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'Agreement between Shaikh Sultan bin Saqar, Ruler of Shargah, and the British Government for the Establishment of an air station at Shargah'

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About this record

This printed memorandum is a copy of an agreement between Shaikh Sultan bin Saqar [Sulṭān bin Ṣaqr Āl Qāsimī], ruler of Shargah [Sharjah] and the British Government, dated 22 July 1932, and signed by Harold Richard Patrick Dickson for the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and Shaikh Sulṭān, and witnessed by Edward C Denison, commanding HMS *Bideford*, Hummid bin Ali bin Humaid [Ḥamad bin 'Alī bin Ḥumayd?], and Isa bin Abdul Latif ['Īsā bin 'Abd al-Laṭīf], Residency Agent, Sharjah. The agreement is for the establishment of an air station and rest house at Sharjah for the aeroplanes of the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) operating an air route to India along the Arab coast of the Persian Gulf. Details in the agreement concern guards, import of petrol and spare parts, rent for the air station and rest house, and landing fees.

'Agreement between Shaikh Sultan bin Saqar, Ruler of Shargah, and the British Government for the Establishment of an air station at Shargah' [1r] (1/2)

Book Copy.

MEMO B. 471

P.Z. 4664/32.

Agreement between Shaikh Sultan Bin Saqar,
Ruler of Shargah, and the British Government
for the Establishment of an air station at Shargah.

It having been intimated to me, Sultan bin Saqar, Shaikh of Shargah and its villages, by Lieutenant Colonel Sir High Biscoe, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, that the High British Government desire to establish an air route along the Arab Coast for the aeroplanes of the British Overseas Airways Corporation (hereinafter referred to as the Corporation), and that they wish to have an air station at Shargah at which British aeroplanes can land, I hereby agree to grant to the said Corporation the following facilities:-

1. The Corporation may select a landing ground at Shargah, and may put on it such marks as are necessary, and their aeroplanes may land on that ground.
2. I will construct a rest house for the passengers and staff of the Corporation on a site to be selected by the Corporation and in accordance with plans drawn up by them, and under the supervision of an Engineer of the British Government. The house and fixed fittings to be considered as my property.
3. The Corporation shall have the right to import, free of duty, petrol and spare parts for aircraft, provisions for the passengers and staff, and whatever may be required for their service.
4. The Corporation may send their employees to reside in the rest house, but neither they nor the passengers shall enter the town of Shargah without my permission.

I further accept full responsibility for the protection of the Staff and passengers of the Corporation and their aircraft, so far as my dependents, relatives and subjects are concerned, and further for their protection as far as possible against marauders from outside my jurisdiction.

I will supply 35 guards and 2 head guards.

In return for the above, it is agreed that the British Government shall make me the following payments:-

- (i) Pay for 35 guards and two chiefs at the rate of Rs.20 p.m. for each guard and Rs.40 p.m. for each of the two head guards, payment to commence from the date the guards are appointed.
- (ii) Rent for the Air Station Rs.800 p.m., payment to commence from the date the first commercial aeroplane lands.
- (iii) Rent for the Rest House Rs.300 p.m.

The Government shall advance me by instalments such sums as may be considered reasonable by the Engineer supervising the work for the construction of the building, and no rent shall be payable to me until all the sums advanced have been repaid. The Government will supply gratis doors, windows and steel joints and corrugated iron.

(iv)/

'Agreement between Shaikh Sultan bin Saqar, Ruler of Shargah, and the British Government for the Establishment of an air station at Shargah' [1v] (2/2)

2.

(iv) For the responsibility that I have accepted, a personal subsidy of Rs.500 p.m. to commence from 1st July, 1932.

(v) A landing fee of Rs.5 for every commercial aeroplane that lands on the aerodrome. No charge shall be made for aeroplanes belonging to the Royal Air Force.

The Company and their employees shall not deal direct with the Shaikh but through the Residency Agent or Political Resident.

This Agreement shall be for Eleven Years but payments will only be made for so long as the facilities are utilised.

Should the British Government require to renew this Agreement at the end of the above period they may do so provided three months' notice is given me.

Should there be any dispute as to the text of this Agreement the English wording shall prevail.

(Sgd.) H.R.P. Dickson, Lt.-Col.,

for the Hon'ble the Political
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

22nd July 1932.

(Sgd.) Sultan bin Saqar,
(& Sealed) Ruler of Shargah.

Witnesses.

(Sgd.) Edward C. Denison, Captain R.N.
Commanding H.M.S. "Bideford".

(Sgd.) Hummid bin Ali bin Humaid.

(Sgd.) Isa bin Abdul Latif,
Residency Agent,
Shargah.