

TOP SECRET

P.M. (56) 79

PRIME MINISTER.

Aden Protectorate: proposed special operations against the Yemen in Dhala area

I was very glad to see that you minuted on 2nd October to the Foreign Office on the Governor of Aden's telegram No. 619 about the situation in Dhala "Should we not get tougher with Yemen?". When the Governor reported on 11th September the outbreak of this series of disturbances, he asked for permission to carry out a counter-operation in the neighbouring area of the Yemen, on the lines which it had been agreed could be mounted, in certain circumstances, in more easterly areas of the boundary. Since then my Department have been seeking Foreign Office agreement to this counter-operation but, despite the repeated reports of disturbance from the Governor, and the fact that it was for such situations as this that counter-operations had previously been agreed upon, this agreement has not so far been forthcoming. I was therefore in any case about to submit this question to you, and I am now encouraged to hope that you will agree that the Governor should be authorised to carry out a small counter-operation against the Yemeni base from which the dissidents in the Dhala area are still operating.

2. The Annex of this minute sets out in full the conditions on which it was agreed such operations could be carried out, together with the arguments for and

/against

*CS a Not to talk  
2 again soon. Then limit  
W/propose F3.*

against mounting this particular operation in the Dhala area. The Appendix sets out the recent history of the dissident activity in that area, together with the evidence for the complicity of the Yemeni authorities and the use of the Yemen as a base for the dissidents' operations.

3. In the absence of the Foreign Secretary, I am sending a copy of this minute, with its Annex and Appendix, to Mr. Dodds-Parker.

ALB

October, 1956.