

~~TOP SECRET~~

UK

SUMMARY OF MINUTES RETURNED TO MR. REILLY, F.O.

A summary of the conversations on oil denial in the Middle East which is deemed to be acceptable to the U.S. Authorities and will constitute, for the time being, the basis of continuing co-operation on this question has since been received and is filed at enclosure 110 herein.

That summary dispenses to a large extent, the request by Mr. Butler for a summary of the minutes (enc. 108) but the following additional information has been extracted.

1(i) The British objectives in oil denial were defined as follows:-

- (a) To prevent the Russians getting refined oil products needed to transport their advance from Russia through Persia and Iraq to the Egyptian base.
- (b) To prevent the Russians obtaining machinery for export and use in their own country.
- (c) To prevent the Russians obtaining aviation fuel and other products for use in their own country and elsewhere.
- (d) To prevent their ultimately denying the oil fields to the world.

1(ii) The Americans said their objectives were similar but they were putting more emphasis on counter-denial. British knew of no method of counter-denial in Persia or Iraq.

2(i) British objectives as in 1(i) led to the formulation of the following degrees of demolition:-

- (a) Tactical demolitions which would delay the Russian threat to the Egyptian base during the first six to twelve months of war. Amongst these demolitions will be included:-
 - (i) Existing stocks of refined products which would be of use to the Russian striking force (mainly ground and air).
 - (ii) Equipment which is directly involved in the making of refined products and whose destruction would result in a denial effect lasting if possible at least six to twelve months.
 - (iii) Containers, including rail transport, that can be used to move refined oil.
- (b) Strategic demolitions which would aim to produce a long term effect on the output of the refineries and to prevent the Russians removing machinery for use in their own oil industry.
- (c) Measures to prevent the enemy from firing the wells, lower the oil reservoir pressure and consequently destroying permanently the economic value of the oil fields.

2(ii) American ideas almost identical and they generally concurred with the British programme.

3 Question of drawing off maximum stocks by tanker before demolition got under way to be examined in London.

4. Detailed plans already worked out between American authorities and Aramco. Proposals to leave certain quantities of gun contaminated aviation spirit and abrasive contaminated lubricating oil behind were disclosed. Particulars to be conveyed to British.

5. The following priority list was presented at the meeting.

UK

109a/1

1. Bulk stocks of refined white oils and gas oil.
Bulk stocks of partially refined white oils and gas oil products as above.
Stocks of TEL.
Stocks of lubricating oil (Abadan only)
2. Oil refineries including the necessary services such as electricity, water and steam.
Topping plants and services.
Spare parts for moving machinery (particularly ball bearings)
Complete spare hot oil pumps and turbine rotors
Workshop facilities.
3. Oil installations such as stabilisation plants which can quickly be adapted to oil refining.
4. Important pipeline pumping stations.
5. Oil transportation facilities, particularly road and rail tankers.
6. Tin and drum making plants.
7. Records in connection with any or all of the above, and laboratory instruments.

NOTE: A. The above is based on Plan NECKPIECE (ex SMARTWHEEL) drawn up between GINCHERIN and the Cs in C.M.E. in 1949, and is contained in Annex C, Appendix II of ALLIANCE ABA 1-49. This plan has now been superseded by the course of events. There seems to be no reason for superseding the above list, which at the time the plan was made received Combined approval at the Cs in C level.

B. It will be seen that we have not taken any interest in places where there was NO distillation plant, or in stocks or resources of crude oil.

C. A copy of Mr. Beckett's letter which was also returned to Mr. Reilly is at enclosure 101 of this file.