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**'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness
Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.'**

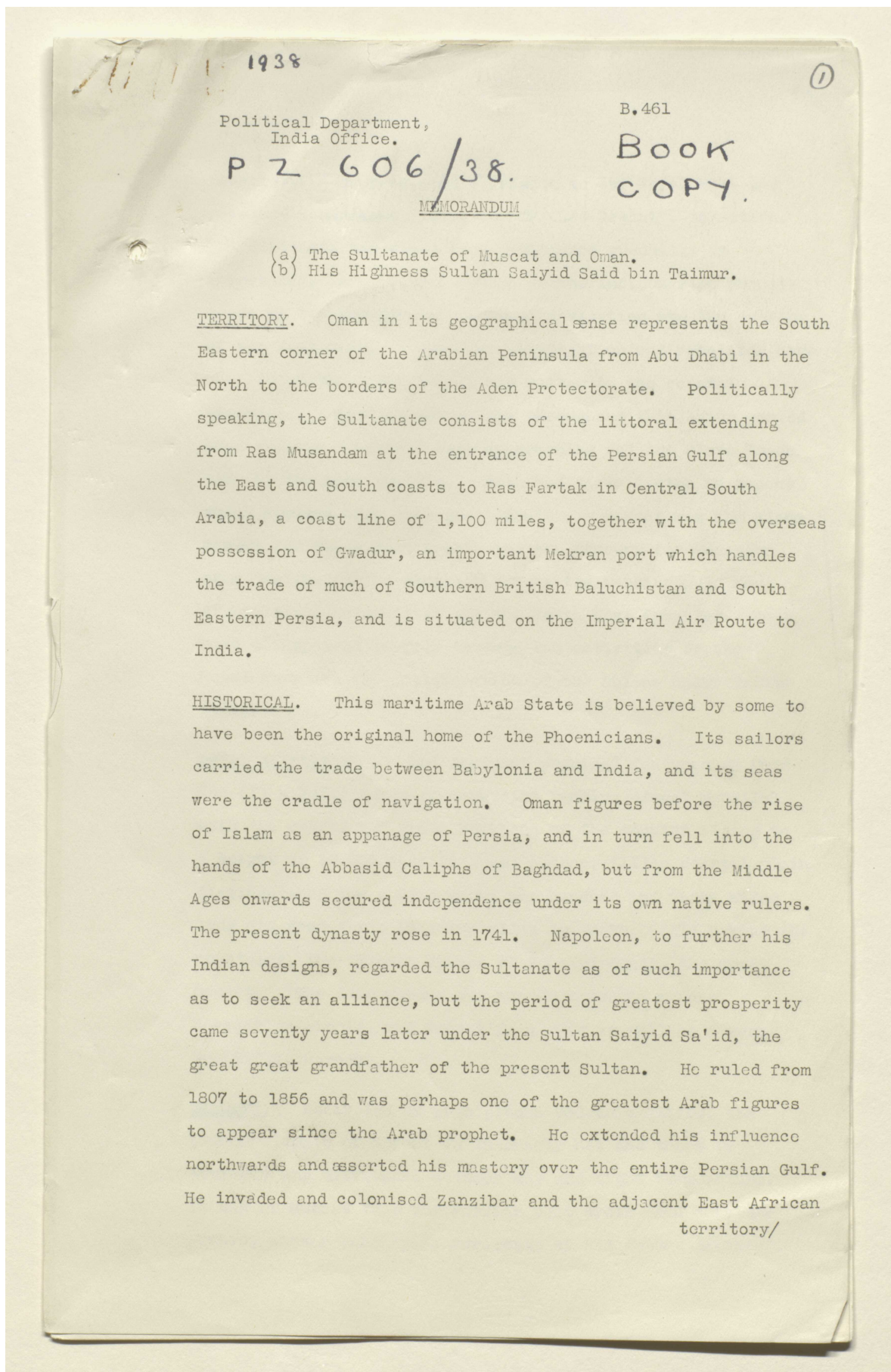
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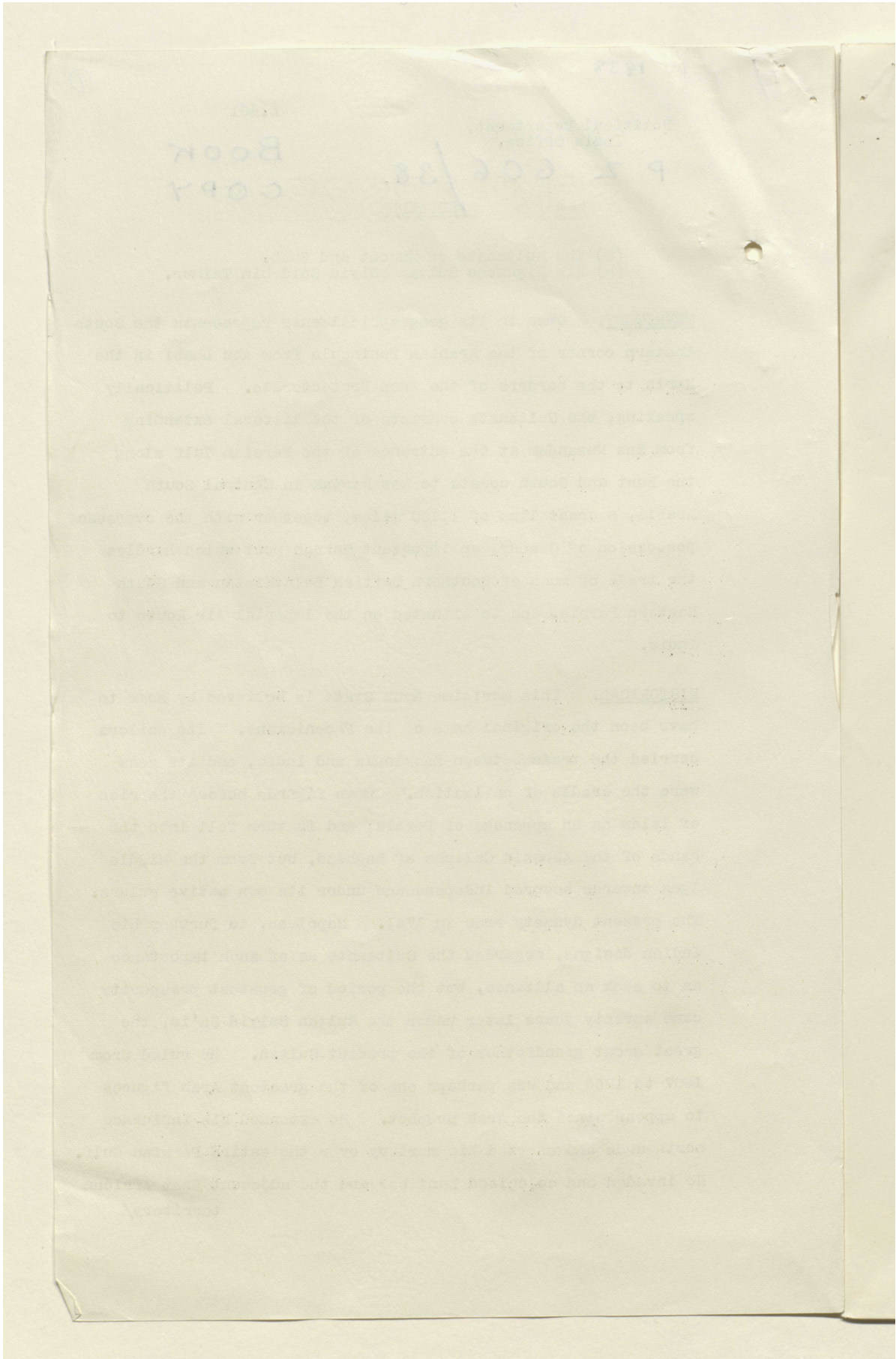
About this record

The file consists of a memorandum in two parts. The first part provides information about the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman in eight sections, entitled, 'Territory', 'Historical', 'Physical Features', 'Climate', 'Population', 'Products and Trade', 'Religion' and 'Government'. The second part describes and gives a brief biography of His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur, and outlines the extent of British influence upon him.

'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [1r] (1/10)



'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [1v] (2/10)



'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [2r] (3/10)

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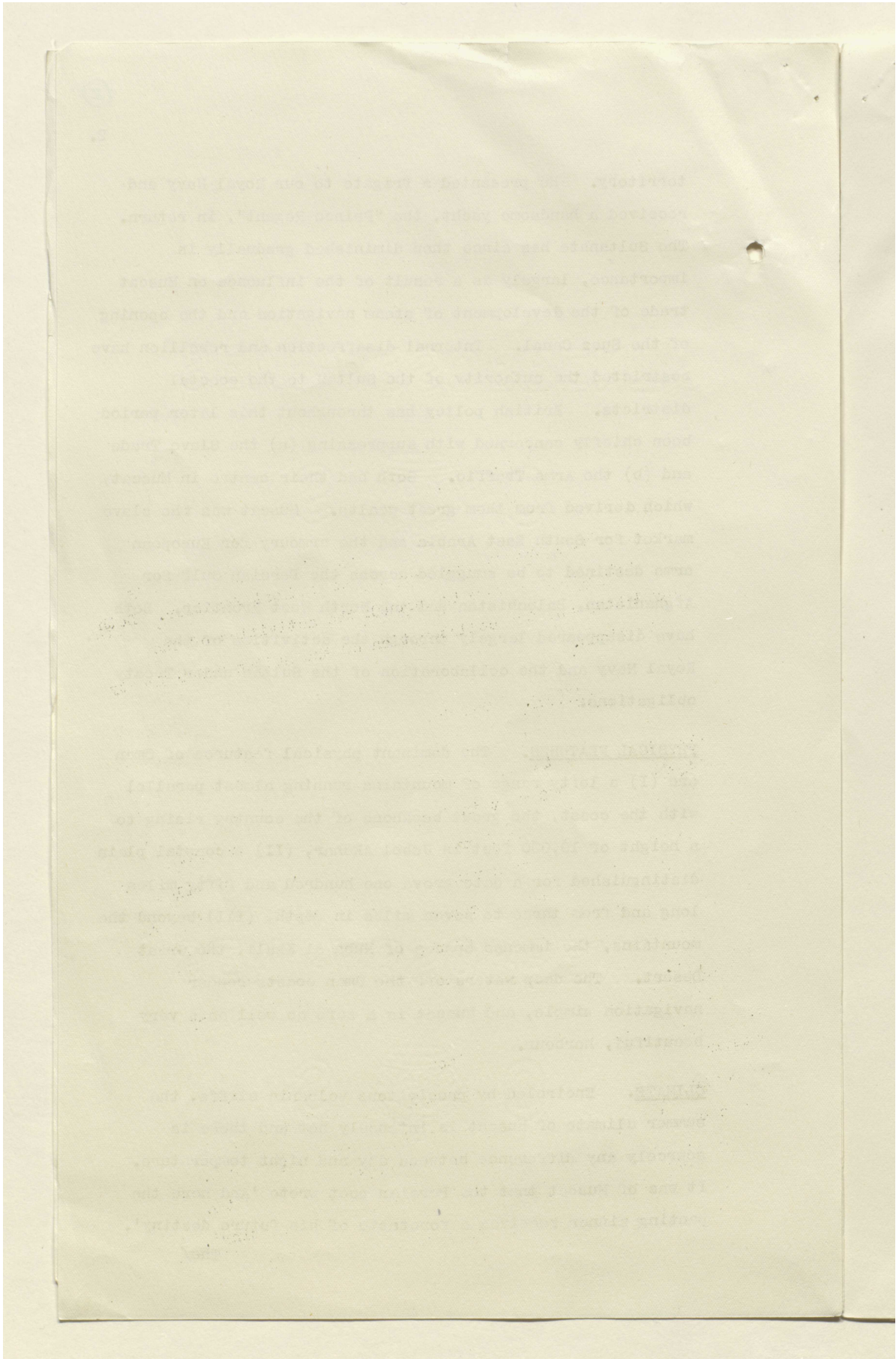
territory. He presented a frigate to our Royal Navy and received a handsome yacht, the "Prince Regent", in return. The Sultanate has since then diminished gradually in importance, largely as a result of the influence on Muscat trade of the development of steam navigation and the opening of the Suez Canal. Internal disaffection and rebellion have restricted the authority of the Sultan to the coastal districts. British policy has throughout this later period been chiefly concerned with suppressing (a) the Slave Trade and (b) the Arms Traffic. Both had their centre in Muscat, which derived from them great wealth. Muscat was the slave market for South East Arabia and the armoury for European arms destined to be smuggled across the Persian Gulf for Afghanistan, Baluchistan and the North West Frontier. Both have disappeared largely through the activities of the Royal Navy and the collaboration of the Sultan under Treaty obligations.

PHYSICAL FEATURES. The dominant physical features of Oman are (I) a lofty range of mountains running almost parallel with the coast, the great backbone of the country rising to a height of 10,000 feet in Jebel Akdhar, (II) a coastal plain distinguished for a date grove one hundred and fifty miles long and from three to seven miles in depth, (III) beyond the mountains, the immense spaces of Ruba al Khali, the Great Desert. The deep waters off the Oman coasts render navigation simple, and Muscat is a safe as well as a very beautiful, harbour.

CLIMATE. Encircled by precipitous volcanic cliffs, the summer climate of Muscat is intensely hot and there is scarcely any difference between day and night temperature. It was of Muscat that the Persian poet wrote 'And here the panting sinner receives a foretaste of his future destiny'.

The/

'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [2v] (4/10)



'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [3r] (5/10)

(3)

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The average rainfall varies between three and six inches.

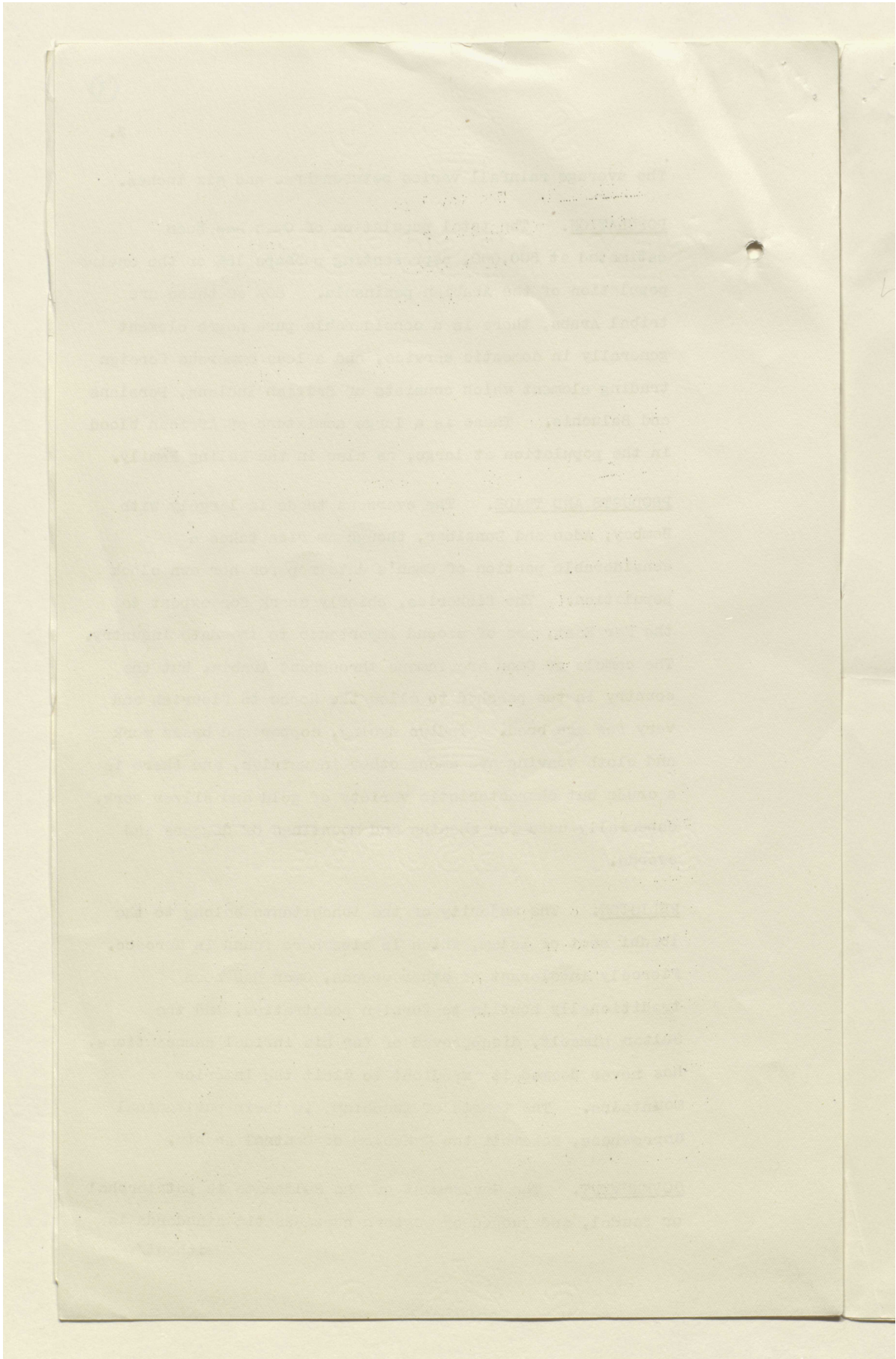
POPULATION. The total population of Oman has been estimated at 500,000, representing perhaps 15% of the entire population of the Arabian peninsula. 80% of these are tribal Arabs, there is a considerable pure negro element generally in domestic service, and a less numerous foreign trading element which consists of British Indians, Persians and Baluchis. There is a large admixture of African blood in the population at large, as also in the Ruling Family.

PRODUCTS AND TRADE. The overseas trade is largely with Bombay, Aden and Zanzibar, though America takes a considerable portion of Oman's date crop for her own black population. The fisheries, chiefly shark for export to the Far East, are of second importance to the date industry. The camels of Oman are famous throughout Arabia, but the country is too parched to allow the horse to flourish and very few are bred. Indigo dyeing, copper and brass work and cloth weaving are among other industries, and there is a crude but characteristic variety of gold and silver work, especially used for sheaths and mountings of daggers and swords.

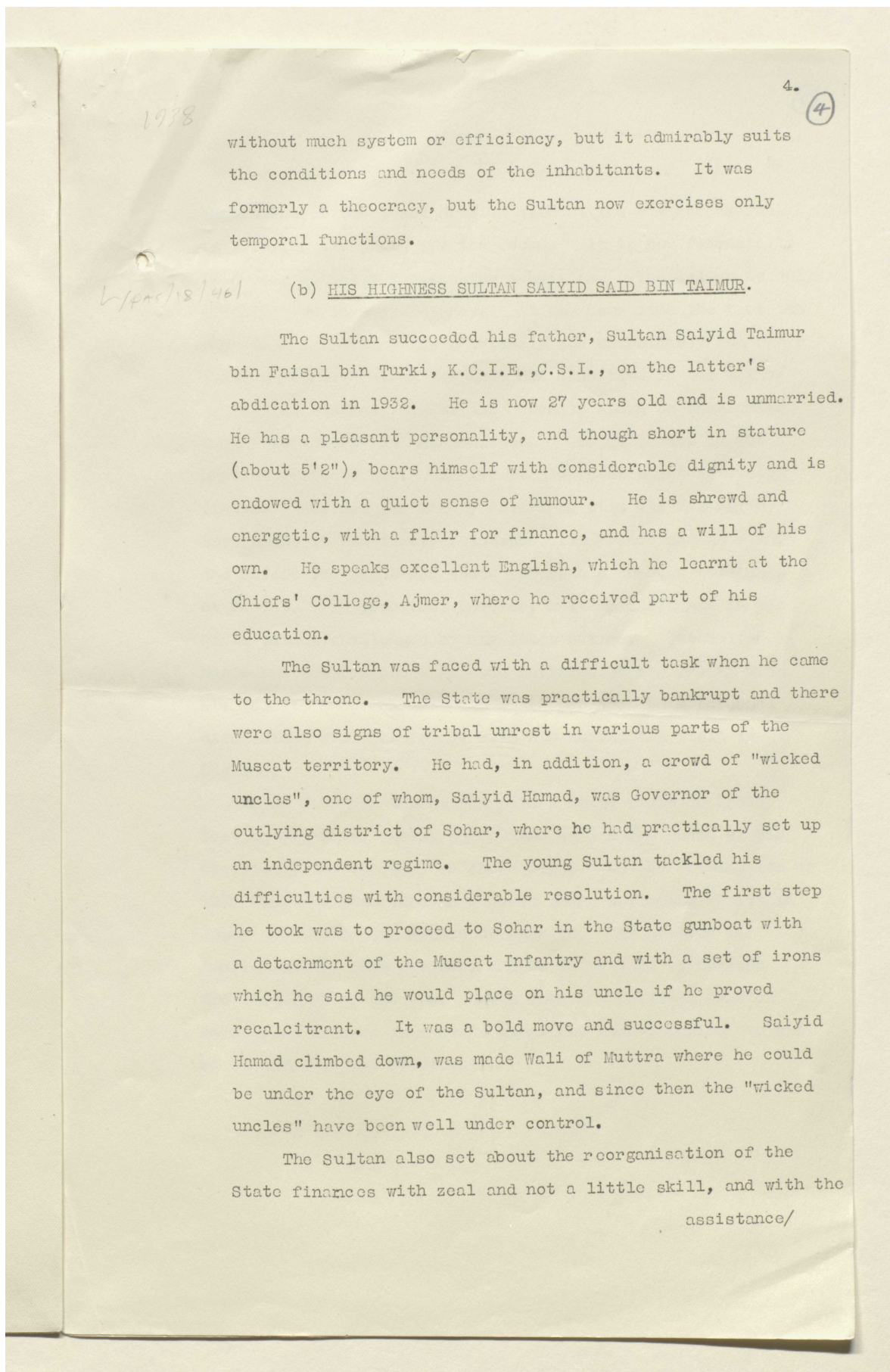
RELIGION. The majority of the inhabitants belong to the Ibadhi sect of Islam, which is elsewhere found in Morocco. Fiercely intolerant of other creeds, Oman has been traditionally hostile to foreign penetration, and the Sultan himself, disapproved of for his infidel associations, has never deemed it expedient to visit the interior mountains. The tenets of Ibadhism, in their puritanical narrowness, resemble the Wahabism of Central Arabia.

GOVERNMENT. The Government of the Sultanate is patriarchal or feudal, and judged by western bureaucratic standards is without/

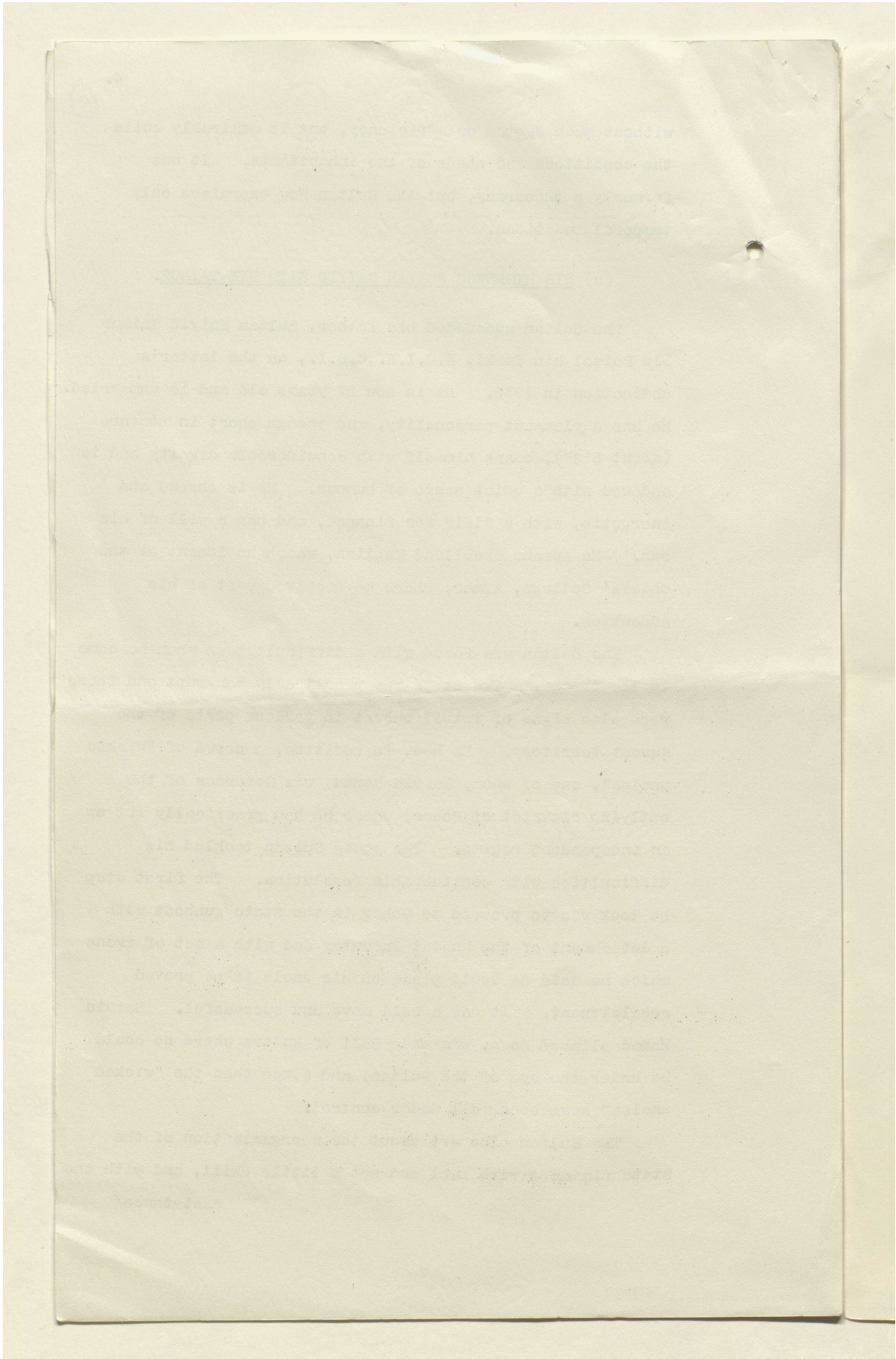
'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [3v] (6/10)



'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [4r] (7/10)



'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [4v] (8/10)



'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [5r] (9/10)

5.

assistance of the local British authorities was successful in bringing the State off the rocks. It is now financially in a comparatively flourishing condition. The Sultan is duly grateful for this assistance. At the same time the fact that the State for some years previously was unavoidably run under British administration has made him sensitive in the matter of British control, and he has recently shown an increasing desire to assert his independence. The Sultanate is not a British Protectorate. In law it has independent sovereign status. Besides its Treaty relations with His Majesty's Government it has treaty relations with France and America, and before the Great War these powers had consuls stationed at Muscat. In practice, however, British influence in the State is not challenged by any other nation. The Sultan has submitted proposals for the revision of his Treaty with His Majesty's Government, and it is probable that informal discussions will take place with him during his visit to England.

Last November the Sultan paid a State visit to India lasting ten days, during which time he was the guest of His Excellency the Viceroy for three days. On the termination of this visit he proceeded on a world tour, including visits to Japan and the United States of America. He arrived in America on the 10th February and is travelling to England from New York in the s.s. "Queen Mary". While in America he will be treated as a State guest for a short period and will be received by the President.

'MEMORANDUM (a) The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. (b) His Highness Sultan Saiyid Said bin Taimur.' [5v] (10/10)

