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## 'British political relations with Koweit.'

Holding Institution British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers

Reference IOR/L/PS/18/B391

Date(s) 29 Mar 1922 (CE, Gregorian)

Written in English in Latin

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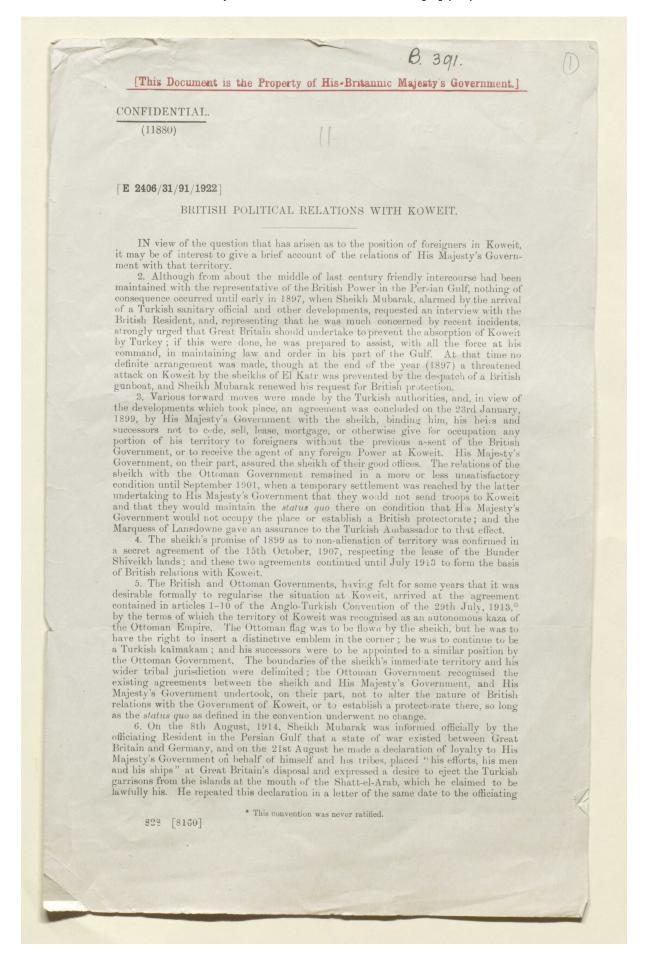
#### About this record

The memorandum, prepared by John W Field of the Foreign Office and dated 29 March 1922, is an historical overview of relations between the British Government and the Shaikh of Kuwait during the period 1897 to 1921. The first paragraph of the memorandum suggests that it was compiled in response to a 'question that has arisen as to the position of foreigners in Koweit [Kuwait]'.



#### 'British political relations with Koweit.' [1r] (1/4)







#### 'British political relations with Koweit.' [1v] (2/4)



Resident in the Persian Gulf, which was formally acknowledged by the latter on the

25th August, 1914

7. In view of the increasing likelihood that Turkey would intervene in the war on Germany's side, it became clear that His Majesty's Government's previous undertakings to the Sheikh of Koweit would have to be renewed, and contingently extended, against the event of a state of war arising between Great Britain and Turkey. Accordingly a letter containing the following assurances was despatched to the sheikh on the 3rd November, 1914, by the acting Resident in the Gulf:—

"In return for the valuable co-operation which we expect from you, I am authorised by the Government, in the event of success—and, insha Allah, we shall succeed—to assure you again that Basra will never again be subject to Turkish authority.

"I am further to give your Excellency personally the following special

assurances

"(1.) The date gardens which you now possess between Fao and Gurnak shall remain in the full possession of you and your heirs and for ever be immune from taxation.

"(2.) You are guaranteed by the great British Government against all consequences of your attack against Safwan, Umm Kasr and Bubiyan.
"(3.) Koweit shall be recognised as an independent principality under British

8. On the 28th February, 1917, upon the death of Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Subah, these undertakings were renewed in the "Kharta" to his son, and after the latter had also died and had been succeeded by his brother, Sheikh Salim-bin-Mubarak, the Government of India forwarded to Sir P. Cox, for presentation to the new ruler, a "Kharita" from the Viceroy renewing to him likewise the undertakings given to his father.

9. Sheikh Salim, during the first half of 1918, made considerable difficulties for His Majesty's Government over the question of the control of the blockade in Koweit territories and ports, and in that connection the following message was conveyed to him through the Resident at Koweit on the 5th July, 1918:-

"Government have deeply regretted the events of the last two years at Koweit, but they welcome your declaration" as affording an opportunity for re-establishment of our traditional friendship. In order that there may be no misunderstanding in the future, they desire to explain their policy towards your

"On the one hand, should you show to Government same friendship and

"On the one hand, should you show to Government same friendship and assistance which they have experienced for many years in their dealings with the rulers of Koweit, they will continue to you the assurances given to your illustrious father, the late Sheikh Mubarak, especially that 'the town of Koweit and its boundaries likewise belong to Sheikh Mubarak-us-Subah, ruler of Koweit, and to his heirs after him,'t and will extend to you the friendship and protection and assistance which they gave to him; and, finally, they hope that you will raise the name of your house and of Koweit to the high position which it held in the past in eyes of British Government and of peoples of Arabia.

"On the other hand, it is the plain duty of ruler of a State which is on terms of friendship with Government to prevent all acts, either by his own subjects or by other persons in his territory, which may be contrary to interests of Government; and since they know that, if you wish to do so, you have the power to control your subjects and others in your territory, Government will be compelled to hold your Excellency personally responsible should any such act unfortunately be committed in future. They hope your Excellency will fully realise your responsibility as the ruler of Koweit towards Government under whose protection and friendship Koweit has so greatly prospered in the past, and will understand that prosperity depends entirely on preservation of true friendship, both in word and deed, with depends entirely on preservation of true friendship, both in word and deed, with Government.

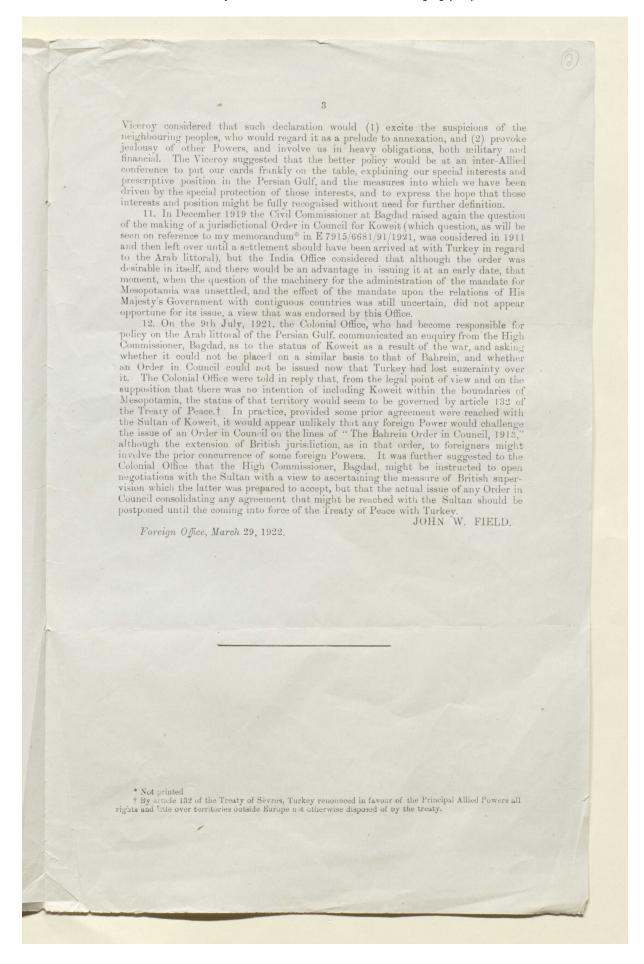
10. The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf having apparently suggested, in November 1918, the declaration of British protectorates over Bahrein, Koweit, &c., the

Accepting the measures of control desired by the British authorities.
 From article 9 of secret agreement of the 15th October, 1907, referred to in paragraph 4.



#### 'British political relations with Koweit.' [2r] (3/4)





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### 'British political relations with Koweit.' [2v] (4/4)





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