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File

RS/R

1972-8-16, Iryani, [redacted] Embassy Building

August 16, 1972

Robert M. Beckman, Esq.
1001 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Beckman:

At the meeting in my office on August 8, 1972, you raised certain questions relating to the State Department's understandings as to the ownership and use of the property and improvements located at 4402 16th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. You also sought information on the state of relations between the United States Government and the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic. I hope that this letter will supply answers to those inquiries.

According to the official records of the Department of State, the property in question on 16th Street, N. W. (Lot No. 810, Square No. 2650) was purchased by the Government of Yemen on or about June 21, 1951. On that day, the Department received a diplomatic note from the Legation of the Mutawakelite Kingdom of Yemen in Washington, D. C., giving notice of the purchase.

On June 22, 1951, the Department, through its acting Chief of Protocol, sent a letter to the President of the District of Columbia Board of Commissioners requesting an exemption from real property taxation for this property, which the Department recognized as owned by the Government of Yemen and used for legation purposes. The Department of State has never had the occasion since that time to change its previously stated position with respect to the character of that property.

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Clearance:
NEA/ARP

L/M/SCA:H.F. Shamwell

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In December 1962, the United States Government officially recognized the Yemen Arab Republic as the de facto and de jure Government of Yemen, succeeding the previous Government of Yemen. In 1967, diplomatic relations between the United States and the Yemen Arab Republic were officially severed. In 1971 the Government of Yemen established an Interests Section through the Embassy of Somalia. That Interests Section has been headed since January 1972 by Mr. Ahmad Ali Zabarah, who holds the rank of Counselor. This Interests Section has been officially recognized since that date as occupying the premises at 4402 16th Street, N.W., and is so listed in the Diplomatic List ("Bluebook") published quarterly by the Department of State.

Effective July 1, 1972, the United States and the Yemen Arab Republic resumed diplomatic relations. The State Department recognizes the building located at 4402 16th Street, N.W., as the official premises of the Yemen Arab Republic mission. This address is listed in the August 1972 edition of the "Bluebook" as the Chancery of the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic and the residence of its Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Zabarah.

For your information, I am enclosing copies of the above-mentioned correspondence. If I can be of any further assistance with regard to this matter, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

Horace F. Shamwell, Jr.
Office of the Legal Adviser

Enclosure:
Correspondence

Clearance:
NEA/ARP - Mr. Buck HFS
S/CRR - Mr. Whitehead HFS
S/CPR - Mrs. Sieminski HFS

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