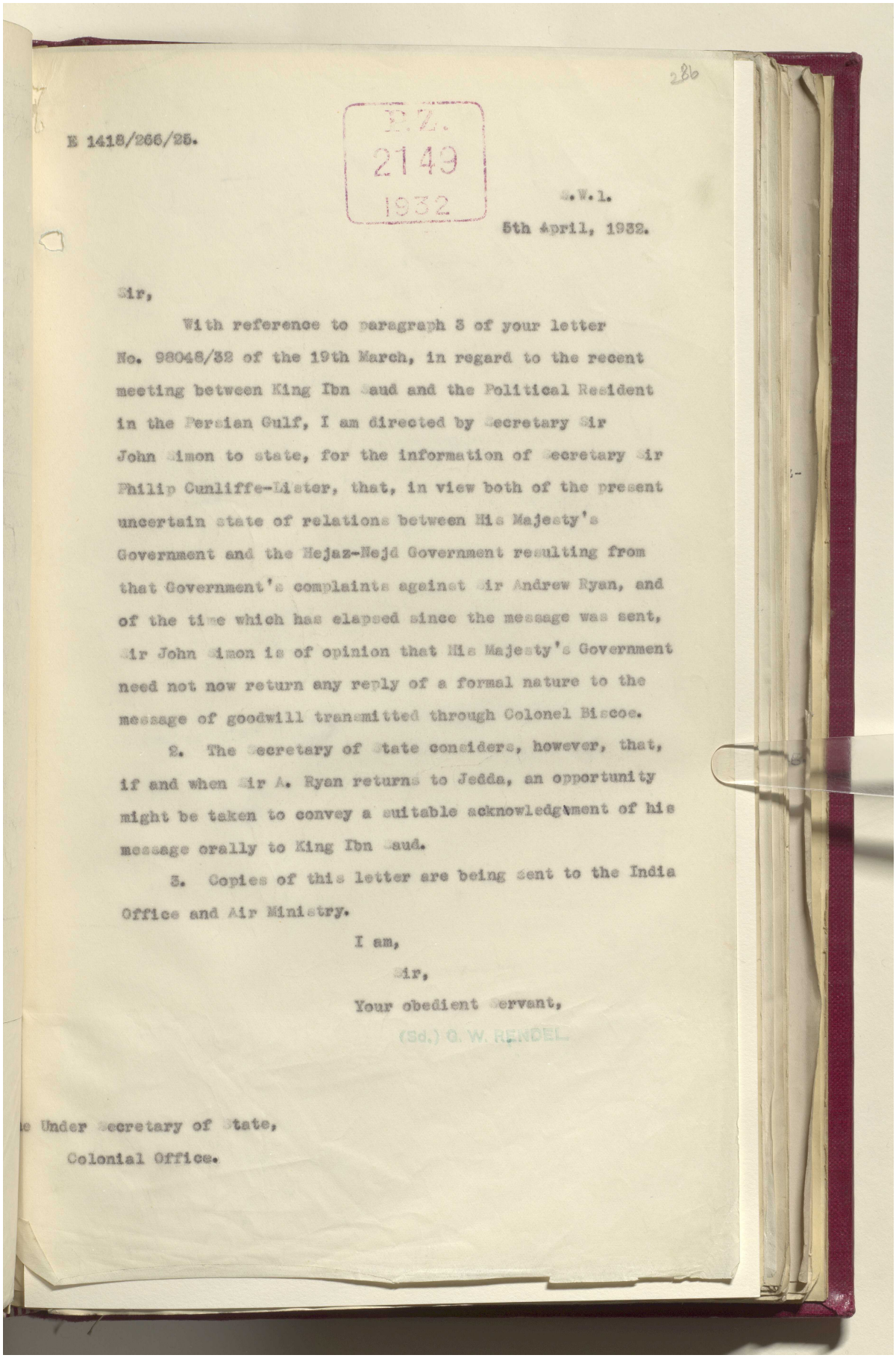

286

E 1418/266/25.

R.Z.
2149
1932

S.W.1.
5th April, 1932.

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter No. 98048/32 of the 19th March, in regard to the recent meeting between King Ibn Saud and the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to state, for the information of Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, that, in view both of the present uncertain state of relations between His Majesty's Government and the Hejaz-Nejd Government resulting from that Government's complaints against Sir Andrew Ryan, and of the time which has elapsed since the message was sent, Sir John Simon is of opinion that His Majesty's Government need not now return any reply of a formal nature to the message of goodwill transmitted through Colonel Biscoe.

2. The Secretary of State considers, however, that, if and when Sir A. Ryan returns to Jedda, an opportunity might be taken to convey a suitable acknowledgment of his message orally to King Ibn Saud.

3. Copies of this letter are being sent to the India Office and Air Ministry.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sd.) G. W. RENDEL

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

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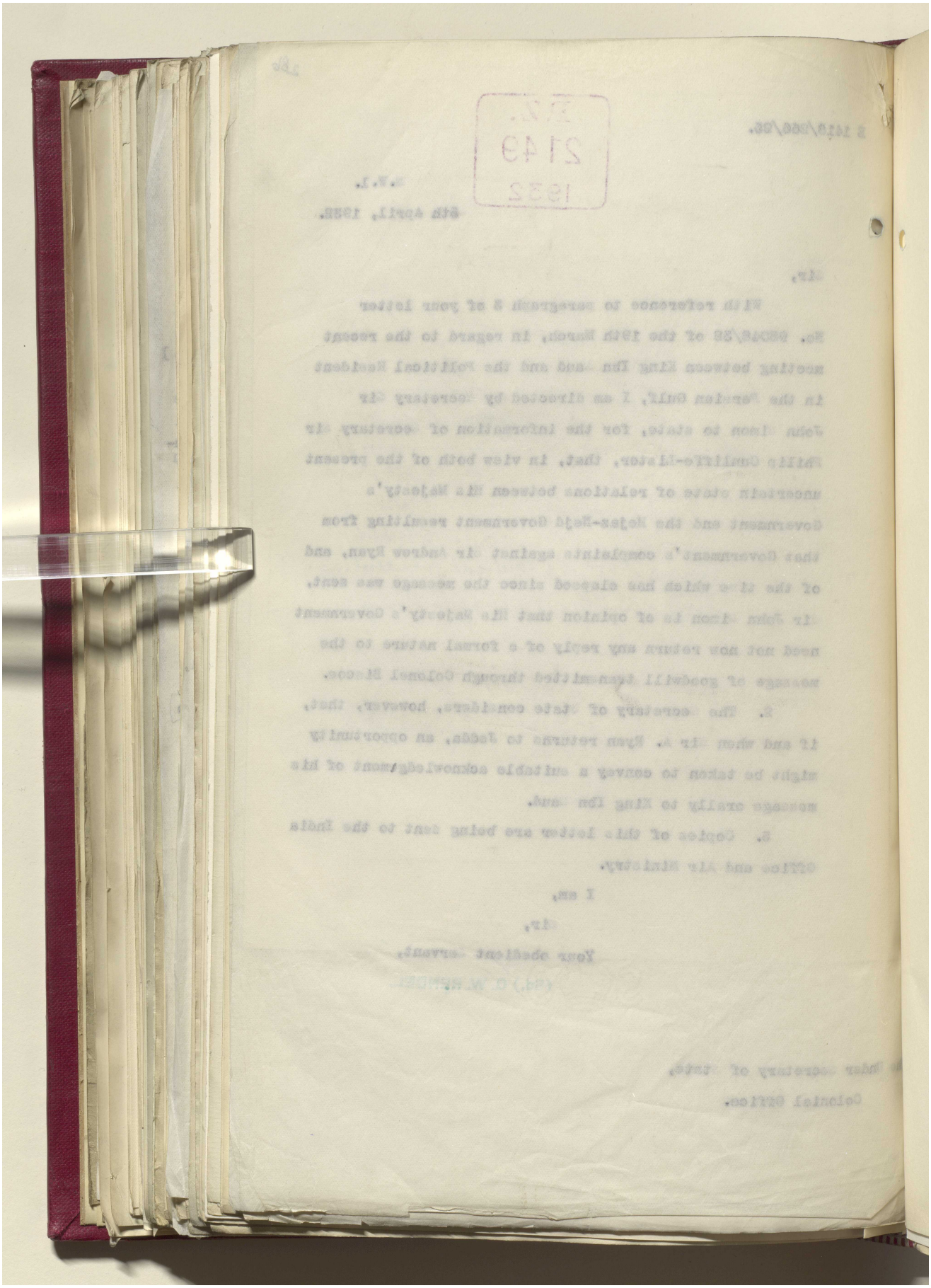

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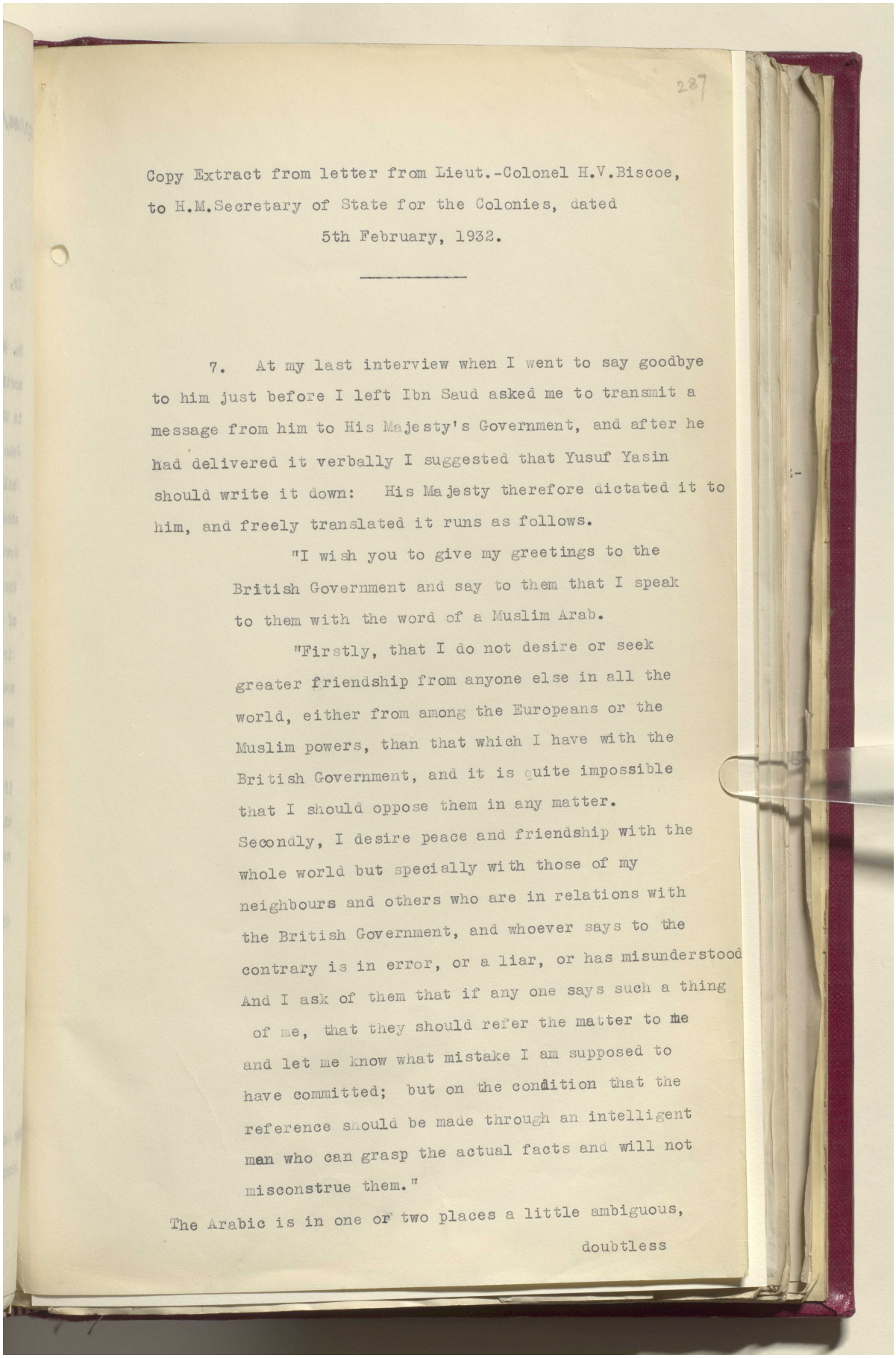

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Copy Extract from letter from Lieut.-Colonel H.V.Biscoe,
to H.M.Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated
5th February, 1932.

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7. At my last interview when I went to say goodbye to him just before I left Ibn Saud asked me to transmit a message from him to His Majesty's Government, and after he had delivered it verbally I suggested that Yusuf Yasin should write it down: His Majesty therefore dictated it to him, and freely translated it runs as follows.

"I wish you to give my greetings to the British Government and say to them that I speak to them with the word of a Muslim Arab.

"Firstly, that I do not desire or seek greater friendship from anyone else in all the world, either from among the Europeans or the Muslim powers, than that which I have with the British Government, and it is quite impossible that I should oppose them in any matter.

Secondly, I desire peace and friendship with the whole world but specially with those of my neighbours and others who are in relations with the British Government, and whoever says to the contrary is in error, or a liar, or has misunderstood And I ask of them that if any one says such a thing of me, that they should refer the matter to me and let me know what mistake I am supposed to have committed; but on the condition that the reference should be made through an intelligent man who can grasp the actual facts and will not misconstrue them."

The Arabic is in one or two places a little ambiguous,

doubtless

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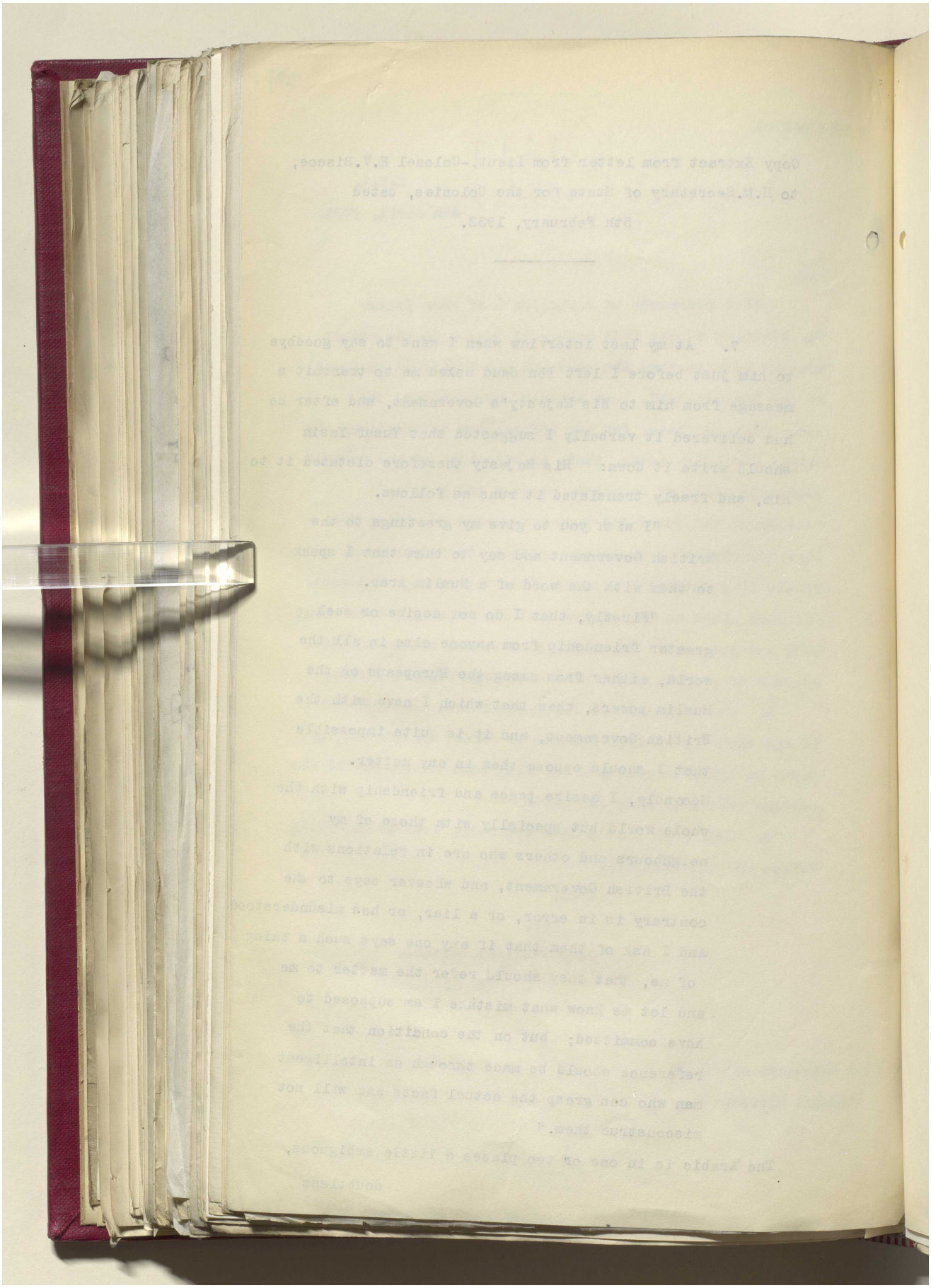

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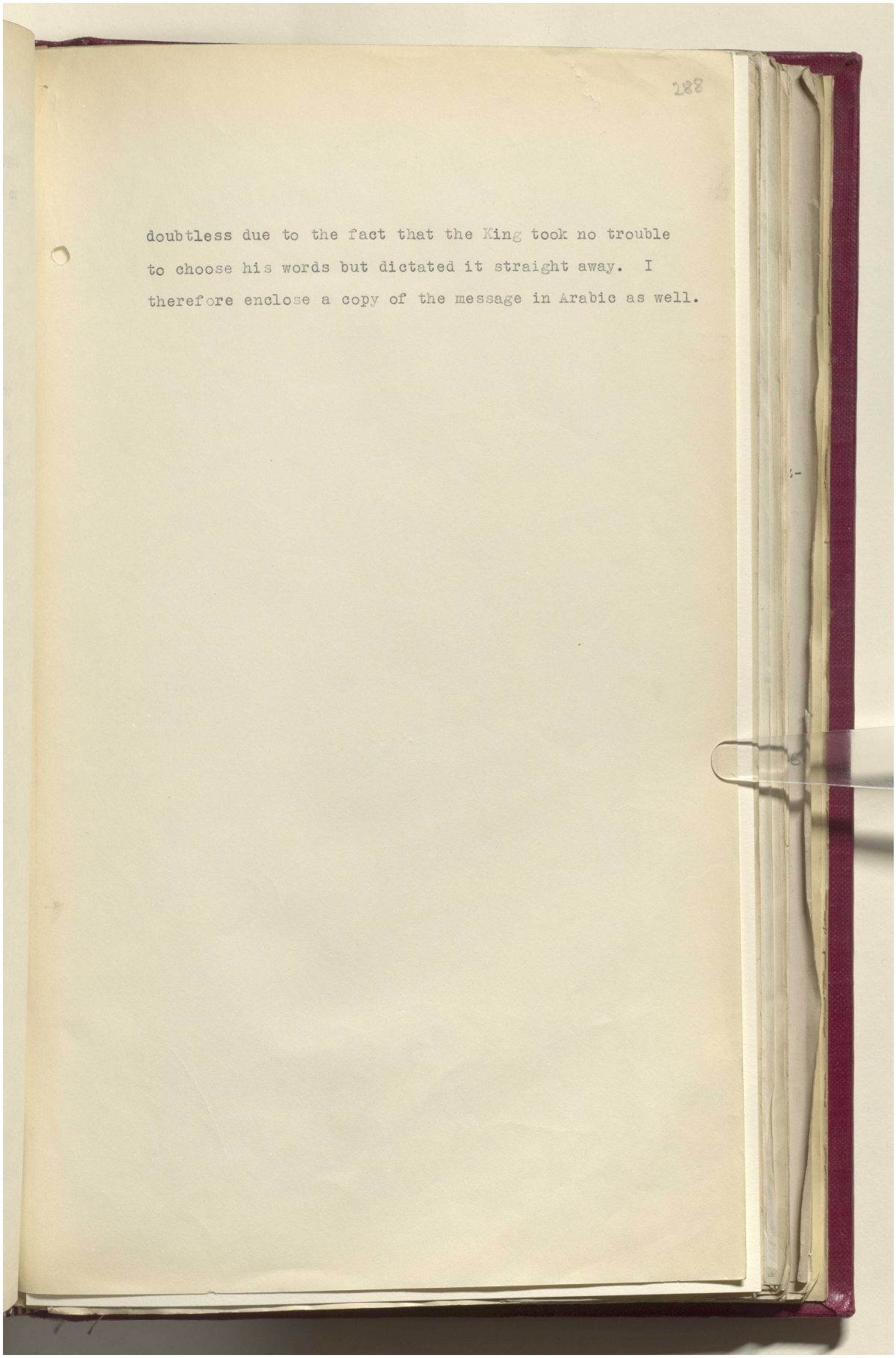

doubtless due to the fact that the King took no trouble to choose his words but dictated it straight away. I therefore enclose a copy of the message in Arabic as well.

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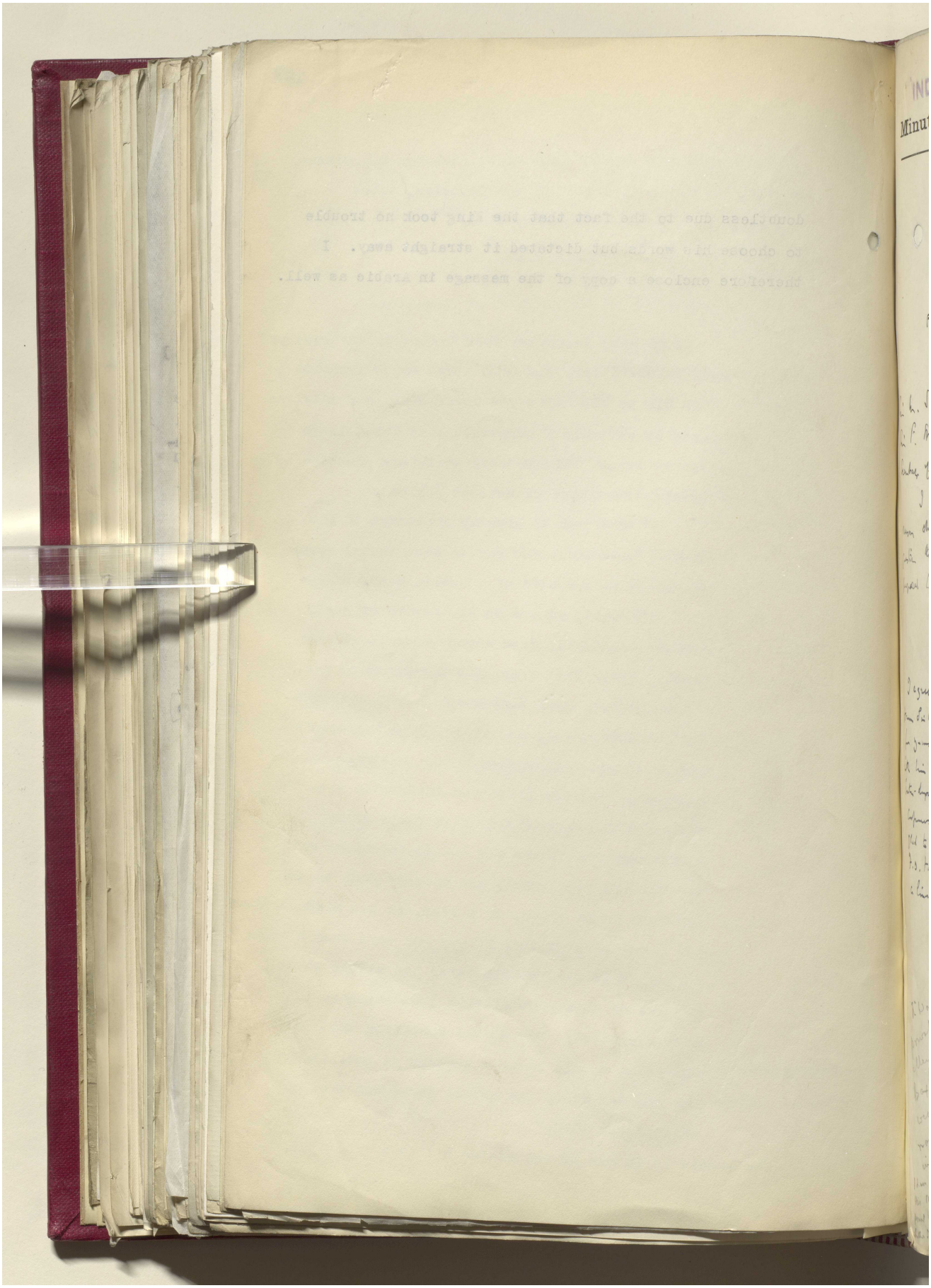

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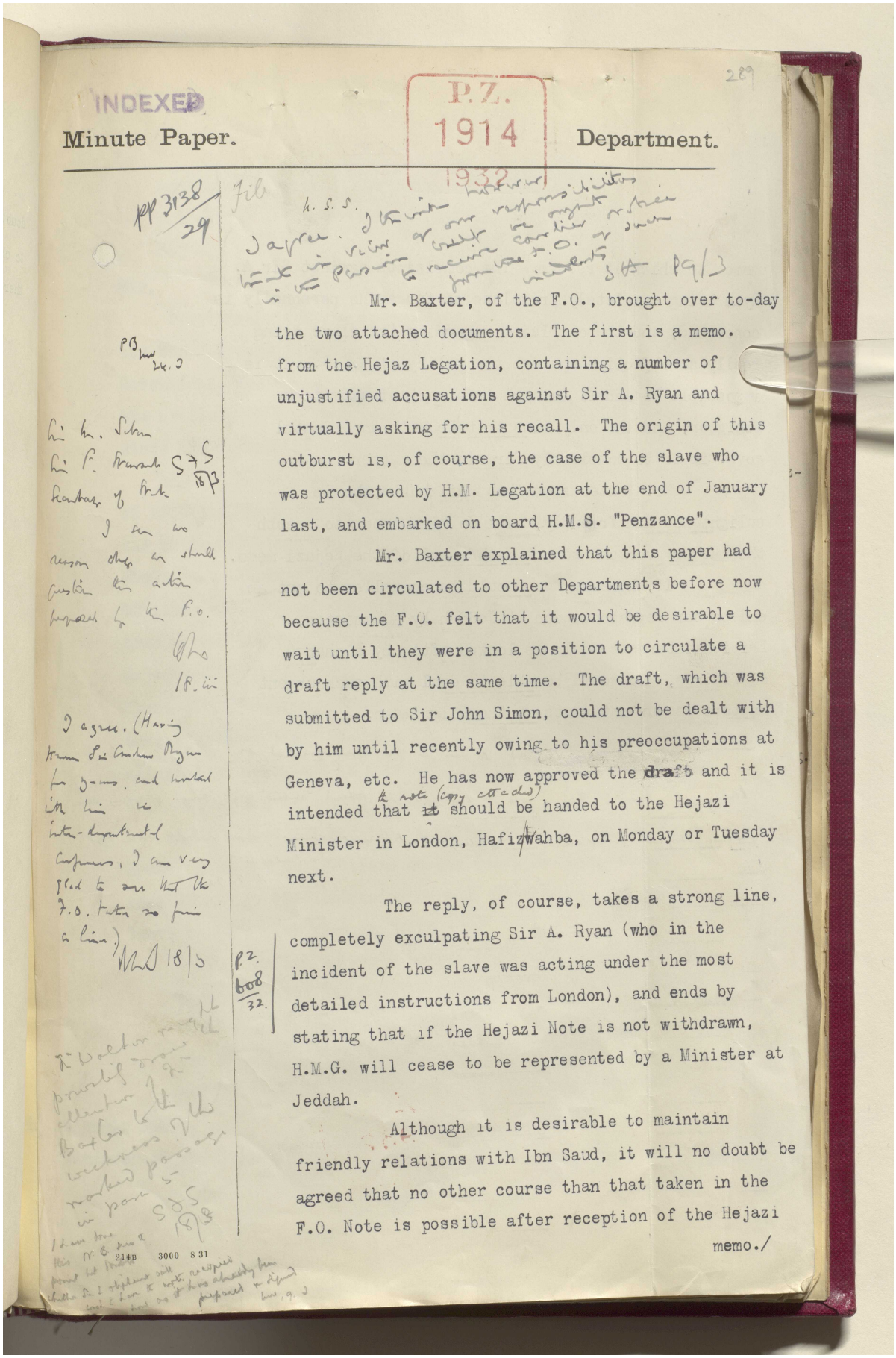

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Minute Paper. P.Z. 1914 1932 Department.

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Mr. Baxter, of the F.O., brought over to-day the two attached documents. The first is a memo. from the Hejaz Legation, containing a number of unjustified accusations against Sir A. Ryan and virtually asking for his recall. The origin of this outburst is, of course, the case of the slave who was protected by H.M. Legation at the end of January last, and embarked on board H.M.S. "Penzance".

Mr. Baxter explained that this paper had not been circulated to other Departments before now because the F.O. felt that it would be desirable to wait until they were in a position to circulate a draft reply at the same time. The draft, which was submitted to Sir John Simon, could not be dealt with by him until recently owing to his preoccupations at Geneva, etc. He has now approved the draft and it is intended that it (note (copy attached)) should be handed to the Hejazi Minister in London, Hafiz Wahba, on Monday or Tuesday next.

The reply, of course, takes a strong line, completely exculpating Sir A. Ryan (who in the incident of the slave was acting under the most detailed instructions from London), and ends by stating that if the Hejazi Note is not withdrawn, H.M.G. will cease to be represented by a Minister at Jeddah.

Although it is desirable to maintain friendly relations with Ibn Saud, it will no doubt be agreed that no other course than that taken in the F.O. Note is possible after reception of the Hejazi memo./

P.Z. 608/32.

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memo. to which it refers. The complaints against Sir A. Ryan being completely frivolous so far as he personally is concerned, and the complaint regarding the slave being really an objection against the policy of H.M.G., it is impossible to submit to such treatment of a British Minister, and the only line to take with an Oriental govt. is to be completely firm in the matter.

Mr. Baxter says that Hafiz Wahba, who is enlightened and friendly, will do his utmost to smooth the matter over and secure withdrawal of the Hejazi memo.

If, however, we should be compelled to put an end to our representation at Jeddah by a Minister, British interests would be looked after probably by a chargé d'affaires, who would be able to deal with such urgent matters as our interests in the Pilgrimage.

The F.O. have decided, so far as they are concerned, on taking the line in their note, and will go ahead unless they should by any chance receive urgent observations, suggesting a different course, from one of the other Dept.

Gwalior
18. 7. 72

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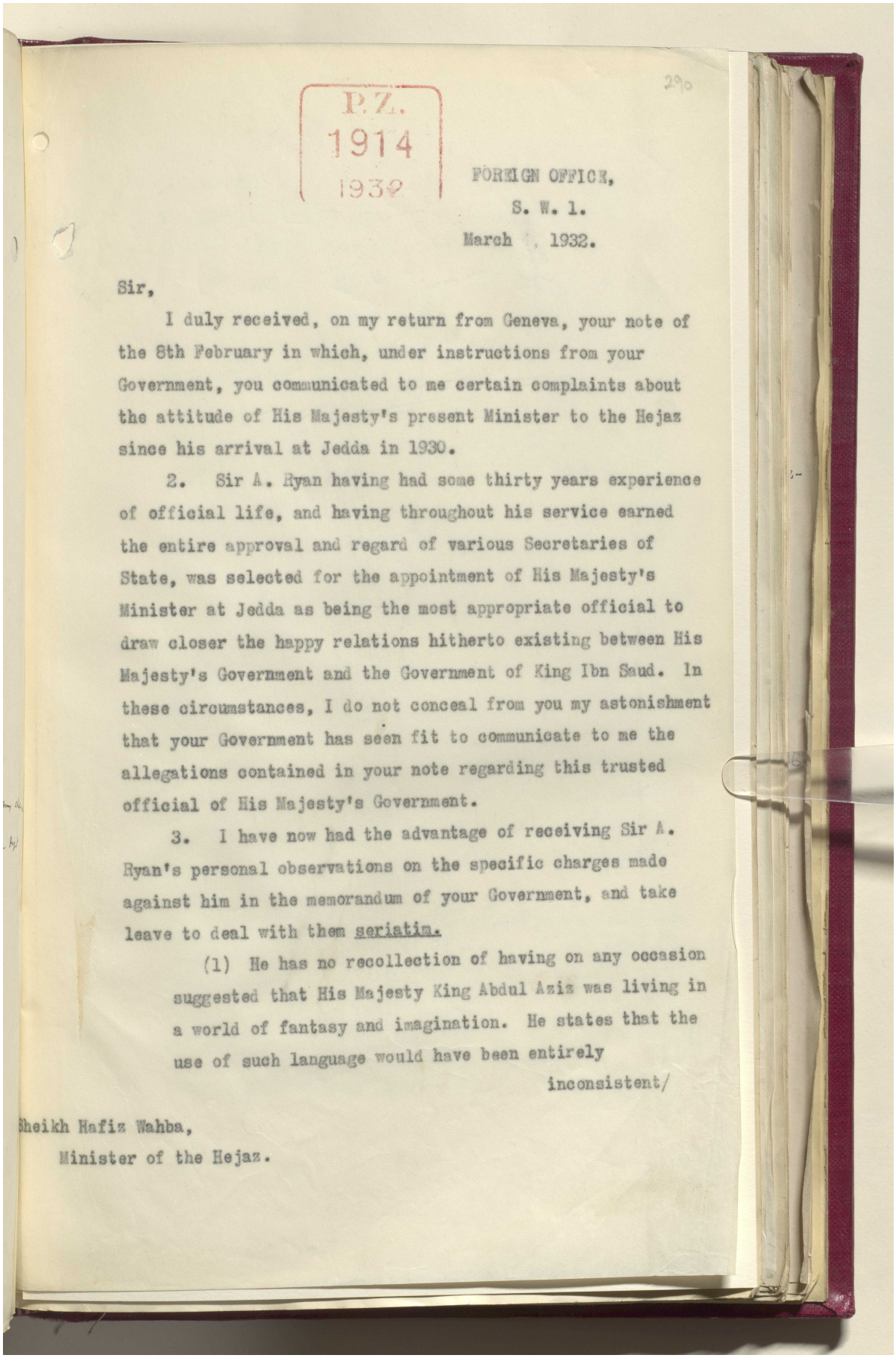

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FOREIGN OFFICE,
S. W. 1.
March , 1932.

Sir,

I duly received, on my return from Geneva, your note of the 8th February in which, under instructions from your Government, you communicated to me certain complaints about the attitude of His Majesty's present Minister to the Hejaz since his arrival at Jedda in 1930.

2. Sir A. Ryan having had some thirty years experience of official life, and having throughout his service earned the entire approval and regard of various Secretaries of State, was selected for the appointment of His Majesty's Minister at Jedda as being the most appropriate official to draw closer the happy relations hitherto existing between His Majesty's Government and the Government of King Ibn Saud. In these circumstances, I do not conceal from you my astonishment that your Government has seen fit to communicate to me the allegations contained in your note regarding this trusted official of His Majesty's Government.

3. I have now had the advantage of receiving Sir A. Ryan's personal observations on the specific charges made against him in the memorandum of your Government, and take leave to deal with them seriatim.

(1) He has no recollection of having on any occasion suggested that His Majesty King Abdul Aziz was living in a world of fantasy and imagination. He states that the use of such language would have been entirely

inconsistent/

Sheikh Hafiz Wahba,
Minister of the Hejaz.

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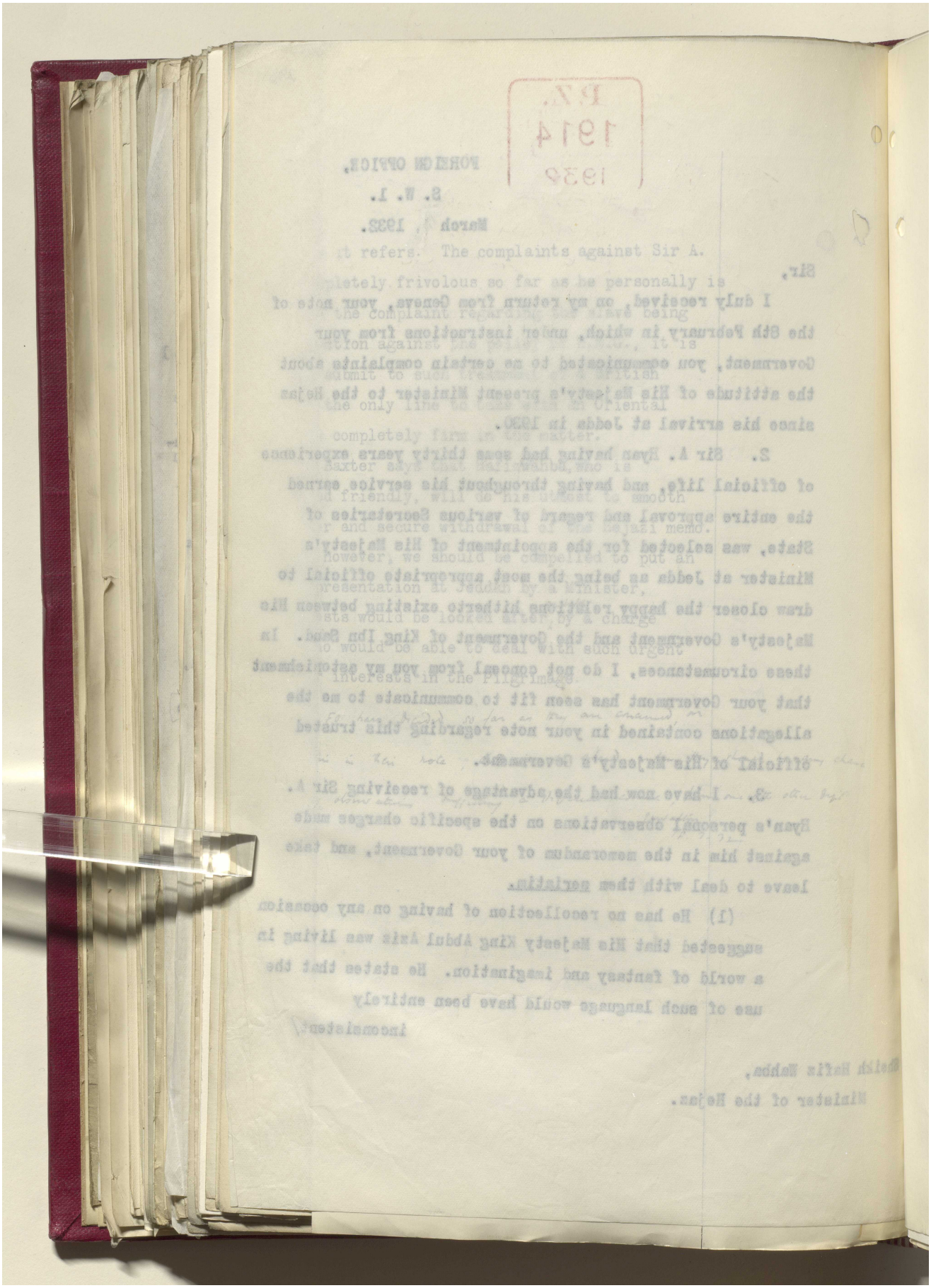

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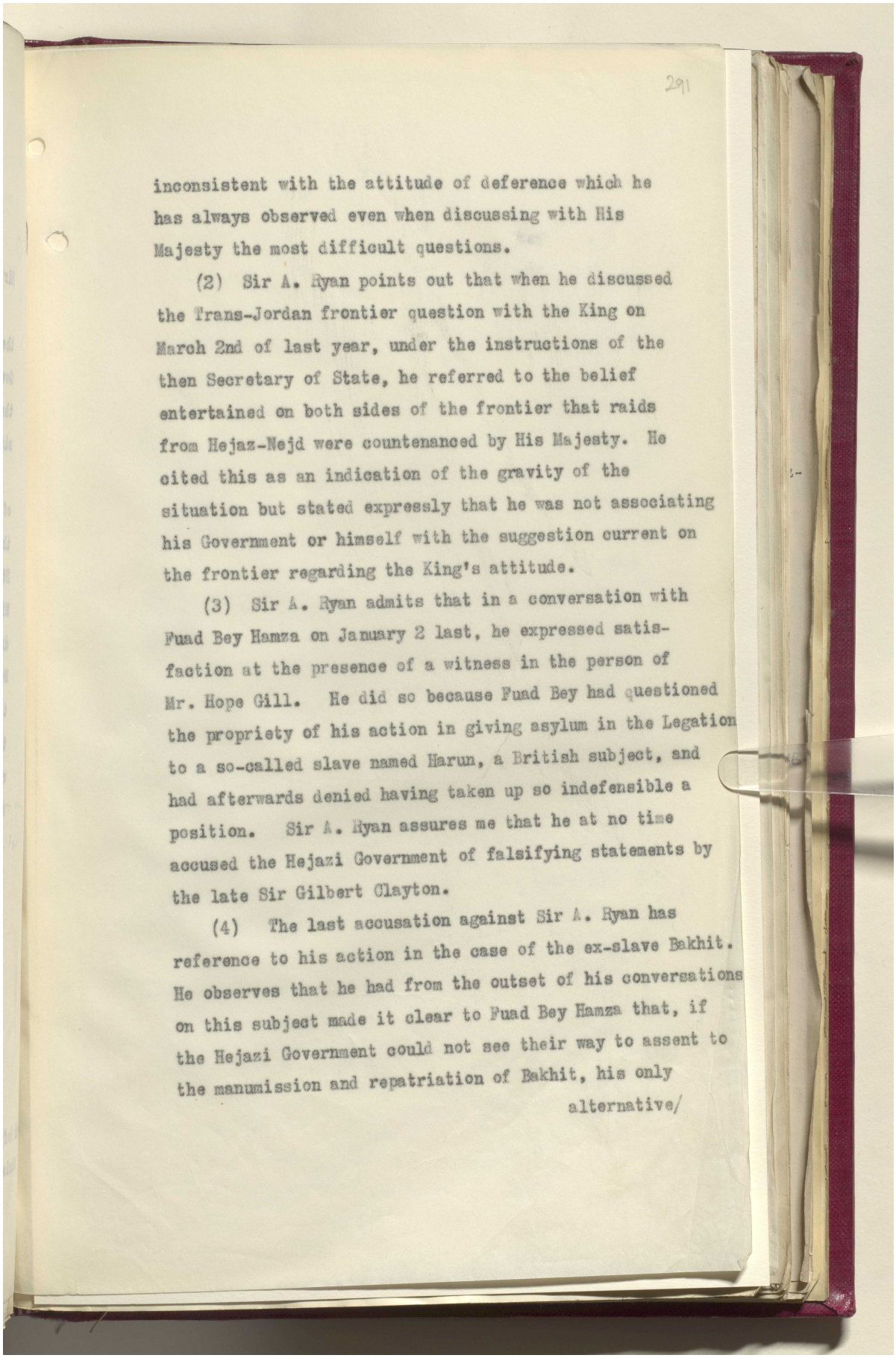

inconsistent with the attitude of deference which he has always observed even when discussing with His Majesty the most difficult questions.

(2) Sir A. Ryan points out that when he discussed the Trans-Jordan frontier question with the King on March 2nd of last year, under the instructions of the then Secretary of State, he referred to the belief entertained on both sides of the frontier that raids from Hejaz-Nejd were countenanced by His Majesty. He cited this as an indication of the gravity of the situation but stated expressly that he was not associating his Government or himself with the suggestion current on the frontier regarding the King's attitude.

(3) Sir A. Ryan admits that in a conversation with Fuad Bey Hamza on January 2 last, he expressed satisfaction at the presence of a witness in the person of Mr. Hope Gill. He did so because Fuad Bey had questioned the propriety of his action in giving asylum in the Legation to a so-called slave named Harun, a British subject, and had afterwards denied having taken up so indefensible a position. Sir A. Ryan assures me that he at no time accused the Hejazi Government of falsifying statements by the late Sir Gilbert Clayton.

(4) The last accusation against Sir A. Ryan has reference to his action in the case of the ex-slave Bakhit. He observes that he had from the outset of his conversations on this subject made it clear to Fuad Bey Hamza that, if the Hejazi Government could not see their way to assent to the manumission and repatriation of Bakhit, his only

alternative/

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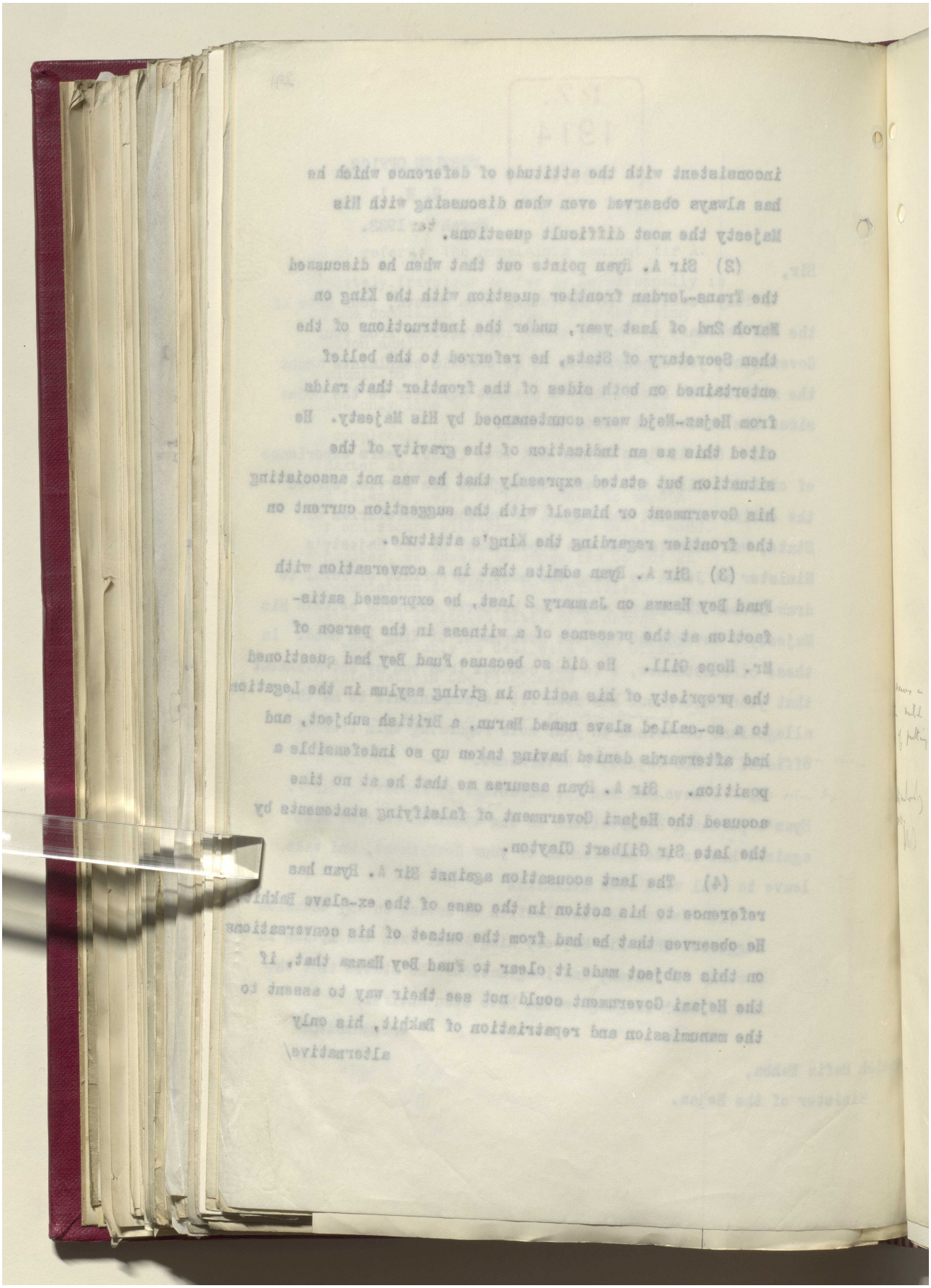

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alternative would be to refer the matter for my instructions; and that his eventual action, after he had made every effort to settle the matter amicably, was determined by the instructions which he received from me in due course.

4. Further, I desire to place on record that Sir A. Ryan on that occasion did not take any action in the matter except on direct personal instructions which I myself addressed to him and for which I take full responsibility.

5. I accept these explanations by Sir A. Ryan the more readily as they are in complete accordance with the reports which he addressed at the time to Mr. Henderson and myself on all these matters, whenever the conversations appeared to him to be of sufficient importance to be recorded. I must consider as unsubstantiated the more general accusation that he has sought to impair the relations between the two Governments and the even more injurious suggestion that he has made it his object to stir up trouble in the city of Jedda.

6. In these circumstances, I feel sure that your Government will recognise the propriety of withdrawing the note in question, which has evidently been written under a misapprehension. Indeed I may add that I earnestly trust that this friendly step will be taken, for were this not the case, I should most regretfully be

compelled/

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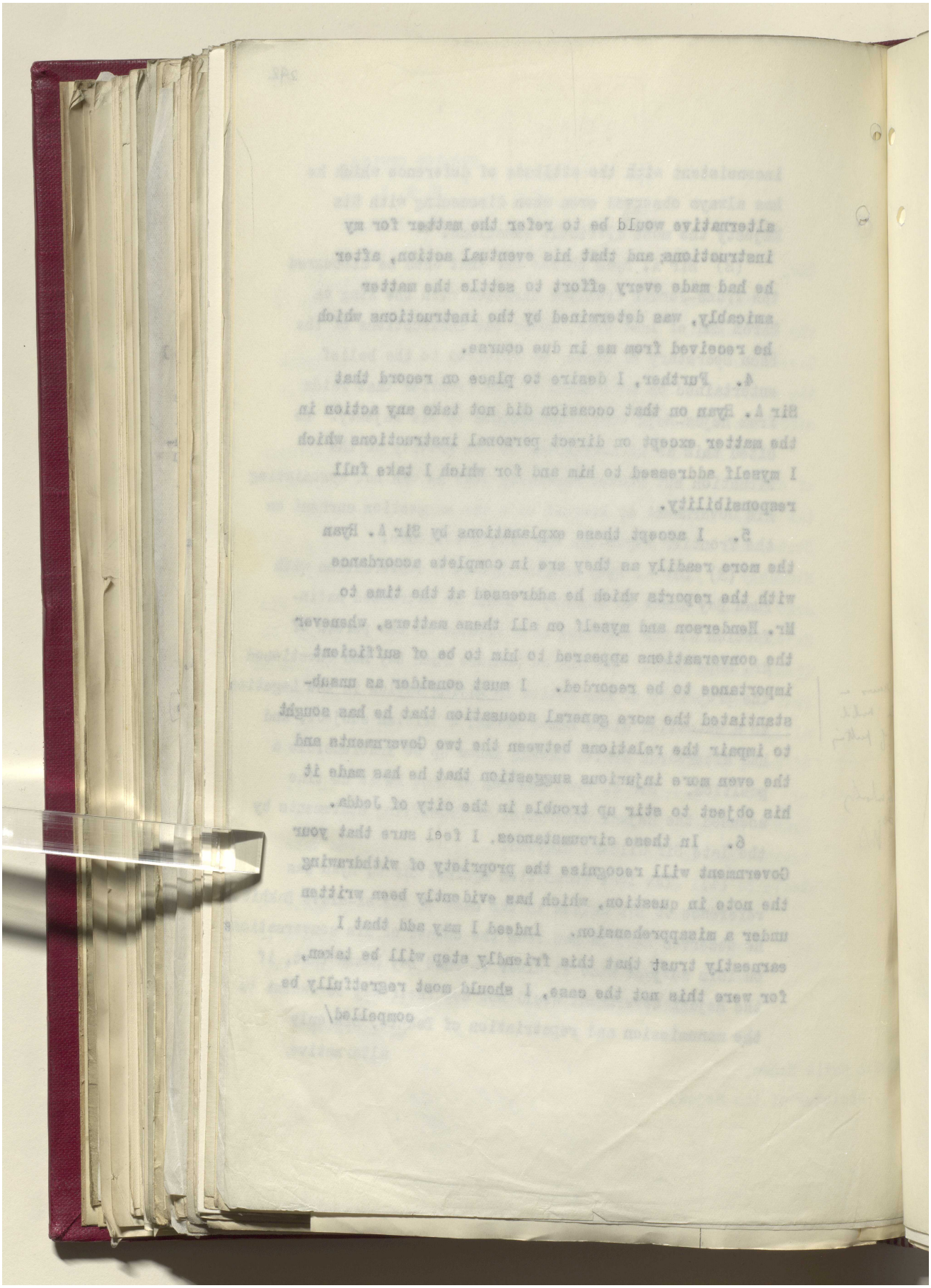

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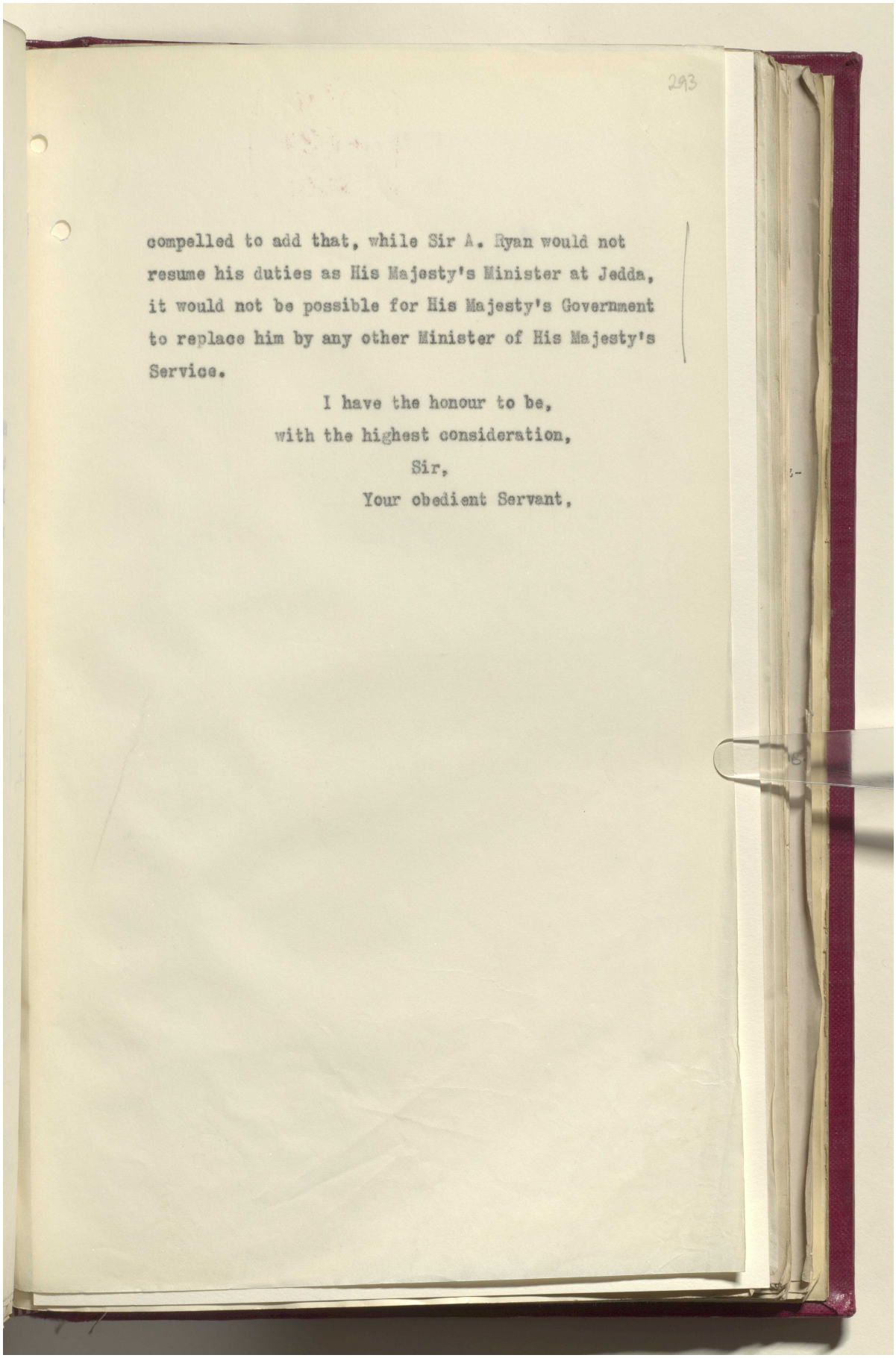

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compelled to add that, while Sir A. Ryan would not resume his duties as His Majesty's Minister at Jedda, it would not be possible for His Majesty's Government to replace him by any other Minister of His Majesty's Service.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest consideration,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

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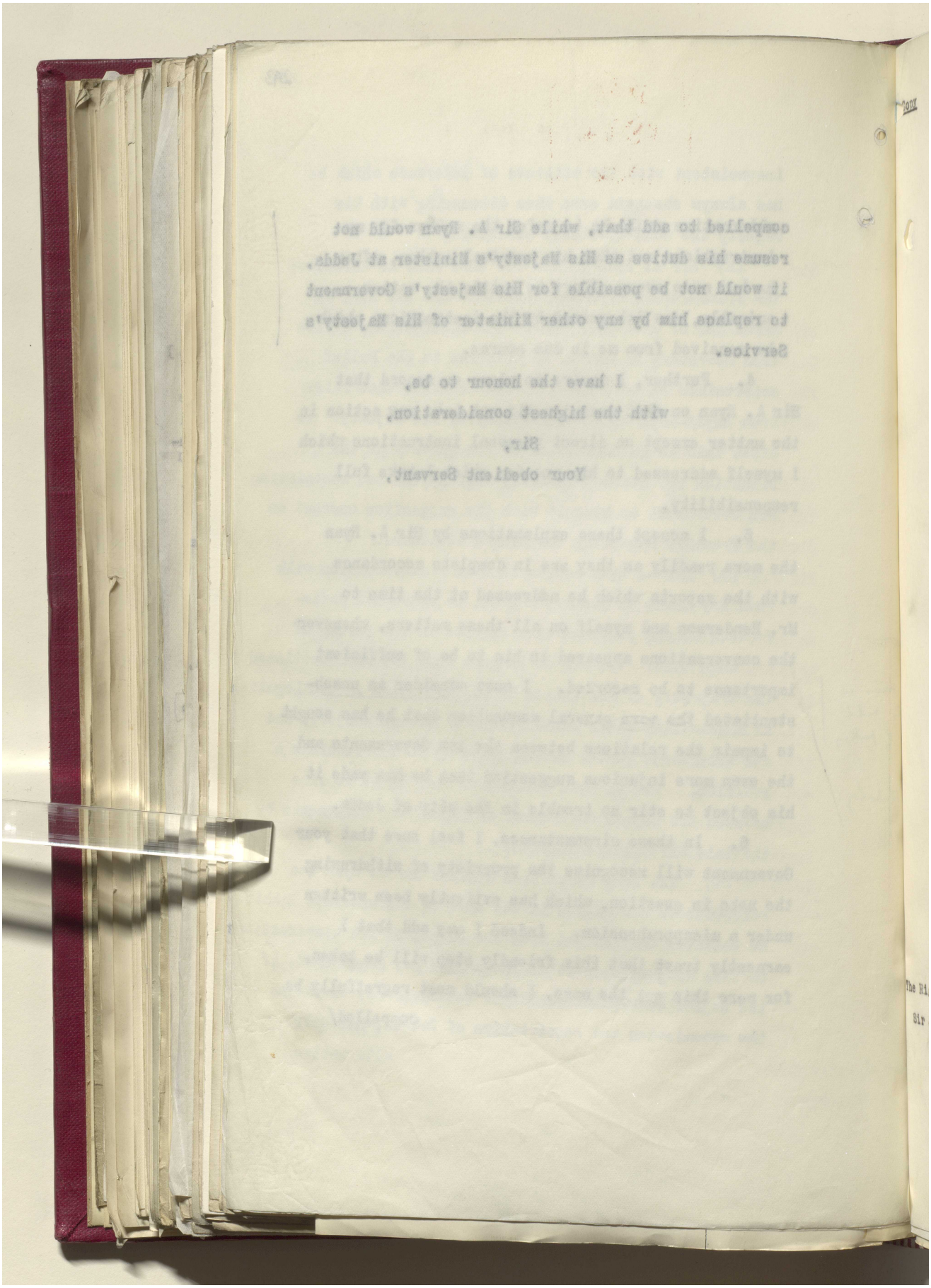

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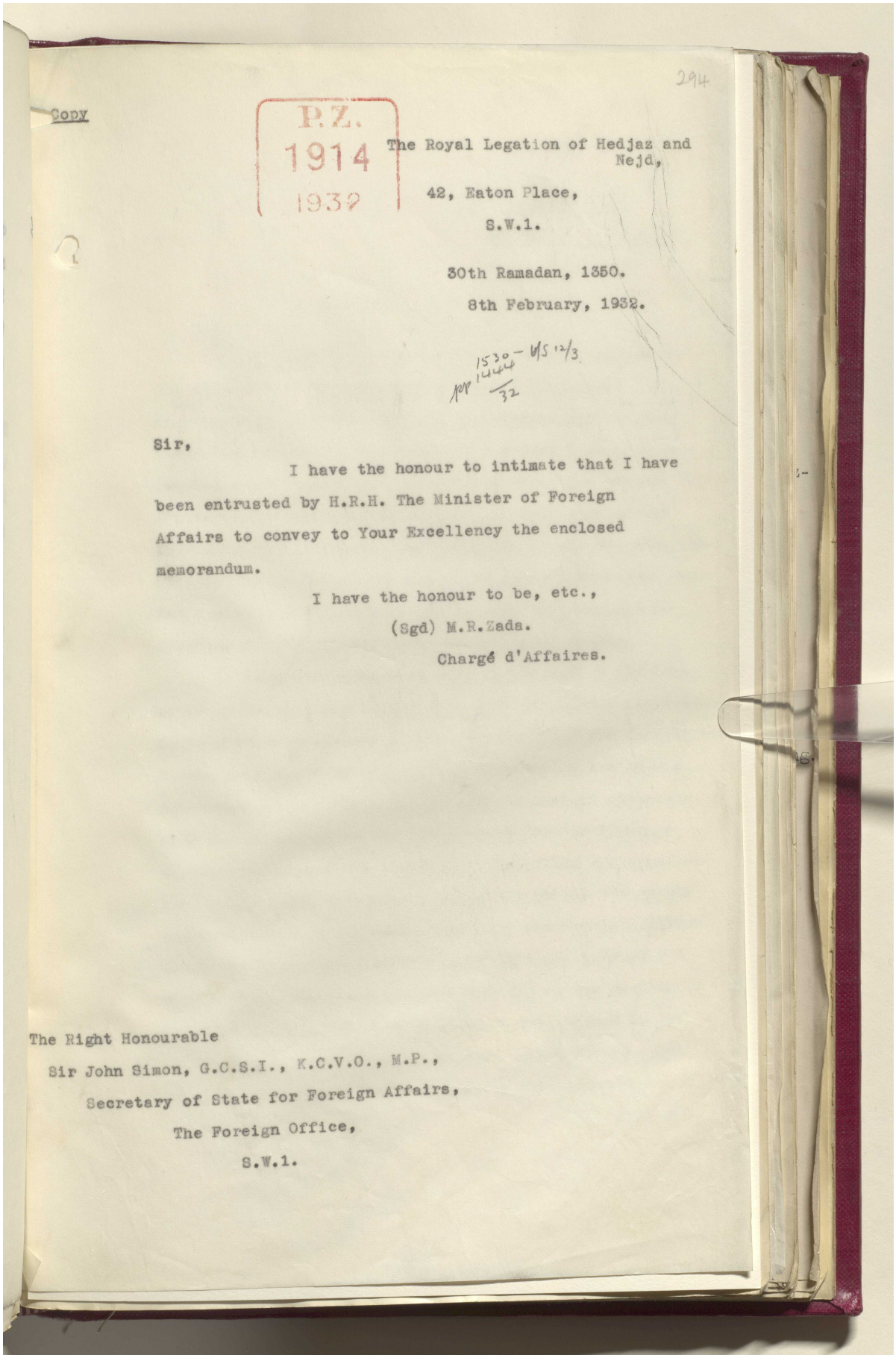

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The Royal Legation of Hedjaz and Nejd,
42, Eaton Place,
S.W.1.

30th Ramadan, 1350.
8th February, 1932.

1530 – 6/5 12/3
100 1444
32

Sir,

I have the honour to intimate that I have been entrusted by H.R.H. The Minister of Foreign Affairs to convey to Your Excellency the enclosed memorandum.

I have the honour to be, etc.,
(Sgd) M.R.Zada.
Chargé d'Affaires.

The Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., M.P.,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
The Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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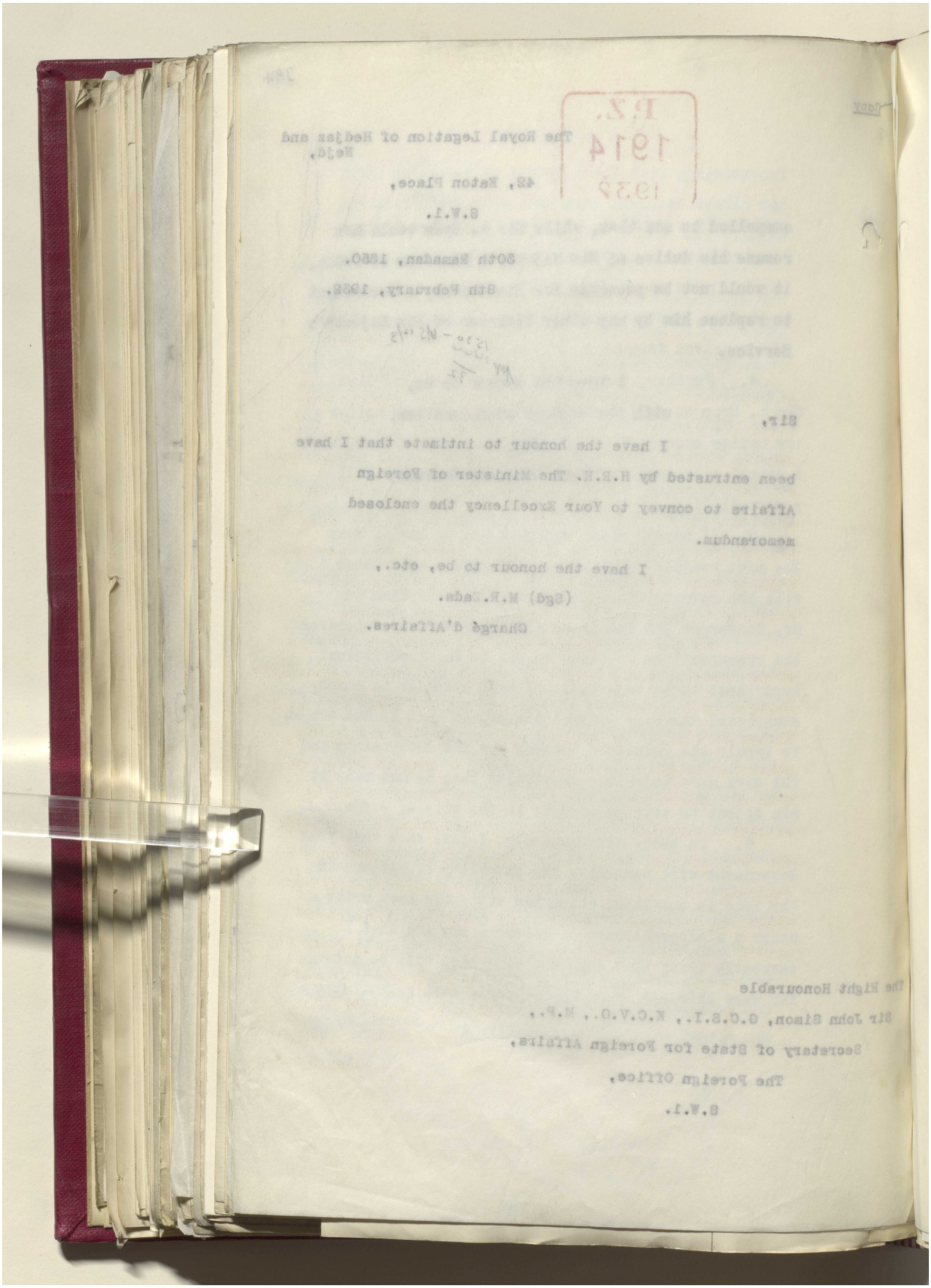

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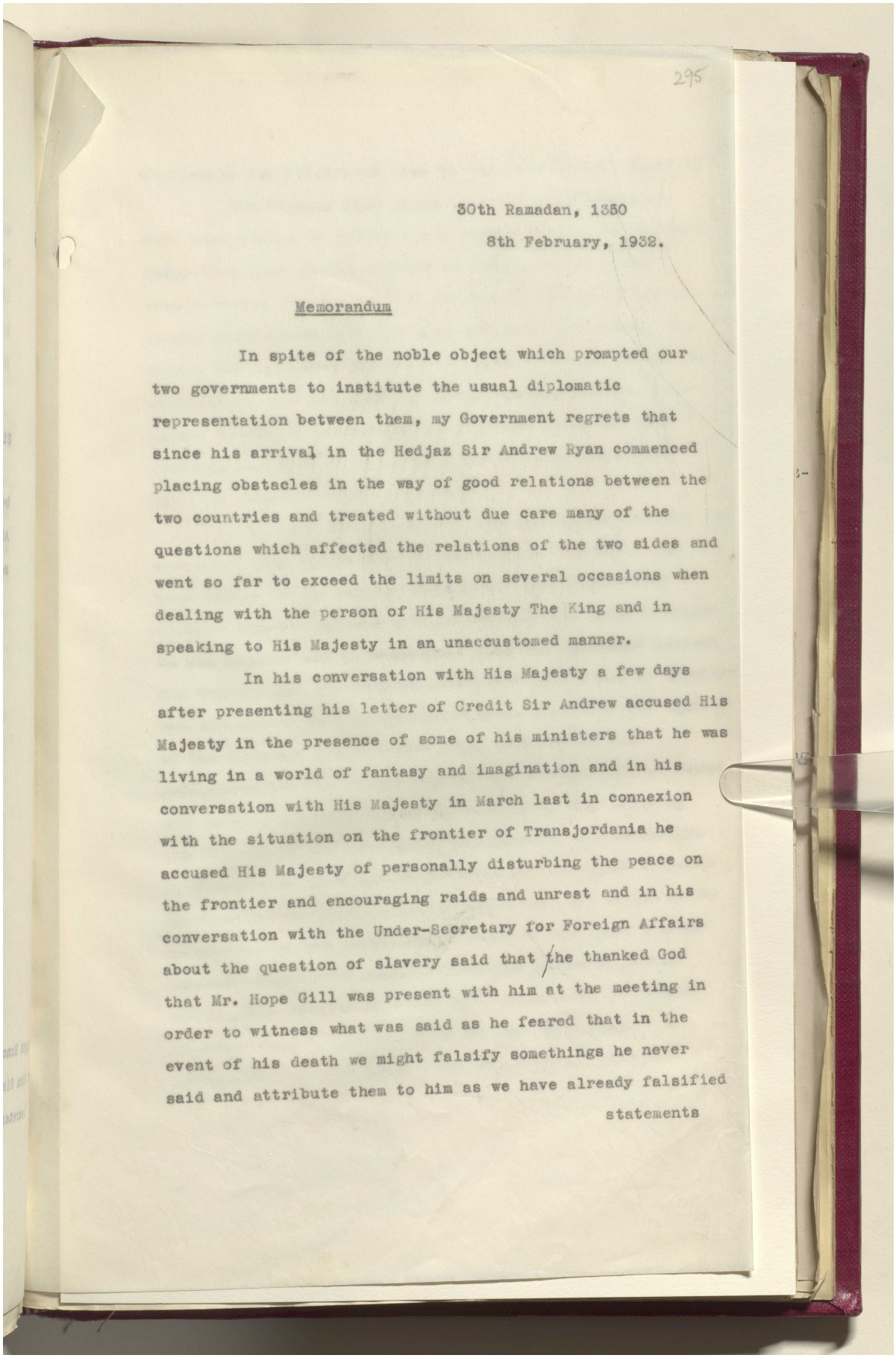

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30th Ramadan, 1350

8th February, 1932.

Memorandum

In spite of the noble object which prompted our two governments to institute the usual diplomatic representation between them, my Government regrets that since his arrival in the Hedjaz Sir Andrew Ryan commenced placing obstacles in the way of good relations between the two countries and treated without due care many of the questions which affected the relations of the two sides and went so far to exceed the limits on several occasions when dealing with the person of His Majesty The King and in speaking to His Majesty in an unaccustomed manner.

In his conversation with His Majesty a few days after presenting his letter of Credit Sir Andrew accused His Majesty in the presence of some of his ministers that he was living in a world of fantasy and imagination and in his conversation with His Majesty in March last in connexion with the situation on the frontier of Transjordania he accused His Majesty of personally disturbing the peace on the frontier and encouraging raids and unrest and in his conversation with the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs about the question of slavery said that he thanked God that Mr. Hope Gill was present with him at the meeting in order to witness what was said as he feared that in the event of his death we might falsify somethings he never said and attribute them to him as we have already falsified

statements

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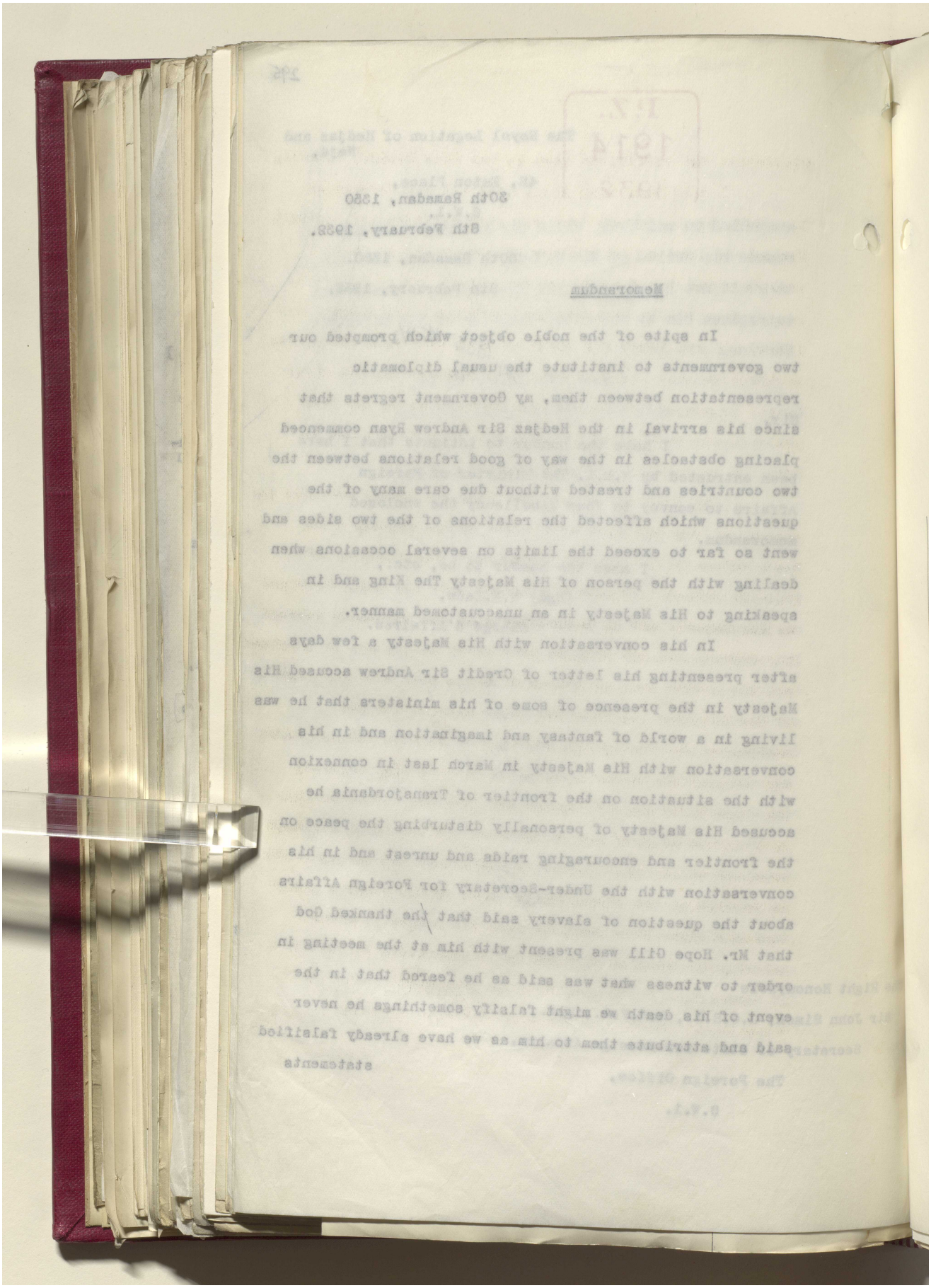

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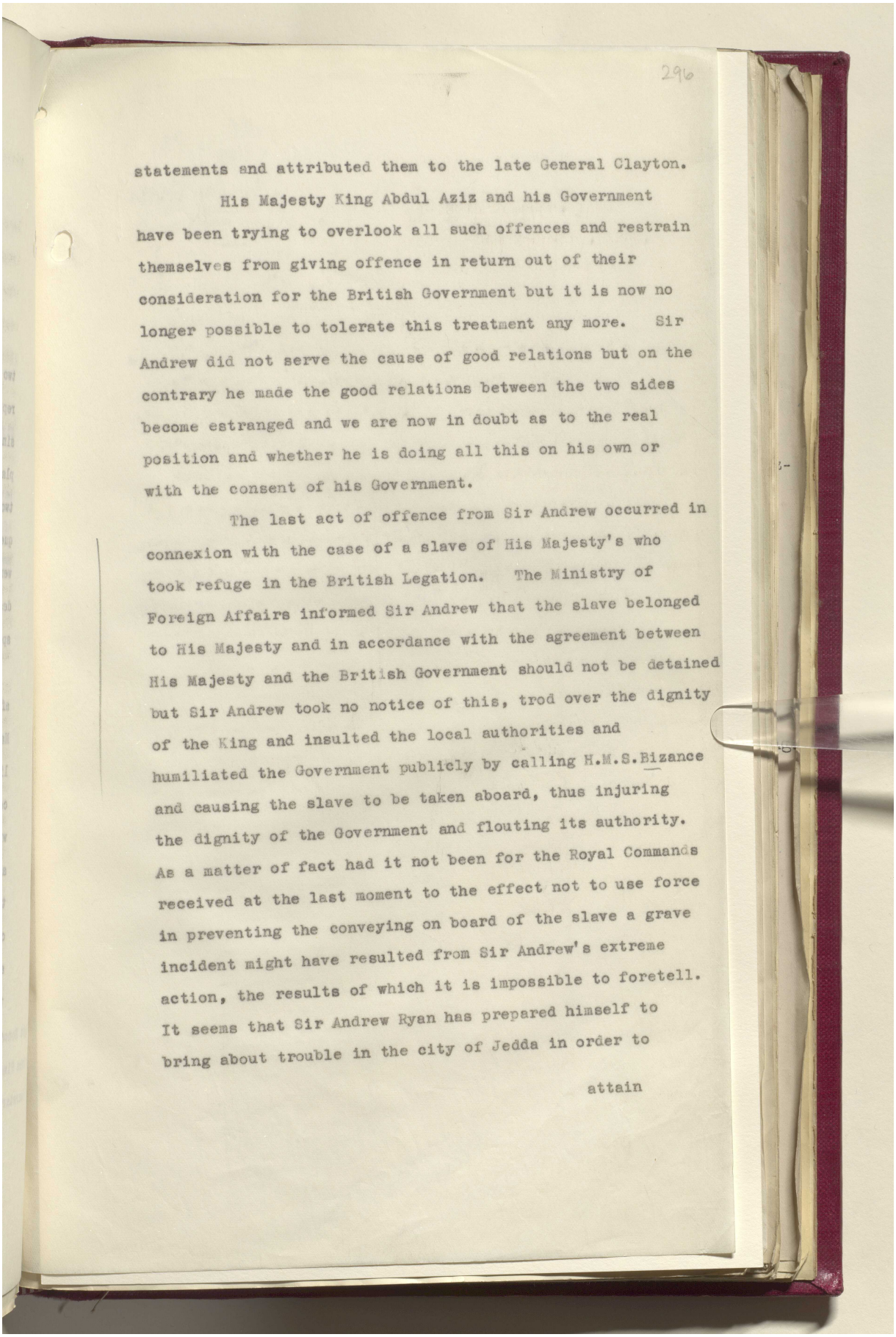

statements and attributed them to the late General Clayton.

His Majesty King Abdul Aziz and his Government have been trying to overlook all such offences and restrain themselves from giving offence in return out of their consideration for the British Government but it is now no longer possible to tolerate this treatment any more. Sir Andrew did not serve the cause of good relations but on the contrary he made the good relations between the two sides become estranged and we are now in doubt as to the real position and whether he is doing all this on his own or with the consent of his Government.

The last act of offence from Sir Andrew occurred in connexion with the case of a slave of His Majesty's who took refuge in the British Legation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed Sir Andrew that the slave belonged to His Majesty and in accordance with the agreement between His Majesty and the British Government should not be detained but Sir Andrew took no notice of this, trod over the dignity of the King and insulted the local authorities and humiliated the Government publicly by calling H.M.S.Bizance and causing the slave to be taken aboard, thus injuring the dignity of the Government and flouting its authority. As a matter of fact had it not been for the Royal Commands received at the last moment to the effect not to use force in preventing the conveying on board of the slave a grave incident might have resulted from Sir Andrew's extreme action, the results of which it is impossible to foretell. It seems that Sir Andrew Ryan has prepared himself to bring about trouble in the city of Jedda in order to

attain

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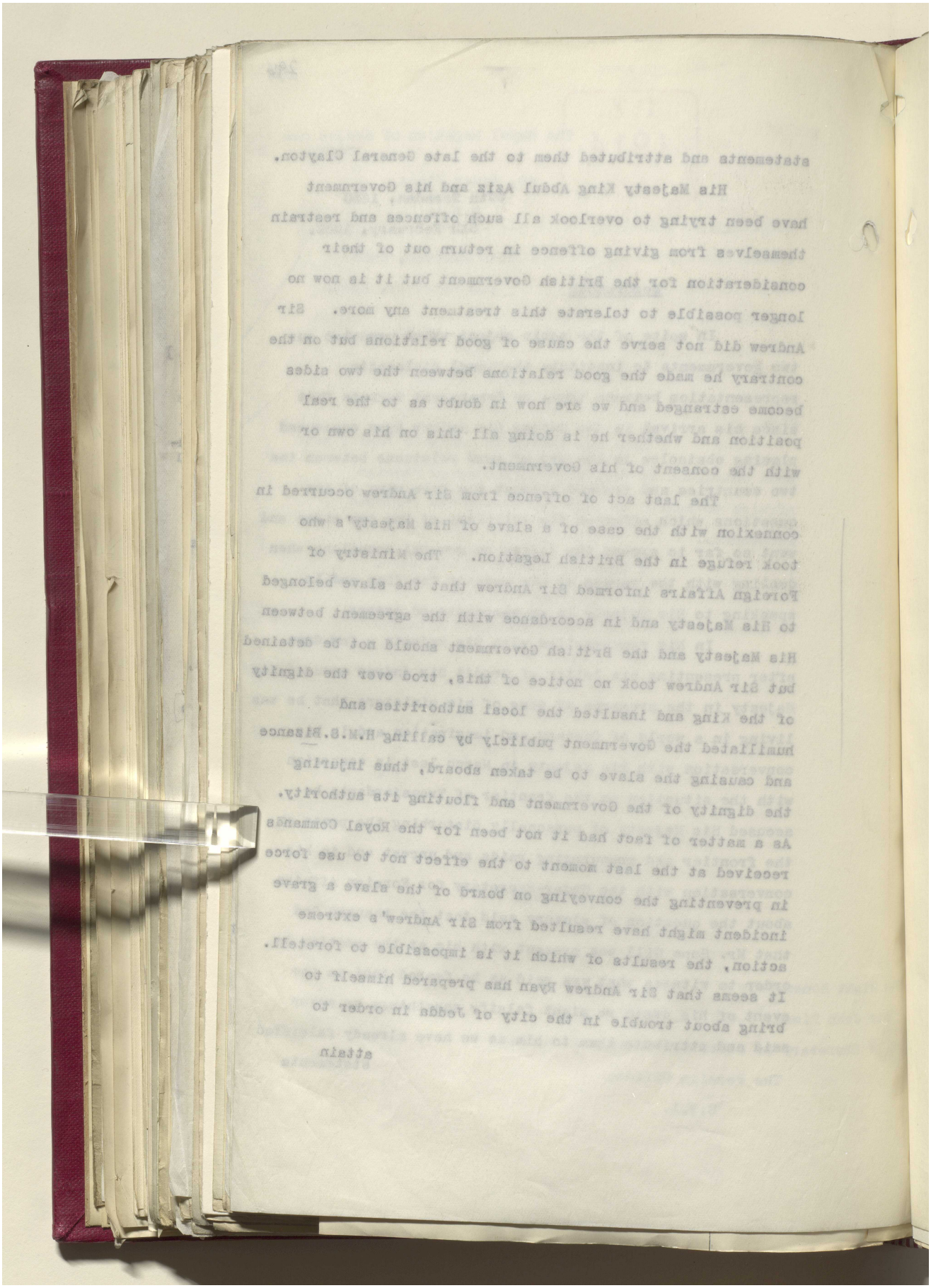

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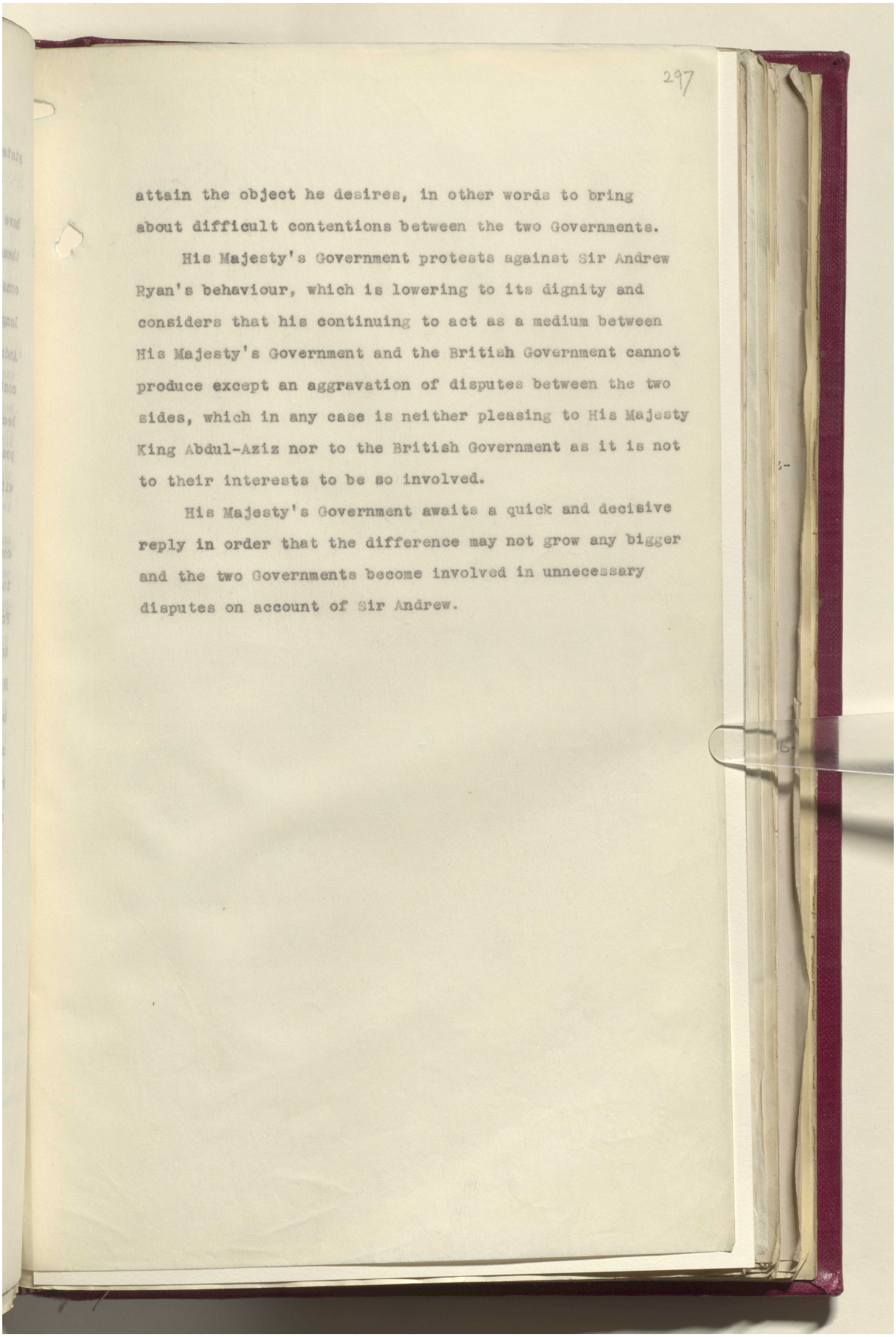

attain the object he desires, in other words to bring about difficult contentions between the two Governments.

His Majesty's Government protests against Sir Andrew Ryan's behaviour, which is lowering to its dignity and considers that his continuing to act as a medium between His Majesty's Government and the British Government cannot produce except an aggravation of disputes between the two sides, which in any case is neither pleasing to His Majesty King Abdul-Aziz nor to the British Government as it is not to their interests to be so involved.

His Majesty's Government awaits a quick and decisive reply in order that the difference may not grow any bigger and the two Governments become involved in unnecessary disputes on account of Sir Andrew.

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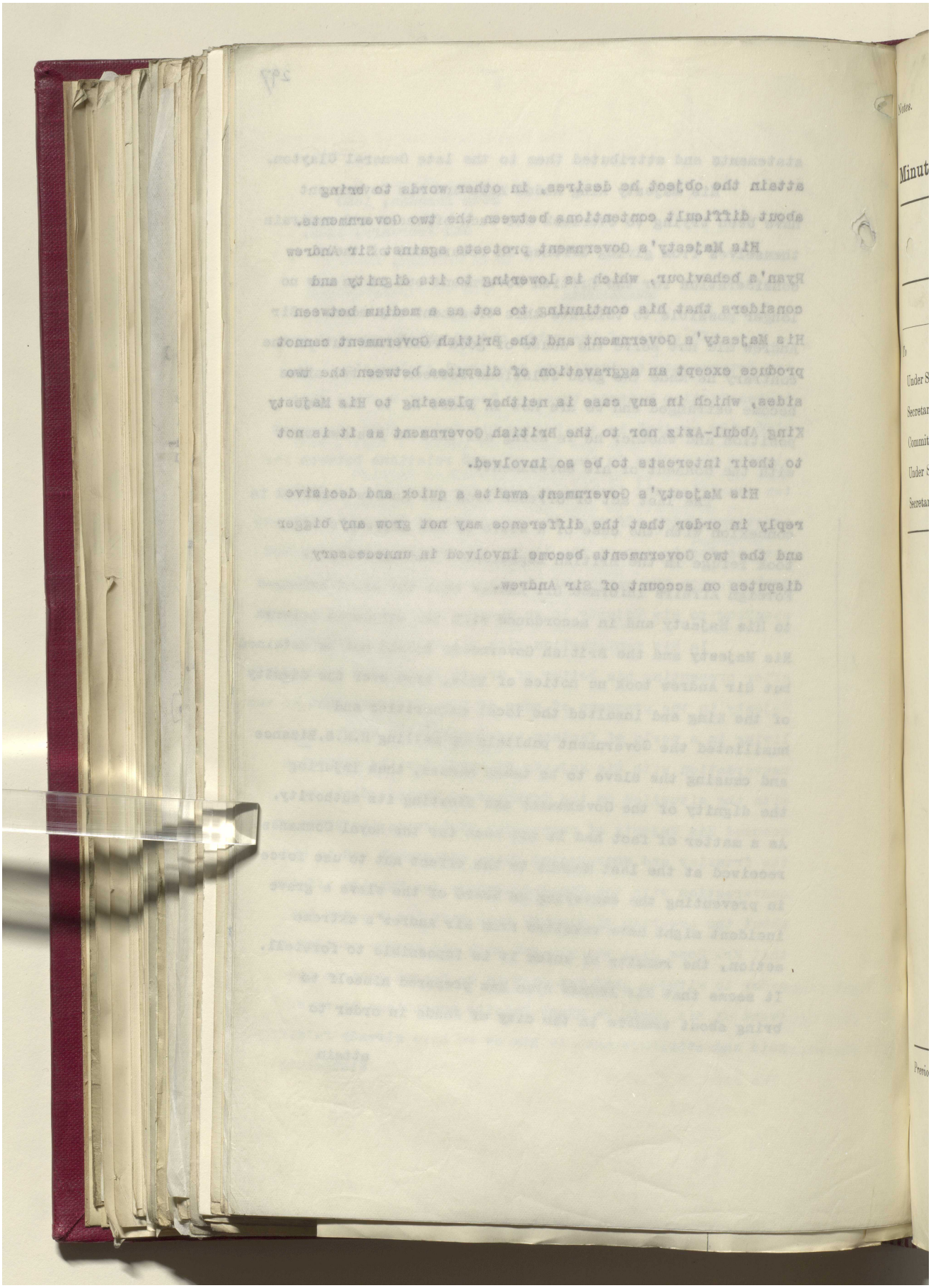

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No.
P. Z.
717/32

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz - Nejd.
Under Secretary			Despatches from Sir A. Ryan on
Secretary of State...			a) The King's attitude towards opinion
Committee.....	4. 2.		b) Organization of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
8 - FEB 1932

Previous Papers :—

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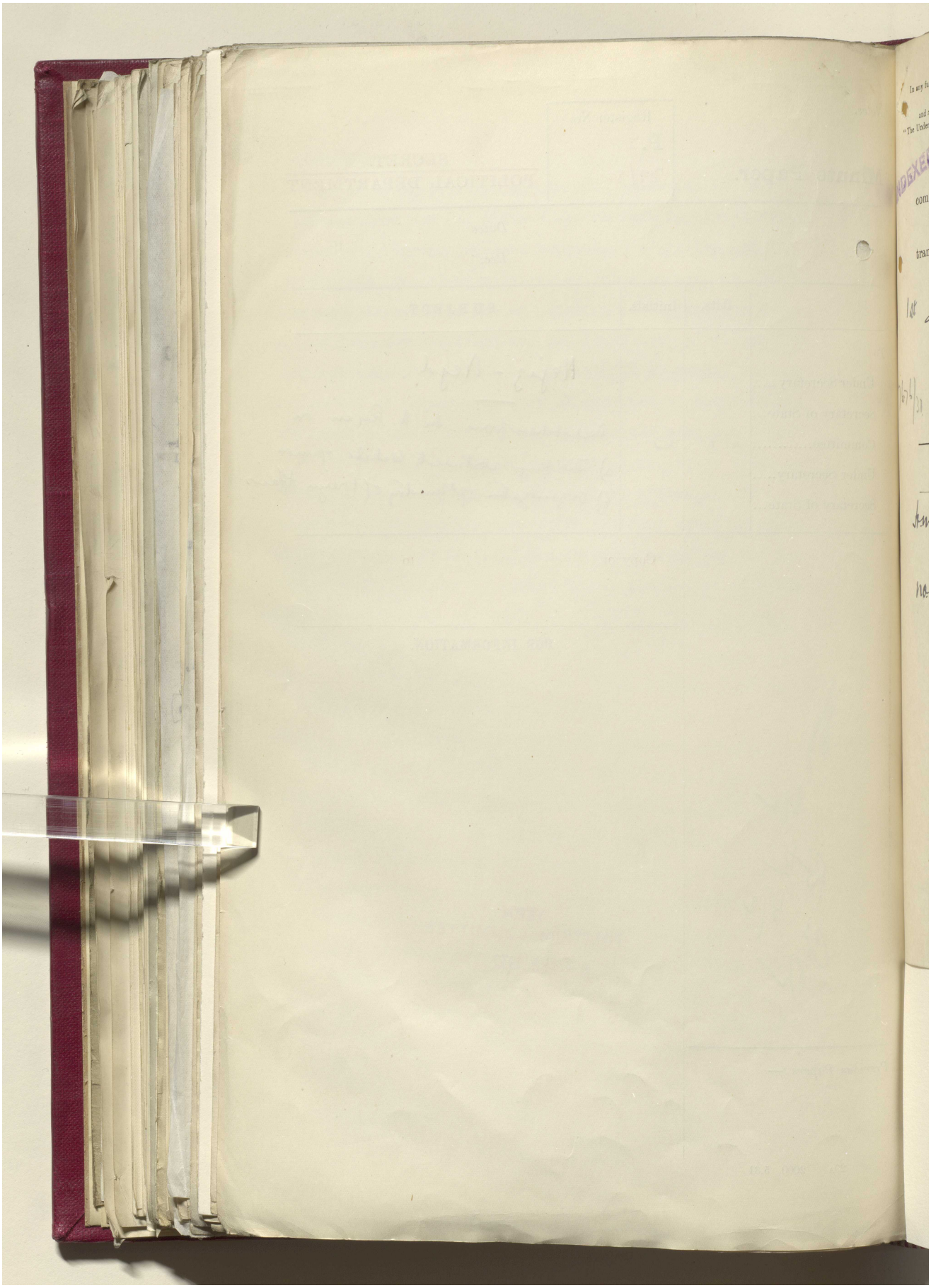

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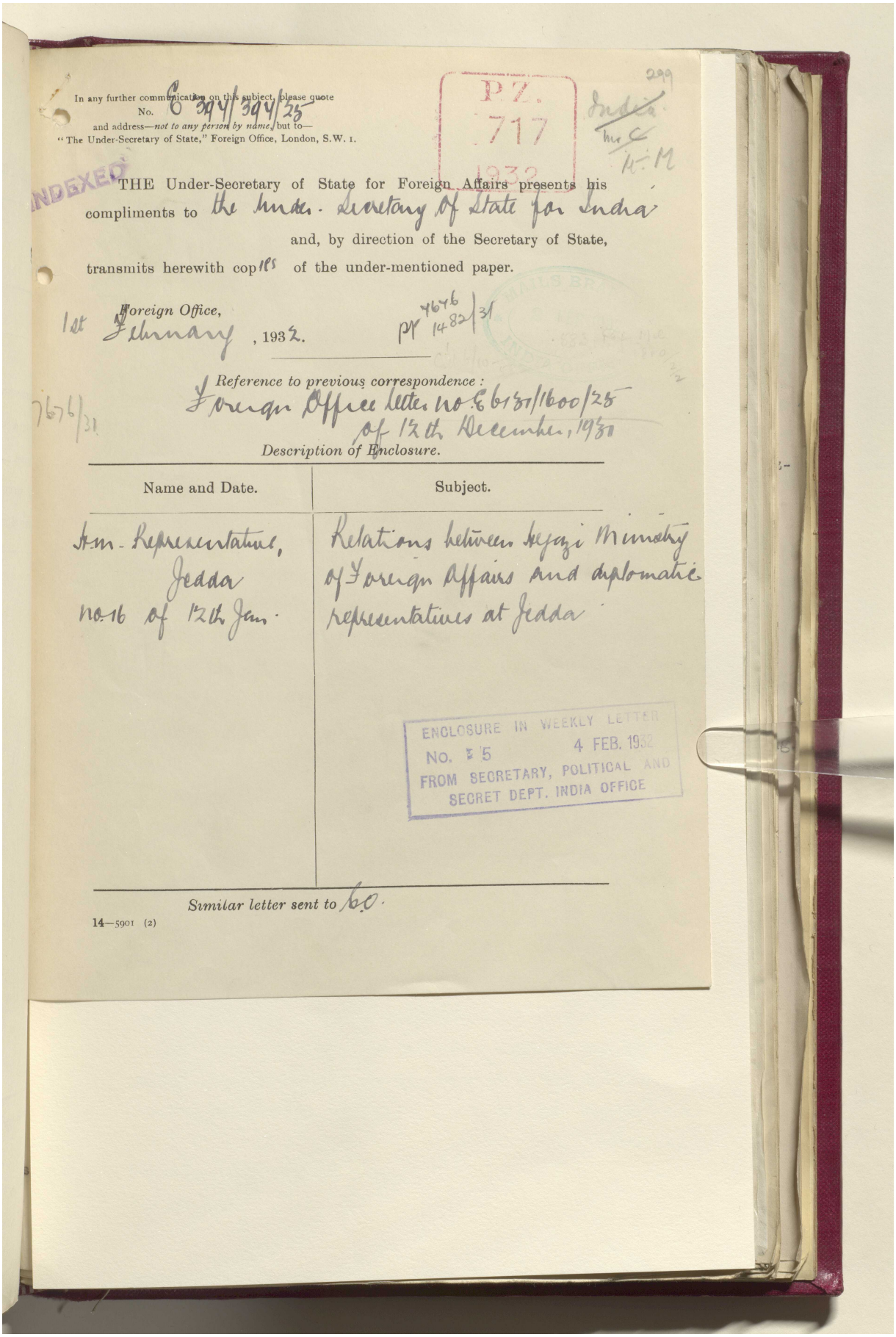

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 394/394/25 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to— "The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 717 1932

299 India Mr C 4:M

INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office, 1st February, 1932.

P 4646 1482/31

Reference to previous correspondence: Foreign Office letter no. E 6131/1600/25 of 12th December, 1931

7676/31

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Hejaz Representative, Jedda no. 16 of 12th Jan.	Relations between Hejazi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic representatives at Jedda

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER NO. E 5 4 FEB. 1932 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to F.O.

14—5901 (2)

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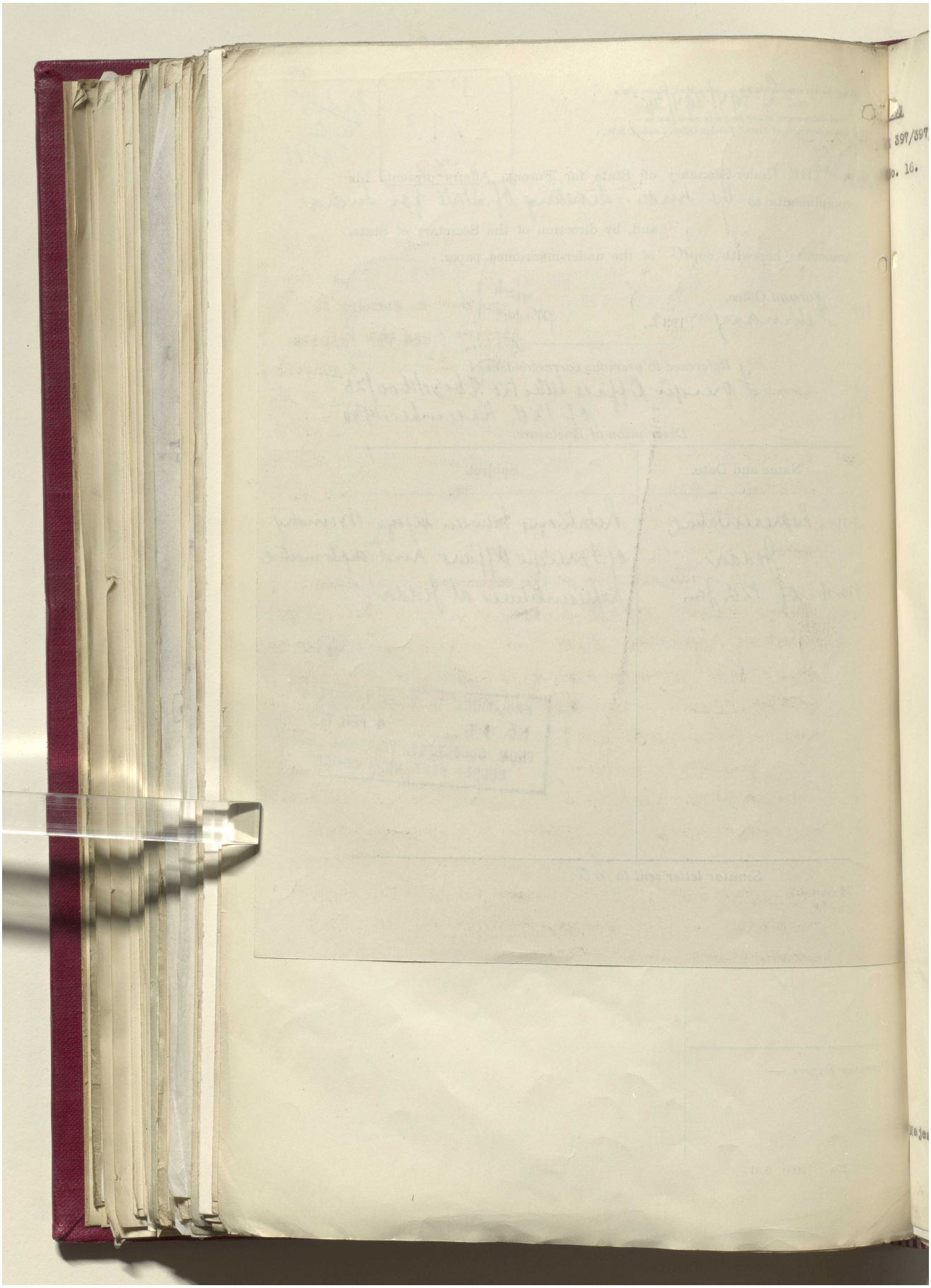

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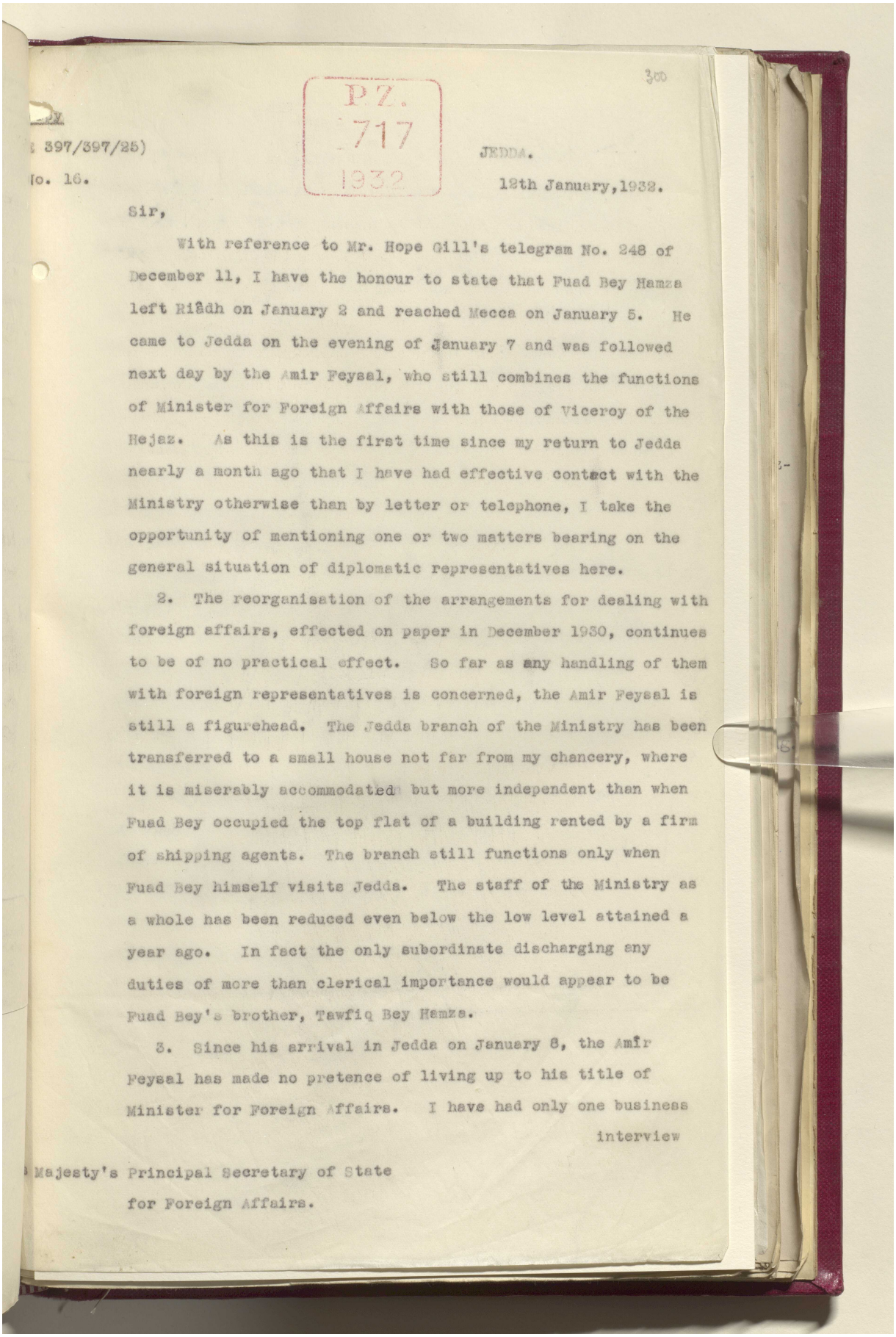

300

PZ. 717 1932

: 397/397/25)

No. 16.

JEDDA.

12th January, 1932.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Hope Gill's telegram No. 248 of December 11, I have the honour to state that Fuad Bey Hamza left Riâdh on January 2 and reached Mecca on January 5. He came to Jedda on the evening of January 7 and was followed next day by the Amir Feysal, who still combines the functions of Minister for Foreign Affairs with those of Viceroy of the Hejaz. As this is the first time since my return to Jedda nearly a month ago that I have had effective contact with the Ministry otherwise than by letter or telephone, I take the opportunity of mentioning one or two matters bearing on the general situation of diplomatic representatives here.

2. The reorganisation of the arrangements for dealing with foreign affairs, effected on paper in December 1930, continues to be of no practical effect. So far as any handling of them with foreign representatives is concerned, the Amir Feysal is still a figurehead. The Jedda branch of the Ministry has been transferred to a small house not far from my chancery, where it is miserably accommodated but more independent than when Fuad Bey occupied the top flat of a building rented by a firm of shipping agents. The branch still functions only when Fuad Bey himself visits Jedda. The staff of the Ministry as a whole has been reduced even below the low level attained a year ago. In fact the only subordinate discharging any duties of more than clerical importance would appear to be Fuad Bey's brother, Tawfiq Bey Hamza.

3. Since his arrival in Jedda on January 8, the Amir Feysal has made no pretence of living up to his title of Minister for Foreign Affairs. I have had only one business interview

Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

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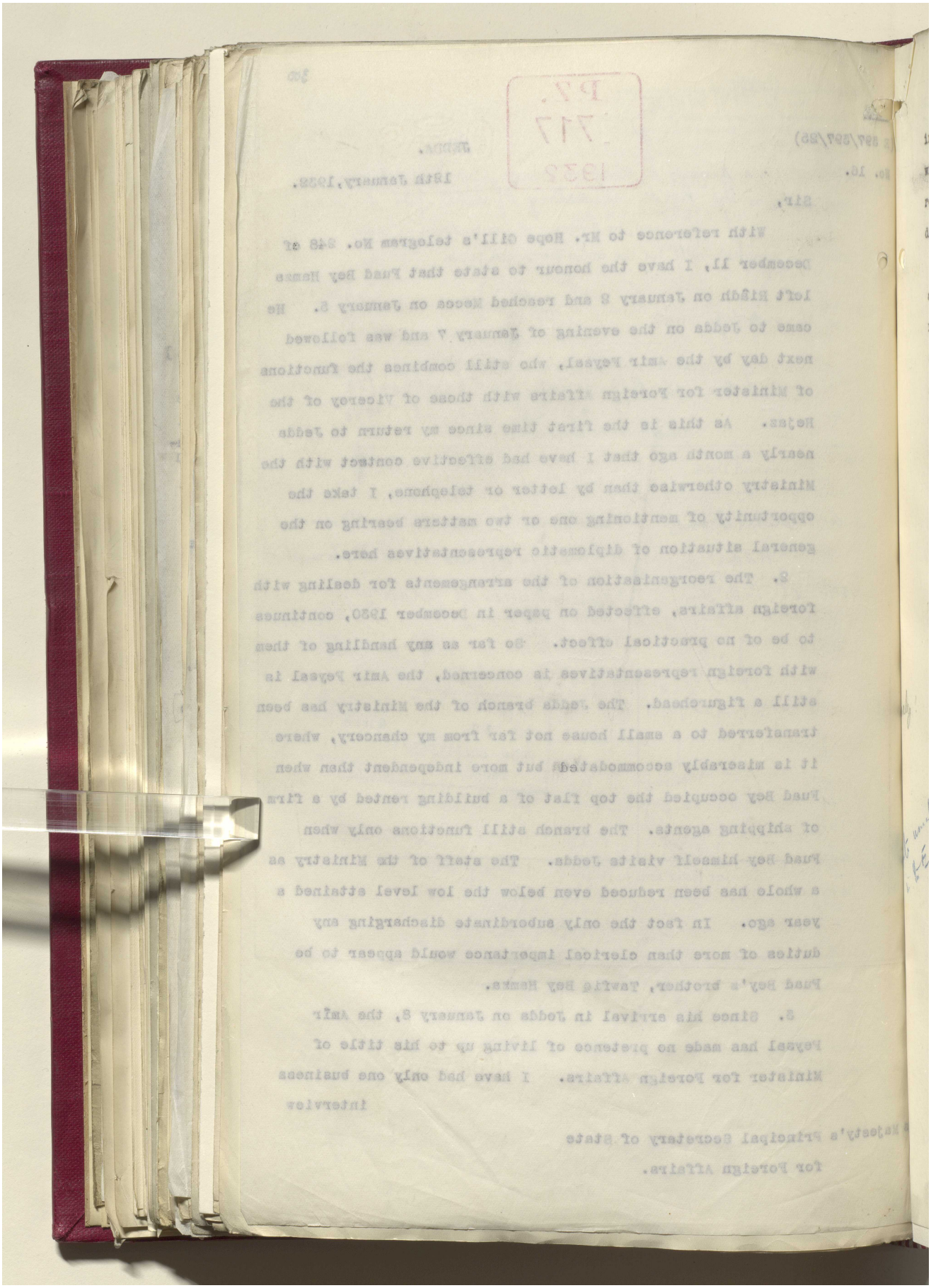

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interview so far and that was Fuad Bey yesterday afternoon. I will report certain portions of our conversation as occasion requires, when writing to you about the particular cases we discussed.

4. The Amîr Feysal honoured my wife and me with his company at dinner last evening. As I am temporarily doyen of the foreign representatives, we took the opportunity of asking all of them occupying diplomatic or career consular posts to meet him. All accepted save my French colleague, who was "souffrant" - suffering, I believe and trust, from nothing worse than a growing agoraphobia. The dinner was something of a novelty in the official life of Jedda. It passed off successfully, even though its leading feature was decorum rather than brilliancy. His Royal Highness was as frail looking and listless as usual and he has little conversation for such occasions. He bore himself, however, with grace and dignity and seemed languidly pleased. At the small reception which followed, he took a hand at Corinthian bagatelle, recognising, I hope, that it is more a game of skill than of chance and therefore not forbidden by Islamic law.

5. The representatives are to be entertained at dinner this evening at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The Amîr is to be present but the dinner is being given by Fuad Bey. The latter was flattering enough to ask my cook, without reference to my wife or me, to do the dinner for him. The somewhat delicate direct negotiations between them broke down.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) Andrew Ryan.

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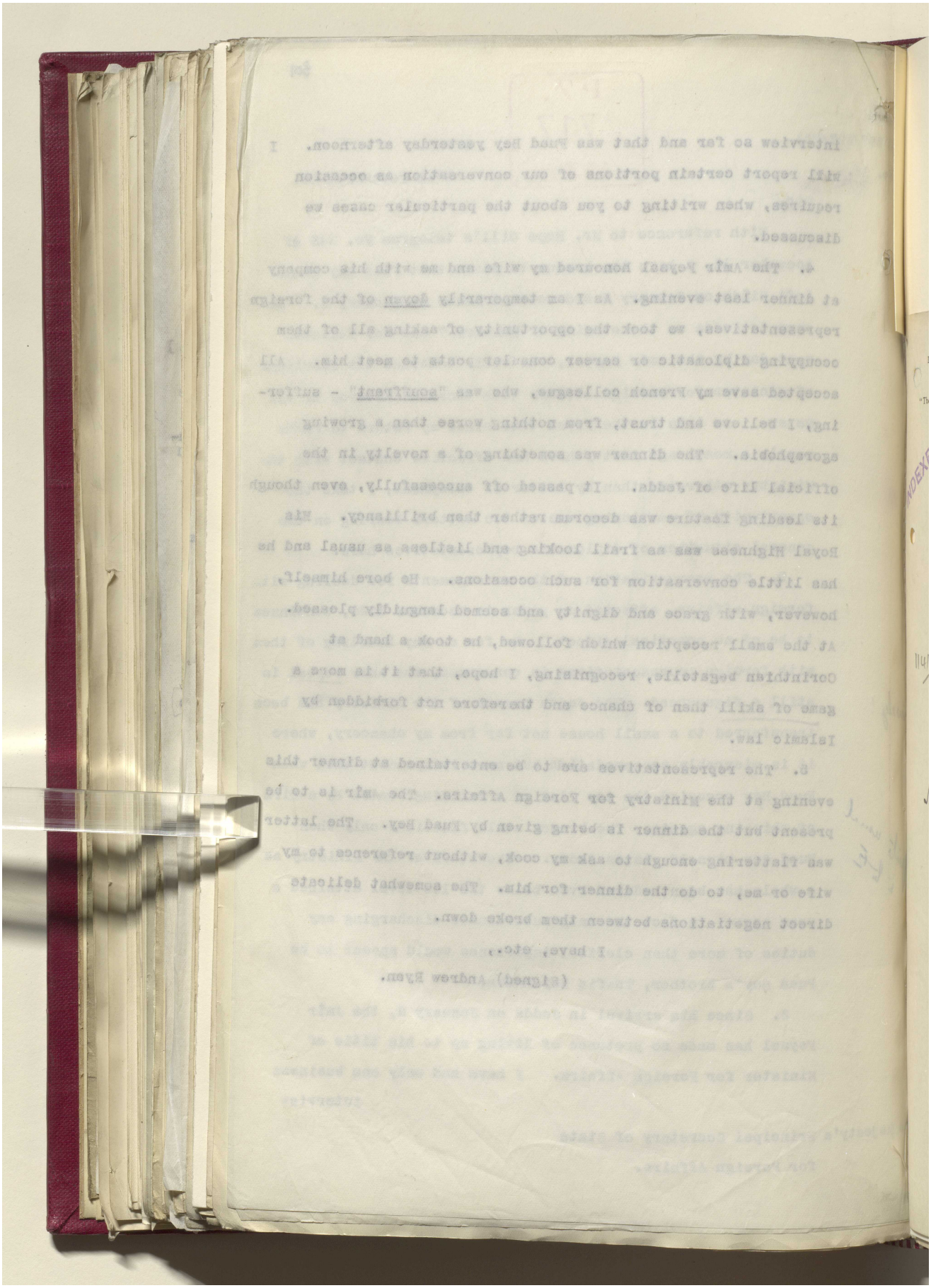

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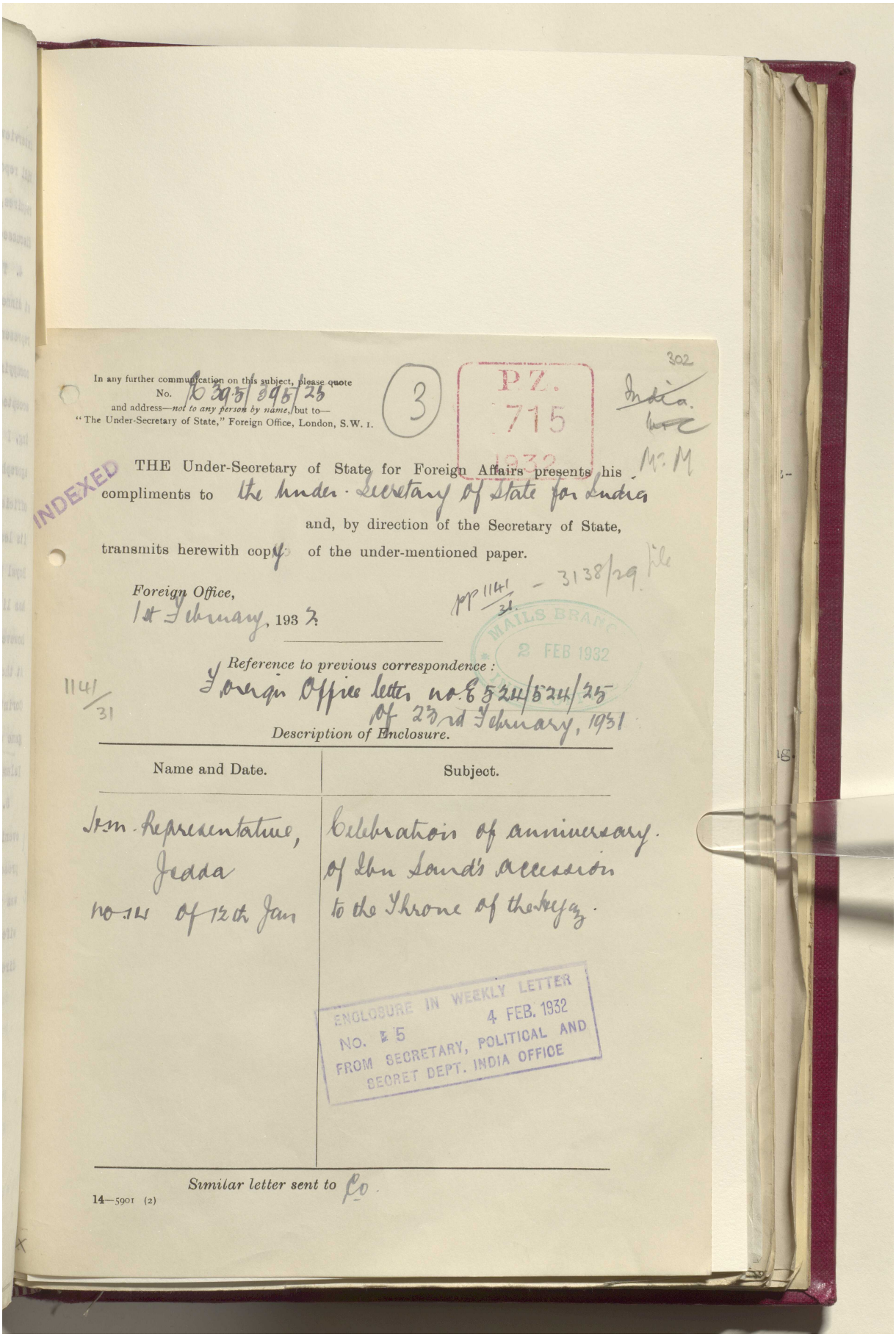

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

3

P.Z. 715 1932

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India.

INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
1st February, 1932

PP 1141/31 - 3138/29 file

MAILS BRANCH 2 FEB 1932

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 524/524/25 of 23rd February, 1931

1141/31

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Hejaz Representative, Jeddah No. 14 of 12th Jan	Celebration of anniversary of Ibn Saud's accession to the Throne of the Hejaz.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. E 5 4 FEB. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co.

14—5901 (2)

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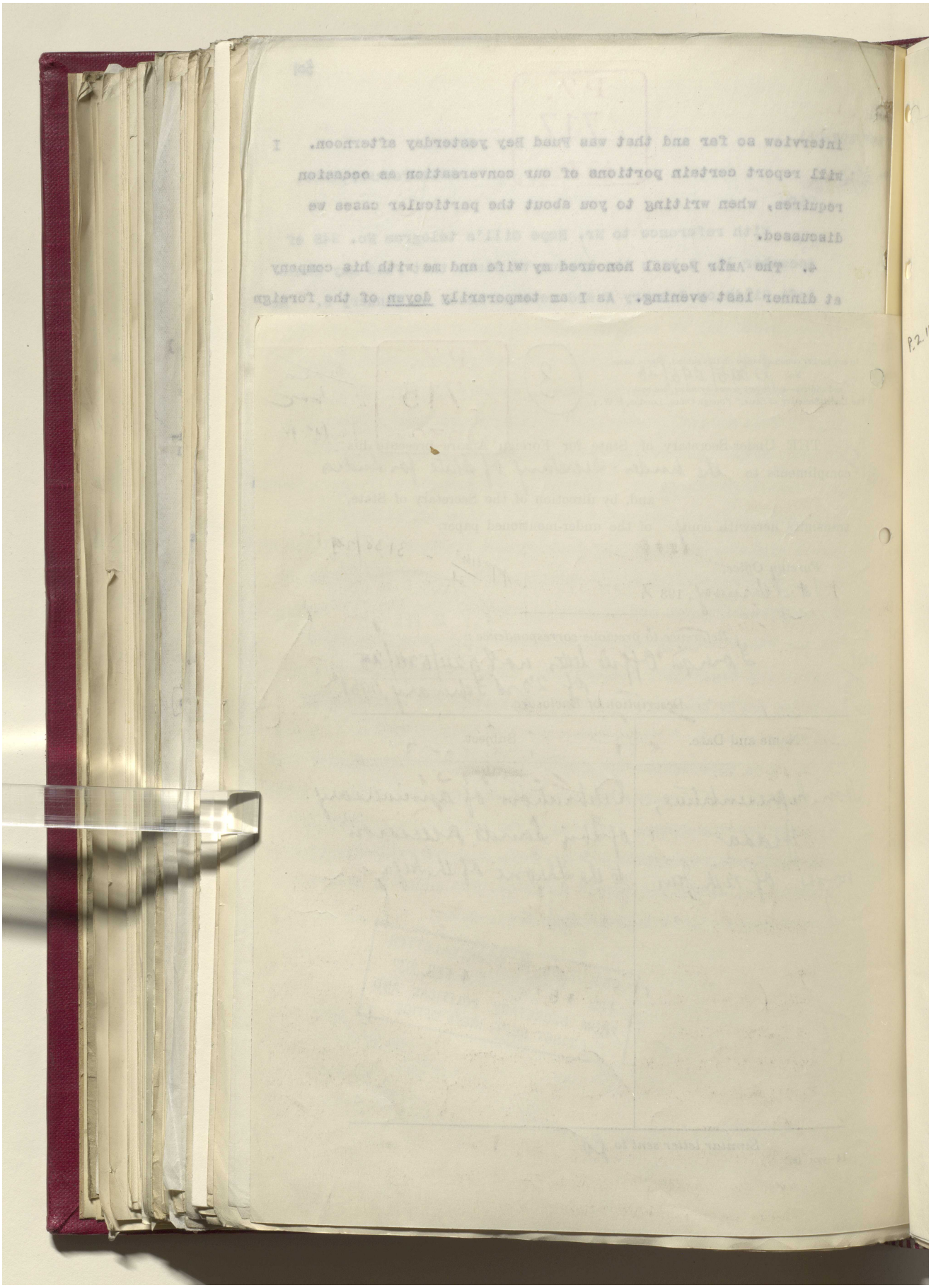

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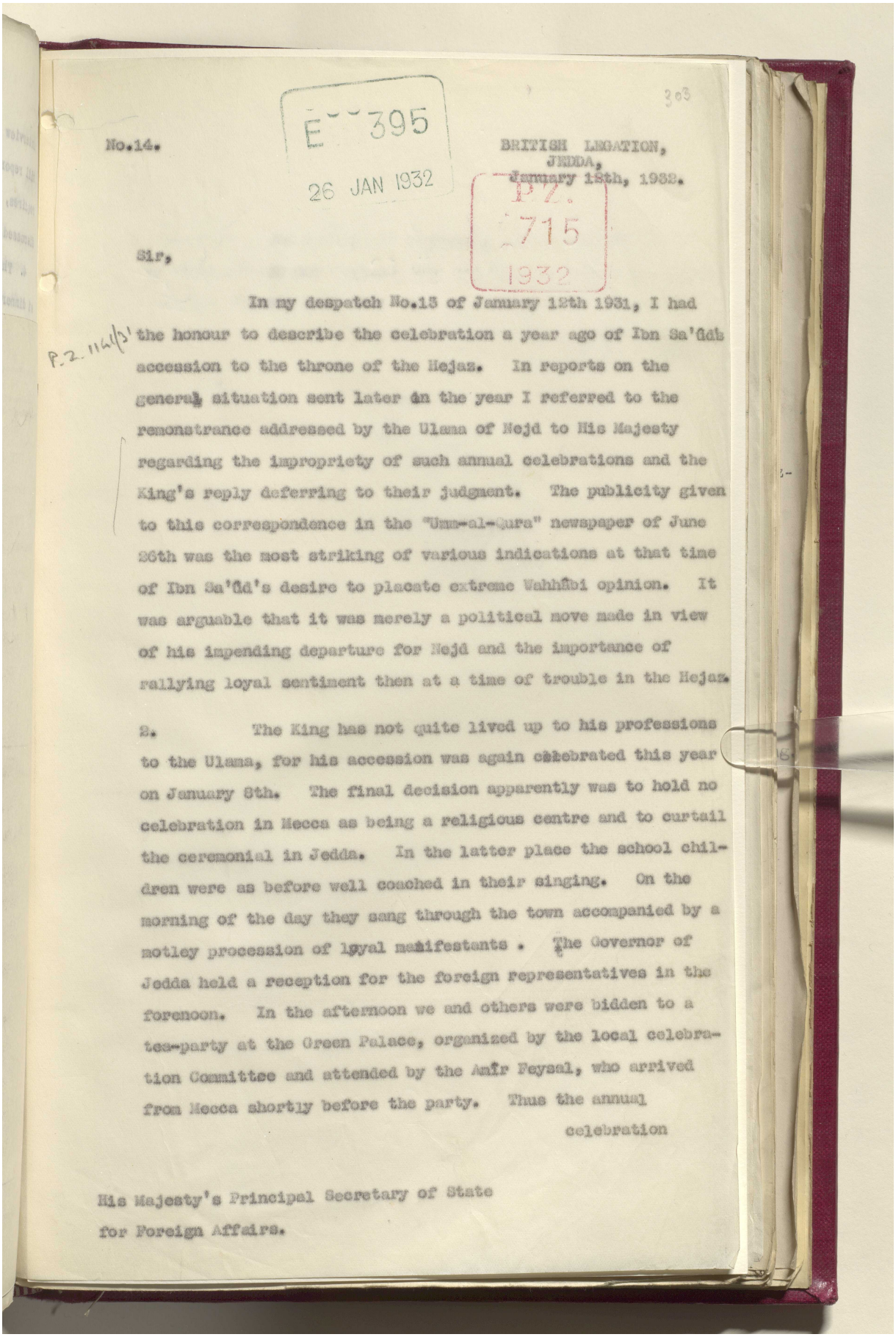

E 395
26 JAN 1932
P.Z. 715 1932

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No.14.

BRITISH LEGATION,
JEDDA,
January 18th, 1932.

Sir,

P.Z. 1144/31

In my despatch No.13 of January 12th 1931, I had the honour to describe the celebration a year ago of Ibn Sa'ūd's accession to the throne of the Hejaz. In reports on the general situation sent later in the year I referred to the remonstrance addressed by the Ulama of Nejd to His Majesty regarding the impropriety of such annual celebrations and the King's reply deferring to their judgment. The publicity given to this correspondence in the "Umm-al-Qura" newspaper of June 26th was the most striking of various indications at that time of Ibn Sa'ūd's desire to placate extreme Wahhābi opinion. It was arguable that it was merely a political move made in view of his impending departure for Nejd and the importance of rallying loyal sentiment then at a time of trouble in the Hejaz.

2. The King has not quite lived up to his professions to the Ulama, for his accession was again celebrated this year on January 8th. The final decision apparently was to hold no celebration in Mecca as being a religious centre and to curtail the ceremonial in Jedda. In the latter place the school children were as before well coached in their singing. On the morning of the day they sang through the town accompanied by a motley procession of loyal manifestants. The Governor of Jedda held a reception for the foreign representatives in the forenoon. In the afternoon we and others were bidden to a tea-party at the Green Palace, organized by the local celebration Committee and attended by the Amir Feysal, who arrived from Mecca shortly before the party. Thus the annual

celebration

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

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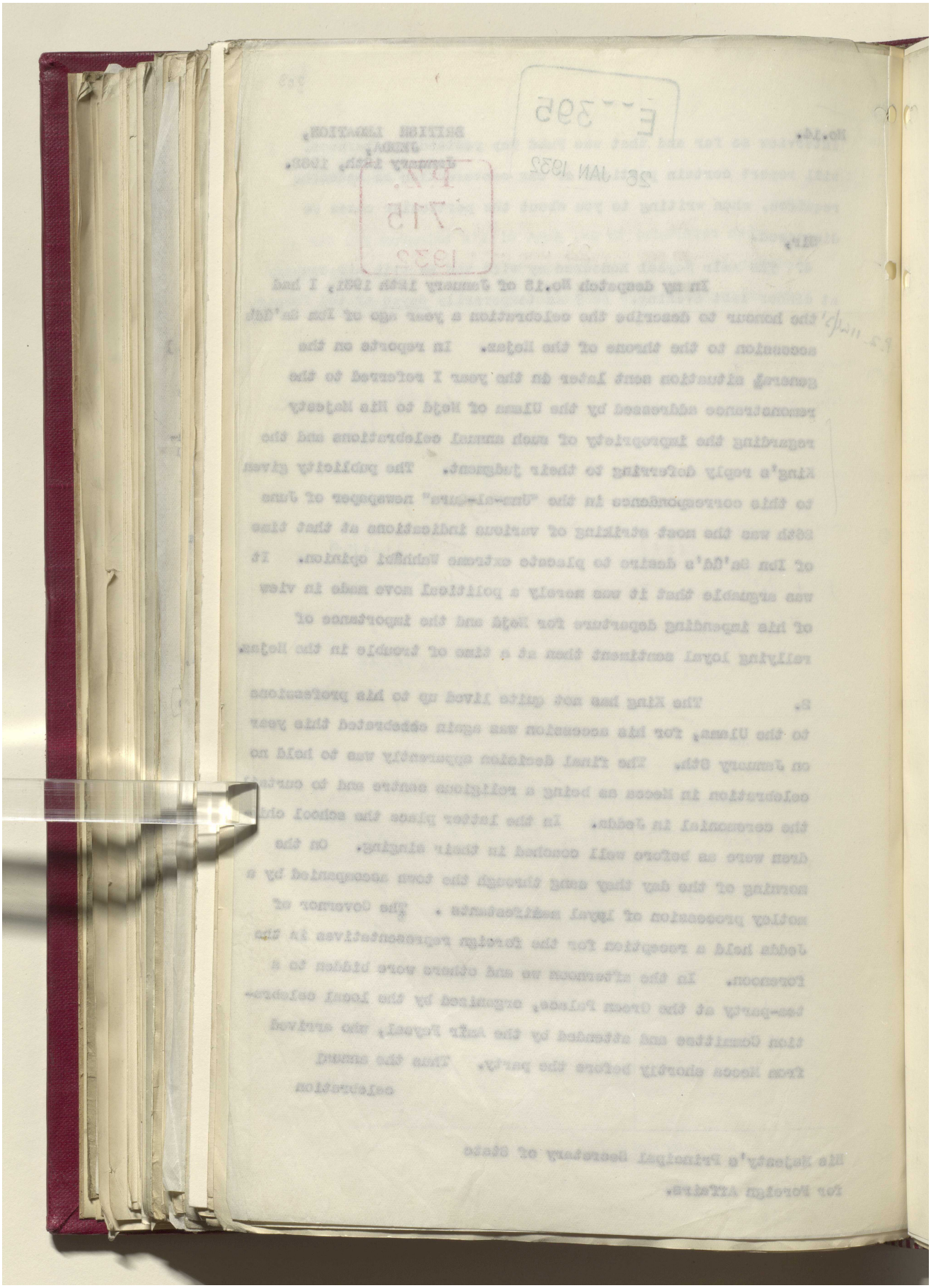

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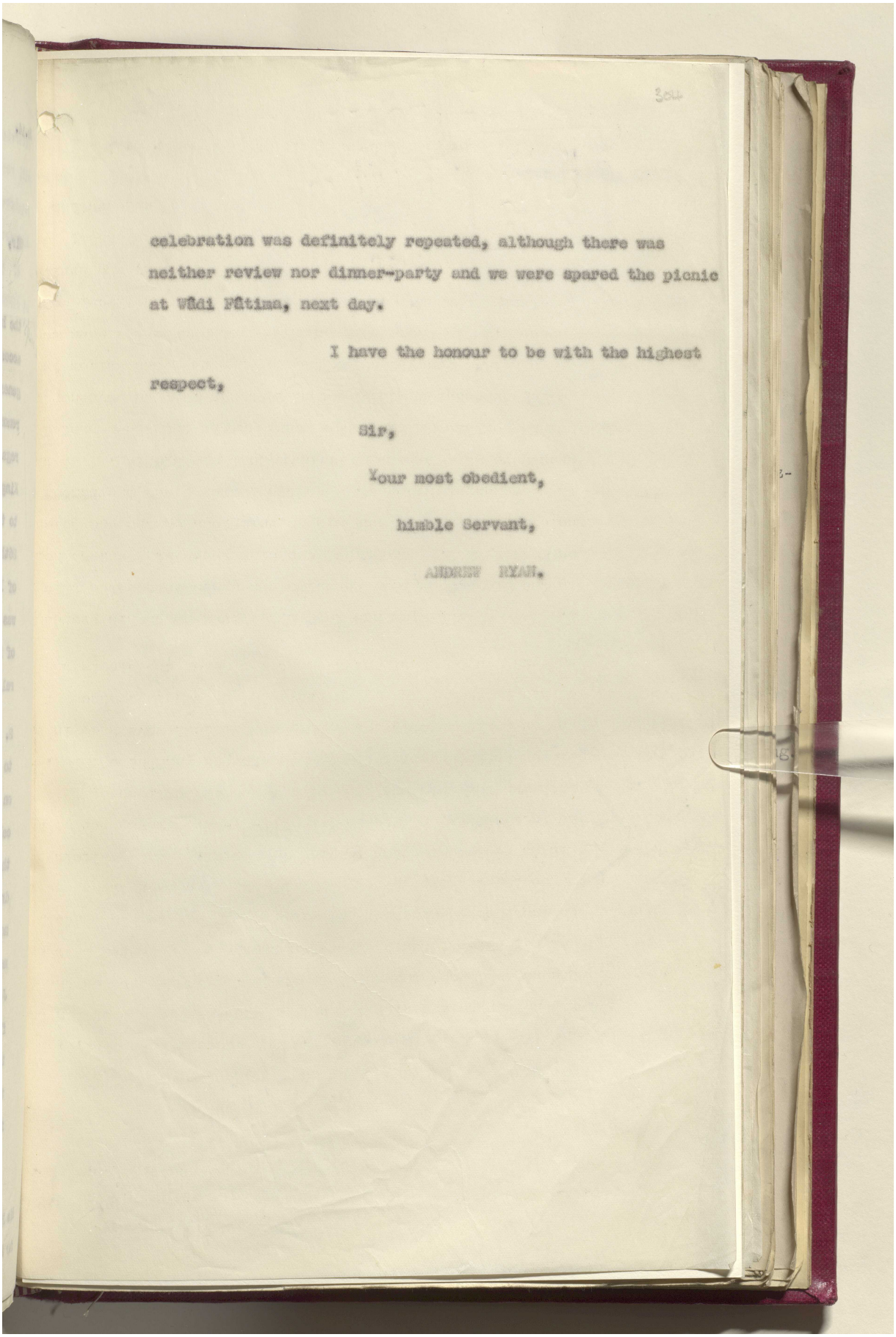


celebration was definitely repeated, although there was neither review nor dinner-party and we were spared the picnic at Wâdi Fâtima, next day.

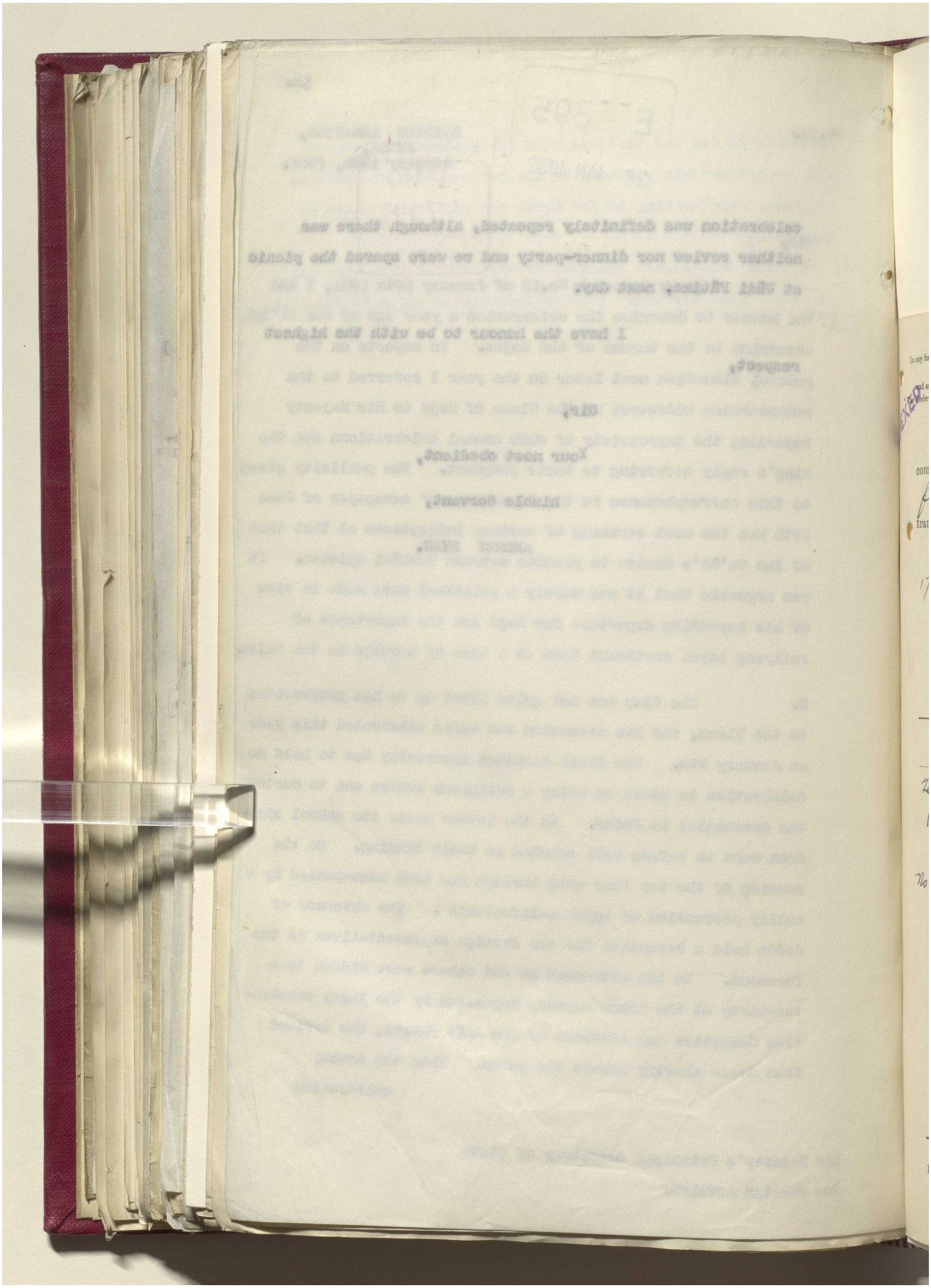
I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

ANDREW RYAN.



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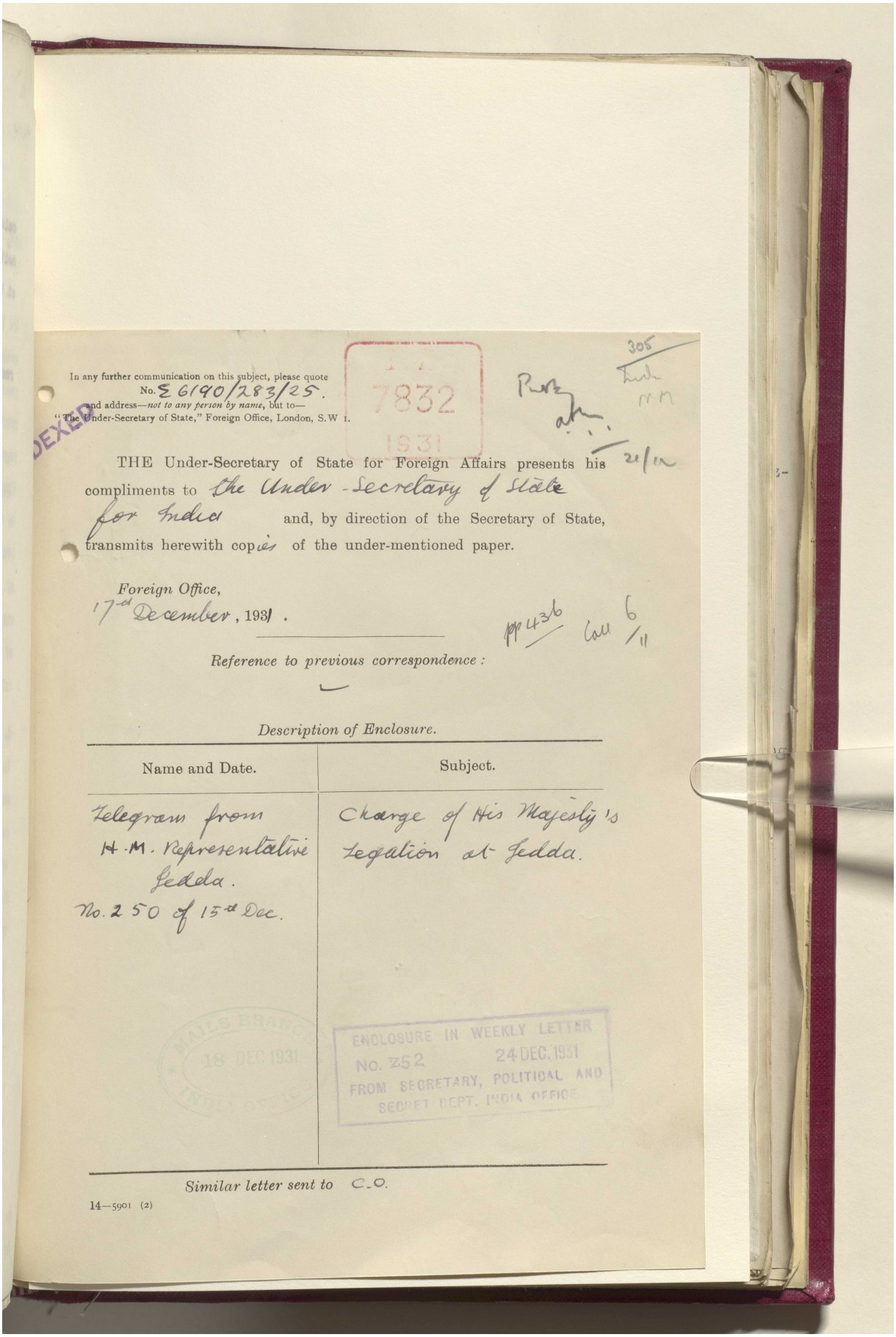

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7832
1931

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
17th December, 1931.

pp 436 Coll 6/11

Reference to previous correspondence:

—

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Telegram from H.M. Representative Jedda. No. 250 of 15th Dec.	Charge of His Majesty's Legation at Jedda.

MAILS BRANCH 18 DEC 1931 INDIA OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER NO. 252 24 DEC. 1931 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—5901 (2)

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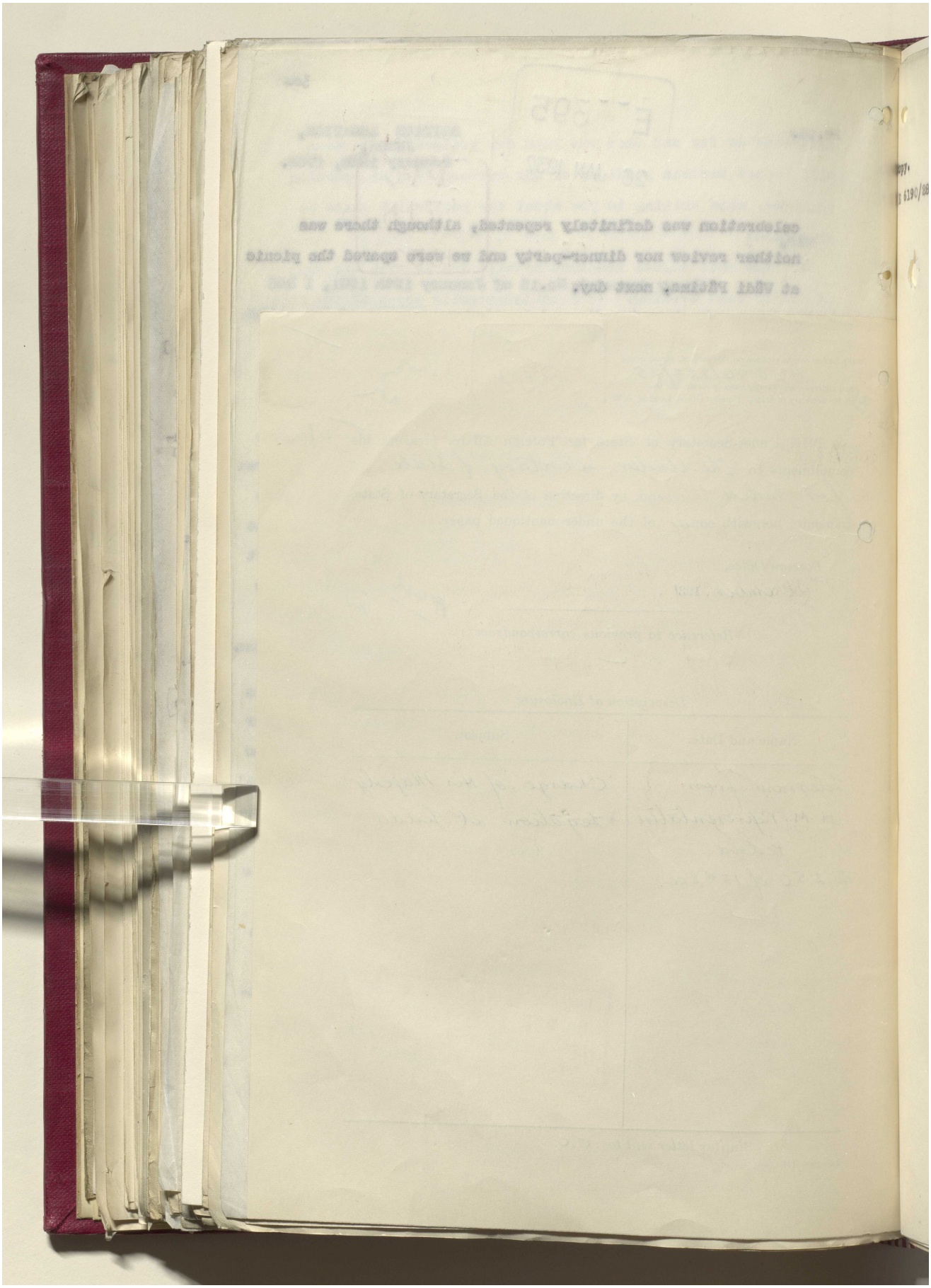

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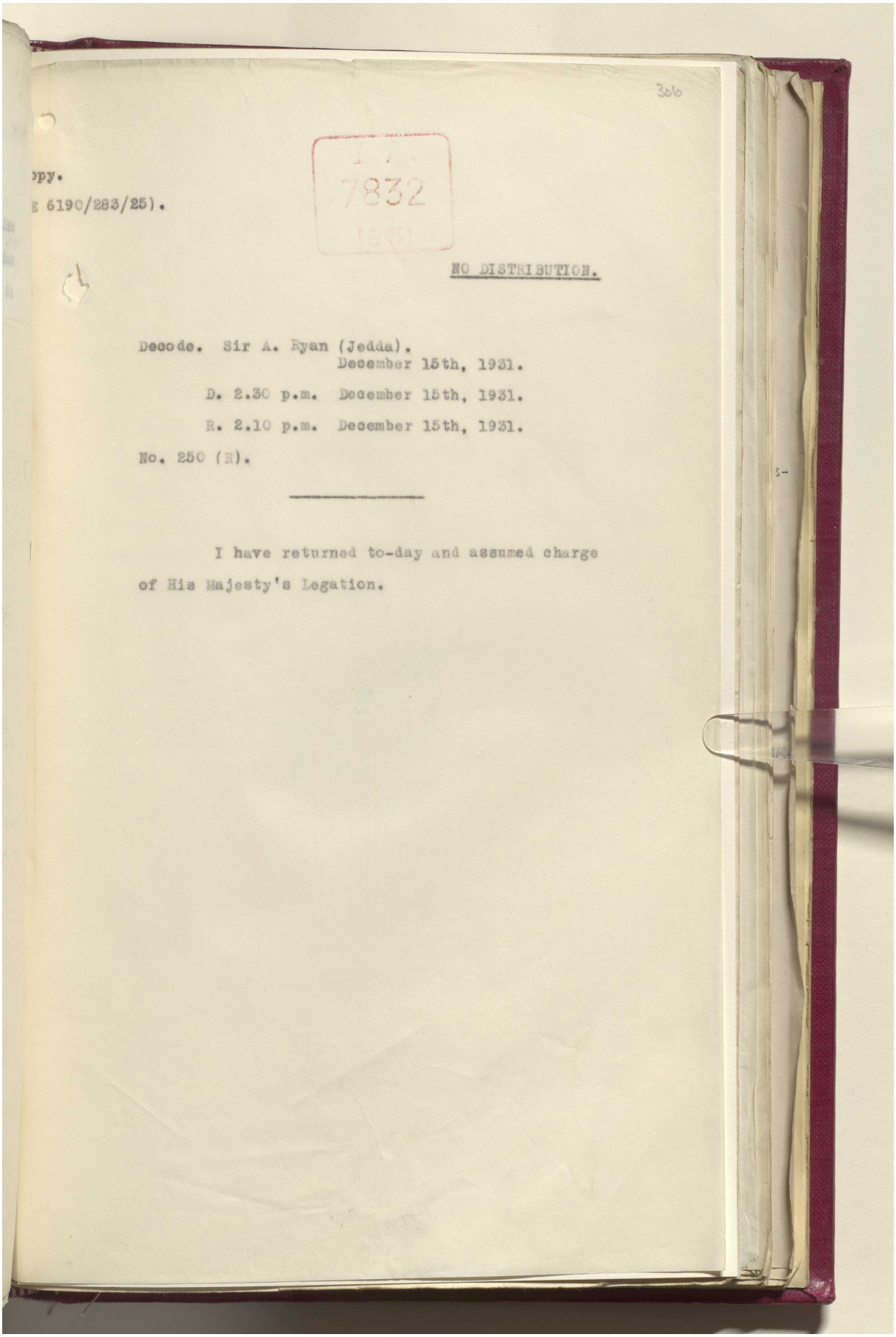

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opy.
E 6190/283/25).

7832
1931

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir A. Ryan (Jedda).
December 15th, 1931.

D. 2.30 p.m. December 15th, 1931.

R. 2.10 p.m. December 15th, 1931.

No. 250 (R).

I have returned to-day and assumed charge of His Majesty's Legation.

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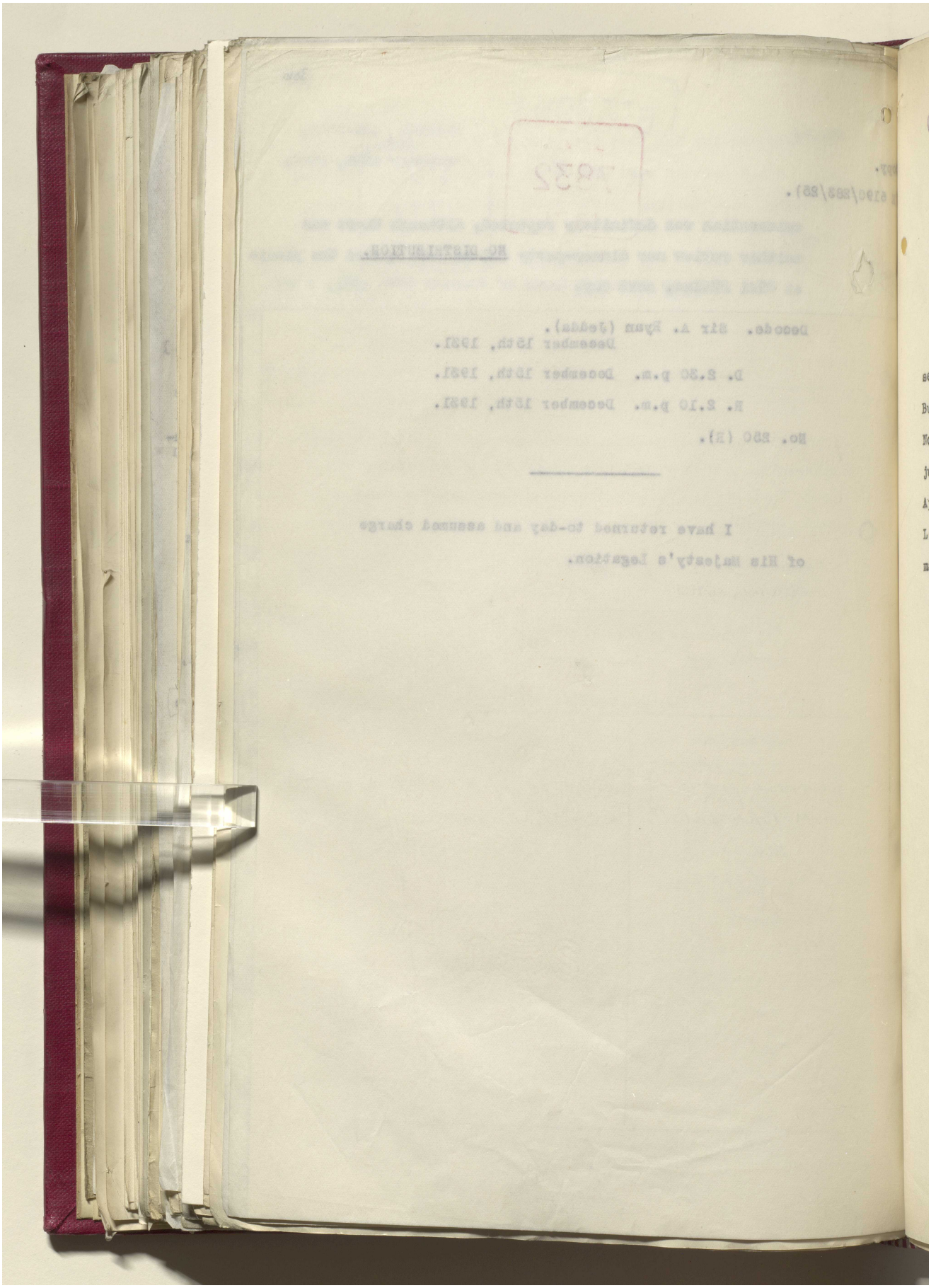

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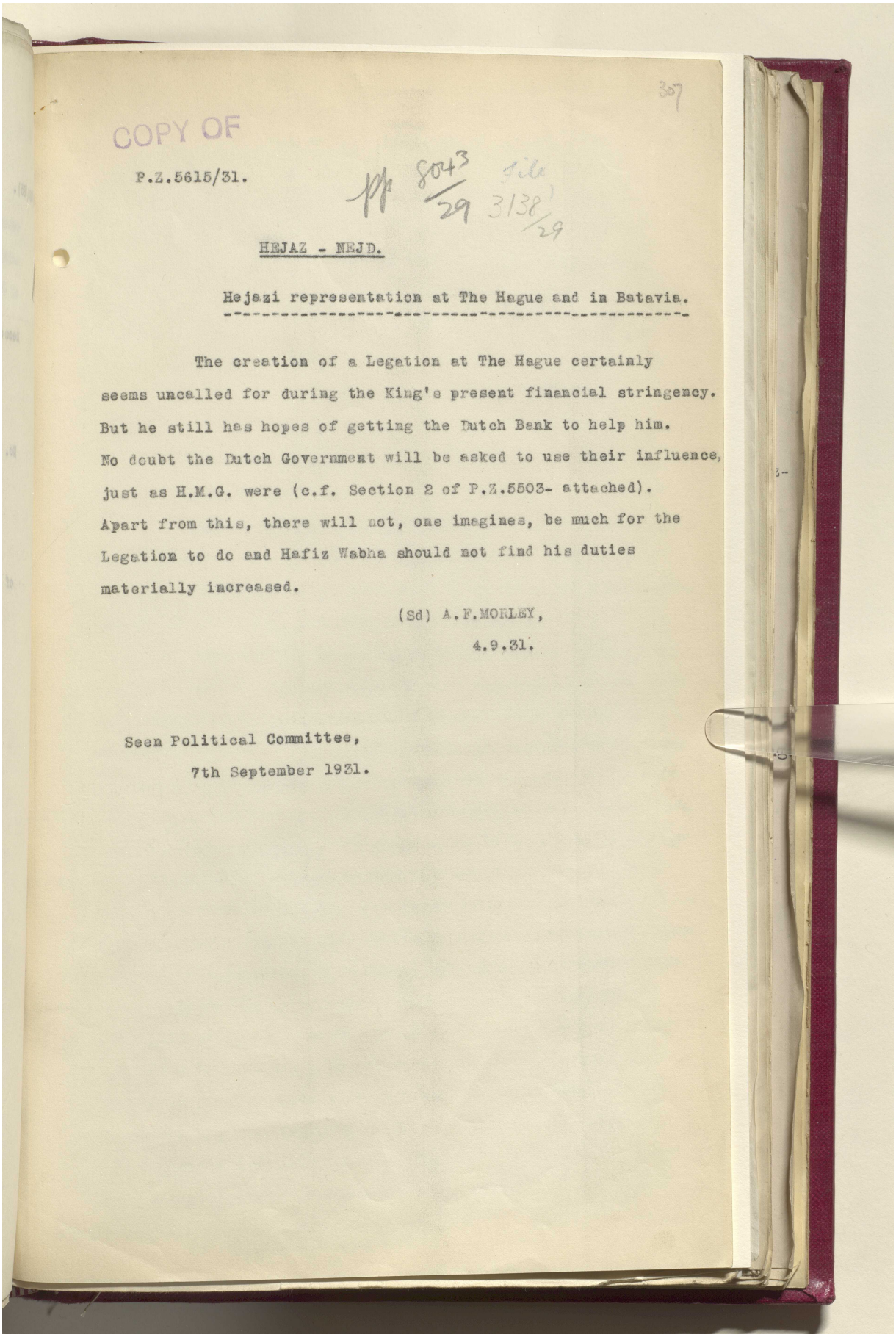

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COPY OF

P.Z.5615/31.

pp 8043/29 3138/29

HEJAZ - NEJD.

Hejazi representation at The Hague and in Batavia.

The creation of a Legation at The Hague certainly seems uncalled for during the King's present financial stringency. But he still has hopes of getting the Dutch Bank to help him. No doubt the Dutch Government will be asked to use their influence, just as H.M.G. were (c.f. Section 2 of P.Z.5503- attached). Apart from this, there will not, one imagines, be much for the Legation to do and Hafiz Wahba should not find his duties materially increased.

(Sd) A.F.MORLEY,
4.9.31.

Seen Political Committee,
7th September 1931.

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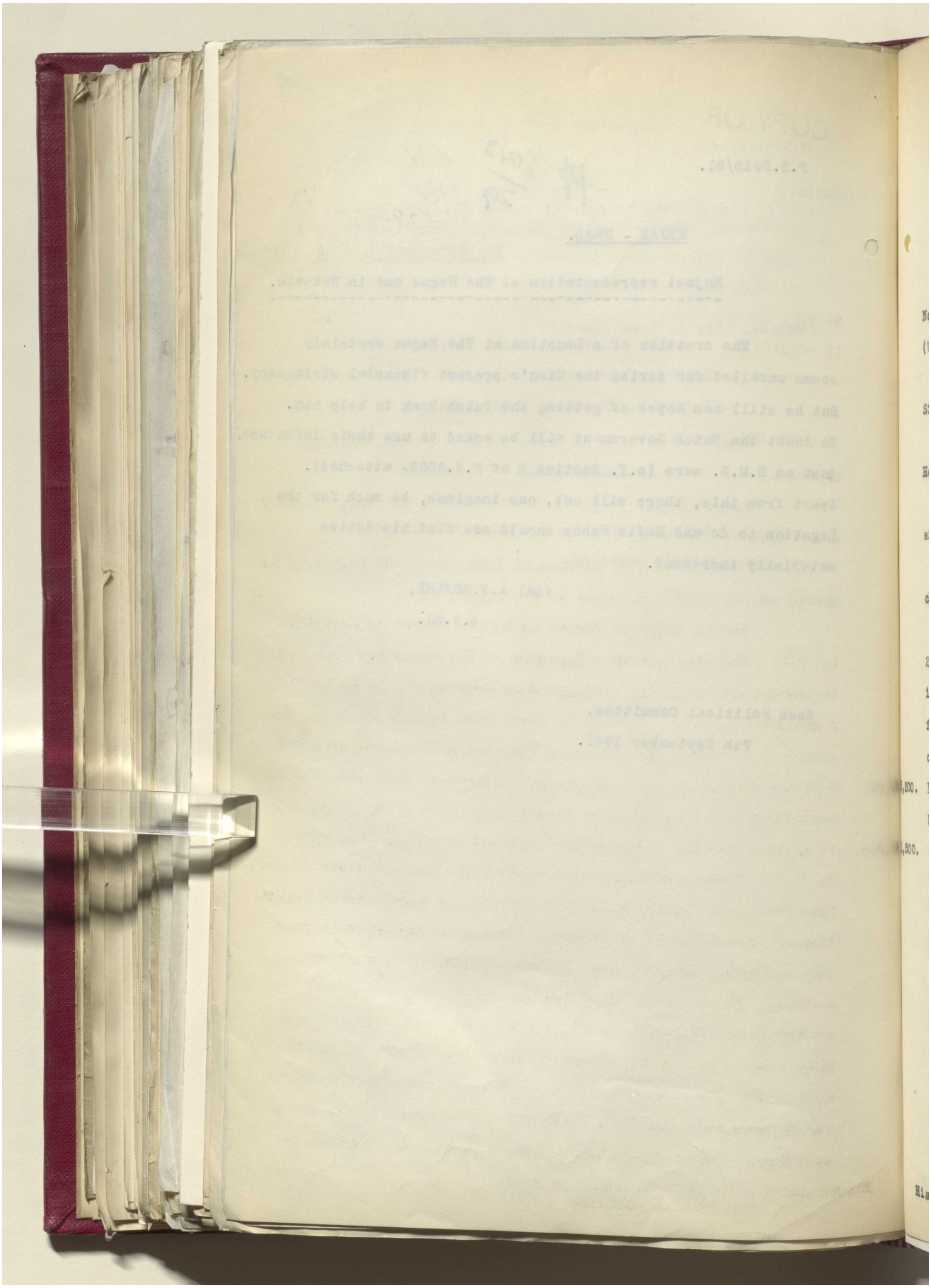

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P.Z.5615/1931.

ENCLOSURE IN FOREIGN OFFICE COVERING LETTER
No.W.9416/80/29, dated 31st August 1931.

No.308.
(W 9416/80/29)

JEDDA,
28th July, 1931.

Sir,

The "Umm-al-Qura" recently announced the following Hejazi appointments abroad:

Sheykh Hafidh Wahba as Ibn Sa'ûd's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at The Hague;

Sheykh Abdullah Ibrahim al Fadhl as first Secretary in charge of the Hejazi Legation at The Hague; and

Seyyid Hamza al Ghouth as Hejazi Consul in Batavia.

2. The creation of a Legation at The Hague has long been in contemplation but is understood to have been held up on financial grounds. I learn in confidence from Mr.Philby, who claims to have seen the figures, that the maintenance of their
5,200. Legation in London costs the Hejazi Government five thousand two hundred pounds a year. The rent of 42, Eaton Place is supposed
1,500. to account for one thousand five hundred pounds of this sum.

3. Sheykh Abdullah is about 35 years old and a son of the late Ibrahim al Fadhl, head of the erstwhile considerable Hejazi firm of "E.A.Alfazal" of Bombay. The firm has recently gone into a bunkruptcy which some consider fraudulent and Sheykh Abdullah, as one of the directors, has retired from before its creditors to the Hejaz, where he has since been living on the King's charity. He understands English but speaks it badly. As far as I can discover his only previous contacts with Europe and diplomacy were made in 1926, when he accompanied the young Amir Feysal, as his private secretary, to England, Holland and France/

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

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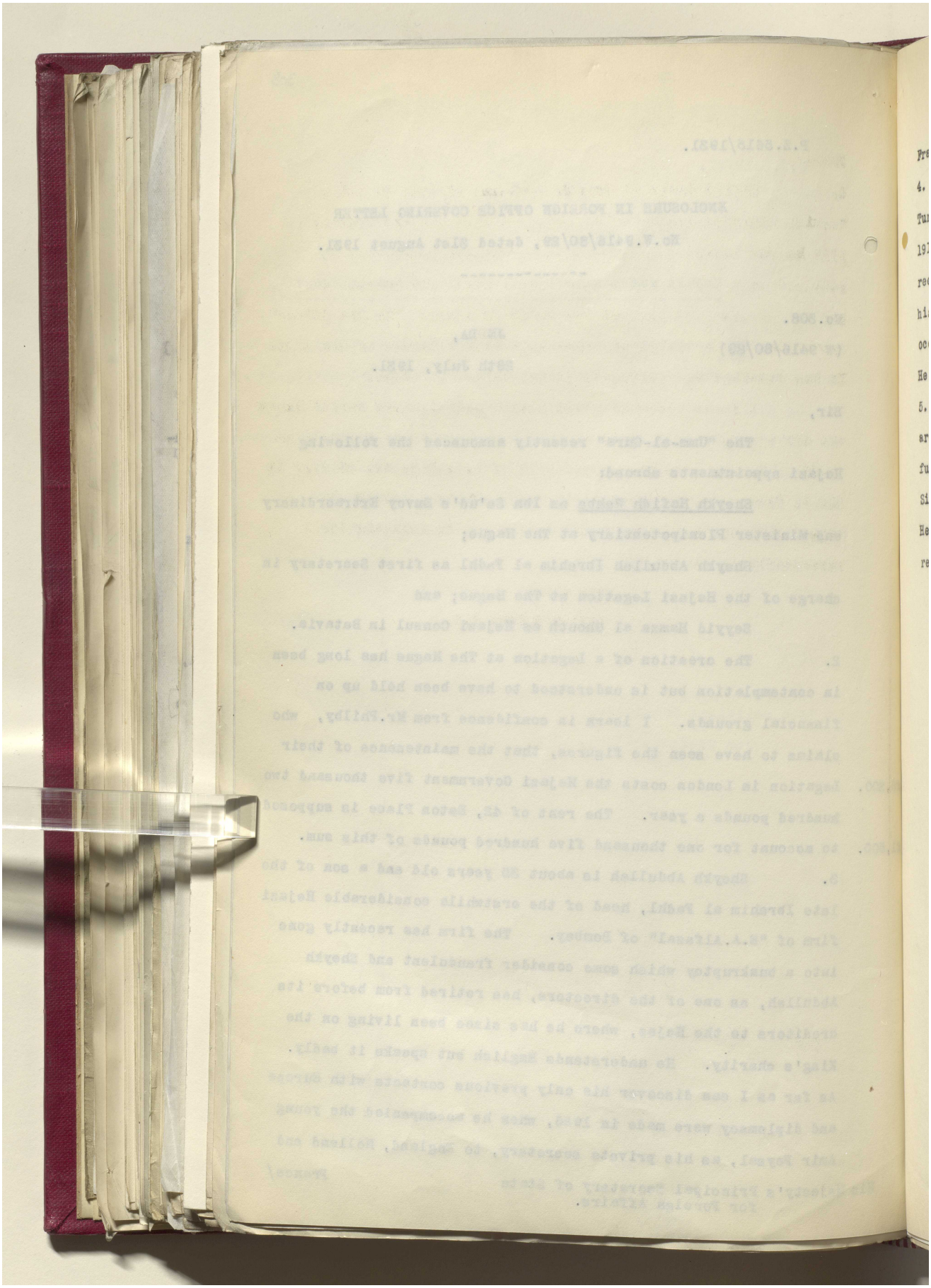

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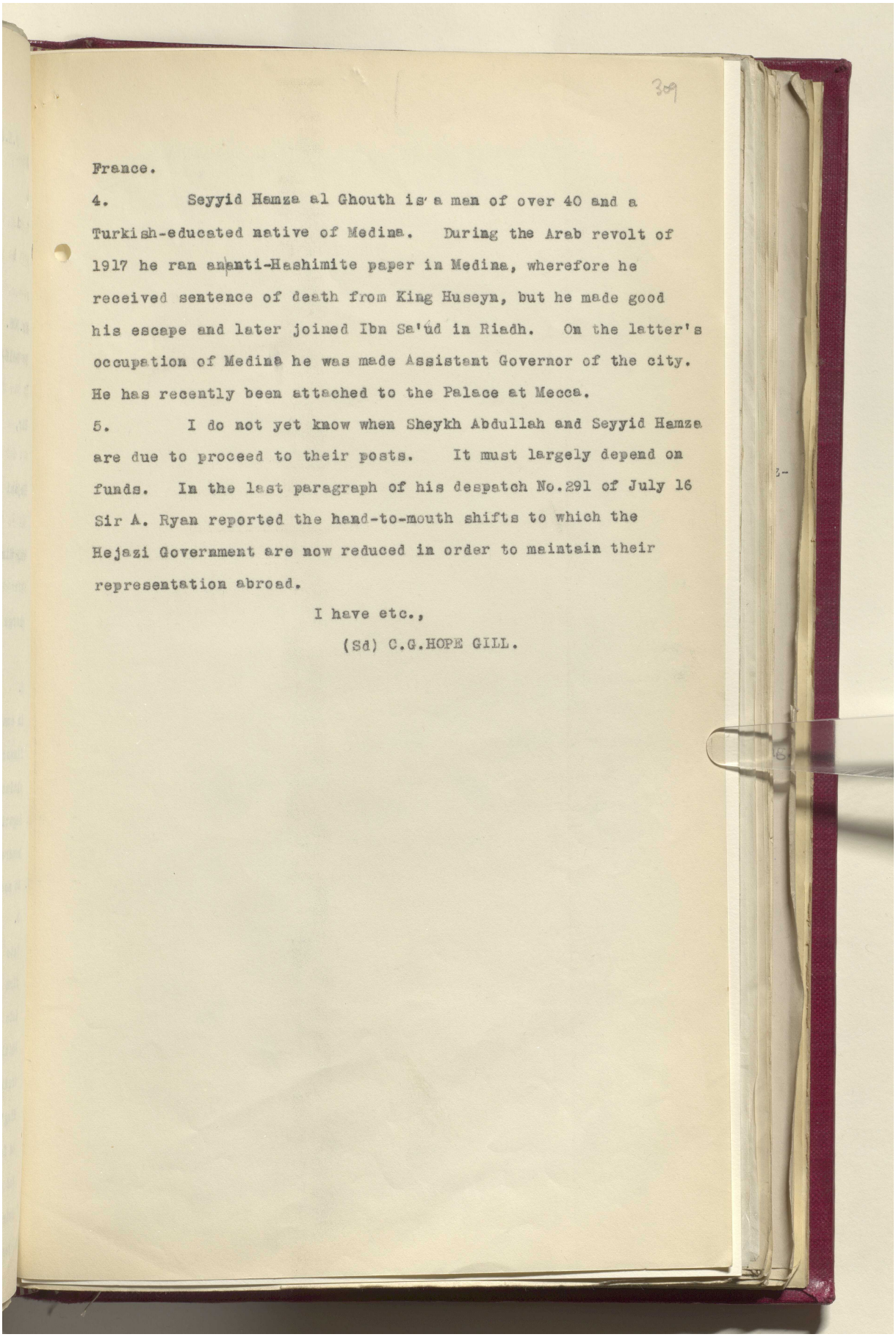

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France.

4. Seyyid Hamza al Ghouth is a man of over 40 and a Turkish-educated native of Medina. During the Arab revolt of 1917 he ran an anti-Hashimite paper in Medina, wherefore he received sentence of death from King Huseyn, but he made good his escape and later joined Ibn Sa'úd in Riadh. On the latter's occupation of Medina he was made Assistant Governor of the city. He has recently been attached to the Palace at Mecca.

5. I do not yet know when Sheykh Abdullah and Seyyid Hamza are due to proceed to their posts. It must largely depend on funds. In the last paragraph of his despatch No.291 of July 16 Sir A. Ryan reported the hand-to-mouth shifts to which the Hejazi Government are now reduced in order to maintain their representation abroad.

I have etc.,

(Sd) C.G.HOPE GILL.

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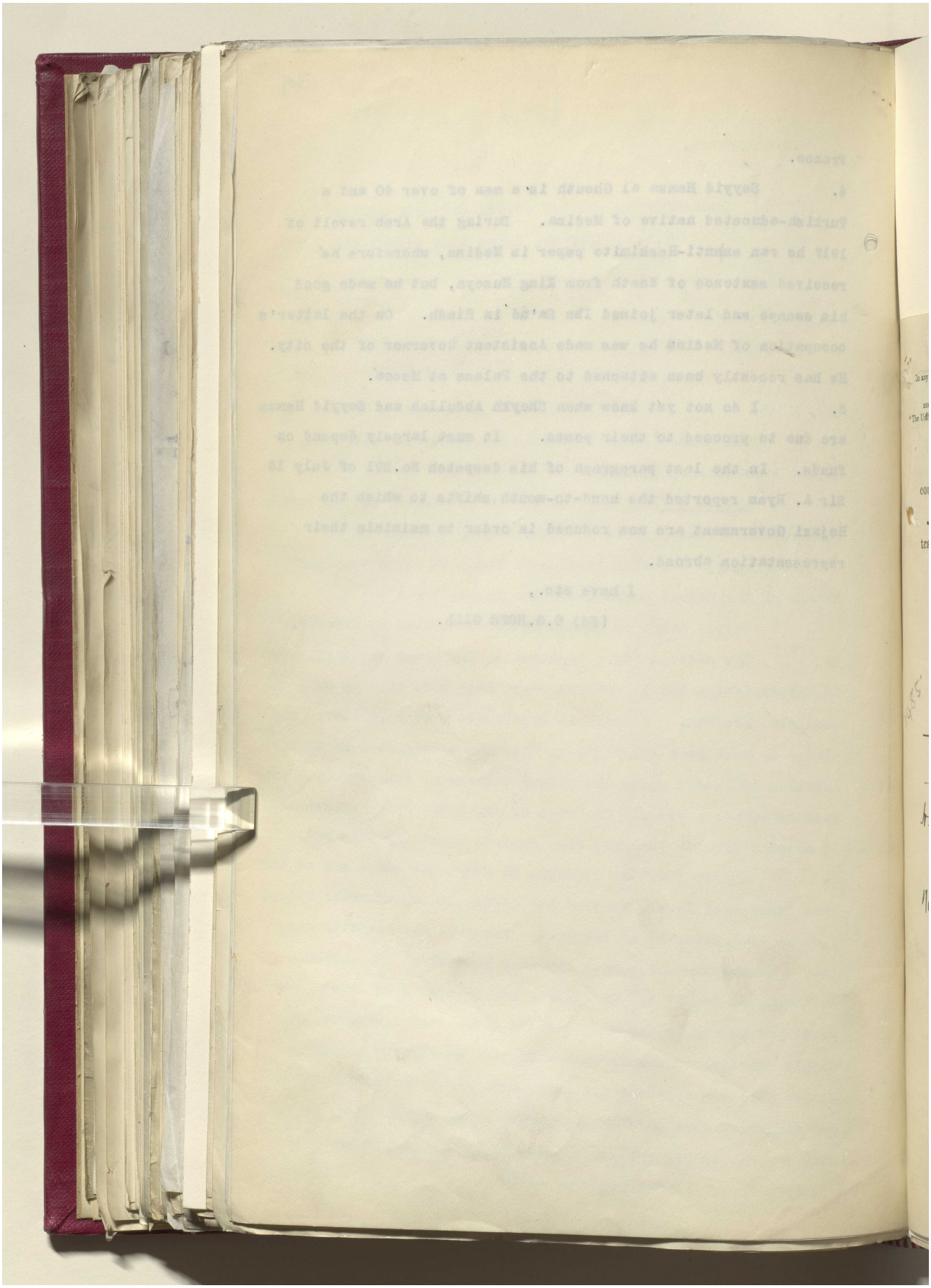

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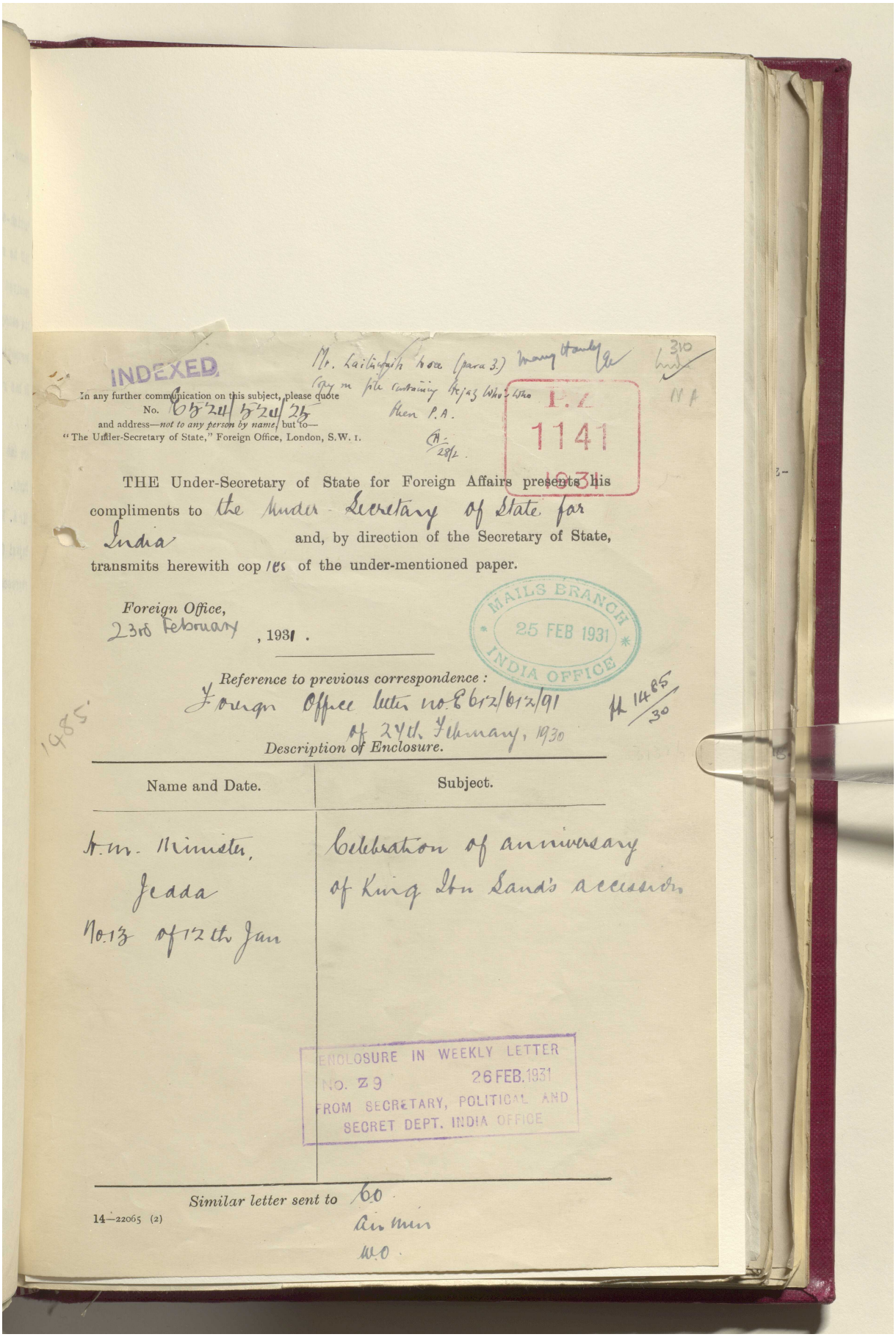

INDEXED

Mr. Laithwaite to see (para 3.) copy on file containing Hejaz Who's Who then P.A.

Mary Hanley

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No. 6524/524/25
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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P.Z. 1141 1931

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
23rd February, 1931.

MAILS BRANCH 25 FEB 1931 INDIA OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 612/612/91 of 24th February, 1930

1485

Pk 1485/30

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Minister, Jedda No. 13 of 12th Jan	Celebration of anniversary of King Ibn Saud's accession

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No. Z 9 26 FEB. 1931 FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O.
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14—22065 (2)

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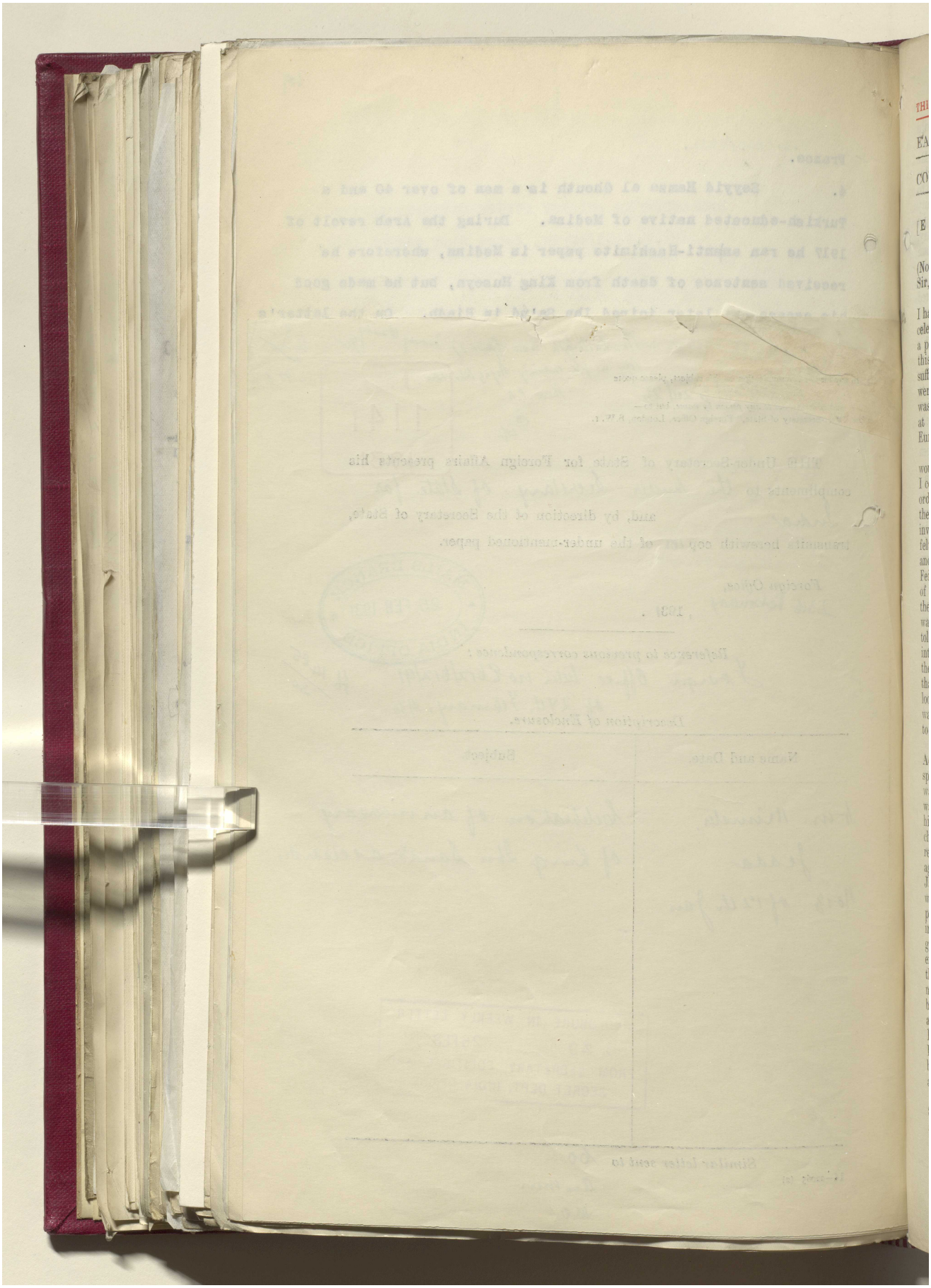

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F.Z
1141
1931

EASTERN (ARABIA).

CONFIDENTIAL.

February 2, 1931.

SECTION 2.

[E 524/524/25]

No. 1.

Sir A. Ryan to Mr. A. Henderson.—(*Received February* 2.)

(No. 13.)

Sir,

Jedda, January 12, 1931.

WITH reference to Mr. Bond's despatch No. 25 of the 20th January, 1930, I have the honour to state that the anniversary of King Ibn Saud's accession was celebrated for the second time on the 8th and 9th of this month in accordance with a programme generally similar to that of last year and with equal pomp. On this occasion there was no delegation of the Egyptian press, but there was a sufficiency of journalists to provide for publicity and innumerable photographs were taken by all sorts of people. The most active press representative present was one Mahri Bey, an Arab of Mosul origin, who seems to have his headquarters at The Hague at present and whose main line appears to be the supply of European news to the papers of the Arab countries.

2. I had received your permission to attend the banquet, which I understood would be given by the Emir Feisal in Jedda on the evening of the 8th January, if I considered it politically desirable to be present, notwithstanding the mourning ordered by His Majesty the King for the Princess Royal. I learnt later that there were to be four principal functions to which foreign representatives were invited. As the head of the only mission of first-class political importance here, I felt that any abstention on my part would be seriously misinterpreted in Jedda and Mecca, especially as I had had no previous opportunity of meeting the Emir Feisal, who now combines the functions of Minister for Foreign Affairs with those of Viceroy of the Hejaz. I therefore accepted the various invitations. One of the social functions projected, a tea-party at Kandara on the afternoon of the 8th, was in the event countermanded. Although no express reason was given, I was told privately by Fuad Bey Hamza that this change in the programme was intended as a mark of respect to the memory of the Princess Royal. I felt it all the more incumbent on me to attend the other functions. In my private letter thanking Fuad Bey and expressing satisfaction, I added that the gesture of the local authorities would be greatly appreciated in England, and explained that I was interrupting a period of mourning for an event deeply felt at home in order to be present at the various celebrations.

3. On the morning of the 8th January, my colleagues and I called on the Acting Governor of Jedda. Early in the afternoon the Emir Feisal gave me a special interview, which had been arranged by Fuad Bey. His Royal Highness was very civil and very nervous. I cannot say that my first impression of him was favourable. He has the fine features of his family and he does not show in his face the signs of dissipation which I expected. He lacks, however, both the charm and the physique of his father and his elder brother, the Emir Saud. In repose he wears a look of jaded melancholy and listlessness, and his smiles, though agreeable, are sickly. In my own slight intercourse with him on the 8th and 9th January, he gave little evidence of keenness or intelligence, though I noticed that with his own entourage he seemed confident and quick in decision. The interpreter whom he employed at my private interview was incapable. I had not intended to talk much business on such an occasion and, owing to the difficulty of getting anything of importance translated, I limited myself still further. I enquired as to whether my letters to Fuad Hamza and the King in connexion with the proposed visit of Colonel Biscoe had been forwarded to Riadh and when they might be expected to arrive. The Prince said that he had forwarded the letters, but his reply to my second question was hopelessly vague. My only other attempt at business was to appeal to the Prince on behalf of two prisoners, one a British Indian, who has been detained too long on a doubtful charge, the other, a Hadrami, who may be guilty of a serious offence, but who appears to have been barbarously treated. I envoked the custom of using clemency on royal anniversaries and the Prince promised to look into the two cases.

4. The review held by the Emir Feisal at Kandara on the afternoon of the 8th January, presented features of interest. King Ibn Saud not long ago appointed a certain Nabi Bey el-Adhma to be Director of Military Organisation.

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This gentleman resigned after a very short time and was replaced by one Faudhi Bey al-Kawokji, a Syrian officer, who formerly served in the Turkish army and took part, apparently with some distinction, in the Palestinian campaign. He would appear to have been German trained, judging by his excellent knowledge of German. During the last Syrian revolt he went over to the rebels and came to this country as a fugitive from the French. The review afforded an opportunity for displaying the meagre results so far achieved in the direction of creating a regular army. The march past was headed by two detachments of infantry, about 500 men in all, rather ragged in formation but workmanlike and to some extent disciplined. Then followed a string of pack animals with various equipment and about 100 men in charge. Then came two armoured cars, which were followed by the "cavalry," consisting of less than forty horsemen, ill-mounted and variously equipped, nothing more, in fact, than a disorderly rout of tribesmen, who indulged in wild shouts as they passed. The camelry, who came after them, were distinctly more impressive and numbered at least 320, perhaps more. This force, though also wild and composed of heterogeneous types, had a certain air of efficiency. Towards the end of the review three aeroplanes of the Hejaz Air Force swept round in great circles, while the "cavalry" again appeared to display their prowess in galloping, firing comic pistols and emitting war cries. The aeroplanes did not venture to come low for fear of stampeding the camels. It had been intended that they should approach when the camelry went back to barracks, but the arrangements for this miscarried and as no signalling had been arranged the aerial display was rather tame.

5. The first day ended with a dinner of about 120 covers at Kandara. The Emir, who was to have presided, excused himself at the last moment on grounds of slight indisposition. Otherwise, the arrangements were excellent. Only two speeches were allowed. The first and more important consisted of a lengthy review of Ibn Saud's efforts in various directions. International relations were touched on and reference was made to the rapprochement with Iraq resulting from the meeting of the two Kings on board H.M.S. "Lupin." It was remarked that no mention was made of Egypt, an omission the more striking as it is understood that recent negotiations, though their scope and prospects of success have been exaggerated, have afforded promise of a better understanding between Egypt and the Hejaz. The Soviet Minister said a few words in Arabic at the end of dinner in reply to the references which had been made to the diplomatic representatives.

6. Mr. Hope-Gill and I started early on the 10th January for Wady Fatma to attend the celebration organised there by the municipality of Mecca. The programme was a heavy one. There were some twenty-four speeches, poems and set pieces recited by schoolboys, before and after luncheon. The Emir Feisal presided with hardly concealed boredom, though he was himself the object of the most eloquent eulogies. He was at his best with some children of the Royal family, including his own son, who flitted in and out of the reception tent. One of the items was a set piece welcoming the Prince and the foreign representatives, delivered in English by a Mecca schoolboy. His nervousness contrasted strongly with the aplomb of his comrades, who produced their Arabic effusions from lungs of bronze, and he boggled sadly, poor child, over the hard word "representatives." Another interesting school item was a case heard before the Cadi between advocates of pen and sword. The sword was very large and the pen very little. The Cadi, in a nicely-balanced judgment, declared them both to be servants of equal utility as such, and reconciled the advocates in a handshake. One poet gracefully compared the Emir and the diplomatic representatives to the moon surrounded by stars. His comparison was apter than he knew, for our Minister for Foreign Affairs is a great but pallid and elusive luminary and we, the stars, are very fixed in Jedda. The proceedings were punctuated by choral performances. Singing does not appear to rank as forbidden music, and one of the chants was introduced as the "Song of the Fatherland." At least 200 guests sat down to an excellent luncheon served at one long table in a marquee. The day ended with a fantastic war dance by Nejdi tribesmen, a barbaric pantomime full of life and colour. At the outset the dance centred on a gigantic Royal Standard, but before long standard and standard-bearer were dancing with the most active.

7. Not only had Egypt been ignored in the speech of the evening, but the Egyptian consul had been given a comparatively poor place at table. These circumstances may account for his absence from the Wady Fatma party. Some other diplomatic abstentions were due to indisposition and were less noticeable.

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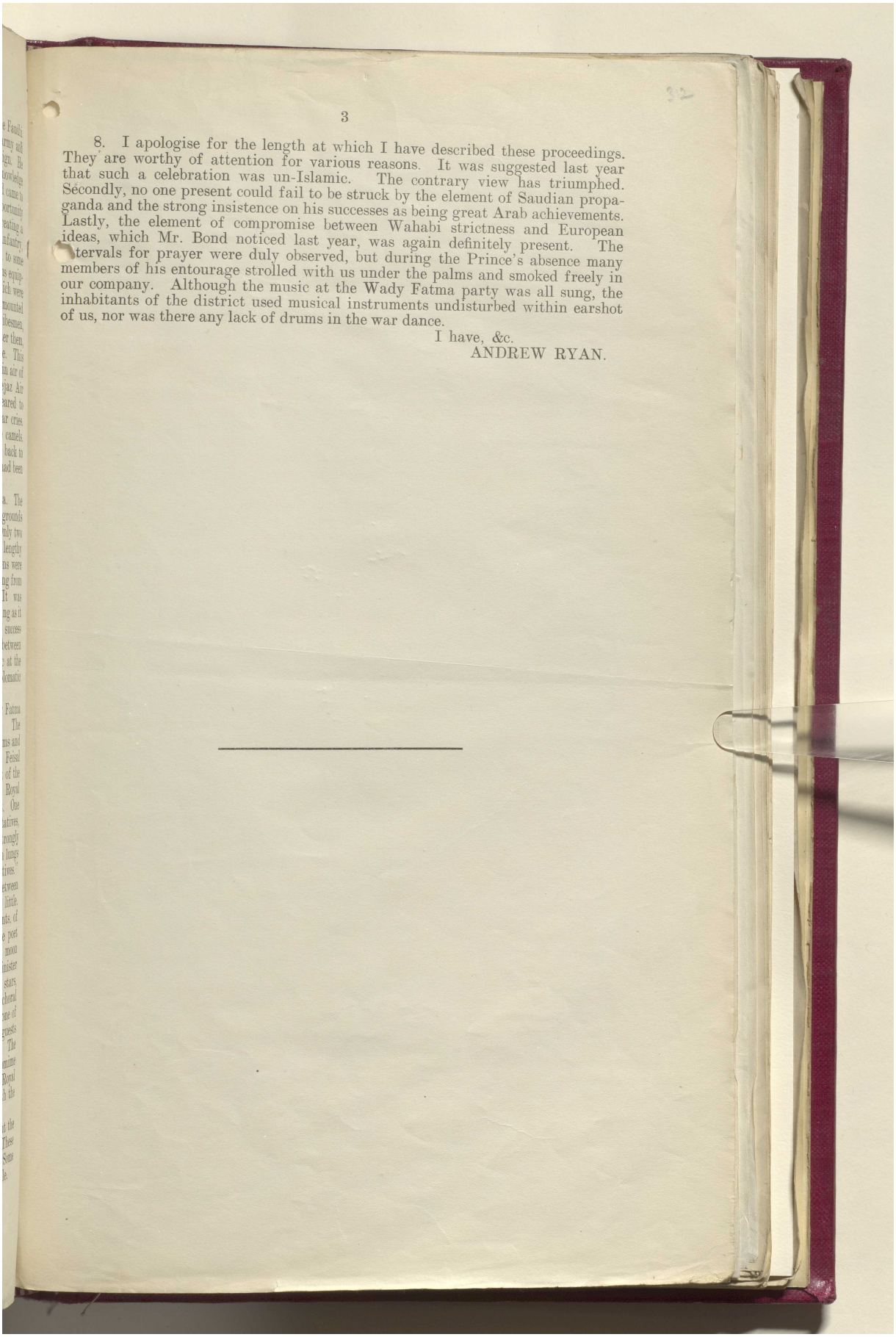

8. I apologise for the length at which I have described these proceedings. They are worthy of attention for various reasons. It was suggested last year that such a celebration was un-Islamic. The contrary view has triumphed. Secondly, no one present could fail to be struck by the element of Saudian propaganda and the strong insistence on his successes as being great Arab achievements. Lastly, the element of compromise between Wahabi strictness and European ideas, which Mr. Bond noticed last year, was again definitely present. The intervals for prayer were duly observed, but during the Prince's absence many members of his entourage strolled with us under the palms and smoked freely in our company. Although the music at the Wady Fatma party was all sung, the inhabitants of the district used musical instruments undisturbed within earshot of us, nor was there any lack of drums in the war dance.

I have, &c.
ANDREW RYAN.

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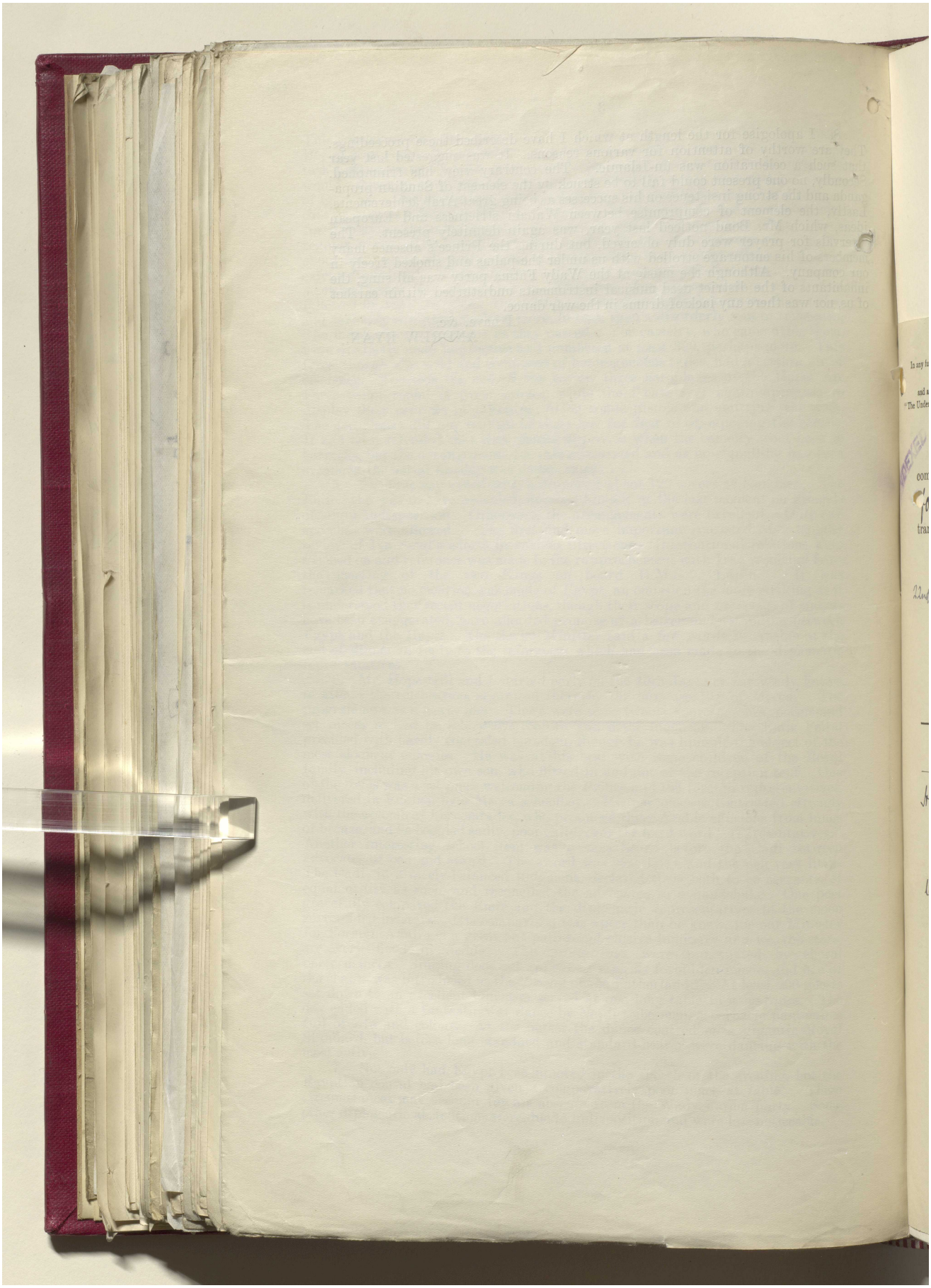

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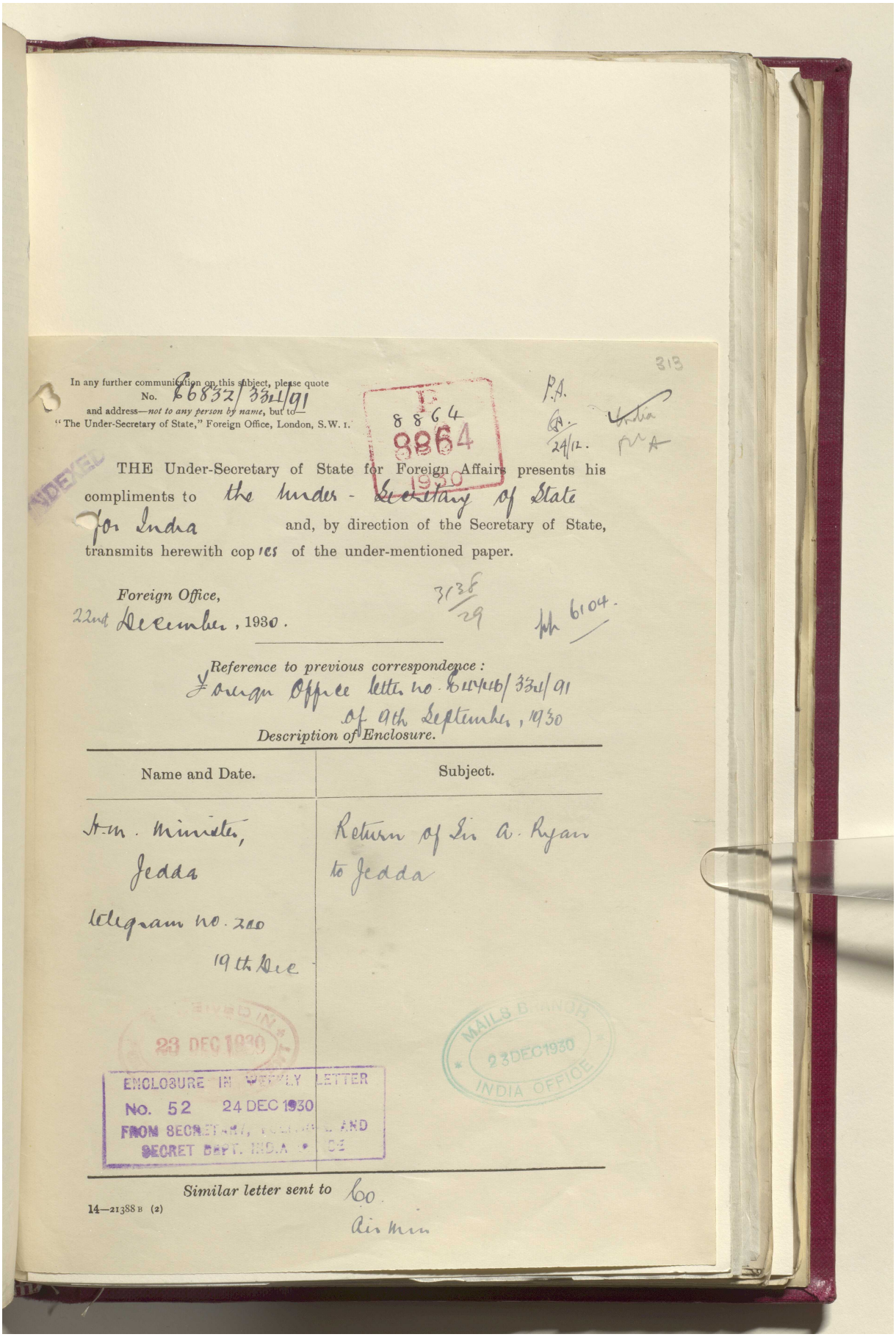

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 6832/3311/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

E 8864
8864
1930

P.A.
29/12.
India
P.A.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
22nd December, 1930.

3136/29

Mr 6104.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Foreign Office letter no. E 6114/6/3311/91 of 9th September, 1930

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Minister, Jedda telegram no. 210 19th Dec.	Return of Sir A. Ryan to Jedda

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY
23 DEC 1930

MAILS BRANCH
23 DEC 1930
INDIA OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 52 24 DEC 1930
FROM SECRETARY, FOREIGN AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co. Air Min

14—21388 B (2)

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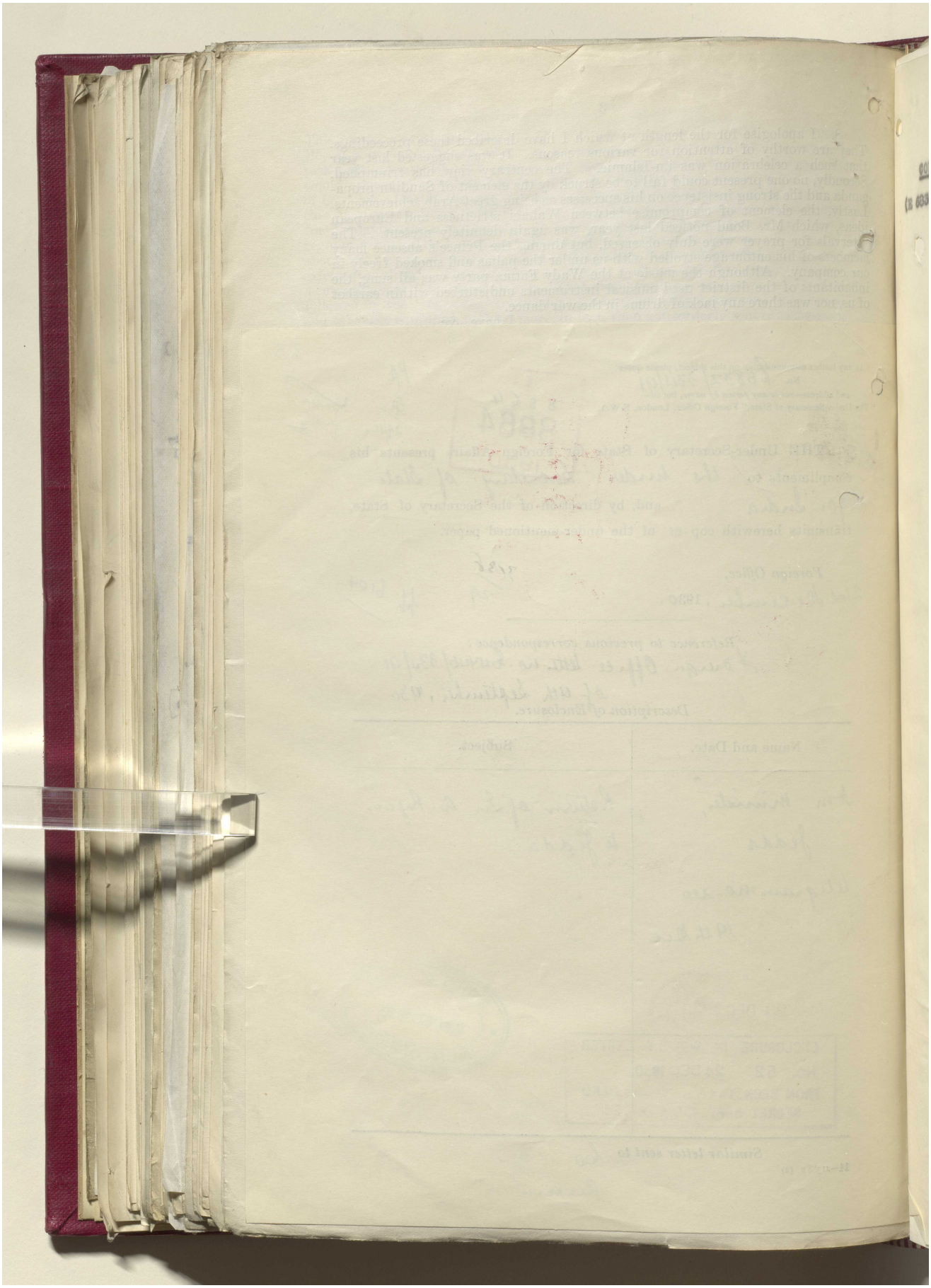

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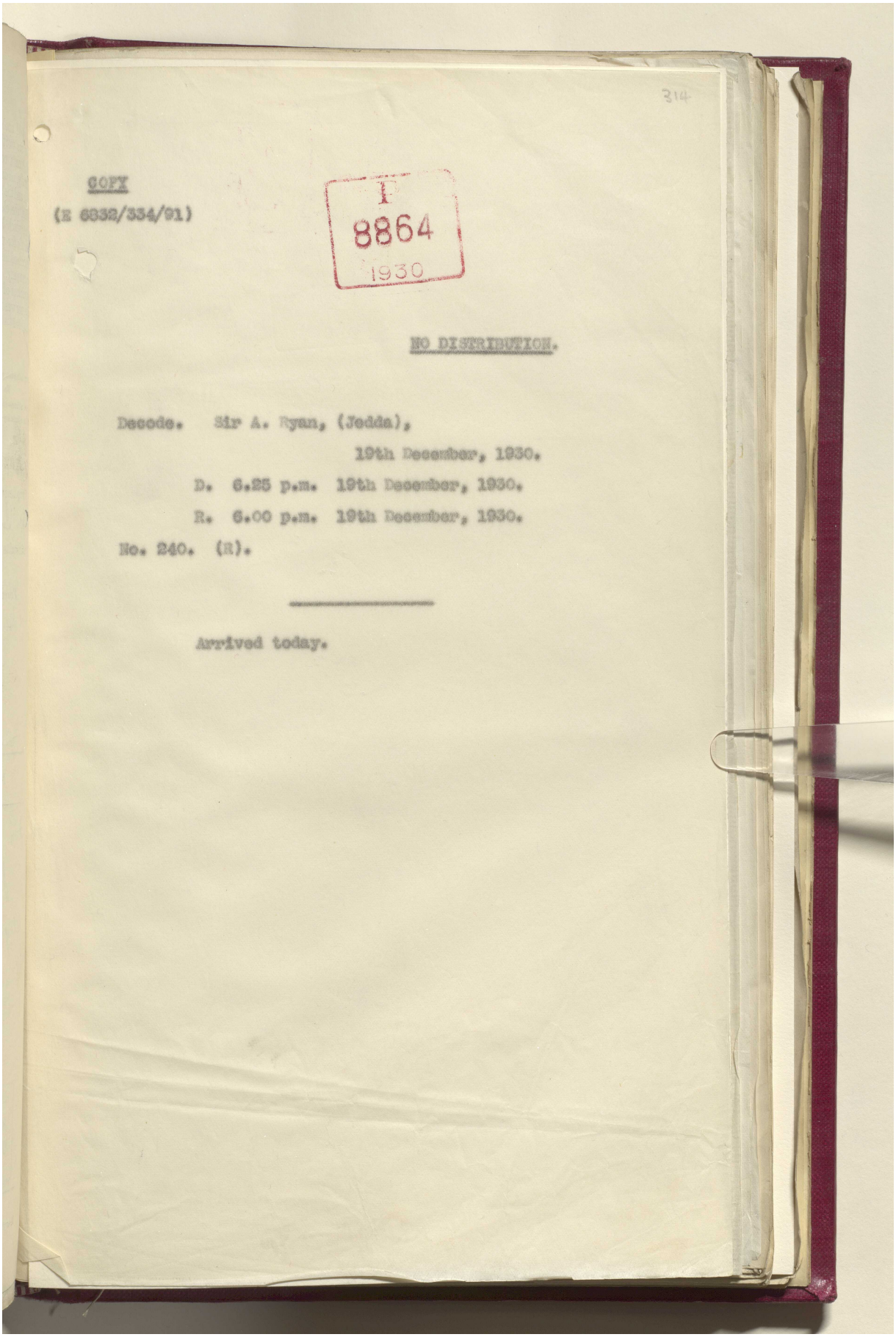

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COPY
(E 6832/334/91)

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8864
1930

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir A. Ryan, (Jedda),
19th December, 1930.
D. 6.25 p.m. 19th December, 1930.
R. 6.00 p.m. 19th December, 1930.
No. 240. (R).

Arrived today.

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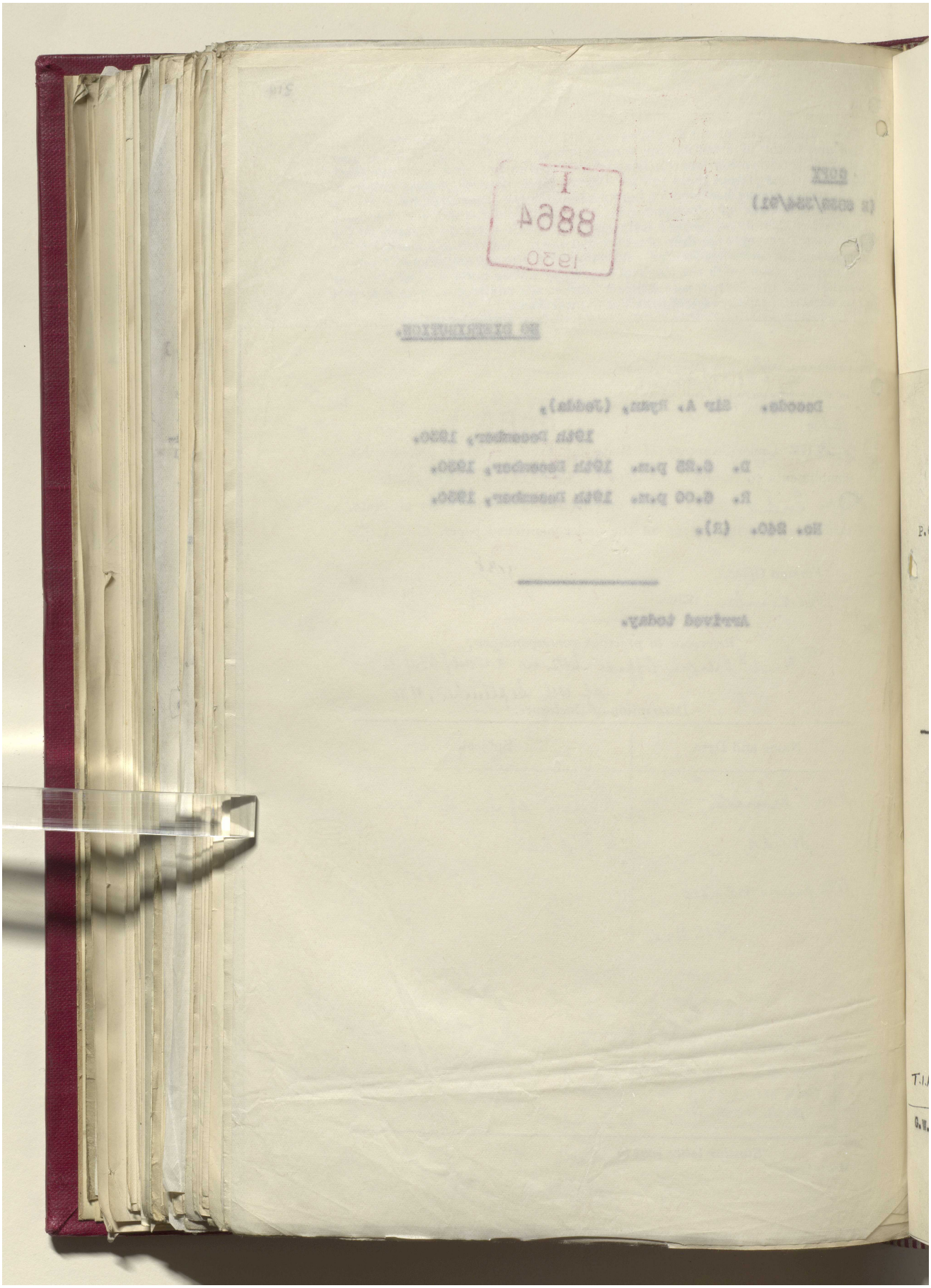

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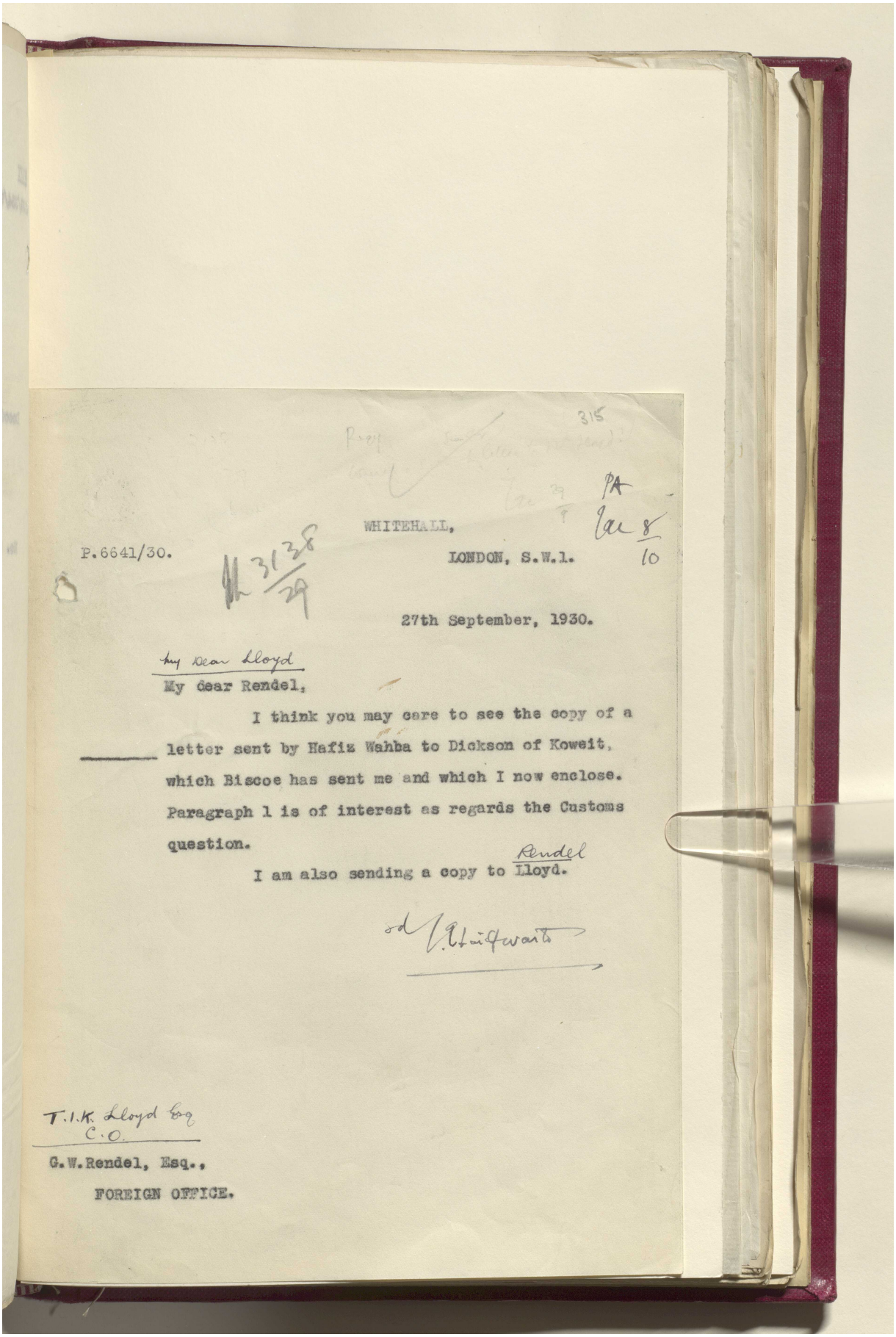

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PA
Jac 8/10

WHITEHALL,

P.6641/30.

LONDON, S.W.1.

3138/29

27th September, 1930.

My Dear Lloyd

My dear Rendel,

I think you may care to see the copy of a letter sent by Hafiz Wahba to Dickson of Koweit, which Biscoe has sent me and which I now enclose. Paragraph 1 is of interest as regards the Customs question.

I am also sending a copy to Rendel Lloyd.

Sd/ [illegible]

T.I.K. Lloyd Esq
C.O.

G.W.Rendel, Esq.,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

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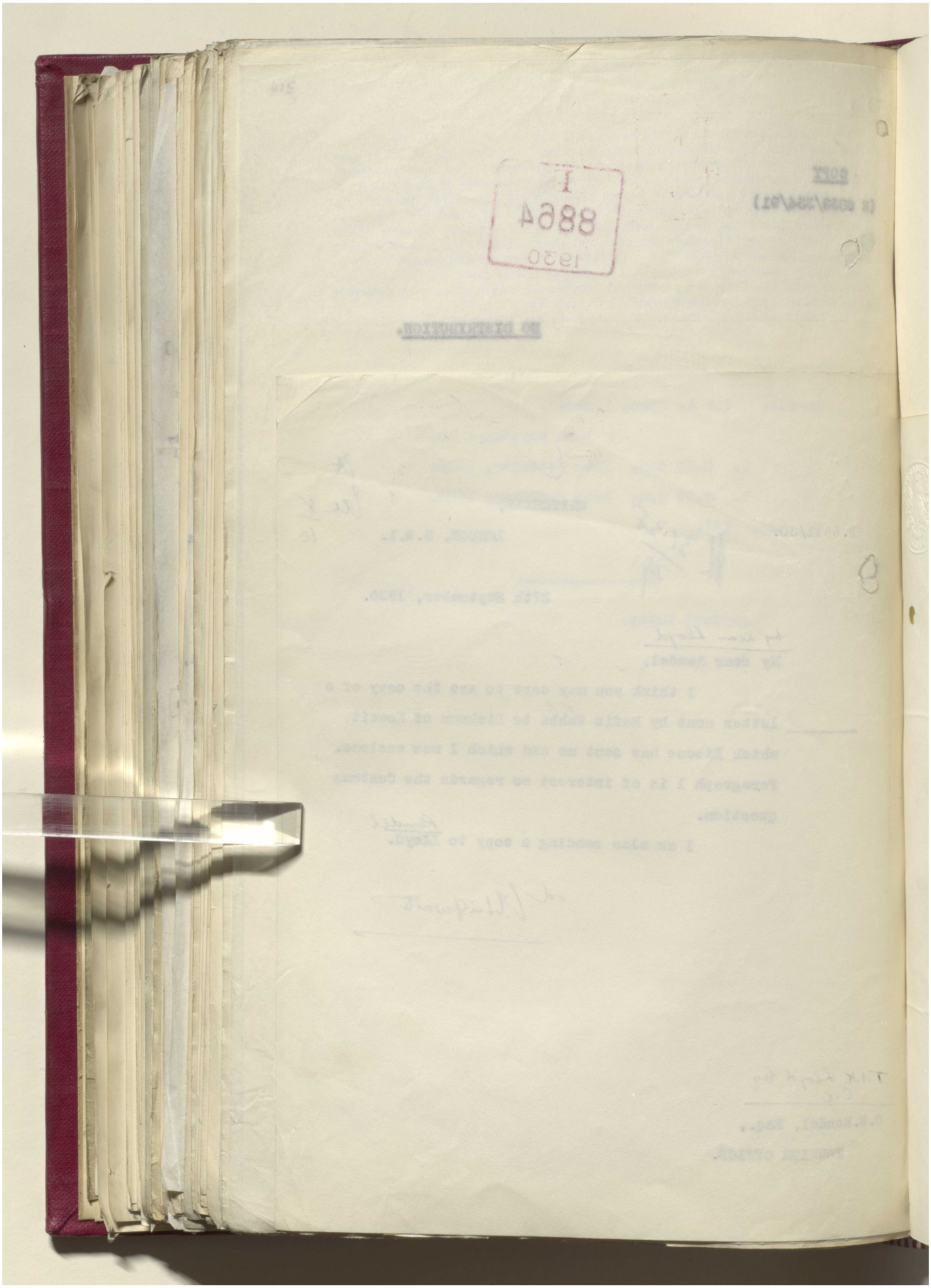

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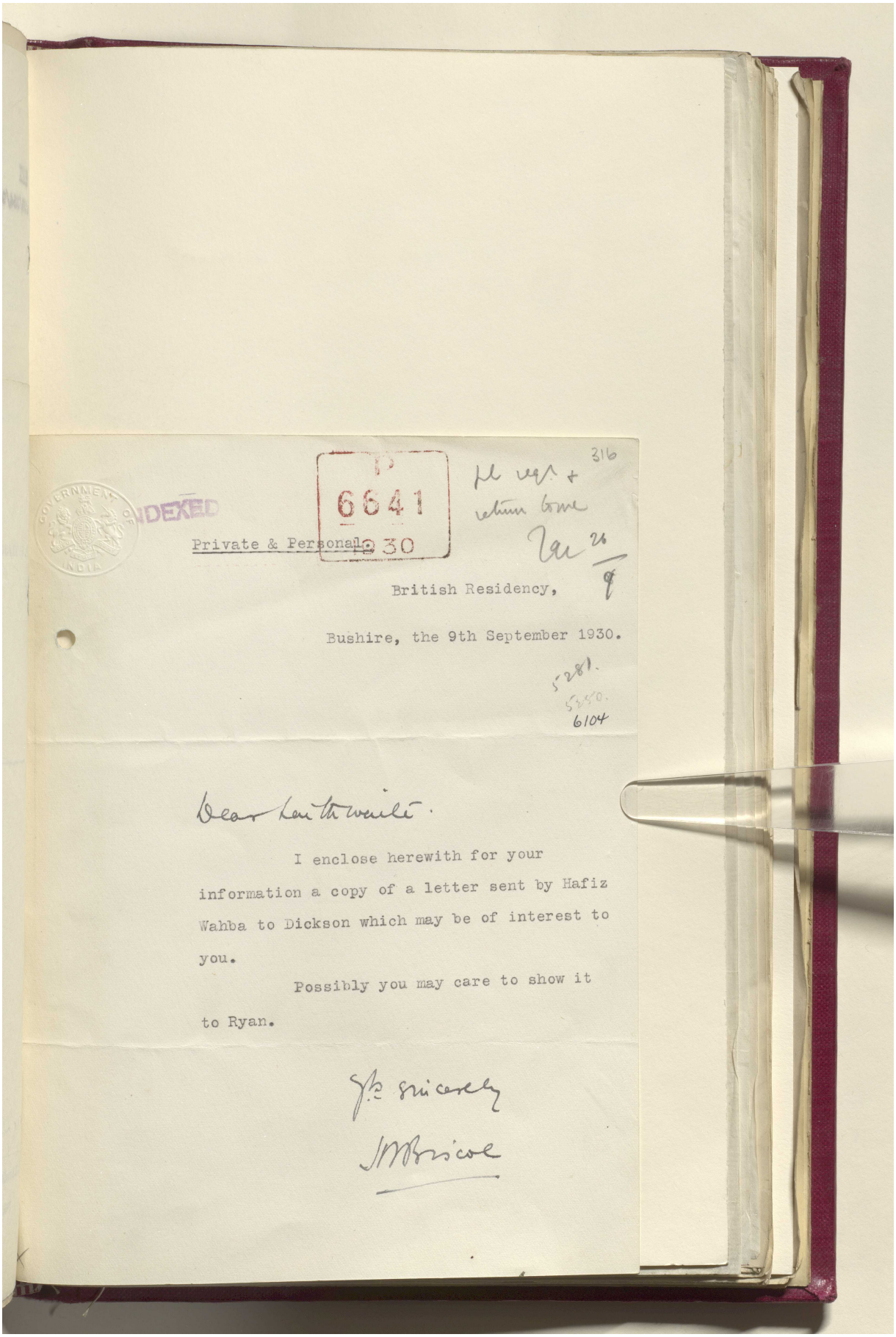

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

INDEXED

P
6641
1930

pl reg. + return to me
Jac 26/9

Private & Personal.

British Residency,

Bushire, the 9th September 1930.

5281.
5350.
6104

Dear Lenthwaite.

I enclose herewith for your information a copy of a letter sent by Hafiz Wahba to Dickson which may be of interest to you.

Possibly you may care to show it to Ryan.

Yrs sincerely

J M Biscoe

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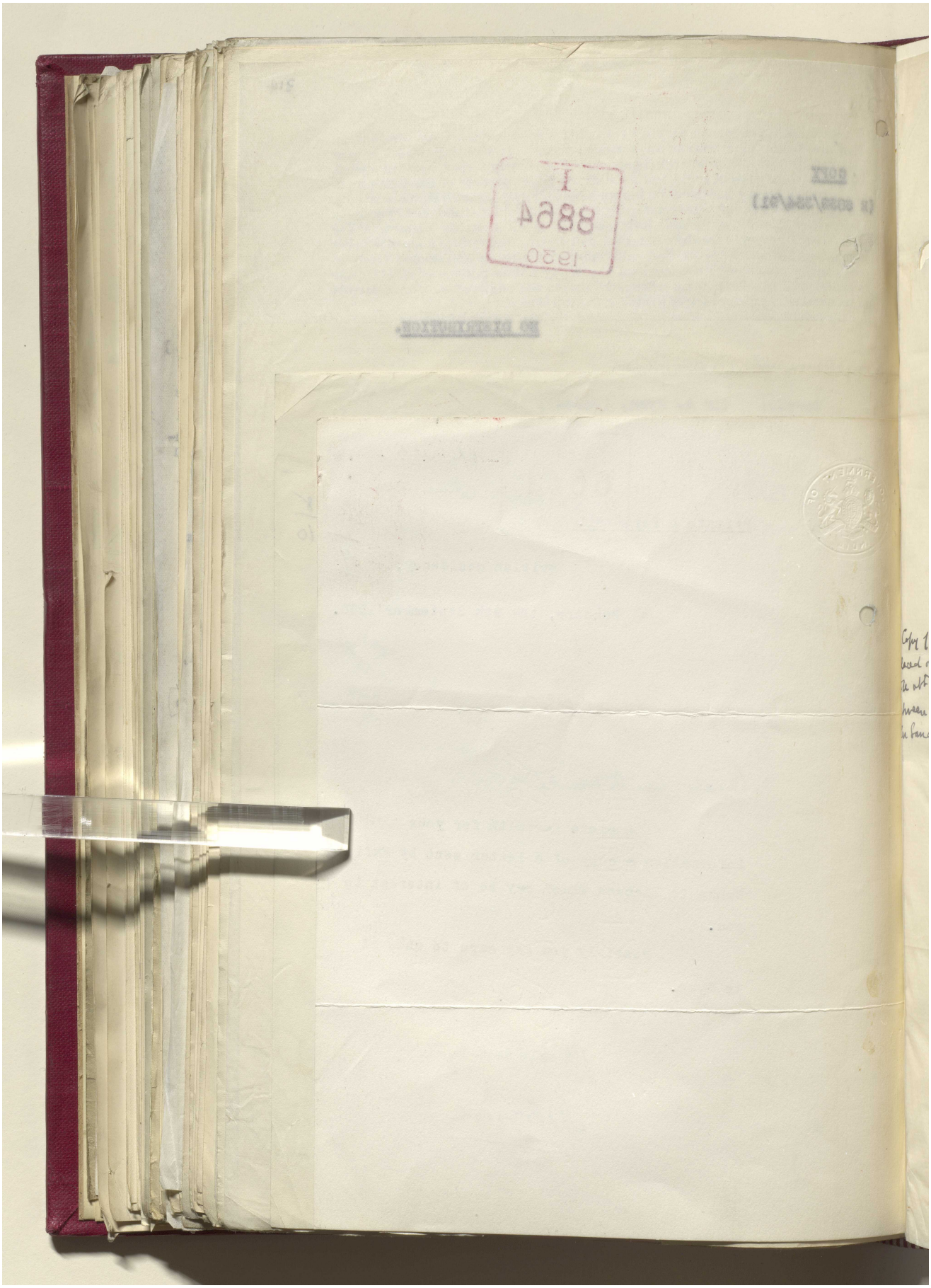

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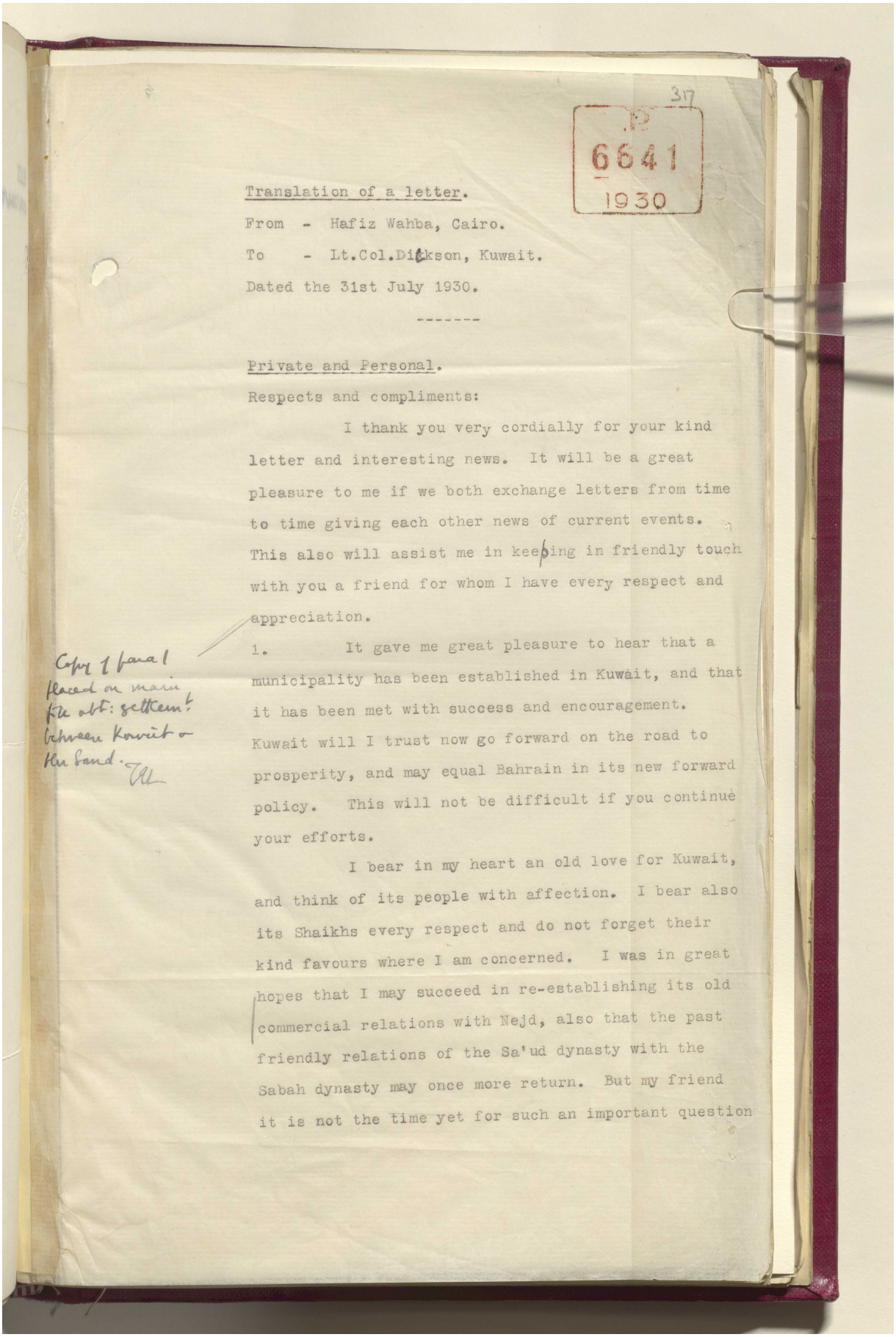

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P
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1930

Translation of a letter.

From - Hafiz Wahba, Cairo.

To - Lt.Col.Dickson, Kuwait.

Dated the 31st July 1930.

Private and Personal.

Respects and compliments:

I thank you very cordially for your kind letter and interesting news. It will be a great pleasure to me if we both exchange letters from time to time giving each other news of current events. This also will assist me in keeping in friendly touch with you a friend for whom I have every respect and appreciation.

1. It gave me great pleasure to hear that a municipality has been established in Kuwait, and that it has been met with success and encouragement. Kuwait will I trust now go forward on the road to prosperity, and may equal Bahrain in its new forward policy. This will not be difficult if you continue your efforts.

I bear in my heart an old love for Kuwait, and think of its people with affection. I bear also its Shaikhs every respect and do not forget their kind favours where I am concerned. I was in great hopes that I may succeed in re-establishing its old commercial relations with Nejd, also that the past friendly relations of the Sa'ud dynasty with the Sabah dynasty may once more return. But my friend it is not the time yet for such an important question

Copy 1 final placed on main file abt: settlement between Kuwait & Hinterland.

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P.
6641
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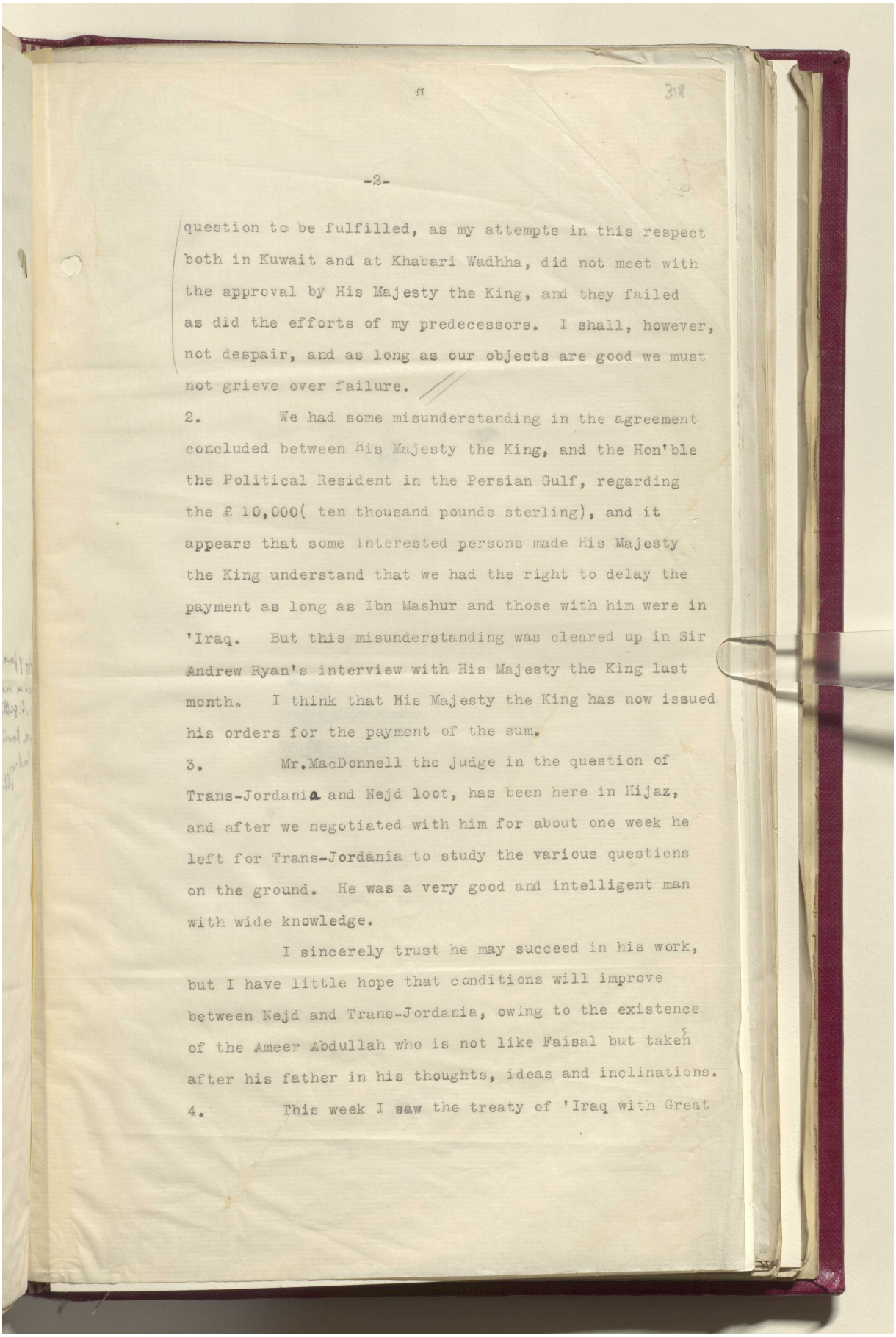

question to be fulfilled, as my attempts in this respect both in Kuwait and at Khabari Wadhha, did not meet with the approval by His Majesty the King, and they failed as did the efforts of my predecessors. I shall, however, not despair, and as long as our objects are good we must not grieve over failure.

2. We had some misunderstanding in the agreement concluded between His Majesty the King, and the Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, regarding the £ 10,000(ten thousand pounds sterling), and it appears that some interested persons made His Majesty the King understand that we had the right to delay the payment as long as Ibn Mashur and those with him were in 'Iraq. But this misunderstanding was cleared up in Sir Andrew Ryan's interview with His Majesty the King last month. I think that His Majesty the King has now issued his orders for the payment of the sum.

3. Mr.MacDonnell the judge in the question of Trans-Jordania and Nejd loot, has been here in Hijaz, and after we negotiated with him for about one week he left for Trans-Jordania to study the various questions on the ground. He was a very good and intelligent man with wide knowledge.

I sincerely trust he may succeed in his work, but I have little hope that conditions will improve between Nejd and Trans-Jordania, owing to the existence of the Ameer Abdullah who is not like Faisal but taken after his father in his thoughts, ideas and inclinations.

4. This week I saw the treaty of 'Iraq with Great

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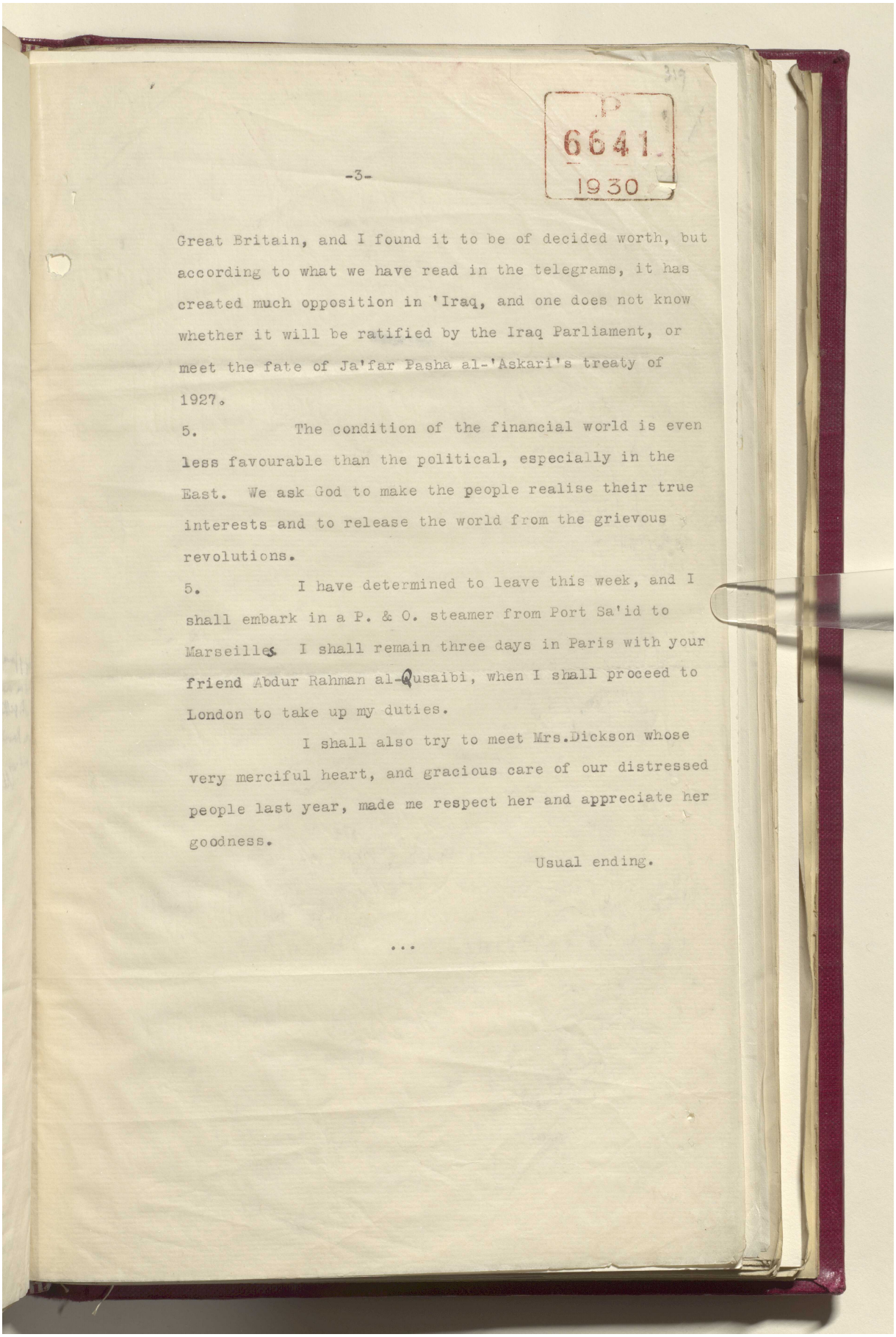

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1930

Great Britain, and I found it to be of decided worth, but according to what we have read in the telegrams, it has created much opposition in 'Iraq, and one does not know whether it will be ratified by the Iraq Parliament, or meet the fate of Ja'far Pasha al-'Askari's treaty of 1927.

5. The condition of the financial world is even less favourable than the political, especially in the East. We ask God to make the people realise their true interests and to release the world from the grievous revolutions.

5. I have determined to leave this week, and I shall embark in a P. & O. steamer from Port Sa'id to Marseilles. I shall remain three days in Paris with your friend Abdur Rahman al-Qusaibi, when I shall proceed to London to take up my duties.

I shall also try to meet Mrs.Dickson whose very merciful heart, and gracious care of our distressed people last year, made me respect her and appreciate her goodness.

Usual ending.

...

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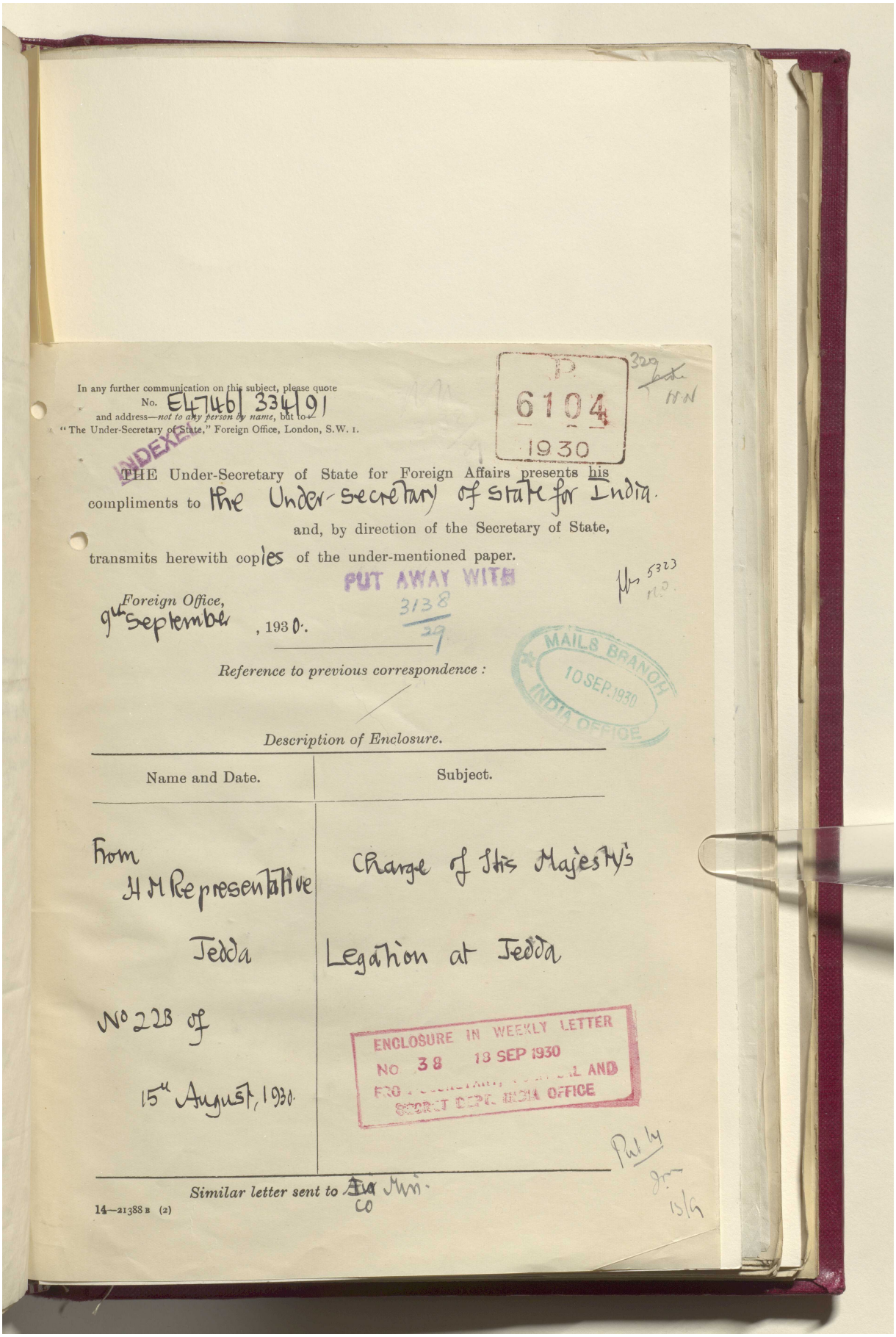

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E4746/33491/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P 6104 1930

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INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-secretary of state for India.

and, by direction of the Secretary of State,

transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

PUT AWAY WITH 3138/29

5323 P.O.

Foreign Office,
9th September, 1930.

MAILS BRANCH 10 SEP 1930 INDIA OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From H M Representative Jedda No 228 of 15th August, 1930.	Charge of His Majesty's Legation at Jedda

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER NO 38 18 SEP 1930 FROM ... AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Put by

Similar letter sent to ~~For~~ Min. CO

14—21388 B (2)

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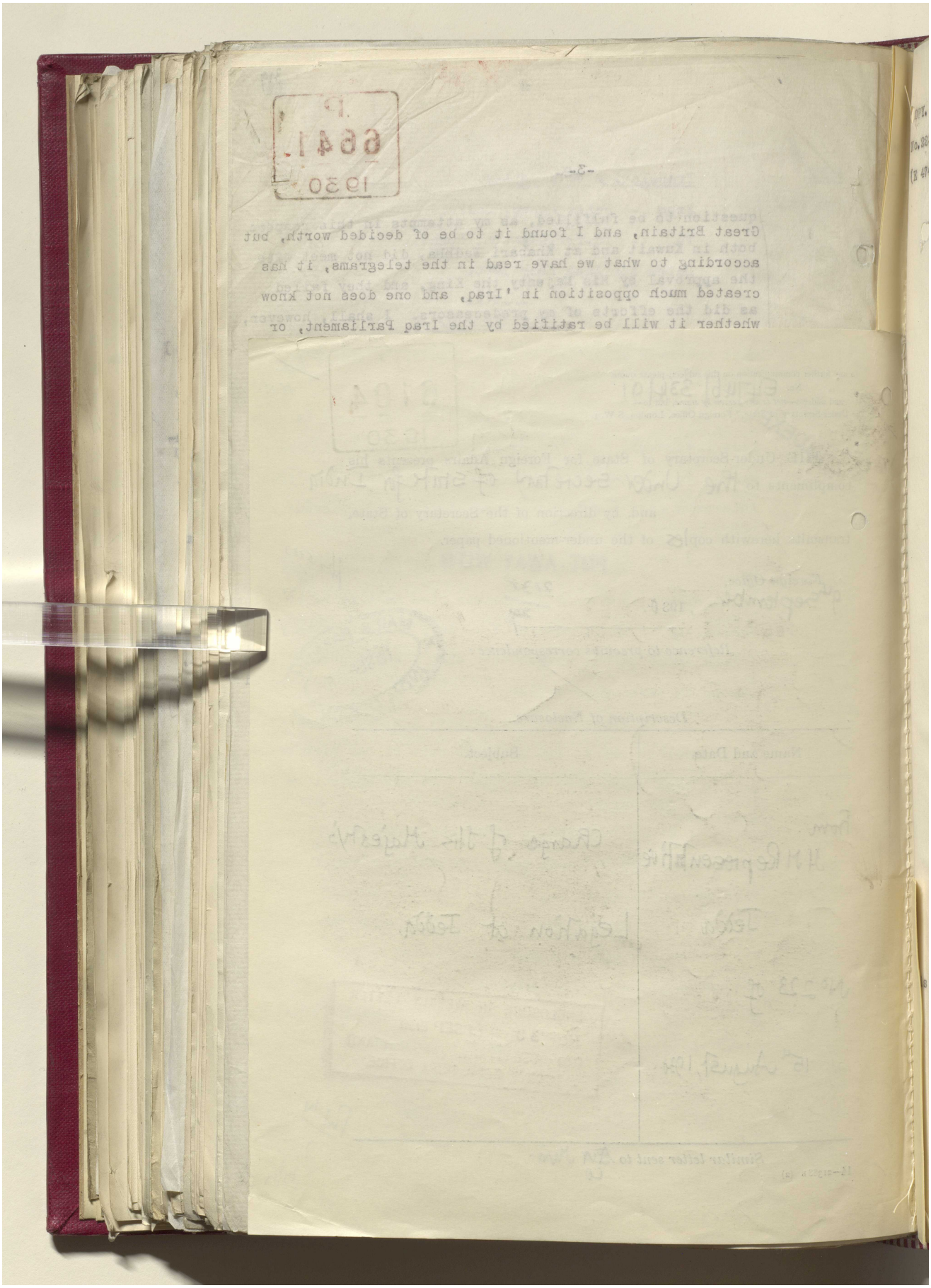

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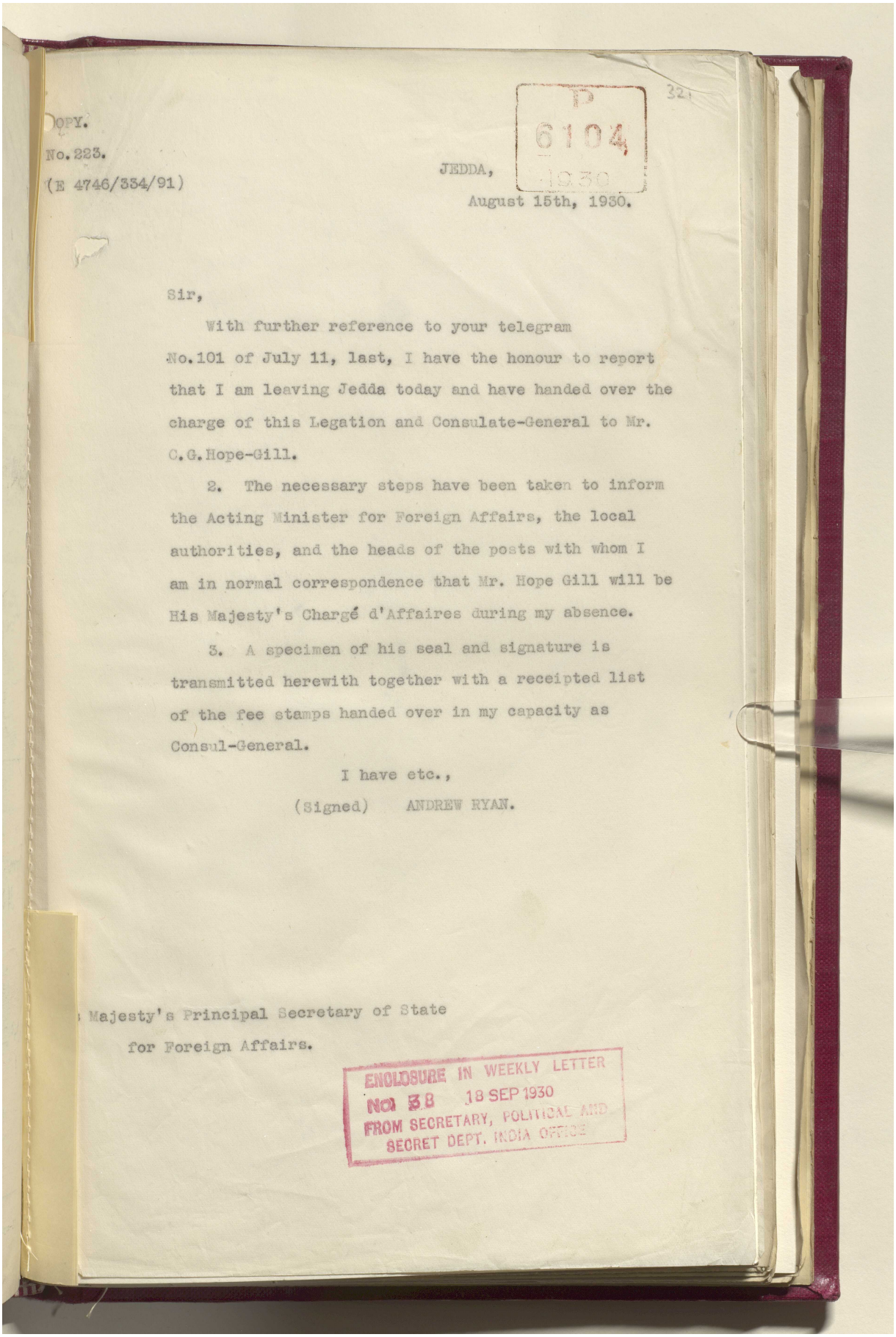

OPY.

No. 223.

(E 4746/334/91)

JEDDA,
August 15th, 1930.

P 6104 1930

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Sir,

With further reference to your telegram No.101 of July 11, last, I have the honour to report that I am leaving Jedda today and have handed over the charge of this Legation and Consulate-General to Mr. C.G.Hope-Gill.

2. The necessary steps have been taken to inform the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, the local authorities, and the heads of the posts with whom I am in normal correspondence that Mr. Hope Gill will be His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires during my absence.

3. A specimen of his seal and signature is transmitted herewith together with a receipted list of the fee stamps handed over in my capacity as Consul-General.

I have etc.,

(Signed) ANDREW RYAN.

Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No 38 18 SEP 1930
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

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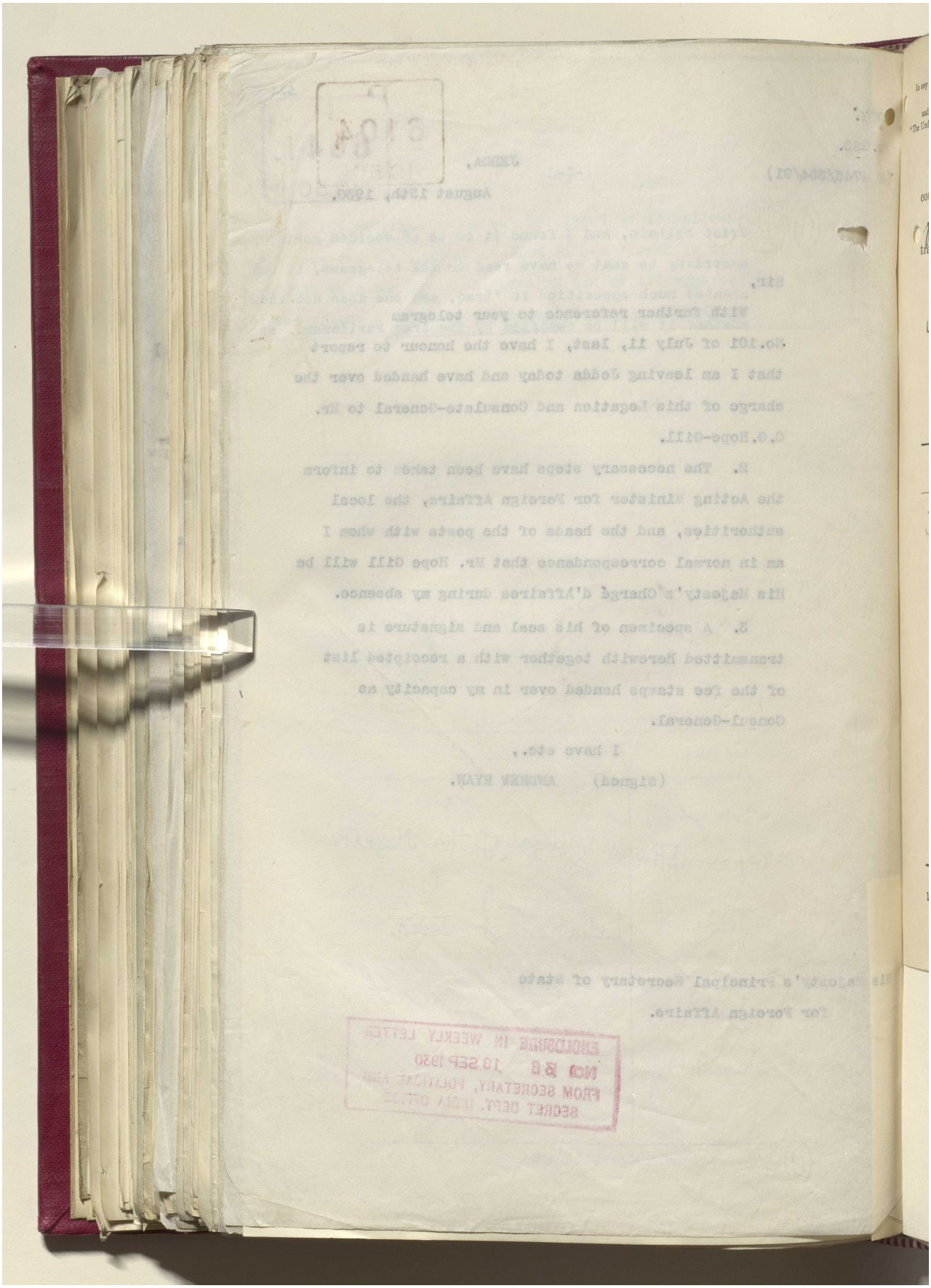

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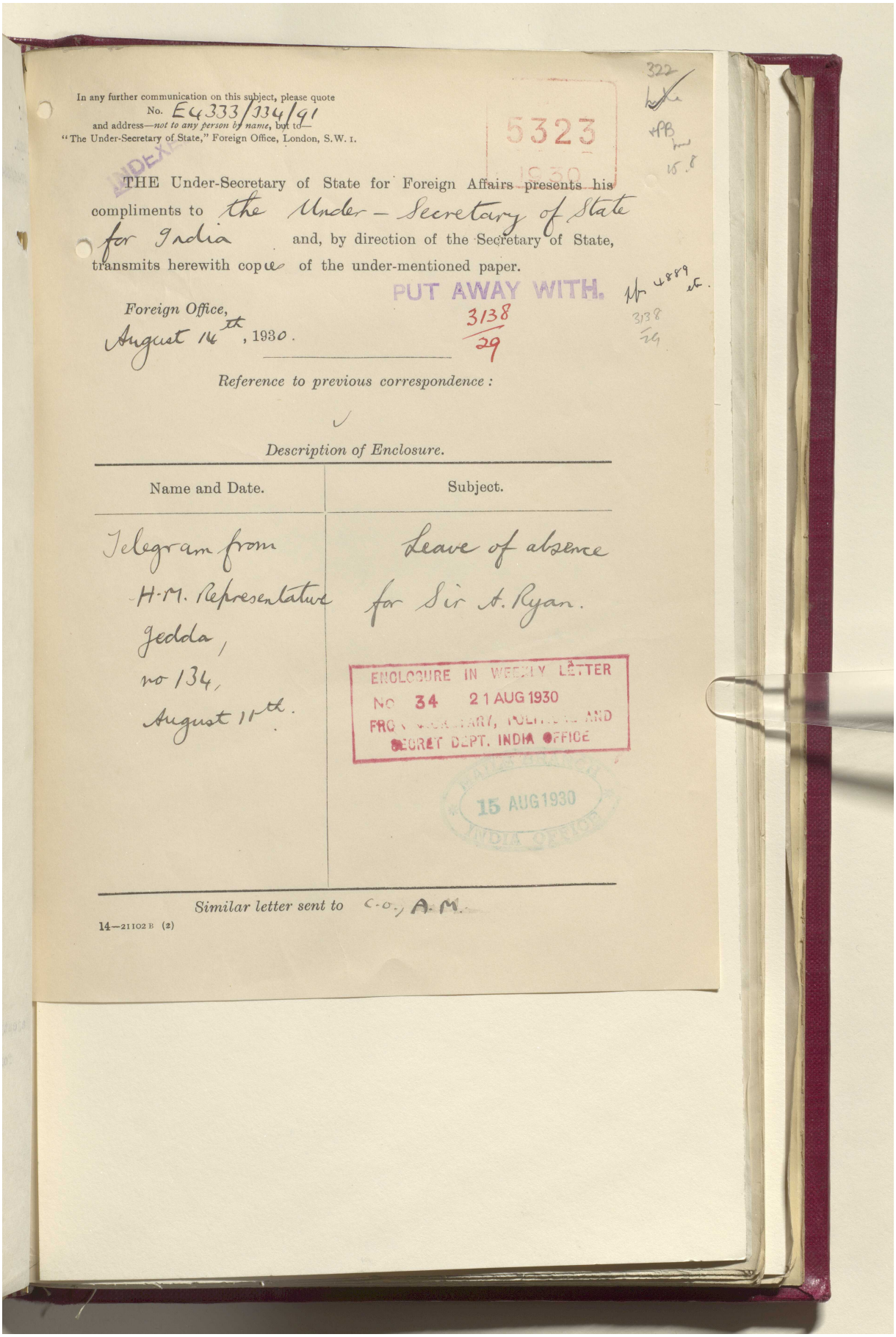

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 4333/334/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

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1930

INDEX

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

PUT AWAY WITH. 3138/29

Foreign Office,
August 14th, 1930.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Telegram from H.M. Representative Jedda, no 134, August 11th.	Leave of absence for Sir A. Ryan.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No 34 21 AUG 1930
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

15 AUG 1930
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O., A.M.

14—21102 B (2)

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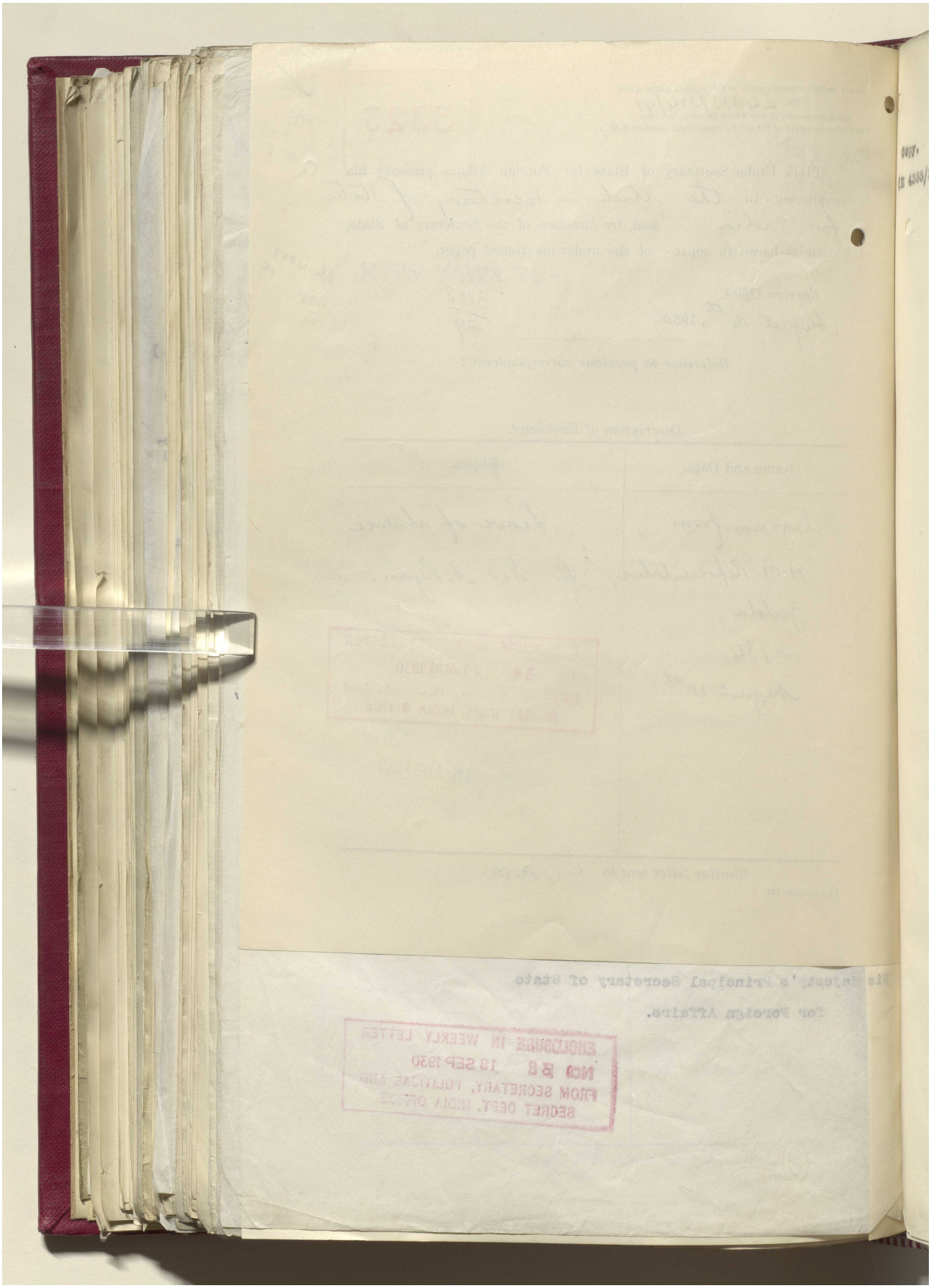

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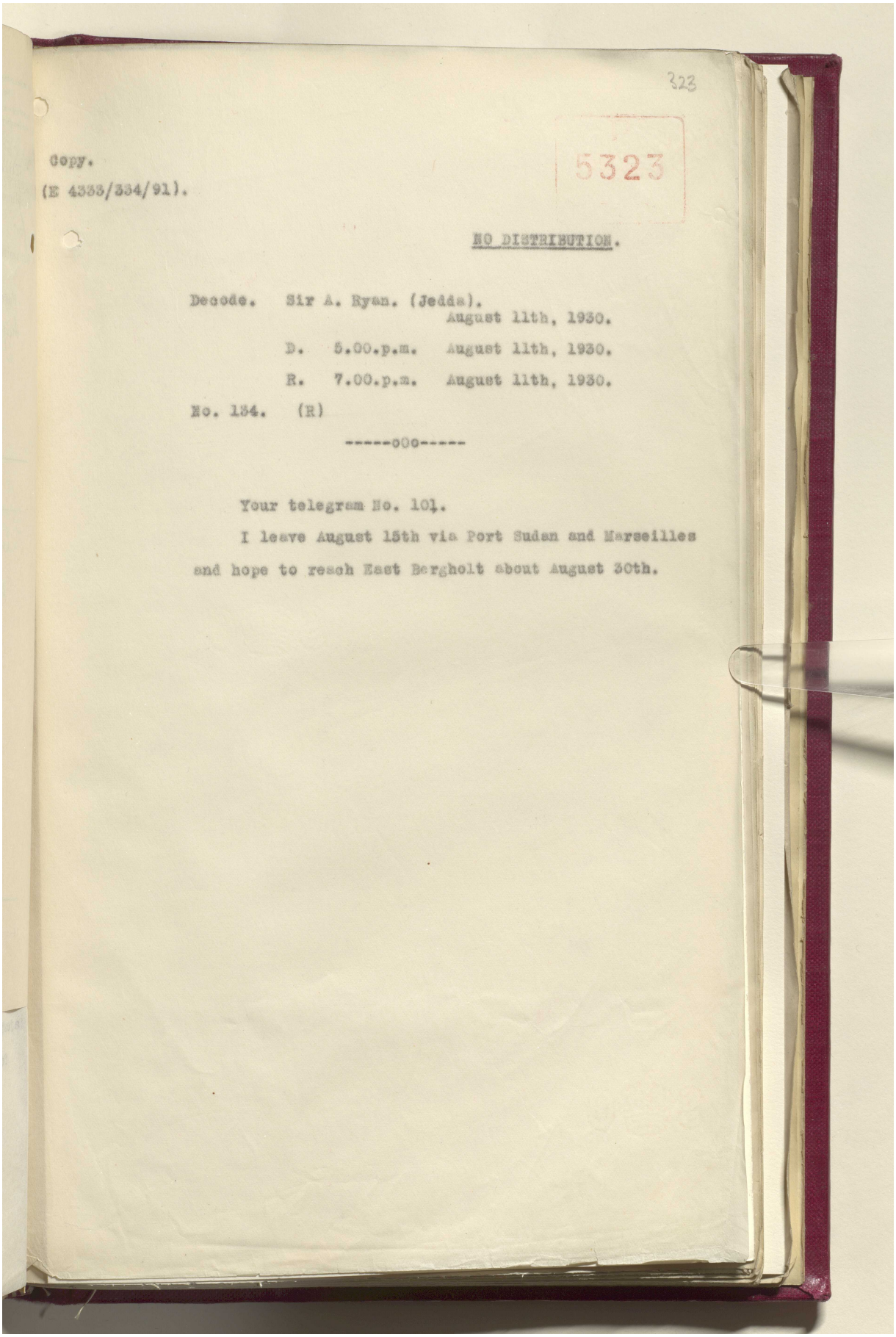


323

Copy.
(E 4333/334/91).

5323

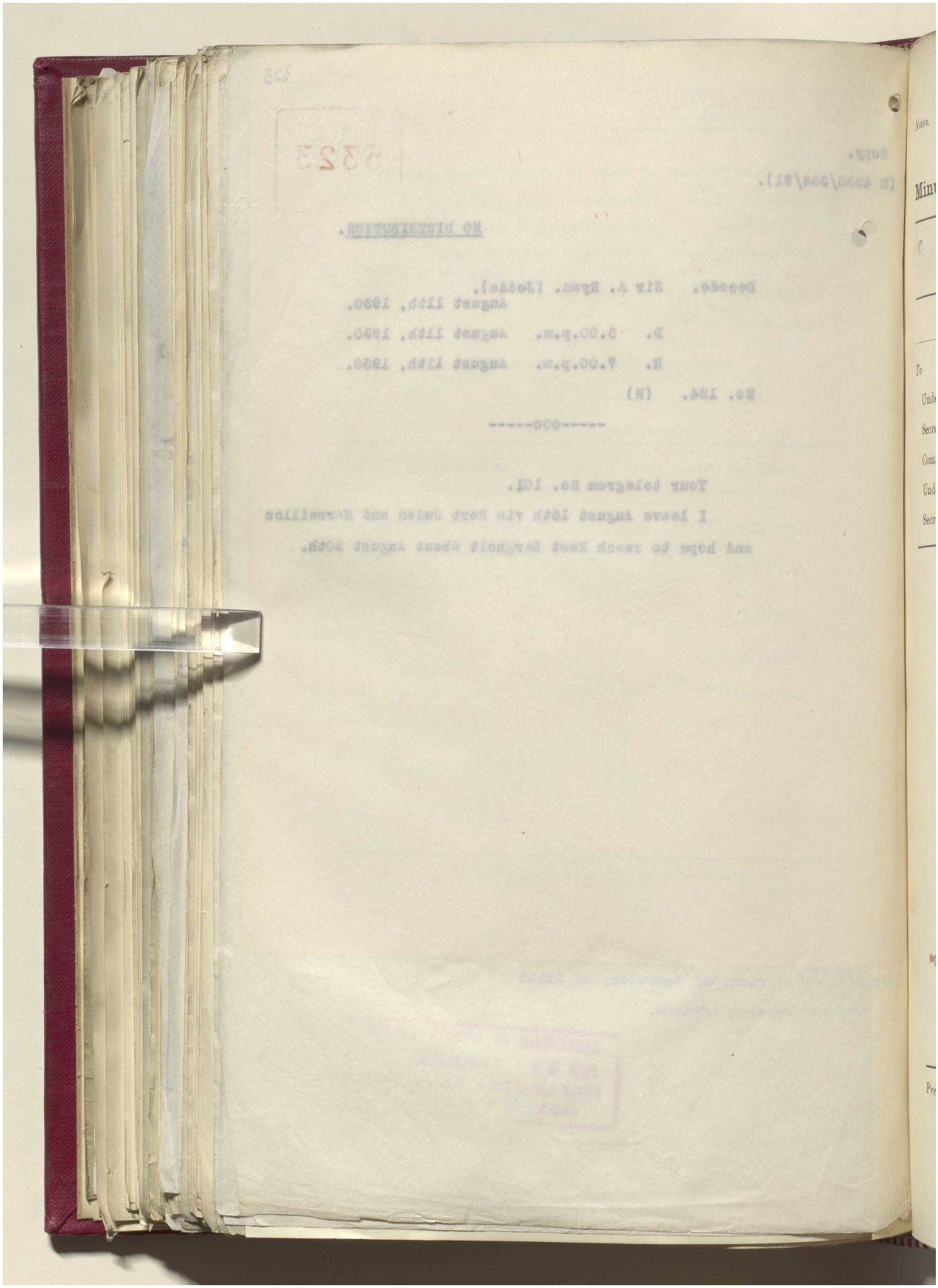
NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir A. Ryan. (Jedda).
August 11th, 1930.
D. 5.00.p.m. August 11th, 1930.
R. 7.00.p.m. August 11th, 1930.
No. 134. (R)

-----ooo-----

Your telegram No. 101.

I leave August 15th via Port Sudan and Marseilles and hope to reach East Bergholt about August 30th.



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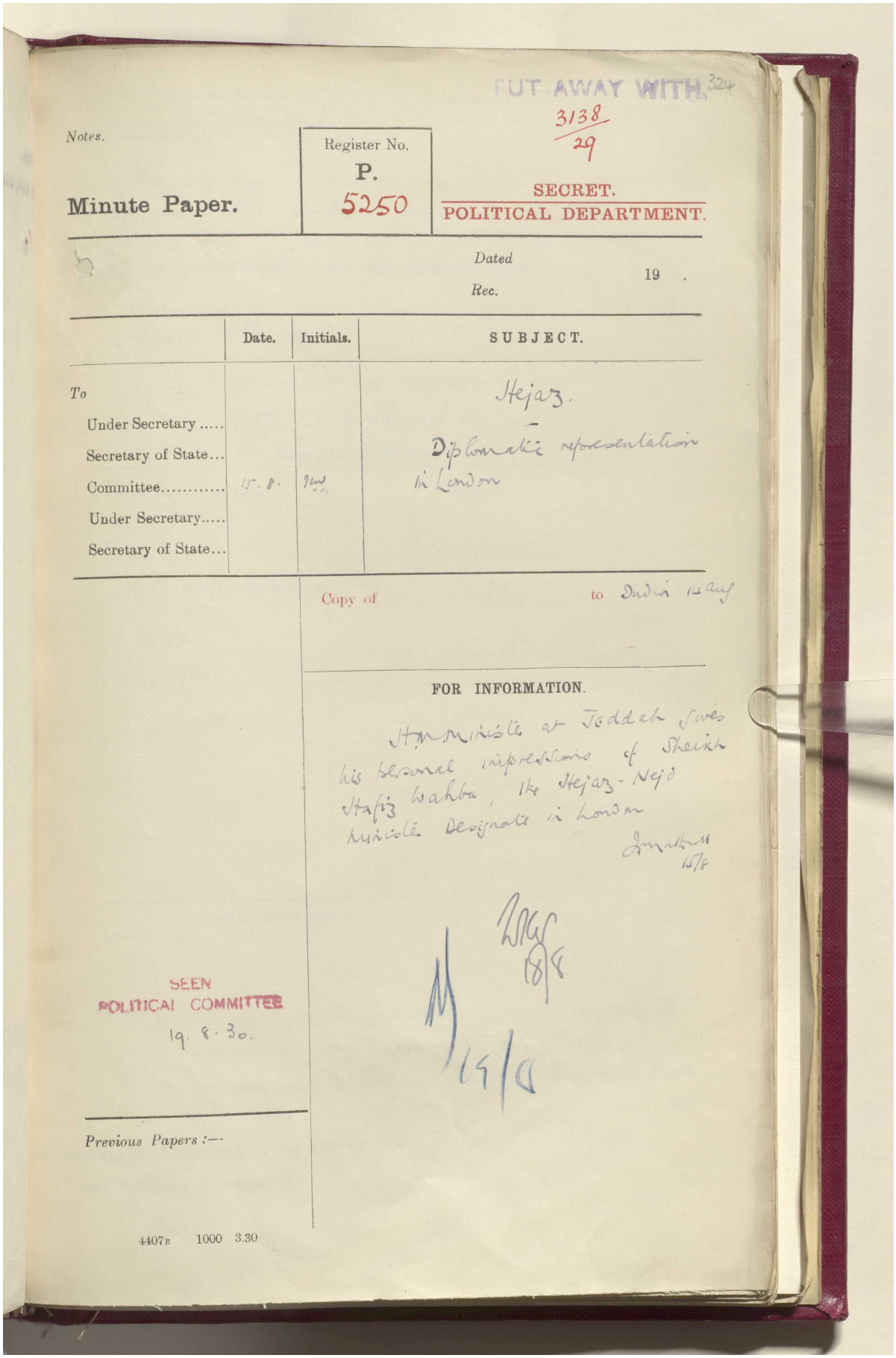

PUT AWAY WITH 324
3138/29

Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P. 5250

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 19 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz.
Under Secretary			Diplomatic representation in London
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	15.8.	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to India 13 Aug

FOR INFORMATION.

H.M. Minister at Jeddah gives his personal impressions of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, the Hejaz-Nejd Minister Designate in London

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
19.8.30.

Previous Papers :—

4407B 1000 3.30

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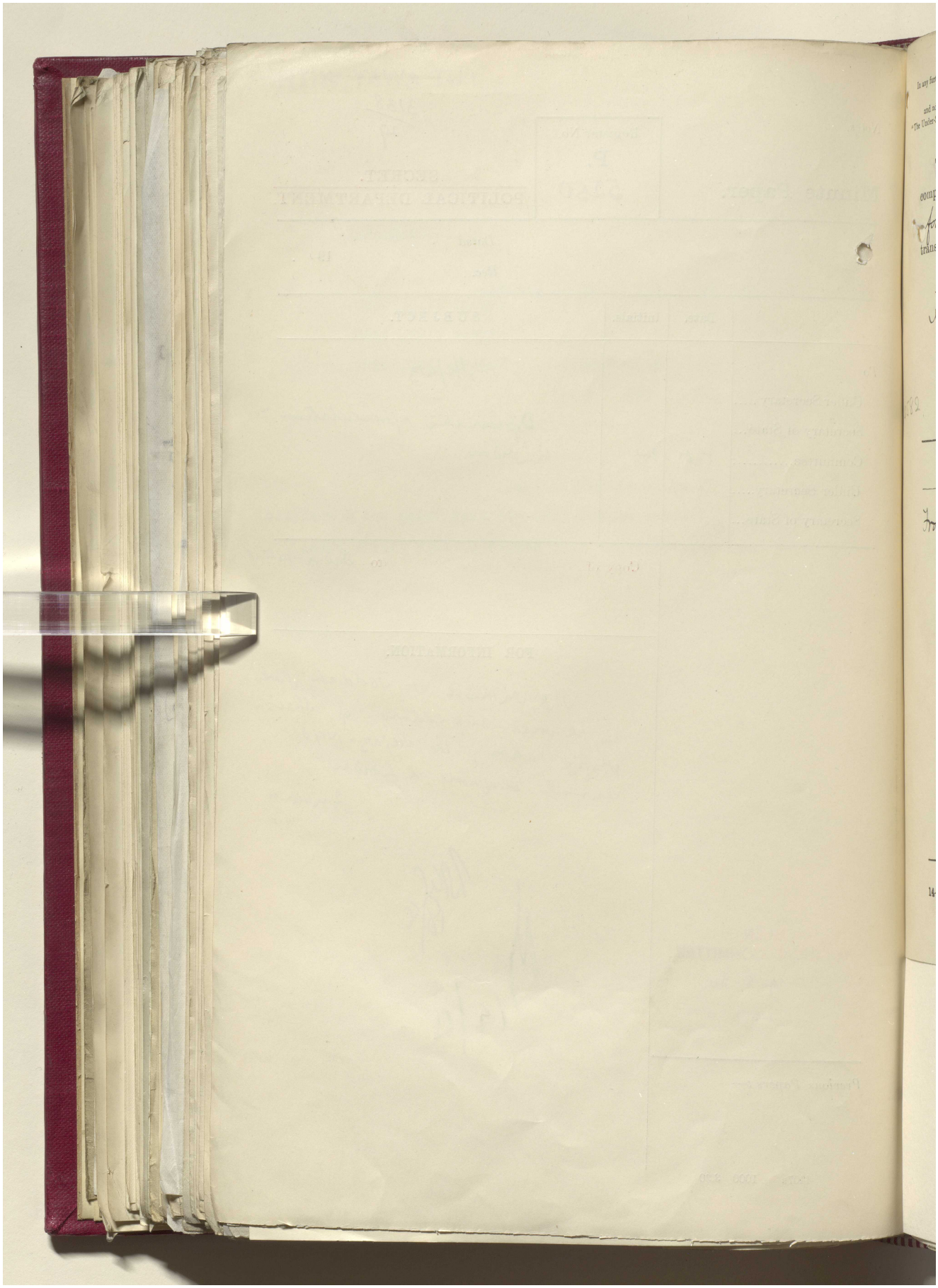

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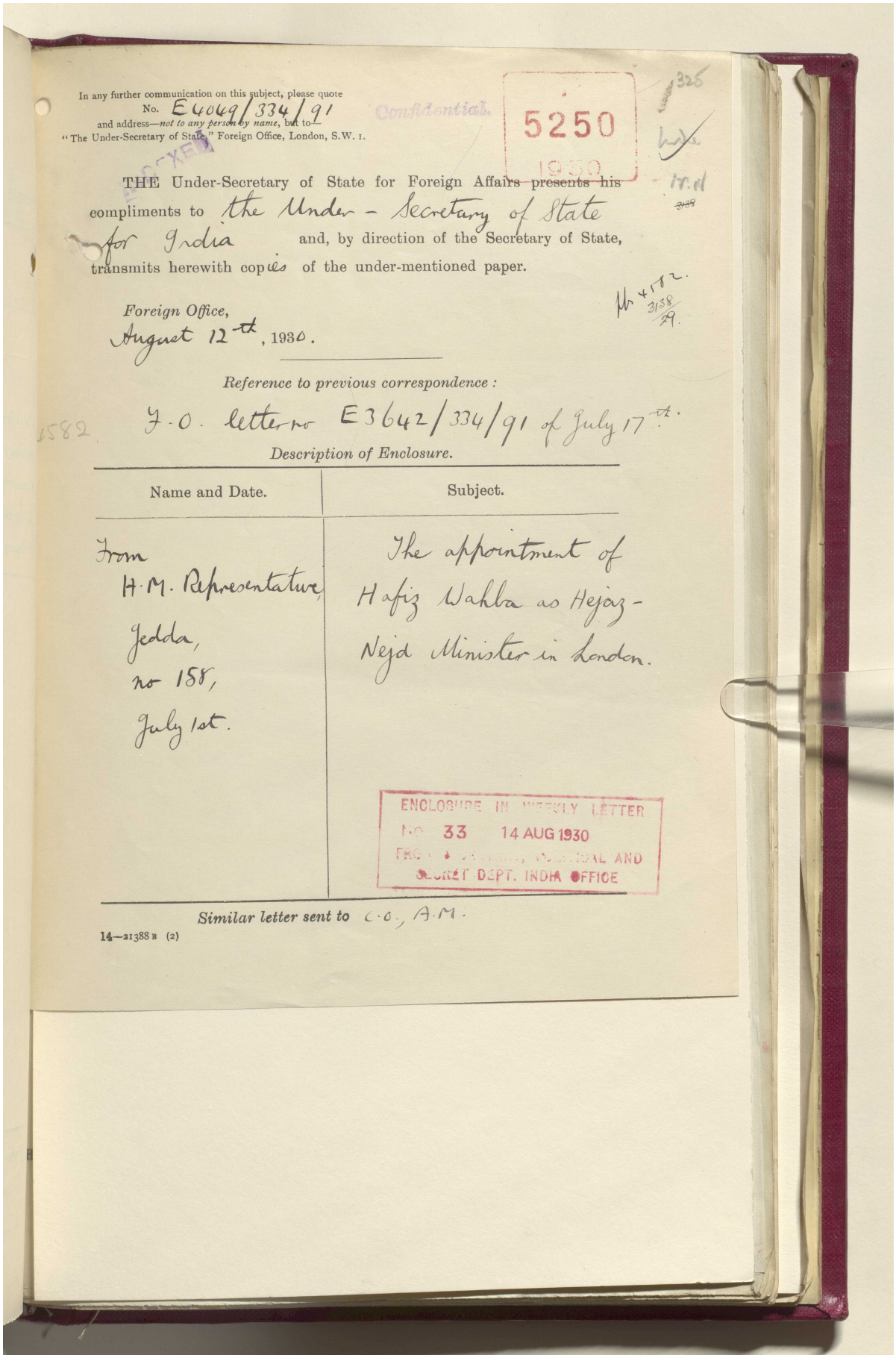

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 4069/334/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

Confidential.

5250
1930

325

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
August 12th, 1930.

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. letter no E 3642/334/91 of July 17th.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From H.M. Representative, Jedda, no 158, July 1st.	The appointment of Hafiz Wahba as Hejaz-Nejd Minister in London.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 33 14 AUG 1930
FROM POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O., A.M.

14—21388 B (2)

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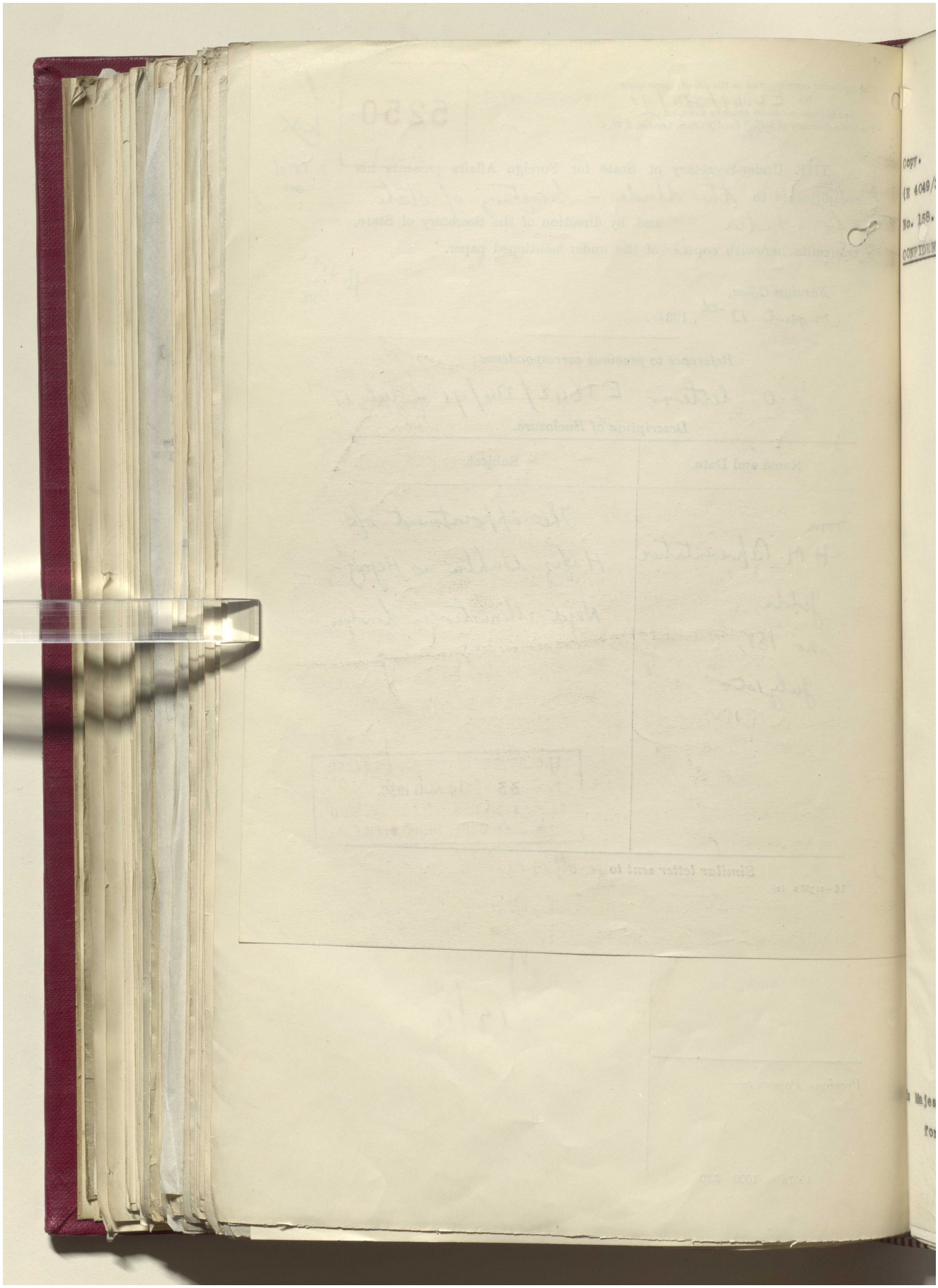

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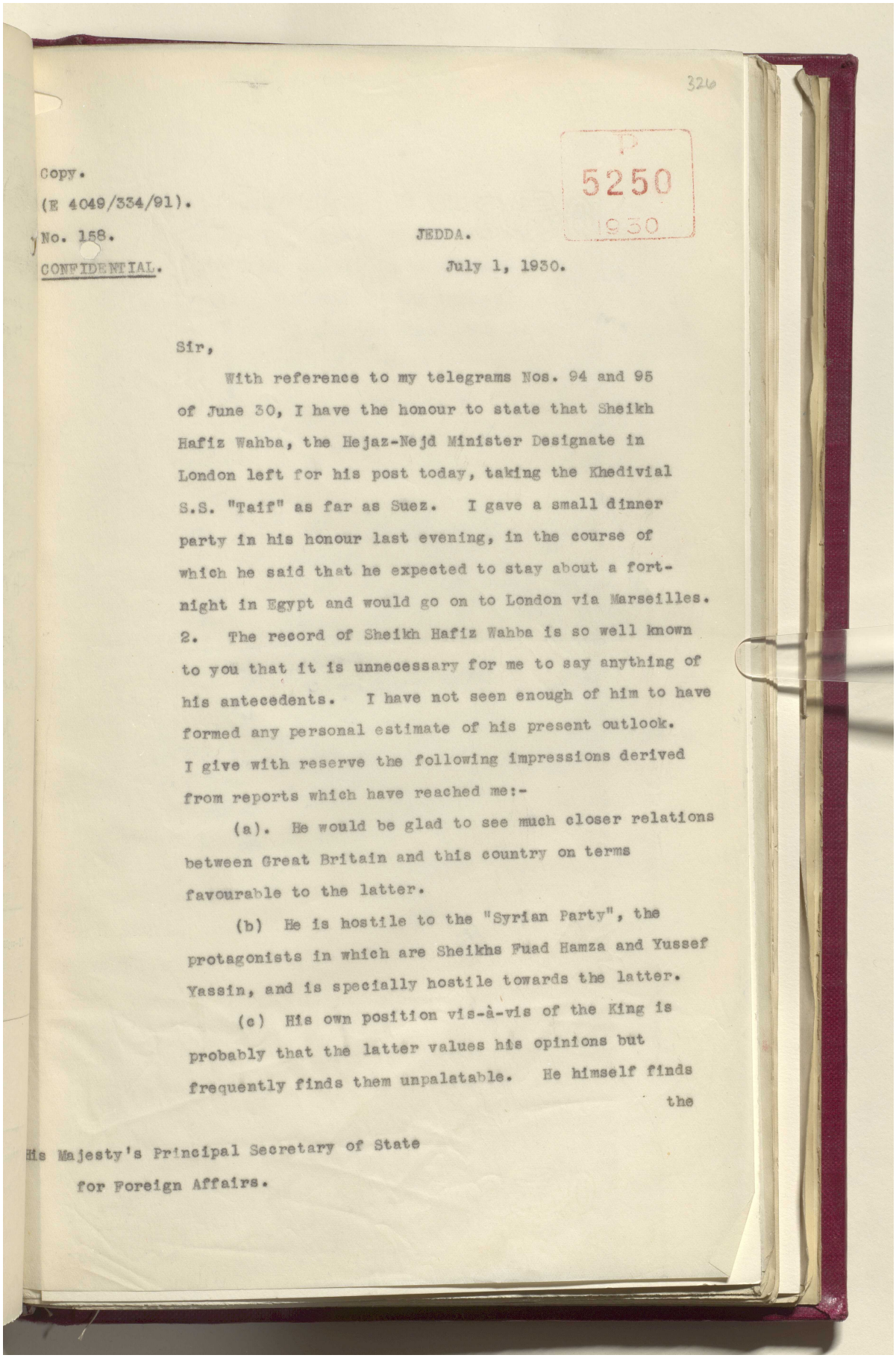

326

P
5250
1930

Copy.
(E 4049/334/91).
No. 158. JEDDA.
CONFIDENTIAL. July 1, 1930.

Sir,

With reference to my telegrams Nos. 94 and 95 of June 30, I have the honour to state that Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, the Hejaz-Nejd Minister Designate in London left for his post today, taking the Khedivial S.S. "Taif" as far as Suez. I gave a small dinner party in his honour last evening, in the course of which he said that he expected to stay about a fortnight in Egypt and would go on to London via Marseilles.

2. The record of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba is so well known to you that it is unnecessary for me to say anything of his antecedents. I have not seen enough of him to have formed any personal estimate of his present outlook. I give with reserve the following impressions derived from reports which have reached me:-

(a). He would be glad to see much closer relations between Great Britain and this country on terms favourable to the latter.

(b) He is hostile to the "Syrian Party", the protagonists in which are Sheikhs Fuad Hamza and Yussef Yassin, and is specially hostile towards the latter.

(c) His own position vis-à-vis of the King is probably that the latter values his opinions but frequently finds them unpalatable. He himself finds the

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

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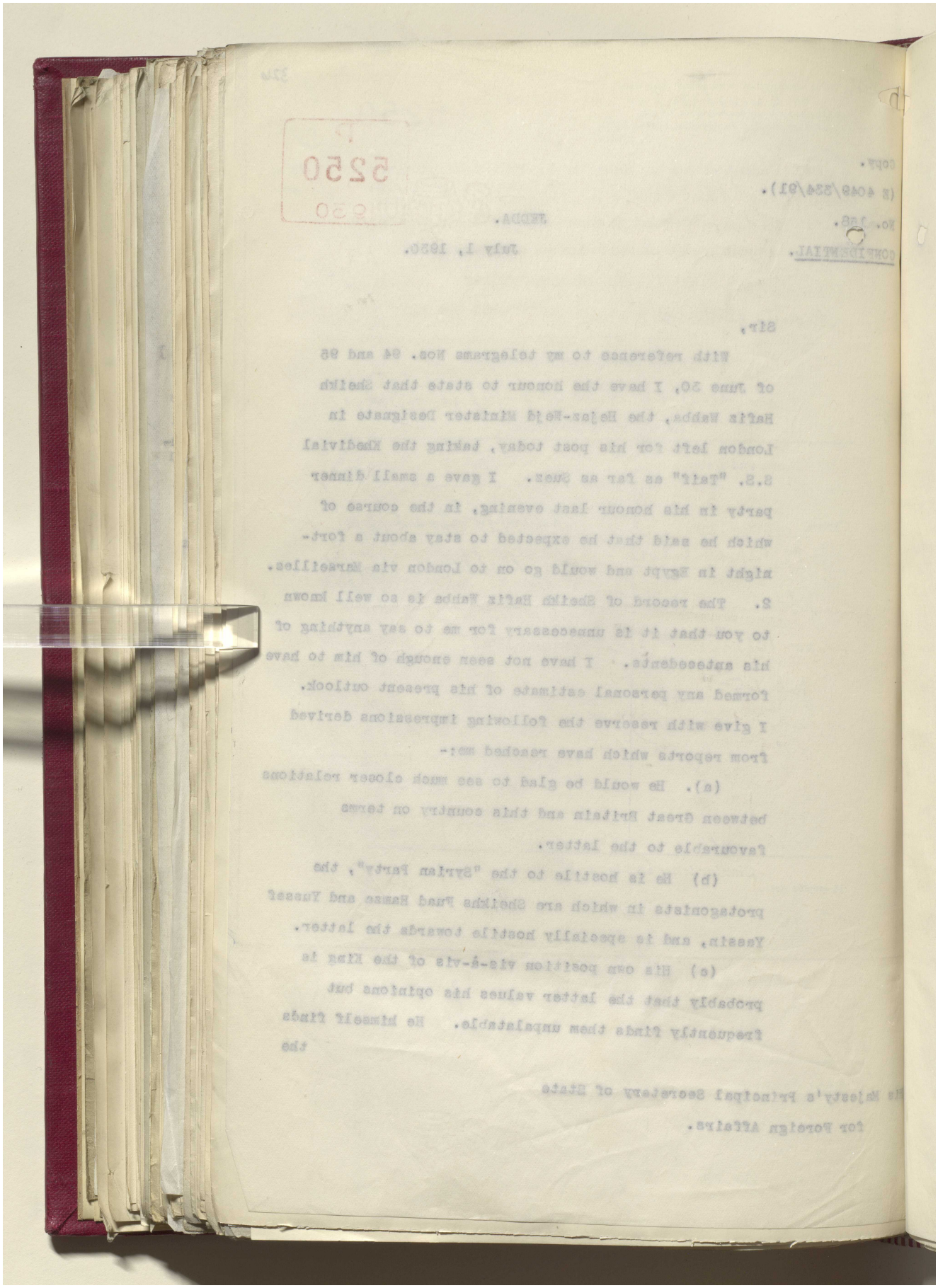

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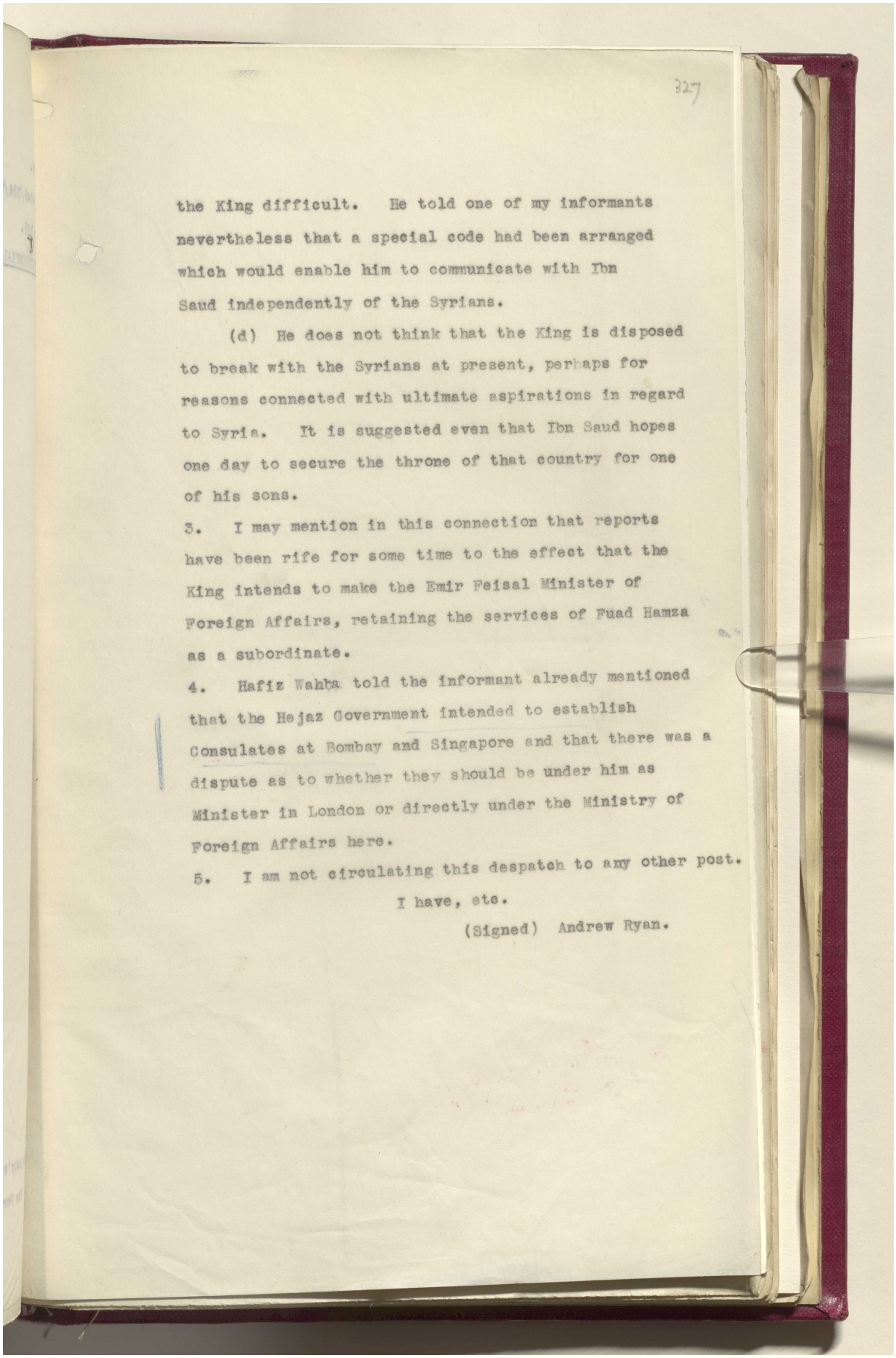

the King difficult. He told one of my informants nevertheless that a special code had been arranged which would enable him to communicate with Ibn Saud independently of the Syrians.

(d) He does not think that the King is disposed to break with the Syrians at present, perhaps for reasons connected with ultimate aspirations in regard to Syria. It is suggested even that Ibn Saud hopes one day to secure the throne of that country for one of his sons.

3. I may mention in this connection that reports have been rife for some time to the effect that the King intends to make the Emir Feisal Minister of Foreign Affairs, retaining the services of Fuad Hamza as a subordinate.

4. Hafiz Wahba told the informant already mentioned that the Hejaz Government intended to establish Consulates at Bombay and Singapore and that there was a dispute as to whether they should be under him as Minister in London or directly under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here.

5. I am not circulating this despatch to any other post.

I have, etc.

(Signed) Andrew Ryan.

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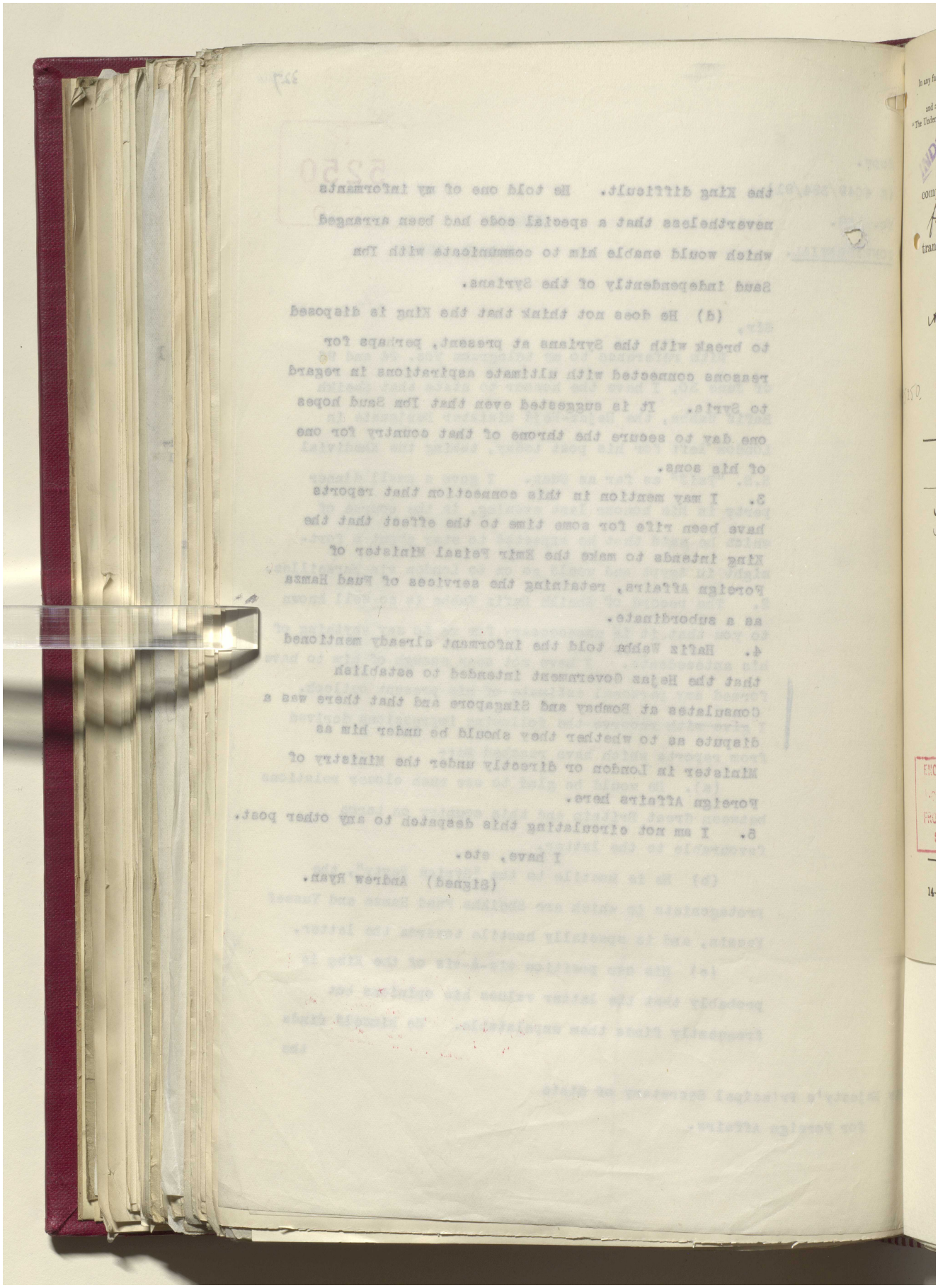

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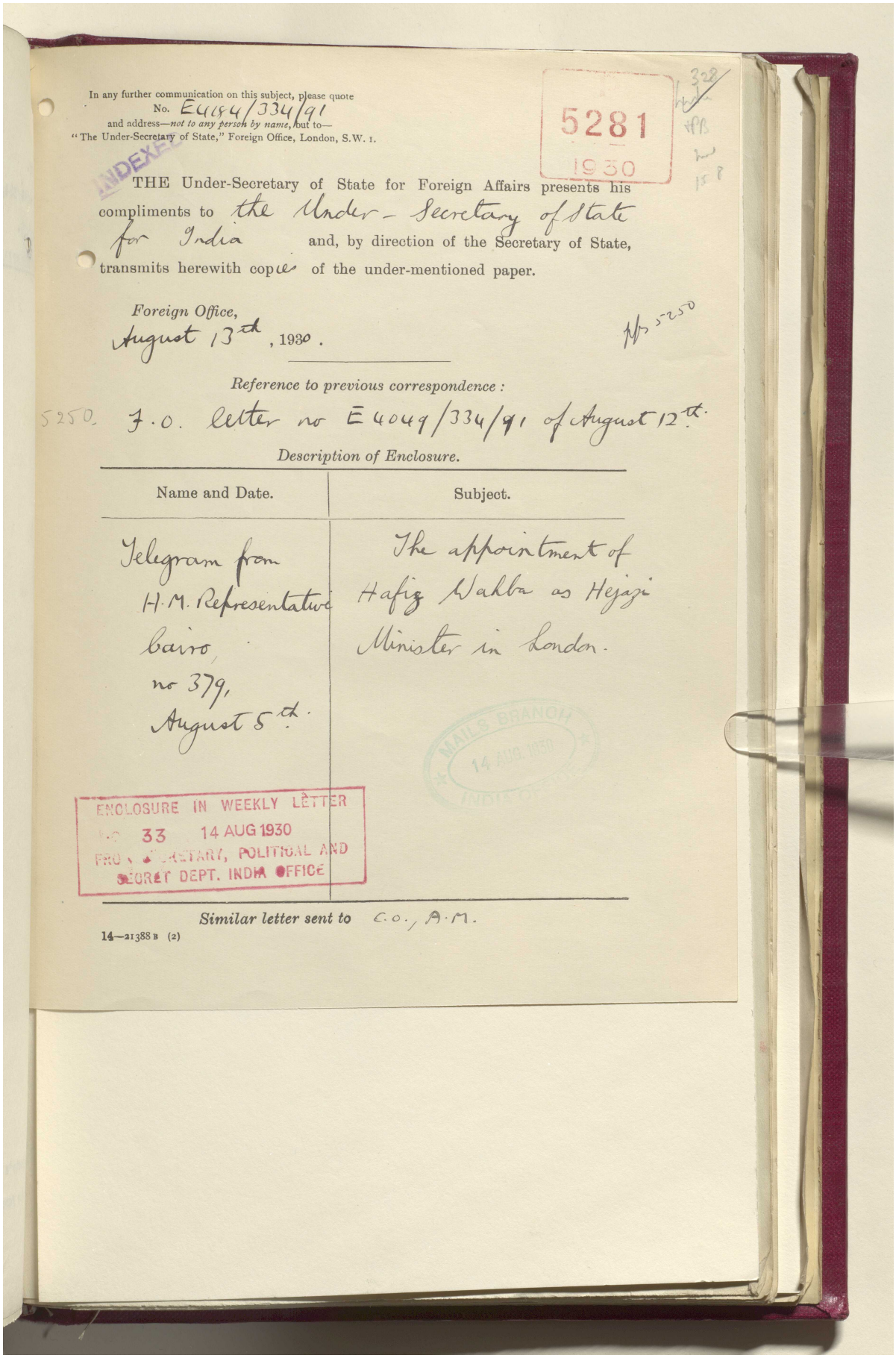

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

5281
1930

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INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
August 13th, 1930.

Reference to previous correspondence:
5250 F.O. letter no E4049/334/91 of August 12th.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Telegram from H.M. Representative Cairo, no 379, August 5th.	The appointment of Hafiz Wahba as Hejazi Minister in London.

MAILS BRANCH 14 AUG 1930 INDIA OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 33 14 AUG 1930
PRO... SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O., A.M.

14—21388 B (2)

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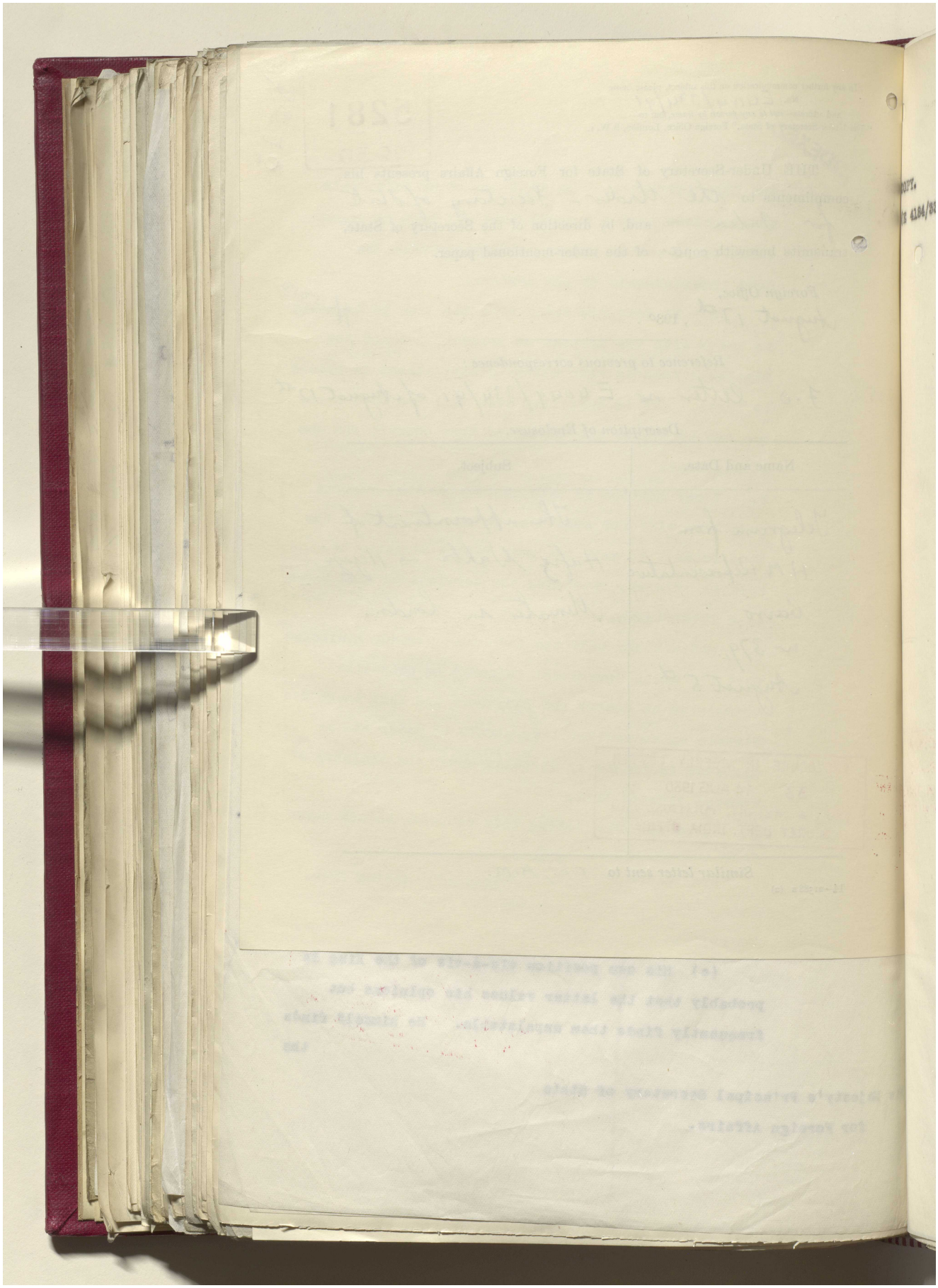

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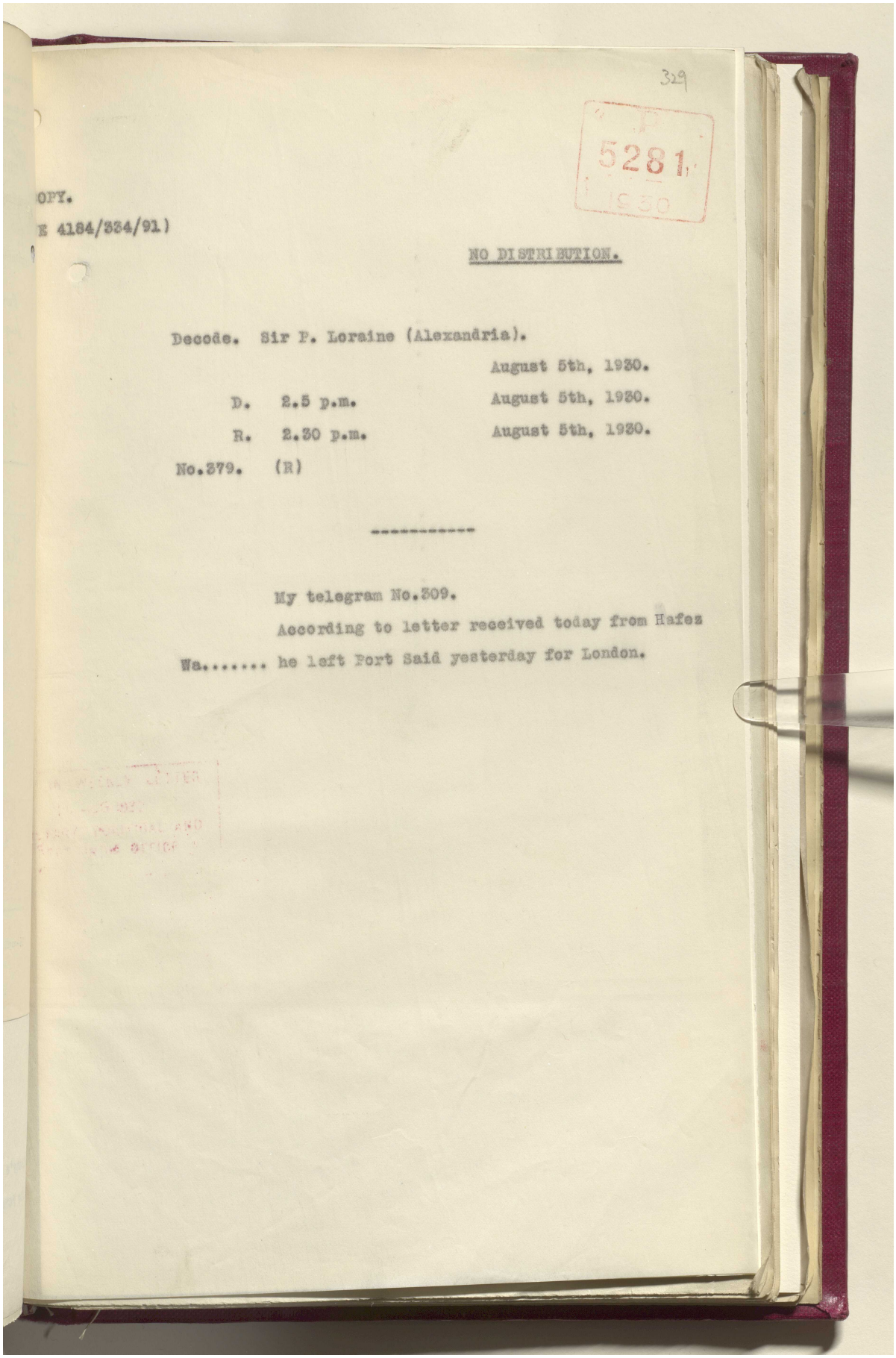

329

P 5281 1930

OPY.
E 4184/324/91)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir P. Loraine (Alexandria).

August 5th, 1930.

D. 2.5 p.m. August 5th, 1930.

R. 2.30 p.m. August 5th, 1930.

No.279. (R)

My telegram No.309.

According to letter received today from Hafez Wa..... he left Port Said yesterday for London.

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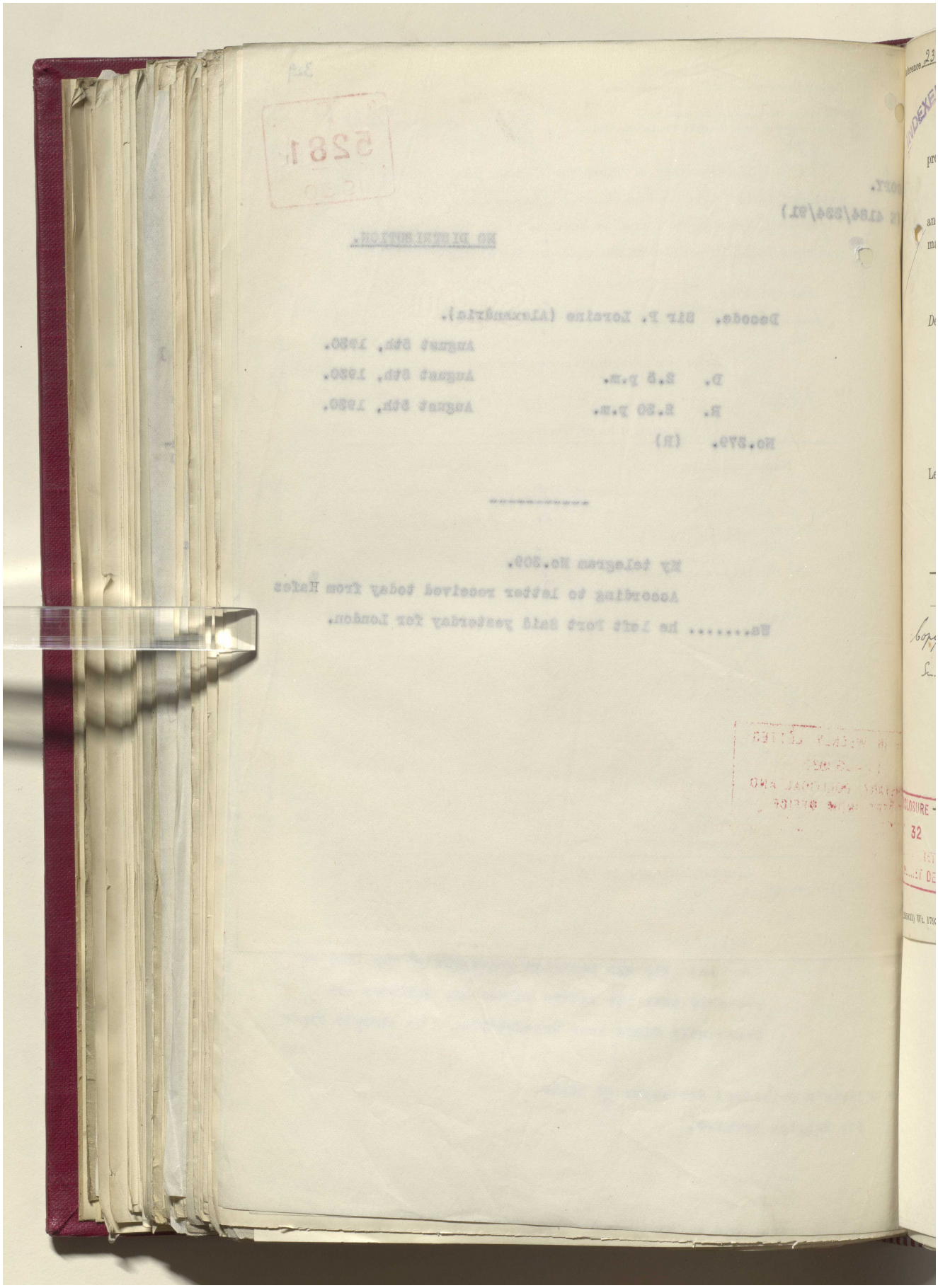

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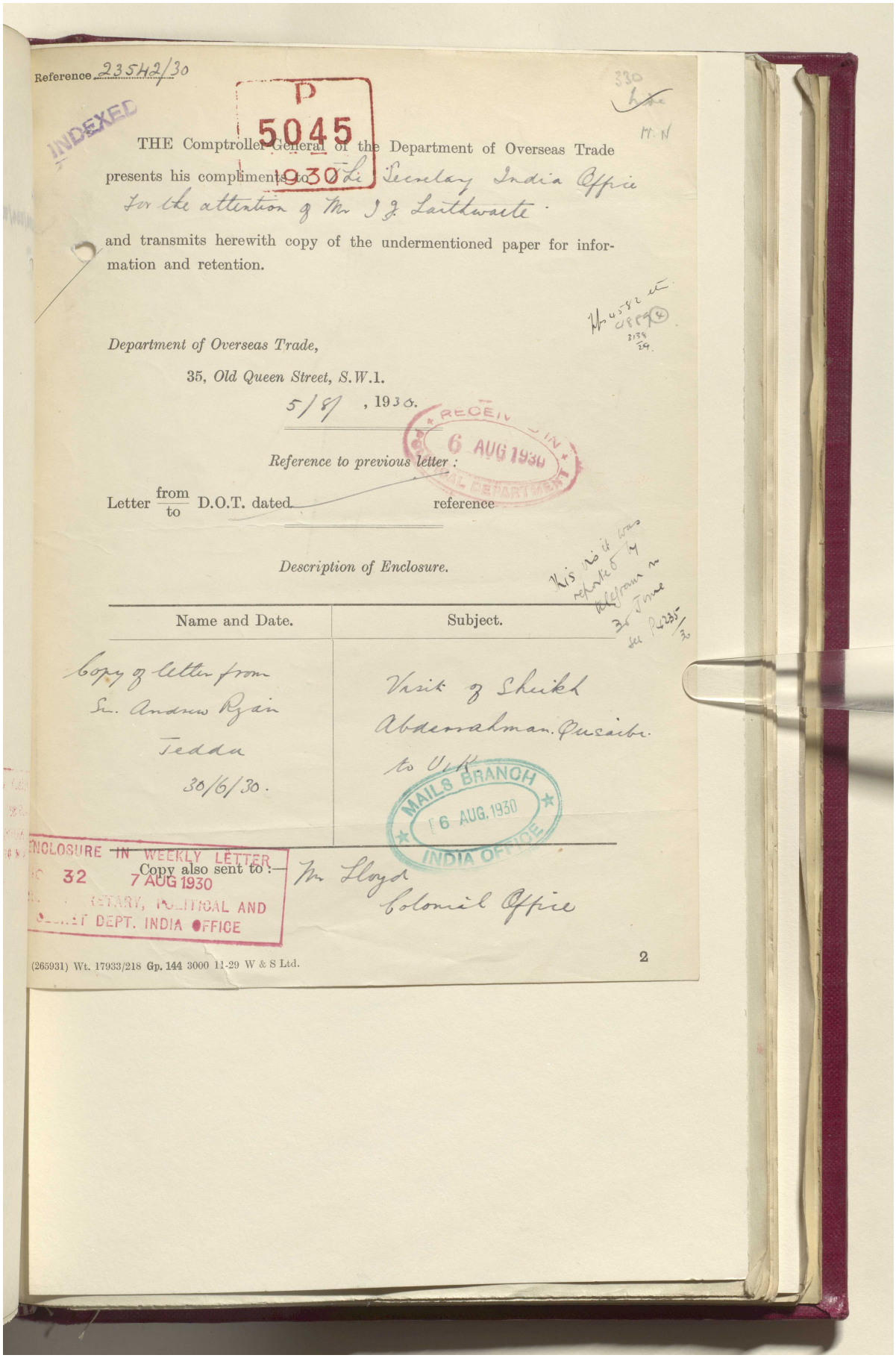

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Reference 23542/30

INDEXED

P 5045 1930

330

THE Comptroller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade presents his compliments to The Secretary India Office for the attention of Mr I. J. Laithwaite.

and transmits herewith copy of the undermentioned paper for information and retention.

Department of Overseas Trade,

35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

5/8/ , 1930.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 6 AUG 1930

Reference to previous letter :

Letter from/to D.O.T. dated reference

Description of Enclosure.

This is it was reported by telegram on 30 June see P4235/30

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter from Sir Andrew Ryan Jeddah 30/6/30.	Visit of Sheikh Abderrahman Qusaibi to U.K.

MAILS BRANCH 6 AUG. 1930 INDIA OFFICE

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER No 32 7 AUG 1930 SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Copy also sent to :— Mr Lloyd Colonial Office

(265931) Wt. 17933/218 Gp. 144 3000 11-29 W & S Ltd.

2

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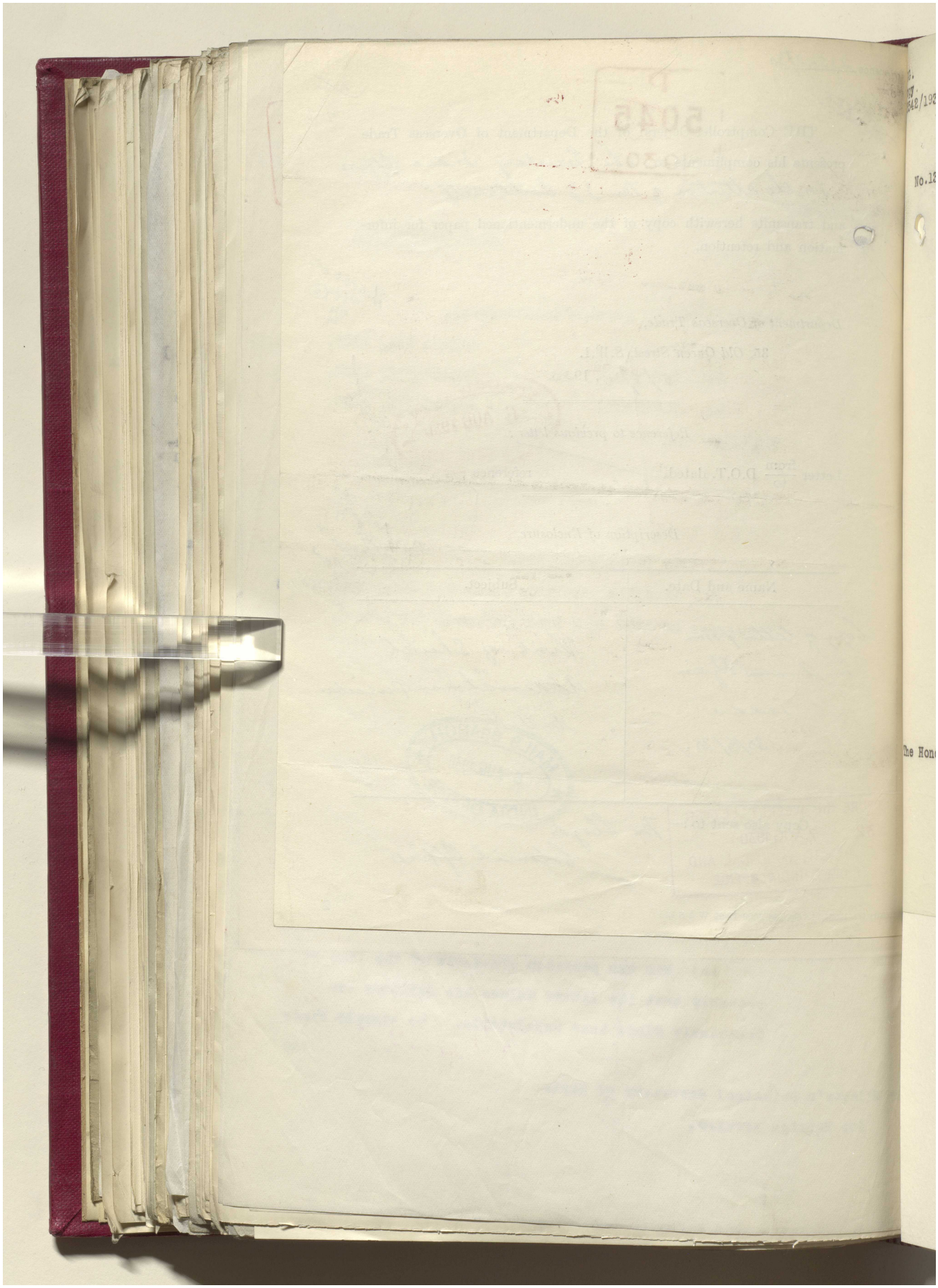

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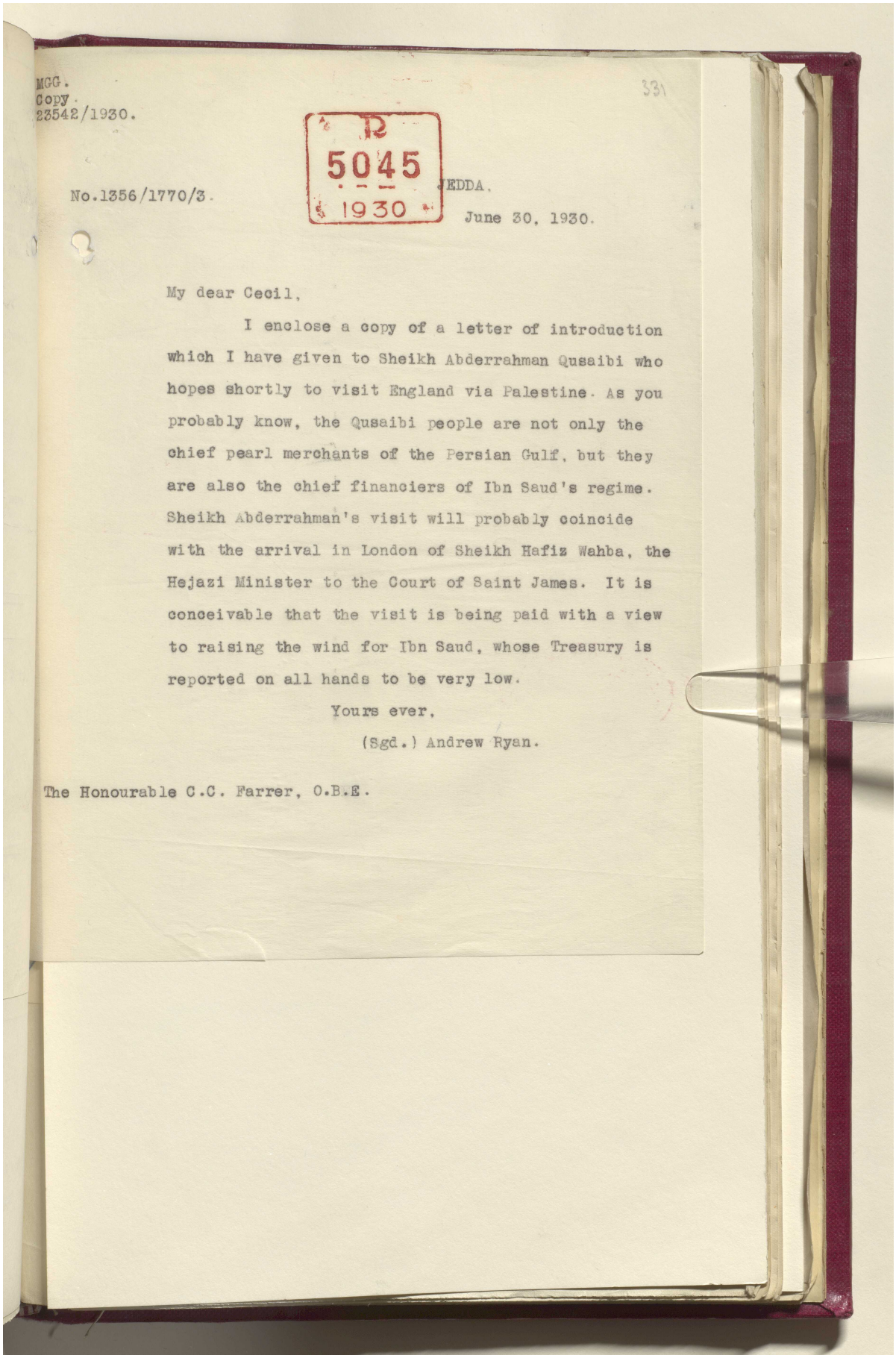

MGG.
Copy.
23542/1930.

331

R
5045
1930

No.1356/1770/3.

JEDDA.
June 30, 1930.

My dear Cecil,

I enclose a copy of a letter of introduction which I have given to Sheikh Abderrahman Qusaibi who hopes shortly to visit England via Palestine. As you probably know, the Qusaibi people are not only the chief pearl merchants of the Persian Gulf, but they are also the chief financiers of Ibn Saud's regime. Sheikh Abderrahman's visit will probably coincide with the arrival in London of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, the Hejazi Minister to the Court of Saint James. It is conceivable that the visit is being paid with a view to raising the wind for Ibn Saud, whose Treasury is reported on all hands to be very low.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) Andrew Ryan.

The Honourable C.C. Farrer, O.B.E.

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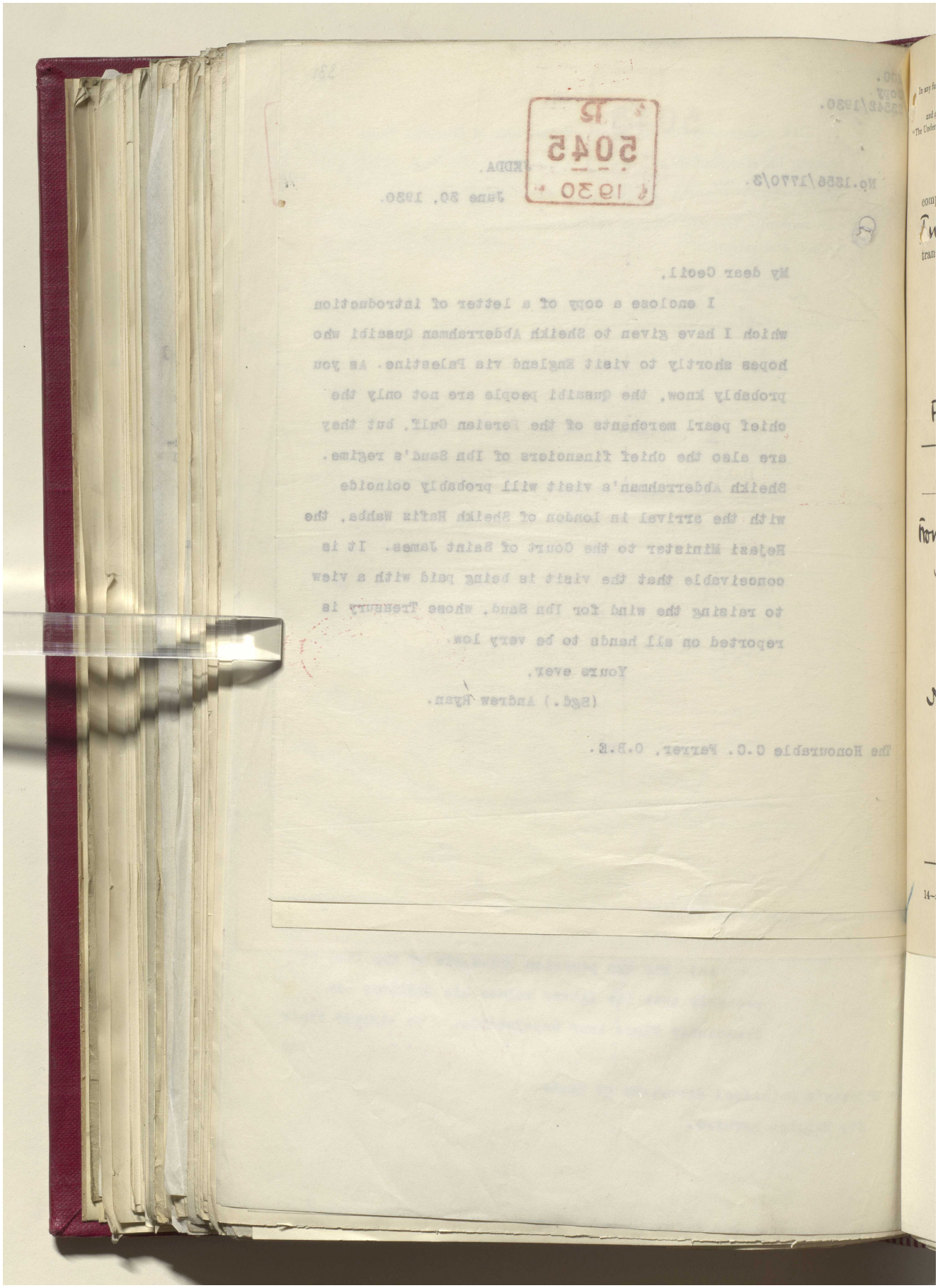

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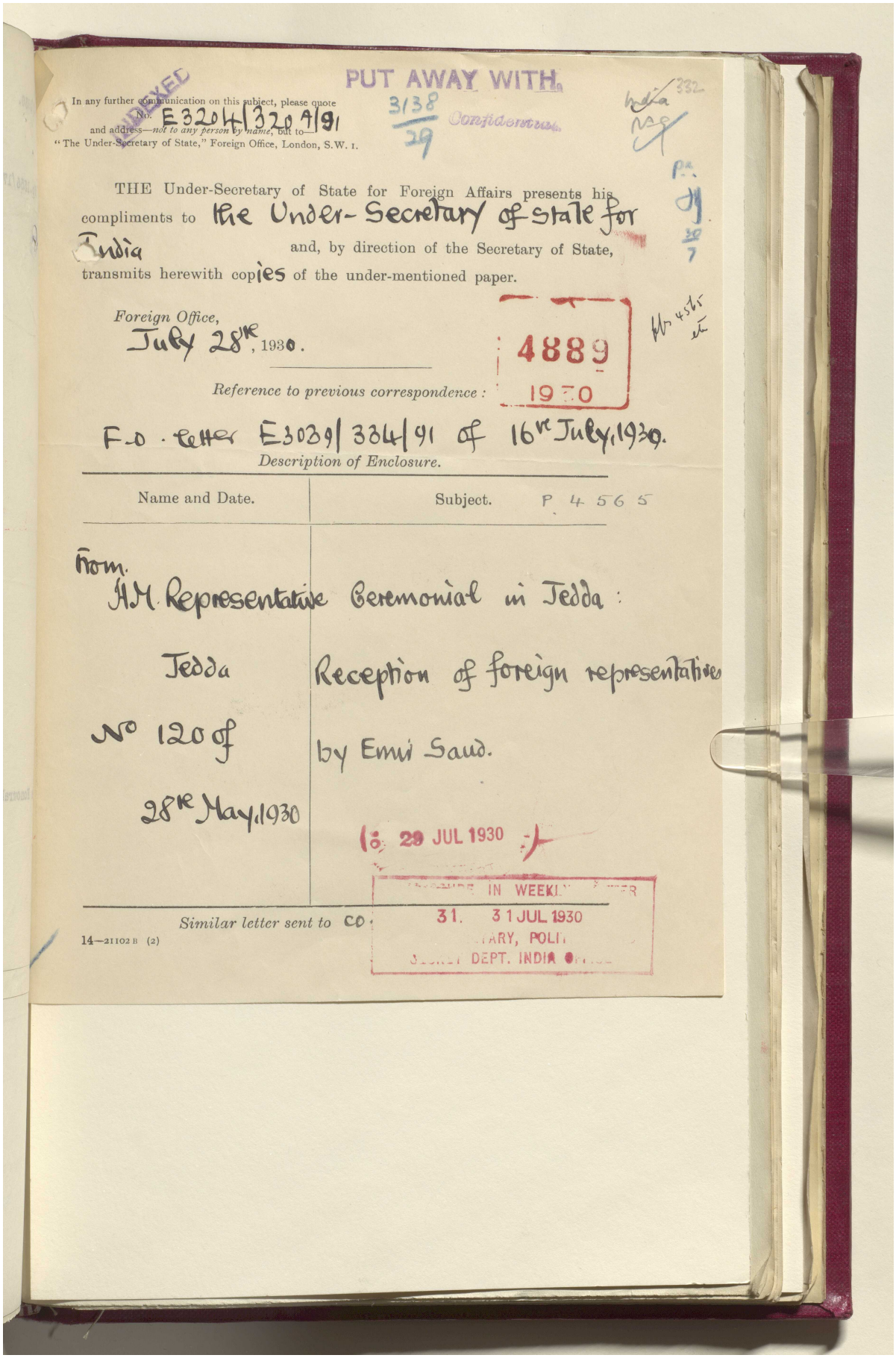

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

3138/29

Confidential

India 332

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
July 28th, 1930.

4889
1930

Reference to previous correspondence :

F.O. letter E3039/334/91 of 16th July, 1930.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject. P 4565
From. H.M. Representative Jedda No 120 of 28th May, 1930	Ceremonial in Jedda: Reception of foreign representatives by Emir Saud.

29 JUL 1930

IN WEEKLY LETTER
31. 31 JUL 1930
...ARY, POLI...
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to CO.

14—21102 B (2)

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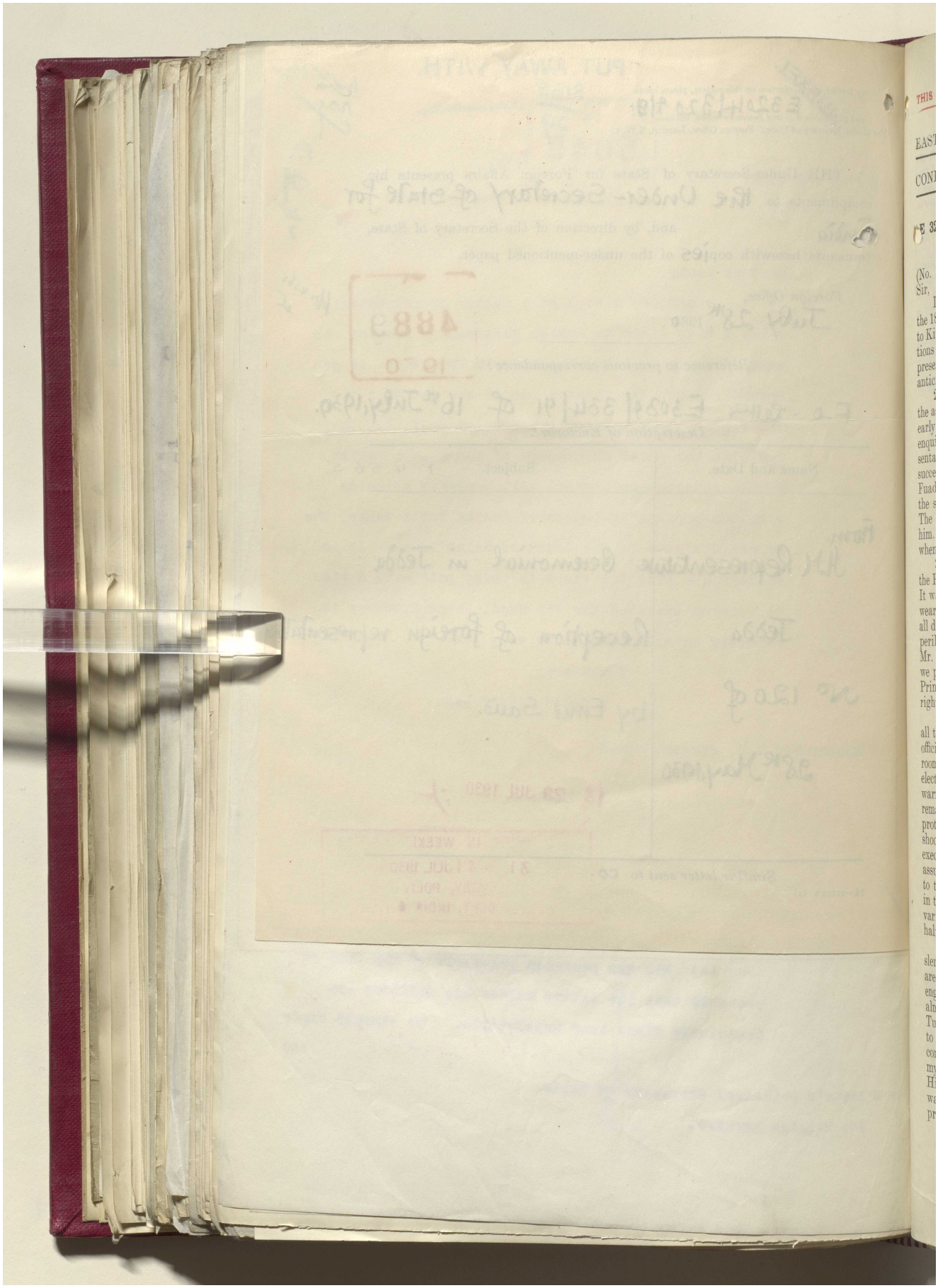

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EASTERN (ARABIA). June 17, 1930.

CONFIDENTIAL. 4889 SECTION 1.

[E 3204/3204/91] No. 1. 1930

Sir A. Ryan to Mr. A. Henderson.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 120.)

Sir, *Jedda, May 28, 1930.*

IN the note on various matters of protocol enclosed in my despatch No. 114 of the 18th instant, I referred to the question of formal visits by foreign representatives to King Ibn Saud's Heir Apparent as one which had not been raised in my conversations with the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and which need not arise at present. I have the honour to state that it has in fact arisen much sooner than I anticipated.

2. Late in the evening of the 25th May, I received a telephone message from the assistant to the Governor of Jedda to the effect that the Emir Saud was arriving early next morning, and would receive me the next morning at 10·10 A.M. On enquiry, I found that the intention of the Prince was to receive the foreign representatives officially, and that uniform would be appropriate. He received us in succession, beginning with the Soviet Minister, at the Green Palace, which, Sheikh Fuad Hamza tells me, is now definitely the property of the King. I took with me the same party, minus the Legation interpreter, as when I presented credentials. The Prince, who was attended by Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, placed me on a sofa beside him. The reception was on the same lines as the less formal part of the proceedings when the King himself received me.

3. The Governor of Jedda had issued invitations for a dinner, given also at the Palace, but apparently by the local authorities, in honour of the Heir Apparent. It was a hot evening, and it was happily arranged that the European guests might wear ordinary evening dress, in which vogue of attire a black dinner jacket, though all do not own to it, is still the high-water mark in Jedda. Having surmounted the perils of a staircase roughly laid with a carpet almost completely unsecured by rods, Mr. Bond and I were conducted to the roof. Having been welcomed by the Governor, we passed between a double file of armed retainers to the furthest end, where the Prince received us. The Soviet Minister had already arrived, and we took our places right and left of His Highness.

4. After coffee and compliments, the company of twenty-three people, including all the foreign representatives, except the Turk and the Persian and the principal officials of Jedda and the King's entourage, went indoors to a long, narrow dining room, which, with attendant servants and slaves, we pretty completely filled. The electric plant having failed, the table was lit by large incandescent lamps. The warmth of the atmosphere was increased by several enormous dishes of mutton, which remained on the table from start to finish, although they formed but one course in a protracted meal. The table was further decorated in a manner which somewhat shocked my sense of Islamic propriety, with images of birds and other animals, executed in what I supposed to be white and gold glass or china, but which, Mr. Bond assures me, were made of sugar. The fruit dishes, in coloured and gilt glass, added to the gaiety of a crowded board. Although the electrical plant was got going in the course of the meal and a revolving fan supplemented the simple slave-driven variety, the relief was general when we again adjourned to the roof, where, after half an hour of further conversation and light refreshment, we took leave.

5. I was distinctly impressed by the personality of the Prince. Tall and slender, he resembles his father cast in a finer, if less imposing, mould. His features are well marked and he conceals his eye trouble behind glasses, and he has a most engaging smile. In his conversation he showed great vivacity. He confined it almost entirely to the Soviet Minister and myself. As M. Turakouloff speaks both Turkish and stumbling Arabic, he was able to converse direct, and was good enough to act to some extent as interpreter between the Emir and me. At the outset of the conversation before dinner the Emir plunged into a glorification of Islam, which my Russian colleague echoed with contributions of his own. After dinner His Highness reverted to the subject, and said how mistaken it was to suppose that Islam was incompatible with civilisation. Eager to be polite without any approach to the profession of an alien faith, I said that, indeed, there should be no conflict. I related

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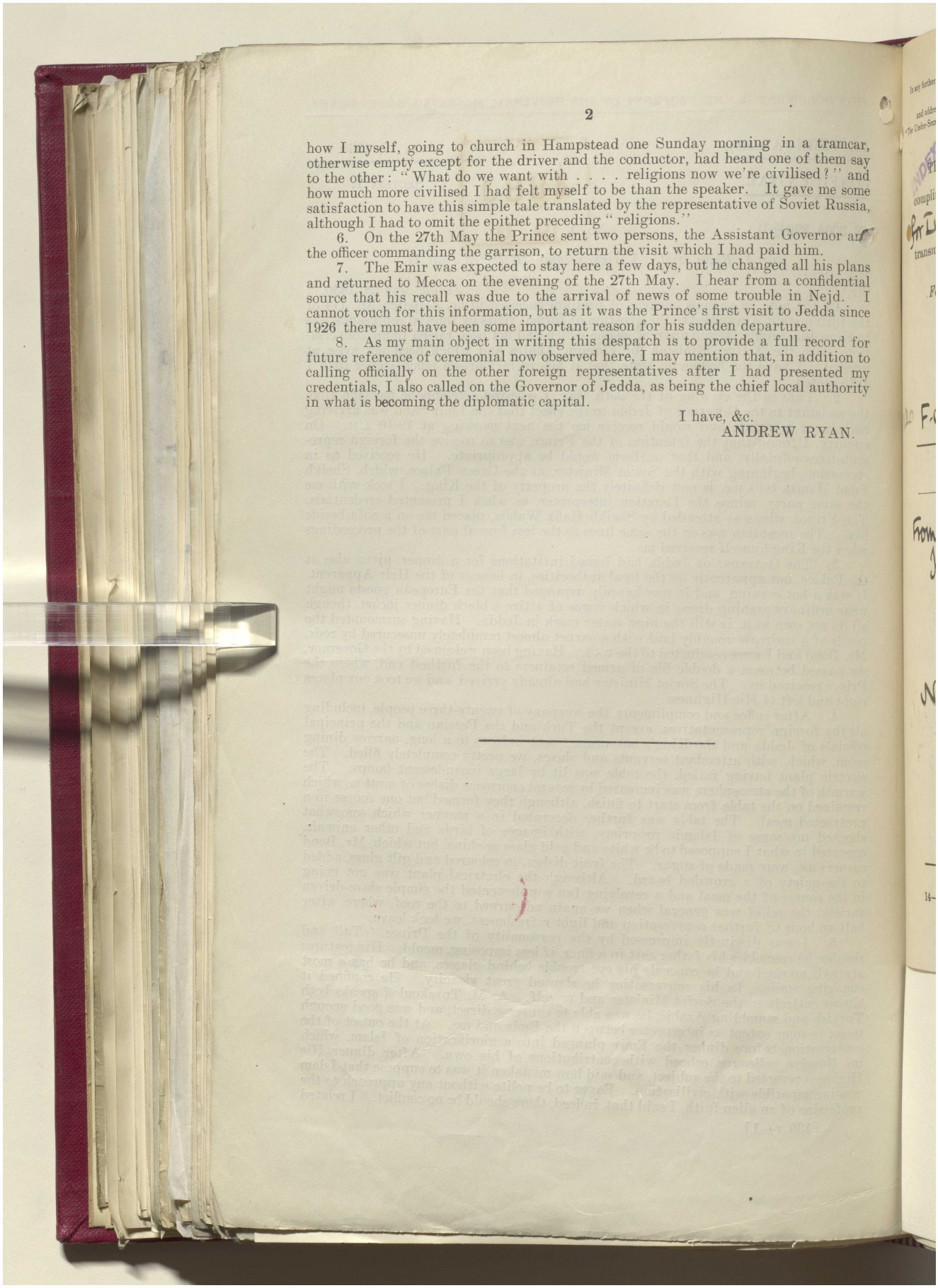

how I myself, going to church in Hampstead one Sunday morning in a tramcar, otherwise empty except for the driver and the conductor, had heard one of them say to the other: "What do we want with . . . . religions now we're civilised?" and how much more civilised I had felt myself to be than the speaker. It gave me some satisfaction to have this simple tale translated by the representative of Soviet Russia, although I had to omit the epithet preceding "religions."

6. On the 27th May the Prince sent two persons, the Assistant Governor and the officer commanding the garrison, to return the visit which I had paid him.

7. The Emir was expected to stay here a few days, but he changed all his plans and returned to Mecca on the evening of the 27th May. I hear from a confidential source that his recall was due to the arrival of news of some trouble in Nejd. I cannot vouch for this information, but as it was the Prince's first visit to Jedda since 1926 there must have been some important reason for his sudden departure.

8. As my main object in writing this despatch is to provide a full record for future reference of ceremonial now observed here, I may mention that, in addition to calling officially on the other foreign representatives after I had presented my credentials, I also called on the Governor of Jedda, as being the chief local authority in what is becoming the diplomatic capital.

I have, &c.
ANDREW RYAN.

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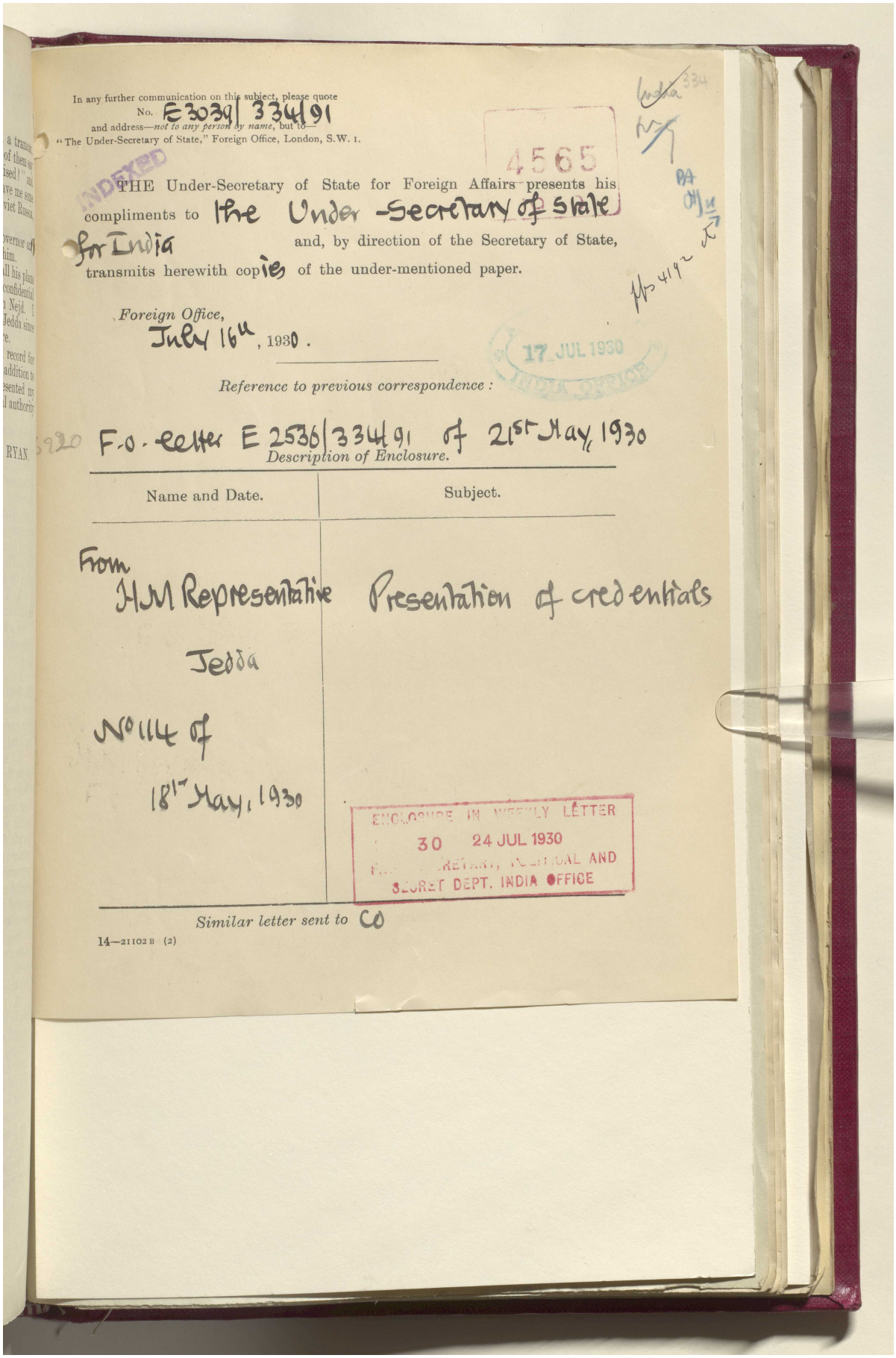

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No. E3039/334/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

INDEXED

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
July 16th, 1930.

17 JUL 1930
INDIA OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence :

F.O. letter E 2536/334/91 of 21st May 1930

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From H.M. Representative Jedda No 114 of 18th May, 1930	Presentation of credentials

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
30 24 JUL 1930
SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to CO

14—21102 B (2)

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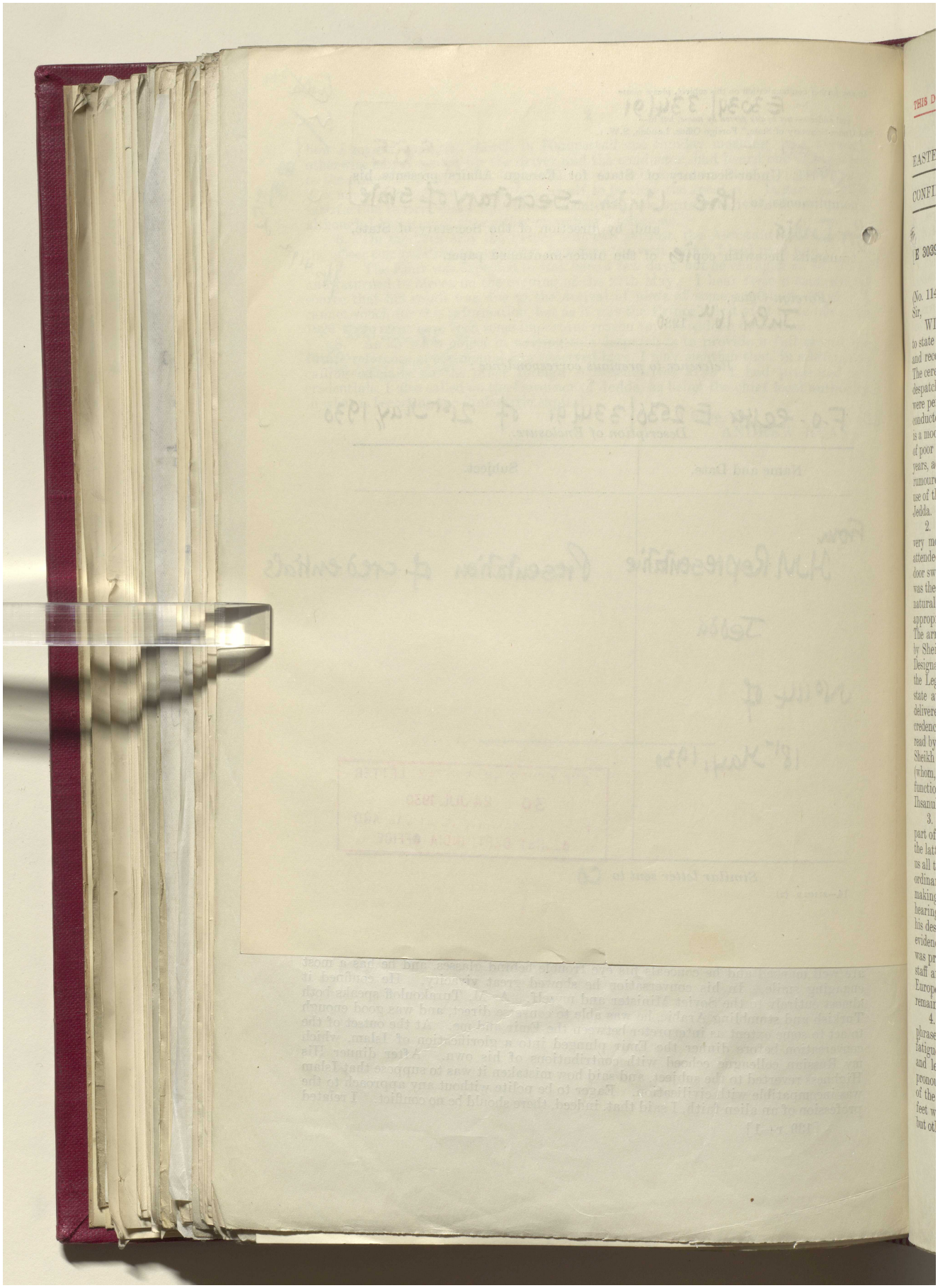

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19

EASTERN (ARABIA). June 10, 1930.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 3039/334/91] No. 1.

Sir A. Ryan to Mr. A. Henderson.—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 114.)

Sir, *Jedda, May* 18, 1930.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 58 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to state that King Ibn Saud came from Mecca to Jedda on the morning of that day and received me in the forenoon for the purpose of my presenting my credentials. The ceremonial was carried out in accordance with the rules forwarded in Mr. Bond's despatch No. 332 of the 28th December last. The duties of Master of Ceremonies were performed by Hamdi Bey, the Officer Commanding the garrison in Jedda, who conducted me from my residence to what has been dubbed the "Green Palace." This is a modern house of some pretension built by the Director of Customs, a gentleman of poor origin, who, by assiduous application to the duties of his office, has, in recent years, acquired considerable wealth. It is possible that he has already carried out a rumoured intention of presenting the house to the King, who has, hitherto, made use of the barracks, or of the houses of certain resident notables, when he has visited Jedda.

2. My staff and I with Hamdi Bey were conveyed to the "Green Palace" in two very moderate cars driven by still more moderate chauffeurs and not otherwise attended. As we were about to start, one of the telephone posts opposite my front door swayed towards me and gently deposited its load of wires in the fairway. This was the only untoward incident. Military honours were rendered at the Palace, but naturally without any playing of the National Anthem, which might be considered appropriate in an oriental setting, were music not abhorrent to Wahabite principles. The arrangements generally were simple but sufficiently dignified. I was received by Sheikh Fuad Hamza and other officials including Hafiz Wahba, the Minister Designate in London. After a short interval, I was conducted with Mr. Bond and the Legation interpreter into the audience chamber, where the King in solitary state awaited us and his own officers. After he had shaken hands with me I delivered the speech which I had prepared and handed to His Majesty my letter of credence. When my interpreter had read an Arabic version, the King's reply was read by his secretary, Yussef Yasin, and then in a very good English translation by Sheikh Fuad Hamza. I next formally presented my staff consisting of Mr. Bond (whom, I said, it was hardly necessary to introduce as he had been exercising the functions of agent and consul and, later, Chargé d'Affaires), Mr. Wikeley, Munshi Ihsanullah, the British Indian vice-consul, and the interpreter.

3. I had been told that the King would not dismiss me at the end of the formal part of the audience, as it was his custom to detain the representative and wait for the latter to seek permission to leave. Following this practice His Majesty invited us all to be seated and had coffee and lemonade served in succession. We exchanged ordinary oriental courtesies, in the course of which he asked after the King's health, making special reference to his illness of a year ago. He expressed pleasure on hearing how well I had found His Majesty when I kissed hands. He emphasised his desire for good relations with Great Britain, to which I replied that I had had evidence of a reciprocal sentiment of the same kind in all circles at home, when I was preparing to come to Jedda. After this exchange of compliments I retired, my staff and I making a point of walking backwards and bowing in accordance with European etiquette, a touch which, I think, was duly noted. King Ibn Saud again remained alone, while his officers escorted me to the antechamber.

4. King Ibn Saud indulged rather less than I had expected in high-flown phrases, but his reception was in every way cordial. He was perhaps a little fatigued. At any rate his voice was somewhat hoarse, owing, it is said, to the number and length of the theological discourses which he has recently had occasion to pronounce at Mecca. His bearing was stately and impressive in his loose robe, one of the usual Arabian type, but of fine material and handsomely embroidered. His feet were bare. The audience chamber was a room of moderate size, well-carpeted, but otherwise furnished in a debased French style. The most conspicuous object was

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a green panel high in the wall behind the King, embroidered with the Moslem profession of faith and a hefty sword underneath.

5. After the audience Sheikh Fuad Hamza asked whether I had any objection to a photograph being taken. On my acquiescing an Egyptian photographer from Cairo, who works for the "Graphic" and other papers, took several pictures. In the meantime the King himself had, apparently at the suggestion of some of his officers, intimated his willingness to be photographed also, and a final photograph was taken, in which he occupied the centre of the group with myself on his right. I then again took leave of him and left the Palace with the same ceremony as when I arrived.

6. I have ventured to describe these proceedings at some length, as it was the first occasion on which a British Minister presented credentials, although Mr. Bond and previous agents have of course been frequently received by King Ibn Saud. I enclose a copy of my speech* together with the English version* of that read on behalf of the King. It may be useful for record if I enclose also a note on certain matters of ceremonial which I had discussed with Fuad Hamza.* Later in the morning of the audience I visited the latter in the manner described in my note. We had a cordial conversation on things in general and the system of examination for the British Diplomatic and Consular Services in particular. He took an opportunity of drawing my attention to the extremely democratic ways of his Sovereign, who did not lay the same stress on punctilio as other rulers. This remark was possibly intended to explain away any departures made by an inexperienced Court from consecrated practice.

7. Following what is I understand a usual practice, Sheikh Fuad Hamza entertained me at dinner on the evening of the 17th May at the local office of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The company of fourteen included the leading local notables, Hafiz Wahba, and the principal members of my staff besides Mr. Taylor, Messrs. Gellatly Hankey's manager, and Mr. Philby. Water was served copiously, first, Vichy, and, when that ran out, the product of the Jedda condenser. It was intimated to me after dinner that cigarettes would not be handed round, but that I was free to smoke my own. I refrained from doing so.

8. Ibn Saud left Jedda on the evening of the 17th May. His destination was Taif, where, it appears, the Heir Apparent, Emir Saud, is to be operated on for eye trouble by an Egyptian surgeon. This has led to the cancellation of a visit by the Emir Saud to Jedda, which was planned for the 19th May, and during which I was to meet the prince at another party of Fuad Hamza's. Fuad Hamza, himself, is also returning to Mecca to-day. In these circumstances, I cannot hope to do any personal business with either him or the King before the 25th May, but I have reason to expect that they will both be in Jedda again in the course of the week beginning on that day.

9. I am sending a copy of this despatch and its enclosures to His Majesty's High Commissioners for Iraq and Palestine and to the Honourable the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have, &c.
ANDREW RYAN.

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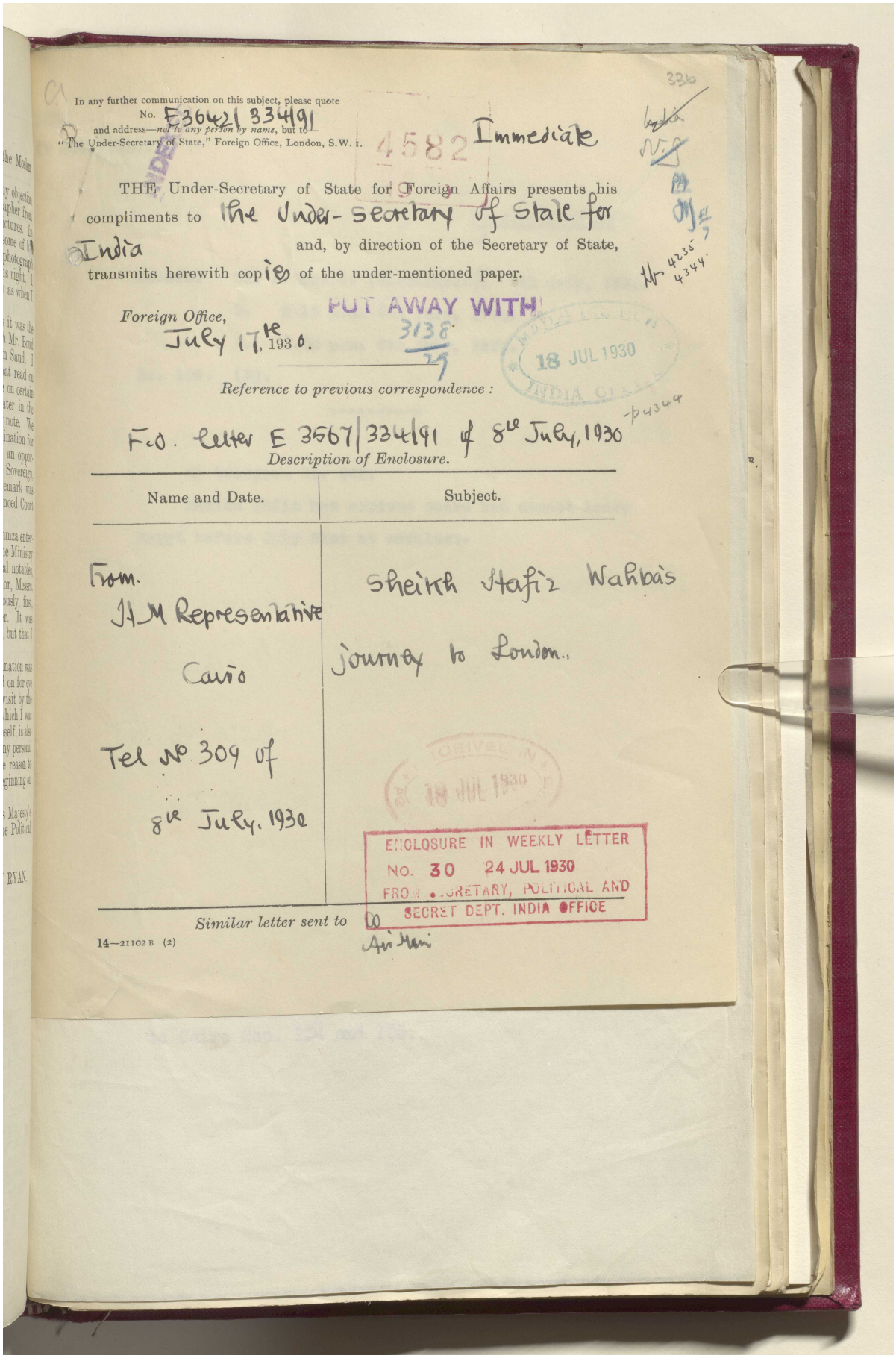

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

4582 Immediate

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
July 17th 1930.

PUT AWAY WITH 3136

18 JUL 1930 INDIA OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence :

F.O. Letter E 3567/334/91 of 8th July, 1930

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From. H.M. Representative Cairo. Tel No 309 of 8th July, 1930	Sheikh Hafiz Wahba's journey to London.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 30 24 JUL 1930
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Air Min

14—21102 B (2)

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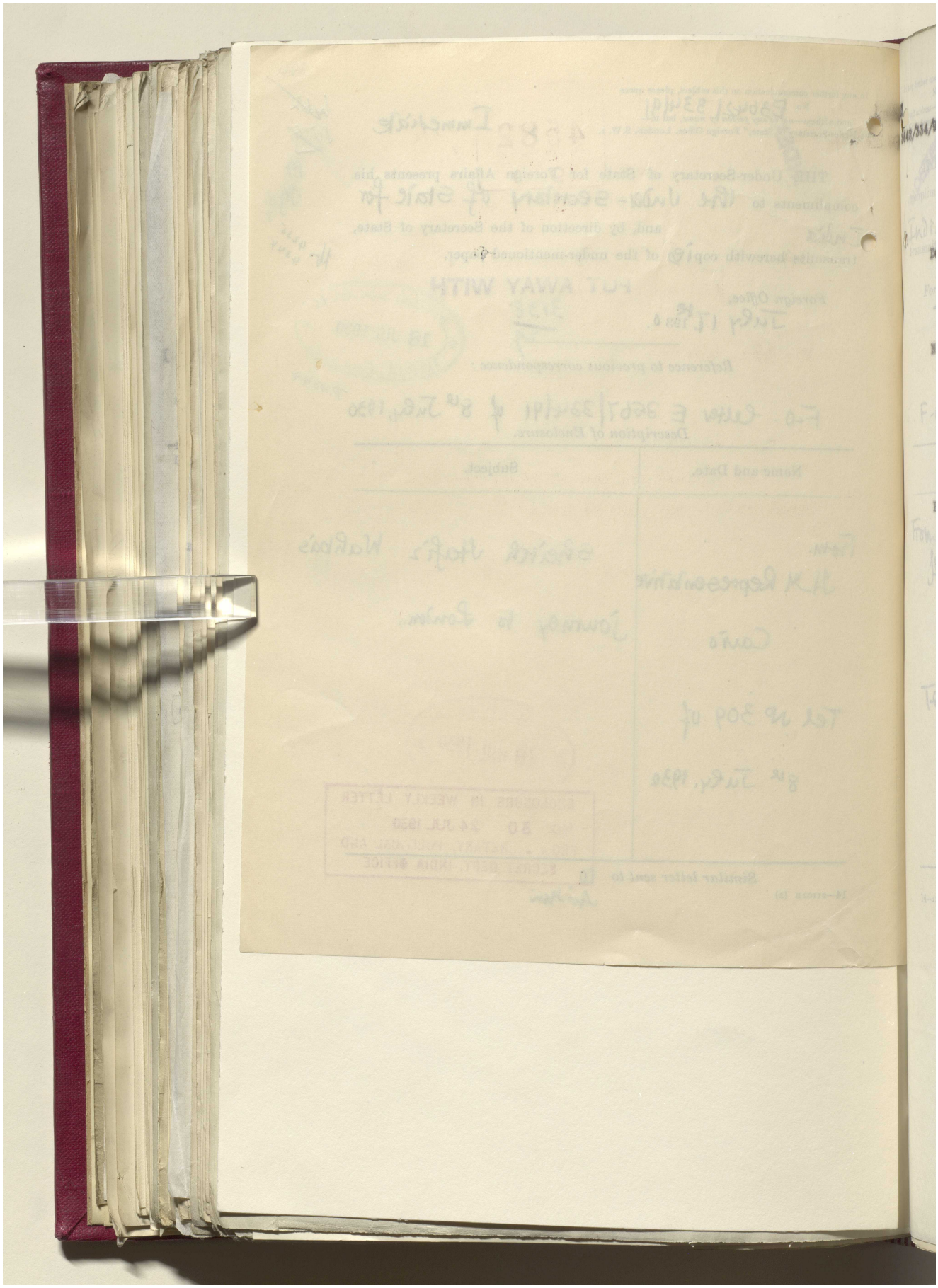

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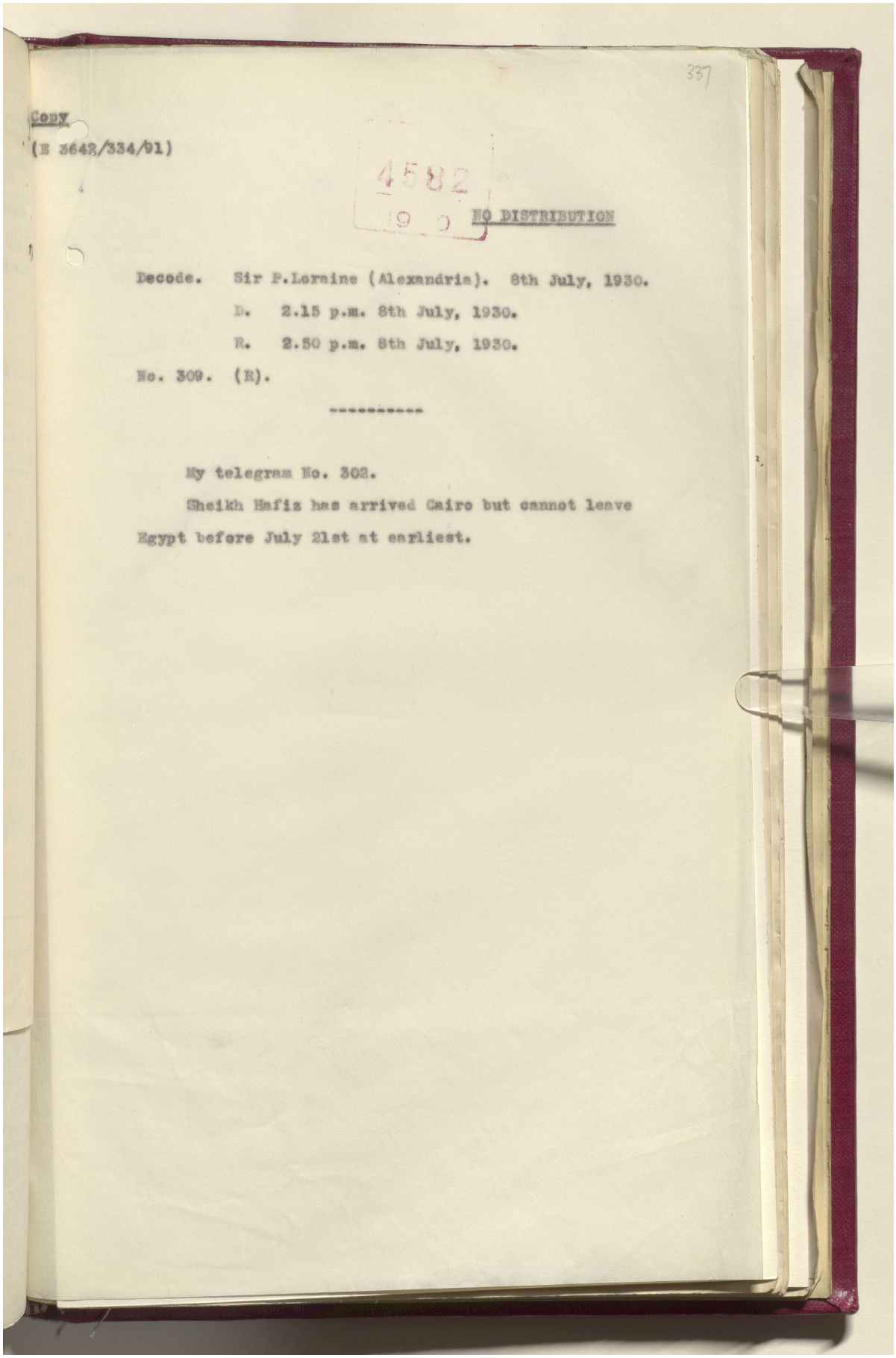

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(E 3642/334/91)

4582

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Decode. Sir P.Lorraine (Alexandria). 8th July, 1930.

D. 2.15 p.m. 8th July, 1930.

R. 2.50 p.m. 8th July, 1930.

No. 309. (R).

My telegram No. 302.

Sheikh Hafiz has arrived Cairo but cannot leave Egypt before July 21st at earliest.

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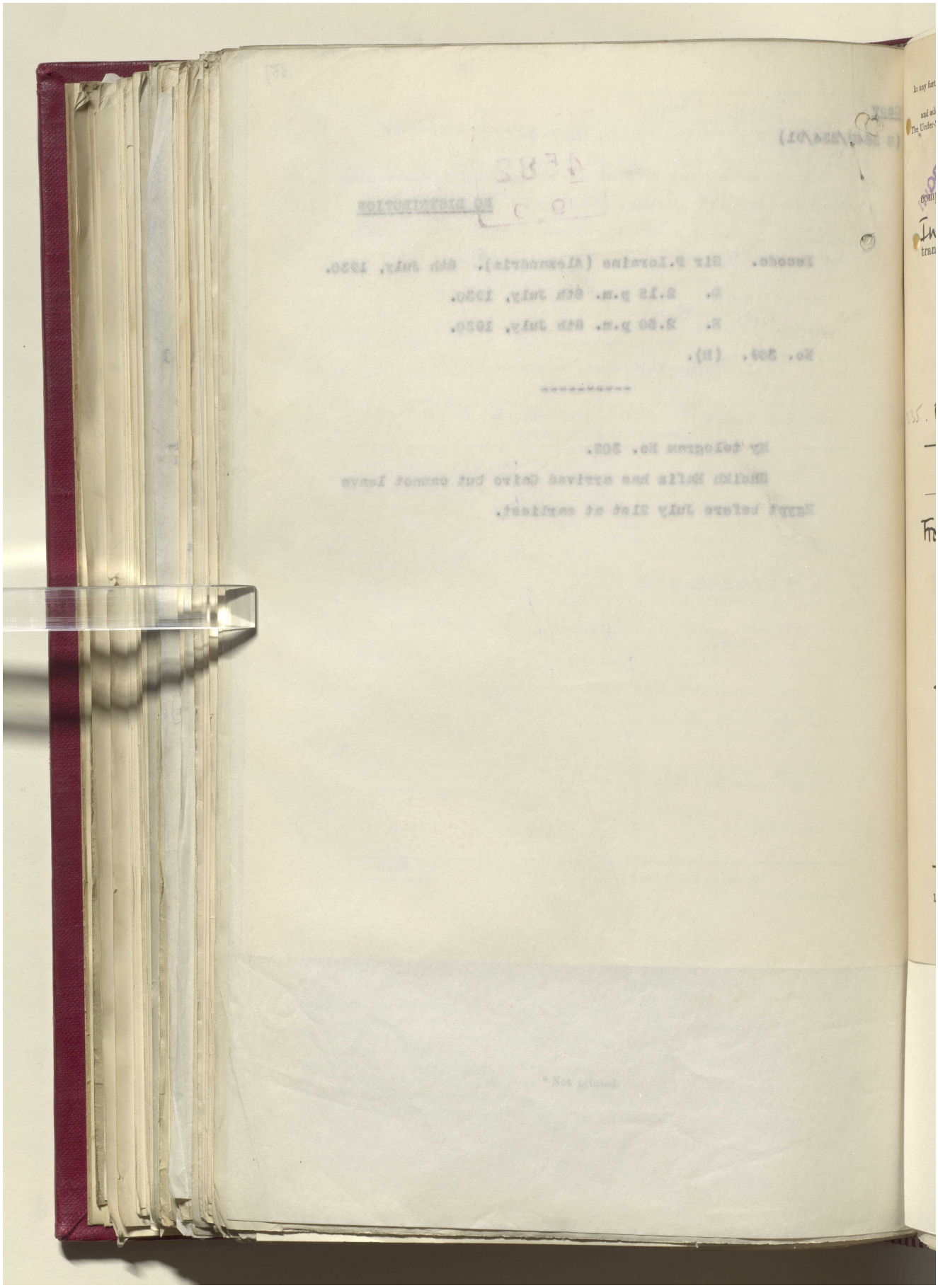

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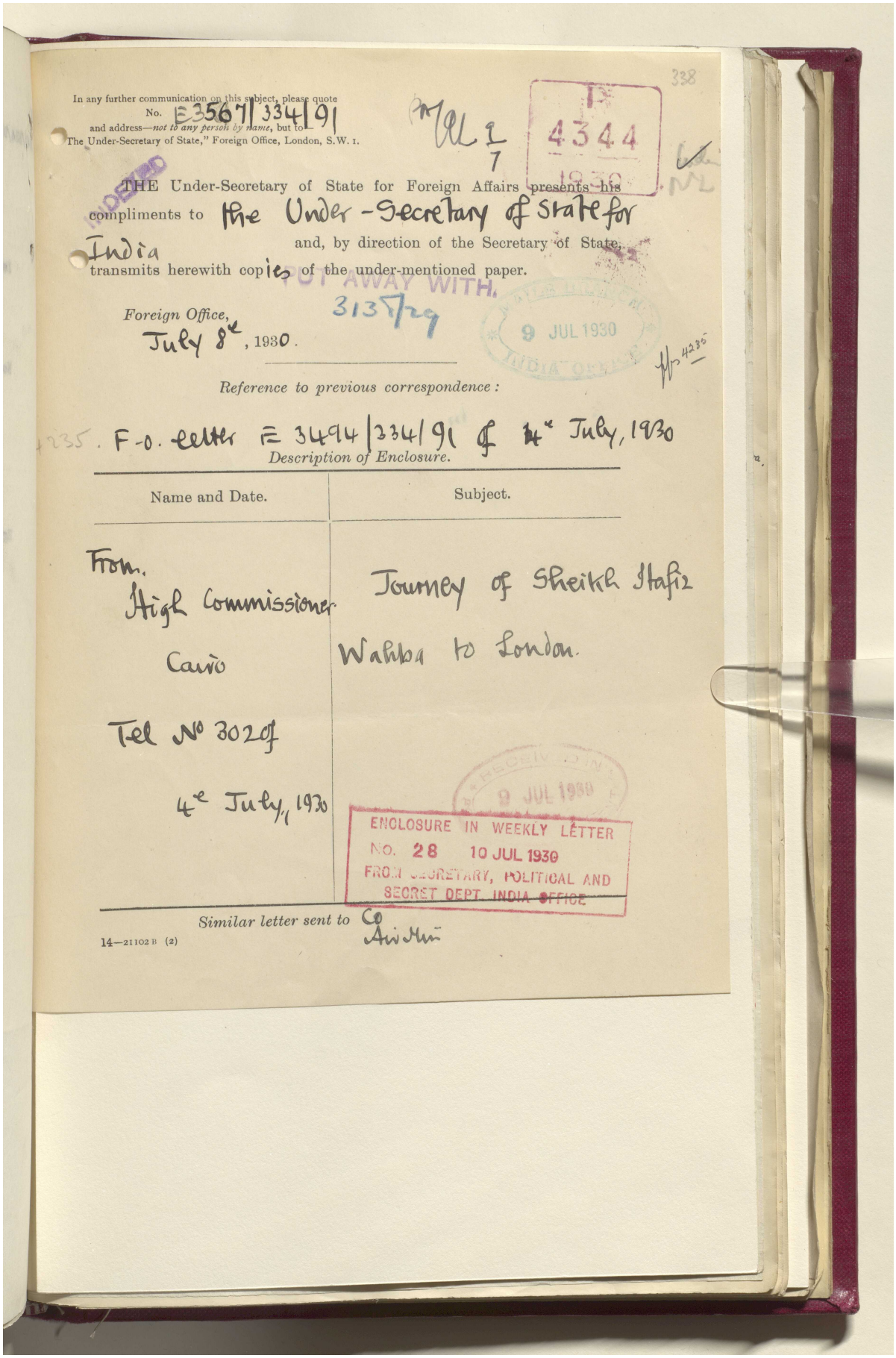

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PM/AL 1/7

P 4344 1930

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

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Foreign Office,
July 8th, 1930.

9 JUL 1930 INDIA OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence:

4235. F.O. letter E 3494/334/91 of 4th July, 1930

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From. High Commissioner Cairo Tel No 302 of 4th July, 1930	Journey of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba to London.

RECEIVED IN 9 JUL 1930

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 28 10 JUL 1930
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co Air Min

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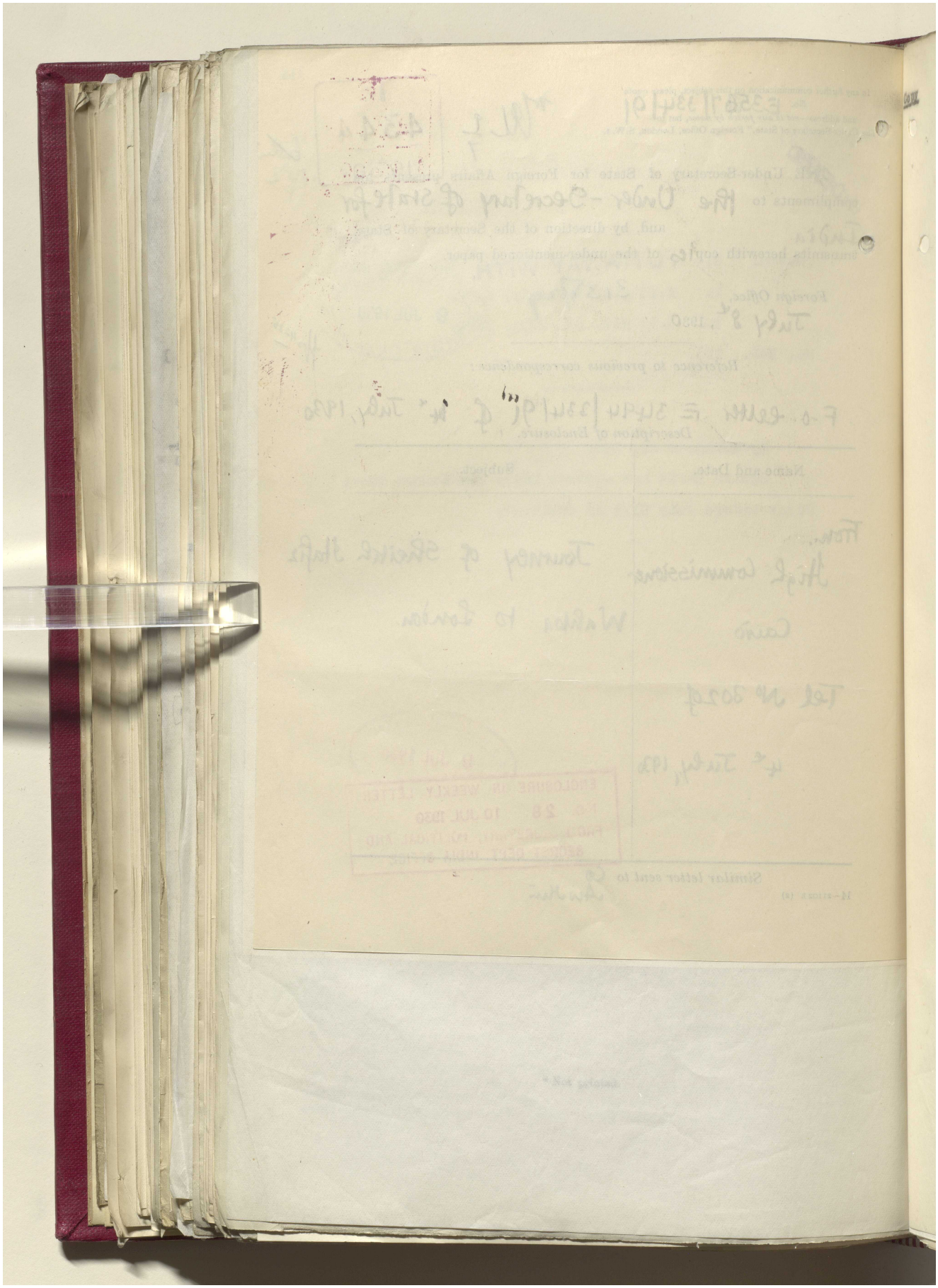

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4344
1930

Decode. Sir P.Loraine (Alexandria). July 4th 1930.
D. 1.15 p.m. July 4th 1930.
R. 1.10 p.m. July 4th 1930.

No. 302. (R).

Your telegram No. 220.

Hejaz agent in Cairo says Sheikh Hafiz is due at Suez on July 5th but may be detained there by quarantine authorities. He proposes to spend 2 days in Cairo before leaving for London.

I will telegraph again when I obtain further information.

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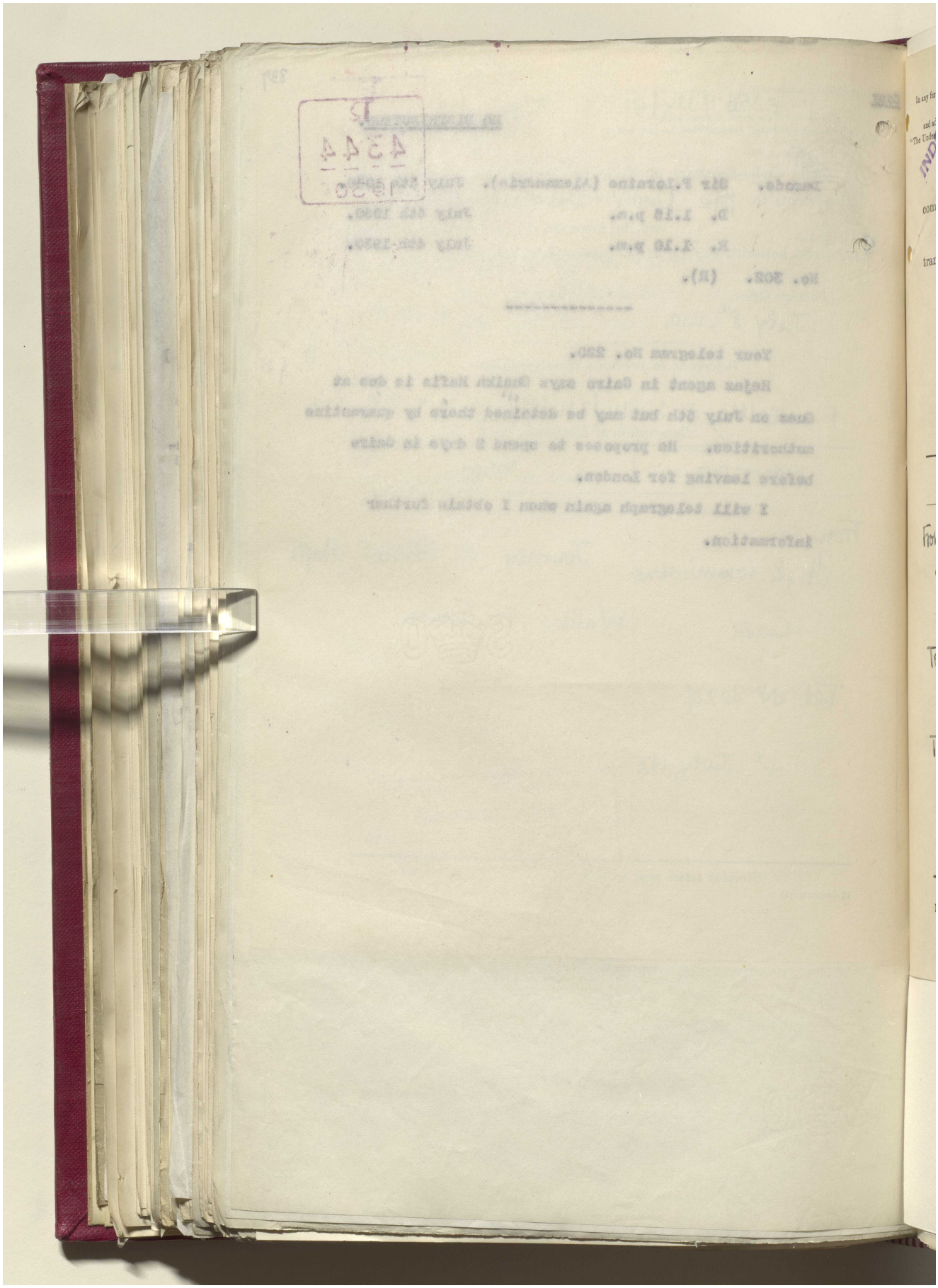

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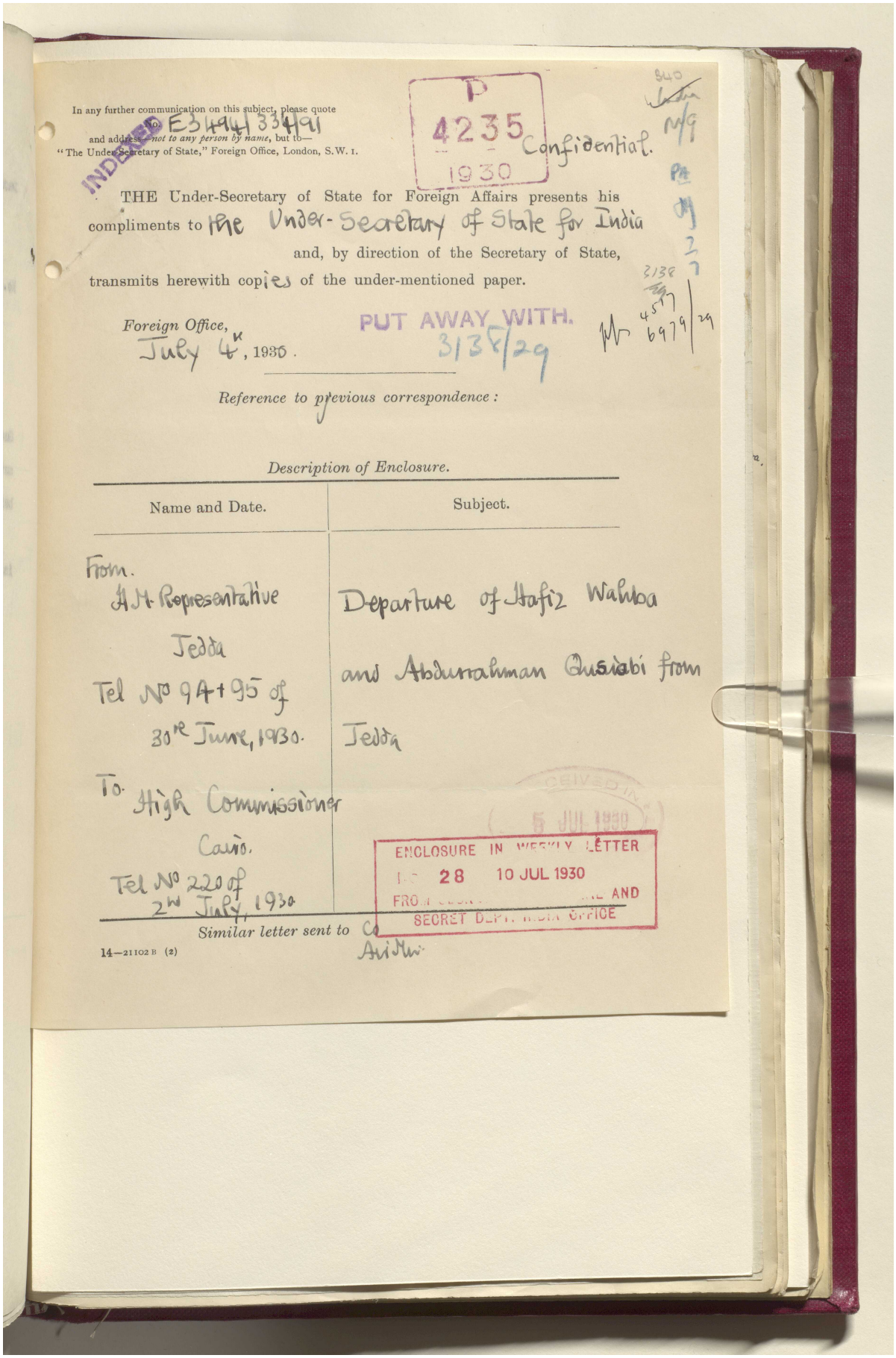

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

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1930

Confidential.

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

3138
4517
6979/29

Foreign Office,
July 4th, 1930.

PUT AWAY WITH.
3138/29

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From. H.M. Representative Jedda Tel No 94+95 of 30th June, 1930. To. High Commissioner Cairo. Tel No 220 of 2nd July, 1930	Departure of Hafiz Wahba and Abdurrahman Qusiabi from Jedda

RECEIVED IN
5 JUL 1930

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
I.C. 28 10 JUL 1930
FROM ... AND
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Co
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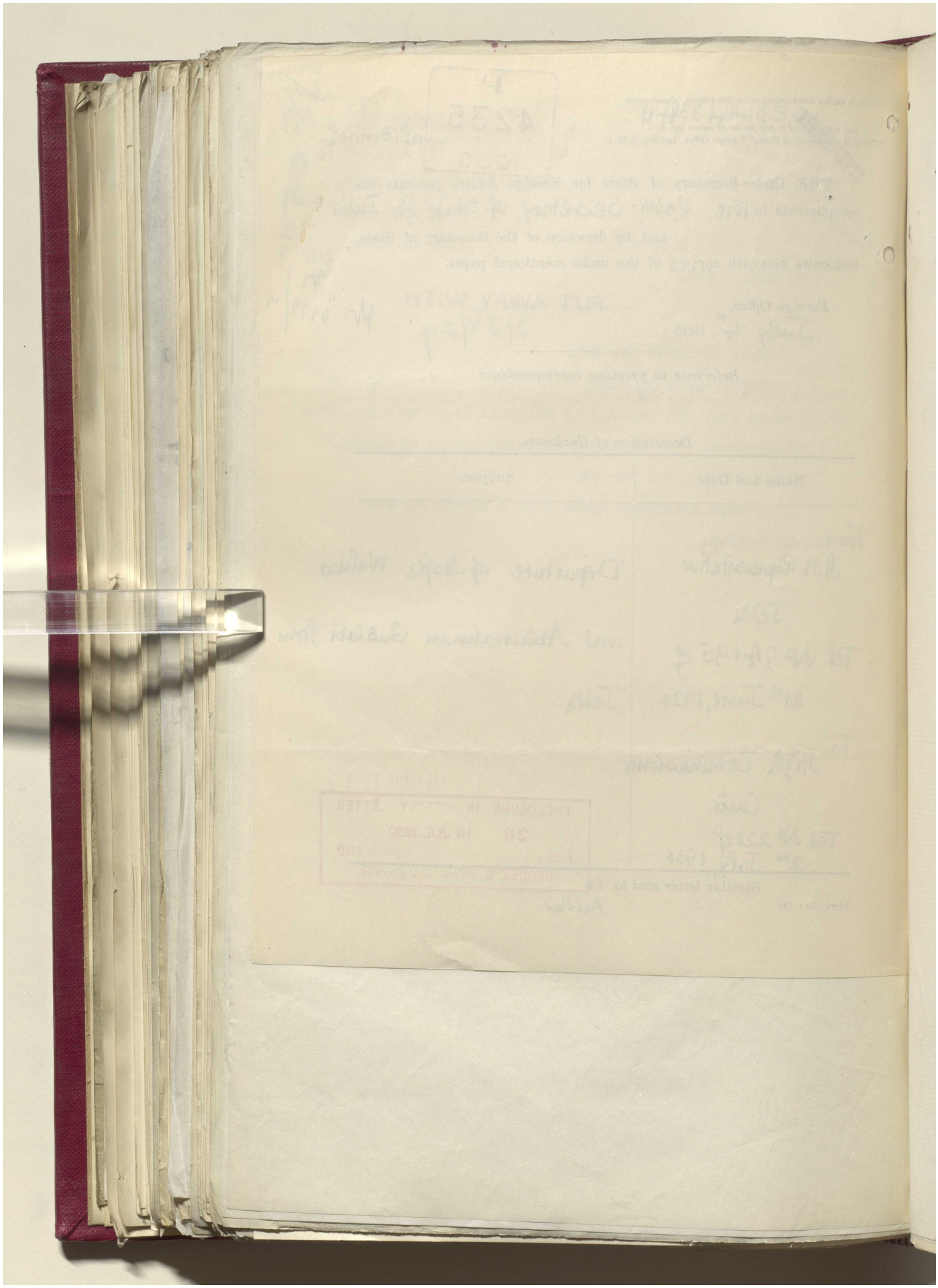

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1930

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Decode & Decypher. Sir A. Ryan (Jedda).
30th June, 1930.

D. 4.00 p.m., 30th June, 1930.

R. 6.00 p.m., 30th June, 1930.

Nos. 94 and 95.

::::::::::

(Beginning of "R".)

My letter of May 22nd to Mr. Rendel.

Hafiz Wahba leaves by Khedivial steamer on July 1st for Egypt and then London.

(End of "R".)

Departure at this juncture comes as a surprise as Hafiz Wahba has been in close attendance on the King. Abdurrahman Qusaibi leaves by same steamer. In ordinary course of things pearl business would sufficiently account (? for this) but as he has made an unexpectedly long stay here, combined movement may possibly indicate intention on part of Ibn Saud to explore the possibility of raising money for his depleted treasury.

Addressed to Foreign Office Nos. 94 and 95, repeated to Cairo Nos. 134 and 135.

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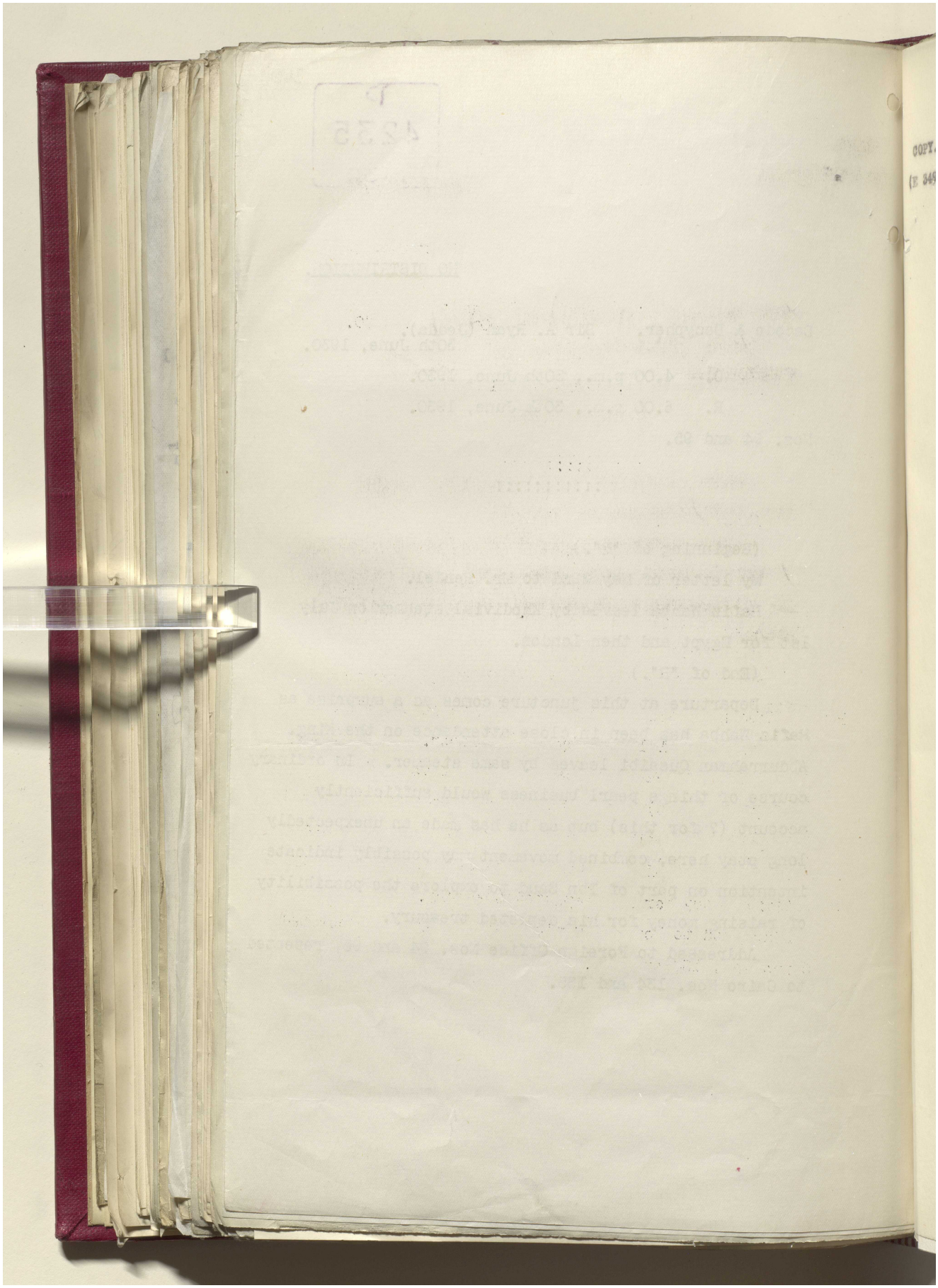

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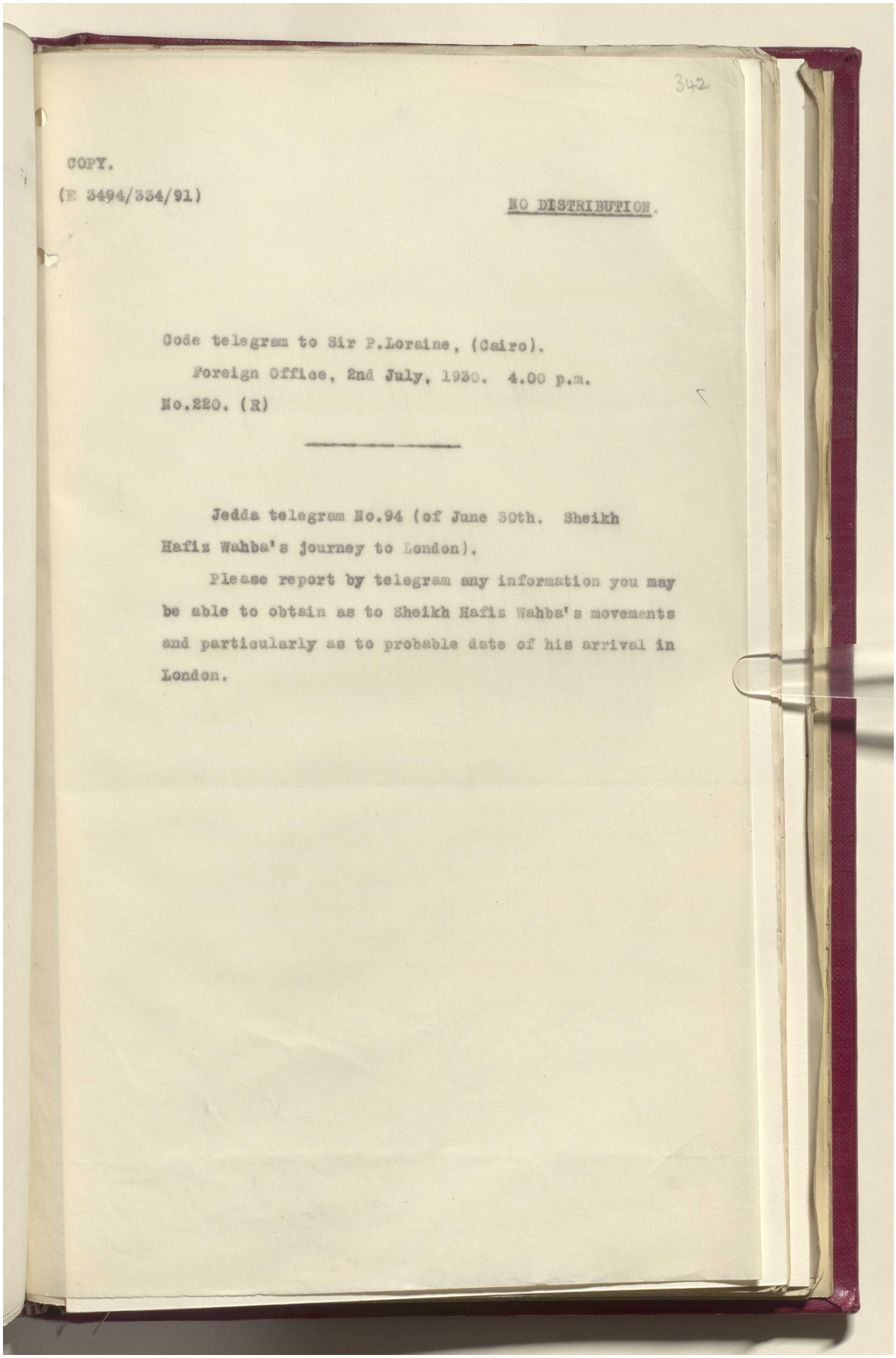

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Code telegram to Sir P.Loraine, (Cairo).

Foreign Office, 2nd July, 1930. 4.00 p.m.

No.220. (R)

Jedda telegram No.94 (of June 30th. Sheikh Hafiz Wahba's journey to London).

Please report by telegram any information you may be able to obtain as to Sheikh Hafiz Wahba's movements and particularly as to probable date of his arrival in London.

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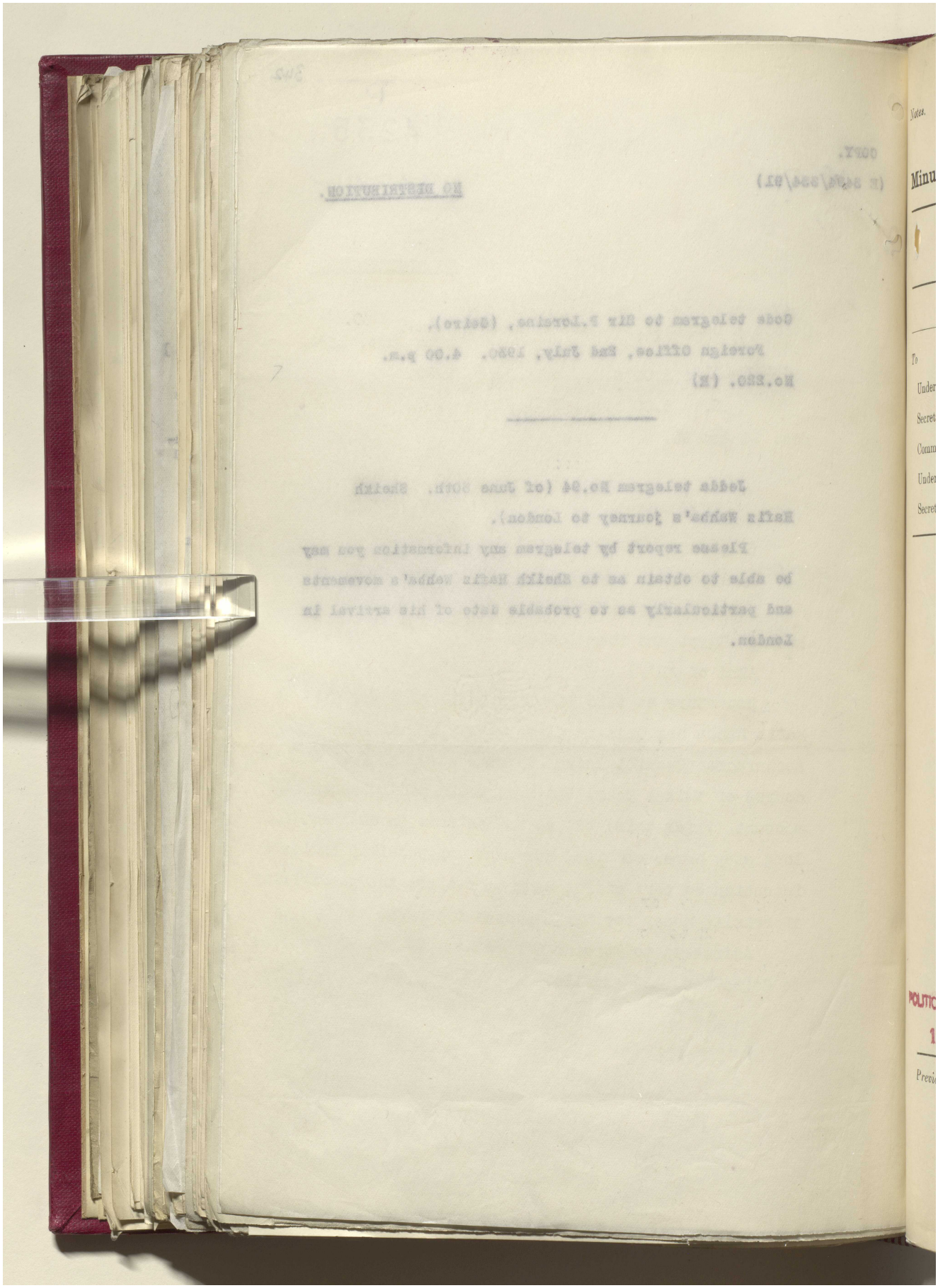

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. **P.** 4192

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 19 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz
Under Secretary	7.vii.	[illegible]	—
Secretary of State...			Arrival of Sir A. Ryan, the British Minister at Jedda.
Committee.....	15	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			Welcome accorded by Hejazi authorities
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

India

FOR INFORMATION.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
18 JUL 1930

Previous Papers :—

3997B 2000 10.29

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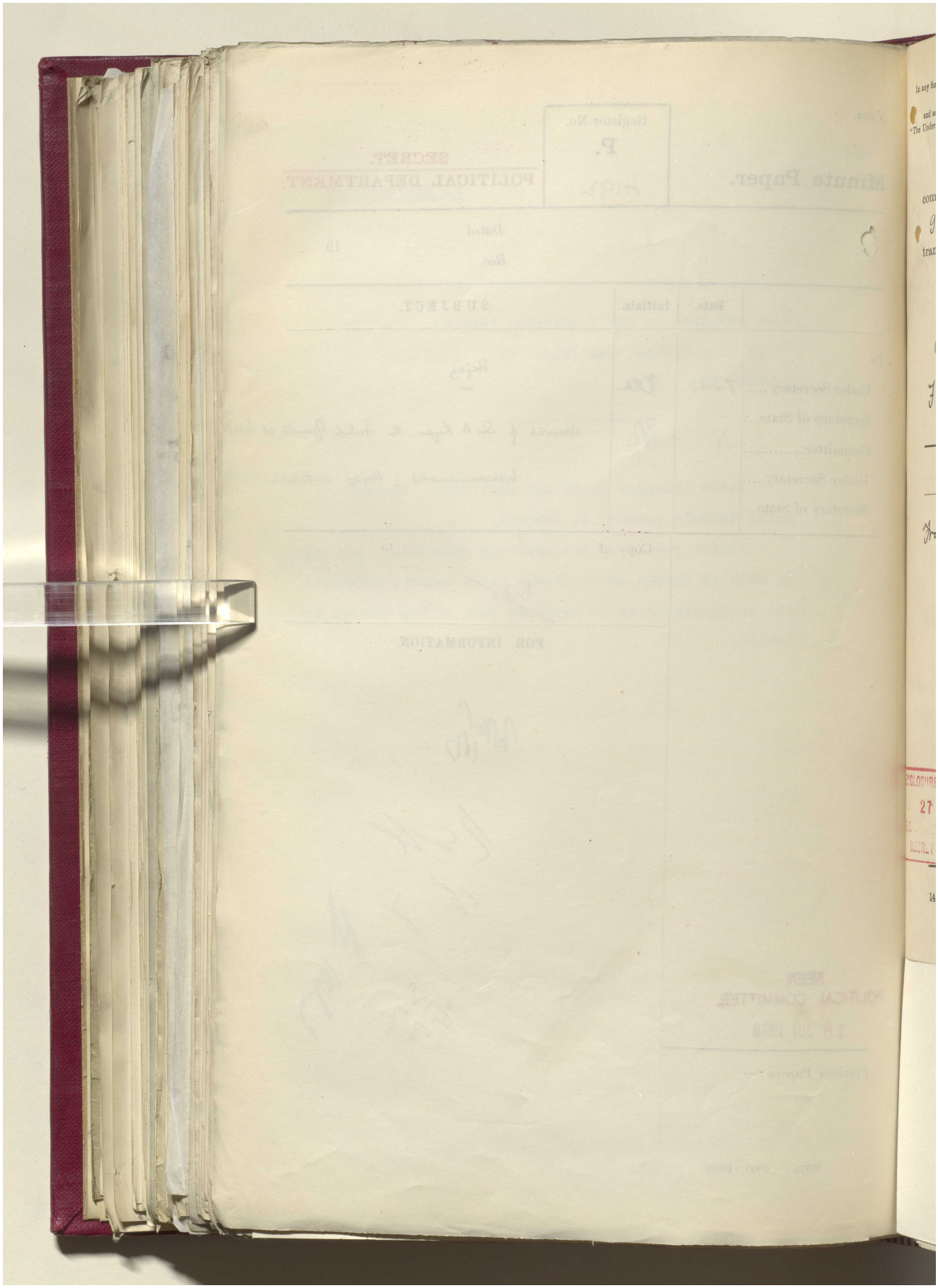

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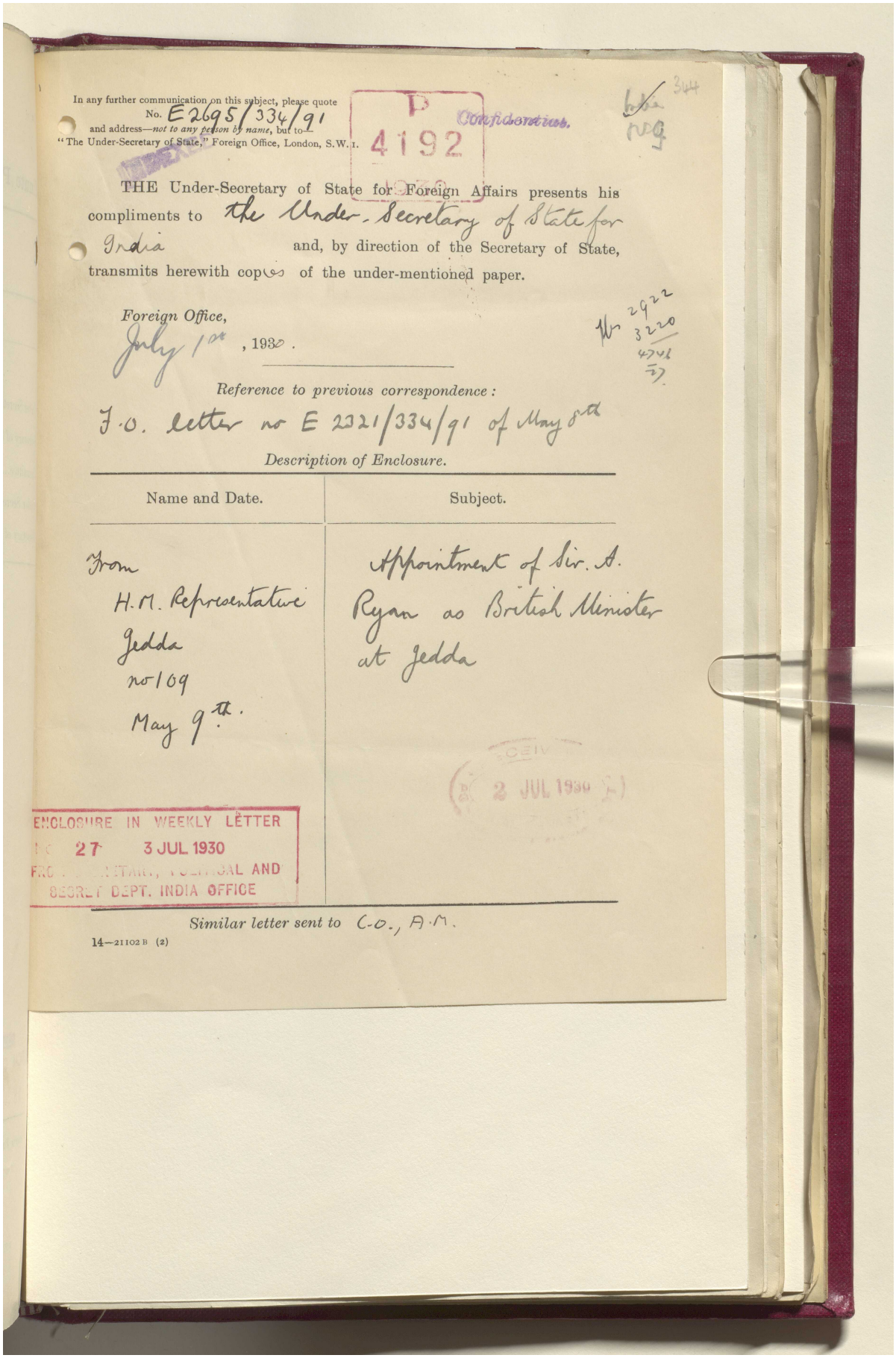

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 2695/334/91 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

P 4192

Confidential.

344

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
July 1st, 1930.

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. letter no E 2321/334/91 of May 8th

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From H.M. Representative Jedda no 109 May 9th.	Appointment of Sir. A. Ryan as British Minister at Jedda

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No 27 3 JUL 1930
FROM MILITARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED 2 JUL 1930

Similar letter sent to C.O., A.M.

14—21102 B (2)

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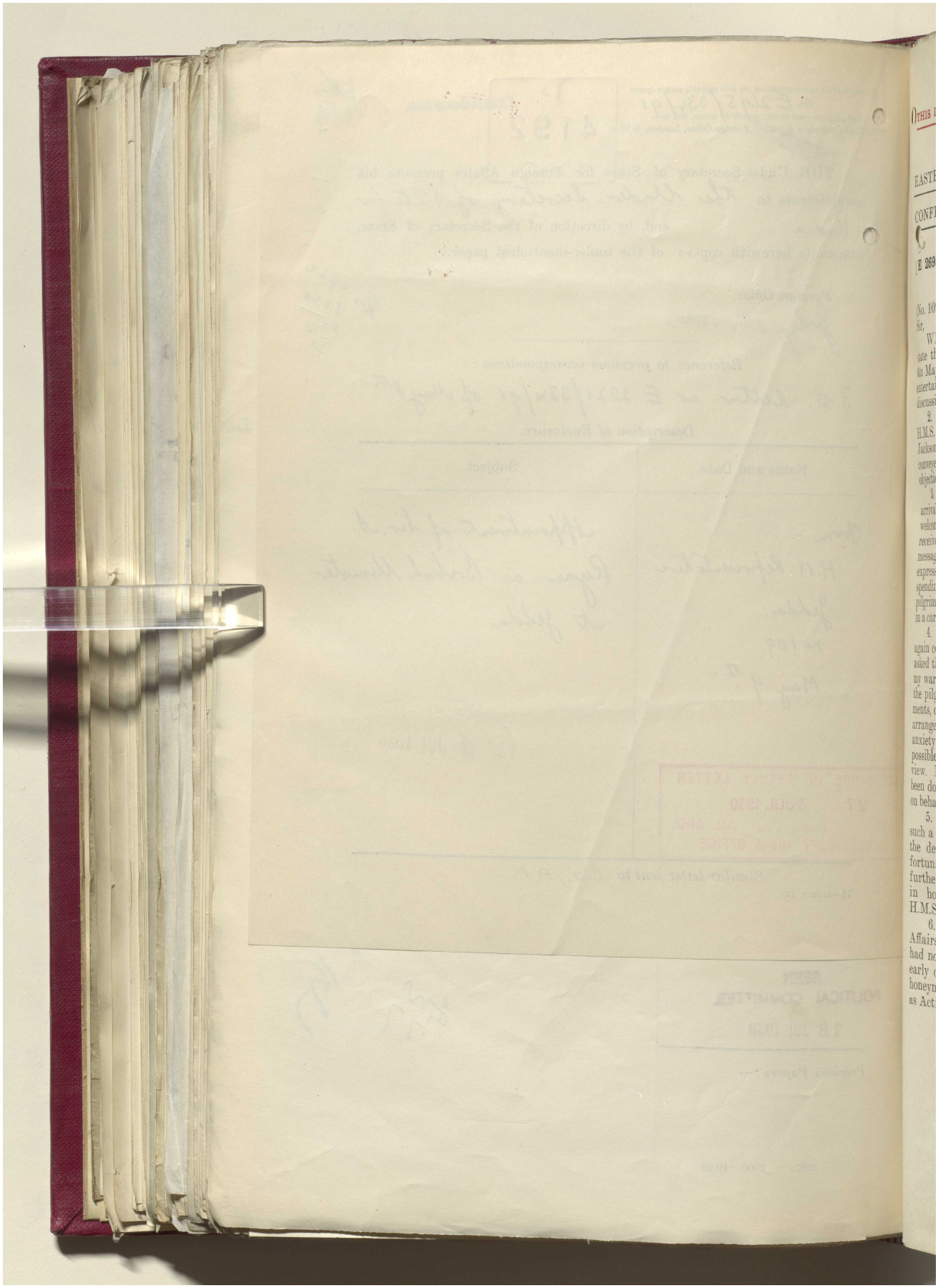

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4192
1930

EASTERN (ARABIA).

May 26, 1930.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

[E 2695/334/91] No. 1.

Sir A. Ryan to Mr. A. Henderson.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 109.)

Sir,

Jedda, May 9, 1930.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 53 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to state that I left London for Jedda on the 22nd April and arrived here on the 6th May viâ Marseilles and Port Sudan. At the latter place I was very hospitably entertained by the commissioner, Major D. S. B. Thomson, and had the advantage of discussing with him many matters of Red Sea interest.

2. The arrangements for transporting me from Port Sudan to Jedda in H.M.S. "Dahlia" were carried out most admirably by Commander R. A. Jackson, R.N. I should be grateful if a suitable expression of thanks could be conveyed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, provided you see no objection.

3. The Hejaz authorities went out of their way to show attention to me on my arrival. The Governor of Jedda sent the officer commanding the garrison to welcome me on board the "Dahlia," and himself came down to the landing-stage to receive me. In addition to his own greetings, he brought me complimentary messages from the King of the Hejaz, Nejd and its dependencies, including an expression of regret that His Majesty had had to leave Jedda (where he had been spending a couple of days), and would be unable to receive me until after the pilgrimage. After responding suitably to these courtesies, I drove to the Legation in a car provided by the Governor.

4. In the evening the King caused further messages to be telephoned to me, and again confirmed them next morning. In addition to replying in the same manner, I asked the Governor, when calling on him on the morning of the 7th May, to convey my warmest thanks to the King, as he, the Governor, was about to go to Mecca for the pilgrimage. At this visit, the Governor, after a cordial exchange of compliments, discoursed to me at some length on the improvements made by Ibn Saud in the arrangements for the pilgrimage, his desire to improve them still further, and his anxiety to collaborate with His Majesty's Government in doing as much as possible to ensure the well-being of pilgrims, especially from the sanitary point of view. I assured the Governor that His Majesty's Government appreciated what had been done, and would be most ready to harmonise their efforts in the same direction on behalf of British pilgrims with those of the King of the Hejaz.

5. I am happy to think that everything connected with my arrival went in such a way as to create a good local impression and to emphasise the importance of the decision of His Majesty's Government to appoint a Minister here. By a fortunate coincidence, my arrival took place on Accession Day. The firing of a further salute and the dressing of ships, including a large number of pilgrim ships, in honour of that anniversary, gave additional dignity to the visit of H.M.S. "Dahlia."

6. On the 7th May, I wrote to the Emir Feisal as Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, to ask formally for an audience to present my credentials. Although I have had no reply as yet, I have reason to think that the audience will be fixed for an early day after the 12th May. Sheikh Fuad Hamza returned to Jedda from his honeymoon yesterday morning, but has not yet notified his resumption of his duties as Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
A. RYAN.

[112 cc—2]

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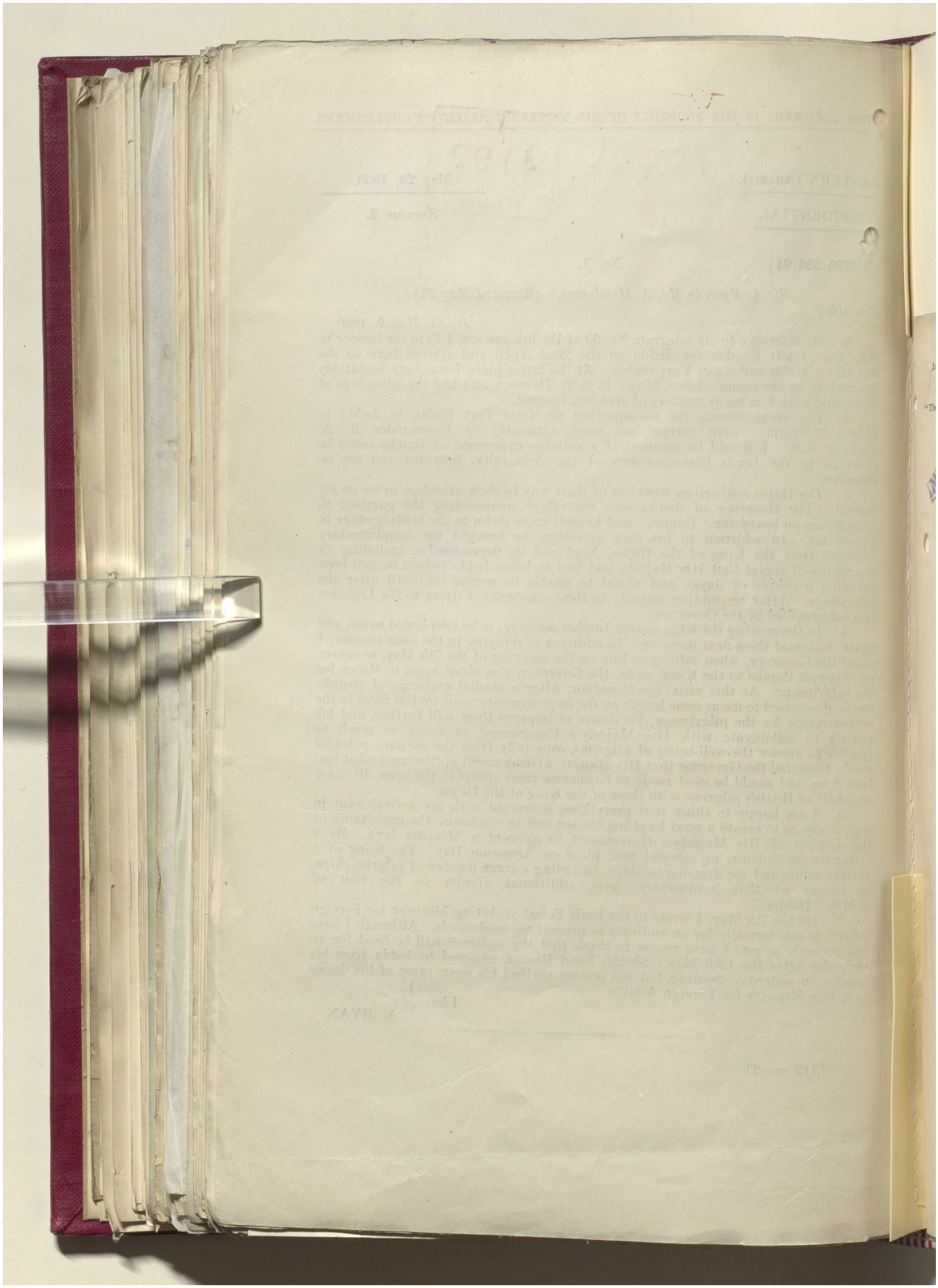

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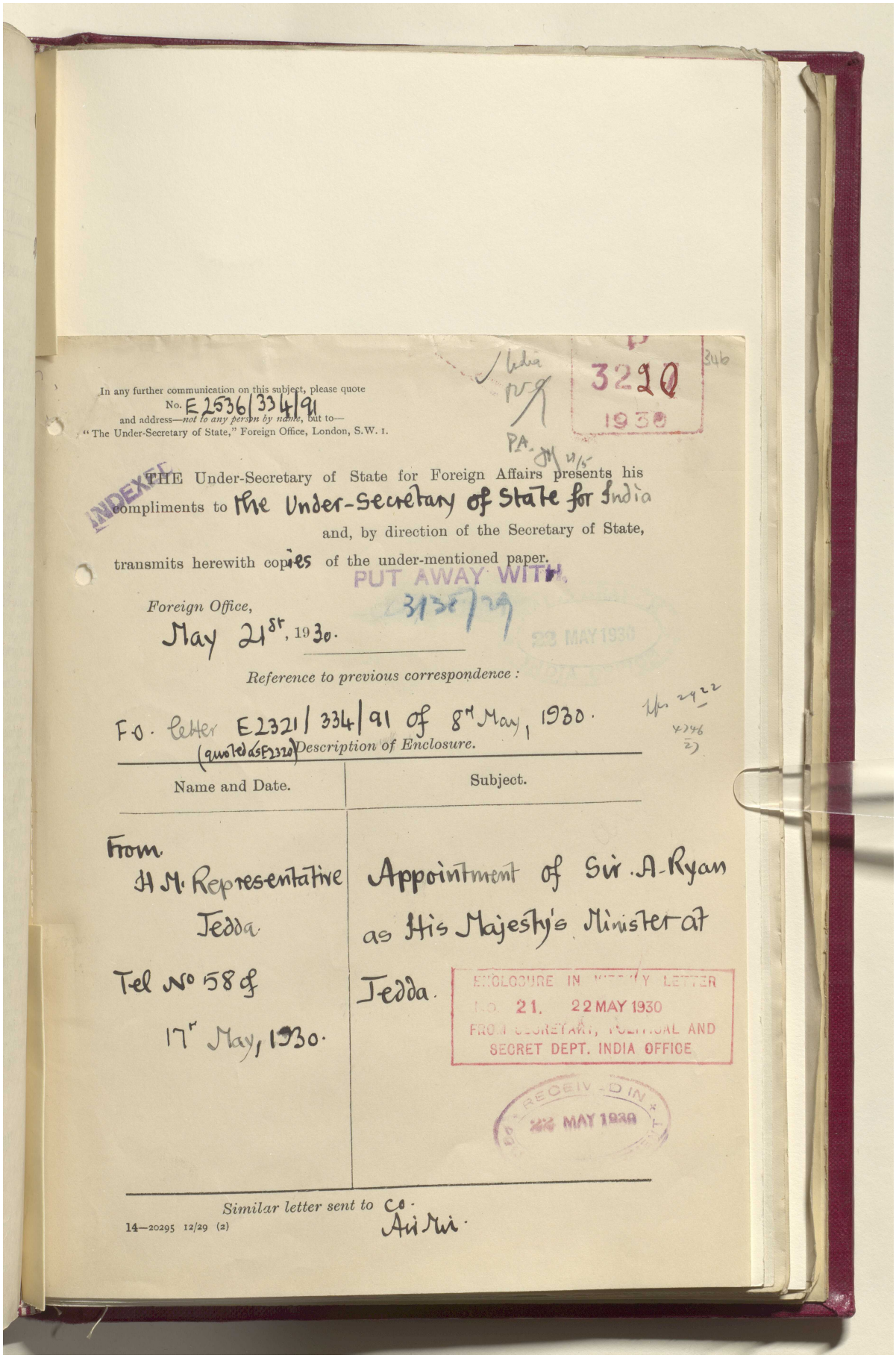

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 2536/334/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

India
PA.

3220
1930

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INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

PUT AWAY WITH
3138/29

Foreign Office,
May 21st, 1930.

22 MAY 1930

Reference to previous correspondence :

F.O. letter E2321/334/91 of 8th May, 1930.
(quoted as E2320)

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From H.M. Representative Jedda Tel No 58 of 17th May, 1930.	Appointment of Sir A. Ryan as His Majesty's Minister at Jedda.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. 21. 22 MAY 1930
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED IN
22 MAY 1930

Similar letter sent to Co. Air Mir.

14—20295 12/29 (2)

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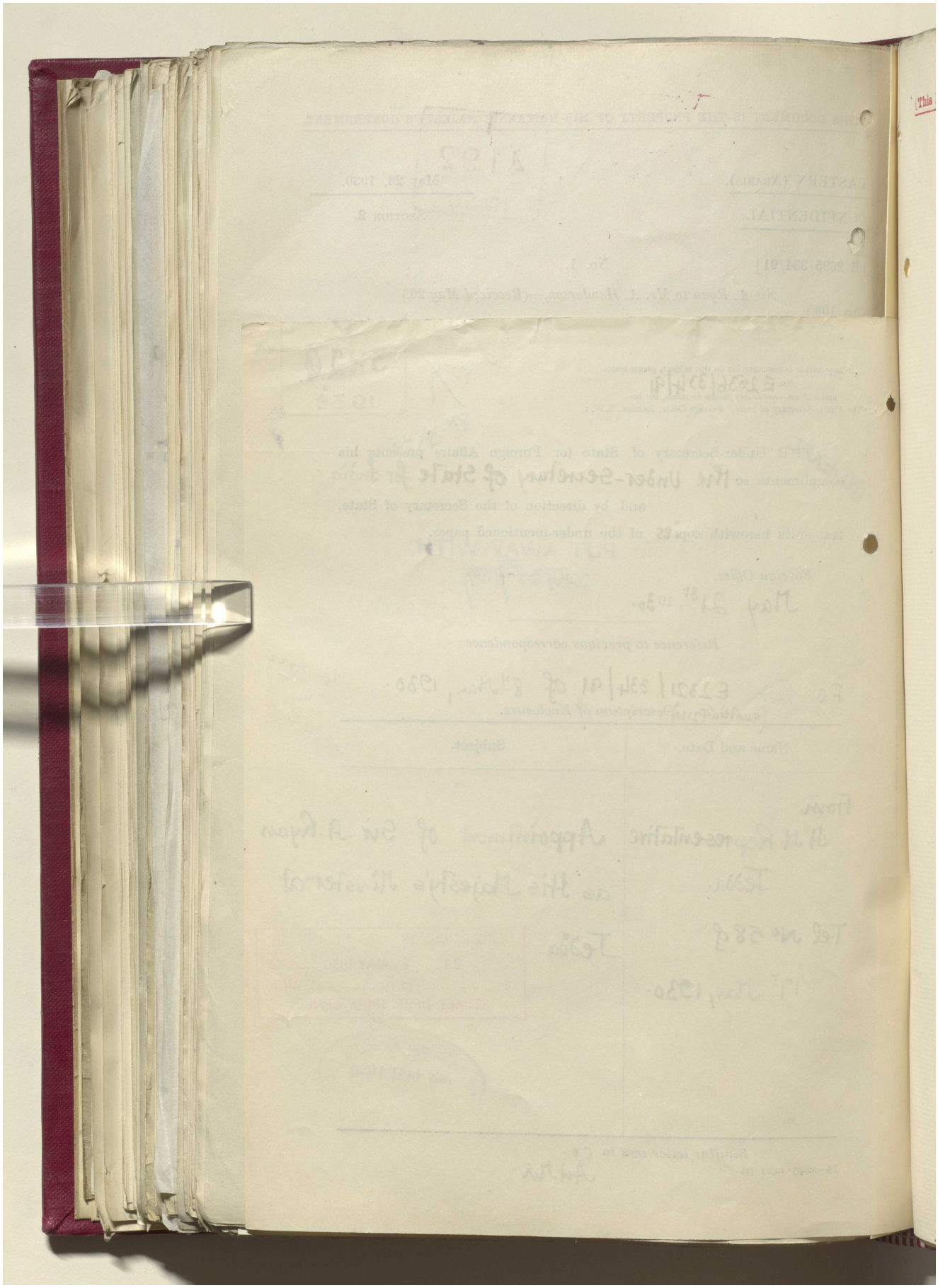

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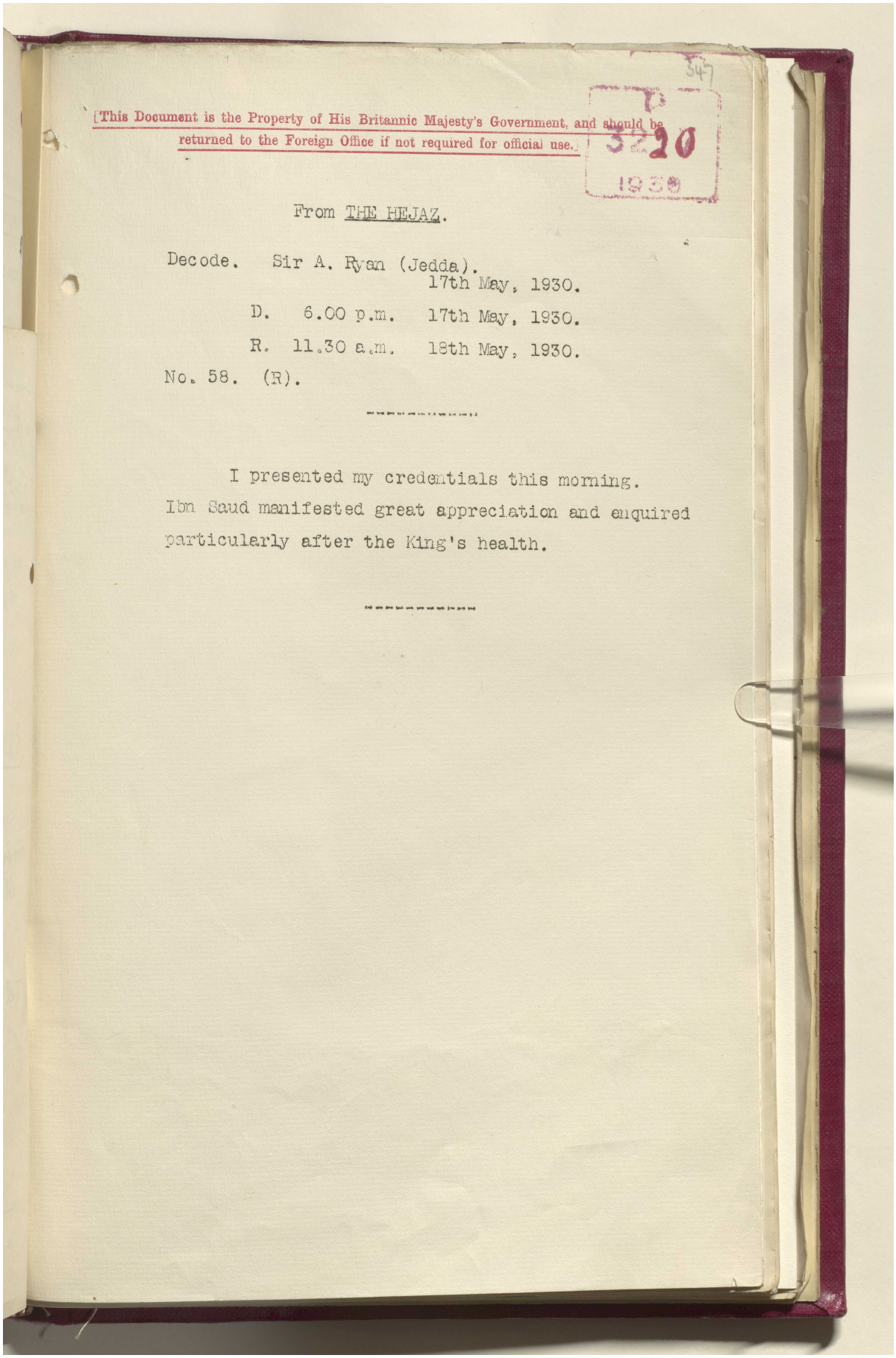

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3220
1930

From THE HEJAZ.

Decode. Sir A. Ryan (Jedda).
17th May, 1930.
D. 6.00 p.m. 17th May, 1930.
R. 11.30 a.m. 18th May, 1930.
No. 58. (R).

I presented my credentials this morning.
Ibn Saud manifested great appreciation and enquired particularly after the King's health.

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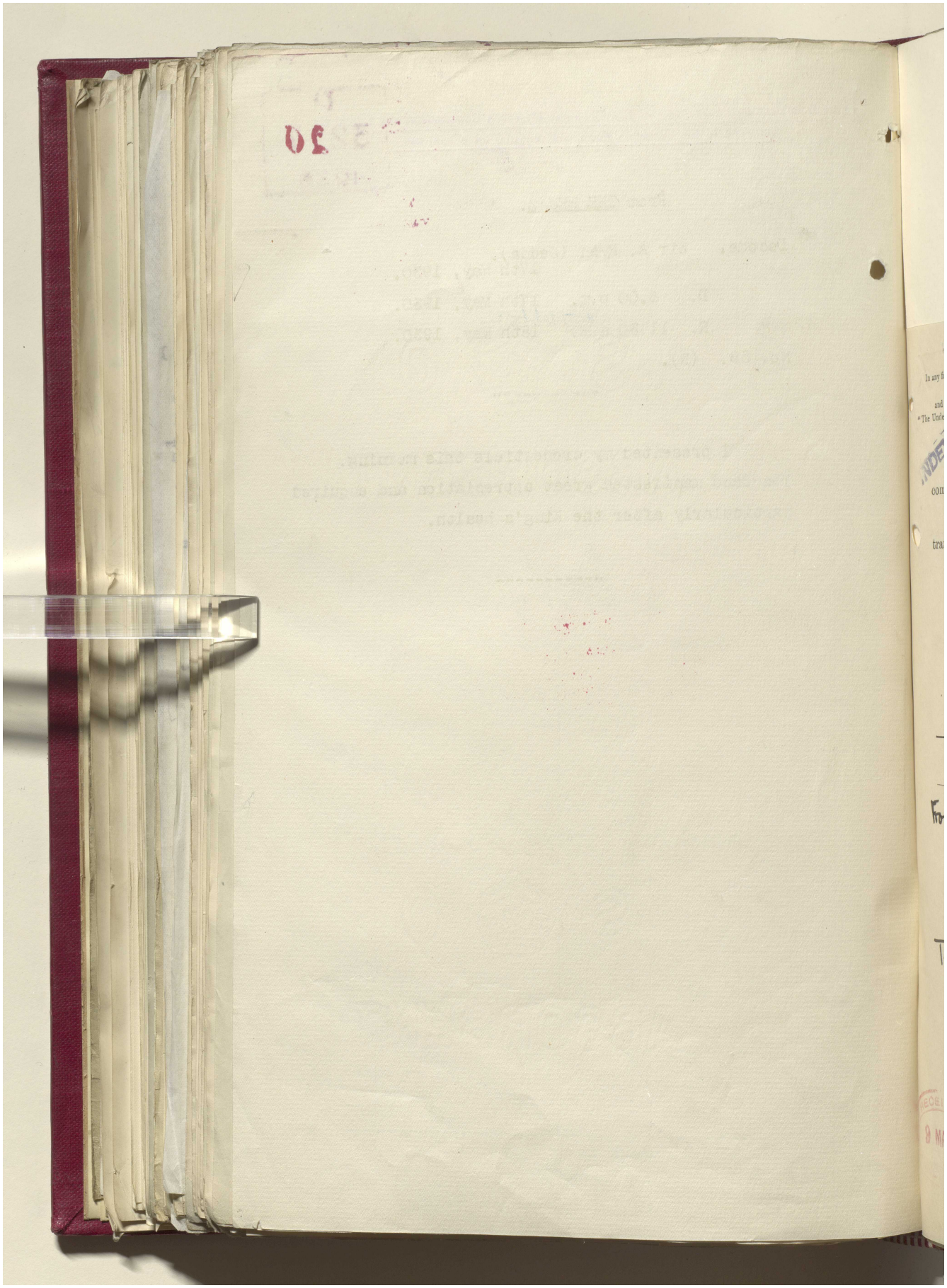

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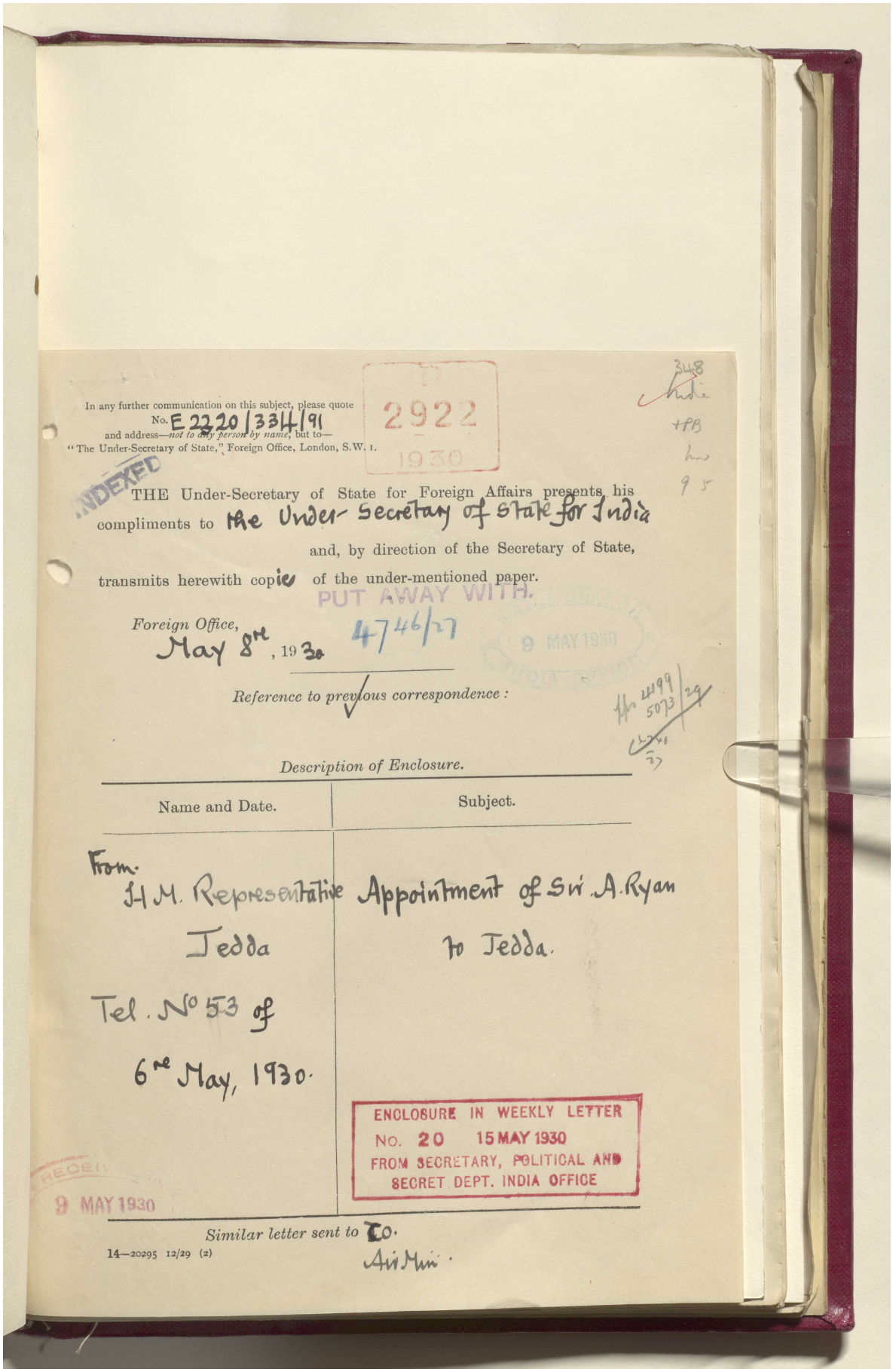

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P
2922
1930

348
India
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9 5

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

PUT AWAY WITH.

Foreign Office,
May 8th, 1930

4746/27

9 MAY 1930
INDIA OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence :

4499
5073/29

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From. H.M. Representative Jedda Tel. No 53 of 6th May, 1930.	Appointment of Sir A. Ryan to Jedda.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
No. 20 15 MAY 1930
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED
9 MAY 1930

Similar letter sent to Co.
Air Min.

14—20295 12/29 (2)

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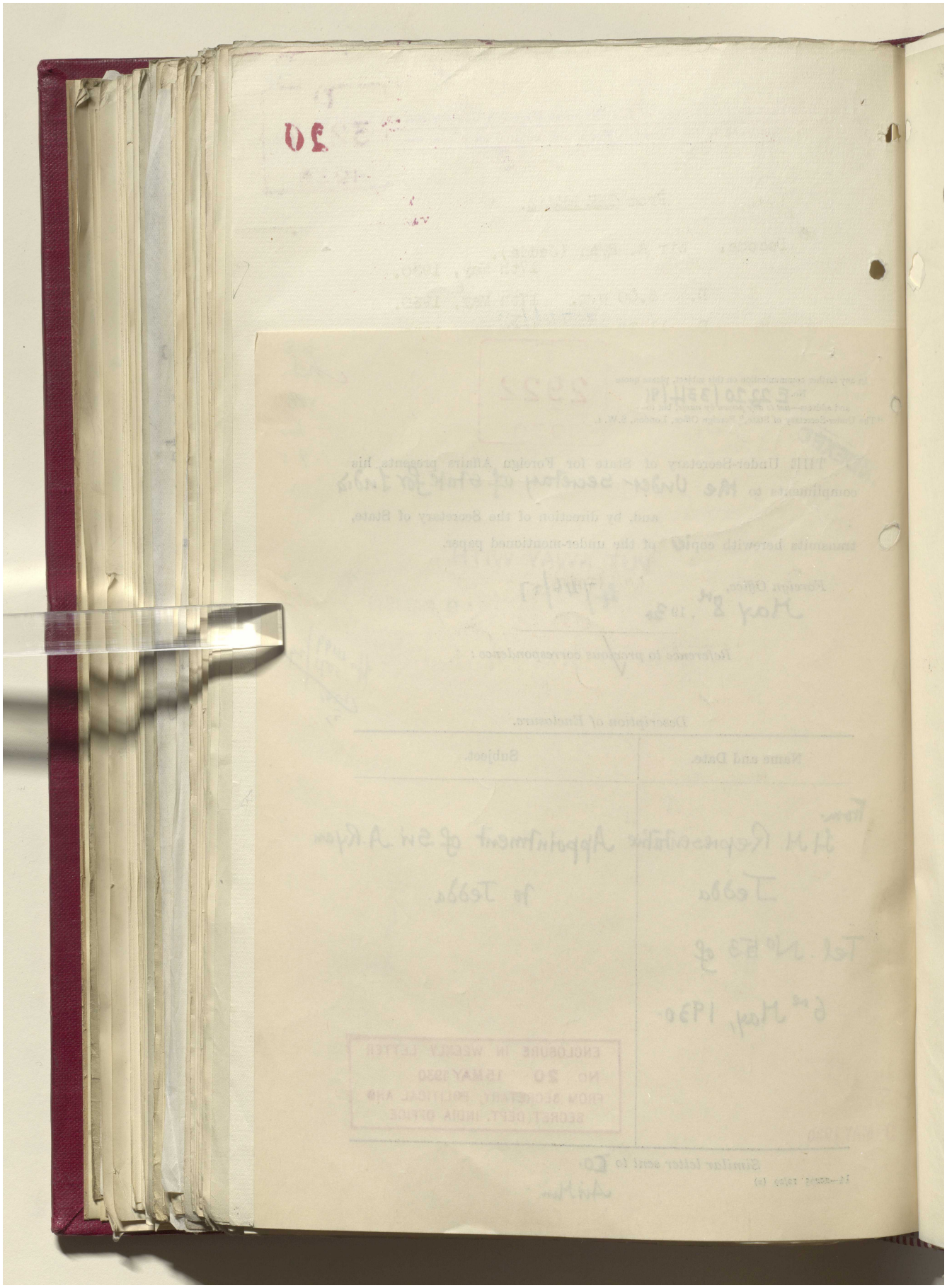

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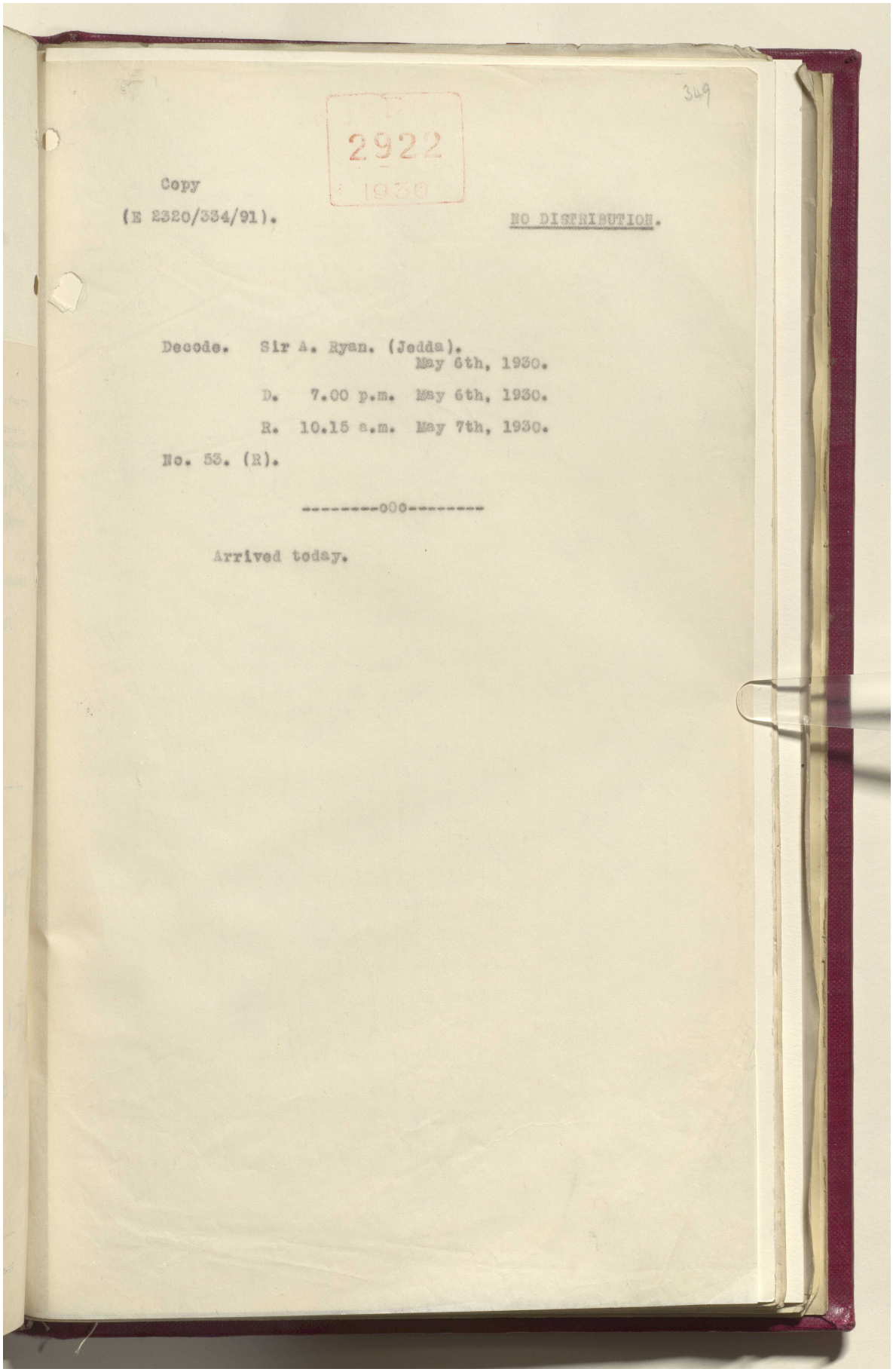


349

2922
1930

Copy
(E 2320/334/91).

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir A. Ryan. (Jedda).
May 6th, 1930.

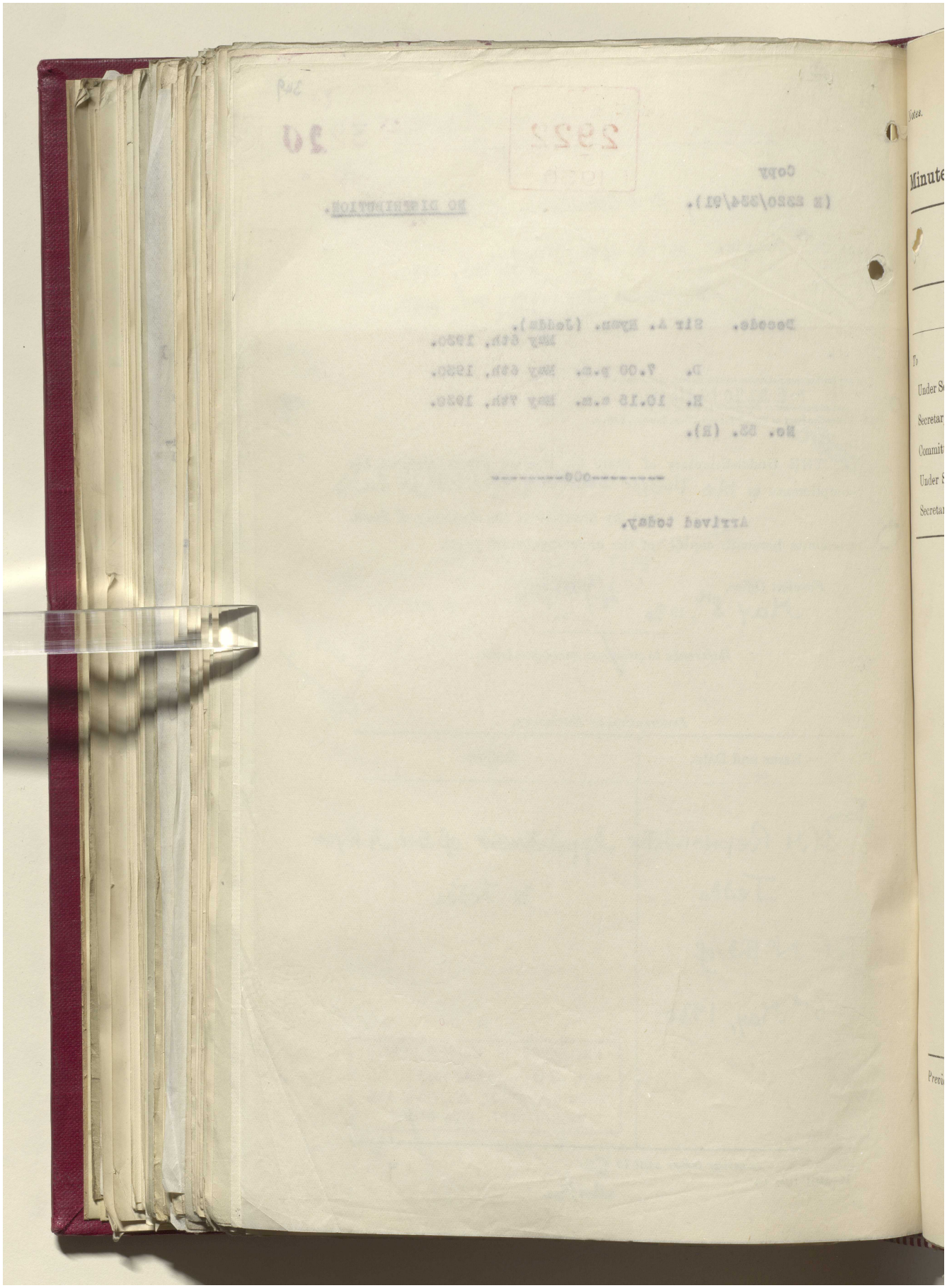
D. 7.00 p.m. May 6th, 1930.

R. 10.15 a.m. May 7th, 1930.

No. 53. (R).

--------000--------

Arrived today.



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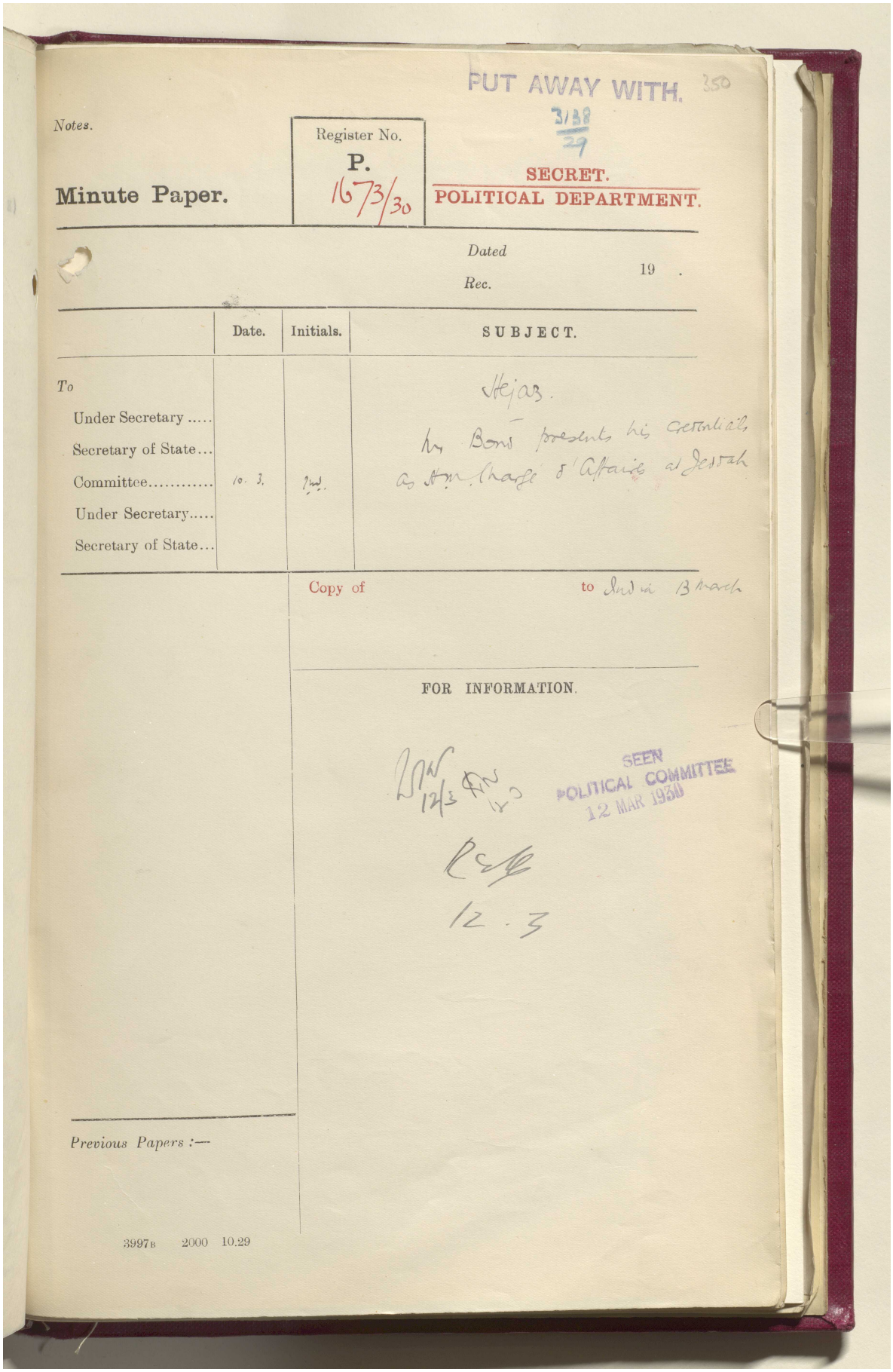

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3/A8/29

Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P. 1673/30

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 19 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz.
Under Secretary			Mr Bond presents his Credential
Secretary of State...			as Hon. Charge d'Affaires at Jeddah
Committee.....	10. 3.	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to India 13 March

FOR INFORMATION.

[illegible] 12/3

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
12 MAR 1930

12.3

Previous Papers :—

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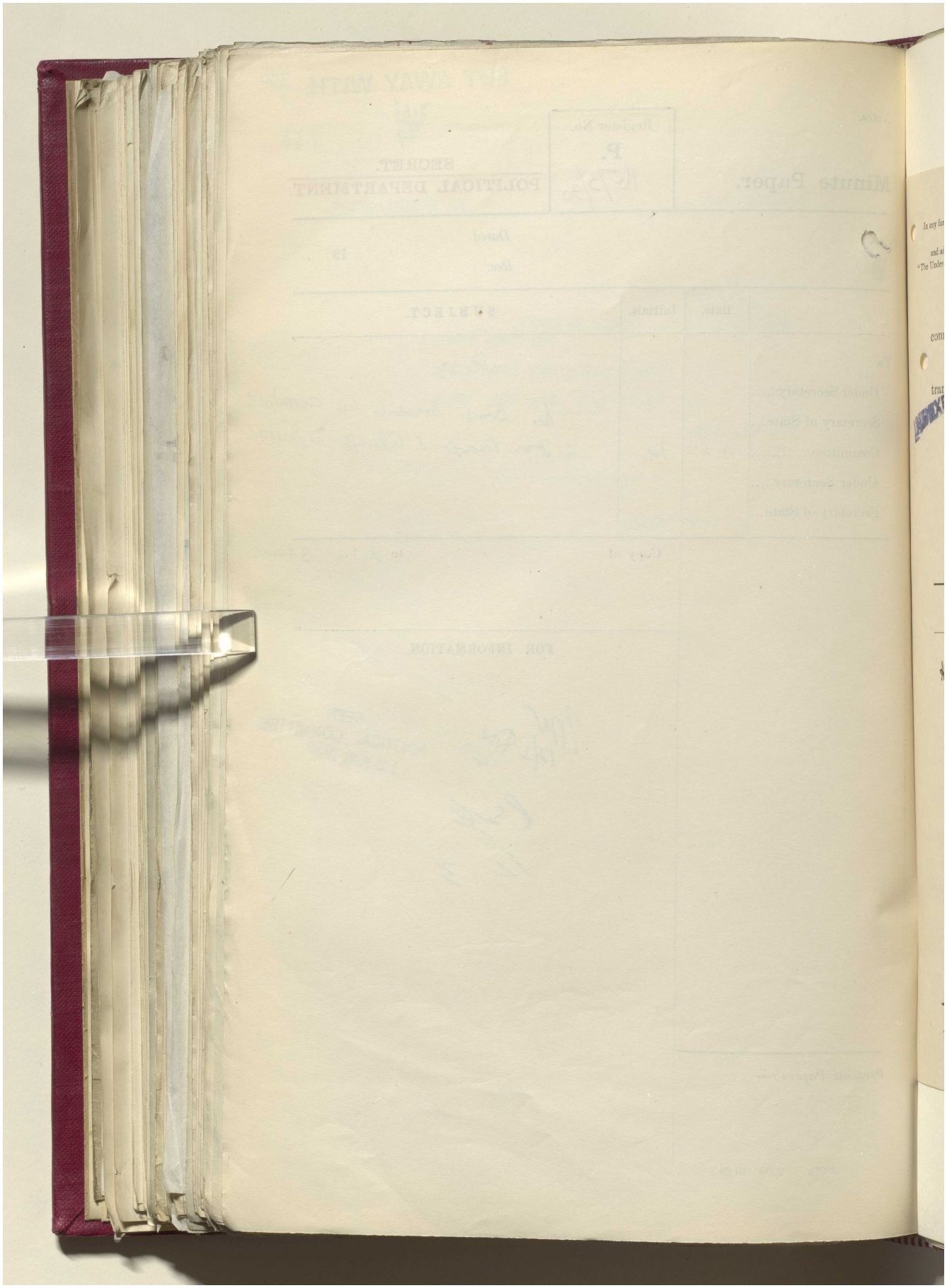

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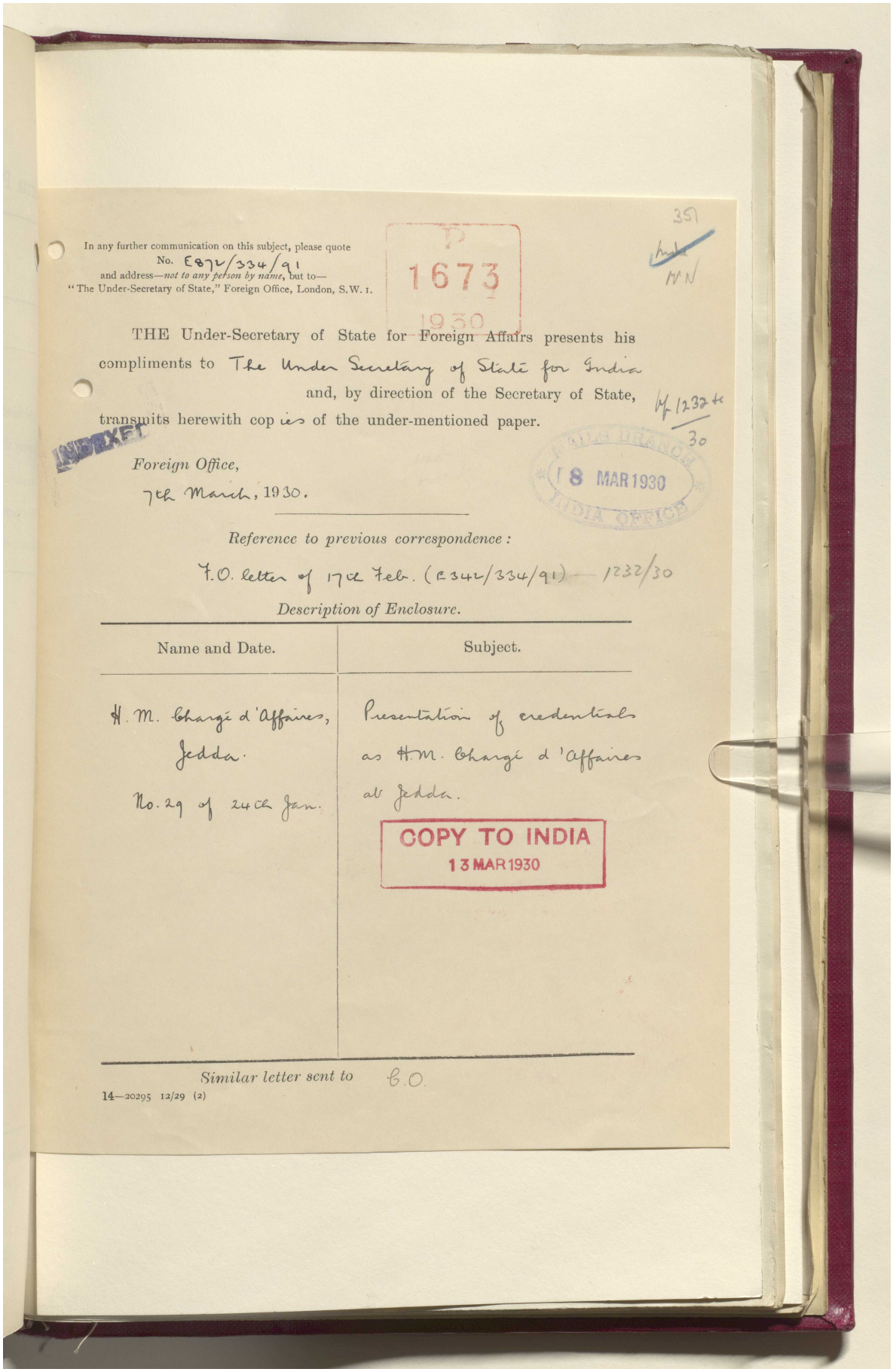

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"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P
1673
1930

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

INDEXED

Foreign Office,
7th March, 1930.

MAILS BRANCH
18 MAR 1930
INDIA OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O. letter of 17th Feb. (E342/334/91) — 1232/30

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H. M. Chargé d'Affaires, Jedda. No. 29 of 24th Jan.	Presentation of credentials as H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Jedda.

COPY TO INDIA
13 MAR 1930

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—20295 12/29 (2)

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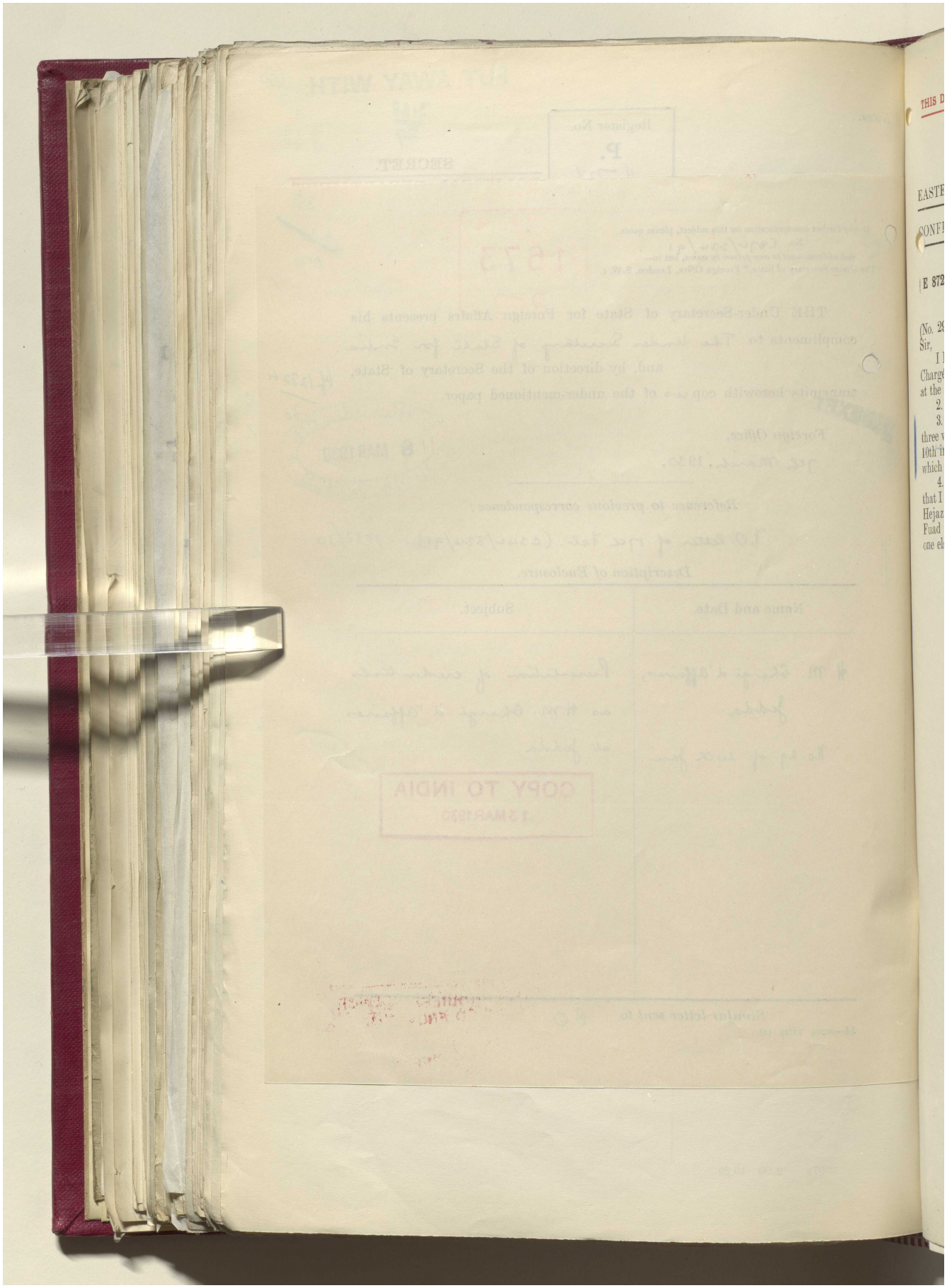

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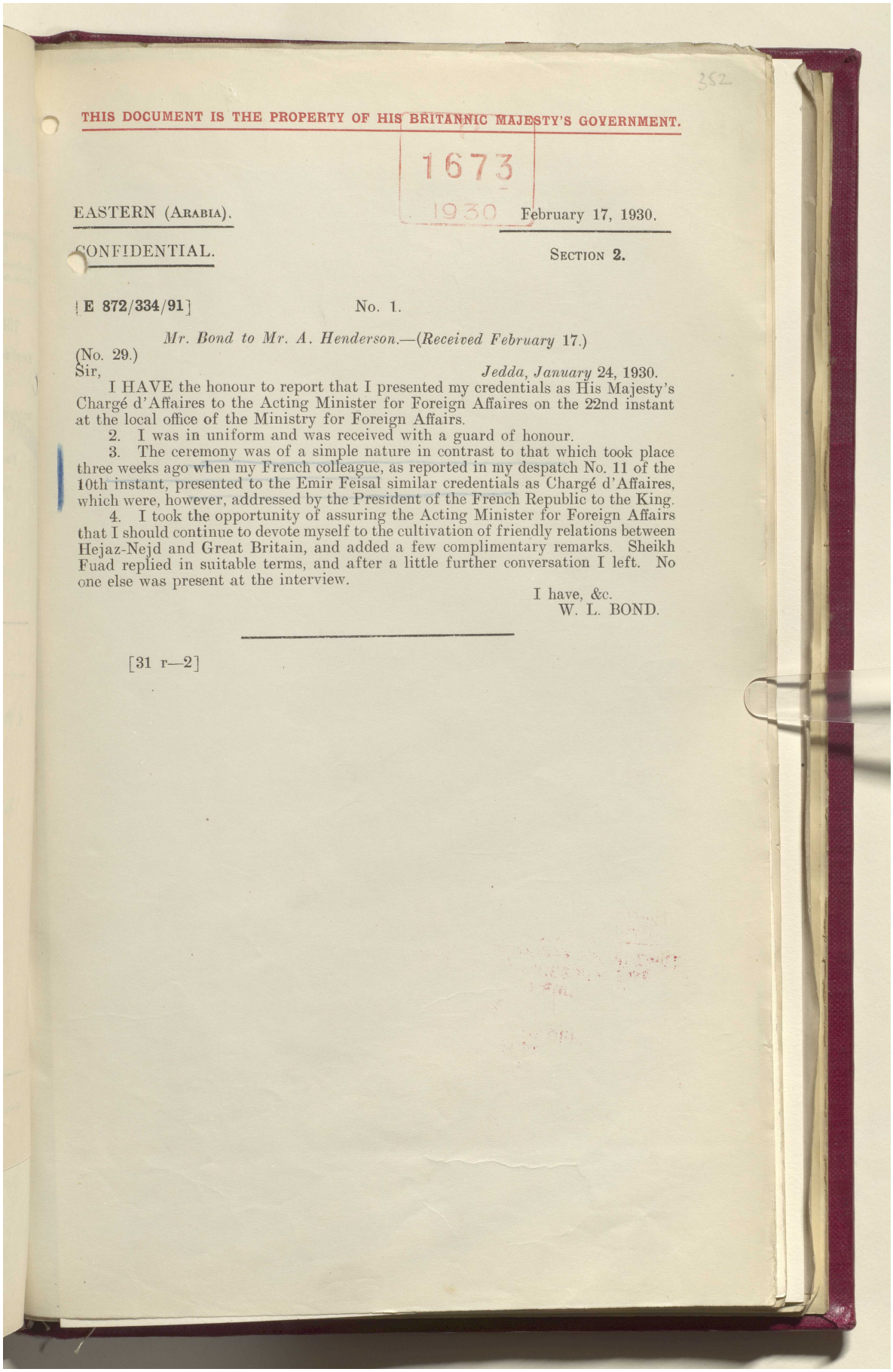

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1673
1930

EASTERN (ARABIA). February 17, 1930.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

[E 872/334/91] No. 1.

Mr. Bond to Mr. A. Henderson.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 29.)

Sir, *Jedda, January* 24, 1930.

I HAVE the honour to report that I presented my credentials as His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affaires on the 22nd instant at the local office of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

2. I was in uniform and was received with a guard of honour.

3. The ceremony was of a simple nature in contrast to that which took place three weeks ago when my French colleague, as reported in my despatch No. 11 of the 10th instant, presented to the Emir Feisal similar credentials as Chargé d'Affaires, which were, however, addressed by the President of the French Republic to the King.

4. I took the opportunity of assuring the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs that I should continue to devote myself to the cultivation of friendly relations between Hejaz-Nejd and Great Britain, and added a few complimentary remarks. Sheikh Fuad replied in suitable terms, and after a little further conversation I left. No one else was present at the interview.

I have, &c.
W. L. BOND.

[31 r—2]

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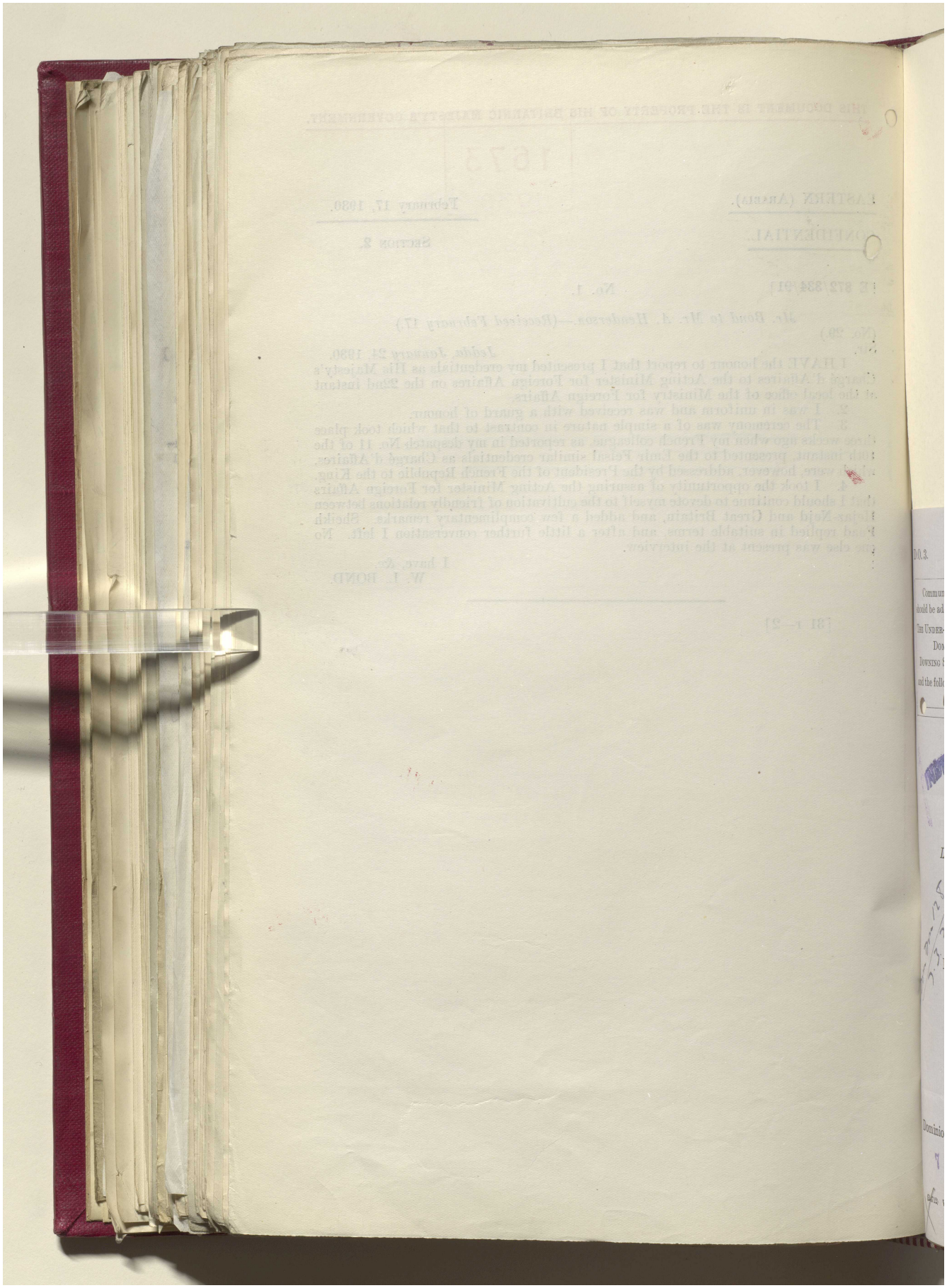

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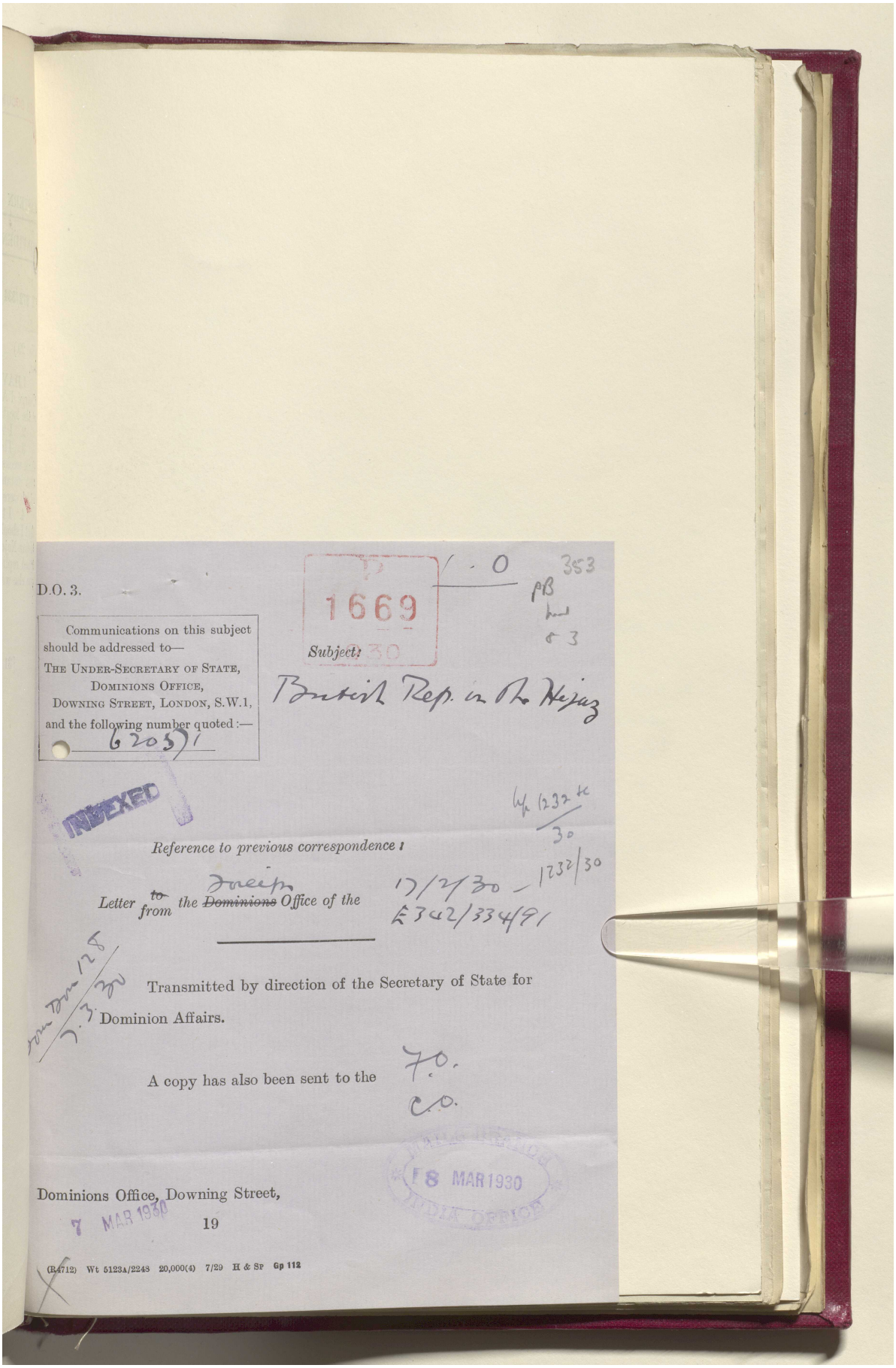

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D.O. 3.

1669

1 . 0

353

PB

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,
DOMINIONS OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
620571

Subject: British Rep. in the Hejaz

INDEXED

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ~~to~~ from the ~~Dominions~~ Foreign Office of the 17/2/30 – 1232/30 E342/334/91

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

A copy has also been sent to the F.O. C.O.

Dominions Office, Downing Street,
7 MAR 1930
19

8 MAR 1930 INDIA OFFICE

(R4712) Wt 5123A/2248 20,000(4) 7/29 H & Sp Gp 112

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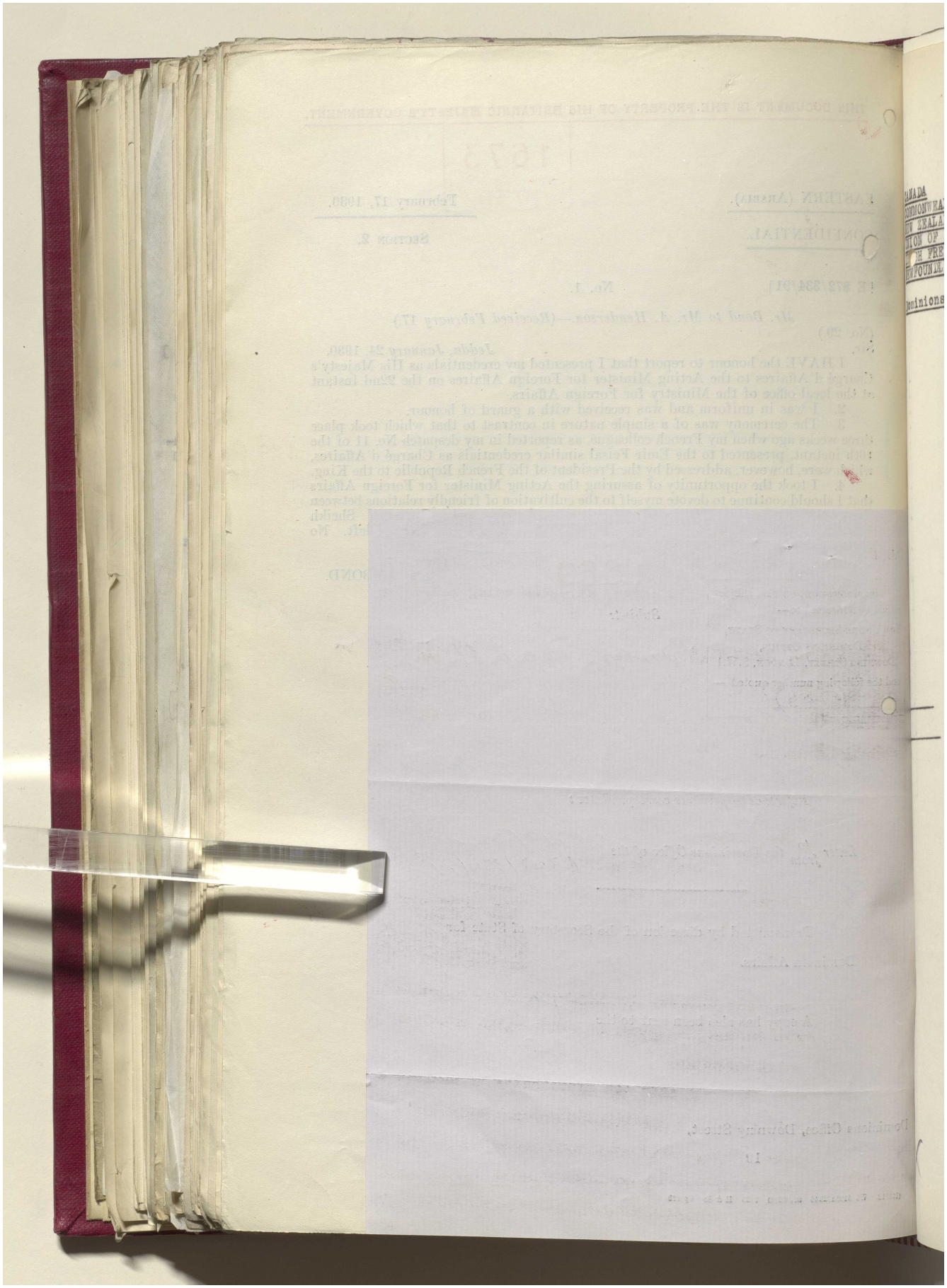

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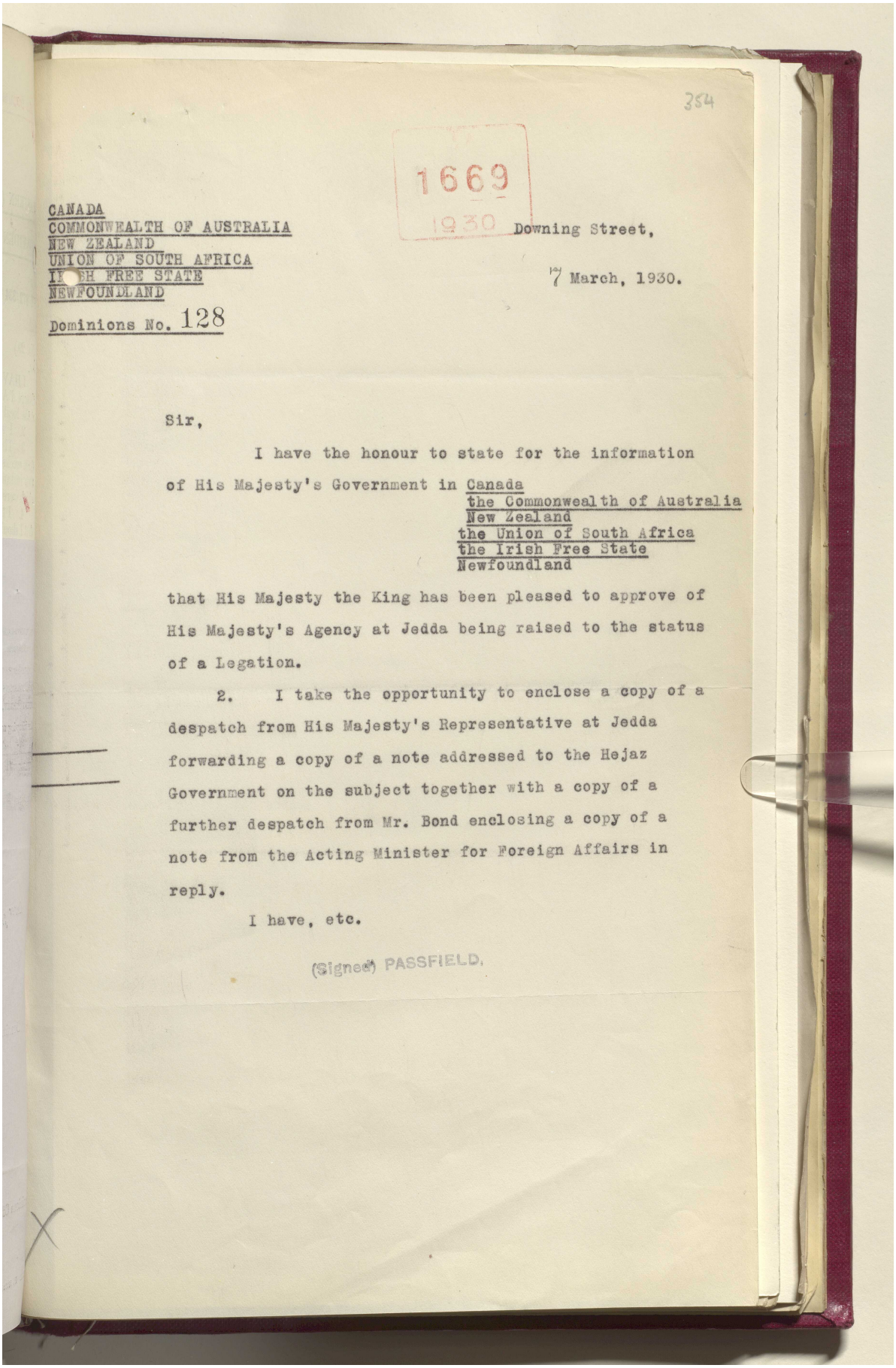

354

1669
1930

CANADA
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
IRISH FREE STATE
NEWFOUNDLAND

Downing Street,

17 March, 1930.

Dominions No. 128

Sir,

I have the honour to state for the information of His Majesty's Government in Canada
the Commonwealth of Australia
New Zealand
the Union of South Africa
the Irish Free State
Newfoundland
that His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve of His Majesty's Agency at Jedda being raised to the status of a Legation.

2. I take the opportunity to enclose a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Representative at Jedda forwarding a copy of a note addressed to the Hejaz Government on the subject together with a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Bond enclosing a copy of a note from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs in reply.

I have, etc.

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

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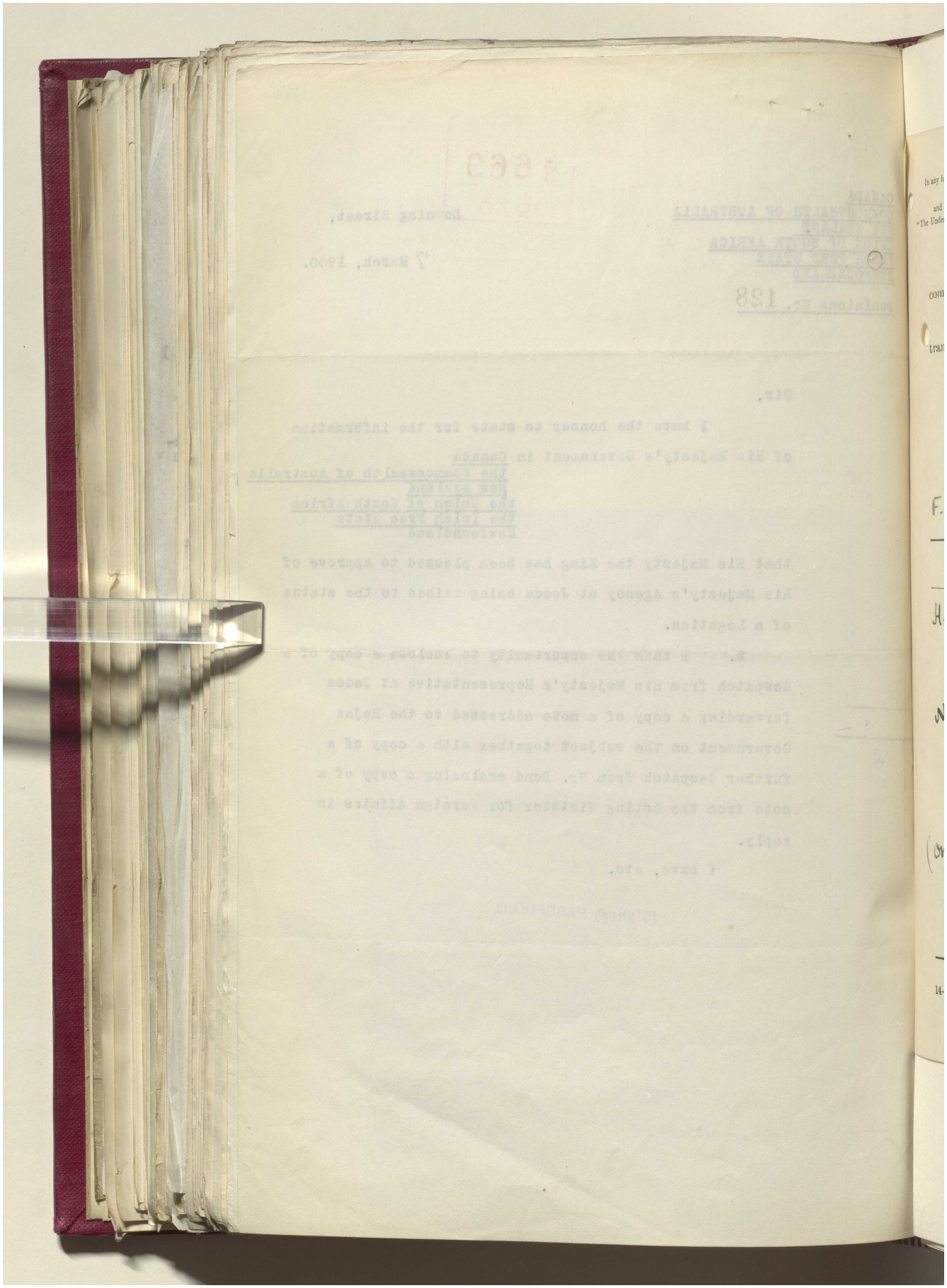

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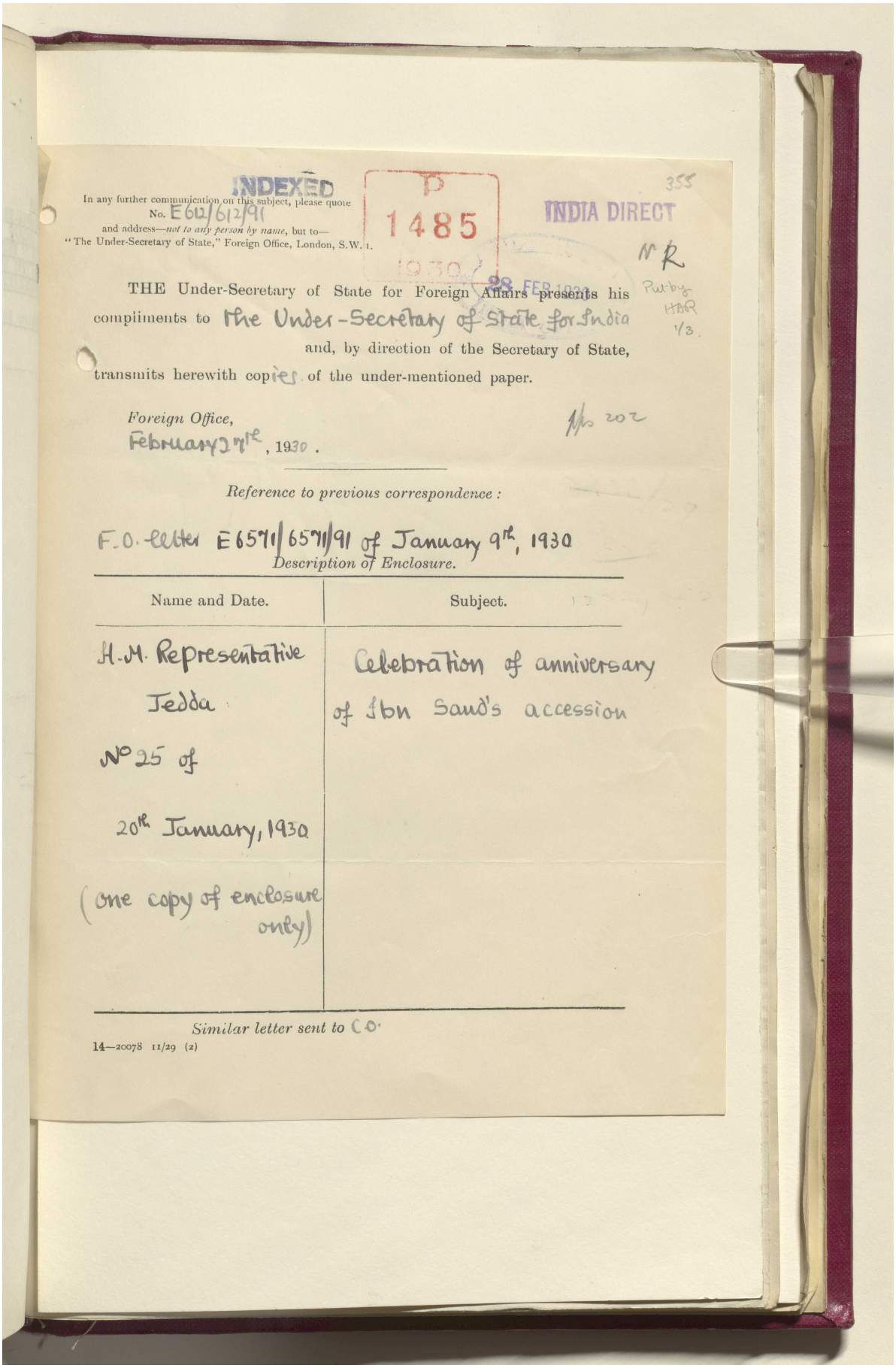

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INDIA DIRECT

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 612/612/91 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to— "The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

N R

Purby HBR 1/3.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
February 2nd, 1930.

1/No 202

Reference to previous correspondence :

F.O. letter E 6571/6571/91 of January 9th, 1930

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Representative Jedda No 25 of 20th January, 1930 (one copy of enclosure only)	Celebration of anniversary of Ibn Saud's accession

Similar letter sent to C.O.

14—20078 11/29 (2)

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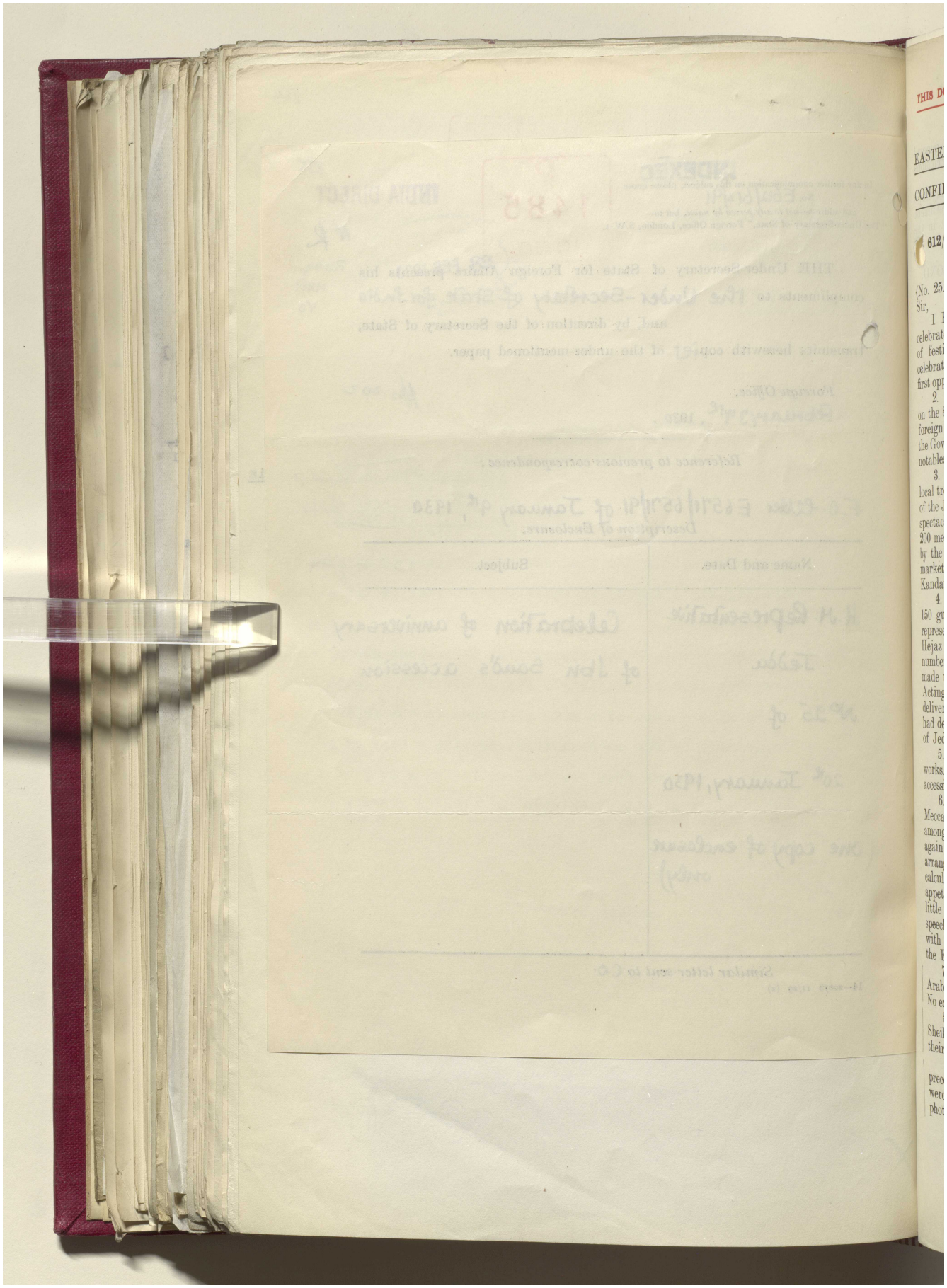

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INDIA DIRECT 356

INDEXED 1485 1930

EASTERN (ARABIA). February 3, 1930.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

612/612/91] No. 1.

Mr. Bond to Mr. A. Henderson.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 25.)

Sir, *Jedda, January* 20, 1930.

I HAVE the honour to report that the accession of King Ibn Saud was celebrated on the 8th and 9th January in conformity with an elaborate programme of festivities which had been devised for the occasion. These were the first celebrations of the sort that have taken place, and it is stated that the King was at first opposed to them, although he subsequently gave his consent.

2. In Jedda the streets were beflagged and a general holiday was proclaimed on the 8th January. The day began with receptions and a salute of 101 guns, the foreign representatives and consuls and their staffs in uniform being received by the Governor at 11 A.M. Simultaneously, the Emir Feisal was holding a reception of notables in Mecca.

3. In the afternoon the Emir Feisal arrived from Mecca for a review of the local troops outside the town at Kandara. These consisted of a company of infantry of the Jedda garrison in their semi-European uniform, who presented a rather sorry spectacle compared with a few wild horsemen and a picturesque contingent of about 200 men on gaily caparisoned camels who followed. The artillery was represented by the four saluting guns, which were drawn by mules commandeered from the market place for the purpose. The review was preceded by tea at the palace at Kandara, to which some 300 guests had been invited.

4. In the evening an official banquet was held at Kandara at which about 150 guests were present, including the foreign representatives and a number of representatives of the leading Egyptian newspapers, who had been invited by the Hejaz Government to attend the celebrations. The banquet was the occasion for a number of complimentary speeches extolling the virtues of the King and the progress made under his reign. There had, I am told, been a sharp dispute between the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Governor of Jedda as to who should deliver the Government's address. The matter had been referred to the Emir, who had decided as a compromise that Sheikh Fuad's speech should be read by a citizen of Jedda.

5. Sheikh Fuad's speech was in the main also a eulogy of the King and his works. He enumerated the objects which the King had set out to achieve since his accession and commented on the results obtained. I enclose a résumé of his speech.*

6. For the following day a lunch had been organised by the Municipality of Mecca at Wadi Fatma, about 15 miles from Mecca, where tents had been erected among palm groves. The foreign representatives and the Egyptian journalists were again invited. Lunch was served to 250 guests at a long table in one tent. The arrangements for lunch were excellent, although the super-abundance of food was calculated to daunt all but the hardiest trencherman, and the guests, in spite of appetites sharpened by a two hours' drive across country, managed to make very little impression upon it. The time was occupied both before and after lunch by speeches and poems delivered in a reception marquee by selected orators, who vied with one another in showering fulsome praise on the King and his representative, the Emir.

7. The celebrations were organised, I am told, on an unprecedented scale for Arabia, and were obviously intended to impress both the foreigners and the Arabs. No expense was spared and the organisation was, on the whole, good.

8. The invitation extended to the Egyptian journalists was a clever move on Sheikh Fuad's part. They were treated with assiduous courtesy and were loud in their praises.

9. The celebrations marked, I think, a definite departure from the rigid precepts which the Akhwan had succeeded temporarily in imposing. Photographs were taken freely; an official photographer had, in fact, come from Egypt and photographed the Emir on every possible occasion. Smoking was indulged in openly

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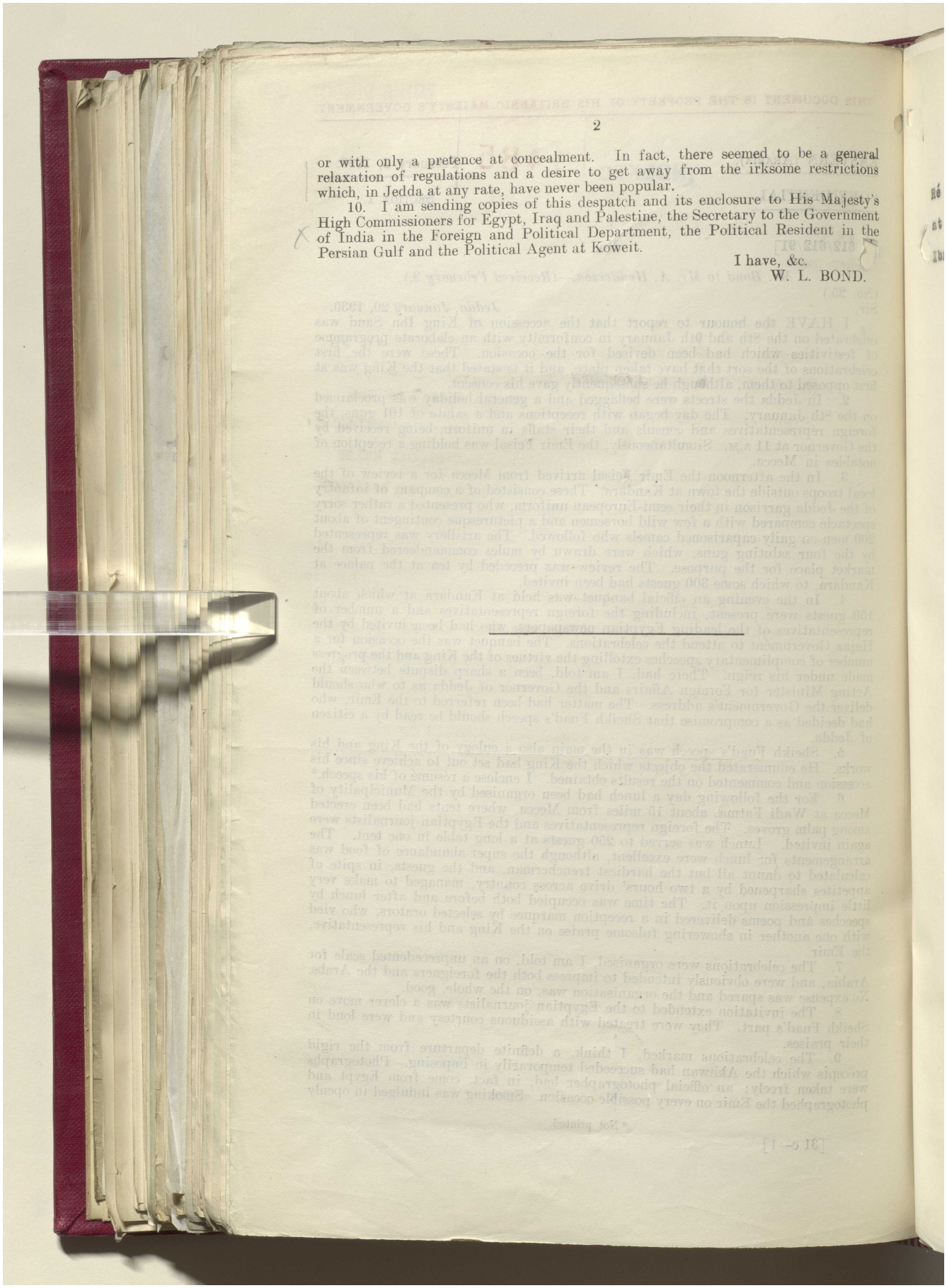

or with only a pretence at concealment. In fact, there seemed to be a general relaxation of regulations and a desire to get away from the irksome restrictions which, in Jedda at any rate, have never been popular.

10. I am sending copies of this despatch and its enclosure to His Majesty's High Commissioners for Egypt, Iraq and Palestine, the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and the Political Agent at Koweit.

I have, &c.
W. L. BOND.

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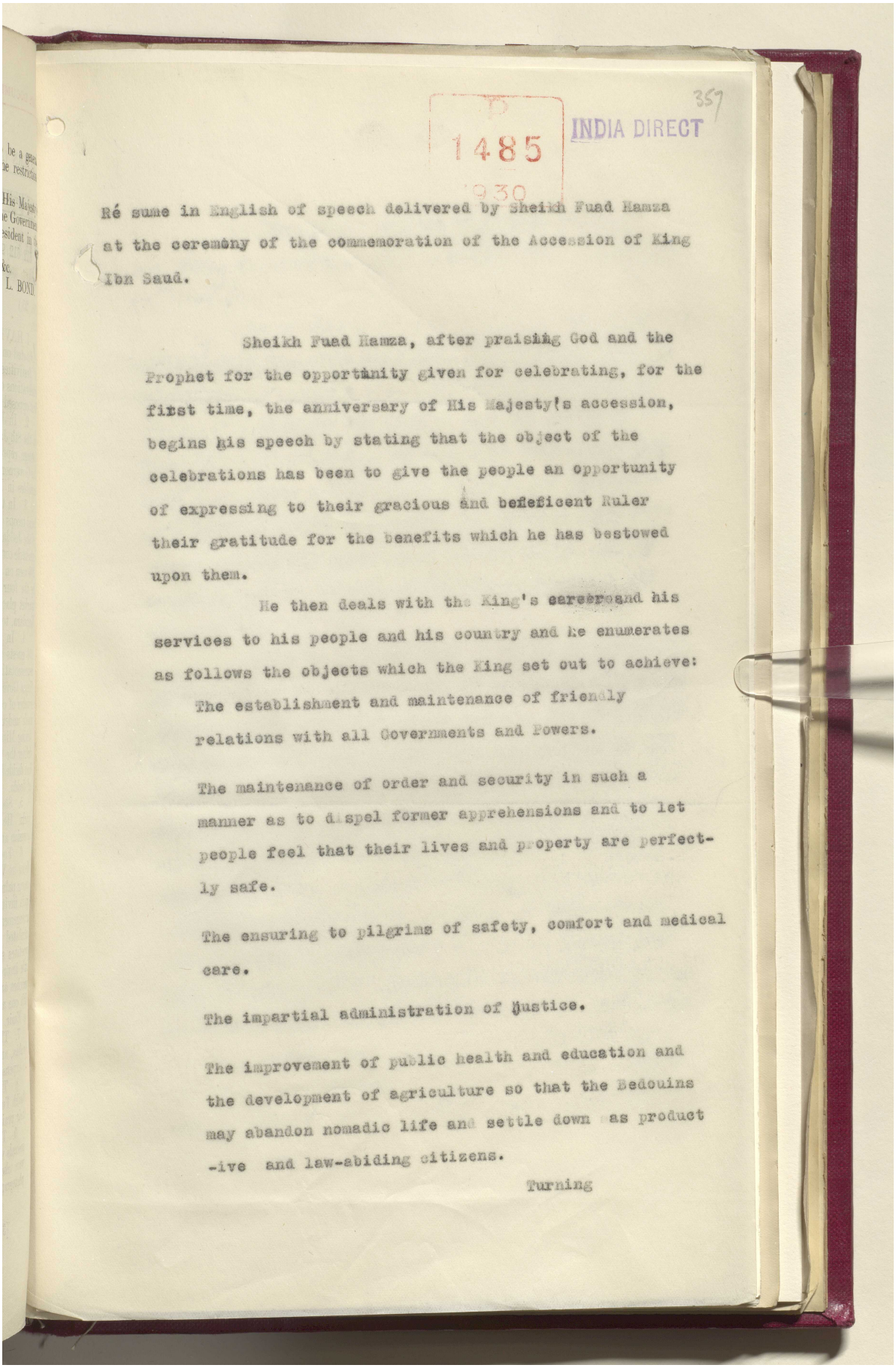

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Ré sume in English of speech delivered by Sheikh Fuad Hamza at the ceremony of the commemoration of the Accession of King Ibn Saud.

Sheikh Fuad Hamza, after praising God and the Prophet for the opportunity given for celebrating, for the first time, the anniversary of His Majesty's accession, begins his speech by stating that the object of the celebrations has been to give the people an opportunity of expressing to their gracious and befeficent Ruler their gratitude for the benefits which he has bestowed upon them.

He then deals with the King's career and his services to his people and his country and he enumerates as follows the objects which the King set out to achieve:

The establishment and maintenance of friendly relations with all Governments and Powers.

The maintenance of order and security in such a manner as to dispel former apprehensions and to let people feel that their lives and property are perfectly safe.

The ensuring to pilgrims of safety, comfort and medical care.

The impartial administration of justice.

The improvement of public health and education and the development of agriculture so that the Bedouins may abandon nomadic life and settle down as product-ive and law-abiding citizens.

Turning

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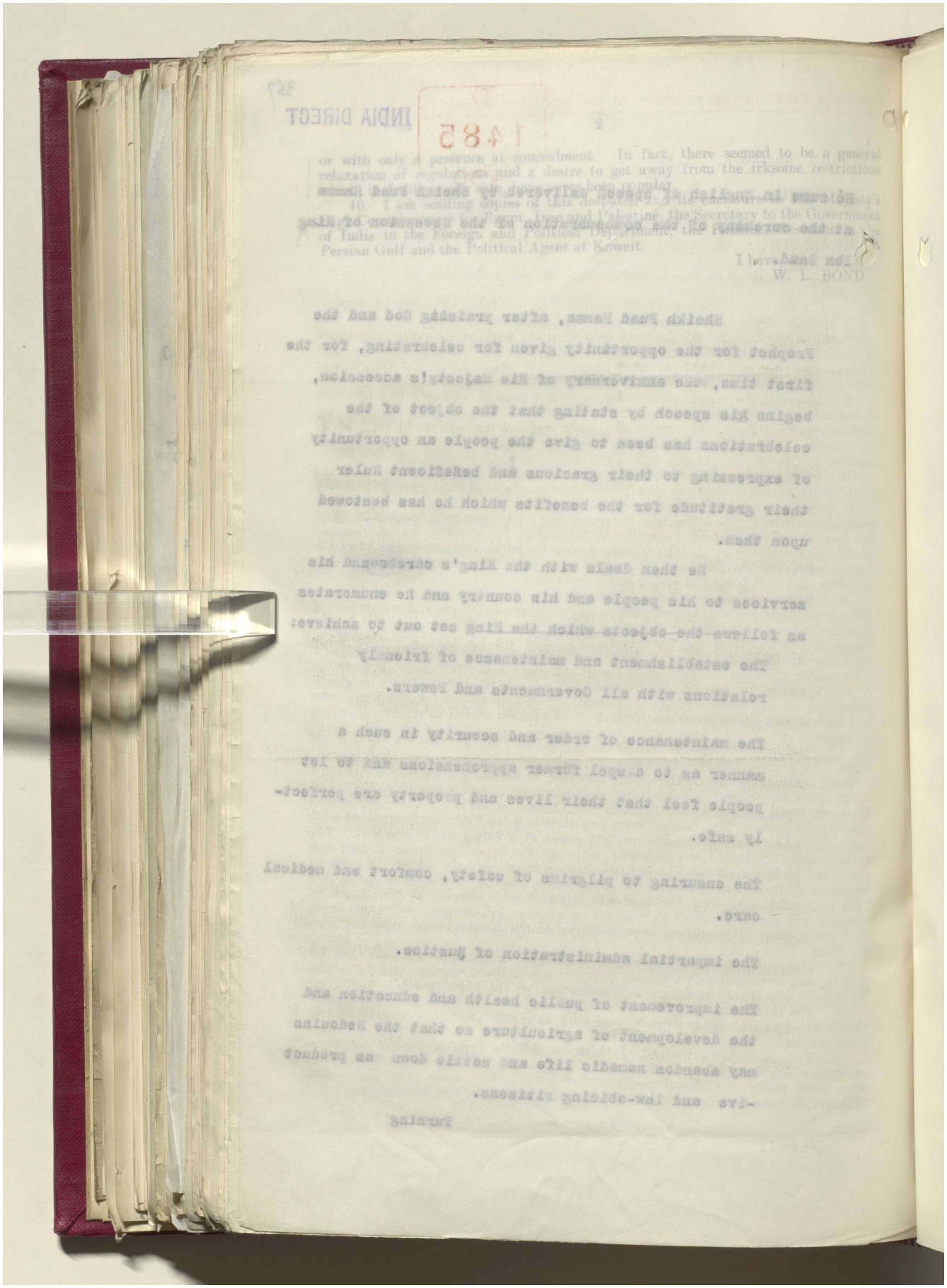

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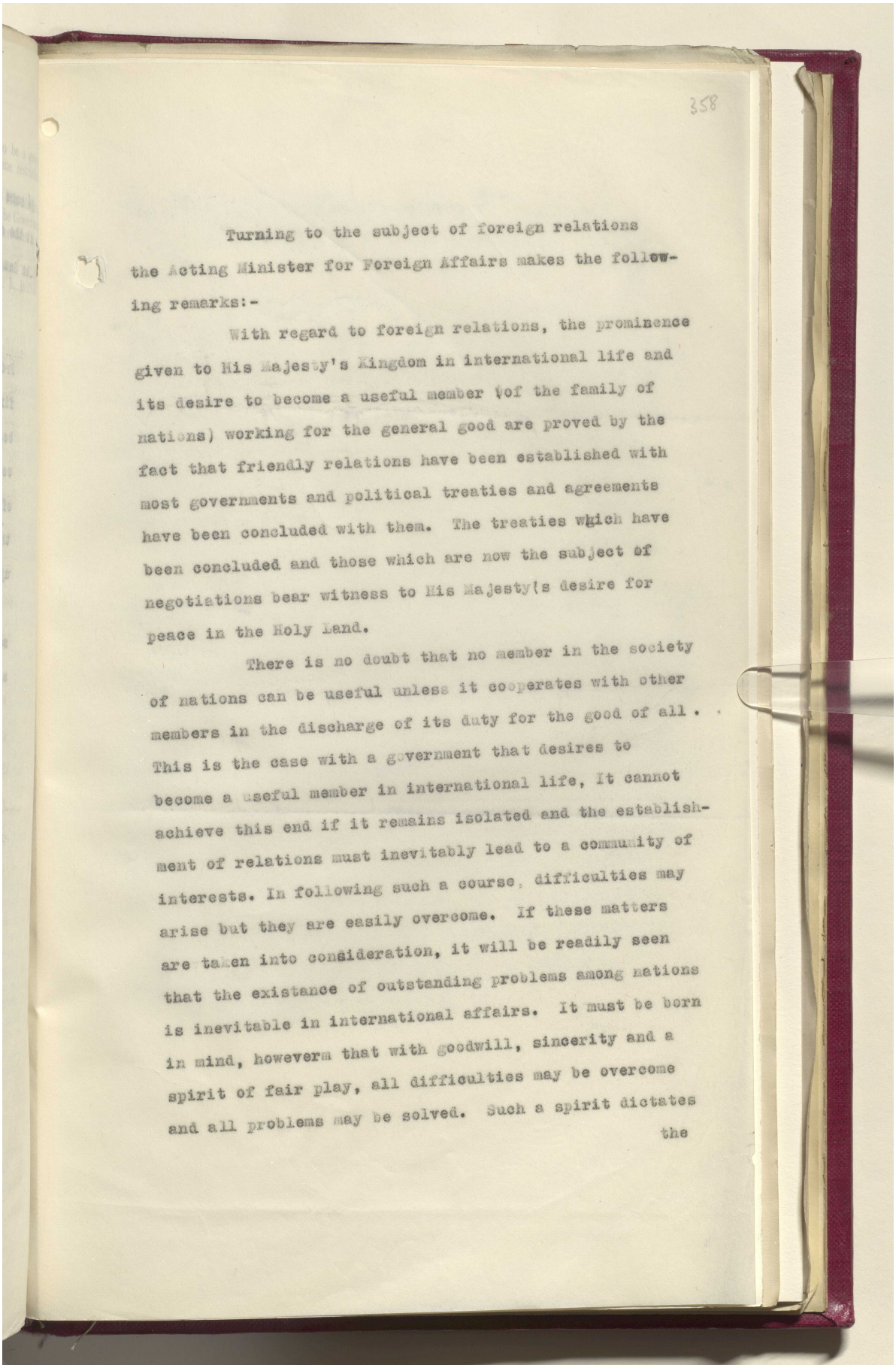

Turning to the subject of foreign relations the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs makes the following remarks:-

With regard to foreign relations, the prominence given to His Majesty's Kingdom in international life and its desire to become a useful member (of the family of nations) working for the general good are proved by the fact that friendly relations have been established with most governments and political treaties and agreements have been concluded with them. The treaties which have been concluded and those which are now the subject of negotiations bear witness to His Majesty's desire for peace in the Holy Land.

There is no doubt that no member in the society of nations can be useful unless it cooperates with other members in the discharge of its duty for the good of all. This is the case with a government that desires to become a useful member in international life, It cannot achieve this end if it remains isolated and the establishment of relations must inevitably lead to a community of interests. In following such a course, difficulties may arise but they are easily overcome. If these matters are taken into consideration, it will be readily seen that the existance of outstanding problems among nations is inevitable in international affairs. It must be born in mind, howeverm that with goodwill, sincerity and a spirit of fair play, all difficulties may be overcome and all problems may be solved. Such a spirit dictates

the

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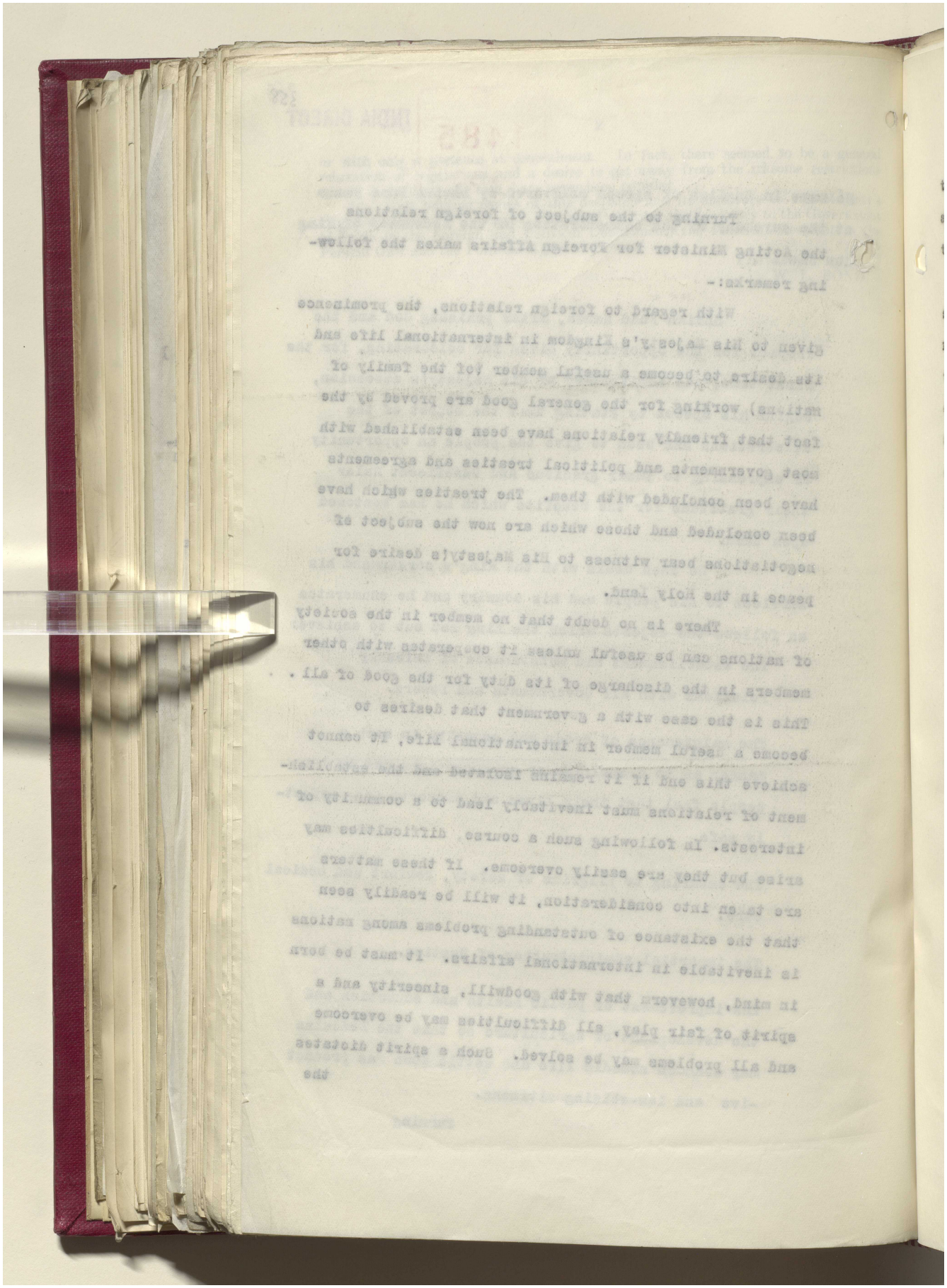

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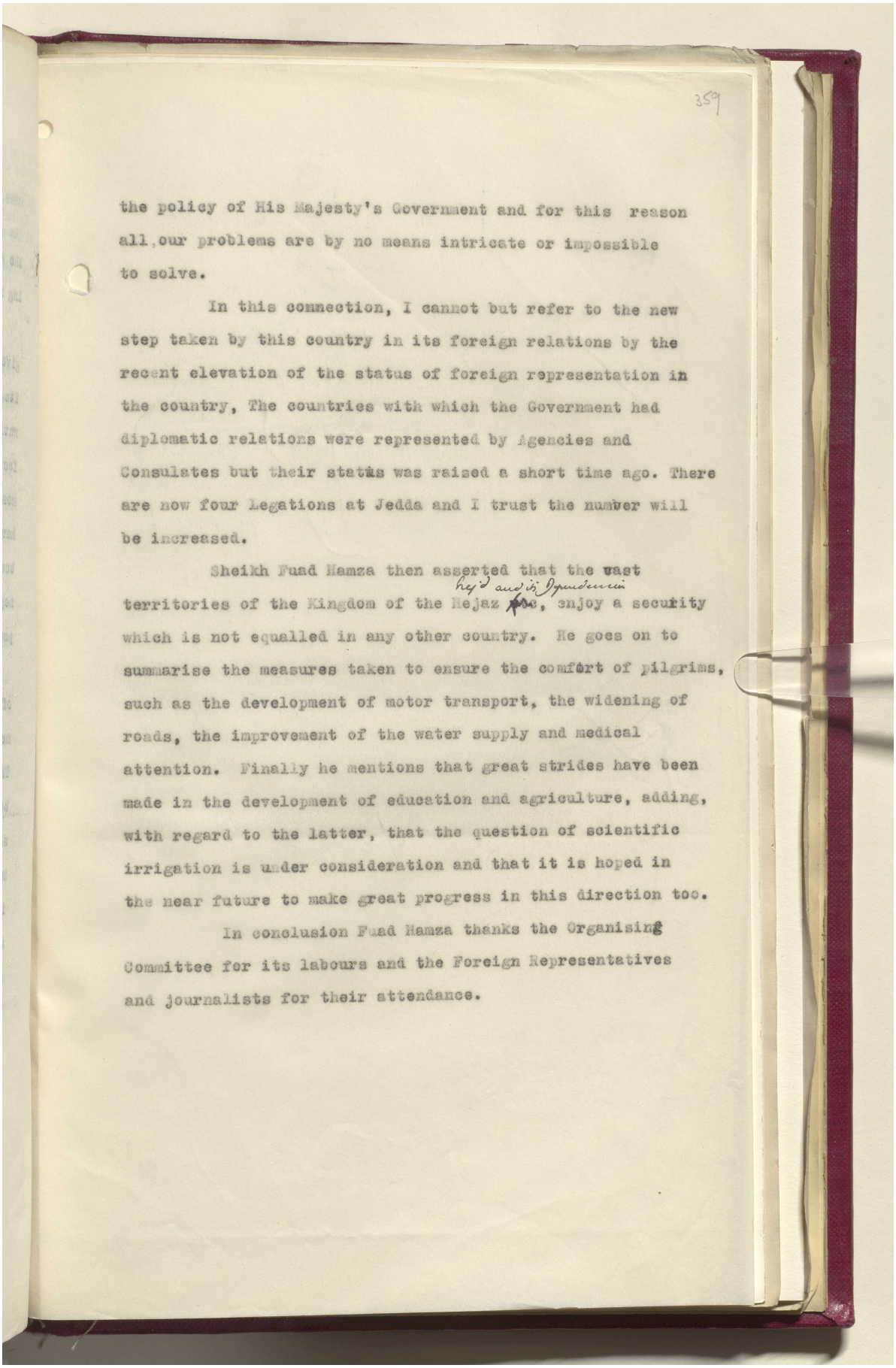

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the policy of His Majesty's Government and for this reason all our problems are by no means intricate or impossible to solve.

In this connection, I cannot but refer to the new step taken by this country in its foreign relations by the recent elevation of the status of foreign representation in the country. The countries with which the Government had diplomatic relations were represented by Agencies and Consulates but their status was raised a short time ago. There are now four Legations at Jedda and I trust the number will be increased.

Sheikh Fuad Hamza then asserted that the vast territories of the Kingdom of the Hejaz [Nejd and its Dependencies], enjoy a security which is not equalled in any other country. He goes on to summarise the measures taken to ensure the comfort of pilgrims, such as the development of motor transport, the widening of roads, the improvement of the water supply and medical attention. Finally he mentions that great strides have been made in the development of education and agriculture, adding, with regard to the latter, that the question of scientific irrigation is under consideration and that it is hoped in the near future to make great progress in this direction too.

In conclusion Fuad Hamza thanks the Organising Committee for its labours and the Foreign Representatives and journalists for their attendance.

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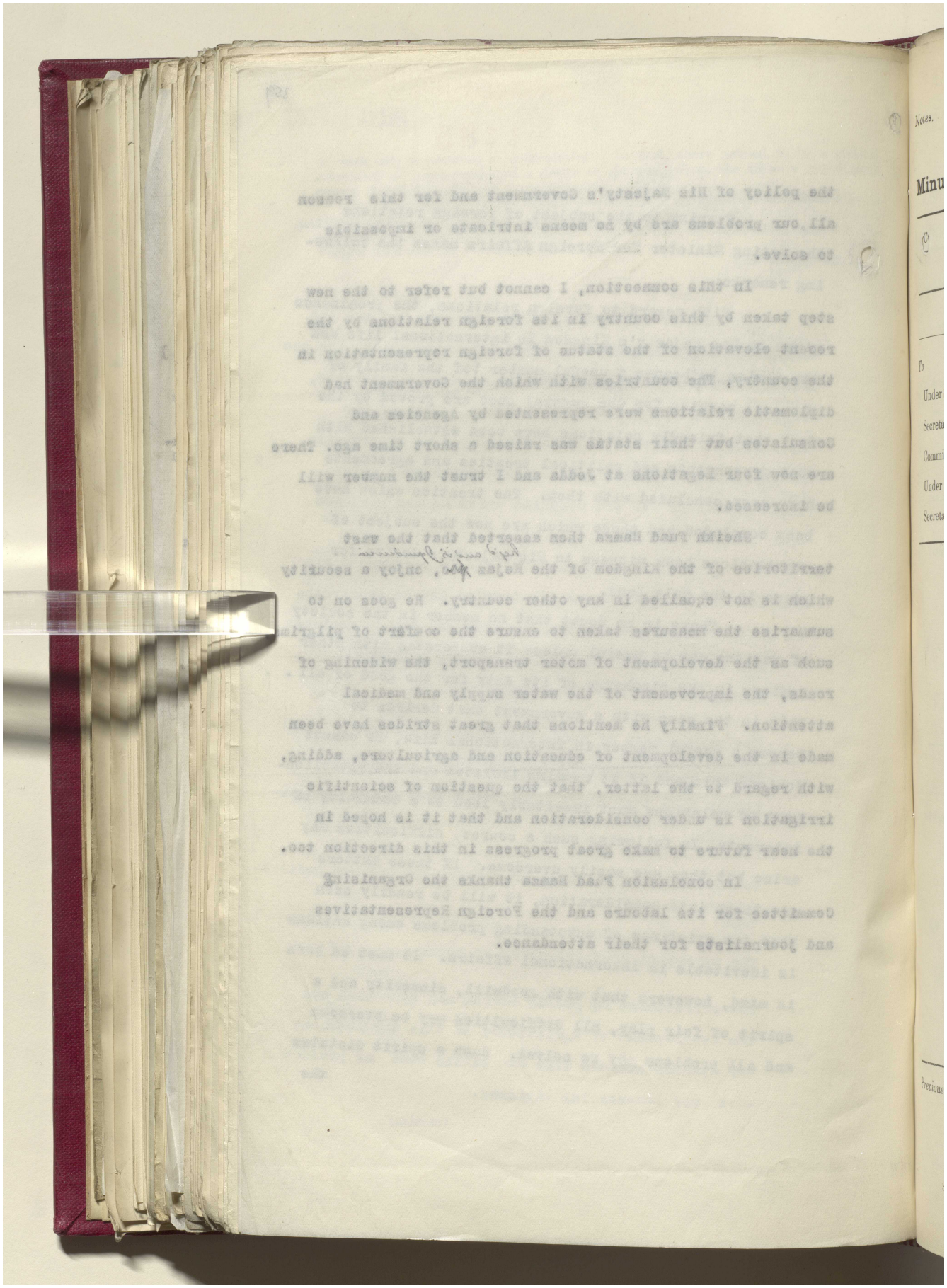

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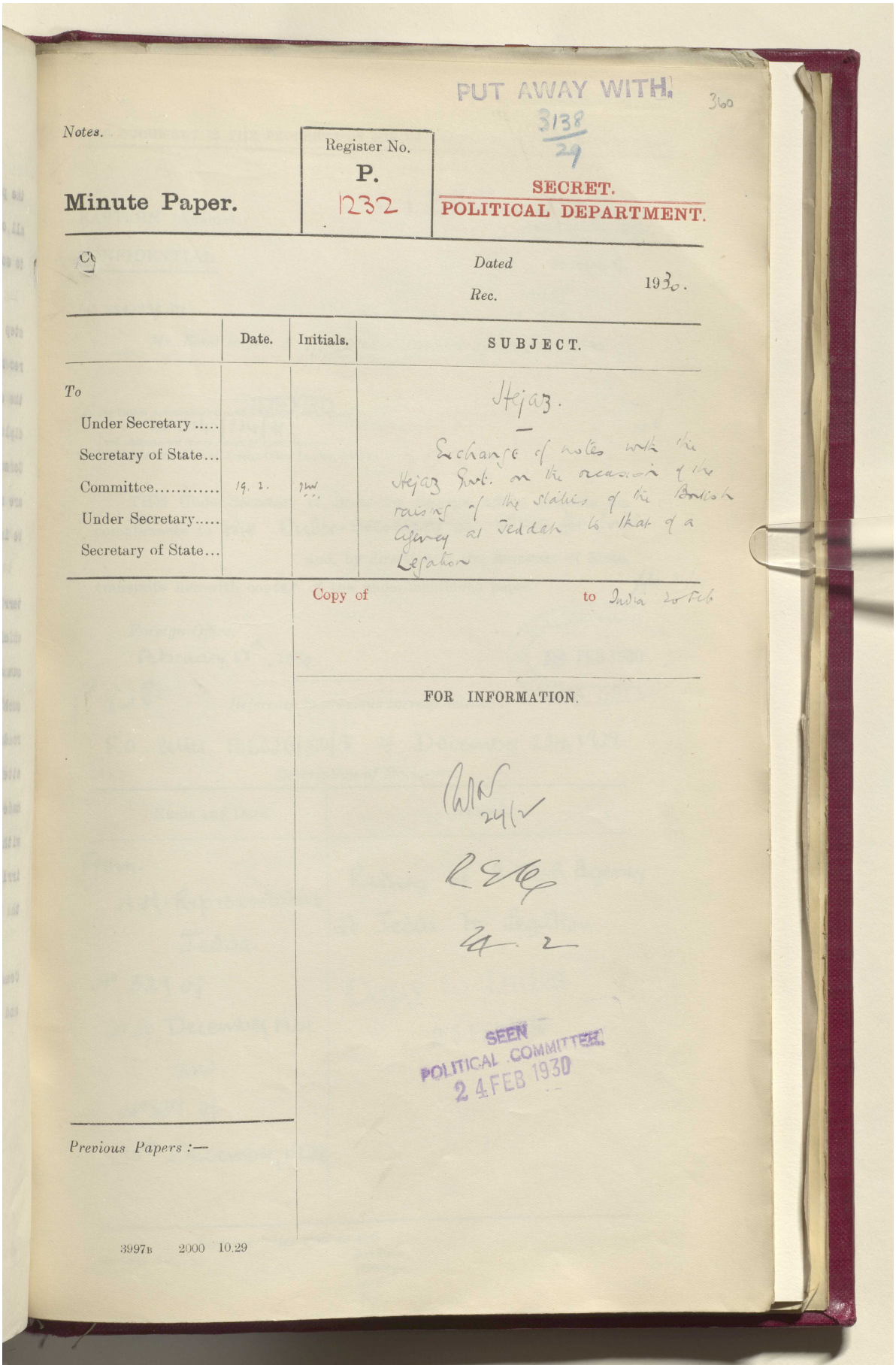

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P. 1232

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 1930.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz. — Exchange of notes with the Hejaz Govt. on the occasion of the raising of the status of the British Agency at Jeddah to that of a Legation
Under Secretary			
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	19. 2.		
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to India 20 Feb

FOR INFORMATION.

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE 24 FEB 1930

Previous Papers :—

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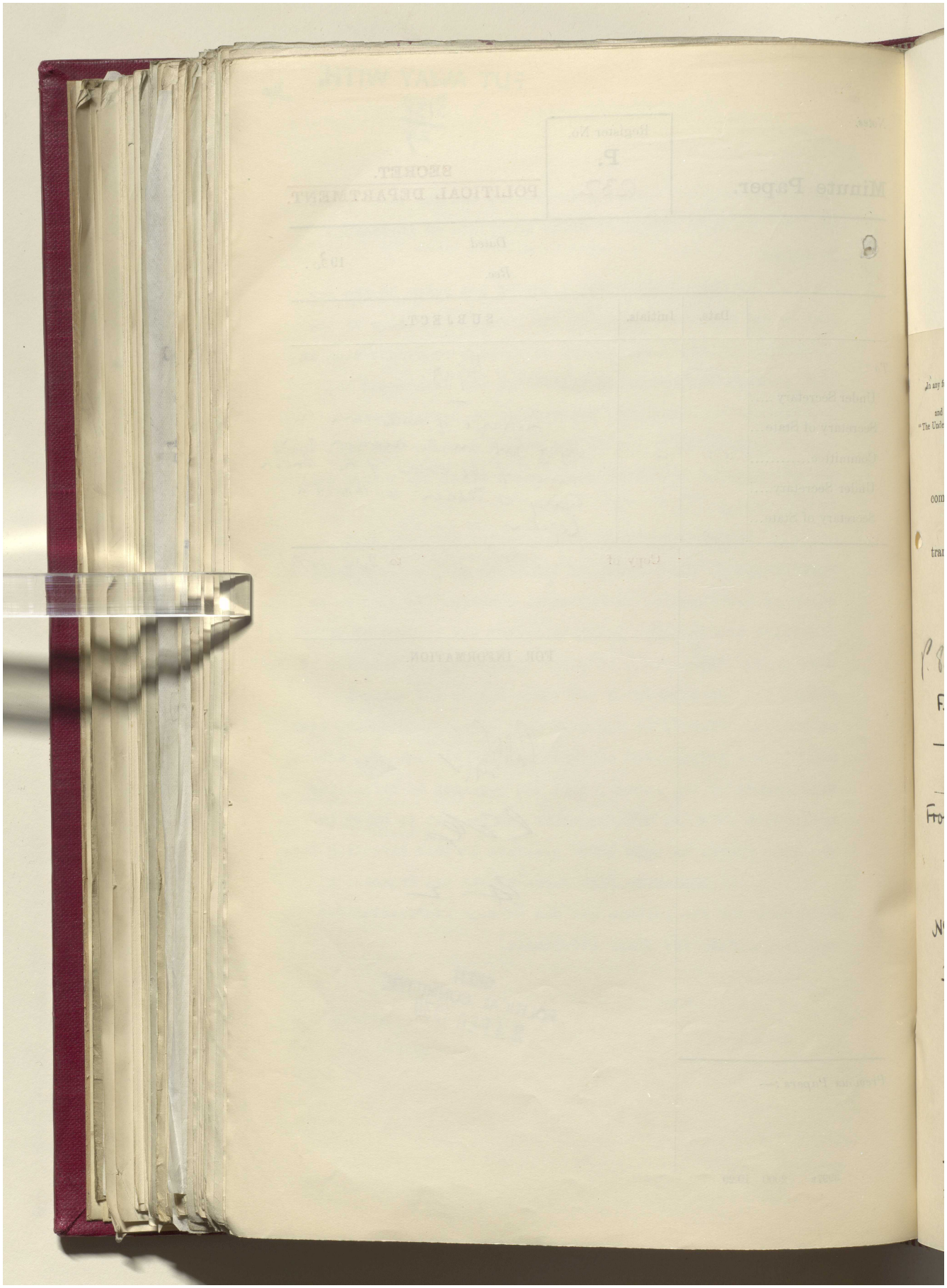

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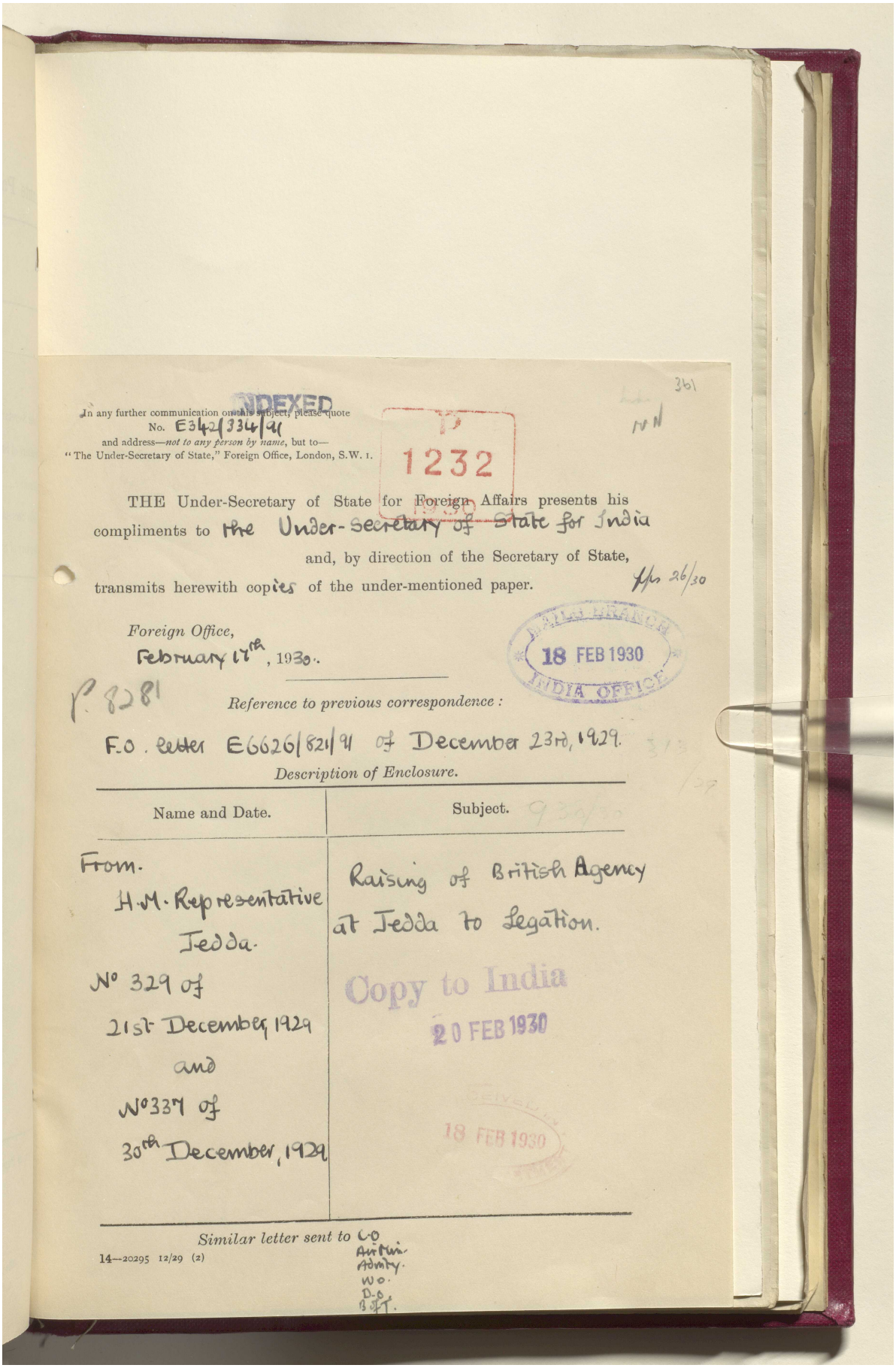

INDEXED

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 342/334/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P 1232
1930

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of ~~State~~ for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
February 17th, 1930.

INDIA OFFICE MAILS BRANCH 18 FEB 1930

P 8281

Reference to previous correspondence :

F.O. letter E6626/821/91 of December 23rd, 1929.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From. H.M. Representative Jedda. No 329 of 21st December 1929 and No 339 of 30th December, 1929	Raising of British Agency at Jedda to Legation.

Copy to India
20 FEB 1930

INDIA OFFICE REGISTRY 18 FEB 1930

Similar letter sent to C.O. Air Min. Admty. W.O. D.O. B.of T.

14—20295 12/29 (2)

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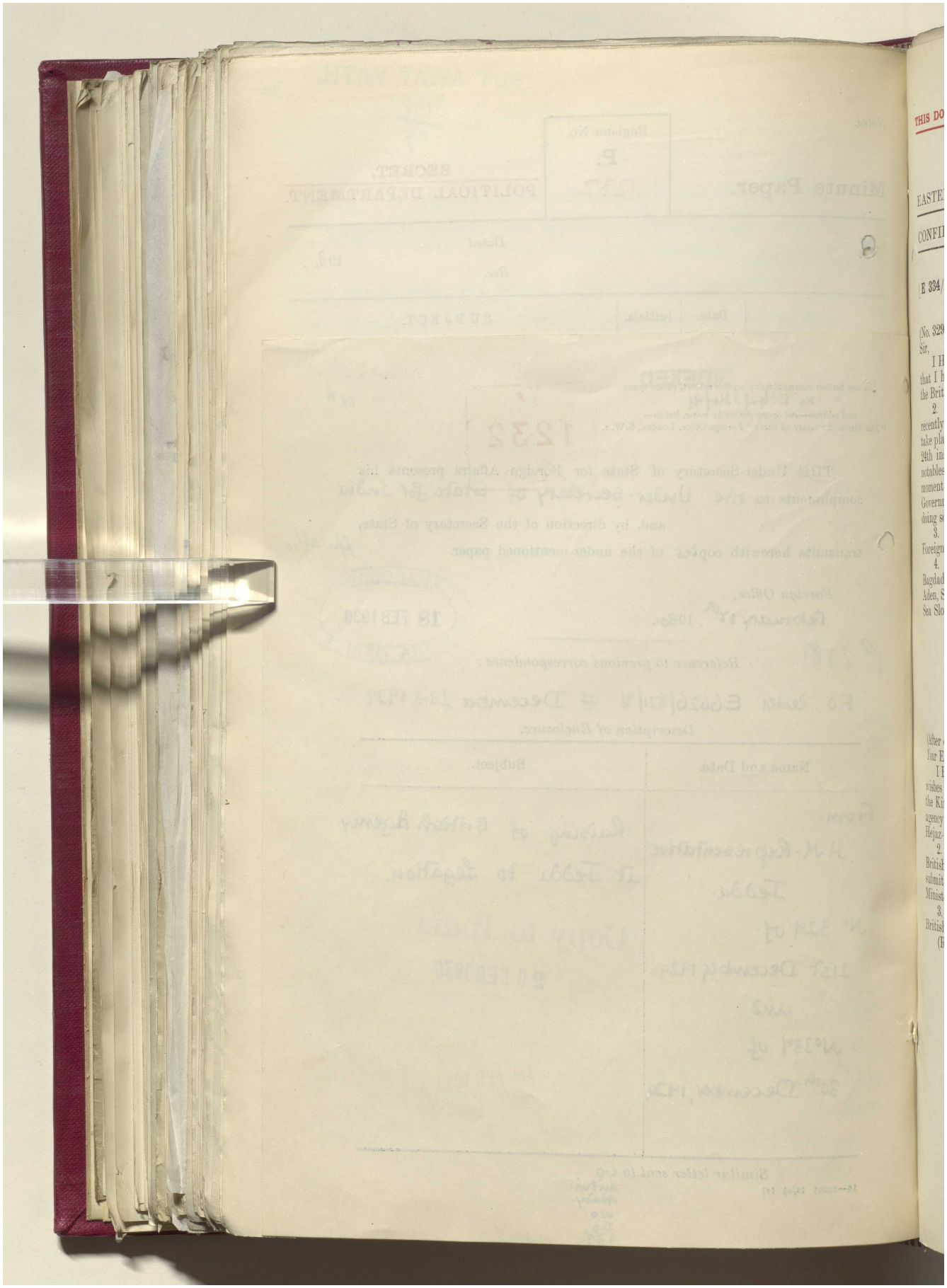

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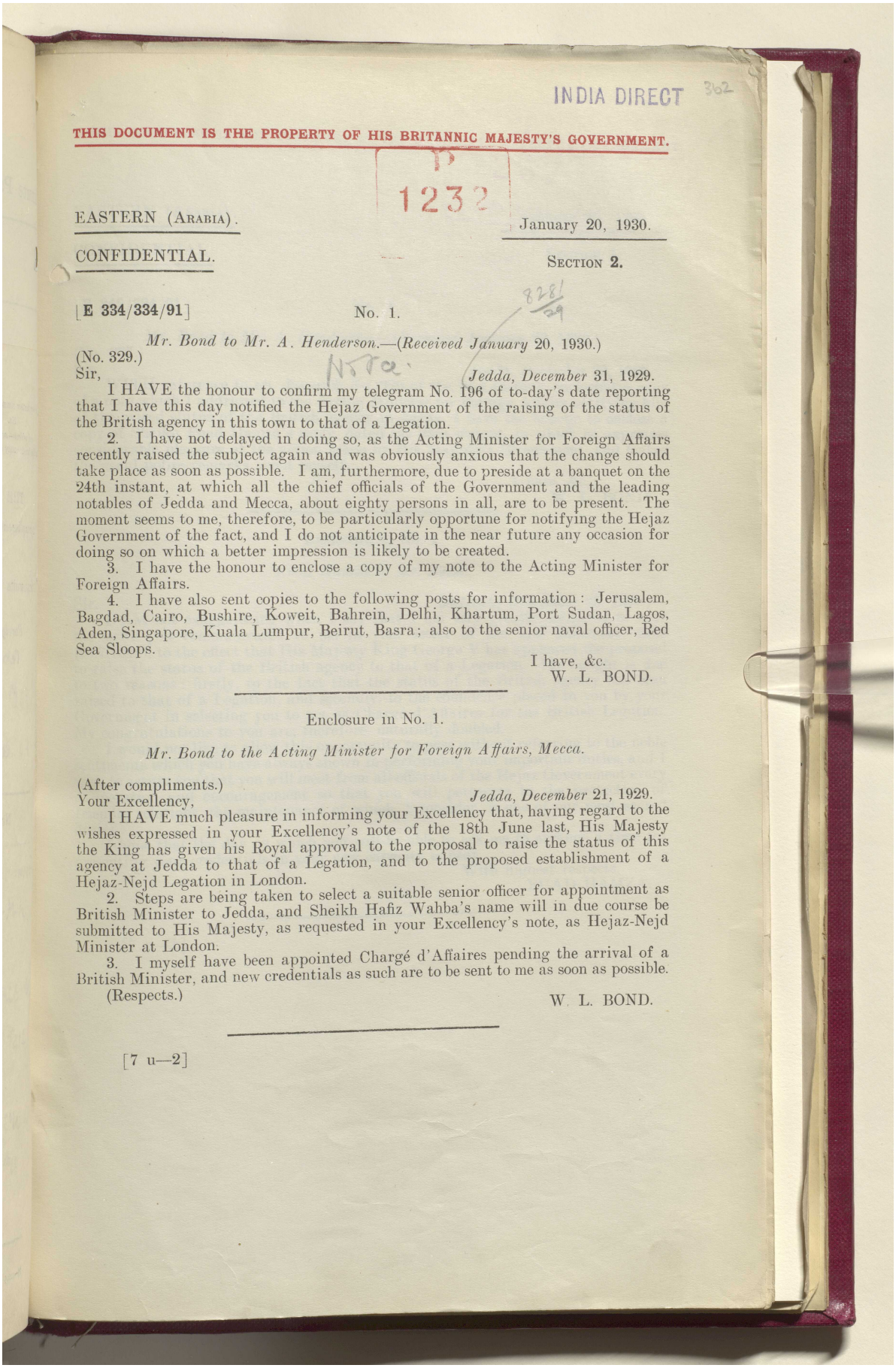

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P 1232

EASTERN (ARABIA).

January 20, 1930.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

[E 334/334/91] 828/29

No. 1.

Mr. Bond to Mr. A. Henderson.—(*Received January* 20, 1930.)

(No. 329.)

Sir, *Jedda, December* 31, 1929.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram No. 196 of to-day's date reporting that I have this day notified the Hejaz Government of the raising of the status of the British agency in this town to that of a Legation.

2. I have not delayed in doing so, as the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs recently raised the subject again and was obviously anxious that the change should take place as soon as possible. I am, furthermore, due to preside at a banquet on the 24th instant, at which all the chief officials of the Government and the leading notables of Jedda and Mecca, about eighty persons in all, are to be present. The moment seems to me, therefore, to be particularly opportune for notifying the Hejaz Government of the fact, and I do not anticipate in the near future any occasion for doing so on which a better impression is likely to be created.

3. I have the honour to enclose a copy of my note to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

4. I have also sent copies to the following posts for information: Jerusalem, Bagdad, Cairo, Bushire, Koweit, Bahrein, Delhi, Khartum, Port Sudan, Lagos, Aden, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Beirut, Basra; also to the senior naval officer, Red Sea Sloops.

I have, &c.
W. L. BOND.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Mr. Bond to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mecca.

(After compliments.)

Your Excellency, *Jedda, December* 21, 1929.

I HAVE much pleasure in informing your Excellency that, having regard to the wishes expressed in your Excellency's note of the 18th June last, His Majesty the King has given his Royal approval to the proposal to raise the status of this agency at Jedda to that of a Legation, and to the proposed establishment of a Hejaz-Nejd Legation in London.

2. Steps are being taken to select a suitable senior officer for appointment as British Minister to Jedda, and Sheikh Hafiz Wahba's name will in due course be submitted to His Majesty, as requested in your Excellency's note, as Hejaz-Nejd Minister at London.

3. I myself have been appointed Chargé d'Affaires pending the arrival of a British Minister, and new credentials as such are to be sent to me as soon as possible.

(Respects.)

W. L. BOND.

[7 u—2]

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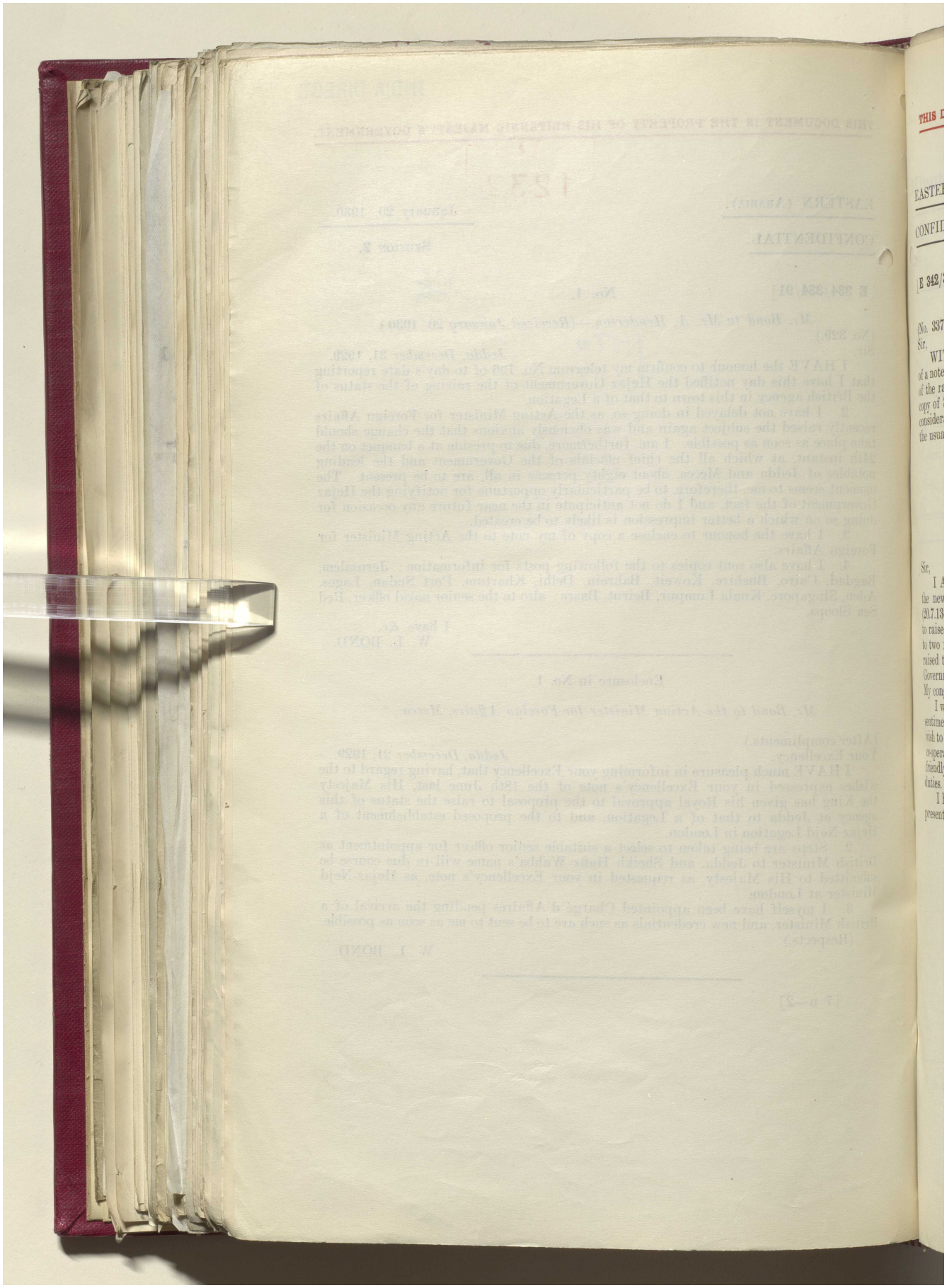

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1232
1930

EASTERN (ARABIA). January 20, 1930.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 342/334/91] No. 1.

Mr. Bond to Mr. A. Henderson.—(*Received January* 20, 1930.)
(No. 337.)

Sir, *Jedda, December* 30, 1929.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 329 of the 21st instant, enclosing a copy of a note which I addressed to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs notifying him of the raised status of the British agency in Jedda, I have the honour to enclose a copy of Sheikh Fuad Hamza's reply, dated the 25th instant, in which he expresses considerable pleasure at the action taken by His Majesty's Government, and makes the usual polite remarks about myself.

I have, &c.
W. L. BOND.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Fuad Hamza to Mr. Bond.

Sir, 24.7.1348 (*December* 25, 1929.)

I AM not exaggerating when I say that I am very greatly delighted to hear the news you communicated to me in your letter of the 21st December, 1929 (20.7.1348), to the effect that His Majesty King George V has approved the proposal to raise the status of the British agency to that of a Legation. My delight is due to two reasons: firstly, to the fact that the status of the British agency has been raised to that of a Legation, and secondly, to the confidence placed in you by your Government in selecting you to act as Chargé d'Affaires for the British Legation. My congratulations to you are, therefore, naturally doubled.

I would not like to allow this opportunity to pass without referring to the noble sentiments which you have always shown in performing your important duties, and I wish to assure you that you will meet from all officials of the Hejaz Government every co-operation and encouragement so that you will persevere in the protection of friendly relations, the maintenance of which, I consider, is one of our most sacred duties.

I hope that the day on which you will be able to ask me to arrange a time for presenting your credentials in your new capacity is near.

With highest respects,
FUAD HAMZA.

[7 u—1]

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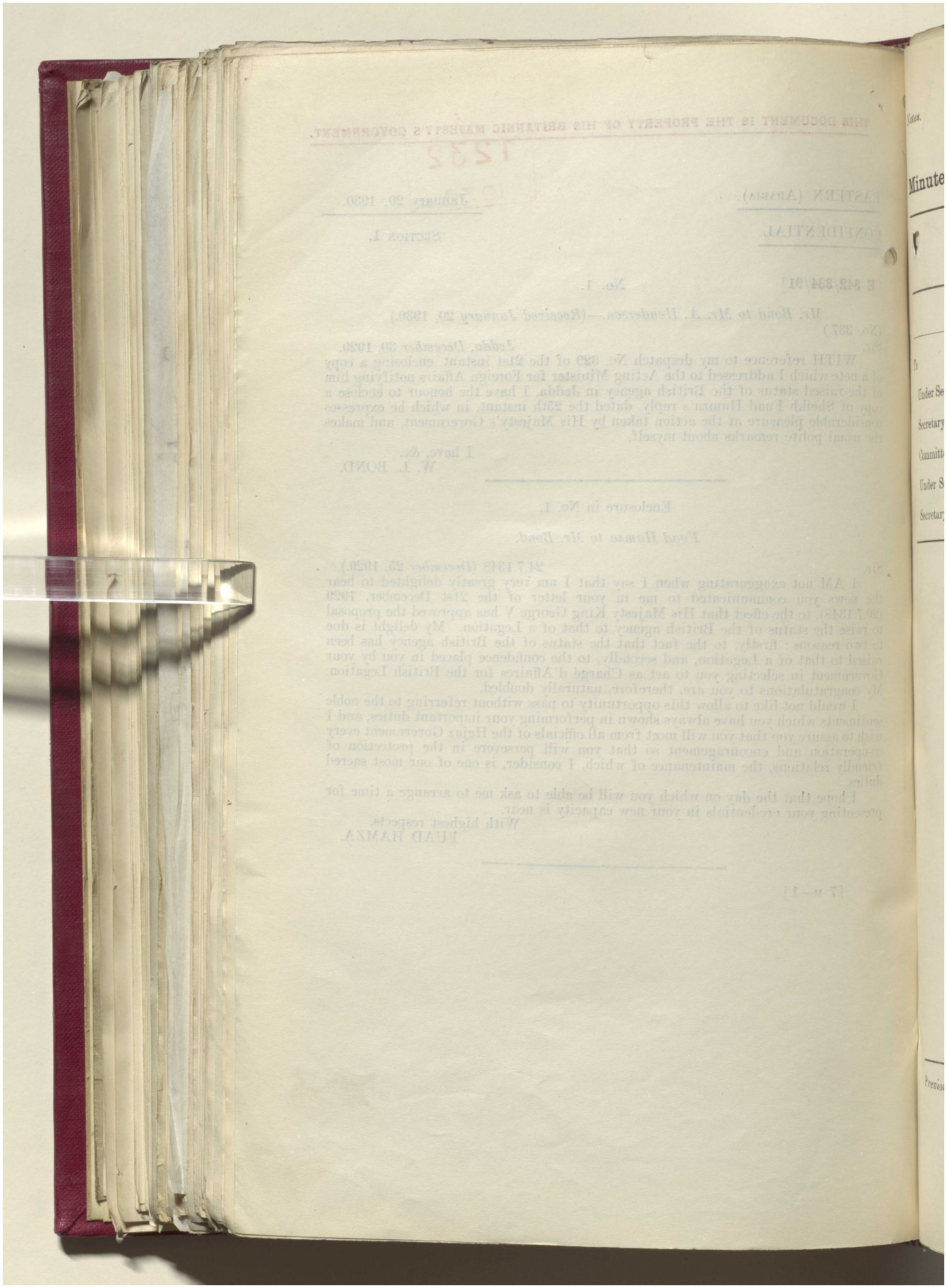

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Notes.

Register No.
P.
938

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1930.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz
Under Secretary	11. 2.	[illegible]	Establishment of a French Legation at Jeddah.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	12	[illegible]	M. Maigret presented his credentials as Chargé d'Affaires on 2 January
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to India 13 Feb.

FOR INFORMATION.

M. Maigret was formerly French Consul – see in this connection note on P 7897/29

[illegible] 10/2

[illegible] 14/2

[illegible] 15.2

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
18 FEB 1930

Previous Papers :—

3997B 2000 10.29

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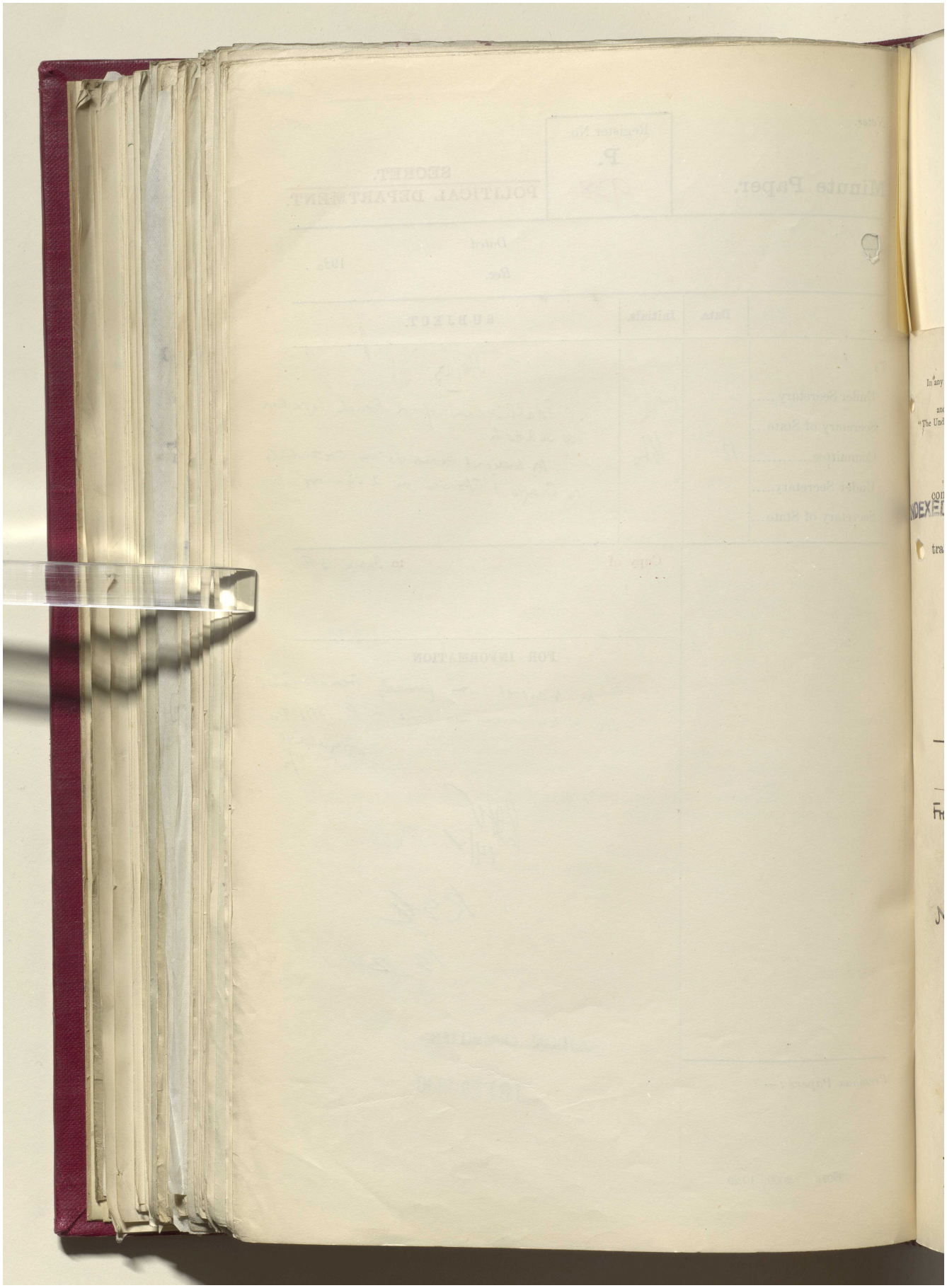

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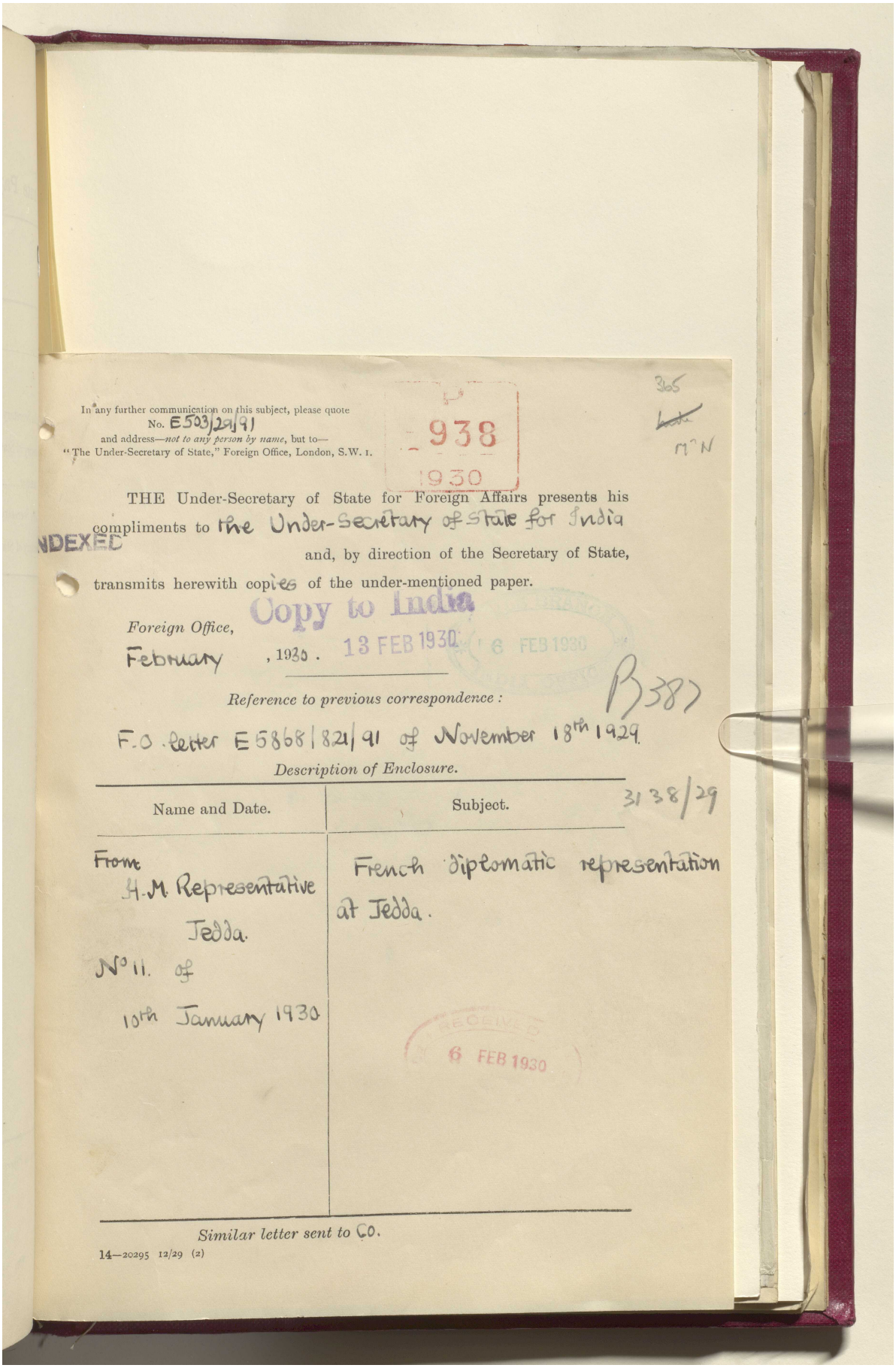

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 503/29/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

938
1930

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M°N

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

INDEXED

Copy to India

Foreign Office,
February, 1930. 13 FEB 1930

6 FEB 1930

B387

Reference to previous correspondence :

F.O. letter E 5868/821/91 of November 18th 1929

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From H.M. Representative Jedda. N° 11. of 10th January 1930	French diplomatic representation at Jedda.

3138/29

RECEIVED
6 FEB 1930

Similar letter sent to CO.

14—20295 12/29 (2)

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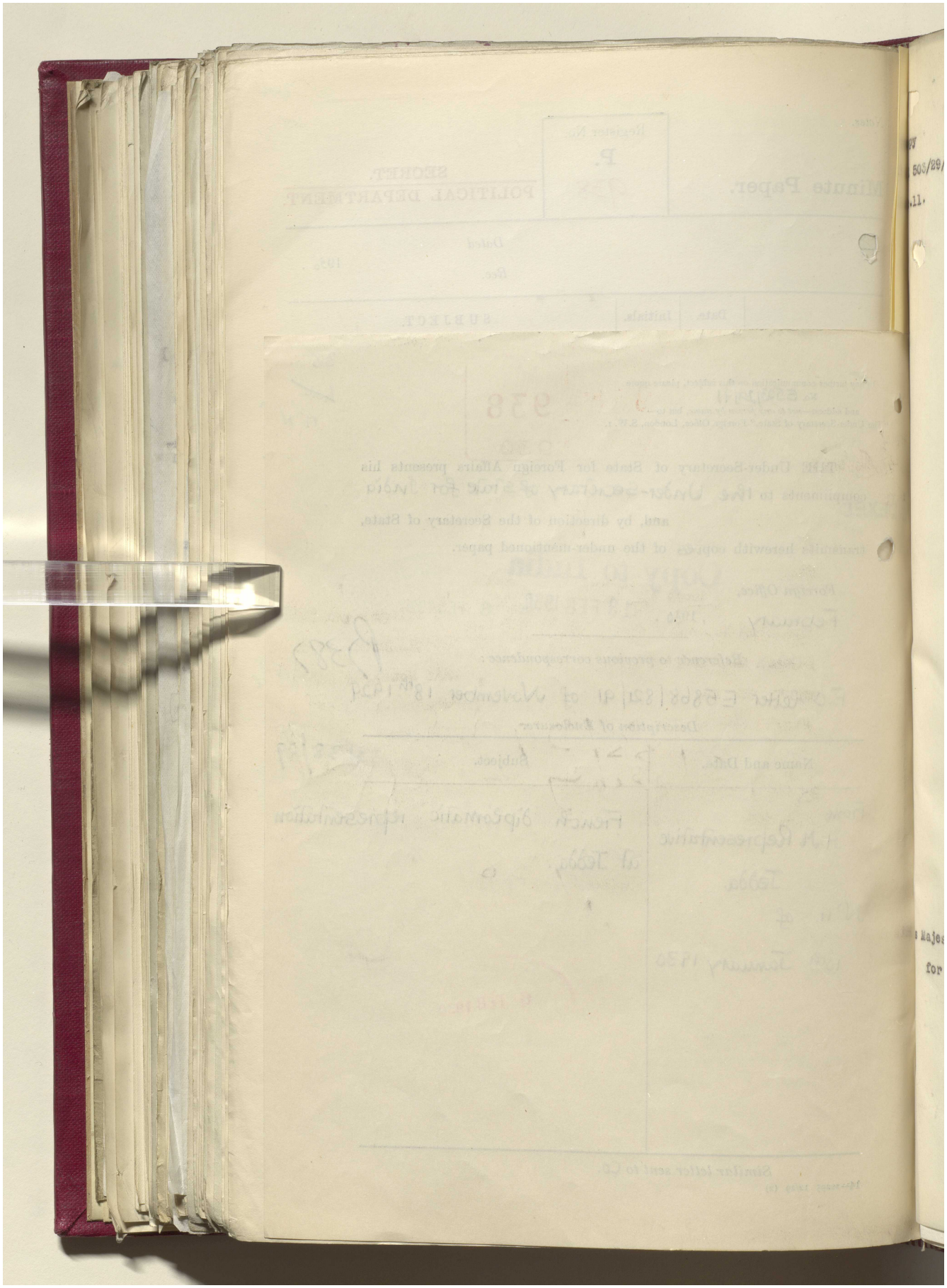

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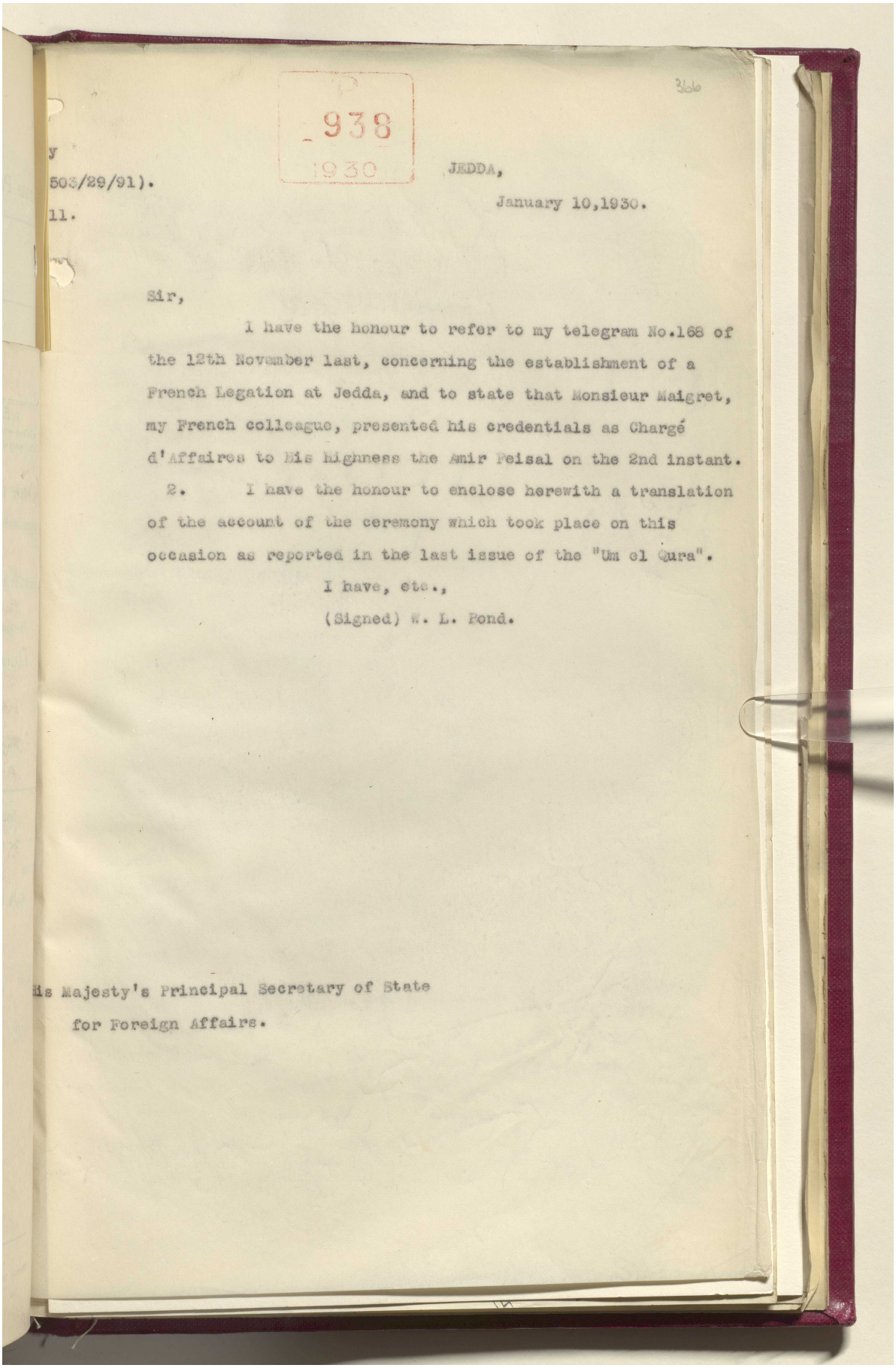

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y
503/29/91).
11.

JEDDA,
January 10,1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No.168 of the 12th November last, concerning the establishment of a French Legation at Jedda, and to state that Monsieur Maigret, my French colleague, presented his credentials as Chargé d'Affaires to His Highness the Amir Feisal on the 2nd instant.

2. I have the honour to enclose herewith a translation of the account of the ceremony which took place on this occasion as reported in the last issue of the "Um el Qura".

I have, etc.,
(Signed) W. L. Pond.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

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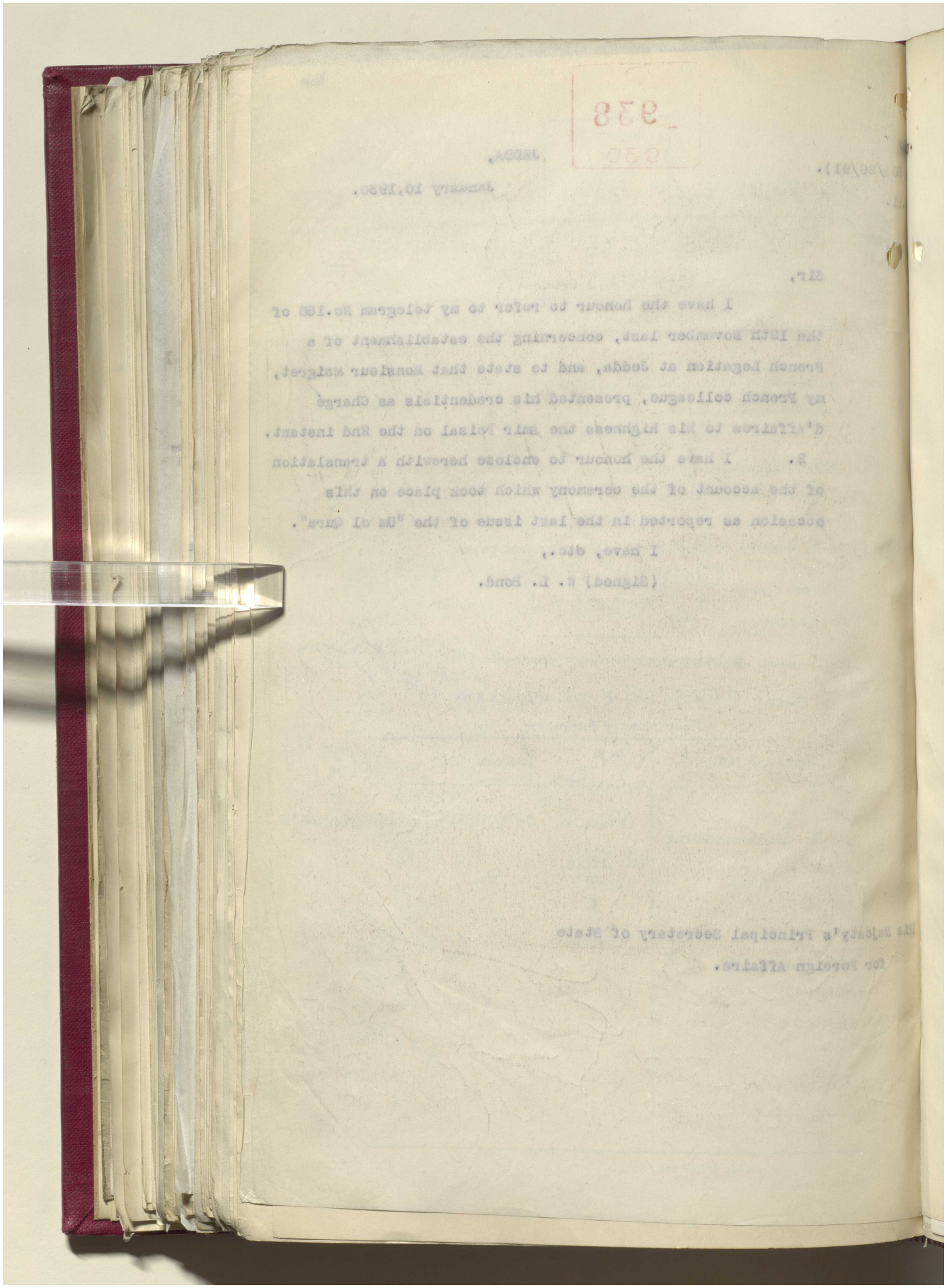

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Extract from the "Um el Qura". Issue No.263 of 3.1.30.

The Chargé d'Affaires of the French Legation presents his Credentials.

An imposing ceremony took place on Thursday last when Monsieur Maigret presented his credentials as Charge d'Affaires of the French Legation. The usual ceremonies were observed, and the same evening Monsieur Maigret was entertained to dinner by Fuad Hamza Bey, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Foreign Office, Jedda. The high officials and notables of Jedda were invited to the function. We give hereunder the texts of the speech delivered by Monsieur Roger Maigret and of the Prince's reply thereto:-

Monsieur Maigret's speech.

Your Highness,

The Government of the French Republic have done me the great honour of appointing me Charge d'Affaires at the Court of your August Father His Majesty Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Al Faisal Al Saud, King of the Hejaz, Nejd and its Dependencies.

The value of this honour is greatly enhanced, in my estimation, in so far as it consolidates the bonds of friendship which happily exist between our two countries. Since my arrival here I have received many proofs of this friendship in its best aspects namely, the sympathy and consideration which His Majesty the King has evinced towards me. I must also record the sincere and friendly attitude of His Majesty's distinguished representatives.

I beg to assure Your Highness that I shall spare no effort to maintain and consolidate these friendly relations. At the same time, I do not entertain the slightest doubt

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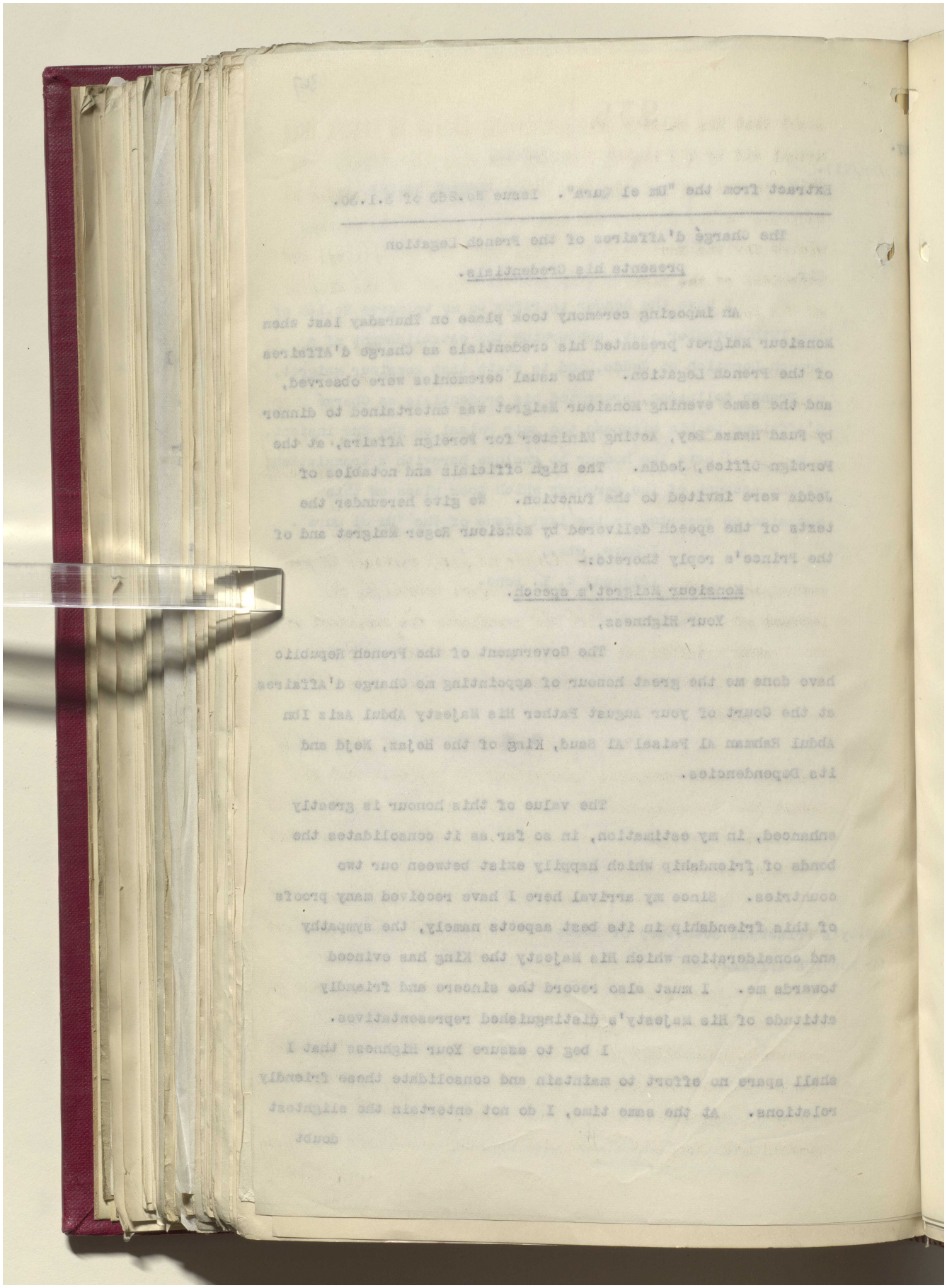

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doubt that His Majesty will graciously strive to attain this mutual end by His august sympathy and kind confidence. In this earnest hope, I beg Your Highness to deign to convey my respects to His Majesty the King and to present my cordial wishes for the continuation of His Majesty's prosperity, the happiness of the Royal Family and the welfare of the Kingdom of the Hejaz, Nejd and its Dependencies.

At the same time I have the honour to present to Your Highness in the name of His Excellency the President of the French Republic, my Letters of Credence with the request that you will kindly have them delivered to His Majesty the King who, I trust, will receive them with approval.

The Reply.

Monsieur le Charge d'Affaires,

It affords me great pleasure to receive, on behalf of His Majesty my August Sovereign, the Letters of Credence by which His Excellency the President of the French Republic has appointed you as Charge d'Affaires of the French Legation in the Kingdom of the Hejaz, Nejd and its Dependencies.

The noble sentiments and good wishes you have kindly expressed bear witness to the fact that the desire for the maintenance of the best relations of friendship and goodwill between our two countries is not only on one side but is an earnest mutual wish.

I have not the least doubt that this new era which we inaugurate today in the relations between our two countries will provide a new support to the existing structure of friendship between them. I am convinced that you will receive from His Majesty the King the support, sympathy and assistance which will facilitate the execution of the task with which you are charged and that you will also find an earnest desire on the part of His Majesty's officials to co-operate with you with a view to safeguarding the good relations between

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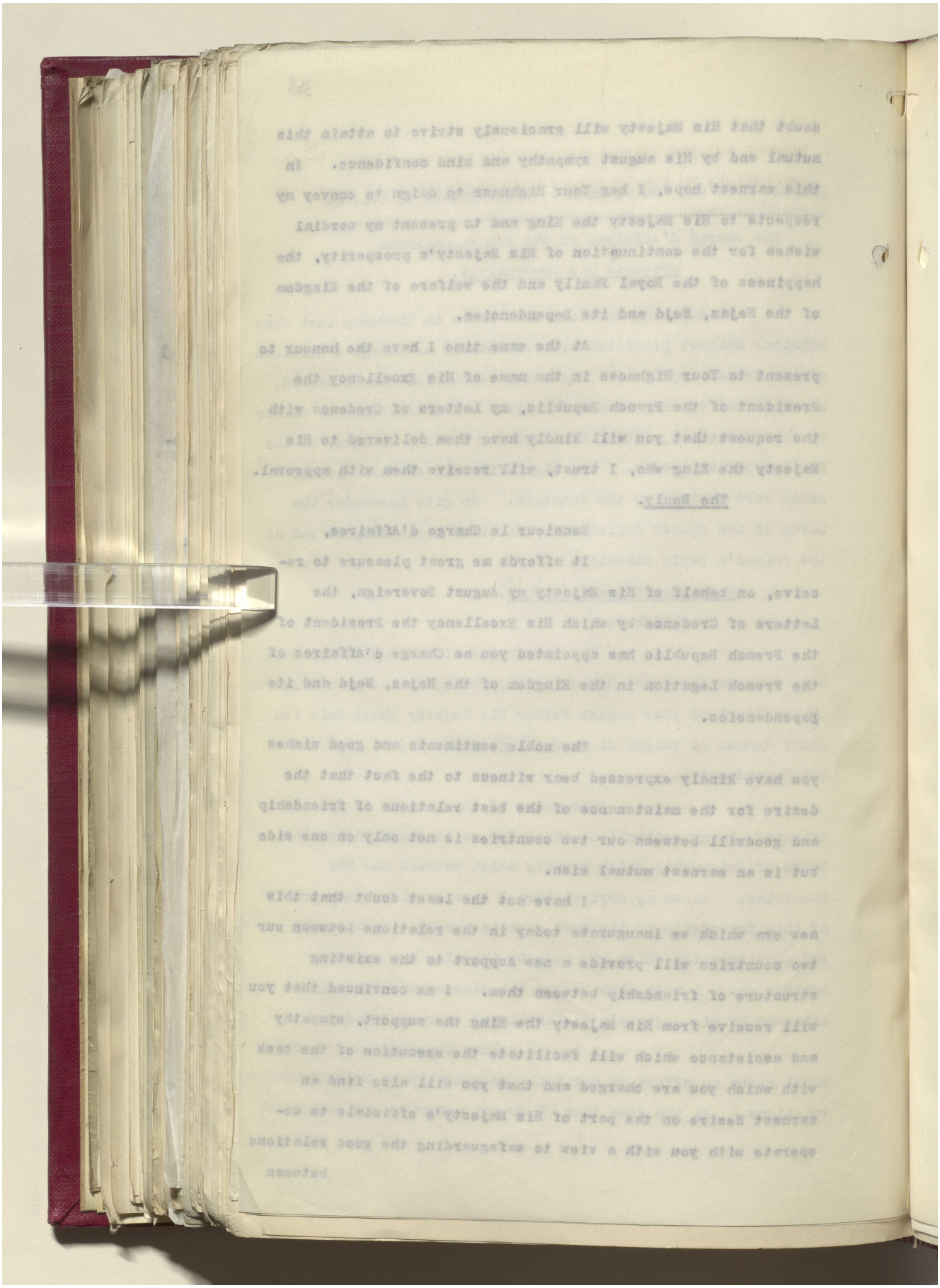

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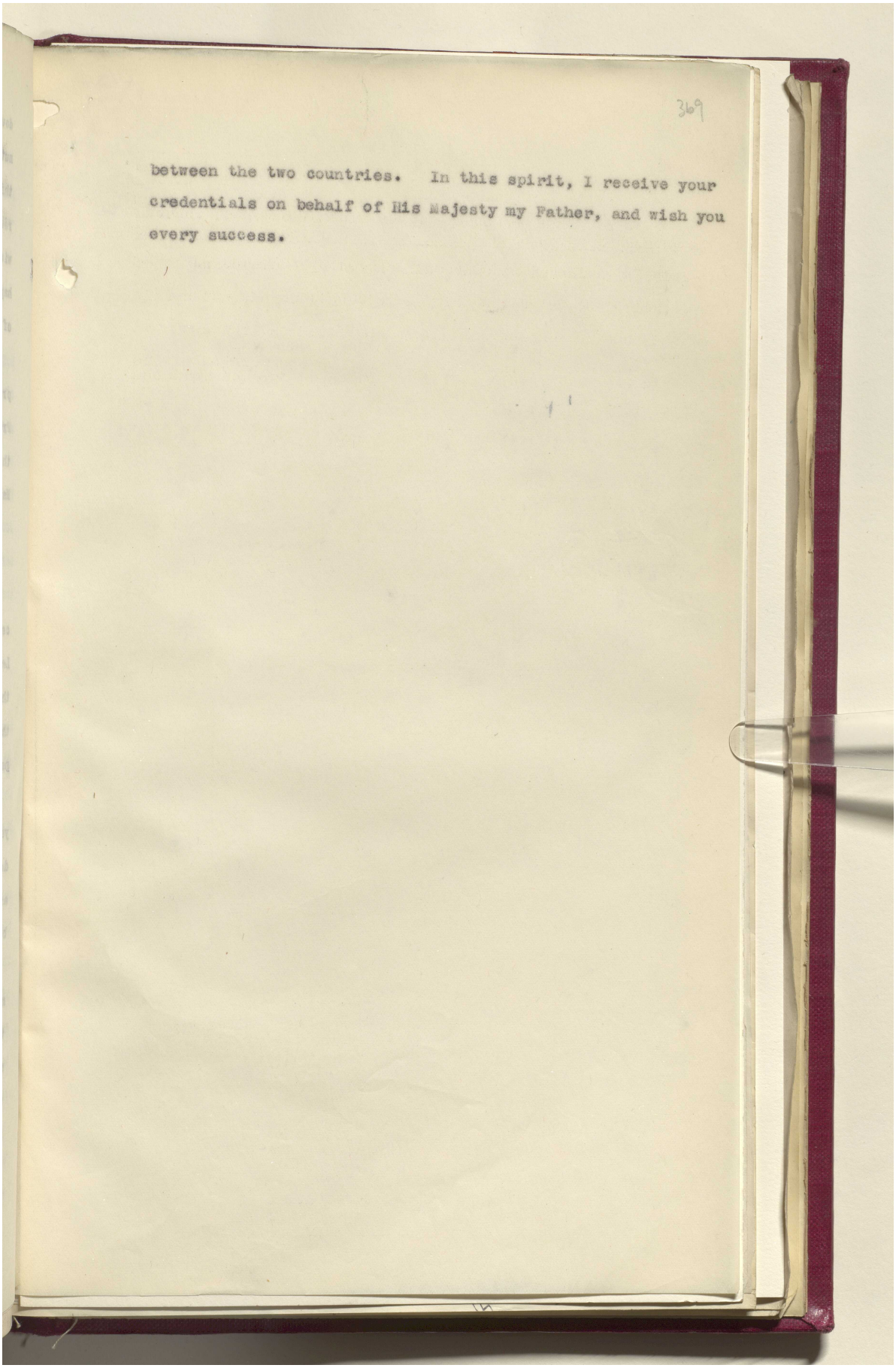

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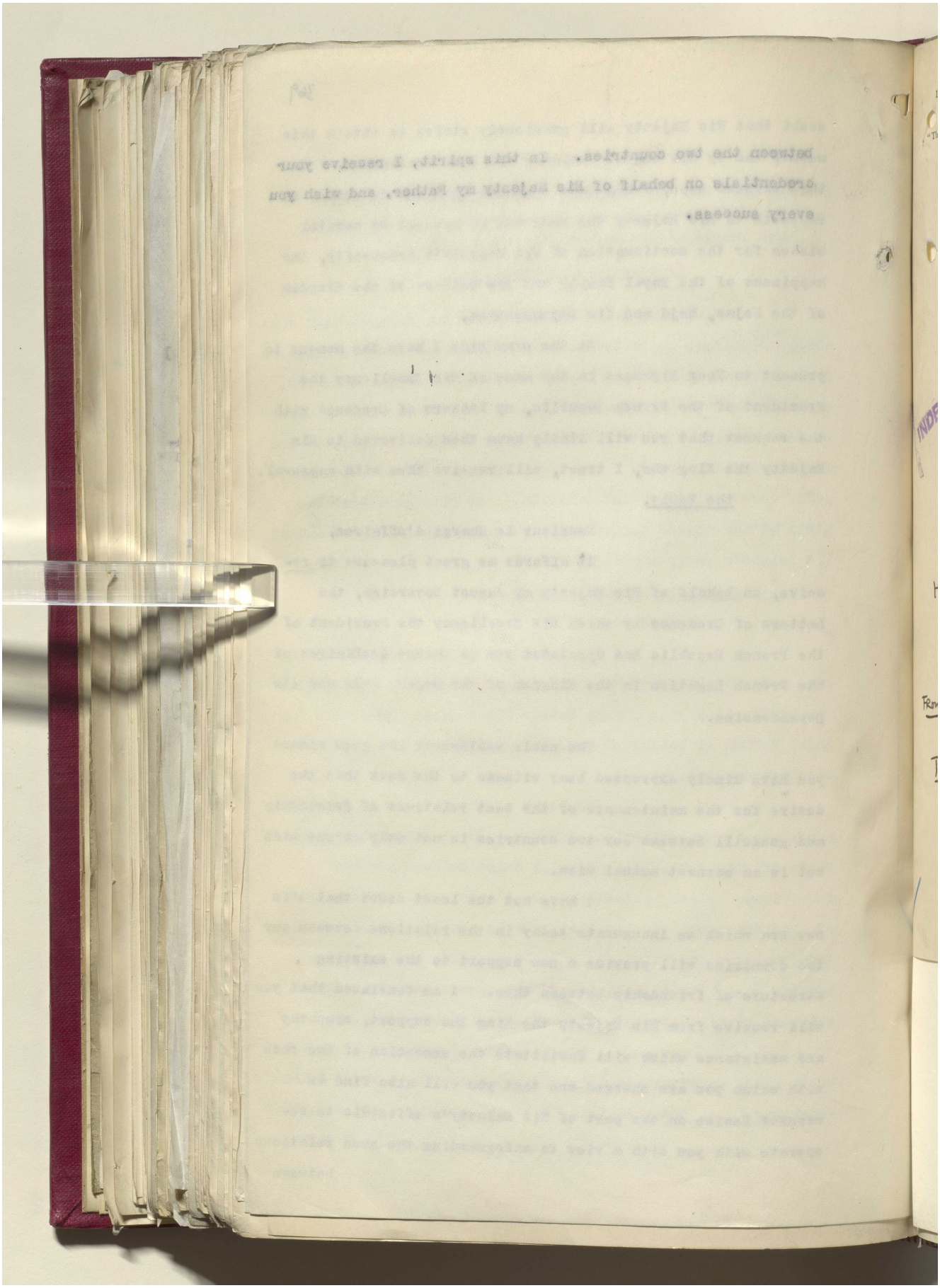
between the two countries. In this spirit, I receive your credentials on behalf of His Majesty my Father, and wish you every success.



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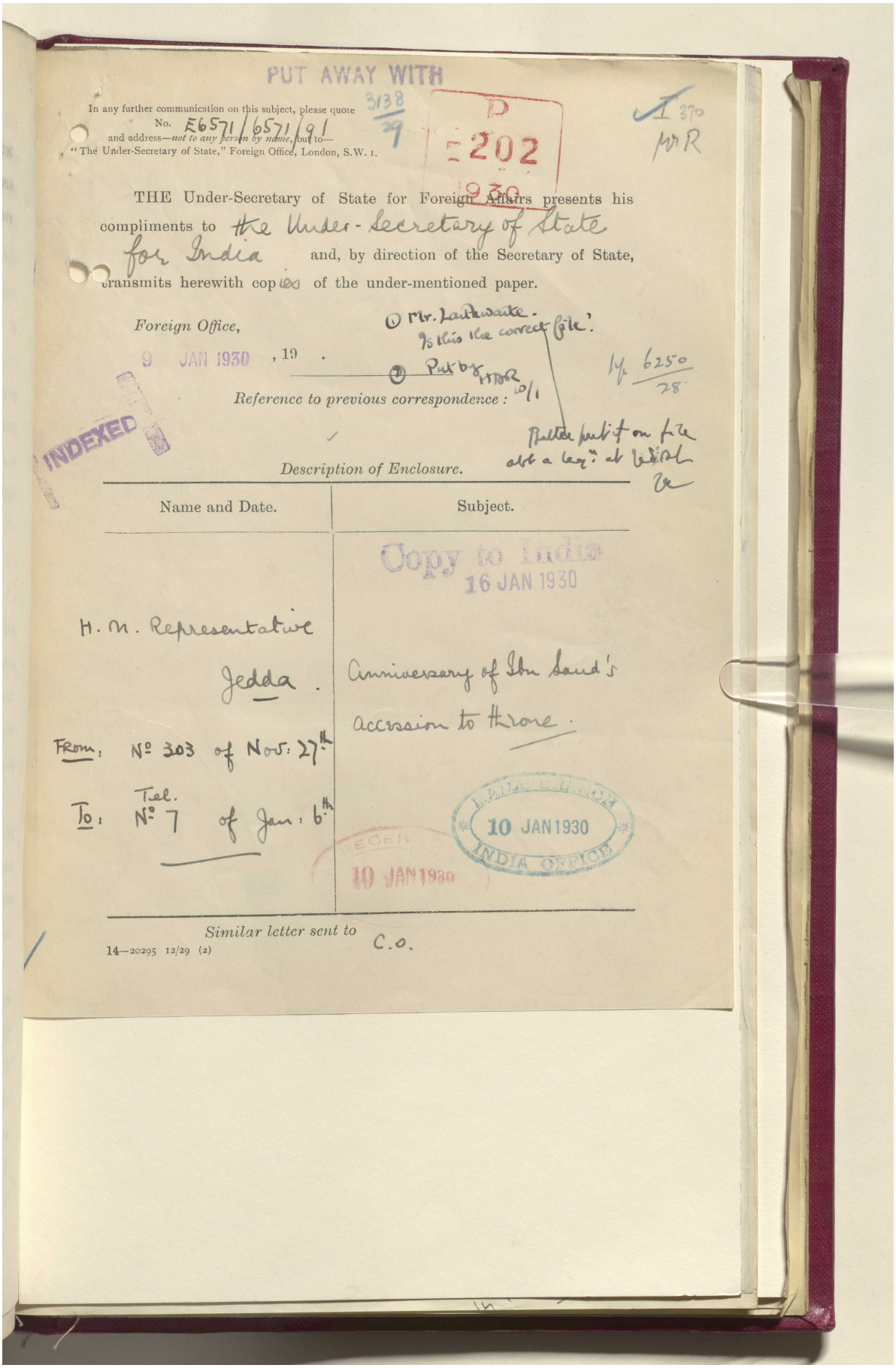

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and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

3138/29

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MR

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

9 JAN 1930, 19 .

① Mr. Lathwaite. Is this the correct file?
② Put by HBR 10/1

Reference to previous correspondence :

Better put it on file abt a leg^n at Jeddah
Ve

INDEXED

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H. M. Representative Jedda. From: No 303 of Nov: 27th To: Tel. No 7 of Jan: 6th	Anniversary of Ibn Saud's accession to throne.

Copy to India
16 JAN 1930

MAILS BRANCH
10 JAN 1930
INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED
10 JAN 1930

Similar letter sent to C.O.

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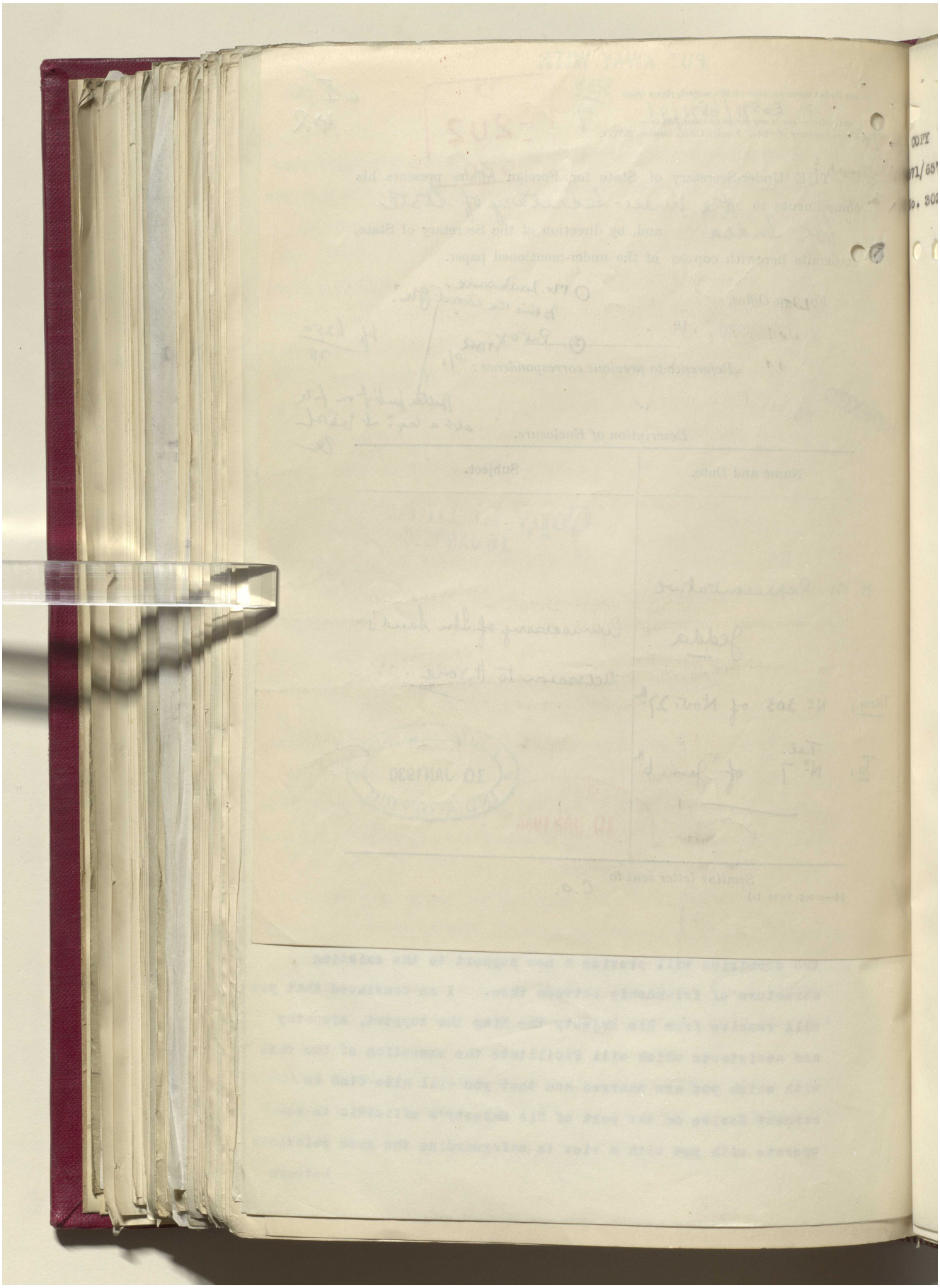

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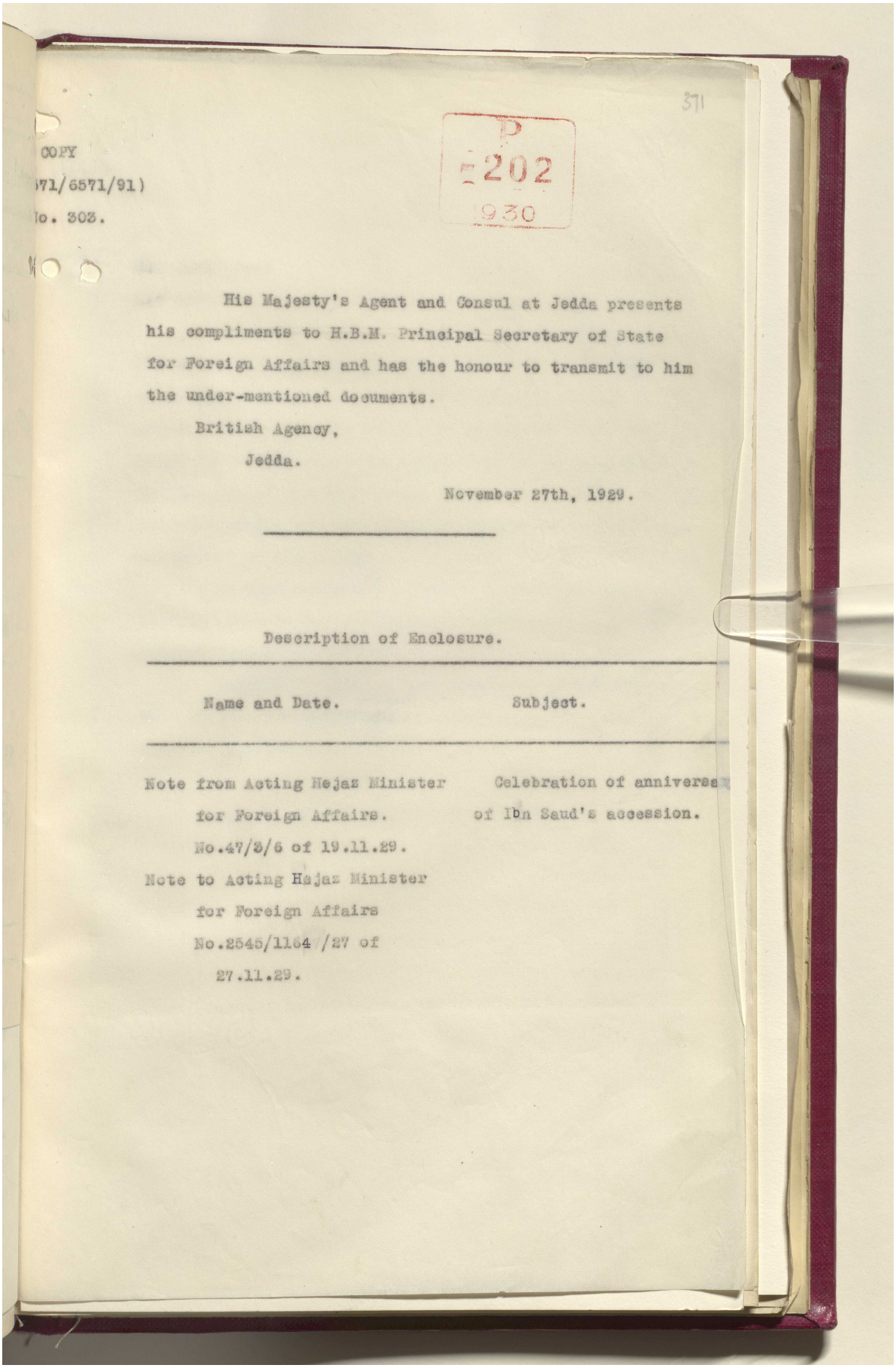

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COPY
571/6571/91)
No. 303.

His Majesty's Agent and Consul at Jedda presents his compliments to H.B.M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Agency,
Jedda.

November 27th, 1929.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note from Acting Hejaz Minister for Foreign Affairs. No.47/3/6 of 19.11.29.	Celebration of anniversary of Ibn Saud's accession.
Note to Acting Hejaz Minister for Foreign Affairs No.2545/1164/27 of 27.11.29.	

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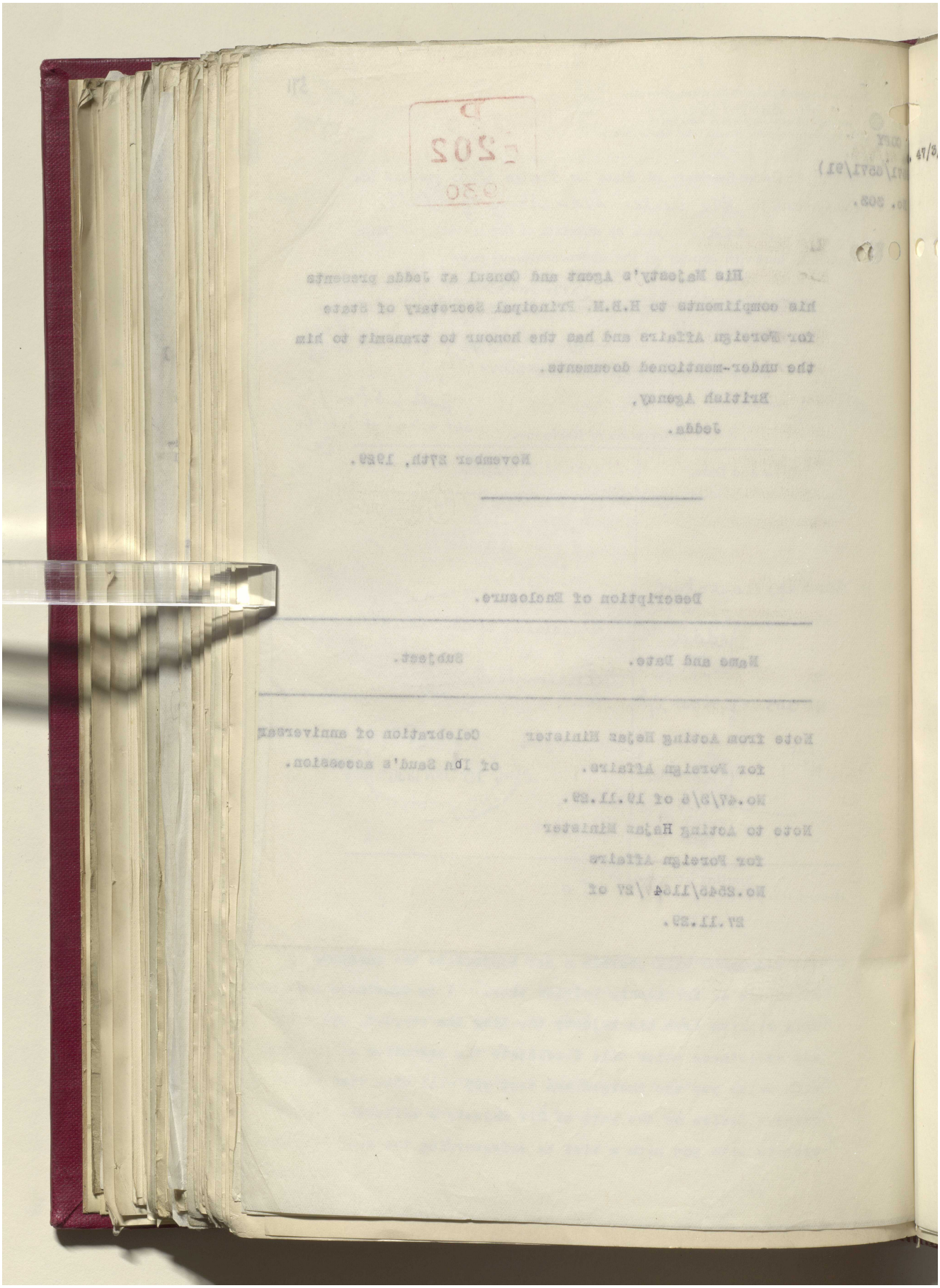

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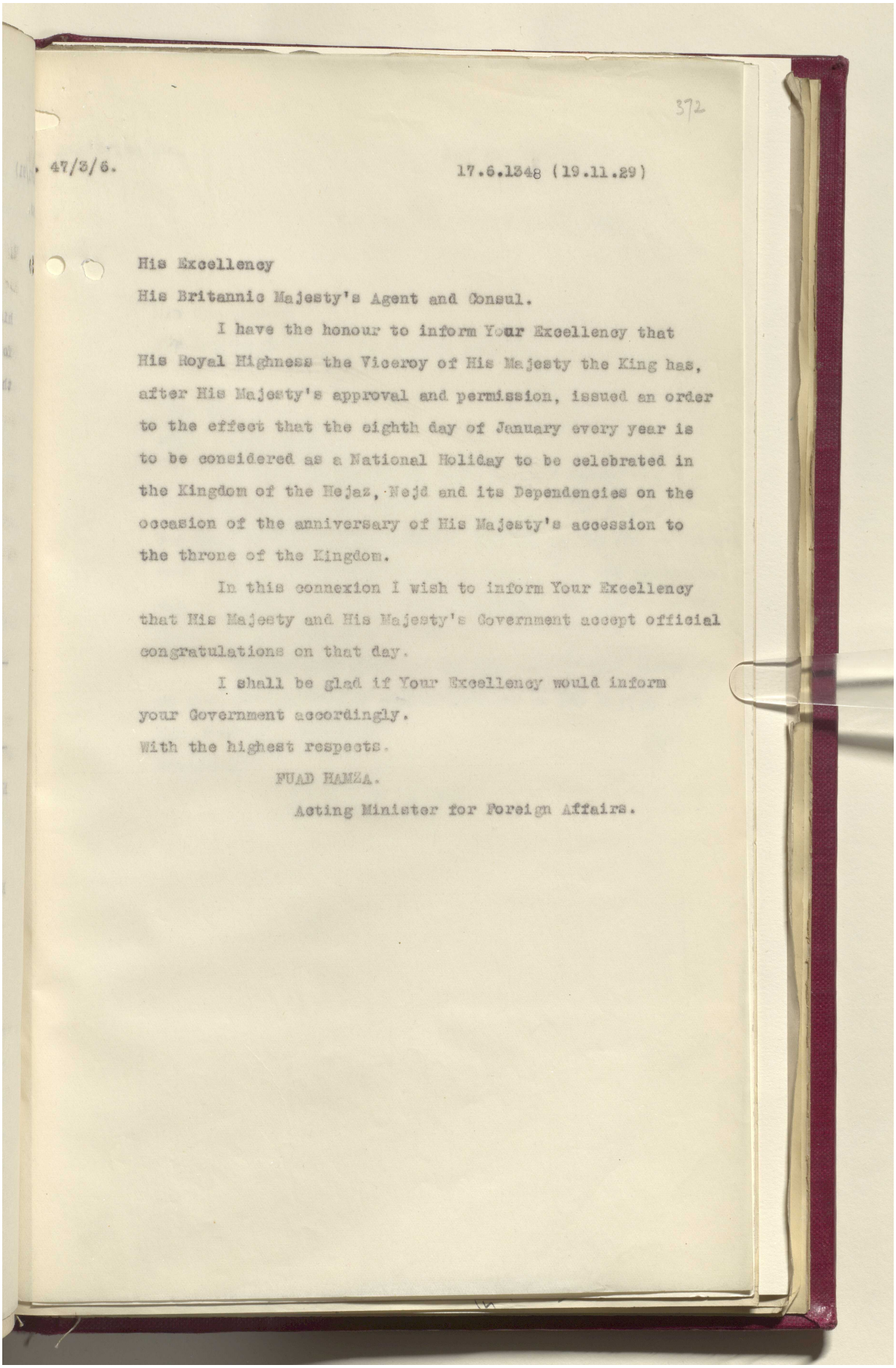

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47/3/6.

17.6.1348 (19.11.29)

His Excellency
His Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that His Royal Highness the Viceroy of His Majesty the King has, after His Majesty's approval and permission, issued an order to the effect that the eighth day of January every year is to be considered as a National Holiday to be celebrated in the Kingdom of the Hejaz, Nejd and its Dependencies on the occasion of the anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne of the Kingdom.

In this connexion I wish to inform Your Excellency that His Majesty and His Majesty's Government accept official congratulations on that day.

I shall be glad if Your Excellency would inform your Government accordingly.

With the highest respects.

FUAD HAMZA.
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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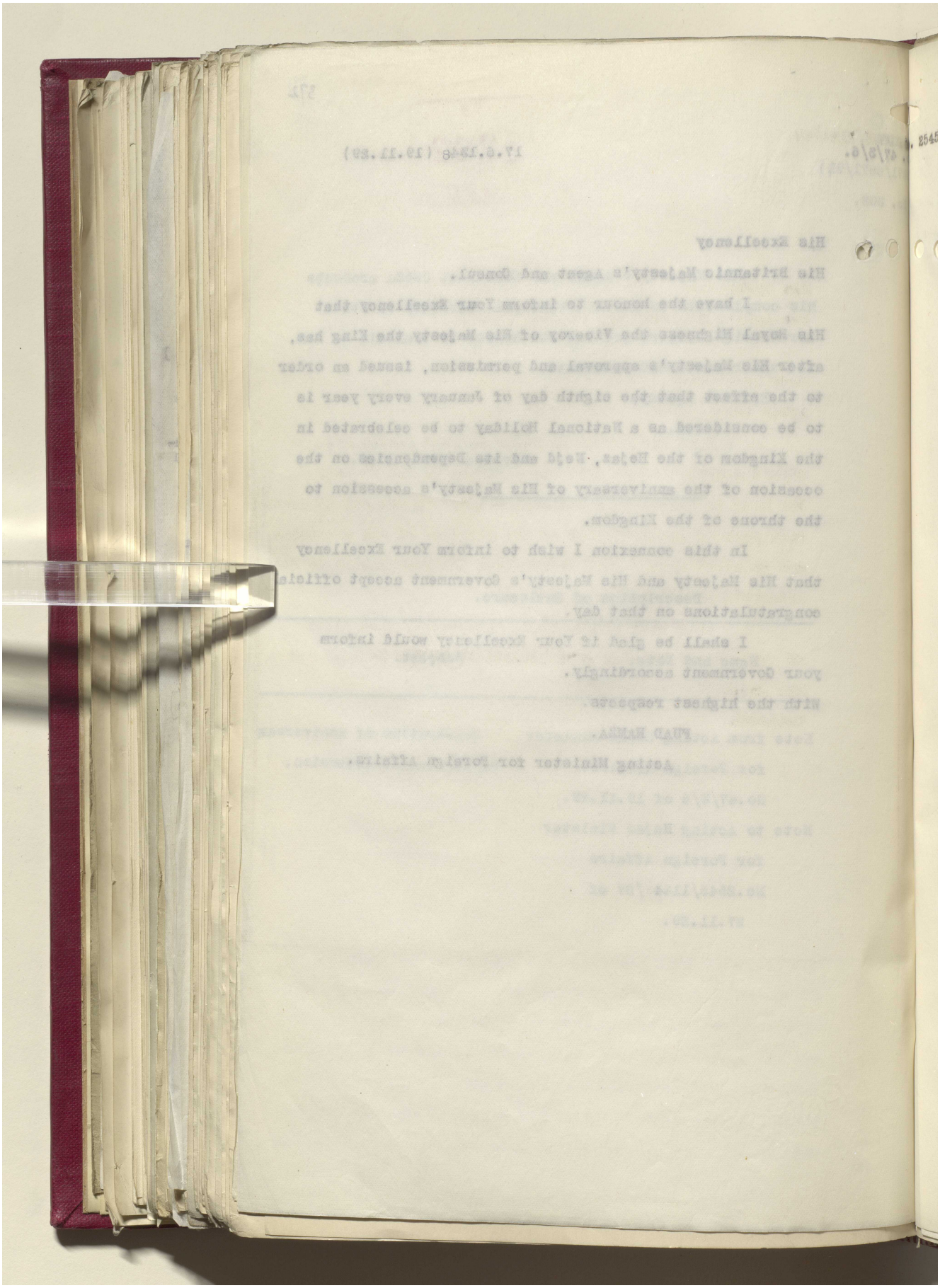

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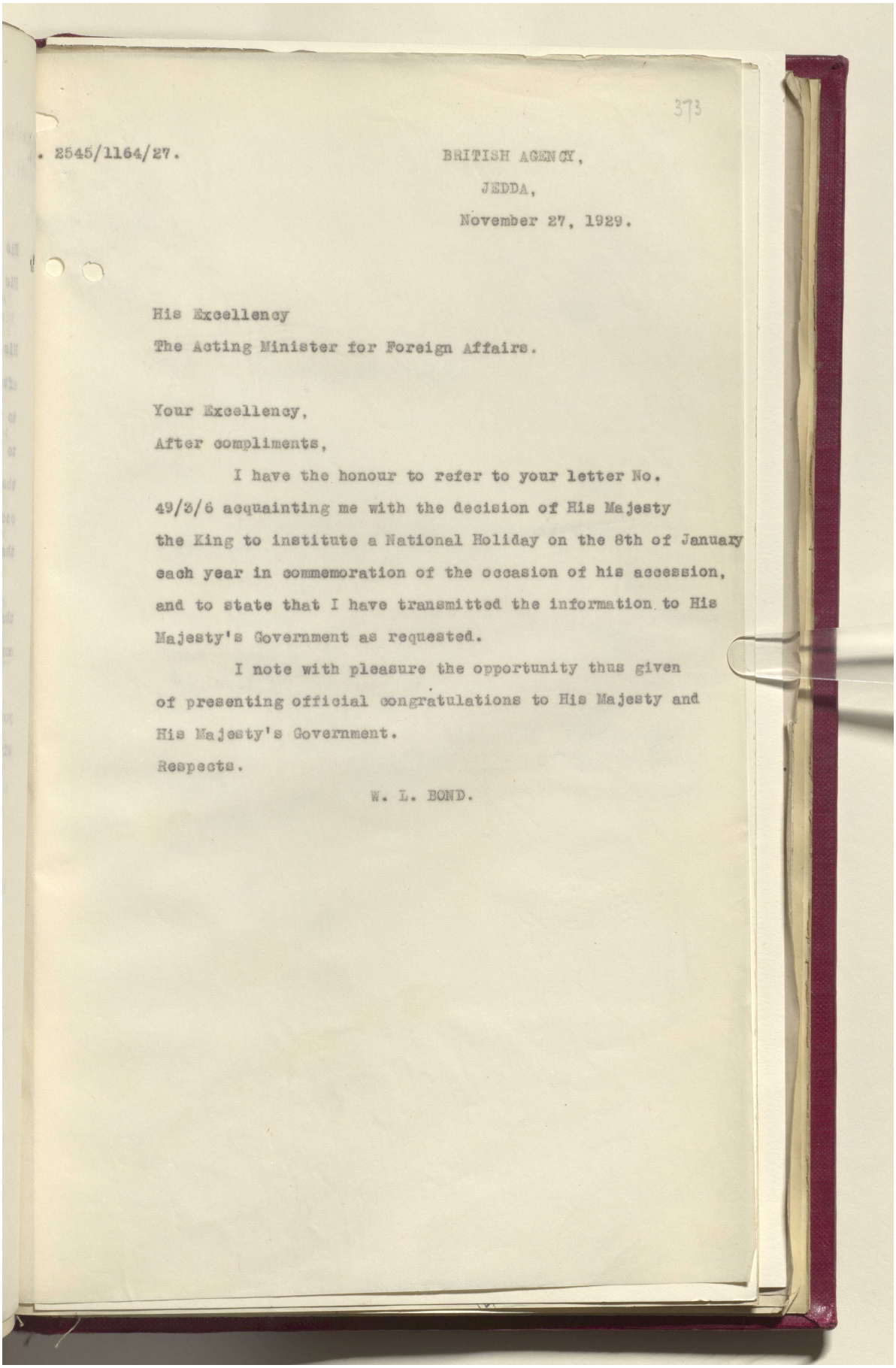

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. 2545/1164/27.

BRITISH AGENCY,
JEDDA,
November 27, 1929.

His Excellency
The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Your Excellency,
After compliments,

I have the honour to refer to your letter No. 49/3/6 acquainting me with the decision of His Majesty the King to institute a National Holiday on the 8th of January each year in commemoration of the occasion of his accession, and to state that I have transmitted the information to His Majesty's Government as requested.

I note with pleasure the opportunity thus given of presenting official congratulations to His Majesty and His Majesty's Government.

Respects.

W. L. BOND.

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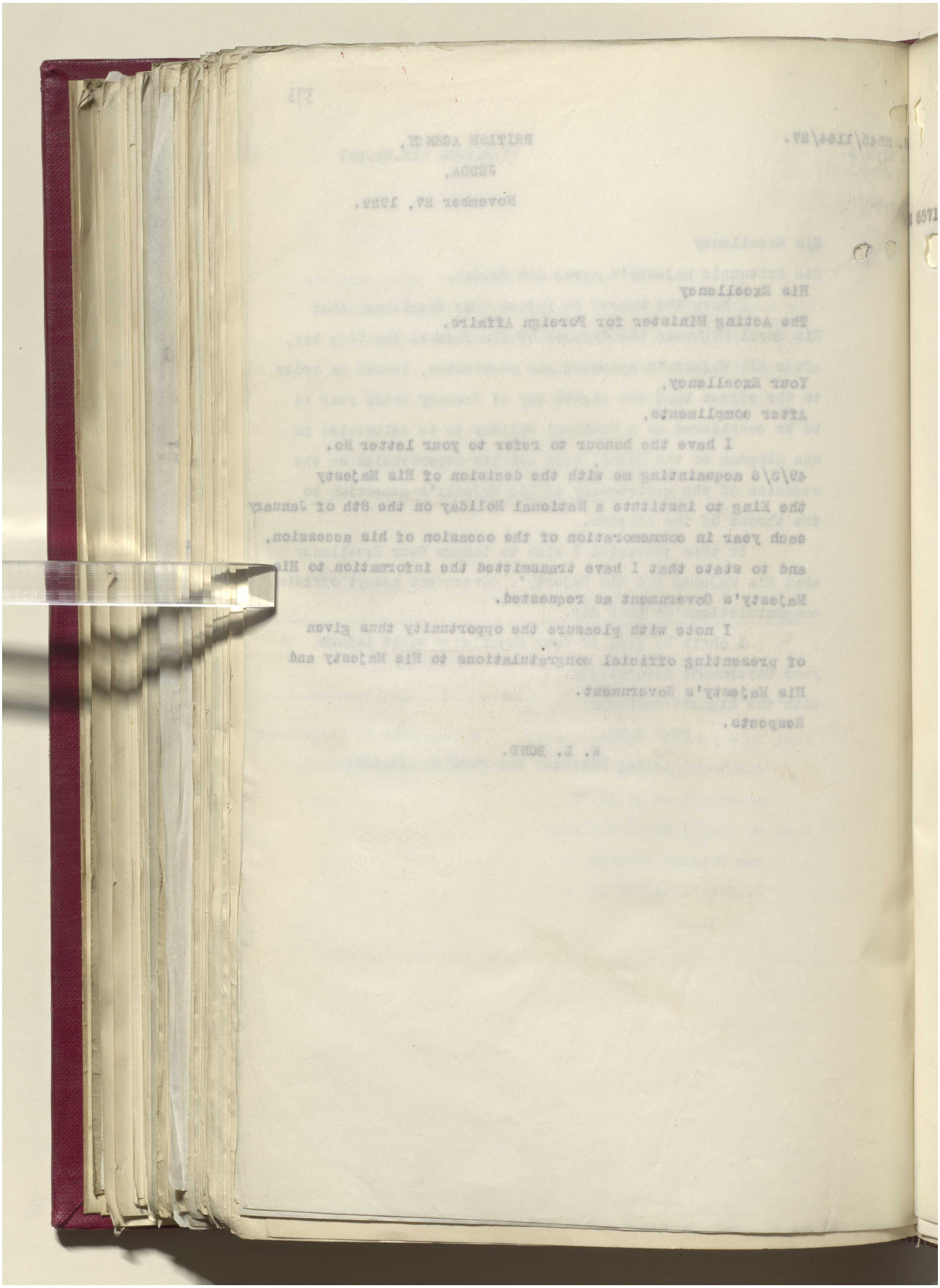

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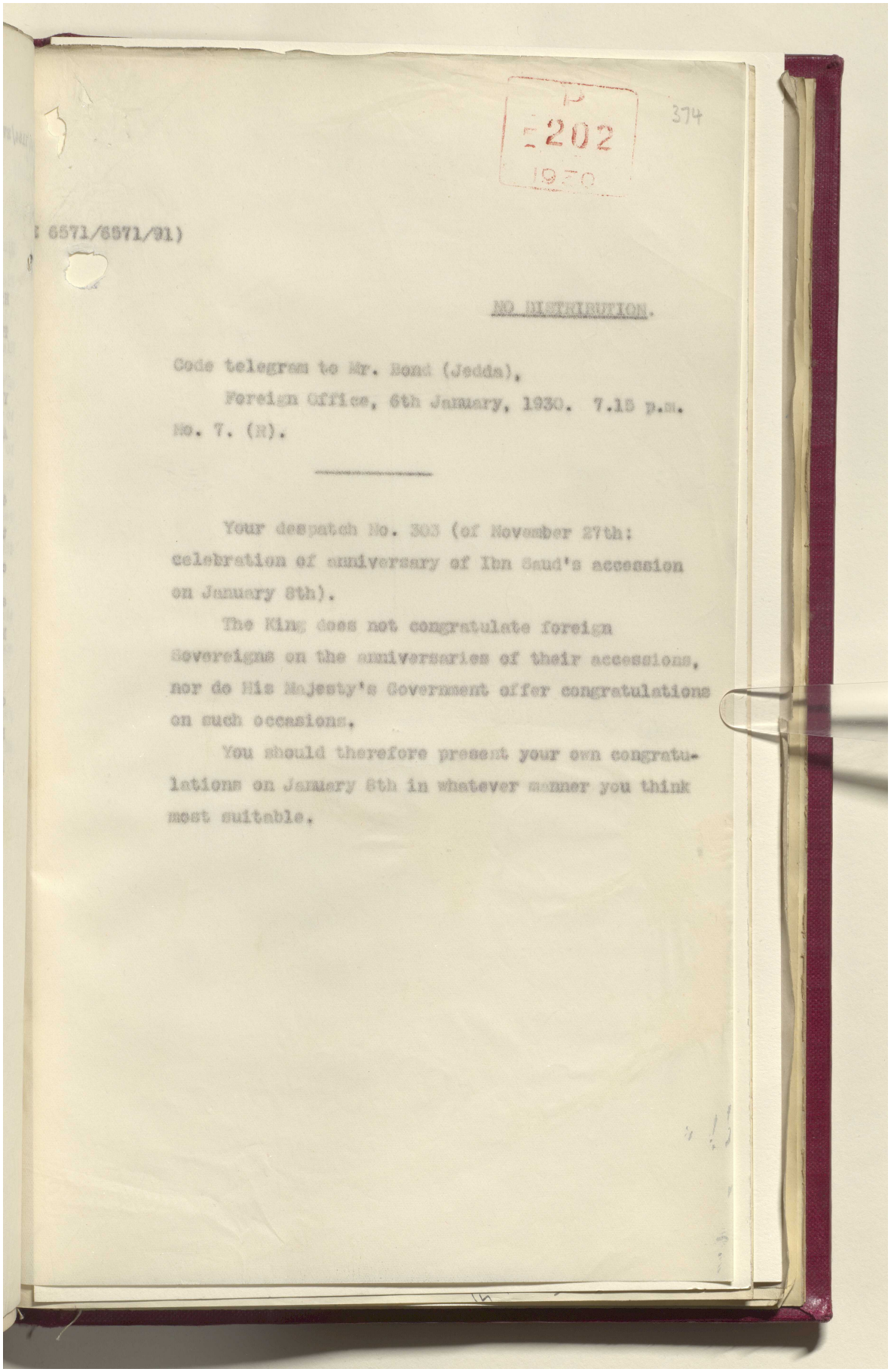

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E 6571/6571/91)

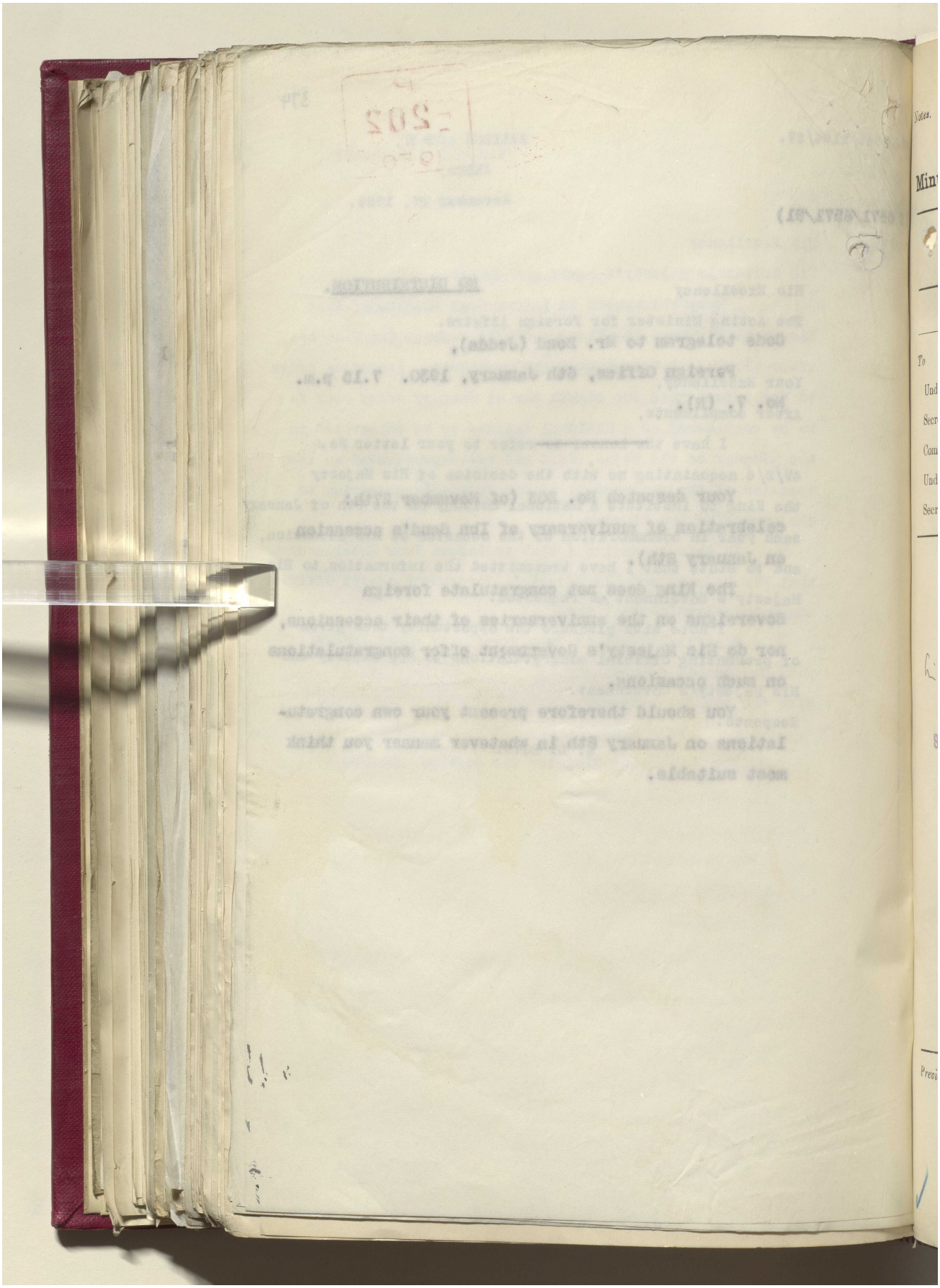
NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Mr. Bond (Jedda),
Foreign Office, 6th January, 1930. 7.15 p.m.
No. 7. (R).

Your despatch No. 303 (of November 27th: celebration of anniversary of Ibn Saud's accession on January 8th).

The King does not congratulate foreign Sovereigns on the anniversaries of their accessions, nor do His Majesty's Government offer congratulations on such occasions.

You should therefore present your own congratulations on January 8th in whatever manner you think most suitable.



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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No. P. 26/1930.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 19 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	4.1.30		Establishment of British Legation at Jeddah:
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....			Private correspondence between Foreign Office and Mr. Bond as regards precedence to be accorded to British Minister or Chargé d'Affaires.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

The private correspondence of which copies are now forwarded by the Foreign Office is of interest. Fuad Hamsa is clearly entirely within his rights in suggesting that the precedence of the various diplomatic representatives at Jeddah must be governed in accordance with the usual diplomatic practice - i.e., the date of their arrival and the presentation of their credentials. The arguments against pressing for any special recognition in this respect for the British representative are clearly set out in Mr. Rendel's letter of the 14th November to Mr. Bond.

SEEN BY SIR A. HIRTZEL.
8 JAN 1930

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
14 JAN 1930

3.1.30

Previous Papers :—

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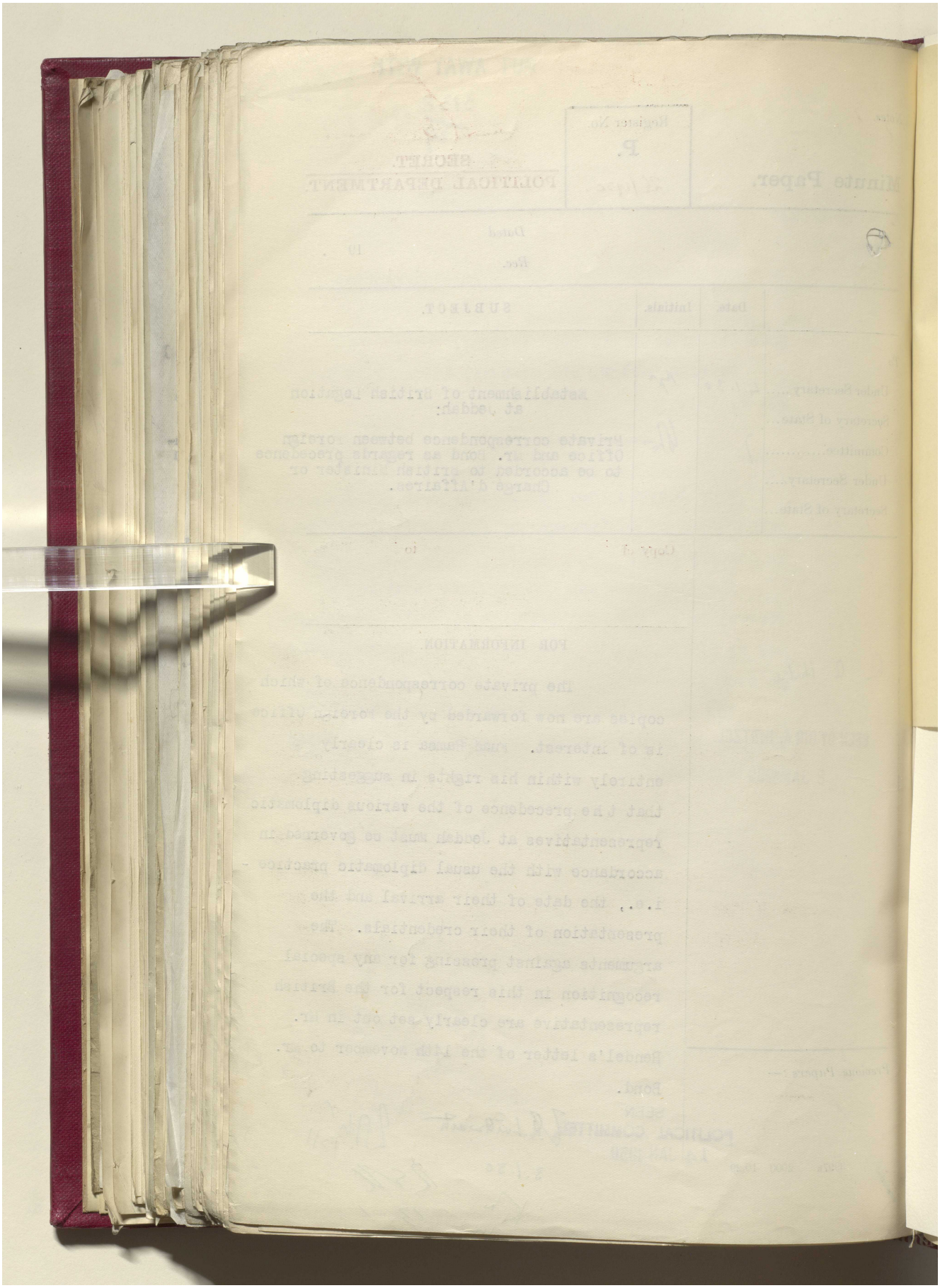

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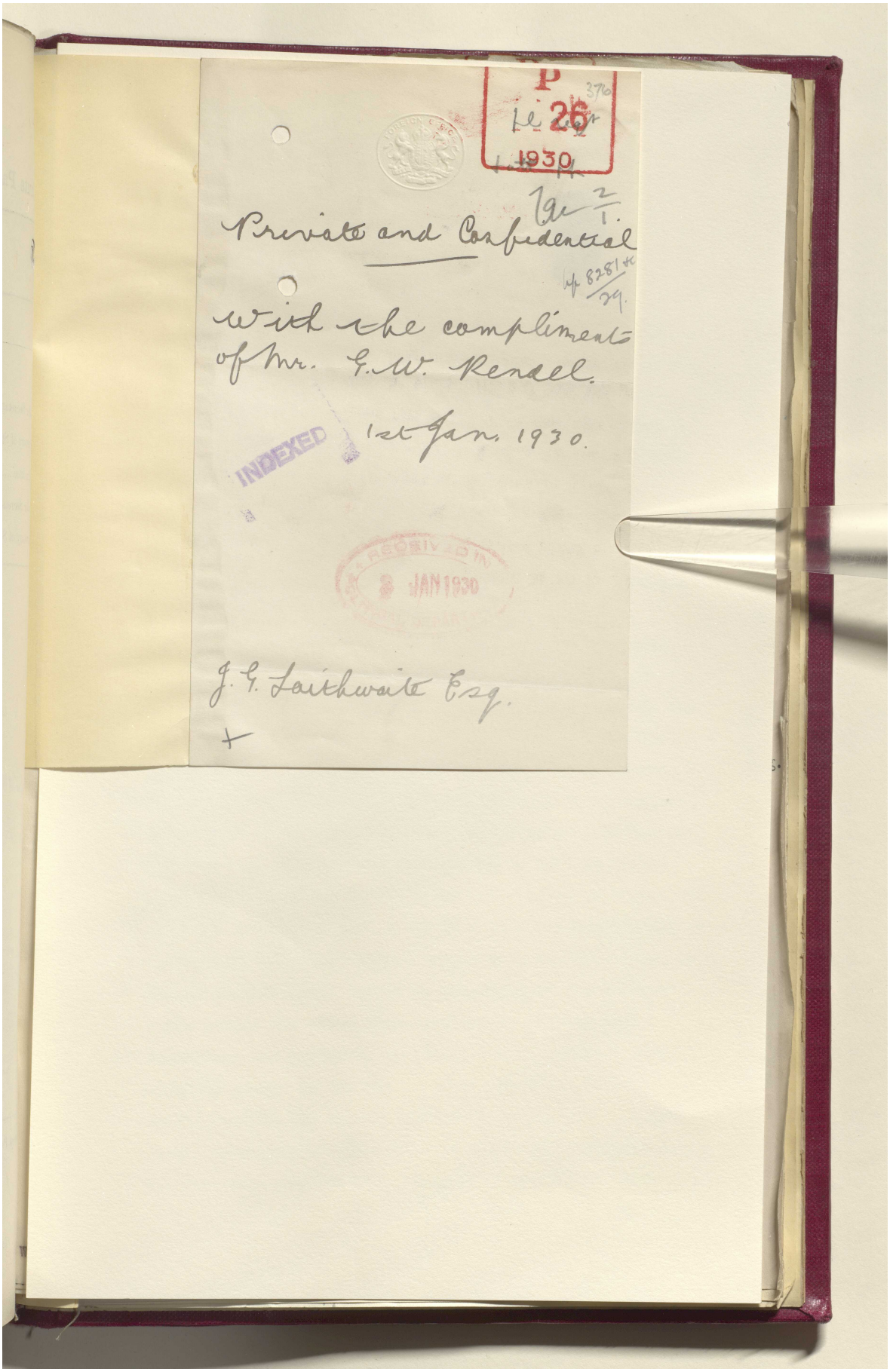

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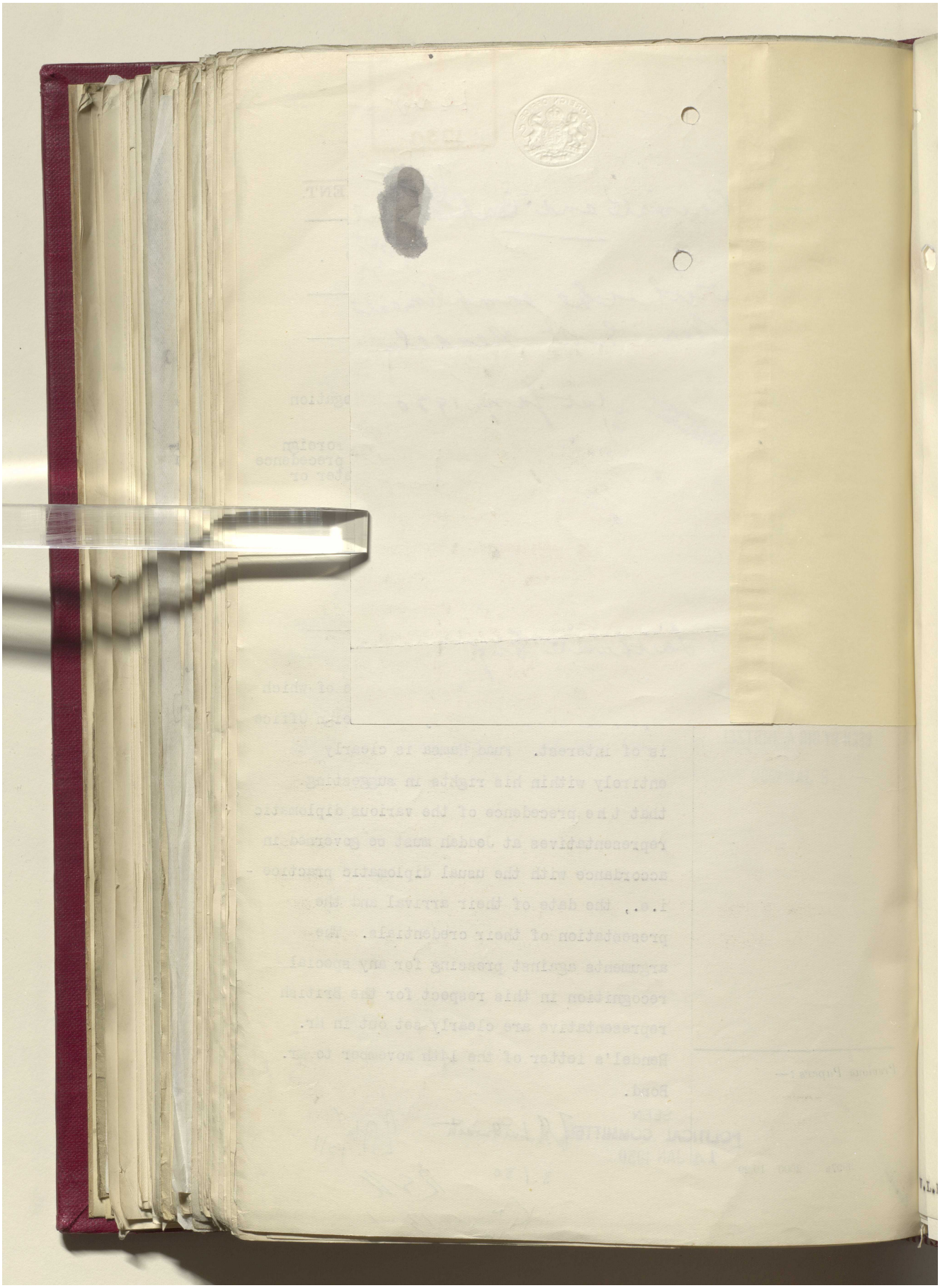

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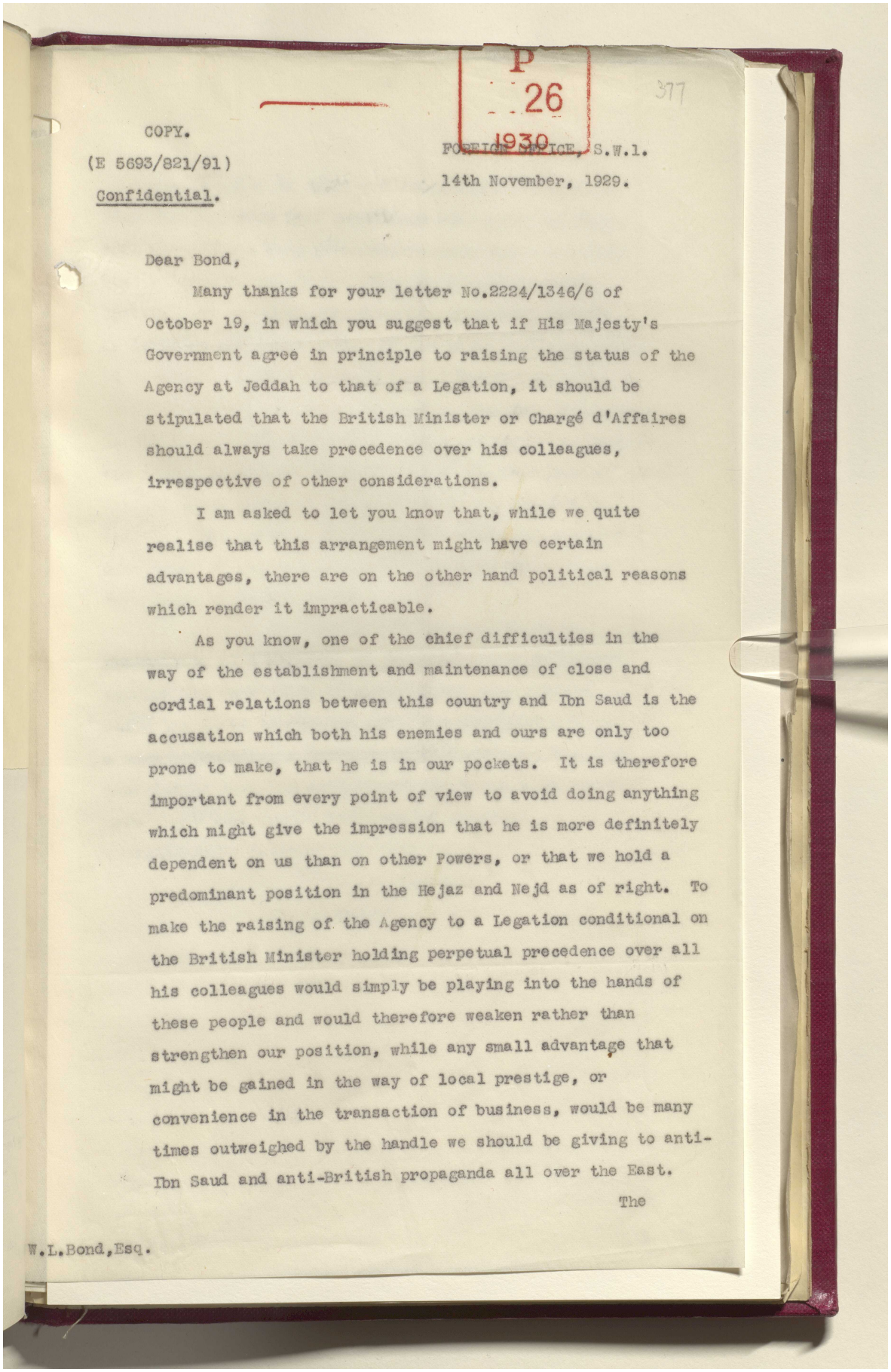

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COPY.
(E 5693/821/91)
Confidential.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
14th November, 1929.

Dear Bond,

Many thanks for your letter No.2224/1346/6 of October 19, in which you suggest that if His Majesty's Government agree in principle to raising the status of the Agency at Jeddah to that of a Legation, it should be stipulated that the British Minister or Chargé d'Affaires should always take precedence over his colleagues, irrespective of other considerations.

I am asked to let you know that, while we quite realise that this arrangement might have certain advantages, there are on the other hand political reasons which render it impracticable.

As you know, one of the chief difficulties in the way of the establishment and maintenance of close and cordial relations between this country and Ibn Saud is the accusation which both his enemies and ours are only too prone to make, that he is in our pockets. It is therefore important from every point of view to avoid doing anything which might give the impression that he is more definitely dependent on us than on other Powers, or that we hold a predominant position in the Hejaz and Nejd as of right. To make the raising of the Agency to a Legation conditional on the British Minister holding perpetual precedence over all his colleagues would simply be playing into the hands of these people and would therefore weaken rather than strengthen our position, while any small advantage that might be gained in the way of local prestige, or convenience in the transaction of business, would be many times outweighed by the handle we should be giving to anti-Ibn Saud and anti-British propaganda all over the East.

The

W.L.Bond,Esq.

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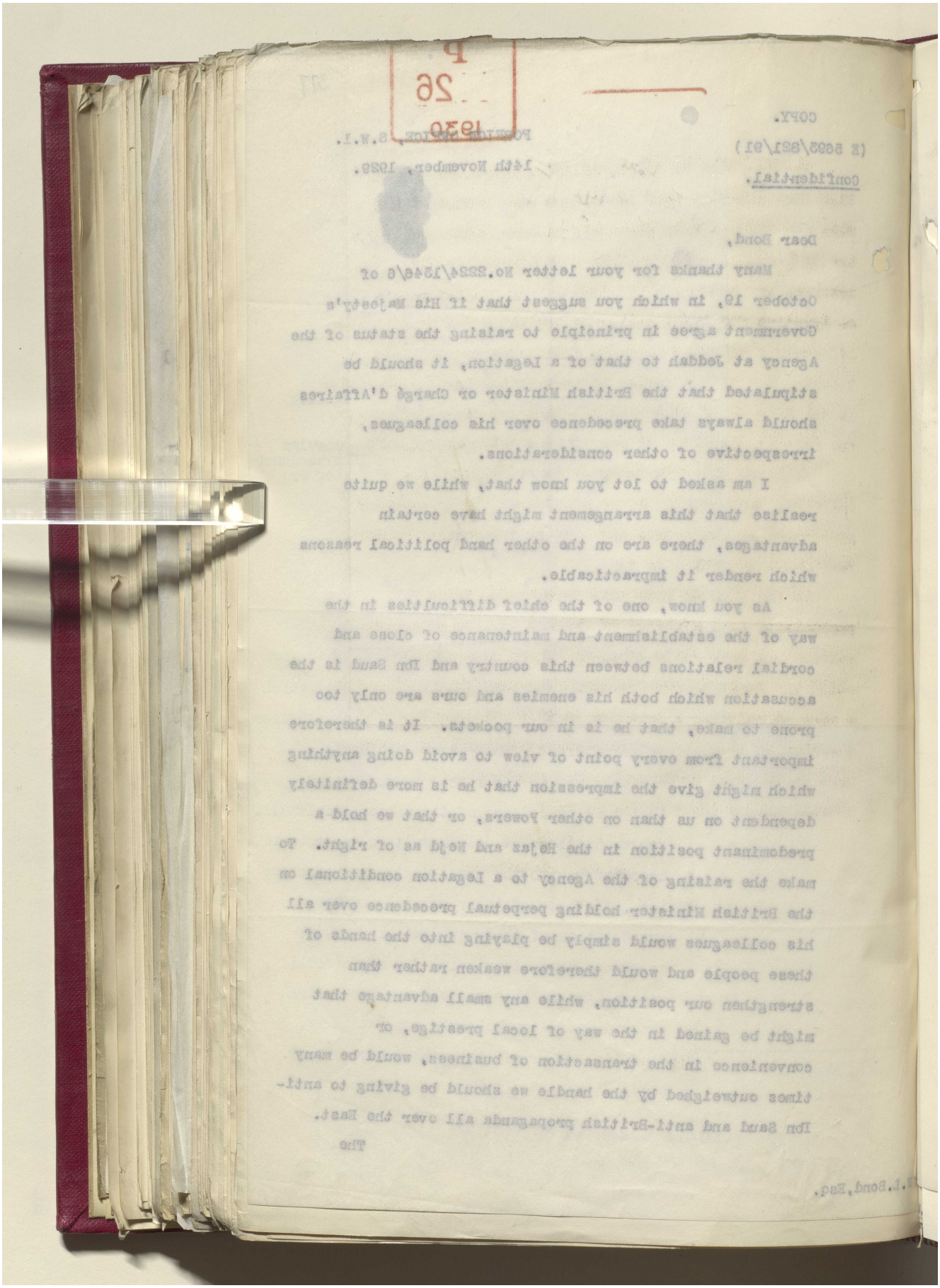

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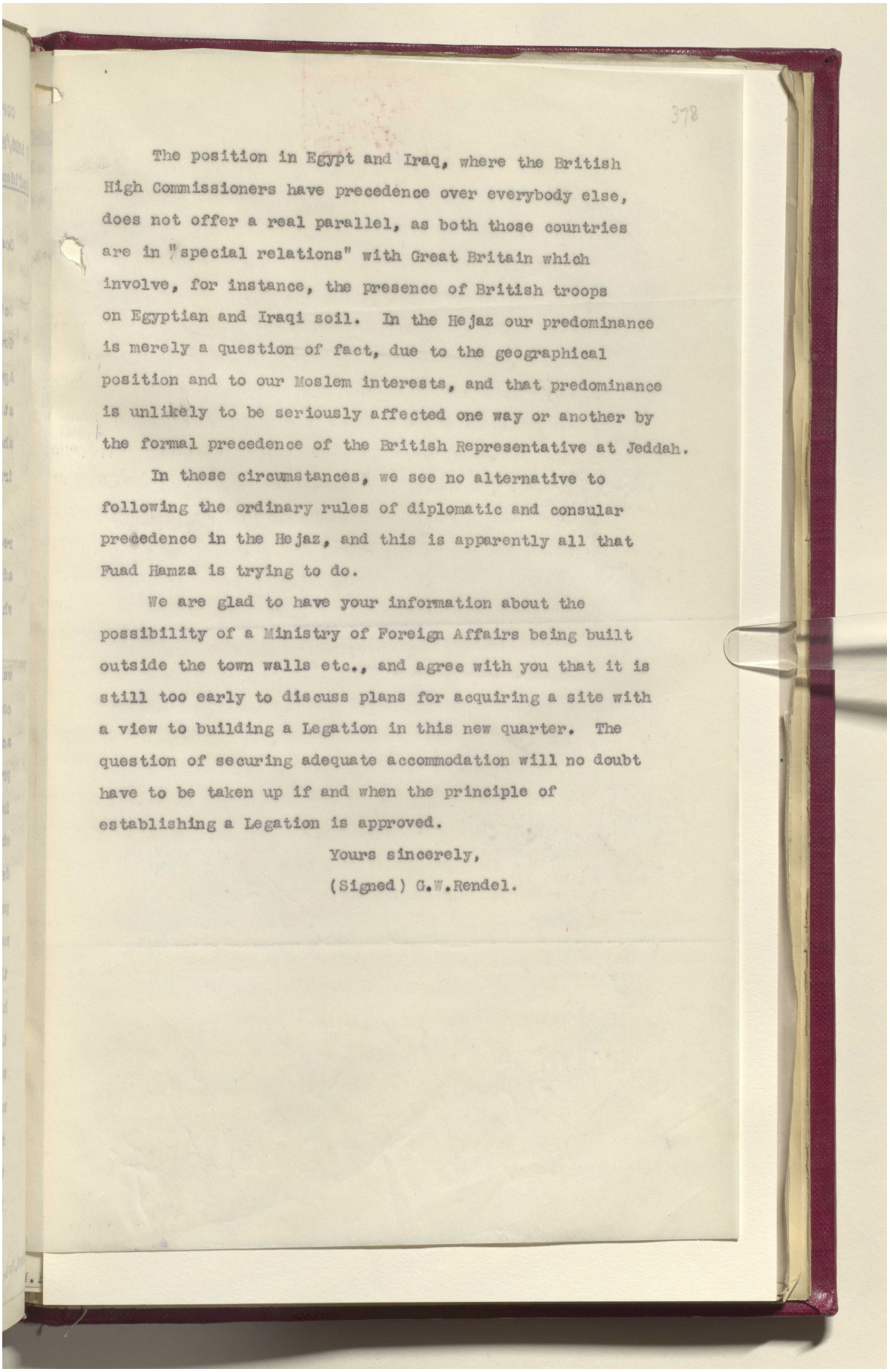

The position in Egypt and Iraq, where the British High Commissioners have precedence over everybody else, does not offer a real parallel, as both those countries are in "special relations" with Great Britain which involve, for instance, the presence of British troops on Egyptian and Iraqi soil. In the Hejaz our predominance is merely a question of fact, due to the geographical position and to our Moslem interests, and that predominance is unlikely to be seriously affected one way or another by the formal precedence of the British Representative at Jeddah.

In these circumstances, we see no alternative to following the ordinary rules of diplomatic and consular precedence in the Hejaz, and this is apparently all that Fuad Hamza is trying to do.

We are glad to have your information about the possibility of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs being built outside the town walls etc., and agree with you that it is still too early to discuss plans for acquiring a site with a view to building a Legation in this new quarter. The question of securing adequate accommodation will no doubt have to be taken up if and when the principle of establishing a Legation is approved.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) G.W.Rendel.

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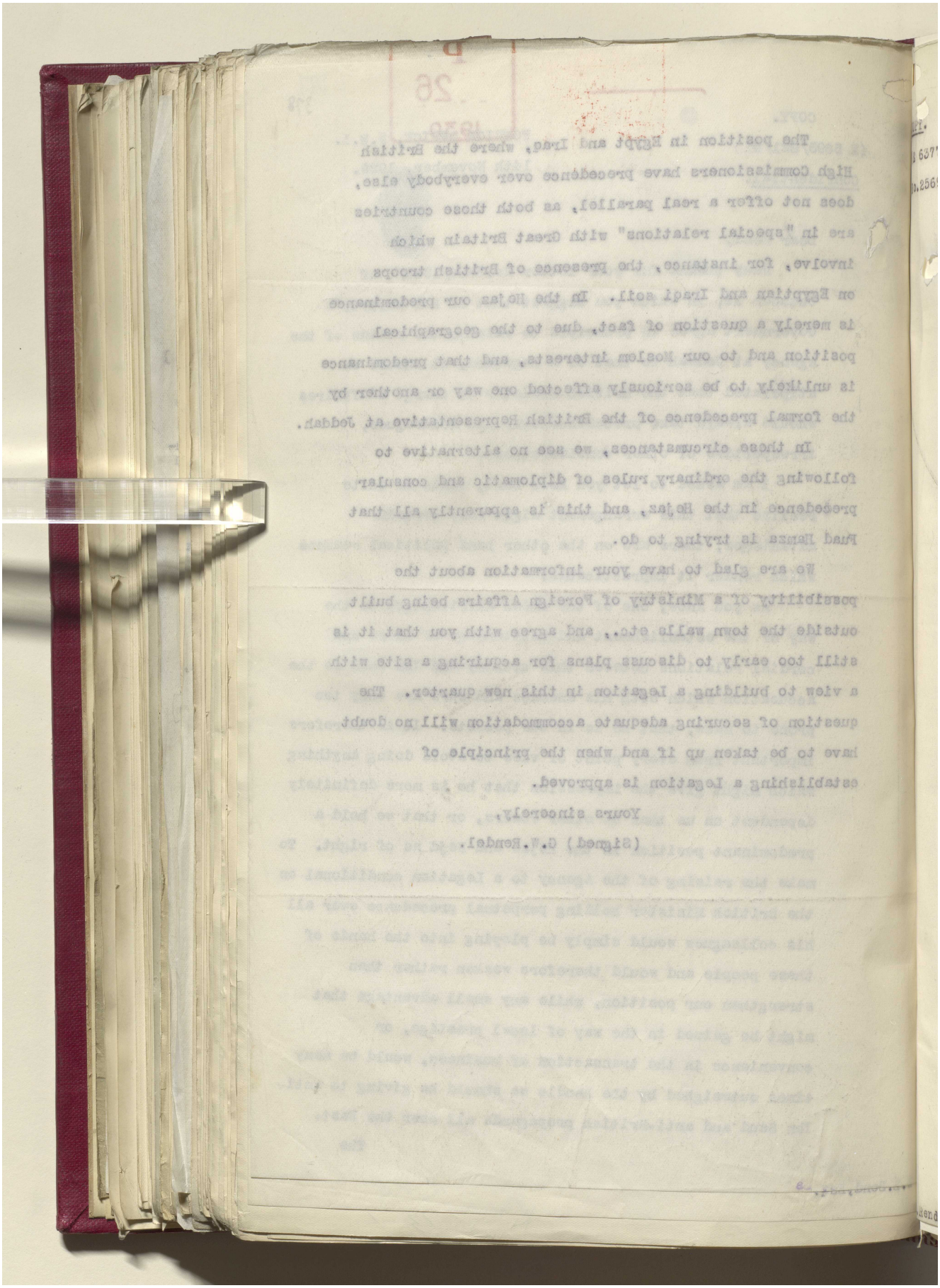

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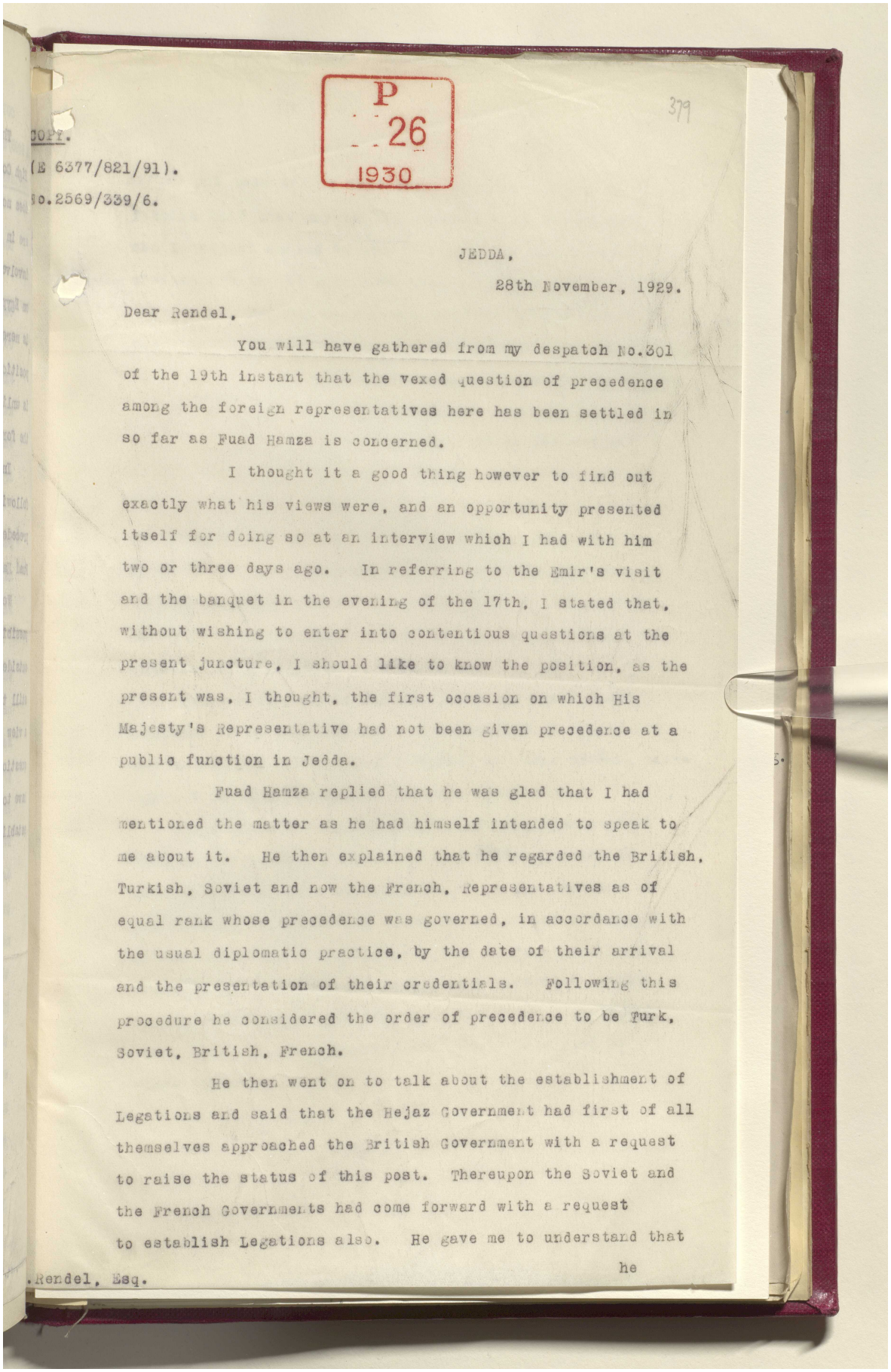

P
26
1930

COPY.
(E 6377/821/91).
No.2569/339/6.

JEDDA,
28th November, 1929.

Dear Rendel,

You will have gathered from my despatch No.301 of the 19th instant that the vexed question of precedence among the foreign representatives here has been settled in so far as Fuad Hamza is concerned.

I thought it a good thing however to find out exactly what his views were, and an opportunity presented itself for doing so at an interview which I had with him two or three days ago. In referring to the Emir's visit and the banquet in the evening of the 17th, I stated that, without wishing to enter into contentious questions at the present juncture, I should like to know the position, as the present was, I thought, the first occasion on which His Majesty's Representative had not been given precedence at a public function in Jedda.

Fuad Hamza replied that he was glad that I had mentioned the matter as he had himself intended to speak to me about it. He then explained that he regarded the British, Turkish, Soviet and now the French, Representatives as of equal rank whose precedence was governed, in accordance with the usual diplomatic practice, by the date of their arrival and the presentation of their credentials. Following this procedure he considered the order of precedence to be Turk, Soviet, British, French.

He then went on to talk about the establishment of Legations and said that the Hejaz Government had first of all themselves approached the British Government with a request to raise the status of this post. Thereupon the Soviet and the French Governments had come forward with a request to establish Legations also. He gave me to understand that

he

.Rendel, Esq.

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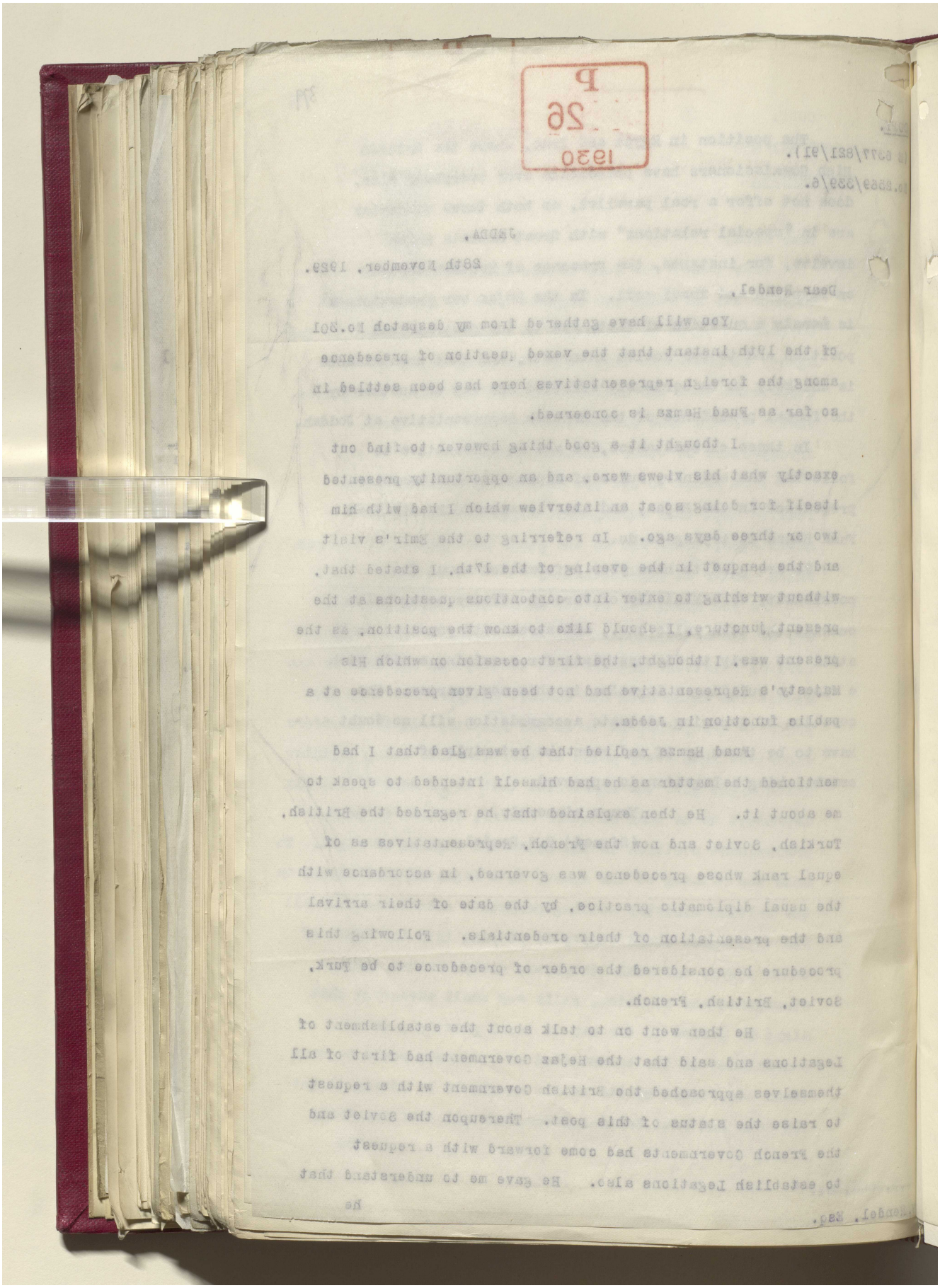

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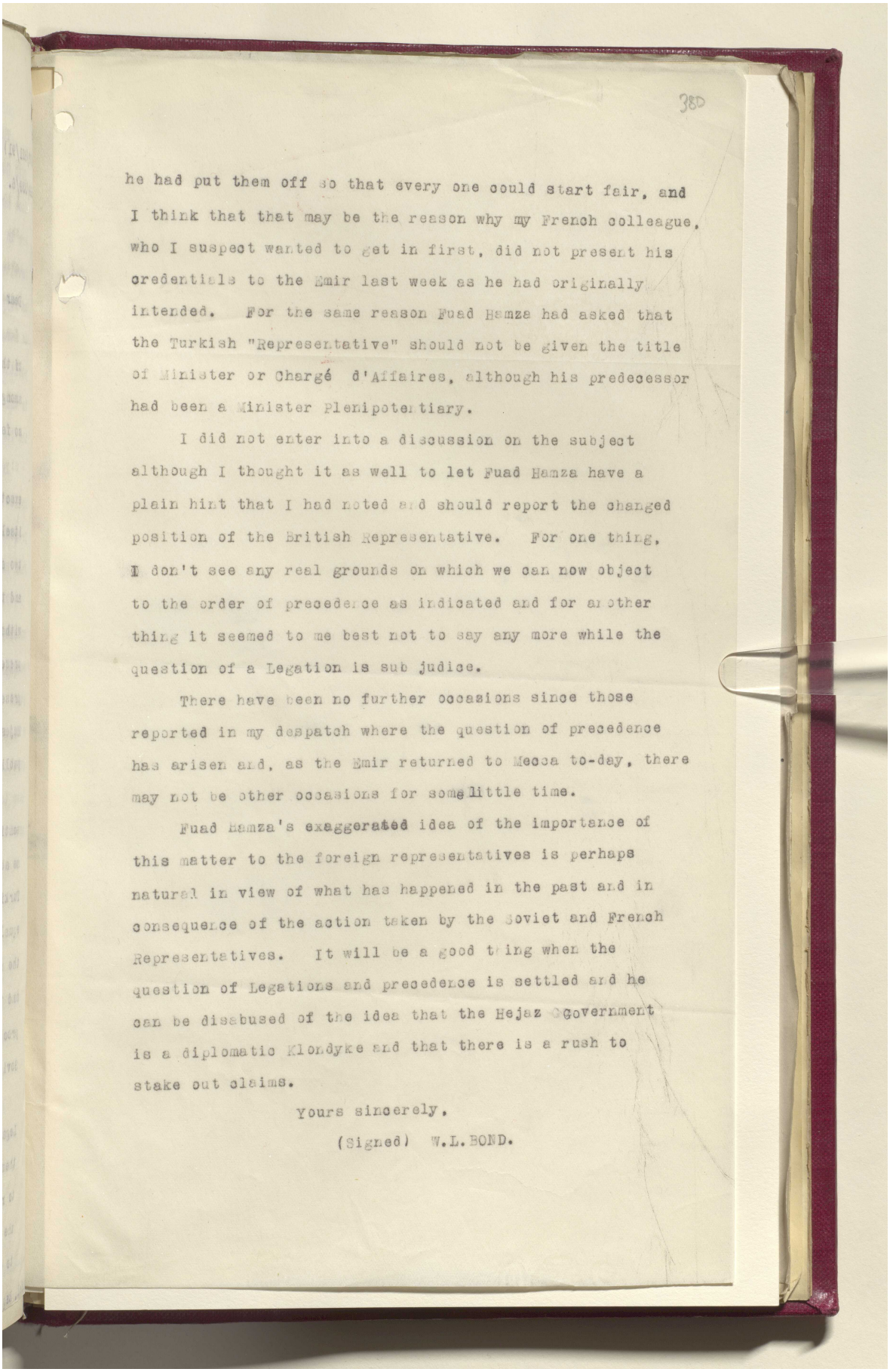

380

he had put them off so that every one could start fair, and I think that that may be the reason why my French colleague, who I suspect wanted to get in first, did not present his credentials to the Emir last week as he had originally intended. For the same reason Fuad Hamza had asked that the Turkish "Representative" should not be given the title of Minister or Chargé d'Affaires, although his predecessor had been a Minister Plenipotentiary.

I did not enter into a discussion on the subject although I thought it as well to let Fuad Hamza have a plain hint that I had noted and should report the changed position of the British Representative. For one thing, I don't see any real grounds on which we can now object to the order of precedence as indicated and for another thing it seemed to me best not to say any more while the question of a Legation is sub judice.

There have been no further occasions since those reported in my despatch where the question of precedence has arisen and, as the Emir returned to Mecca to-day, there may not be other occasions for some little time.

Fuad Hamza's exaggerated idea of the importance of this matter to the foreign representatives is perhaps natural in view of what has happened in the past and in consequence of the action taken by the Soviet and French Representatives. It will be a good thing when the question of Legations and precedence is settled and he can be disabused of the idea that the Hejaz Government is a diplomatic Klondyke and that there is a rush to stake out claims.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) W.L.BOND.

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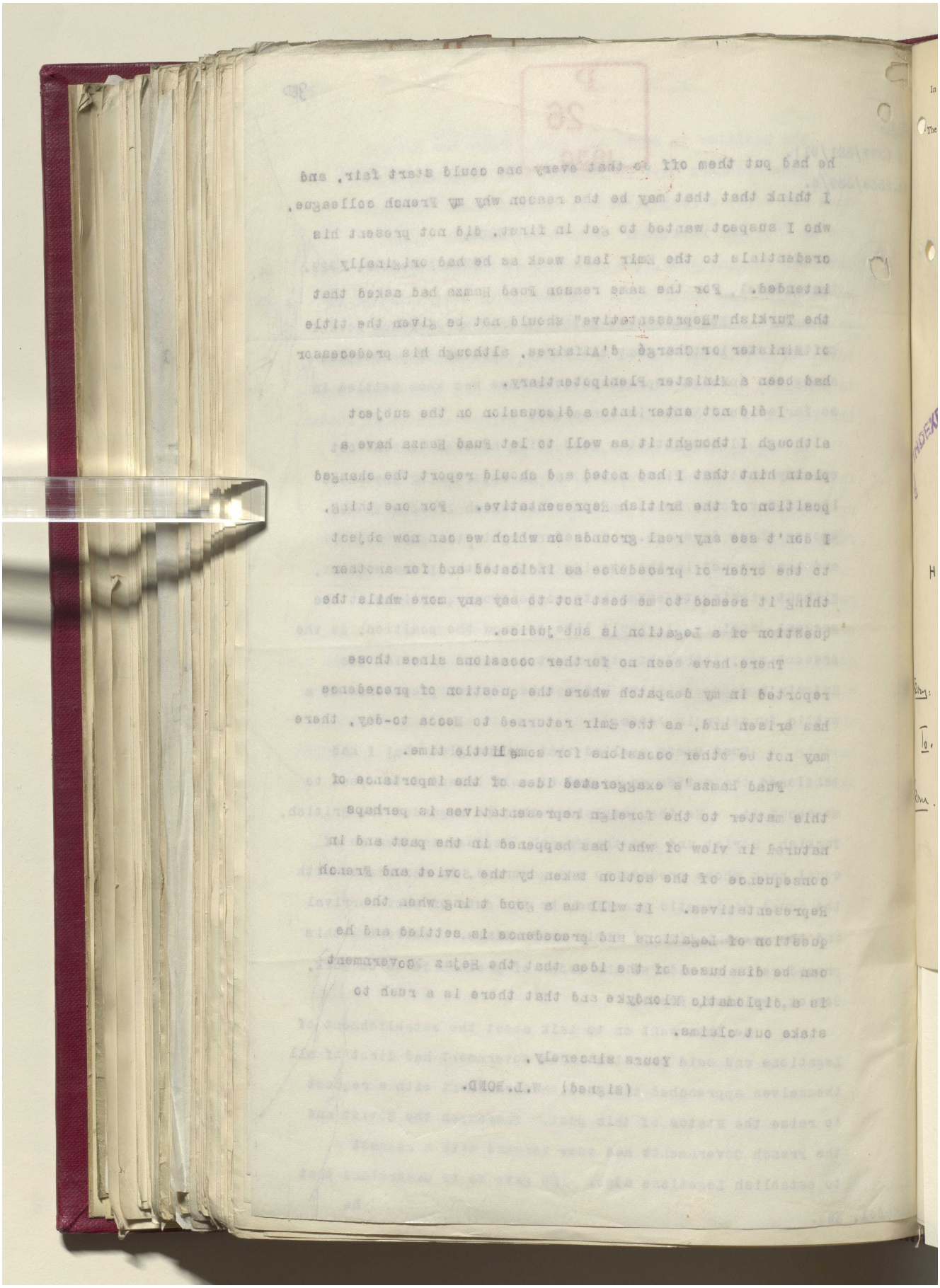

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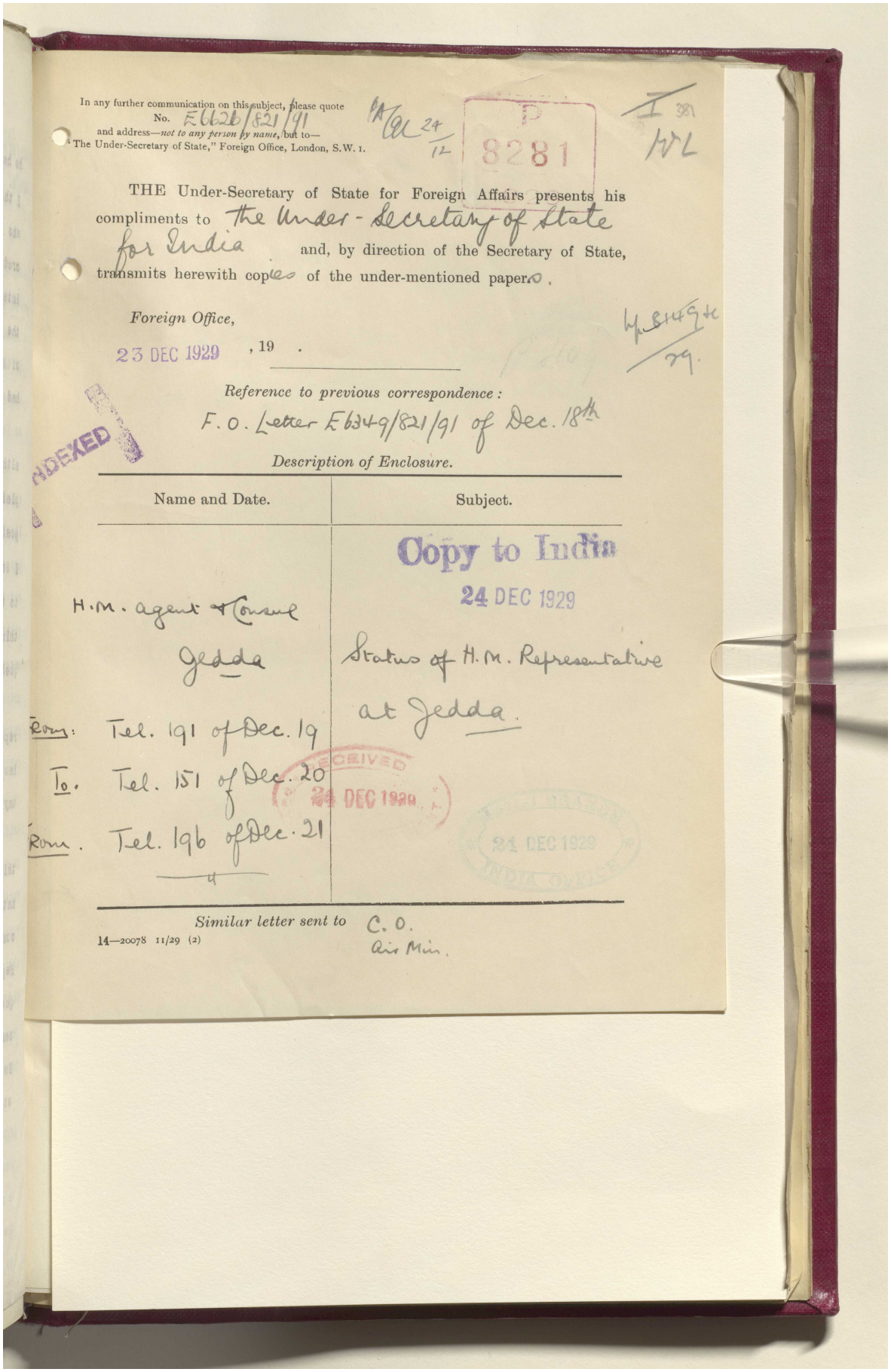

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 6626/821/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P 8281

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned papers.

Foreign Office,
23 DEC 1929 , 19 .

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. Letter E 6349/821/91 of Dec. 18th

INDEXED

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. agent & Consul Jedda From: Tel. 191 of Dec. 19 To. Tel. 151 of Dec. 20 From. Tel. 196 of Dec. 21	Copy to India 24 DEC 1929 Status of H.M. Representative at Jedda.

RECEIVED 24 DEC 1929

24 DEC 1929 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to C.O. Air Min.

14—20078 11/29 (2)

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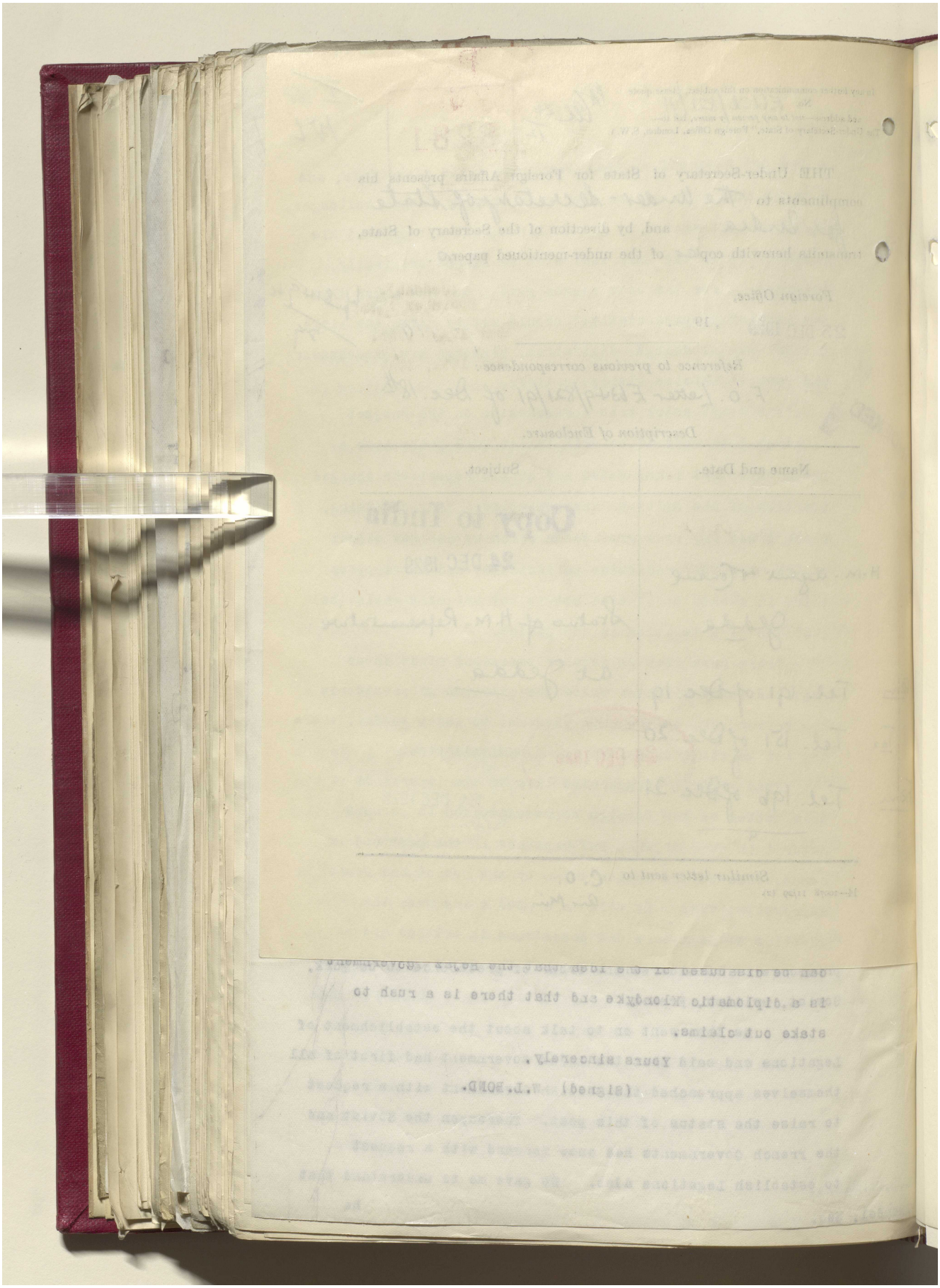

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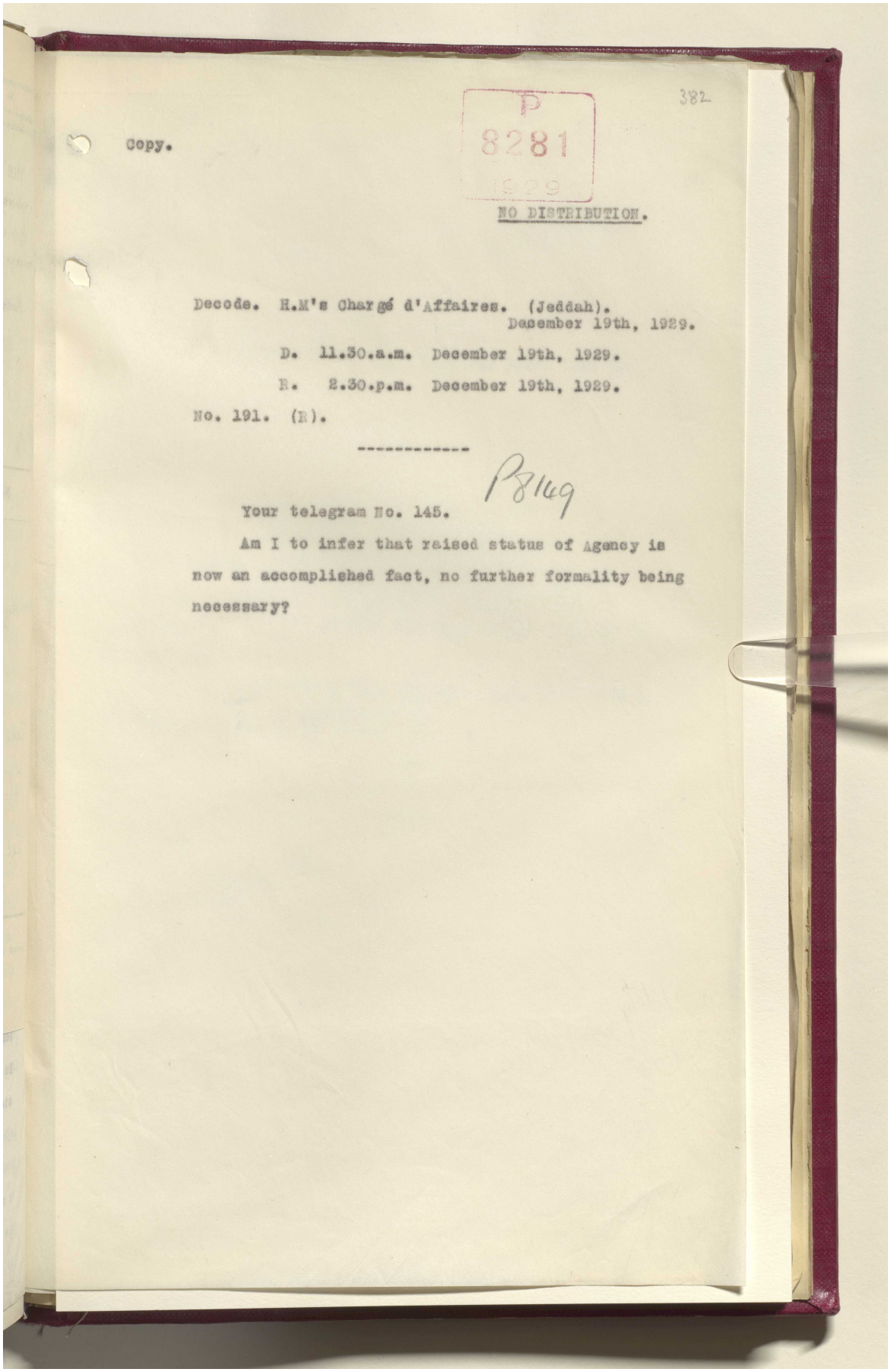

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P 8281 1929

Copy.

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. H.M's Chargé d'Affaires. (Jeddah).
December 19th, 1929.

D. 11.30.a.m. December 19th, 1929.

R. 2.30.p.m. December 19th, 1929.

No. 191. (R).

P8169

Your telegram No. 145.

Am I to infer that raised status of Agency is now an accomplished fact, no further formality being necessary?

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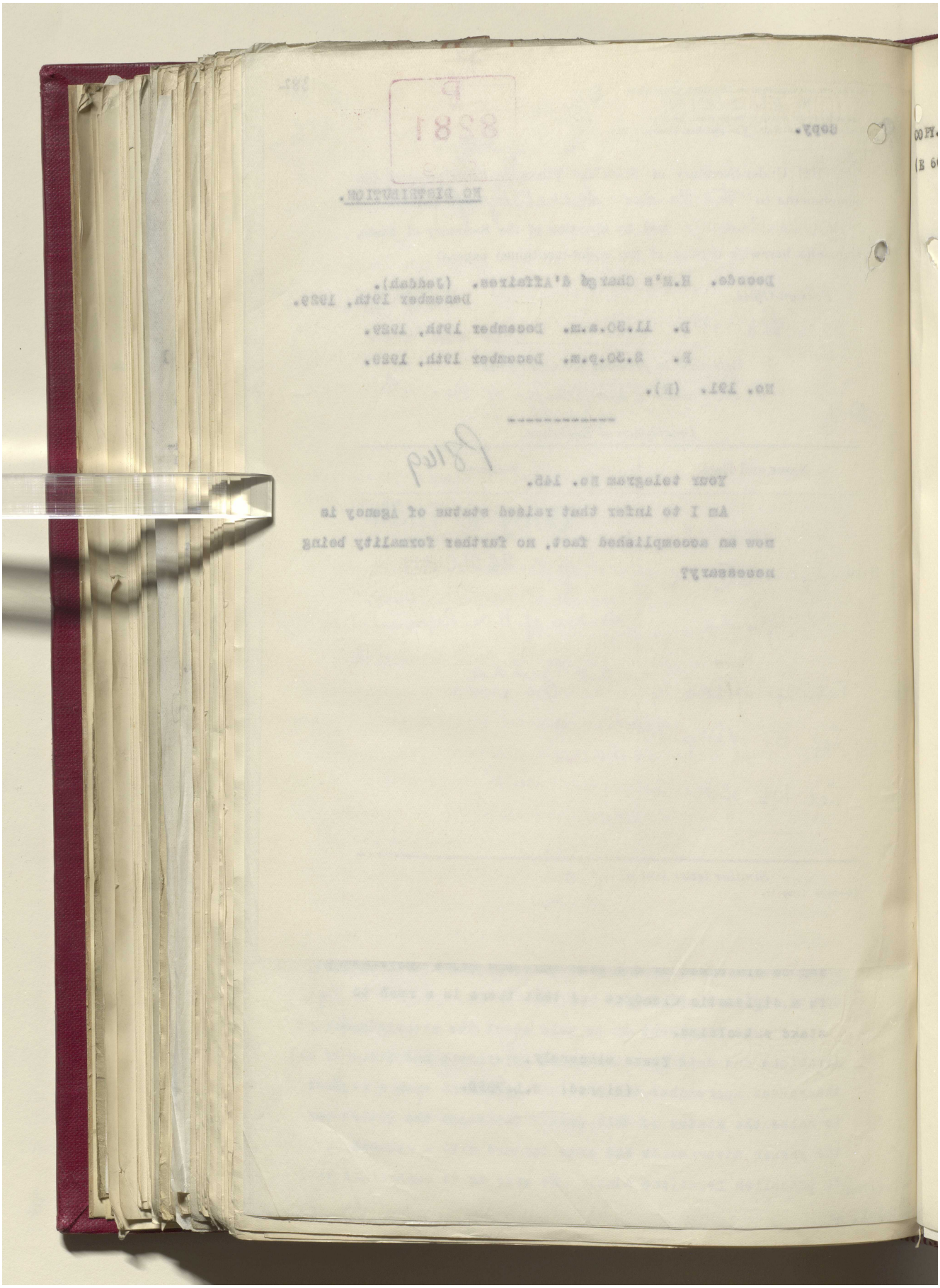

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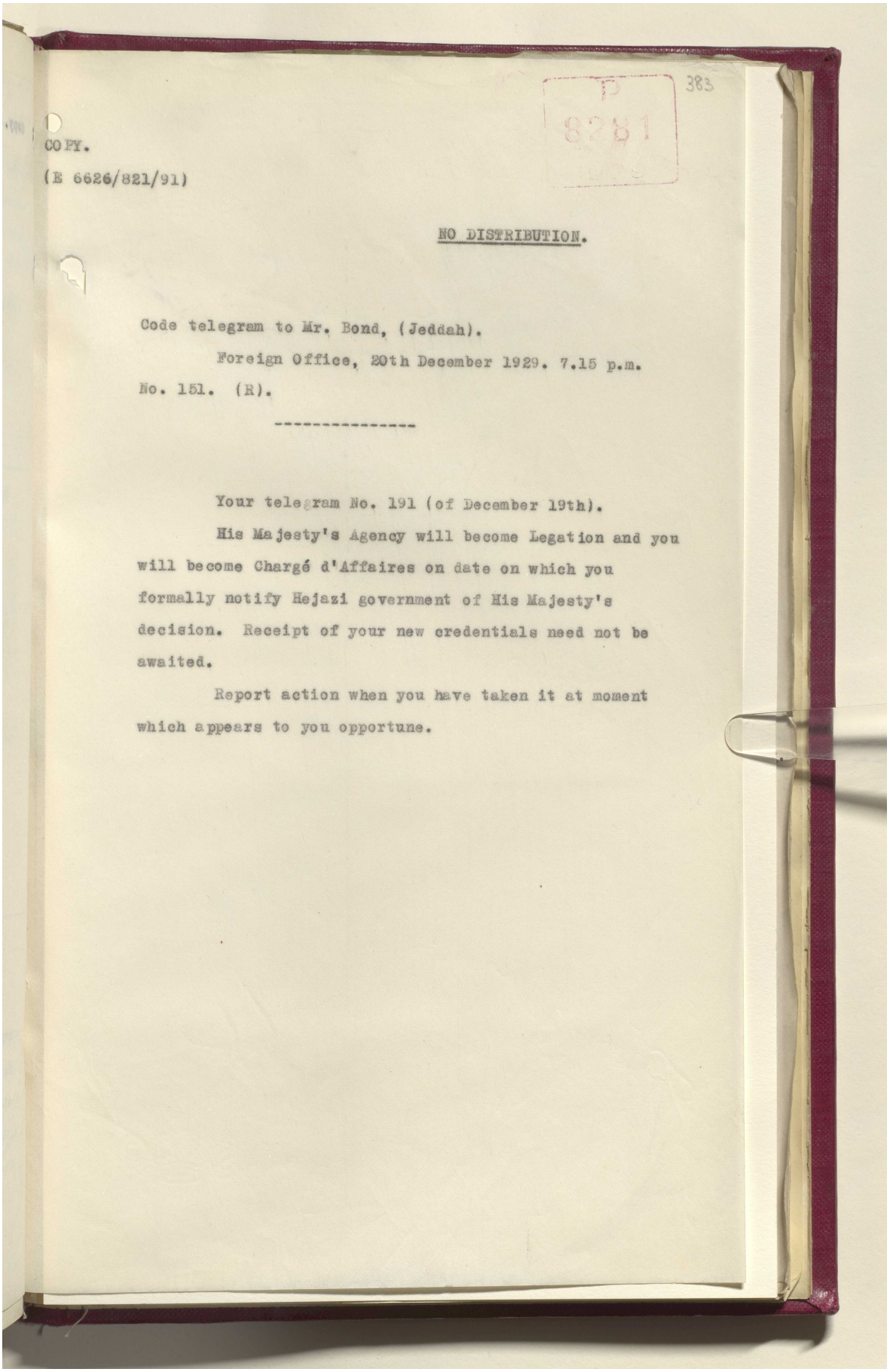

P 8281 383

COPY.

(E 6626/821/91)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Mr. Bond, (Jeddah).

Foreign Office, 20th December 1929. 7.15 p.m.

No. 151. (R).

Your telegram No. 191 (of December 19th).

His Majesty's Agency will become Legation and you will become Chargé d'Affaires on date on which you formally notify Hejazi government of His Majesty's decision. Receipt of your new credentials need not be awaited.

Report action when you have taken it at moment which appears to you opportune.

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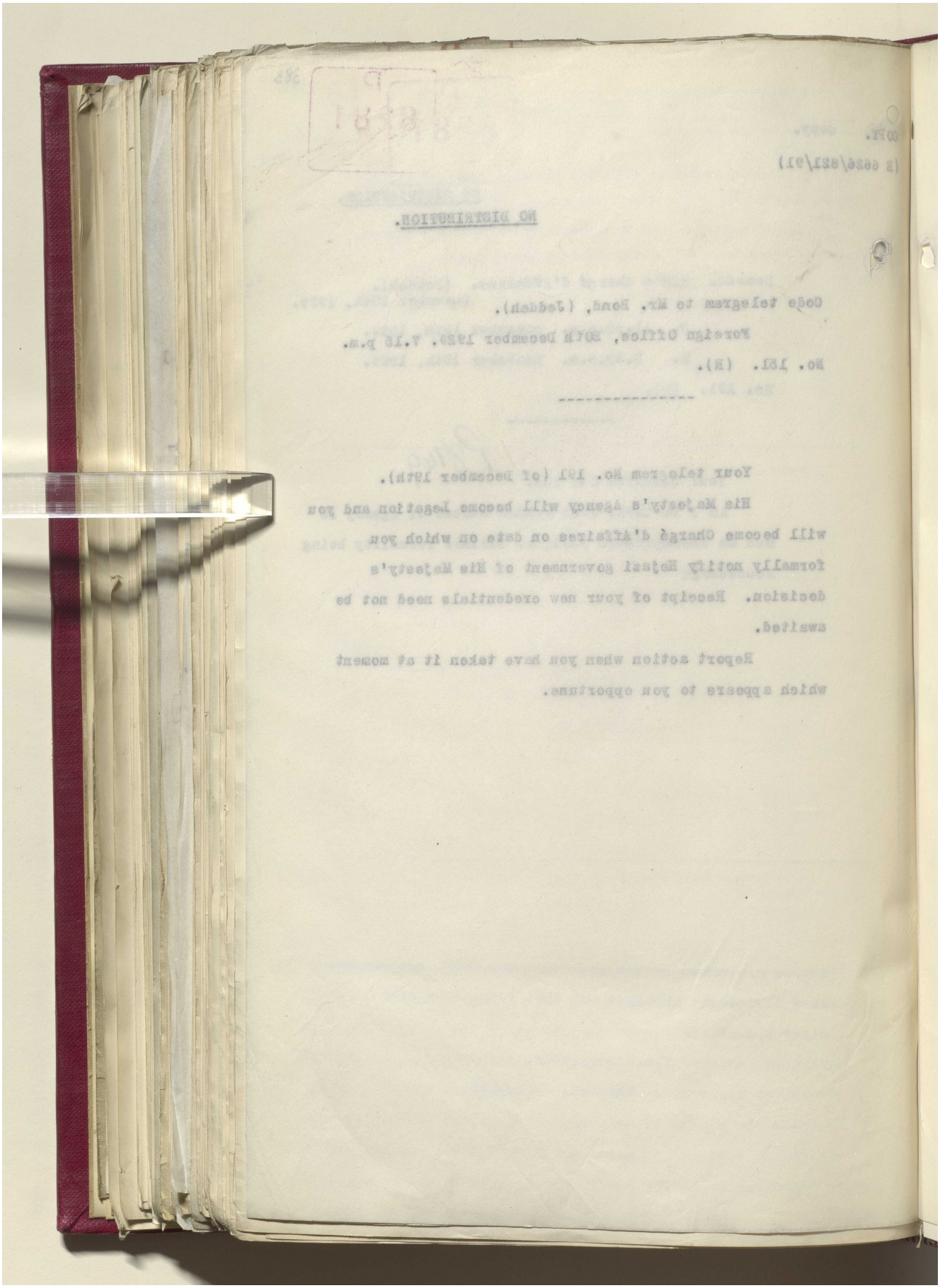

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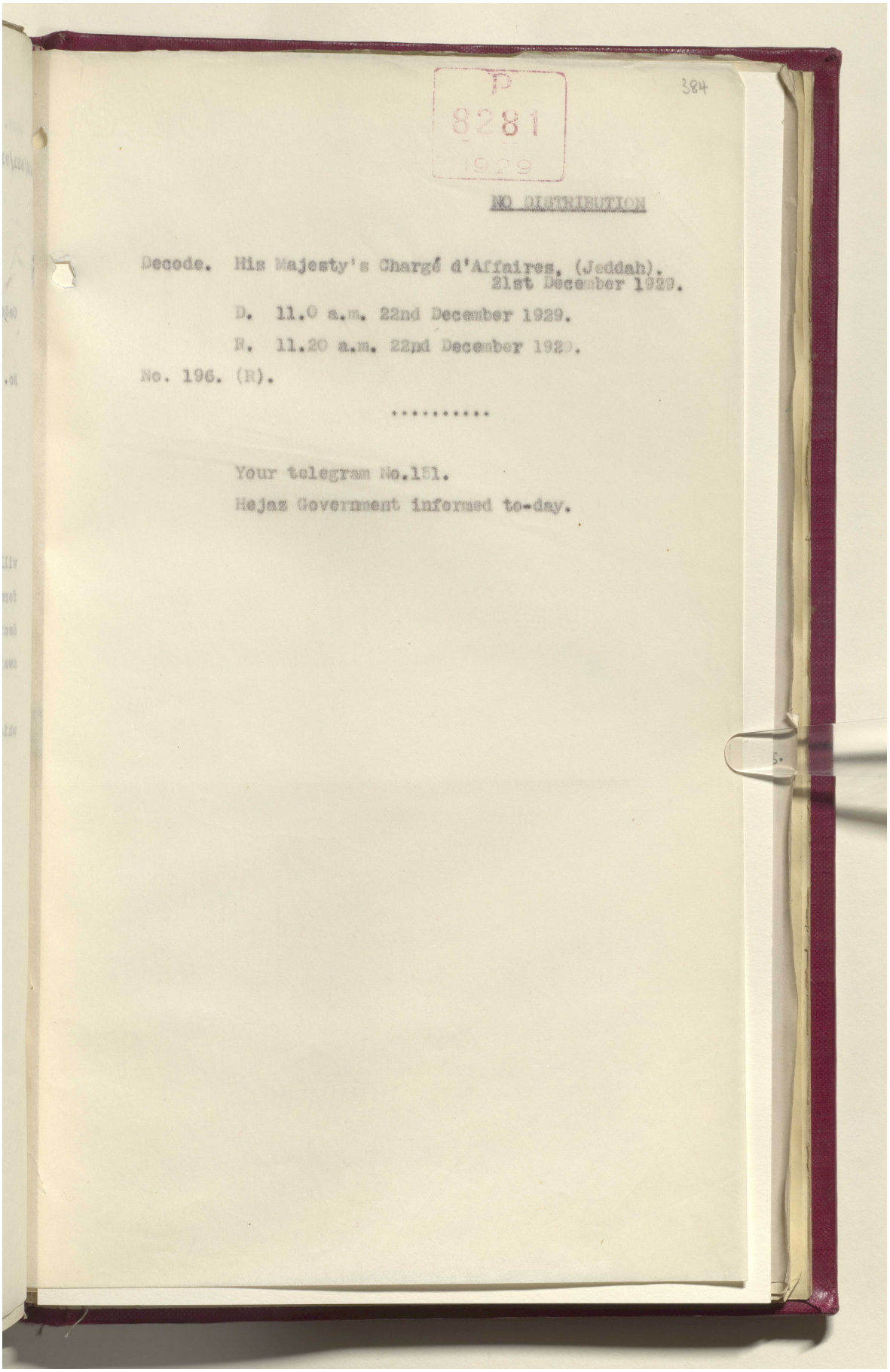

P
8281
1929

384

NO DISTRIBUTION

Decode. His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, (Jeddah).
21st December 1929.

D. 11.0 a.m. 22nd December 1929.

R. 11.20 a.m. 22nd December 1929.

No. 196. (R).

.....

Your telegram No.151.

Hejaz Government informed to-day.

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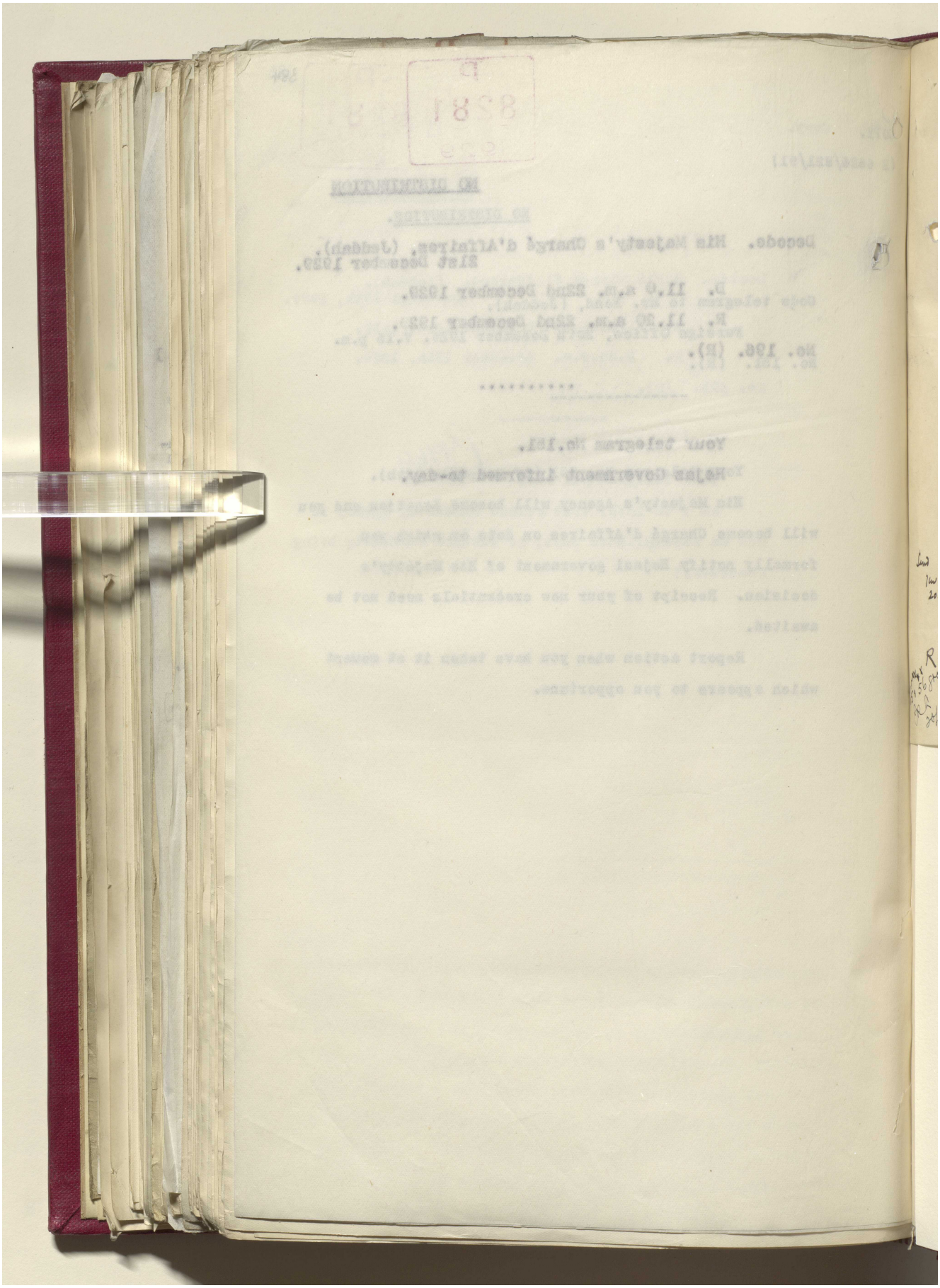

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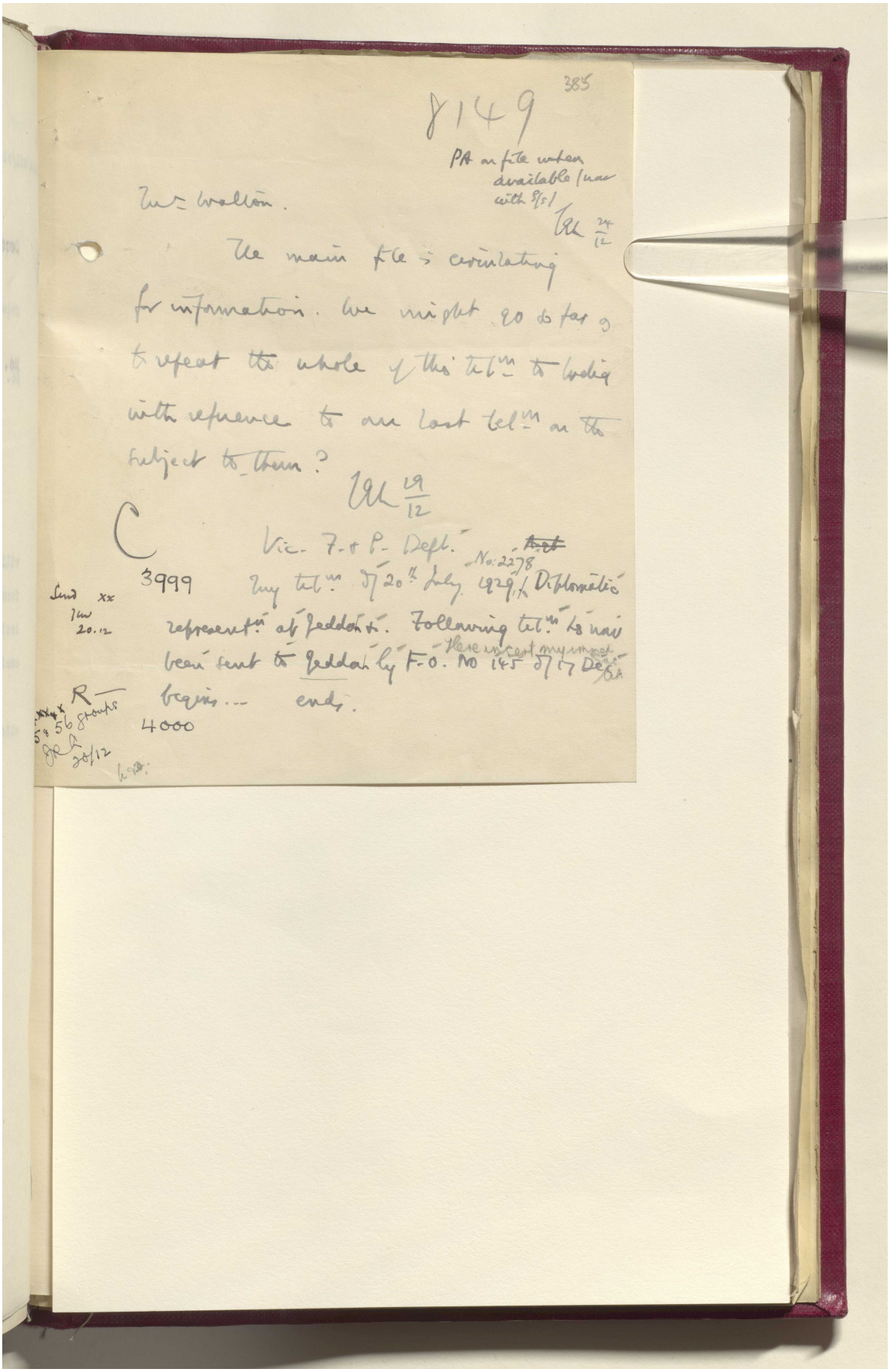

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8149

PA on file when available (now with S/S)

[illegible] 24/12

Mr Walton.

The main file is circulating for information. We might go so far as to repeat the whole of this telm to India with reference to our last telm on the subject to them?

[illegible] 19/12

C

Vic. F. & P. Deptt.

3999 Any telm of 20th July 1929, No: 2278 to Diplomatic representn at Jeddah &c. Following telm has now been sent to Jeddah by F.O. No 145 of 17 Dec. begins... ends.

Here insert my impressions

Send xx
[illegible] 20.12

R
xxxx
5 & 56 groups
[illegible] 20/12

4000

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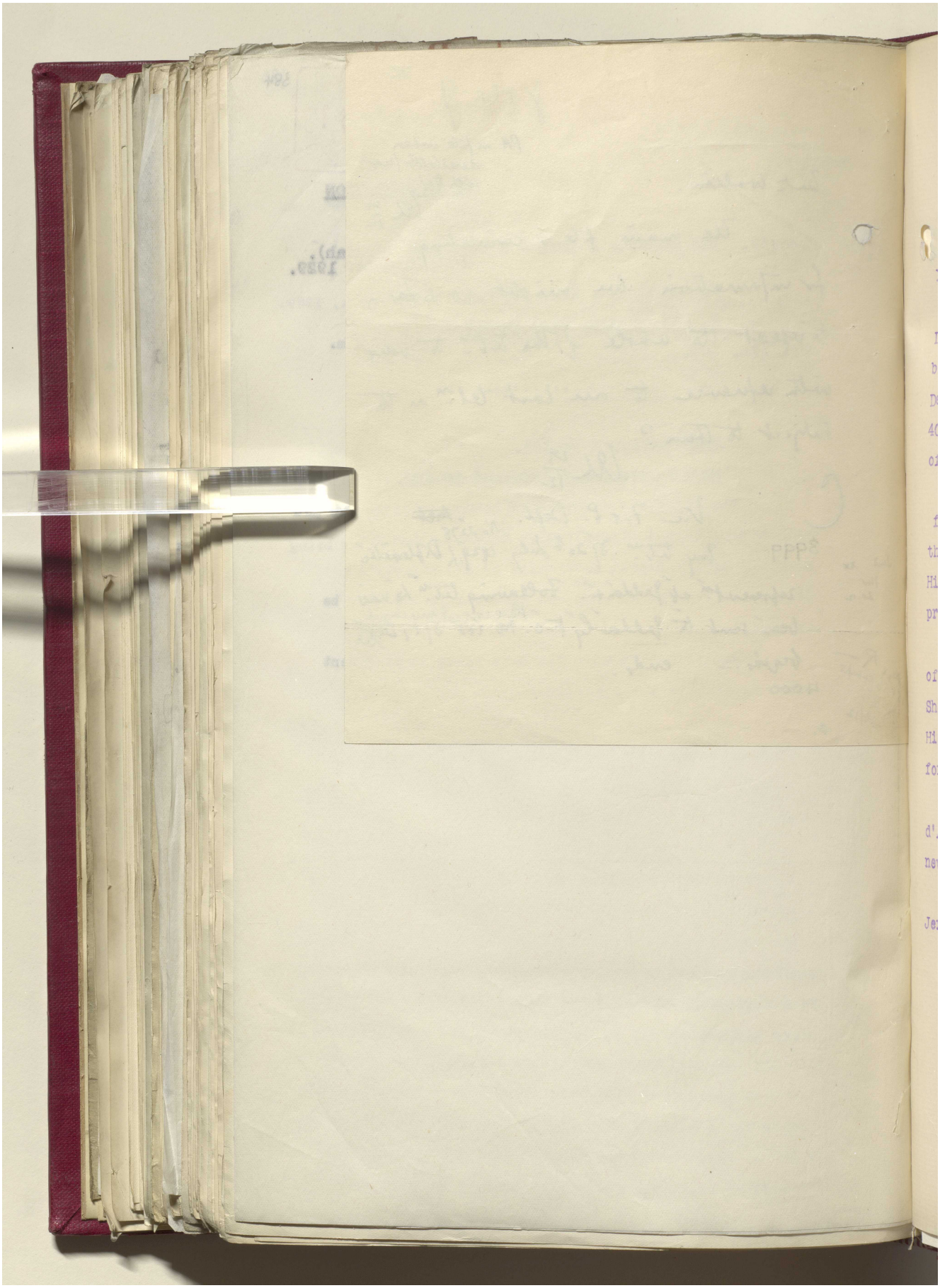

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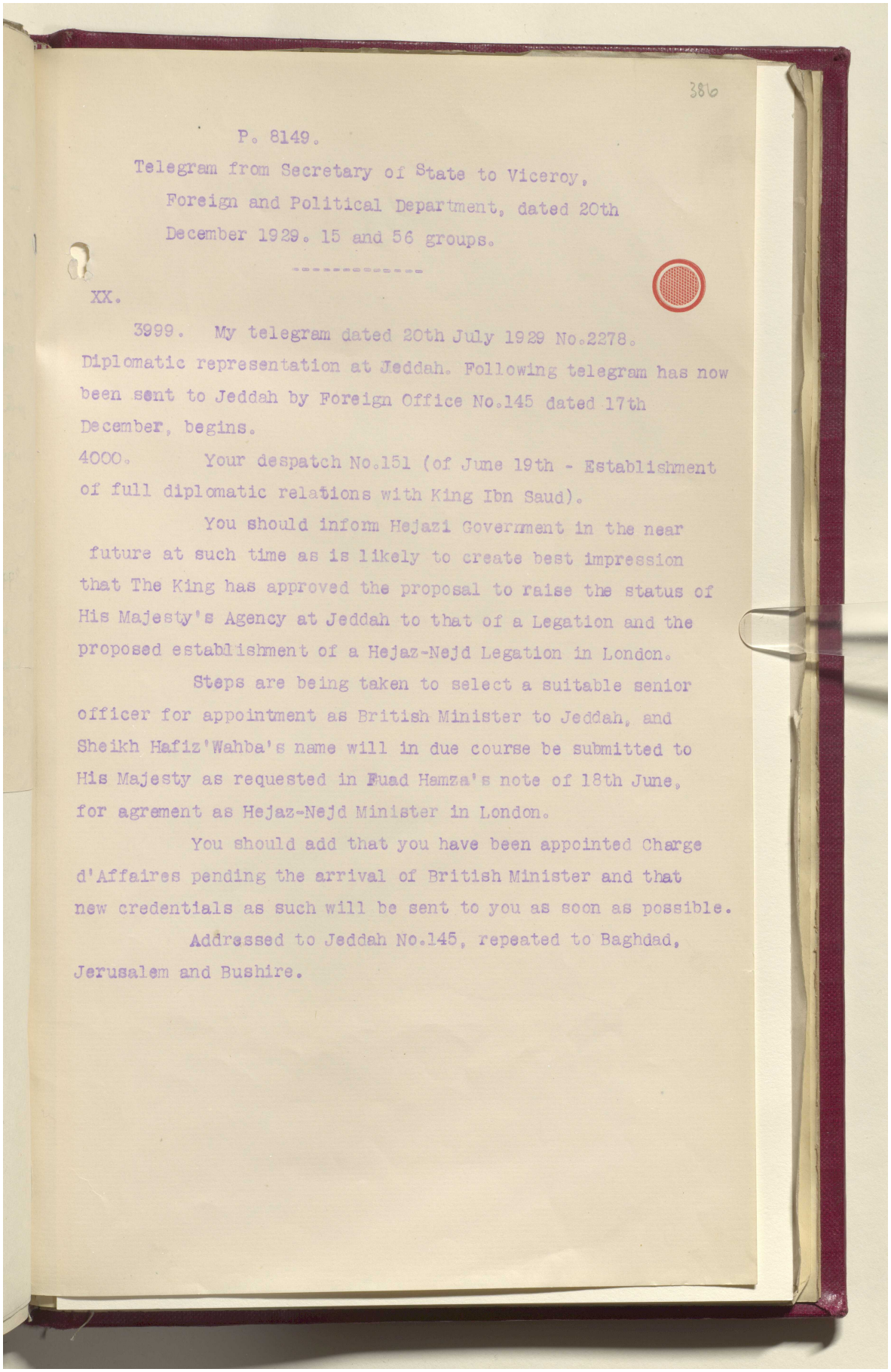

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P. 8149.

Telegram from Secretary of State to Viceroy, Foreign and Political Department, dated 20th December 1929. 15 and 56 groups.

XX.

3999. My telegram dated 20th July 1929 No.2278. Diplomatic representation at Jeddah. Following telegram has now been sent to Jeddah by Foreign Office No.145 dated 17th December, begins.

4000. Your despatch No.151 (of June 19th - Establishment of full diplomatic relations with King Ibn Saud).

You should inform Hejazi Government in the near future at such time as is likely to create best impression that The King has approved the proposal to raise the status of His Majesty's Agency at Jeddah to that of a Legation and the proposed establishment of a Hejaz-Nejd Legation in London.

Steps are being taken to select a suitable senior officer for appointment as British Minister to Jeddah, and Sheikh Hafiz'Wahba's name will in due course be submitted to His Majesty as requested in Fuad Hamza's note of 18th June, for agrement as Hejaz-Nejd Minister in London.

You should add that you have been appointed Charge d'Affaires pending the arrival of British Minister and that new credentials as such will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Addressed to Jeddah No.145, repeated to Baghdad, Jerusalem and Bushire.

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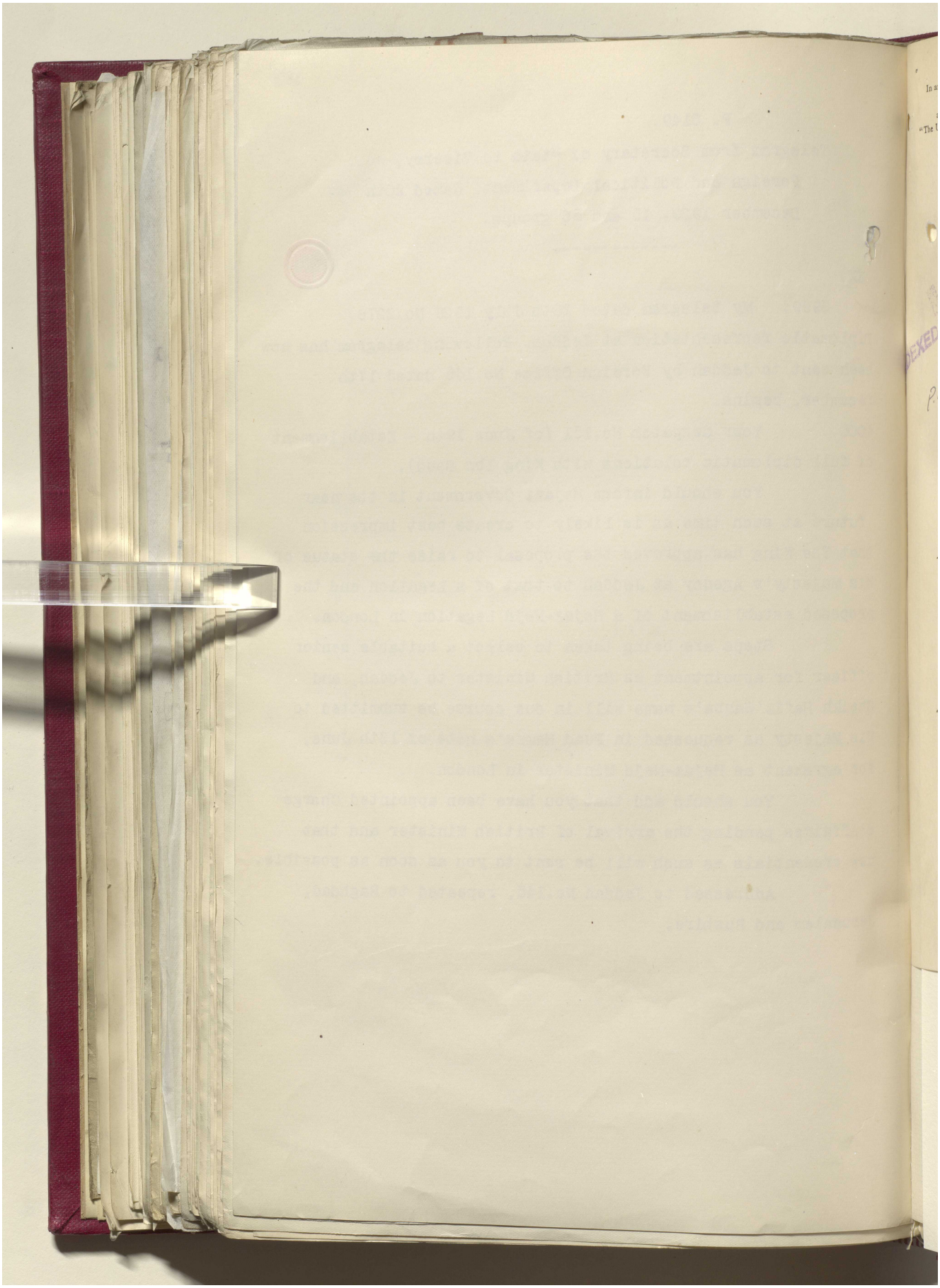

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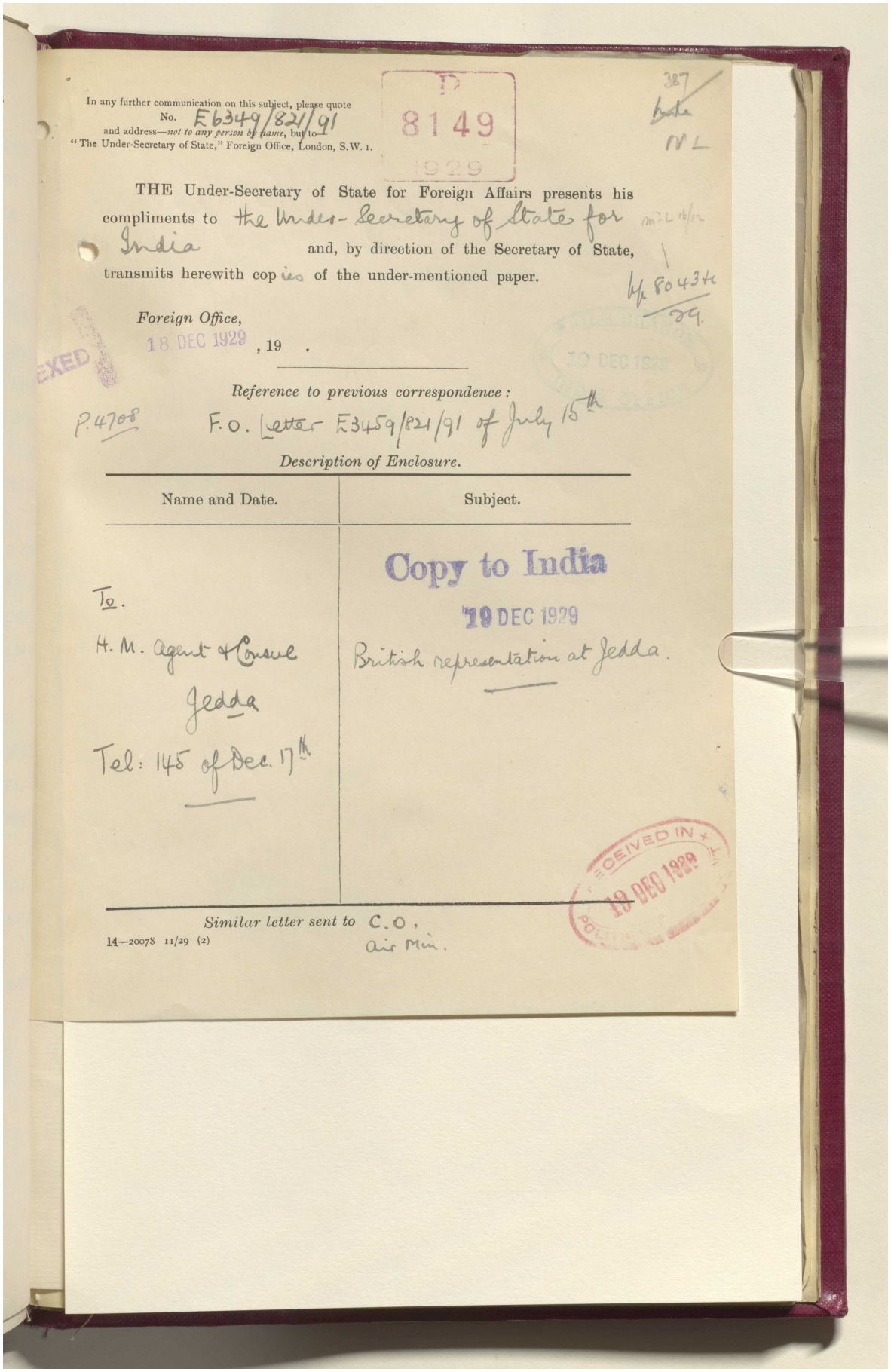

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E6349/821/91 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P 8149 1929

387

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
18 DEC 1929, 19 .

Reference to previous correspondence:
P.4708 F.O. Letter E3459/821/91 of July 15th

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To. H. M. Agent & Consul Jedda Tel: 145 of Dec. 17th	Copy to India 19 DEC 1929 British representation at Jedda.

RECEIVED IN 19 DEC 1929

Similar letter sent to C.O., Air Min.

14—20078 11/29 (2)

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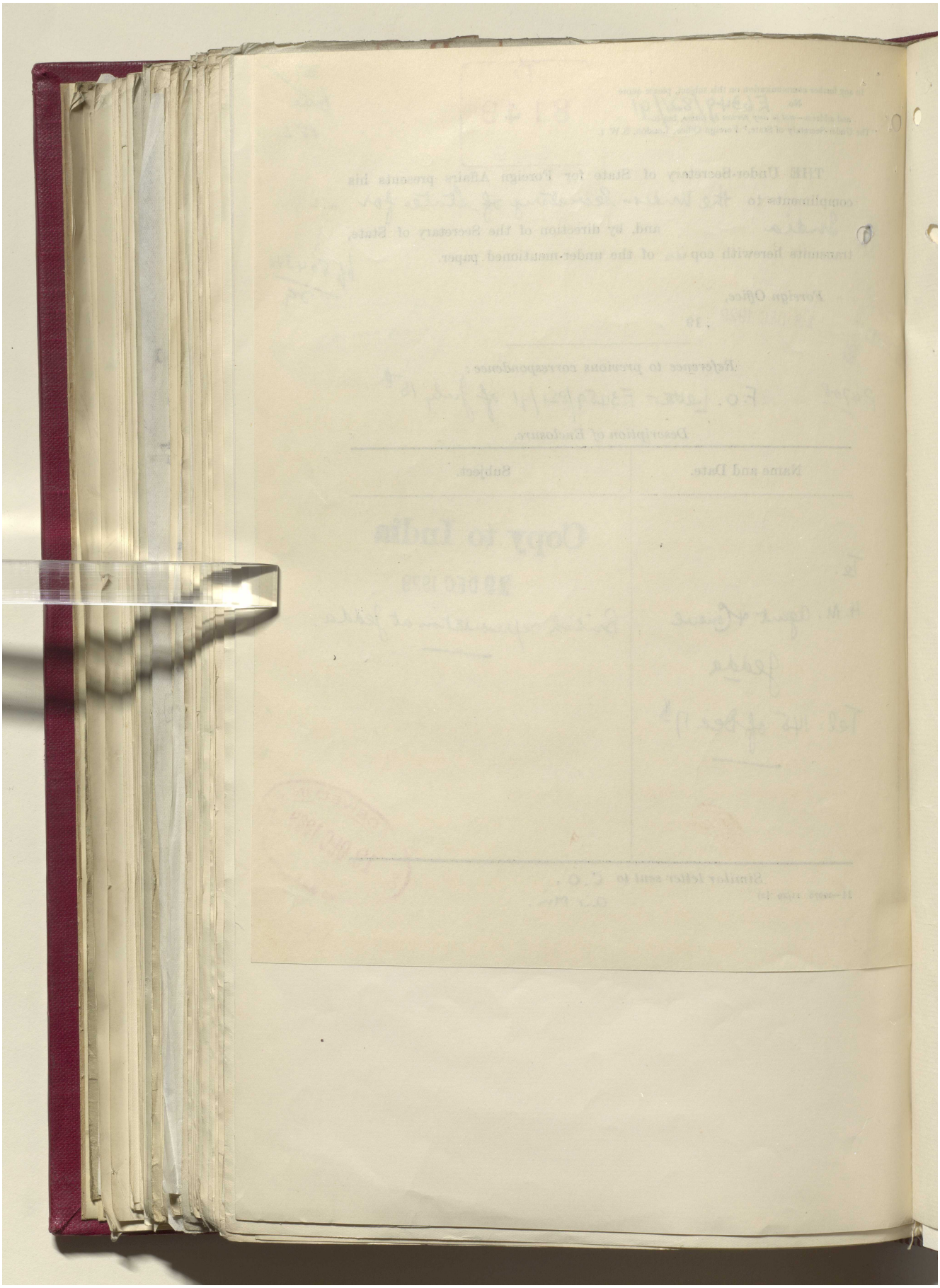

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8149
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(E.6349/821/91).

NO DISTRIBUTION

Code telegram to Mr. Bond, (Jeddah).

Foreign Office, 3.50 p.m. 17th December 1929.

No. 145. (R).

.....

P. 4708.

Your despatch No.151 (of June 19th - Establishment of full diplomatic relations with King Ibn Saud).

You should inform Hejazi government in the near future at such time as is likely to create best impression that The King has approved the proposal to raise the status of His Majesty's Agency at Jeddah to that of a Legation and the proposed establishment of a Hejaz-Nejd Legation in London.

Steps are being taken to select a suitable senior officer for appointment as British Minister to Jeddah, and Sheikh Hafiz Wahba's name will in due course be submitted to His Majesty as requested in Fuad Hamza's note of 18th June, for agrément as Hejaz-Nejd Minister in London.

You should add that you have been appointed Chargé d'Affaires pending the arrival of British Minister and that new credentials as such will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Addressed to Jeddah No. 145, repeated to Bagdad, Jerusalem and Bushire.

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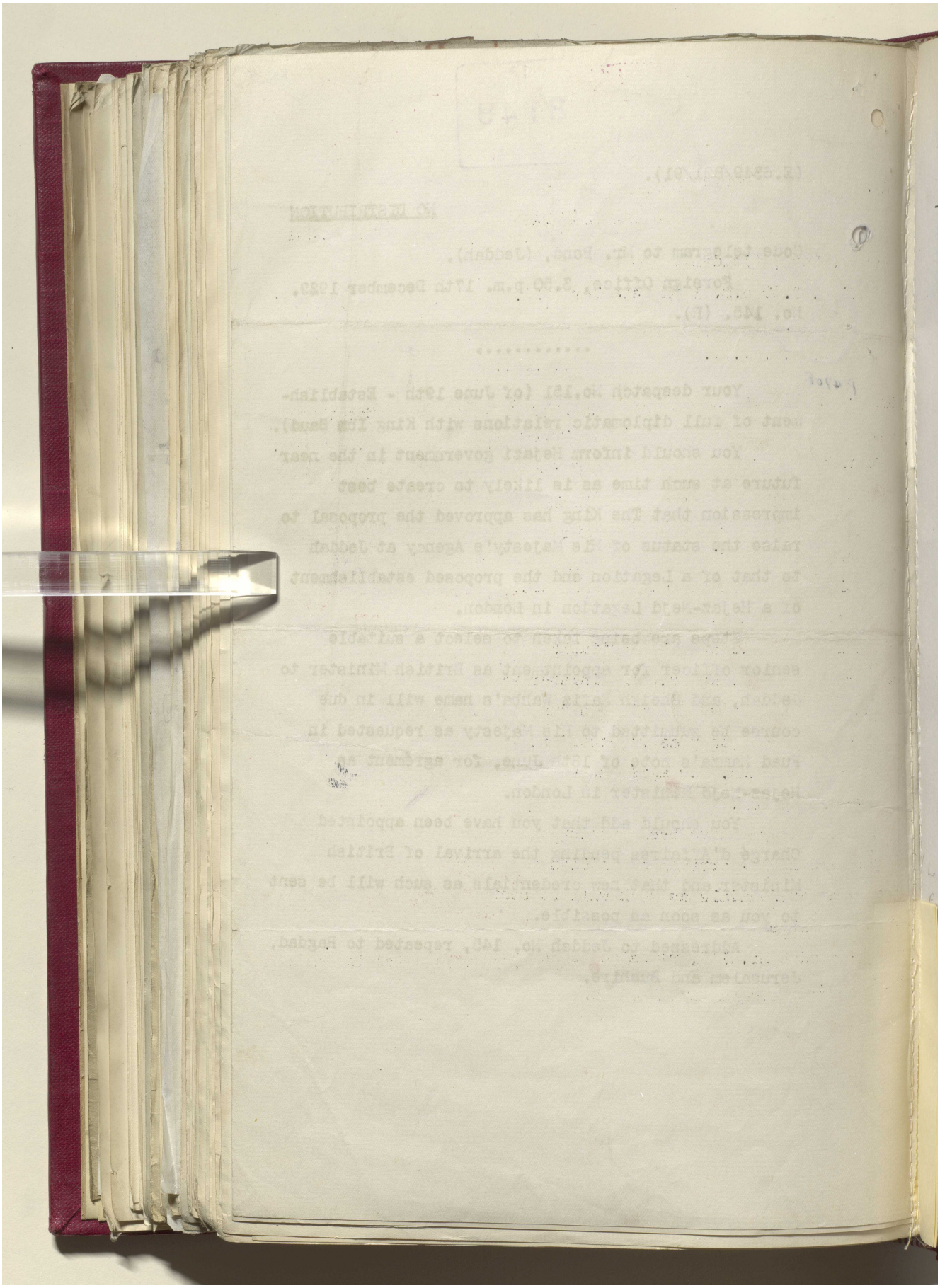

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Register No. P:8043/29

PA Ah 30/12

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Do Letter ~~Telegram~~ from Mr Rendel. F.O.

Dated 14 Dec. 1929.
Rec. 16

Formally acknowledged

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..	16.12.	[illegible]	
Secretary of State.			The King approves the establishment of a British Legation at Jeddah, and of a Hejaz-Nejd Legation in London.
Committee.....			
Under Secretary..			Hafiz Wahba proposed as first Hejaz-Nejd Minister.
Secretary of State.			Foreign Office request for concurrence in draft instructions to Jeddah.

~~Copy to~~

Note
Telm to ~~Jeddah~~ has been sent Ah 30/12.

As proposed
[illegible]
16. xii

SEEN BY SIR A. HIRTZEL.
17 DEC 1929

Sir Mr. Sabar [illegible] 17/12
Sir A. Hirtzel.
Private Secretary [illegible] 28/12
(Mr Lankewith has informed [illegible] the [illegible] pressing for [illegible]. C.O. have concurred)

FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.

~~Draft d.o. letter to Foreign Office, concurring.~~

Submission that we may concur in draft.

evious Papers :—

10 1379—2 2000 4/20

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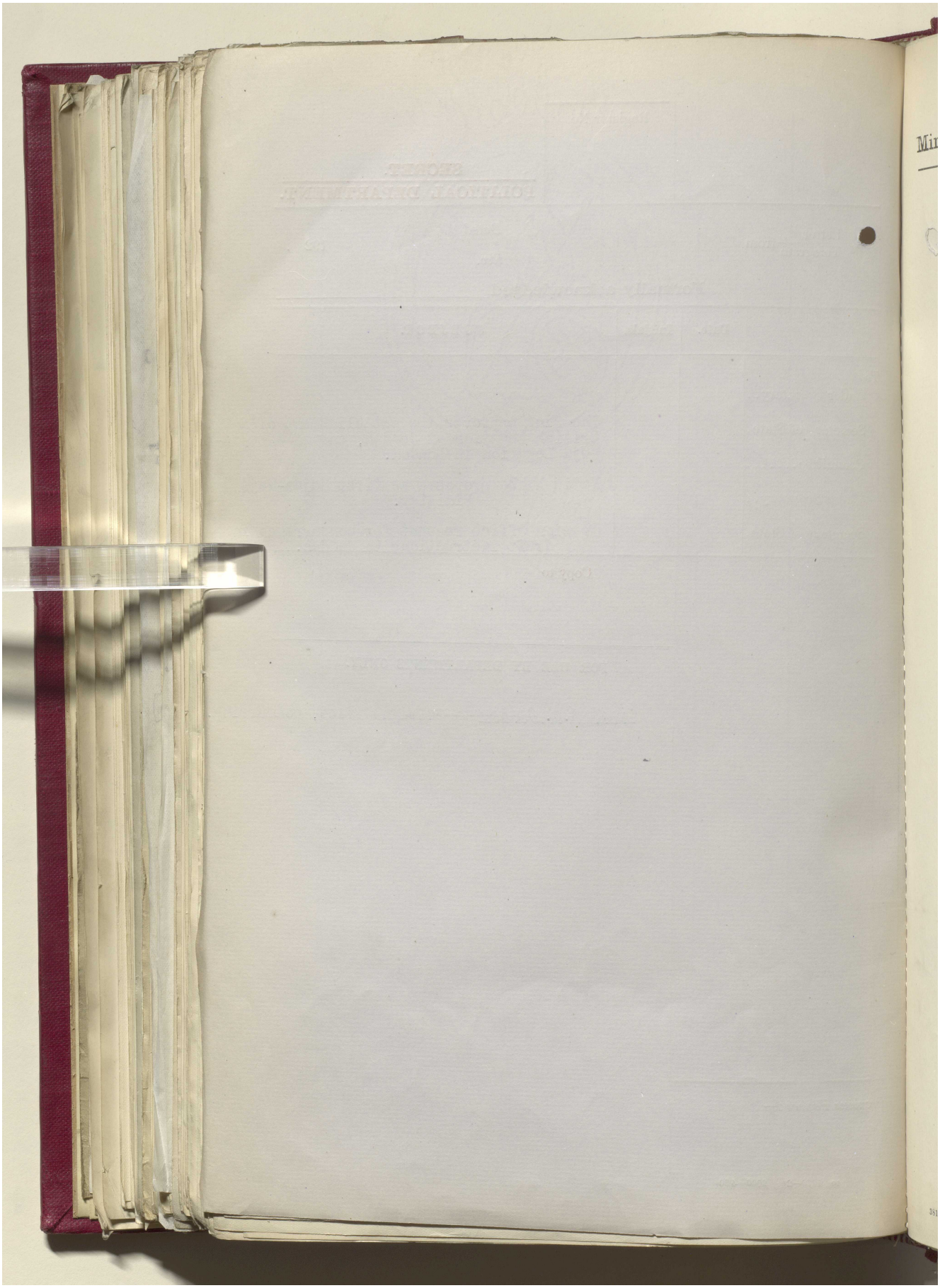

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Minute Paper. POLITICAL Department.

Please see previous submission on P. 4616/29, flagged below. On that paper we agreed that it was in principle desirable on general political grounds to accede to Ibn Saud's request for the establishment of regular diplomatic relations, on the basis of Legations in Jeddah and London. The Colonial Office subsequently gave a reluctant acquiescence. The proposal generally was put to the Treasury on the 29th November in the Foreign Office letter of which a copy will be found on P. 7677. They have now concurred in it, and the King's approval has been secured. The telegram proposed to be sent on the subject to the Consul at Jeddah seems unobjectionable. We can send an information telegram to the Government of India as soon as it has been despatched. I submit that I may be authorised to ~~reply to~~ inform the Foreign Office ~~as~~ that we concur in the draft ~~attached~~.

X

V. A. Leitthwaite
16.xii.29

3818A 5000 8/29

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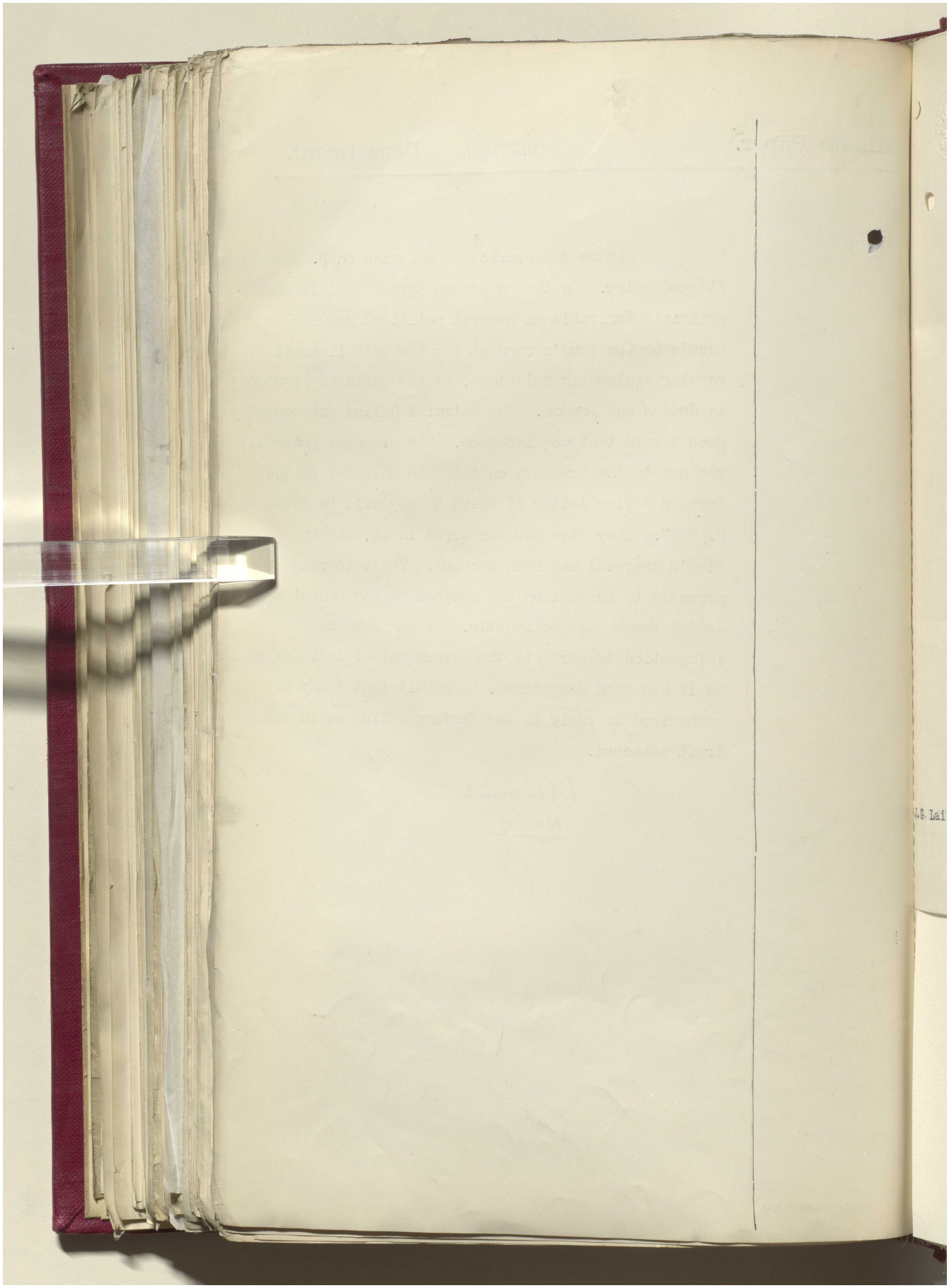

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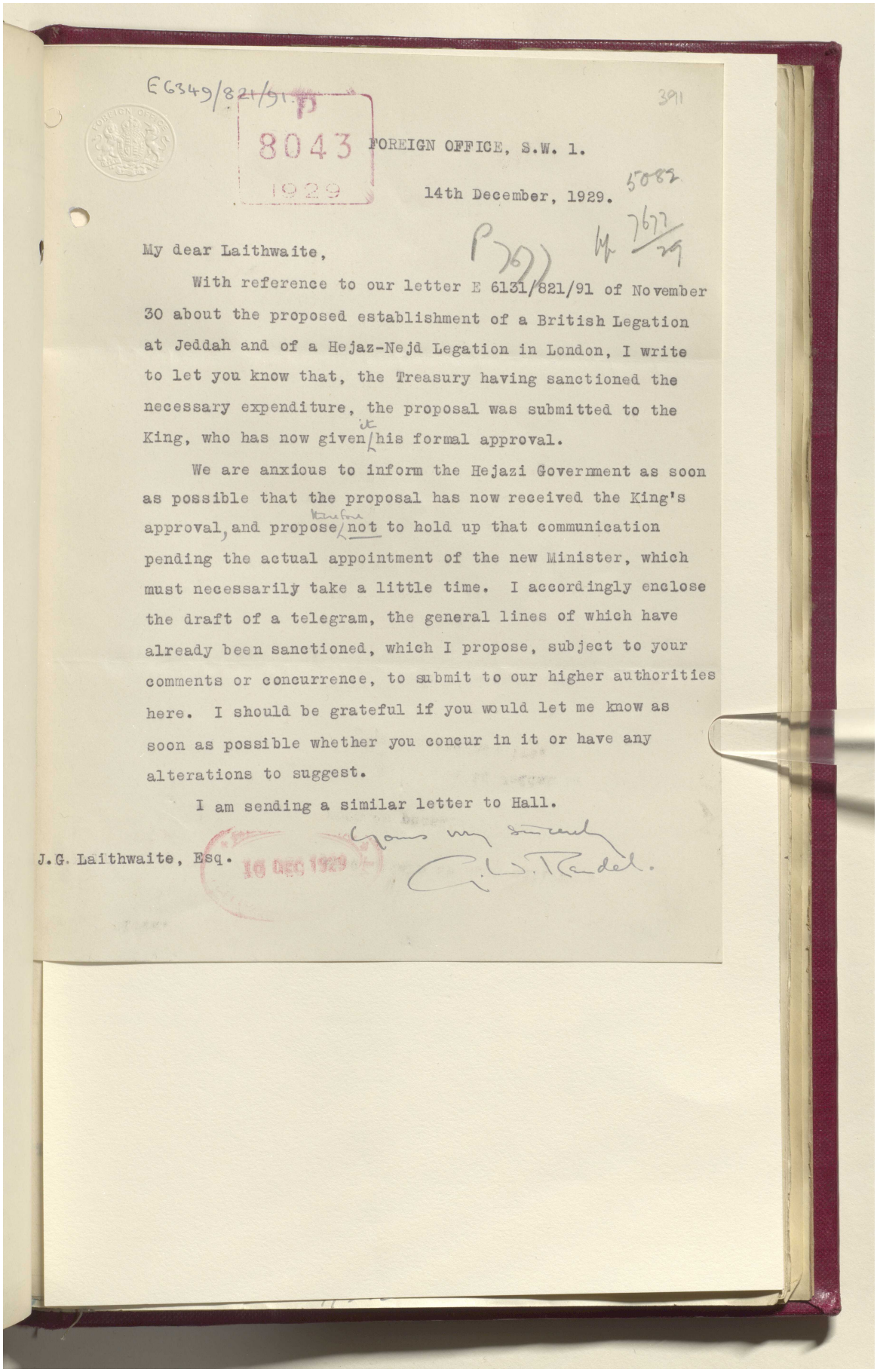

E 6349/821/91

391

8043
1929

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

14th December, 1929.

5083

P 769 M 7677/29

My dear Laithwaite,

With reference to our letter E 6131/821/91 of November 30 about the proposed establishment of a British Legation at Jeddah and of a Hejaz-Nejd Legation in London, I write to let you know that, the Treasury having sanctioned the necessary expenditure, the proposal was submitted to the King, who has now given it his formal approval.

We are anxious to inform the Hejazi Government as soon as possible that the proposal has now received the King's approval, and propose therefore not to hold up that communication pending the actual appointment of the new Minister, which must necessarily take a little time. I accordingly enclose the draft of a telegram, the general lines of which have already been sanctioned, which I propose, subject to your comments or concurrence, to submit to our higher authorities here. I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible whether you concur in it or have any alterations to suggest.

I am sending a similar letter to Hall.

Yours very sincerely,
C. W. Rendel.

J.G. Laithwaite, Esq.

16 DEC 1929

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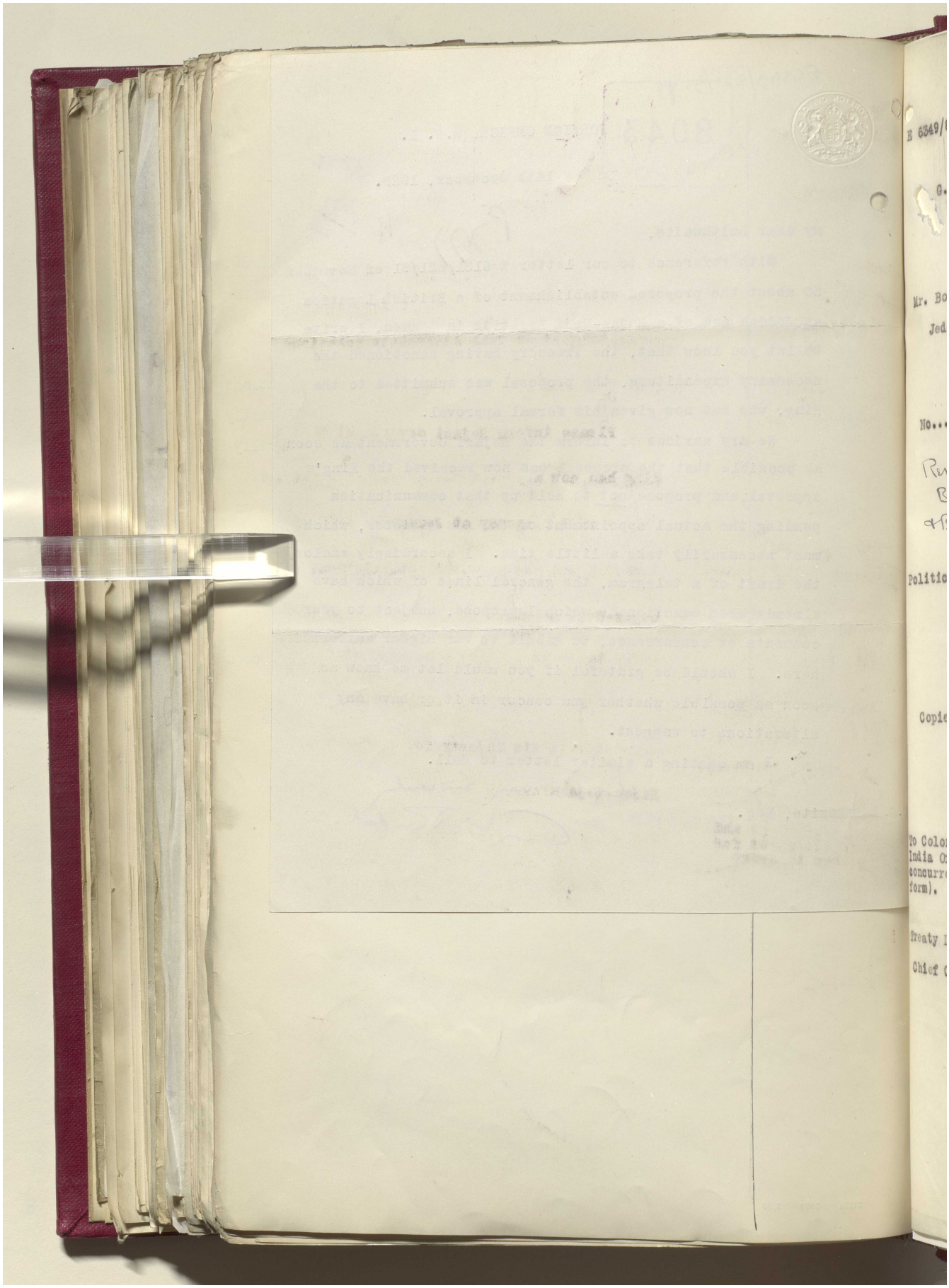

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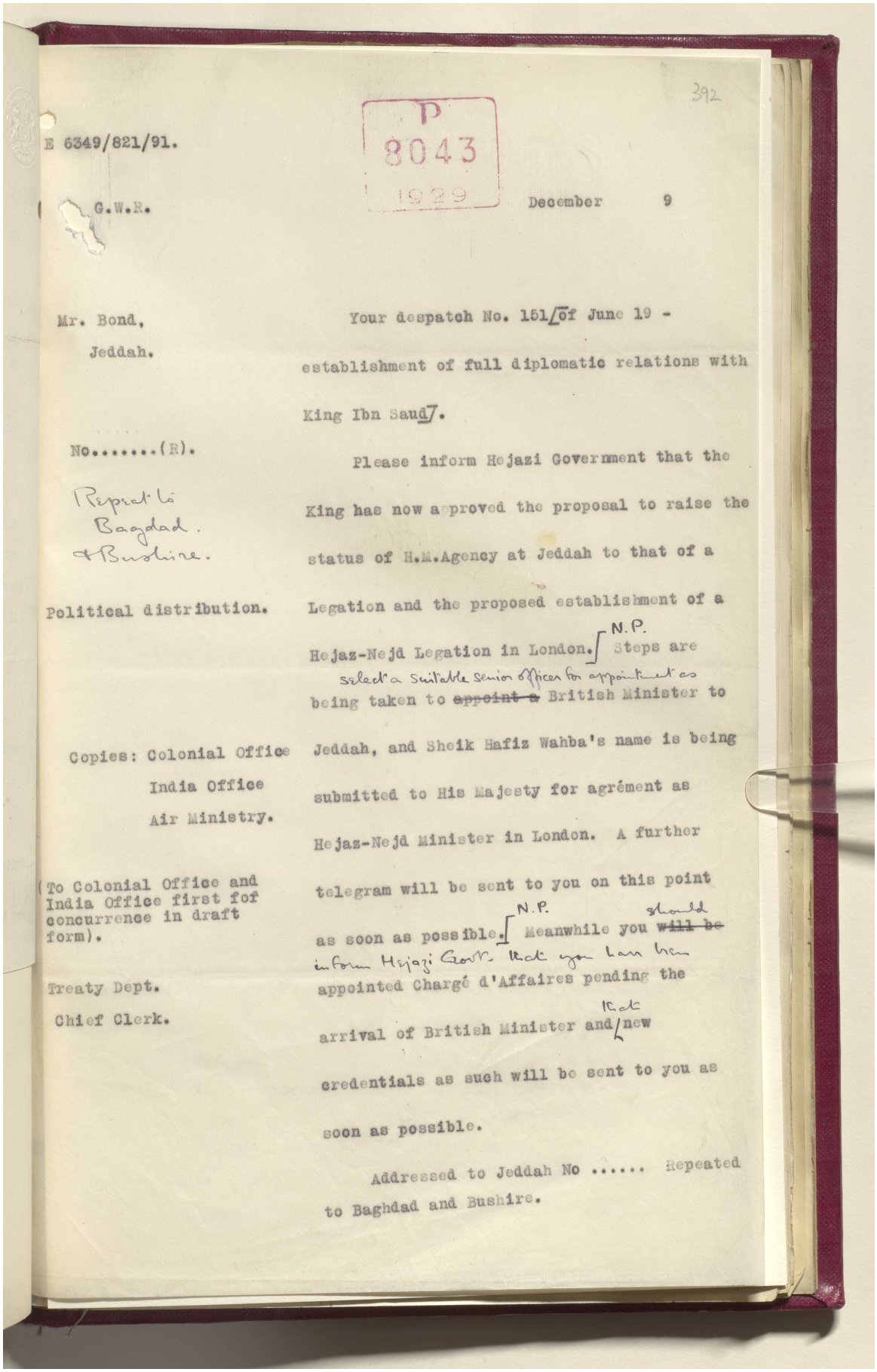

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P
8043
1929

E 6349/821/91.

G.W.R.

December 9

Mr. Bond,
Jeddah.

No.....(R).

Repeat to Baghdad. & Bushire.

Political distribution.

Copies: Colonial Office
India Office
Air Ministry.

To Colonial Office and India Office first for concurrence in draft form).

Treaty Dept.

Chief Clerk.

Your despatch No. 151 of June 19 - establishment of full diplomatic relations with King Ibn Saud.

Please inform Hejazi Government that the King has now approved the proposal to raise the status of H.M.Agency at Jeddah to that of a Legation and the proposed establishment of a Hejaz-Nejd Legation in London. N.P. Steps are being taken to ~~appoint a~~ select a suitable senior officer for appointment as British Minister to Jeddah, and Sheik Hafiz Wahba's name is being submitted to His Majesty for agrément as Hejaz-Nejd Minister in London. A further telegram will be sent to you on this point as soon as possible. N.P. Meanwhile you ~~will be~~ should inform Hejazi Govt. that you have been appointed Chargé d'Affaires pending the arrival of British Minister and that new credentials as such will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Addressed to Jeddah No ..... Repeated to Baghdad and Bushire.

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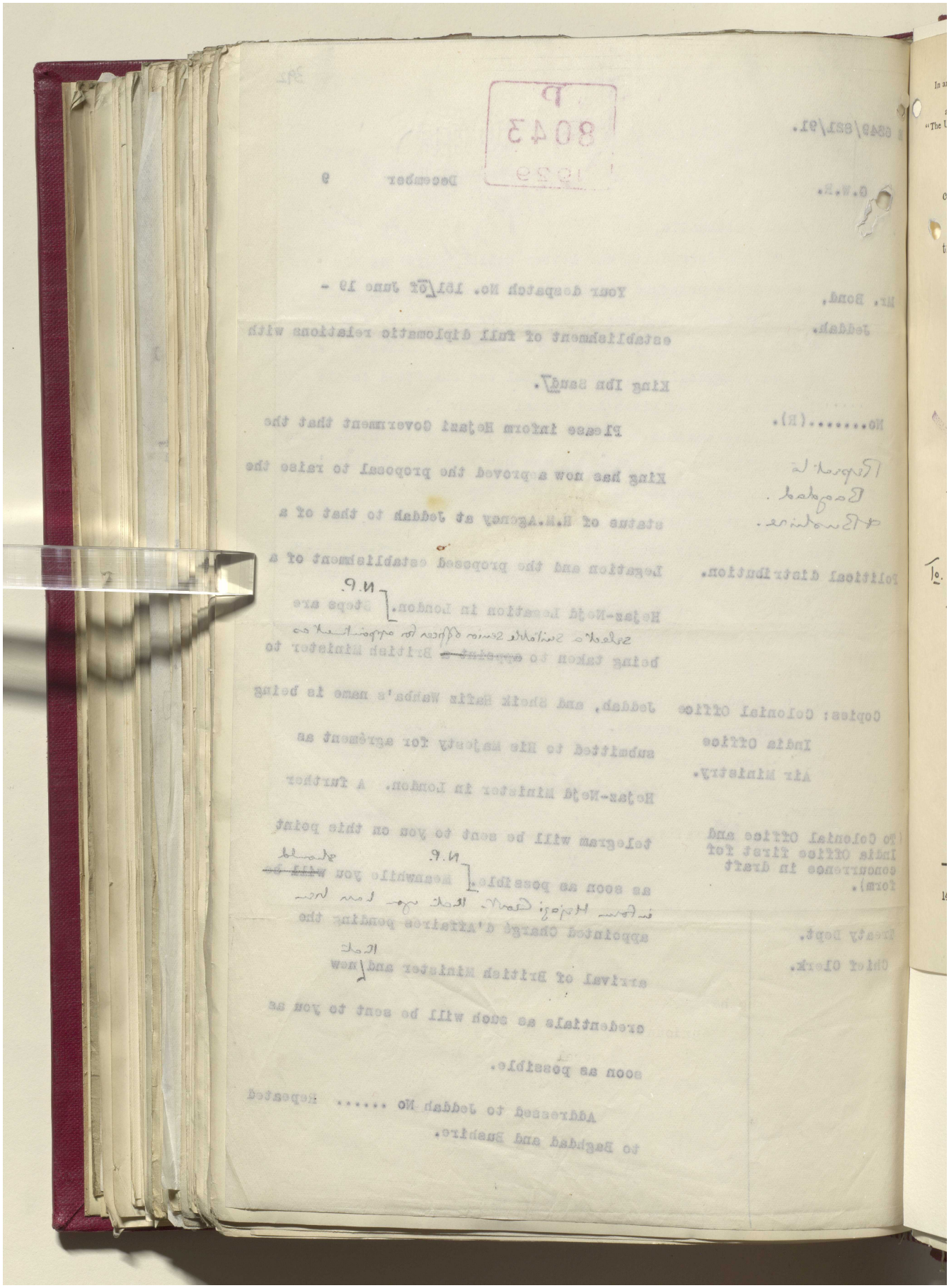

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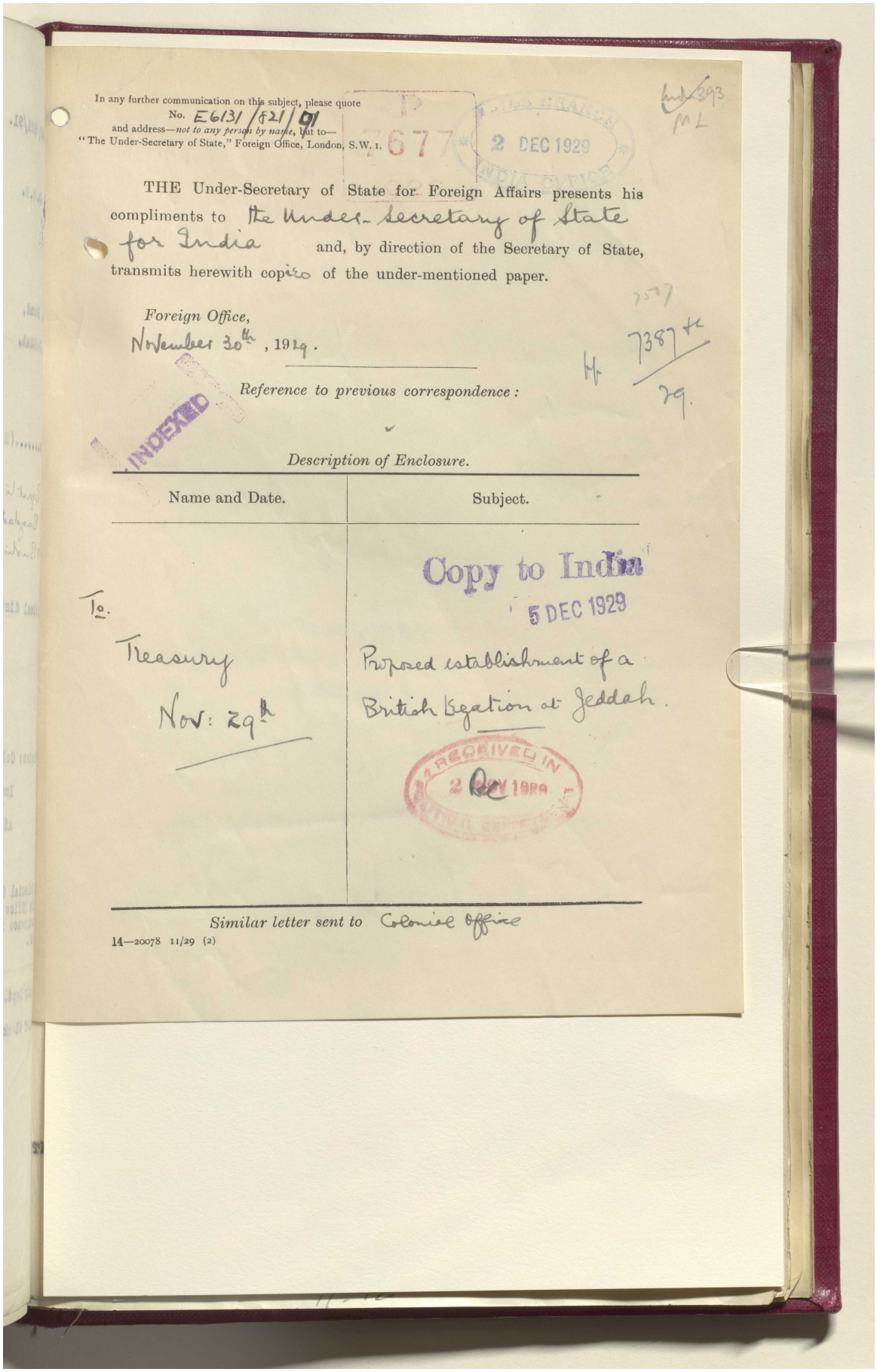

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E6131/621/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P 7677
2 DEC 1929
INDIA OFFICE

[illegible] 393 ML

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
November 30th, 1929.

7387 +c
29.

Reference to previous correspondence:

INDEXED

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To. Treasury Nov: 29th	Copy to India 5 DEC 1929 Proposed establishment of a British Legation at Jeddah. RECEIVED IN 2 DEC 1929

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office

14—20078 11/29 (2)

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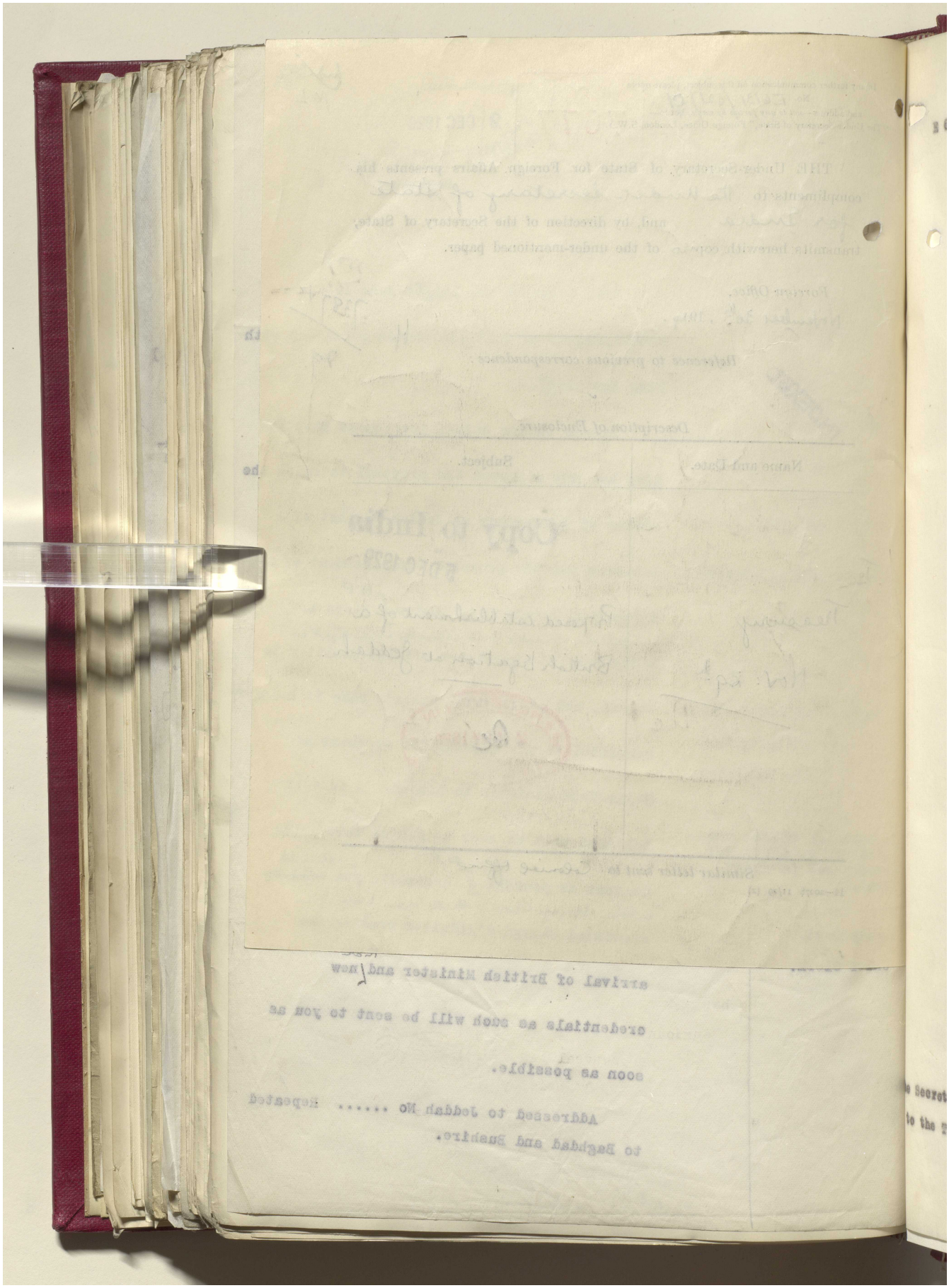

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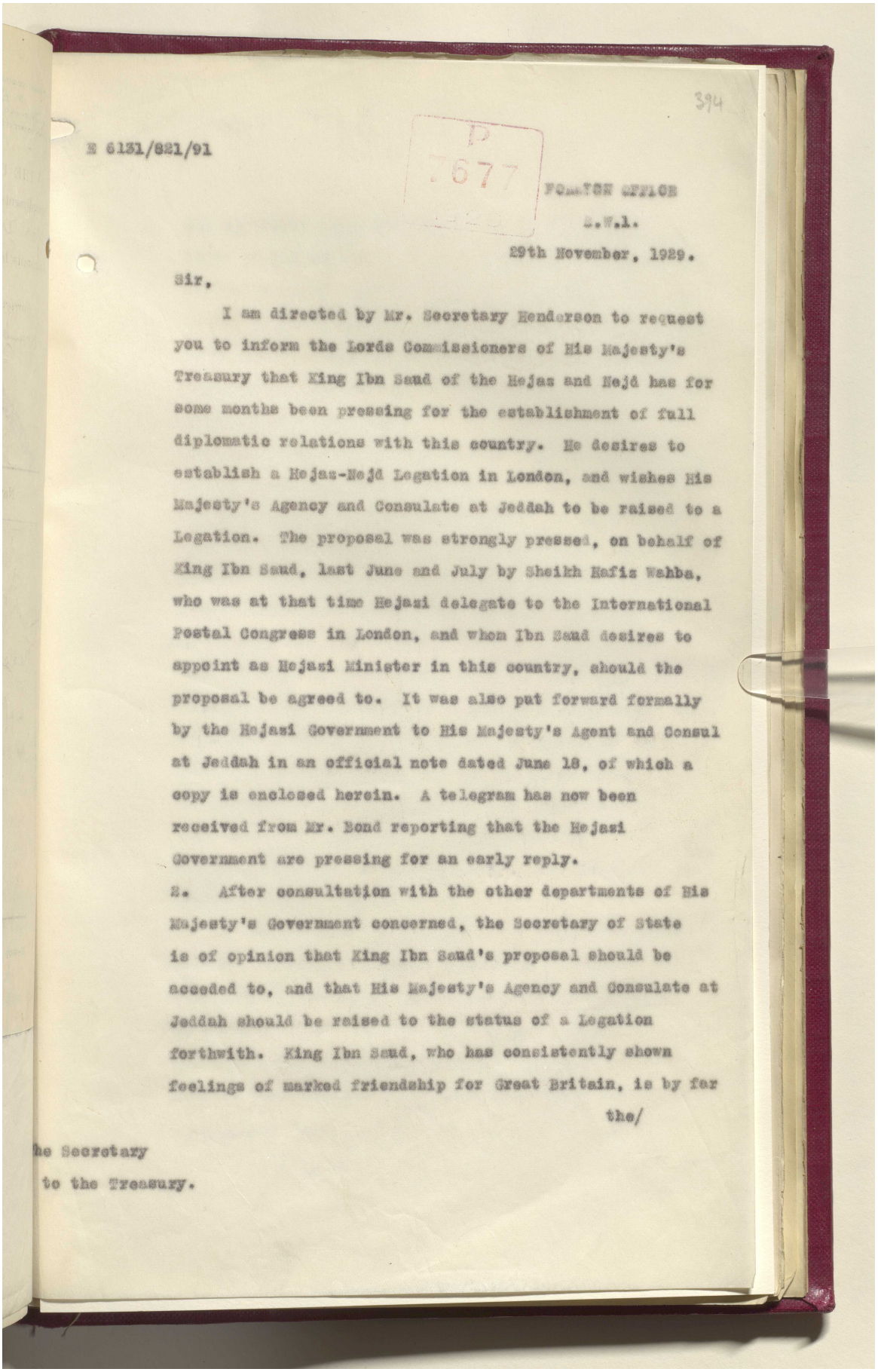

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E 6131/821/91

P 7677

FOREIGN OFFICE
S.W.1.
29th November, 1929.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Henderson to request you to inform the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury that King Ibn Saud of the Hejaz and Nejd has for some months been pressing for the establishment of full diplomatic relations with this country. He desires to establish a Hejaz-Nejd Legation in London, and wishes His Majesty's Agency and Consulate at Jeddah to be raised to a Legation. The proposal was strongly pressed, on behalf of King Ibn Saud, last June and July by Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, who was at that time Hejazi delegate to the International Postal Congress in London, and whom Ibn Saud desires to appoint as Hejazi Minister in this country, should the proposal be agreed to. It was also put forward formally by the Hejazi Government to His Majesty's Agent and Consul at Jeddah in an official note dated June 18, of which a copy is enclosed herein. A telegram has now been received from Mr. Bond reporting that the Hejazi Government are pressing for an early reply.

2. After consultation with the other departments of His Majesty's Government concerned, the Secretary of State is of opinion that King Ibn Saud's proposal should be acceded to, and that His Majesty's Agency and Consulate at Jeddah should be raised to the status of a Legation forthwith. King Ibn Saud, who has consistently shown feelings of marked friendship for Great Britain, is by far

the/

he Secretary
to the Treasury.

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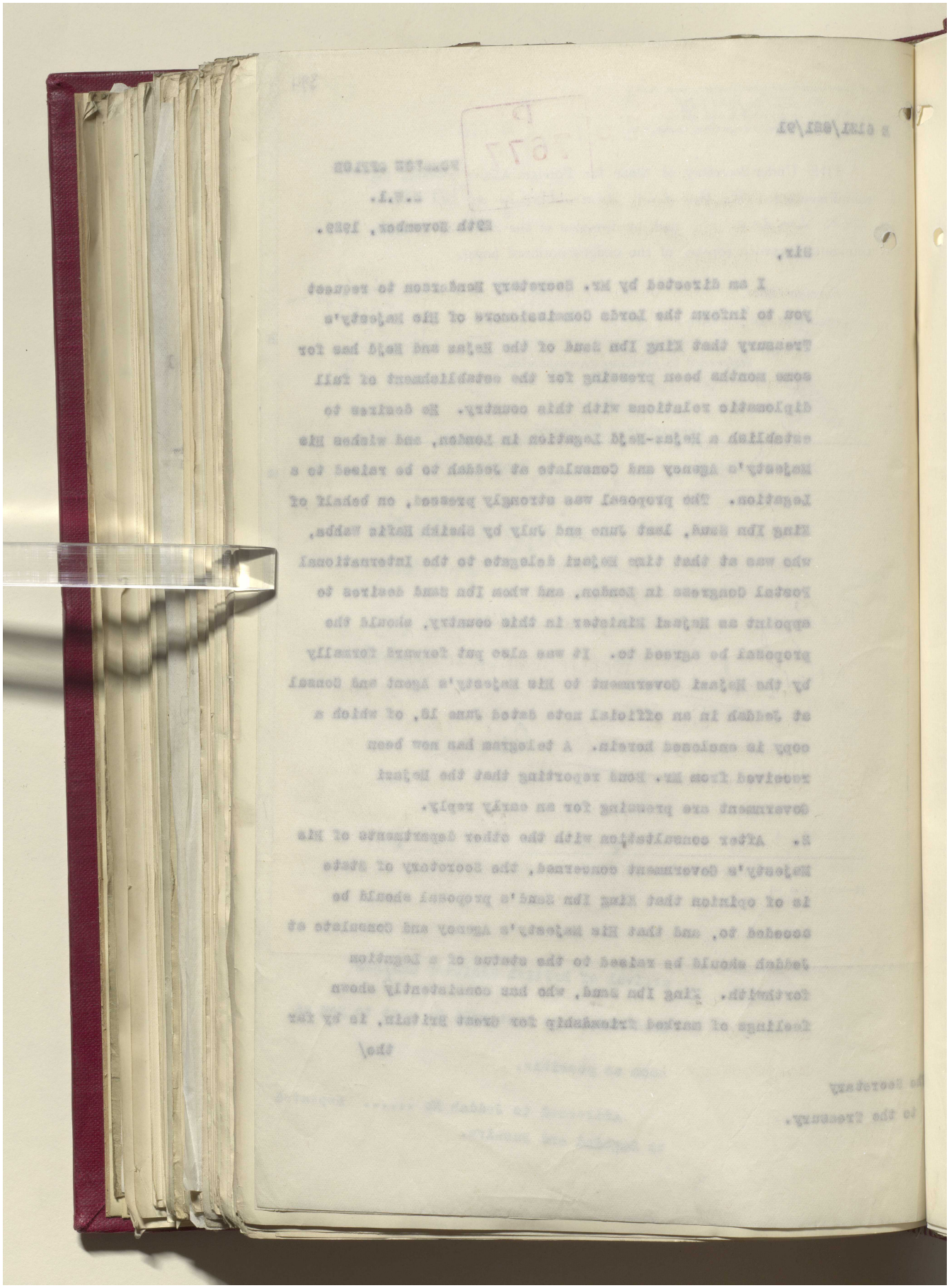

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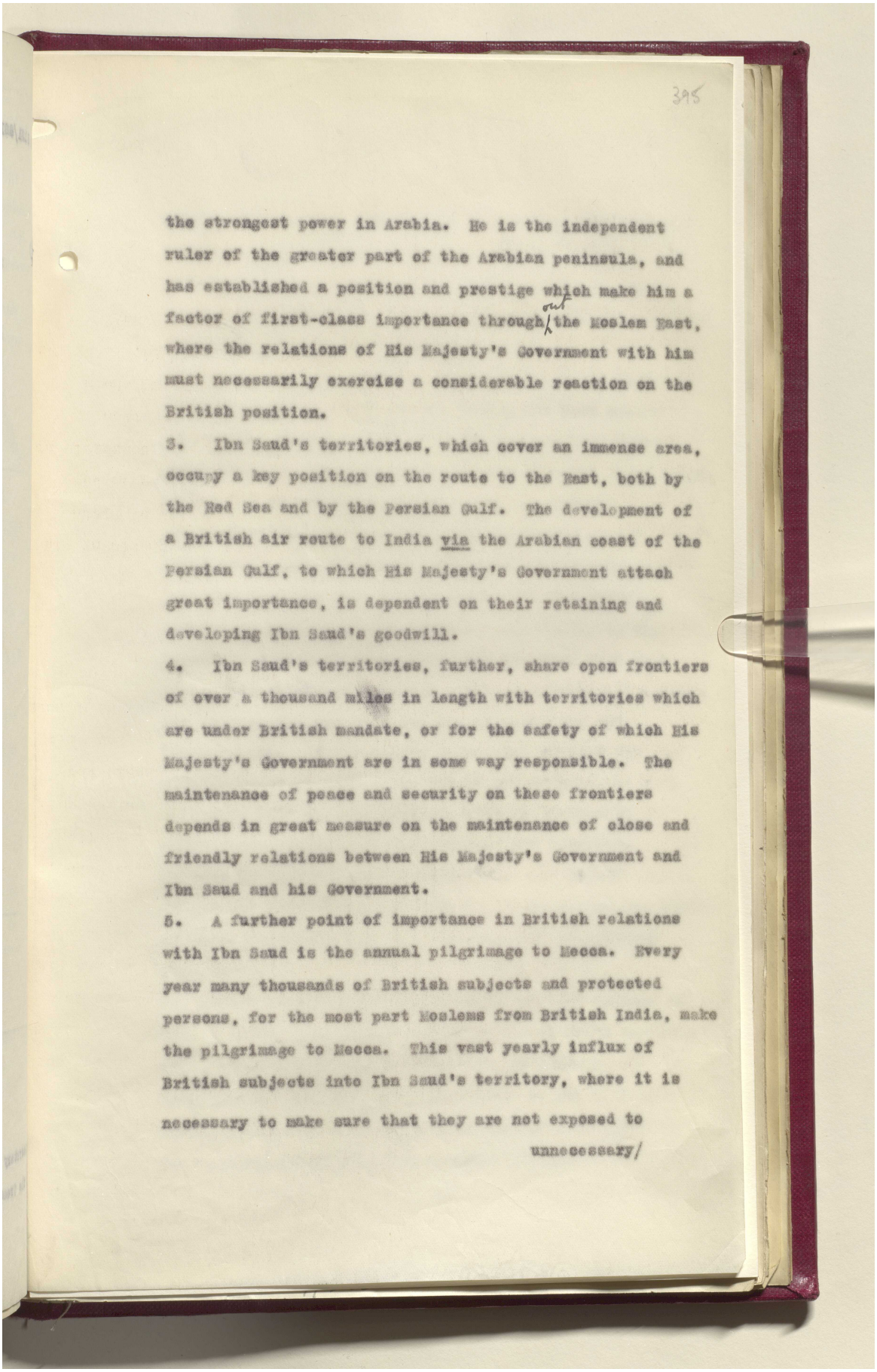

the strongest power in Arabia. He is the independent ruler of the greater part of the Arabian peninsula, and has established a position and prestige which make him a factor of first-class importance through~~/~~ our the Moslem East, where the relations of His Majesty's Government with him must necessarily exercise a considerable reaction on the British position.

3. Ibn Saud's territories, which cover an immense area, occupy a key position on the route to the East, both by the Red Sea and by the Persian Gulf. The development of a British air route to India via the Arabian coast of the Persian Gulf, to which His Majesty's Government attach great importance, is dependent on their retaining and developing Ibn Saud's goodwill.

4. Ibn Saud's territories, further, share open frontiers of over a thousand miles in length with territories which are under British mandate, or for the safety of which His Majesty's Government are in some way responsible. The maintenance of peace and security on these frontiers depends in great measure on the maintenance of close and friendly relations between His Majesty's Government and Ibn Saud and his Government.

5. A further point of importance in British relations with Ibn Saud is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Every year many thousands of British subjects and protected persons, for the most part Moslems from British India, make the pilgrimage to Mecca. This vast yearly influx of British subjects into Ibn Saud's territory, where it is necessary to make sure that they are not exposed to

unnecessary/

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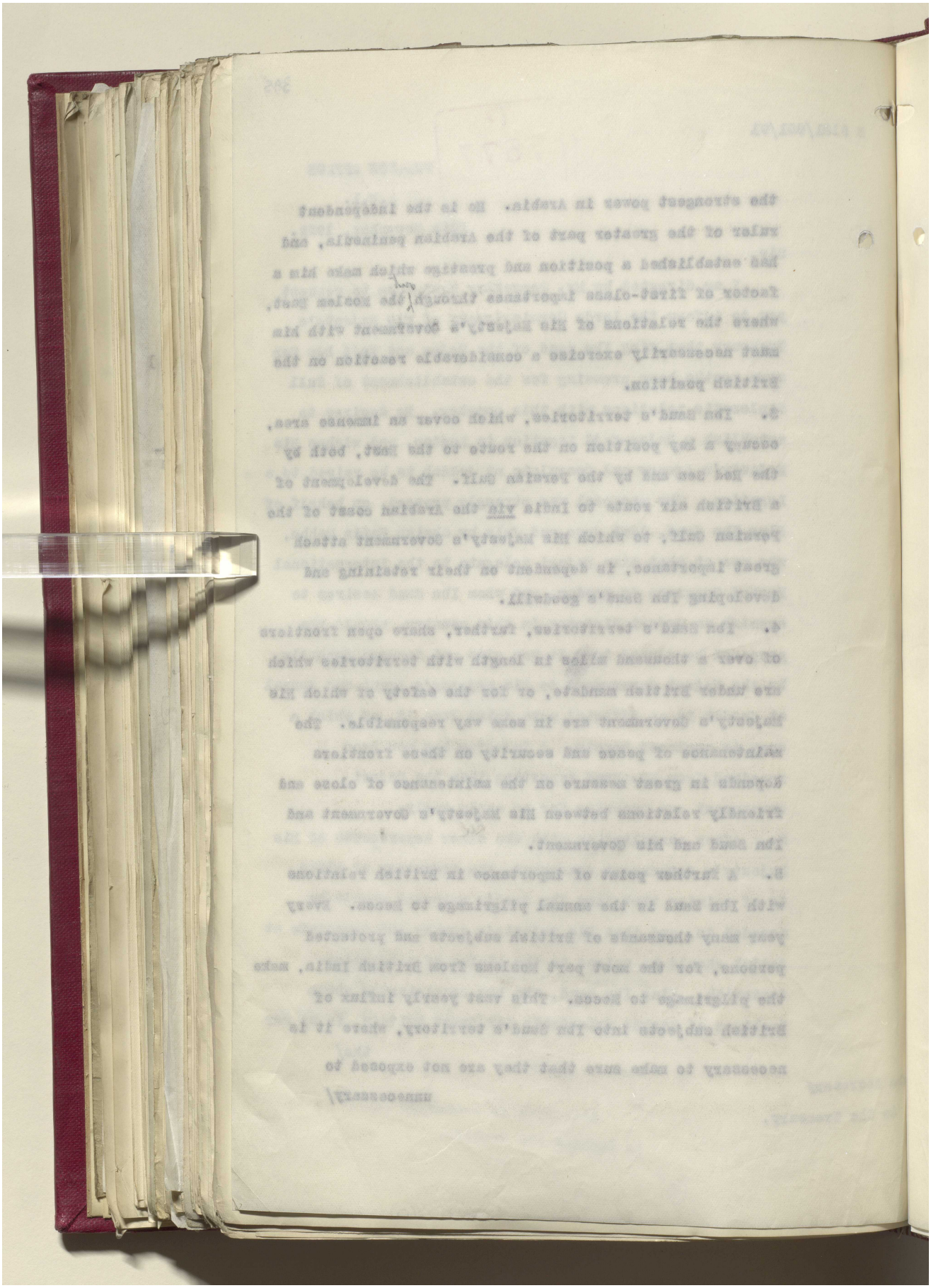

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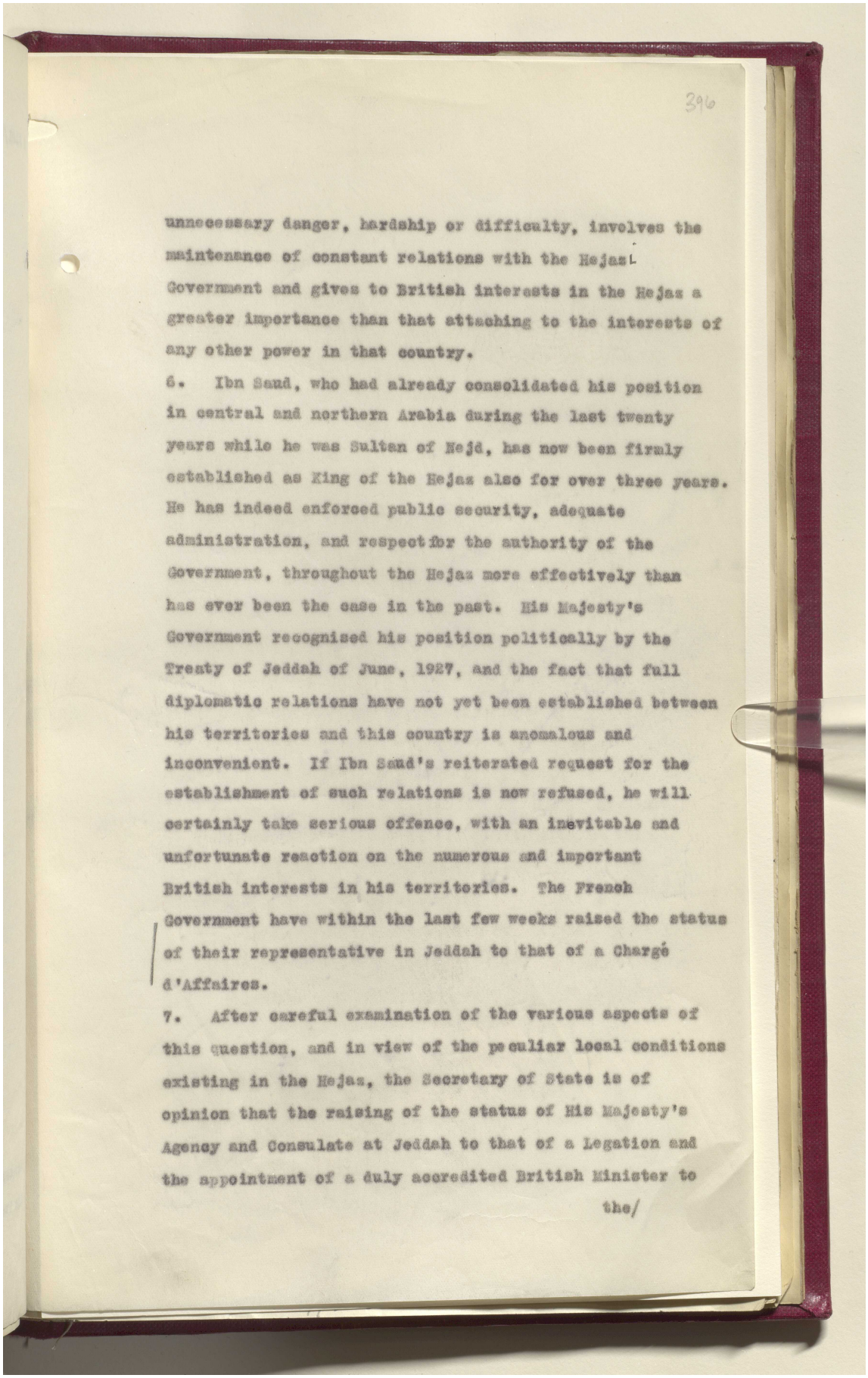

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unnecessary danger, hardship or difficulty, involves the maintenance of constant relations with the Hejazi Government and gives to British interests in the Hejaz a greater importance than that attaching to the interests of any other power in that country.

6. Ibn Saud, who had already consolidated his position in central and northern Arabia during the last twenty years while he was Sultan of Nejd, has now been firmly established as King of the Hejaz also for over three years. He has indeed enforced public security, adequate administration, and respect for the authority of the Government, throughout the Hejaz more effectively than has ever been the case in the past. His Majesty's Government recognised his position politically by the Treaty of Jeddah of June, 1927, and the fact that full diplomatic relations have not yet been established between his territories and this country is anomalous and inconvenient. If Ibn Saud's reiterated request for the establishment of such relations is now refused, he will certainly take serious offence, with an inevitable and unfortunate reaction on the numerous and important British interests in his territories. The French Government have within the last few weeks raised the status of their representative in Jeddah to that of a Chargé d'Affaires.

7. After careful examination of the various aspects of this question, and in view of the peculiar local conditions existing in the Hejaz, the Secretary of State is of opinion that the raising of the status of His Majesty's Agency and Consulate at Jeddah to that of a Legation and the appointment of a duly accredited British Minister to

the/

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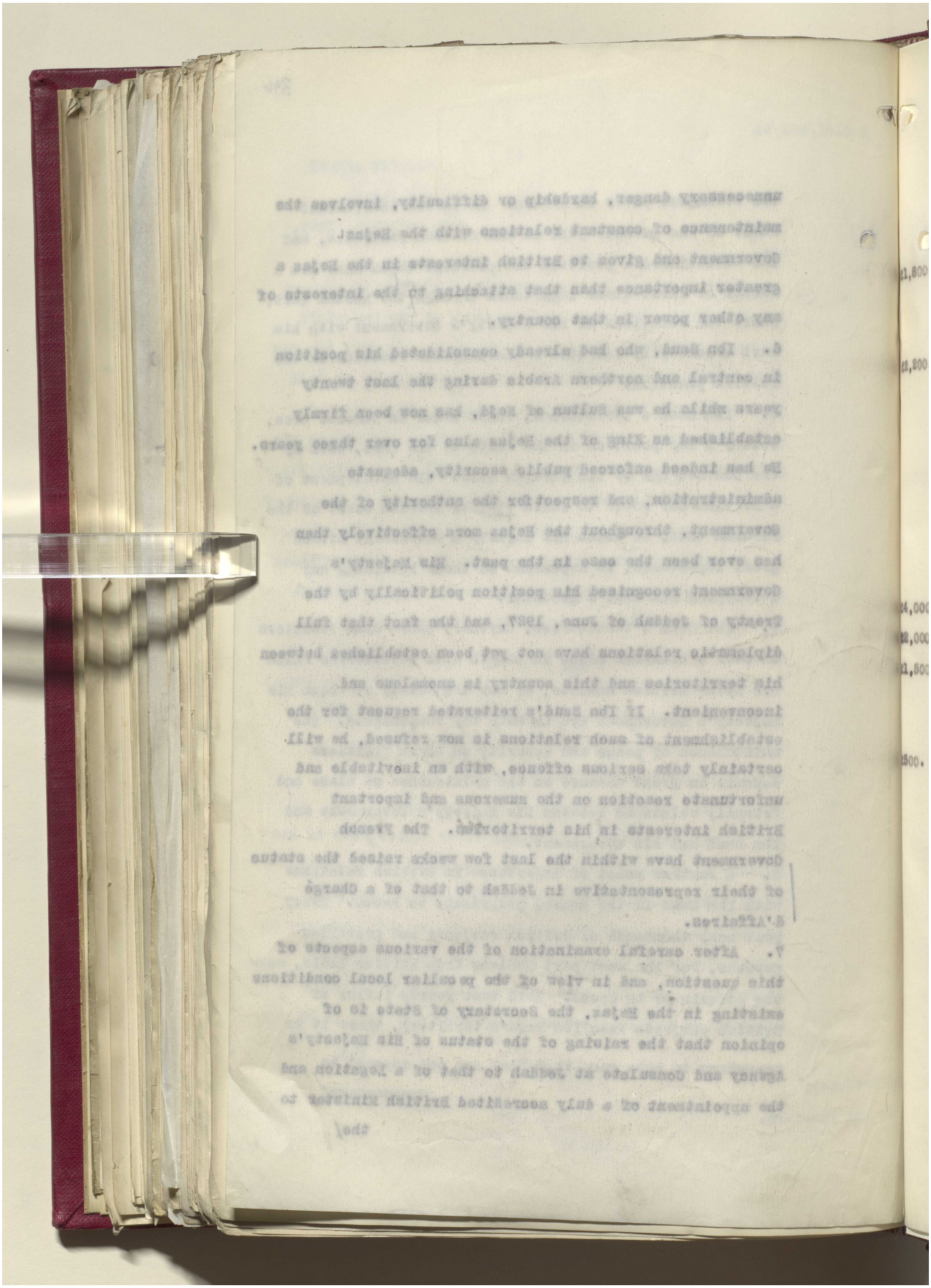

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the Kingdom of the Hejaz and Nejd would involve an additional cost to public funds of approximately one £1,800. thousand eight hundred pounds a year.

8. The present emoluments of His Majesty's Agent and Consul at Jeddah amount to an approximate maximum of £2,200. two thousand two hundred pounds, made up as follows:- Salary (maximum) £1,000; local allowance: £300; representation allowance: £350; bonus (on the basis of the latest figures available) £280; rent (on the present basis of share of house jointly occupied with Vice-Consul) £270; total approximately £2,200. The appointment of a Minister would, in the Secretary of State's opinion, necessitate the raising of these emoluments to a total of £4,000. approximately four thousand pounds, i.e. the usual Minister's £2,000. salary of two thousand pounds: frais de représentation £1,500. amounting to at least one thousand five hundred pounds; and payment of actual rent, the amount of which cannot be estimated with any certainty but which would probably not be £500. less than five hundred pounds. The comparatively large sum proposed on account of frais de représentation is due to the fact that the climate of Jeddah renders it impossible for European women to reside there for more than a month or so at a time, or for European children to reside there at all, so that the Minister would be obliged to maintain a separate establishment in a more suitable climate for his family. Moreover it has hitherto been found that, in normal conditions of service, more especially in view of the continuous heavy pressure of work existing at the post, it is necessary to change the Agent and Consul at Jeddah approximately every two years - twenty months of continuous service, or even two periods of ten months with an interval

of/

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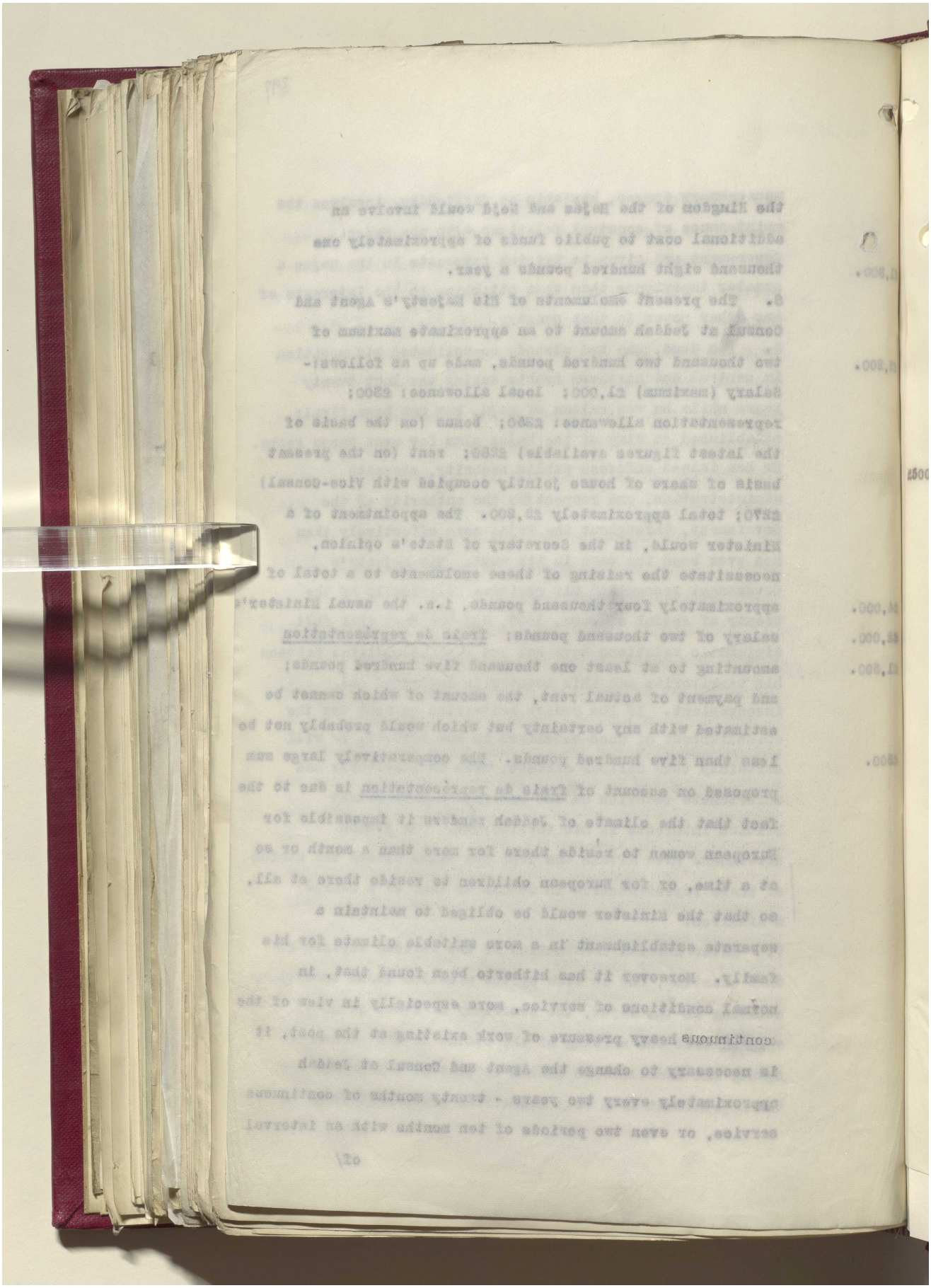

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of two months leave, being as long as an officer's health will normally withstand. Such frequent changes are highly undesirable, both from the political and from the service point of view, and inevitably involve heavy incidental expenditure on each occasion. It is therefore proposed in future to make such leave arrangements for this post that the Minister, whose appointment would normally be for five years, should be entitled to four months leave a year on full salary, the "frais" being £500. subject to a deduction of five hundred pounds after two months.

9. In these circumstances, and in view of the political considerations set forth above, I am to enquire whether Their Lordships will be prepared to approve the raising of His Majesty's Agency and Consulate at Jeddah to the status of a Legation, and the appointment of an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to that post on the scale of salary and other emoluments indicated in the preceding paragraphs. Should Their Lordships concur in this proposal, which has already been semi-officially discussed with an officer of Their Department, the Secretary of State will take immediate steps to take His Majesty's pleasure on the question of the appointment of a Minister at Jeddah and of the reception of a Hejaz-Nejd Minister at the Court of St. James.

10. Should any unexpected change occur in the political situation in the Hejaz, such as to render the considerations advanced above no longer applicable, the Secretary of State would of course be prepared to reconsider the question of

maintaining/

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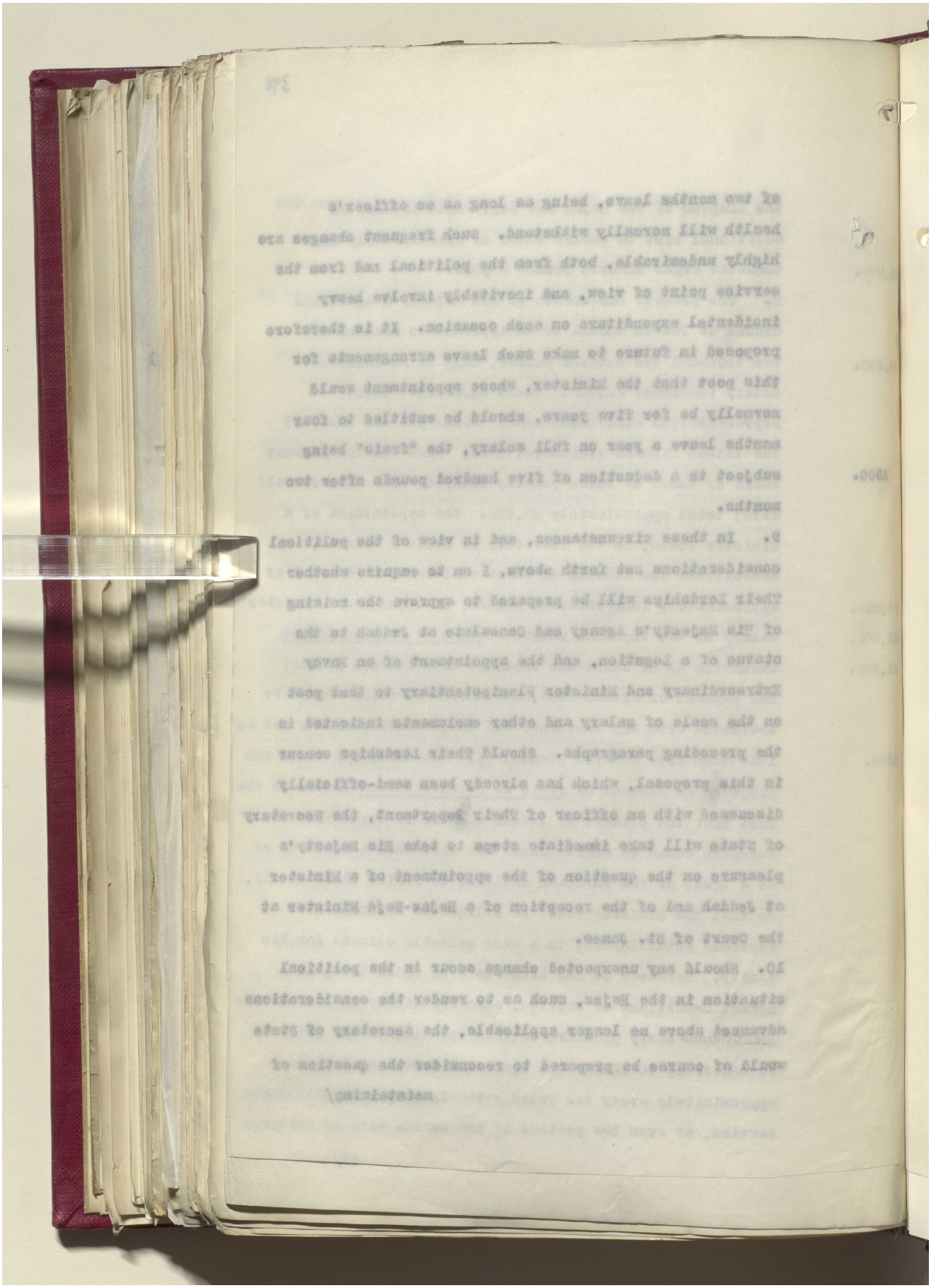

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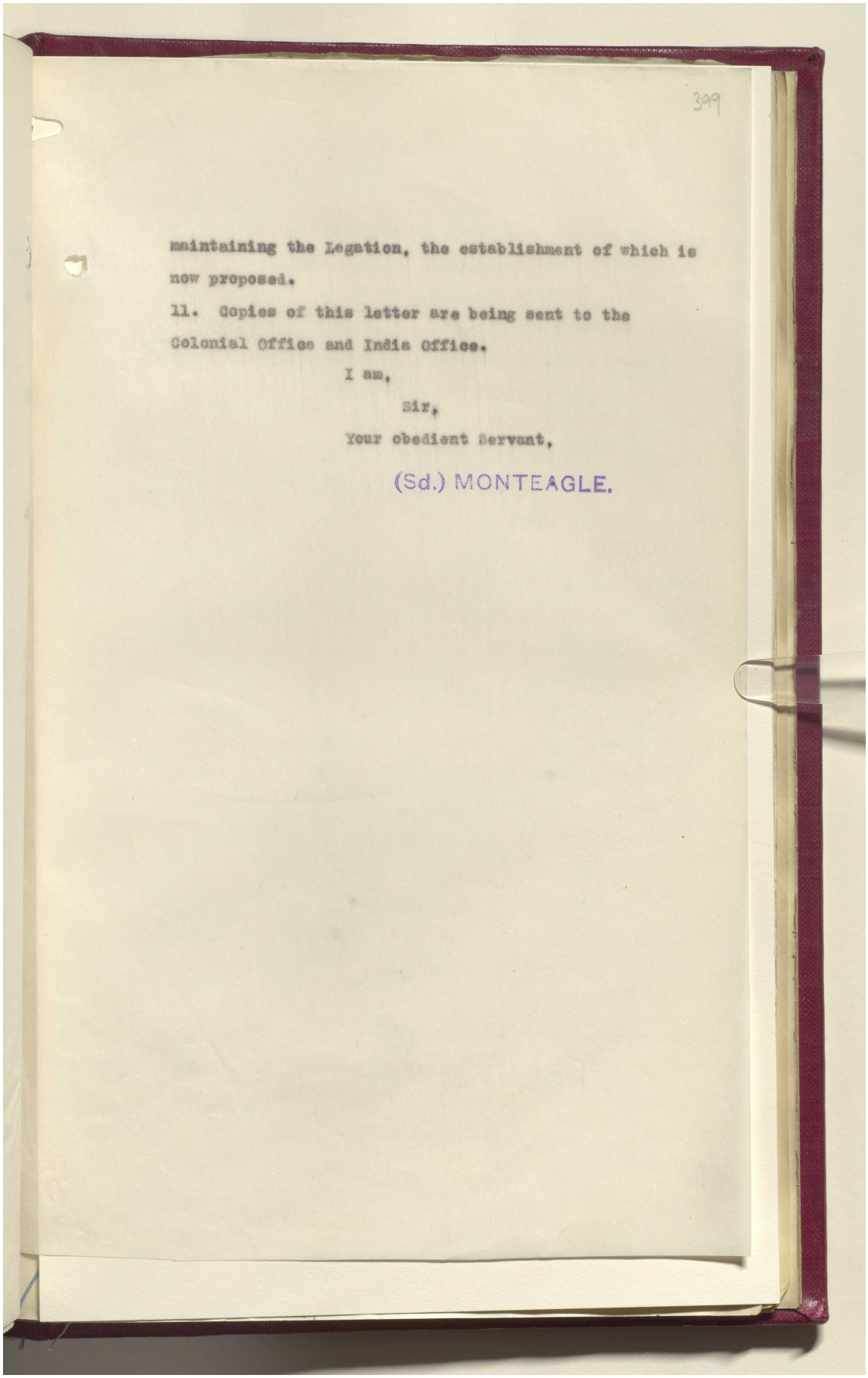

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maintaining the Legation, the establishment of which is now proposed.

11. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Colonial Office and India Office.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) MONTEAGLE.

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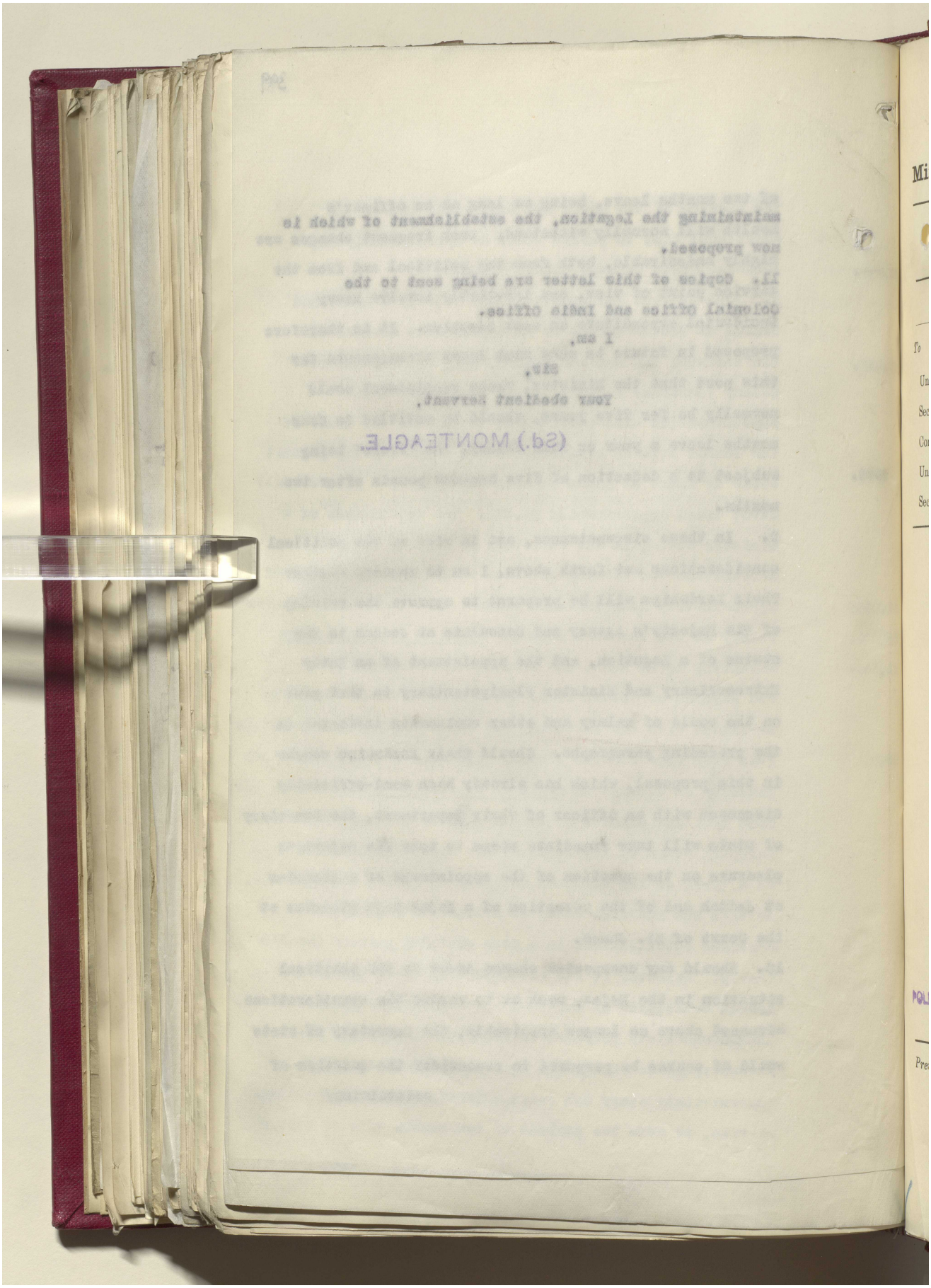

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3138/29

Minute Paper.

Register No.
P.
7507
7387

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1929.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Hejaz.
Under Secretary	2.12	[illegible]	Foreign representatives at Jeddah.
Secretary of State ...			
Committee.....	5	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State ...			

Copy to India 21 & 28 Nov.

FOR INFORMATION.

In connection with the recent proposals for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Hejaz & this country, H.M. Consul at Jeddah telegraphs that his "French colleague" has received credentials as Chargé d'affaires. The latest reference found to a French representative at Jeddah is in the Jeddah report for April which says "M. Maigret arrived from Bagdad to take up his appointment as French Consul.... He spent seven years in his last post and is apparently prepared to stay as long here .... M. Maigret is returning immediately to Bagdad, and proposes to proceed thence to Paris". Whether he ever returned to Jeddah, or whether a new representative has arrived I have not been able to discover.

Italy has just appointed a new Consul, Signor Sollazzo, with regard to whom, H.M. Consul says "he certainly carries heavier guns than are required for the protection of Italian interests in the Hejaz unless some ulterior motive lies behind the appointment"

[illegible]
27/11

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
11 DEC 1929

Previous Papers :—

3287 2000 12.28

[illegible] 11.12 [illegible] 11/12
11.12

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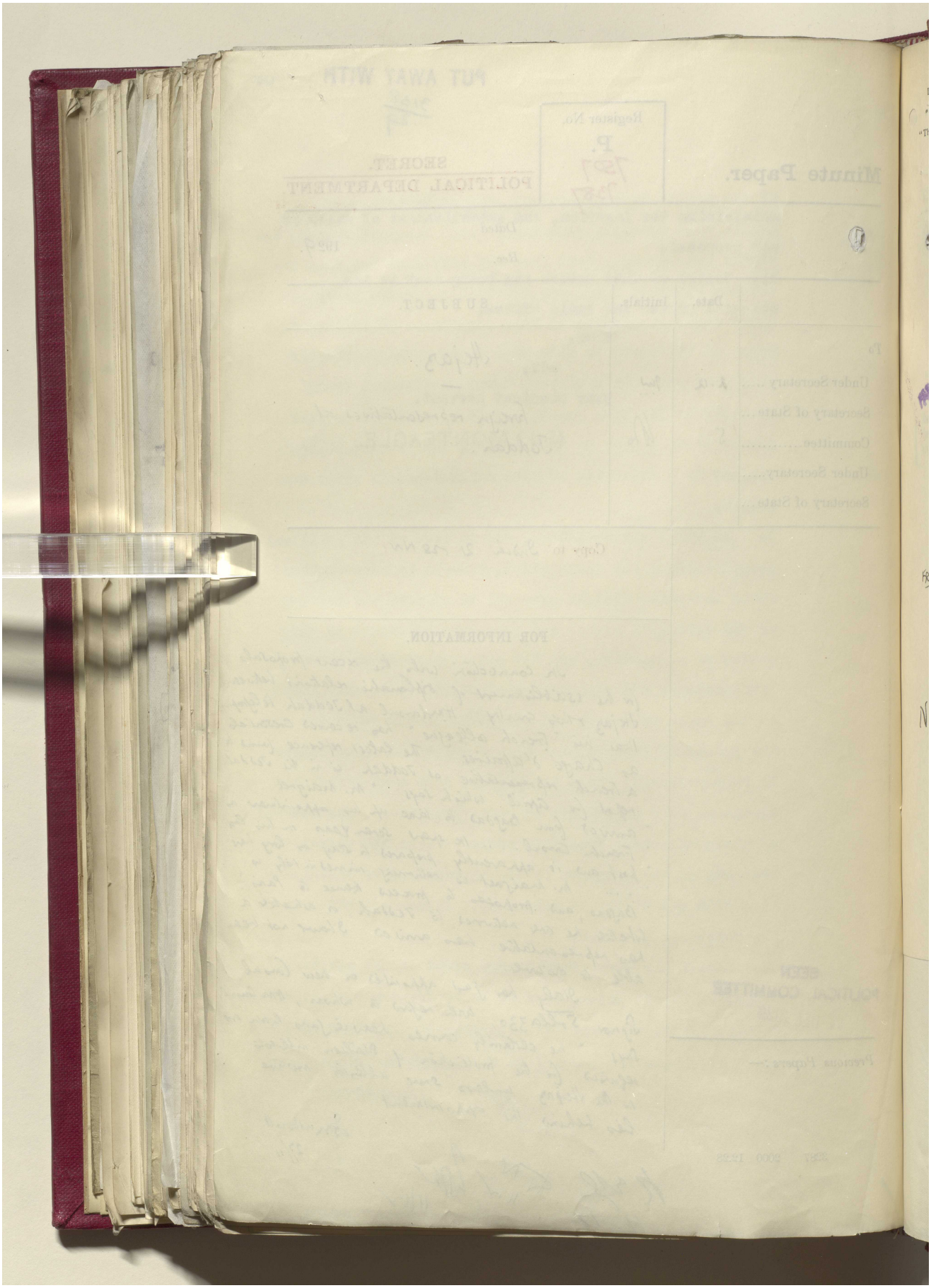

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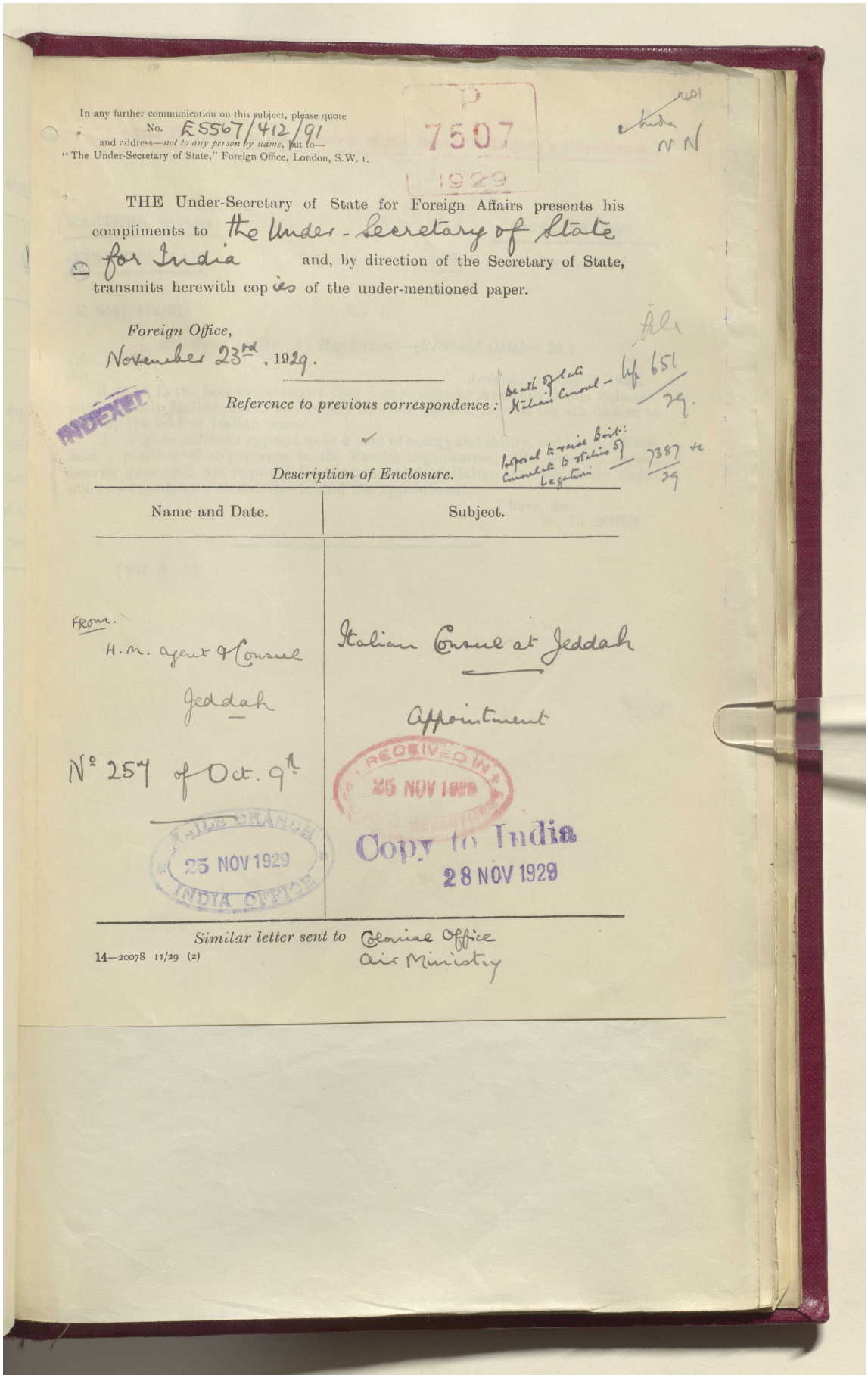

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E5567/412/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P
7507
1929

India
MN

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
November 23rd, 1929.

Reference to previous correspondence: Death of late Italian Consul – Up 651/29.
Proposal to raise Brit: Consulate to status of Legation – 7387/29 &c

INDEXED

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From. H.M. agent & Consul Jeddah No 257 of Oct. 9th	Italian Consul at Jeddah Appointment

MAILE BRANCH 25 NOV 1929 INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED IN 25 NOV 1929

Copy to India 28 NOV 1929

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office
Air Ministry

14—20078 11/29 (2)

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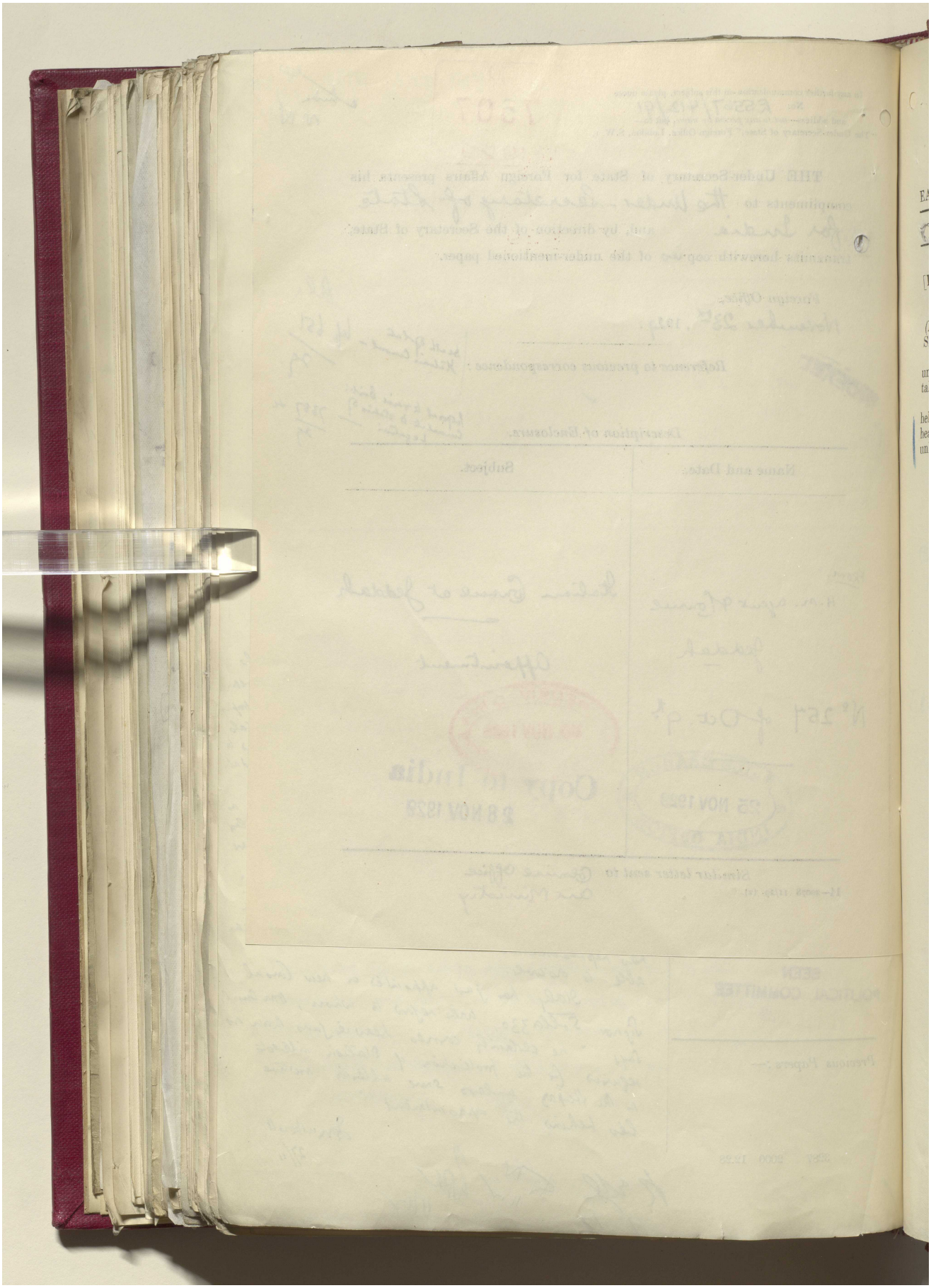

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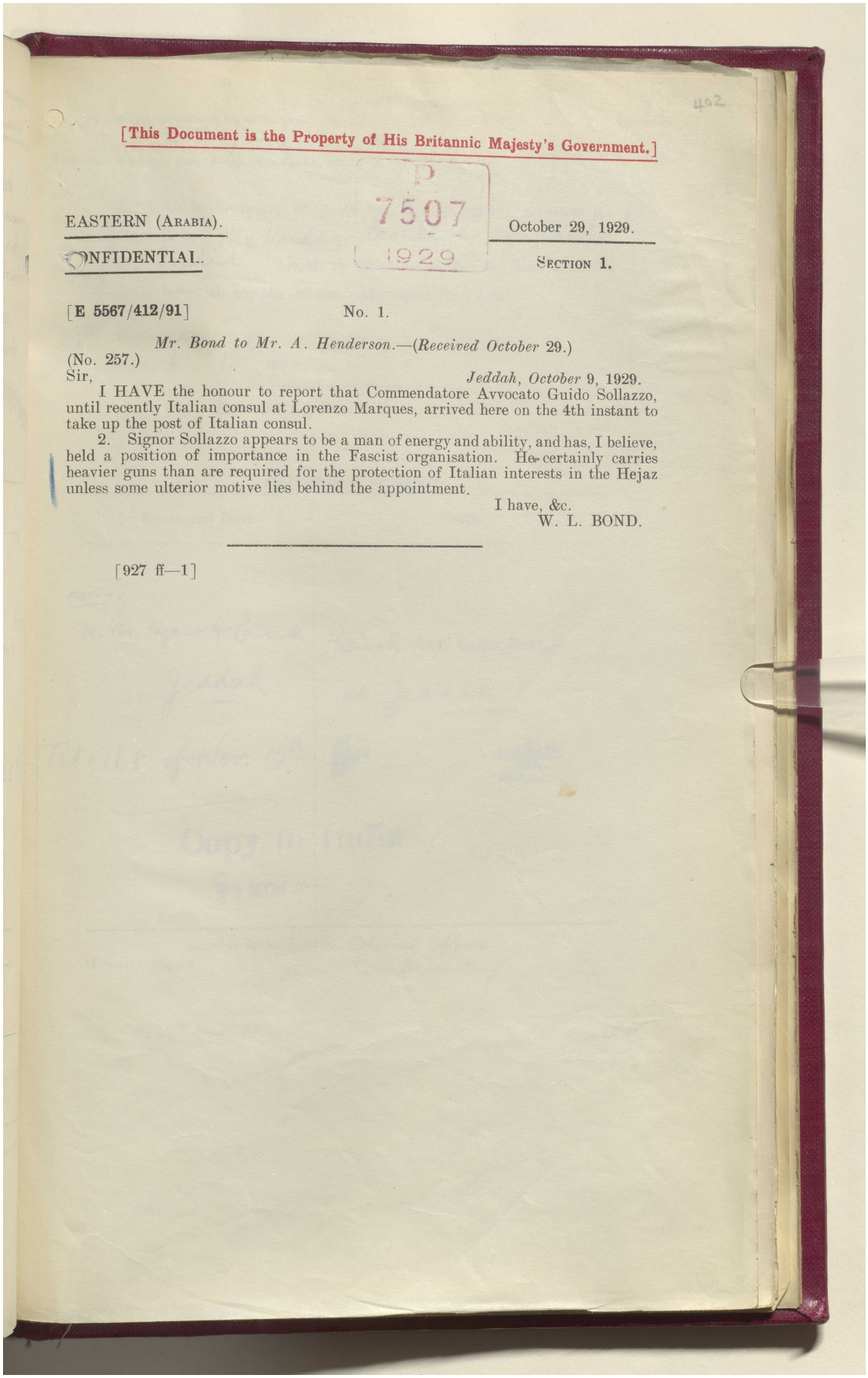

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P
7507
1929

EASTERN (ARABIA). October 29, 1929.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 5567/412/91] No. 1.

Mr. Bond to Mr. A. Henderson.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 257.)

Sir, *Jeddah, October* 9, 1929.

I HAVE the honour to report that Commendatore Avvocato Guido Sollazzo, until recently Italian consul at Lorenzo Marques, arrived here on the 4th instant to take up the post of Italian consul.

2. Signor Sollazzo appears to be a man of energy and ability, and has, I believe, held a position of importance in the Fascist organisation. He certainly carries heavier guns than are required for the protection of Italian interests in the Hejaz unless some ulterior motive lies behind the appointment.

I have, &c.
W. L. BOND.

[927 ff—1]

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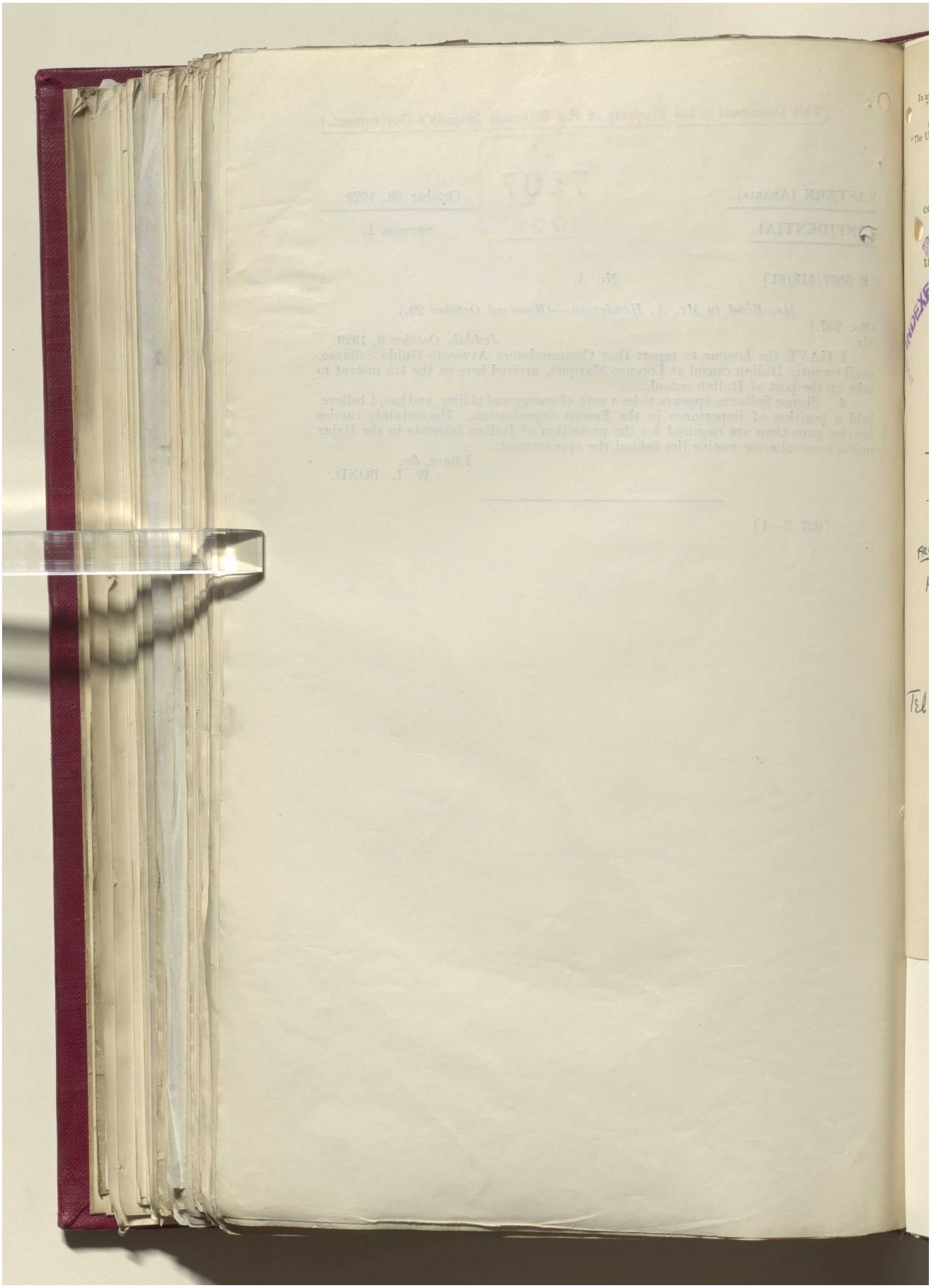

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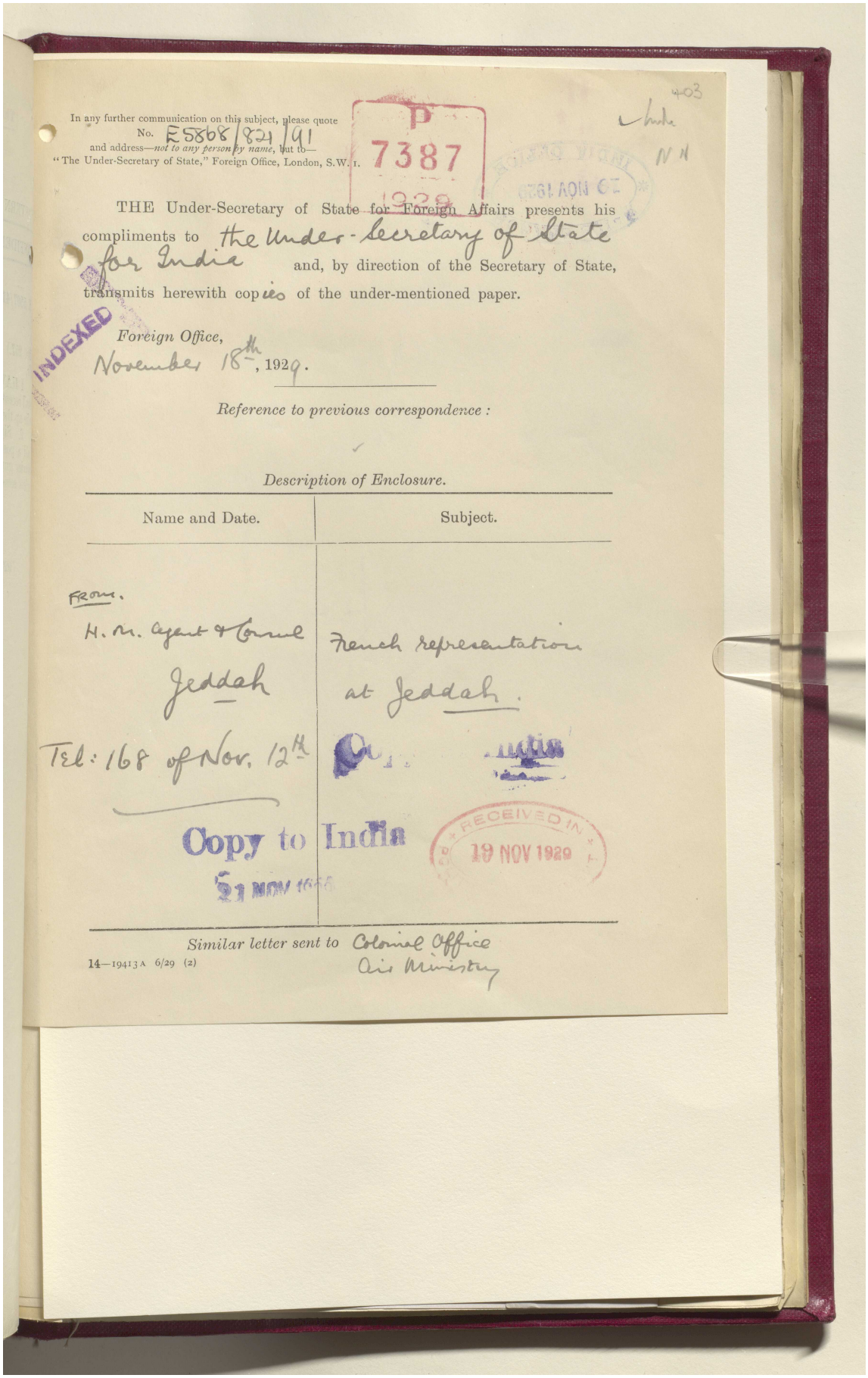

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 5868/821/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P 7387 1928

403

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

INDEXED

Foreign Office,
November 18th, 1929.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From. H.M. Agent & Consul Jeddah Tel: 168 of Nov. 12th	French representation at Jeddah.

Copy to India

RECEIVED IN 19 NOV 1929

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office, Air Ministry

14—19413 A 6/29 (2)

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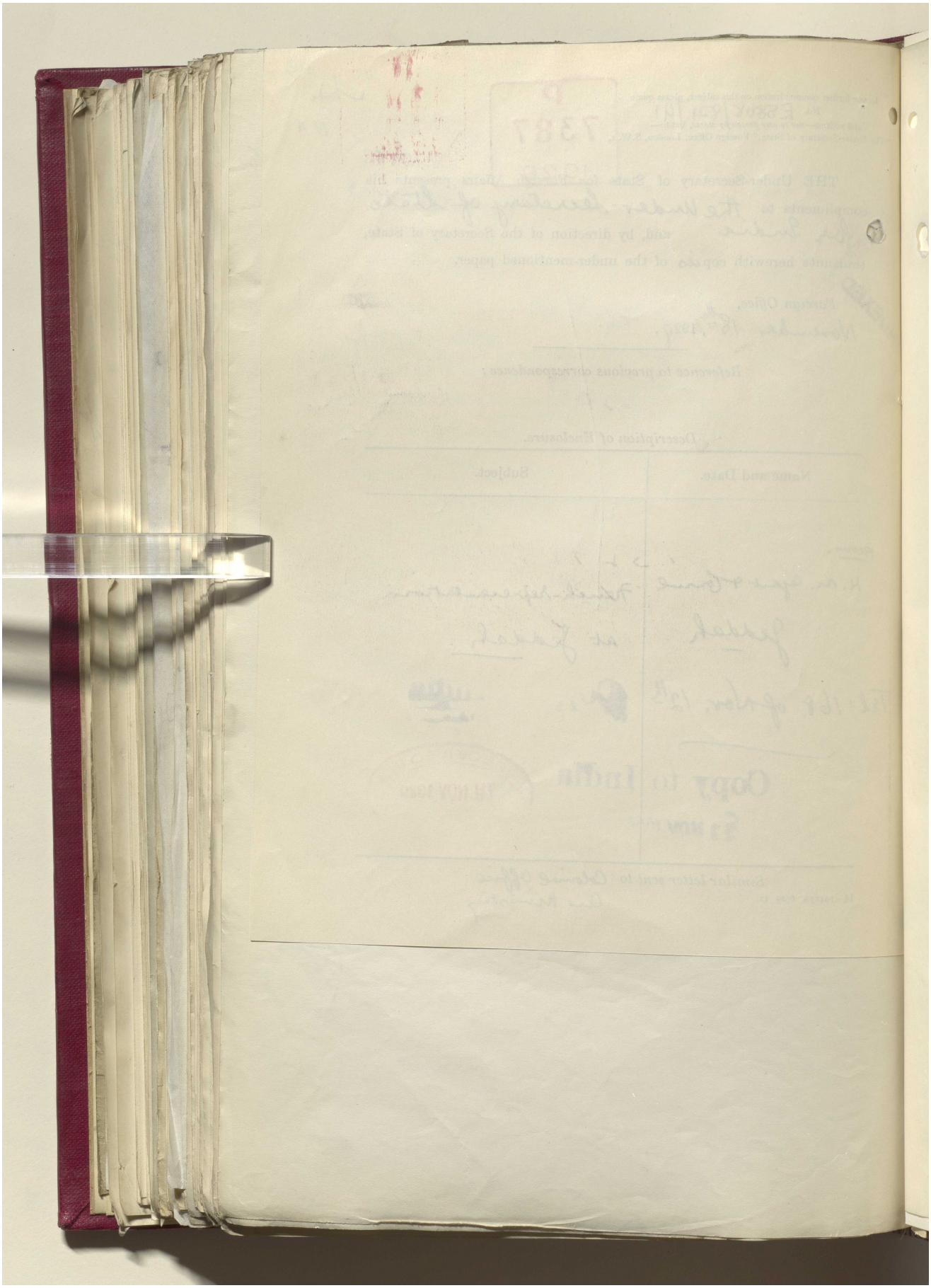

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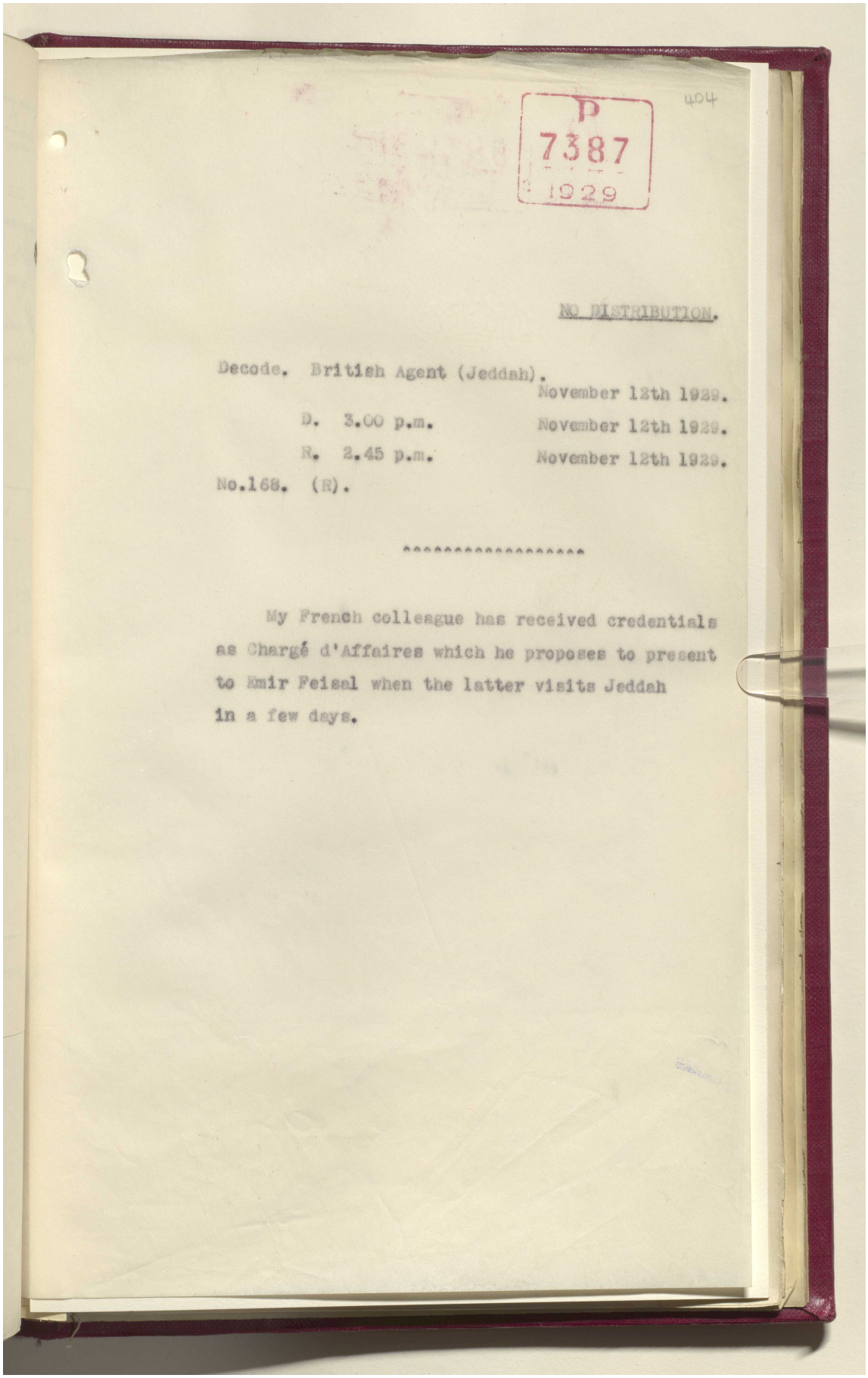

404

P
7387
1929

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. British Agent (Jeddah).
November 12th 1929.

D. 3.00 p.m. November 12th 1929.

R. 2.45 p.m. November 12th 1929.

No.168. (R).

****

My French colleague has received credentials as Chargé d'Affaires which he proposes to present to Emir Feisal when the latter visits Jeddah in a few days.

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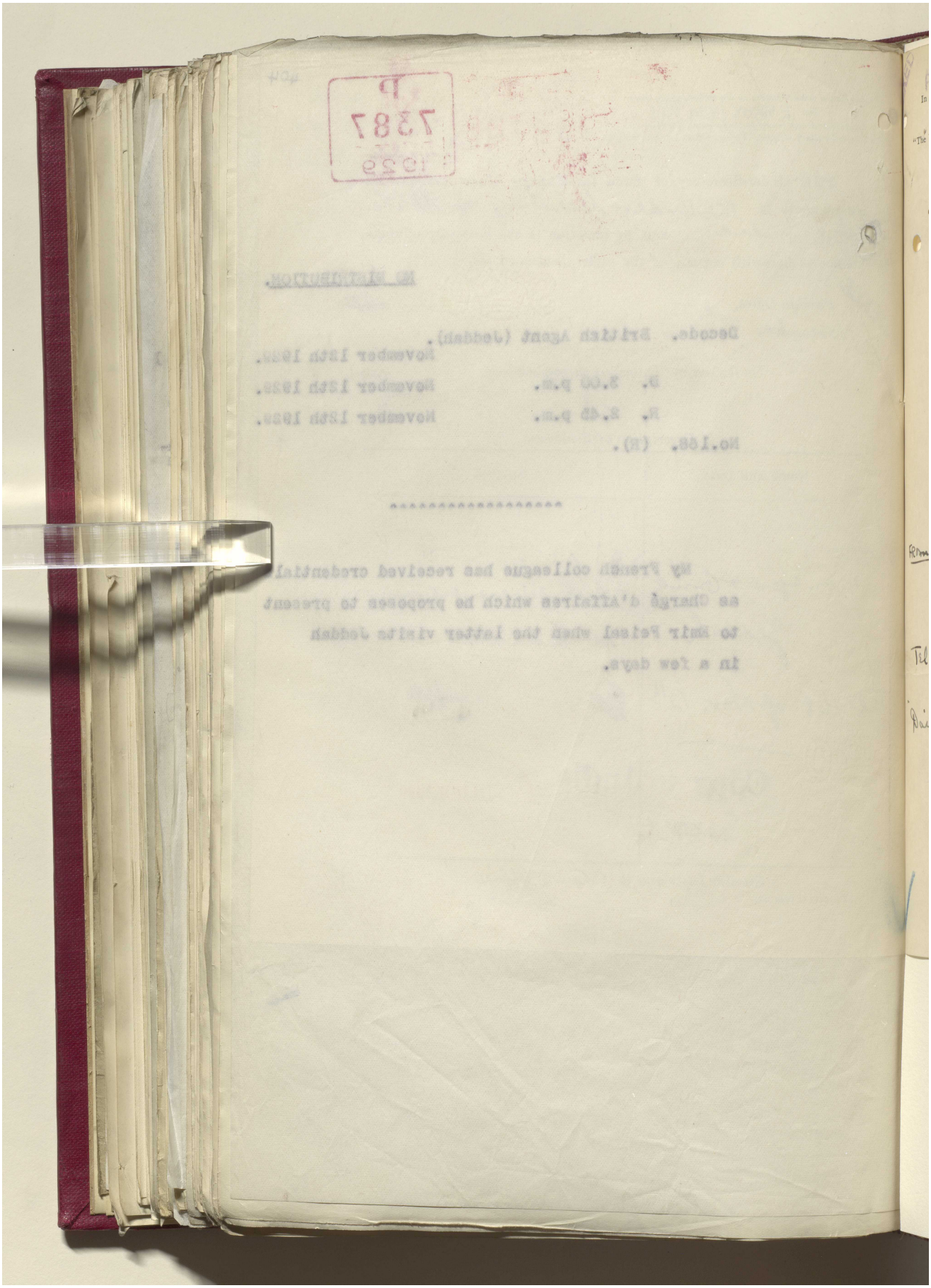

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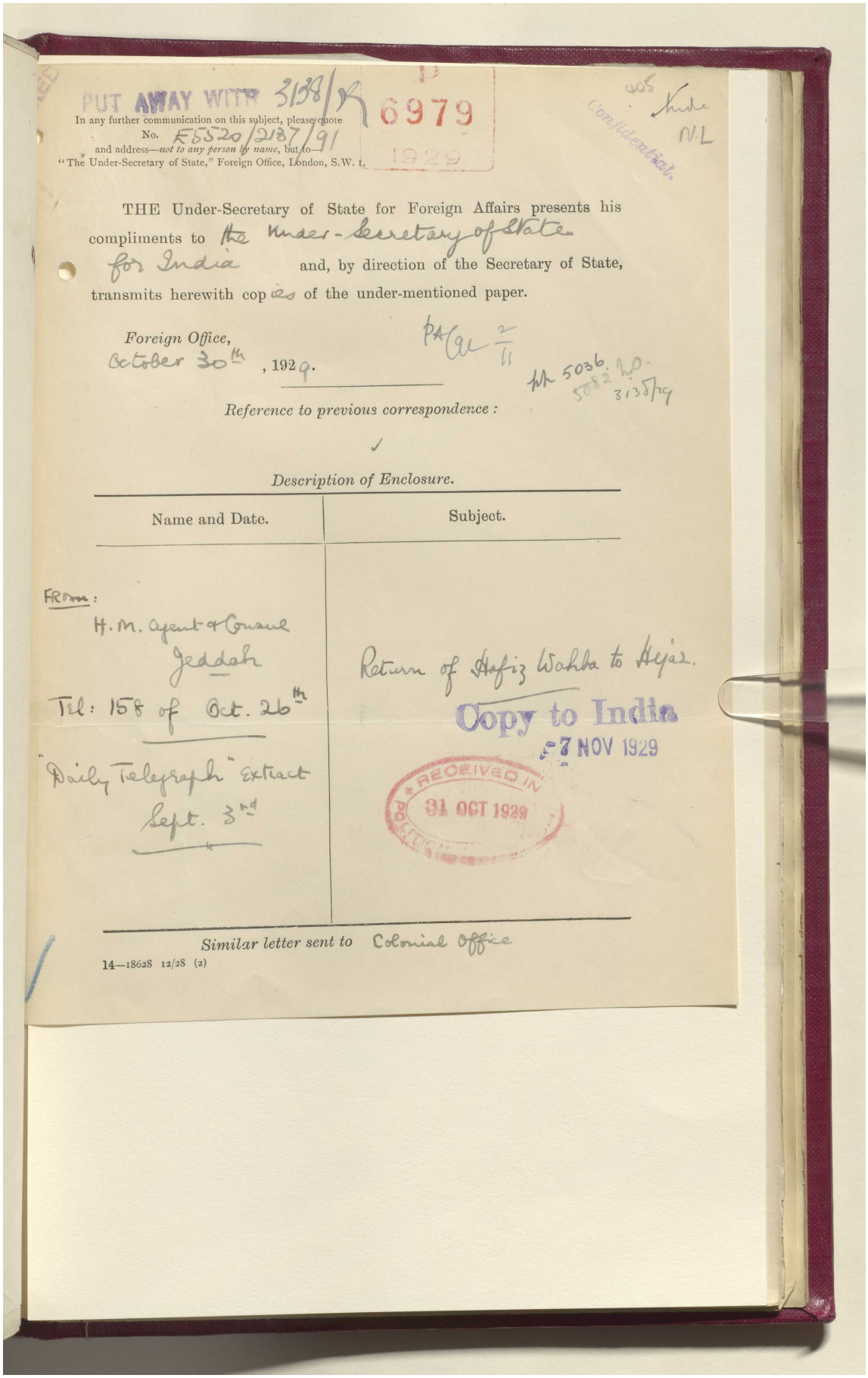
Coll 6/21(1) 'Hejaz-Nejd: Relations with H.M.G.: Hejaz Legation in London and British Minister in Jeddah.' [405r] (820/914)

PUT AWAY WITH 3138/R

6979

1929



405 Index N.L

Confidential.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E5520/2137/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
October 30th, 1929.

PA Cal 2/11

pp 5036, 5082 L.O. 3138/29

Reference to previous correspondence :

✓

Description of Enclosure.

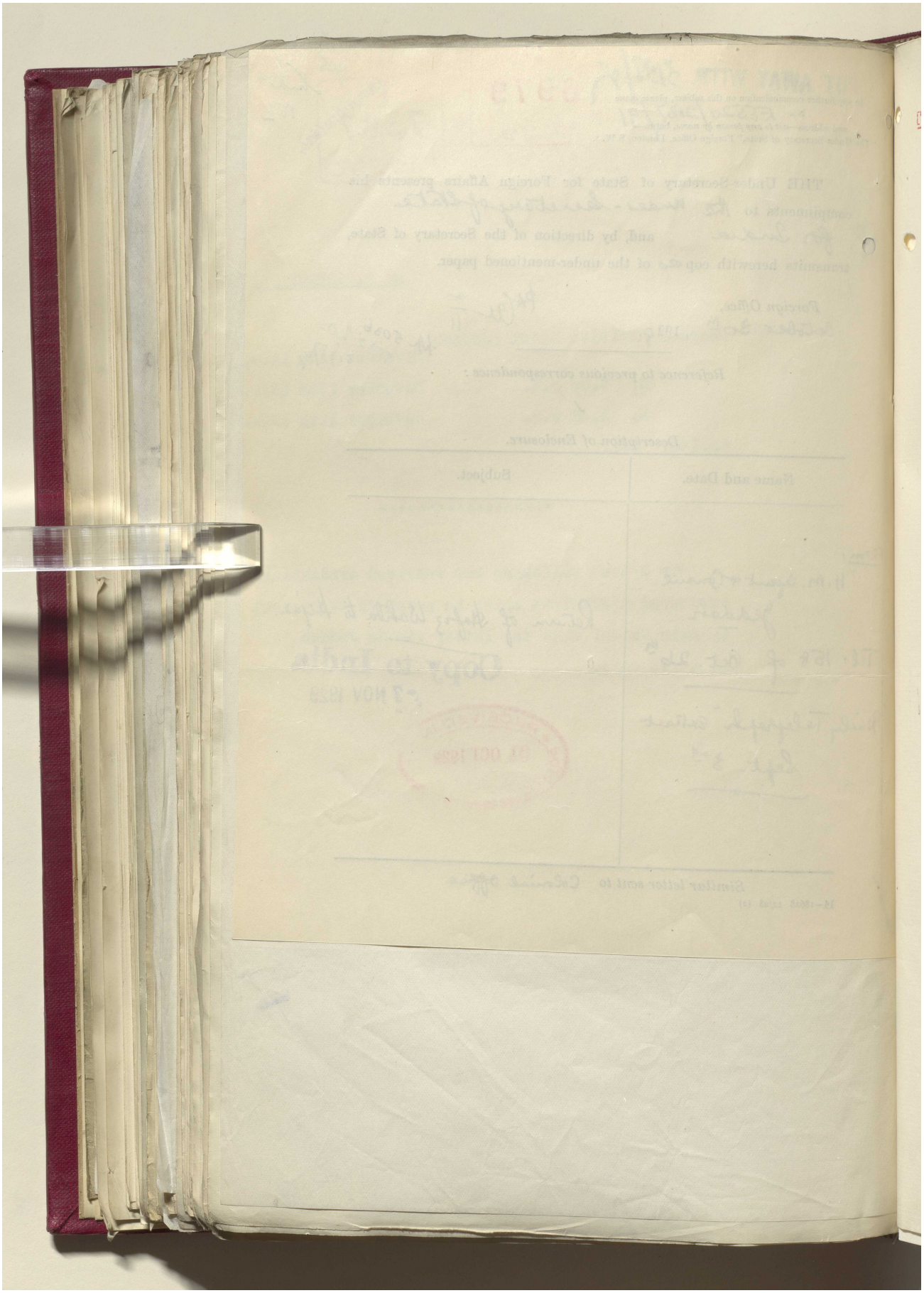
Name and Date.	Subject.
From: H.M. Agent & Consul Jeddah Tel: 158 of Oct. 26th "Daily Telegraph" Extract Sept. 3rd	Return of Hafiz Wahba to Hejaz.

Copy to India
7 NOV 1929

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL ... 31 OCT 1929

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office

14—18628 12/28 (2)



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406

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6979

From ARABIA.

Decypher. British Agent (Jeddah).
October 26th 1929.

D. 5.00 p.m. October 26th 1929.

R. 3.40 p.m. October 26th 1929.

No.158.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Hafiz Wahba passed through Jeddah yesterday on his way to Mecca.

Active propaganda has been carried on against him and his recent statement in London about the incidents in Palestine has been exploited.

He tells me that if he finds himself at variance with the King on this account it is unlikely he will return to England.

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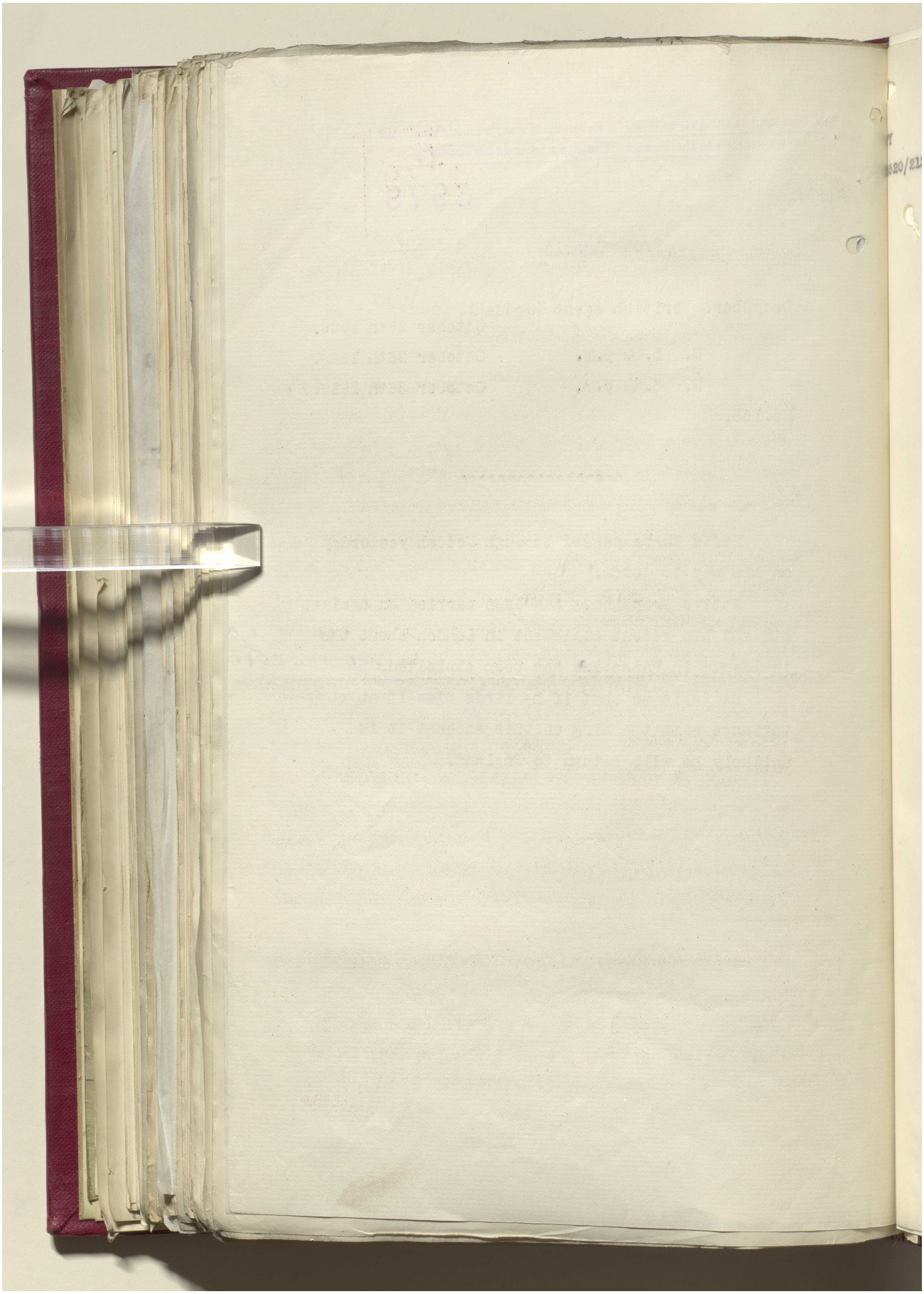

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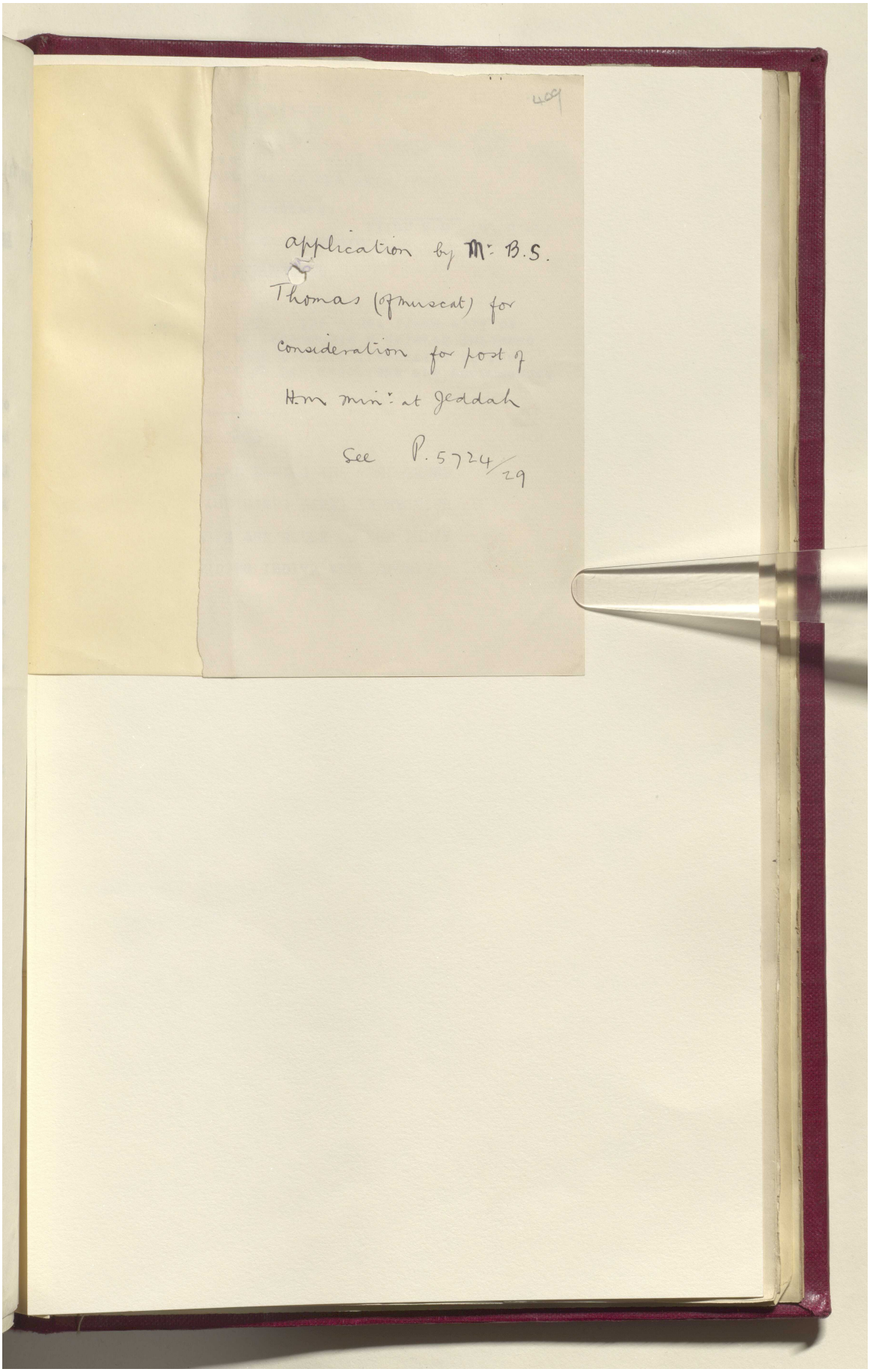

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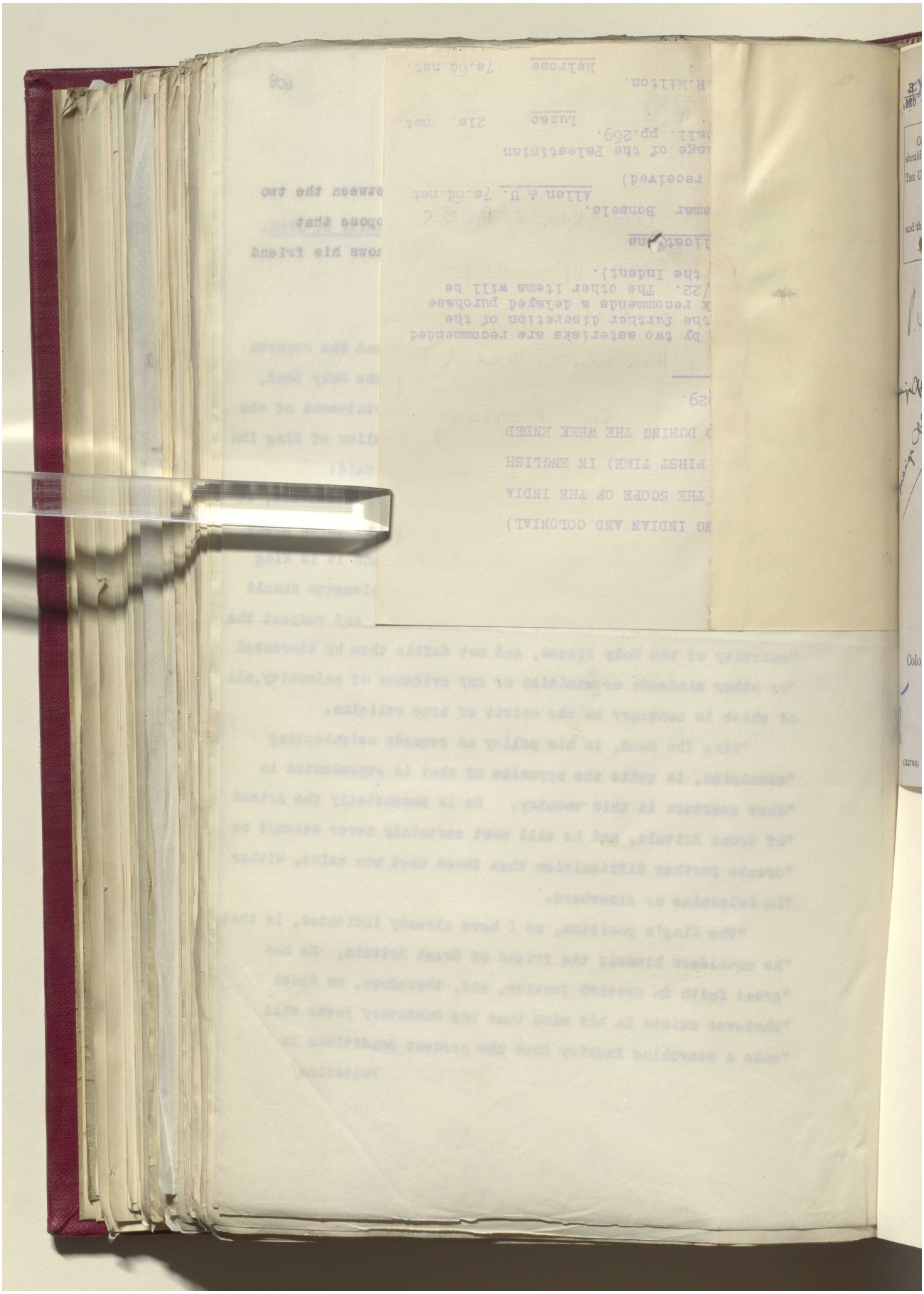

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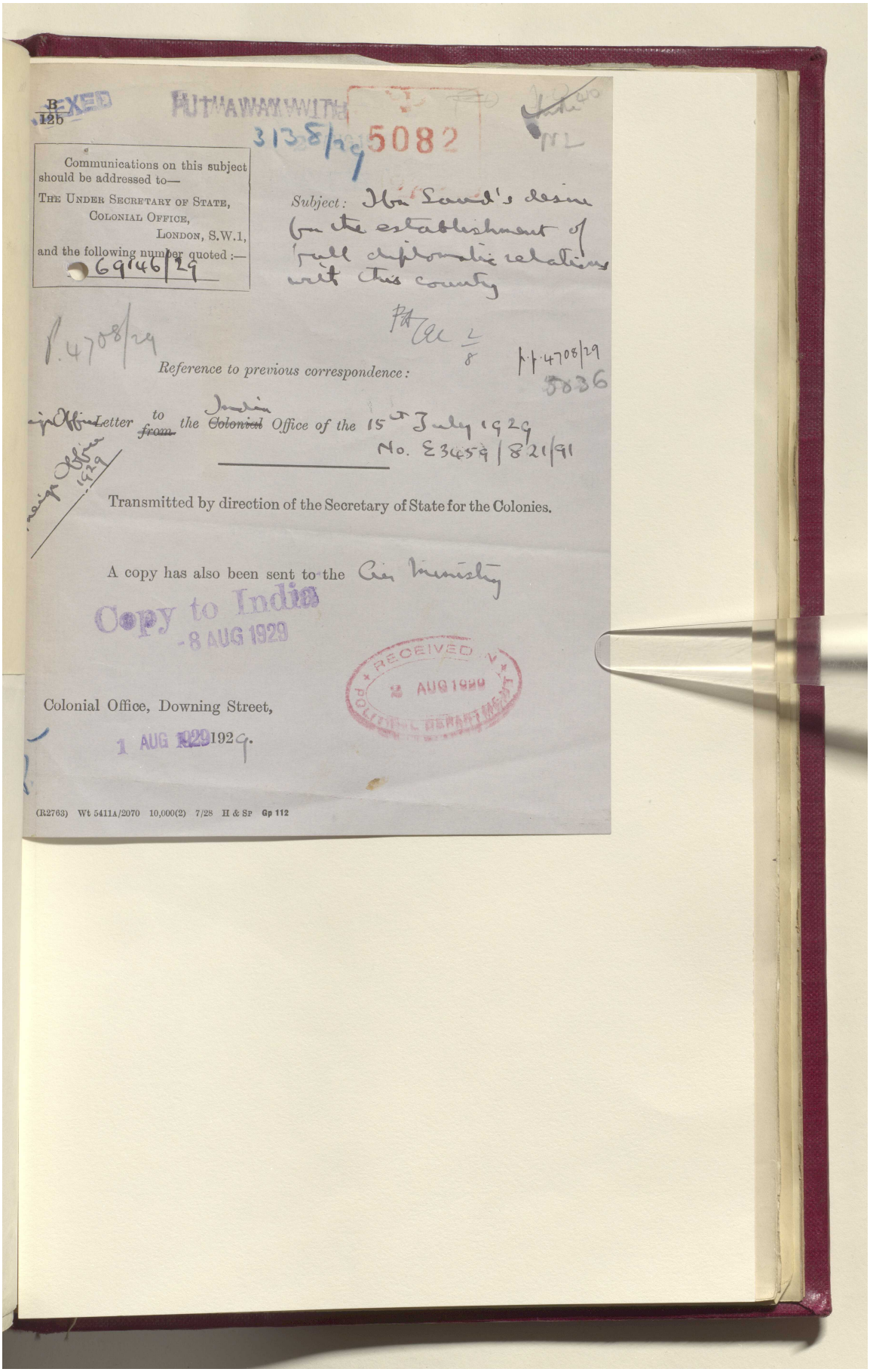

B
12b

EXED

PUT AWAY WITH

3138/29 5082

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
69146/29

Subject: Ibn Saud's desire for the establishment of full diplomatic relations with this country

P.4708/29

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office Letter to ~~from~~ the ~~Colonial~~ India Office of the 15th July 1929
No. E3459/821/91

Foreign Office 1929

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the Air Ministry

Copy to India
-8 AUG 1929

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
2 AUG 1929

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
1 AUG 1929.

(R2763) Wt 5411A/2070 10,000(2) 7/28 H & Sp Gp 112

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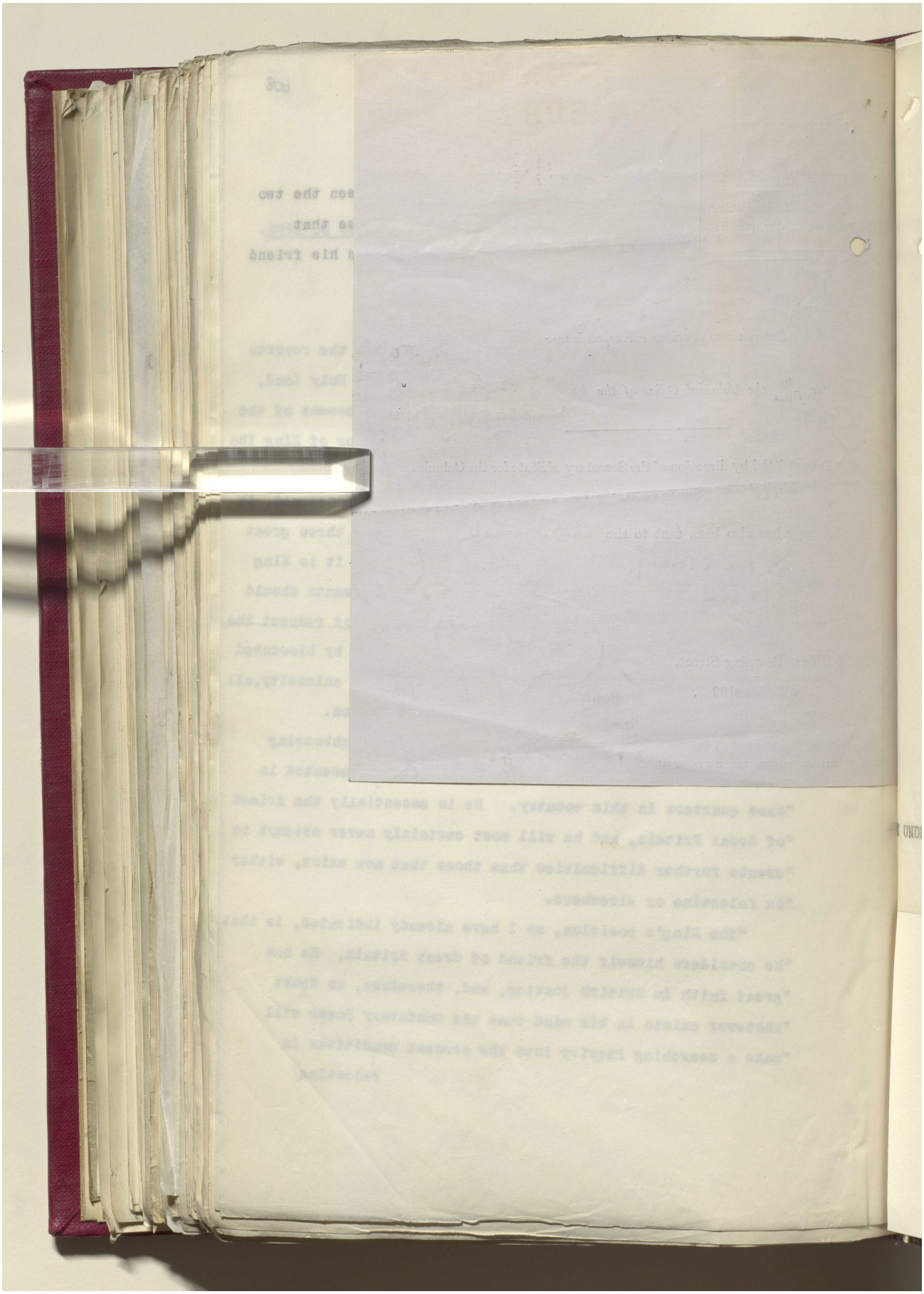

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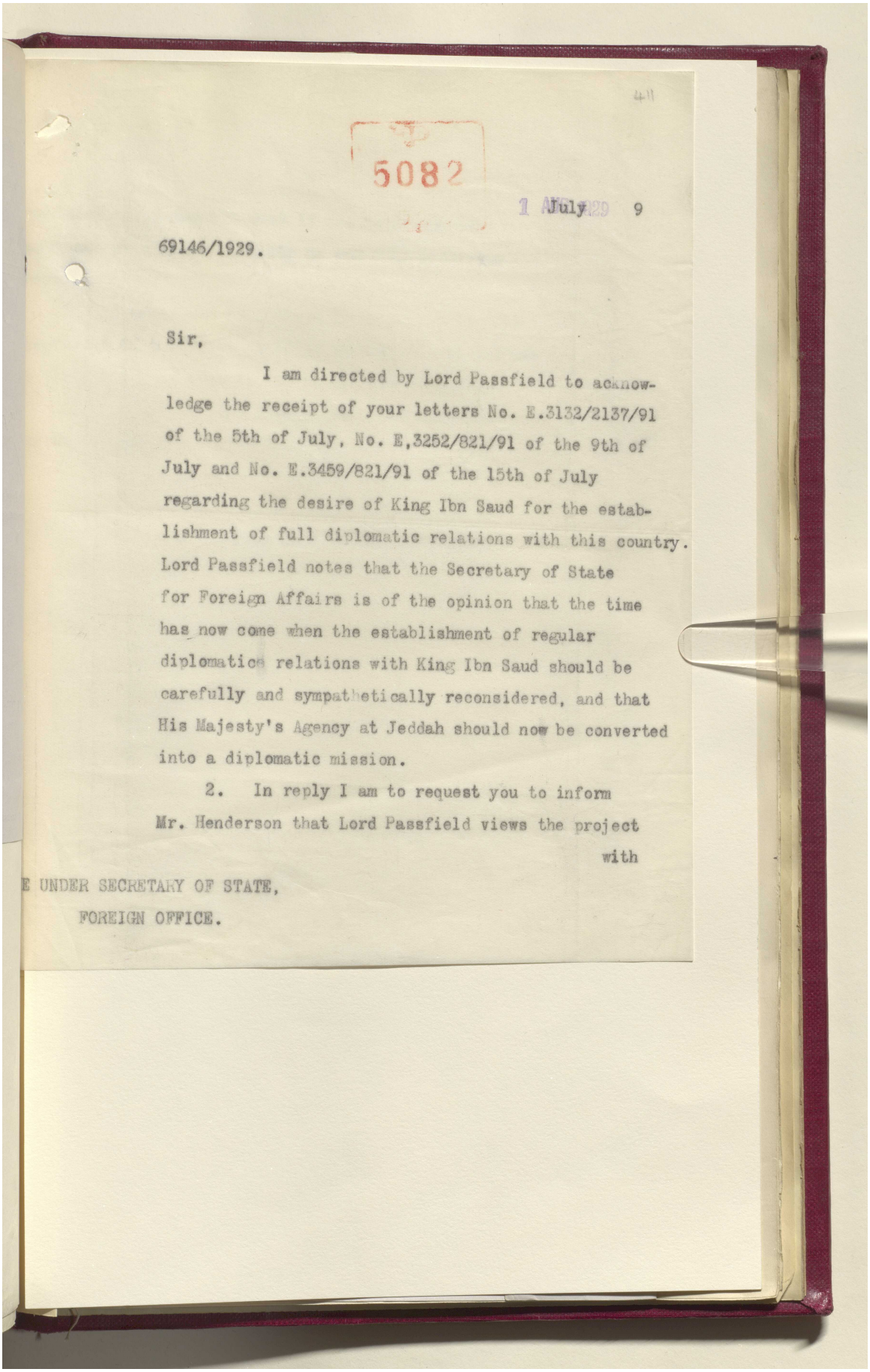

411

5082

1 July 1929 9

69146/1929.

Sir,

I am directed by Lord Passfield to acknowledge the receipt of your letters No. E.3132/2137/91 of the 5th of July, No. E,3252/821/91 of the 9th of July and No. E.3459/821/91 of the 15th of July regarding the desire of King Ibn Saud for the establishment of full diplomatic relations with this country. Lord Passfield notes that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is of the opinion that the time has now come when the establishment of regular diplomatic relations with King Ibn Saud should be carefully and sympathetically reconsidered, and that His Majesty's Agency at Jeddah should now be converted into a diplomatic mission.

2. In reply I am to request you to inform Mr. Henderson that Lord Passfield views the project with

E UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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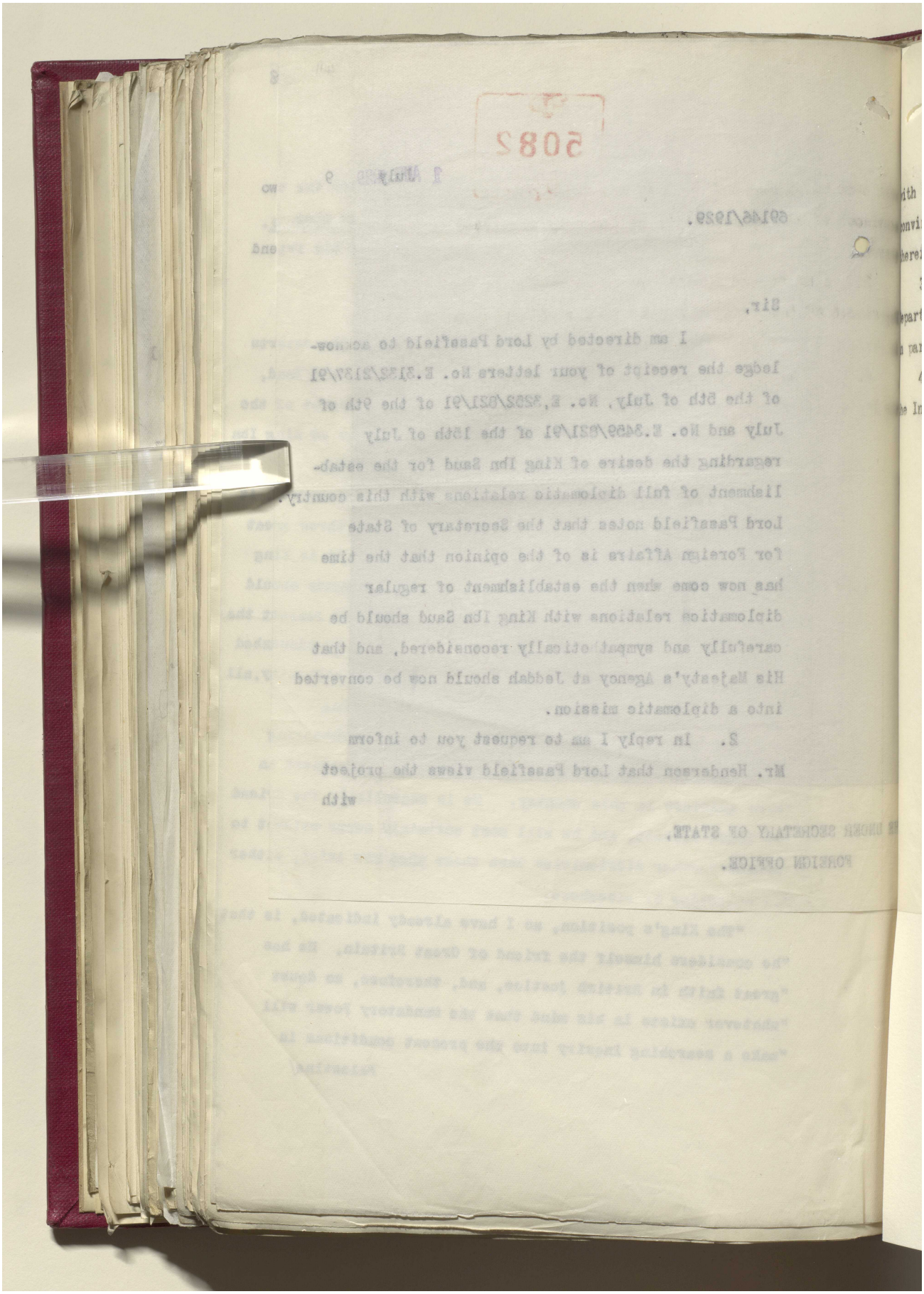

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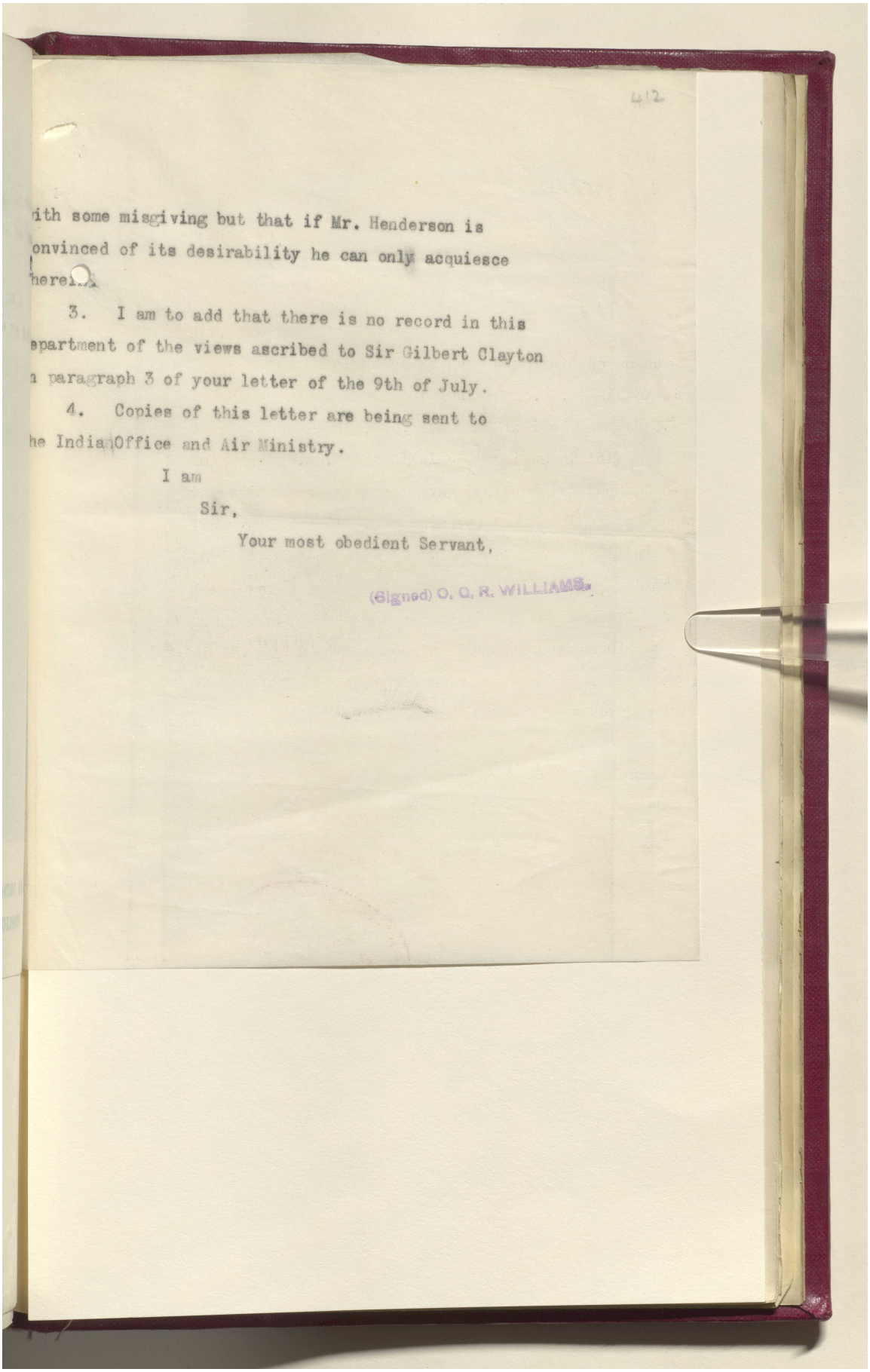

412

ith some misgiving but that if Mr. Henderson is
onvinced of its desirability he can only acquiesce
herein.

3. I am to add that there is no record in this
epartment of the views ascribed to Sir Gilbert Clayton
n paragraph 3 of your letter of the 9th of July.

4. Copies of this letter are being sent to
he India Office and Air Ministry.

I am

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) O. C. R. WILLIAMS.

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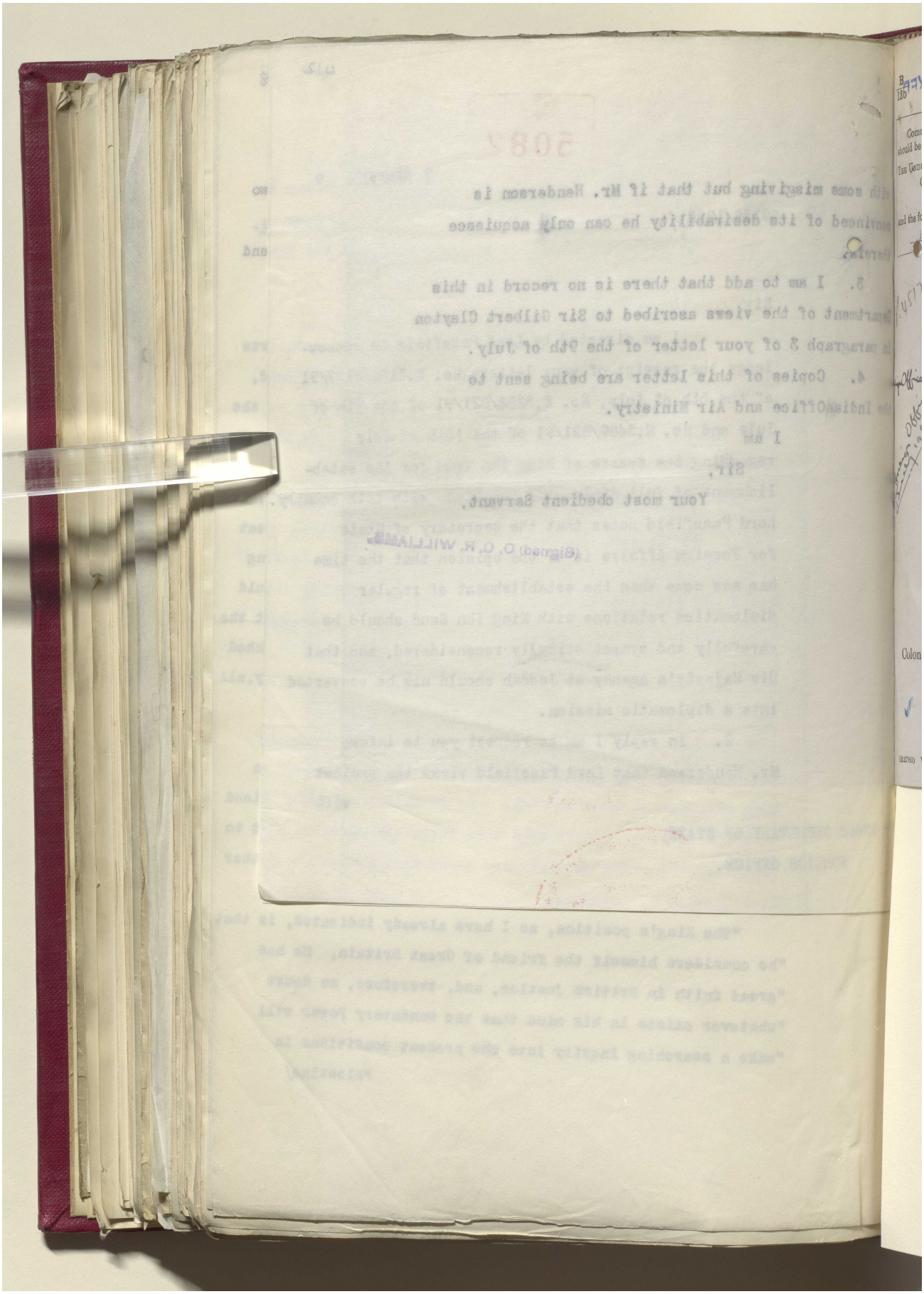

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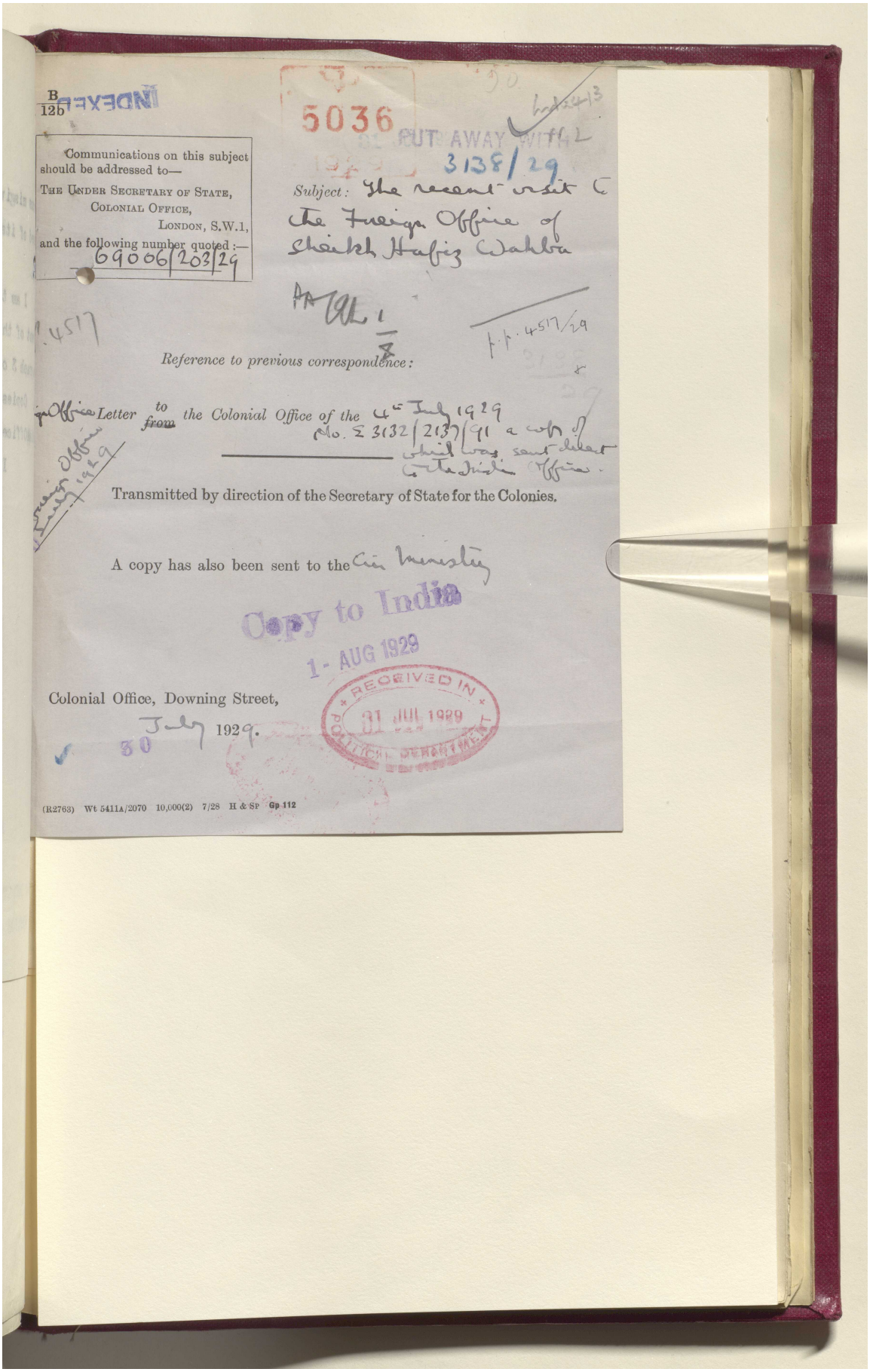

B
12b

INDEXED

5036

CUT AWAY WITH L

3138/29

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
69006/263/29

Subject: The recent visit of the Foreign Office of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba

F.P. 4517/29

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to/from the Colonial Office of the 4th July 1929
No. E 3132/2137/91 a copy of which was sent direct to the India Office.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the Air Ministry

Copy to India
1 AUG 1929

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
31 JUL 1929

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
30 July 1929.

(R2763) Wt 5411A/2070 10,000(2) 7/28 H & SP Gp 112

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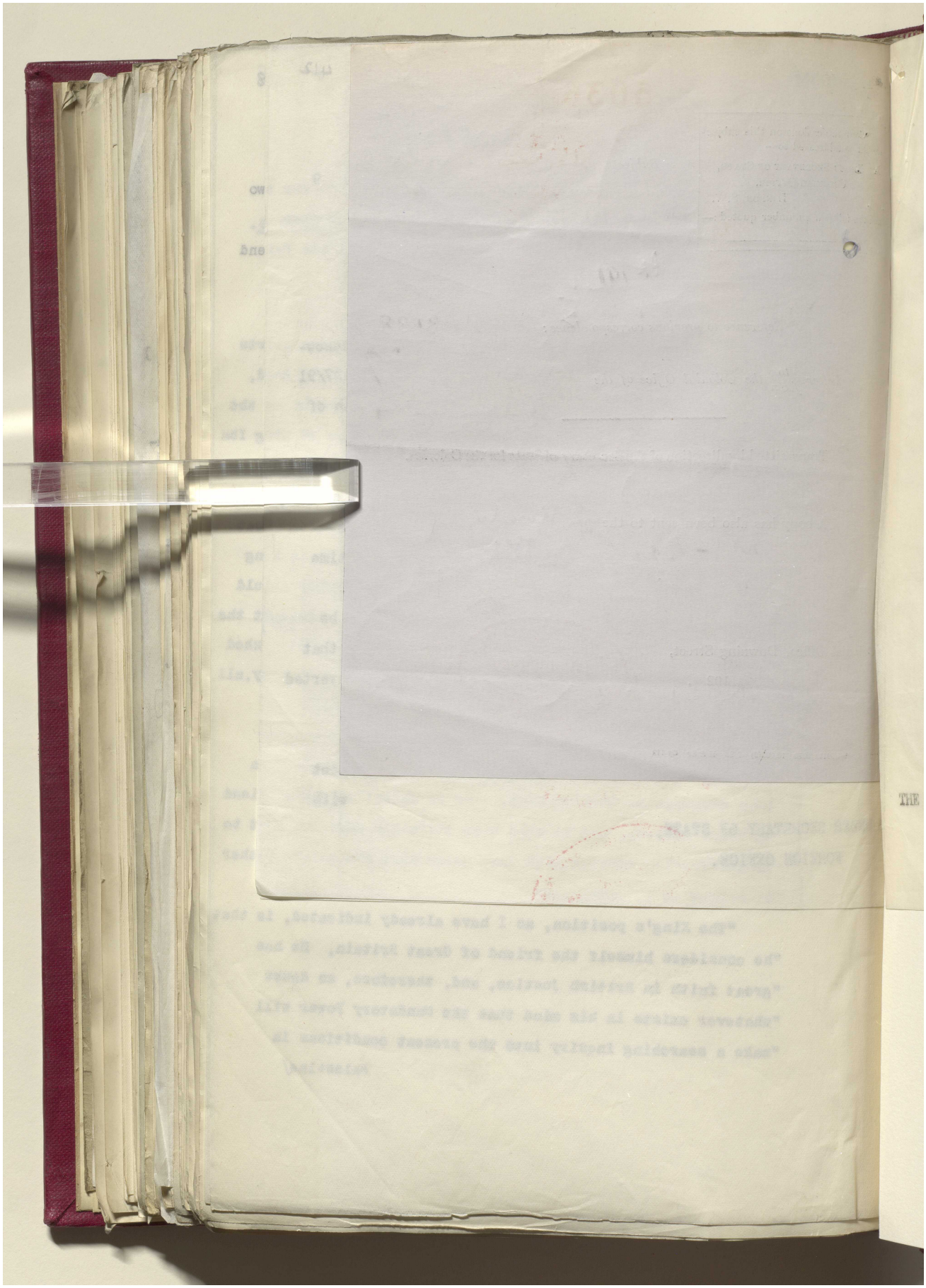

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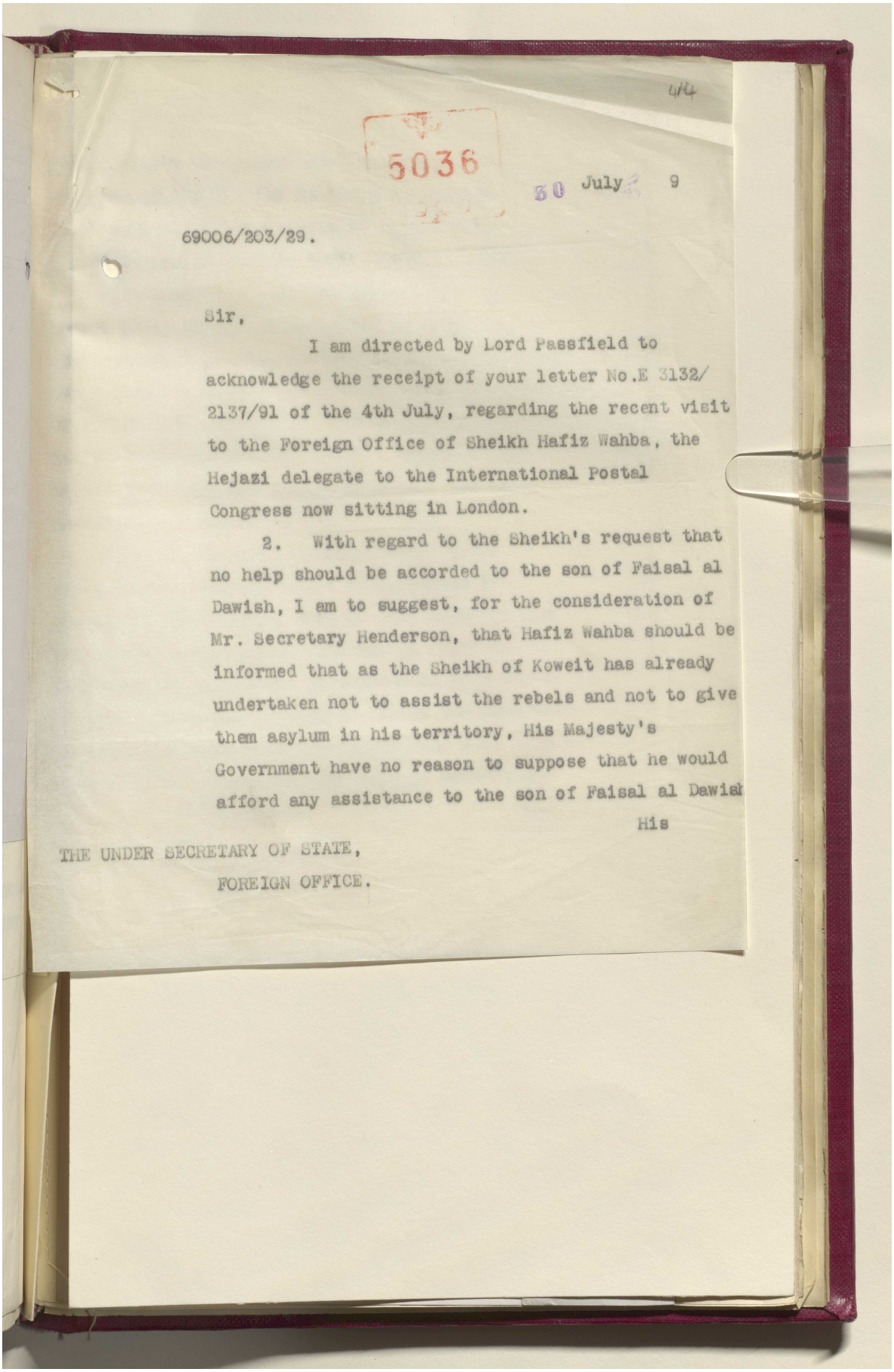

5036

30 July 9

69006/203/29.

Sir,

I am directed by Lord Passfield to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.E 3132/2137/91 of the 4th July, regarding the recent visit to the Foreign Office of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, the Hejazi delegate to the International Postal Congress now sitting in London.

2. With regard to the Sheikh's request that no help should be accorded to the son of Faisal al Dawish, I am to suggest, for the consideration of Mr. Secretary Henderson, that Hafiz Wahba should be informed that as the Sheikh of Koweit has already undertaken not to assist the rebels and not to give them asylum in his territory, His Majesty's Government have no reason to suppose that he would afford any assistance to the son of Faisal al Dawish

His

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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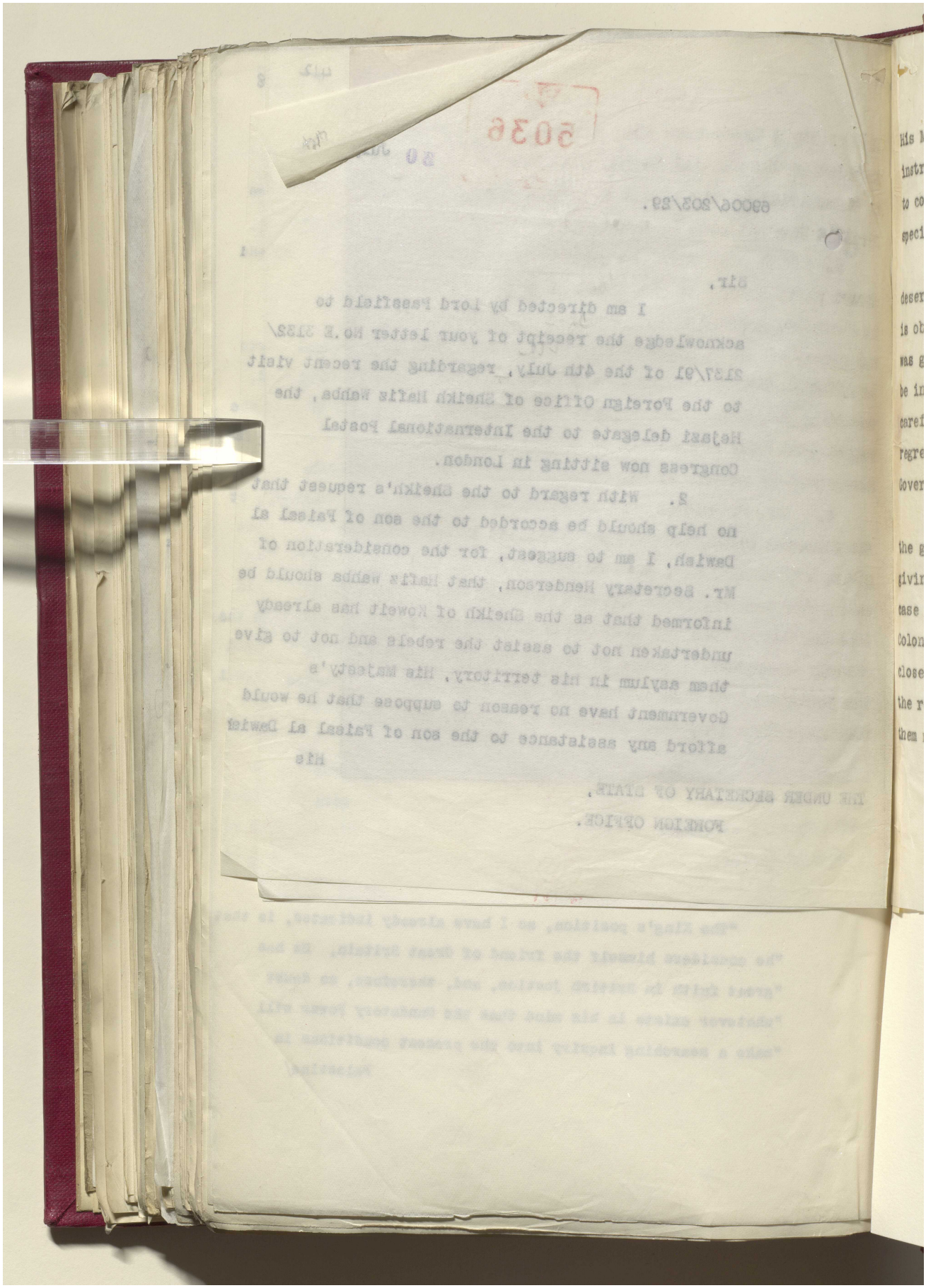

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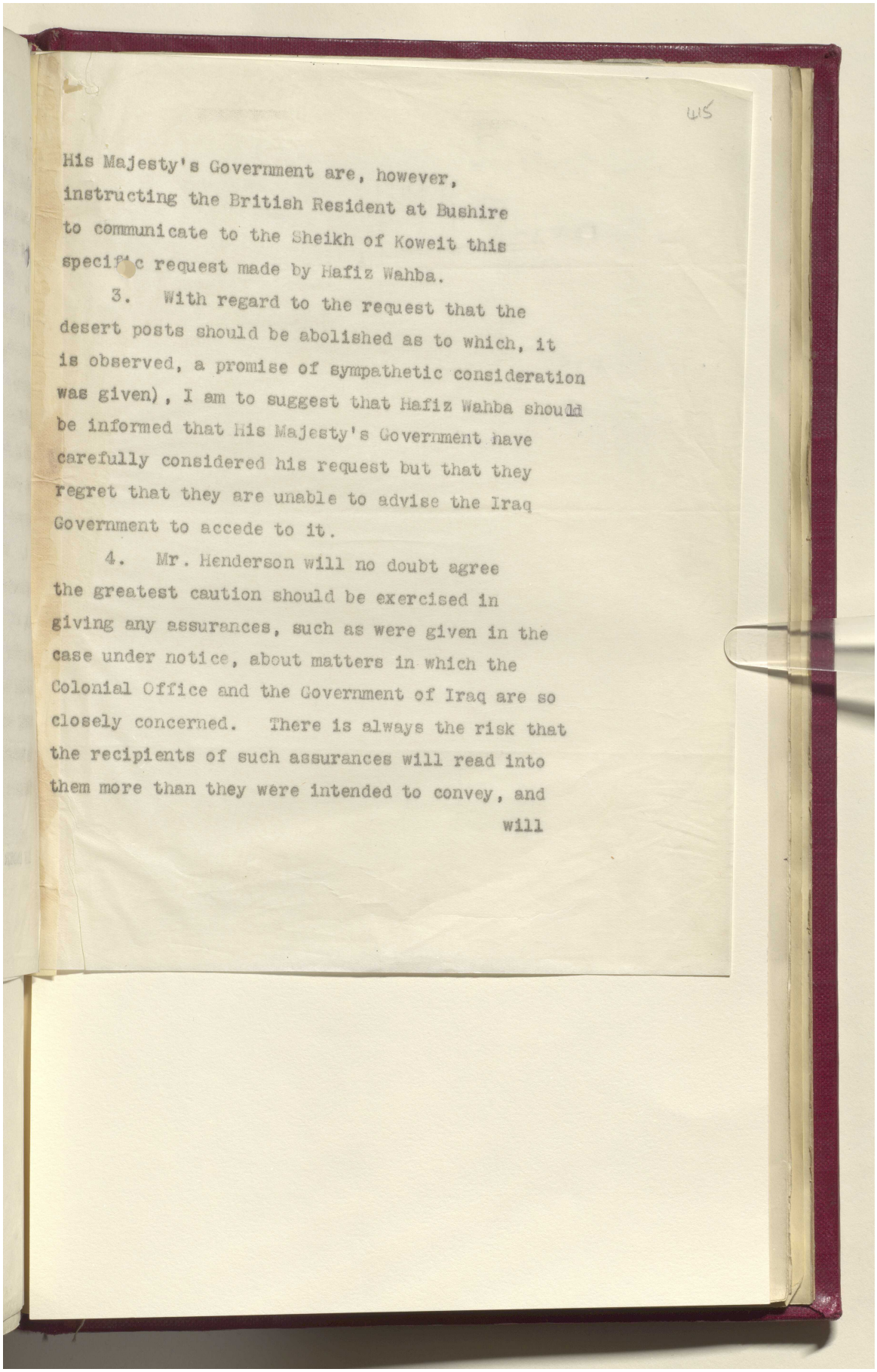

His Majesty's Government are, however, instructing the British Resident at Bushire to communicate to the Sheikh of Koweit this specific request made by Hafiz Wahba.

3. With regard to the request that the desert posts should be abolished as to which, it is observed, a promise of sympathetic consideration was given), I am to suggest that Hafiz Wahba should be informed that His Majesty's Government have carefully considered his request but that they regret that they are unable to advise the Iraq Government to accede to it.

4. Mr. Henderson will no doubt agree the greatest caution should be exercised in giving any assurances, such as were given in the case under notice, about matters in which the Colonial Office and the Government of Iraq are so closely concerned. There is always the risk that the recipients of such assurances will read into them more than they were intended to convey, and will

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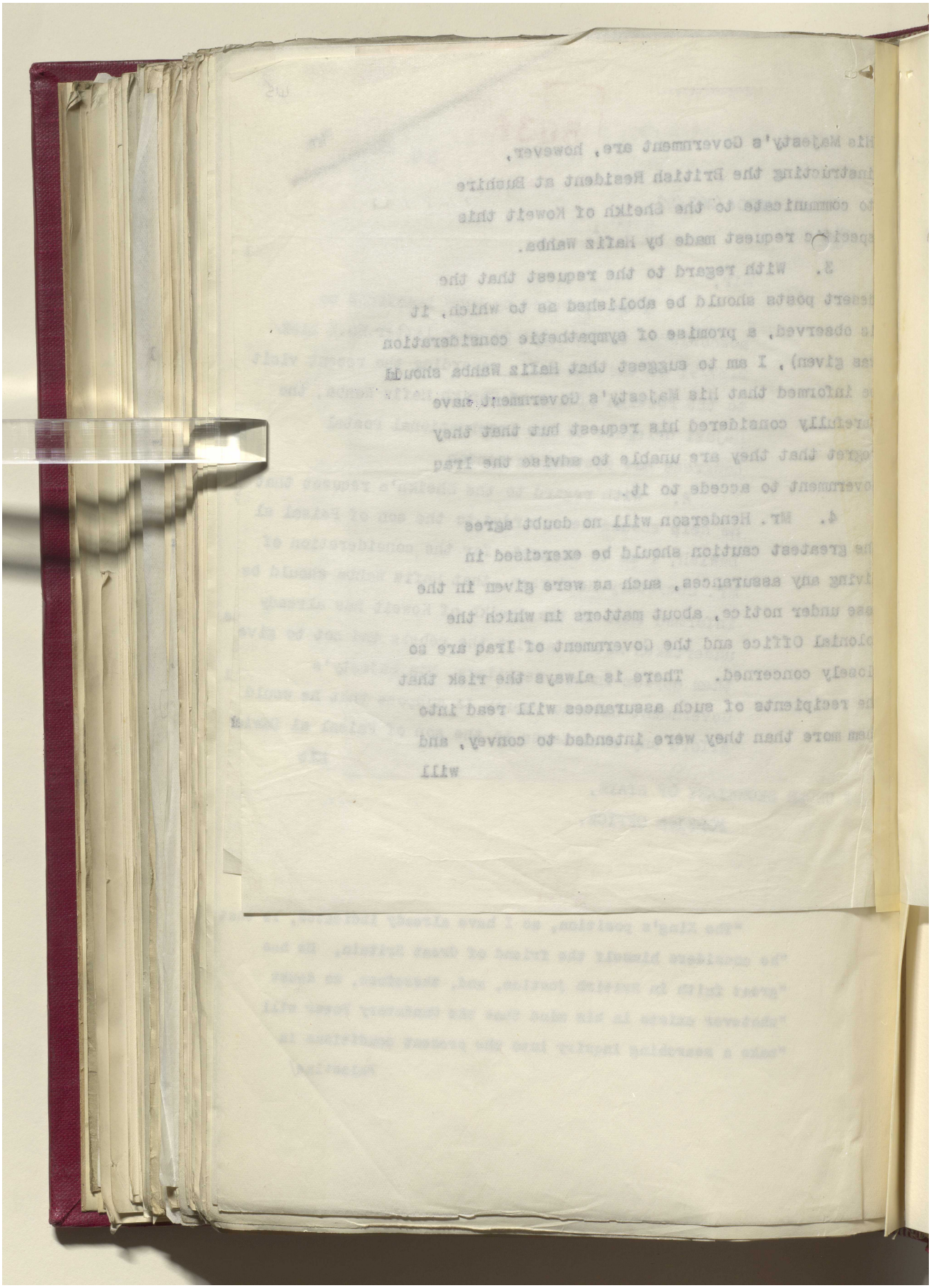

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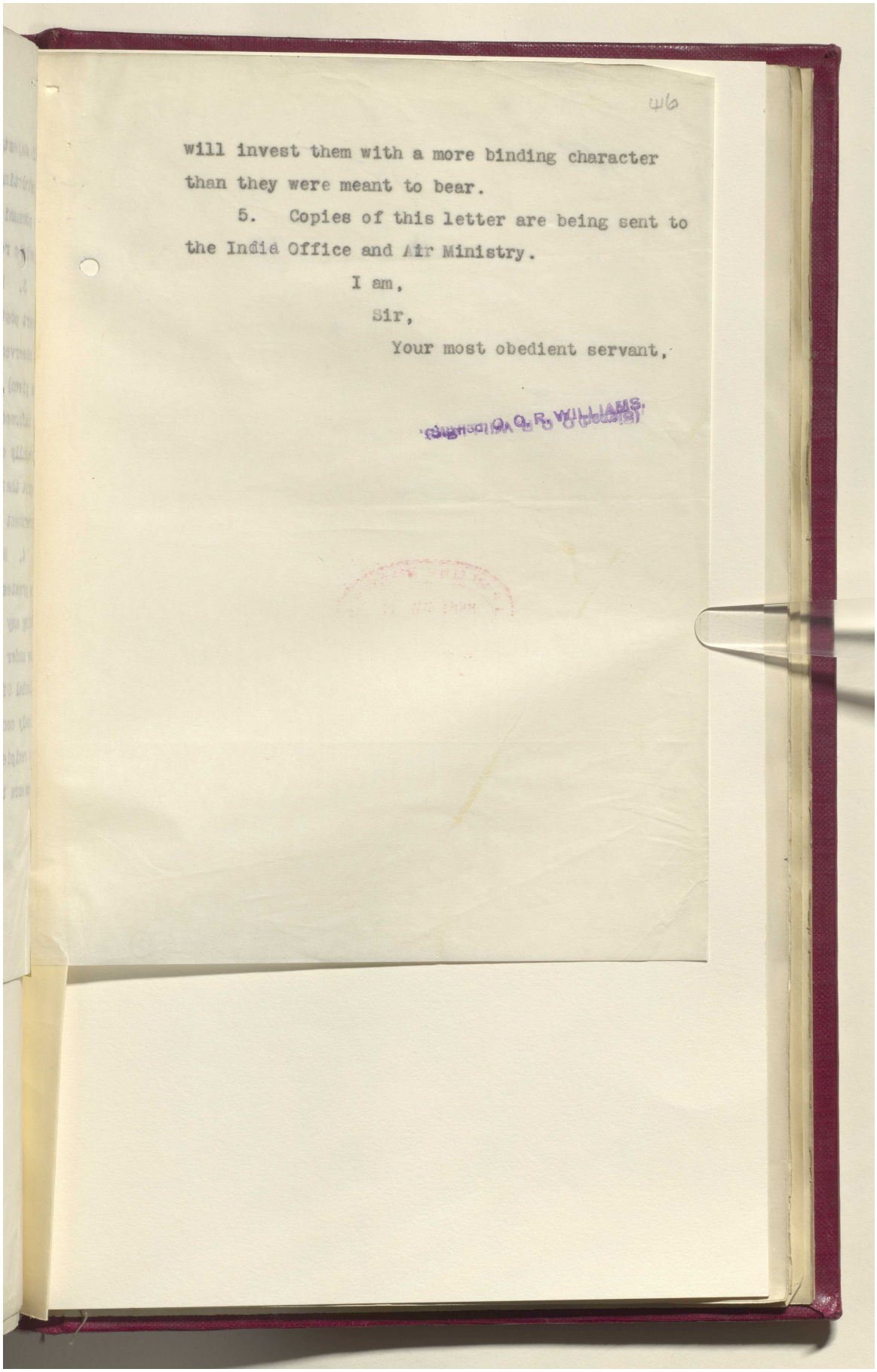

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will invest them with a more binding character than they were meant to bear.

5. Copies of this letter are being sent to the India Office and Air Ministry.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. G. R. WILLIAMS.

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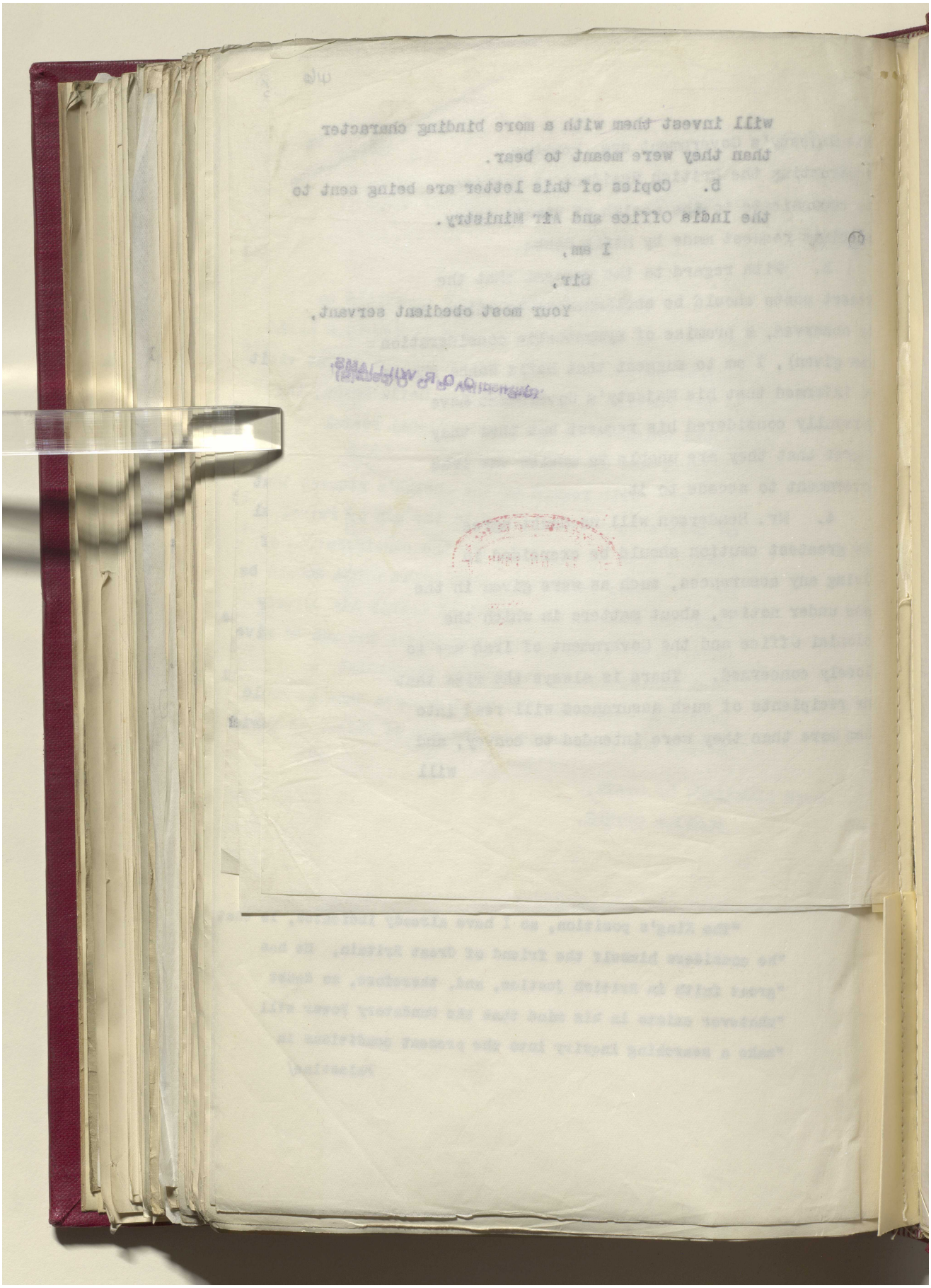

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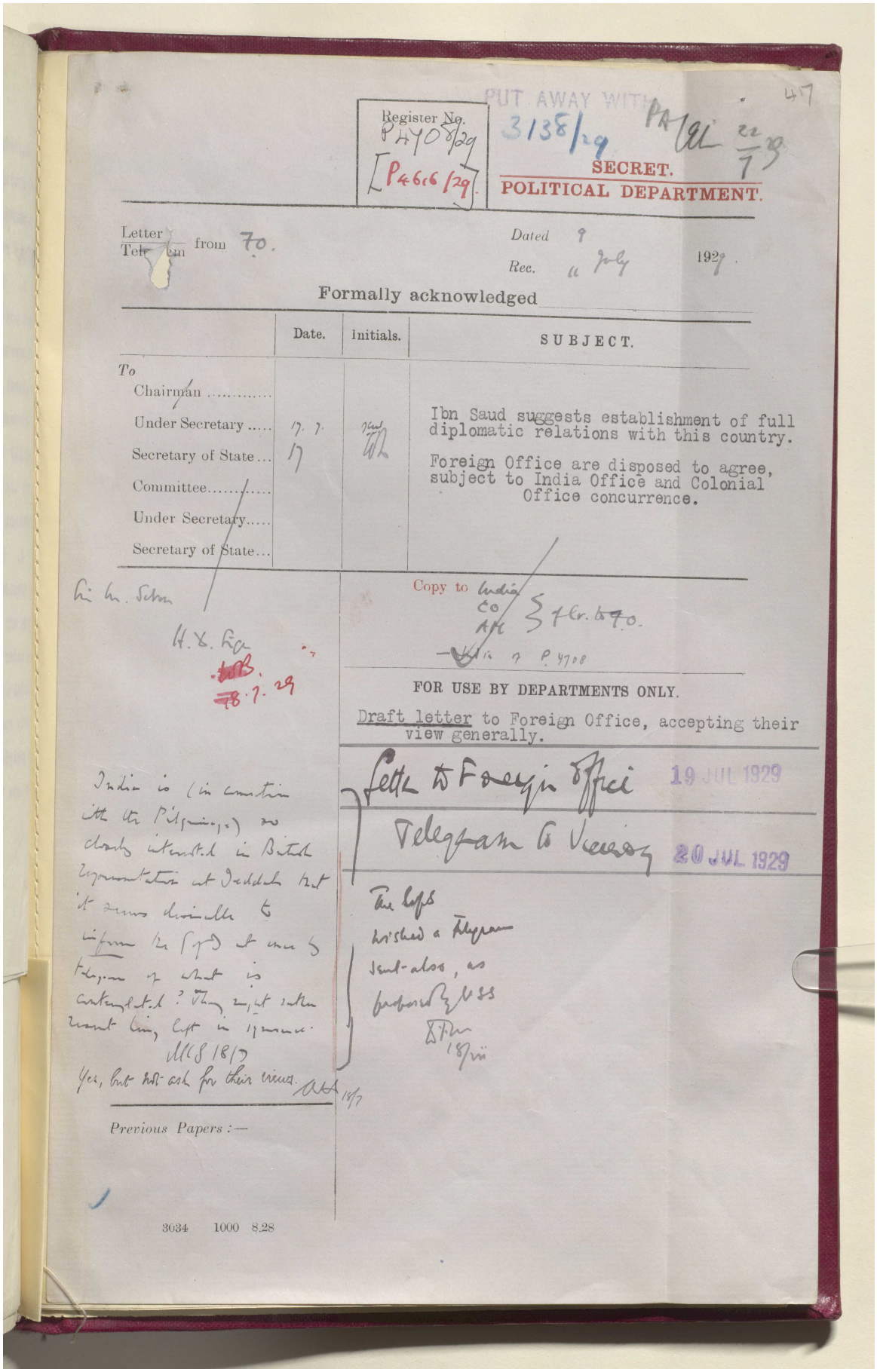

47

PUT AWAY WITH 3138/29 PA/ 22/7/29

Register No. P4708/29 [P4616/29]

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter / Telegram from 70. Dated 9 Rec. 11 July 1929.

Formally acknowledged

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Chairman			Ibn Saud suggests establishment of full diplomatic relations with this country.
Under Secretary	17. 7.	[illegible]	Foreign Office are disposed to agree, subject to India Office and Colonial Office concurrence.
Secretary of State ...	17	[illegible]	
Committee.....			
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Sir M. Sebon

H. X. Fiqa

~~[illegible]~~ 18.7.29

Copy to India, CO, AH } Cr. to 70.

India 7 P. 4708

FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.

Draft letter to Foreign Office, accepting their view generally.

Letter to Foreign Office 19 JUL 1929

Telegram to Viceroy 20 JUL 1929

The Lefs wished a telegram sent also, as proposed by USS

[illegible] 18/vii

India is (in connection with the Pilgrimage) so closely interested in British representation at Jeddah that it seems desirable to inform the Govt at once by telegram of what is contemplated? They might rather resent being left in ignorance.

MCS 18/7

Yes, but not ask for their views. [illegible] 18/7

Previous Papers :—

3034 1000 8.28

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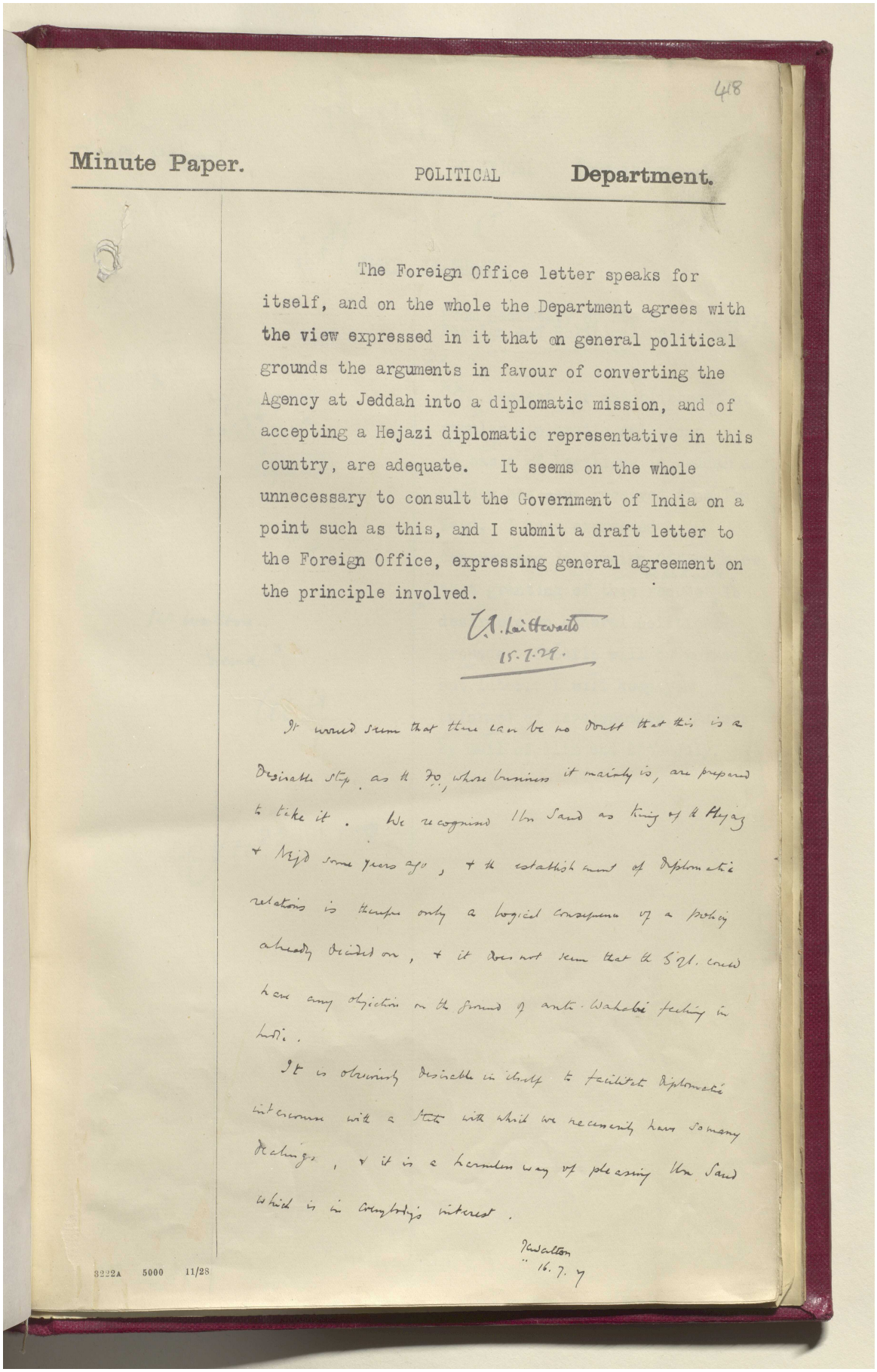

418

Minute Paper. POLITICAL **Department.**

The Foreign Office letter speaks for itself, and on the whole the Department agrees with the view expressed in it that on general political grounds the arguments in favour of converting the Agency at Jeddah into a diplomatic mission, and of accepting a Hejazi diplomatic representative in this country, are adequate. It seems on the whole unnecessary to consult the Government of India on a point such as this, and I submit a draft letter to the Foreign Office, expressing general agreement on the principle involved.

C.A. Laithwaite
15.7.29.

It would seem that there can be no doubt that this is a desirable step as H.M. whose business it mainly is, are prepared to take it. We recognised Ibn Saud as King of the Hejaz & Nejd some years ago, & the establishment of diplomatic relations is therefore only a logical consequence of a policy already decided on, & it does not seem that the G.O.I. could have any objection on the ground of anti-Wahabi feeling in India.

It is obviously desirable in itself to facilitate diplomatic intercourse with a State with which we recently have so many dealings, & it is a harmless way of pleasing Ibn Saud which is in everybody's interest.

J. Walton
16.7.29

3222A 5000 11/28

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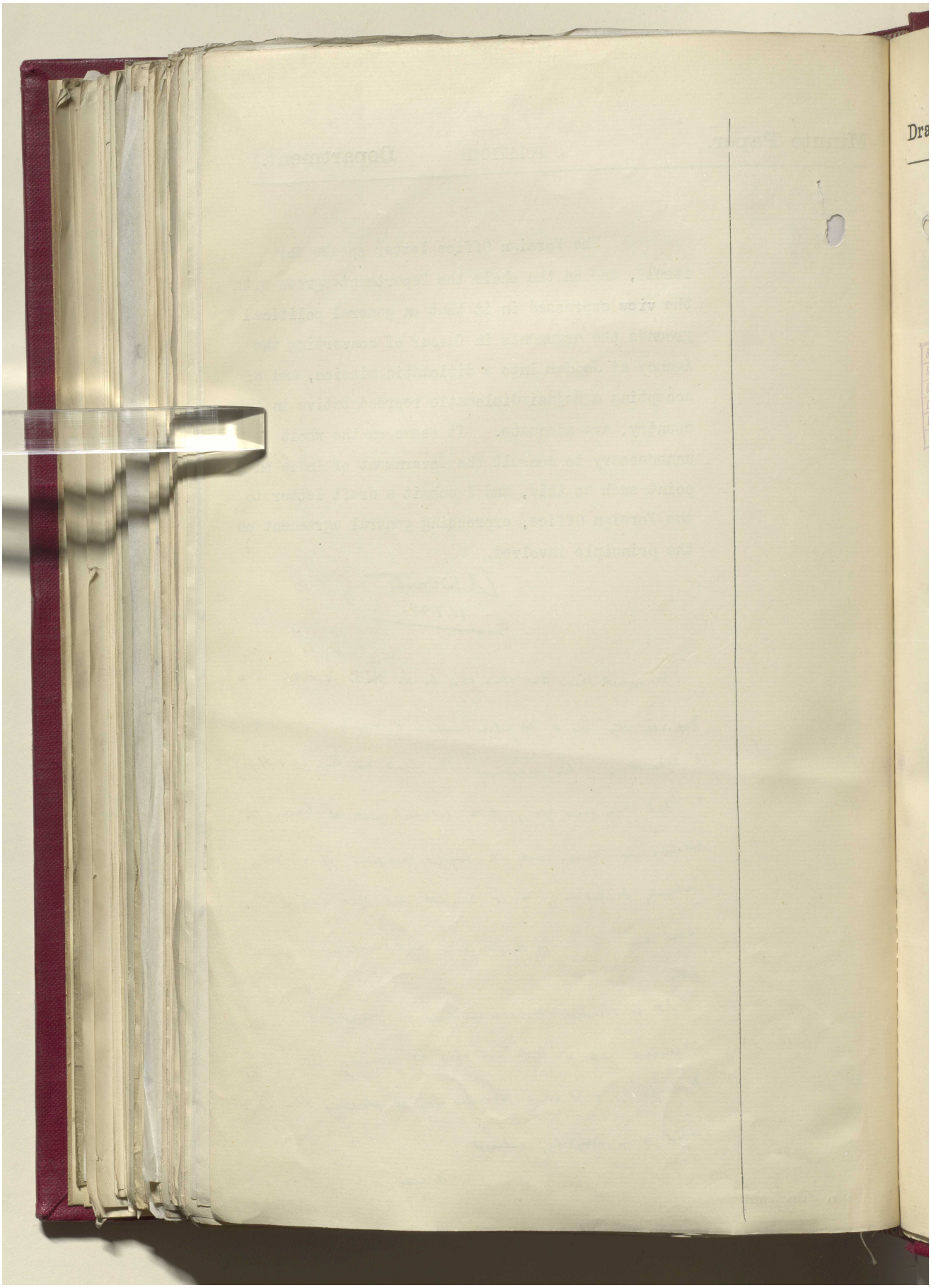

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P4616/29

49

Draft Paper. POLITICAL **Department.**

Book

DRAFT TELEGRAM:

From Secretary of State to Viceroy, Foreign and Political Department.

2278

SEEN BY	DATE	TIME
RECD. IN TEL. BCH	20/7/29	9 am
CODE. X or XX	XX	
DESPATCHED	20/7/29	11.35 pm
No. OF WORDS	25	
SENDER'S INITIALS	L.G.	

Send 19.7

Mr Walton.

Send?

Ah 19/7

Copy to 70.

22 JUL 1929

XX Request for establishment of regular diplomatic relations on basis of Legations in Jeddah and London has been received from Ibn Saud. I have expressed my concurrence in Foreign Office view that granting of this request in principle is desirable on general political grounds. Details will be worked out later. I will keep you informed of developments. Papers by mail of 11th and 25th July.

3523 5000 3.29

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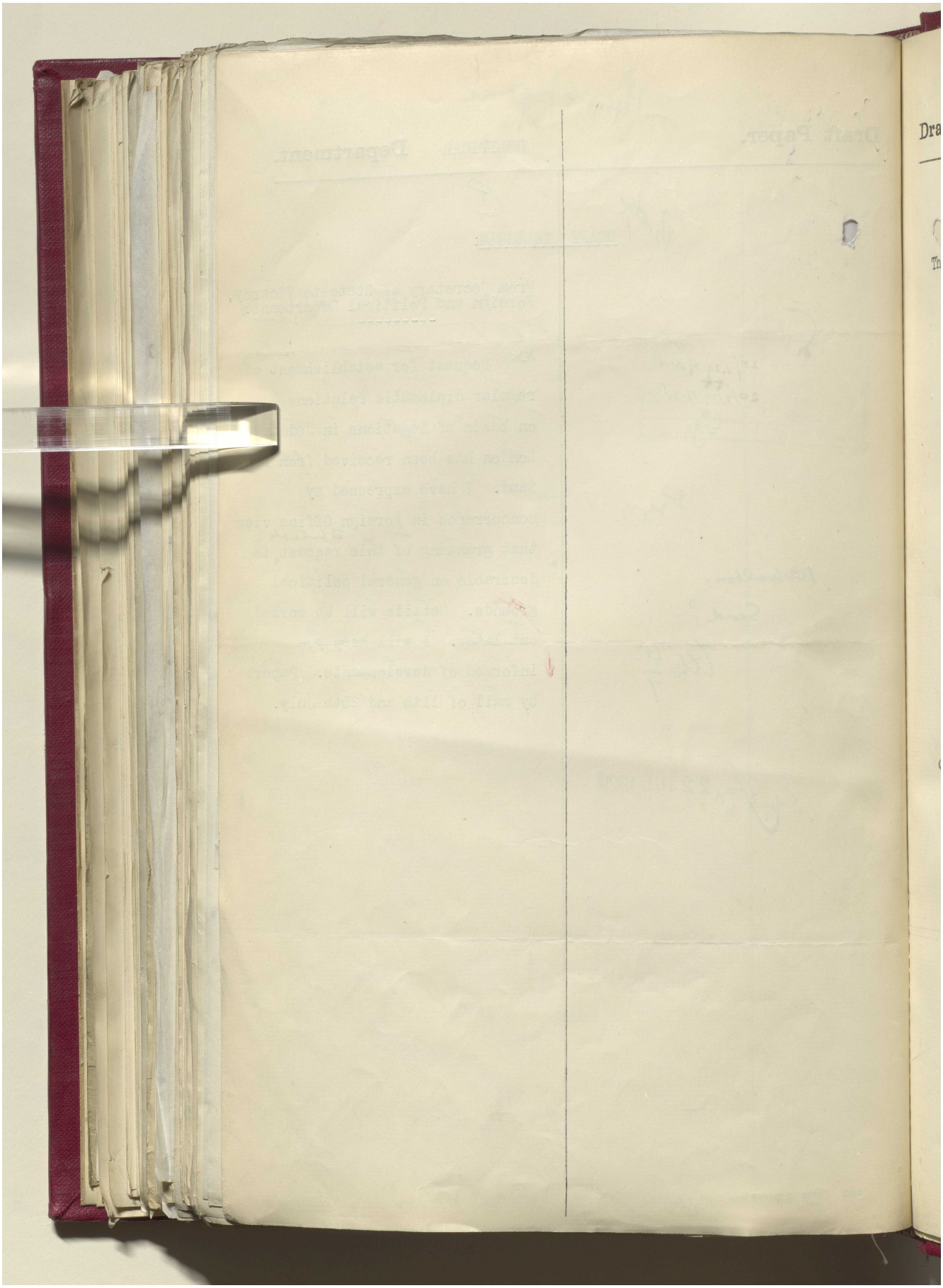

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P 4616/29

420

Draft Paper. POLITICAL **Department.**

Sir,

19 JUL 1929

The Under Secretary of State,
FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W. 1.

In reply to Lord Monteagle's letter of the 9th July, No. E 3252/821/91, ~~on the question of~~ the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the King of the ~~Hejaz and Nejd and this country~~, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to inform you that, for the reasons therein stated, he ~~is in general agreement~~ agrees with Mr. Secretary Henderson's views as to the desirability of converting His Majesty's Agency at Jeddah into a diplomatic mission, and establishing ~~full~~ regular diplomatic relations with King Ibn Saud.

2. Copy of this letter ~~is~~ are being sent to the Colonial Office and to the Air Ministry.

(Sd.) J.C. WALTON

Copy to India
25 JUL 1929

Copy to India
JAM
19 JUL 1929

3523 5000 3.29

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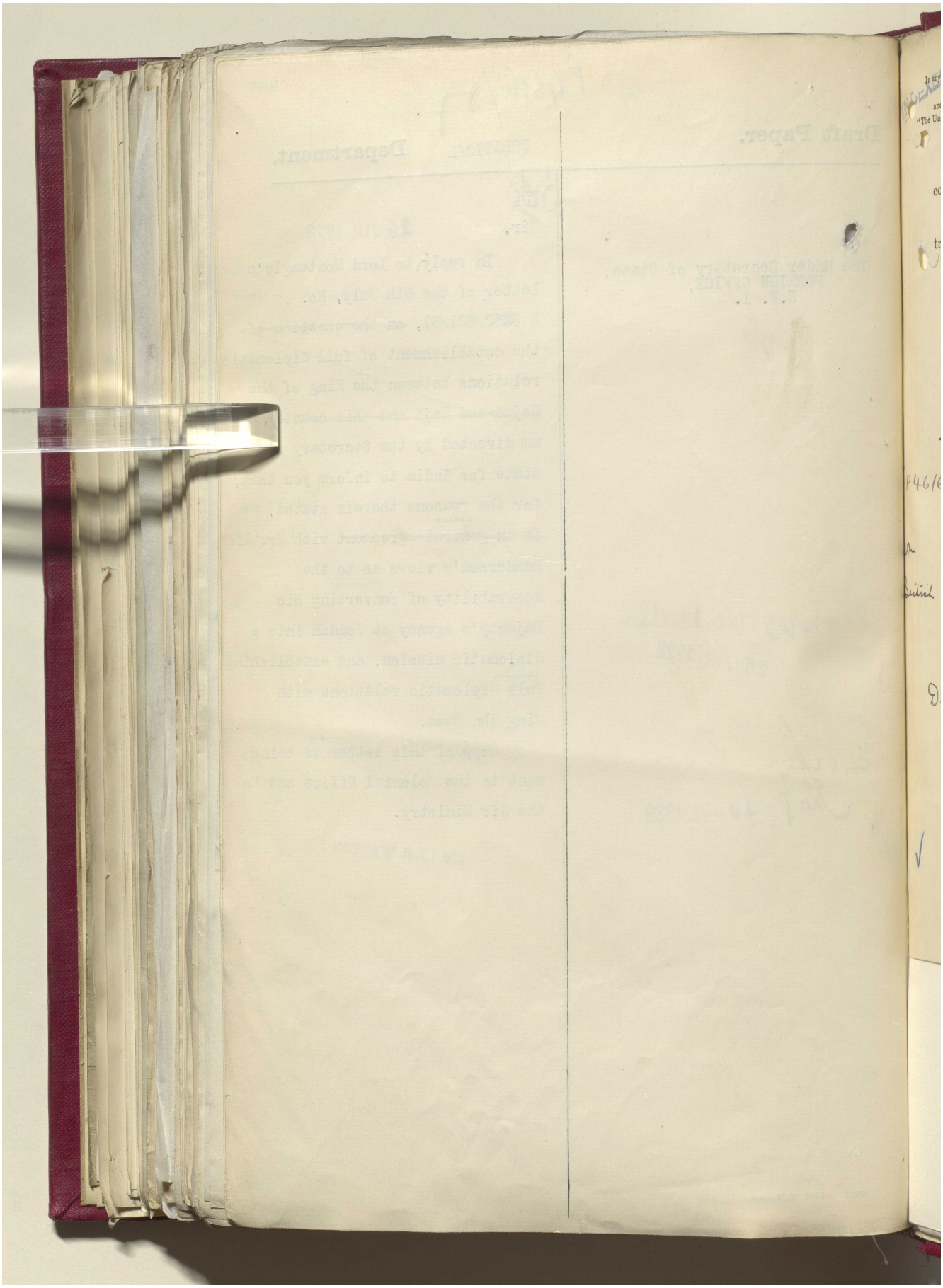

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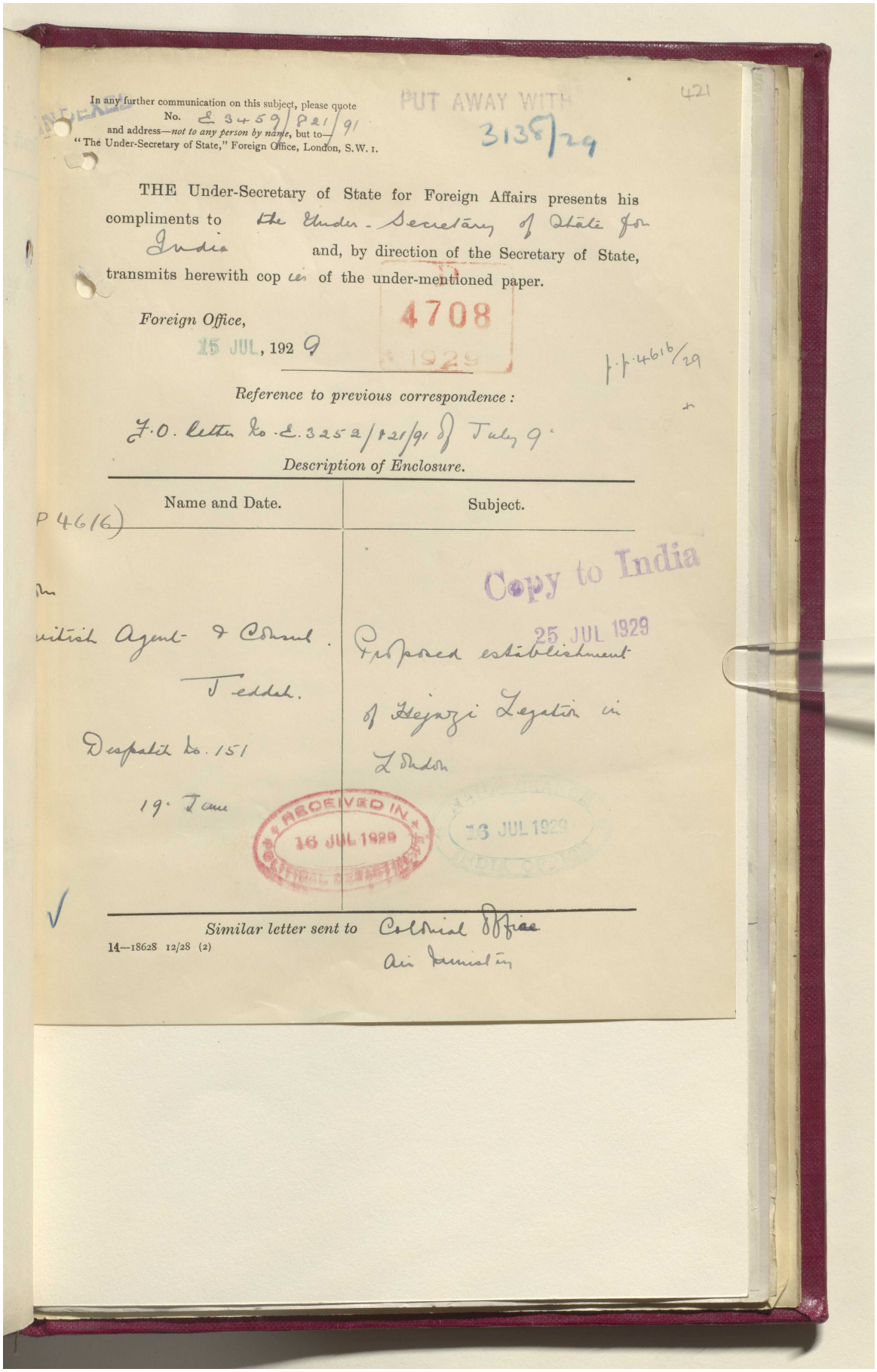

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 3459/821/91 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

PUT AWAY WITH 3138/29

421

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
15 JUL, 1929

4708
1929

P.P. 4616/29

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O. letter No. E.3252/821/91 of July 9.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
P 4616) British Agent & Consul. Jeddah. Despatch No. 151 19 June	Copy to India 25 JUL 1929 Proposed establishment of Hejazi Legation in London

RECEIVED IN CENTRAL REGISTRY 16 JUL 1929

INDIA OFFICE 23 JUL 1929

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office Air Ministry

14—18628 12/28 (2)

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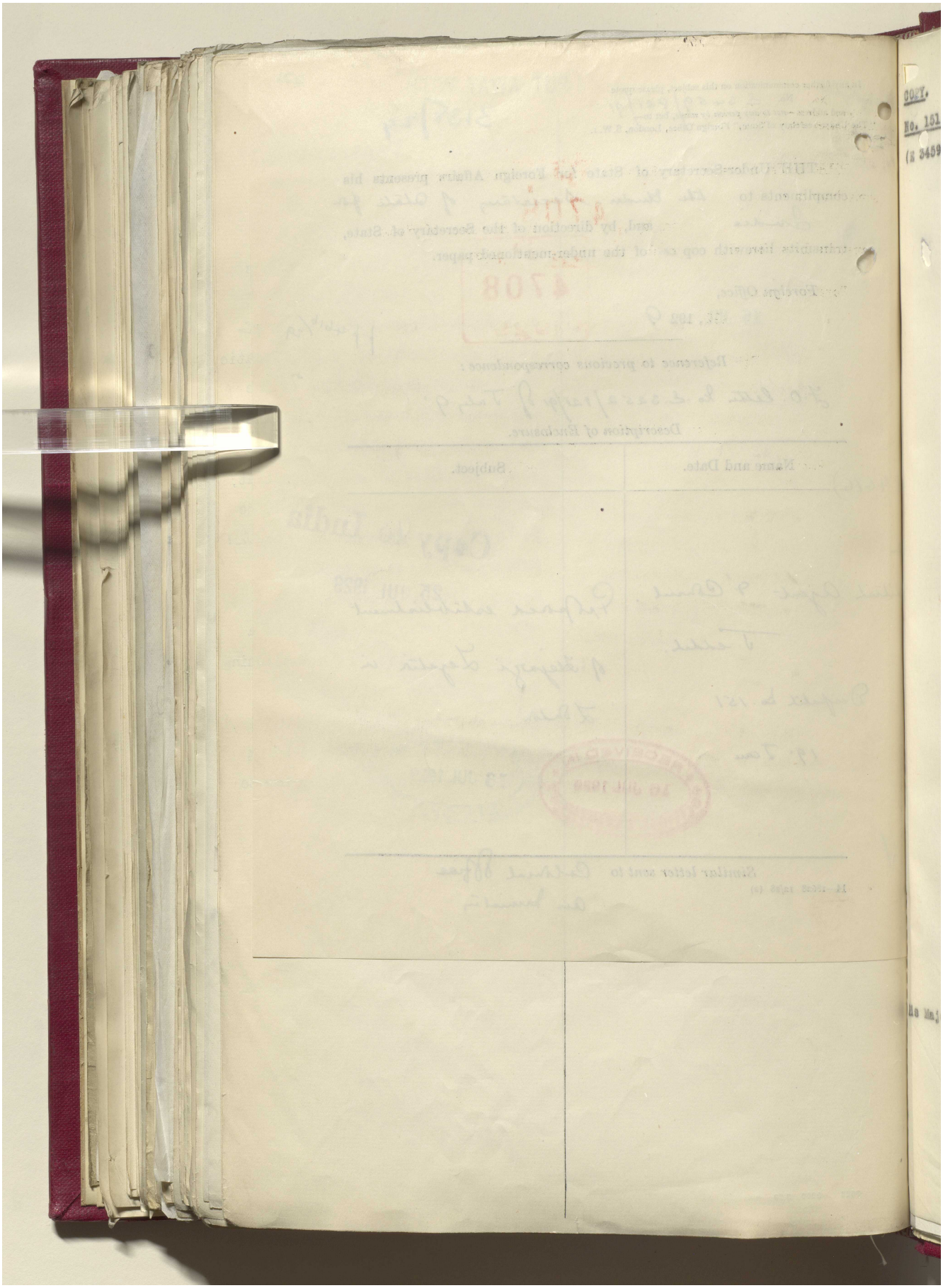

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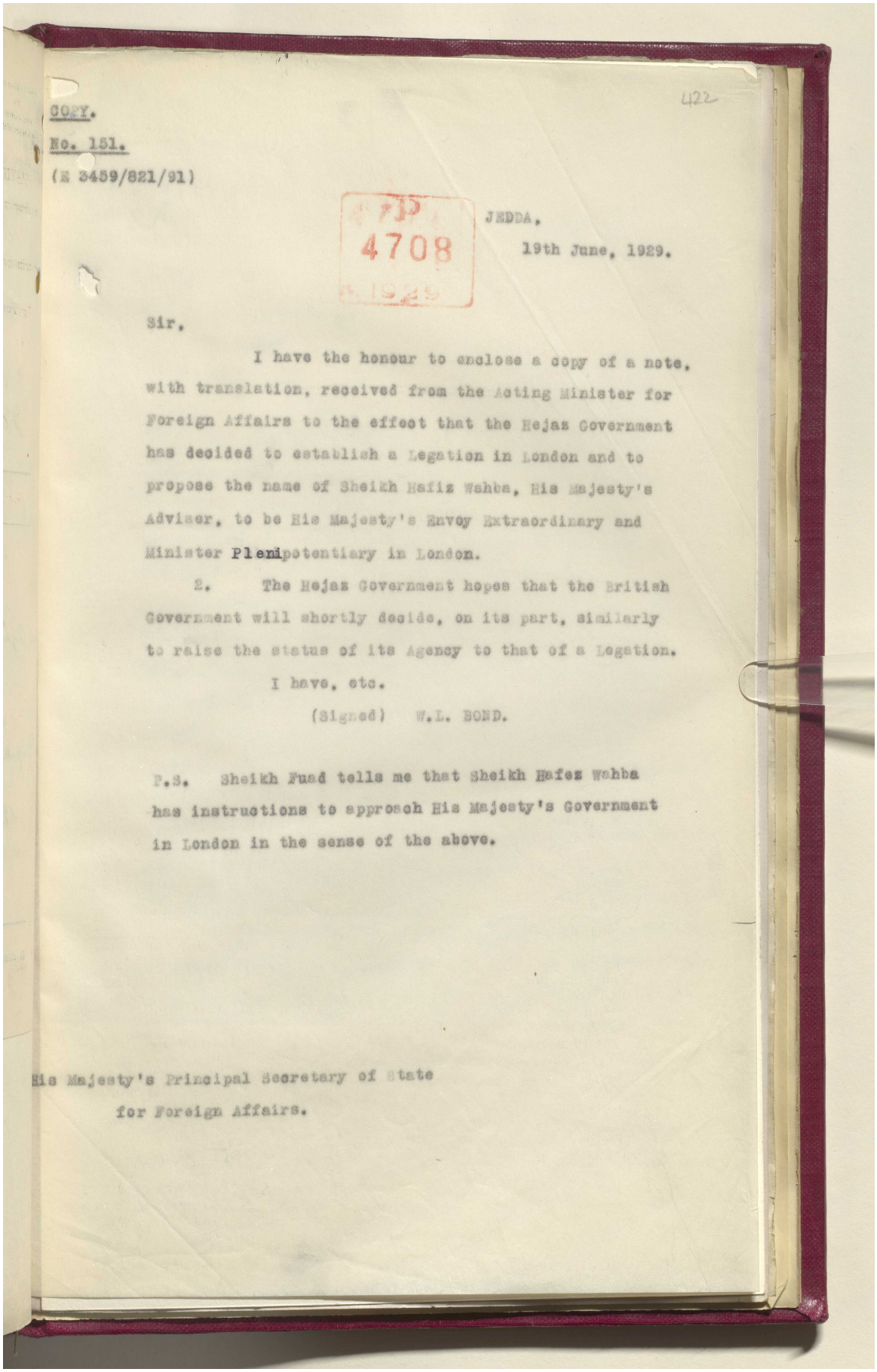

422

COPY.

No. 151.

(E 3459/821/91)

4708

JEDDA,

19th June, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a note, with translation, received from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs to the effect that the Hejaz Government has decided to establish a Legation in London and to propose the name of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, His Majesty's Adviser, to be His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in London.

2. The Hejaz Government hopes that the British Government will shortly decide, on its part, similarly to raise the status of its Agency to that of a Legation.

I have, etc.

(Signed) W.L. BOND.

P.S. Sheikh Fuad tells me that Sheikh Hafez Wahba has instructions to approach His Majesty's Government in London in the sense of the above.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

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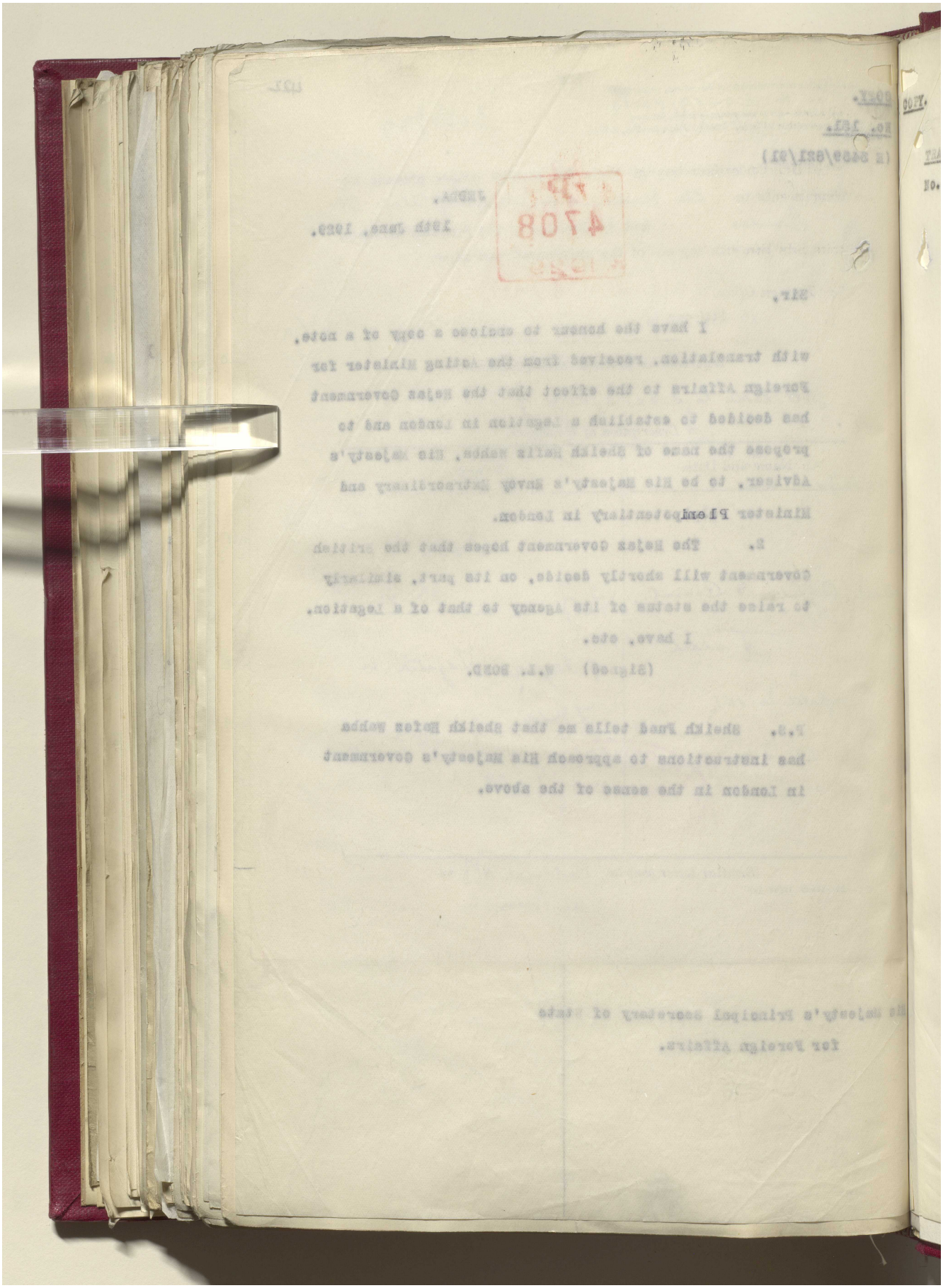

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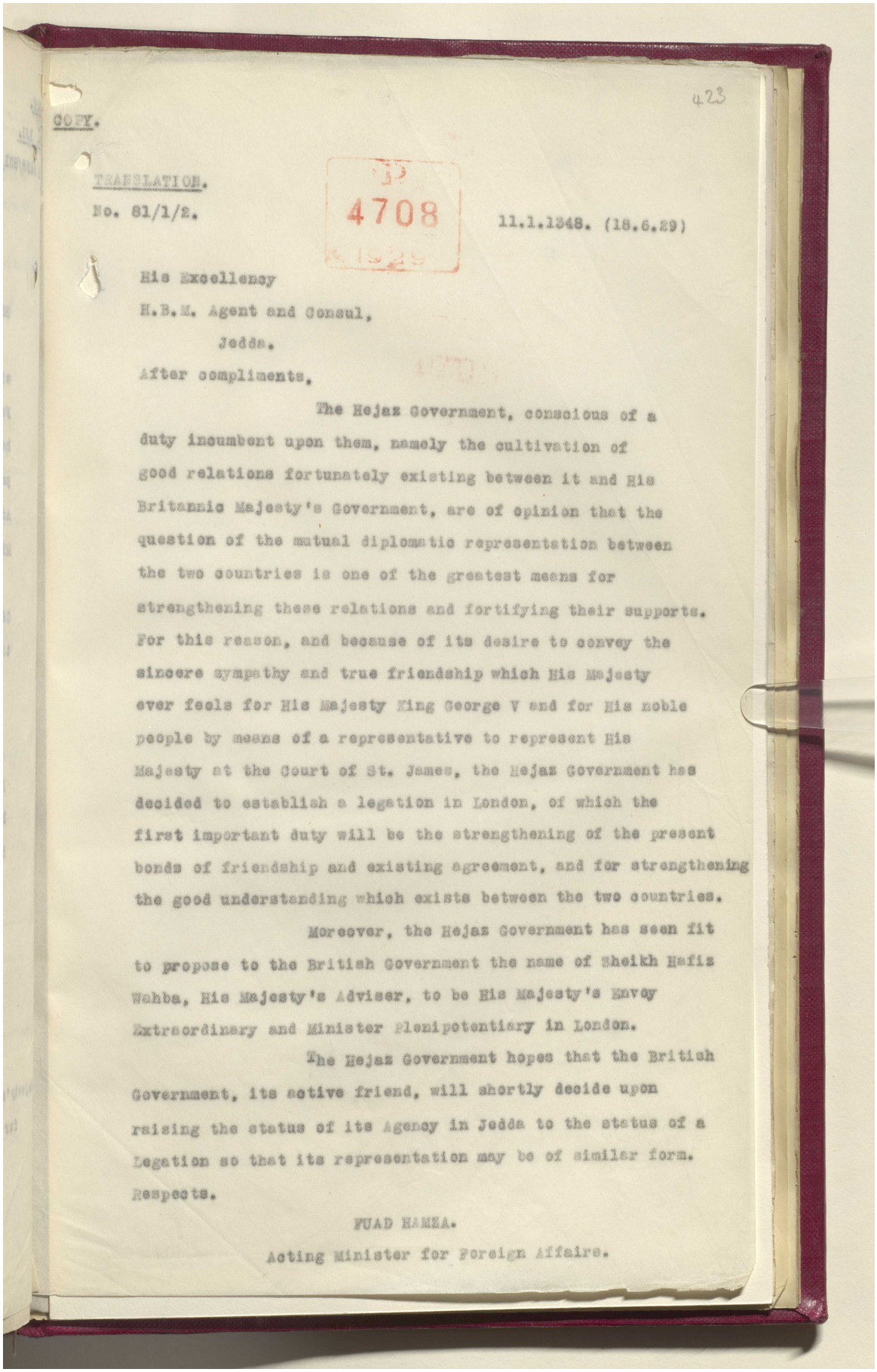

423

COPY.

TRANSLATION.

No. 81/1/2.

4708

11.1.1348. (18.6.29)

His Excellency
H.B.M. Agent and Consul,
Jedda.

After compliments,

The Hejaz Government, conscious of a duty incumbent upon them, namely the cultivation of good relations fortunately existing between it and His Britannic Majesty's Government, are of opinion that the question of the mutual diplomatic representation between the two countries is one of the greatest means for strengthening these relations and fortifying their supports. For this reason, and because of its desire to convey the sincere sympathy and true friendship which His Majesty ever feels for His Majesty King George V and for His noble people by means of a representative to represent His Majesty at the Court of St. James, the Hejaz Government has decided to establish a legation in London, of which the first important duty will be the strengthening of the present bonds of friendship and existing agreement, and for strengthening the good understanding which exists between the two countries.

Moreover, the Hejaz Government has seen fit to propose to the British Government the name of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, His Majesty's Adviser, to be His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in London.

The Hejaz Government hopes that the British Government, its active friend, will shortly decide upon raising the status of its Agency in Jedda to the status of a Legation so that its representation may be of similar form.

Respects.

FUAD HAMZA.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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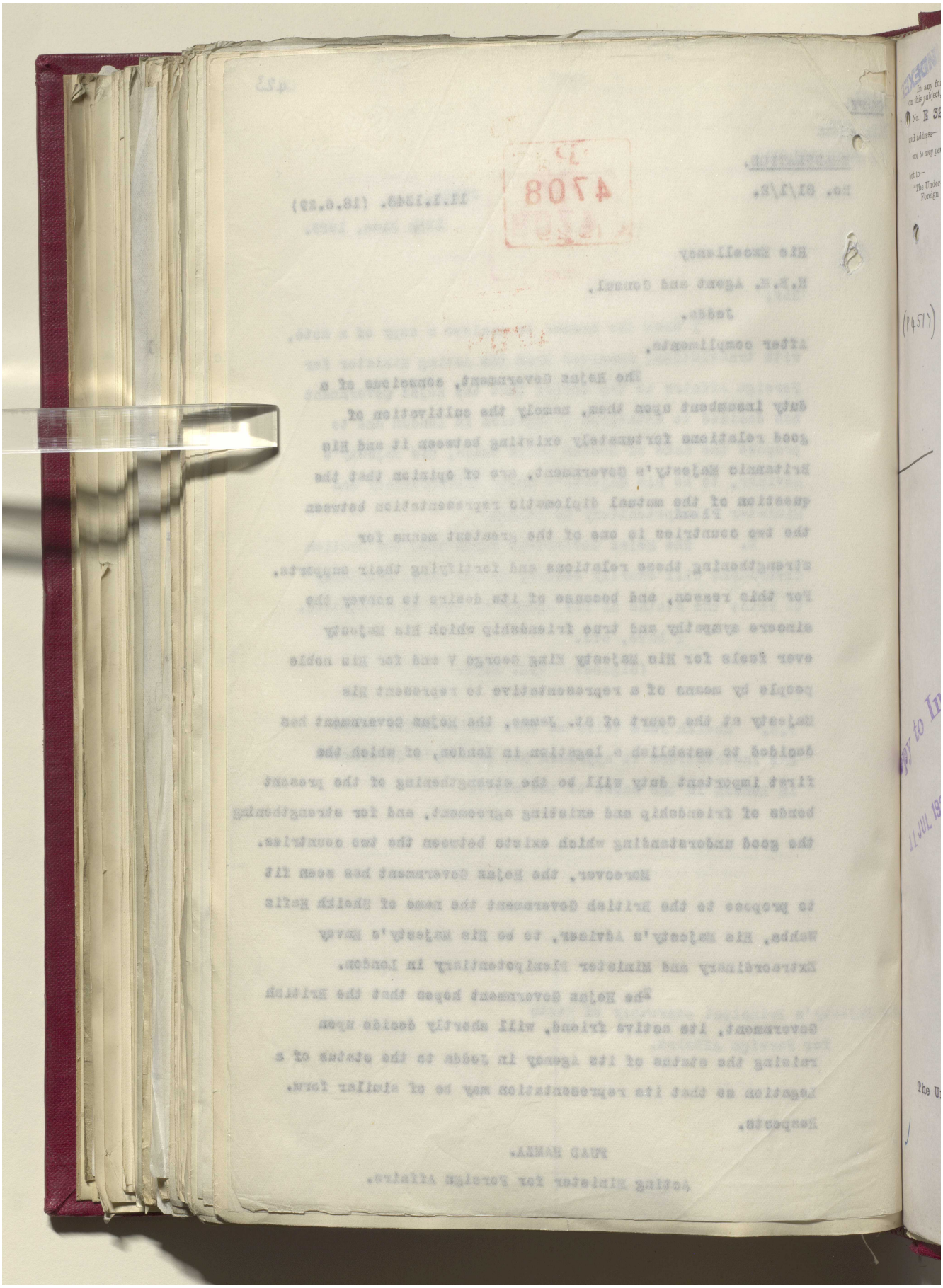

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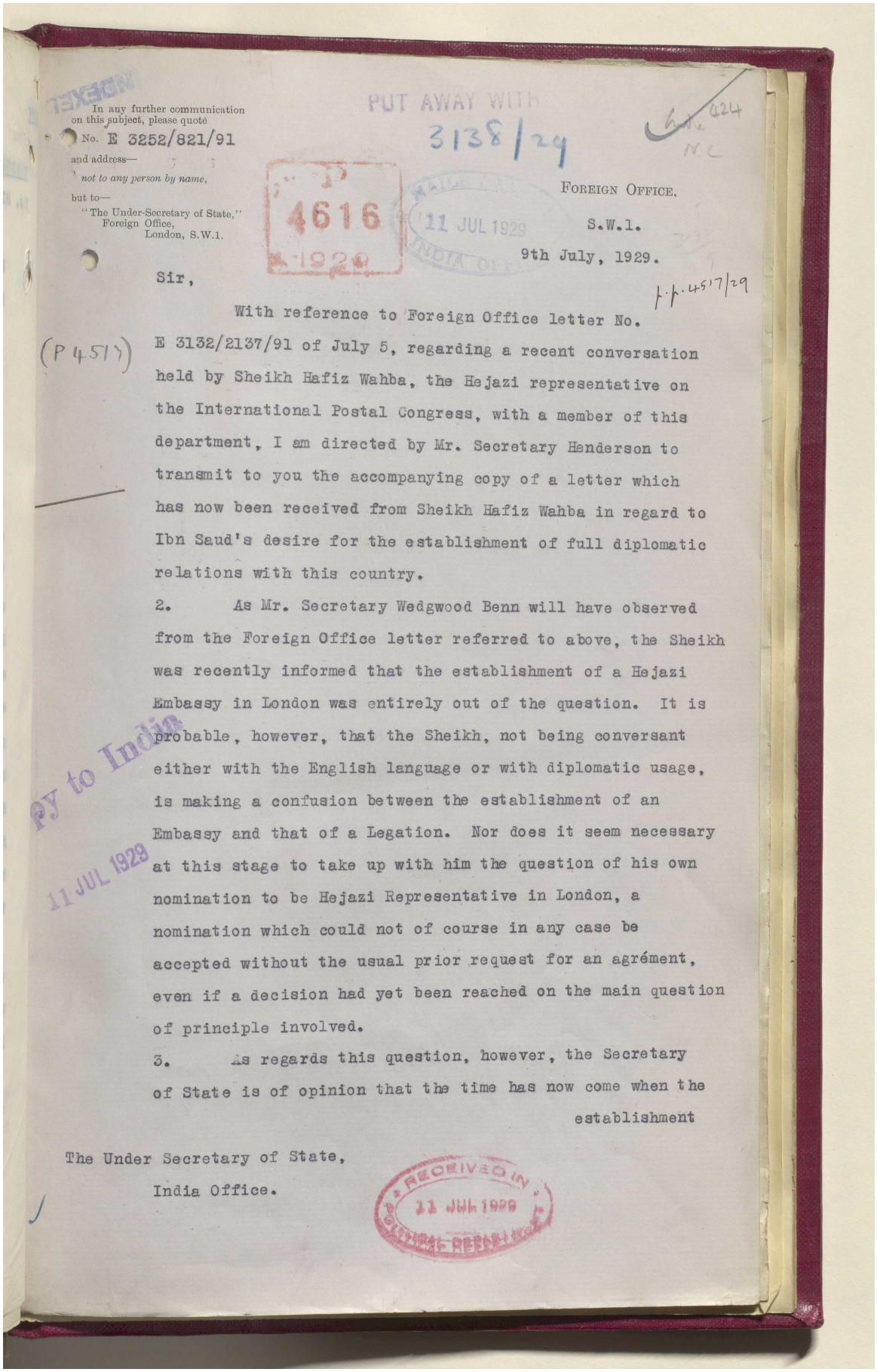

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 3252/821/91
and address—
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but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

PUT AWAY WITH 3138/24

424

4616 1929

11 JUL 1929 INDIA OFFICE

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.
9th July, 1929.

P.P. 4517/29

Sir,

(P 4517)

With reference to Foreign Office letter No. E 3132/2137/91 of July 5, regarding a recent conversation held by Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, the Hejazi representative on the International Postal Congress, with a member of this department, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Henderson to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter which has now been received from Sheikh Hafiz Wahba in regard to Ibn Saud's desire for the establishment of full diplomatic relations with this country.

2. As Mr. Secretary Wedgwood Benn will have observed from the Foreign Office letter referred to above, the Sheikh was recently informed that the establishment of a Hejazi Embassy in London was entirely out of the question. It is probable, however, that the Sheikh, not being conversant either with the English language or with diplomatic usage, is making a confusion between the establishment of an Embassy and that of a Legation. Nor does it seem necessary at this stage to take up with him the question of his own nomination to be Hejazi Representative in London, a nomination which could not of course in any case be accepted without the usual prior request for an agrément, even if a decision had yet been reached on the main question of principle involved.

3. As regards this question, however, the Secretary of State is of opinion that the time has now come when the establishment

py to India 11 JUL 1929

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

RECEIVED IN 11 JUN 1929 DESPATCH REGISTRY

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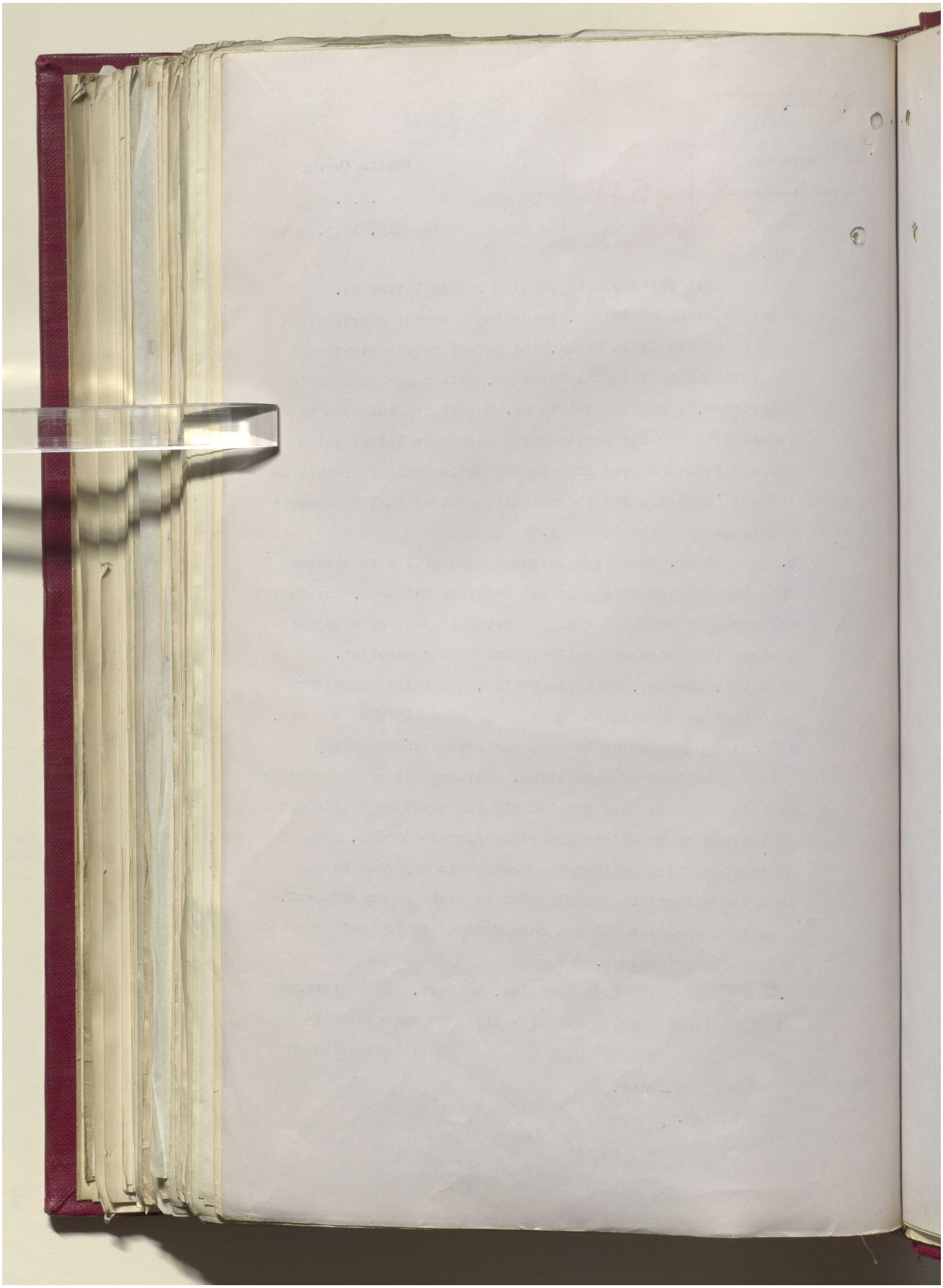

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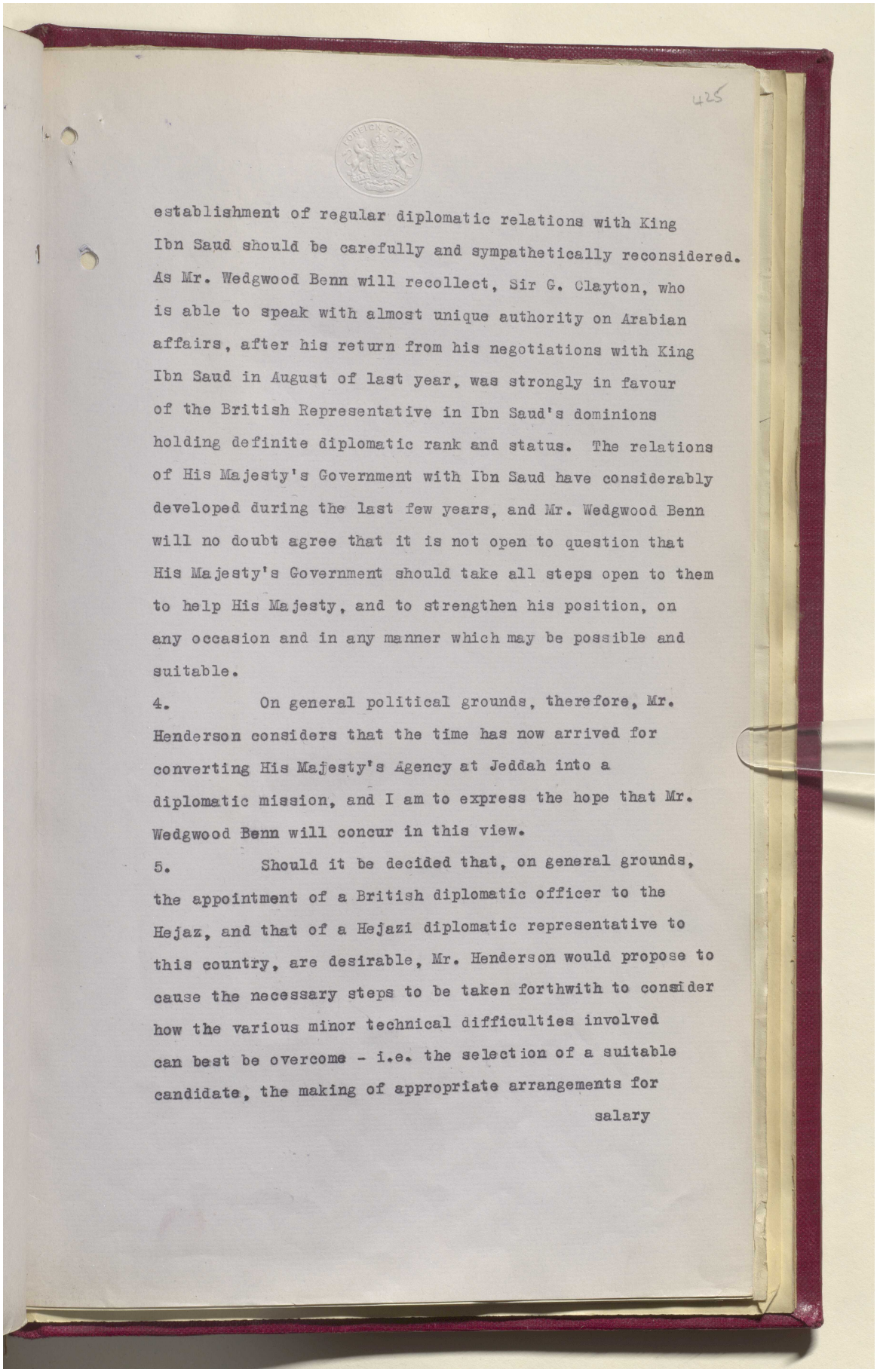

425

establishment of regular diplomatic relations with King Ibn Saud should be carefully and sympathetically reconsidered. As Mr. Wedgwood Benn will recollect, Sir G. Clayton, who is able to speak with almost unique authority on Arabian affairs, after his return from his negotiations with King Ibn Saud in August of last year, was strongly in favour of the British Representative in Ibn Saud's dominions holding definite diplomatic rank and status. The relations of His Majesty's Government with Ibn Saud have considerably developed during the last few years, and Mr. Wedgwood Benn will no doubt agree that it is not open to question that His Majesty's Government should take all steps open to them to help His Majesty, and to strengthen his position, on any occasion and in any manner which may be possible and suitable.

4. On general political grounds, therefore, Mr. Henderson considers that the time has now arrived for converting His Majesty's Agency at Jeddah into a diplomatic mission, and I am to express the hope that Mr. Wedgwood Benn will concur in this view.

5. Should it be decided that, on general grounds, the appointment of a British diplomatic officer to the Hejaz, and that of a Hejazi diplomatic representative to this country, are desirable, Mr. Henderson would propose to cause the necessary steps to be taken forthwith to consider how the various minor technical difficulties involved can best be overcome - i.e. the selection of a suitable candidate, the making of appropriate arrangements for

salary

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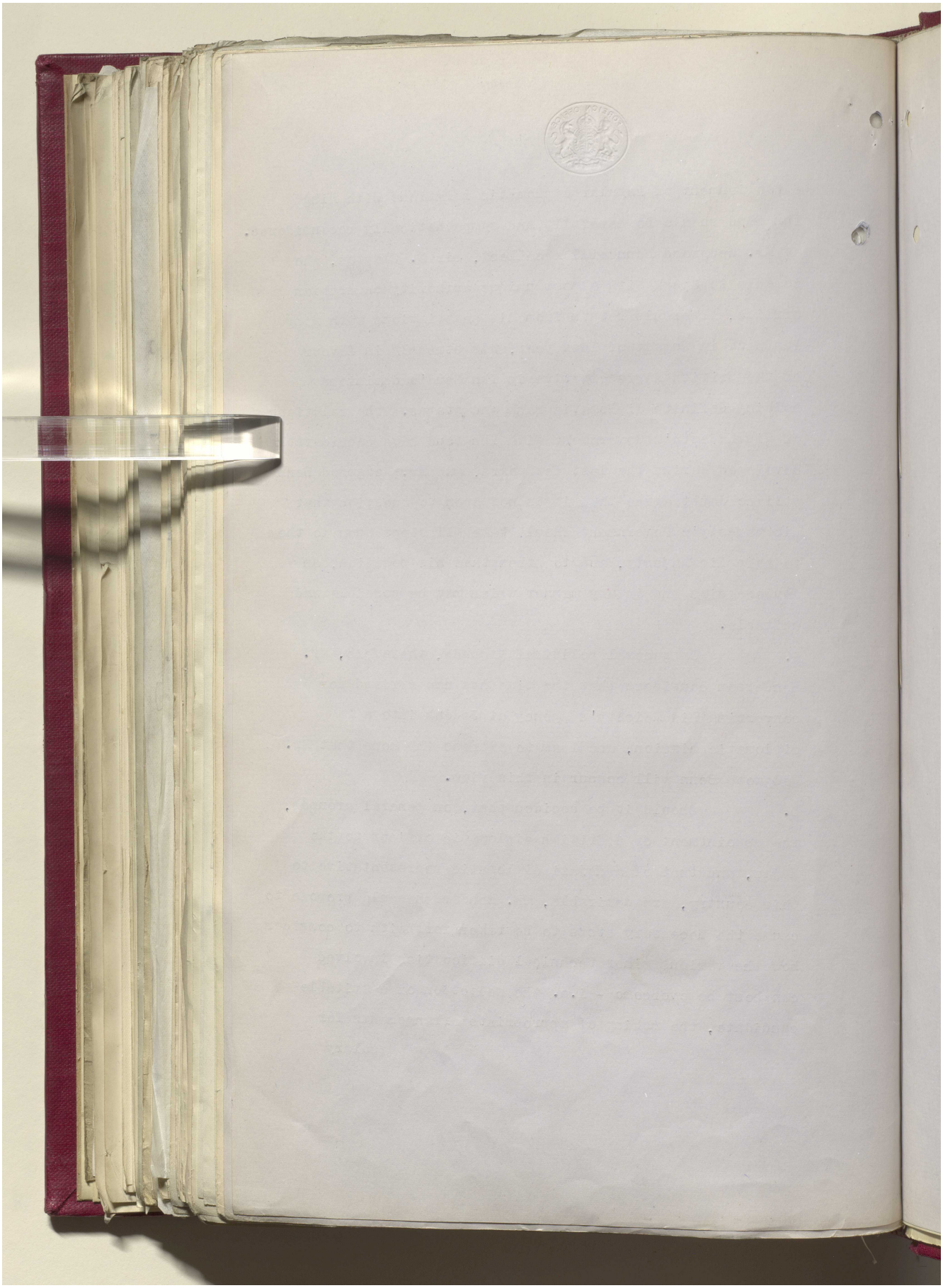

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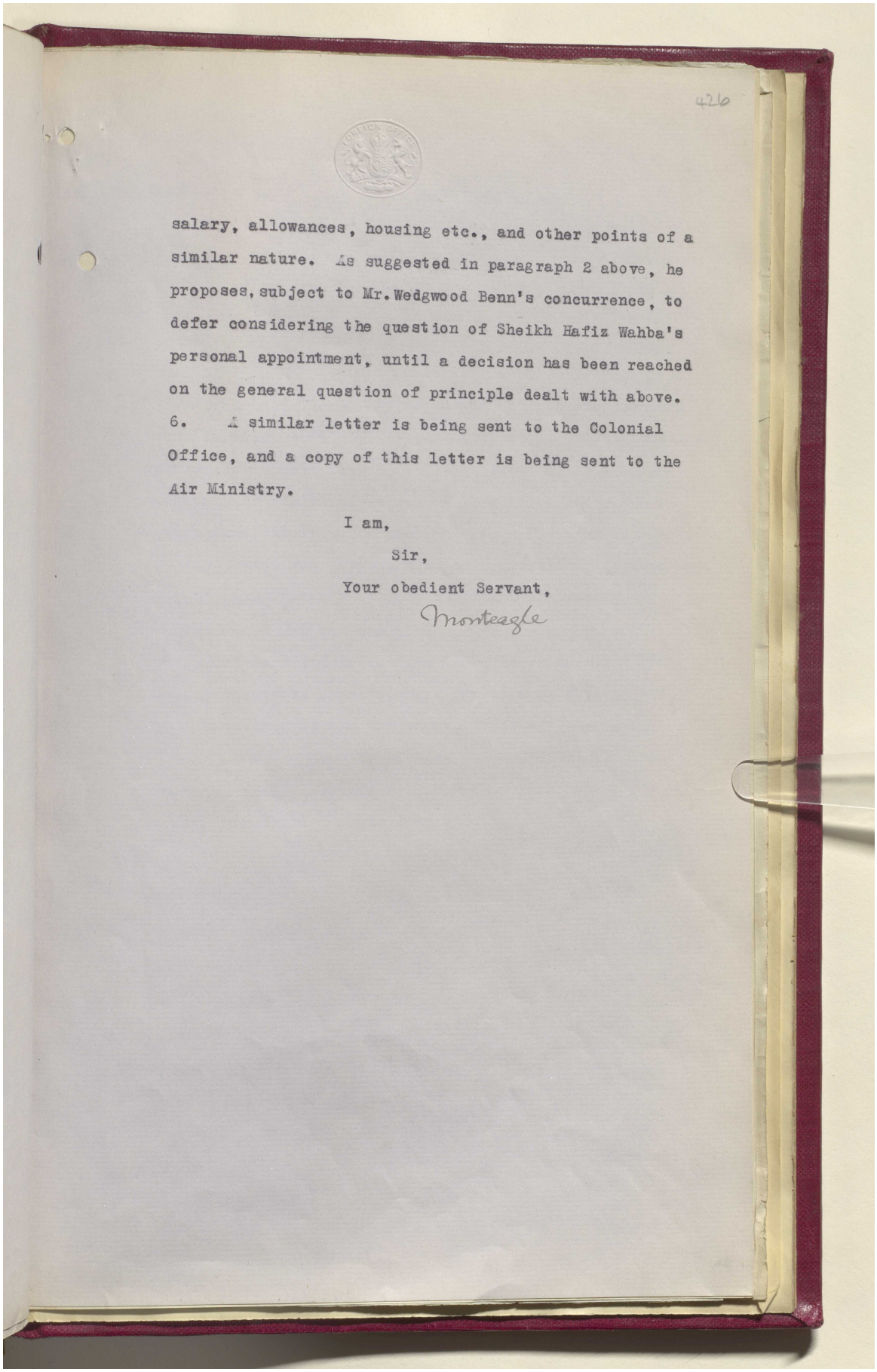

426

salary, allowances, housing etc., and other points of a similar nature. As suggested in paragraph 2 above, he proposes, subject to Mr. Wedgwood Benn's concurrence, to defer considering the question of Sheikh Hafiz Wahba's personal appointment, until a decision has been reached on the general question of principle dealt with above.

6. A similar letter is being sent to the Colonial Office, and a copy of this letter is being sent to the Air Ministry.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Monteagle

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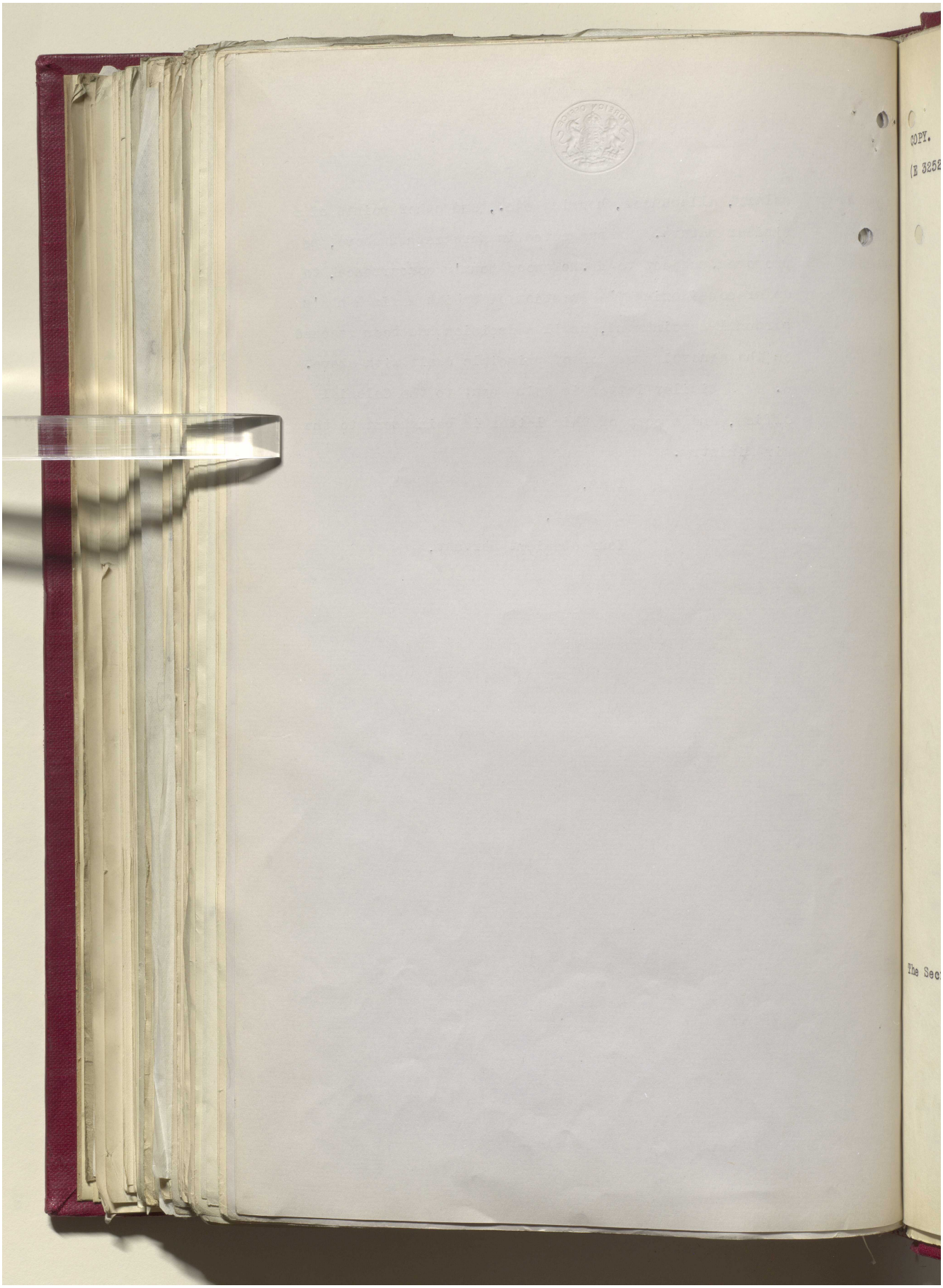

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427

COPY.

(E 3252/821/91)

Hyde Park Hotel,
Knightsbridge,
S.W.1.
24th June, 1929.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency's consideration that H.M. King of the Hedjaz, in view of His desire for closer relations with H.B.M. thinks that an exchange of political representation between the two Governments would serve that purpose. H.M.King of the Hedjaz, Nedjd and Dependencies has, therefore, decided to establish an Embassy in London and has graciously nominated me for the Post.

Meanwhile, He desires that the Jedda Political Agency should be elevated to a position compatible with the importance of the Hedjaz and Nejjd at present.

I hope, Your Excellency, this subject will be sympathetically treated by H.B.M.'s Government.

Believe me etc.,

(Sd.) SHIAKH HAFIZ WAHBA.

The Secretary of State,
Foreign Affairs,
London, S.W.1.

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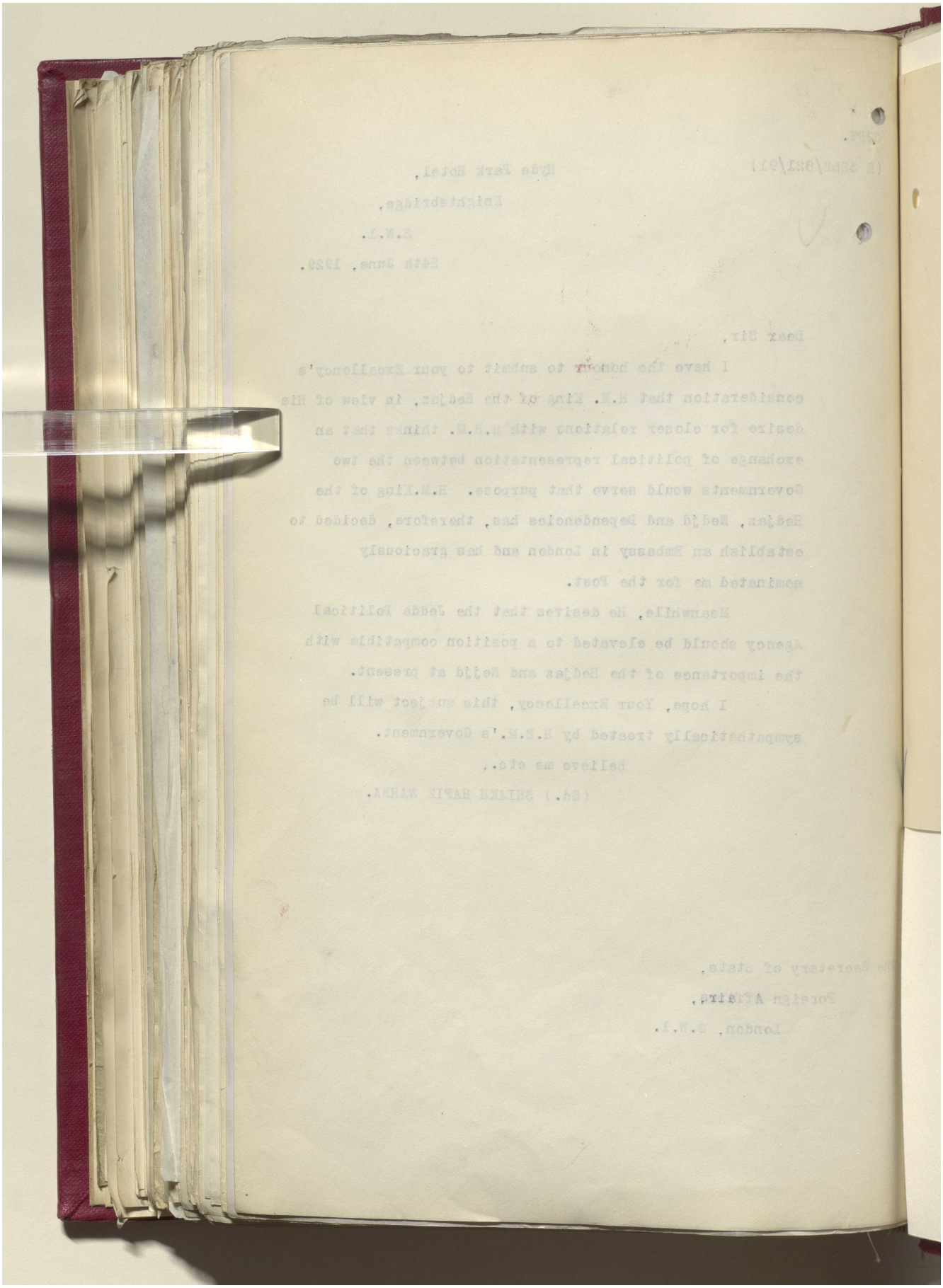

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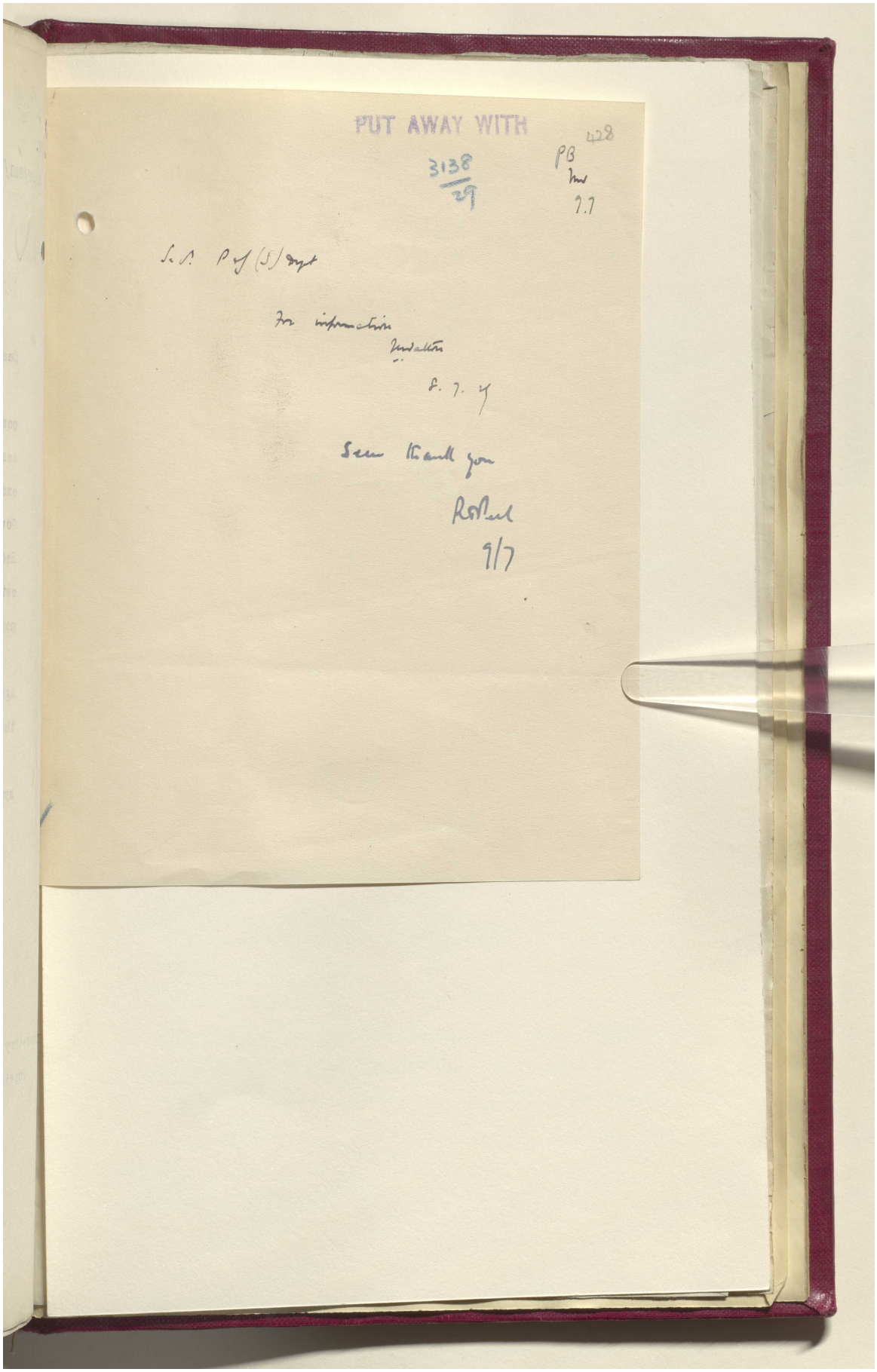

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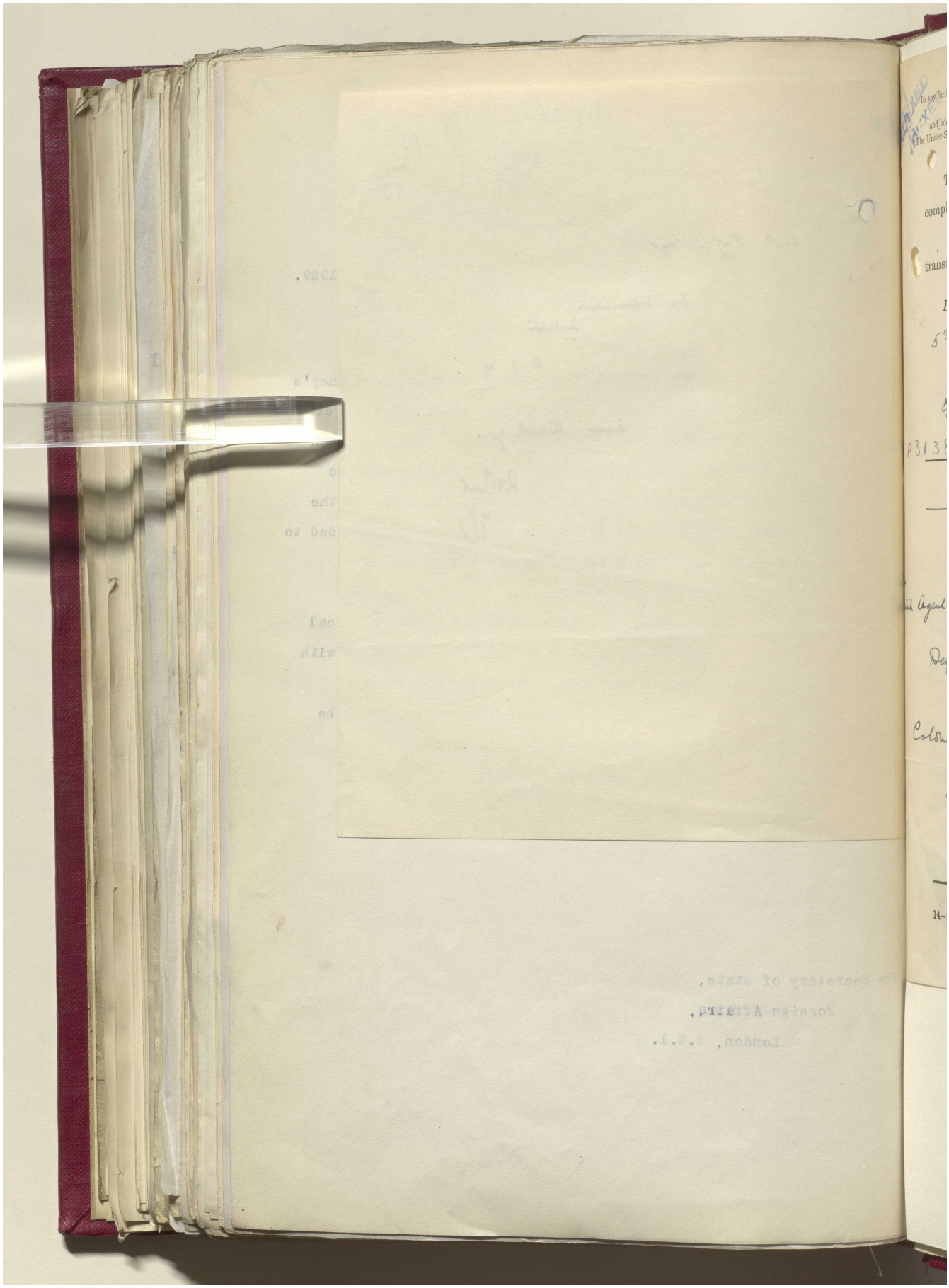

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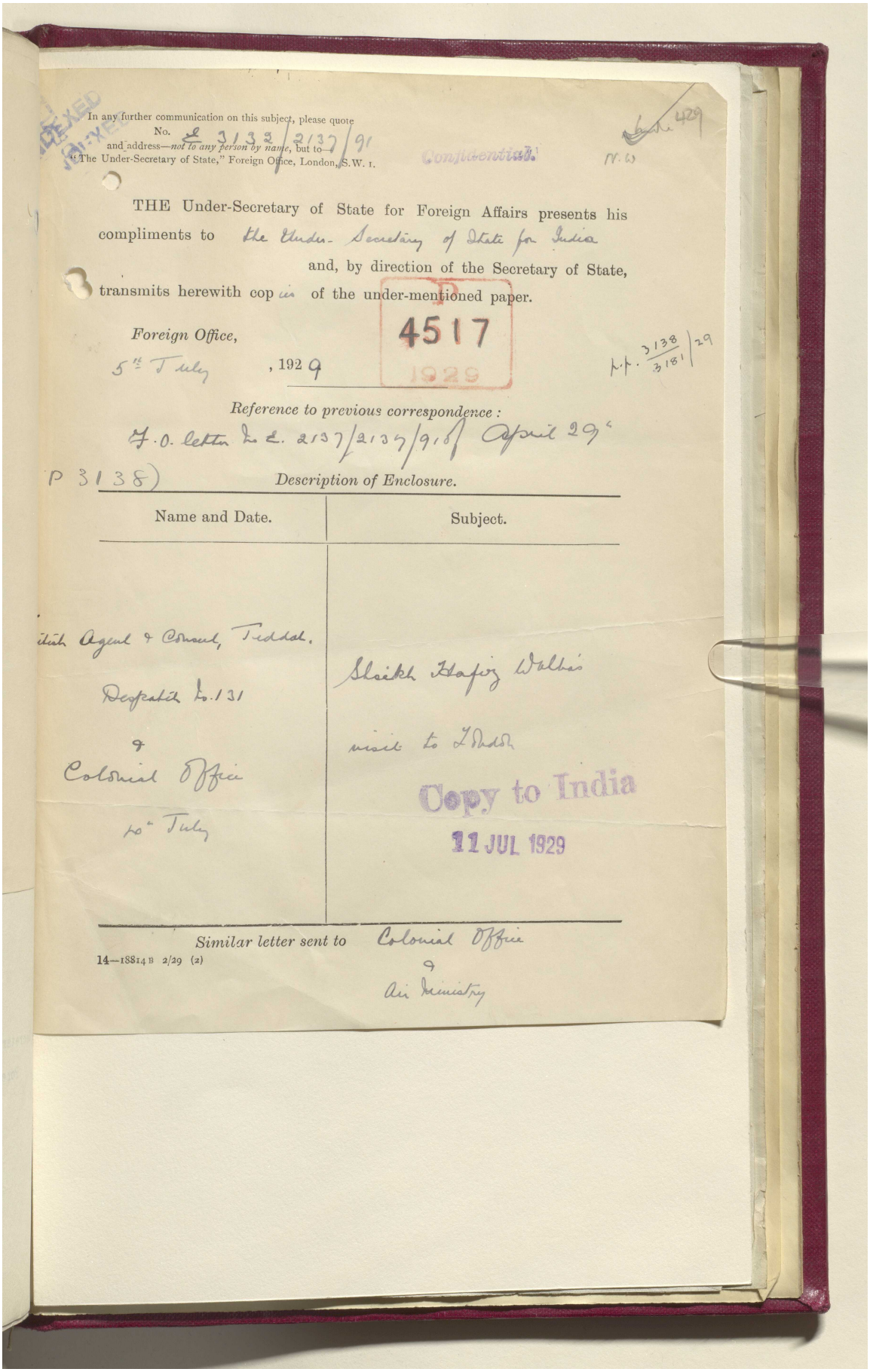

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No. E 3133/2137/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

Confidential.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
5th July, 1929

4517
1929

M.P. 3138/3181/29

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. letter to E. 2137/2137/91 April 29th
(P 3138)

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
British Agent & Consul, Jeddah. Despatch No. 131 of Colonial Office 10th July	Sheikh Hafiz Wahba's visit to Jeddah

Copy to India
11 JUL 1929

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office & Air Ministry

14—18814 B 2/29 (2)

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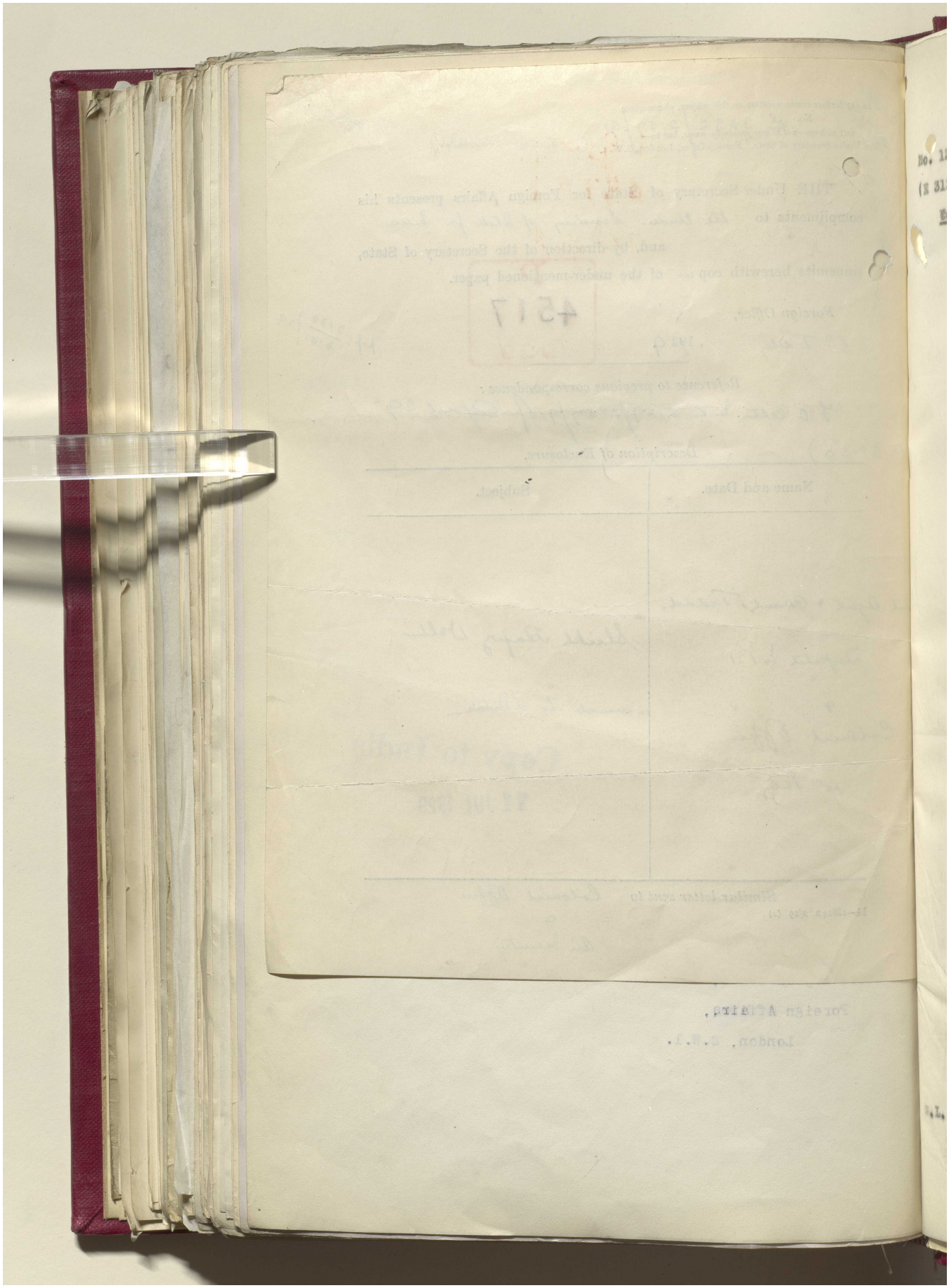

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No. 131
(E 3132/2137/91)
Confidential.

P
4517
1929

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
4th July, 1929.

Sir,

With reference to Foreign Office despatch No. 451 of May 14 to His Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt, of which a copy was sent to you in Foreign Office despatch No. 98 of May 16, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Henderson to inform you that Sheikh Hafiz Wahba again called at the Foreign Office on June 18th.

2. The Sheikh began by explaining that King Ibn Saud was most anxious to arrange for the exchange of diplomatic representatives between the Hejaz and this country, and suggested that if His Majesty's Government would appoint an "Ambassador" at Jeddah, the Hejazi Government would appoint one to the Court of St. James. He was informed in reply that in any event the creation of an Embassy at Jeddah was entirely out of the question, not merely for local reasons, but on account of general objections to the multiplication of Embassies at the present time. If, however, an official request for the establishment of Legations were received from the Hejazi Government, it would be submitted to the Secretary of State who would probably take the King's pleasure. The Sheikh then enquired whether, on the assumption that this course was followed and the exchange of Legations agreed to, a Hejazi Legation could be established in London forthwith. He was told that even if the principle of the establishment of Legations were conceded, delay might be considerable before

H.L. Bond, Esq.,
Acting British Agent and Consul,
Jeddah.

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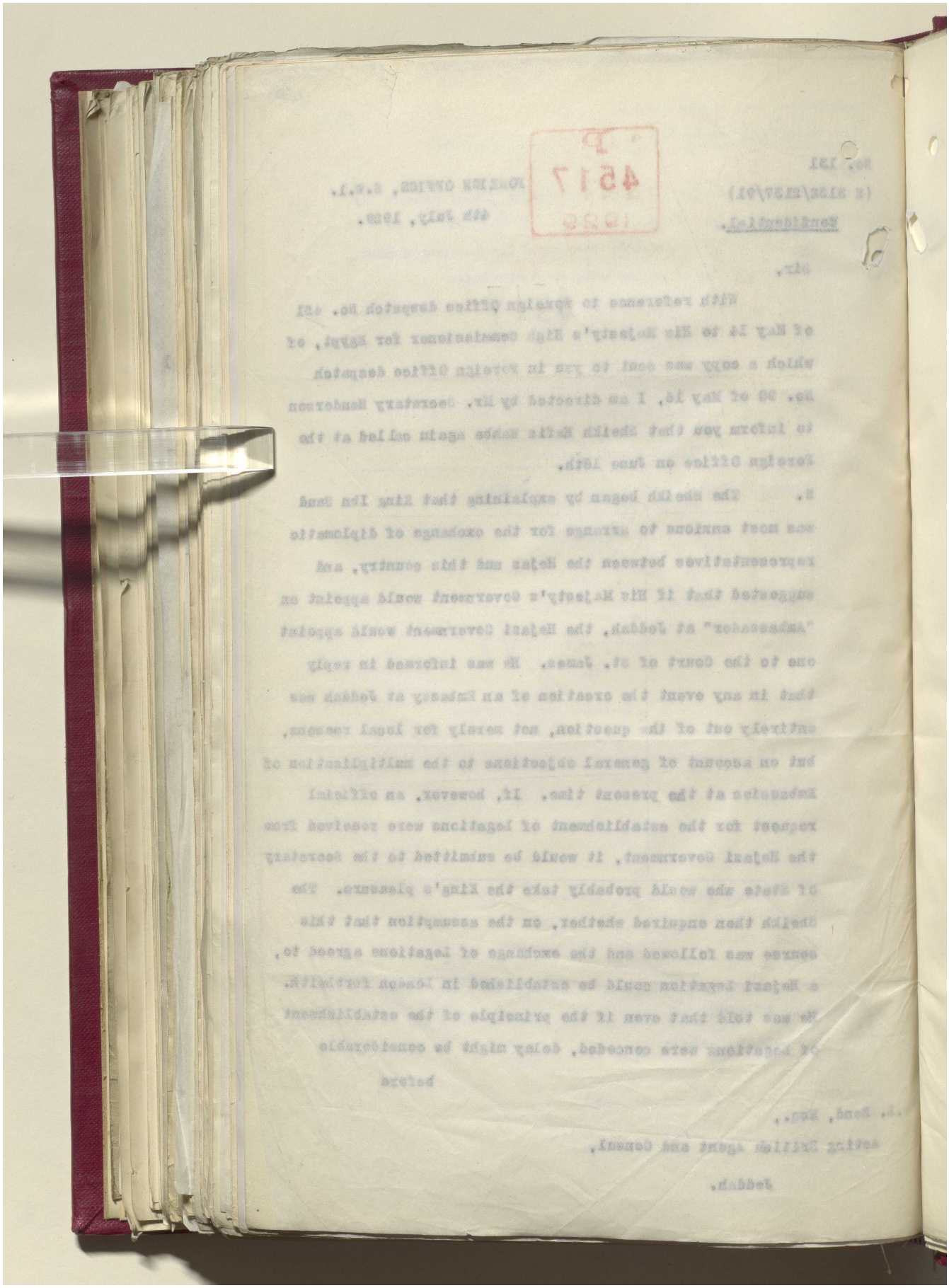

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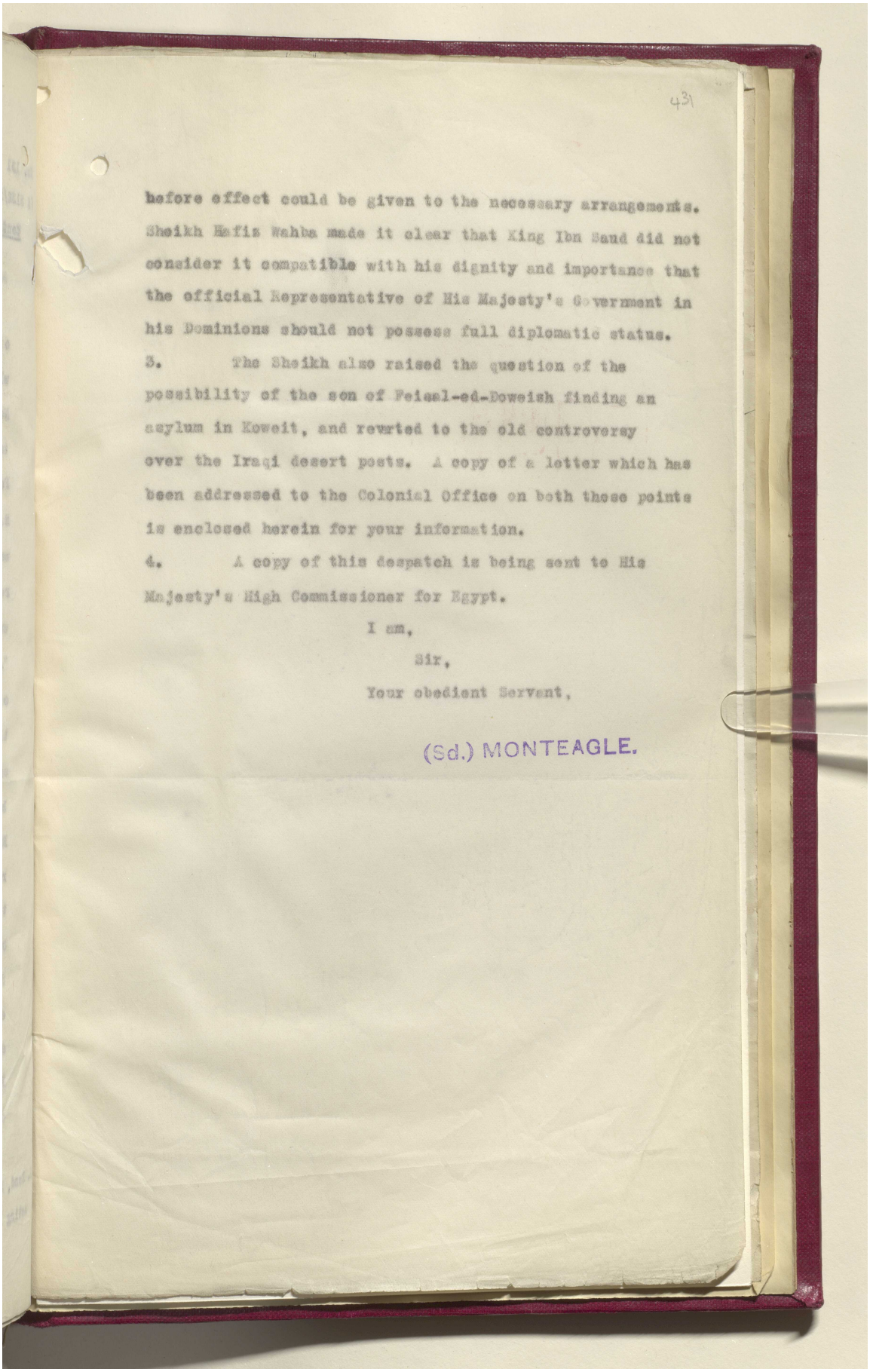

431

before effect could be given to the necessary arrangements. Sheikh Hafis Wahba made it clear that King Ibn Saud did not consider it compatible with his dignity and importance that the official Representative of His Majesty's Government in his Dominions should not possess full diplomatic status.

3. The Sheikh also raised the question of the possibility of the son of Feisal-ed-Doweish finding an asylum in Koweit, and reverted to the old controversy over the Iraqi desert posts. A copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Colonial Office on both these points is enclosed herein for your information.

4. A copy of this despatch is being sent to His Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) MONTEAGLE.

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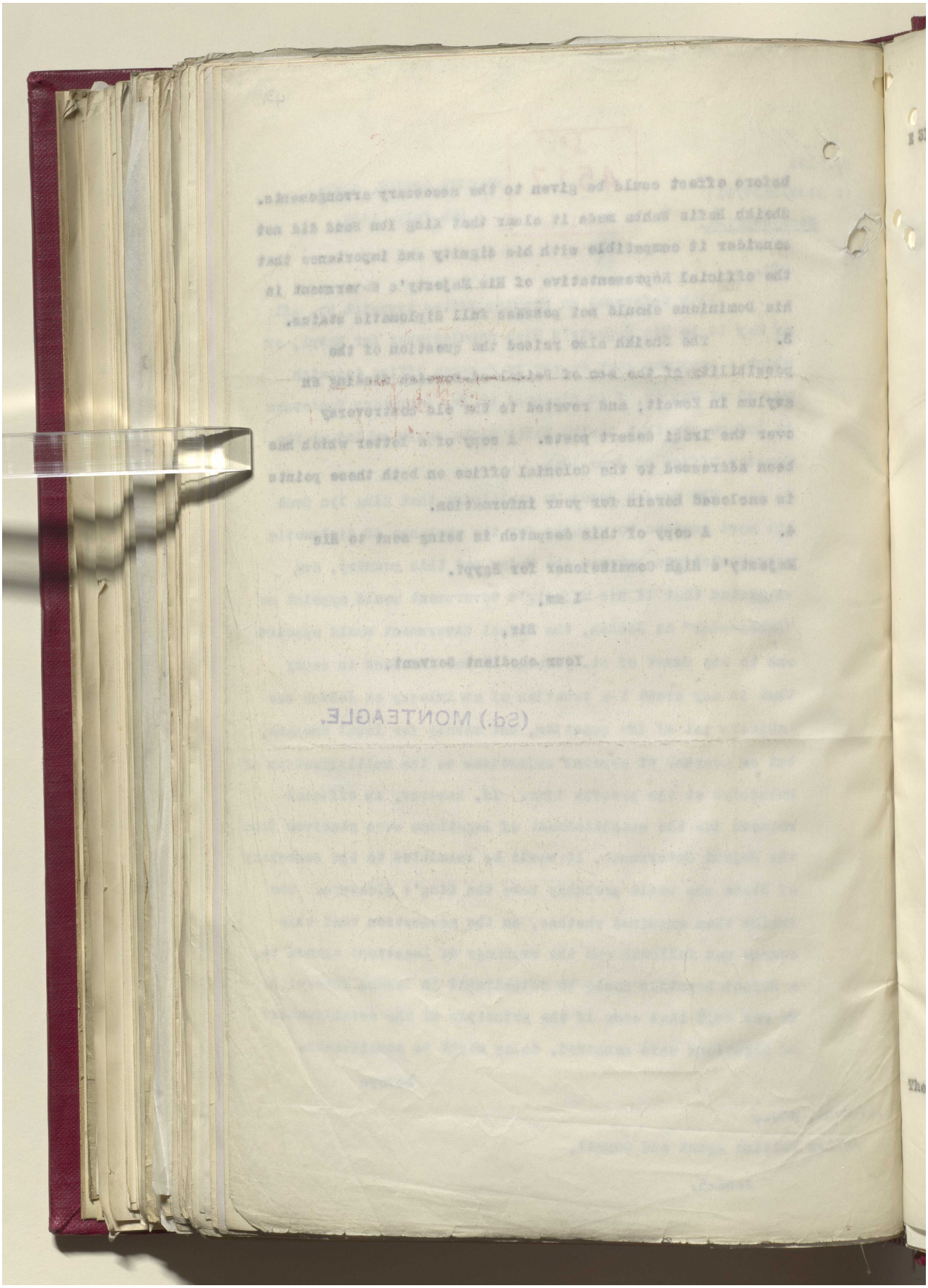

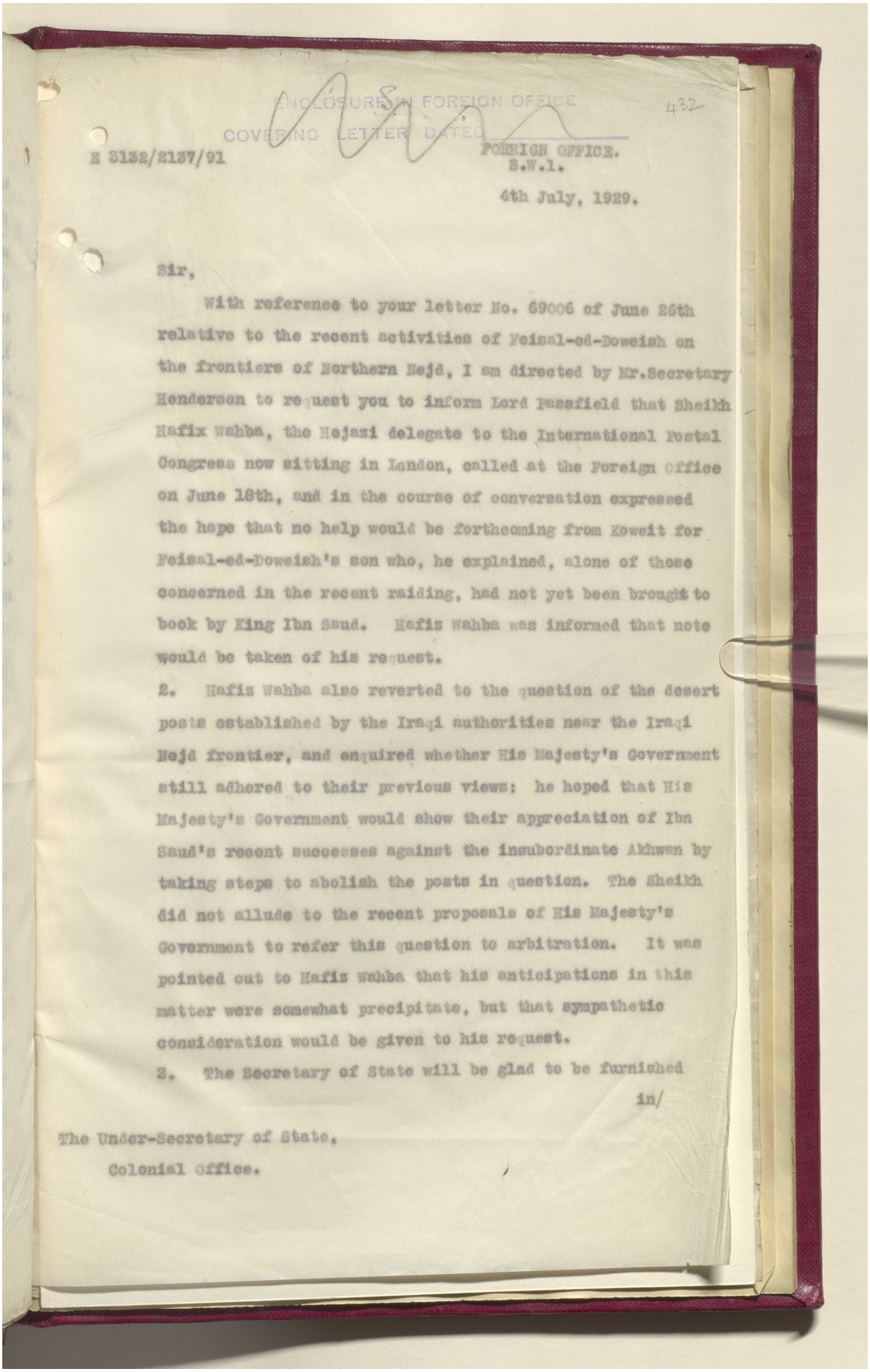

ENCLOSURE IN FOREIGN OFFICE
COVERING LETTER DATED

432

E 3132/2137/91

FOREIGN OFFICE.
S.W.1.

4th July, 1929.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 69006 of June 26th relative to the recent activities of Feisal-ed-Doweish on the frontiers of Northern Nejd, I am directed by Mr.Secretary Henderson to request you to inform Lord Passfield that Sheikh Hafix Wahba, the Hejazi delegate to the International Postal Congress now sitting in London, called at the Foreign Office on June 18th, and in the course of conversation expressed the hope that no help would be forthcoming from Koweit for Feisal-ed-Doweish's son who, he explained, alone of those concerned in the recent raiding, had not yet been brought to book by King Ibn Saud. Hafiz Wahba was informed that note would be taken of his request.

2. Hafiz Wahba also reverted to the question of the desert posts established by the Iraqi authorities near the Iraqi Nejd frontier, and enquired whether His Majesty's Government still adhered to their previous views: he hoped that His Majesty's Government would show their appreciation of Ibn Saud's recent successes against the insubordinate Akhwan by taking steps to abolish the posts in question. The Sheikh did not allude to the recent proposals of His Majesty's Government to refer this question to arbitration. It was pointed out to Hafiz Wahba that his anticipations in this matter were somewhat precipitate, but that sympathetic consideration would be given to his request.

3. The Secretary of State will be glad to be furnished in/

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

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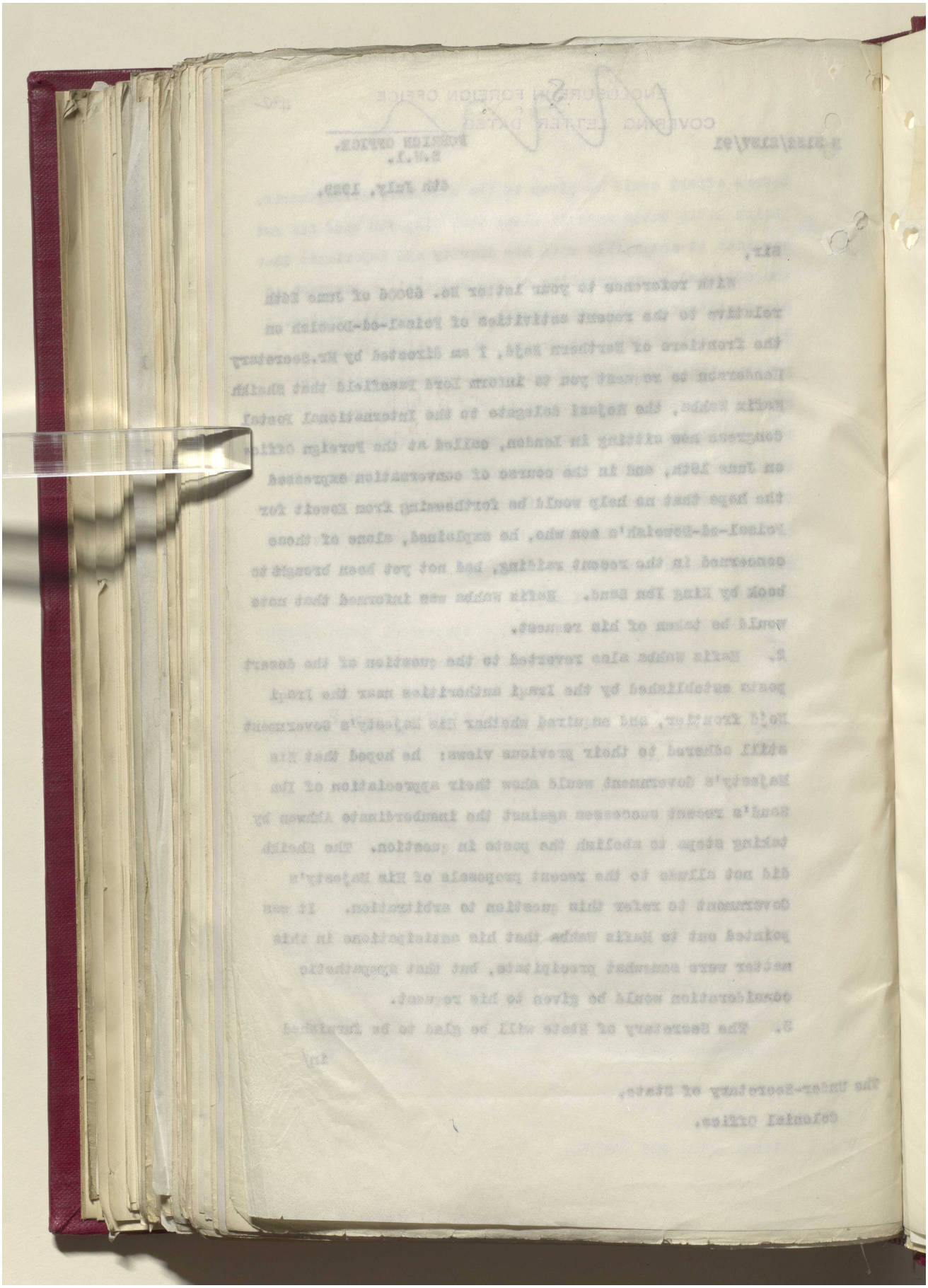

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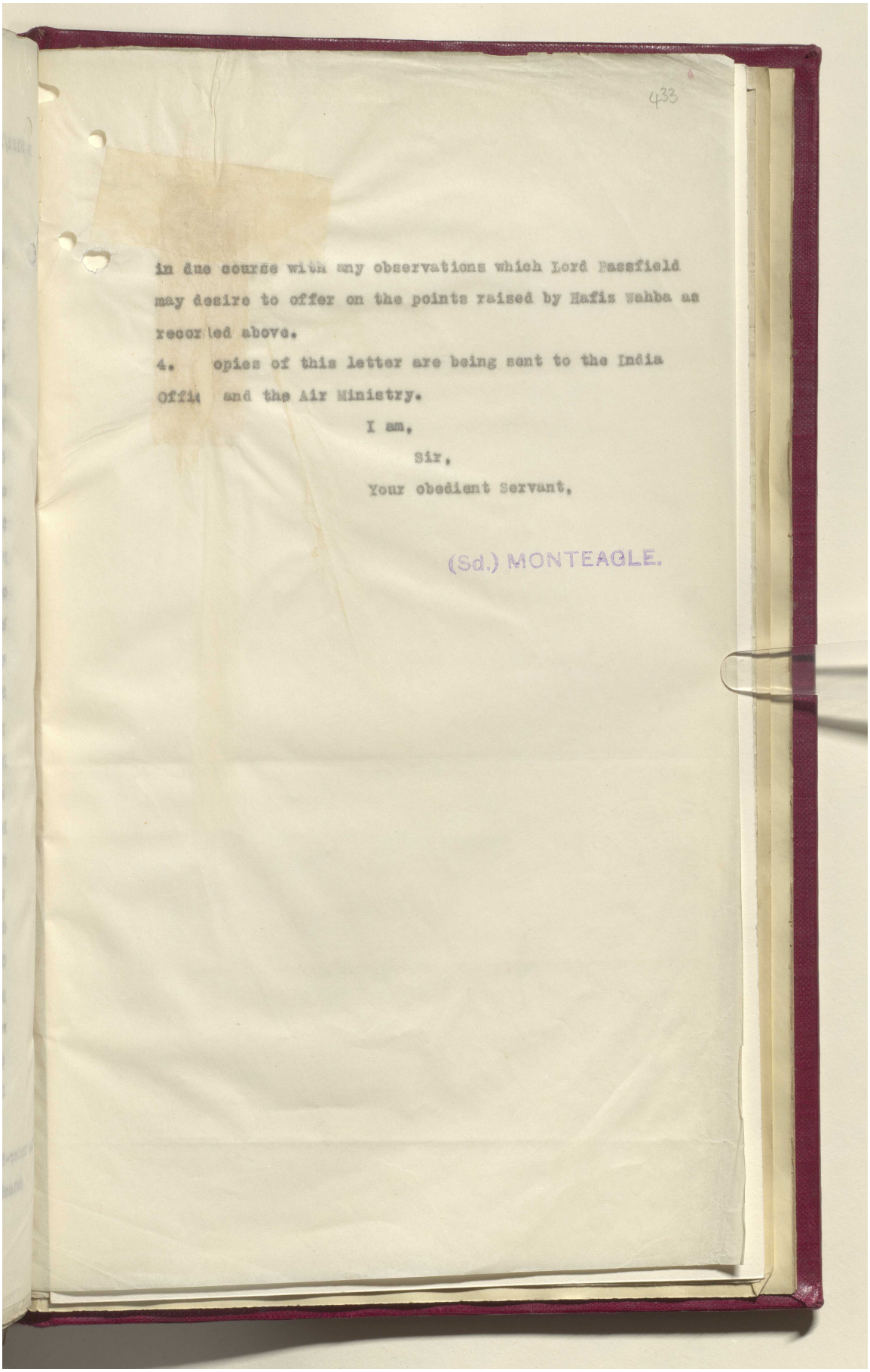


433

in due course with any observations which Lord Passfield may desire to offer on the points raised by Hafiz Wahba as recorded above.

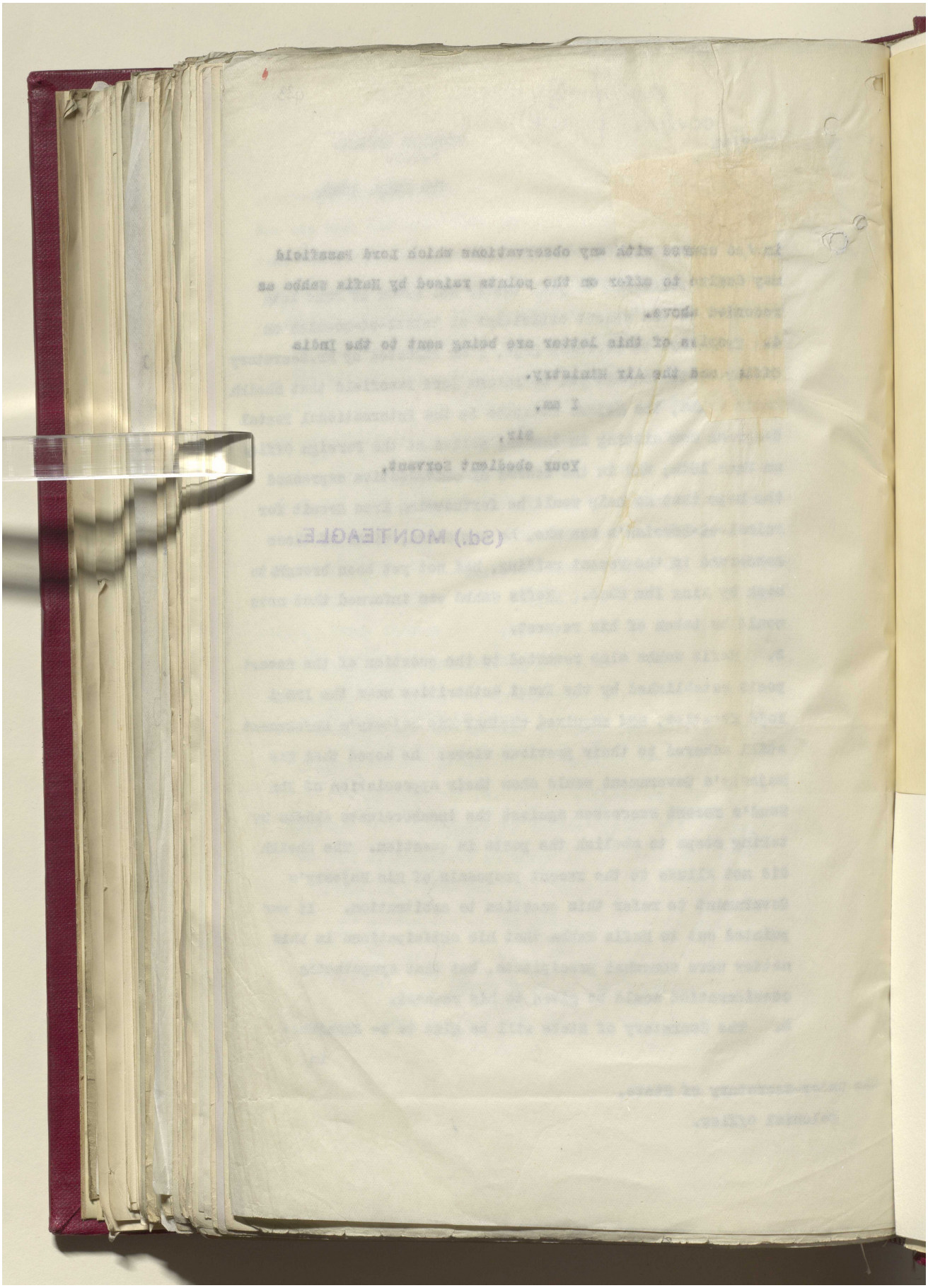
4. Copies of this letter are being sent to the India Office and the Air Ministry.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) MONTEAGLE.





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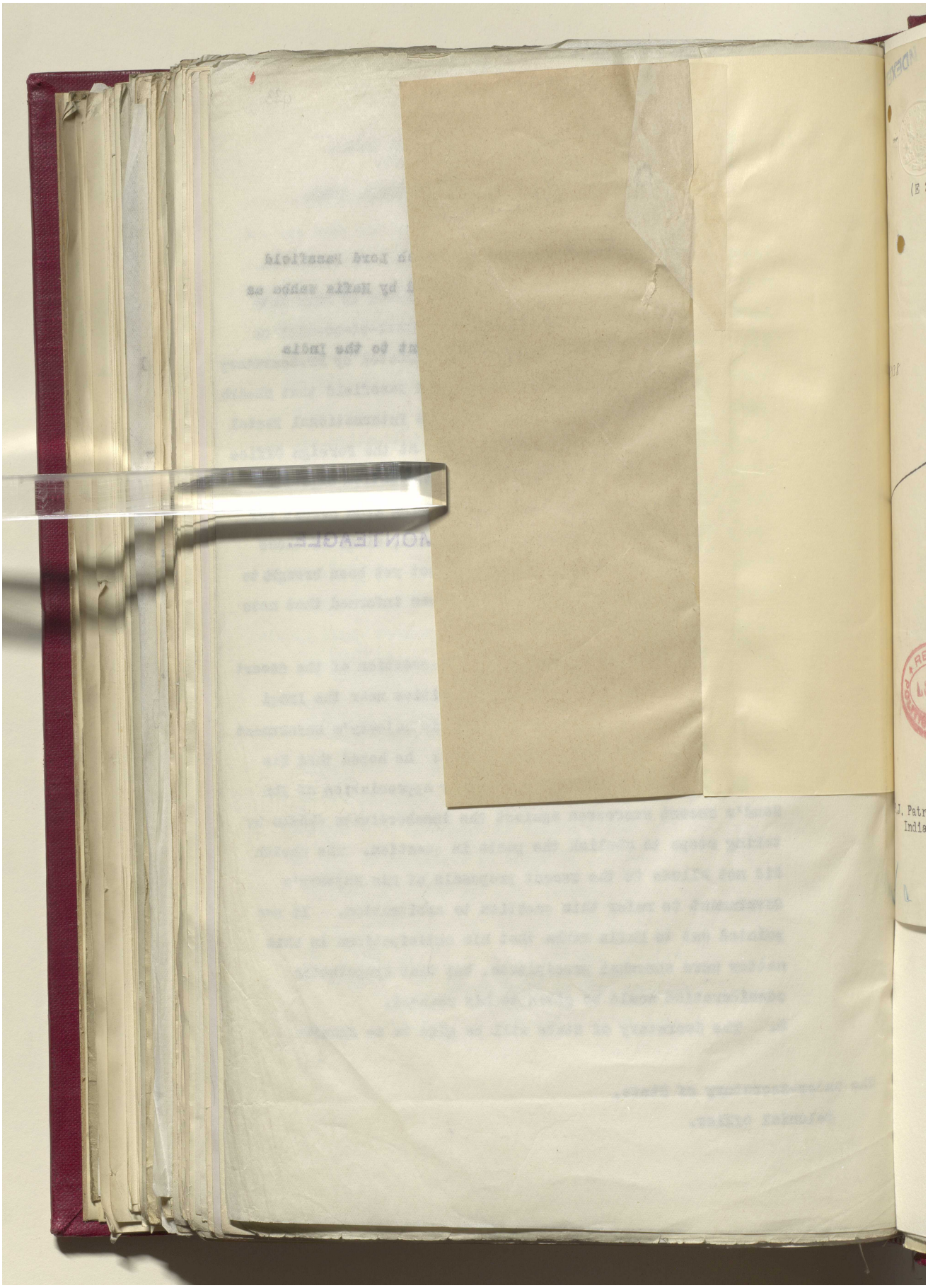

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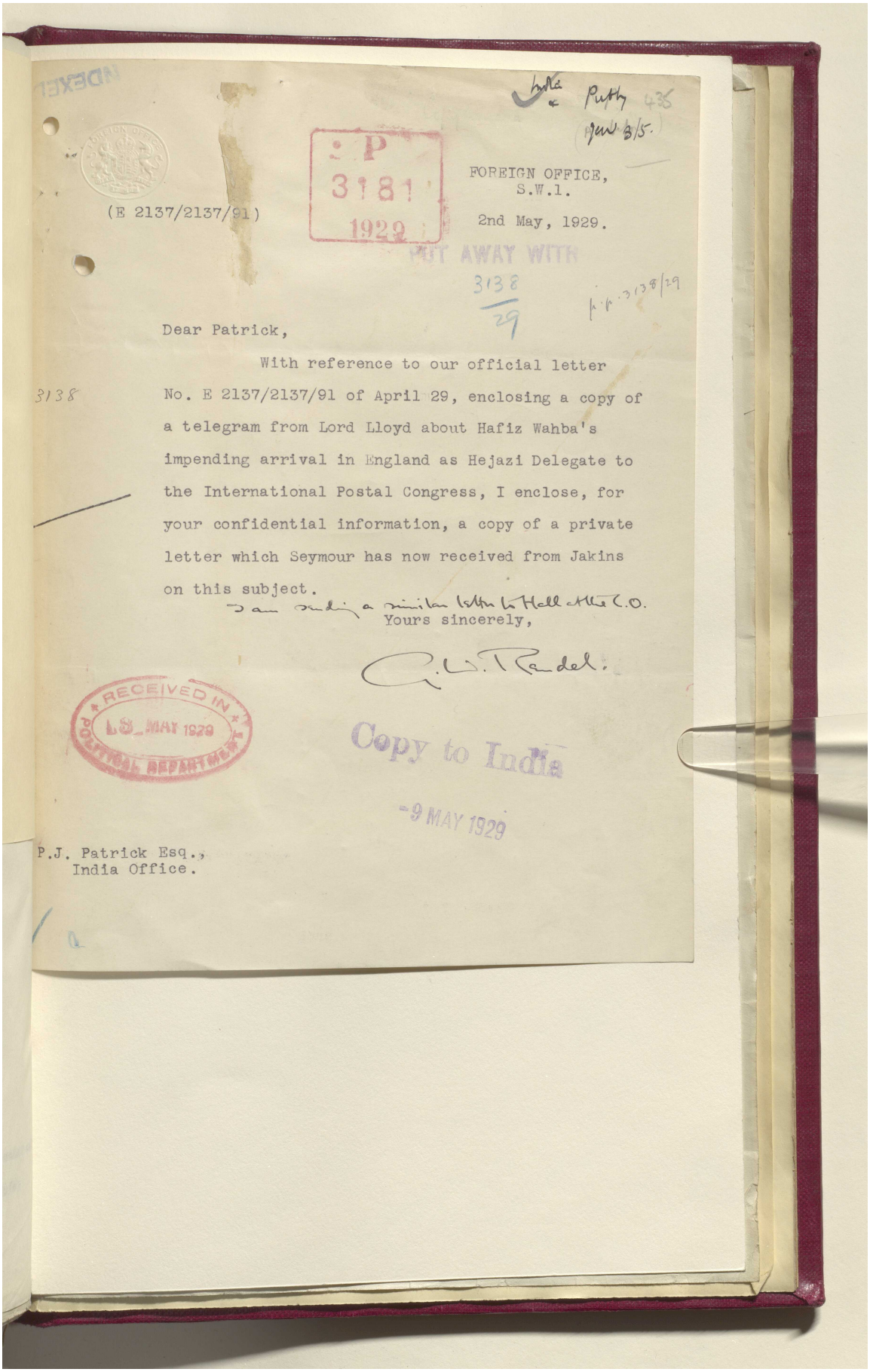

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

2nd May, 1929.

(E 2137/2137/91)

P 3181 1929

PUT AWAY WITH 3138/29

Dear Patrick,

With reference to our official letter No. E 2137/2137/91 of April 29, enclosing a copy of a telegram from Lord Lloyd about Hafiz Wahba's impending arrival in England as Hejazi Delegate to the International Postal Congress, I enclose, for your confidential information, a copy of a private letter which Seymour has now received from Jakins on this subject.

I am sending a similar letter to Hall-Patch C.O.

Yours sincerely,

G. W. Rendel.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 30 MAY 1929

Copy to India

9 MAY 1929

P.J. Patrick Esq.,
India Office.

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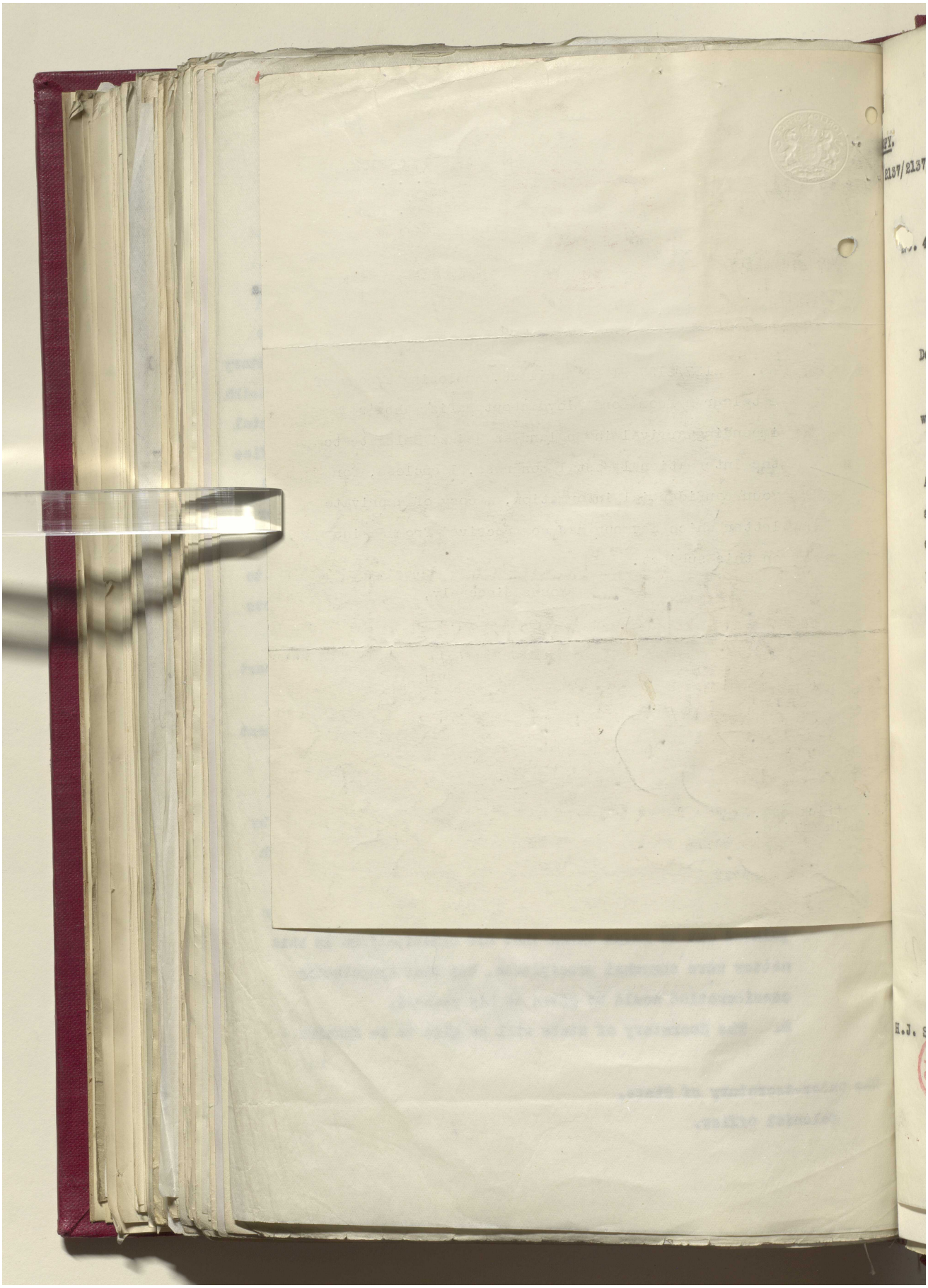
View on the Qatar Digital Library: http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100066378259.0x000051



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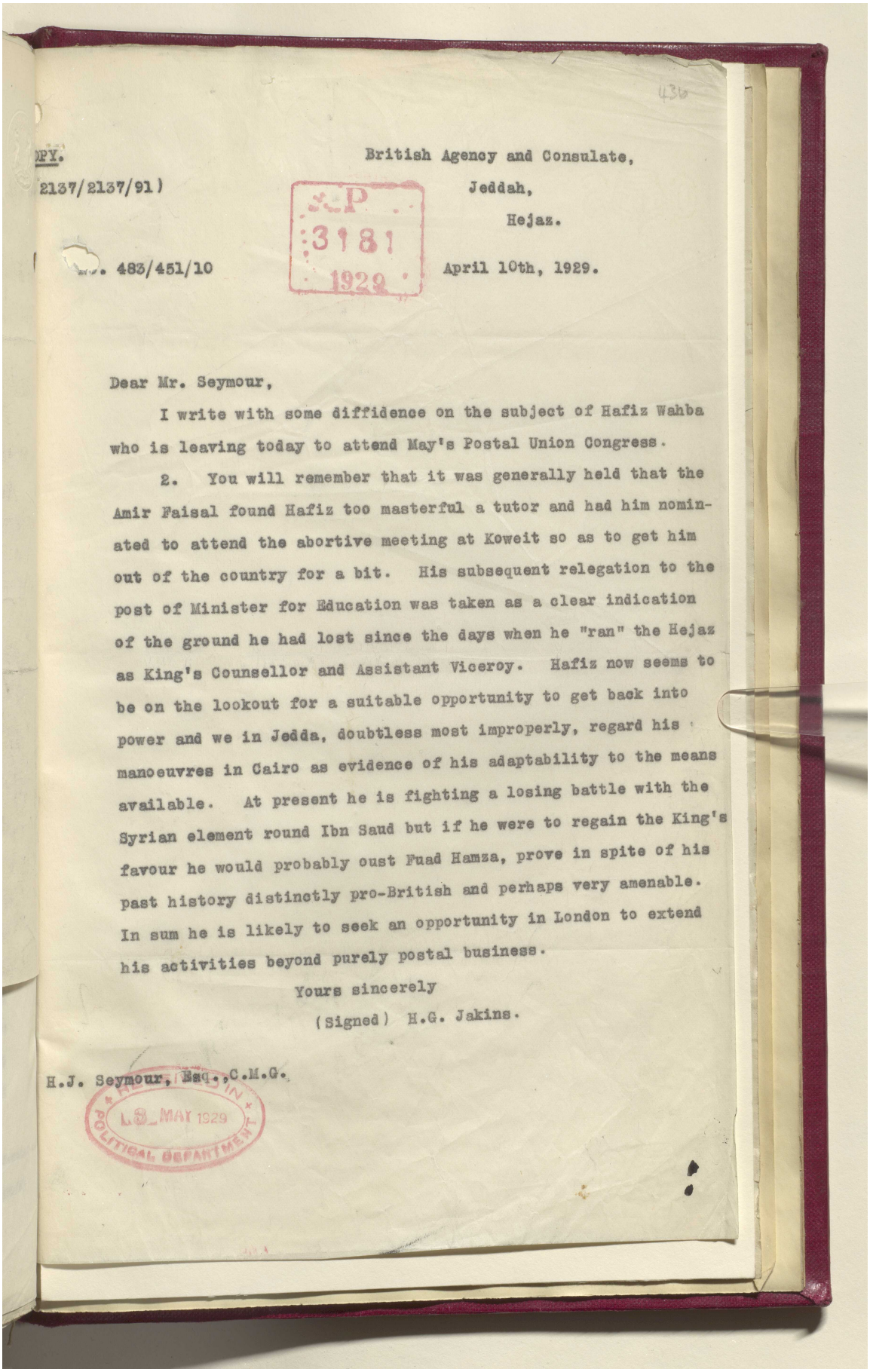

436

OPY.

2137/2137/91)

British Agency and Consulate,
Jeddah,
Hejaz.

P
3181
1929

No. 483/451/10

April 10th, 1929.

Dear Mr. Seymour,

I write with some diffidence on the subject of Hafiz Wahba who is leaving today to attend May's Postal Union Congress.

2. You will remember that it was generally held that the Amir Faisal found Hafiz too masterful a tutor and had him nominated to attend the abortive meeting at Koweit so as to get him out of the country for a bit. His subsequent relegation to the post of Minister for Education was taken as a clear indication of the ground he had lost since the days when he "ran" the Hejaz as King's Counsellor and Assistant Viceroy. Hafiz now seems to be on the lookout for a suitable opportunity to get back into power and we in Jedda, doubtless most improperly, regard his manoeuvres in Cairo as evidence of his adaptability to the means available. At present he is fighting a losing battle with the Syrian element round Ibn Saud but if he were to regain the King's favour he would probably oust Fuad Hamza, prove in spite of his past history distinctly pro-British and perhaps very amenable. In sum he is likely to seek an opportunity in London to extend his activities beyond purely postal business.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) H.G. Jakins.

H.J. Seymour, Esq., C.M.G.

RECEIVED IN
L.S. MAY 1929
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

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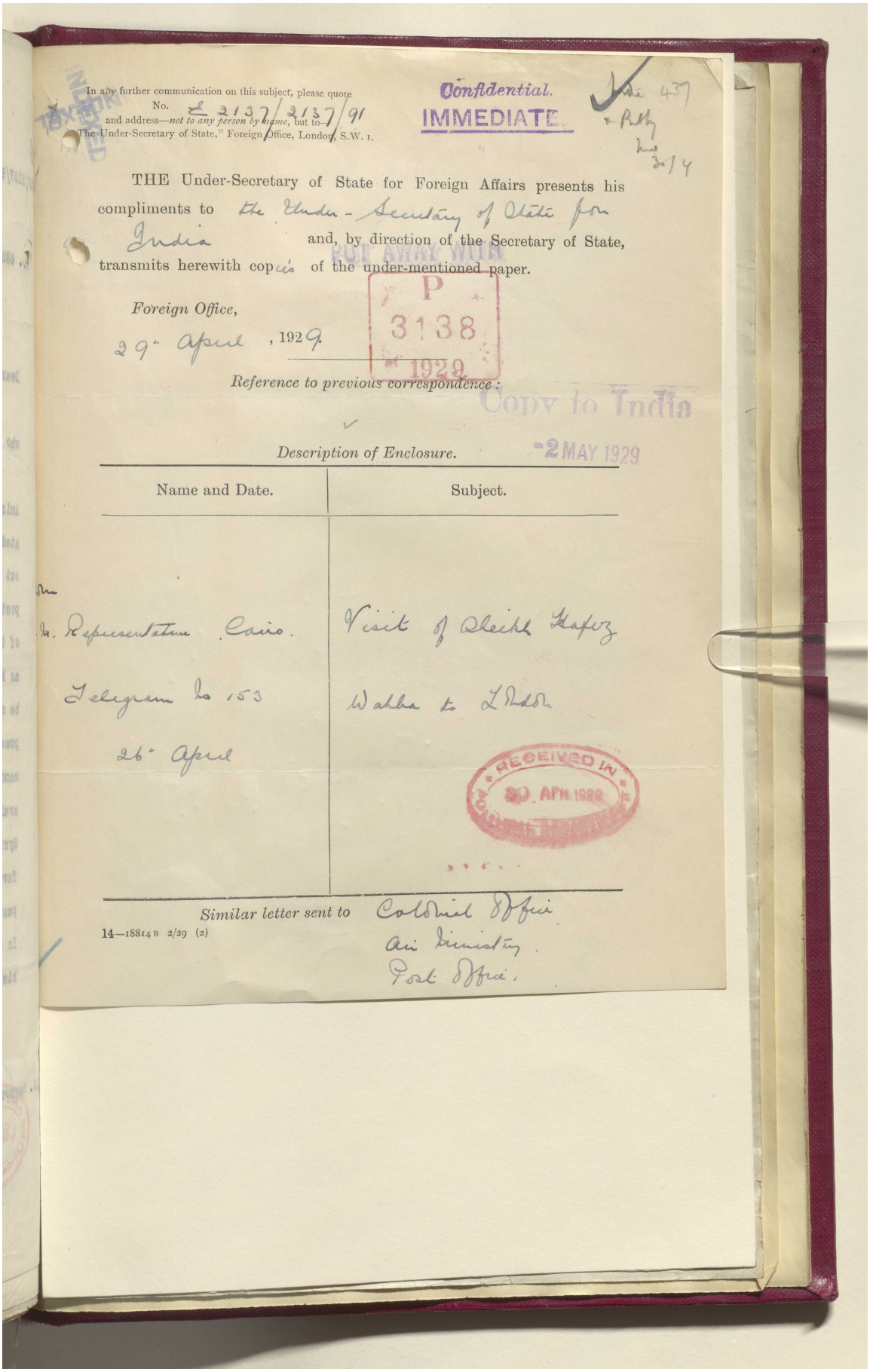

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 2137/2137/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

Confidential.
IMMEDIATE

Index 437
+ Pubby
30/4

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

PUT AWAY WITH
P
3138
1929

Foreign Office,
29th April, 1929.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Copy to India
-2 MAY 1929

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Mr. Representative Cairo. Telegram No 153 26th April	Visit of Sheikh Hafez Wahba to London

RECEIVED IN
30 APR 1929

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office
Air Ministry.
Post Office.

14—18814 B 2/29 (2)

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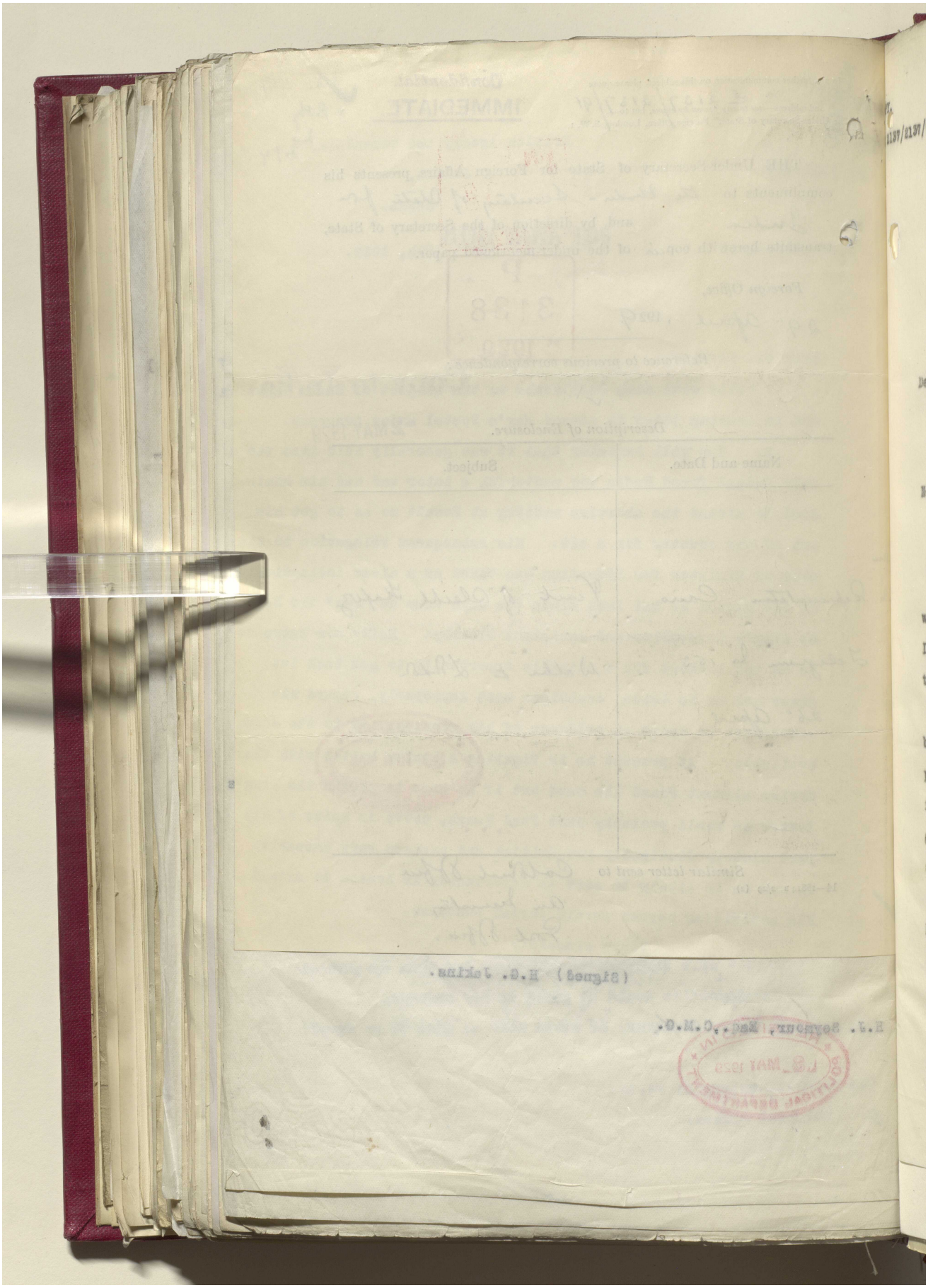

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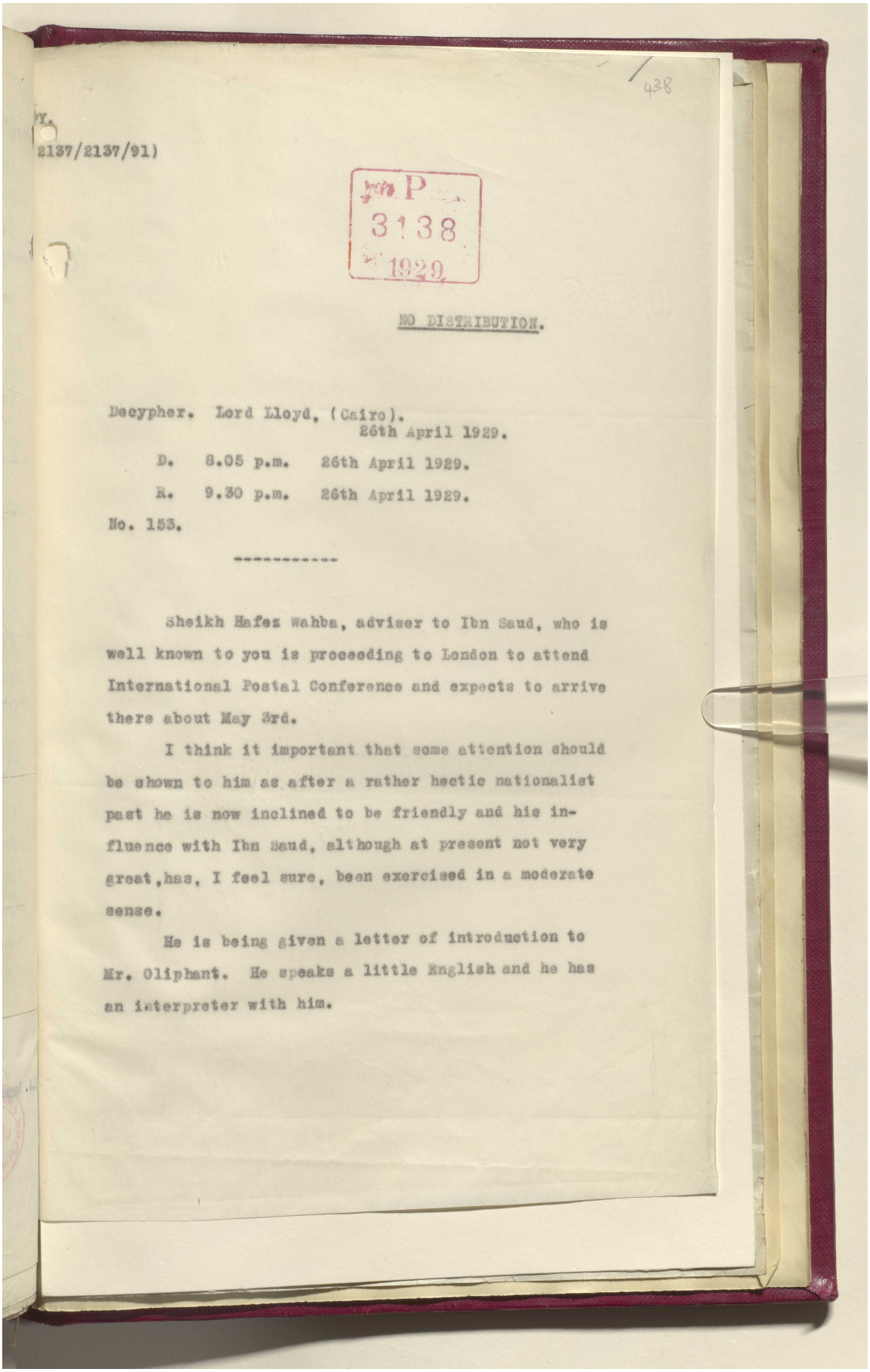

438

PY.
2137/2137/91)

P
3138
1929

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decypher. Lord Lloyd, (Cairo).
26th April 1929.

D. 8.05 p.m. 26th April 1929.

R. 9.30 p.m. 26th April 1929.

No. 153.

Sheikh Hafez Wahba, adviser to Ibn Saud, who is well known to you is proceeding to London to attend International Postal Conference and expects to arrive there about May 3rd.

I think it important that some attention should be shown to him as after a rather hectic nationalist past he is now inclined to be friendly and his influence with Ibn Saud, although at present not very great, has, I feel sure, been exercised in a moderate sense.

He is being given a letter of introduction to Mr. Oliphant. He speaks a little English and he has an interpreter with him.

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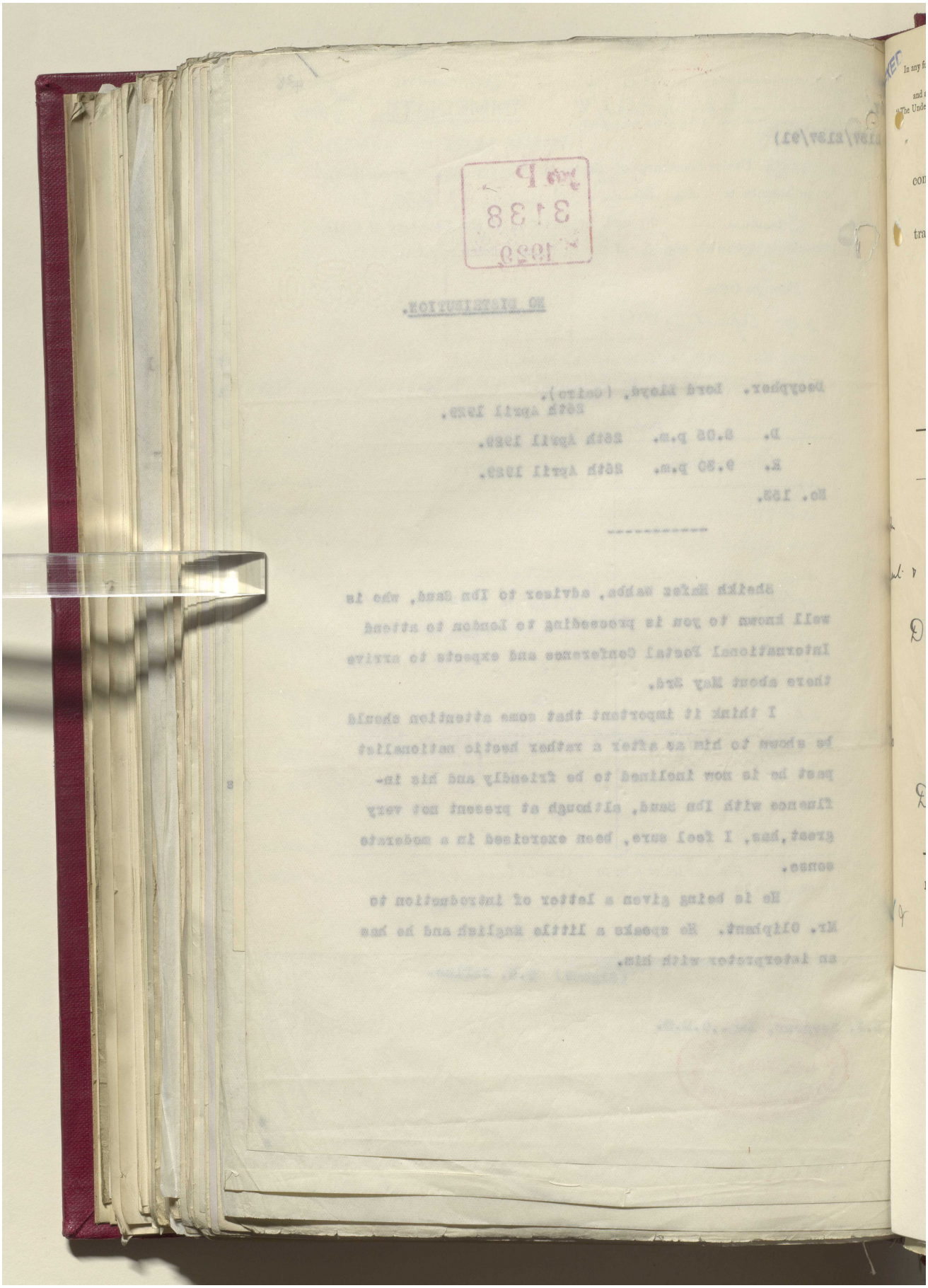

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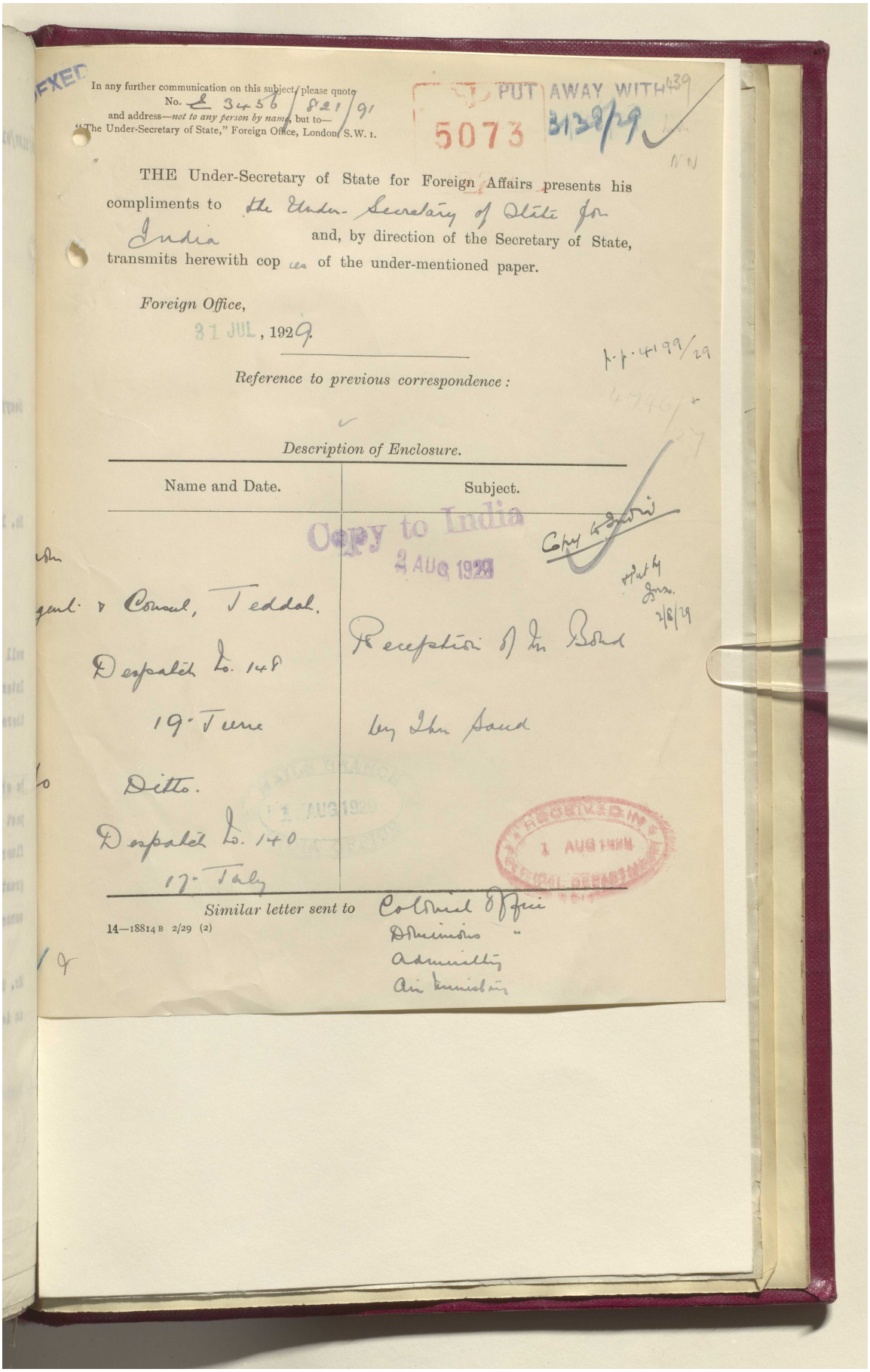

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 3456/821/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

PUT AWAY WITH 439
5073 3138/29

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
31 JUL, 1929.

p.p. 4199/29

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Agent & Consul, Jeddah. Despatch No. 148 19 June	Reception of Mr Bond by Ibn Saud
Ditto. Despatch No. 140 17 July	

Copy to India
2 AUG 1929

Copy to India
Put by Jns. 2/8/29

MAILS BRANCH
1 AUG 1929
INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED IN
1 AUG 1929
CLERICAL DEPARTMENT

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office
Dominions "
Admiralty
Air Ministry

14—18814 B 2/29 (2)

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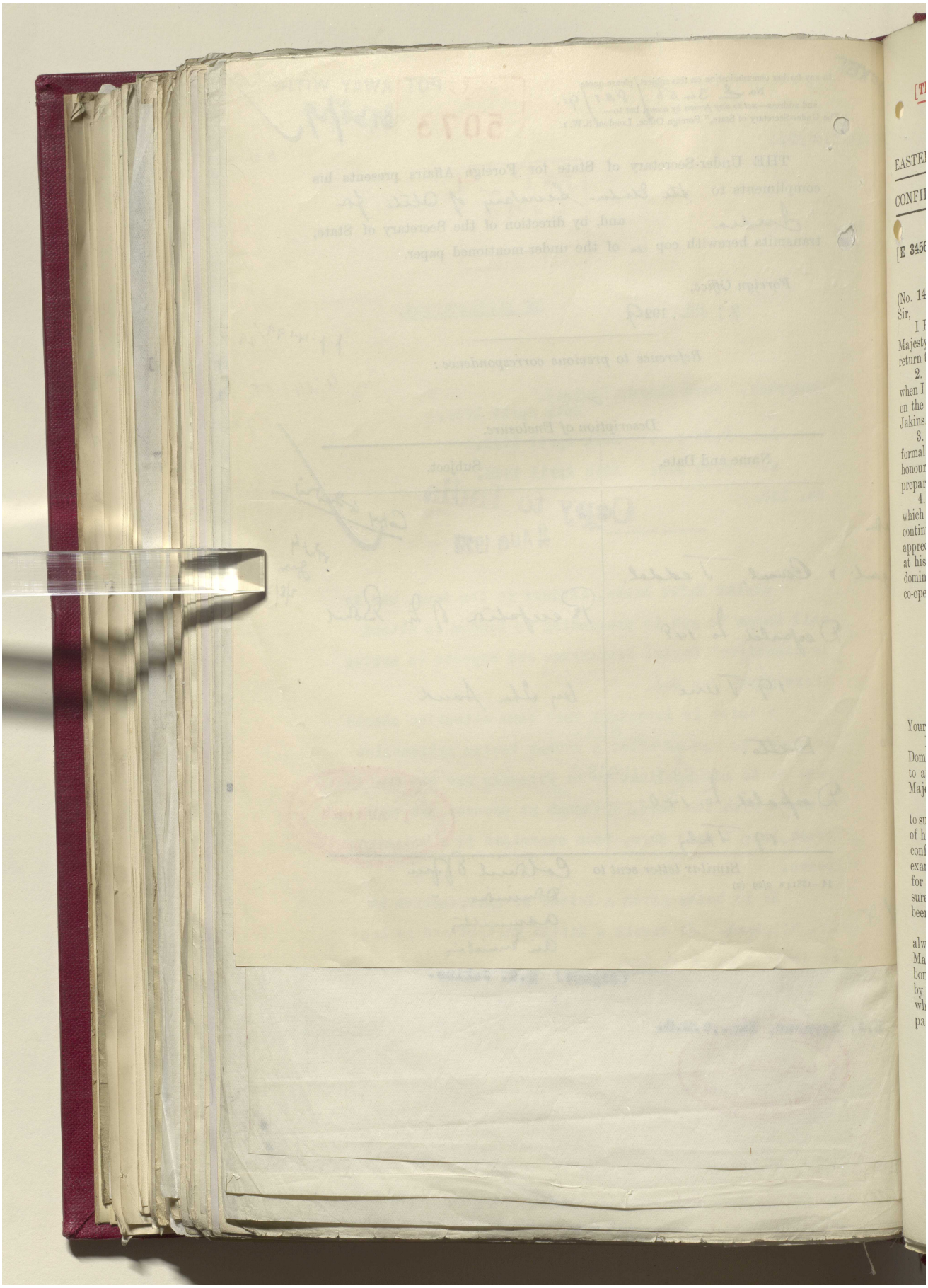

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5073

EASTERN (ARABIA). July 9, 1929.

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 3456/821/91]

No. 1.

Mr. Bond to Mr. A. Henderson.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 148.)

Sir, *Jeddah, June 19, 1929.*

I HAVE the honour to report that two days after my arrival in Jeddah His Majesty King Ibn Saud came down from Mecca for a final visit before his imminent return to Nejd and Hasa.

2. Having presented my credentials to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs when I first called at the Jeddah office of the Ministry, I was received by His Majesty on the 16th June. I was in uniform, and was accompanied by Mr. Vice-Consul Jakins. Sheikh Fuad Hamza and Sheikh Yusef Yasin were with the King.

3. I felt that the occasion and the general situation required some sort of formal address, and I therefore read to His Majesty the address of which I have the honour to enclose a copy. An Arabic translation, which I had previously had prepared for the benefit of Ibn Saud, followed immediately.

4. His Majesty, in reply, expressed his conviction that the excellent relations which had always existed between him and His Majesty's Government would continue to be founded on the basis of the utmost cordiality. He referred with appreciation to Mr. Stonehewer-Bird's work in Jeddah and, while expressing regret at his departure, was pleased to assure me of his conviction that my stay in his dominions would serve to strengthen the bonds of friendship, understanding and co-operation between our two nations.

I have, &c.
W. L. BOND.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Address delivered to Ibn Saud by Mr. Bond on June 16, 1929.

Your Majesty,

HIS Majesty King George V, King of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, my August Sovereign, has deigned to appoint me to be his diplomatic agent and consul in the territories of your Majesty.

Your Majesty will recollect that Mr. Stonehewer-Bird, whom I have the honour to succeed, was unfortunately called away by serious family illness from the execution of his duties here. He has since been instructed to proceed to India, where he is to confer with the Government of India, who have appointed a special commission to examine the means whereby greater facilities and better conditions may be provided for British Indian Moslems to perform the pilgrimage. In this task he will, I am sure, be inspired by the attention and devotion to the pilgrims' interests which have been your Majesty's especial care.

I assume my task in the conviction that the very special relations which have always existed between His Britannic Majesty's Government and that of your Majesty, and which bind the two nations together now more strongly than ever with bonds of friendship and with the ties of common interests, will continue to be inspired by the utmost cordiality, and I crave that the full measure of the Royal confidence which your Majesty has been pleased to bestow on the British representatives in the past may now be extended to me.

[847 i—1]

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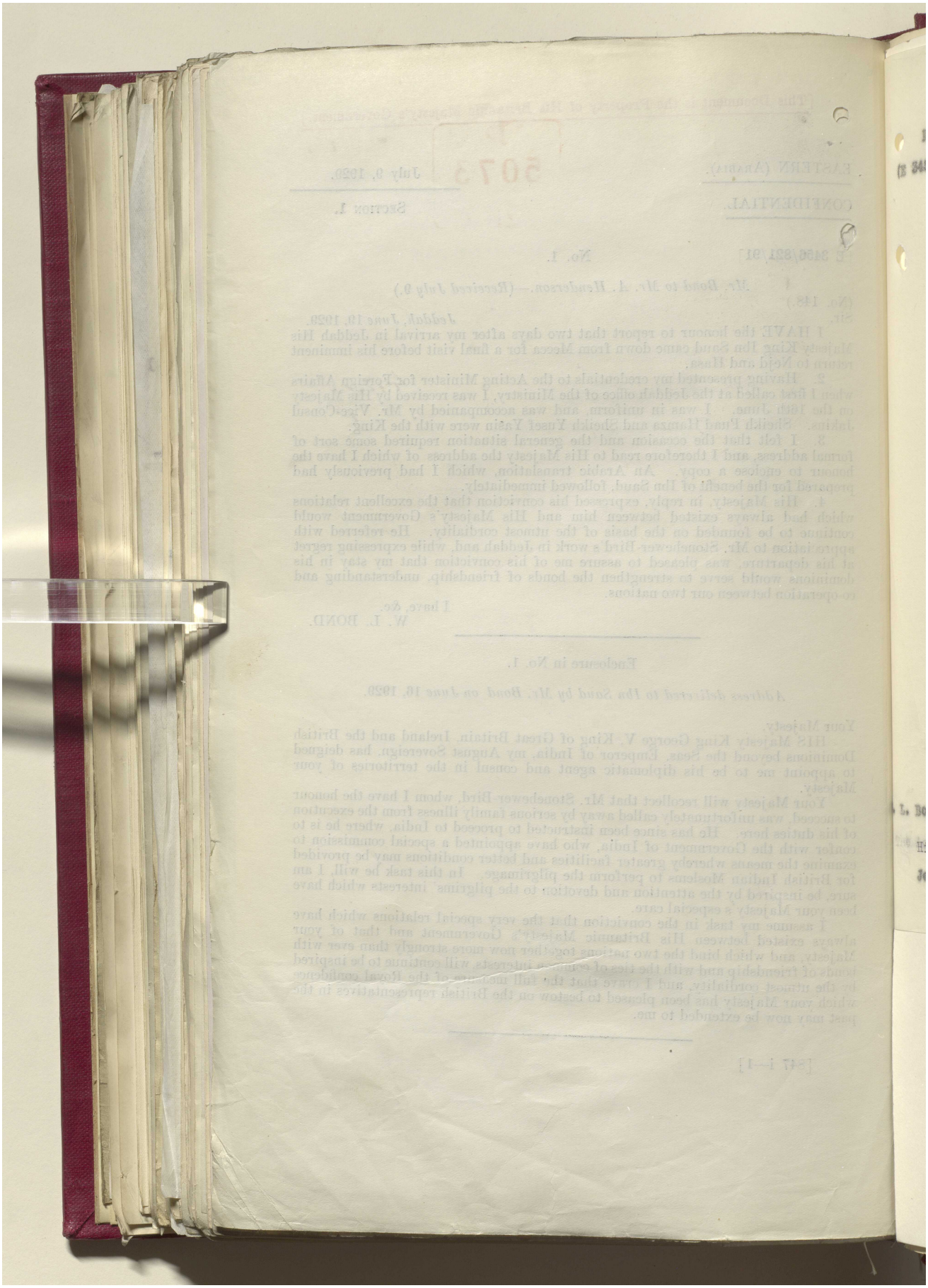

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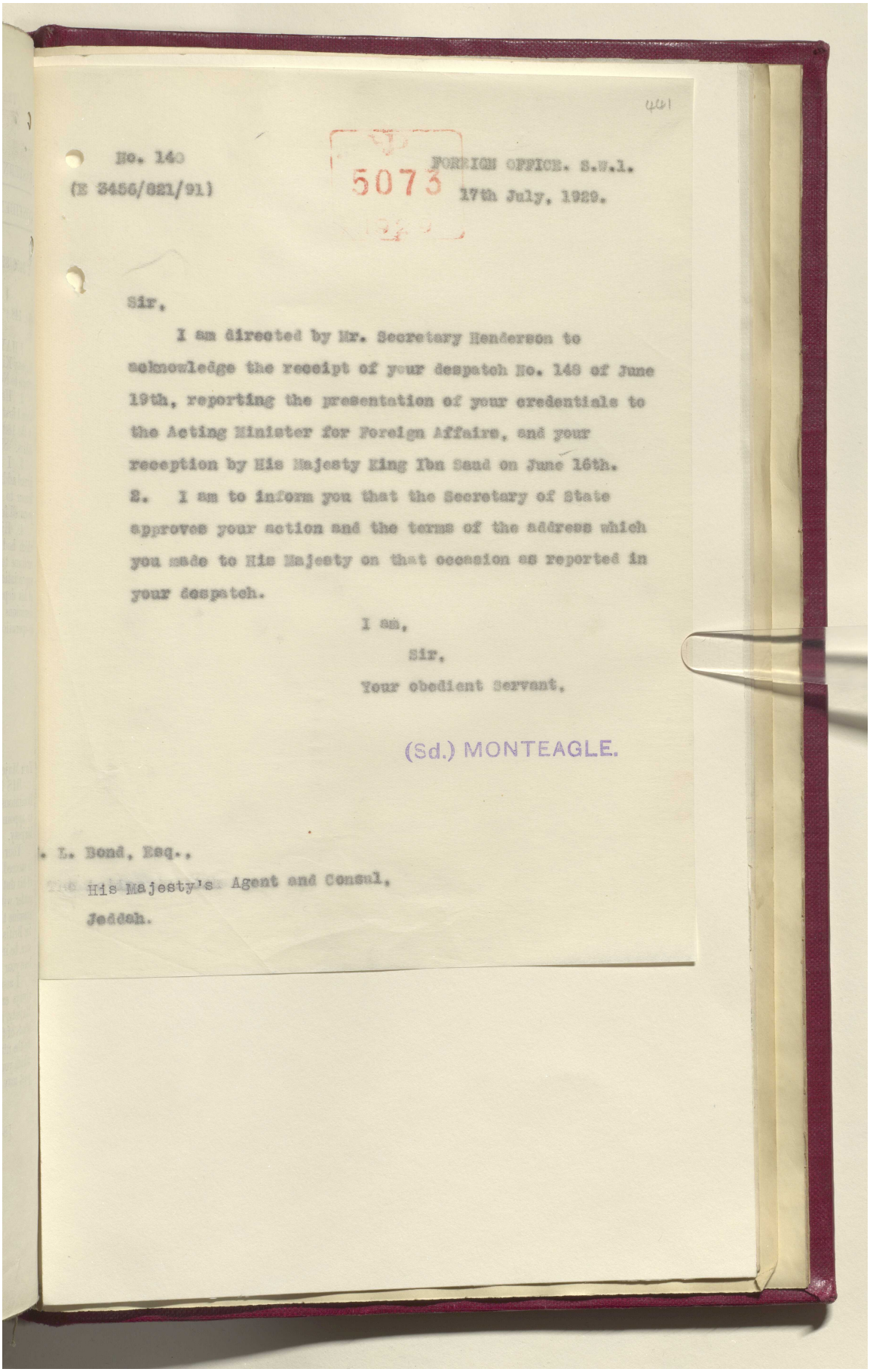


441

No. 140
(E 3456/821/91)

5073

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1.
17th July, 1929.

Sir,

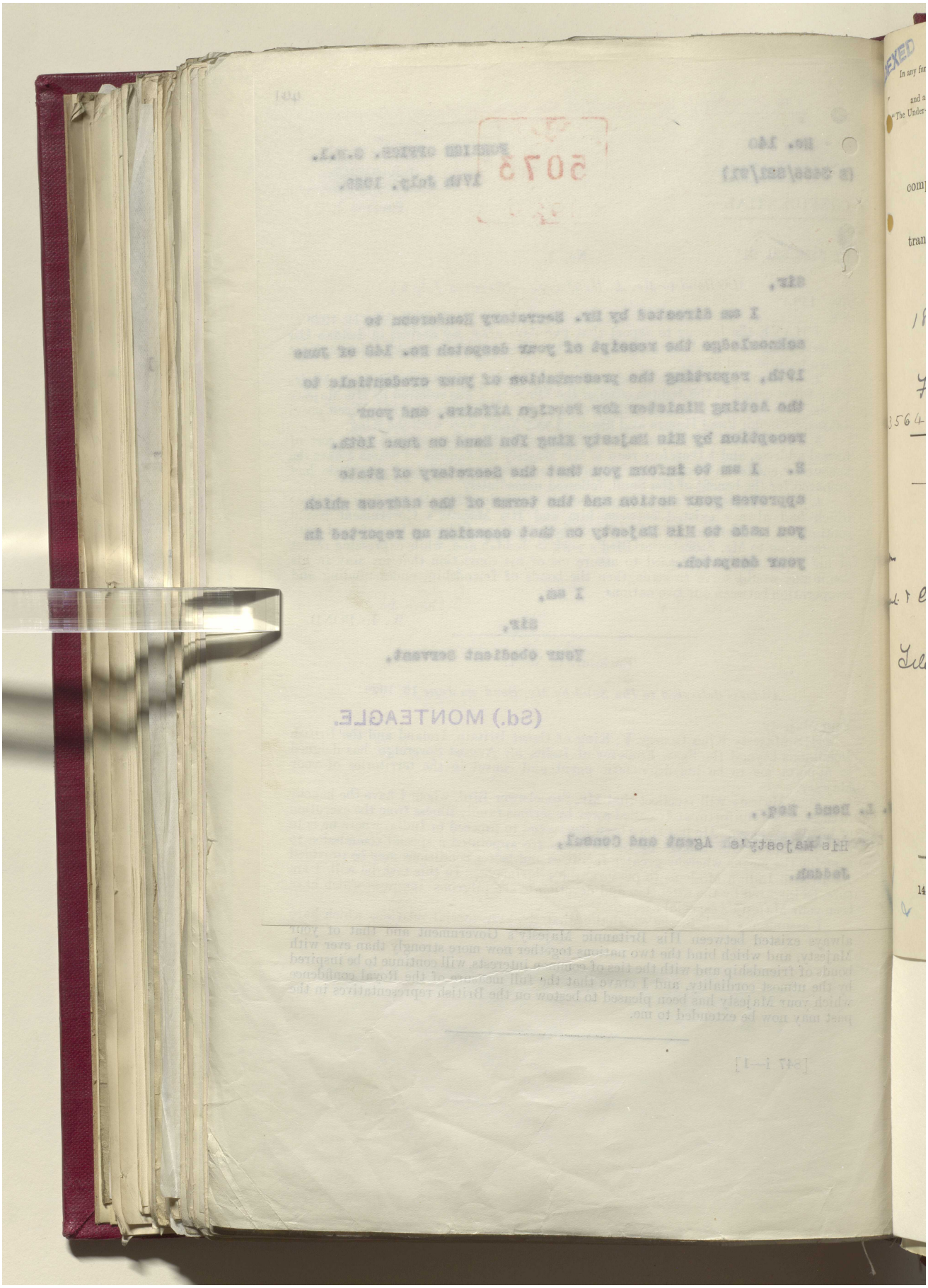
I am directed by Mr. Secretary Henderson to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 148 of June 19th, reporting the presentation of your credentials to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and your reception by His Majesty King Ibn Saud on June 16th.

2. I am to inform you that the Secretary of State approves your action and the terms of the address which you made to His Majesty on that occasion as reported in your despatch.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) MONTEAGLE.

. L. Bond, Esq.,
His Majesty's Agent and Consul,
Jeddah.



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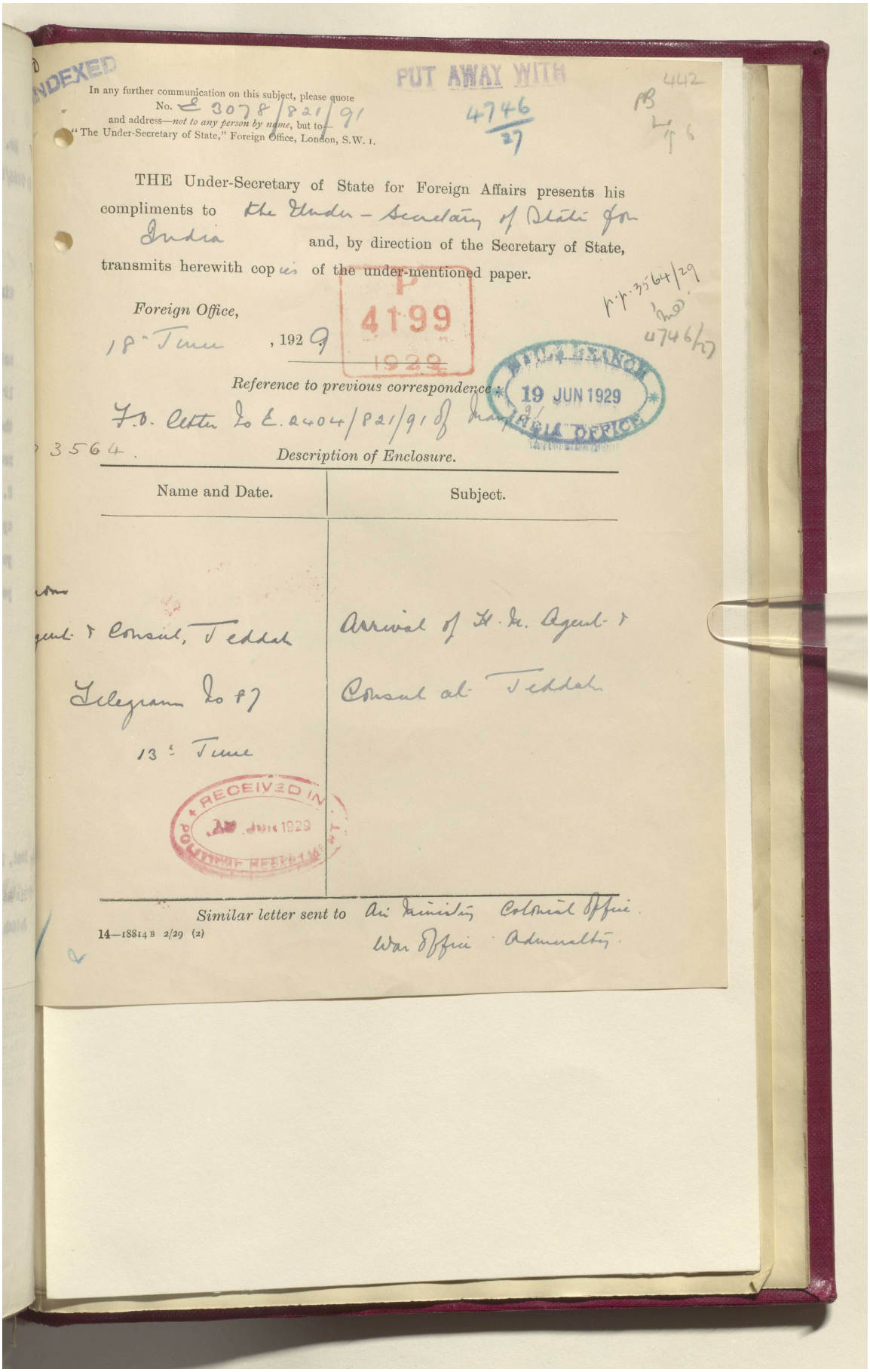

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PUT AWAY WITH

4746/27

442

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No. E 3078/821/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
18th June, 1929

P 4199 1929

p.p. 3564/29
4746/27

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. Letter No E. 2404/821/91 of May 91

19 JUN 1929
INDIA OFFICE

3564.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
...gent & Consul, Jeddah Telegram No 87 13th June	Arrival of H. M. Agent & Consul at Jeddah

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
JUN 1929

Similar letter sent to Air Ministry Colonial Office War Office Admiralty.

14—18814 B 2/29 (2)

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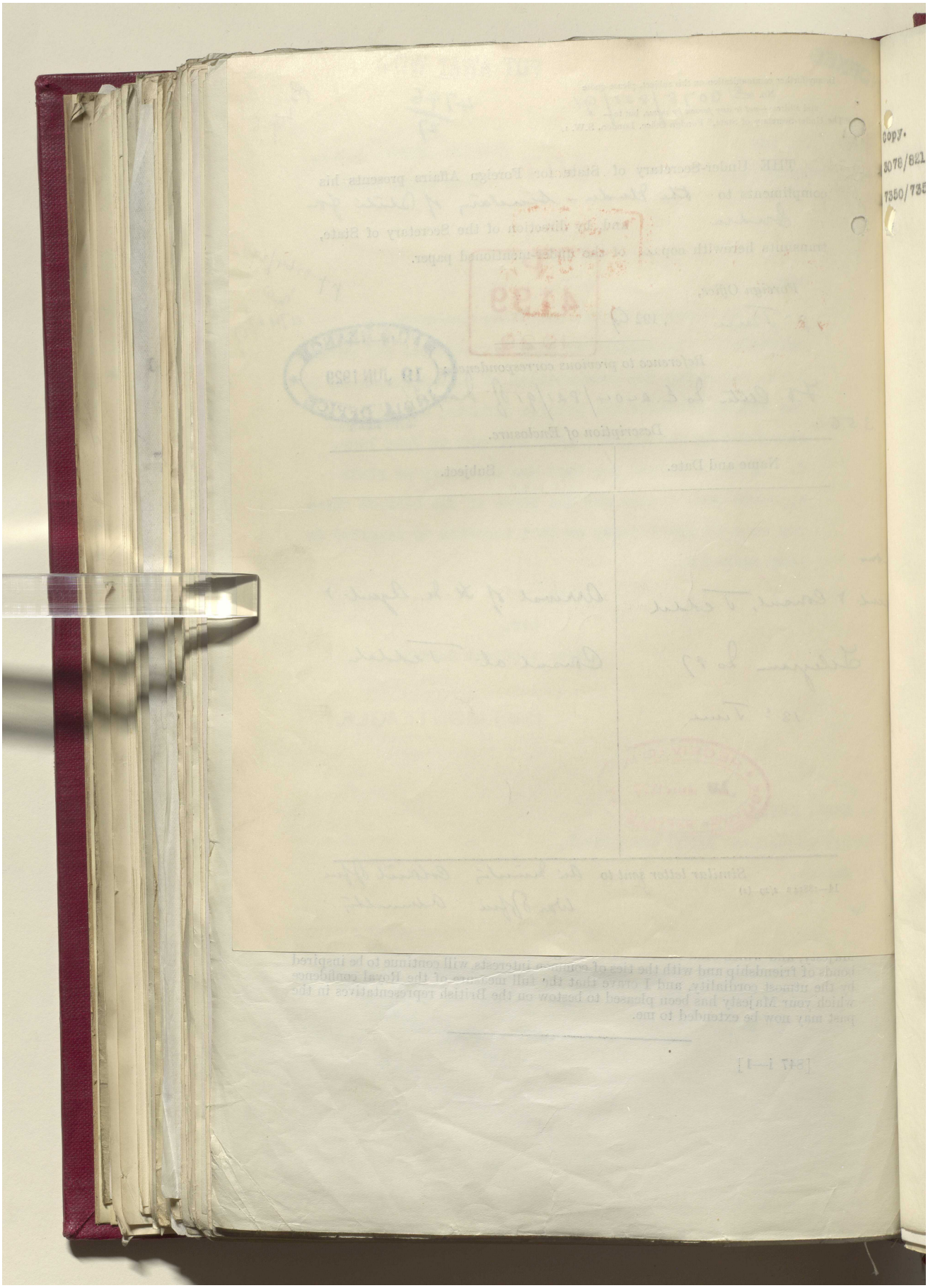

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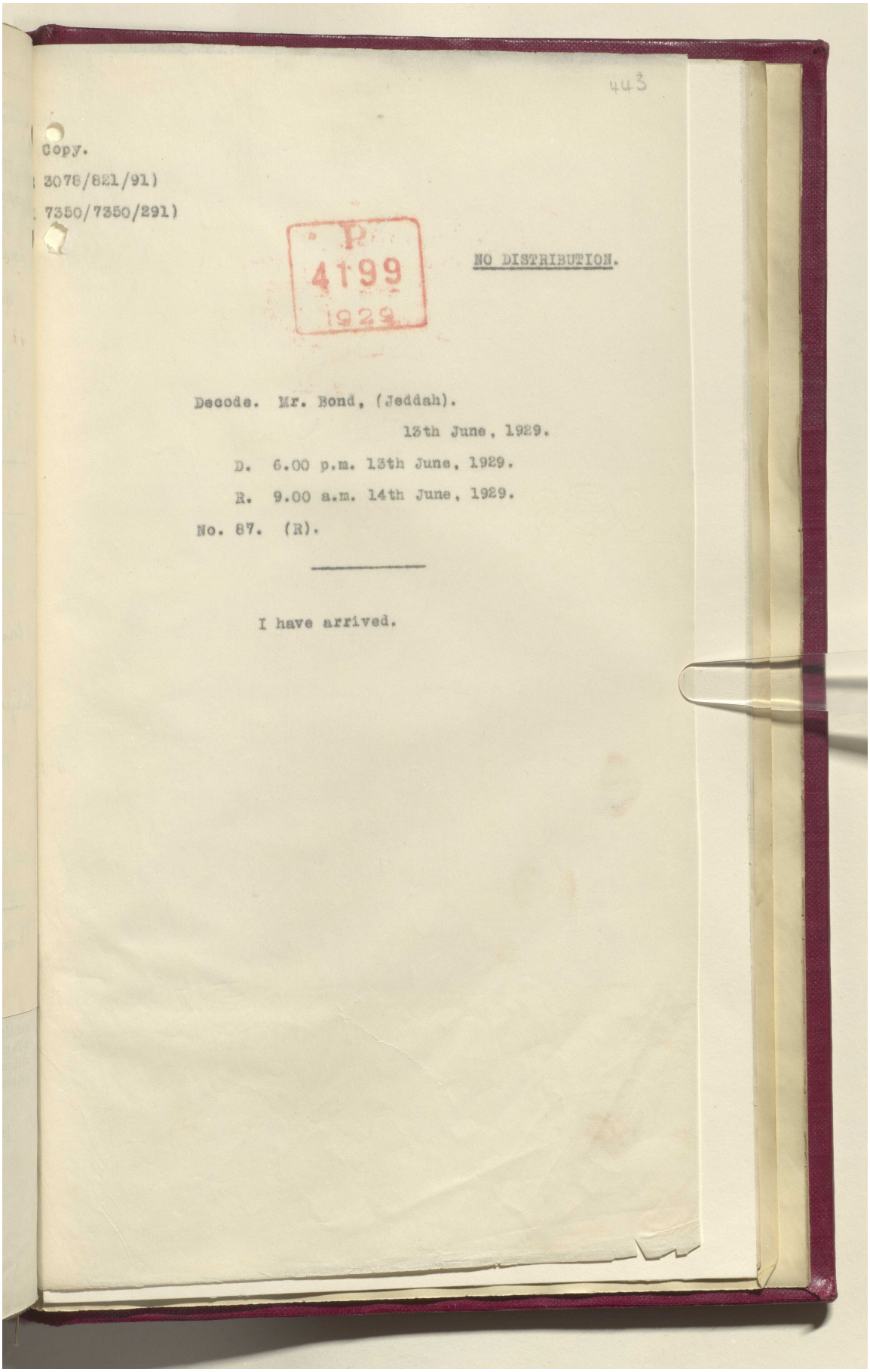


443

Copy.

3078/821/91)

7350/7350/291)

P. 4199 1929

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Mr. Bond, (Jeddah).

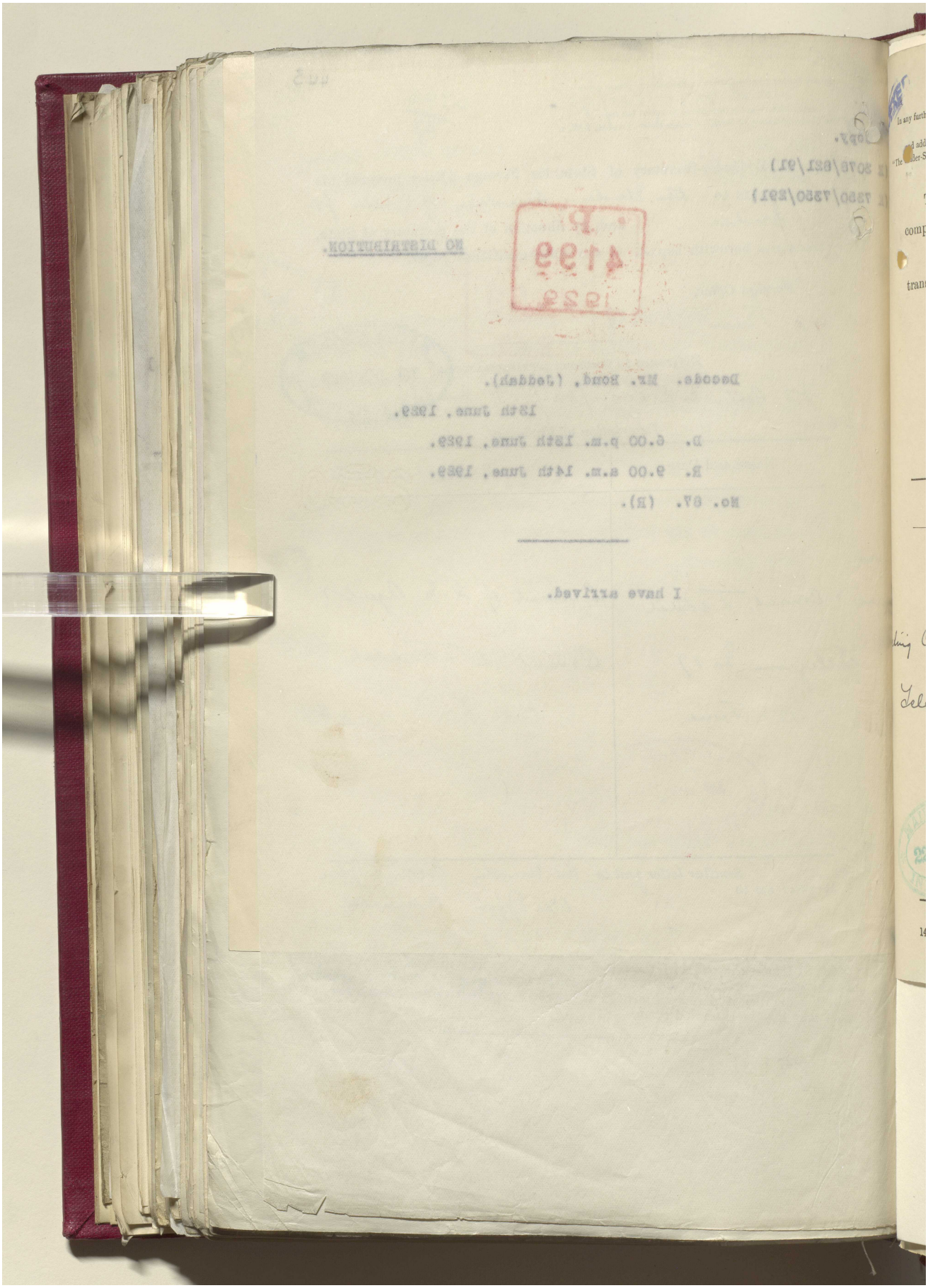
13th June, 1929.

D. 6.00 p.m. 13th June, 1929.

R. 9.00 a.m. 14th June, 1929.

No. 87. (R).

I have arrived.



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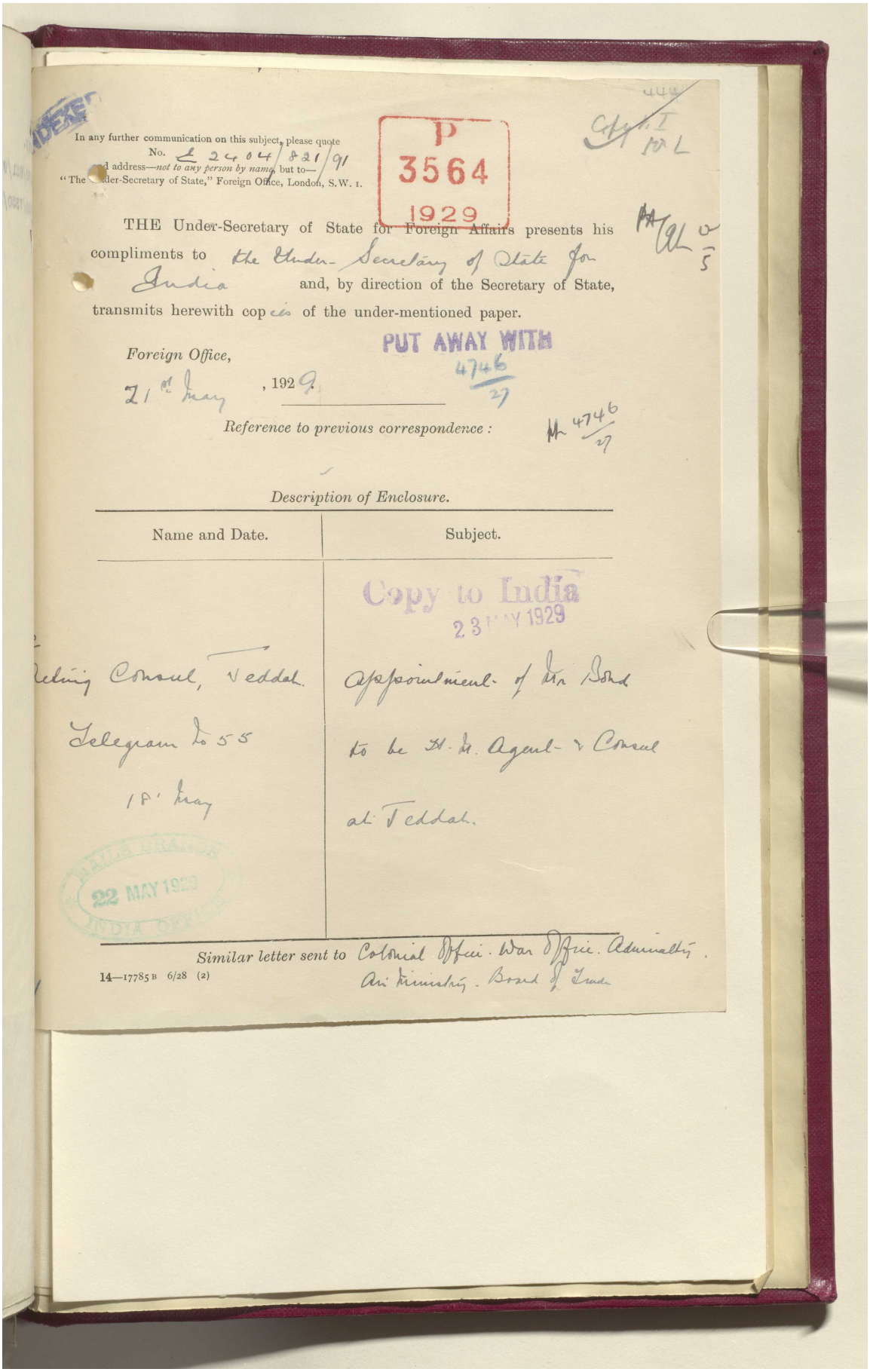

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 2404/821/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P 3564 1929

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
21st May, 1929.

PUT AWAY WITH 4746/27

Reference to previous correspondence: M 4746/27

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Acting Consul, Jeddah. Telegram No 55 18th May	Appointment of Mr Bond to be H.M. Agent & Consul at Jeddah.

Copy to India 23 MAY 1929

22 MAY 1929 INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office. War Office. Admiralty. Air Ministry. Board of Trade.

14—17785 B 6/28 (2)

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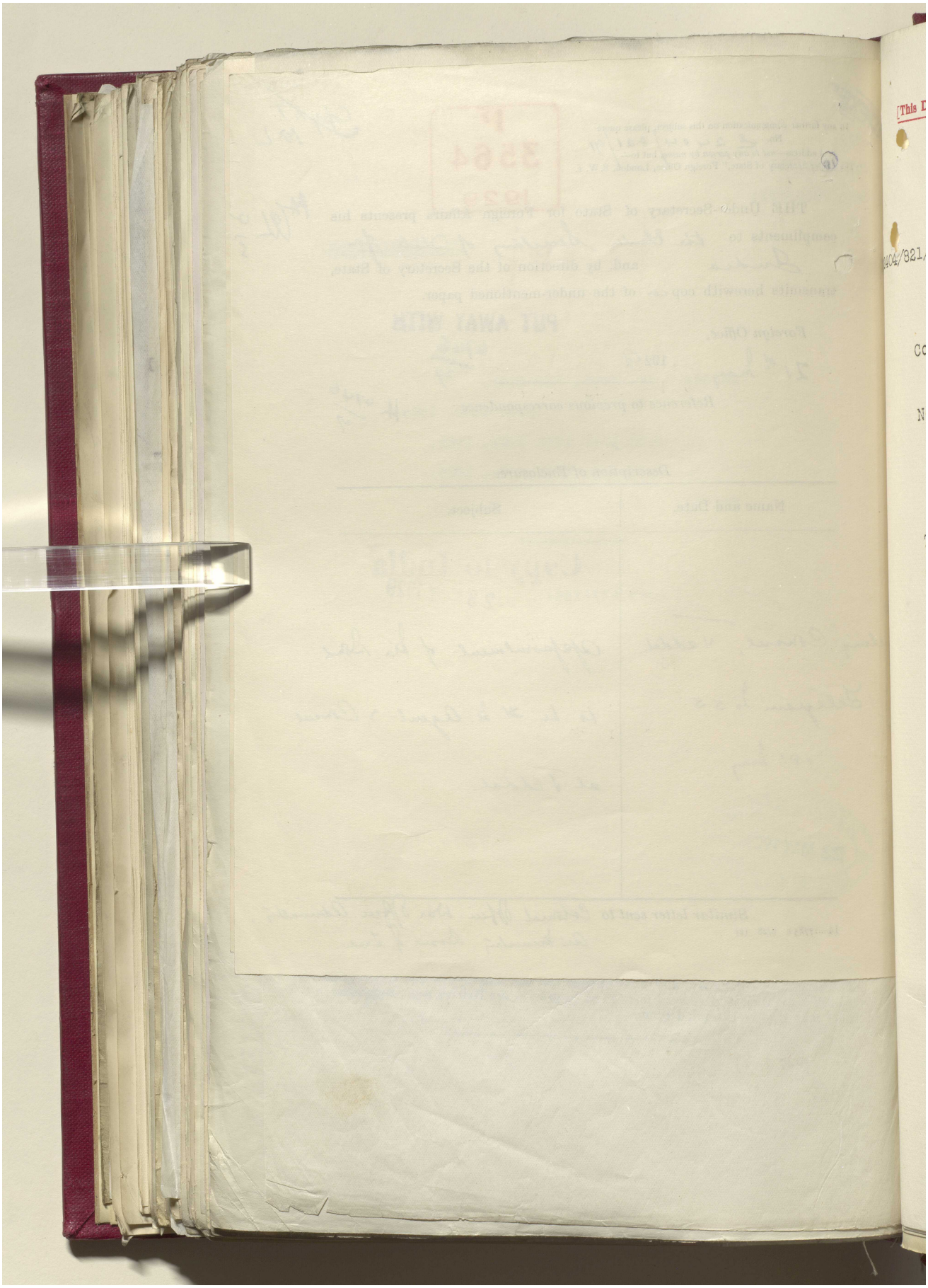

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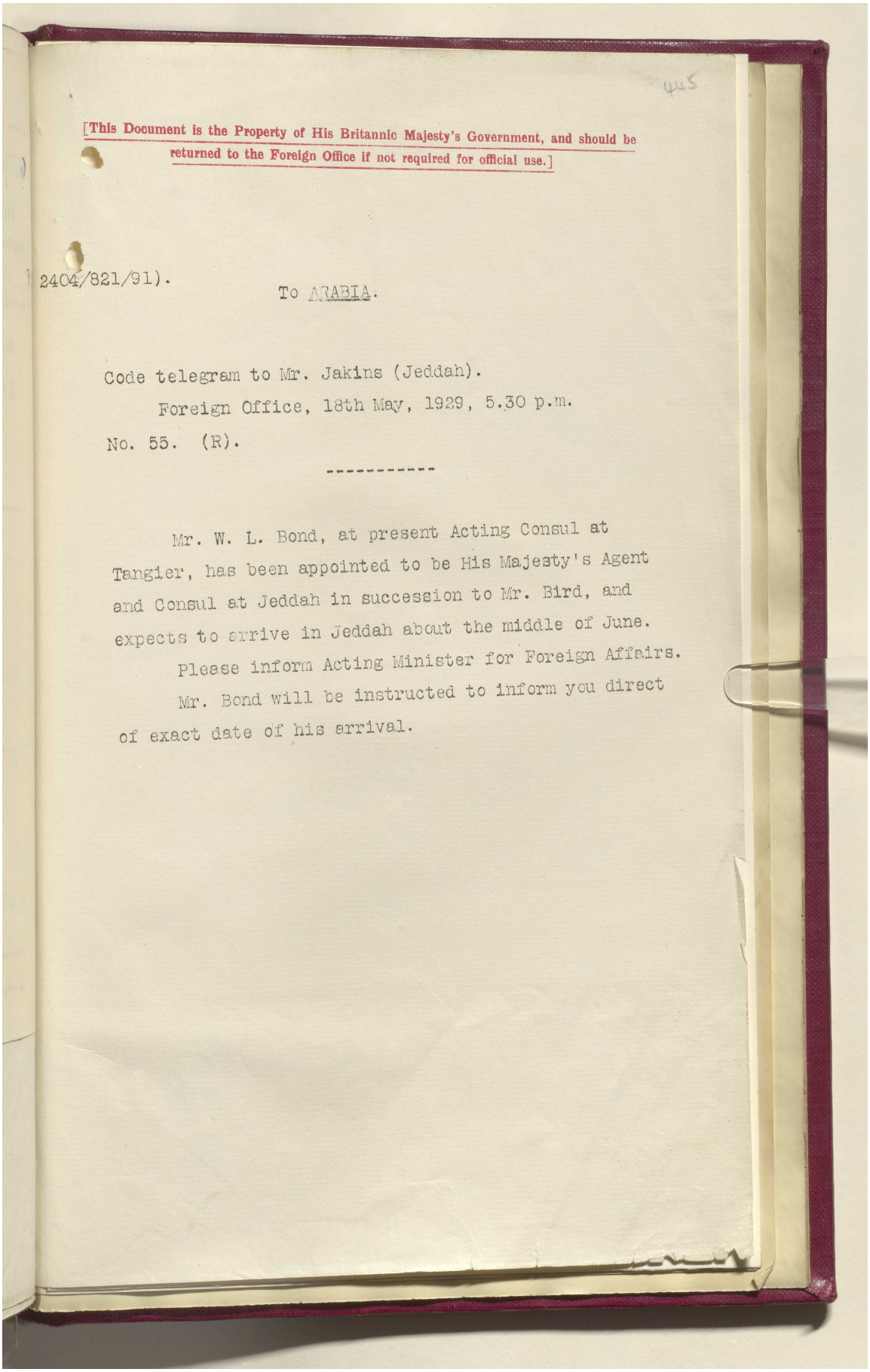

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2404/821/91).

To ARABIA.

Code telegram to Mr. Jakins (Jeddah).

Foreign Office, 18th May, 1929, 5.30 p.m.

No. 55. (R).

Mr. W. L. Bond, at present Acting Consul at Tangier, has been appointed to be His Majesty's Agent and Consul at Jeddah in succession to Mr. Bird, and expects to arrive in Jeddah about the middle of June.

Please inform Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Bond will be instructed to inform you direct of exact date of his arrival.

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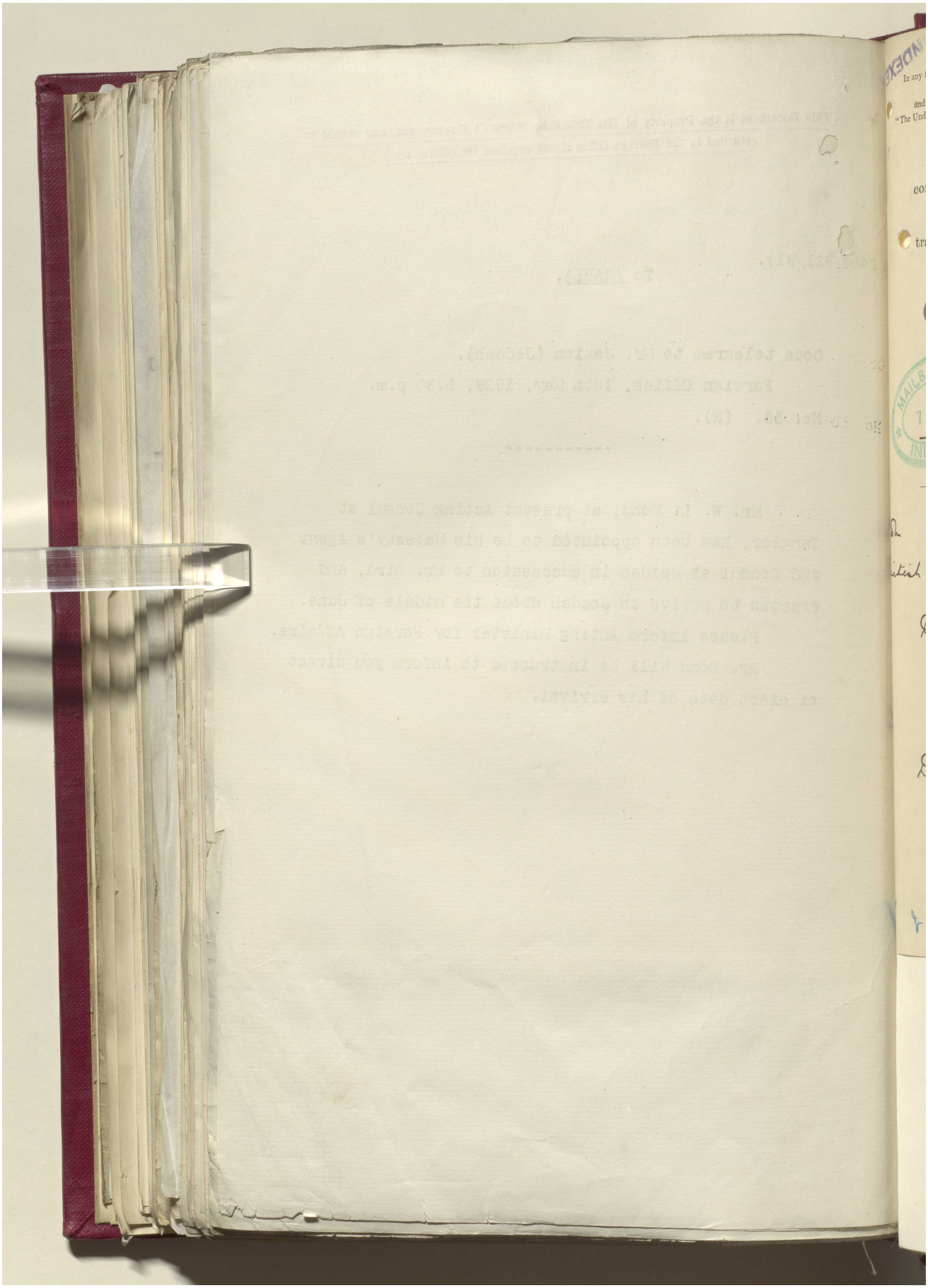

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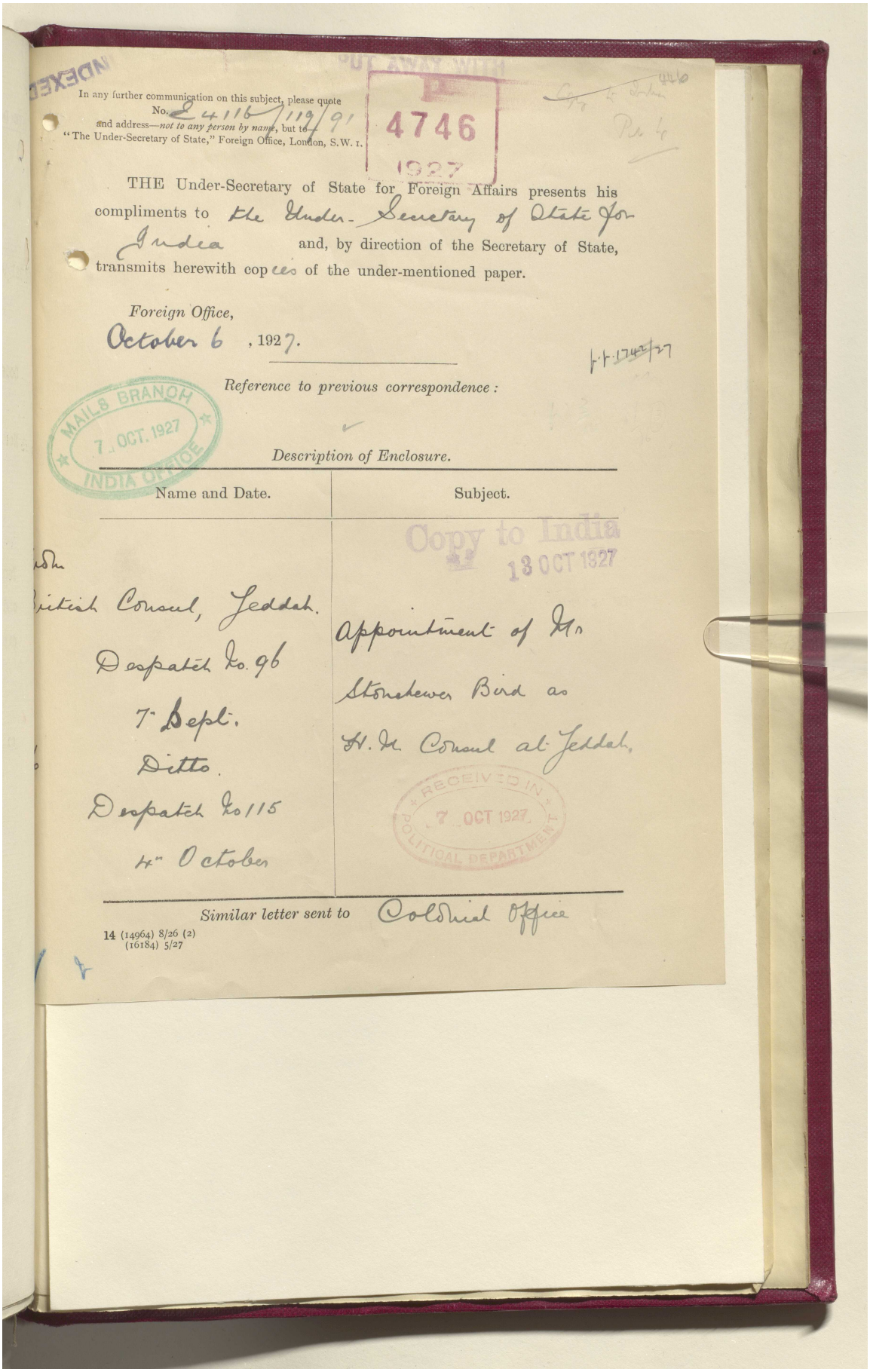

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 4116/119/91
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

4746
1927

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
October 6, 1927.

F.P. 1742/27

Reference to previous correspondence:

MAILS BRANCH 7 OCT. 1927 INDIA OFFICE

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
British Consul, Jeddah. Despatch No. 96 7th Sept. Ditto. Despatch No 115 4th October	Appointment of Mr. Stonehewer Bird as H.M. Consul at Jeddah.

Copy to India 13 OCT 1927

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 7 OCT 1927

Similar letter sent to Colonial Office

14 (14964) 8/26 (2)
(16184) 5/27

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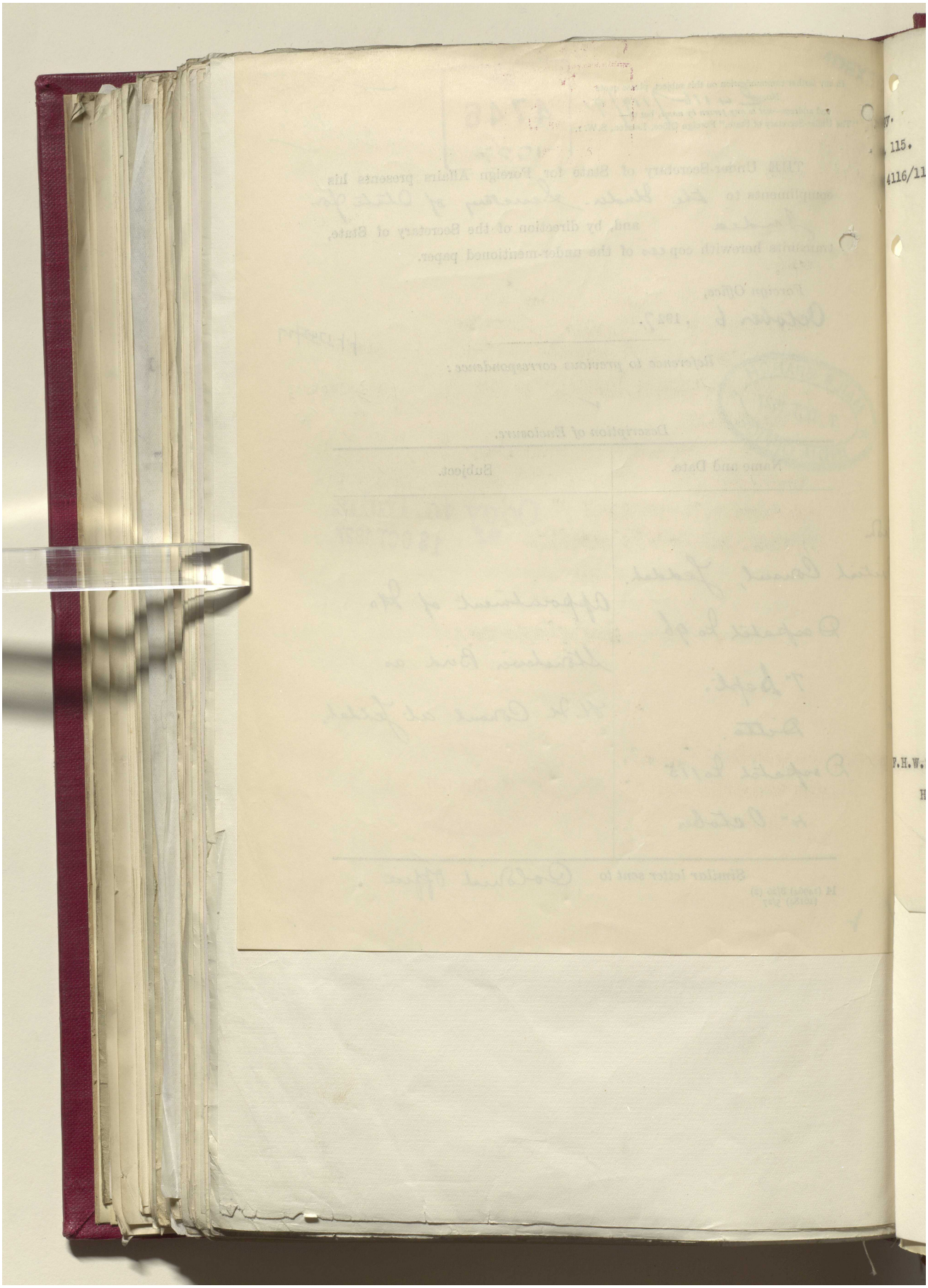

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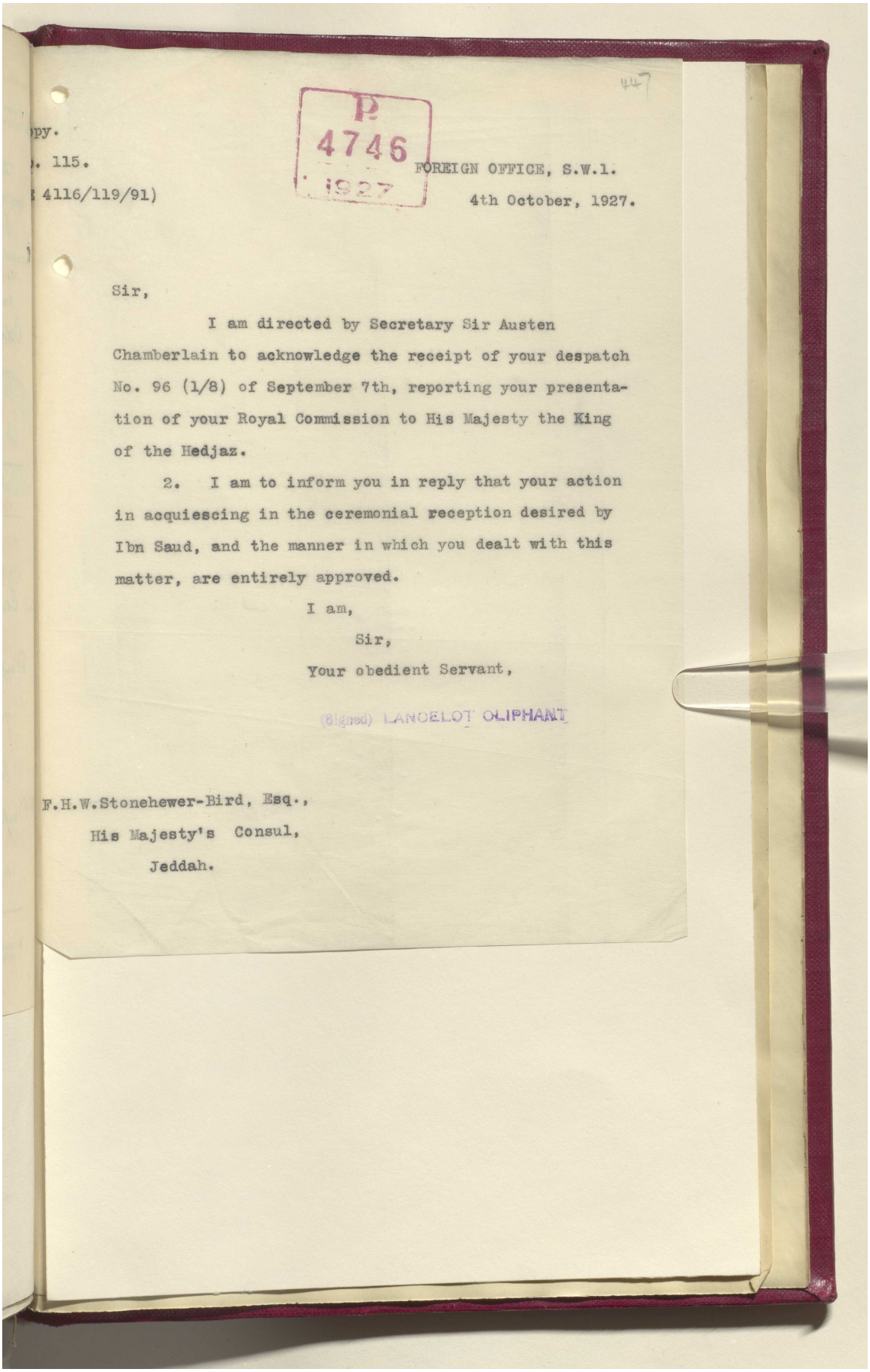

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
4th October, 1927.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 96 (1/8) of September 7th, reporting your presentation of your Royal Commission to His Majesty the King of the Hedjaz.

2. I am to inform you in reply that your action in acquiescing in the ceremonial reception desired by Ibn Saud, and the manner in which you dealt with this matter, are entirely approved.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) LANCELOT OLIPHANT

F.H.W.Stonehewer-Bird, Esq.,
His Majesty's Consul,
Jeddah.

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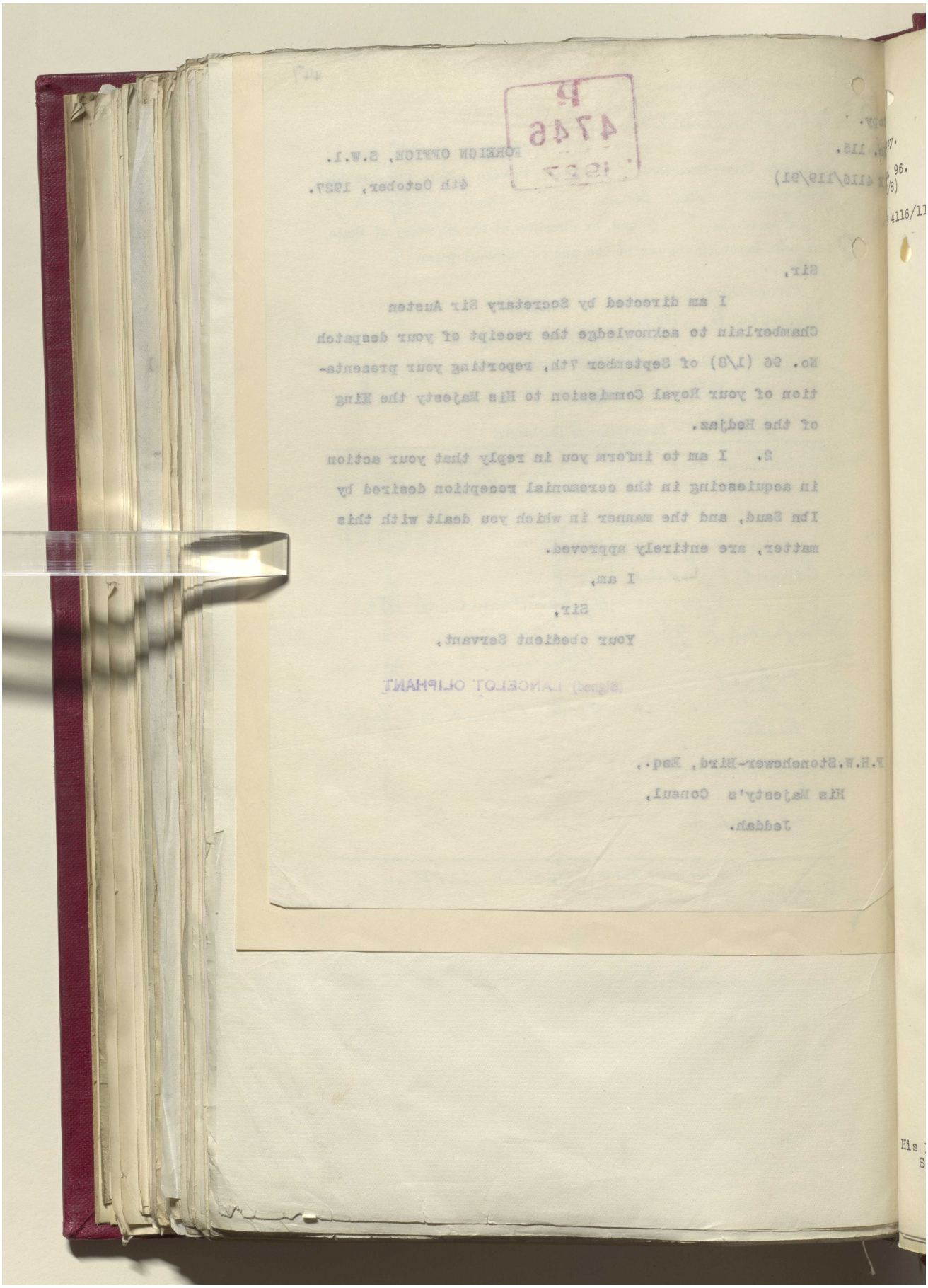

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Copy.

No. 96.
(1/8)

(E 4116/119/91)

British Agency,
Jeddah.
7th September, 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the King's Commission appointing me to be His Majesty's Agent and Consul at Jeddah.

2. At the request of the Director of Foreign Affairs I handed the Royal Commission personally to His Majesty at a special audience accorded me to-day for this purpose. I made a short speech in which I laid stress on the ties of friendship which united the two countries, and on the excellent relations which had always existed between the Agency and His Majesty's advisers, relations which it would be my endeavour with his assistance to maintain. I made no specific mention of treaty relations as ratifications have not yet been exchanged.

3. His Majesty's reply, of which I enclose a copy, follows closely the lines of my own remarks and is most cordial in tone.

4. I trust that, in acquiescing in this ceremonial reception, I did not arrogate to myself privileges to which my status does not entitle me. I had intended to forward my Commission in the usual way, but I found it impossible, without giving offence, to stand out against the King's wishes in the matter.

I have etc.,

(Signed) F.H.W.STONEHEWER-BIRD.
H.B.M.Agent and Consul.

His Britannic Majesty's Principal
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
The Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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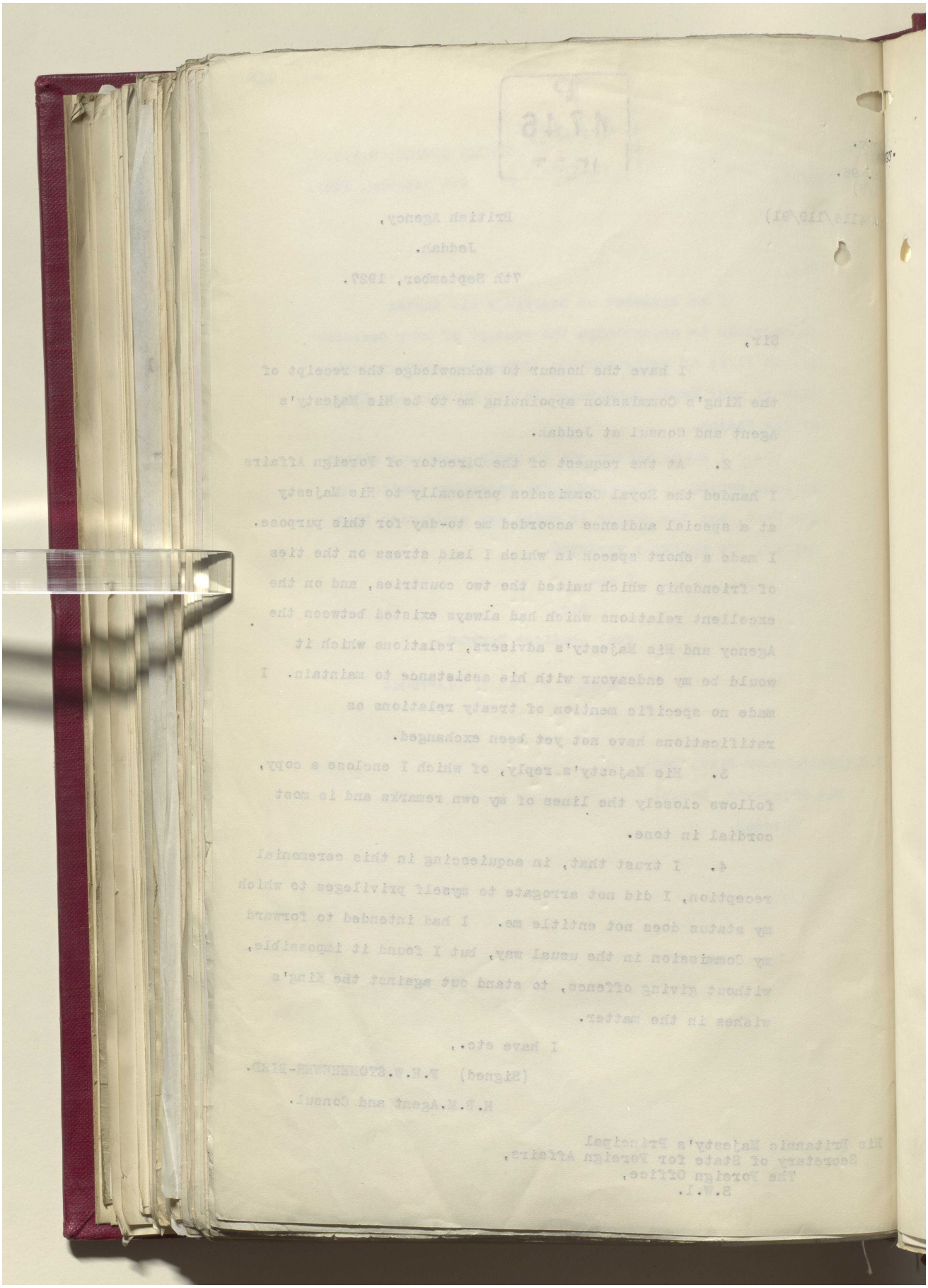

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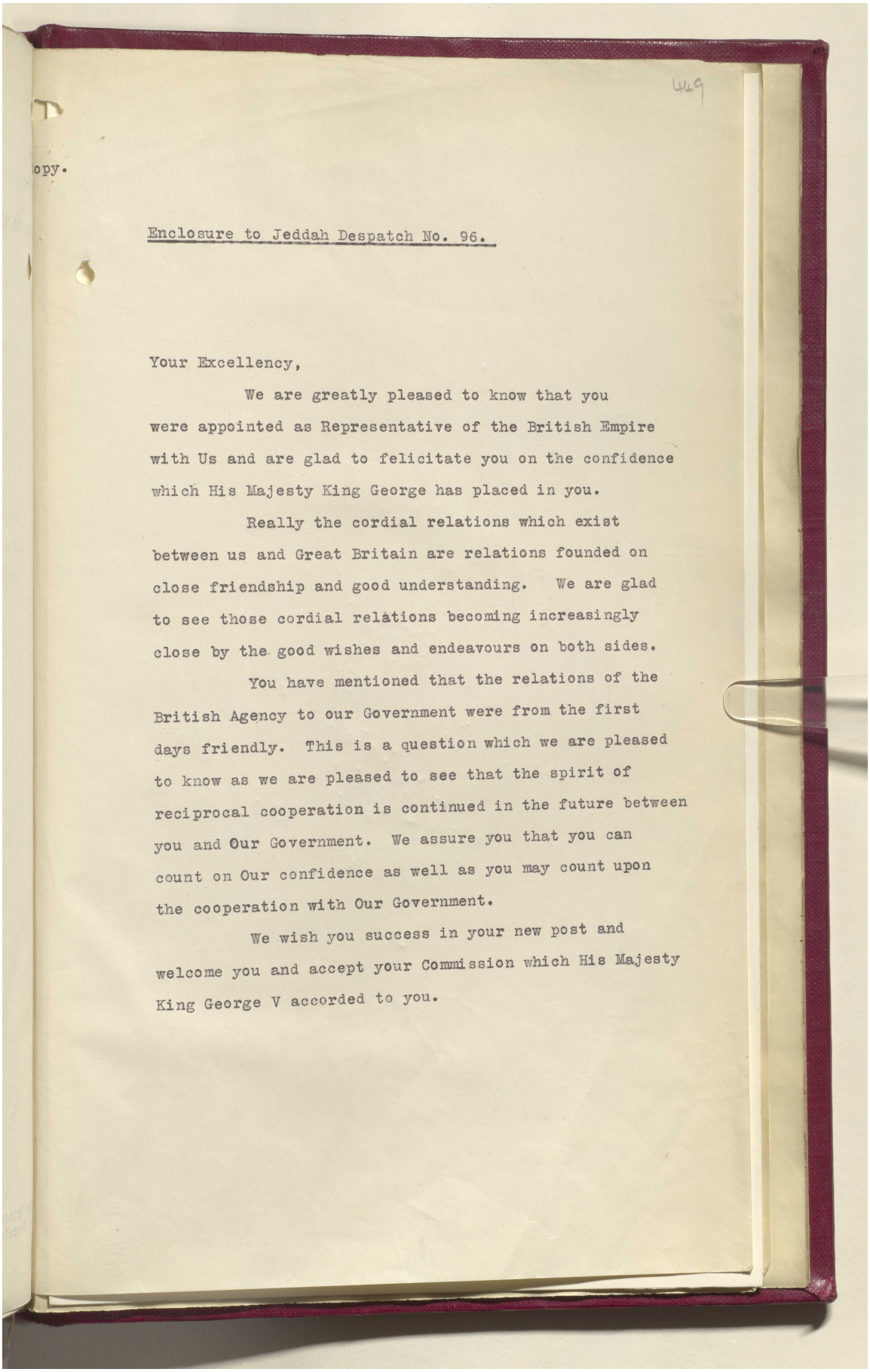

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opy.

Enclosure to Jeddah Despatch No. 96.

Your Excellency,

We are greatly pleased to know that you were appointed as Representative of the British Empire with Us and are glad to felicitate you on the confidence which His Majesty King George has placed in you.

Really the cordial relations which exist between us and Great Britain are relations founded on close friendship and good understanding. We are glad to see those cordial relations becoming increasingly close by the good wishes and endeavours on both sides.

You have mentioned that the relations of the British Agency to our Government were from the first days friendly. This is a question which we are pleased to know as we are pleased to see that the spirit of reciprocal cooperation is continued in the future between you and Our Government. We assure you that you can count on Our confidence as well as you may count upon the cooperation with Our Government.

We wish you success in your new post and welcome you and accept your Commission which His Majesty King George V accorded to you.

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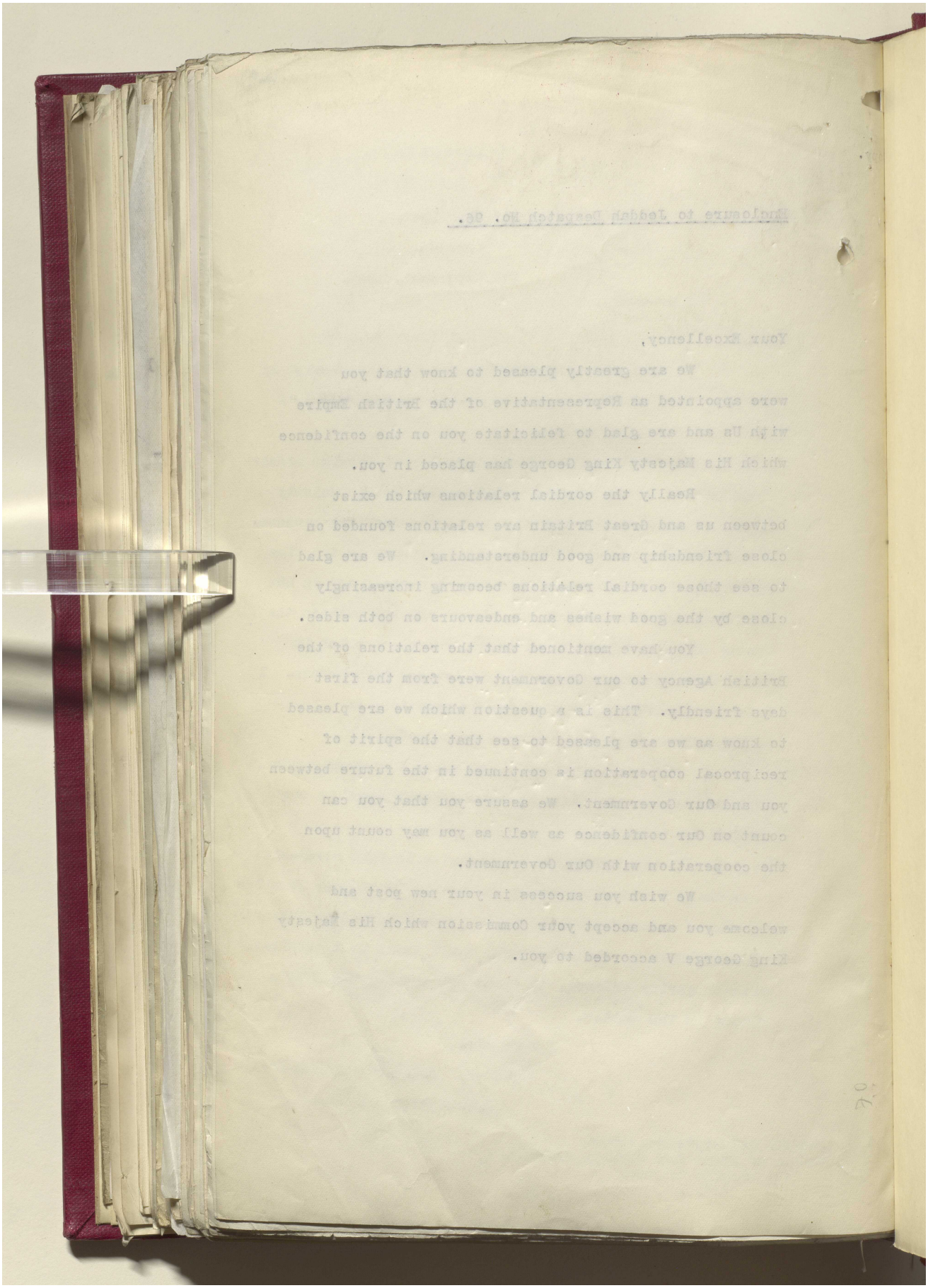

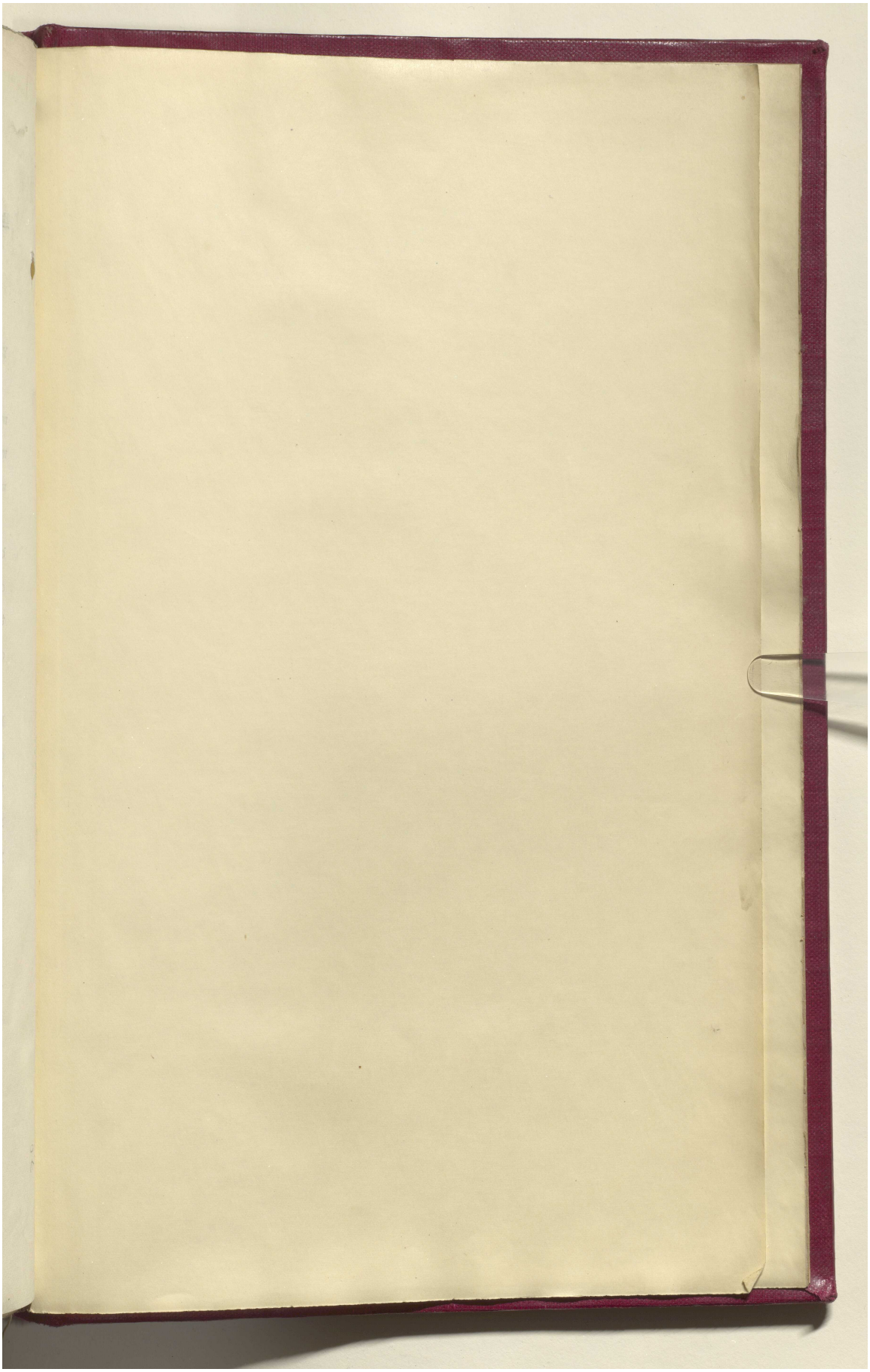

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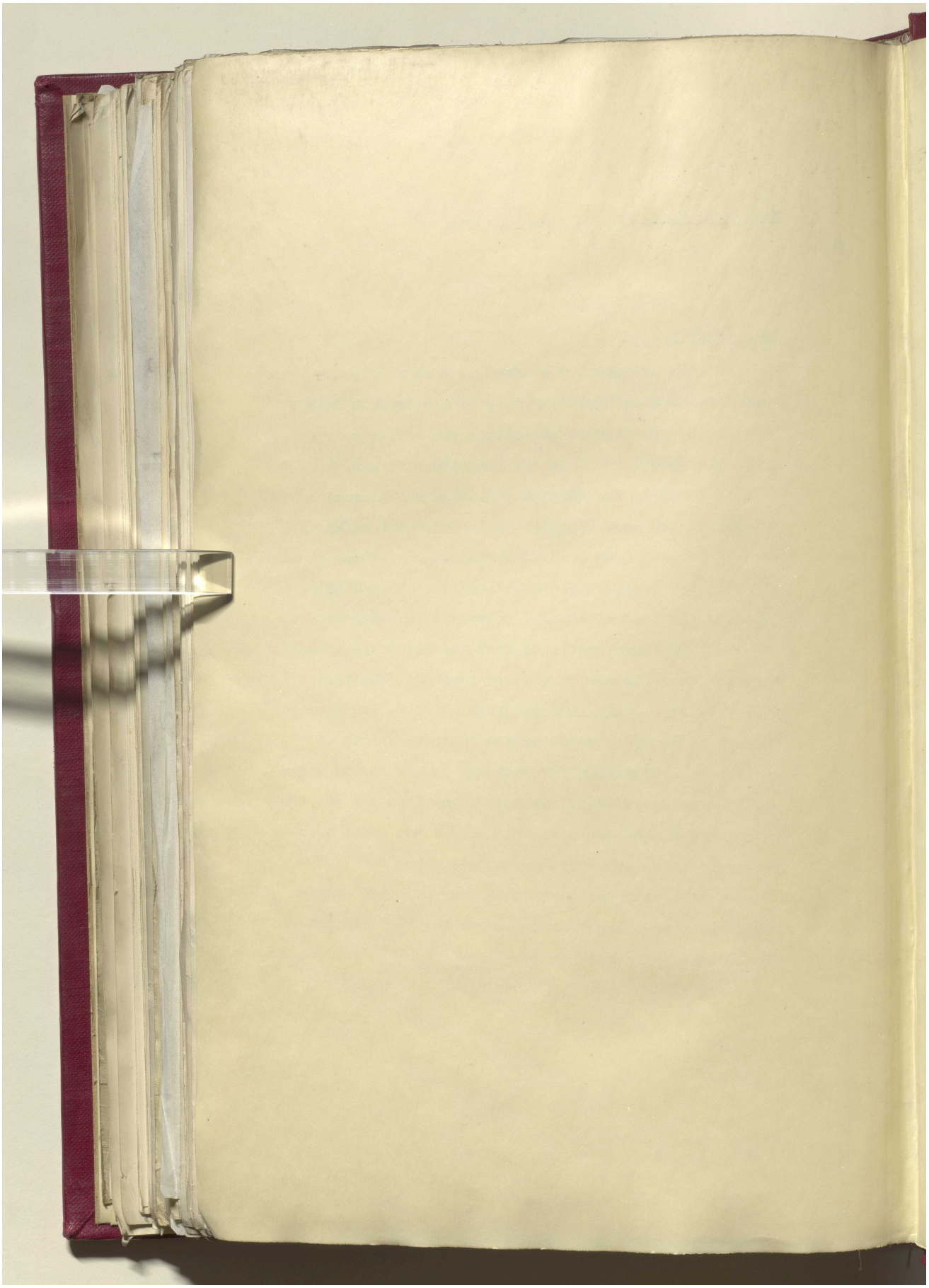

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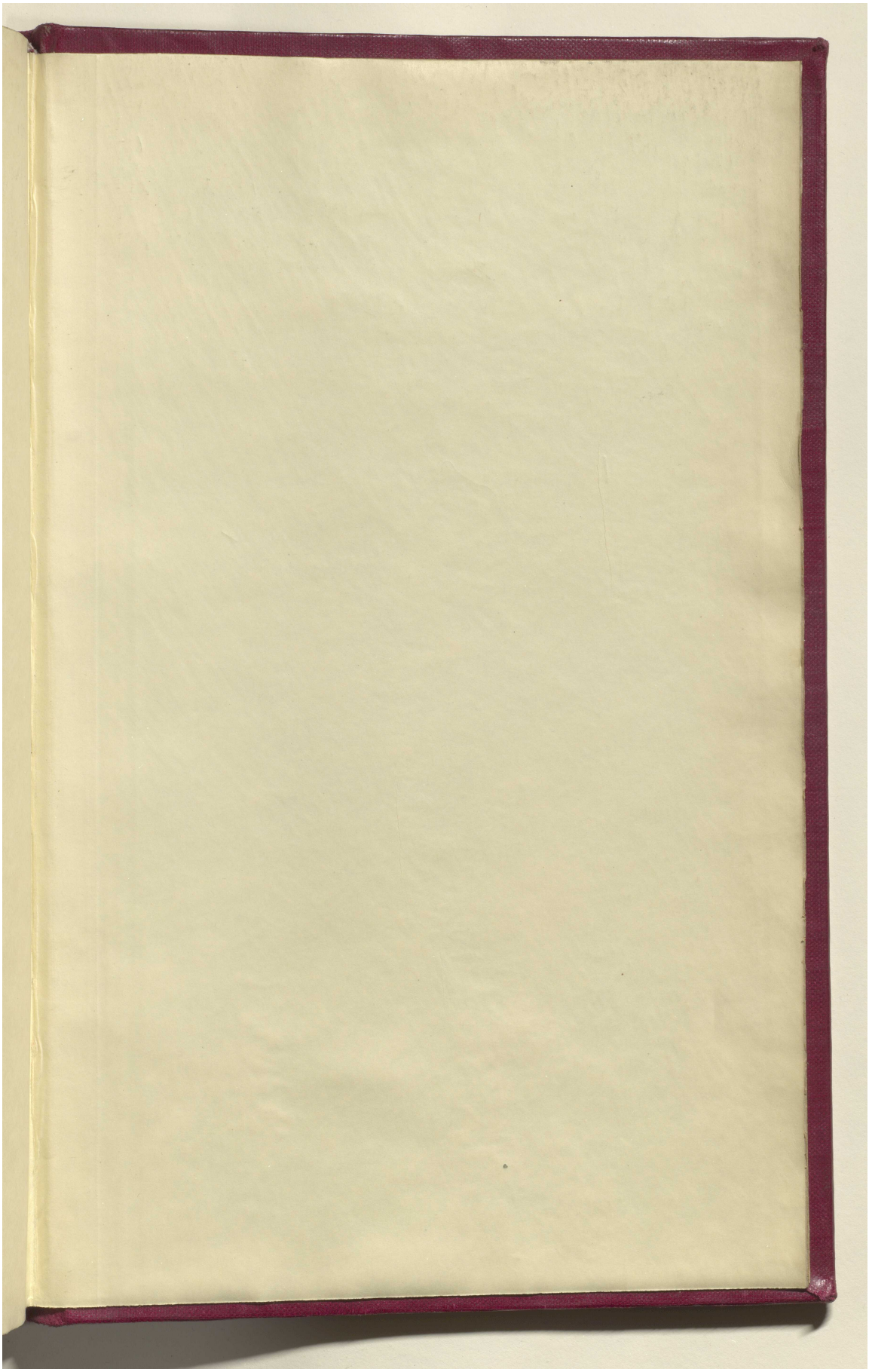

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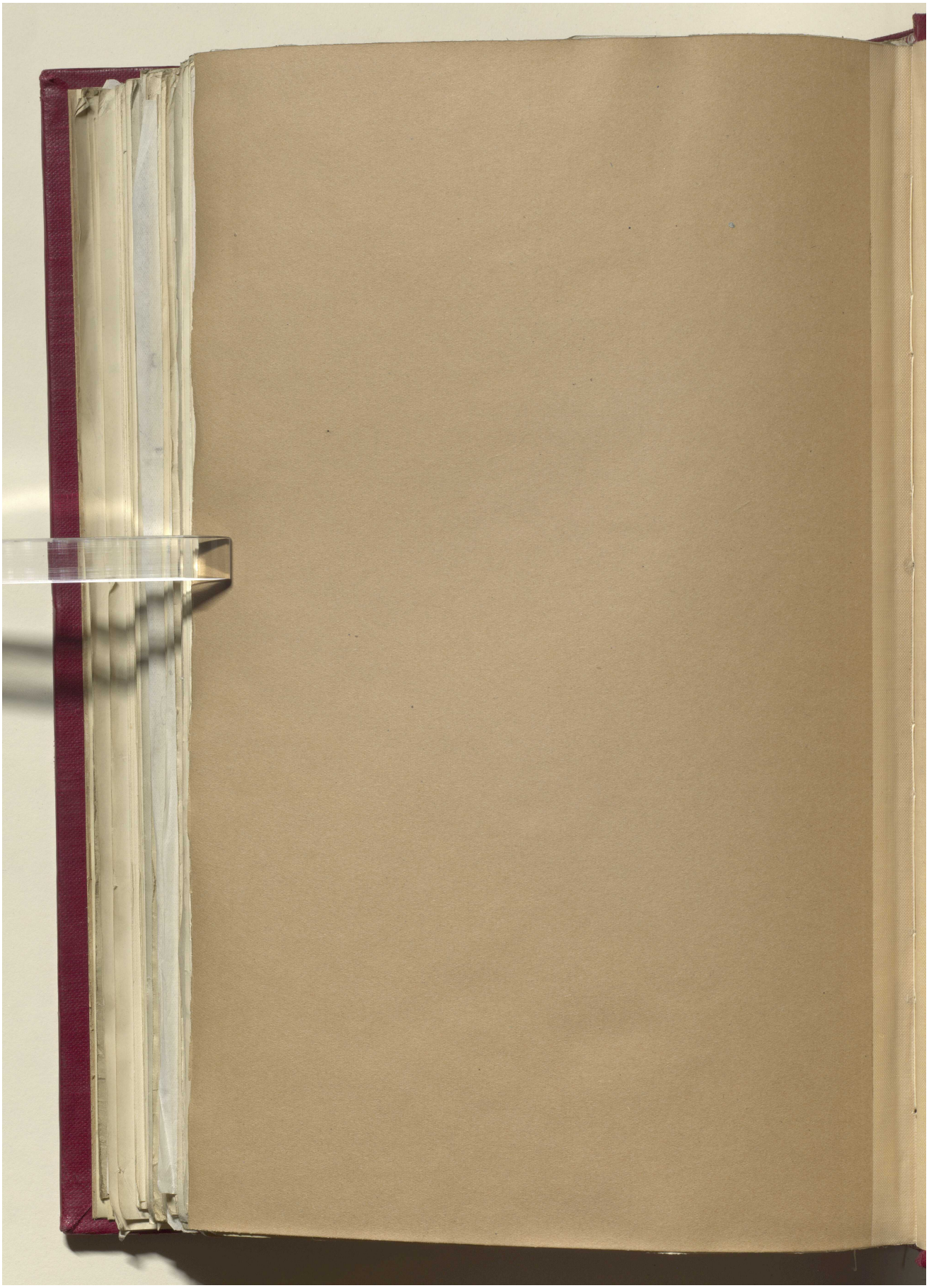

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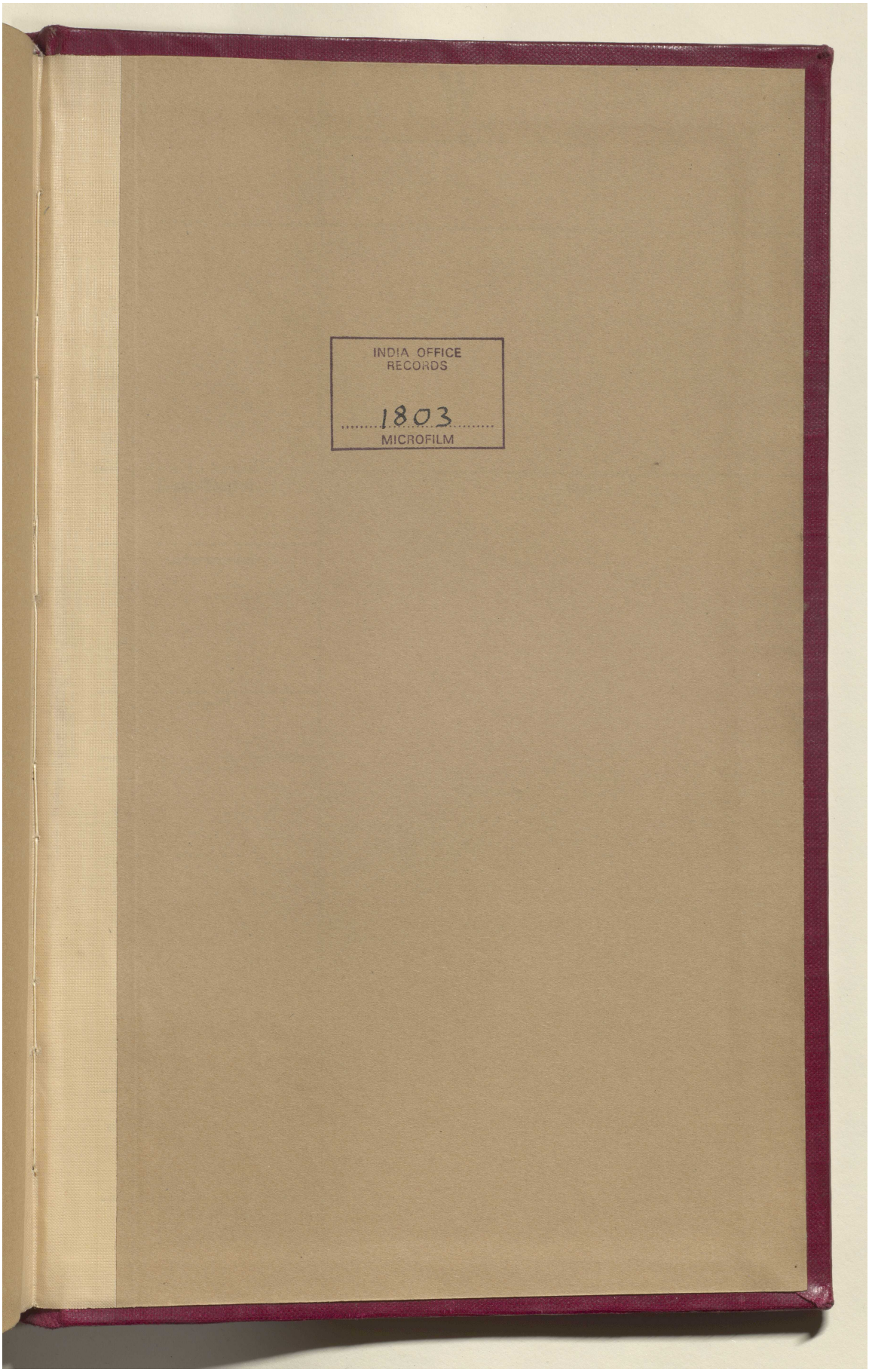

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