

# January 9, 1956 Meeting at the Villa of Sheikh Salim al-Khoury in 'Aukar

## Citation:

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# **Summary:**

A plan emerges to exploit Lebanese uranium ore, and an American diplomat discusses prospects for the Lebanese government, a recent resolution forbidding army supplies, and other regional issues.

### **Credits:**

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# **Original Language:**

Arabic

## **Contents:**

Original Scan
Translation - English

Original Scan 1-123/13 1312 ا جماع في فيلا النبي ليم الحذي بعدا عد ال عد الرابعة والربع م بعد ظهر الدي الواقع مل ١١/١٠٥١ اجتمع من المدر المدود المستثمار الدُقتادي في العامة الديدتية بيروث والمهر ميشك مد الأمين التابعية واللباني الأص واصر اعاء حربة العاورة والهندة العبية ، والشيخ على الخوري والداي رُجل مع خطة استار معدن الدوانين المرجود في غانية عائدة م النَّال اللَّاسة بعنة الشه علم لخوريا وارأة لعبه المعرم ندى New of the period of the period الد العالم المرابع المرابع على الما على الما عن العن والأعز بعالا المرابع المرابع المرابع عن العن المرابع المر . ومدورهم الخطة على هذا الشكل: ينلغ المدر المود بهفته عنداً افعاد الدولة الدورية عن لبان المستواطة راز مع مالعاه م طعنه م تعلما ع ( نا دُهل الرابع الرام الم الم العقل عن العقل ع وهنه التعليمات نفدل بأن حلامة العرباحة المتحدة على تمام الاستعداد لأرسال المراء ويقيم المعدّاء الله زفية، ويوافقة كمنة الهامة النرية ، للننسب والتخليج هذا المدن عثراءه بسوردي من لبان المو بعد انتاج ... و ان الهالة عنه نفية من المد عمر عفادم الدين المري والتناف عمد و جعل الفاق على معه عطم ع مد من الفاقمة أوى نعم ما من الحلوم النعياية والمرّ مع يعمل إليود ... بدنه ثعبه رام أفرن الى الديمة to be the saled had saled the best of the انعاق معم اذا أراد.. وقدم 8 المد المعود بزاء العمام الحافين وبيدال طهم عليه الدين لم الخدى بأن المعاج الأميلة عن على عام الانعداد pole of an hall abe of so sell lie alex per de vell عبل شعب ... وعد اللهم ما لا العامة النبركية سوى نبعى عندالبرى الانتخاج معان الحلامة اللبانية أو الأنيان مجلية موالية لا ... مي الأحادث اليامة: عَالَ ان الله عَالِمُنَاتَ عَ لَعَيْثُ الرِّلُ الْعَرِيثُ فَدُو فَعَنْ عَرَارًا مِنْ الْعَرِيثُ فَدُ وَفَعَتْ عَرَارًا مِنْ الْعَرِيثُ فَدُ وَفَعَتْ عَرَارًا مِنْ الْعَرِيثُ لَا الْعَرِيثُ الْعَرْبُ الْعَرِيثُ الْعَرِيثُ الْعَرْبُ الْعَرِيثُ الْعَرِيثُ الْعَرْبُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعَرْبُ الْعَرْبُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُلِيثُ الْعَرْبُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعَرْبُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُلِيثُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُلِيثُ الْعِيثُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعُرْبُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُلِقُ الْعَرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعُرْبُ لِلْعُلِقُ الْعُرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعُرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعُرِيثُ الْعِلْمُ الْعُرِيثُ الْعُرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعُرْبُ لِلْعُرِيثُ الْعِلْمُ الْعِلْمُ الْعِلْمُ الْعِلْمُ لِلْعُلِقُ الْعِلْمُ الْعِلْمُ الْعِلْمُ الْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمِ لِلْعُلْمِ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمِ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعُلْمِ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِيلِمِ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعُلِمِ لِلْعُلِمِ لِلْعِلْمِ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمِ لِلْعِلْمِ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمِ لِلْعِلْمُ لِلْعِلْمِ بنع امراد اي دون م الدول العبيث بالأسلمة لللا تعوها الالمخ ضارات من الله عمر الذن الجاد مال النعاب والم على مفات التي النقط ... وقال بان الوزارة الحالية موى لدنبق بلحلم السبوع

2 - 1 3 Original Scan Wilson Center Digital Archive Ilson Center Digital Archive الارج والعارة العربة بيروع بعد الحي باي العلم للملم الما الشيخ على فقال: لو أن أمِن الوال العربة العربية لأمر الم ات وناوم كل دولا عربية على صرة دون إدفال تريا لات نجي عظر ولي صافر جمع هذه المول فأه بالنظرة لي هذه الدول لياء ما زالا بضوء اكف لزيا للعم. ولاعلى مرم الأكال المعامة على... فاذا ارادة اكدر الزَّيرَة ان نعل بائل مي لنان و تدفي صه يفاوما على مدة عام كر مه الزوار السياح والعبين ع والعبين ع ولي أني الإ تعدد الأنفاق مع والمرتقى كا- البيات الويركية وهو ومددم الرصاء مراله الماء العدوالع عادر على To lee us. .. re- Il are les sel al loil الذي فحدث عن علما شاماله و تعرب في منا 1407/ A & Ces.

#### 123/13

Meeting at the villa of Sheikh Salim al-Khoury in 'Aukar

At about 4.15 p.m. on Saturday 7/1/1956, a meeting took place between Mr Elwood, the economic counsellor at the American Embassy in Beirut, Mr Michel Saad, an American of Lebanese origin and one of the owners of the Arab Contracting and Engineering Company, and Sheikh Salim al-Khoury, the host. The purpose of the meeting was the development of a plan to exploit uranium ore which exists in eight different locations in Lebanon, with the knowledge of Sheikh Salim al-Khouri and his late brother Nadim al-Khoury's wife (who had handed her late husband's secrets and business affairs regarding this issue over to her brother-in-law, Sheikh Salim). From time to time, their conversation wandered over to a number of political issues to which I will attend at the end of this report ...

The plan they developed was as follows: Mr Elwood, in his capacity as the representative of the United States of America's economic interests in Lebanon, will inform Mr Michel Saad by official letter, about the instructions he received from his government based on their exchange of messages regarding this issue. These instructions say that the United States' Government is fully prepared to send experts and offer the necessary equipment, with the consent of the United Energy Committee, to exploit this ore, and after it is excavated, purchase it from Lebanon at international prices ... The letter would also delegate Mr Saad to negotiate with Sheikh Salim al-Khoury and conclude with him a written agreement, which Mr Elwood would write based on another which would be signed by both the American Government and Mr Saad. Another letter would be addressed to Sheikh Salim al-Khoury to the effect that they are ready to negotiate with him on this matter and, if he wishes, sign an agreement also with him.

At the same time, and in reply to a question by Sheikh Salim al-Khoury during the meeting, Mr Elwood stated that the American Government is fully prepared to make sure that the Lebanese Government would not impede the project, including Mr Camille Chamoun ... and that if necessary, the American Embassy will guarantee, at the start of the project, the cooperation of the Lebanese Government or, if need be have it replaced by another more loyal.

#### The political conversation

He said: America, in agreement with the other Western nations, has adopted a new resolution forbidding the supply of arms to any Arab country to prevent them from being used against Israel; America is now seeking to establish permanent stability in the Middle East ... He said: as of today, the current cabinet is expected to last one more week... He also said that according to his personal opinion, and the opinion of the majority at the American Embassy in Beirut, Sami al-Solh should be brought to power in order for him to implement the projects that have been suspended and are of benefit to Lebanon...

Sheikh Salim, on his part, said: If America came over here and negotiated separately with every Arab country without including Turkey, its plan would have succeeded, it would have won these countries' friendship and been able to steer them in whichever direction it wants ... As for Lebanon, the Lebanese and especially the Christians still harbour enmity towards Turkey ... and in no way would they be able to agree with it... So if the American Government wants to amend its policies in Lebanon and negotiate with it separately, many political and popular leaders would be ready to conclude agreements with it and pursue pro-American policies; this he guarantees ...

The meeting lasted until 7.15 p.m. after which Mr Elwood left 'Aukar in the company of Mr Saad ... Half an hour later, I left 'Aukar with Sheikh Salim in his car, and we went directly to his home in Furn al-Chubbak where Mr Fouad al-Badaoui, whose work that night with Sheikh Salim I already reported to you, was waiting for him.