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## U.S. OPERATIONS MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA, 1950-1955: CORRESPONDENCE AND SUBJECT FILES OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



This collection is a record of the U.S. Operations Mission's experiences in Saudi Arabia. In it are outlined the programs that were initiated, the problems encountered, and the results of the five year effort in the Point Four program. In Saudi Arabia, there were two chief aims that guided the International Cooperation Administration (ICA) effort and the Point Four Program. The first was to promote the acceptance and support of ICA by cooperating and integrating the efforts of local and regional governments and bureaucrats. The second was to initiate projects that would reach as many people as possible, especially the common people who desperately needed opportunities and help.

**Date Range:** 1950-1955

**Content:** 19,794 images

**Source Library:** National Archives (U.S.)

### **Detailed Description:**

In 1931, the United States' lengthy and at times tumultuous relationship with Saudi Arabia officially began when the U.S. recognized Saudi Arabia as a nation and thereby extended full diplomatic recognition. The United States interest in Saudi Arabia continued to grow as American Oil Experts believed the promise of a vast, yet untapped oil reserve lie within its borders. Soon after, in 1933 the California Arabian Standard Oil Company, later to be known as the Arab American Company (ARAMCO) was founded.

With the onset of World War II and strategic Axis strikes against American oil interests in Saudi Arabia, the United States, in agreement with Saudi ruler, King Abdulaziz Al Saud (Bin Saud), began the construction of United States Air bases. These bases later became the basis for a U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia and formed the backbone of the U.S. Anti-Communist defense in the Middle East during the Cold War.

This record collection contains the correspondence files of the U.S. Operations Mission in Saudi Arabia during the early Cold War period, 1950-1955, as well as the Subject Files of

the office of the Director documenting the myriad concerns and rationales that went into the control and direction of U.S. economic and technical assistance programs, as well as the coordination of mutual security activities, with respect to Saudi Arabia.