

Delegation: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia- Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Committee: Historical Committee

Topic: The San Francisco Conference (1945)



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is honored to participate in the historic San Francisco Conference, where the foundations of a new international order will be drafted. Though a young state, officially unified in 1932, Saudi Arabia is determined to ensure that Arab interests of sovereignty and the principle of self-determination are reflected in the UN Charter. As of 1945, more than 70 million people remained under some form of mandate or colonial administration,<sup>1</sup> making the defense of independence essential to global stability. European imperial powers controlled most of the Middle East during the scramble for Africa and even after WW1. When these great powers were weakened due to war, nationalism in these colonies grew and the colonial control of the Middle East fell. It is vital that the new countries emerging from the ruins of these empires are built on a strong foundation with help, both economically and politically, from stable nations to prevent corruption and a more stable world overall. The Kingdom advocates for smaller nations to not be overshadowed in this new order. The failures of the League of Nations, where great powers exercised disproportionate influence, must not be repeated. Saudi Arabia supports the UN's goals of 'sovereignty for all peace loving states' but stresses that these ideals will be meaningless without equal representation, cultural respect, and the preservation of sovereignty.

On February 14, 1945, I, King Abdulaziz, held a meeting with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt aboard the USS *Quincy* in the Suez Canal. This meeting not only laid the groundwork for long-term diplomatic relations but also clarified the United States' stance on the Arab world. In his letter dated April 5, 1945, Roosevelt assured myself that he "would take no action, in my capacity as Chief of the Executive Branch of this Government, which might provide hostile to the Arab people" and that the United States would make "no decision regarding Palestine without full consultation with both Arabs and Jews".<sup>2</sup> I, King Abdulaziz, fully support the US commitment to remain diplomatic with Arab relations before any major actions are taken. These statements highlight the importance of legitimate consultation through diplomacy, a principle that Saudi Arabia believes must be embedded in the UN Charter itself.

Saudi Arabia's central concern at this conference is the fate of mandated territories, especially Palestine. Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations states that "the

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Statistical Office. (1949). *Demographic Yearbook 1949*. United Nations.  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/dybsets/1949.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Roosevelt, F. D. (1945, April 5). *Letter to King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud*. In FRUS, 1945, Vol. VIII. Full text available in FRUS archive:  
<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/FRUS.FRUS1945v08>

well-being and development” of mandated peoples represent “a sacred trust of civilization”.<sup>3</sup> Despite this commitment, by 1945 many mandated peoples remained politically unfree. For instance, in Palestine, Arabs accounted for approximately two-thirds of the population, but held a disproportionately small percentage of political authority and land due to British mandate policies.<sup>4</sup> Saudi Arabia insists that the UN must correct these injustices by ensuring that the sovereignty of nations, not permanent foreign presence or imposed partition, must be the ultimate goal for these states. As I expressed to U.S. officials on board the USS Quincy, “justice for the Arabs is essential to any lasting peace in the world”.<sup>5</sup>

In March 1945, Saudi Arabia joined Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Transjordan, and Syria in founding the League of Arab States. This organization represents over 30 million Arabs and was established “to draw closer the relations between member states and to safeguard their independence”.<sup>6</sup> The creation of the Arab League demonstrates both regional unity and the collective Arab demand for political self-determination which is an expectation Saudi Arabia brings to San Francisco.

In terms of UN structure, the Kingdom seeks balance between the General Assembly and the Security Council. Saudi Arabia opposes permanent seats with veto power, arguing that such privilege would contradict the principle of sovereign equality. As the Dumbarton Oaks proposals currently stand, 5 nations would hold permanent power over the world’s security decisions with other nations rotating in and out, despite the P5 representing only a portion of the world’s population.<sup>7</sup> Saudi Arabia instead suggests a rotational council of fourteen members, with representation distributed across regions. These regions would be North America, Latin America, MENA, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and Southern Asia. With two countries per region, one would be a more stable country and the other would be a less developed country.

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<sup>3</sup> Covenant of the League of Nations. (1919). *Article 22*. League of Nations.  
[https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/leagcov.asp#art22](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/leagcov.asp#art22)

<sup>4</sup> Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. (1946). *Report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry regarding the problems of European Jewry and Palestine*. His Majesty’s Stationery Office.  
[https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/angtoc.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/angtoc.asp)

<sup>5</sup> Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS). (1945). *Volume VIII: The Near East and Africa*. U.S. Government Printing Office.  
Digitized by the University of Wisconsin:  
<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/FRUS.FRUS1945v08>

<sup>6</sup> League of Arab States. (1945). *Pact of the League of Arab States*.  
English translation and text:  
<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3ab18.html>

<sup>7</sup> Dumbarton Oaks Proposals. (1944). *Proposals for the Establishment of a General International Organization*. U.S. Department of State.  
<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history/dumbarton-oaks>

Ensuring that both stable and less stable nations participate equally to represent a variety of social economic stages. This system would prevent what I once described as “the domination of the weak by the strong,” a condition the Kingdom seeks to avoid in the new world order.<sup>8</sup>

Furthermore, Saudi Arabia argues that Arabic must be recognized as an official working language of the UN. As the language of over 50 million people (UN Statistical Office, 1949), Arabic-speaking nations deserve equal representation in diplomatic discourse. Without linguistic equity, an entire region would operate at a structural disadvantage, contradicting the UN’s goal of universal participation. A lack of Arabic linguistic representation would lead to a disregard of the Middle East and its people. To affirm the Middle East’s position in this new world order, it is essential to have Arabic as an official language.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the United Nations must fulfill the uncompleted mission of the League of Nations by guiding all peoples to independence, equality, and dignity. The “sacred trust of civilization” requires that the new international order protect emerging nations, prevent great-power domination, and uphold justice. The United Nations must commit to these principles to become a true guardian of world peace.

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<sup>8</sup> References (APA 7)

Al-Rasheed, M. (2010). *A history of Saudi Arabia* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.

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