

UK

~~TOP SECRET~~

Mr. Murphy today saw Mr. Southwell of K.O.C. to inform him of the background to the "vetting" of key personnel of the Company in connection with denial plans in Kuwait. Major Newall and I were present.

Mr. Southwell told us that plans for denying the oil, so far as his Company were concerned, were well advanced although no plans were laid for destroying above-ground equipment. He expressed his concern, however, about "tying in" the various plans and referred particularly to the arrangements for evacuation of personnel from Kuwait, e.g. was Kuwait linked with Saudi Arabia or Persia?

So far as the delegation of the denial arrangements in Kuwait to the Americans was concerned Mr. Southwell expressed strongly the view that the British should be fully represented on any planning organisation, preferably in London, from whence the policy of the Company was directed. He emphasized the magnitude of the Kuwait production compared with that of Bahrain and Qatar and the different technical considerations between these areas. He thought that some of the schemes which were known to be under consideration would be impracticable in Kuwait and quoted also the fact that only 40 of the company's employees were American compared with 600 British.

Major Newall explained that so far as evacuation was concerned a Defence Committee comprising the Political Resident and the Naval and Air Commanders, Middle East, had now been set up to co-ordinate plans for the evacuation of the Persian Gulf and that the Company would no doubt receive full details and be given an opportunity of expressing its opinions soon. So far as denial was concerned, whatever was discussed between Mr. Prussing and the Company would be considered before the scheme as a whole was finalized.

Mr. Southwell agreed that he would give the names of his key personnel to Captain Bennett later today at a meeting at which Mr. Gibson of I.P.C. would also be present.

M. Newall

14 June, 1951.

~~Mr. Murphy saw Mr. Dunkley of I.P.C. who was also~~
~~given the background to the meeting with Captain Bennett.~~

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17 June, 1951.

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